

## **BELGIUM**

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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Situated in the North of Europe, the kingdom of Belgium is bounded by France in the southeast, the grand duchy of Luxembourg in the south, the North Sea to the west, Germany to the east and the Netherlands to the northeast.

The country's capital, Brussels, is without doubt one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. It is home to the headquarters of the European Union and NATO, as well as of a vast number of international corporations.

Belgium has three official languages : Dutch (Flemish), French and German.

The history of Belgium has always been marked by cultural and commercial exchanges with other countries and its character is in part determined by its role as a meeting place of Western Europe. There are clear traces of the Austrian, French and German influence in the Belgian lifestyle as well as in the country's architecture which boasts wonderful examples of Romanesque, Baroque, Gothic and Art Nouveau building styles.

Folklore is an integral part of Belgian life, with a multitude of festivals, ceremonies, enactments of historical events, parades, etc. being organized throughout the year.

In spite of its history and its rather grand status as an international centre for trade and culture, Belgium has remained a hospitable country where visitors are sure to enjoy a warm welcome.

### **HISTORY**

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The Belgium of today was created in 1830, following a revolution which resulted in the country declaring its independence from the Netherlands.

Belgium owes its name to Julius Caesar, who in 57 BC referred to a local Celtic tribe as « Belgae », whom he described as the most courageous and most indomitable among all the Gauls. For three centuries after 50 BC, the region was part of the Roman Empire. The Romans built a vast road network and harbour infrastructure, thus contributing to the expansion of trade.

At the start of the fifth century, the Franks took advantage of the threat posed by Germanic tribes and in 406 invaded the territory and made Tournai their capital. The area later became home to the Merovingian and Carolingian (Charlemagne) dynasties. The Frankish

invaders, large numbers of whom penetrated the North, where the Roman influence was less strong, imposed their Germanic dialect. Conversely, in the South, which had been thoroughly romanized by the Roman occupation, the Franks were in a minority and were absorbed, with the region retaining its romance tongues. This marked the beginning of the linguistic divide.

The 9<sup>th</sup> century saw the creation of trading routes along the main waterways. The trading posts developed and gradually grew into towns, which gained their political economy by shaking off the yoke of local overlords. This marked the emergence of a new class of traders and, later, of craftsmen. After the Battle of the Golden Spurs (Courtrai) in 1302, the trade guilds secured their participation in municipal power structures alongside the merchant bourgeoisie. The county of Flanders, which witnessed an economic boom, became one of the most densely populated areas in Western Europe. The textile industry took off in the big cities and later developed in villages and the countryside. The city of Bruges became the region's leading port for export.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Belgian territories (with the exception of Liège) came to be ruled by the Dukes of Burgundy, but the regions retained much of their autonomy. It was also in this era that Antwerp overtook Bruges as the principal transit port of Western Europe.

During the reign of Charles V (1515-1555), Belgium stood out by its high rate of urbanization, with Antwerp becoming Western Europe's commercial and financial centre. The first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century was a period of great prosperity, with the arts and sciences flourishing like never before.

In the reign of Philip II (1555-1598), the King of Spain and the Low Countries, social tensions grew. Protestantism spread fast in the Low Countries. Radical Protestants succeeded in ousting the Spanish troops from the Northern provinces (the present-day Netherlands). The Catholic provinces of the South (the Belgium of today) were reconquered by the Spanish. The capture of Antwerp by the Spanish armies in 1585 marked the definitive break between the Northern and Southern Low Countries.

In 1715, following the Treaty of Utrecht, the southern Low Countries were ceded to the Habsburg family of Austria, only to be annexed to France in 1794. During the French period, the industrial revolution reached the Low Countries. The construction of the first large paved roads boosted commercial traffic. Wallonia became the most industrialized region in the European continent. In Flanders, Ghent was the only industrial town. The port of Antwerp benefited from the French occupation thanks to the lifting of the Dutch blockade. Under the Napoleonic regime, there was no political freedom. In Flanders, the use of Dutch was prohibited and publications in this language forbidden. Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815 marked the end of the French reign.

At the Congress of Vienna, which was held in the same year, the allies decided to create a buffer state to the North of France. The Northern and Southern Low Countries, together with the principality of Liège, were united into a single State, i.e. the United Kingdom of the Low Countries, with William I of Orange as its sovereign. The King gave fresh impetus to the industrial development of Belgium, and enjoyed the support of Walloon and Ghent industrialists. Flanders' rural non-mechanized industry suffered under the competition of the large factories, which situation led to discontent in the province. The Catholics protested against William's interference in religious matters, whereas the liberals voiced their opposition to the lack of freedom (e.g. the introduction of Dutch as the official language of Flanders). This policy caused disquiet among the Walloon and French-speaking Flemish upper-class young people, who considered it threat to their careers. In 1828, the liberal and Catholic middle classes of what was to become Belgium united in what was later referred to as Unionism or the diabolical alliance in order to draw up a common list of demands.

On 23 September 1830, the fuse in the revolutionary powder keg was lit in Brussels, and Belgium seceded from the North. The provisional government declared independence on 4 October 1830, and on 7 February 1831 the National Congress approved a constitution which was highly progressive for the time.

On 4 November 1830, London was the venue for an international diplomatic conference on the future of Belgium. The Great Powers recognized the secession of Belgium from the Low Countries, and Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha – a relation of the British Queen Victoria – became the first king of Belgium in 1831. He was succeeded by his son, Leopold II, in 1865. During their reigns, Belgium became one of Europe's major industrial powers. Several colonial expeditions were organized, the most famous of which was, of course, that which led to the annexation of what became the Belgian Congo.

In spite of the policy of neutrality imposed by the Great Powers, Belgium was occupied by German forces during the First World War. The years following the war proved to be quite difficult, with the international economic crisis having its effect on Belgium as well. As from 1936, Belgium again adopted a neutral policy but once again Germany troops invaded the country (May 1940).

On 9 August 1993, King Albert II acceded to the throne. He is the sixth monarch of Belgium.

Regional issues have played a hugely important role in Belgium's recent political history. Subsequent to four state reform programmes Belgium was turned into a federal state. The political scene has also been dominated by economic problems and an increasing internationalization. Belgium played a pivotal role in the construction of the Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union, the Benelux, and in European integration.

As a member of the United Nations and a staunch advocate of peace in the world, Belgium regularly deploys troops as part of wider international efforts, or sends observers to monitor local situations.

If you wish to know more about the issues discussed, please go to the history section of the Belgian government site:

[http://belgium.fgov.be/fr\\_index.htm](http://belgium.fgov.be/fr_index.htm)

## **FEDERAL BELGIUM**

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Belgium is made up of three so-called **Regions** :

The Brussels Region (Bruxelles-Capitale)

The Walloon Region

The Flemish Region.

The three Regions are qualified to make decisions regarding regional economic issues: employment, the municipal and provincial administration, public works and transport, land management, the environment, housing, etc.

Belgium also counts three **Communities**, organized along linguistic and cultural lines. These are the French-speaking, Flemish-speaking and German-speaking Communities. They are responsible for all issues related to culture in the broad sense of the term (education, media, etc.), sports, as well as those pertaining to the individual (health, early childhood, the protection of youth).

The Belgian **Federal State** is qualified for all residual powers, i.e. those which do not fall within the remit of the Communities and Regions. These are traditionally federal issues, such as:

- law enforcement, justice, national defence and foreign policy
- social security
- monetary policy, asylum and immigration policy
- tax legislation, commercial legislation, civil rights and labour legislation.

It is also responsible for matters that are subject to an exceptional assignment from the Community or Regional level to the federal level: e.g.

- nuclear power
- the railways and Brussels National airport
- the use of languages in Brussels and in the municipalities (*communes*) in which special language provisions are in force

- the large bicultural institutions of Brussels, such as the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, or the Théâtre royal de la Monnaie.

The Regions and Communities are also responsible for matters that fall within the international domain, as a result of which they are entitled to enter into international agreements and to sign international treaties, provided they remain within the confines of their remit. Each Region and Community has a constitutional status and has its own Parliament and Government which have legislative and executive powers, respectively.

The organization and running of these institutions, which resulted from the Belgian federalist system, may, albeit within certain limits, be subject to change from time to time. For instance, the Flemish Region and the Flemish-speaking Community merged their Parliaments and governments. It is worth pointing out, however, that even though they have common institutions, the Region and Community still retain their own legal status. Conversely, the French-speaking Community and the Walloon Region have chosen to preserve their own institutions. The competence of the Walloon Region extends to the German-speaking municipalities, where the German-speaking Community is responsible for the same matters as those that fall within the competence of the other two Communities.

The Royal or Ministerial Decrees issued by the Federal Government constitute decisions taken by the governments of the Communities and Regions. The decrees, whose legal force is identical to that of Acts promulgated by the Federal State, are legislative norms voted by the Parliaments and governments of the Communities and Regions.

As for the Brussels-Capital Region, its internal structures were set up in order to be able better to manage the presence of both Flemish-speaking and French-speaking populations on its territory. The regional Brussels legislation is composed of edicts whose legal value is very similar to that of decrees and Acts.

In order to settle competence-related disputes between the various institutions, the government has set up an Arbitration Tribunal ('Cour d'Arbitrage').

For more information on Belgium, the federal state, the Communities and the Regions, visit the following web sites:

- the French-speaking Community of Belgium

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

- the Federal Government of Belgium

[www.fgov.be/fr\\_index.htm](http://www.fgov.be/fr_index.htm)

## ESSENTIAL BELGIUM

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**Official name :** Kingdom of Belgium  
**Common name :** Belgium  
**Continent :** Europe  
**Population :** 10,263,414 inhabitants (2001)  
**Surface area :** 32,545 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Federal capital :** Brussels  
**Surface area of the capital :** 161 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Population in the capital :** 970,500 inhabitants  
**Head of State :** H.M. King Albert II  
**National Holiday :** 21st July – Anniversary of the swearing in of King Leopold I (1831)  
**National language :** French, Dutch (Flemish), German  
**Currency :** euro (€, EUR)  
**National product :** €263.3 billion (2001, estimate)  
**Annual growth rate :** 2.5 % (1999) – 2.8 % (2000)

**Distribution of the active population by sector (2000)**

**Agriculture :** 72,973  
**Industry :** 1,076,917  
**Services :** 2,942,674  
**Time zone :** GMT + 1 hour  
**Daylight saving time (Summer Time):** GMT + 2 hours  
**Weights and measures :** metric system  
**Domestic electricity :** 220 volts  
**Population density :** 315 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> (2001)  
**Highest point :** Signal de Botrange (694 m)  
**Maximum distance between to furthestmost points :** 280 km  
**Geographical centre :** Nil-Saint-Vincent  
**Average temperature :** 11.2° C (2000)  
**Av. winter temperature (Brussels):** 3° C  
**Av. summer temperature (Brus.):** 16° C  
**Rainfall :** 852 mm (annual average for 2000)  
**Sunshine :** 1,392 hours (annual average, 2000)

To find out more, visit the following sites:

### **Institut national de Statistique (INS)**

(National Office for Statistics) Statistics on a wide range of subjects  
[www.statbel.fgov.be/home\\_fr.htm](http://www.statbel.fgov.be/home_fr.htm)

### **Ministry for Economic Affairs**

Facts and figures about the Belgian economy  
[www.mineco.fgov.be/barometers/facts\\_figures/home\\_fr.htm](http://www.mineco.fgov.be/barometers/facts_figures/home_fr.htm)

**Federal Planning Agency**

provides, among other things, the consumer price index and inflation forecasts

[www.plan.fgov.be/fr/welcome.stm](http://www.plan.fgov.be/fr/welcome.stm)

**The National Bank of Belgium**

Statistics relating to the Belgian economy

[www.bnb.be/DQ/F/homef.htm](http://www.bnb.be/DQ/F/homef.htm)

<b>Administrative Documentation Centre of the French-speaking Community (legal texts)</b>	<a href="http://www.cdadoc.cfwb.be">www.cdadoc.cfwb.be</a>
<b>House of Representatives</b>	<a href="http://www.lachambre.be">www.lachambre.be</a>
<b>Council of State</b>	<a href="http://www.raadvst-consetat.fgov.be">www.raadvst-consetat.fgov.be</a>
<b>Flemish-speaking Community (Flemish Region)</b>	<a href="http://www.vlaanderen.be">www.vlaanderen.be</a>
<b>French-speaking Community</b>	<a href="http://www.cfwb.be">www.cfwb.be</a>
<b>German-speaking Community</b>	<a href="http://www.dglive.be">www.dglive.be</a>
<b>CREDOC (Centre for Legal Documentation)</b>	<a href="http://www.credoc.be">www.credoc.be</a>
<b>Federal government</b>	<a href="http://www.Belgium.fgov.be">www.Belgium.fgov.be</a>
<b>Moniteur Belge (The official Belgian Gazette)</b>	<a href="http://www.moniteur.be">www.moniteur.be</a>
<b>Brussels-Capital Region</b>	<a href="http://www.bruxelles.irisnet.be">www.bruxelles.irisnet.be</a>
<b>Walloon Region</b>	<a href="http://www.wallonie.be">www.wallonie.be</a>
<b>Senate</b>	<a href="http://www.senate.be">www.senate.be</a>
<b>European Union</b>	<a href="http://www.europa.eu.int">www.europa.eu.int</a>

## **BRUSSELS – THE CAPITAL OF BELGIUM**

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FEDERAL CAPITAL**

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Brussels, which is both the capital of the Federal state of Belgium and of Europe, is the throbbing heart of the country's economic, political and cultural life. The city is also the capital of the French-speaking and Flemish-speaking Communities, as well as, of course, the Brussels Region, and the seat of all their public administration bodies. Brussels is also an international meeting place for business, an international centre for exhibitions and trade fairs and the second most important conference venue in the world. Every year, the city is host to more than 1000 business conferences and seminars. Brussels has a particularly well-developed conference infrastructure. Some 2,000 foreign companies, 1400 among which are American, and more than 1,000 international associations have settled in the Brussels area. Europe is also well represented, with Brussels being the seat of various European Union bodies, such as the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee, the Commission, the Council and the Parliament. Since 1967 Brussels has also been home to the NATO general Headquarters. Thanks to the presence of 60 international banks, Brussels is currently the seventh-largest banking centre in the world. The city, which was Europe's Cultural Capital in 2000, is renowned for its splendid Grand-Place and its remarkable wealth in museums and monuments.

### **HISTORY**

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The archaeological finds would seem to indicate that the valley of the river Seine was already inhabited during the Neolithic era. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C., the Nervians, a Gaulish tribe which would later be engaged in a fierce struggle against the invading armies of Julius Caesar, settled in the area.

In the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D., the first Frankish towns were created and in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the Brussels region witnessed a boom in prosperity during the reign of Charlemagne.

In 977 (with 979 being the official date of the creation of Brussels), Charles of Lower-Lorraine was granted control over the Duchy of Lower-Lorraine by Otto II. The duke built his fortified residence (*castrum*) on the island of Saint Géry, in the middle of the Seine. The strategic position of the site (at the crossroads of the Seine, which was still navigable at the time, and a trade route linking Nivelles to Antwerp), combined with the presence of military strongholds contributed to the administrative and economic development of the area, which saw the building of a landing



stage, market place and several churches and chapels (Saint-Géry, Saint-Michel, Saint-Jacques).

The name *Bruocsela*, which is derived from 'Bruoc' ('swamp') and 'sella' ('habitation') in reference to the swamps that could be found in the area, for the first time appeared in a charter.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the banks of the river Seine were abandoned in favour of the upper slopes of the valley, the Coudenberg, (the present-day Place Royale). In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Duke John I of Brabant chose to construct his residence there. Until the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the dukes of Brabant continued to develop the town, where they built a castle at Coudenberg. Through the Porte de Namur and the Porte de Flandres, Brussels was linked to the two most powerful areas in the country. Although the city already had a 'commercial' character in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it would take until the 12<sup>th</sup> century before the secondary sector of crafts was developed and Brussels truly became an urban centre.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the dukes of Burgundy transformed the Coudenberg palace into a vast and sumptuous residence, which unfortunately was consumed by fire in 1731. Situated on the road between Cologne and Boulogne, Brussels would witness an economic and artistic boost, impelled by the dukes of Burgundy.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, in the reign of Charles V, Brussels could pride itself on being the home of scholars such as the physician Vesalius and humanists like Erasmus. Following their revolt against the Spanish King Philip II, the inhabitants of Brussels regained their *joie de vivre* in 1599, with the advent of the Austrian archdukes Albert and Isabelle.

In 1695 Brussels suffered huge damage as a result of the bombardment by French troops during the siege of the city. The year 1748 marked the beginning of the Austrian period, followed by a French period under Napoleon, and the destruction of the outer city walls.

Since 1421, the trading corporations wielded considerable power over the city, which in the 18<sup>th</sup> century entered a period of prosperity thanks to the policies adopted by its governor, Charles of Lorraine.

The integration into the United Kingdom of the Low Countries ushered in a time of large-scale infrastructure works, such as the Brussels-Charleroi canal.

Between 1794 and 1814 Brussels was in the hands of the French. In 1814 Brussels was the venue for the first ever world congress of economists. In 1815 Brussels became part of the Netherlands. Fifteen years later, armed resistance broke out against the foreign occupation and Brussels became the capital of the newly independent kingdom of Belgium.

In 1834 King Leopold I formally opened the Continent's very first railroad at the Allée Verte. The same year also saw the creation of the University of Brussels.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Brussels became the capital of Art Nouveau thanks to the famous architect Victor Horta.

The reign of Leopold II saw a veritable boom in architectural development. One of the city's most famous residents at the time, the French author Victor Hugo, succinctly described his feeling about the city as follows : "I am filled with enthusiasm by Brussels!". He was followed by the likes of Toulouse-Lautrec, Sacha Guitry and Aldous Huxley, all of whom admired the city, whose urban character had been so enriched thanks to the genius and vision of the Belgian King Leopold II. Among the other celebrities to have resided in Brussels, one may cite Mozart, Napoleon and the duke of Wellington.

This trend continued in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with Brussels growing ever more, while its reputation spread to the four corners of the globe thanks to the 1958 World Fair.

The new administrative and commercial districts bear witness to the extent of the urban development. Yet, it is worth remembering that nearly 15% of the city consists of green spaces, parks, and woods.

## **PLACES TO VISIT IN BRUSSELS**

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Below are just some of the places you might wish to visit.

### **TOURIST SITES**

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Atomium	Town Hall
St Michael's Cathedral	Manneken Pis (Jeanneken Pis)
Belgian Cartoon Centre	Courthouse
Royal Palace in Laeken	Chinese Pavillion and the Japanese Tower
Colonne du Congrès	Place Royale
European Commission	Sablon (area housing antique shops)
Grand-Place	Government district

### **MUSEUMS**

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Museum of Ancient Art	Museum of Natural Sciences
Museum of Modern Art	Horta Museum
Royal Museum of Fine Arts	Beer Museums
Royal Army Museum	Van Buuren Museum
Museum of Musical Instruments	Chocolate Museum
Museum of the City of Brussels	Cinquantenaire Museums
Brussels Public Transport Museum	(art and history)

### **A BIT FURTHER AFIELD**

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<b>Huizingen :</b>	Recreational park (pond, playground, animal park).
<b>Meise :</b>	National Botanical Gardens
<b>Tervuren :</b>	Royal Central Africa Museum.
<b>Villers-La-Ville :</b>	Cistercian abbey.
<b>Waterloo :</b>	Butte du Lion, Panorama of the Battle of Waterloo, Wellington Museum.
<b>Wavre :</b>	Six Flags (theme park).

More information on Brussels can be found on the following web sites:

EuroBRU, portal site for the capital of Europe :

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

[www.eurobru.com/visit00.htm](http://www.eurobru.com/visit00.htm)

Brussels, Brussels-Capital Region:

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

Brussels Online :

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

IDéarts :

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

### **For tourist information :**

Belgian Tourist Information Office

Tel. 02 504 03 90

Rue du Marché aux Herbes, 63 - 1000 Brussels

Bruxelles International-Tourisme & Congrès

Tel. 02 513 89 40

Brussels Town Hall – Grand-Place - 1000 Brussels

## **BRUSSELS AND EUROPE**

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Brussels is located at the heart of Europe. The list below shows the distance between Brussels and some other major cities:

- in Belgium :
 

Antwerp	46 Km
Bruges	96 Km
Ghent	56 Km
Leuven	26 Km
Liège	98 Km
Ostend	114 Km
Spa	138 Km
  
- abroad :
 

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

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE FRENCH-SPEAKING PART OF BELGIUM**

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In the French-speaking Community, which is responsible for education in Wallonia and the Brussels-Capital Region (as regards French-speaking schools), except for private schools, three types of education may be distinguished:

- public (or official) education establishments, organized and managed by the French-speaking Community of Belgium.
- public (or official) education establishments, subsidized by the French-speaking Community, but managed by the municipal or provincial authorities.
- independent ('free') denominational ('confessionnel') and non-denominational ('non-confessionnel') education establishments, i.e. organized by private organizations based on particular religious, philosophical or teaching convictions, and subsidized by the French-speaking Community.

Each educational establishment falls within one of the above-mentioned networks and is supervised by one (or several) organizing authority (or authorities). The organizing authority (*pouvoir organisateur*) governing establishments organized by the French-speaking Community is

the Government of the French-Speaking Community, whereas the official grant-aided education fall under the provinces or the municipalities. The organizing authority of the independent grant-aided establishments consists of the legal entities or natural persons who are responsible for them.

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

Mrs Françoise DUPUIS      Av. Louise 65/9 - 1050 Brussels      Tel. 02 533 71 11

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

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Higher education is divided as follows:

Universities

Non-University higher education establishments ('*Hautes Ecoles*')

Artistic education establishments

## **UNIVERSITIES**

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The first years of university education provide basic training in the chosen subject as well as general scientific training.

This is followed by a more in-depth approach to scientific research and a specialization in the chosen academic area. It is thus intended to train senior managers and high-level researchers.

University education is divided into three cycles, with the first and second cycles corresponding to the basic studies.

The first cycle, which depending on the discipline extends over two or three years, leads to the degree of Candidate.

The second-cycle studies, which cover a three- or four-year period, lead to the degree of Licentiate (*licencié*), Master (*maître*), Doctor of Medicine or Veterinarian Medicine. Teacher training studies belong to the second cycle. They usually last for one year minimum and entitles students to sit for the *diplôme d'agrégé d'enseignement secondaire supérieur* (AESS), which qualification enables the holder to teach at secondary school, or the higher education teaching certificate, the *certificat d'aptitude pédagogique approprié à l'enseignement supérieur* (CAPAES).

The third-cycle studies lead to the degree of:

*diplôme d'études spécialisées* (DES)

*diplôme d'études approfondies* (DEA)

Doctorate or *agrégation de l'enseignement supérieur* (qualification to teach in higher education).

### **NON-UNIVERSITY HIGHER EDUCATION**

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Studies coming under the heading of non-university higher education are divided into eight categories and can be either short-course (*type court*) or long-course (*type long*).

The categories are:

- Agricultural engineering
- Applied Arts
- Economics
- Education sciences
- Paramedical sciences
- Social studies
- Technical studies
- Translation and Interpreting

Long-course higher education is of a university level. These courses are organized into two cycles, each extending over at least two years, and provide high-level training. In some disciplines, the candidate may, after successfully completing the second cycle, go on to specialization studies, which last for no more than two years and lead to the *diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées* (DESS).

Short-course education courses are organized in a single academic cycle covering three or four years. These courses aim to provide both theoretical and practical training, and are specifically geared to the students' future professions. Here, too, the candidate may in some disciplines go on to specialized studies, which last for one year, and lead to specialization degrees.

### **ARTISTIC EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENTS**

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Currently, the organization of artistic education varies according to the various categories of disciplines (plastic arts, the performing arts, music, the spoken word, and broadcasting techniques) and degrees of teaching.

## **STRUCTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN FRENCH-SPEAKING BELGIUM UNIVERSITIES**

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<b>Universities</b>	<b>Non-University Higher Education</b>		<b>Artistic education</b>
University education	Long-course higher education	Short-course higher education	Higher artistic education
2 cycles	2 cycles		Variable duration
2 years each at least (3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle)	2 years each at least (3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle)	one single 3- or 4-year cycle	

### **SCHOOL FEES (REGULAR STUDENTS)**

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Erasmus students do not have to pay any school fees since they have already done so in their home institutions. The school fees consist of administrative costs and the enrolment fee.

The administrative costs vary from one establishment to another. Conversely, the enrolment fees vary only according to the education type and organizing authority of the establishment. Students from outside the European Union are subject to specific enrolment fees.

### **ASSESSMENT**

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Examinations are graded on a scale from 0 to 20.

In non-university higher education establishments, students are awarded the degree if they:

- have sat all the exams (except for those from which they were exempted) ;
- have obtained at least 60% of the total mark: the total percentage is calculated on all of the marks of the exam;
- have obtained at least 50% of the marks in every subject.

As far as the universities are concerned, the reader is referred to the relevant Faculty regulations.

## GRADING SCALE

### Assessment of a full year of study

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>La plus grande distinction</b> (with congratulations from the jury)	> 90%	Excellent
<b>Grande distinction</b>	80 % - 90 %	very good
<b>Distinction</b>	70 % - 80 %	good
<b>Satisfaction</b>	60 % - 70 %	Satisfactory
<b>Ajourné</b>	< 60 %	= fail

## THE CREATION OF THE BRUSSELS-WALLONIA EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY POLE

Over the past couple of years, higher education in Europe as a whole, and in Belgium in particular, has undergone profound changes which have dramatically altered the educational landscape.

At a European level, the signing of the accords of Bologna and Prague and the discussions regarding the so-called « 3-5 and more..” scheme have raised a number of issues regarding the future organization of higher education in the various European countries, and notably in the French-speaking Community of Belgium, where the higher education structure is markedly different from that of the proposed model.

The University and the non-university higher education establishments that participate in the Pole have for some time now been involved in setting out a network of close and varied bilateral relations, both in terms of teaching and research.

Moreover, a close examination of the courses on offer in the various establishments revealed that there are a number of complementary areas, most of which were the object of the reorientation-related decrees of 19 December 2002.

On the other hand, a recent analysis of the path chosen by students shows that many decide to change their course of study and go from non-university higher education establishments to university, and vice versa.

This is why the partner institutions decided to set up a comprehensive, coherent, diverse and high-quality teaching and research entity in the Capital of Europe with a view to avoiding competition and developing synergies of which the students will be the main beneficiaries.



## **INSTITUTIONS BELONGING TO THE BRUSSELS-WALLONIA EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY POLE**

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The European University Pole of Brussels-Wallonia is composed of one university and five non-university higher education establishments :

### **ULB      Université Libre de Bruxelles**

Av. F.D. Roosevelt 50  
B - 1050 Brussels  
Tel. +32 2 650 21 11  
[www.ulb.ac.be](http://www.ulb.ac.be)

### **Haute Ecole Lucia de Brouckère**

Campus Ceria  
Av. Emile Gryson 1  
B - 1070 Brussels  
Tel. +32 2 625 73 00  
[www.helb.be](http://www.helb.be)

### **Haute Ecole de Bruxelles**

Rue J. Hazard 34  
B - 1180 Brussels  
Tel. +32 2 340 12 95  
[www.heb.be](http://www.heb.be)

### **Haute Ecole Francisco Ferrer**

Rue de la Fontaine 4  
B - 1000 Brussels  
Tel. +32 2 279 58 10  
[www.brunette.brucity.be/heff/index.html](http://www.brunette.brucity.be/heff/index.html)

### **Haute Ecole Libre de Bruxelles Ilya Prigogine**

Rue Brogniez 42  
B - 1070 Brussels  
Tel. +32 2 649 14 47  
[www.helb-prigogine.be](http://www.helb-prigogine.be)

### **Haute Ecole Paul-Henri SPAAK**

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

## EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM (ECTS)

Within the framework of mobility, all the partners in the 'Brussels-Wallonia European University Pole' apply the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) in most of their courses.

ECTS is a credit transfer system which guarantees that the periods of study students spend abroad are recognized. Pursuant to an agreement concluded between the student's home institution and the host establishment, the student is granted the same access to courses in the host institution as that enjoyed by the local student population. As a result, this allows the visiting students to participate fully in the academic life of the host institution.

ECTS also enables students to continue their studies abroad. In fact, thanks to ECTS, students who do not wish to return to their home institution at the end of the study period may continue their studies in the host institution and study for a degree, or spend another period of study in a third institution. However, these decisions are subject to approval by the institutions involved, which may also set conditions the students have to comply with in order to obtain a degree or transfer their enrolment.

## ECTS CREDITS

The credits come in the shape of a numerical value awarded to each course unit and represent the student workload required to achieve the objectives of each unit.

The credits express the amount of work required for each course unit in relation to the workload of a full-time study programme (the time spent in attending lectures, seminars, for preparing assignments, doing placements, field research or surveys, independent study assignments, as well as taking examinations, etc.). Within this system, 60 credits represent the workload of one academic year, with 30 credits being equivalent to one semester and 20 credits to one trimester of study.

The three key instruments for a smooth operation of ECTS and facilitation of academic recognition are :

- the **Information Package/Course Catalogue** (which must be updated every year): it is very useful for both the student and the teaching staff and provides, among other things, information regarding the institutions, the faculties/departments, the courses on offer, the administrative procedures, the organization and the structure of the study programmes as well as, of course, details about the course

- the **Learning Agreement**: this is drawn up by the student and the institutions involved before the former leaves for the host institution. It contains the list of courses to be taken by the student, as well as the ECTS credits that will be awarded if the necessary conditions are met

(examination, assessment, etc.). By virtue of this agreement, the student commits himself/herself to attending the study programme abroad, which is considered to be an integral part of his/her higher education studies. The home institution, for its part, pledges to guarantee full academic recognition of the credits obtained by the student abroad. The host institution commits itself to providing the course units agreed upon, subject to time-table changes.

-the **Transcript of Records**: this is a clear, complete and comprehensible record of the results obtained by the student. It must be easily transferred from one institution to another. For each of the courses taken by the student, this record shows not only the ECTS credits, but also the assessment in accordance with the local grading system. The combination of the local results and the ECTS credits and results constitutes the qualitative and quantitative record of how the student performed during the stay abroad.

#### **ECTS GRADING SCALE**

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<b>ECTS Mark</b>	<b>% of students who should get the mark</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>A</b>	10	<b>Excellent:</b> excellent result, with only minor shortcomings
<b>B</b>	25	<b>Very good:</b> above-average result, but with a number of shortcomings
<b>C</b>	30	<b>Good:</b> good performance on the whole, in spite of a number of major shortcomings
<b>D</b>	25	<b>Satisfactory:</b> fair result, but with significant shortcomings
<b>E</b>	10	<b>Pass:</b> the minimum requirements are met
<b>FX</b>	-	<b>fail:</b> further work is required before the credits relating to the course can be awarded
<b>F</b>	-	<b>fail:</b> considerable further work is required

For more information you may wish to visit the European Commission web site :

[europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates/ects.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates/ects.html)

## GENERAL PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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### ACCESS AND RESIDENCE FORMALITIES

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#### For EU citizens and those of other eligible countries

##### 1 Formalities in the host country

Any student who is a citizen of a European Union Member State and who has been accepted to attend a 'vocational training course' in another Member State is, subject to evidence of sufficient resources, granted the right of residence there, to be enrolled in a recognized educational establishment, to follow a vocational training course and to have sickness insurance cover. (Directive 93/96 EEC).

##### 2 Formalities to be fulfilled to obtain the right of residence

!! **NOTE** The formalities below are not necessary for students residing in the country for less than three consecutive months! !

The right of residence in Belgium is subject to three conditions:

- registration with the municipal authorities of your place of residence in Belgium within 8 days upon arrival in the country (6 passport photographs and €11.00).

- submission of the identity documents on which you have entered Belgian territory (identity card, passport, etc.) and a course admission certificate (*attestation d'inscription aux cours*).

- evidence of sufficient resources.

Remark: The Department of International Relations provides the student with a statement which provides proof of the latter's status as an Erasmus grant holder and of his/her full-time enrolment in a course of study.

#### For students from non-EU countries

##### 1 Formalities in the home country

!! For stays of more than 3 months !!

Students wishing to spend more than three months in Belgium must apply to the Belgian embassy in their native country with a view to requesting a Temporary Residence Permit (*Autorisation de Séjour Provisoire, ASP*) to cover their student stay in Belgium. **Without this ASP, which cannot be obtained in Belgium, you will not be able to register as a resident foreigner with the Belgian municipality (*commune*) where you are staying, as a result of which you will be considered an illegal alien and subject to expulsion from Belgian soil.**

In order to obtain the ASP, you will need to submit the following documents to the embassy :

- the certificate delivered by the host institution, stating that you will be enrolled as a full-time student (the ASP is limited to the period of study, as specified in this certificate).
- evidence that you have sufficient financial means.
- a medical certificate proving that you are not suffering from a disease or condition which may endanger public health.
- a certificate to prove that you have not been convicted of any crime or offence, if you are over 21 years of age.

**NOTE!** It will take between 6 and 8 weeks to obtain the ASP.

At the end of your stay, make sure your name is taken off the alien register of the municipality on whose territory you have been residing.

## 2 Formalities in the host country

Non-EU students have to comply with the same formalities as students from EU Member States and eligible countries in order to obtain the right of residence.

## **ENROLMENT**

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Erasmus students pay enrolment fees in their home university. As soon as they arrive in Brussels, they must go to the International Relations Department of their host institution in order to obtain a statement proving their status as an Erasmus grant holder.

Collective and individual information meetings are organized for the benefit of students who have just arrived in Brussels. The dates and times of these meetings will be communicated after their arrival.

In some cases, it is possible that other procedures are required. Enquire with your host institution for further details.

## **HEALTH AND INSURANCE**

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### **Students coming from European Union Member States**

Erasmus students must have an E-128 form (or E-111, but the E-128 provides better coverage). This document proves that you have paid the insurance contributions in your country and will enable you, without any additional charge, to benefit from the Belgian health insurance reimbursement scheme for medical services. However, in order to be covered, you must register with a Belgian Sickness Fund (*mutuelle*) of your choice, where you must submit this form, together with the enrolment certificate delivered by the admissions office of the host institution. Needless to say, it is imperative that you take the necessary steps as soon as possible after you have arrived in Belgium.

#### Grant holders

Some grant-awarding authorities also provide health care insurance. Students should enquire whether this is the case prior to their departure.

#### Students who are not insured

Students may register with a Sickness Fund under the special student scheme. For further information, please contact:

Institut National d'Assurance Maladie Invalidité (INAMI)  
Tel. 02 739 73 14

## **Students who are not citizens of a country within the European Economic Area**

Students who are not citizens of a country belonging to the European Economic area are unable to obtain the E-128 or E-111 forms. As a result, they are not covered for outpatient care. However, you are covered in case you need to be hospitalized. If you wish, you may register with a Belgian Sickness Fund without a waiting period, subject to the payment of a monthly contribution of approximately €15. You may also decide to take out a private health insurance policy in your native country.

### Advice for all students

All students, especially those coming from countries that are not part of the European Economic area, are advised to take out an insurance policy for the risks that are not covered by their Sickness Fund.

### **PHARMACIES**

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Opening hours : from 8.30a.m. to 6.30 p.m.  
(duty chemists are open outside these times, including during the night)

Visit the following web site if you want more information on Belgian pharmacies:

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

For a list of duty chemists:

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

Tel.: 0900-10.500 (€0.45/min.)

Check the notice displayed outside every pharmacy

**HOSPITALS**

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(incomplete list)

**Centre Hospitalier Etterbeek - Ixelles**

Tel. 02 641 41 11

Accidents & Emergencies Tel. 02 641 48 12

Rue J. Paquot 63 - 1050 Brussels

**Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Brugmann**

Tel. 02 477 21 11

Accidents & Emergencies Tel. 02 447 20 01

place Van Gehuchten, 4 - 1020 Brussels

**Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Erasme**

Tel. 02 555 33 32

Accidents & Emergencies Tel. 02 555 34 05

route de Lennik, 808 - 1070 Brussels

**Cliniques Universitaires St-Luc UCL**

Tel. 02 764 11 11

Accidents & Emergencies Tel. 02 764 16 02

av. Hippocrate, 10 - 1200 Brussels

**Centre Hospitalier Universitaire St Pierre**

Tel. 02 535 31 11

Accidents & Emergencies Tel. 02 535 40 55

rue Haute, 322 - 1000 Brussels

**AZ Akademisch Ziekenhuis Jette VUB**

Tel. 02 477 41 11

rue Laarbeek, 101 - 1090 Brussels



## HOUSING

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Students are advised to book a few nights in a youth hostel and to start searching for appropriate accommodation to suit their needs and budgets once they have arrived in Belgium. Generally speaking, it is possible to reserve a maximum of four nights.

There are several accommodation possibilities:

Lodgings in private houses	boarding schools
Youth hostels	private sector accommodation
University halls of residence	students' hall

For information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the various types of accommodation, or any other information (list of addresses, relevant legislation, lease details, deposit, etc.), please contact the people responsible for these matters at your host institution.

Below you will find the details of the five youth hostels in the Brussels area :

### CHAB – Centre Vincent Van Gogh Auberge de Jeunesse Génération Europe

Rue Traversière 8 – 1030 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 217 01 58

Fax +32 2 219 79 95

e-mail: [chab@ping.be](mailto:chab@ping.be)

web site: <http://www.ping.be/chab>

Rue de l'Elephant 4 – 1080 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 410 38 58

Fax+32 2 410 39 05

e-mail: [brussels.europe@laj.be](mailto:brussels.europe@laj.be)

web site: <http://www.laj.be>

### Jeugdherberg Breugel

Rue du Saint Esprit 2 – 1000 Bxl

Tel. +32 2 511 04 36

Fax +32 2 512 07 11

e-mail: [brussels.brel@laj.be](mailto:brussels.brel@laj.be)

Web site: <http://www.laj.be>

### Auberge de Jeunesse Jaques Brel

Rue de la Sablonnière 30 – 1000 Bxl

Tel. +32 2 218 01 87

Fax +32 2 217 20 05

e-mail: [brussels.brel@laj.be](mailto:brussels.brel@laj.be)

web site: <http://www.laj.be>

### New Sleepwell

Auberge du Marais

Rue du Damier 23 – 1000 Brussels

Tel. +32 2 218 50 50

Fax +32 2 218 13 13

e-mail: [info@sleepwell.be](mailto:info@sleepwell.be)

web site: <http://www.sleepwell.be>

## COST OF LIVING

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**The average cost of living for a student is estimated at €550 per month.**  
The monthly rent for a room varies between €200 and €380.

### Eating out

In the city centre, there are plenty of small moderately priced restaurants (offering Italian, Turkish, Moroccan, Indian, Greek, Asian, Spanish, etc. cuisine).

pizza :	€6.50 ~ €10	soft drink :	€1.25
sandwich :	€1.80 ~ €3	beer :	€1.25
salad :	€6.50 ~ €15	coffee, tea :	€1.50
alcoholic beverage:	€3.75 ~ €8		

### Food shopping

soft drink :	€0.50	seasonal vegetables (1 Kg) :	€2
milk (1 L.):	€0.75	seasonal fruit (1 Kg) :	€2.50
pasta (500 gr) :	€1	loaf of white bread (400 gr) :	€1
beef (1 Kg) :	€12.50		

### Leisure activities

cinema : student discount rate (with student card): €5.70  
full adult rate : €6.50

sports : prices vary greatly depending on the sport, the club, and sometimes the times at which you want to use the facilities.

golf :	€10	(access to practice range)
swimming pool :	€2.50 ~ €11	
tennis :	€6 ~ €15 (an hour)	
volleyball :	€15 ~ €19	

Your co-ordinator will be able to provide you with all the necessary information regarding special offers and discounts available to students.

## **BANKING**

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Belgium is home to 134 banks, which are active in all sectors of finance. There are some sixty foreign banks who are active in the capital.

In order to open a bank account, you will be required to show your identity card or passport as well as, possibly, your student card.

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

Banks are open between 9 am and 4 pm. However, there are many branches that have extended opening hours. In the evenings and during the weekend, you can withdraw money from cash machines (ATMs).

## **TELEPHONING**

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Public phone booths are operated by magnetic cards which are on sale at news agents (€5, €10 and €20), and often also by:

money

credit cards

rechargeable cards (the so-called 'Proton' card: your bank will be able to provide you with more information on this)

There are cards and call centres which offer special rates for international calls.

If you have a mobile phone which operates on 900Mhz or 1800Mhz, it is possible to purchase prepaid cards. These are available for fixed amounts and at rates that vary according to the type of user. The cards are sold by the three mobile telephone operators in Belgium, i.e. Proximus, Mobistar and Base.

## TRANSPORT

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### PLANE

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Belgium has five airports: Brussels National Airport, Charleroi Bruxelles Sud, Antwerp, Liège and Ostend.

#### Brussels National Airport / Zaventem

Situated at 14 km from the city centre, it may be reached by train; the journey takes about thirty minutes from the North, South and Central Stations, with departures every 20 minutes. The fare is approximately €2.35. It is also possible to get to the city centre from the airport by bus (€2.50). The taxi fare amounts to about €28.

Tel. +32 900 70 000 (from 7am to 8pm)  
 e-mail : [info@brusselsairport.be](mailto:info@brusselsairport.be)  
 web site : [www.BrusselsAirport.be](http://www.BrusselsAirport.be)

#### Charleroi Bruxelles Sud

A shuttle runs between Brussels South station to the airport. The low-cost airline Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)) offers special rates for a variety of European destinations.

### TRAIN

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Brussels has several railway stations and a dense rail network, with regular connections and attractive fares. Discount fares are on offer for day trips to popular tourist destinations as well as on some national events.

Brussels is served by 6 main-line stations:

**Gare Centrale** (Central Station) Carrefour de l'Europe, 2 1000  
 Brussels  
**Gare du Midi** (South Station) Rue de France, 2 1070 Brussels  
 (departures of TGV, Thalys and Eurostar services)  
**Gare du Nord** (North Station) Rue du Progrès, 85 1210 Brussels  
**Gare du Luxembourg** (Luxembourg Station) Pl. du Luxembourg  
 1040 Brussels  
**Gare de Schaerbeek** (Schaerbeek Station) Pl. Princesse Elisabeth, 5  
 1030 Brussels  
**Gare Schuman** (Schumann Station) Rond-Point Schuman 1040  
 Brussels

Passenger information : national services Tel. 02 555 25 25  
 International connections Tel. 02 528 28 28  
[www.sncb.be](http://www.sncb.be)

## **UNDERGROUND TRAM BUS**

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Tickets may be purchased at several locations:

- trams and buses (only single-fare tickets)
- ticketing offices
- automatic ticket vending machines in the underground and main-line railway stations
- recognized sales outlets (news agents, etc.)

A one-way ticket costs €1.40. It is also possible to purchase a five-fare booklet (€6.30) or a 10-fare booklet (€9.20).

There are also monthly season tickets (€28 for the under-25-year-olds, €38 for those over the age of 25). Students below the age of 25 may purchase a 'school' season ticket, which costs €200. There are also other season tickets.

Season tickets are sold at ticketing offices in the underground stations of Rogier, Porte de Namur, South Station, the news kiosk at the Bourse and in the Anspach office (from Monday to Friday, between 8.30am and 5.30pm, on Saturdays between 9.30am and 4pm. Do not forget to bring a photograph).

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

## **TAXIS**

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Starting rate: €2.35 during the day and €4.21 at night

Average tariff per km:

- €1 (within the greater Brussels area)
- €2 (outside the territory of the 19 Brussels *communes*)

The fare price is shown on the counter and includes tips.



## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

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### **EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE HOST INSTITUTION**

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Students of the host institution organize several events.

#### Student associations

Through meetings, cultural and sporting events, these associations aim to improve contacts between students, to facilitate their integration into the student community and to ensure student life is as fulfilling as it should be.

For more information, enquire at your host institution.

### **SHOPS**

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Opening hours: from 9am to 6pm (usually)

(from Monday to Saturday) from 9am to 8pm (supermarkets).

After-hours shops are easily found in some areas (the city centre, university areas, close to railway stations, etc.).

Opening hours :

from 6pm until 1am (the hours vary from one municipality to the next; in some areas these shops stay open all through the night).

### **GOING OUT**

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Brussels has a huge number of venues offering a wide variety of night-time entertainment for young people.

Here are some magazines that you may wish to consult to plan your evenings out:

KIOSQUE

MAD (Arts and Entertainment Magazine des Arts)

Wednesday supplement in "Le Soir" newspaper

TIME OUT

There are also web sites you can consult to tell you about the 'in' places of the day: e.g.

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

For a list of events (in Brussels as well as other places in the country) arranged according to various categories (exhibitions, events, guided

tours and visits, theatre, circus, opera, jazz, classical music, markets, flea markets, clubs, nightlife, etc.) :

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

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

Below is an example of a web site which lists the various clubs in Brussels according to the day of the week, as well as several typical Brussels bars and the type of setting.

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

[www.eurobru.com/cultur80.htm](http://www.eurobru.com/cultur80.htm)

A list of some 'in' bars and links to other sites.



## MAIN LIBRARIES

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Each host institution has its own library. For more in-depth research, you can have access to a large number of libraries. Below you will find a list of the main libraries of Brussels:

### **Bibliothèque des Communautés européennes**

(Library of the European Communities)

Av. de Cortenbergh, 1

1040 Brussels

Tel. 02 295 29 75 and 02 295 29 76

### **Bibliothèques et Centres de documentation européenne**

(European Documentation Libraries and Centres)

Rue de la Loi, 200

Bâtiment JECL 1/38 CEE-Commission

1049 Brussels

Tel. 02 299 90 18

### **Bibliothèque Principale de Bruxelles 1**

Rue des Riches-Clares, 24

1000 Brussels

Tel. 02 548 26 10

### **Bibliothèque de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles**

Av. F. Roosevelt, 50

1050 Brussels

Tel. 02 650 23 84

### **Bibliothèque Royale Albert Ier**

Bld. de l'Empereur, 4

1000 Brussels

Tel. 02 519 53 11

### **Bibliothèque CF et O.N.E.**

(Library of the French-speaking Community of Belgium)

Bld. Leopold II, 44

1000 Brussels

Tel. 02 413 27 49

For an exhaustive list of libraries in Brussels, go to:  
[www.eurobru.com/cultur95.htm](http://www.eurobru.com/cultur95.htm)

## RELIGIOUS WORSHIP AND PHILOSOPHICAL MOVEMENTS

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(inexhaustive list)

The Belgian constitution guarantees freedom of worship. The state recognizes and subsidizes secularism, represented by CAL (Centre d'action laïque, 'Centre for Secular Action'), and five faiths (Catholic, Protestant, Anglican, Judaism, Islam).

### **Catholic**

Several churches in every municipality

### **Muslim**

Islamic Centre, Great Mosque of Brussels  
Parc du Cinquantenaire, 14            1040 Brussels

### **Judaism**

Traditionalist : Rue J. Dupont, 12	1000 Brussels
Orthodox : Rue de la Clinique, 67a	1070 Brussels
Sepharad : Rue du Pavillon, 47	1030 Brussels

### **Greek Orthodox**

Av. de Stalingrad, 34	1000 Brussels
Rue de Stassart, 92	1050 Brussels
Rue du Progrès, 293	1030 Brussels
Rue des Etangs Noirs 48	1080 Brussels

### **Russian Orthodox**

Av. De Fr, 21	1180 Brussels
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### **Protestant**

Rue du Champ de Mars, 5	1000 Brussels
Place du Musée,	21000 Brussels
Rue Beeckman, 26a	1180 Brussels

### **Centre d'action laïque**

Campus de la Plaine ULB (accès 2)	
Avenue Arnaud Fraiteur	1050 Brussels

**FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTRES**

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(inexhaustive list)

**Goethe Institut Brüssel**

58, Rue Belliard - 1040 Brussels

Tel. 02 230 39 70 – 234 57 85

**Institut culturel danois**

22, Rue du cornet - 1040 Brussels

Tel. 02 227 08 41

**The British Council**

15, Rue de la Charité - 1210 Brussels

Tel. 02 227 08 41

**Institut Italien de culture**

38, Rue de Livourne - 1000 Brussels

Tel. 02 538 77 04

**Instituto Cervantès**

64, Av. de Tervuren - 1040 Brussels

Tel. 02 737 01 90

**Centro Gallego de Bruselas**

66, Rue du Croissant - 1190 Brussels

Tel. 02 537 45 47

**La Maison du Bresil**

163, Chée de Vleurgat - 1050 Brussels

Tel. 02 644 38 86

**Maison de l'Amérique Latine**

14, Rue Berckmans - 1060 Brussels

Tel. 02 425 91 57

**Centre Josep Carner – Amicos de la Cultura Catalana**

161/ 30, Rue Van Artevelde - 1000 Brussels

Tel. 02 514 44 57

**Association Socioculturelle Uruguay Argentine**

42, Bld. du Midi - 1000 Brussels

Tel. 02 512 93 20

**Centre Hellénique de Culture et de Formation**

37, Rue de Suède - 1000 Brussels  
Tel. 02 538 62 12

**Centre Culturel et Scientifique de Russie**

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

**Centre Tchèque**

150, Av. Adolphe Buyl - 1050 Brussels  
Tel. 02 644 95 27

**La Maison Hongroise**

121, Bld. de Smet de Naeyer - 1090 Brussels  
Tel. 02 427 30 45 – 425 48 07

**Centre Culturel Arabe**

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

**Centre Culturel de Tunisie**

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

**Chine Académie – Association Belgique Chine**

88, Rue Edith Cavell - 1180 Brussels  
Tel. 02 343 11 99

**Centre Socioculturel Vietnamien**

56, Rue Vautier - 1050 Brussels  
Tel. 02 649 81 27

**Centre Culturel et d'Information de l'Ambassade du Japon**

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

**Alliance Française**

59, Av. de l'Émeraude - 1030 Brussels  
Tel. 02 732 15 92

**Fédération d'associations socioculturelles andalouses du Benelux**

56, Rue Emile Féron - 1060 Brussels  
Tel. 02 538 83 33

## **ACADEMIC CALENDAR IN THE FRENCH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY OF BELGIUM**

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<b>New Year's Eve</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	January		
<b>Easter</b>		Sunday and Monday, moveable feast		
<b>Labour Day</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	May		
<b>Ascension</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday after Easter		
<b>Whitsun</b>	7 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday and Monday after Easter		
<b>National Holiday</b>	21	July		
<b>Assumption</b>	15	August		
<b>Holiday of the French-speaking Community</b>	27	September		
<b>All Saints</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	November		
<b>All Souls' Day</b>	2	November		
<b>Armistice Day</b>	11	November		
<b>King's Holiday</b>	15	November (public sector offices closed)		
<b>Christmas</b>	25	December		

## **OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES**

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### **European emergency number 112**

Ambulance, fire brigade 100  
 Federal Police /Gendarmerie 101  
 Red Cross 105

Criminal Investigation Department Tel.070 23 33 38  
 Poisoning Treatment Centre Tel.070 245 245  
 Burns Centre Tel.02 268 62 00  
 Duty doctors Tel.02 479 18 18  
 Duty dentists Tel.02 426 10 26  
 Duty pharmacies Tel.0900 10 500

Assistance to foreigners Tel.02 230 81 66  
 11, Rue J.W. Wilson - 1000 Brussels

Information number for foreigners Tel.02 375 67 63  
 9, Av. De Fré - 1180 Brussels

National Directory Enquiries 1307  
 International Directory Enquiries 1304

**NOTE!** If you call directory enquiries from a mobile phone, you must press 0 before the number.