



IRMO EXCHANGE INFO SESSION 2025

Faculty of Social Sciences & Solvay Business School



General Introduction



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

10 REASONS TO STUDY ABROAD

- ❖ Obtain VUB credits for all approved academic coursework abroad
- ❖ Study & learn differently
- ❖ Brush up on your language skills
- ❖ Boost your employment opportunities
- ❖ Gain a global mindset

10 REASONS TO STUDY ABROAD

- ❖ Enhance your intercultural competences
- ❖ Learn about yourself & your culture
- ❖ Boost your self-confidence & independence
- ❖ Be adventurous & explore the world
- ❖ Friends for life from all over the world

VUB EXCHANGE CONTACTS

International Relations Office (IRMO)

- Practical info & support
- Grants

Ms. Louise Debeer
Ms. Paola Mureddu
Ms. Maria Giulia Modena

Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels

T: 02 614 81 01

Student Administration Center (OWSA)

- Exchange administration

Ms. Robin Van der Smissen

Exchange Coordinators Faculty

- Application & Selection
- Learning Agreement (Studies & Traineeships)
- Grade conversion
- Credit recognition

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[Go Abroad Page](#)



Exchange programme



VRIJE
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BUILDING BLOCKS OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES



Studies or Traineeship

- ▼ Always during & part of your VUB studies, never after graduation (excl. Erasmus+ Traineeship after graduation)
- ▼ English or local language? Make sure to check

Studies: course package at VUB is substituted by course package at partner institution

- You take courses and exams abroad
- Obtained credits abroad are recognised at VUB
- Grade conversion by Faculty (not always a 1:1 conversion)
- Destination depending on existing agreements

Traineeship: as part of your VUB programme that contains an internship (ECTS)

- host organisation selected by student and approved by exchange coordinator

DID YOU KNOW...?

- ▼ Grant – Included? Amount?
- ▼ Nationality is not a criteria, but you should be enrolled fulltime at VUB
- ▼ Tuition Fee Waiver
- ▼ Min – Max Duration
- ▼ Study Level
- ▼ European or non-European destination



EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS

Erasmus+
EBelgica



ERASMUS+ KA1



- ▮ Studies & Traineeships (During & After studies)
- ▮ More info per programme & exchange coordinator

Studies:

- ▮ min. 3 months (or time equal to 1 sem.) – max. 12 months

Traineeship:

- ▮ min. 2 months – max. 12 months



ERASMUS+ KA1 GRANTS



Studies: €369 - €419/month

- ▼ + €250/month top up for students belonging to the category of fewer opportunities
- ▼ + travel cost depending on distance (see table)

Traineeships: €519 - €569/month

- ▼ + €250/month top up for students belonging to the category of fewer opportunities
- ▼ + travel cost depending on distance (see table)

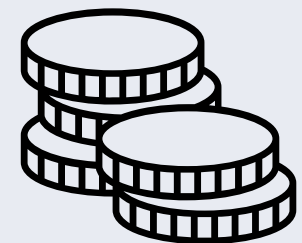
Tabel Travel Costs		
Distance band	Amount per participant	"Green Travel"
Between 10 – 99 km	€28.00	€56.00
Between 100 – 499 km	€211.00	€ 285.00
Between 500 – 1999 km	€309.00	€417.00
Between 2000 – 2999 km	€395.00	€535.00
Between 3000 – 3999 km	€580.00	€785.00
Between 4000 – 7999 km	€1,188.00	€1,188.00
8000 km and more	€1,735.00	€1,735.00

ERASMUS+ KA1 GRANTS



- ▼ Limited funding available: ranking by faculty based on faculty criteria
- ▼ If you receive an Erasmus+ grant → Max. funding of 6 months
 - With exception of students belonging to the fewer opportunities category

Exc. Traineeship after graduation
(apply externally, first-come-first served)



ERASMUS+ KA1 – GRANT TOP-UPS

GREEN TRAVEL

- ▼ If you travel in environmentally friendly way (e.g. train, bus, car pooling)
- ▼ Check greenerasmus.org for tips to make your mobility more sustainable



PARTICIPANTS WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES

= Students with

- ▼ Flemish study allowance (Vlaamse Studietoelage)
- ▼ Almost Flemish study allowance (Bijna-Beursstudenten)
- ▼ Disability recognised by VAPH (=Vlaams Agentschap Voor Personen met een Handicap)
- ▼ Working student : very specific conditions, different definition from VUB working student

INCLUSION SUPPORT

- ▼ Extra inclusion support for students with disabilities
- ▼ VUB can support pre visits to the student mobility destination - upon request (case-by-case)

ERASMUS+ TRAINEESHIP AFTER GRADUATION

- ▼ Traineeship After studies
- ▼ To apply before graduation
- ▼ Within 1 year after graduation
- ▼ “First Come, First served” principle for grant
- ▼ Traineeship in line with VUB diploma
- ▼ Nomination faculty needed





I want to go to I want to go on



GET INSPIRED!

ERASMUS+ GENERATION PORTAL

- ▼ Browse inspiring testimonials
- ▼ Grant simulator
- ▼ Info about life in host countries
- ▼ <https://erasmusgeneration.org/>

Inclusive Mobility portal

- ▼ Testimonials of E+ students with disabilities
- ▼ Info about host institutions
- ▼ <https://inclusivemobility.eu/institutions>

WHAT ELSE?

EBelgica

- ▼ Study exchange in French-speaking Belgium (e.g. ULB)
- ▼ Min. 8 weeks of scholarship (=between €400 - €1000 depending on situation)
- ▼ Faculty ranking if needed

Scholarship
amounts
may vary





NON-EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS

Generic Scholarship
Priority Country Programme
Asem WPP

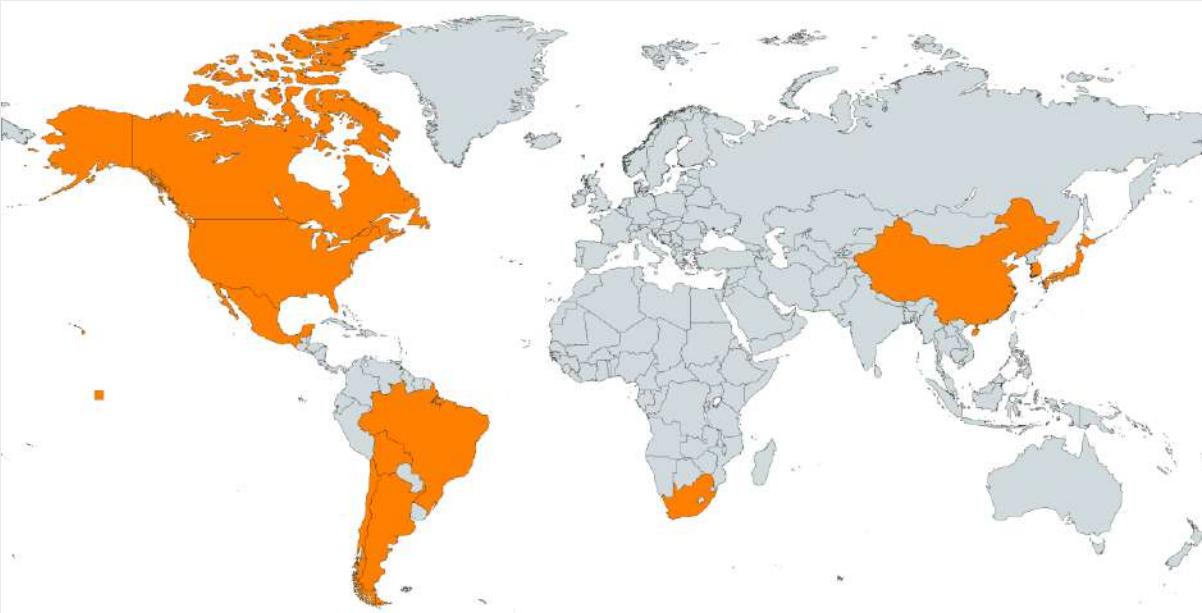


HOW DOES IT WORK?

European exchange	Non-European exchange
Studies: Agreement per programme	Studies: General VUB agreement (more effort)
Traineeship: host organisation to be approved by Exchange Coordinator	
Tuition fee waiver	
Possibility to apply for a grant	
Teaching language: English or local language (Spanish, Portuguese, etc.)	

NON-EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS FOR STUDY EXCHANGE

- ▼ General VUB exchange agreement
- ▼ [General offer](#) in Africa, Asia, North America and South America



GENERAL NON-EUROPEAN OFFER: Political Science

Brazil - Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM)

Canada - Université Laval

China - Fudan University

Japan - Kobe University

Mexico

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM)

Universidad Iberoamericano

Morocco - Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR)

South Africa - University of the Western Cape (UWC)

South Korea

Seoul National University (SNU)

Hanyang University

Korea University (KU)

Hankuk University

GENERAL NON-EUROPEAN OFFER: Sociology

Brazil - Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM)

Canada - Université Laval

China - Fudan University

Japan - Kobe University

Mexico - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM)

South Africa - University of the Western Cape (UWC)

South Korea

Hanyang University

Korea University (KU)

Hankuk University

GENERAL NON-EUROPEAN OFFER: Social Sciences

Brazil - Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM)

China - Fudan University

Japan - Kobe University

Mexico

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM)

Universidad Iberoamericano

Morocco – Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR)

South Africa

University of the Western Cape (UWC)

South Korea

Seoul National University (SNU)

Hanyang University

Korea University (KU)

Hankuk University

GENERAL NON-EUROPEAN OFFER: Communication Sciences

Brazil - Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM)

China - Communication University of China

Japan - Kobe University

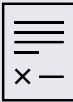
Mexico - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM)

South Korea

Hanyang University

Korea University (KU)

Hankuk University

Non-European grants	Generic Scholarship	Priority Country Programme	Asem WPP	VLIR-UOS travel trants
 What?	Studies & Traineeship	Studies & Traineeship	Traineeship	Work placement/traineeship or thesis
 Where?	All countries that are not eligible for Erasmus+	8 countries (Brazil, Chile, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, South Africa, USA)	Specific countries in Asia	24 countries in Africa, Asia & Latin America
 Duration?	Min. 1 month – max. 12 months	Min. 1 month – max. 12 months	Min. 1 month - Max. 6 months	Min. 1 month
 Application	IRMO sends application instructions after official nomination faculty	IRMO sends application instructions after official nomination faculty	2 calls during the academic year (will be communicated by faculty) Specific eligibility conditions	Application at VUB (invitation local supervisor & recommedation VUB supervisor), preparatory programme,
 Grant Amount	€700/month + travel grant €200/month top-up for fewer opportunities students Max. 6 months grant	€700/month + travel grant €200/month top-up for fewer opportunities students Max. 4 months grant	€700/month + travel grant Max. 2 months grant	min. €1500, max. €1750
 Selection	VUB selection • Grades • 25% of selected candidates receive Flemish study allowance	External selection	Externally, by raffle	Selection by programme coordinators and by the selection committee of the Advisory Council for Development Cooperation

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ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID



EXCHANGE GRANT (BUITENLANDTOELAGE)

- ▼ Managed by the study finance department
- ▼ Several conditions
 - ▼ Only for exchanges in which you complete part of your study curriculum
 - ▼ Calculated on the basis of the number of months abroad
 - ▼ Family indexed cadastral income may not exceed € 1.250
 - ▼ Not combinable with rent allowance
 - ▼ Nationality or residency requirements
 - ▼ Grant amount variable – Up to € 270/month
- ▼ Apply before departure
- ▼ More information on [Exchange grant | Vrije Universiteit Brussel \(vub.be\)](https://www.vub.be/en/study/exchange-grant)

An orange graphic element consisting of a vertical line with a horizontal segment at the top and a diagonal segment on the left, resembling a stylized '7' or a bracket.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE



HOW TO APPLY?



1. Attend
Faculty
Exchange
info session



2. Apply at
your faculty

- European destinations:
February 15, 2025
- Non-European destinations
December 1, 2025



3. Research
and
compose
study plan

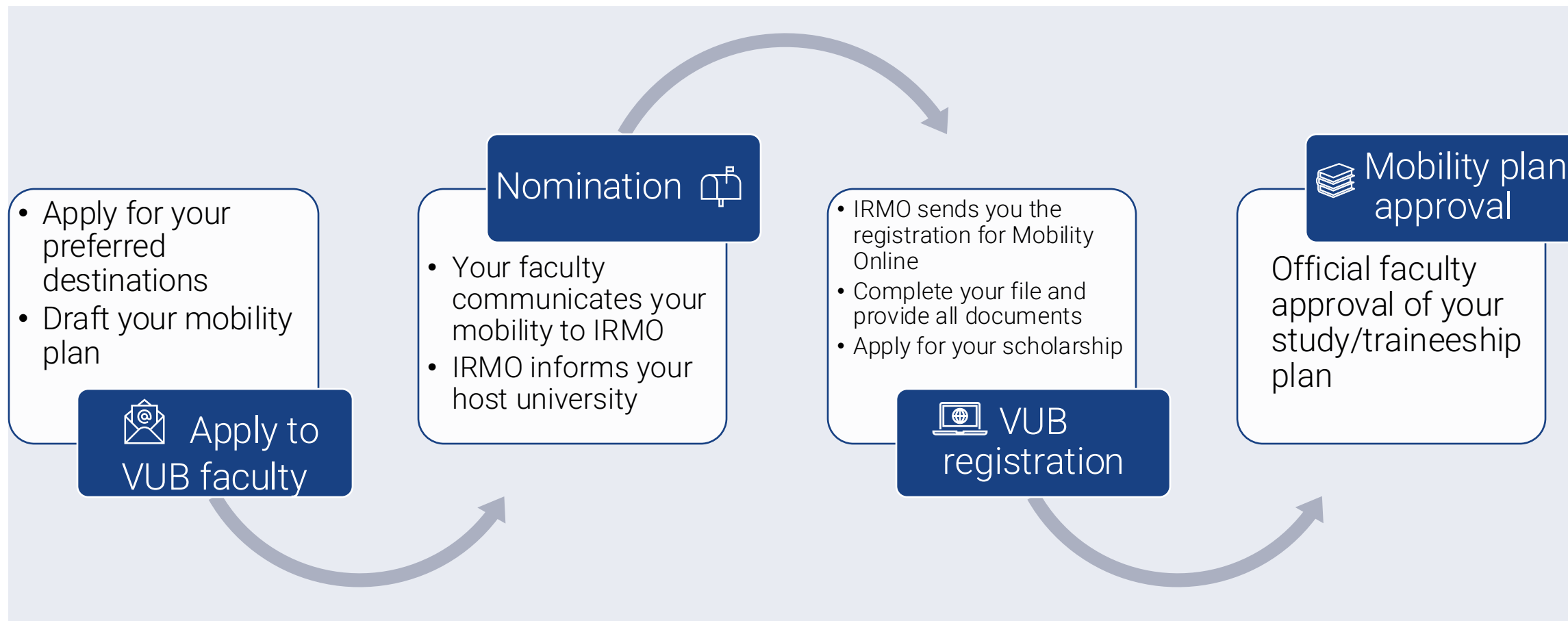
- Individual match for courses
- You will need the approval from your exchange coordinator



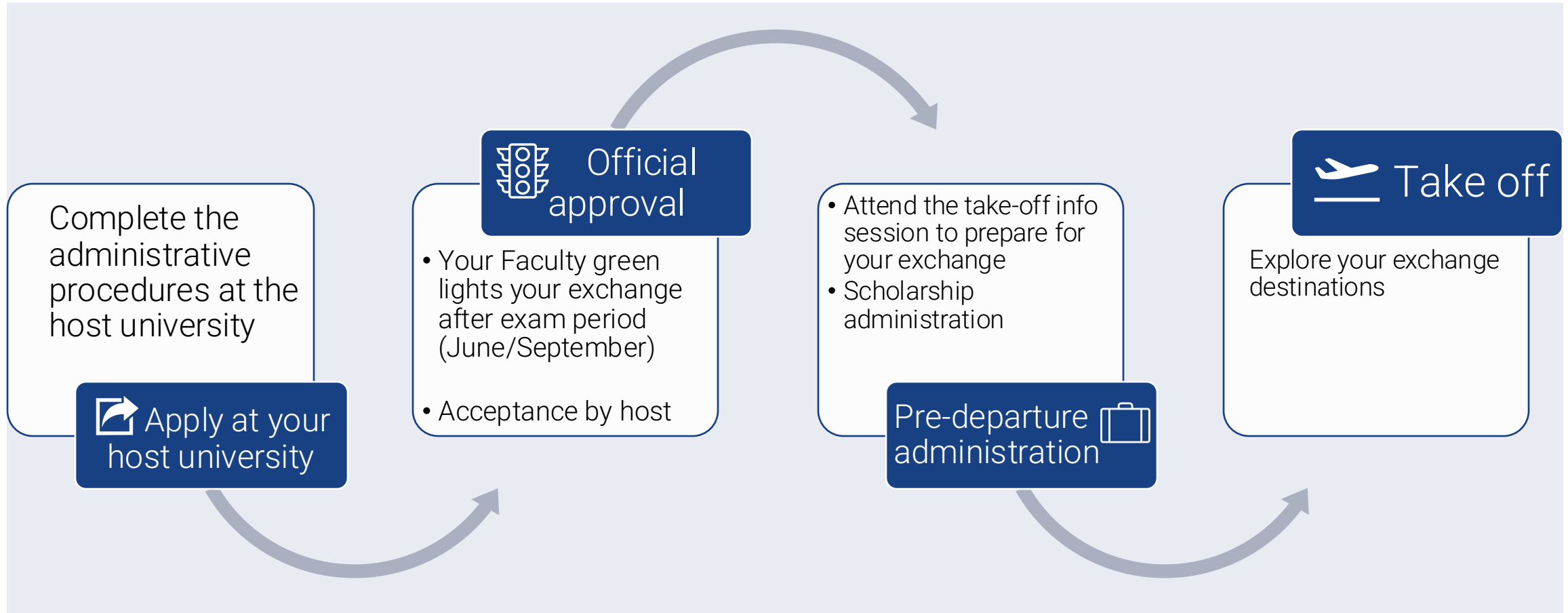
4. Grant
application

- Once nominated by your faculty towards IRMO, IRMO will inform you via email on specific deadlines

APPLY FOLLOWING VUB'S EXCHANGE PROCEDURE



APPLY FOLLOWING VUB'S EXCHANGE PROCEDURE





PRACTICALITIES



PRACTICALITIES

- ▼ Choice of host institution
- ▼ Required language knowledge
- ▼ Selection Procedure
- ▼ Registration & tuition fee
- ▼ Courses, exams & resit exams
- ▼ Recognition & credit transfer

PRACTICALITIES

- ▼ Insurance
- ▼ Childcare benefits (“Kindergeld”)
- ▼ Housing
- ▼ Finances
 - ▼ VUB Social, Legal & Financial Support Team (Team Studentenstatuut & Studiefinanciering)
<https://www.vub.be/en/studying-vub/practical-info-for-students/how-much-does-studying-cost/financial-support>

HEAR STORIES OF ADVENTURE
GET INSPIRED TO GO ABROAD YOURSELF

GO ABROAD *Café*



UPCOMING EVENT

▼ Go Abroad Café

- ☐ Go Abroad Café: November 25th @ LOUNGE
- ☐ Students sharing stories about their exchange
- ☐ Get into contact with other students who are currently on exchange





FACULTY SPECIFIC INFORMATION



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL



SOCIAL SCIENCES



Program specific information – Social Sciences

▼ Social Sciences, Sociologie, Politieke wetenschappen, Communicatiewetenschappen

▼ Exchange **3rd Bachelor**

- ▼ 1st semester: Social Sciences, Communicatiewetenschappen
- ▼ 1st or 2nd semester: Sociologie
- ▼ 1st and/or 2nd semester: Politieke wetenschappen

▼ Exchange **Master**

- ▼ 1st semester Communicatiewetenschappen, Communication Studies, Sociologie

➡ *You can't go on exchange in the Master Politieke Wetenschappen (NL) or the Master European and International Governance (ENG)*

Conditions to go on exchange

▼ General rules:

- ▼ **Bachelor:** Pass all courses of bachelor 1 and bachelor 2 and the courses you are currently enrolled for.
- ▼ **Master:** passed all courses of bridging, preparatory or bachelor program after June or September exam session and all courses you are enrolled for.
- ▼ If you are in an **individual program** the general rule is that you would need to have passed for all of your registered courses in the current academic year and for all 1st bachelor courses

▼ Exam specific rules:

- ▼ To get **nominated**: everyone can submit nomination dossier **unless** you already have 2 or more failed exams OR were (illegitimately) absent for 1 exam during the January Exam session

➡ *Easier said than done but try to pass for all your courses in the 1st exam session!*

Conditions to go on exchange

Conditions - overview

EXCHANGE DURING BACHELOR	EXCHANGE DURING MASTER
• Passed all courses of bachelor 1 and bachelor 2 • Passed all the courses you are currently enrolled for	• Passed all courses of bridging, preparatory or bachelor program • Passed all courses you are currently enrolled for

!! If you have more than 2 failed exams or were (illegitimately) absent for 1 exam during the January Exam session, you cannot submit a nomination dossier.

How can I apply for exchange?

EU Exchange

▼ EU Destinations

- ▼ submit [nomination dossier](#) by February 15, 2026
 - ▼ Pick 3 destinations in order of preference
 - ▼ Include a draft Learning Agreement for your most preferred destination
 - ▼ Send to mobility.es@vub.be by February 15, 2026

▼ !! different destinations for communication studies

- We do not require a transcript of records but your grades will be important when we rank to allocate destinations and scholarship funds!
- ▼ More information on the [Going Abroad Website](#)
- ▼ Contact: mobility.es@vub.be

DEADLINE – FEBRUARY 15, 2026



How can I apply for exchange?

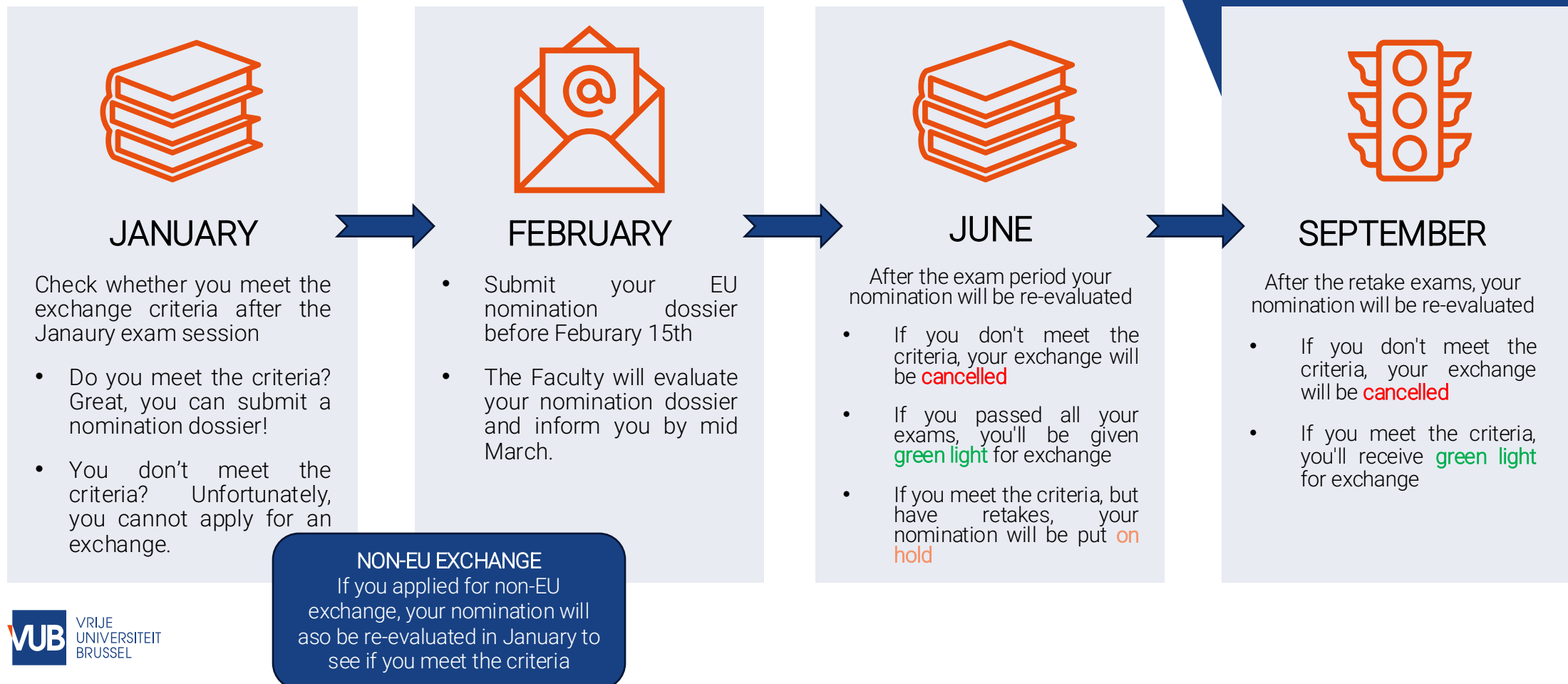
NON-EU destinations

- Submit nomination dossier by **December 1, 2025**
 - ▼ Include a draft of possible courses to take at your preferred destination
 - ▼ Complete the non-EU nomination forms by **December 1, 2025**
 - ▼ A re-evaluation of your nomination will be made **after** the January exam session
- Submit separate dossier for EU backup destination by **February 15, 2026**
- We do not require a transcript of records but your grades will be important when we rank to allocate destinations and scholarship funds!
- ▼ More information on the [Going Abroad Website](#)
- ▼ Contact: mobility.es@vub.be

DEADLINE - DECEMBER 1, 2025



Post-exam evaluations



EU DESTINATIONS

Social Sciences, Politieke Wetenschappen, Sociology

COUNTRY	CITY	UNIVERSITY
Austria	Salzburg – Sociology only!	Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg
Belgium	Brussels	Université Libre de Bruxelles
	Namur – Sociology only!	Université de Namur
France	Cergy (BA)	CY Cergy Paris Université
	Montpellier (BA)	Université de Montpellier
Germany	Berlin (BA)	Freie Universität Berlin
	Berlin	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
	Dresden	Technische Universität Dresden
	Leipzig	Universität Leipzig
Hungary	Budapest (BA)	Corvinus University of Budapest
Ireland	Cork (BA) - Pol Sc only!	University College Cork
	Dublin (BA) - Pol Sc only!	University College Dublin
	Dublin (BA) - Pol Sc only!	Dublin City University

EU DESTINATIONS

Social Sciences, Politieke Wetenschappen, Sociology

COUNTRY	CITY	UNIVERSITY
Italy	Rome – Pol Sc only!	La Sapienza Roma
	Aosta (BA)	Università della Valle d'Aosta
	Venice (BA) - Pol Sc only!	Ca'Foscari University of Venice
The Netherlands	Amsterdam (BA)	Universiteit Amsterdam
	Maastricht (BA)	Maastricht University
	Rotterdam (BA) - Sociology only!	Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam
	Utrecht (BA)	Universiteit Utrecht
Norway	Bergen – Pol Sc only!	University of Bergen
Poland	Warsaw – Pol Sc only!	University of Warsaw
Portugal	Porto (BA)	Universidade Fernando Pessoa
Romania	Cluj-Napoca (BA)	Universitatea Babes-Bolyai
Slovenia	Ljubljana	University of Ljubljana

EU DESTINATIONS

Social Sciences, Politieke Wetenschappen, Sociology

COUNTRY	CITY	UNIVERSITY
Spain	Barcelona – Pol Sc only!	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
	Barcelona	Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Sweden	Göteborg	University of Gothenburg
	Lund – Sociology only!	Lund University
	Stockholm (BA) - Pol Sc only!	Stockholm University
Turkey	Istanbul	Istanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi
	Istanbul (MA) - Pol Sc only!	Istanbul University
	Istanbul	Kadir Has University
	Izmir (BA)	Izmir University of Economics
United Kingdom	Belfast	Queen's University Belfast
	Coventry (BA)	University of Warwick
	Exeter	University of Exeter

EU DESTINATIONS

Communication Studies

COUNTRY	CITY	UNIVERSITY
Austria	Salzburg	Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg
Belgium	Brussels	Université Libre de Bruxelles
	Namur (BA)	Université de Namur
Czech Republic	Prague (MA)	Charles University
Estonia	Tartu (MA)	University of Tartu
Finland	Helsinki	University of Helsinki
Germany	Berlin	Freie Universität Berlin
	Bremen	Universität Bremen
	Dresden	Technische Universität Dresden
	Eichstätt (BA)	Katholische Universität Eichstätt
Italy	Padua	Università degli Studi di Padova
Ireland	Dublin	University College Dublin

EU DESTINATIONS

Communication Studies

COUNTRY	CITY	UNIVERSITY
The Netherlands	Nijmegen (BA)	Radboud University Nijmegen
	Rotterdam	Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam
Norway	Bergen	University of Bergen
Poland	Lodz	University of Lodz
Romania	Cluj-Napoca (BA)	Universitatea Babes-Bolyai
Turkey	Istanbul	Kadir Has University
	Izmir	Izmir University of Economics
United Kingdom	Exeter	University of Exeter
	Coventry (BA)	University of Warwick



QUESTIONS?



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