1 Where to find my timetable and classroom?
To check your course/schedule consult the website below. The course schedules have just been published now: https://student.vub.be/en/timetables-and-exam-schedules#timetable

2 How is the payment of the tuition fee processed?
The student administration department will process your invoice soon. Please consult your mailbox regularly. More info on tuition fees, payment and calculation please visit this website: https://student.vub.be/en/student-administration#tuition-fee

3 How to get a parking pass inside the campus? Can I park inside?
Please find the VUB parking policy via this website: https://www.vub.be/en/access-and-parking#regulations

4 What is the procedure for educational leave for working students?

5 What is the procedure for exemptions of courses?
This is faculty-specific info. Please consult your faculty and ask for an application form for exemption of courses.

6 Could I have a student studio for my partner and I? He is not student
Unfortunately VUB rooms are only available for students. Please find the allocation conditions via this website: https://student.vub.be/en/vub-rooms#allocation-conditions-&-priorities

7 How do you know where the auditorium/aula/classroom is? E.g. on my timetable it says “Q.C” but I don’t know where this is located on the campus?
A campus map for the Etterbeek campus can be found via this link https://www.vub.be/en/campus/brussels-humanities-sciences-engineering-campus

8 Will there be any help registering preparatory programmes?
VUB installed a helpdesk to register courses online: https://student.vub.be/en/helpdesk-course-registration#tips

9 My programme is an Inter-university programme. My first year is at UGent. Where do I need to register at the town hall?
Registration in the town hall is always done in the city (also called ‘commune’ in French) where you will live during the academic year. E.g. a VUB student living in Gent needs to apply for a residence card at Gent town hall. If you live in Brussels, you need to apply for a residence permit at the town hall where you live in Brussels (one of the 19 districts)

10 Why many accommodations don’t allow a domiciliation?
There are some legal / financial aspects involved in favour of the landlord when domiciliation is not possible. We strongly advise all long-term students to find accommodation where you can have a
domiciliation. Please use the https://brik.mykot.be/en website to look for housing. This is a trustworthy website.

11 How and when should we apply for a health insurance?

If you are a non-EU student, you can apply for health insurance upon arrival in Belgium. At the VUB International Relations office (IRMO), there is an officer present from PARTENA (independent broker) on Tuesdays and Fridays. For EU students, you can arrive with your European Blue card and have the possibility to switch to a Belgian health insurance upon arrival. More info: https://student.vub.be/en/insurance#health-insurance

12 What does ‘certificate of good conduct’ mean when registering at a town hall?

It's a police certification that you can obtain in your home country that certifies that you don’t have a criminal record. Students who require a visa should also have declared this in order to obtain a visa to travel to Belgium.

13 The rental contract must have my name?

Yes. A rental contract should have your name on it as mentioned in your passport, and/or ID-card. You cannot register in the town hall and apply for an ID-card with a rent contract in the name of a different person.

14 What about students who live in VUB student housing? Will the local police come here too?

Yes, also at VUB residences the police can come and check if you actually live there.

15 Will there be an issue if it takes up to 6 months to get the Belgian residence card? What documents do I need to declare for the residence card?

As soon as you start the registration process in the town hall, you will receive a document called Annex 15. This document shows you are in the process of registering for a residence card. It is legally mandatory to register when you reside for more than 3 months in Belgium. You need a registration certificate, rental contract, national ID card, Visa, proof of health insurance, proof of solvency to obtain your residence card. Depending on the town hall district, extra documents are required to complete the process.

16 How do we open a bank account without our ID if it takes this long?

Once you start the registration process at the town hall, you will receive a document called Annex 15. This document is sufficient to open a bank account at the ING branch in Kroonlaan 449, 1050 Elsene. This bank accepts the document to open a bank account. Please note you are free to pick any bank you like. We advise students with a blocked account not to open an online account as this might cause issues during monthly reimbursements.

17 Is it a must to rent in Brussels as a student?

Commuting from outside of Brussels can be exhausting and expensive. To get the full student experience it seems best to rent accommodation in Brussels. Everyone is however free to choose to live wherever they want.

18 Is there a help centre for people with a disability who need support?

Students with a disability can contact our colleagues via reflex@vub.be - they will guide you further.

19 If I am over 24, can I have a student pass for STIB/ public transport?
You can receive a reduction via your Belgian health insurance broker. Consult the Partena representative and ask for the BIM status.

**20 Will we be able to choose whether we attend classes in person or online? What about attendance in case of a quarantine?**

Each faculty has their own policy regarding online/in-person classes. Best to check this with your faculty or programme coordinator.

**21 Is it possible to use an EU Green Pass instead of a Belgian Covid Safe Ticket?**

The decision to introduce the Covid Safe Ticket in crowded areas (sports clubs, events, theatres, ...) was only taken a few days ago. As far as we know, the EU Green pass should be sufficient as well. In case of doubt consult the Covid info centre via [https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/contact/](https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/contact/)

**22 Do you have sports activities as in university games for students?**

There are sports facilities on campus, as well as competitions you can participate in. There's also a gym and a swimming pool. Check these webpages for more information: [https://student.vub.be/en/leisure#sports](https://student.vub.be/en/leisure#sports)

**23 After arrival in Belgium, should we do a PCR test or antigen test? And is there a fee exemption for students?**

Coming from a red zone you will need to take 2 PCR tests. Please consult the Re-open europe website for all current info on testing, travelling and quarantine: [https://reopen.europa.eu/en](https://reopen.europa.eu/en)

There are no reductions or exemption fees for students.

**24 Will VUB be able to provide online classes for students before 15th October? For people who cannot arrive to Belgium until that date due to Visa issues.**

Please consult your faculty or programme coordinator for this. The deadline for arrival in Belgium for most programmes is 15/10.

**25 Do we need the Sportmix card to have access to the sports facilities?**

A sportmix card is one option to gain access. There are also other formulas. Please contact our sports department via sport@vub.be or consult the website: [https://www.vub.be/en/sport](https://www.vub.be/en/sport)

**26 Are there any free French or Dutch courses?**

Most courses organised by the language centre are not free. However, VUB offers Language tables for free on campus in the restaurant at lunchtimes during the academic year. More info via: [https://www.facebook.com/VUBLanguageTables/](https://www.facebook.com/VUBLanguageTables/)

**27 What does code orange and red mean, please? orange - combined study, red - only online? thank you!**

The educational matrix consists of many levels varying from green (current condition) to red (worst case scenario). The capacity of rooms will be reduced and extra measures will be installed when we drop one or more levels. Worst case would be that we have to return to 100% distance learning. For now the academic year starts in code green. VUB will communicate all measures if the current situation should change.

**28 How should we get vaccinated if we arrive after 8th of October?**
The vaccination strategy for this period is not yet clear. If vaccination centres are still active you will be able to present yourself in one of them across the city. If this is not the case you can check with the VUB medical group practice of GPs via: University general medical practice | Vrije Universiteit Brussel (vub.be)

29 Is being vaccinated mandatory to follow classes?

A Covid Safe Ticket will be mandatory to attend indoor events on campus, and also across Brussels (restaurants, cafes, etc). It is not mandatory but we strongly advise all our international students to get a vaccine as a token of solidarity towards fellow students and university staff, and to make your life easier as well here in Brussels.

30 If I got vaccinated outside of Europe, and have my covid certificate, how can I validate it to the European corona certificate?

If you already have a Belgian ID card, you can download the certificate via https://covidsafe.be/en. If you don’t have an ID card yet, you can visit one of the vaccination centres in Brussels. In particular the Pachecho vaccination centre started with a helpdesk specifically for persons in this situation. Note that a Covid Safe Ticket is only given to those vaccinated with a vaccine recognized by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), so J&J, Pfizer BioNTech, Astra Zeneca, Moderna.

31 Is there any limit- how many (max and minimum) credits I can take in a semester?

In order to be registered and recognized as a full-time student, you need to register for 54 ECTS per academic year. You will need to prove this when registering at the local town hall. If you are a full degree student, you are also obliged to participate in all exams in order to receive a prolongation of your residence permit after your first academic year at VUB. For Belgian students, not being registered as a full-time student can impact -for example- child allowance.

For exchange students who only stay one semester, it is possible that your scholarship donor or home university requires you to take a minimum number of credits.