

# Brussels



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2020  
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2021



## Student guide

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 Vlaanderen  
verbeelding werkt



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## Your input is welcome!

Please help us improve this guide for fellow international students. Let us know if this guide was helpful, inform us of mistakes or keep us up to date of fun facts.

welcome@brik.be

Thanks!



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for and in collaboration with





# 1. Welcome

## Introduction

**Welkom in Brussel! / Bienvenue à Bruxelles! / Willkommen in Brüssel! / Welcome to Brussels!**

### Feel at home as a student in this metropolis

#### **Brussel Bruxelles Brüssel Brussels**

Brussels is the capital city of Belgium and Europe. The official languages of Brussels are Dutch and French, therefore, all government institutions, banks, hospitals, etc. are bilingual. However, people often speak English as well, as Brussels is an international melting pot: Brussels is home to the world's second most diverse population (Dubai is n°1!) with around 108 languages

spoken, one of which is the juicy Brussels dialect!

#### **Ready for the future**

The home base of Manneken Pis is a congress and business city of a global level, the economic engine of Belgium and a centre for pioneering research, innovation and development. In addition, this multicultural heart of Europe houses multiple EU institutions and the NATO headquarters. In other words, you are just at the right place to secure a work placement, an internship or even to start a career.

### **Anytime, anywhere**

If there is one thing we can tell you with absolute certainty, it is that you will not be bored for a second. Brussels. Has. Everything. From megalomaniac pop concerts to an active underground scene for hip birds, from skateparks to escape rooms, shopping centres or flea markets, football by Union Saint Gilloise or the Memorial Van Damme... Every day and behind every corner there is something new to discover. That is why there are so many parks and pubs (roughly 1,200), so you can recover from your expeditions.

### **A new adventure begins!**

This guide's aim is to help you get started and get the most out of your adventure in Brussels.

So, first of all: welcome! We're happy you made it all the way here...



# brik

### **Who or what is Brik?**

Brik is the service desk for students in Brussels and the Dutch speaking Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts. We have a very big heart for this city and like to share the feeling. With the support of the Flemish government, we take care of students in Brussels. And this includes you!

If you don't find an answer here, feel free to contact us for anything that has to do with your student life in Brussels. Come visit us (**Zavelput 20, 1000 Brussels**) or go to our website [brik.be/en](http://brik.be/en).

This guide was written with the help of our partners: VUB, Erasmus Brussels University of Applied Sciences and Arts (EhB), Odisee, LUCA School of Arts and KU Leuven.

# Facts and figures about Brussels

Brussels has 19 different communes. Like the Parisian arrondissements and the London boroughs, every Brussels commune is designated by a **specific postcode**: 1060 for St-Gilles, 1180 for Uccle, etc.



The conurbation covers a total surface area of **16,179 ha**.



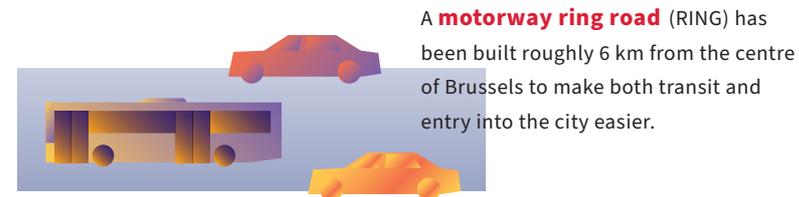
The population has around **1.2 million inhabitants**. Roughly 30% of the city's total population is foreign-born.



Brussels is home to **182** different nationalities, **108** different languages are spoken.

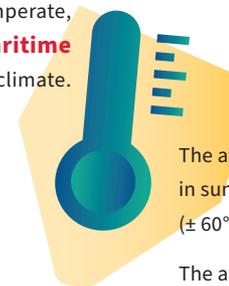


The city's **green spaces** (parks - woods - forest) account for **11.4%** of the region's territory.



A **motorway ring road** (RING) has been built roughly 6 km from the centre of Brussels to make both transit and entry into the city easier.

Brussels has a temperate, **maritime** climate.



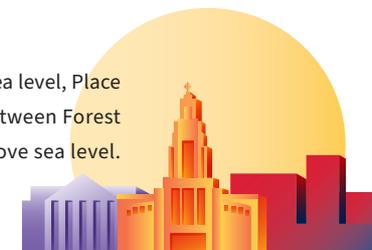
The average temperature in summer is **± 16°Celsius** (± 60° Fahrenheit).

The average winter temperature is **± 3°Celsius** (± 37° Fahrenheit).

The time is **GMT +1** in winter **GMT + 2** in summer



Brussels' central boulevards are **15m** above sea level, Place Madou is **52m** above sea level, and the area between Forest and Duden park is **100m** above sea level.



## Higher education in Brussels: Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences and Arts

Brussels is home to 52 Universities and Universities of

Applied Sciences and Arts and 100 000 students.

You may have chosen, or still have to choose an institution in Brussels.

This guide will provide information and contact details for the Dutch speaking in-

stitutions in Brussels. Those are: VUB, Erasmus Brussels University of Applied Science and Arts (EhB), Odisee, LUCA School of Arts and KU Leuven.

**You'll find the contact details on page 46.**

# The sound of Brussels

*“Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.”*

- Victor Hugo

## A Brussels top 10

- 1 Stromae**  
Formidable
- 2 Toots Thielemans**  
Bluesette
- 3 Jacques Brel**  
Bruxelles
- 4 Stromae**  
Alors on danse
- 5 Raymond Van Het Groenewoud**  
Brussels by night
- 6 Jacques Brel**  
Ne me quitte pas
- 7 Roméo Elvis**  
Bruxelles arrive
- 8 Plastic Bertrand**  
Ca plane pour moi
- 9 Zwangere Guy**  
BXL finest
- 10 Oscar & The Wolf**  
Breathing

## And more... by people from Brussels or about Brussels

- **Warhaus**  
Bruxelles
- **Arno**  
Les yeux de ma mère
- **Johan Verminnen**  
Brussel
- **Lost Frequencies**  
Funky'n Brussels
- **Boulevard des airs**  
Bruxelles
- **Damso**  
BruxellesVie
- **Pitcho**  
Schaarbeek
- **Stereoclip**  
Lost in Brussels
- **Jaune Toujours**  
Ici Bruxelles
- **Lange Jojo**  
On a soif
- **Konoba**  
On Our Knees
- **Le 77**  
Black Angus
- **Black Blood**  
Avenue Louise



Want to be the first to know about all the cool events in Brussels?

**Follow us  
on Facebook  
and Instagram!**

 [@brikstudentinbrussel](#)

 [Brik – Student in Brussel](#)



## 2. Language

Are you having trouble finding your way around Brussels? Do you want to make small talk with someone? Do you want to ask out that pretty girl/boy you just met? Or do you just really need to use the bathroom but don't know how to ask someone where it is in one of our languages? Don't worry, we got you!

**Here are some sentences you can use:**

English	Dutch	French
Hi! How are you?	Hallo! Hoe gaat het?	Bonjour! Comment ça va?
Where are you from?	Van waar ben je?	D'où venez-vous?
Can I have your number?	Mag ik je nummer?	Je peux avoir ton numéro?
Would you like to go on a date with me?	Wil je met mij op date gaan?	Voudrais-tu sortir avec moi?
Where can I find...?	Waar kan ik ... vinden?	Où puis-je trouver...?
Where is the bathroom?	Waar is het toilet?	Où se trouvent les toilettes?



### 3. Registration

Now that you have arrived in Brussels, the first thing you should do is contact your receiving institution. They will be able to assist you with the following steps:

#### Residence permit (obligatory in case of long stay (more than 3 months))

- **First step** is the notification/registration at the commune you are residing. Depending on your

origin this has to be within 8 days or 3 months after arrival.

- **You will need** (check with the applicable commune): identity document, residence address, registration document of your study program, proof of sufficient means...
- Even for **short stay** a residence permit can be

useful for work or health insurance

There are **19 different communes** (municipalities) in the Brussels-Capital Region.

To avoid confusion: most people talk about 'Brussels' when they mean the Region and will say 'city of Brussels' to specify when they mean the commune.

Dutch name	French name	postal code	population	area
Anderlecht	Anderlecht	1070	118 241	17.7 km <sup>2</sup> (6.8 sq mi)
Stad Brussel	Bruxelles-Ville	1000,1020, 1120, 1130	176 545	32.6 km <sup>2</sup> (12.6 sq mi)
Elsene	Ixelles	1050	86 244	6.3 km <sup>2</sup> (2.4 sq mi)
Etterbeek	Etterbeek	1040	47 414	3.1 km <sup>2</sup> (1.2 sq mi)
Evere	Evere	1140	40 394	5.0 km <sup>2</sup> (1.9 sq mi)
Ganshoren	Ganshoren	1083	24 596	2.5 km <sup>2</sup> (1.0 sq mi)
Jette	Jette	1090	51 933	5.0 km <sup>2</sup> (1.9 sq mi)
Koekelberg	Koekelberg	1081	21 609	1.2 km <sup>2</sup> (0.5 sq mi)
Oudergem	Auderghem	1160	33 313	9.0 km <sup>2</sup> (3.5 sq mi)
Schaarbeek	Schaerbeek	1030	133 042	8.1 km <sup>2</sup> (3.1 sq mi)
Sint-Agatha-Berchem	Berchem-Sainte-Agathe	1082	24 701	2.9 km <sup>2</sup> (1.1 sq mi)
Sint-Gillis	Saint-Gilles	1060	50 471	2.5 km <sup>2</sup> (1.0 sq mi)
Sint-Jans-Molenbeek	Molenbeek-Saint-Jean	1080	96 629	5.9 km <sup>2</sup> (2.3 sq mi)
Sint-Joost-ten-Node	Saint-Josse-ten-Noode	1210	27 115	1.1 km <sup>2</sup> (0.4 sq mi)
Sint-Lambrechts Woluwe	Woluwe-Saint-Lambert	1200	55 216	7.2 km <sup>2</sup> (2.8 sq mi)
Sint-Pieters Woluwe	Woluwe-Saint-Pierre	1150	41 217	8.9 km <sup>2</sup> (3.4 sq mi)
Ukkel	Uccle	1180	82 307	22.9 km <sup>2</sup> (8.8 sq mi)
Vorst	Forest	1190	55 746	6.2 km <sup>2</sup> (2.4 sq mi)
Watermaal-Bosvoorde	Watermael-Boitsfort	1070	24 871	12.9 km <sup>2</sup> (5.0 sq mi)



# 4. Financial

## Currency

As you probably know, the currency used in Belgium is the Euro (equal to 100 eurocents), which replaced the Belgian franc in the year 2002.

We use coins in denominations of 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c,

50c, €1 and €2, as well as banknotes in denominations of €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200 and €500. Every note has a particular color representing artistic or architectural achievements in Europe.



EUR	1,0000 (= €1)
USD	1,0839
GBP	0,8708
AUD	1,6806
CAD	1,5222
CNY	7,6553
JPY	115,485
DKK	7,4626
ISK	159,351
HUF	349,984
SEK	10,6599
CHF	1,0537
MXN	25,8350

Set your budget	
bread	€2 - €3
beer	€1,5 - €3
cocktail	€7 - €13
pizza	€6 - €15
train ride	€6 - €17
hotel room	€100



## Banks in Belgium and opening your own bank account

Belgium provides citizens and foreigners a wide range of banking institutions and services. Banks are usually **open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 16:00-17:00**, and once a week until 18:00 (each bank has its own day).

You can **exchange money** at any bank, airport or train station, as well as in the private exchange offices. Many currency exchange offices are open until 21:00-22:00, also on weekends. Argenta, Belfius, ING, KBC, ... there are a lot of banks to

choose from, but which one should you choose for opening your own bank account?

A **good bank account** options for Erasmus and international students in Belgium is the 'Hello4You' bank account by BNP Paribas Fortis, but ING also has good options. In general, **documents needed to open an account** at any bank are valid ID documents (with your student visa), a proof of your Belgian address and proof of enrolment in a

school or university. If you want to **close your bank account** before you go back home, you will have to make another appointment at the same agency where you opened your bank account.

Recently, some **online bank solutions** have popped up, that are linked to your bank in your home country. We heard good things about Revolut for example. Make sure to check which options work best for you.



## 5. Mobile phones & internet

Everybody knows it is impossible (or at least very difficult) to last a day without internet. Fortunately there are lots of places where you can get **free Wi-Fi**, which can be useful during your first days in Brussels. **All the academic institutions provide Wi-Fi** on the campuses, but you need your official login to access it. Apart from that, the website [wifi.brussels](http://wifi.brussels) gives an overview of all the public indoor and outdoor free Wi-Fi places in Brussels. Very convenient! You'll

notice that there are a lot of metro stations where you can scroll through your Facebook or Instagram feed whilst waiting for the **metro**. And off course, the first **coffee shop** without Wi-Fi still has to be opened in Brussels, so these can be a perfect solution too.

If you're an EU-citizen, consider yourself lucky! Since a couple of years, the **'roam like at home'** rules mean that you don't have to pay any additional roaming charges when using

data on your mobile phone while staying in Belgium or travelling outside your home country in any EU member state.

If you're coming from a country that is not a member of the EU, then we advise you to **get a Belgian SIM card**. The main Belgian mobile operators are Proximus, Orange and Base. To get a SIM card, you'll need a valid ID, proof of your Belgian address and an International Bank Account Number (IBAN).

## 6. Housing & interior



Brussels has a lot to offer in student (and other) accommodation. Brik manages more than 400 student rooms, but you can rent from one of the many private owners as well. Prices vary depending on the size, location and other factors. So don't hesitate to spend sufficient time on your search. In the meantime, here's some advice to get you going.

### Van Orley International Student House

Van Orley is an international housing option, **taylor-made for exchange students** who will be staying in Brussels for a short period of time (up to 5 months). It's biggest asset

is the fact that it's a great place to meet people from all over the world.

This international student house consists of 26 single rooms and 37 double rooms (to share with a friend) and several common areas where students can meet and eat.

Check out [brik.be/vanorley](http://brik.be/vanorley) for more information!

### Other housing options

#### **Renting from your university**

Some universities have their own student housing. Consult the student services of your school to ask if there are rooms available for you.

#### **Renting with Brik**

Brik manages around 400 student rooms and is the landlord of these rooms. All arrangements happen directly between Brik and the student: going from your contract to daily maintenance.

[brik.be/en/long-stay](http://brik.be/en/long-stay)

#### **Renting from a private owner**

Most of the rooms in Brussels are rented out by private owners. You can find a large amount of privately owned rooms on MyKot. The contract and practical matters are arranged privately with the landlord. [brik.mykot.be/en](http://brik.mykot.be/en)



## Feather your nest

When the time has come to decorate or furnish their rooms, Flemish students can take most of their stuff from home with them. They just scurry up their folks and turn it into a roadtrip. International students however probably can't fit all necessary items in one suitcase. So if you're looking for kitchen supplies, a new mattress, decoration,... you name it, you can find them in Brussels at reasonable prices at the following places:

### Ikea

Bergensesteenweg  
1432, 1070 Anderlecht  
(metro Ceria/Coovi)  
Practical and affordable furniture and home accessories in a huge store.

### Hema

Muntplein 21, 1000 Brussels  
(metro De Brouckère)  
Low priced generic housewares in the city centre.

### Action

Multiple locations, check [www.action.com](http://www.action.com)  
Discount-store where you can find almost everything

### Rue de Brabant Brabantstraat, 1030 Schaarbeek

Brabantstraat, 1030 Schaarbeek (metro Rogier)  
Atypical international shopping district with more than 300 stores and very competitive prices.

## Low on funds?

Zero waste? Or just need something unique? Scour the countless flea markets or go

to one of the many second hand stores in Brussels:

### The Marolles

Vossenplein, 1000 Brussels  
The most famous flea market in Brussels in the last genuine folksy neighbourhood.

### Brocante Westland

Sylvain Dupuislaan 433, 1070 Anderlecht  
Huge flea market every Sunday morning at the Westland shopping mall.

### L'Armée du Salut

Ieperlaan 24, 1000 Brussels  
Second hand store with everything you need for your student room at small prices.

### Giveaway Fair

Second hand fair with small furniture, kitchen utensils and so much more for free at Brik!

# 7. Getting around

## Getting around in Brussels

### On Foot

Distances in Brussels are often overestimated. You can easily see on our walking maps (next page) how long it takes to walk from one point to the next.

### Bicycle

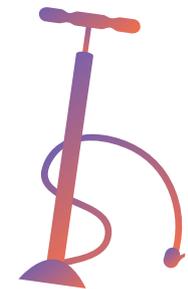
Cycling is a very enjoyable way to move around in Brussels. Bicycles are fast, cheap, sportive and you can go anywhere at any moment in the day. It takes some

adaptation to ride a bike in a city, so you may want to try it out with the help of someone more experienced. For that reason, **Brik organises bicycle rides for students.**

Prefer to ride **your own bike?**

Right you are! You can find a bike on one of the second hand fairs of CyCLO, in a bike shop or on a second hand website.

Would you rather **rent a bike?** There are several possibilities as well: Villo!, Blue-bike, Billy Bikes, Swapfiets...



## Public transport

First thing you need to know about the public transport in Brussels, is that **students under 25 years old pay only 50 euros for a season ticket of an entire year for the MIVB**. The MIVB is omnipresent in Brussels with a big range and very good service. Every person in Brussels takes the metro because of its speed and comfort,

but trams and busses are popular as well. **At night there is a minimal service with 'Noctis' buses**. The practical **MIVB app** indicates the real time of arrival, so you know perfectly at what time you have to be at the station or platform.

Brussels is also served by two other public transport companies: De Lijn (Flanders) and TEC (Wallonia)

### Collecto

*Missed the last Noctis? Don't feel like walking or cycling home at night? Collecto is a collective taxi service that is available every day from 11pm to 6am. For 6 euro per person, the Collecto will take you to every place within the capital region. Just download the Collecto app on your smartphone and you're ready to go!*

sncb

## Studying in Belgium ?

**Hop on the train & get the most out of your stay.**

Discover Bruges, experience Antwerp, get lost in the Ardennes,...

Start by checking out our tickets & railcards for students on [sncb.be](http://sncb.be) or in the station.



# FOR THE PRICE OF A GREAT PARTY, PARTY ALL YEAR LONG THROUGHOUT BRUSSELS

**RENEW YOUR SCHOOL TICKET FOR ONLY €50 ON [SCHOOL.STIB.BE](http://SCHOOL.STIB.BE)**



# PEDESTRIAN MAP

## City of Brussels

- A** VUB - Brussels Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus
- B** Erasmushogeschool Brussel - Campus Jette  
VUB - Brussels Health Campus
- C** Erasmushogeschool Brussel - Campus Kaai
- D** Erasmushogeschool Brussel - Campus Bloemhof
- E** Erasmushogeschool Brussel - Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel
- F** Erasmushogeschool Brussel - Campus RITCS
- G** Erasmushogeschool Brussel - Campus Bottelarij
- H** Erasmushogeschool Brussel - Campus Kanal
- I** Odisee - Campus Brussel - Terranova
- J** Odisee/KU Leuven - Campus Brussel
- K** LUCA School of Arts - Campus Brussel (Narafi)
- L** LUCA School of Arts - Campus Brussel (Sint-Lukas)
- M** KU Leuven - Campus Brussel (Sint-Lucas)

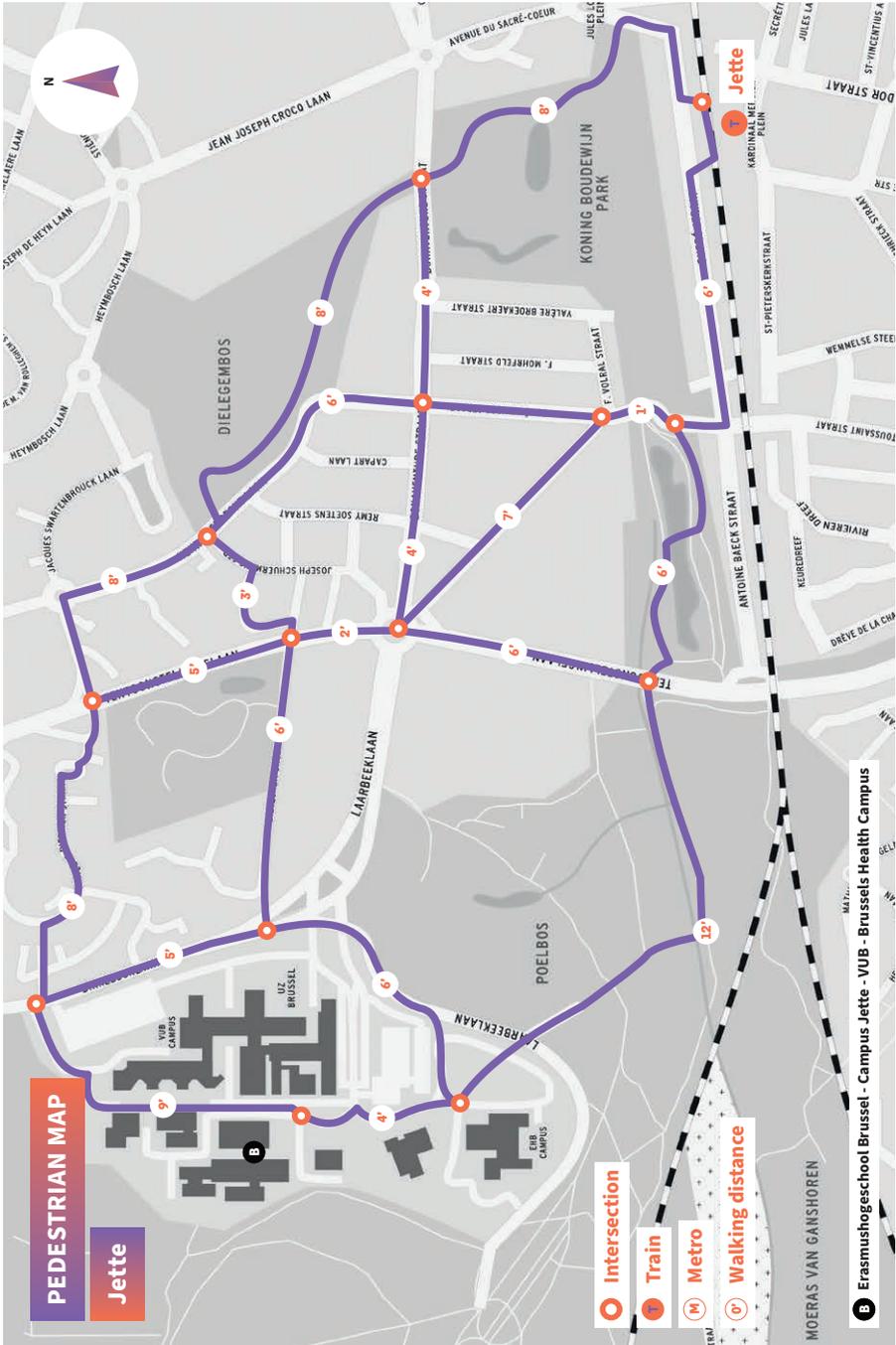
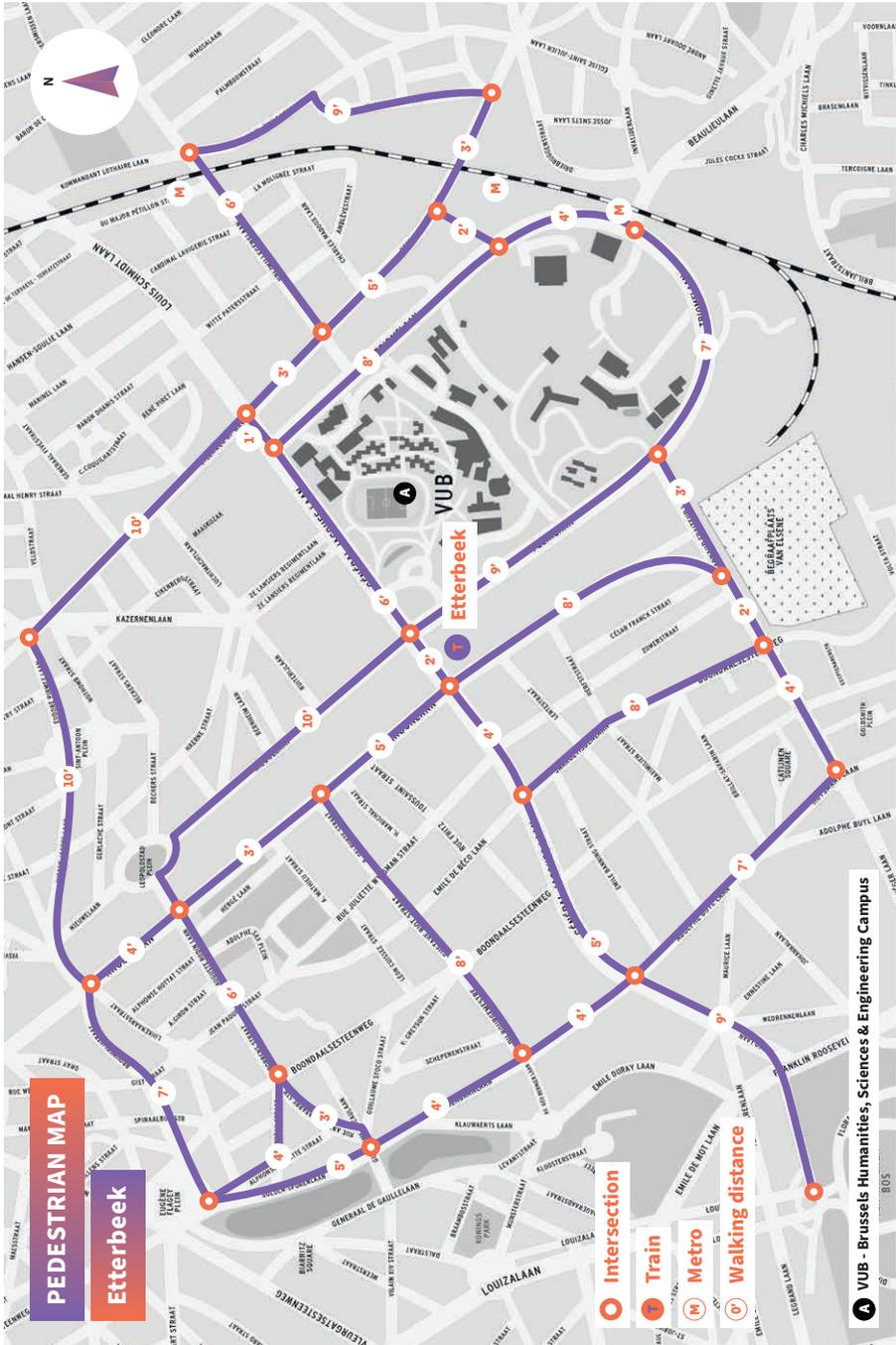
- Intersection
- Train
- Metro
- Walking distance

Brussel-Zuid

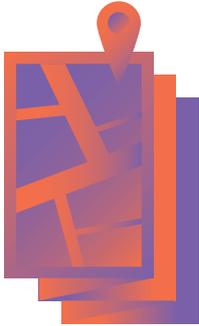
Brussel-Noord

Brussel-Centraal





## Getting around in Belgium



### Train

The train is one of the fastest ways to travel around Belgium. The central location of Brussels, with three very big stations (Brussels-South, Brussels-Central and Brussels-North), is therefore an absolute plus point if you want to travel to Bruges, Antwerp, the seaside... If you're under 26 years old, we suggest that you buy a Youth Multi Pass, which lets you make 10 trips for only 53 euros. For those of you over 26, the best option is a Standard Multi Pass for 83 euros.

A return ticket in weekends 'Weekend Ticket' (starting at 19h on Friday nights) will give you a 50% discount.

### To the airport

**Brussels Airport** is the international airport just outside Brussels. By train from Brussels North Station it will only take you 10 minutes to get to the airport, you'll have to pay around 9 euro one-way. You can also take buses from Brussels North Station (De Lijn) or from Schuman (MIVB).

**Brussels South Charleroi Airport** is the low cost airport and quite far from Brussels. You can take a train to get there, but you still have to catch a bus from the train station of Charleroi. The easiest and fastest option is to take the Flibco bus (starting from €5), that leaves from the Brussels South Station.



## Getting around in Europe

### Train

By far the easiest (and most ecological) way to travel to big cities close to Belgium is the high-speed train, always departing from Brussels-South: Paris in 1h21 (from €29 one-way), London in 2h01 (from €39 one-way), Cologne in 1h50 (from €19), Amsterdam in 1h52 (from €29).

Izy is the low-cost alternative to take a train to Paris, starting from €15 one-way, but it takes a little longer to get there (at least 2h12).

### Bus

If you're on a budget but still want to travel, you should consider one of the long-distance bus companies: Flixbus, Eurolines or Ouibus. Most of these companies depart from the Brussels North Station.

### Airplane

As you know, you can reach all the European countries easily by airplane from Brussels Airport Zaventem. Don't forget that there's a big ecological impact when you hop on an airplane every weekend to visit another country, and check the alternatives first!



## 8. City life



### Neighbourhoods to discover

The real Brussels is **in-vincible. More than ever before, the city is teeming with culture, gastronomy, hospitality, joviality and a laid-back attitude. Enjoy!**

Brussels is the intersection between North and South, between Germanic and Roman culture and became throughout the years a multicultural melting pot. This results in a rich offer of

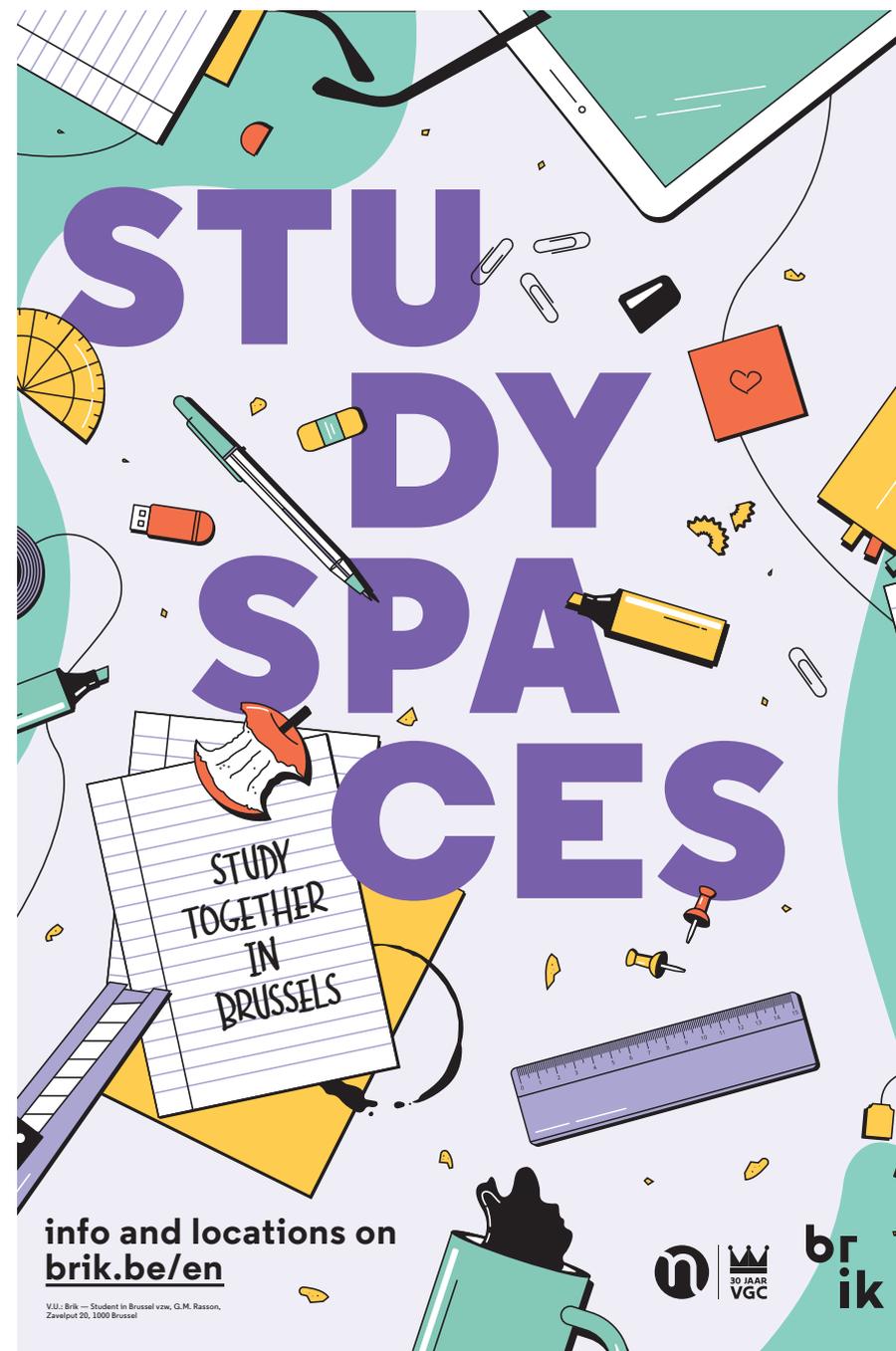
different bars and restaurants. You can experience this on foot from one district to another quarter.

#### Some hipster spots:

- Dansaert (City of Brussels)
- St-Boniface (Ixelles)
- Flagey (Ixelles)
- Parvis (St-Gilles)

#### Around the world:

- European, Place Lux (Ixelles)
- African, Matongé (Ixelles)
- Turkish, Chaussée de Haecht (Schaerbeek)
- Latin, from Porte de Hal to Barrière (St-Gilles)





## Brussels' tips

### More specific tips

Want to discover the Brussels live for students? with 'The Brussels Bucketlist for students' you get 20 tips of things you need to do in the city before you leave again.



Grab your '**Bucket List**' booklet at Brik's Open House: Zavelput 20, 1000 Brussel.

### Shopping

Shopaholics can stroll around in diverse clothing stores located in the easy accessible **Rue Neuve** (City of Brussels) or the more sophisticated **Avenue Louise** (Ixelles).

### Cheap food for a good cause

Download the application '**Too Good To Go**' on your smartphone and order food surpluses from restaurants with a big discount. In the meantime you reduce food waste in your neighbourhood.

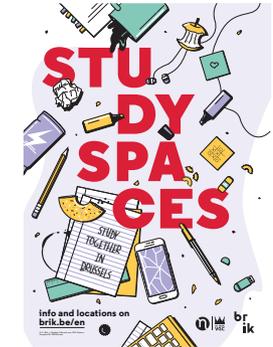
### Studying

#### (the reason you're here, remember?)

More and more students go to public but quiet places to study. Social control and some help from a neighbour can do wonders. For those who do not want to seclude themselves for weeks during

the study period, we have a solution to study together: Study Spaces.

**Every semester Brik organizes Study Spaces in a number of community centres and libraries.**



These are quiet places where you can study together so you can share the difficult and hard study days with your peers. Aside from this, every campus usually prepares one or more spaces where it is possible to study quietly and in group. Find these spots on [brik.be/studyspaces](http://brik.be/studyspaces).



# 9. Bank holidays & events

## Bank holidays in Belgium



**New Year's Day**  
January 1

**Easter Monday**  
Monday after Easter



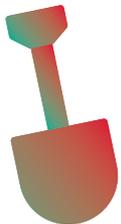
**Labour Day**  
May 1

**Ascension**  
39 days after Easter



**Pentecost Monday**  
Monday after Pentecost

**Belgian National Day**  
July 21



**Assumption of Mary**  
August 15

**All Saints' Day**  
November 1

**Armistice Day**  
November 11

**Christmas**  
December 25

## Events

### September

#### **Brussel Brost**

Brik organizes a free student festival to kick-off the academic year in Brussels. At Brussel Brost you'll find various stages, a city market, food trucks, a sweetheart and friends for life.

#### **Theaterfestival Brussels**

Go see the best plays of the year in the Kaaiteater.

#### **STOEMP! (September – November)**

Free performances of promising bands in the best cafés of Brussels.

### October

#### **Brussels' Museums Nocturnes**

The museums open their doors every Thursday evening! The choice is big, so make the most of (re)discovering Brussels' cultural treasures in a pleasant and inexpensive way.

### November

#### **SAINT VÉ November**

Annual student-parade with decorated floats, equipped with music and drinks, through the streets of the centre of Brussels.

### December

#### **Winter Wonders**

Internationally known Christmas market. Drink a Dutch gin with friends or take your parents for a ride on the Ferris wheel.

### January

#### **New Year in Brussels**

No better way to start the year than in Brussels. Every year there are the fireworks and hundreds of people gather together to celebrate the New Year.

### February

#### **Sound of Sprouts**

Musical contest for Brussels' students, from live acts to DJ's.

#### **Carnival**

You'll find carnival activities in most communes, often with a link to its rich tradition. Some a bit bigger and more over the top than others. If you want to join: you'll find your ideal costume in shops such as Picard Megafun Partystore, Palais des Cotillons or Maison Eldorado.

### March

#### **Museum Night Fever**

No, a museum in Brussels is never boring. But just a little less boring when you can enjoy an evening full of music, dance, performances, videos, guided tours and even a circus in 24 museums. You end the night at the afterparty!

#### **Saint Patrick's Day (March 17)**

The well-known Irish national festival is celebrated in Brussels as well. Put on your green suit, gather your friends and sing a merry song in one of the many Irish pubs in Brussels.

### April

#### **Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFFF)**

The festival where you might run into, um, a zombie or chopped off heads. So, anything but mainstream.

#### **Les Nuits Botanique (April – May)**

One place, dozens of concerts. Taste the spring in the park of the Botanical Gardens and catch some performances of big names in the halls of the concert (Orangerie, Rotonde or Chapiteau).



### **Stoemp! (April – May)**

In spring as well, Stoemp! is ready to brighten up your week. From April till the end of May you can enjoy free concerts in cafés.

### **May**

#### **Zinneke Parade**

Biennial crazy parade through the Brussels' city centre.

#### **Iris Festival**

For two days, you can enjoy free concerts and street art in the beautiful Place des Palais during this Brussels city festival.

#### **Pride**

Every year, this parade provides for an amazing atmosphere in the streets of Brussels. It starts at the Chapelle (Marolles) and finishes at The Beurs/ Bourse.

#### **20km of Brussels**

The name says it all. The legendary running race that takes you along the most beautiful monuments of the city. As a student you can get a discount on 'The 20' when you sign in via the sports service of your institution.

#### **Kunstenfestivaldesarts**

Multidisciplinary art festival. You can enjoy photography, drama, performances and so much more on different locations in the city.

### **June**

#### **Out Loud!**

Ideal study break at the Beursschouwburg: a picnic on the rooftop terrace at noon, concerts and film screenings in the evening.

#### **Couleur Café**

Music festival in the city with more than 50 acts spread over three days. Good music, delicious food, designer market, dancing lessons and exhibitions. What more do you want?

#### **Roller Bike Parade**

Little/small wheels conquer the streets of Brussels! In summer, appointment/meeting in Place Poelaert every Friday at seven p.m. Join this parade with your longboard, bicycle, roller skates or hoverboard! The DJ takes care of the beats.

#### **Plazey**

A festival in the Elisabeth Park for young and old. Here, you can enjoy music, workshops, good food and so much more.

### **July**

#### **Midi fair**

Fair during the summer holiday. Relive your carefree childhood on the attractions, go 'people watching' and enjoy the unique atmosphere.

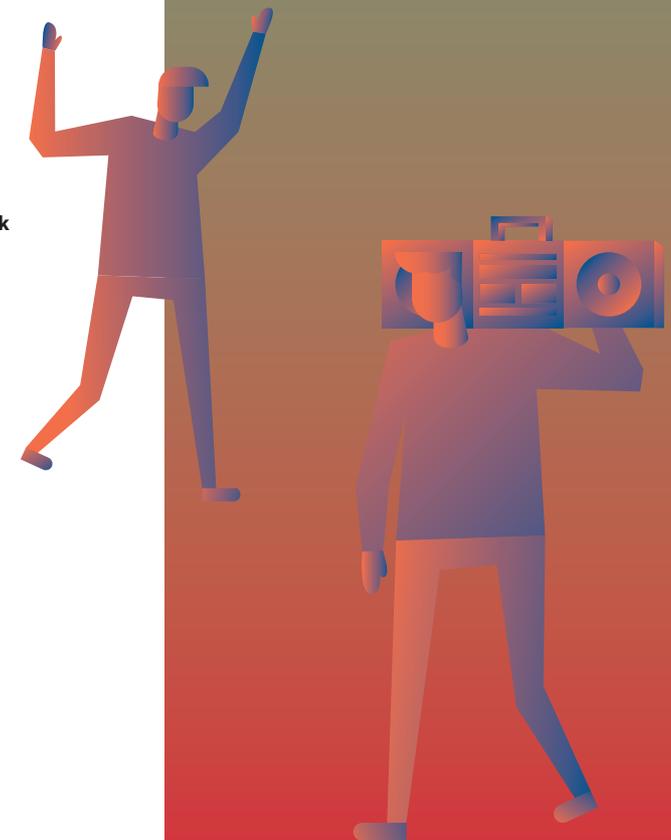
### **August**

#### **Brussels Summer Festival (BSF) August**

A ten-day music and culture festival that takes place over the Place des Palais and the Mont des Arts. BSF was already able to add names like Iggy Pop and Patti Smith to its line-up.

#### **Boterhammen In Het Park / Feeërieën**

Free set of festivals in the kiosk of the Royal Park, in the heart of Brussels. You can enjoy the best there is in the Belgian and international music scene under the trees.



### **Meetup**

It can be rough when you're new in town. You don't know anyone, nor speak the language. You always have to search actively to get to know people or find fun activities to do. Meetup.com can help you with that!

You can use Meetup to find groups of people with common interests. Whether you want to learn how to speak a new language, or if you're looking for an exercise group - it's all there!

## 10. Leisure

### Student clubs and other unions

The fastest way to find connection to your interests is to **join a group of students with similar interest**. Every campus has its student club(s): faculty-wise (per programme), regional or thematically. Most universities have a local section of the Erasmus Student Network. Alongside there are unions around sports, culture, politics... you name it! Journalistic ambitions? Fix a spot with your student's magazine or on the radio station on your campus.



### Culture

Music, dance, theatre, museums, lectures... You'll find whatever you like in this city.

Up to you if you want to prepare (check the links further in this chapter) or if you just want to go out and let the city surprise you.

Don't forget to check with your receiving institution for their offers or tips.

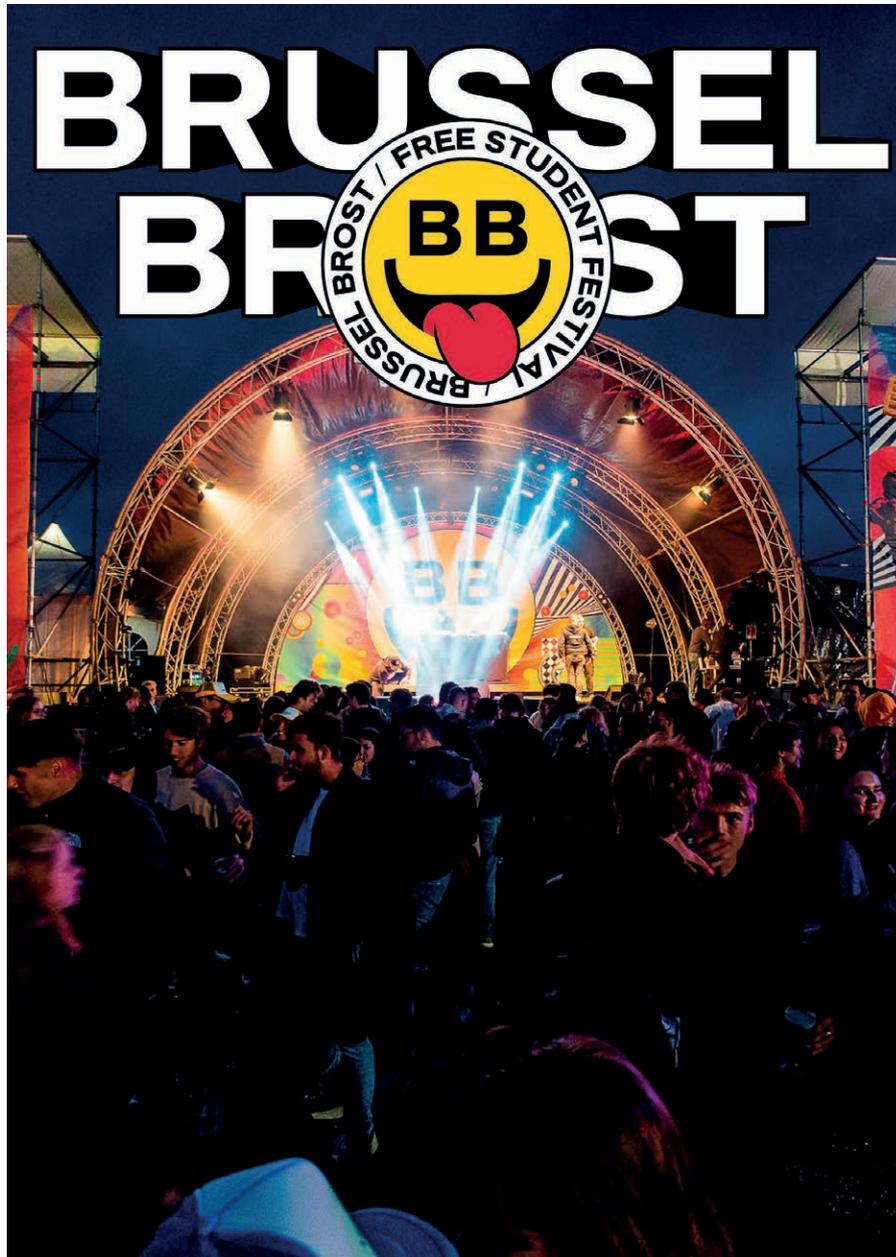
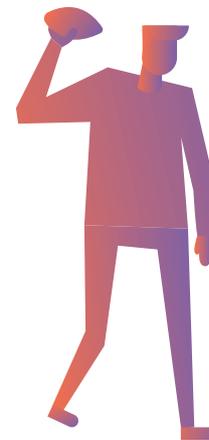
### Sports

A healthy mind in a healthy body...

Check your receiving institution for their sportive activities or discounts on sport subscriptions.

Sign up for one of the many sports events (20 km through Brussels, BXL Tour, FootaFive...)

You can often make use of the facilities on other campuses.

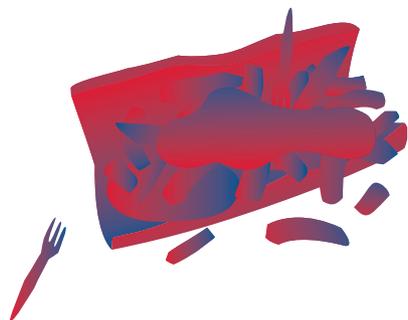


## Food

### Belgian specialities:

- Frietjes
- Vol-au-vent
- Stoofvlees
- Chicon gratin
- Moules-frites
- Meatballs in tomato sauce
- Shrimp croquettes
- Waffles
- Rabbit with prunes
- Stoemp saucisse
- Steak Tartare
- Sandwich Martino
- Asparagus Flemish style
- Mitraillette (sandwich)

And of course, all sorts of beer and chocolate :)



### Student restaurants:

VUB  
[student.vub.be/en/food-and-drinks#restaurants](http://student.vub.be/en/food-and-drinks#restaurants)

EhB  
[erasmushogeschool.be/en/restaurants](http://erasmushogeschool.be/en/restaurants)

Odisee & KU Leuven Brussels Campus  
[stuvoplus.be/en/brussel/food](http://stuvoplus.be/en/brussel/food)

LUCA School of Arts & KU Leuven Sint-Lucas Brussels Campus  
[luca-arts.be/nl/student-support-services#cafeteria\\_at\\_the\\_campus](http://luca-arts.be/nl/student-support-services#cafeteria_at_the_campus)

## Useful info and links

### Sorting waste in Brussels

As in most Belgian and even European cities, you have to use specific rubbish bags per type of waste and you put them out on the street for collection on specific days. (see [arp-gan.be/en/](http://arp-gan.be/en/) or the Recycle!-app). Not doing this, might result in a fine. You can find the bags in most supermarkets.



White for the **remaining waste**



Green for **garden waste**



Yellow (or a paper box/bag) for **paper**



Orange for **food**.

In supermarkets and occasionally your campus you may find recycling collectors for batteries, printer cartridges, mobile phones...



Blue for **plastic bottles, metal packaging and drink cartons**



### Stuvo (Student services)

Every institution has a service for students (studentenvoorzieningen or stuvo).

As a student, you can visit them for social, medical and psychological aid, sports and culture, questions about lodging, student cafeterias and transport.

VUB  
[student.vub.be/en/services](http://student.vub.be/en/services)

EhB  
[www.ehb.be/en/student-support-services](http://www.ehb.be/en/student-support-services)

Odisee & KU Leuven Brussels Campus  
<http://stuvoplus.be/en/brussel>

LUCA School of Arts & KU Leuven Sint-Lucas Brussels Campus  
[www.luca-arts.be/nl/student-support-services](http://www.luca-arts.be/nl/student-support-services)

## Discounts

### Studentcard

Your student card will give you a discount in a lot of places, so always check before you pay! (e.g. the cinema, clothing shops, hairdresser, IT shops, software, museums, magazines, second hand stores ...)

### ISIC card

[www.isic.org/](http://www.isic.org/)

The internationally accepted student identity card which can provide discounts, offers and services.

### Europass

[europass.cedefop.europa.eu/](http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/)

Five documents to make your skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe:

### MuseumPASSmusees

[nl.shop.museumpassmusees.be/](http://nl.shop.museumpassmusees.be/) (Dutch and French)

This museum pass gives you free access to, or a discount on, all participating museums in Belgium. As often as you want.

### Brussels Card

[visit.brussels/en/sites/brusselscard/](http://visit.brussels/en/sites/brusselscard/)

This card will give you free entry to 40 Brussels museums, discounts to tourist attractions, guided tours, shops, restaurants, bars & clubs and a free information guide, city map and museum map. Optional:



unlimited travel on public transport or unlimited access to the Hop on Hop off buses.

### Paspartoe

Or the Brussels 'Uitpass', a benefits pass for culture, youth and sports. You can save points with your card and exchange them for reduction or other benefits. You can also use this 'uitpass' in other cities. [www.uitinbrussel.be/paspartoe](http://www.uitinbrussel.be/paspartoe)

### For free

[www.facebook.com/GratisBrussel/](http://www.facebook.com/GratisBrussel/)

(In Dutch) Here you'll find concerts, exhibitions, lectures and festivals that are free of charge.

[Bruzz.be](http://Bruzz.be) and their free magazine (In Dutch) Here you'll find concerts, exhibitions, lectures and festivals that are free of charge.

### Campus cafés

#### Pilar

[www.pilar.brussels](http://www.pilar.brussels)

#### RITCS café

[www.erasmushogeschool.be/en/culture](http://www.erasmushogeschool.be/en/culture)

#### Het Clubke

<http://stuvoplus.be/brussel/sandwich-bar-t-clubke>

# 11. Work

As an international student, you want to enjoy your stay in Brussels to the fullest. But what to do when your bank account says no?

## Work as a volunteer

In Brussels there are a lot of non-profit organizations that are looking for motivated volunteers. Voluntary work is besides fun also a great experience. As a volunteer, you won't get paid for your voluntary work, but some organizations pay a flat-rate expense allowance (+- 34 euros). Also, Brik is always looking for students who want to contribute to a project, handing out flyers or share their knowledge about Brussels student life with others. Something for you? Don't hesitate to contact us!

## Student jobs

In Belgium it is allowed to work as an international student although there is a difference between students who come from countries that are members of the EEA (European Economic Area) or Switzerland and students that come from other countries.

**If you are a student from the EEA or Switzerland you can work during your stay in Brussels under the same terms as a Belgian student.**

- You are entitled to work 475 hours per year at reduced social contributions;
- You can earn a maximum of €12.657,14 per year.

**Students who come from countries from outside the EEA distinction or**

**Switzerland can work if they:**

- are registered in education with full curriculum in Belgium;
- have a valid residence permit.

During the official school holidays, you can work without a job permit but during the school year you need a work permit C and then you are entitled to work a maximum of 20 hours per week.

## Work at Brik

Besides the fact that we are always looking for volunteers, during the summer months we are looking for students to prepare our rooms for the new rental season. Do you want to work with us? Send us your CV.



# Interviews



## Julian

**Julian, 26, from Germany**  
**6 months in Brussels**  
**KU Leuven campus Brussel,**  
**International Business**

After studying in a quiet area in Sweden for a while, I decided I really wanted to live in the **lively centre** of the city when I came to Brussels. The location of my university is also very central, so it made sense to stay at **Van Orley International Student House**. With 100 students of different nationalities, it is **very easy to meet new people**. There is always someone who wants to explore the city or wants to have a drink. Anouar, the concierge, is a really nice guy and helps out as much as he can.

In summer, we enjoyed the beautiful **Botanique park**, which is right across the street. In that area it's easy to find **good but cheap Turkish pizza restaurants**, for example Lale Pizzeria, where you can get a pizza with salad for less than €8. All residents of Van Orley would go to Snack le Botanique for

a **mitraillette with andalouse**: a big sandwich with meat, fries and the spicy andalouse sauce. You won't get hungry very soon after having one of those...

I **rented a student bicycle** for 6 months, and used it to explore other areas of Brussels. Since I am over 25 years old, it was also a very budget friendly solution. Unfortunately the very **cheap ticket (€50!) for public transport** is only for students under 26. Cycling in Brussels is fun, but be careful when riding on cobblestones: they can be very slippery and you don't want to fall on them. On a sunny day, we once cycled to Bois de la Cambre near the lake, which was very nice!

We would normally start our evening with some drinks at Van Orley, preferably on the roof terrace if the weather would allow it. **Celtica close to la Bourse** is the

go-to place for cheap drinks (happy hour until midnight, small beers for €1) and a lot of happy people. If you're into singing, then I can recommend **NUA, a karaoke bar** on the Boulevard Anspach.

The weekends were perfect for **trips to other cities**. I went to Ghent, Bruges and Lille with **ESN**, and afterwards we organised a lot of trips ourselves: Antwerp, Leuven, Paris and Cologne. The **central location of Brussels makes it very easy to travel to these cities by train or bus**. When I stayed in Brussels during the weekend, I enjoyed the **Sunday markets** near the Gare du Midi for groceries, or the Marolles flea market on the Place du Jeu de Balle.



## Sidanth

**Sidanth, 24, from India**  
**2 years in Brussels**  
**VUB, Marine Biology**

Before arriving in Brussels, my experience wasn't really good. Getting a visa took a long time, and because of that I arrived 1 month later than planned. On top of that, just before I arrived, my landlord cancelled my reserved room and I couldn't reach him anymore. The very first days I had to stay in a B&B and heard about Brik through my course teacher. I took one of the **kottours** with them and eventually found a decent room for a good price.

Now, I love Brussels. **I had to get used to it, but as soon as I started making friends I felt comfortable**. Although I feel like people are not as open as I'm used to in India, there's this vibe once you get to know them. I have a great class, it really feels like a family. It is kind of mixed, both **Belgian and international students**, but I get along with all of them.

If you're looking for a room, it's a good idea to try and **get one close to the centre**. I have friends who used to live a bit further away and they didn't interact really until they moved. To get around, **I use public transport all the time**. Sometimes I'm so lazy, that I even take a bus for just 1 stop. I'm planning to get a bike for the summer, though. I heard there are different options to rent one and it's not too expensive.

I like all the options you have in Brussels: **culture, nature, sports, events...** My favourite parc is **Ter Kameren**, it has that forest vibe. Closer to the centre the **Cinquantenaire** is really nice. I don't really eat out, but my friends tell me the restaurants are great too. I like to check out **music related events** that I find on **Meetup or Facebook**. Always lots to do!

As an international student, you experience the city differently. Belgians who live here take it for granted and don't feel the need to make new friends or explore different cultures. **When I'm bored I just walk around and discover new things**. I like to make music and I started to perform at **open mics** and experienced so much growth personally. I got out of my shell, and Brussels helped with that because the city encourages small artists. **It's a great place to grow as an artist**.



## 13. Going home

We hope you had a great time in Brussels. Now you're going home, don't forget to:

- Inform your receiving institution of your departure date
- Check all your contracts, big and small, to see if there's a notice period and terminate them in due time (e.g. tenancy agreement, internet, sports center...)
- Unregister from the commune
- Close your Belgian bank account
- Terminate your Belgian insurances
- ECTS credits
- Say goodbye to all your friends!

## 14. Contact

### Higher Education institutions

#### VUB

##### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

###### International Office

Karel Van Miert Building  
Pleinlaan 5  
1050 Elsene

**+32 2 614 81 01**  
[international.relations@vub.be](mailto:international.relations@vub.be)  
[www.vub.be/en/international#home](http://www.vub.be/en/international#home)  
[student.vub.be/en](http://student.vub.be/en)

##### CAMPUS

###### Brussels Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus

Pleinlaan 2  
1050 Elsene

###### Brussels Health Campus

Laarbeeklaan 103  
1090 Jette

##### GENERAL CONTACT

**+32 2 629 20 10**  
[info@vub.be](mailto:info@vub.be)  
[www.vub.be](http://www.vub.be)

##### GENERAL STUDENT SERVICES/INFO POINT STUDENTS

Building D room 1.02  
Pleinlaan 2  
1050 Elsene

**+32 2 629 20 10**  
[info@vub.ac.be](mailto:info@vub.ac.be)  
[www.student.vub.be/en](http://www.student.vub.be/en)

#### Erasmus Brussels University of Applied Sciences and Arts - EhB

##### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Nijverheidskaai 170  
1070 Anderlecht

**+32 2 559 15 15**  
[international.office@ehb.be](mailto:international.office@ehb.be)

##### CAMPUS

###### Design & Technology, Musical

Campus Kaai  
Nijverheidskaai 170  
1070 Anderlecht

###### Management, Media & Society

Campus Bloemenhof  
Zespenningenstraat 70  
1000 Brussels

###### Education & Pedagogy

Campus Kanal  
Slotstraat 28  
1000 Brussels

###### Health Service/Care & Landscape Architecture

Campus Jette  
Laarbeeklaan 121  
1090 Jette

#### RITCS Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema & Sound

Campus Dansaert  
A. Dansaertstraat 70  
1000 Brussels

#### Campus Bottelarij

Delaunoystraat 58  
1080 Sint-Jans-Molenbeek

#### Koninklijk conservatorium Brussel (KCB)

Campus Conservatorium  
Regentschapsstraat 30 and  
Kleine Zavel 5  
1000 Brussels

##### GENERAL CONTACT

**+32 2 523 37 37**  
[info@ehb.be](mailto:info@ehb.be)  
[www.ehb.be](http://www.ehb.be)

##### GENERAL STUDENT SERVICES

Stuvo EhB  
Nijverheidskaai 170  
1070 Anderlecht

**+32 2 559 15 77**  
[stuvo@ehb.be](mailto:stuvo@ehb.be)



## Odisee

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**T'Serclaes building**  
Admissions: room B01,  
building B  
International Office:  
mezzanine, building C

Warmoesberg 26  
1000 Brussels

+32 2-609 81 00  
[admissions@odisee.be](mailto:admissions@odisee.be) or  
[incoming.exchange@odisee.be](mailto:incoming.exchange@odisee.be)  
[www.odisee.be/en/  
international-office](http://www.odisee.be/en/international-office)

### CAMPUS

#### Campus Brussel

Warmoesberg 26  
1000 Brussels

#### Campus Brussel Terranova

Blekerijstraat 23-29 box 1  
1000 Brussels

#### Campus Dilbeek

Stationsstraat 301  
1700 Dilbeek

#### Campus Schaarbeek Higher Institute for Family Sciences

Huart Hamoiriaan 136  
1030 Schaerbeek

### GENERAL CONTACT

+32 2 210 12 11  
[info@odisee.be](mailto:info@odisee.be)  
[www.odisee.be/en](http://www.odisee.be/en)

### GENERAL STUDENT SERVICES

Stuvo+  
T'Serclaes building (1st floor)  
Warmoesberg 26  
1000 Brussels

+32 2 210 13 19  
[brussel@stuvoplus.be](mailto:brussel@stuvoplus.be)  
[www.stuvoplus.be/en/brussel](http://www.stuvoplus.be/en/brussel)

## LUCA School of Arts

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**Admissions / International  
Office**

Paleizenstraat 70  
1030 Schaerbeek

+32 2 250 11 14  
[international@luca-arts.be](mailto:international@luca-arts.be)  
[luca-arts.be/en/contact](http://luca-arts.be/en/contact)

### CAMPUS

#### Campus Brussel (Sint-Lukas)

Paleizenstraat 70  
1030 Schaerbeek

#### Campus Brussel (Narafi)

Victor Rousseaulaan 75  
1190 Forest

### GENERAL CONTACT

Paleizenstraat 70  
1030 Schaerbeek  
+32 2 447 10 00  
[info@luca-arts.be](mailto:info@luca-arts.be)  
[www.luca-arts.be/international](http://www.luca-arts.be/international)

### GENERAL STUDENT SERVICES

Stuvo LUCA  
Lefrancqstraat 9  
1030 Schaerbeek

+32 2 250 11 13  
[stuvo.brussel@luca-arts.be](mailto:stuvo.brussel@luca-arts.be)  
[www.luca-arts.be/nl/  
student-support-services](http://www.luca-arts.be/nl/student-support-services)

## KU Leuven

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**Brussels Campus**

[internationaloffice.feb@  
kuleuven.be](mailto:internationaloffice.feb@kuleuven.be)  
[feb.kuleuven.be/international](http://feb.kuleuven.be/international)

**Sint-Lucas Architecture  
Campus**

[international.arch@kuleuven.be](mailto:international.arch@kuleuven.be)  
[arch.kuleuven.be/international](http://arch.kuleuven.be/international)

### CAMPUS

**Brussels Campus**

Warmoesberg 26  
1000 Brussels

+32 2 210 13 05  
[info.campusbrussel  
@kuleuven.be](mailto:info.campusbrussel@kuleuven.be)  
[www.feb.kuleuven.be/eng/  
prospective-students](http://www.feb.kuleuven.be/eng/prospective-students)

**Sint-Lucas Brussels Campus**

Paleizenstraat 65-67  
1030 Schaerbeek

+32 2 447 19 00  
[arch.brussel@kuleuven.be](mailto:arch.brussel@kuleuven.be)  
[www.arch.kuleuven.be/english/  
campus-sintlucas-brussels](http://www.arch.kuleuven.be/english/campus-sintlucas-brussels)

### GENERAL STUDENT SERVICES

**Stuvo+ (for students from KU  
Leuven)**

**Brussels Campus**  
Warmoesberg 26  
1000 Brussels

+32 2 210 13 19  
[brussel@stuvoplus.be](mailto:brussel@stuvoplus.be)  
[www.stuvoplus.be/en](http://www.stuvoplus.be/en)

**Stuvo LUCA (for students from  
Sint-Lucas Brussels Campus)**

Lefrancqstraat 9  
1030 Schaerbeek

+32 2 250 11 13  
[stuvo.brussel@luca-arts.be](mailto:stuvo.brussel@luca-arts.be)  
[www.luca-arts.be/nl/  
student-support-services](http://www.luca-arts.be/nl/student-support-services)

## Emergency numbers

**Fire department and  
ambulance**

100

**Police**

101

**European emergency number**

112

**Red Cross**

105

**CHS (Community Help Service)**

02 647 67 80  
[www.chsbelgium.org](http://www.chsbelgium.org)

**Tele-Onthaal**

106 (in Dutch)

**Télé-Accueil**

107 (in French)

**Suicide line**

1813 (in Dutch)

**Poison Centre**

070 245 245

**Centre for burns**

+32 2 268 62 00  
(Military Hospital  
Neder-Over-Heembeek)

**Card Stop**

070 344 344

## Guard duties

**Tel. 02 201 22 22**

(in French and Dutch, 7 days a  
week, 24 hours a day)  
[www.gbbw.be](http://www.gbbw.be)

**Tel. 02 479 18 18**

(in French, 7 days a week,  
24 hours a day)  
[www.medi-garde.be](http://www.medi-garde.be)

**Tel. 02 513 02 02**

(in French)  
[www.sosmedecins.be](http://www.sosmedecins.be)

**Tel. 02 242 43 44**

(in Dutch, only during the  
weekend)  
[www.bhak.be](http://www.bhak.be)

This number allows to obtain the  
address and phone number of a  
doctor who is close to your place  
of residence.

**Dentists on duty**

**Tel. 02 426 10 26**

**Tel. 0903 399 69**

(in Dutch, on Saturday, Sunday  
and holidays from 9 am to 6 pm)  
(1.50 euros/min)

This number supplies the list of  
dentists on duty in the evening  
or during the weekend.

## Your input is welcome!

Please help us improve this guide for fellow  
international students. Let us know if this  
guide was helpful, inform us of mistakes or  
keep us up to date of fun facts.

welcome@brik.be. Thanks!

**welcome** / facts and figures  
about brussels / the sound  
of brussels / language /  
**registration** / financial /  
mobile phones & internet /  
housing & interior / getting  
around / **city life** / bank  
holidays & events  
/ leisure  
/ work /  
**interviews** /  
going home /  
contact



VU: G.M. Rassin - Brik vzw - Zavelput 20 - 1000 Brussel