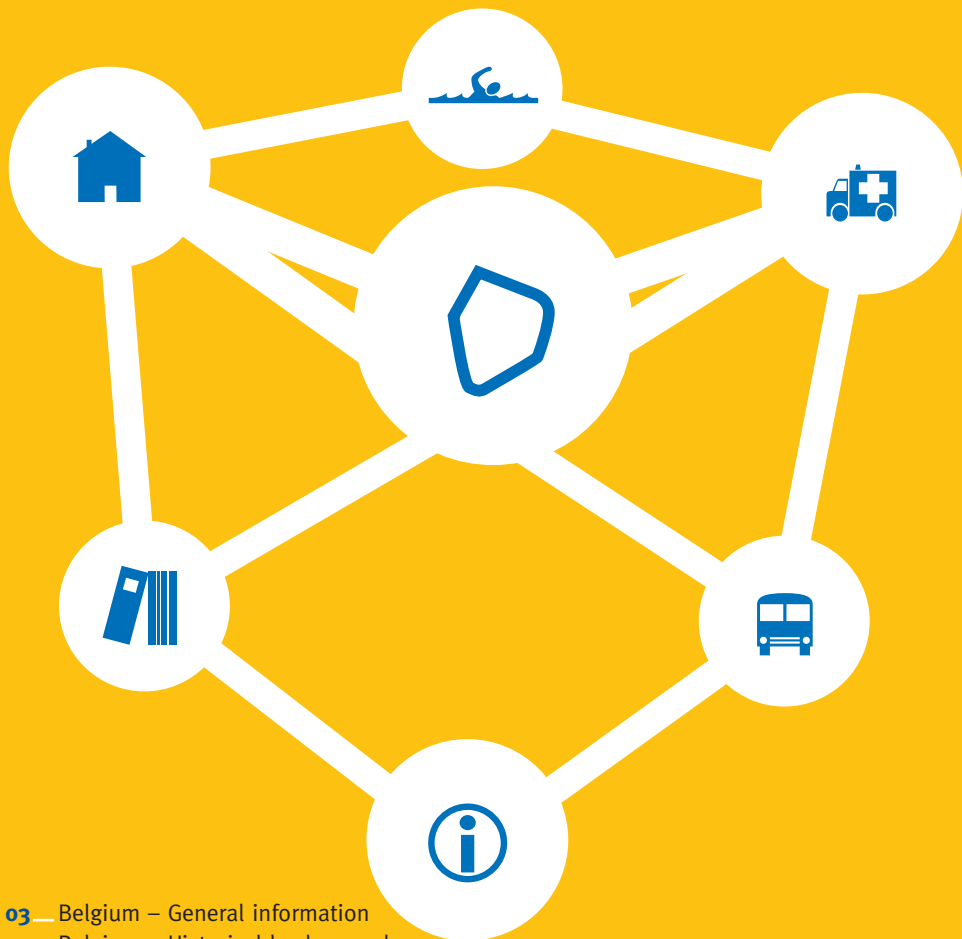




BRUSSELS ALLIANCE FOR  
RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION

# Live and studies in Brussels





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# Belgium



## General information

**The Kingdom of Belgium is located in Northern Europe between France (south-west), Luxembourg (south), Germany (east), The Netherlands (north-east) and the English Channel (west). Its capital, Brussels, is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. It hosts the headquarters of the European Union and NATO and is home to many multinational companies. Belgium has three official languages: Dutch, French and German.**

- The history of Belgium has always been one of cultural and commercial exchange and its national character has resulted, in part, from its role as a meeting place for Western Europe. Traces of Austrian, Spanish, French and German influence are apparent in its peoples' lifestyles and in its architecture, renowned for superb examples of Romanesque, Baroque, Gothic and Art Nouveau.

Folklore is a very important part of Belgian life. Many festivals, ceremonies, enactments, parades, etc. take place throughout the year.

Thanks to its history and role as an international centre for business and culture, Belgium is a very convivial and welcoming country.





## Historical background

— Belgium gained its independence in 1830 after an uprising which led to its separation from The Netherlands.

The name “Belgium” is derived from the name given by Julius Caesar to the “Belgae”, a Celtic tribe, in 57 B.C. He described them as the bravest and most indomitable of all Gauls. The region was part of the Roman Empire for three centuries starting in 50 B.C. The Romans contributed to an expansion in trade by building ports and an extensive road network.

The region was threatened by Germanic tribes in the early part of the fifth century. The Franks took advantage of the situation and invaded in 406, establishing their capital at Tournai. Many Frankish invaders infiltrated the North, where Roman influence was not as strong, and imposed their Germanic dialect. The South, on the other hand, had been thoroughly impregnated with Roman culture. It absorbed the Franks, who were a minority, and kept the Roman language. This was the very beginning of today’s language border.

Trade routes were established along waterways beginning in the 9th century. Trading posts developed and, over time, grew into towns. They gained political independence by shaking off the yoke of local lords. This led to the birth of new class of merchants and, later, of craftsmen. The latter successfully demanded the right to participate in municipal power alongside the merchant class. The county of Flanders,

which enjoyed strong economic growth, became one of the most populated areas of Western Europe. The textile industry developed in large towns and later in villages and rural areas. Bruges became the region’s main exporting seaport.

The Belgian territories (with the exception of the Principality of Liege) came under the rule of the Dukes of Burgundy in the 15th century. They retained a substantial degree of autonomy. Antwerp overtook Bruges as the main port of transit for Western Europe during this period.

Belgium set itself apart during the reign of Charles V (1515-1555) by its high degree of urbanisation. Antwerp became the business and financial centre of Western Europe. The first half of the 16th century was a period of prosperity. The arts and sciences flourished.

Political and social turmoil grew under Philip II of Spain (1555-1598). Protestantism spread in the Low Countries and its followers eventually pushed the Spaniards out of the Northern Provinces (present-day Holland). The southern, Catholic, provinces (present-day Belgium) were re-conquered. The Spanish army took Antwerp in 1585, marking a final break between the Northern and Southern Low Countries.

Control of the Southern Low Countries was ceded to the Habsburgs of Austria by signature of the Treaty of Utrecht in 1715. The provinces were annexed by France in 1794.

The Industrial Revolution spread throughout the region during the French period. The first great paved roads were built, promoting commercial traffic. Wallonia became the most industrialised area of continental Europe. Ghent was the only industrial town in Flanders. The port of Antwerp was able to take advantage of the French occupation thanks to the lifting of the Dutch blockade. Political freedom, however, was nonexistent under Napoleon. The Dutch language was suppressed in Flanders and all publications in the language were forbidden. French rule ended in 1815 with Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo.

The allies met at the Congress of Vienna that year and decided to create a buffer state north of France. The Northern and Southern Netherlands and the Principality of Liege were joined into a single state known as the United Kingdom of the Netherlands. William I of Orange was made king. He gave fresh impetus to industrial development in Belgium. His policies were supported by major industrialists from Wallonia and Ghent. The non-mechanised rural industries of Flanders suffered from competition from big manufacturers and discontent grew. Catholics protested against William I's poor management of religious matters and Liberals against lack of freedom (the imposition of Dutch as the official language of Flanders, for example). His policies were not to the liking of the young, French-speaking, Walloon and Flemish upper classes who felt threatened by them. In 1828, the Catholic and Liberal bourgeois of future Belgium joined forces to issue a programme of demands. This association is known as "unionism".

Open revolt broke out in Brussels on September 23, 1830 and Belgium seceded from the Northern Provinces. The provisional government declared independence on October 4, 1830. A constitution, considered

very progressive for the times, was approved by the National Congress on February 7, 1831.

A diplomatic conference on the future of Belgium opened in London on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1830. The great powers recognised the separation of Belgium and The Netherlands. Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, a German prince, became the first King of Belgium in 1831. He was succeeded by his son Leopold II in 1865. Belgium became a major industrial power during their reigns. A number of colonial expeditions were financed; the best known ones explored the Congo in Africa.

Despite neutrality imposed by the Great Powers, Germany occupied Belgium during the First World War. Difficult times ensued and the impact of international economic problems on the country was quite evident. Belgium regained its neutrality in 1936 but was again invaded by Germany in May 1940.

King Albert II came to the throne as the sixth King of the Belgians on August 9, 1993.

Community issues have played an all important role in the country's recent political history. Four reforms have transformed Belgium into a federal state. The political scene has also been dominated by economic problems and, increasingly, by globalisation. Belgium has played an important role in the construction of the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union, the Benelux and European integration. As a member of the United Nations, and in the service of peace throughout the world, it often sends troops and observers to take part in international actions.

To find out more, go to the history page of the Belgian government's website at: [http://belgium.fgov.be/fr\\_index.htm](http://belgium.fgov.be/fr_index.htm)



## Federalism in Belgium

### Belgium is divided into three regions:

- The Brussels-Capital Region
- The Walloon Region
- The Flemish Region.

Each Region has jurisdiction over regional economic affairs. This includes employment, oversight of municipalities and provinces, public works, transportation, land development, the environment, housing, etc.

### Belgium is also subdivided into separate communities:

- The French-speaking community
- The Flemish-speaking community
- The German-speaking community.

The communities are based on membership in cultures defined primarily by language. They manage cultural affairs in its broadest sense (culture, schools and education, the media, etc.), sports and individual matters (healthcare, childhood and youth services, etc.).

The Belgian federal government manages residual affairs, that is, all those not directly under the jurisdiction of the Communities and Regions. These traditionally federal matters are:

- Law enforcement, justice, national defence and the federal state's foreign policy
- Social security

- Monetary policy, asylum and immigration policies
- Fiscal, commercial, civil, and labour legislation.

The state also has jurisdiction whenever an exception to community or regional laws is formulated in its favour. This currently includes:

- Nuclear energy
- Railroads and Brussels-National Airport
- Language issues
- Brussels' main bi-cultural institutions including The Royal Museums of Fine Art of Belgium and the Royal Monnaie Opera House.

The Regions and Communities are also responsible for some international matters and, within the limits of their powers, are authorised to sign international agreements and treaties. They have a constitutional status and each has a parliament and a government which exercise legislative and executive powers, respectively.

These institutions were created as a result of Belgian federalism. They are entitled to modify, within certain limits, both their internal organisations and operation. It is thanks to these rights that the Flemish Region and Community merged their parliaments and governments. Although they have joint institutions, each retains an independent legal status. The French Community and the Walloon Region, on the other hand, still have separate institutions.

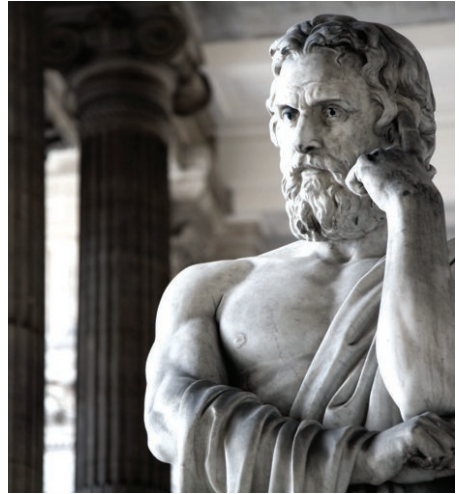
The Walloon Region also has jurisdiction in German-language communes where the German-speaking Community enjoys the same powers as the other two Communities. Laws voted into effect by the Regions and Communities are called “decrees”. Those voted by the Federal Government are called “laws”.

Legal structures have been put in place in the Brussels-Capital Region to provide better services for the Region’s mixed French and Flemish population. Brussels’ regional law consists of “ordinances” which have a legal status virtually equivalent to that of the decrees and laws.

The Government has set up a Constitutional Court to handle jurisdictional conflicts between the country’s various institutions.

For additional information on Belgium and its federal system, Communities and Regions visit the websites of:

- The French-speaking Community of Belgium  
[www.cfwb.be](http://www.cfwb.be)
- The Federal Government of Belgium  
[www.belgium.be](http://www.belgium.be)





## Belgium briefly

**Official name:** Kingdom of Belgium

**Usual name:** Belgium

**Continent:** Europe

**Population:** 10,396,421 (2003)

**Area:** 32,545 km<sup>2</sup>

**Federal capital:** Brussels

**Capital area:** 161 km<sup>2</sup>

**Federal capital population:** 1,003,442 inhabitants

**Head of State:** H.M. King Albert II

**Independence day:** July 21st

anniversary of the swearing in of King Leopold I (1831)

**National languages:** French, Dutch (Flemish) and German

**Currency:** Euro (€, EUR)

**Gross National Product:** 233 billion euros (2003 estimate)

**Annual growth rate:** 2.5% (1999) – 2.8% (2000)

**Distribution of the working population by industry (2000):**

Agriculture: 72,973

Industry: 1,076,917

Services: 2,942,674

**Time zone:** GMT + 1 hour

**Daylight savings time (summer):** GMT + 2 hours

**Weights and measures:** Metric system

**Household electricity:** 220 volts

**Population density:** 315 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> (2001)

**Highest point:** Signal de Botrange (694 m)

**Maximum distance between two points:** 280 km

**Geographical centre:** Nil-Saint-Vincent

**Average annual temperature:** 11.2 °C (2000)

**Average winter temperature:** 3 °C (Brussels)

**Average summer temperature:** 16 °C (Brussels)

**Rainfall:** 852 mm (annual average in 2000)

**Sunshine:** 1,392 hours (annual average in 2000)



You can visit the following websites to find out more:

- **National Institute of Statistics (INS)**  
Statistics on a wide range of topics:  
[www.statbel.fgov.be/home\\_fr.asp](http://www.statbel.fgov.be/home_fr.asp)
- **The Ministry for Economic Affairs**  
Facts and figures on the Belgian economy:  
[www.mineco.fgov.be](http://www.mineco.fgov.be)
- **Federal Planning Agency**  
Including the consumer price index and inflation forecasts  
[www.plan.fgov.be/fr/welcome.stm](http://www.plan.fgov.be/fr/welcome.stm)
- **The National Bank of Belgium**  
Statistics on the Belgian economy  
[www.bnb.be/DQ/F/homef.htm](http://www.bnb.be/DQ/F/homef.htm)
- **Administrative Documentation Centre of the French-speaking Community (legal documents)**  
[www.cdadoc.cfwb.be](http://www.cdadoc.cfwb.be)
- **House of Representatives**  
[www.lachambre.be](http://www.lachambre.be)
- **Council of State**  
[www.raadvst-consetat.fgov.be](http://www.raadvst-consetat.fgov.be)
- **Flemish-speaking Community (Flemish Region)**  
[www.vlaanderen.be](http://www.vlaanderen.be)
- **French-speaking Community**  
[www.cfwb.be](http://www.cfwb.be)
- **French Community Commission**  
[www.cocof.irisnet.be](http://www.cocof.irisnet.be)
- **German-speaking Community**  
[www.dglive.be](http://www.dglive.be)
- **CREDOC (Centre for Legal Documentation)**  
[www.credoc.be](http://www.credoc.be)
- **Federal Government**  
[www.Belgium.fgov.be](http://www.Belgium.fgov.be)
- **Official Belgian Gazette (Moniteur Belge)**  
[www.moniteur.be](http://www.moniteur.be)
- **Brussels-Capital Region**  
[www.bruxelles.irisnet.be](http://www.bruxelles.irisnet.be)
- **Walloon Region**  
[www.wallonie.be](http://www.wallonie.be)
- **Senate**  
[www.senate.be](http://www.senate.be)
- **European Union**  
[www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int)



# Brussels

## The Capital of Belgium



### General information about the Federal Capital

- Brussels, is the capital of both the Belgian Federal State and of Europe. It is at the centre of Belgian economic, political and cultural life. The French and Flemish Communities and, of course, the Brussels-Capital Region have also chosen the city as their capital and have set up administrative offices there.

Brussels is a meeting place for international business. It hosts many trade shows and is the world's second busiest convention city. It welcomes over 1,000 business seminars every year and has particularly well-developed meeting facilities. Some 2,000 foreign companies, including 1,400 American ones, and over 1,000 international associations are headquartered in Brussels. Europe is well represented. Many European Union offices are located in Brussels. These include the Committee of Regions, the Economic and Social Committee and the European Commission, Council and Parliament.

Brussels has also been home to NATO headquarters since 1967. The presence of 60 foreign banks has helped make Brussels the world's seventh biggest financial market. The city, which was European City of Culture in 2000, is reputed for its stunning Grand-Place and its wealth of museums and remarkable monuments.





## Historical overview

— Archaeological finds indicate that the Senne River valley has been inhabited since Neolithic times. The Nervians settled there in the 3rd century B.C. They would later fight against Caesar's army.

The Franks built towns in the 5th century and, by the 9th century, under Charlemagne, the Brussels region was very prosperous.

In 977 (Brussels was officially founded in 979) Charles of Lower-Lotharingia was granted Lower-Lotharingia as a fiefdom by Otton II. The duke built a fortified residence (castrum) on the island of Saint Géry in the middle of the Senne. Its strategic location (at the intersection of the Senne, still navigable at the time, and a trade road linking Nivelles and Antwerp) and its military presence, led to the city's administrative and economic development. The city built a pier, a market place and several churches and chapels (Saint-Géry, Saint-Michel and Saint-Jacques).

The name Bruocsela was used for the first time in a charter from this period (the local swamps gave the city its name: Bruoc = swamp, sella = house).

Beginning in the 11th century, people left the banks of the Senne to move to Coudenberg (currently Place Royale), on the higher reaches of the valley. Duke Jean I of Brabant set up his residence there in the 13th century. The Dukes of Brabant built a castle on the Coudenberg and continued to

promote the city's development until the 15th century. Brussels reached out to the country's two main regions through the gates of Namur and Flanders. The city was already a major commercial hub in the 11th century but it wasn't until the 12th century that craft industries began to develop and the city became truly urban.

The Dukes of Burgundy transformed the Coudenberg Palace into a vast and sumptuous residence in the 15th century. It was, unfortunately, destroyed by fire in 1731. Located on the main Cologne to Boulogne road, the city experienced great economic and artistic development under Burgundian rule.

During the reign of Charles 5th in the 16th century, Brussels was proud to have many renowned residents including the physician Vesalius and humanists such as Erasmus. The inhabitants of Brussels rebelled against Philip II and, from 1599 on, rediscovered their joie de vivre under Archdukes Albert and Isabel of Austria.

Brussels suffered tremendously from French bombardments during the 1695 siege of the city. The Austrian period began in 1715. It was followed by French rule and removal of the city's fortifications.

Corporations have had a great deal of say in city affairs since 1421. Brussels flourished in the 18th century thanks to the policies of its governor, Charles of Lorraine.

Brussels was French from 1794 to 1814. The first world congress of economists was held in the city in 1814. Belgium became part of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in 1815 and the ensuing period was one of great infrastructure works such as the digging of the Brussels-Charleroi canal.

The residents of Brussels got their independence and the city became the capital of Belgium when the country broke away from the Netherlands in 1830.

King Leopold I inaugurated the “Allée Verte”, the continent’s first rail road, in 1834. The «Université de Bruxelles» was founded the same year.

At the end of the 19th century, Brussels became the capital of Art Nouveau thanks to the famous architect Victor Horta.

Many new architecture projects saw the day under King Leopold II. Victor Hugo, who lived in the city, wrote “I am enthusiastic about Brussels!” Others after him, including Toulouse-Lautrec, Sacha Guitry and Aldous Huxley, voiced their admiration for the city, highly urbanised thanks to the genius of Leopold II. Many famous people, including Mozart, Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington spend time in the city.

The 20th century saw these trends continue. Brussels expanded and the World’s Fair of 1958 underscored the modern era.

New administrative and commercial districts bore witness to substantial new urban development. Despite this, about 15% of the city is still covered by green areas, parks, squares and woods.





## What to visit in Brussels

### — Tourist attractions

Atomium  
 City Hall  
 Saints Michael and Gudule Cathedral  
 Manneken Pis  
 Belgian Comic Strip Centre  
 Palace of Justice  
 Royal Palace of Laeken  
 Chinese Pavilion and Japanese Tower  
 Column of Congress  
 Place Royale  
 European Commission  
 The Sablon district (antiques shops)  
 Grand-Place  
 The Government district

### — Museums

Museum of Ancient Art  
 Museum of Natural Sciences  
 Museum of Modern Art  
 Horta Museum  
 Royal Museum of Fine Arts  
 Beer Museum  
 Royal Army Museum  
 Van Buuren Museum  
 Museum of Musical Instruments  
 Chocolate Museum  
 Museum of the City of Brussels  
 Cinquantenaire Museum  
 Brussels Public Transport Museum  
 Erasmus House

### — Nearby

#### **Huizingen:**

Provincial domain (park with pond, swimming pool, playground and animal park)

#### **Meise:**

National Botanical Gardens

#### **Tervuren:**

Royal Museum of Central Africa

#### **Villers-La-Ville:**

Cistercian abbey

#### **Waterloo:**

Butte du Lion  
 Panorama of the Battle of Waterloo  
 Wellington Museum

#### **Wavre:**

Walibi (theme park)

See the following websites for additional information about Brussels:

**EuroBRU, the portal of Europe's capital:**

[www.eurobru.com/visit70.htm](http://www.eurobru.com/visit70.htm)

[www.eurobru.com/visitoo.htm](http://www.eurobru.com/visitoo.htm)

**Brussels, Brussels-Capital Region:**

[www.bruxelles.irisnet.be](http://www.bruxelles.irisnet.be)

**Brussels Online:**

[www.brussels-online.be/fr/ville.php?spartie=Histoire](http://www.brussels-online.be/fr/ville.php?spartie=Histoire)

[ville.php?spartie=Histoire](http://www.brussels-online.be/fr/ville.php?spartie=Histoire)

**IDéarts:**

[www.idearts.com/magazine/dossiers/histoire.htm](http://www.idearts.com/magazine/dossiers/histoire.htm)

[histoire.htm](http://www.idearts.com/magazine/dossiers/histoire.htm)

For tourist information contact:

**The Belgian Tourist Welcome Centre  
and Information Office**

Tel.:02 504 03 90

Rue du Marché aux Herbes, 63

1000 Brussels

**Brussels International-Tourism  
& Conferences**

Tel.:02 513 89 40

Brussels City Hall. Grand-Place

1000 Brussels





## Brussels and Europe

Brussels is located at the heart of Europe. Here are some distances from Brussels to other major cities:



- Amsterdam: 197 Km
- Cologne: 201 Km
- London: 350 Km
- Paris: 294 Km
- Luxembourg: 210 Km

## L'Ecole Royale Militaire The Royal Military School (RMS): A Military and Federal Institution

— The RMS's mission was set down in the organic law of March 18, 1838. This post-secondary military teaching institution provides its students with academic, military and sports training. The school's students are officer candidates and career soldiers in the Belgian armed forces. Students may also be from other European Union countries and may or may not be soldiers or Belgian

citizens, but all must meet the admission guidelines set by the King and certified by the Minister for National Defence.

The RMS has had two faculties since the 2003-2004 academic year: the Polytechnic Faculty and the Faculty of Social and Military Sciences.

## Overview of the French Community's educational system

— The French-speaking Community is responsible for educational matters in Wallonia and the Brussels-Capital Region (French-language schools), except for private schools. The educational system consists of three major types of school:

- Public (official) schools organised and managed by the French Community (FC)
- Public (official) schools subsidised by the FC but operated by communal or provincial governments
- Independent (free) schools which provide religious and non-religious education and are subsidised by the FC.

All schools belong to one of these three networks and are under the supervision of one (or several) organising powers (pouvoir organisateur). The FC government is responsible for schools managed by the FC. Subsidised official schools are operated by the provinces and municipalities and subsidised free schools are run by individuals or companies.

### **The Minister for Higher Education, Professional Training and Scientific Research is:**

Mrs. Marie-Dominique SIMONET  
Rue Belliard 9-11 - 1040 Brussels  
Tel: 02 213 35 11.



# Higher education in the French Community



## General information

**There are four types of post-secondary schools:**

- **Universities**
- **Colleges of Higher Education**
- **Colleges of Higher Education for the Arts (ESA)**
- **Colleges of Higher Education for Architecture**

### — Universities

The first years of university provide basic training in the chosen major field and general science education.

This is followed by further concentration on scientific research methods and specialised course content. Universities prepare senior-level managers and high level researchers.

University studies are divided into two cycles.

The first is a general training cycle of 180 ECTS (see page 24: The ECTS System). This normally lasts three years (BA degree).

The second, Masters (MA) cycle, leads to a profession after one (60 ECTS) or two years (120 ECTS) depending on the degree of

desired specialisation. The two-year Masters degree is based on either a didactic approach (which integrates the current examination), a research-focused approach (integrating certain specialist studies diplomas - DEA) or a professional training approach.

Study programmes in all subjects last four to five years (with the exception of medical and veterinarian studies).

This revised programme integrates most of the current third cycle materials into the two-year MA (complementary specialist and pedagogical skills training) and is intended to combine knowledge and know-how to provide students with advanced training adapted to today's international challenges and the complexities of the knowledge society.

## — Colleges of higher education

The Colleges of Higher Education are divided into eight categories of either **long** (TL) or **short** (TC) programmes.

The categories are:

- Agricultural Engineering
- Applied Arts
- Economics
- Teacher training
- Paramedical sciences
- Social studies
- Technical studies
- Translation and Interpretation

The **long** programme is university level and consists of two cycles, like the university system:

- The first cycle offers general training for a total of 180 ECTS over a period of three years. Students graduate with a Bachelor's (BA) degree.
- The second cycle, the Masters (MA), leads to a career after either one (60 ECTS) or two years (120 ECTS) depending on the degree of specialisation sought. Specialised courses are offered after the second cycle in some fields. They last two years at the most and lead to a «diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées» (DESS).

The **short** programme consists of a single cycle of 180 ECTS, normally lasting three years and leading to a Bachelors degree (four years for midwife training). It provides both theoretical and practical training and prepares students to enter a career immediately after graduation. Additional one-year courses are also offered in some fields and lead to specialisation diplomas. Bridge courses enable students to continue their studies at a university or college of higher education in order to obtain a Master's degree.

## — Colleges of higher education for the Arts (ESA)

The ESA offer both long and short higher education programmes. These schools prepare students for arts-related fields in four areas of study:

- Plastic, visual and spatial arts
- Music
- Theatre and the performing arts
- Entertainment, broadcasting and communications.

## — Colleges of higher education for Architecture

Architecture studies are offered as a long programme lasting five years. It is a full-time university-level programme spread over two cycles. The first cycle is three years long (Bachelors) and the second is two years (Masters).

Studies for the Bachelors in Architecture include teaching courses (theory, theoretical and practical teaching courses in architecture project design). Graduation requires 180 ECTS plus a 15 day internship.

The Masters course in architecture consists in teaching activities (compulsory and optional course, an architecture project and an end-of-studies project). Requirements for the Masters degree are 120 ECTS and a 15 day internship.

## — Registration fees

Regular students must pay a registration fee. Erasmus students pay their fees to their home school.

Administrative fees vary from school to school. Registration fees, however, vary according to educational category and the school's organising power (see above). Students from outside the European Union are required to pay specific registration fees.

# Le Pôle Universitaire Européen Bruxelles Wallonie The Alliance for Research and Higher Education in Brussels

— Post-secondary education in Europe, and in Belgium, in particular, has undergone profound change over the past few years. The educational landscape has changed significantly.

The Alliance's partners have been weaving a tight and varied fabric of bilateral educational and research relationships for a long time.

What's more, close examination of educational offerings reveals that there are many complementary areas which have, for the most part, been entrenched through bridging decrees.

In addition, recent analysis of the progress of students through the system shows that many of them refocus their studies and move from a College of Higher Education to a University or vice-versa.

As a result, the Brussels partners of the Alliance have sought to create a complete, consistent and diversified educational and research entity based on high standards in the Capital of Europe. Its goals include the avoidance of competition and the development of synergies for the benefit students above all.

## L'Académie Universitaire Wallonie-Bruxelles The Alliance for Research and Higher Education

Universities must play an essential part in the construction of the Europe of Knowledge and the European Research Area. They will only be able to fulfil their mission if they strengthen cooperation and share both resources and skills to create greater international visibility.

It is in this spirit that, on, June 8<sup>th</sup> 2004, the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the University of Mons-Hainaut (UMH) and the Polytechnic Faculty of Mons (FPMS) decided to join forces to create the Brussels Alliance for Research and Higher Education.

## Partner Institutions of the Alliance for Research and Higher Education in Brussels

In Brussels, the Alliance for Research and Higher Education is a university and twelve colleges of higher education:

### ■ ULB

#### Université Libre de Bruxelles

Av. F.D. Roosevelt 50

B - 1050 Brussels

Tel.: +32 2 650 21 11

[www.ulb.ac.be](http://www.ulb.ac.be) - [mobilite@ulb.ac.be](mailto:mobilite@ulb.ac.be)

### ■ HELDB

#### Haute Ecole Lucia de Brouckère

Av. Emile Gryzon 1

B - 1070 Brussels

Tel.: +32 2 526 73 00

Fax: +32 2 524 30 82

[www.heldb.be](http://www.heldb.be) - [info@heldb.be](mailto:info@heldb.be)

### ■ HEB

#### Haute Ecole de Bruxelles

Chée de Waterloo 749

B - 1180 Brussels

Tel.: +32 2 340 12 95

Fax: +32 2 347 52 64

[www.heb.be](http://www.heb.be)

### ■ HEFF

#### Haute Ecole Francisco Ferrer

Rue de la Fontaine 4

B - 1000 Brussels

Tel.: +32 2 279 58 10

Fax: +32 2 279 58 29

[www.he-ferrer.eu](http://www.he-ferrer.eu)

**■ HELB****Haute Ecole Libre de Bruxelles  
Ilya Prigogine**

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Avenue Besme 97  
B - 1190 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 349 68 11  
Fax: +32 2 349 68 31  
[www.helb-prigogine.be](http://www.helb-prigogine.be)

**■ HESPA****Haute Ecole Paul-Henri Spaak**

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Rue Royale 150  
B - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 227 35 01  
[www.he-spaak.be](http://www.he-spaak.be)

**■ ARBA****Académie royale des Beaux-Arts**

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Rue du Midi 144  
B - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 506 10 10  
Fax: +32 2 506 10 28  
[www.arba-esa.be](http://www.arba-esa.be)

**■ CrB****Conservatoire royal de Bruxelles**

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Rue de la Régence 30  
B - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 511 04 27  
[www.conservatoire.be](http://www.conservatoire.be)

**■ ENSAV****Ecole Nationale Supérieure  
des Arts Visuels de la Cambre**

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Abbaye de la Cambre 21  
B - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 626 17 80  
Fax: +32 2 640 96 93  
[www.lacambre.be](http://www.lacambre.be)

**■ ERM****Ecole royale militaire**

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Av. de la Renaissance 30  
B - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 742 60 11  
Fax: +32 2 742 62 12  
[www.rma-ac.be](http://www.rma-ac.be)

**■ ISACF****Institut Supérieur d'Architecture  
de la Communauté française – la Cambre**

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Place Flagey 19  
B - 1050 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 640 96 66  
Fax: +32 2 647 46 55  
[www.lacambre-archi.be](http://www.lacambre-archi.be)  
[isacf@lacambre-archi.be](mailto:isacf@lacambre-archi.be)

**■ HORTA****Institut Supérieur d'Architecture  
intercommunal (site Victor Horta)**

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Campus de la Plaine  
Bd du Triomphe CP 248  
B - 1050 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 650 50 95  
Fax: +32 2 650 50 93  
[www.horta-ulb.ac.be](http://www.horta-ulb.ac.be)

**■ INSAS****Institut national Supérieur  
des Arts de la Scène  
et Techniques de Diffusion**

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Rue Thérésienne 8  
B-1000 Bruxelles  
Tel.: +32 2 511 92 86  
Fax: +32 2 511 02 79  
[www.insas.be](http://www.insas.be)

## The ECTS system European Credit Transfer System

The partners of the Brussels-Wallonia European University Centre use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). This guarantees that the academic programmes students have followed will be recognised by other learning institutions. It ensures that students can take courses offered at host schools when these have an agreement for full-time students with the home school. Thanks to the ECTS, students can participate fully in the academic life of the school they are visiting.

The ECTS also enables students to continue their studies outside of their home county. If a student decide not to return to their home institution when their study period is over, they can continue in the host school and earn a degree. Students can also opt to attend a third school. These decisions must, however, be approved by school administrators. They will set the conditions a student must meet in order to receive a degree or transfer to another institution.

## ECTS credits

Credits are issued as a numerical value and associated with course units, that is, the volume of work the student must complete for each course.

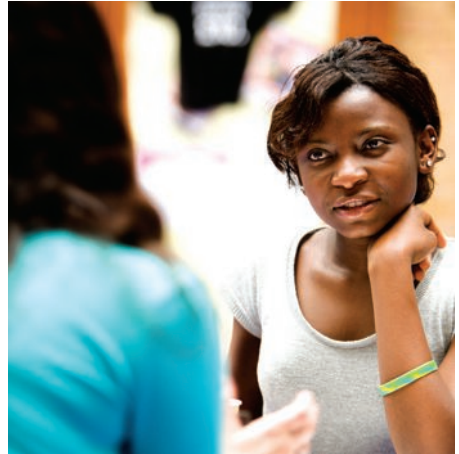
Credits express the amount of work required for each course unit in relationship to the volume of work of an entire year of study (lectures, workshops, seminars, internships, research, field work, projects and exams or other forms of evaluation). There are normally 60 ECTS credits per school year.

The three main tools used to ensure that the ECTS is effective and facilitates academic recognition are:

- The **information package**: This is very useful for both student and administrative personnel. It provides information on institutions, faculties/departments, courses offered, administrative procedures, the organisation and structure of studies and on course units.

- The **learning agreement**: Written by the student and the institutions attended before the student leaves their home country. It describes the student's required study programme and the ECTS credits that will be granted following successful completion of requirements (exams, evaluations, etc). This contract commits the student to following the study programme of the host country and to viewing it as part and parcel of their post-secondary education. The home institution agrees to guarantee full academic recognition of the credits earned in the host country. The host school commits to providing the agreed-to courses, based on a class schedule of their choice.

- The **transcript of records**: The transcript provides a clear, complete and understandable record of every student's academic results. The transcript must be easy to transfer from one institution to another. It provides the student's ECTS credits for the courses they have taken and an evaluation of their results based on the local grading system. The combination of local results and ECTS credits provide a qualitative and quantitative measure of the student's academic performance in the foreign country.



## The ECTS grading scale

— The ECTS grading scale is used by all Brussels-Wallonia European University Centre members.

For additional information, go to the following European Commission website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/socrates/ects/index\\_fr.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/socrates/ects/index_fr.html)

ECTS Grade	Normal % of students obtaining this grade	Description
<b>A</b>	10	Excellent: excellent work with only minor shortcomings
<b>B</b>	25	Very good: above-average work despite a few shortcomings
<b>C</b>	30	Good: good work overall despite a number of shortcomings
<b>D</b>	25	Satisfactory: fair work with significant shortcomings
<b>E</b>	10	Pass: Minimum requirements were met
<b>FX</b>	-	Fail: additional work is required before course credit can be awarded
<b>F</b>	-	Fail: a substantial amount of work is required



# Practical information



## Access and Residency requirements

**Note :** the relevant Department will provide an attestation stating that the student is in possession of an Erasmus grant and is registered at a school.

### Students from European Union member countries and other eligible countries

#### Formalities in the host country

Residency is granted to all students of European Union member countries who have received permission to follow professional training in another Member State, provided they have sufficient financial resources, have registered to attend a certified school, will be taking courses at the school and are covered by a health insurance policy (Dir. 93/96 CEE).

#### Formalities for obtaining residency

**NOTE:** The formalities described below are not required for students who will stay in the host country for **less than three consecutive months !!**

The following are required to obtain residency in Belgium:

- Students must register with the municipal authorities of their commune of residence within eight days of their arrival in Belgium (six ID pictures and 11,00 €) ;
- All ID documents used to come to Belgium (ID card, passport, etc.) and a proof of registration from the school ;
- Proof of sufficient financial means.

### For students from non-European Union member countries

#### Formalities in the home country For stays longer than three months

Students wishing to stay more than three months in Belgium must go to the Belgian Embassy in their home country and request a Temporary Residency Permit (ASP) for the intended period of stay. Without an ASP (not available in Belgium) it isn't possible to register with the Department of Foreigners in the municipality of residence, as required. Foreigners who do not register may be considered illegal residents and expelled from Belgium.

The following must be provided to the Embassy in order to obtain an ASP:

- The certificate delivered by the host school stating that you will be registered as a full-time student (the ASP is limited to the length of study, based on the attestation) ;
- Proof that you can support yourself financially ;
- A medical certificate which states that you do not have a condition which could be a danger to public health ;

- If you are older than 21, a certificate stating that you have not been found guilty of any crimes or offences.

**Note ! It can take six to eight weeks to get the ASP.**

Students must have their name removed from the foreigner's roll in their commune of residence at the end of their stay.

#### ■ Formalities in the host country

Follow the same procedures as students from European Union member countries and other eligible countries to obtain your residency permit.

## Registration

Erasmus students must pay registration fees at their home university. The home school will send all pertinent information on the student to the host university before their departure. When the student arrives in Brussels, they must go to the office for mobility at their host school and get an attestation proving that they are an Erasmus grant holder.

Group and individual information sessions are held for incoming students when they arrive in Brussels. The dates and times of these sessions are provided on arrival.

## — Facilities provided by the Alliance for Research and Higher Education in Brussels

Centre students get preferential access to the libraries of our 13 schools  
[www.poluniv-bxl.be/pole\\_4.html](http://www.poluniv-bxl.be/pole_4.html)

They also have access to ULB sports facilities at preferential rates  
[www.ulb.ac.be/docs/sport/index.html](http://www.ulb.ac.be/docs/sport/index.html)

Students can also attend a variety of language classes (French, for example).

For additional information, contact the school you will be attending in Brussels.

## Health and insurance

### — Students from European Union countries

Erasmus students must be in possession of a European health insurance card (CEAM). This document proves that the student is paid up on insurance contributions in their home country and gives them free access to the Belgian medical services reimbursement system. This form and the proof of registration delivered by the host school are needed to register with a Belgian sickness fund (mutuelle).

### ■ Grant holders

Some organisations providing grants also offer health insurance. Students should look into this before their departure.

### ■ Uninsured students

Students can join a sickness fund under a student plan. For information contact:

**Institut National d'Assurance  
Maladie Invalidité (INAMI)**  
Tél. : 02 739 73 14  
[www.inami.fgov.be](http://www.inami.fgov.be)

## — Students who are not members of the European Economic Area\*

Students who do not belong to the European Economic Area are not entitled to a CEAM. They are not covered for outpatient care but do get hospitalisation coverage. They can join a Belgian health care provider. The waiting period is waived but applicants may be required to pay a monthly premium of about 15 €. Another possibility is to take out private insurance in the home country.

### ■ All students

All students, and in particular those from countries which do not belong to the European Economic Area, are urged to subscribe to an insurance policy for risks which are not covered by the sickness fund.

\*E.E.E. (European Economic Area): European Union countries + Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein

## Pharmacies

Opening hours:

9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. (pharmacies take turns being on-duty at night, on weekends and holidays)

For information on pharmacies in Belgium go to [www.pharmacie.be](http://www.pharmacie.be)

For a list of on-duty pharmacies, go to:

[www.pharmacie.be/FR/frametopfr.htm](http://www.pharmacie.be/FR/frametopfr.htm)

Tel.: 0900-10.500 (0.45 €/Min)

Pharmacies post an on-duty list in their front window.

## Hospitals (partial list)

### ■ Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Erasme

Tel.: 02 555 33 32

Emergency : 02 555 34 05

route de Lennik, 808 -1070 Brussels

### ■ Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Brugmann

Tel.: 02 477 21 11

Emergency : 02 447 20 01

place Van Gehuchten, 4 -1020 Brussels

### ■ Centre Hospitalier Etterbeek - Ixelles

Tel.: 02 641 41 11

Emergency : 02 641 48 12

Rue J. Paquot 63 - 1050 Brussels

### ■ Centre Hospitalier Universitaire St Pierre

Tel.: 02 535 31 11

Emergency : 02 535 40 55

rue Haute, 322 -1000 Brussels

### ■ AZ Akademisch Ziekenhuis Jette VUB

Tel.: 02 477 41 11

Emergency : 02 477 51 00

rue Laarbeek, 101 -1090 Brussels

## Housing

Students are recommended to book a room for a couple of nights in a youth hotel before their arrival. It will be easier to locate suitable housing once in town. Generally speaking, reservations are allowed for four nights maximum.

There are several alternative housing options:

- **Rooms with local residents**
- **Boarding schools**
- **Youth hotels**
- **Private housing**
- **University residences**
- **Student residences**

For information on the advantages and drawbacks of the various housing options, or for any other information (housing addresses, legislation, leases, rental guarantees, etc.), contact the department in charge of these matters at the host school.

Below is the contact information for the five youth hostels in Brussels:

- **CHAB - Centre Vincent Van Gogh**

Rue Traversière 8 - 1210 Brussels

Tel.: +32 2 217 01 58

Fax: +32 2 219 79 95

info@chab.be

[www.chab.be](http://www.chab.be)

- **Auberge de Jeunesse Génération Europe**

Rue de l'Eléphant 4 - 1080 Brussels

Tel.: +32 2 410 38 58

Fax: +32 2 410 39 05

brussels.europe@laj.be

[www.laj.be](http://www.laj.be)

- **Jeugdherberg Breugel**

Rue du Saint Esprit 2 - 1000 Brussels

Tel.: +32 2 511 04 36

Fax: +32 2 512 07 11

brussel@vjh.be

[www.jeugdherberg.be/brussel.htm](http://www.jeugdherberg.be/brussel.htm)

- **Auberge de Jeunesse Jacques Brel**

Rue de la Sablonnière 30 - 1000 Brussels

Tel.: +32 2 218 01 87

Fax: +32 2 217 20 05

brussels.brel@laj.be

[www.laj.be](http://www.laj.be)

- **Hôtel des Jeunes Sleepwell**

Espace du Marais asbl

Rue du Damier 23 - 1000 Brussels

Tel.: +32 2 218 50 50

Fax: +32 2 218 13 13

info@sleepwell.be

[www.sleepwell.be](http://www.sleepwell.be)

## Cost of living

(January 1st 2007)

**Average monthly student living expenses are about 550 € (estimate only).**

Average monthly rent for a room is between 200 € and 380 €.

### — Sample meals

There are many small, fairly inexpensive, restaurants downtown (Italian, Turkish, Moroccan, Indian, Greek, Asian, Spanish and other food).

**pizza:** 6,50 € ~ 10,00 €

**soft drink:** 1,25 €

**sandwich:** 1,80 € ~ 3,00 €

**beer:** 1,25 €

salad: 6,50 € ~ 15,00 €  
 coffee, tea: 1,50 €  
 alcoholic beverage: 3,75 € ~ 8,00 €

## Food

soft drink: 0,50 €  
 Vegetables in season (1 Kg): 2,00 €  
 milk (1 L.): 0,75 €  
 fruit in season (1 Kg): 2,50 €  
 pasta (500 gr): 1,00 €  
 white bread (400 gr): 1,10 €  
 beef (1 Kg): 12,50 €

## Recreation

### films :

students (with card): 7,00 €  
 adult: 8,00 €

**sports:** prices vary a great deal depending on the sport, club and, sometimes, the time of day.

swimming: 2,50 € ~ 11,00 €  
 tennis: 6,00 € ~ 15,00 € (à l'heure)  
 volley ball: 15,00 € ~ 19,00 €

Your coordinator can tell you about deals for students.

## Banking

There are over a hundred banks in Belgium, active in all areas of banking. There are also about sixty foreign banks in the city.

An ID card or passport is needed to open a bank account. A student card may also be requested.

Do not forget to close your account when you leave Belgium!

### Opening hours:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hours are getting longer. There are always automatic teller machines around for evenings and weekends!

## Telephone service

Public telephones are operated with magnetic stripe cards available at all news agents (5, 10 and 20 €). They can also often be operated with:

- coins
- credit cards
- rechargeable cards (Proton: ask your bank)

Telephone shops provide cheaper service to other countries.

Mobile phones operating at 900 or 1800 MHz can be used with pre-paid cards. They are available in several amounts and with a variety of rate plans for different types of users. They can be purchased from three mobile service providers in Belgium (Proximus, Mobistar and Base).

# Transportation



## Airlines

Belgium has five airports: Brussels-National, Charleroi-Brussels South, Antwerp, Liege and Ostende.

### ■ Brussels airport/Zaventem

The Brussels airport is located 14 km from downtown. Train service leaves from the North, South or Central stations every 20 minutes. It takes about 30 minutes to get to the airport and costs about 2.35 €. There are also shuttle buses (2.50 €). A taxi ride will cost about 28 €.

Tel.: +32 900 70 000  
(from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.)  
info@brusselsairport.be  
[www.Brusselsairport.be](http://www.Brusselsairport.be)

### ■ Charleroi - Brussels South

Shuttle buses run between South Station (Midi/Zuid) and the airport. Cheap tickets are available for flights to European destinations.

## Trains

Brussels has several big train stations and a dense rail network with regular and fairly inexpensive service. Reduced ticket prices are available on certain tourist routes and for special national events.

Brussels has six main stations:

### ■ Central

Carrefour de l'Europe, 2 - 1000 Brussels

### ■ South (Midi/Ziud)

Rue de France, 2 - 1070 Brussels  
(trains leave from the TGV, Thalys and Eurostar platforms)

### ■ North

Rue du Progrès, 85 - 1210 Brussels

### ■ Luxembourg

Place du Luxembourg - 1040 Brussels

### ■ Schaerbeek

Place Princesse Elisabeth - 1030 Brussels

### ■ Schuman

Rond-point Schuman - 1040 Brussels

### Information:

national: 02 555 25 25  
international: 02 528 28 28  
[www.b-rail.be](http://www.b-rail.be)

## Metro/Trams/Bus

Tickets can be purchased at several points of sale:

- on trams and buses (one-way tickets only)
- at ticket offices
- from automated ticket machines at bus depots and train stations
- at authorised stores (news agents, etc.)

A one-way ticket costs about 1.50 € (2 € when purchased on a tram or bus). Five-trip cards (6.70 €) and 10-trip cards (11 €) are also available.

There are also monthly passes (27.50 € for people under 25 and 40.50 € over 25) and students under 25 can get an annual school pass for 200 €. Other types of passes are also available.

Passes are sold at ticket offices at the Rogier, Porte de Namur, and South stations, at the Bourse (stock market) kiosk and at the Anspach agency (open Monday through Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and Saturday from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Don't forget to bring an ID picture.

### Information:

Tel.: 02 515 20 00  
[www.stib.be](http://www.stib.be)

## Taxis

Pick up: 2.40 € during the day  
 and 4.40 € at night

Average price per km: 1.23 €  
 (within city limits)

2.46 € (outside the 10 Brussels communes)  
 The fare is displayed on a counter. Tips are included.

### ■ Brussels taxi companies:

Taxis bleus: 02 268 00 00

Taxis oranges: 02 349 43 43

Taxi verts: 02 349 49 49

Autolux: 02 411 12 21

## Travelling by car

Seatbelts are mandatory both up front and in the back. Depending on where you are travelling, road signs may be in either French or Dutch (or both in Brussels).

Priority: yield to priority vehicles (those on rails, ambulances, etc.) and to those coming from the right (unless you are on a priority road).

The maximum allowable blood alcohol content is 0.5 g/l.

### ■ Speed limit:

In town: 50 km/h or 30 km/h

On other roads: 70 km/h or 90 km/h

On motorways: 120 km/h

### ■ In case of breakdown:

Touring Secours: Tel. 070 34 47 77

RACB: Tel. 078 15 20 00

# Outdoors activities and recreation



## Activities organised by the host school

Many activities are organised by host school students.

### ■ Student associations

The associations help promote contact between students through meetings, cultural events and sports. They help new students become part of the community and help them fully enjoy their student experience.

Find out more from your host school.

## Shopping

Opening hours:

9 a.m to 6 p.m. (normal hours)

(Monday through Saturday) 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (department stores).

There are many **convenience stores** in some neighbourhoods (downtown, university districts, around the train stations, etc.).

Opening hours: 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. (hours vary depending on the commune and stores close later in some neighbourhoods.)

## Going out

Brussels has lots of night life and a wide range of venues.

Here are some magazines that can help you plan your night out:

- KIOSQUE
- MAD (Magazine of Arts and Entertainment)  
The Wednesday supplement of the “Le Soir” newspaper
- TIME OUT

There are also a number of websites that provide information on events and current “in” places:

[www.agenda.be](http://www.agenda.be)

[www.quefaire.be](http://www.quefaire.be)

[www.idearts.be](http://www.idearts.be)

You can find lists of events (in Brussels and other areas of Belgium) by type (exhibitions, events, guided tours, theatre, circuses, opera, jazz, classical music, markets and flea markets, clubs, nightlife, etc.) at:

[www.noctis.com](http://www.noctis.com)

[www.noctis.com/parties&events/parties&eventsF.htm](http://www.noctis.com/parties&events/parties&eventsF.htm)

Below is an example of a website that lists information on clubs by day of the week and typical Brussels bars by setting.

[www.eurobru.com](http://www.eurobru.com)

[www.eurobru.com/cultur8o.htm](http://www.eurobru.com/cultur8o.htm)

A list of fashionable bars and links to other sites.

## Main libraries

Every host school has a library. There are also a number of other libraries for more in-depth research. The main ones in Brussels are:

- **Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique**  
(Royal Library of Belgium)  
Bld. de l'Empereur, 4 - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 519 53 11
- **Bibliothèque des Communautés européennes**  
(Library of the European Communities)  
Av. de Cortenbergh, 1 - 1040 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 295 29 75 et 02 295 29 76
- **Bibliothèques et Centres de documentation européenne**  
(European Documentation Libraries and Centres)  
Rue de la Loi, 200 - 1049 Brussels  
Bâtiment JECL 1/38 CEE-Commission  
Tel.: 02 299 90 18
- **Bibliothèque Principale de Bruxelles 1**  
(Brussels 1 Main Library)  
Rue des Riches-Clares, 24 - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 548 26 10
- **Médiathèque de l'ULB**  
(Free University of Brussels Media Centre)  
Av. F. Roosevelt, 50 - CP 160/20  
1050 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 647 42 07 - [www.ulb.ac.be](http://www.ulb.ac.be)
- **Bibliothèque CF et O.N.E.**  
Bld. Leopold II, 44 - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 413 20 08

For a complete list of libraries in Brussels, go to:

[www.eurobru.com/cultur95.htm](http://www.eurobru.com/cultur95.htm)

## Religious worship and philosophic movements

The Belgian Constitution guarantees freedom of worship. The State recognises and subsidises secularism, represented by the CAL (Centre d'action laïque – The Centre for Secular Action) and five Churches (Catholic, Protestant, Anglican, Jewish and Muslim).

- **Catholic**  
There are normally several churches in every commune  
[www.catho.be](http://www.catho.be)
- **Muslim**  
Islamic Centre,  
Great Mosque of Brussels - 1040 Brussels  
[www.centreislamique.be](http://www.centreislamique.be)
- **Jewish**  
Traditionalist:  
Rue J. Dupont, 12 - 1000 Brussels  
Orthodox :  
Rue de la Clinique, 67a - 1070 Brussels  
Sephardite:  
Rue du Pavillon, 47 - 1030 Brussels
- **Greek Orthodox**  
Av. de Stalingrad, 34 - 1000 Brussels  
Rue de Stassart, 92 - 1050 Brussels  
Rue du Progrès, 293 - 1030 Brussels  
Rue des Etangs Noirs, 48 - 1080 Brussels  
[www.pagesorthodoxes.net](http://www.pagesorthodoxes.net)
- **Russian Orthodox**  
Av. De Fré 21 - 1180 Brussels
- **Protestant**  
Rue du Champ de Mars, 5 - 1050 Brussels  
Place du Musée, 2 - 1000 Brussels  
Chée d'Alsemberg, 877 - 1180 Brussels  
[www.protestanet.be](http://www.protestanet.be)

■ **Centre d'Action Laïque  
de la Communauté française  
(French Community Centre  
for Secular Action)**

Campus de la Plaine ULB (accès 2)  
Avenue Arnaud Fraiteur - 1050 Brussels  
[www.ulb.ac.be/cal/  
informationspratiques.html](http://www.ulb.ac.be/cal/informationspratiques.html)

■ **Bruxelles Laïque asbl**

Avenue de Stalingrad, 8 - 1000 Brussels  
[www.bxlaique.be](http://www.bxlaique.be)

## Foreign cultural centers

■ **Goethe Institut Brüssel**

58, rue Belliard - 1040 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 230 39 70 or 02 234 57 85

■ **Danish Cultural Institute**

22, rue du Cornet - 1040 Brussels  
Tel. : 02 227 08 41

■ **The British Council**

Léopold Plaza, 108 rue du Trône  
1050 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 227 08 41

■ **Italian Institute for Culture**

38, rue de Livourne - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 538 77 04

■ **Instituto Cervantes (Spain)**

64, avenue de Tervuren - 1040 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 737 01 90

■ **Centro Gallego de Bruselas (Galicia)**

4, rue Vlogaert - 1060 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 537 45 47

■ **Casa do Brasil**

350, avenue Louise -1050 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 640 20 15

■ **Maison de l'Amérique Latine**

14, rue Berckmans - 1060 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 535 93 80

■ **Centre Josep Carner**

**Amicos de la Cultura Catalana (Catalonia)**  
161/ 30, rue Van Artevelde - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 514 44 57

■ **Association Socioculturelle  
Uruguay Argentine**

42, bld. du Midi - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 512 93 20

■ **Hellenic Centre for Culture and Training**

14, rue des Etudiants - 1060 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 538 62 12

■ **Russian Cultural and Science Centre**

21, rue du Méridien - 1210 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 219 01 33

■ **Czech Centre**

150, avenue Adolphe Buyl - 1050 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 641 89 44

■ **Hungary House**

123, rue de l'Arbre Bénit - 1050 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 427 30 45 ou 02 425 48 07

■ **Arab Cultural Centre**

20, rue du Méridien - 1210 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 218 64 74

■ **Tunisian Cultural Centre**

101a, av. de Tervuren - 1040 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 742 04 89

■ **China Academy -**

**Belgium China Association (China)**

30, rue des Capucins - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 217 10 62

■ **Vietnamese Socio-cultural Centre  
(Vietnam)**

40, rue Henrotte - 1150 Brussels  
Tel. : 0476 31 36 77

■ **Japanese Embassy Cultural and Information Centre**

58, av. des Arts - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 511 23 07

■ **Benelux Federation of Andalusian Socio-cultural Associations**

9, rue de Nancy - 1000 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 538 83 33

■ **Alliance Française (France)**

26, rue de la Loi - 1040 Brussels  
Tel.: 02 502 46 49

## French-language community (FC) school holidays

**New Year's Day:** January 1st

**Easter:** Sunday and Monday (date varies)

**Labour Day:** May 1st

**Ascension:** 6th Thursday after Easter

**Whitsun:** 7th Sunday and Monday after Easter

**Independence day:** July 21st

**Assumption:** August 15th

**Holiday of the French-speaking Community:** September 27th

**All Saints Day:** November 1st

**Armistice Day:** November 11th

**King's Holiday:** November 15th (bank holiday)

**Christmas:** December 25th

# Other useful telephone numbers and useful addresses



- **European Emergency Number:**  
112
- **Ambulance, Fire department**  
100
- **Federal Police/Gendarmerie**  
101
- **Red Cross**  
105
- **Criminal Investigations**  
070 23 33 38
- **Anti-poison centre**  
070 245 245
- **Burns centre**  
02 268 62 00
- **On-call doctors**  
02 479 18 18
- **On-call dentists**  
02 426 10 26
- **On-duty pharmacies**  
0900 10 500
- **Assistance to foreigners**  
11, rue J.W. Wilson - 1000 Brussels  
02 230 81 66
- **Information for foreigners**  
9, av. De Fré - 1180 Bruxelles  
02 375 67 63
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# Student glossary



<b>Académique (année ~)</b>	University (year)
<b>Auditoire</b>	Lecture hall
<b>Bachelier</b>	Degree obtained after completing 180 ECTS credits at a post-secondary school
<b>Baptême</b>	Hazing
<b>Blocus, bloque</b>	Study period before exams
<b>Bloquer</b>	To study, cram for exams
<b>Brosser un cours</b>	To skip class
<b>Buser</b>	To fail exams
<b>Commune</b>	Municipality
<b>GSM</b>	Mobile telephone
<b>Guindaille</b>	Student party
<b>Guindailler</b>	To party
<b>Jobiste</b>	Student with a part-time job
<b>Kot</b>	Student room
<b>Koteur, euse</b>	Student living in a student room
<b>Logopède</b>	Speech therapist
<b>Minerval</b>	School fees
<b>Passerelle</b>	Changing majors
<b>Penne</b>	University student's cap
<b>Pils, chope or pinte</b>	Beer on tap
<b>Quadrimestre</b>	Term: the school year is divided into two quadrimestres (terms)
<b>Saint-Vé</b>	Student tradition commemorating Theodore Verhaegen, the founder of the Free University of Brussels. On November 20th, students wander the streets of Brussels singing and drinking beer.
<b>Syllabus</b>	Photocopied university course syllabus
<b>Valve</b>	Bulletin board



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