



VRJE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
BRUSSEL

# STUDY IN BRUSSELS CAPITAL OF EUROPE

[www.vub.ac.be/en](http://www.vub.ac.be/en)



**15,000** STUDENTS  
**6,800** STAFF

**4**  
CAMPUSES

**8**  
FACULTIES

On-campus libraries  
Language centre  
Computer labs  
Job service  
Career centre  
Sports facilities  
Medical care  
Counselling  
Housing services  
Restaurants and cafes  
Cultural activities

## UZ BRUSSELS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

721 beds  
338,800 consultations a year  
30,277 hospitalisations a year  
3,524 staff, including academics  
10 expert research domains  
Pioneer in 'circle of life' care

**127**  
NATIONALITIES

**232m**  
OPERATING  
BUDGET

**21%** INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS, OF WHICH

**9,5%** NON-EEA STUDENTS

**11,5%** EEA STUDENTS  
(excluding Belgian)  
(EEA= European Economic Area)





# A MID-SIZED UNIVERSITY WITH AN INTERDISCI- PLINARY APPROACH

Ranked as one of Europe's top universities, VUB combines award-winning research and a broad range of study programmes in the heart of Europe. VUB's three campuses are located around the centre of Brussels, enabling students to enjoy the energy of a capital city on the one hand and to appreciate the quietness of the green and compact campuses on the other hand. Thanks to the scale, VUB's students and professors work closely together to foster interdisciplinary learning, beyond the boundaries of faculties and sciences. That's what makes us stand out.

## A name with 180 years of tradition

What does the word 'Vrije' (literally 'free') in Vrije Universiteit Brussel mean? To be able to answer that question, we need to go back in time 180 years to when the university was founded as the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

Back then, the university was completely independent from state and church and it aspired to promote freedom of thought without interference from dogmas or prejudices. This idea of 'freedom' is still one of the core values of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel today.

In 1969, Vrije Universiteit Brussel split off from ULB and became an independent Flemish university with a strong international focus. Our students and academic staff are committed to independent critical thinking, assets that are highly appreciated in an ever-faster evolving world.

# BRUSSELS: A DIVERSE CITY WITH ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



## **What? Quoi? Wablief?**

When moving about in Brussels, you hear a lot of different languages. That's no coincidence, because the city is a melting pot of cultures. With 30% of the population being of foreign origin, you can expect a rich cultural climate. EU and EU-affiliated institutions, Nato HQ and several diplomatic representations make Brussels the political heart of Europe, a magnet for many international companies, NGOs, lobby organisations, media representations and international schools that have set up a base in Brussels.

## **Cosmopolitan but still human**

1.2 million inhabitants make Brussels a booming city. Thanks to the rich, suburban character of its different neighbourhoods, the city keeps a human pace. It takes some time to discover the different aspects of Brussels as a student but they are endless in possibilities and always surprising. With good connections by rail, tram, bus or subway, the city opens itself up to you.

## **The largest student city in Belgium**

Brussels is a friendly and vibrant home to 86,000 students, of whom 29% are international. Located in the capital of Europe, VUB attracts students from all corners of the world thanks to its excellent and varied English-taught academic offer and reasonable tuition fees.

## **The ideal hub to discover Europe**

Brussels is at the centre of a well-connected European air and rail network. European capitals such as London, Paris, and Amsterdam can all be reached in less than an hour by plane or two hours by high-speed train. A weekend in Barcelona, Milan, Vienna or Berlin? Within two hours you can be walking around the Ramblas or the Potsdamer Platz. In Brussels, Europe is at your fingertips!





## Brussels ranks 21st worldwide for best quality of living

Mercer Quality of Life study 2016



### More than chocolate

Of course everyone knows the famous Belgian beers, fries and chocolates, and the city centre is filled to the brim with chocolate and waffle stores. But there's a lot more to discover for foodies. Brussels' cuisine reflects its cultural diversity, coming from all over the world to suit any palate. Japanese near the neighbourhood of Elsene? African in Matongé? Spanish in Sint-Gillis? There are restaurants of all sizes and for all budgets.

### Rich cultural heritage and art scene

The baroque facades of the Grand Place are impressive. Brussels has an enormous amount of cultural heritage. But it's also an ever-growing centre for contemporary art, attracting artists from all over the world. The wide variety of museums, theatres, art galleries, concert halls and festivals ensures a vibrant and cosmopolitan way of life. The 'fear of missing out' in Brussels is a real concern.

### Build a network and a career

It goes without saying that Brussels offers unique career opportunities. As the home to more than 2,000 international institutions and companies, it offers you a wide range of internship possibilities and future career moves. Flagship areas include ICT and communication, life tech, finance and law consulting, communication and media agencies, and creative industries.



# VUB EDUCATION DELIVERS STRONG INDIVIDUALS, CRITICAL MINDS & WORLD CITIZENS

## Interactive and personal

Being a mid-sized university has its advantages. First of all, it allows frequent personal contact between students, professors and teaching assistants. This is part of a real direct-contact culture that is well embedded within the university. Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to interact with each other through group assignments within the curriculum and through the various extracurricular activities.

## Choice and flexibility

VUB offers a full range of programmes taught in English where the key concept is flexibility. A system of majors and minors enables students to plan and personalise their curriculum in a way that best meets their interests. More information on [www.vub.ac.be/en/programmes](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/programmes).

## Guidance and service

VUB attaches great importance to helping students familiarise themselves with university life and to providing good guidance. Educational trajectory counsellors, study advisors and psychologists support each student by offering personalised study advice on a range of topics. Even after your studies, the university offers services like job fairs and the help of a specialised Career Centre.

The International Relations and Mobility Office provides students with information on university life and facilitates their integration by organising cultural, social and sports activities with student associations.

**1** english-taught  
bachelor

**27** english-taught  
masters

**7** english-taught  
advanced masters

**87%**

satisfied students  
(Course evaluation survey 2014)

**11** english-taught  
postgraduate certificate  
programmes

**No. 1**

faculty/student  
ratio in Belgium  
and #59  
worldwide (QS  
World University  
Rankings 2015)





# RESEARCH: A FASCINATING JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE

## 1+1 is more than 2

National and transnational collaboration projects are of crucial importance in ensuring innovative education and cutting-edge research. Operating in a network of (inter) national partnerships improves our excellence, facilitates exchange of best practices and allows us to guarantee a well-defined level of quality. By establishing strong partnerships with other universities, VUB offers many joint and double-degree programmes at master and PhD level, giving students the opportunity to study at both VUB and partner institutions in Belgium or overseas.

## Innovative results brought to society

Research at VUB is conducted with a strong motivation to positively impact society and to enable technological innovation. This often leads to the valorisation of research results and in the creation of spin-off companies and patents.

## Doing a PhD takes you further

Studying for a PhD at VUB allows you to focus on a fascinating research topic, under expert guidance. PhD scholars mainly conduct research, sometimes in combination with teaching assignments. Thanks to the Doctoral Training Programme offered by the three interdisciplinary Doctoral Schools, PhD students get free access to a wide range of elective courses meant to support them in acquiring and developing the skills they need.

More information on [www.vub.ac.be/en/phd](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/phd).

## PhD funding

There are many ways to receive funding as a PhD researcher. It is possible, for example, to be hired by the university as a research assistant or to apply for a research scholarship or grant.

## WORLD CLASS RESEARCH

**2,544**

publications in 2015

**94m**

research budget

**207**

PhD degrees  
awarded in 2015

**157**

research teams

**36**

PhD trajectories

# STUDY AT VUB: PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## GET ACCESS TO EXCELLENT AND AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

### Tuition fees

All accredited bachelor and master programmes at VUB are subsidised by the Flemish government of Belgium, meaning students only have to pay a small fraction of the actual cost of the education they get. This holds for students from all over the world.

For more details: [www.vub.ac.be/en/tuition-fees](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/tuition-fees)

PROGRAMME TYPE	TUITION FEE IN €/year
Bachelor	890 - 2,950
Masters	890 - 9,000
Advanced masters	890 - 9,000
Postgraduate certificates	3,075 - 6,800
PhD	445 ( <i>applicable in the first year and the year of defence</i> )

### Living costs

As Brussels is the second greenest city in Europe, living costs are consistently more affordable than in other major capital cities in Western Europe. Belgium is also acknowledged as having one of the best and most accessible healthcare systems in the world.

ITEM	EXPENSES IN (€)/year
Accommodation	3,600 - 5,400
Food	3,000
Public transport	50 (aged under 25) - 500
Health insurance	100-300
Mobile phone	300
Other (study materials, trips, etc)	2,000 - 3,000
Total	9,050 - 12,500

### Scholarships

A number of scholarships and grants are available to prospective students based on criteria such as nationality, academic performance, programme of study and level of study. For more information see: [www.vub.ac.be/en/scholarships](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/scholarships)





## ADMISSION AND APPLICATION

Students who do not possess a Flemish degree need to submit an application. Admission is based on review of each application (proof of meeting academic and language requirements, personal motivation, etc). The application will be processed by the Student Administration Centre and the faculty's selection committee.

### English proficiency requirements

For the English-taught programmes at VUB, there are minimum English language requirements you must meet for admission. You can demonstrate your English skills through recognised tests and qualifications, including the International English Language Testing system (IELTS), Test of English as a Foreign language (TOEFL), Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) or Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), Cambridge English First (FCE), Cambridge English: Business Vantage (BEC Vantage), Cambridge Michigan ECCE, Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC), Trinity College London (ALTE Q mark, ISE II), The Pearson Test of English General (PTE General, PTE Academic) If you have been instructed and assessed in English at a recognised secondary or post-secondary education institution, you may be exempt from these requirements.

For further information regarding the English requirements (including the minimum scores) please visit [vub.ac.be/language-requirements](http://vub.ac.be/language-requirements).

### Academic requirements

Each programme has its own specific requirements. After you submit your application we will verify your degree and transcripts to determine whether you are eligible for the programme of your choice. You can consult the respective programme pages for particular pre-requirements ([www.vub.ac.be/en/programmes](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/programmes)).

### Application deadlines

Prospective students (applying on the basis of a non-Belgian, Flemish diploma or equivalent) are advised to apply as soon as possible, even if they have not yet obtained their degree. The sooner an application is submitted, the sooner the admission decision will be communicated.

- Students who require a visa (typically the non-EU/EEA nationals) must apply before **June 1st**
- Students who do not require a visa must apply before **June 1st**
- Students with an EEA-degree who not require a visa and meet the academic requirements for the Bachelor in Social Sciences are advised to apply before the start of the academic year in September.

**Certain master and postgraduate certificate programmes may have different application deadlines. Make sure you check the deadlines applicable to your programme of interest.**

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

>> START <<

1

### CHOOSE A STUDY PROGRAMME

- Inform yourself on [www.vub.ac.be/en](http://www.vub.ac.be/en)
- Check application requirements and deadlines

2

### START ONLINE APPLICATION

[www.vub.ac.be/en/apply](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/apply)

- Fill in personal data
- Upload documents

3

### SUBMIT ONLINE APPLICATION

Note: if the proof of English proficiency or other documents are not ready before the application deadline, you can always submit them later (instead of missing the deadline)

4

### CHECK YOUR EMAIL REGULARLY

- for further instructions
- for updates concerning the status of your application

5

### RECEIVE OFFICIAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OR DENIAL

# STUDY PROGRAMMES

As in most European countries, bachelor's degrees in Belgium usually take three years to complete, and a master's degree one to two years. Advanced master's degrees typically take one year to complete, while PhD programmes usually last four years.

DEGREE	PROGRAMME	MAJORS/SPECIALISATIONS	ECTS
<b>FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL</b>			
Bachelor	Social Sciences (B.Sc.)	Communication Studies Political Sciences Sociology	180
Master	Business and Technology (M.Sc.)		120
	Communication Studies (M.Sc.)	Journalism and Media in Europe New Media and Society in Europe	60
	Management (M.Sc.)		60
	International Business (M.Sc.)		120
	Digital Communication Leadership	Digital Communication Policy and Innovation in Europe	120
Advanced Master	Economics of Globalisation and European Integration (M.Sc.)		60
	European Integration (M.Sc.)	Economic Integration	60
		European Politics and Social Integration	
<b>FACULTY OF SCIENCES AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES</b>			
Master	Educational Sciences (M.Sc.)	Curriculum Design and Innovation	120
<b>FACULTY OF ARTS EN PHILOSOPHY</b>			
Master	Multilingual Master in Linguistics and Literary Studies (M.A.)	Linguistics Literary Studies Interpretation Multilingualism & Foreign Language Acquisition Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics Theatre Studies Translation	60
<b>FACULTY OF LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY</b>			
Advanced Master	International and European Law (LL.M)		60
	Maritime Science (M.Sc.)		60
<b>FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND BIO-ENGINEERING SCIENCES</b>			
Master	Applied Science and Engineering: Computer Science (M.Sc.)	Artificial Intelligence Multimedia Software Languages and Software Engineering Web and Information Systems	120
	Biology (M.Sc.)	Ecology and Biodiversity Herpetology Human Ecology Molecular and Cellular Life Sciences Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems	120
	Biomolecular Sciences (M.Sc.)		120
	Chemistry (M.Sc.)	Education Industry Research	
	Geography (M.Sc.)	Earth and Climate City, Society and Space GIS and Spatial Modelling	120
	Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management (M.Sc.)		120
	Molecular Biology (M.Sc.)		120
	Physics and Astronomy (M.Sc.)	Economy and Business Education Research	120
	Urban Studies (M.Sc.)		120



DEGREE	PROGRAMME	MAJORS/SPECIALISATIONS	ECTS
<b>FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY</b>			
Advanced Master	Disaster Medicine (M.Sc.)		60
	Gerontological Sciences (M.Sc.)		60
<b>FACULTY OF ENGINEERING</b>			
Master	Applied Sciences and Engineering: Applied Computer Science (M.Sc.)		120
	Architectural Engineering (MSc.)		120
	Biomedical Engineering (M.Sc.)		120
	Chemical and Materials Engineering (M.Sc.)	Materials	120
		Process Technology	
	Civil Engineering (M.Sc.)		120
	Electrical Engineering (M.Sc.)		120
	Electromechanical Engineering (M.Sc.)	Aeronautics	120
		Energy	
		Mechatronics-Construction	
		Vehicle Technology and Transport	
	European Master of Science in Photonics (M.Sc.)		120
	International Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering (M.Sc.)		120
	Physical Land Resources (M.Sc.)	Land Resources Engineering	120
		Soil Science	
	Water Resources Engineering (M.Sc.)		120
Advanced Master	Nuclear Engineering (M.Sc.)		60

#### Disclaimer

The programme is subject to change. Check [www.vub.ac.be/en](http://www.vub.ac.be/en) for the latest information about the programme.

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 1 credit represents 25-30 hours of study activity.

### Study programmes online

#### All programmes

[www.vub.ac.be/en/study](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/study)

#### Postgraduate certificate programmes

[www.vub.ac.be/en/study/postgraduate](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/study/postgraduate)

#### PhD programmes

[www.vub.ac.be/en/phd](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/phd)

#### Summer schools

[www.vub.ac.be/en/study/summerschools](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/study/summerschools)

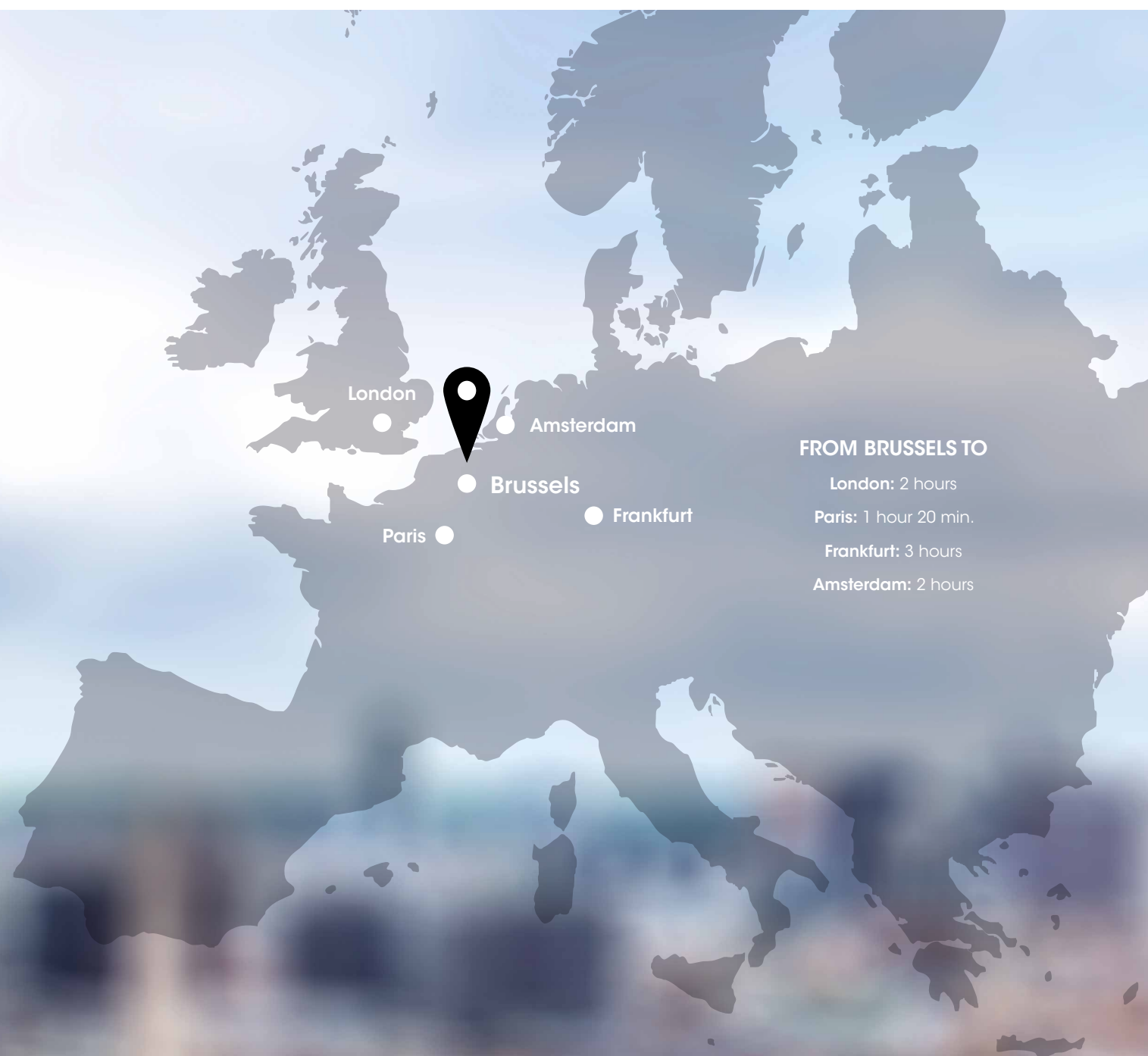
#### Exchange programmes

[www.vub.ac.be/en/exchange](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/exchange)

### High quality, accredited degree programmes

All degree programmes offered by VUB are accredited by the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO), ensuring that they meet the highest predefined quality standards. Alongside this official quality control system, VUB has an internal Quality Control Commission in charge of permanently monitoring the quality of education.





#### FROM BRUSSELS TO

London: 2 hours

Paris: 1 hour 20 min.

Frankfurt: 3 hours

Amsterdam: 2 hours

### General information

International Relations and Mobility Office

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - IRMO - Pleinlaan 2 - 1050 Brussels, Belgium

[T] + 32 (0)2 614 81 01 - [E] [international.relations@vub.ac.be](mailto:international.relations@vub.ac.be)

#### Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Brussels Sciences & Humanities Campus - Pleinlaan 2 - 1050 Brussels

Brussels Health Campus - Laarbeeklaan 103 - 1090 Brussels


Brussels Technology Campus - Nijverheidskaai 170 - 1070 Brussels


Brussels Photonics Campus - Vollezelestraat 46 - 1755 Gooik

 [info@vub.ac.be](mailto:info@vub.ac.be)

 [www.vub.ac.be/en](http://www.vub.ac.be/en)

 [www.facebook.com/vrijeuniversiteitbrussel](https://www.facebook.com/vrijeuniversiteitbrussel)

 [@VUBrussel](https://twitter.com/VUBrussel)

 [@VUBrussel](https://www.instagram.com/VUBrussel)