



ORIENTATION WEEK 2024



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

AGENDA

1 International Relations Office

2 VUB Student Organisations

3 Life at VUB

4 Life in Brussels

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

- International project management
- International student support
- Going abroad: studies, internships, volunteering
- International initiatives by students
- Development cooperation
- Diplomacy & public affairs
- International recruitment, marketing & comms



www.vub.be/en/internationalisation-vub





INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

*Note: from 01/11/2024 onwards,
welcome desk is closed on Wednesdays*

	MORNING	AFTERNOON
MON	10h00 – 12h30	13h30 – 16h00
TUE	10h00 – 12h30	13h30 – 16h00
WED	10h00 – 12h30	13h30 – 16h00
THU	10h00 – 12h30	13h30 – 16h00
FRI	10h00 – 12h30	13h30 – 16h00

Specific Questions:

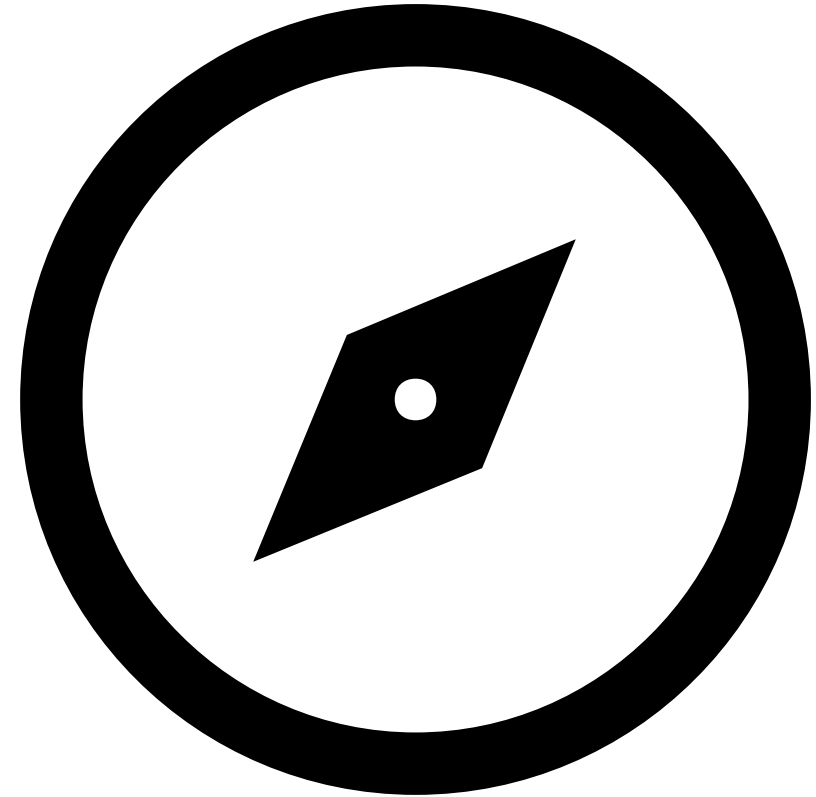
 Pleinlaan 5; 1050 Brussels

 International.relations@vub.be

 +32 (0)2 614 81 01

An orange graphic element consisting of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal line at the top, and a diagonal line connecting them, forming a stylized 'L' or '7' shape.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

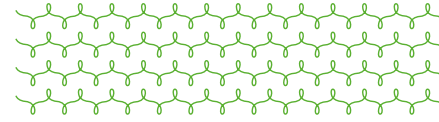


What is Bon and what do we do?

- ▼ Brussels integration agency for newcomers, including students!
- ▼ Helping you to feel at home in Brussels
- ▼ Courses about daily life in Belgium
- ▼ Information about residency status and options after university
- ▼ Introduction to Dutch language
- ▼ Individual coaching
- ▼ Recognition of foreign diplomas



Our offer to international students



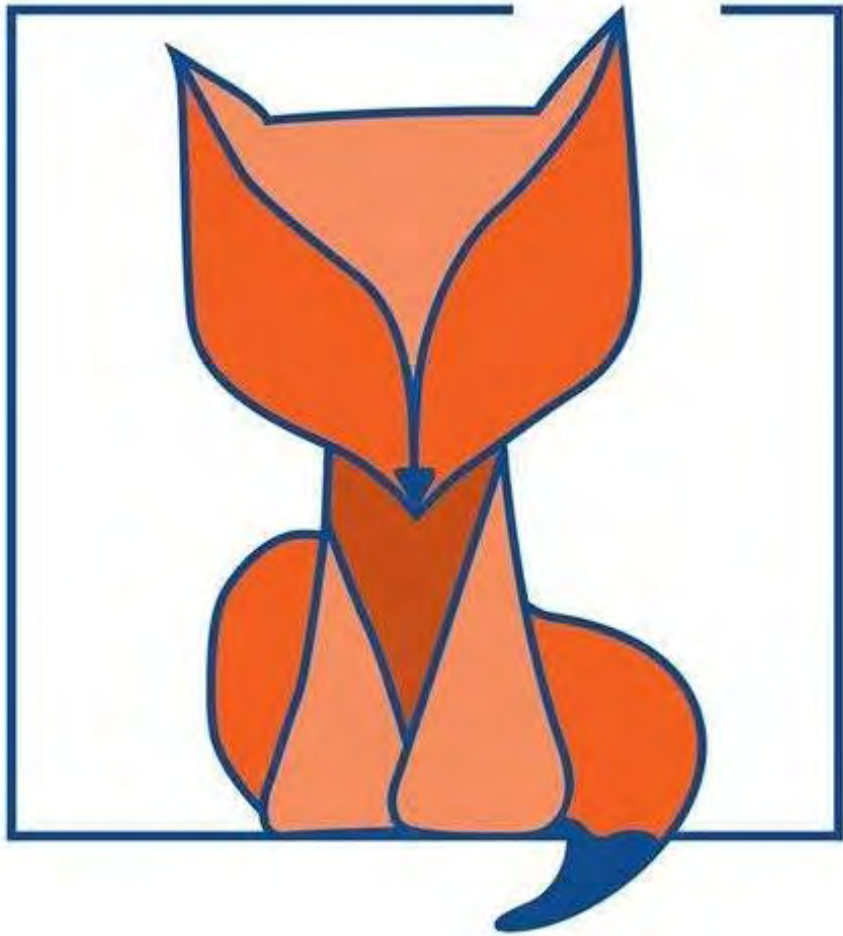
- ▼ Programme adapted to your interests and needs as students
- ▼ Practical information to get the most out of your life in Belgium
- ▼ Social opportunities, networking and wellbeing
- ▼ Professional life
 - ▼ Student status and work
 - ▼ Staying in Belgium after you graduate and longer-term
 - ▼ Dutch language – opportunities for work in Flanders
 - ▼ Diploma recognition



How to sign up

- ▼ Group running in English from 17 February to 2 April 2025, Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-9pm
- ▼ National register number and official address in Brussels
- ▼ Come and see us at the Startpunt (Mondays and Thursdays)
- ▼ Complete the intake form/ book an appointment on **02 701 73 80**
- ▼ Email Jane direct – jane.zacharzewski@integratie-inburgering.be
- ▼ More info at www.bon.be





VUB Student organisations

- ▼ Student representation
- ▼ Student Council
- ▼ International Student Platform (ISP)

- ▼ Student organisations:
- ▼ ESN
- ▼ BSG
- ▼ And many more...

STUDENT COUNCIL

WHO ARE WE?

- 20 motivated students
 - Different views, opinions and interests
 - Represent the student voice
 - Policy and rules of the VUB
-
- Faculty representatives

STUDENT COUNCIL

HOW CAN YOU CONTACT US?

- Questions, ideas or remarks
- Join us or ISP
- Facebook: [Studentenraad VUB](#)
- Mail: studentenraad.stuvoraad@vub.be
- Instagram: [studentenraadvub](#)
- Find us on vub.be/en, 'student council'



International Student Platform – Our Role

As the International Student Platform, we connect international students, discuss diverse topics and act as one voice representing the interests of all international students at the VUB.



Advising the
Student Council



Working with other
bodies of the VUB



Organising events
for all VUB students



International Student Platform – Events

ISP in collaboration with VUB ESN & VUB Musical
International Dinner
Quiz Night
Karaoke



International Student Platform – Find Us

The easiest place to contact us is our Instagram account.

We are student representatives – if you have any ideas for improvement, let us know!

We have a wealth of information between us that we are working on presenting



@VUB.ISP





International Student Platform



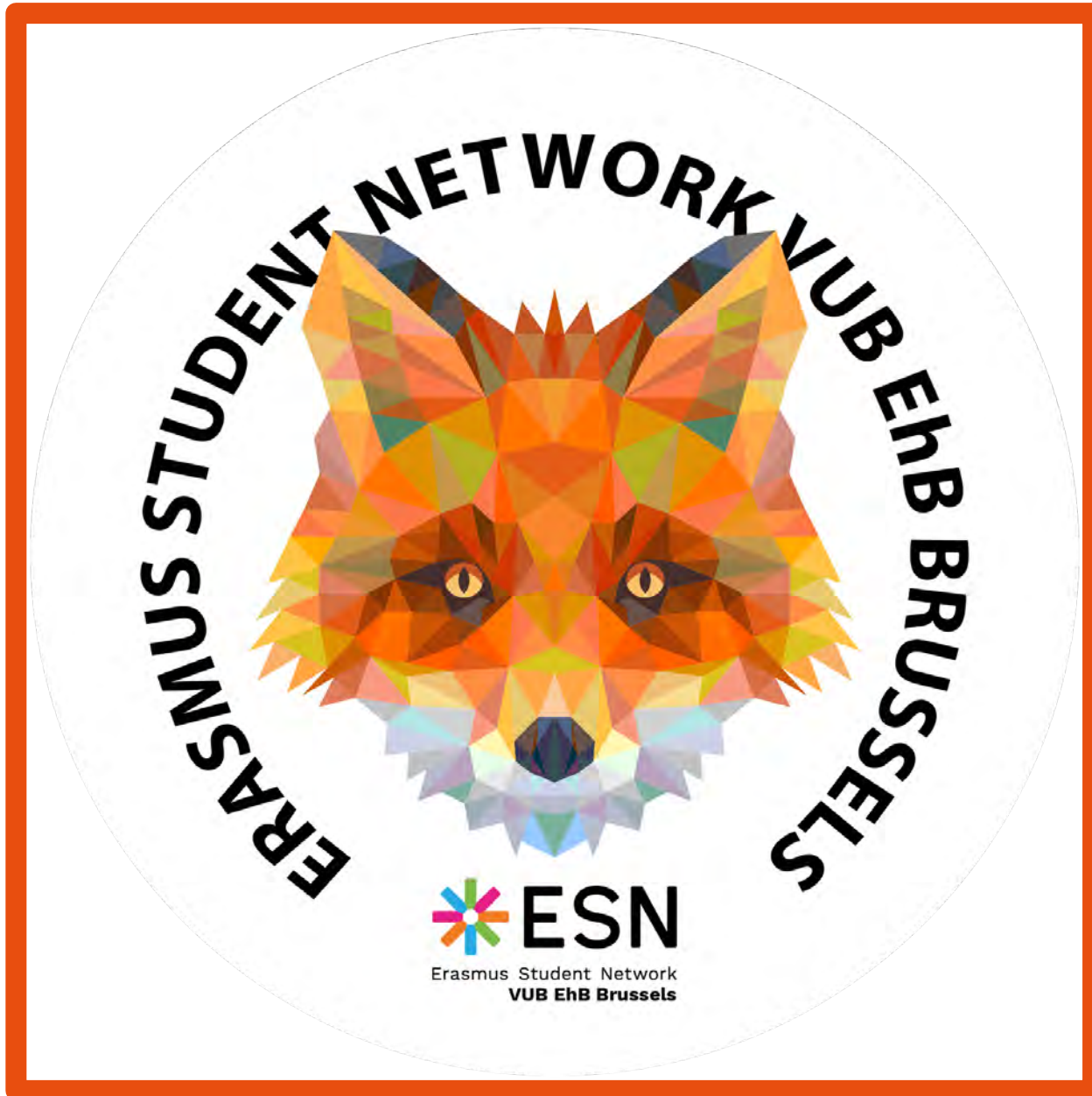
ISP@VUB.be



[VUB.ISP](https://www.instagram.com/VUB.ISP)



[facebook.com/vub.isp](https://www.facebook.com/vub.isp)



- Who are we?
- Buddy system
- ESNcard

**ESN VUB EhB
Brussels**

HOW TO CONTACT US



esnbxl@gmail.com



**ESN VUB EhB Brussels -
Erasmus Student Network**



esn_vubehbxl



<https://buddysystem.eu/en>

- ▶ Why should you do it?
- ➔ Join an international environment
- ➔ Improve your language skills
- ➔ Improve your intercultural skills
- ➔ Meet people from all over the world

Do you want to get a superhero?

Register using the link below for ESN VUB EhB Brussels and we will get back to you with your superhero!
Also keep an eye on our FB page for more info regarding the buddy system.

Get your ESN CARD

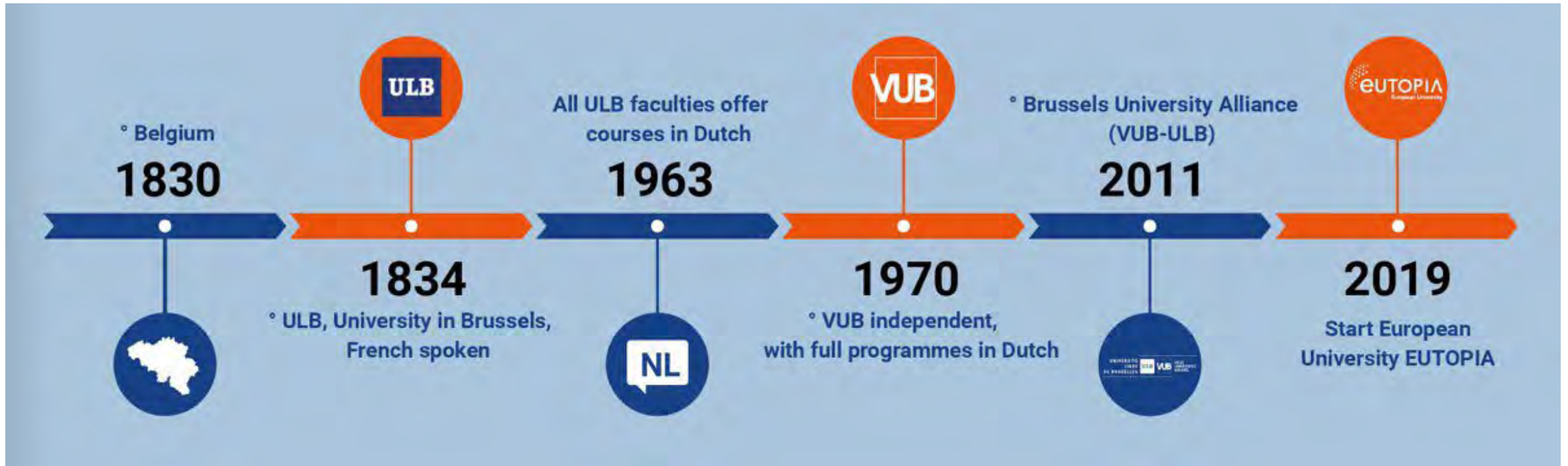
A stylized graphic illustration of a landscape. It features two black silhouettes of hills. On the left hill, a black silhouette of a plant with three leaves grows. On the right hill, another black silhouette of a plant with three leaves grows. A large, dark blue banner with a white border is positioned across the middle of the hills. The banner has a white triangle on its right side. The background is white, with a large orange triangle on the right side. The text 'LIFE AT VUB' is written in white, serif, all-caps font on the blue banner.

LIFE AT VUB



VRIJE
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OVERVIEW



Rector:
Prof. dr. Jan Danckaert



8 FACULTIES

Social Sciences & Solvay Business School (ES)

Law & Criminology (RC)

Psychology & Educational Sciences (PE)

Languages & Humanities (LW)

Science & Bio-engineering Sciences (WE)

Medicine & Pharmacy (GF)

Engineering (IR)

Physical Education & Physiotherapy (LK)



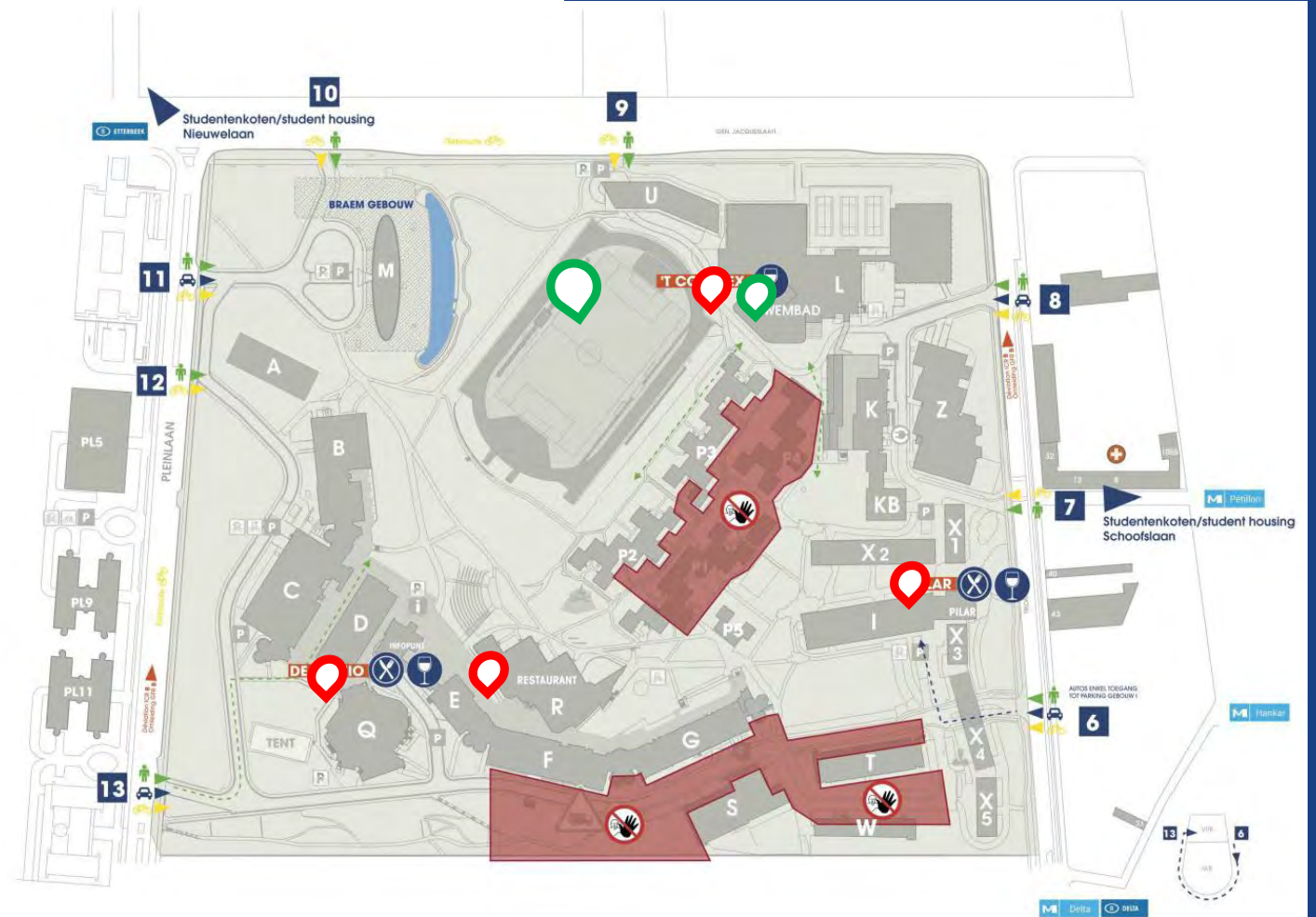
LIFE AT VUB

Facilities on campus

Food on campus:

- Restaurant: Warm meals €5,7 - €6,3
- Opinio
- Pilar
- Complex

Sports facilities



SPORTS AT VUB

▼ "Sportmix" card - 28 different sports (€ 31.3 per year + €10.6 for a card)

=> blended offer online/on campus sports

Swimming Pool

Competitions

BasicFit Gym

Find a Sports buddy via [VUB sport app](#)



MEDICAL FACILITIES





- ▼ *Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus doctors*
- ▼ Mon-Fri: 08:00-17:00. Appointments online
- ▼ Henri Schoofslaan 8. Tel: 02 897 19 50
- ▼ Includes: dentist, general practice & gynaecology

- ▼ *Health Campus Jette: Group practice Patio*
- ▼ First appointment call 02/425 21 87
- ▼ Bonaventurestraat 13, 1090 Jette



LIFE AT VUB

▼ Facilities on campus

-  Library
-  Bookshop
-  Crazy Copy Center
-  Computer rooms



PROGRAMME ADMIN

Info session for exchange students:
Thursday 19 September
15.00

Full Degree student

Course registration deadline: 15 October

What to do?

- Make sure you enrol on time. If you have received acceptance email, make appointment to enrol.
- Register your courses through Student Self-Service
- A guide can be found on:
student.vub.be/en/course-registration

Exchange student

Deadline 15 October (included)

What to do?

Changes to learning agreement

- Log in to SOP Mobility online
- Under "During mobility": *Click here to let us know whether changes to learning agreement are needed or not*
- Approvals
- Questions:
exchange.incoming@vub.be
Course registration done by faculty

LANGUAGE LEARNING

- ▼ Academic Language Centre (ACTO)
- ▼ English, German, Italian & Modern Greek
- ▼ Campus Etterbeek, Building B (room B2.14)
- ▼ Search 'ACTO' on vub.be/en
- ▼ Register before 24th September

- ▼ Semper CVO
- ▼ Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, etc.
- ▼ Campus Etterbeek, Building D, room D1.33
- ▼ www.cvosemper.be
- ▼ Courses start around mid-September



JOIN LANGUAGE TABLES AT VUB RESTO

Follow them on Facebook for more updates:

www.facebook.com/VUBLanguageTables/



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LANGUAGE TABLES AT LUNCHTIME

TIME TO HONE YOUR LINGUISTIC SKILLS!

Practice your language skills with fellow learners and native speakers while having lunch in the VUB Restaurant (campus Etterbeek, downstairs, international corner)

Rincón español	Lunes	12:00-13:00
Deutscher Stammtisch	Mittwochs	12:00-13:00
Nederlandse tafel	Woensdag	12:00-13:00
English table	Wednesday	13:00-14:00
Tavola italiana	Mercoledì	13:00-14:00
Apéro français	Mercredi	16:00-16:45 @PILAR

www.facebook.com/VUBLanguageTables

Thanks to TALK, ACTO, ESN, VUB Restaurant and



INTERNATIONALE RELATIES
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student information - infopunt

- Building D, entrance hall
- Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels
- Mon-Fri: 09:00-17:00
(18:00 until the 7th of October)
- Tel: 02 2 629 2010
- Email: info@vub.be

Student portal: How What Where?

Your email address

Your student card

Student Self-Service

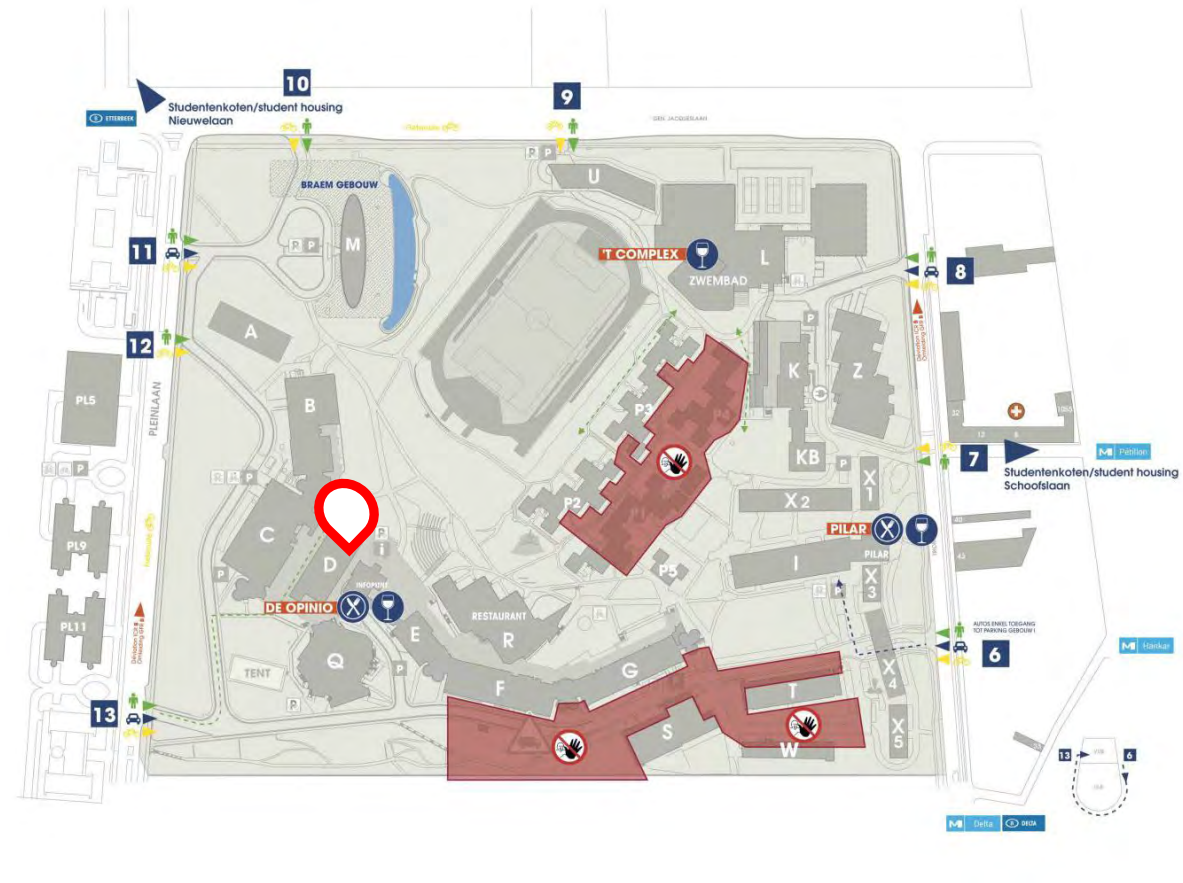
Canvas

Office 365

Wifi: VUBnext &
Eduroam

Academic Calendar &
course timetable

VUB Restaurant &
weekly menus.



<https://wearestudent.vub.be/>

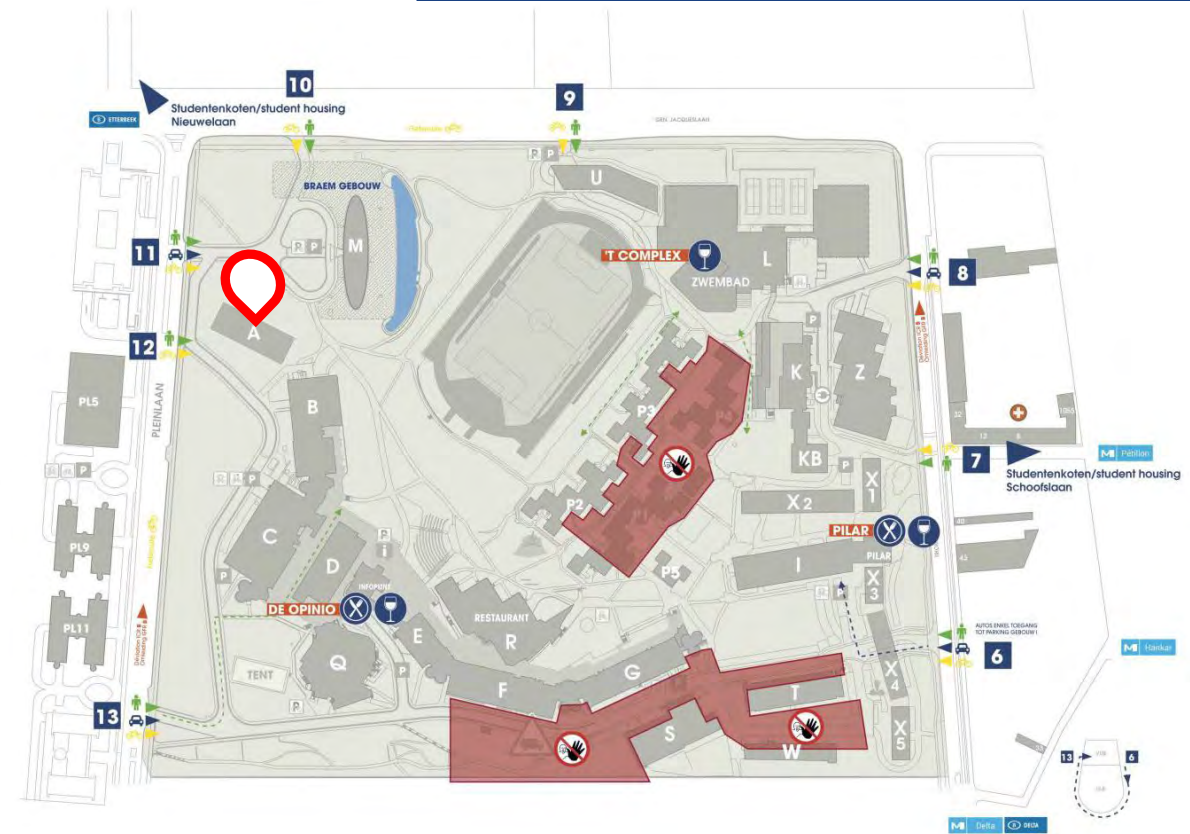
STARTING POINT

When?

- September 9 until October 15
- Monday until Friday from 9.30 AM – 4.30 PM

5 different departments involved

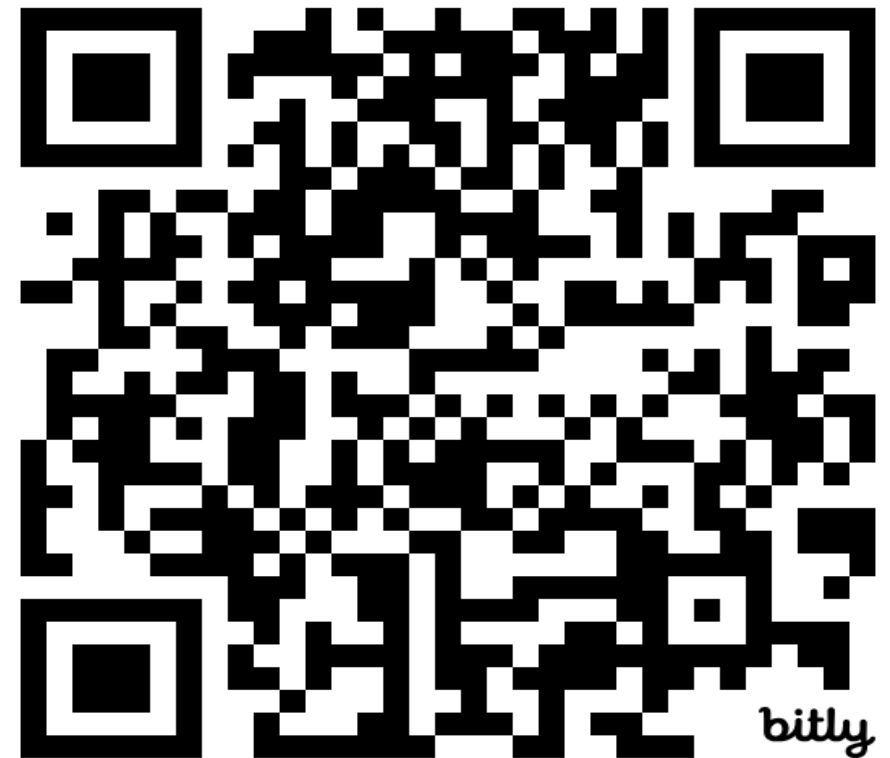
- Student administration
- Study guidance
- ICT
- International Relations Office
- Student Information Point



STUDY GUIDANCE

<https://www.vub.be/en/studying-vub/practical-info-for-students/study-guidance>

- ▼ advice on your study path and study progress, information on the deliberation rules, learning account, ...
- ▼ guidance on study skills, exams, the bachelor's and master's thesis, ...
- ▼ student well-being support, fear of failure, flexible measures, ...
- ▼ guidance in job search, CV and Cover Letter writing, ...



REPORT IT

- Report inappropriate behaviour
 - Prevent an escalation
 - Stop other people's unwanted behaviour
 - Get the support you want
- Confidentiality is guaranteed
 - **YOU** determine which behaviour is unacceptable
 - Report it! No procedures started without express permission by person who filed the report
 - Report it! ⇒ professional secrecy



report via email:
reportit@vub.be

LIFE IN BRUSSELS



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HOUSING – TRUSTED SOURCES

- VUB Campus rooms or in private sector
 - For private sector: contact Brik
 - For rooms on campus? [Contact Student Housing](#)
- Short stay/semester/year
- Rents:
 - Student room on average €550
 - Studio on average €700



= Brussel en Ik (meaning, 'me')

HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR

FACEBOOK

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/vubinternationalstudents>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272541584183628>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1527847924095974>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/696622514244371>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/forrent.furnished.stgilles.ixelles>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BRUSSELSFORRENT>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/568011983720658>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/roomsforrentinbrussels>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1952601251669075>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BXLaLOUER>
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1028033193935917>

WEBSITES FOR HOUSING

- <https://www.nestpick.com/brussels/>
- <https://housinganywhere.com/s/Brussels--Belgium>
- <https://www.immoweb.be/en>
- <https://www.spotahome.com>
- <https://rentola.be/en>



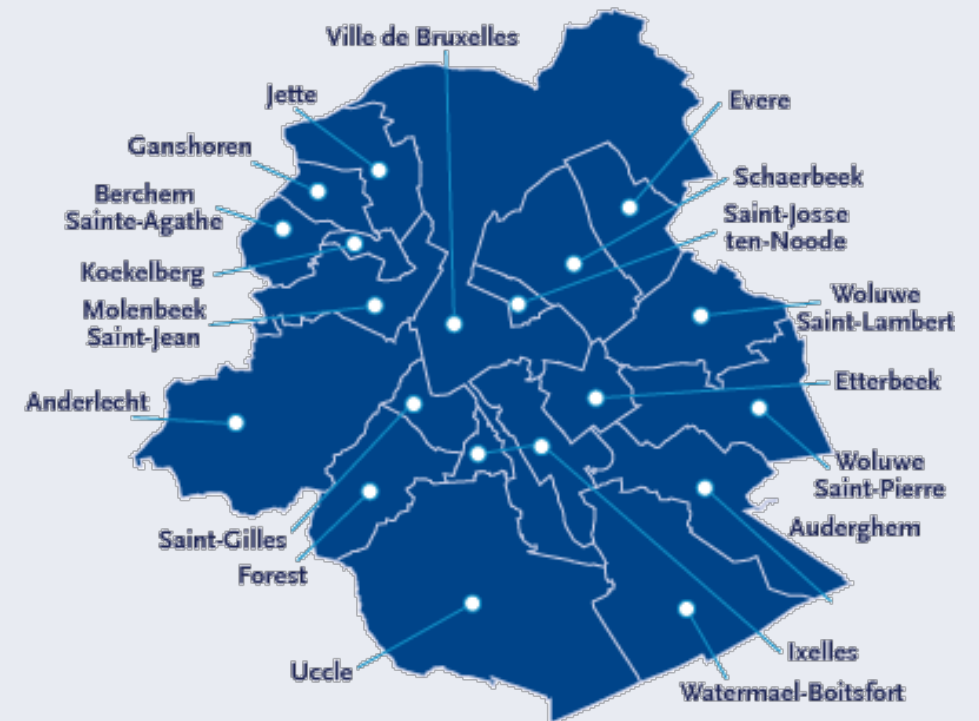
- Watch out for scams
- Ask about domiciliation
- Be careful with utilities

REGISTRATION AT THE TOWNHALL

→ ID card valid for duration of academic programme & for duration of funding for studies

EEA	Non-EEA
Short-type residence (max. 3 months)	
No registration required	Report to District Town Hall ('Commune') for 'Declaration of Arrival' (annex 3) within 8 days of arrival after finding temporary accommodation other than hotel, youth hostel (family & friends)
Long-type residence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Report to District Town Hall ('Commune') for 'Inscription Request' (annex 15 with mention of national register number) after signing long term rental agreement•Non-EEA: Annex 15 can then, for example, be used for opening bank account or you can open an online bank account with Wise, Revolut, Hello Bank...•ID-card compulsory for students with stay +90 days	

19 districts in Brussels



EXAMPLE

from the website of the
Town Hall of Brussels 1000

Registration of a foreigner (card application)

You are a foreign citizen (non-Belgian) and you wish to establish your residence in the city of Brussels? Then you must present yourself for registration at the municipal administration of the City of Brussels within 8 days following your arrival in Belgium.

- [Stay of Ukrainians in Belgium](#)
- [Stay of Russians in Belgium](#)

Please check the exact municipality of your place of residence. The postal codes of the **City of Brussels** are: 1000, 1020, 1120 and 1130. Please note: certain addresses in 1050 (1051) and 1040 (1041) are also located in the City of Brussels.

For certain categories of foreigners, a proof of payment of a federal tax (fee) is required. More info: [Immigration Office](#).

EU citizen



EU citizen family



Non-EU citizen



International protection
(asylum)



Links and information



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REGISTRATION AT THE TOWNHALL

Read more on [our website](#)

There can be different procedures depending on the Brussels District

Required documents*

- Rental contract
- 2-3 Passport-size photos
- National ID/Passport with type D visa
- Registration certificate (standard form) from VUB for minimum 54 credits
- Proof of Health Insurance upon extension of the Belgian ID card
- For non-EEA citizens: Proof of Solvency (scholarship, blocked account or annex 32 (= guarantorship procedure))

Sometimes also: birth certificate, civil status certificate, or certificate of good conduct



* Non-exhaustive overview. You are responsible to check with your town hall.

HEALTHCARE

Every person living in Belgium is advised to register with a national health insurance provider (= 'mutuelle').

Public health insurance will assist you in the following situations:

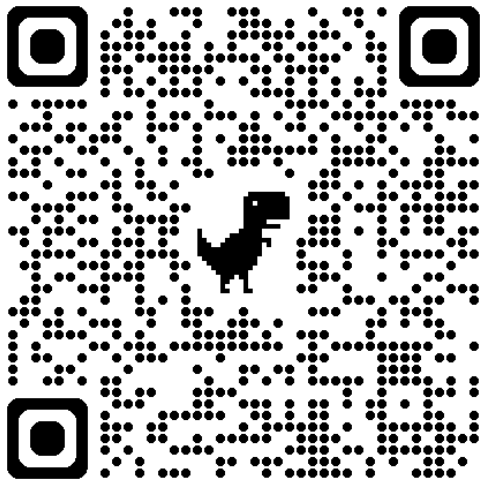
- Reimbursement in case of visit at the doctor (general practitioner or specialist), pharmacy, hospital, dentist
- Urgent care abroad
- Many other advantages : *optics, vaccinations, sports club membership, physical therapy, chiropractic, contraception, mindfulness, homeopathy, psychology sessions, dietician consultations, etc..*

PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE IS
COMPULSORY IN BELGIUM

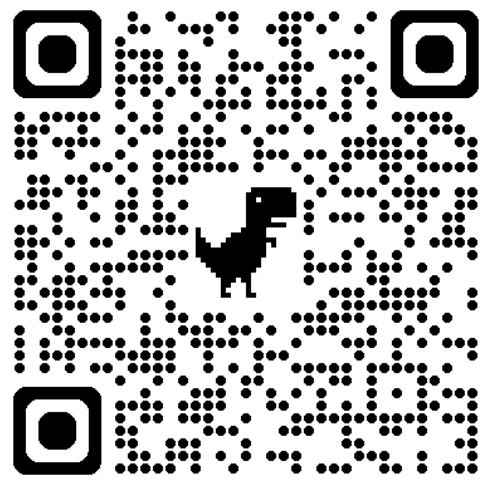
Read more on [our website](#)



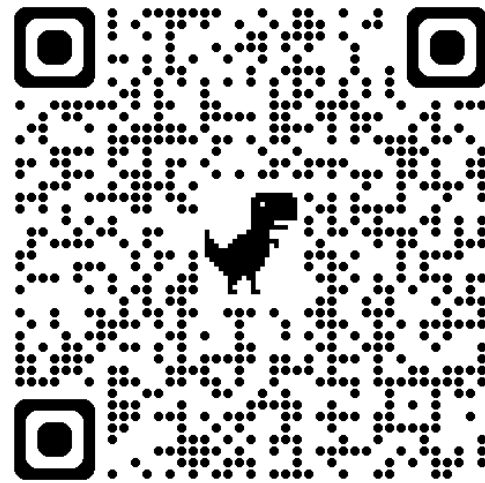
HEALTHCARE



FOR STUDENTS
WITH THE
BLOCKED
ACCOUNT



FOR STUDENTS
WITH EHIC



FOR EVERYONE
ELSE

In Case of Emergency

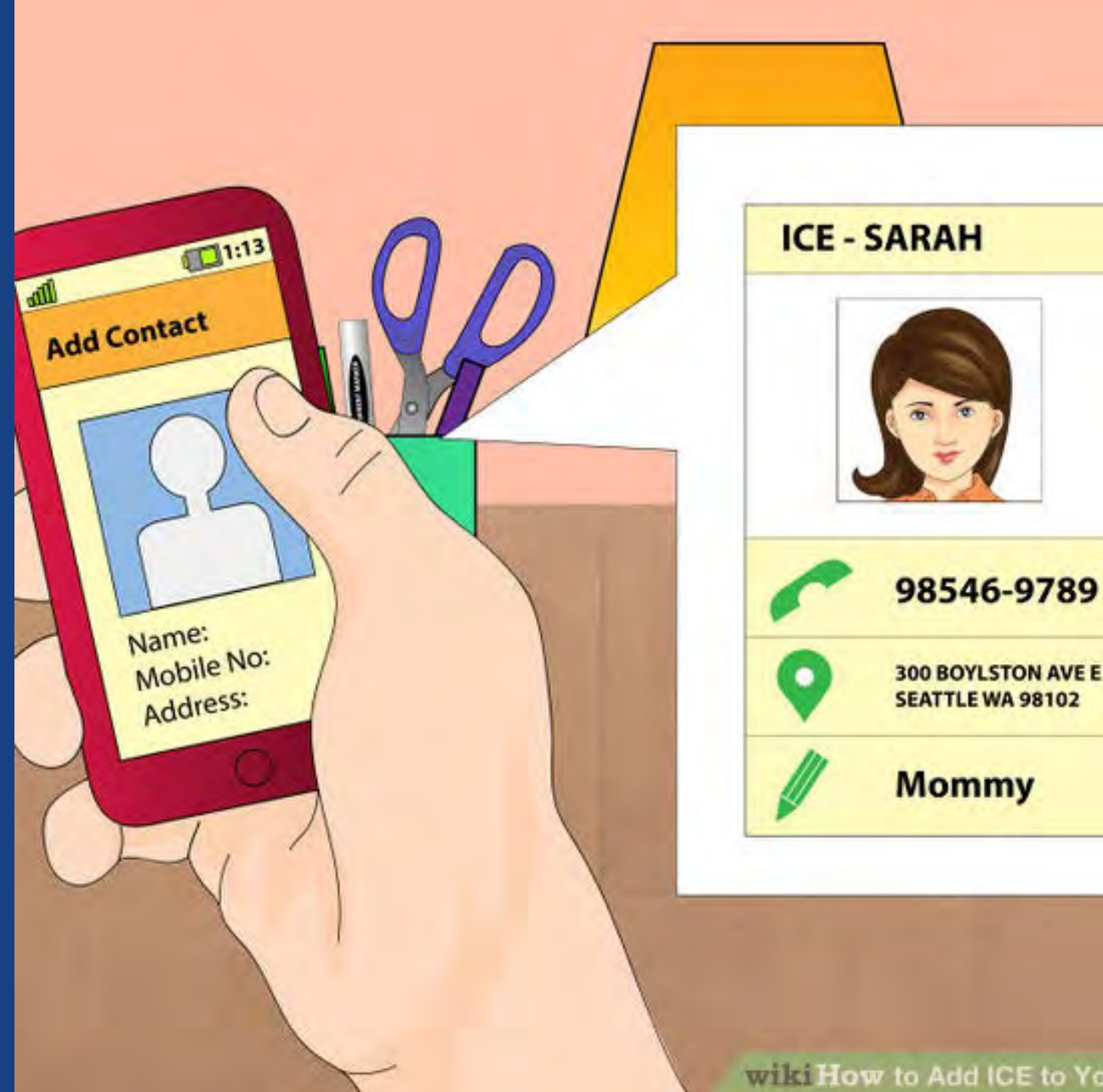
EU EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

POLICE 101

Etterbeek Campus Security:

02 629 11 11

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT



CULTURE & DISCOVER BRUSSELS



- ▼ Discover Brussels with **a greeter**: volunteer guide
- ▼ News/Newsletters:
 - ▼ Agenda (agenda.brussels/en/newsletter)
 - ▼ Be expat be brussels » email europe@visit.brussels
- ▼ Bruzz.be
- ▼ EYCA card
- ▼ VISITBRUSSELS: <https://visit.brussels/en>
- ▼ @ BIP – Place Royale
- ▼ @ City Hall – Grand Place
- ▼ @ Station Europe – Place Luxembourg

LIVING IN BRUSSELS

▼ Public transport

[MIVB/STIB](#) = public transport system in Brussels covering metro, tram, bus, and train

▼ [5 MIVB/STIB 'Bootiks'](#)

- Student yearly pass = €12 (until age 24)
- Student yearly pass (with trains within Brussels) = €52 (until age 24)
 - **VUB registration certificate needed!**
- Monthly pass, 10-trip cards
- [STIB-MIVB PRRB 12MTH](#) (Partena)
- Tickets at STIB-MIVB machines for single tickets or day passes.

Driving tip: Trams in Belgium **always** get priority

Night buses are only in weekends!

LIVING IN BRUSSELS

Travelling in Belgium

- ESN organises guided tours to different cities – check out their site & Facebook page for more information
- A **Youth Multi** (for trains) is a 10-journey ticket for trains = €53
 - You can use it as a single person or group
 - Valid for 1 year.

Always check special weekend rates or rates for those under-26 years old.

**National Rail =
SNCB/NMBS**
[www.belgiantrain.be/
en](http://www.belgiantrain.be/en)

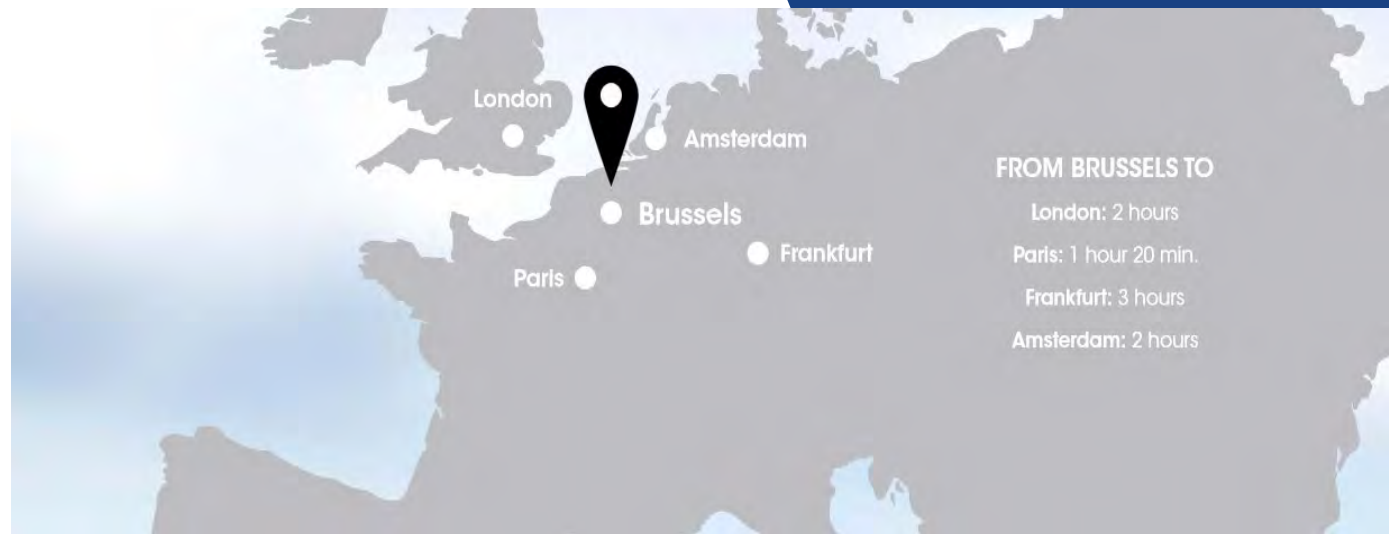
TRAVEL IN EUROPE

ID card or Visa:

Valid multiple entry visa type D

!! Check UK and multiple entry

!! Check Schengen Visa = travel in EU



LIVING IN BRUSSELS

▼ Sustainability & environment

- **Sustainable development** is a central goal of the university, with 4 green campuses.
- ▼ Throughout the university and across Brussels, **recycling is vital**.
- ▼ The following rubbish bags are used across Brussels, colour-coded*:
 - Blue bags = plastics, drinking cartons and cans
 - White bags = general refuse
 - Green bags = garden waste
 - Yellow bags = paper and cardboard
 - Orange bags = food waste (composting)
 - Collection point: glass, clothes, oil,...

COMING UP

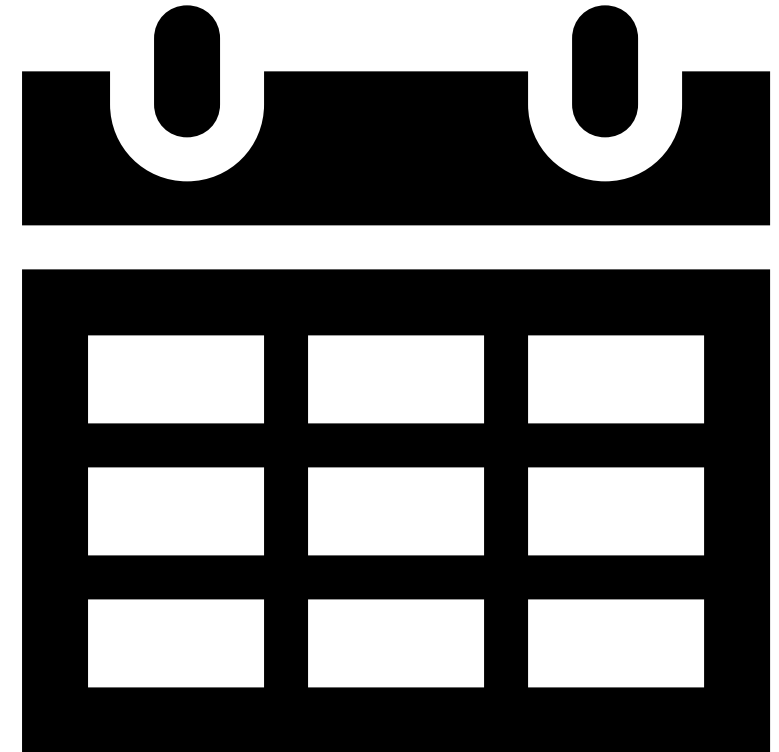
For exchange students only: **an exchange info session** – Thursday 19 Sept, 15:00-17:00

Babel Games – Thursday 19 Sept, 17:00-18:30

Kick-off Jette Monday 23 Sept, and **Kick-off Etterbeek campus**, Thursday 3 Oct, afternoon

Go Abroad Fair, Thursday 10 Oct 10:00-16:00

Go Abroad Café, Tuesday 19 Nov from 12:00



COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS

You're go-to source for all info is the Student Portal

There is a **student newsletter** sent to your VUB email address every other week.

CANVAS is where you'll find all the communication from your programme/faculty.



VUB SOCIAL MEDIA



www.facebook.com/VUBrusseel (Mostly in Dutch, sometimes in English)

www.facebook.com/VUBInternationalRelations (English only)



@vubrusseel (both languages)

From September 9
until October 15

STARTING POINT



International Relations Office

- Health insurance
- Town hall questions
- Exchange-related questions
- Blocked accounts

Faculty

- Academic-related questions

Questions?



Student Administration (OWSA)

- Processing of your application
- Attestations

Student Info-point

- General VUB questions
- How to find something on campus/website