



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

ORIENTATION DAYS 2023

WELCOME TO BRUSSELS. WELCOME TO VUB



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

WHO IS WHO & WHAT WE DO

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



www.vub.be/en/internationalisation-vub



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

CONTACT US

General Questions:

	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

www.vub.be/en/internationalisation-vub

Specific Questions:



Book meeting with a staff member



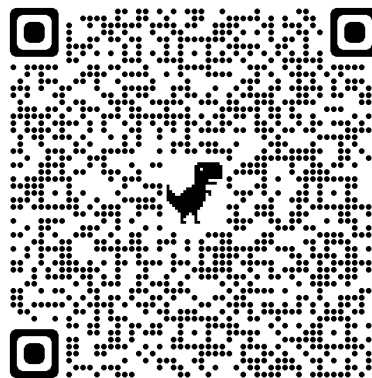
Pleinlaan 5; 1050 Brussels



International.relations@vub.be



+32 (0)2 614 81 01



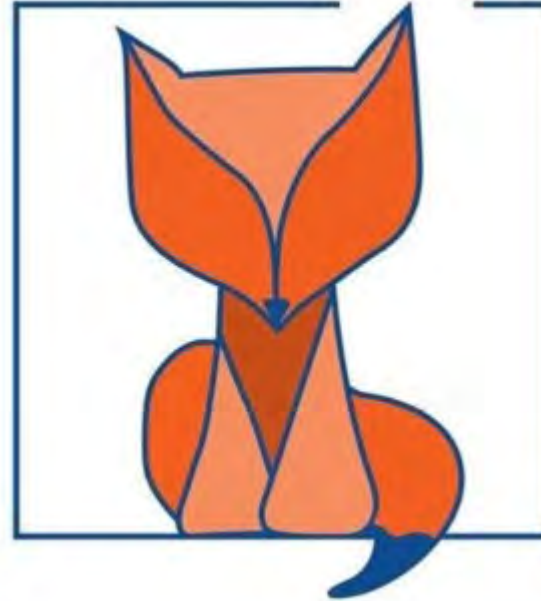
VUB STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

➤ **Student representation**

- Student Council
- International Student Platform (ISP)

➤ **Student organisations:**

- ESN
- BSG
- And many more...



AGENDA

- VUB student organisations & guest organisations
- International Relations office
- Life in Brussels
- Life at VUB

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'



Facebook VUB ISP - International Student Platform

Instagram @vub.isp

Email isp@vub.be

ISP – WHAT WE DO

Extension of the VUB Student Council, but work exclusively for international students at VUB, their rights, concerns and issues.

Practically that means, we:

- attend student council meetings
- discuss university policy and well-being of students
- organise conferences on various topics
- host events relevant or helpful for international students at the VUB

➤ **DEADLINE: 05 OCTOBER 2023**





- Who are we?
- Buddy system
- ESNcard

ESN VUB EhB Brussels



CONTACT US



esnbxl@gmail.com



group chat




ESN VUB EhB Brussels -
Erasmus Student Network



[esn_vubehbxi](https://www.instagram.com/esn_vubehbxi)





Let your journey abroad begin with ESN!



WHO ARE WE?



Buddy System

Become a Buddy for an international student
or be helped by a local student

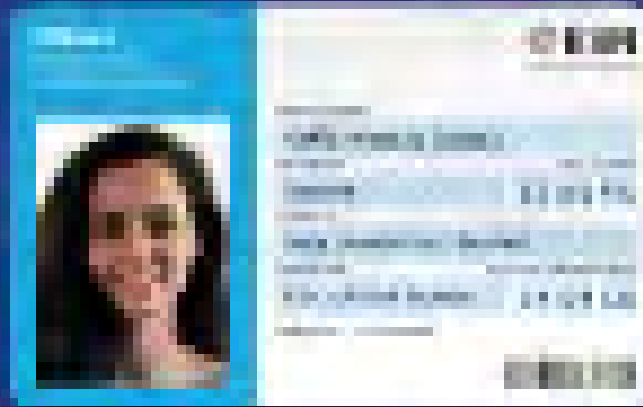
[LET'S GO!](#)[LEARN MORE](#)

- ▶ 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.

<https://buddysystem.eu/en>

Get your ESNcard



Become Part of The Erasmus Generation

#ESN

Erasmus Student Network

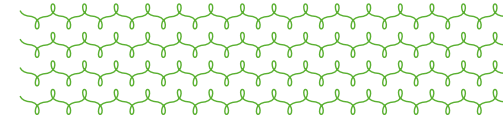
What is Bon and what do we do?

- 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 – starting in October
- 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





Want to know more?

jane.zacharzewski@integratie-inburgering.be

www.bon.be

02 701 73 80

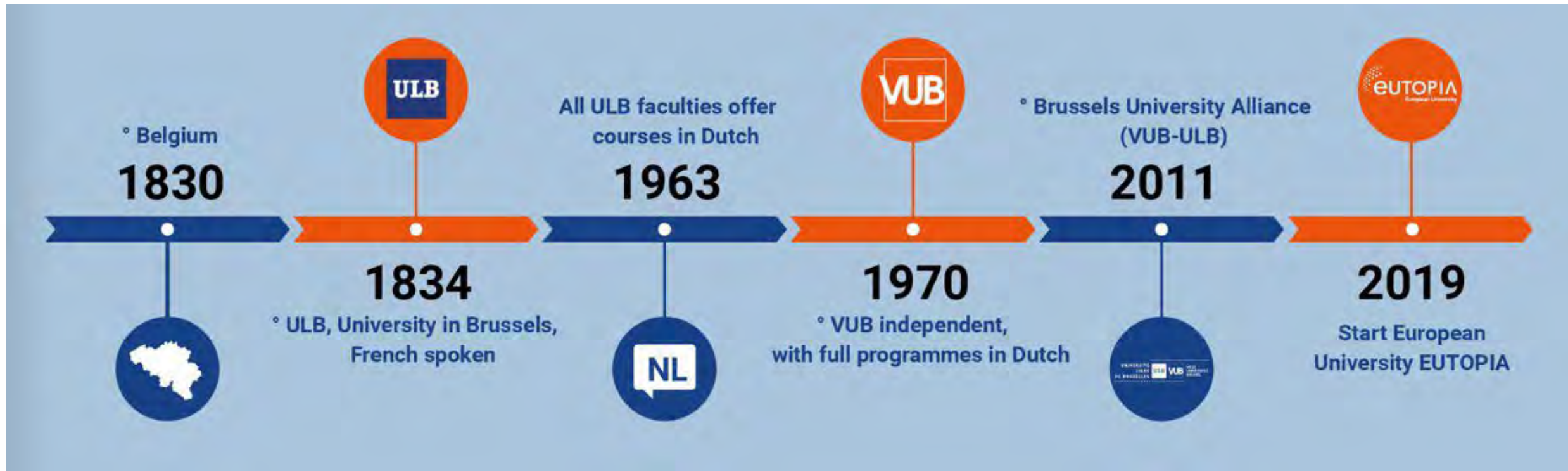
Bon

LIFE AT VUB



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

OVERVIEW VUB



Rector:
Prof. dr. Jan Danckaert

OVERVIEW VUB

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

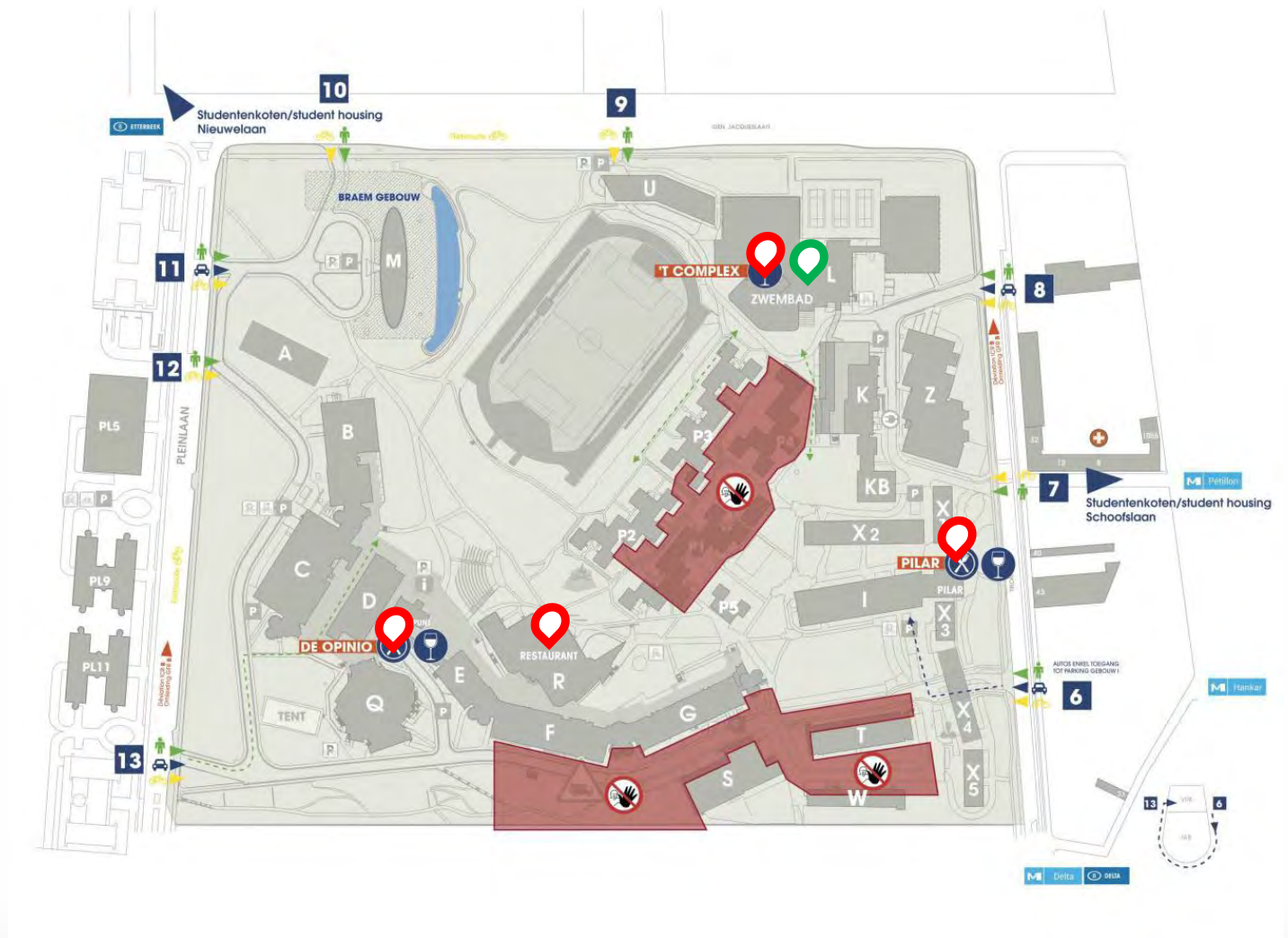


Food on campus:

- Restaurant: Warm meal 6,3 €
- Opinio
- Pilar
- Complex



Sports facilities



LIFE AT VUB

SPORTS AT VUB

- **"Sportmix"** card - 28 different sports (€ 30.5)
=> blended offer online/on campus sports
- **Swimming Pool**
- **Competitions**
- **BasicFit Gym**
- Find a Sports buddy via [VUB sport app](#)



LIFE AT VUB

FACILITIES ON CAMPUS

➤ 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

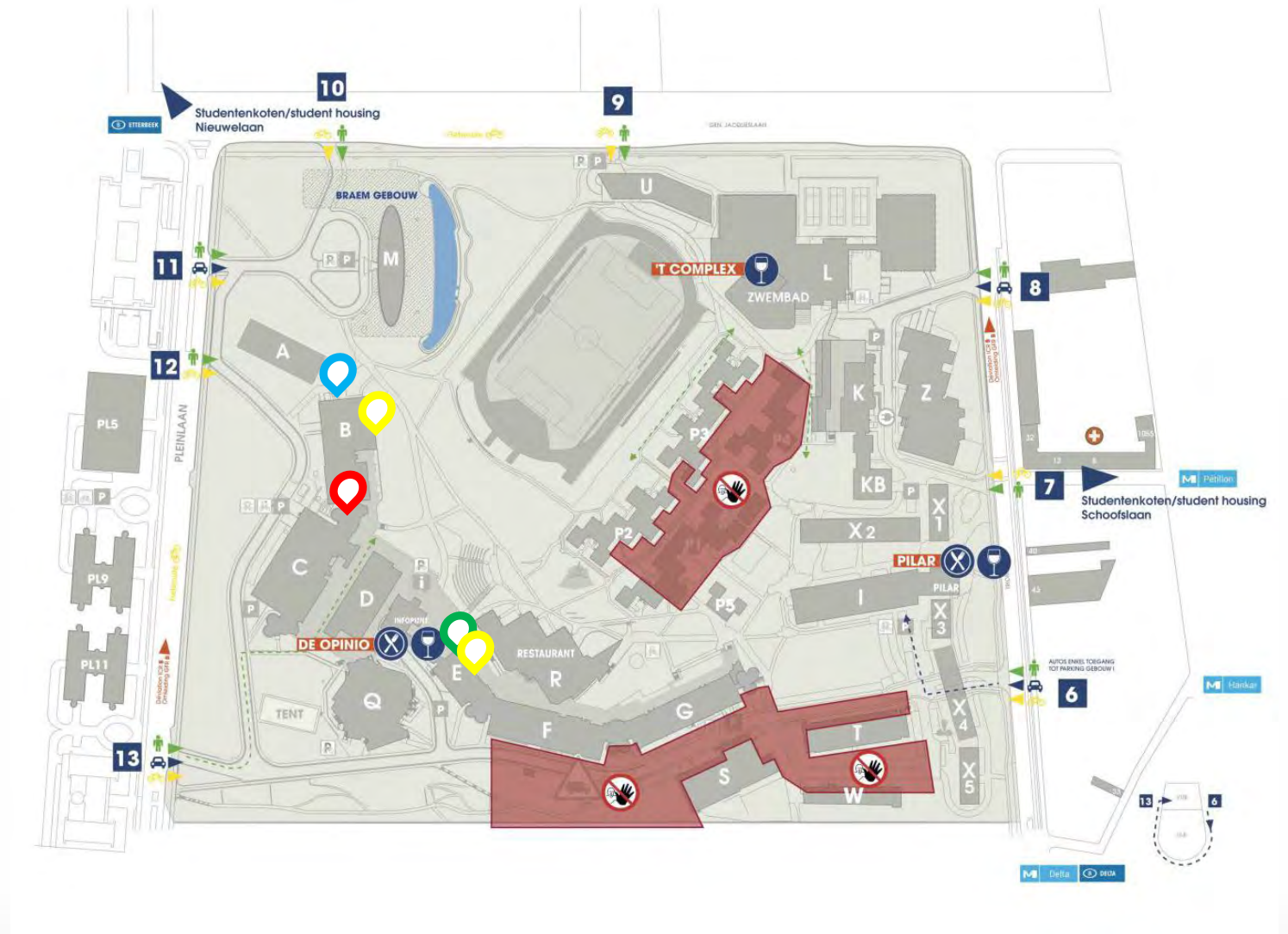
- First appointment call 02/425 21 87
- Bonaventurestraat 13, 1090 Jette



LIFE AT VUB

FACILITIES ON CAMPUS

-  Library
-  Bookshop
-  Crazy Copy Center
-  Computer rooms



LIFE AT VUB

EDUCATION & STUDENT ADMIN CENTRE

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

Info session for exchange students:
Thursday 21 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

LIFE AT VUB

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 2 October

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



LIFE AT VUB

THE LANGUAGE TABLES

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

Nederlandse tafel	dinsdag	12:00-13:00
Rincón español	miercoles	12:00-13:00
Deutscher Stammtisch	mittwochs	12:00-13:00
English table	Wednesday	13:00-14:00
Table française	jeudi	12:00-13:00
Tavola italiana*	giovedì	14:00-15:00

** in the cafeteria*

VUB DEPARTMENTS

STUDENT INFORMATION - INFOPUNT

Building D, entrance hall
Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels
Mon-Fri: 09:00-17:00

(18:00 during the first 3 weeks of
academic year)

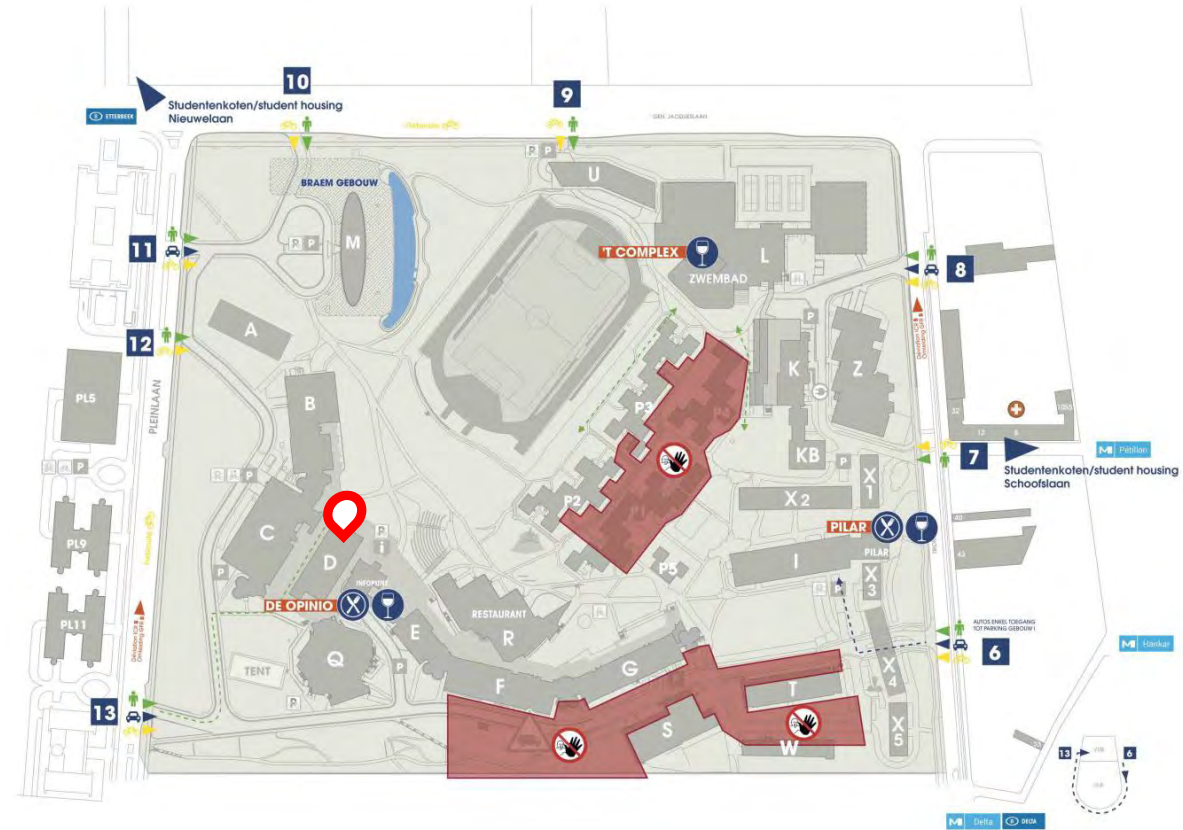
Tel: 02 2 629 2010
Email: info@vub.be

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 13 until October 13
 - Monday until Friday from 12.30 PM – 5 PM
- **Who?**
 - 5 different departments involved
 - Student administration
 - Study guidance
 - ICT
 - International Relations Office
 - Student Information

STARTING POINT



VUB DEPARTMENTS

STUDY GUIDANCE CENTRE

The Study Guidance Centre offers:

- information,
- counselling and
- training to help you study more efficiently

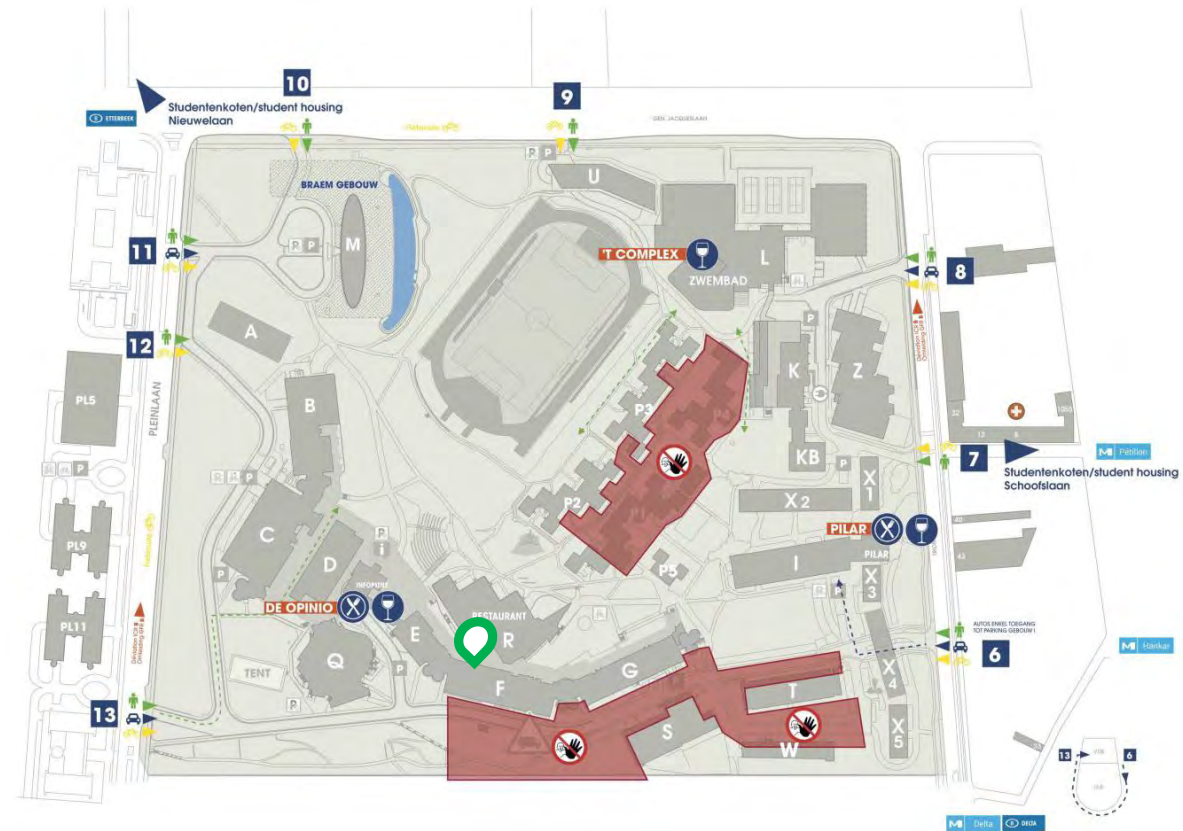
Contact us any time for personal advice, and check out our free workshops

Contact our Meeting Points: guidance@vub.be

▪ **Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus**
Building F - +32 2 629 23 06

▪ **Health Campus**
ILRC, Building A (room A.053C) - +32 2 477 44 81

▪ **Technology Campus**
By appointment - +32 2 629 23 06



VUB DEPARTMENTS

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

LIVING IN BRUSSELS



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

ADMINISTRATION IN BRUSSELS

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 €500
 - Studio on average €700



= Brussel en Ik (meaning, 'me')

ADMINISTRATION IN BRUSSELS

HOUSING – PRIVATE SECTOR

➤ ESN suggestions:

- <http://www.esnvubehb.org/finding-accommodation-brussels>

➤ Facebook:

- Marketplace
- <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

ADMINISTRATION IN BRUSSELS

HOUSING

➤ **Contract!**

- How to end the contract?
- Sublet?
- All costs (water, gas, internet, electricity, etc.) included?
- Deposit? On secured account or not?
- Registration for residence permit possible?
- Fire insurance?
- Third-party liability?



Check [our website](#) for more information

ADMINISTRATION IN BRUSSELS

REGISTRATION AT TOWN HALL

EU

Non-EU

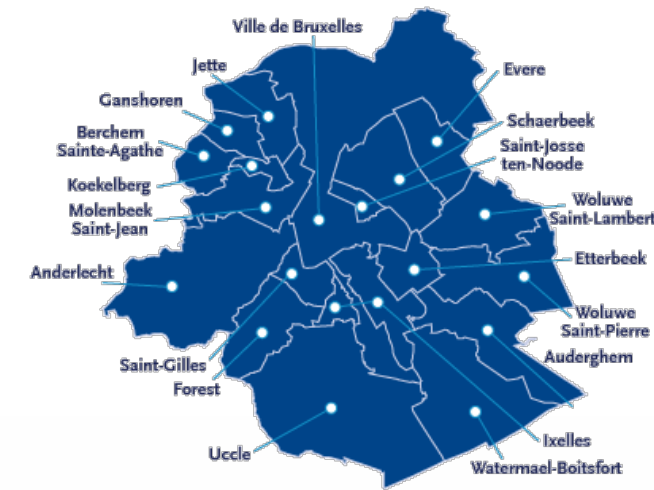
Short-type residence (max. 3 months)

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

- Report to District Town Hall ('Commune') for 'Inscription Request' (annex 15 with mention of national register number) after signing long term rental agreement
- Non-EU: 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

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

ADMINISTRATION IN BRUSSELS

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.

e.g. from the website
of the Town Hall of
Brussels 1000

[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





ADMINISTRATION IN BRUSSELS

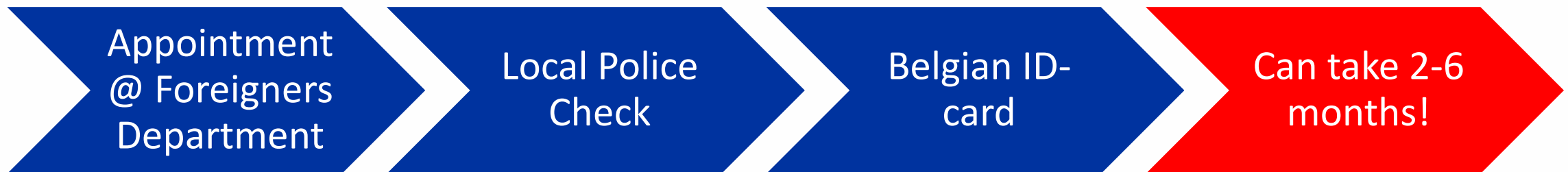
REGISTRATION AT TOWN HALL

Read more on [our website](#)

Required documents

- Rental contract
- 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-EU citizens: Proof of Solvency (scholarship, blocked account or annex 32 (= guarantorship procedure))

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



There can be different procedures depending on the Brussels District

ADMINISTRATION IN BRUSSELS

HEALTHCARE

Every person living in Belgium is advised to register with a national health insurance provider.
With a national health insurance you will benefit from reimbursements:

- ±70% general care
- 100% for critical diseases

PARTENAMUT OFFICE

- National health insurance
- Multinational, assistance and advice
- Communication in English
- Specialised in student matters



Read more on [our website](#)

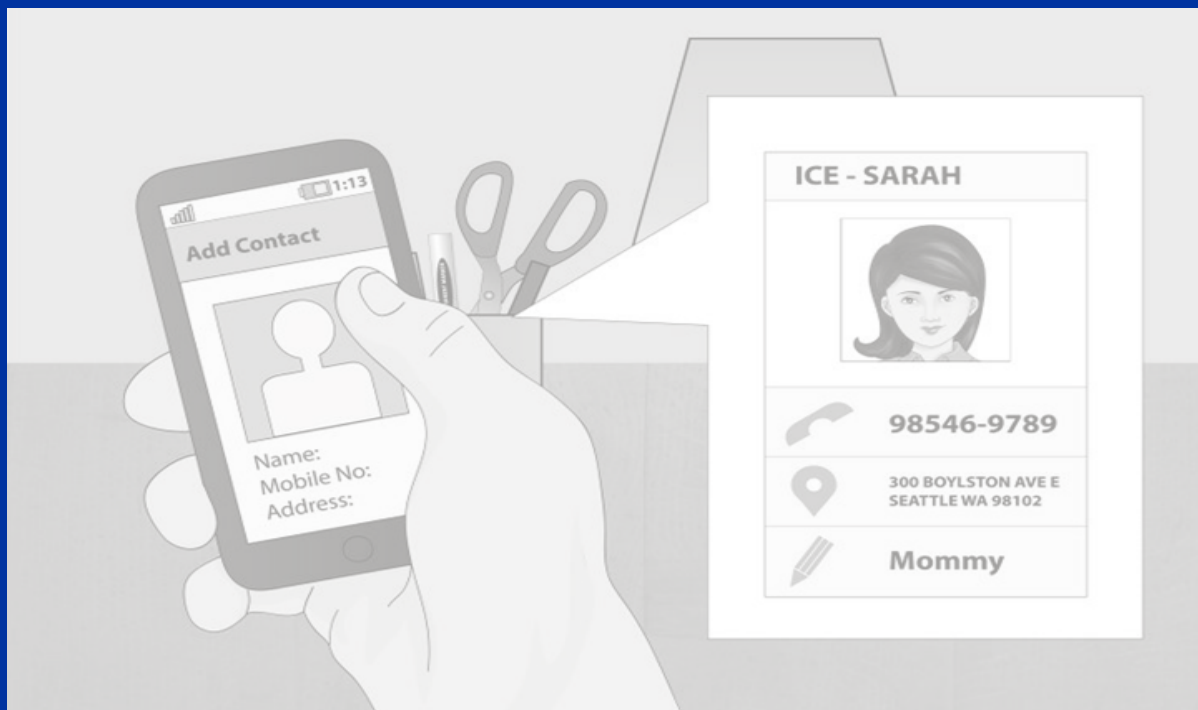
Partenamut office VUB
Pleinlaan 5 (International Relations Office)

Tuesday & Thursday:
10:00-12:30 + 13:30-16:00

In Case of Emergency
EU EMERGENCY NUMBER 112
POLICE 101

Campus Security:
02 629 11 11

In Case of Emergency – Contact



LIVING IN BRUSSELS

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 (optionally, Brupass XL).

5 MIVB/STIB 'Bootiks'

- Student yearly pass = €12 (until age 24)
 - VUB certificate MIVB/STIB needed
- Monthly pass, 10-trip cards
- STIB-MIVB PRRB 12MTH (Partena)
- Tickets at 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

TRAVEL 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.

TRAVEL IN EUROPE

ID card or Visa:
Valid multiple entry visa type D

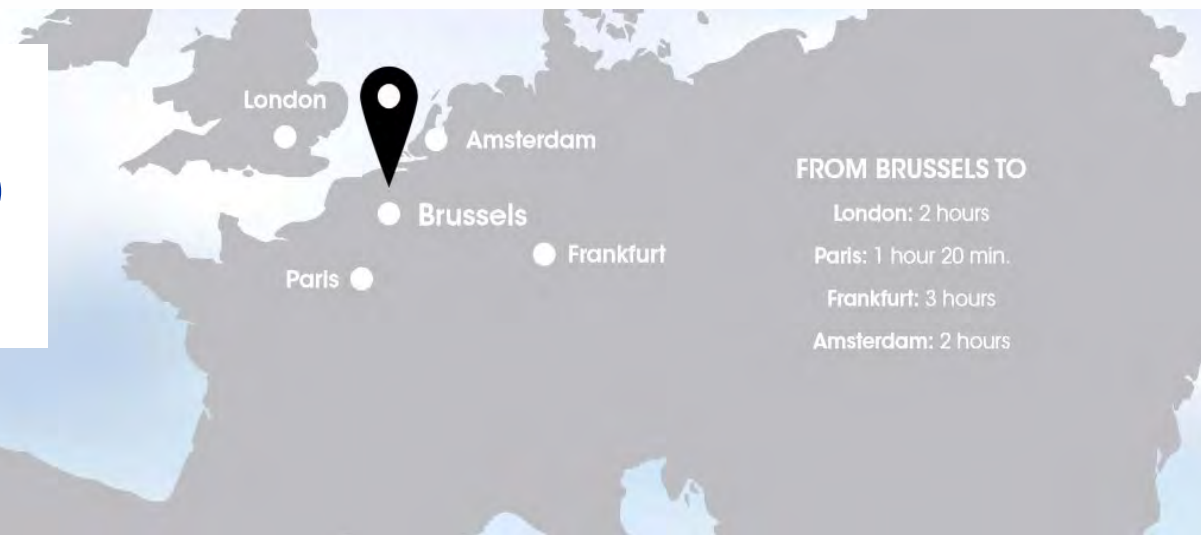
!! Check UK and multiple entry

!! Check Schengen Visa = travel in EU



National Rail = NMBS

www.belgiantrain.be/en



LIFE AT VUB

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 21 Sept, 15:00-17:00



- **Faculty welcome sessions** 20 Sept or 21 Sept, followed by the campus tour

- **Explore Brussels** (self-guided walking tour)



- **Exchange students campus tours** – Thursday 22 Sept, 14:00-15:00

- **"Help! I'm confused, they only speak chocolate and waffle"** – Thursday 22 Sept, 17:00-18:30



- **Kick-off Jette** (25 Sept), and **Kick-off Etterbeek campus**, Thursday 5 Oct, afternoon



- **Go Abroad Fair**, Thursday 19 Oct (incl. info session), 10:00-16:00

- **Go Abroad info session webinar**, Friday 20 Oct 12:00-13:00

- **Go Abroad Café**, 29 November from 12:00

COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS

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

<https://wearestudent.vub.be>

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 ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN ENGLISH



www.facebook.com/VUBrusse1 (Mostly in Dutch, sometimes in English)

www.facebook.com/VUBInternationalRelations (English only)



@vubrusse1 (both languages)

International Relations Office

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

Student Administration (OWSA)

- Processing of your application
- Attestations

QUESTIONS?

Faculty

- Academic-related questions

Student Info-point

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