



INTERNATIONALE RELATIES  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**YOUR EXCHANGE AT VUB**

**YOUR STAY IN BRUSSELS**

**[WWW.VUB.BE/EN/EXCHANGE](http://WWW.VUB.BE/EN/EXCHANGE)**



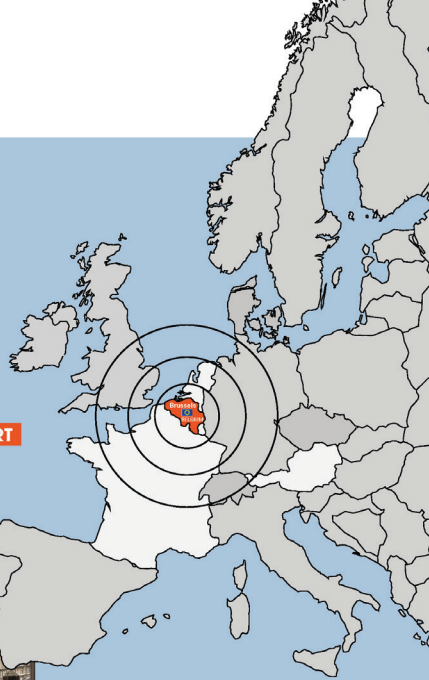
### FROM BRUSSELS TO

London	2 hours
Paris	1 hour 20 min.
Frankfurt	3 hours
Amsterdam	2 hours



### ETTERBEEK ↔ ZAVENTEM AIRPORT

25 minutes



## BRUSSELS, HOME TO VUB, CAPITAL OF EUROPE:



- at the heart of Europe
- within easy reach by train or plane
- houses many international and European organisations
- home to one of the world's largest diplomatic and press communities
- 35% of its population is foreign
- 104 different languages spoken
- multilingual, multicultural

## VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB):

- over 20,100 students, 148 different nationalities
- 5 campuses, 8 faculties
- 1 university hospital
- in top 200 worldwide in QS World University Rankings 2021
- #59 in Reuters most innovative universities 2019

### STUDY FIELDS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Adult Educational Sciences               | Industrial Engineering                                  |
| Applied Computer Science                 | Law   |
| Applied Economics                        | Linguistics & Literary Studies (FR, IT, ES, NL, EN, DE) |
| Applied Linguistics (FR, ES, NL, EN, DE) | Management  |
| Architectural Engineering                | Materials Science                                       |
| Art Sciences & Archaeology               | Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management            |
| Bioengineering Sciences                  | Mathematics   |
| Biology                                  | Mechanical Engineering                                  |
| Biomedical Engineering                   | Medicine  |
| Biomedical Sciences                      | Movement & Sport Sciences                               |
| Business Economics                       | Pharmacy  |
| Chemical Engineering                     | Philosophy  |
| Chemistry                                | Photonics   |
| Civil Engineering                        | Physical Education                                      |
| Communication Studies                    | Physiotherapy   |
| Computer Science                         | Physics and Astronomy                                   |
| Criminology                              | Political Sciences                                      |
| Educational Sciences                     | Psychology  |
| Electrical Engineering                   | Sociology   |
| Engineering Technology                   | Urban Studies   |
| Geography                                | Urban Design & Spatial Planning                         |
| History                                  |   |
| Hydrology                                |   |

**FOUNDATION**  **VUB** 

**€117,833,727** RESEARCH BUDGET **€240,000,000** TURNOVER

**31 BACHELORS** **1,909 PhDs** IN **3 DOCTORAL SCHOOLS**

**74 MASTERS** **23 ADVANCED MASTERS**

**21 POSTGRADUATES** **BRUSSELS HUMANITIES, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING CAMPUS**

**8 FACULTIES** **20,100 INSCRIPTIONS** OF WHICH 23% INTERNATIONAL SPREAD ACROSS 5 CAMPUSES

**148 NATIONALITIES** **4,042 PERSONNEL**

**BRUSSELS HEALTH CAMPUS** **+ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BRUSSELS**

**BRUSSELS TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS** **BRUSSELS PHOTONICS CAMPUS** **412,246 CONSULTATIONS**

**>69,000 ALUMNI** **3,134 PERSONNEL** **721 BEDS**

**30,779 HOSPITALISATIONS** **25,779 STUDENTS**

**UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION BRUSSELS** (VUB + Erasmus Hogeschool Brussel)

data from ISF 2021

[WWW.VUB.BE/EN/EXCHANGE](http://WWW.VUB.BE/EN/EXCHANGE)

## ACCOMMODATION:

Rooms on the Brussels Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus at U-Residence have been reserved for exchange students. Other options off campus are also available. On average, you'd pay between €350-€500 a month for a basic (shared) room.

## VISA/HEALTH INSURANCE:

3 elements play a role:

- How long you will stay in Belgium (more than/less than 90 days)
- Your nationality (EEA\* or non-EEA)
- Purpose of your stay (e.g. study)

Obtaining a visa can take up to 90 days, so start the process well in advance. Visas must always be obtained in country of origin.

After arrival you will need to apply for a Belgian ID-card, which are always be obtained in Belgium.

Health insurance is mandatory - contact us on [international.relations@vub.be](mailto:international.relations@vub.be) for more info.

## ORIENTATION DAYS:

The days leading up to the start of the academic year, we organise Orientation Days. We encourage you to attend events during these days, so you get acquainted with Brussels, the university, and various procedures to help you settle in and feel at home.

## FACILITIES AT VUB:

Student organisations, sports complex, swimming pool, gym, restaurant with student-friendly prices, campus with green open spaces, and much more!

## DEADLINES:

Autumn Semester or full year:

- nomination: 1 May
- application: 1 June

Spring Semester:

- nomination: 1 October
- application: 1 November

*Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered*

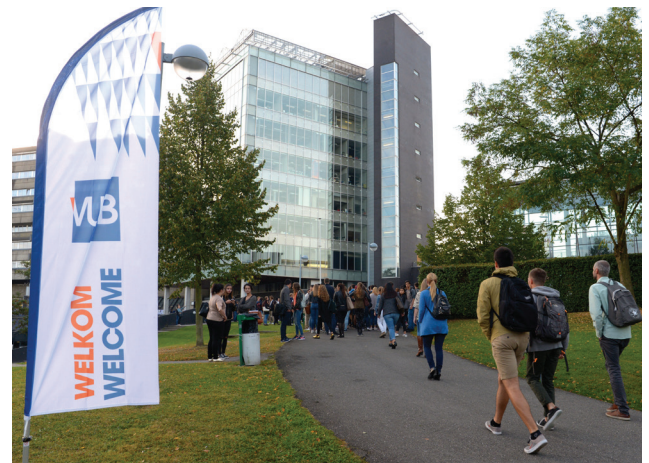
## HOW TO APPLY:

1. Check if your home university/faculty has an agreement with VUB
2. The home university officially nominates students via email to [exchange.incoming@vub.be](mailto:exchange.incoming@vub.be)
3. VUB sends nominated students a link to the online application form. This needs to be filled in with academic and personal details, and the Learning Agreement and required application documents need to be uploaded:
  - transcript of records
  - proof of language competency
  - proof of health insurance (if relevant)
  - copy ID-card/passport
  - passport photo
4. Evaluation/Selection

## ACADEMIC YEAR:

Autumn Semester: mid-September-Mid-February

Spring Semester: mid-February-Mid-July



## MORE INFORMATION:

[WWW.VUB.BE/EN/EXCHANGE](http://WWW.VUB.BE/EN/EXCHANGE)

\* EEA = European Economic Area



## WHAT DOES VUB HAVE TO OFFER?

- An international university in an international city at the heart of Europe
- High-quality research and tailor-made education: you are not a number.
- We actively contribute to a more sustainable future for tomorrow
- We have a rich history going back to 1834.

## AND BELGIUM?

- 11th in the world for higher education and training\*
- 5th for healthcare and primary education\*
- 5th in the world in 'Skills set in university graduates' \*\*
- 12th in the world in University & Industry Cooperation R&D\*\*
- 14th in the world in terms of scientific publications \*\*
- Home to chocolate, waffles, mussels & chips, beers, etc
- An impressive cultural heritage going back to Roman times
- Famous for its summer music festivals

VUB, like the city it calls home, is an international university, with increasing numbers of international students and staff on its campuses. As a university, it embraces all that the city stands for: welcoming, open, innovative, diverse and interesting.

Welcome to VUB. Welcome to Brussels!

“During my exchange at VUB in the beautiful, multicultural & diverse city of Brussels I practised theoretical notions we got in class in some highly equipped labs, and I had the chance to put my name on some very interesting engineering projects. I did an internship in Brussels, and graduated as an Aerospace Engineer. Everything I experienced during my exchange will stay with me forever: an exchange is not a semester of your life; it's a life in one semester!”

Zahir Amine from Morocco, 2021



### GENERAL INFORMATION:

Email: [exchange.incoming@vub.be](mailto:exchange.incoming@vub.be)

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

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

\* World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness' Index 2017-2018

\*\* World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness' Index 2019

## VUB General Information Sheet - Exchange Students

Contact Information	
<b>Name of University</b>	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
<b>Country</b>	Belgium
<b>Erasmus Code</b>	B BRUSSEL01
<b>Head of Institution</b>	Prof. dr. Jan Danckaert, Rector
<b>Vice-Rector Internationalisation</b>	Prof. dr. Karin Vanderkerken
<b>Director International Relations Office</b>	dr. Jacqueline Couder
<b>Short intro</b>	For more than 180 years, VUB has helped build a better society as an innovative, free-inquiring and critical-thinking university. We are linked to the world from our international capital city, Brussels. A never-ending quest for knowledge, insight and enlightenment form the red thread in all we do in education, research and social commitment. With 4 campuses, 16,000 students and 8 faculties, we continue to advance our very personal and democratic approach which enables all members of the VUB community to grow, so they can successfully take up their roles in the world of today and tomorrow.
International Relations office (IRo) <b>postal address</b>	Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
International Relations office (IRo) <b>visiting address</b>	Pleinlaan 5, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
IRo <b>general e-mail address</b>	<a href="mailto:international.relations@vub.be">international.relations@vub.be</a>
IRo <b>incoming students e-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:exchange.incoming@vub.be">exchange.incoming@vub.be</a>
IRo <b>outgoing students e-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:exchange.outgoing@vub.be">exchange.outgoing@vub.be</a>
International Relations office <b>web page</b>	<a href="http://www.vub.be/en/exchange">International Relations - What we do &amp; how you can reach us   Vrije Universiteit Brussel (vub.be)</a>
International Relations office <b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/VUBInternationalRelations">www.facebook.com/VUBInternationalRelations</a>
<b>Web page incoming exchange students</b>	<a href="http://www.vub.be/en/exchange">www.vub.be/en/exchange</a>
<b>Web page outgoing exchange students</b>	<a href="https://www.vub.be/en/studying-abroad">https://www.vub.be/en/studying-abroad</a>

Application Information Incoming Students	
Nomination & Application Deadlines	
<b>Autumn Semester</b>	<u>Deadline Nomination by home university: 1 May</u> <u>Deadline Application to the VUB: 1 June</u>
<b>Spring Semester</b>	<u>Deadline Nomination by home university: 1 October</u> <u>Deadline Application to the VUB: 1 November</u>
<b>Application procedure</b>	The home university nominates students for exchange under Erasmus+, Turing Scheme (UK) and SEMP at VUB through the following link: <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/zMikZZ6p0E">https://forms.office.com/e/zMikZZ6p0E</a> . For non-EU nominations and any additional question, please contact us at <a href="mailto:exchange.incoming@vub.be">exchange.incoming@vub.be</a> . Next, the International Relations office invites the nominated students to apply online. Completing the online application process before the deadline confirms the student's participation in the exchange programme. VUB issues an invitation letter once the application process is completed. The selection of courses is the student's own responsibility.
<b>ECTS requirement</b>	Incoming students are required to take a minimum of <b>21 ECTS</b> (VUB courses) per semester.

<b>Grading system</b>	< 10: F 10: E 11 - 12: D 13 - 14: C 15 - 16: B 17 - 20: A VUB is part of <a href="#">Egracons</a> . We strongly encourage our partners to join!
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<b>Transcript of Records (ToR)</b>	<b>Incoming students' ToR</b> will be issued shortly after finishing exams. <b>VUB students' ToR</b> may be sent to Gwen Van der Smissen with postal address <i>Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Student Administration, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium</i> .
<b>Courses available in following disciplines:</b>	Applied Biological Sciences, Applied Linguistics, Applied Sciences, Archaeology & Art History, Biomedical Sciences, Economics & Management, Engineering, History, Law & Criminology, Literature & Linguistics, Medicine, Pharmacy, Philosophy & Ethics, Politics & Social Sciences, Psychology and Educational Sciences, Sciences, Sports Science & Physiotherapy

▼ Academic Calendar + Welcome Activities	
<b>Academic Calendar</b>	For a detailed description of activities and important moments during the academic year: please visit <a href="#">the calendar</a> .
<b>Orientation Week (Autumn)</b>	All students are welcomed for the Autumn semester during Orientation Days (the week before the semester starts). Have a look at the activities under "A Week just for you": <a href="#">Orientation Week</a> ; updates will be added for the coming year. We also organise an annual Kick-off event.
<b>Orientation Day (Spring)</b>	The annual Orientation Day for exchange students, is held the Friday before the start of the second semester in February.
	The International Relations office welcomes all new international students during these sessions. All information regarding VUB, schedules and procedures, as well as campus life and culture is presented. Students are welcome to ask questions regarding their stay at VUB, get a campus tour, as well as a city tour. Dates of Orientation Days are mentioned in an email to students and will be available on the <a href="#">International Relations office's website</a> . More information on practical things and what to do prior to arrival is available <a href="#">online</a> .

▼ Other Relevant Information	
<b>Housing</b>	Incoming exchange students have a vast array of <a href="#">housing opportunities</a> at their disposal.
<b>Buddy system</b>	Incoming students can receive support from VUB-students through the <a href="#">buddy system</a> .
<b>Insurances</b>	The insurance provider <a href="#">Partena</a> has visiting hours at the International Relations office once a week.
<b>Visa</b>	Information on visa requirements is available <a href="#">online</a> .
<b>Special needs</b>	Information on special student facilities, can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Student job opportunities</b>	Want a <a href="#">student job</a> during studies?
<b>Sports facilities</b>	With a swimming pool, a running field and much more, VUB has a great offer in <a href="#">sport facilities</a> .
<b>Culture &amp; Leisure</b>	All cultural events and leisure activities are available <a href="#">on the student portal</a> .
<b>Transportation</b>	Brussels has a good public transportation network. Have a look on the overview of the <a href="#">metro and train network</a> .  There are several buses and trams which stop near our largest campus: <a href="#">Brussels Humanities, Sciences &amp; Engineering Campus</a> . Our other campus are also easily accessible: <a href="#">Brussels Health Campus</a> , <a href="#">Brussels Photonics</a>

	<p><a href="#">Campus</a>, <a href="#">Campus Coovi Anderlecht</a>. In addition we have also extra classrooms in the heart of Brussels and a campus in Leuven and Diest. An overview of all our campuses can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><i>Etterbeek</i> is the nearest train station for our largest campus and metro stops <i>Pétillon</i>, <i>Hankar</i> &amp; <i>Delta</i> (all orange line 5) are within walking distance. All transportation details can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
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## Law & Criminology

In the study fields of law and criminology, **English taught courses** are only available during the **Fall semester** of the academic year. For this reason, non-Dutch speaking students can only be nominated for the Fall semester and no prolongations are possible for these students.

## Pharmacy

Due to capacity issues, we would like to inform you of some changes that will be needed from our side for the nomination procedure for the pharmacy study field. As the number of **spots in our labs** for students to carry out their thesis work is **limited** and it varies from year to year, when receiving a nomination, we would like to keep it on hold until we can guarantee a spot. The faculty can commit to providing an answer within **2 months from the nomination** of the student. For this reason, we would advise to nominate the students for the Pharmacy study field as soon as possible.

## Psychology

Due to practical reasons (e.g., certain courses have content that needs to be taught in Dutch or use course materials such as roleplaying exercises that are only available in Dutch), the study field of psychology has a list of courses in English and a list of so-called **reading courses** (study materials available in English but course itself is in Dutch). We recommend you to inform your incoming exchange students of this distinction so that they can keep it into account when drafting their Learning Agreement.

Incoming students can also follow **courses from the English Educational Sciences** program in our faculty.