



## **SPREADING SCENARIO FIRST YEAR COURSES**

### **Bachelor in Social Sciences**

#### **Context**

According to the new educational decree, students starting in the first year of a bachelor's programme are obliged to be enrolled in the entire standard study track of the first year. This consists of 60 ECTS credits.

Exceptions to this regulation are possible under certain circumstances:

- You have a 'special statute':
  - o You have a reflex-statute (student-athletes, students with a disability, refugees, student-entrepreneurs)
  - o You are a working student and work at least 80 hours a month
  - o You receive a scholarship from the Flemish government and you work at least 16 hours per week
  - o You switch programmes during the academic year
- You are going through exceptional circumstances
- You already have a bachelor's or master's degree

The procedure for applying for a reduced course load will be available on the VUB website.

#### **Study load**

If you are eligible for a reduced course load, you can choose how many credits you register per semester or per academic year. Keep in mind that if you are entitled to child allowance in Belgium (groeipakket/kinderbijslag), you have to register at least 27 credits.

*What study load corresponds to one ECTS credit?*

One credit equates to 25 to 30 hours of study. This includes following classes, processing your materials, doing readings, making papers, preparing for the exams... All your subjects consist of a specific number of credits. The more credits, the more demanding the subject. On average a full-time academic year consists of 60 credits, which equates to around 38 to 46 hours of studying per week.

#### **Spreading scenarios**

The study path counsellors for your programme have prepared a few spreading scenarios. These spreading scenarios can be used as such, but you can also make your own study path



depending on your situation. When spreading your course load, you always need to keep in mind the advised prerequisites of each course.

Below you can find two proposals. More specifically,

- A spreading scenario with the aim of obtaining the bachelor's degree in 4 academic years
- A spreading scenario with the aim of obtaining the bachelor's degree in 6 academic years

We start with a spreading scenario of your first year courses. What your study path will look like after completing the first year courses, will depend on a number of factors:

- Your study progress
- Any curriculum changes
- Any changes in your personal situation

After your first academic year, we recommend you contact your study path to put together your individual study path for the second academic year.

### **Need more information?**

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact your study path counsellor.

## **OVERVIEW FIRST YEAR COURSES**

<b>SEMESTER 1</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
Introduction to Sociology	6
Introduction to Communication Studies	6
Introduction to Political Science	6
Statistics I	6
Communicating Scientific Knowledge	6
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>	
European History	6
Introduction to the History of Political Ideologies	6
Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics	6
Introduction to SPC Methodology	6
Seminar Current Issues I	6



## SPREADING SCENARIO: GRADUATION IN 4 YEARS

SEMESTER 1	CREDITS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
Introduction to Sociology	6	x	
Introduction to Communication Studies	6	x	
Introduction to Political Science	6	x	
Statistics I	6		x
Communicating Scientific Knowledge	6	x	
SEMESTER 2			
European History	6	x	
Introduction to the History of Political Ideologies	6	x	
Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics	6	x	
Introduction to SPC Methodology	6		x
Seminar Current Issues I	6		x
			*
Total number of credits	60	42	18

\* In year 2 (18 credits), another 24 credits can be complemented with BA2 courses.

Recommended BA2 courses:

- Semester 1: Critical thinking in Sociology, Critical Thinking in Communication Studies, Critical thinking in Political Science (select 2 to 3 courses)
- semester 2: Social Change and Inequality in Europe, Economy and Society, Media, Culture and Diversity (select 1 to 2 courses)

## SPREADING SCENARIO: GRADUATION IN 6 YEARS

SEMESTER 1	CREDITS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
Introduction to Sociology	6	x	
Introduction to Communication Studies	6	x	
Introduction to Political Science	6	x	
Statistics I	6		x
Communicating Scientific Knowledge	6		x
SEMESTER 2			
European History	6	x	
Introduction to the History of Political Ideologies	6	x	
Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics	6		x
Introduction to SPC Methodology	6		x
Seminar Current Issues I	6		x
Total number of credits	60	30	30