# VUB General Information Sheet - Exchange Students

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<th><strong>Contact Information</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Name of University</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Country</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Erasmus Code</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Head of Institution</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Vice Rector International Relations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Director International Relations Office</strong></td>
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<th><strong>Short intro</strong></th>
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<td>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.</td>
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| **International Relations Office (IRo) postal address** | Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium |
| **International Relations office (IRo) visiting address** | Pleinlaan 5, 1050 Brussels, Belgium |
| **IRo general e-mail address** | international.relations@vub.be |
| **IRo incoming students e-mail** | exchange.incoming@vub.be |
| **IRo outgoing students e-mail** | exchange.outgoing@vub.be |
| **International Relations office web page** | http://www.vub.ac.be/en/international |
| **International Relations office Facebook** | www.facebook.com/VUBInternationalRelations |
| **Web page incoming exchange students** | http://www.vub.ac.be/en/exchange |

## Application Information Incoming Students

### Nomination & Application Deadlines

| **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 at VUB. These nominations can be sent to exchange.incoming@vub.be with an excel file we provide.

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
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:


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**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 Week (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 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 Week 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.

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**Other Relevant Information**

**Housing**
Incoming exchange students have a vast array of housing opportunities at their disposal. Furthermore, there are multiple possibilities for those who are looking for temporary lodging.

**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.

**Student job opportunities**
Want a student job during studies?

**Sports facilities**
With a recently opened 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 and Brussels Technology Campus. 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.AC.BE/EN/EXCHANGE
BRAUSSELS, 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
- 33% of its population is foreign
- 104 different languages spoken
- multilingual, multicultural

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL (VUB):

- over 16,000 students, 128 different nationalities
- 4 campuses, 8 faculties
- 1 university hospital
- #182 worldwide in QS World University Rankings 2019
- #48 in Reuters most innovative universities 2018

STUDY FIELDS:

Political Sciences
Sociology
Economics
Communication Sciences
Medicine
Pharmacy
Biomedical Sciences
Architectural Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Hydrology
Industrial Engineering
Biomedical Engineering
Applied Computer Science
Photonics
Physical Education
Physiotherapy
Philosophy
History

Art Sciences & Archaeology
Linguistics & Literary Studies: FR, IT, ES, NL, EN, DE
Applied Linguistics: FR, ES, NL, EN, DE
Psychology
Adult Educational Sciences
Educational Sciences
Law
Criminology
Bioengineering Sciences
Geography
Mathematics
Computer Science
Biology
Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management
Chemistry
Physics and Astronomy
Urban Studies
Urban Design & Spatial Planning

VUB: www.vub.ac.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 have been reserved for exchange students. Other options off campus are also available. On average, you’d pay between €350-€500 a month.

**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)
Visas must always be obtained in country of origin. ID-cards will always be obtained in Belgium.

Health insurance is mandatory - contact us for more info.

**ORIENTATION WEEK:**
The week before classes start, we organise Orientation Week. We encourage you to attend events during Orientation Week, 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!

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

**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

**MORE INFORMATION:**
WWW.VUB.AC.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*
• 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!

“...It was a pleasant surprise to see how the VUB Professors encouraged us to develop our own opinion. The semester abroad helped me realise what I want to do in the (near) future. I hope the friendships made during my Erasmus exchange will last for a long time”

Adéla Česenková, from Czech Republic, 2018

GENERAL INFORMATION:
Email: exchange.incoming@vub.ac.be
www.vub.ac.be/en/international
www.facebook.com/VUBInternationalRelations

* World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness’ Index 2017-2018