ORIENTATION DAYS 2020

WELCOME TO BRUSSELS. WELCOME TO VUB.

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL
YOUR PRESENTERS

Eugenia

Ann-Sophie

Isa

Kim

Eric

Sander
GUIDELINES

1. Q&A section is for general questions

2. Personal questions should be sent via email to: info@vub.be
AGENDA

- Overview: VUB
- International Relations Office
- Administration in Brussels
- Living in Brussels
- Life @ VUB
- VUB Departments
- VUB Student Organisations

Presentation on Student Site ➔ student.vub.be/en/international-student-life#arrive
OVERVIEW VUB
OVERVIEW VUB

8 FACULTIES

- Social Sciences and Solvay Business School (ES)
- Law and Criminology (RC)
- Psychology and Educational Sciences (PE)
- Languages and Humanities (LW)
- Science and Bio-engineering Sciences (WE)
- Medicine and Pharmacy (GF)
- Engineering (IR)
- Physical Education and Physiotherapy (LK)
VUB INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE
Who is who in the VUB International Relations office?
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

WHAT WE DO

• International project management
• International student support
• Study abroad opportunities (studies/internships/volunteerism)
• International initiatives by students
• Development cooperation
• International recruitment, marketing & communication

vub.be/en/international
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

CONTACT

General Questions:

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Specific Questions:

- Book meeting with Officer
- Pleinlaan 5
  1050 Brussels
- International.relations@vub.be
- +32 (0)2 614 81 01

All visitors will need to register upon entering the office
ADMINISTRATION IN BRUSSELS
BRUSSELS: A DIVERSE CITY WITH ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES
VUB Campus rooms, U-residence or in private sector
⇒ For U-residence: contact VUB International Relations Office
⇒ For private sector: contact Brik
⇒ For rooms on campus? Contact Student Housing

• Short stay/semester/year

• **Rents:**
  ⇒ Student room on average €400
  ⇒ Studio on average €600
BRUSSELS REGION: ADMINISTRATION

HOUSING IN BRUSSELS

- **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?

- **Is quarantine allowed in your student room?**
  - Check with landlord
  - Quarantine hotel suggestions
  - Grocery delivery services
  - VUBuddy system

[Student Site](#)

[FAQ Covid-19 at VUB](#)
BRUSSELS REGION: ADMINISTRATION

REGISTRATION IN BRUSSELS

Short-type residence (max. 3 months)
EU: No registration required

Non-EU:
• 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
EU + Non-EU:
• Report to District Town Hall (‘Commune’) for ‘Inscription Request’ (annex 15) after signing rental agreement
• Annex 15 can then, for example, be used for opening bank account
• ID-card compulsory

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

- Rental contract
- National ID/Passport with type D visa
- Registration certificate from VUB for 54 credits
- For EU citizens: Proof of Health Insurance
  For non-EU citizens: Proof of Health Insurance upon extension of the National ID
- For non-EU citizens: Proof of Solvability (scholarship, savings, loan, job)

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

Appointment @ Foreigners Department
Local Police Check
Belgian ID-card
Can take 2-6 months!

There can be different procedures depending on the Brussels District
In Case of Emergency

EU EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

POLICE 101

Campus Security:
Etterbeek 02 629 11 11
Jette 02 477 61 12

ICE – Contact
(In Case of Emergency)
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 at VUB

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

**Partenamut office VUB**

Pleinlaan 5 (International Relations Office)
Contact person: Mrs Areta Duka

Mondays
from 9:00-12:30 + 13:30-16:00

E-mail: vub@bepartena.be
PARTENA BUSINESS & EXPATS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
1.1. PARTENAMUT IN BELGIUM

Partenamut health insurance is an independent & a-political public (state) insurance provider with the following responsibilities:

- Reimburse health care expenses (doctor, medicines, hospital)
- Keep your budget
- Represented in Belgium: University, Colleges, companies etc.

Partenamut gives full support to international students
1.2. EUROPEAN STUDENTS

Registration for LESS 1 YEAR ⇒ No Monthly fee

- Reimbursement: doctor, pharmacy, hospital

Registration for MORE 1 YEAR ⇒ € 10.85/Month

- Reimbursement doctor, pharmacy, hospital
- Advantages for sport, opticians, etc.
1.3. NON-EUROPEAN STUDENT

Registration at District town hall (‘commune’) ⇒ € 10.85/month

- Reimbursement doctor, pharmacy, hospital
- Advantages sport, opticians, etc.
1.4. STUDENT STATUS

- Registration at District town hall (‘commune’) ⇒ €10.85/month
  - Reimbursement doctor, pharmacy, hospital
  - Advantages sport, opticians, etc.

- NO Registration at District town hall ⇒ €95.67/Quarter
  - Reimbursement doctor, pharmacy, hospital
  - Advantages sport, opticians, etc.
AT THE DOCTOR
AT THE PHARMACY
AT THE HOSPITAL
2.1. AT THE DOCTOR

- Pay full amount in cash
- Receive a medical attestation
- Fix your Identification sticker
- Send your claim to Partenamut
- Reimbursement within 7 days into bank account (even foreign bank account)
2.2. AT THE PHARMACY

Note: students without a Belgian ID card should ask pharmacy for specific form (Annex 30) to be reimbursed. Not all medication will be reimbursed.
2.3. AT THE HOSPITAL

CALL AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

SHOW YOUR BELGIAN ID CARD OR STICKER AT RECEPTION
2.4. EMERGENCY

- Go directly to the hospital via the emergency department
- Worst medical cases are treated first
- Family doctors also provide emergency services at night and during the weekend

*Do not make improper use of this service*

*Hospital has the right to refuse you*
3.1. BECOME A WEB MEMBER

www.partenamut.be

- To order documents: ID-stickers, address change, advantages
- To calculate your reimbursement
- To search for general information: rates, doctors, hospitals…
- Check your file

Students must have a national number to become a web member if they don’t need to come to the office in person
3.2. FOLLOW UP

www.partenamut.be

• You have questions:
  ⇒ vub@bepartena.be
  ⇒ 02 44 44 700
LIVING IN BRUSSELS
LIFE IN BRUSSELS

• Discover Brussels with a greeter (click link): volunteer guide
• Visit BELvue Museum and ‘Experience Brussels’-exhibition
• News/Newsletters:
  • Agenda (agenda.brussels/en/newsletter)
  • Be expat be brussels » email europe@visit.brussels
  • Bruzz.be
• EYCA card
• Arsène 50: half-price tickets for cultural activities
  ▶ arsene50.brussels/en
• VISITBRUSSELS: https://visit.brussels/en
  ▶ @ BIP – Place Royale
  ▶ @ City Hall – Grand Place
  ▶ @ Station Europe – Place Luxembourg
LIFE IN BRUSSELS
PUBLIC TRANSPORT

MIVB/STIB = public transport system in Brussels covering metro, tram and bus.

Student yearly pass = €50 (until age 24)
• VUB certificate MIVB/STIB
• 5 MIVB/STIB ‘Bootiks
• Monthly pass, 10-trip cards

Tickets at MIVB machines for single tickets or day passes.

⚠️ Trams in Belgium always get priority

Night busses are only on Thursdays and in weekends!
TRAVELLING IN BELGIUM & EUROPE

TRAVELLING IN BELGIUM

Visit: Ghent, Antwerp, Liège, Namur, Bruges, Mons, ...

ESN organises guided tours to different cities – check out their site and 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.

National Rail = NMBS

www.belgiantrain.be/en
ID card or Visa:
Valid multiple entry visa type D
!! Check UK and multiple entry
!! Check Schengen Visa = travel in EU
TRAVELLING IN BELGIUM & EUROPE

Travelling in Belgium:

• Local measures against COVID-19 may vary between different regions in Belgium. Always check the current rules before travelling to different cities or regions:
• Face masks are obligatory on public transport in Belgium
• In case of doubt: wear a face mask
  • The police can fine you for not wearing a mask/following the corona measures

Travelling in Europe:

• Always check the website of the Belgian government before travelling to another country:
  • https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en
• Follow the local measures against COVID-19 when abroad
• Follow the measures of the Belgian government when returning to Belgium
Put it on on the entire campus mask on indoors as well as outdoors.

1. Disinfect your hands.
2. Hold the mask by the elastic.
3. Place the elastic over your ears.
4. Make sure the mask covers your nose, mouth and chin. Wear it for max 8 hours.
5. Avoid touching it. If you do touch it, wash or disinfect your hands again.

VUB VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL
HUMANITIES, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING CAMPUS + HEALTH CAMPUS JETTE

FACILITIES ON 2 MAIN CAMPUSES

• Restaurant
• Library
• Bookshop
• ‘Crazy Copy’
• Sports facilities
• Computer rooms
• 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, physiotherapy, mental health care & gynaecology
  • **Health Campus Jette:** Group practice Patio
    • First appointment call 02/425 21 87
    • Bonaventurestraat 13, 1090 Jette
**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.ac.be

Course registration done by faculty

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**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

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Info session for exchange students:
Monday 7 September from 10am
"Sportmix" card - 28 different sports (€24.50)
Swimming Pool
Competitions
BasicFit Gym
HUMANITIES, SCIENCES & ENGINEERING CAMPUS

LANGUAGE LEARNING

**Academic Language Centre (ACTO)**
English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish & Modern Greek

- Campus Etterbeek, Building B (room B2.14)
- vub.be/acto
- Register before 1 October

**Semper CVO**
Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, etc.

- Campus Etterbeek, Building D, room D1.33
- www.cvosemper.be
- Courses start 16 September
Sustainable development is a central goal of the university, with 4 green campuses.

Throughout the university and across Belgium, **recycling is vital.** The following rubbish bags are used across Belgium, 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)
VUB DEPARTMENTS
STUDENT WEBSITE

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 the academic year)
Tel: 02 2 629 2010
Email: info@vub.be

Student Website: How What Where?

- Student.vub.be/en
- Your email address
- Your student card
- Student Self-Service
- Canvas
- Office 365
- Wifi: VUBnext & Eduroam
- Academic Calendar & course timetable
- VUB Restaurant & weekly menus.

STUDENT.VUB.BE/EN
The Study Guidance Centre offers:
• information,
• counselling and
• training to help you study more efficiently

Contact us any time for personal advice, and check what's going on in 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
HELP FOR STUDENTS

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

Student Website
STUDENT ORGANISATIONS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATION
STUDENT ORGANISATIONS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATION
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Student representation:
• Student Council
• ISP (International Student Platform)

Student organisations:
• ESN
• BSG
• And many more..
Q&A
**General Info Session 2020: Q&A**

**ORIENTATION DAYS/ campus tours**

*Q:* As a Belgian who follows an English-taught programme: when can I follow a tour on campus?
*A:* If you are enrolled in an English-taught MA programme, you can join the campus tours organised per Faculty on 17/09: [https://student.vub.be/onthaaldagen-orientationdays#orientation-days](https://student.vub.be/onthaaldagen-orientationdays#orientation-days) If you are enrolled in an English taught BA undergraduate programme, you will get a campus tour at the start of classes.

*Q:* During the orientation days, it is often stated that the event is taking place on TBC. Where is that?
*A:* It means that the location needs to be confirmed and info will be updated online before the event, or you will receive the information directly from your faculty by email. TBC = To Be Confirmed.

**COVID 19 and quarantine**

*Q:* If I come from a COVID-red country, and I need to do a 14 days quarantine, but also take a COVID test: how do I do this? Do I need to contact a GP, or go to a COVID test centre or wait for some SMS/indications from the authorities? *Q:* Is there any provision or facility to undergo COVID tests upon arrival for non-EU students in Brussels?
*A:* Taking a test is your responsibility upon arrival if you are coming from what is considered a ‘red zone’ or ‘orange zone’. Please remember to fill in a [Passenger Locator Form](https://www.vub.be/en/academicyear20-21#frequently-asked-questions) within 48 hours before the travel. If you fill in the passenger locator form correctly then the Belgian government will send you a text or e-mail with the various test centres. The Brussels Airport (Zaventem) mobile lab is not yet operational but it should be soon. The VUB medical practice is open. There are a few measures to guarantee everyone's safety. Make an appointment with VUB doctors by calling 02 897 19 50. To schedule a corona test you can mail ugpcorona@gmail.com. More general info available here: [https://www.vub.be/en/academicyear20-21#frequently-asked-questions](https://www.vub.be/en/academicyear20-21#frequently-asked-questions)

*Q:* What are the things students can do whilst in quarantine?

*Q:* Is it possible to visit rooms to rent during the first 14-days quarantine time after arrival?
*A:* It is not possible to visit rooms during quarantine. Please check ‘How to quarantine according to the Belgian Government’ in the FAQs: [https://www.vub.be/en/academicyear20-21#frequently-asked-questions](https://www.vub.be/en/academicyear20-21#frequently-asked-questions)

*Q:* Due to COVID-19, is it possible for us to quarantine in the dorm rooms?
*A:* The VUB housing department has foreseen this possibility but rooms may not be available anymore. Updated info on VUB housing is available here: [https://student.vub.be/en/housing#housing-in-brussels](https://student.vub.be/en/housing#housing-in-brussels). For all other types of accommodation you need to check with the agency/landlord.
Q: After I take the COVID test and the result in negative, do I still have to stay in quarantine?
A: You can only leave quarantine earlier when you have the explicit permission from a doctor.

Q: If I have to stay at the hotel in quarantine for 14 days, then how can I finish the registration in 8 days? Or find a room in time?
A: If you come from a red zone then quarantine is mandatory for 14 days. You can only leave quarantine earlier when you have the explicit permission from a doctor. Registration of courses can be done online (see the section courses), the other admin procedures can be completed when the quarantine period is over.
You can of course try to make appointments with the different offices to do all admin procedures once you end the quarantine.

Q: Is it possible to open a bank account, to start the Annex15/Belgian ID process, or to buy a sim phone card, during the 14 days of quarantine?
A: As mentioned above, quarantine is mandatory for 14 days. You can only leave quarantine earlier when you have the explicit permission from a doctor.
You can of course try to make appointments with different offices to start all admin procedures once you end the quarantine.

EDUCATION/ COURSES

Q: Will the courses for the academic year of 2020/2021 be held in person or online?
Q: Will some courses have mandatory presence or all lessons will be available online?
A: The VUB focus is on blended learning: a mix of digital and campus education in which priority is given to education on campus. You can find all info here: https://www.vub.be/en/academicyear20-21#education

Q: When are we supposed to register for our classes?
A: You can register for your courses from 17 August onward. Deadline for registration is 15 October. Only exchange students don’t have to register their courses.

Q: The timetables for classes are going public on 14 September? The start of classes is on 21 September?
A: Correct. Only Bruface students start before 21 September.

Q: When you enter in first year BA, do you have to enrol yourself in courses? If so, how?
Q: Should we register courses for the whole year or just register courses for the first semester?
A: If you are a degree-seeking student, you should register courses before 15 October yourself; 2nd semester courses have to be registered before 28 February 2021. We recommend registering all your courses at the start of the academic year, so that you don’t forget to do so during the second semester. https://student.vub.be/en/course-registration#deadlines

NB! exchange students do not have to register their courses, but have to complete the Learning Agreement in Mobility Online. After approval of this Learning Agreement, the faculty will then register these courses.
Q: **Does the online enrolment have a date limit? Because I find I difficult completing mine.**
A: Yes, for the first semester the deadline for course registration is 15 October. [https://student.vub.be/en/course-registration#deadlines](https://student.vub.be/en/course-registration#deadlines)
For any issues, just head to our Student Information (Infopunt in Dutch) and ask them, or send an e-mail to [info@vub.be](mailto:info@vub.be).

Q: **Is something wrong if I have not yet received the file for payment?**
Q: **Is it possible to go and talk to someone in the administration regarding tuition?**
A: You should have received a tuition fee invoice in PDF format via your VUB e-mail address. Please check this webpage: [https://student.vub.be/en/tuition-fee-more-info#tuition-fee-payment](https://student.vub.be/en/tuition-fee-more-info#tuition-fee-payment)
You can contact the student administration at [studentadministration@vub.be](mailto:studentadministration@vub.be) for more information.

Q: **I am an exchange student. Right now I cannot travel to Brussels and am thinking to start virtually and to move to Brussels in October. What will be the procedure for enrolment and others?**
A: Exchange students do not have to register their courses, but have to complete the Learning Agreement with changes in Mobility Online (deadline 15 October). After receiving the approval of the Learning Agreement, the faculty will then register these courses. More info will be provided on Monday 7 September at 10:00 during the Exchange Students Info Session (to register: [https://student.vub.be/onthaaldagen-orientationdays#orientation-days](https://student.vub.be/onthaaldagen-orientationdays#orientation-days)). Classes will start from 21 September (exception: Bruface students). In general, it’s ok for you to follow online courses only. Nevertheless it’s good to let the Faculty know when you are planning to come and to enquire if and which courses are taught online. Many courses will be offered with a blended learning formula: a mix of digital and on-campus education. If you start the exchange online in your home country, you may need a document stating the period that you’ve attended classes online from home. Please contact [exchange.incoming@vub.be](mailto:exchange.incoming@vub.be) if that’s the case.

Q: **How do I know which classes I need to register for?**
A: It depends if you are an exchange student or a regular international student. Course registration is open but the procedure is different. If you are an exchange student, you can pick courses mentioned in your study field(s) by looking at this page: [https://www.vub.be/en/exchange#study-fields](https://www.vub.be/en/exchange#study-fields) If you are a regular student then you need to see what courses you can choose within your study programme.

Q: **Which department should a student contact if there are questions regarding the timetable? eg. two classes at the same time**
A: You should contact the Faculty. Please note that if you are an exchange student it’s up to you to pick courses that don’t overlap and that you can attend. Exchange students can contact their VUB Exchange Coordinator.

Q: **Do we need to register for courses after drawing up the learning agreement (only for exchange students)?**
A: If you are an exchange student, you’ll need to complete the Learning Agreement (LA) first. When that is approved, the Faculty will help with registration. [https://student.vub.be/en/course-registration#who-registers](https://student.vub.be/en/course-registration#who-registers)

Q: **Is it necessary to register for 54 credits to get the residence permit from the town hall? We were informed that due to COVID, we can register for subjects for only this semester.**
A: Non-EEA students need to take at least 54 ECTS for a full academic year (and pass at least 54 ECTS of exams), in order to prolong their ID after the academic year.

**Q:** Do I have to register for all the courses in both the semesters, or can I register per semester? And if I can register for one semester at a time, do I receive a registration certificate for the whole academic year, or just that semester? Since you stated the residence permit needs a minimum of 54 credits.

A: Registration can be done per semester (or directly for the entire academic year), but enrolment is for the full academic year in any case. This means the enrolment certificate is valid for the whole academic year, regardless of which courses you have already registered.

**Q:** When does the academic year for M.sc. in Management start? Till now I haven’t received my certificate yet.


**Q:** The tuition fee related to the semester credits is going to be paid separately?

A: Depending on when you register for your courses you will receive either one or two invoices for your tuition fee. Most students will receive two invoices.

**ID card/ Town hall**

**Q:** Regarding the Belgian ID-card, even if I am an EU student (staying for 1 semester only), I have to do it as well?

A: Yes, 6 months is considered a long-type residence. Therefore, both EU + Non-EU students must register for ID. Please refer to the slides about registration in Brussels.

**Q:** Why do I need/want a Belgian ID card? (registration for residence slide). Isn’t an ID card from my home country enough?

A: It’s compulsory to register and, as a consequence, you will get a Belgian ID. What we call ‘ID’ is in fact a permit of residence. If you are an EU/EEA national, you will get an ‘E’ card. You will keep your national ID. Please note that the ‘E’ card CANNOT be used for travels. You must travel with your passport or national identity card.

**Q:** If I live in a family house, do I have to have a Belgian ID?

A: Yes, you still need to go through the registration process at the town hall.

**Q:** Can I apply early online at the town hall for the ID process?

A: If you already know in which district (or other town) you will be living, then you can try to contact the Population Service/Foreigners Office at the town hall of your district. Each district has its own website and can be checked via this page (NL or FR): [http://pouvoirs-locaux.brussels/fr/acteurs/les-communes](http://pouvoirs-locaux.brussels/fr/acteurs/les-communes)

**Q:** Can you help us when it is necessary to register at the Town City Hall if they do not speak English?

A: We unfortunately don’t offer this kind of support to students. Several town halls do have personnel who speak English at the Population Service/Foreigners Office. You need to double check at the specific town hall you’ll go to.
Q: Does the registration at the local town hall require your domicile address to be in that district? Or can it still be your home address abroad?
A: Yes, the registration at the town hall requires you to declare a (temporary) residence in a certain district where you will be living in Belgium. It can even be your friend’s house but you need to provide an address. The police will verify that you actually live there, even temporarily.

Q: For the ID card I will need proof of registration at a Belgian University. How can I apply for this or will I receive this automatically with my student card?
A: You will receive your enrolment certificate together with your student card. For info about certificates, have a look at this page: https://student.vub.be/en/student-administration#certificates-and-requesting-attestation

Q: If I stay in Leuven city, I will contact them instead of Brussels City Hall?
A: Yes, you will contact the Leuven town hall.

Q: If I had to prove my solvability to get a visa, will I have to do that again for a Belgian ID card?
A: The documents that are needed for a Belgian ID card depends on your local city town hall. Please check their web page for more information on what you will need to bring. An overview of addresses and contact details about Brussels Capital Region city town halls can be found here (NL and FR only): http://pouvoirs-locaux.brussels/fr/acteurs/les-communes

BANK

Q: Where do I open a bank account?
A: At any bank in Brussels. ING has quite some experience with students. There is an ING branch at the Cimetiere D'Ixelles, some 15 minutes’ walk from campus. More details: ixelles.elsene-univ@ing.be and via https://www.ing.be/en/retail/branches

Q: Since the local ID can take up to 2-6 months, can I open my bank account with only annex 15?
A: Opening a bank account with an annex 15 is not always possible. ING has experience with students, but other banks with less student experience can refuse to open an account. More details on ING: ixelles.elsene-univ@ing.be and via https://www.ing.be/en/retail/branches

Q: How do I get third-party liability insurance and fire insurance?
A: Banks offer insurances. You can ask them when you open a bank account. You can look up international insurance providers.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Q: Can I remain a member of my German health insurance or do I need another one? (I'm doing a full masters at VUB)
A: If your German private insurance covers you in Belgium for the whole duration of the Master's programme, then it should be fine. Otherwise, given the duration of the Master's (more than 1year), you may have to register for health insurance here. Please refer to VUB
Partena office for this specific issue: vub@bepartena.be. The Partenamut office at VUB is at Pleinlaan 5 (International Relations Office) and is open on Monday, 9:00-12:30 + 13:30-16:00. This page explains more: https://student.vub.be/en/insurance#vub-insurance

**Q:** If I am an EU student, is the European Health Insurance Card enough?  
**A:** Only for a short stay: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6WmEeDCBnI&t

**Q:** Can we have our own health insurance card until the European Health Insurance card will be issued?  
**A:** Please refer to VUB Partena office for this issue: vub@bepartena.be

**Q:** The Health insurance should be bought in Belgium or the home country for non-EU students?  
**A:** As a non-EEA student, you must have health insurance. VUB works with Partenamut. Please contact them for more information: vub@bepartena.be The Partenamut office at VUB is at Pleinlaan 5 (International Relations Office) and it is open on Monday from 9:00-12:30 + 13:30-16:00.

**Q:** As non-EU student, I can only get registered health insurance after 14 days of quarantine right? Or is there any chance I can register earlier?  
**A:** If the quarantine is mandatory when entering Belgium from your country, it should be respected. You can contact vub@bepartena.be for more info on online procedures. For more info on quarantine please check the FAQs testing & quarantine: https://www.vub.be/en/academicyear20-21#frequently-asked-questions

**Q:** If I want to do an internship can I ask the university to cover my health insurance?  
**A:** No, the health insurance is always your responsibility. As a guest student you will be covered for certain things by the VUB insurance. More info can be found here: https://student.vub.be/en/insurance#vub-insurance

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**HOUSING**

**Q:** Is there still a chance to get a VUB room for this academic year?  
The deadline for VUB rooms may have passed. You can try to contact them about waiting lists: https://student.vub.be/en/vub-rooms#allocation-conditions-&-priorities

**Q:** Due to COVID-19, is it possible for us to quarantine in the dorm rooms?  
**A:** At VUB dorms, yes, it is possible. The housing department has foreseen this possibility but you should contact them directly for more information and arrangements making clear what your country of origin is and if it requires you to be in quarantine. At U-Residence, there should be no problem if you have a single room. For double rooms the situation may be different. For all types of accommodation you need to ask the housing service/landlord.

**Q:** The local townhall is different according to where the housing is located?  
**A:** Yes, there are 19 districts in the Brussels Region, and each has a townhall. So, if you find accommodation in Elsene/Ixelles, you will go to the Elsene/Ixelles townhall. If you’ll live in Etterbeek, you’ll go to Etterbeek town hall etc.
Q: My first year is in Ghent. Are the room policies the same in Brussels and Ghent?
A: You need to check Ghent housing policies.

Q: Is the rent contract obligatory for residence permit, or it is ok to live with family or friends?
A: It's ok to live with family, as long as you are able to provide a temporary residence address for the registration at the town hall.

Q: Is it possible for the VUB to mediate and help international students to find a student room in case of they can't?
A: VUB does not mediate for rental contracts, but can offer an overview of accommodation possibilities where other VUB students have stayed in the past (in Brussel Capital Region). An overview is here: https://student.vub.be/en/housing#housing-in-brussels

Q: Let’s suppose I find a room in private sector: how to check its liability? Is there any record of "bad landlords"?
A: An overview of housing opportunities that have been deemed trustworthy and where VUB students have stayed in the past, can be found here: https://student.vub.be/en/housing#housing-in-brussels. Perhaps you may want to interact with other international students on the VUB International students facebook page and ask about their experiences? https://www.facebook.com/groups/118798671450

TRAVEL

Q: Am I able to go to other European countries before I get my residence card? With my Visa D, even with COVID?
A: With a type D student visa, students can travel within the Schengen area for 3 months after arrival. After that they need to have the ID card from the municipality. If after 3 months they still don't have the ID card they can no longer leave the country until they do. Travelling outside Schengen remains possible as long as the visa is valid and is the MULTI ENTRY type. Returning to the home country (and coming back) is possible. Travelling to other non-Schengen countries (UK, USA, etc.) is possible but may require a visa for that country. Most countries deny a visa as long as the student does not have their Belgian ID card (fear of illegal immigration). Currently, due to COVID, before travelling you should follow the instructions on the website of Foreign Affairs. You need to check if you are allowed to travel/return to/from certain countries: https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en. From 1 August, all persons returning to Belgium and all persons travelling through Belgium who are staying at least 48 hours must fill in an identification form (Passenger Locator Form). You can find this form here.

Q: American tourists are not allowed in European countries right now because of COVID, but am I allowed to travel because I have a Visa D?
A: Travelling for study purposes is deemed to be an essential mobility and it is allowed to travel to the host institution. Tourism is not.

WORKING

Q: If I am a citizen of the EU, can I get a job without a Belgian ID?

Q: Am I allowed to work with a visa D?
A: Yes. You need a Belgian social security number to be able to work. BA and MA (where there are classes to attend) students are allowed to work max. 20 hours a week but the working hours must not clash with classes. PhD students can work full-time provided the work is related to their PhD (so, not doing the dishes in a restaurant). Students don’t need a work permit. Students can work under the advantageous system of “student jobs” for max. 475 hours a year. If they work more they (and the employer) loose the advantages and pay full social security contributions like anyone else.

**LANGUAGE COURSES**

Q: Are the language courses at the 2 centres free for students?

**SPORT**

Q: Is there a swimming training club?
A: All info about sports can be found here: [https://www.vub.be/en/sport](https://www.vub.be/en/sport)

Q: About the Sportmix, is the 24.5 euros a year price or a monthly price?
A: It’s 24.5 euros for the whole academic year. You have to add €8.30 for the sports card which will be valid for 5 years.

Q: Are the sport sessions separated for women and men or mixed? And how do you take part in the sport competitions?
A: All is mixed. BasicFit has a women-only club but not VUB. For competitions, you can find more info: [https://www.vub.be/en/sport/](https://www.vub.be/en/sport/)

**OTHER**

Q: How do I receive my student card?

Q: Can I get a SIM card from a local operator before receiving annex15?
A: Europeans travelling within the EU can roam the same as at home and pay domestic prices for data. If are a non-EU student or you want a Belgian SIM, you need to show proof of ID (e.g. passport) to buy a prepaid card. You need to check with the different providers (Orange, Proximus, Mobile Vikings, etc.).
ORIENTATION DAYS 2020

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND SEE YOU SOON!