



SPREADING SCENARIO FIRST YEAR COURSES

Bachelor in Social Sciences

Context

According to the new educational decree that comes into force in academic year 2023-2024, students starting in the first year of a bachelor's programme are obliged to be enrolled in the entire standard study track of the first year. This consists of 60 ECTS credits.

Exceptions to this regulation are possible under certain circumstances:

- You have a 'special statute':
 - o You have a reflex-statute (students with a disability, refugees, pregnancy, informal care givers, student representatives)
 - o You are a working student and work at least 80 hours a month
 - o You receive a scholarship from the Flemish government and you work at least 16 hours per week
 - o You switch programmes during the academic year
- You are going through exceptional circumstances
- You already have a bachelor's or master's degree

Study load

If you are eligible for a reduced course load, you can choose how many credits you register per semester or per academic year. Keep in mind that if you are entitled to child allowance in Belgium (groeipakket/kinderbijslag), you have to register at least 27 credits.

What study load corresponds to one ECTS credit?

One credit equates to 25 to 30 hours of study. This includes following classes, processing your materials, doing readings, making papers, preparing for the exams... All your subjects consist of a specific number of credits. The more credits, the more demanding the subject. On average a full-time academic year consists of 60 credits, which equates to around 38 to 46 hours of studying per week.

Spreading scenarios

The study path counsellors for your programme have prepared a few spreading scenarios. These spreading scenarios can be used as such, but you can also make your own study path depending on your situation. When spreading your course load, you always need to keep in mind the advised prerequisites of each course.



Below you can find two proposals. More specifically,

- A spreading scenario with the aim of obtaining the bachelor's degree in 4 academic years
- A spreading scenario with the aim of obtaining the bachelor's degree in 6 academic years

We start with a spreading scenario of your first-year courses. What your study path will look like after completing the first-year courses, will depend on a number of factors:

- Your study progress
- Any curriculum changes
- Any changes in your personal situation

After your first academic year, we recommend you contact your study path counselor to put together your individual study path for the second academic year.

Need more information?

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact your study path counsellor. You can reach them at studypath.es@vub.be.

OVERVIEW FIRST YEAR COURSES

SEMESTER 1	CREDITS
Introduction to Communication Studies	6
Introduction to Political Science	6
Statistics I	6
Introduction to the History of Political Ideologies	6
Introduction to SPC Methodology	6
SEMESTER 2	
European History	6
Communicating Scientific Knowledge	6
Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics	6
Introduction to Sociology	6
Seminar Current Issues I	6



SPREADING SCENARIO: GRADUATION IN 4 YEARS

SEMESTER 1	CREDITS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
Introduction to Communication Studies	6	x	
Introduction to Political Science	6	x	
Statistics I	6		x
Introduction to SPC Methodology	6		x
Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics	6	x	
SEMESTER 2			
European History	6	x	
Introduction to the History of Political Ideologies	6	x	
Communicating Scientific Knowledge	6	x	
Introduction to Sociology	6	x	x
Seminar Current Issues I	6		x
			*
Total number of credits	60	42	18

* In year 2 (18 credits), another 24 credits can be complemented with BA2 courses.

SPREADING SCENARIO: GRADUATION IN 6 YEARS

SEMESTER 1	CREDITS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
Introduction to Communication Studies	6	x	
Introduction to Political Science	6	x	
Statistics I	6		x
Introduction to SPC Methodology	6		x
Introduction to Belgian Society and Politics	6		x
SEMESTER 2			
European History	6	x	
Introduction to the History of Political Ideologies	6	x	
Communicating Scientific Knowledge	6		x
Introduction to Sociology	6	x	
Seminar Current Issues I	6		x
Total number of credits	60	30	30