LEARNING ACCOUNT SYSTEM

The learning account system is a system used by the government to monitor students’ study progress and to stimulate students to make well-informed study choices. The learning account has a starting balance of 140 credits. Each academic year the number of credits that you registered for is deducted from your learning account. The credits that you receive a credit certificate for (passing grade), are earned back. The credits from course units you do not pass, are lost. The first 60 credits for which you gain a credit certificate are doubled. It doesn't matter if you gain them in the first year or during several years.

You can earn credits back by passing course units, but you can also lose credits when you don't pass course units. This way, the learning account reflects your study success. An insufficient learning account will have consequences for your study progress. In order to pass, you need to achieve a minimum of 50%, or 10/20, for the exam.

If you failed a course in first and/or second session, you can re-enroll the next academic year for the same course. Please note the total number of ECTS of the course will be deducted from your Learning account, as well as a charge per credit you re-enroll for.

Students who have a negative learning account balance, will get admitted to or get the possibility to continue the master insofar they meet the admission requirements. This means that possible study progress decisions (refusal to re-enrol or binding conditions) can apply.

HOW DOES THE LEARNING ACCOUNT SYSTEM WORK IN BRUFACE?

Every programme within Bruface contains 60 ECTS in the first Msc year. If you acquired 45 ECTS or more (i.e. passed your exams for a total of min. 45 ECTS), you can automatically enrol for the next academic year (i.e. the second Msc year). The maximum number of credits you can enrol for is 66 ECTS per year.

If you did not acquire a minimum of 45 ECTS, you will not be allowed to enrol for your Master thesis (worth 24 ECTS) in the second academic year. You can, however, enrol for courses (with the priority given to those courses from the first academic year).

More information about the learning account system can be found here: https://student.vub.be/en/learning-account

EXAMS

TIMING

Exams are organised at the end of the semester, therefore twice a year. Once in January and once in June. Should you have failed an exam, you will have the opportunity to retake the exam in the second exam session in late August/early September.

An exam can only be organised during the exam period, which is fixed in the joint calendar. No exceptions apply.
PASSING OR FAILING AN EXAM

Once you have passed an exam, your mark is final and cannot be retaken. If you have failed an exam (i.e. less than 10/20), you will automatically be registered and expected to retake the exam in second session.

Please note that only the last result will count towards your final academic records. For instance, if you achieved an 8/20 during the first exam session, but you did worse in second session and only achieved 4/20, the 4/20 will count towards your final records at the end of the year. The same accounts for an absent or if you decide to hand in the exam without filling anything in (0/20).

DELIBERATION RULES

Within the Bruface programme, small failures can be accepted and deliberated whereby the course appears to have been passed.

This rule will only apply if:

- You are in the position of obtaining a diploma (i.e. during your last Msc year)
- After you have completed the second exam session for the course

A grade will be considered as a small failure whereby it will be considered as passed when:

- Either 7/20
- Or 9/20 and 8/20
- Or 9/20 and 9/20

And only if you have a weighted average of minimum 55%.

WHAT IN CASE OF ILLNESS OR FORCE MAJEUR DURING EXAMS?

In case of illness or force majeur, you have the opportunity to organise a second exam date within the same session. Should you wish to do so, you will be requested to complete a form and to send the completed form to the examiner by mail with secr@ir.vub.ac.be in CC at the latest on the day of the exam. You need to provide a valid proof of force majeure (medical certificate, obituary notice,...) by email or by handing it in at the Faculty Secretariat within three working days.

The form can be found here: https://student.vub.be/en/ir#exams

MORE INFORMATION

Rules not present in the present document are subject to the exam rules of the institution where the student is enrolled. Aspects of disputes and refusal will be treated according to local rules.

More information at VUB: https://student.vub.be//ir#home