**Free as a VUB’er**

At Vrije Universiteit Brussel, students, staff and alumni share a set of core values that connect us and guide our way. Not imposed principles, but a shared starting point for thinking, learning and working together.

**Free thinking and scientific practice**

Teaching and research at VUB are founded on freedom of thought, critical reasoning and scientific methods. Free inquiry means testing ideas against facts, not against beliefs. Our view of humanity stems from this too: humanistic, inclusive and rooted in equality and self-determination.

Everyone should be free to be and become who they want to be. Love, identity and life choices are personal matters, not dictated by external rules.

**Secular humanism as our foundation**

VUB is a secular humanist university. This means that our ethical choices are based on reason, science and humanity – not on religious, political or other dogmas. Religion is a personal choice, which we respect, but it has no role in teaching, research or policy.

**Commitment to the common good**

We actively engage in building a sustainable and just society: through climate action, equal access to education, and an open community where differences can exist without exclusion. At the same time, we guard the boundary between engagement and ideology. Commitment must never come at the expense of freedom or scientific integrity.

**Open debate, without taboos**

VUB is a place for genuine dialogue. Not a safe haven where difficult conversations are avoided, but ‘brave spaces’ where different ideas can be discussed – openly, respectfully, and sometimes challengingly.

Our shared values are a compass, not a straitjacket. They connect us in freedom, not in uniformity.