VUB General Information Sheet - Exchange Students

Name of University | Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Country | Belgium
Erasmus Code | B BRUSSEL01
Head of Institution | Prof. dr. Jan Danckaert, Rector
Vice-Rector Internationalisation | Prof. dr. Karin Vanderkerken
Director International Relations Office | dr. Jacqueline Couder

**Short intro**
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**
- **Postal address**: Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
- **Visiting address**: Pleinlaan 5, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
- **General e-mail address**: international.relations@vub.be
- **Incoming students e-mail**: exchange.incoming@vub.be
- **Outgoing students e-mail**: exchange.outgoing@vub.be
- **Website**: [International Relations - What we do & how you can reach us](https://www.vub.be/en/exchange)

**Application Information Incoming Students**

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<th><strong>Nomination &amp; Application Deadlines</strong></th>
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| **Autumn Semester** | Deadline Nomination by home university: 1 May  
Deadline Application to the VUB: 1 June |
| **Spring Semester** | Deadline Nomination by home university: 1 October  
Deadline Application to the VUB: 1 November |

**Application procedure**
The home university nominates students for exchange under Erasmus+, Turing Scheme (UK) and SEMP at VUB through the following link: [https://forms.office.com/e/ZDq0FRCy3](https://forms.office.com/e/ZDq0FRCy3). For non-EU nominations and any additional question, please contact us at exchange.incoming@vub.be.

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.

**ECTS requirement**
Incoming students are required to take a minimum of **21 ECTS** (VUB courses) per semester.
### Grading system

- < 10: F
- 10: E
- 11 - 12: D
- 13 - 14: C
- 15 - 16: B
- 17 - 20: A

VUB is part of Egracons. We strongly encourage our partners to join!

### Transcript of Records (ToR)

- **Incoming students’ ToR** will be issued shortly after finishing exams.
- **VUB students’ ToR** may be sent to Gwen Van der Smissen with postal address Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Student Administration, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

### Courses available in following disciplines:

- 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
- Educational Sciences
- Sciences
- Sports Science & Physiotherapy

### Academic Calendar + Welcome Activities

**Academic Calendar**

For a detailed description of activities and important moments during the academic year: please visit the calendar.

**Orientation Week (Autumn)**

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”: Orientation Week; updates will be added for the coming year. We also organise an annual Kick-off event.

**Orientation Day (Spring)**

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 International Relations office’s website. More information on practical things and what to do prior to arrival is available online.

### Other Relevant Information

**Housing**

Incoming exchange students have a vast array of housing opportunities at their disposal.

**Buddy system**

Incoming students can receive support from VUB-students through the buddy system.

**Insurances**

The insurance provider Partena has visiting hours at the International Relations office once a week.

**Visa**

Information on visa requirements is available online.

**Special needs**

Information on special student facilities, can be found here.

**Student job opportunities**

Want a student job during studies?

**Sports facilities**

With a swimming pool, a running field and much more, VUB has a great offer in sport facilities.

**Culture & Leisure**

All cultural events and leisure activities are available on the student portal.

**Transportation**

Brussels has a good public transportation network. Have a look on the overview of the metro and train network.

There are several buses and trams which stop near our largest campus: Brussels Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus. Our other campus are also easily accessible: Brussels Health Campus, Brussels Photonics.
Campus, Campus Coovi Anderlecht. 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 here. Etterbeek is the nearest train station for our largest campus and metro stops Pétillon, Hankar & Delta (all orange line 5) are within walking distance. All transportation details can be found here.
YOUR EXCHANGE AT VUB
YOUR STAY IN BRUSSELS

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

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

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

VUB:
- €117,833,727 research budget
- €240,000,000 turnover
- 31 Bachelors
- 74 Masters
- 23 Advanced Masters
- 21 Postgraduates
- 1,909 PhDs in 3 Doctoral Schools
- 148 Nationalities
- 4,042 Personnel
- 412,246 Consultations
- 3,134 Personnel
- 30,779 Hospitalisations
- 721 Beds
- 25,779 Students

WWW.VUB.BE/EN/EXCHANGE
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
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

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 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

ACADEMIC YEAR:
Autumn Semester: mid-September-Mid-February
Spring Semester: mid-February-Mid-July

MORE INFORMATION:
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
www.vub.be/en/international
www.facebook.com/VUBInternationalRelations

* World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness' Index 2017-2018
** World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness' Index 2019