



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

STUDY IN BRUSSELS CAPITAL OF EUROPE

www.vub.be/en





18,500 STUDENTS
6,800 STAFF

4
CAMPUSES

On-campus libraries
Language centre
Computer labs
Job service
Sports facilities
Medical care

8
FACULTIES

Counselling
Housing services
Restaurants and cafes
Cultural activities

UZ Brussels University Hospital

145
NATIONALITIES

23.6% INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, OF WHICH

12.5% NON-EEA STUDENTS

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



A MEDIUM-SIZED UNIVERSITY WITH A VERSATILE APPROACH

Ranked as one of Europe's top universities, VUB combines award-winning research and a broad range of English-taught study programmes in the heart of Europe. VUB's four 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 students and academic staff work closely together to foster interdisciplinary study, beyond the boundaries of faculties and sciences. That's what makes us stand out.

A name with over 185 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 185 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, something that is highly appreciated in a fast changing 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 of foreign origin, you can expect a rich cultural environment. Brussels is home to the EU Institutions and several affiliates, NATO HQ, diplomatic representation offices, headquarters for many international companies, NGOs, trade associations, one of the world's largest press corps, as well as a whole host of international and European schools.

The largest student city in Belgium

Brussels is a friendly and vibrant home to 110,000 students, 29% of whom 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 cities such as London, Paris, Düsseldorf, Cologne 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? A two-hour flight, and you can be walking around the Ramblas or the Potsdamer Platz. In Brussels, Europe is at your fingertips!



Brussels ranks 28th worldwide for best quality of living

Mercer Quality of Living study 2019

More than chocolate

Of course everyone knows the famous Belgian beers, chips and chocolates, and the city centre is filled to the brim with chocolate and waffle shops. But there's a lot more to discover for foodies. The city's gastronomy reflects its cultural diversity, coming from all over the world to suit any palate. Japanese food in Elsene? African food in Matonge? Spanish tapas in St-Gilles? 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 organisations and companies, it offers a wide range of internship possibilities and future career options. Flagship areas include ICT and communication, life tech, finance and law consulting, communications and media agencies, and creative industries.



VUB EDUCATION DELIVERS STRONG INDIVIDUALS, CRITICAL MINDS & WORLD CITIZENS

Interactive and personal

Being a medium-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.be/en/programmes.

Guidance and service

It is important to VUB to help students familiarise themselves with university life and to provide good guidance. Educational counsellors and study advisers provide students with personalised study guidance on a range of topics.

The International Relations office provides students with information on university life and facilitates their integration by organising cultural, social and sports activities with student associations. They also provide information on administrative aspects regarding living in Belgium.

2 English-taught
bachelor's
programmes

31 English-taught
master's
programmes

79% Satisfied students
(Course
evaluation survey
2019-2020)

13 English-taught
postgraduate
certificate
programmes

6 English-taught
advanced master's
programmes

No. 1
Faculty/student
ratio in Belgium
and #40
worldwide (QS
World University
Rankings 2018)



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's 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.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

3,106
publications in 2018

253
PhD degrees
awarded in
2017-2018

36
PhD trajectories

€97.5m
research budget 2018

131
research teams

VUB is
#47
in the Reuters most
innovative universities
ranking 2018

STUDY AT VUB: PRACTICAL INFORMATION

GET ACCESS TO EXCELLENT AND AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

Tuition fees

All accredited bachelor's and master's 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 education, and this is for students from all over the world. The table below shows average general tuition fees. There are exceptions which you can find on the website: www.vub.be/en/tuition-fees

PROGRAMME TYPE	TUITION FEE IN €/year
Bachelor	950 - 3,850
Master	835 - 9,000
Advanced master	922 - 13,000
Postgraduate certificate	200 - 40,000
PhD	480 (applicable in the first year and the year of defence)

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 (local bus, tram, metro)	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

Accommodation

International students have several accommodation possibilities in Brussels. Depending on the type of international student you are, you can either arrange your own accommodation off campus or apply for a VUB room on campus. The latter is only for full-time bachelor's and master's degree-seeking students. More information can be found on <https://student.vub.be/en/housing>

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.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), Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), or the Interuniversity Test of Academic English (ITACE). If you have been instructed and assessed in English at a recognised secondary or post-secondary educational institution, you may be exempt from these requirements.

For further information regarding the English language requirements (including the minimum scores) please visit www.vub.be/en/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.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 non-EU/EEA nationals) need to submit their application before **1 April**.
- Students who do not require a visa must apply before **1 September**.

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

More information: www.vub.be/en/apply

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

>> START <<

1

CHOOSE A STUDY PROGRAMME

- find information on www.vub.be/en
- Check application requirements and deadlines

2

START ONLINE APPLICATION

www.vub.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 OFFICAL LETTER OF ADMISSION 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
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL			
Bachelor	Social Sciences (B.Sc.)	Communication Studies	180
		Political Sciences	
		Sociology	
	Business Economics	International Business (B.Sc.) Business and Technology (B.Sc.)	180
Master	Business and Technology (M.Sc.)		120
	Communication Studies (M.Sc.)	Journalism and Media in Europe	60
		New Media and Society in Europe	
	Digital Communication Leadership (M.A.)	Digital Communication, Policy and Innovation in Europe	120
	International Business (M.Sc.)		120
	Management (M.Sc.)		60
Political Science: European and International Governance (M.Sc.)		60	
Advanced Master	European Integration (M.Sc.)		60
FACULTY OF SCIENCES AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES			
Master	Educational Sciences (M.Sc.)		120
FACULTY OF ARTS AND PHILOSOPHY			
Master	Multilingual Master in Linguistics and Literary Studies (M.A.)	Intermediality	60
		Linguistics	
		Literary Studies	
		Multilingualism & Foreign Language Acquisition	
		Multilingual Mediation and Communication	
		Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics	
Research Master	Philosophy (M.A.)		120
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND BIO-ENGINEERING SCIENCES			
Master	Applied Science and Engineering: Computer Science (M.Sc.)	Artificial Intelligence	120
		Multimedia	
		Software Languages and Software Engineering	
		Web and Information Systems	
	Biology (M.Sc.)	Ecology and Biodiversity	120
		Herpetology	
		Human Ecology	
		Molecular and Cellular Life Sciences Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems	
	Chemistry (M.Sc.)	Analytical and Environmental Chemistry	120
		Chemical Theory, (Bio) Molecular Design and Synthesis	
	Geography (M.Sc.)	Earth and Climate	120
		City, Society and Space	
		GIS and Spatial Modelling	
	Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management (M.Sc.)	Conservation Biology and Ecosystem Management	120
		Environmental Impact and Remediation	
		Global Change Impacts on Ecology and Biodiversity	
Marine and Lacustrine Geosciences			
Molecular Biology (M.Sc.)	Agro and Plant Biotechnology	120	
	Biotechnology for Global Health		
Physics and Astronomy (M.Sc.)	Economy and Business	120	
	Education		
	Research		
Urban Studies (M.Sc.)		120	
4CITIES+ (M.Sc.)		120	

DEGREE	PROGRAMME	MAJORS/SPECIALISATIONS	ECTS
FACULTY OF LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY			
Advanced Master	International and European Law (LL.M)		60
	Maritime Science (M.Sc.)		60
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING			
Master	Applied Sciences and Engineering: Applied Computer Science (M.Sc.)		120
	Architectural Engineering (M.Sc.)		120
	Biomedical Engineering (M.Sc.)	Radiation Physics	120
		Biomechanics and Biomaterials	
		Sensors and Medical Devices	
		Neuro-Engineering	
	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.)	Radiation Physics and Medical Imaging	120	
	Computational Methods for Medical Applications		
Sustainable Land Management (M.Sc.)	Urban Land Management	120	
	Land and Groundwater Management		
Water Resources Engineering (M.Sc.)		120	
Advanced Master	Nuclear Engineering (M.Sc.)		60
FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY			
Master	Biomedical Research (M.Sc.)		120
Research Master	Gerontological Sciences (M.Sc.)		120
Advanced Master	Disaster Medicine (M.Sc.)		60
	Global Health (M.Sc.)		120

Disclaimer

The content of this brochure has been drafted with great care. However, VUB cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information provided therein. The content of the brochure is not legally binding and is subject to change without notice.

More Information on Study Programmes

All programmes
www.vub.be/en/study

Postgraduate certificate programmes
www.vub.be/en/study/postgraduate

PhD programmes
www.vub.be/en/phd

Summer schools
www.vub.be/en/study/summerschools

Exchange programmes
www.vub.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 Office

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

Tel: +32 (0)2 614 81 01 - Email: international.relations@vub.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

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