I wanted to improve my English, and always wanted to go on an Erasmus+ exchange in the UK. On top of that, my parents encouraged me to do this as well. I attended the Go Abroad Fair, but it was the Go Abroad info session at my faculty that sealed the deal.

The most obvious difference I noticed between studying in the UK and in Belgium was the different types of assessment. In Belgium we mainly get graded through written and oral exams. In the UK, writing essays is the most common form of grading. Studying abroad has made me realise how much more there is to see in the world. It’s also made me appreciate the differences between the educational systems.
What where the three key decision-makers that means ‘Yes, I’m doing this’?
1. I’m studying languages, so studying abroad is a good way to improve your target language
2. It is a once in a lifetime experience
3. It looks good on your CV (for job opportunities)

What were the top 5 things you’ve learned while being abroad?
1. I’ve learned how to write essays, since it is the most common way of assessing students here
2. Since there aren’t a lot of contact hours and students are expected to study and work for school during their free time, I’ve become a lot better at time management
3. There are more cultural differences between Belgium and the UK than I expected, even though the distance between the two countries isn’t that big
4. It’s easier to meet new people and new friends than I originally thought it would be
5. I’ve become more open and social because of the fact that when I first arrived here I didn’t know anyone. So in order for me to make friends, I had to walk up to people and introduce myself.

Would you recommend students to go and venture out into the world?
“If you are still in doubt about going abroad: JUST DO IT! It’s an unforgettable experience!”

Will you interact more/differently with international students on campus at VUB after this experience? Yes, now I know how the different educational systems vary considerably from country to country, and how difficult it is at times to adapt to the way of teaching at the receiving institution.