



# STUDY IN BRUSSELS

Capital of Europe



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

An urban engaged university	3
VUB in figures	5
Studying at a research university in Belgium	6
Science for a better world	8
After your studies	9
Brussels: a diverse city with endless possibilities	10
Our campuses	12
Admission requirements and application	14
Access to affordable education: tuition fees and scholarships	17
English-taught study programmes	18

Responsible publisher: Rector Jan Danckaert, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels. The information in this brochure is subject to possible modifications. No rights may be derived from this publication. Publication date: August 2024.



The impressive VUB's rectorate building is by the modernist architect, Renaat Braem. Since 1976, the listed building has symbolised the VUB's idiosyncratic philosophy.

# AN URBAN ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

We are Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). For more than 190 years, we have been committed to providing answers to the challenges of tomorrow. How do we achieve this? With excellent scientific research, high-quality education and a strong social drive. We're embedded in Brussels as an urban engaged university, and in Europe as a member of the European university network EUTOPIA, where, together, 10 like-minded universities aim to build a unique and daring alliance of transformative and engaged institutions.



In June 2019, the European Commission selected the EUTOPIA alliance as one of the 17 projects that will shape the 'European University' of the future: an open and multicultural super-university. What began as an initiative by six founding members, grew into the alliance we know today. It connects some 300,000 students, 70,000 staff and over 100,000 international alumni across 874 research domains. The close cooperation within EUTOPIA allows the entire VUB community to participate in various international opportunities.

## UNLIMITED AMBITION, CLOSE TIES

Brussels and VUB exude a cosmopolitan atmosphere, as every year, students from around 150 countries come to study with us. Here, they will find themselves in a truly inspiring international learning environment. Additionally, as VUB cooperates with higher education institutions across Belgium and around the world, students benefit from the wealth of opportunities to study or do an internship in Belgium or abroad as part of their studies.

## THE 'V' OF VUB

Why is the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (literally translated as 'Free University of Brussels') not just the Universiteit Brussel ('University of Brussels')? There is a good reason for this. The 'V' in VUB stands for the Dutch word, 'vrijheid', meaning 'freedom', and dates back to 1834, when the universities were controlled by religion and government. Advocates for open intellectual debate went on to establish the VUB as a beacon of independent enquiry, separate from any external authority or influence.

Equality, openness and tolerance are at the core of our humanistic vision. We consider a person's worldview, including religion, to be a personal choice within the private sphere: we respect it, but we do not facilitate it. We support our students. We help them develop into autonomous, responsible and critical-thinking world citizens. Our focus is on high-quality teaching, based on open research and outstanding science.

## A BRIEF LOOK BACK

The history of VUB is inextricably linked to the history of Belgium. After the revolution of 1830, a young Belgium established a progressive constitution that enshrined the principle of freedom of education, virtually unheard of at the time. The bishops immediately seized upon this principle to establish a Catholic University in Mechelen as early as 1834. In doing so, they took the monopoly of university education into their hands, thereby condemning freedom of press, opinion and ethics. In this context, in April 1834, the Brussels lawyer and politician Pierre-Théodore Verhaegen, along with Auguste Baron, spearheaded the fundraising campaign for a new educational institution. On 20 November 1834,

the Université libre de Belgique (ULB) was born. The new university's desire to be independent from both state and church was not well received, and for 12 years, it survived solely thanks to private donations and support from the city.

## **SAME FREE THINKING, DIFFERENT LANGUAGE**

When ULB was founded, the Flemish community constituted a majority in Brussels, representing 60% of the city's inhabitants. Despite this, Dutch was regarded as the language of the working class, while French was the language spoken by the elite. Up until the early 1900s, the university's curriculum was given solely in French. During the 1880s, the ULB experienced a linguistic conflict that led to the introduction of the first Dutch-taught course in 1890. However, as the Dutch-speaking community in Belgium sought greater recognition (known as the "Flemish Movement"), the Faculty of Law started offering some classes in both French and Dutch in 1935, culminating in a comprehensive programme offering in Dutch by 1963.

In the aftermath of the May 1968 left wing protests in Paris, students across Europe took to the streets, calling for educational reform and public participation. Soon after, on 13 June 1969, the Coordinating Committee of the Dutch-speaking University Community was founded,



Student associations were a driving force in the establishment of a fully-fledged Dutch-speaking university in Brussels.

made up of students, professors and, later, staff and assistants. Extensive discussions failed to bring about an acceptable structure within ULB, and the political decision was made to separate the ULB into two legally, administratively, and scientifically distinct sister universities, based on the Belgian Parliament act of 28 May 1970. And so, the VUB was recognised as a university, with new structures and campus.

Today, the VUB is a vibrant community with more than 23,000 students coming from 150 different countries, enrolled in over 150 study programmes. It's supported by a dedicated team of over 4,000 staff members who are committed to the university's mission every day. Our university boasts a network of over 80,000 alumni, spanning 50 generations. These alumni are making their mark globally as enterprising innovators, critical thinkers, and active world citizens. What's in it for you?

## **SHAPING THINKERS AND DOERS**

At the VUB, you, as a student, are the focal point. This human-centred approach stems from our humanistic roots. As an institution of higher education, our primary aim is to impart knowledge. However, we also encourage students to question, explore, and conduct independent research. At VUB, we empower you to forge your own academic journey, encourage critical thinking and enable you to form independent opinions.

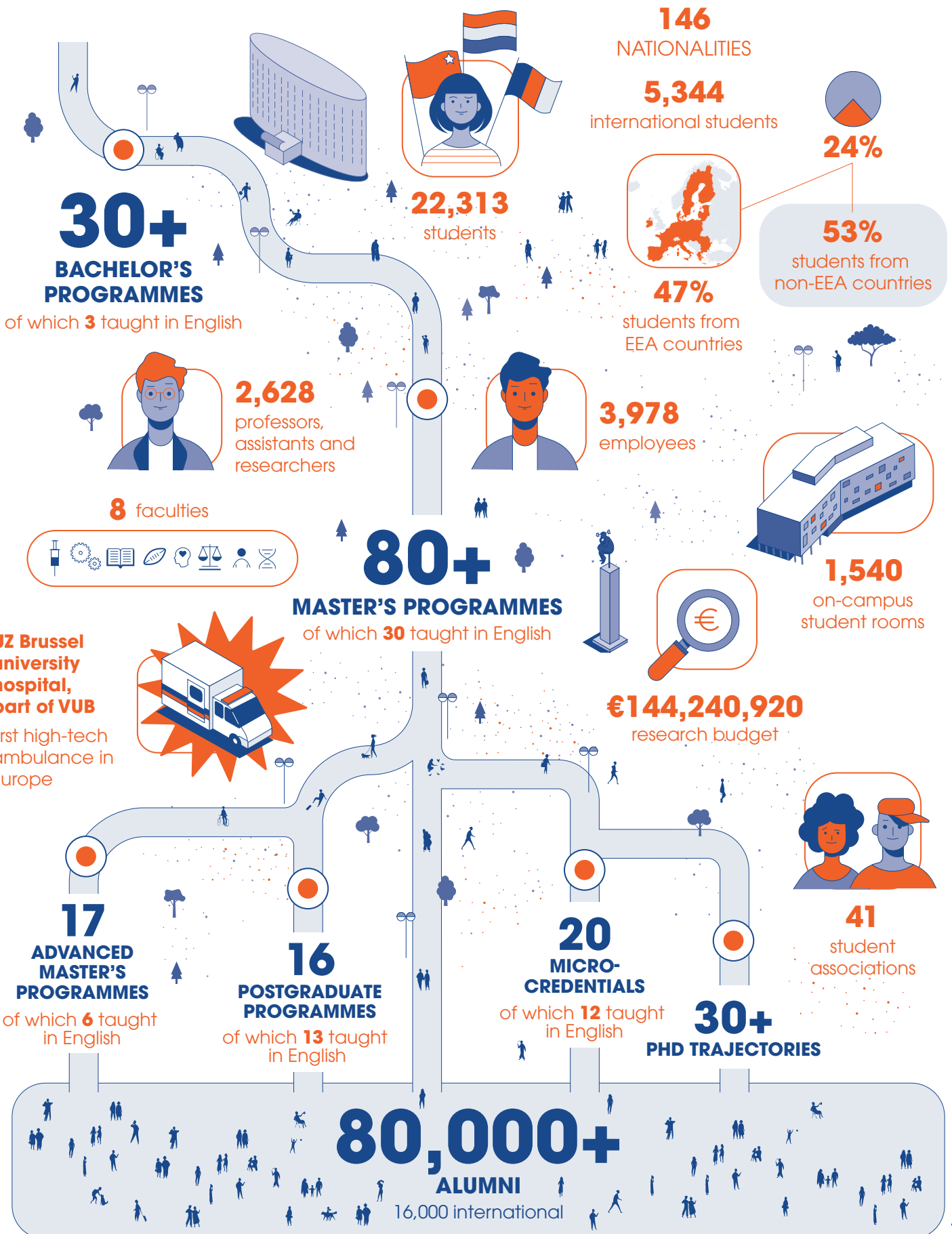
Freedom comes, after all, with responsibility and commitment. Today, we live in a world in transition, with old certainties faltering and a future that can sometimes seem threatening. This is precisely why we need a new renaissance, a new hopeful period of sustainable progress, powered by curiosity, openness, and connection. Because that is the essence of free thinking.

Feel free to engage, free to be guided by your curiosity, free to be open to other opinions, and free to connect with others. That is the essence of being a student. Because that is how you become a critical-thinker and a global citizen. As a student, you learn to better understand the complexity of the world. You pave your way towards the future, your future. But equally, you have an amazing time and end up forging friendships for life.

Our commitment to excellence in teaching and research, to Brussels - our vibrant international biotope -, as well as our commitment to being 'free', will ensure that your time as a student at the VUB will not only be an unforgettable one, but also the basis for your future.

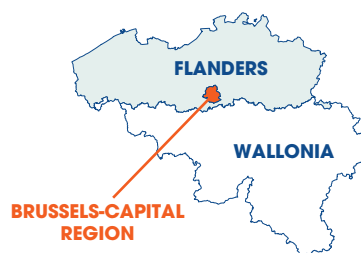
Welcome to the VUB, welcome to Brussels.

# VUB IN FIGURES



## BELGIUM'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Belgium is a federal state, composed of three communities and three regions, each with their own government. The VUB falls under the remit of the Flemish government. It has devolved powers and is responsible for education, research, innovation, and other areas, while the federal government has responsibility over visa applications.



# STUDYING AT A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IN BELGIUM

The **Belgian higher education system** is known worldwide for its excellent quality and high standards. Universities offer a range of academic programmes, including bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, advanced master's degrees, PhDs, and postgraduate certificates.

**Academic bachelor's degrees** (180 ECTS) provide a strong theoretical foundation and prepare students for further studies at master's level.

**Master's degrees** (60-120 ECTS) have a strong emphasis on advanced scientific knowledge, and research competencies.

**Advanced master's degrees** (60-120 ECTS) offer specialised training, often in areas aligned with the university's top research fields. These programmes are designed for students who have already completed an initial master's degree (or equivalent) and seek further specialisation.

## WHAT IS AN ECTS?

Our higher education system follows the European Higher Education Area standards, using the ECTS credit system. A year of full-time study typically amounts to 60 ECTS credits. 1 ECTS corresponds to 25-30 hours of teaching, learning and evaluation activities.

## EMBRACING INTERDISCIPLINARITY

At VUB, your academic journey is a dynamic blend of mandatory courses, profile courses, and elective modules, designed to enrich your expertise. Alongside your core subjects, you have the freedom to choose specialisation subjects, enabling you to delve deeper into your field or broaden your knowledge.

VUB promotes interdisciplinary education to equip students with the tools to navigate complexity. Through interdisciplinary approaches, students develop critical thinking skills, engage in collaborative problem-solving, and embrace varying perspectives, and foster a deeper understanding of multifaceted issues.

## PREPARATION FOR PROFESSIONAL CAREERS

VUB ensures that students are well-prepared for their future careers by equipping them with both academic and professional competencies. Alongside academic knowledge, students acquire practical and communicative skills, teamwork abilities, problem-solving techniques, and innovative thinking capabilities. Through practice-oriented course units and internships, students receive feedback from teachers, peers, and professionals, fostering confidence and success in their careers.

## FOSTERING AUTONOMY AND INDIVIDUALITY

VUB empowers students to take ownership of their learning journey, encouraging autonomy and self-regulation. By providing opportunities for personalised learning paths, the university nurtures students' unique talents, ideas, and ambitions. Supported by a culture of openness and mentorship, students are encouraged to embrace their individuality and contribute meaningfully to society.

## STUDYING ABROAD

Studying abroad offers invaluable opportunities for personal and academic growth. It exposes you to new cultures and teaching methods, enhancing adaptability and critical thinking. It fosters independence, resilience, and international networks, preparing you for success in a globalised world.

Every day, we collaborate with a wide range of higher education institutions within and outside of Europe. There are plenty of international internship and career opportunities, both in Belgium and across its borders. Study abroad for a few months or a year as part of your studies or internship, or volunteer abroad. VUB offers lots of ways to have an unforgettable international experience. More information on [www.vub.be/en/exchange](http://www.vub.be/en/exchange).

## SUMMER AND WINTER SCHOOLS

Summer and winter schools are short courses of one or two weeks organised during the school breaks. Many of these courses allow you to earn credits and are a great opportunity to get a glimpse of a study destination.

As a VUB-student you can also join the summer schools organised by partner universities.

## LANGUAGE LEARNING

As a VUB student, you can check out the Academic Centre for Language Education (ACTO) and the Centre for Adult Education (CVO) Semper for language courses, tailored workshops and individual language support.

During the academic year, Language Tables are organised on certain weekdays during the academic year in the student restaurant on the main campus. Lunchtime is the perfect moment to practice your language skills in a relaxed environment with other learners and native speakers, and to meet new people.

---

"I've always wanted to see the world, the different architectures and landscapes, get to know other cultures and people. Going on an exchange is different from a holiday, because you get to live in a country for a longer period of time, you get to know the local people, their habits, you discover insights you'd never have known about if you hadn't lived there. To be honest, I was a bit scared at first, but I spoke to people who had done an exchange before I decided to go, and no one ever seemed to regret it. And now I'm one of them: everyone should go abroad. It's the best experience you can get!"

**Zarah, spent one semester in Italy, student Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering**

---

# SCIENCE FOR A BETTER WORLD

MORE ON  
OUR RESEARCH



The VUB is committed to actively contribute to a better society through its emphasis on enquiry and critical thinking, with an international viewpoint. Collaboration, both nationally and internationally, is fundamental to promote innovative education and cutting-edge research. These collaborations allow for the exchange of best practices and contribute to the pursuit of knowledge without borders.

## PROMOTING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

Research at VUB is driven by a strong desire to positively impact society and stimulate technological innovation. This dedication often results in the valorisation of research findings, leading to the creation of spin-off companies and patents. VUB's emphasis on research excellence extends to its commitment in providing a platform for doctoral studies, enabling students to delve deeply into their interests, gain valuable skills, and make significant contributions to their fields.

## HUMANISTIC VALUES AND URBAN ENGAGEMENT

At the core of VUB's educational philosophy are humanistic values such as freedom, equality, and connectedness. These values underpin its approach to research, education, and outreach, aiming to address current and future societal challenges. As an urban engaged university, VUB actively bridges the gap between education, research, and societal engagement, striving to contribute meaningfully to local community resilience and sustainability while embracing diversity and inclusivity.







## AFTER YOUR STUDIES

Once you've finished your studies at VUB, you'll join an exclusive community of 80,000 alumni dedicated to shaping a brighter future. Our alumni actively share a wealth of experiences, insights, and knowledge to strengthen our collective presence in the workplace, our personal lives, and the broader global community.

A VUB degree therefore does not only enhance your marketability, but also connects you to a robust network that supports your professional goals and contributes to positive global change. Looking for additional motivation? We've outlined further advantages for you below.

### STUDYING FURTHER

Keen to continue your academic career? You can apply to do a PhD at VUB! Or look into our postgraduates, microcredentials, and short programmes that might interest you. We actively promote life-long learning at VUB, no matter what age you are.

### WORKING IN BELGIUM AFTER YOUR STUDIES

EEA nationals and non-EEA nationals with a valid residence permit in Belgium can search for jobs or work as self-employed persons just like Belgian citizens.

Working as a highly qualified person is more flexible for non-EEA nationals via the **professional orientation year**. This means that you get up to 12 months to search for a job in Belgium or to carry out an independent activity. More information on [www.vub.be/en/professional-orientation-year](http://www.vub.be/en/professional-orientation-year).

# BRUSSELS: A DIVERSE CITY WITH ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



Despite being a relatively small place with just over 1.2 million inhabitants, it has the infrastructure, diversity and energy of a cosmopolitan city, but manages to maintain a friendly and cosy feel.

When going out and about in Brussels, you hear lots of different languages. That's no coincidence, because the city is a melting pot of cultures and nationalities. With 35% of the population of non-Belgian origin, you can expect a rich cultural environment.

## 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, the 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. The short travel times by high-speed train to cities like Amsterdam (2h) and London (2h) or Paris (1h30), place Brussels at the heart of Europe. In Brussels, Europe is on your doorstep!

## MORE THAN CHOCOLATE

Of course, everyone knows the famous Belgian beers, chips and chocolates. 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 Sint-Gillis? There are restaurants of all shapes and sizes, and for all budgets.

## EMBRACING CULTURAL RICHES

Brussels boasts a rich cultural heritage, with the breathtaking baroque facades of the Grote Markt representing just a fraction of its treasures. Beyond its historical landmarks, Brussels is a thriving hub for contemporary art, drawing artists from across the globe to its wide selection of museums, theatres, galleries, concert halls, and festivals. The city's dynamic atmosphere ensures there's always something happening. With tranquil green spaces contrasting its bustling streets, Brussels offers a cosmopolitan way of life that's both vibrant and inviting.

## BUILD A NETWORK AND A CAREER

It goes without saying that Brussels offers unique career opportunities. It is home to the EU Institutions and several affiliates, NATO HQ, diplomatic representation offices, headquarters for many international companies, NGOs, trade associations, and one of the world's largest press corps. The city offers lots of internship and future career possibilities.





# OUR CAMPUSES

Our campuses are freely accessible to our students, staff, and visitors, emphasising our open character while strengthening our bond with the city of Brussels and its residents. Like everywhere in public spaces, certain rules apply to maintain a pleasant campus life for everyone.

## EASY ACCESS, IN AND AROUND BRUSSELS

You will find almost all our faculties on the VUB's green Main Campus. The Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy is located on the VUB Health Campus next to the university hospital. Living and studying on our campuses is convenient: you can easily walk from your class to the dorms and sports facilities, to the restaurant, and back again.

The Brussels public transport network (MIVB/STIB) has numerous combinations of underground (metro), tram, and bus to discover the city. To enjoy reduced student fares, you will receive a certificate when you enrol.

### VIRTUAL CAMPUS TOUR



Take a look at our student facilities on our campuses, and see them come to life through our '360' virtual campus tour'.

## ACCOMMODATION

### VUB housing

The VUB manages around 1,500 student rooms, with all the necessary comforts, and an excellent

price-quality ratio. They are all located on or within walking distance of our campuses, with all the benefits that come with it.



You can request student housing along with your programme application, in the same tool. **Applications can be submitted between 15 November and 1 May.**

### Find your own accommodation

Consider renting a room from one of VUB's partners like U-Residence, Bru Upkot, and Brusello XL, conveniently located on or near the VUB Main Campus. For those studying at the VUB Health Campus, Jet Upkot offers accommodation nearby. Alternatively, you can choose a private room through Brik, ensuring quality and peace of mind. With Brik's portfolio of 5,000 rooms, regularly inspected and all landlords registered, quality is assured. Plus, Brik provides support for any issues during your rental period, collaborating closely with VUB.

### FOOD

The VUB prioritises sustainability, serving tasty and eco-friendly meals at affordable prices.



The university restaurants offer a wide range of menus featuring local, seasonal, and fair-trade ingredients, while keeping packaging waste to a minimum. On both the campuses, the restaurant provides a variety of lunch options, including meat, fish, vegetarian, and vegan dishes, alongside soups and salads.

Whether eating at the VUB restaurant, enjoying a coffee at *Opinio*, or relaxing at *'t Complex* or *Bar Pilar*, students and visitors can experience a vibrant eating-out scene on and around the main campus, with plenty more nearby choices to explore.

## SPORT

Healthy mind, healthy body and healthy social life, that is what we aim for at the VUB. Our extensive sports infrastructure is waiting for you. A complete fitness centre, a football and rugby pitch with an athletics track, a modern swimming pool and even a dojo! There are also numerous competitions where students and student associations compete against each other. No matter which campus you study on, you can easily access all facilities, available at an affordable price, and lead a physically, mentally, and socially healthier life. You can engage in sports at various levels and with different partners.

## HEALTH

The VUB offers a comprehensive range of health resources to support student well-being. These include mental health services provided by student psychologists, who offer support for various challenges such as stress management,

overcoming fears, and enhancing motivation. It is also possible to make appointments with a general practitioner, physiotherapist or dentist.

## STUDY GUIDANCE

The VUB Study Guidance Centre (SBC) is there to give your study success a boost. You can see them with questions related to your study progress at every stage of your educational career. A motivated and experienced team will provide you with custom-made guidance. This can be done individually or in groups.

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND STUDY SPACES

The VUB University Library offers an extensive collection of newspapers, books and periodicals, in both paper and electronic format. The staff can help you with searching, processing and referring to academic sources. The reading rooms are freely accessible and provide a wide range of printed literature, as well as with copying and scanning facilities. Study spaces are available in the library or in the study guidance centre.

## CAREER CENTRE

While pursuing your studies, VUB offers ample support to kick-start your professional journey. Our career coaching includes support in creating a strong CV, exploring job opportunities, and building a professional network. Workshops cover various topics related to job searching and career development.

# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

Students who do not possess a Flemish diploma need to submit an online application. The Student Administration department and the faculty's selection committee will process and screen the application.

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

### BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES

You need a **secondary school diploma** that gives you access to a bachelor's degree in your home country. Certain diplomas are deemed equivalent to a Flemish one and grant direct access. If you have a NARIC diploma, you can upload this along with the other required documents.

### (ADVANCED) MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

The general requirement is that you need a **bachelor's degree (or equivalent)** in a relevant field.

When applying for an advanced master, you need a **master's degree (or equivalent)**.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

### BACHELOR'S PROGRAMME

Students with a secondary school diploma deemed equivalent to a Flemish one:

- ID card (EEA country) or passport (all countries)
- Recent picture for your student card
- Secondary school diploma\*
- Transcript of records\*
- Proof of language proficiency

Students with a different secondary degree:

- all of the documents mentioned above +
- Motivational letter

### (ADVANCED) MASTER'S PROGRAMME

General required documents:

- ID card (EEA country) or passport (all countries)
- Recent picture for your student card
- Higher Education diploma\*
- Transcript of records\*
- Proof of language proficiency

Extra documents for each programme:

- all of the documents mentioned above +
- Motivational letter
- Two recommendation letters\*\*

\*We need the original as well as a **certified translation**, if these documents are not in English, Dutch, French or German. The documents do not need to be legalised.

\*\*Check your programme's admission requirements to see if these apply to you.

## WHAT IF I DID NOT YET OBTAIN MY DIPLOMA?

Final year students who haven't obtained their diploma, should submit their **enrolment certificate**. This official document needs to confirm your current enrolment in the final year, expected graduation date and title of the diploma you will obtain.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

There are English language requirements you must meet to receive admission. You can provide proof of sufficient knowledge of English as the language of instruction by meeting one of **the following criteria**:

- Having a diploma from a secondary school or higher education institution where English was the sole language of instruction;
- Having successfully completed one of the following language proficiency tests corresponding to the Common European Framework of Reference with min. level B2: TOEFL iBT (home edition) with min. level: 79; IELTS (online) with min. level: academic module 6.5; ITACE with min. level: B2, or Cambridge English Qualification Scale with min. level: 170.

Certificates and other proof of language tests must not pre-date the first enrolment by more than five years. Students applying for a scholarship might need to meet a higher level of English proficiency.

These are the general admission requirements. Each programme can have its own specific requirements. You can consult the respective programme pages for more details on [www.vub.be/en/programmes](http://www.vub.be/en/programmes).

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

Prospective students applying on the basis of a foreign diploma are advised to apply as soon as possible, even if they have not yet obtained their diploma.

- Students who require a visa (typically non-EEA nationals) must apply **before 1 April**.
- Students who do not require a visa must apply **before 1 August**.

Certain (advanced) master's programmes may have **different application deadlines and/or conduct a formal pre-admission** through another platform. Make sure you check the deadlines and admission procedure applicable to your programme of interest. More information on [www.vub.be/en/apply](http://www.vub.be/en/apply).

## ENROLMENT

The Student Administration department needs to verify the authenticity of your prior degree(s), on the basis of which you were admitted to study at VUB. Diplomas can be verified electronically through official online platforms or via email sent by the registrar of the awarding institution. More information on [www.vub.be/en/diploma-verification](http://www.vub.be/en/diploma-verification).

Once your diploma has been verified you will be able to sign the study contract, enrol and commit to pay the tuition fee.

# APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1

## CHOOSE A STUDY PROGRAMME

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

Check the admission requirements and application deadlines

2

## SUBMIT ONLINE APPLICATION

**IMPORTANT:** Some programmes have a pre-application procedure

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

3

## PAY THE APPLICATION FEE

€90 for each submitted application

4

## CHECK YOUR INBOX AND/OR THE APPLICATION TOOL

For further instructions

For status updates of your application

5

## RECEIVE OFFICIAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OR DENIAL

## VISA

Once your application has been approved, you will receive the confirmation via email. Students in need of a visa will receive the relevant documents to start the visa application.

Non-EEA nationals must apply for a **type D visa** to study in Belgium. The application is submitted to the Belgian diplomatic representation in your country of residence. The procedures for obtaining a visa can vary depending on your nationality, duration of the stay and reason for the stay. More information on [www.vub.be/en/preparing-your-stay](http://www.vub.be/en/preparing-your-stay).

## SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL MEANS

When applying for a student visa, you need to prove that you have sufficient financial means to cover your living expenses, studies and other costs. There are several ways to do this, including by opening a **blocked account**.

### BLOCKED ACCOUNT

Students deposit the required amount on a yearly basis, that is meant to cover the expected living expenses (€1,000/month) to a VUB bank account, after which a solvency certificate is issued. The solvency certificate is used to prove sufficient financial means as part of the visa application procedure. During the academic year, students receive monthly instalments from this blocked account on their Belgian bank account.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

All individuals residing in Belgium are required, by law, to have health insurance. EEA nationals can use their **European Health Insurance Card**, some non-EEA nationals are covered by their home country, and other students will have to get health insurance upon their arrival in Belgium.

2024 - 2025

FIND YOUR PROGRAMME OF INTEREST  
CHECK THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

GATHER THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

NOVEMBER 2024

APPLICATIONS OPEN

GENERAL APPLICATION DEADLINES

Non-EEA nationals: 31 March  
EEA nationals: 31 July

APPLY ONLINE

MAY 2025

VISA APPLICATION PROCESS

If you are a national of a **non-EEA country**, you will need a visa to enter Belgian territory and study at VUB. **EEA and Swiss nationals do not need a visa.**

ENROLMENTS OPEN

Enrolment contracts can be signed between 1 July and 30 September.

JULY 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

COURSE REGISTRATION

Once enrolled, you can register for the courses until 15 October.



## LEARN MORE ABOUT VUB AND ITS PROGRAMMES

Visit VUB during an open day, a university fair or sign up for one of the many online info-sessions to learn about VUB's programmes, application procedure, pre-departure steps, etc.

## FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Secure sufficient financial resources to support your study and living costs. Identify and apply for loans/grants/scholarships if needed.

## HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

Look for on-campus or private accommodation. **VUB housing application deadline: 1 May**

## ORIENTATION WEEK

Arrive before 16 September to engage in fun activities and familiarise yourself with the VUB, Brussels and meet fellow students.

## START OF CLASSES

Classes start in the 4th week of September.

Students in the Bruface master's programmes start in the 3rd week of September.

# ACCESS TO EXCELLENT AND AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

## TUITION FEES

All accredited bachelor's and master's programmes at the VUB are subsidised by the Flemish government, 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 tuition fee depends on your programme of interest and your nationality. The table below shows the average tuition fees. There are exceptions which you can find on [www.vub.be/en/tuition-fees](http://www.vub.be/en/tuition-fees).

PROGRAMME TYPE	TUITION FEE IN EUROS PER YEAR
Bachelor	1,160 – 5,000
Master	835 – 5,000
Advanced master	1,160 – 6,000

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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

## LIVING COSTS

Living costs in Brussels are consistently more affordable than in other major capital cities in Western Europe. Make sure to foresee about €1,000 per month, excluding your tuition fee and course materials. More information on [www.vub.be/en/study-and-living-costs](http://www.vub.be/en/study-and-living-costs).

ITEM	EXPENSES IN EUROS PER YEAR
Accommodation	5,000 – 6,500
Food	3,000
Public transport	12 (until 24y/o) – 500
Health insurance	150 – 1,200
Phone/internet	360 – 600
Other (study materials, trips, etc.)	2,000 – 3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,522 – 14,800</b>

## ENGLISH-TAUGHT STUDY PROGRAMMES

DEGREE	PROGRAMME NAME	SPECIALISATIONS/MODULES	ECTS
<b>FACULTY OF ENGINEERING</b>			
<b>MASTER</b>	Applied Sciences and Engineering: Applied Computer Science (M.Sc.)		120
	Architectural Engineering (M.Sc.)		120
	Biomedical Engineering (M.Sc.)	Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health	120
		Biomechanics and Biomaterials	
		Medical Radiation Physics	
		Neuro-Engineering	
		Sensors and Medical Devices	
	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	
		Robotics and Mechanical Construction	
Automotive Engineering and Sustainable Transport			
Photonics Engineering (M.Sc.)		120	
Sustainable Land Management (M.Sc.)	Land and Groundwater Management	120	
	Urban Land Engineering		
Water Resources Engineering (M.Sc.)		120	
<b>ADVANCED MASTER</b>	Nuclear Engineering (M.Sc.)		60
<b>FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND BIOENGINEERING SCIENCES</b>			
<b>MASTER</b>	Applied Informatics: Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (M.Sc.)	Artificial Intelligence	60
		Big Data Technology	
	Applied Sciences and Engineering: Computer Science (M.Sc.)	Artificial Intelligence	120
		Multimedia	
		Software Languages and Software Engineering	
		Data Management and Analytics	
	Biology (M.Sc.)	Ecology and Biodiversity	120
		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.)		120
	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	
	Research		
Urban Studies (M.Sc.)		120	

DEGREE	PROGRAMME NAME	SPECIALISATIONS/MODULES	ECTS
<b>FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL</b>			
<b>BACHELOR</b>	Business Economics (B.Sc.)	International Business	180
		Business and Technology	
	Social Sciences (B.Sc.)	Communication Studies	180
		Political Sciences	
Sociology			
<b>MASTER</b>	Business Engineering: Business and Technology (M.Sc.)		120
	Communication Studies (M.Sc.)	Digital Media in Europe	60
		Journalism and Media in Europe	
	International Business (M.Sc.)		120
	Management (M.Sc.)		60
	Political Science: European and International Governance (M.Sc.)		60
<b>ADVANCED MASTER</b>	European Governance (M.Sc.)		60
<b>FACULTY OF LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY</b>			
<b>ADVANCED MASTER</b>	International and European Law (LL.M.)		60
	Maritime Science (M.Sc.)		60
<b>FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND HUMANITIES</b>			
<b>BACHELOR</b>	Linguistics and Literary Studies (B.A.)		180
<b>MASTER</b>	Linguistics and Literary Studies (M.A.)	Intermediality	60
		Linguistics	
		Literary Studies	
		Multilingualism and Foreign Language Acquisition	
		Multilingual Mediation and Communication	
		Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics	
<b>RESEARCH MASTER</b>	Philosophy (Res.M.A.)		120
<b>FACULTY PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES</b>			
<b>MASTER</b>	Educational Sciences (M.Sc.)		120
<b>FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY</b>			
<b>MASTER</b>	Biomedical Research (M.Sc.)		120
<b>RESEARCH MASTER</b>	Gerontological Sciences (Res.M.Sc.)		120
<b>ADVANCED MASTER</b>	Disaster Medicine (M.Sc.)		60
	Global Health (M.Sc.)		120



## HIGH QUALITY, ACCREDITED DEGREE PROGRAMMES

All degree programmes offered by the 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, the 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 30 min

Frankfurt: 3 hours

Amsterdam: 2 hours

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

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

Email: [prospective.students@vub.be](mailto:prospective.students@vub.be)



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

[www.facebook.com/VUBrusse1](https://www.facebook.com/VUBrusse1)

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

@VUBrusse1

@vubinternationalrelations

@VUBrusse1