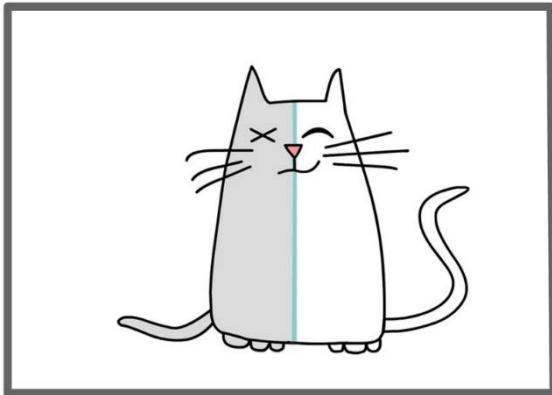




Autumn course 2017
in Brussels

Quantum of Security



Welcome in the beautiful city of Brussels at our university "Université Libre de Bruxelles" (Free University of Brussels)!

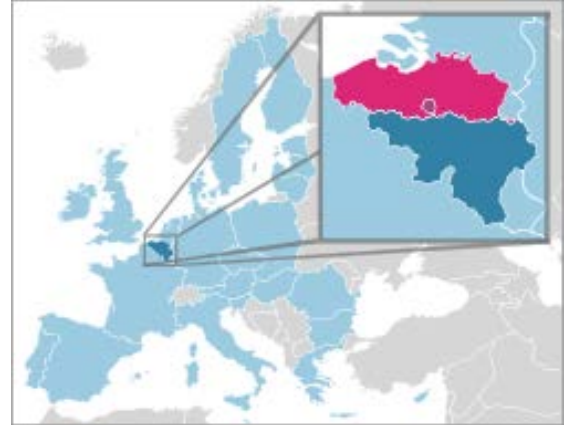
Together with 21 other European students, we'll have a great time visiting Brussels, learning a lot, drinking the best beers in the world and partying hard and harder. Are you ready?

Just below we'll give you some practical information and an introduction to our nice country. During your reading I hope you'll be more and more impatient to come to Brussels and make an unforgettable experience. So here's a small summary of what you'll find in the following pages:

A brief description of Belgium
A brief description of Brussels
Some sightseeing
Other beautiful cities in Belgium
Yummy foods and drinks
Everything about money
University Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
How you can reach this beautiful piece of land..
How to get to the accommodation?
What to bring?
Some useful sentences
Contact Info

Belgium

(or its official name: **the Kingdom of Belgium**)




 Area: 30,528 km²

 Population: 11,2 million (2013)

 Capital: Brussels

 Languages: Dutch, French, German

 Divided into three regions: Flanders (Dutchspeaking, in the north), Wallonia (French-speaking, in the south), and Brussels (bilingual)

 Government: Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy

 Monarch: Philippe

 Prime Minister: Charles Michel


 Time zone: GMT+1


 Monetary unit: Euros

 Known for: beers, chocolate, fries, waffles...

Brussels

 Area: 161,4 km²


 Population: ± 1 million

 Official languages: French and Dutch (Flemish)
(The majority speaks French and English is the second most spoken language. So don't worry if you're lost and need to find your way, it's easy to find someone who'll understand you)

 Made up of 19 separate communes

 Regional Symbol: Iris pseudacorus (yellow iris)

 Home to the headquarters of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

 Fun fact: there are more or less 249 butchers, 874 hairdressers and 647 pharmacies



Iris pseudacorus

Sightseeing



Designed by the engineer André Waterkeyn and constructed for Expo 58 (the 1958 Brussels World's Fair), the **Atomium** represents a symbol of Brussels and Belgium.



The **Grand Place** is the most important tourist destination. It is surrounded, among others, by the city's Town Hall. The square is an UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Manneken-Pis (« Little man Pee » in Dutch) is a small bronze sculpture (61cm) of a naked little boy peeing. The wardrobe of Manneken-Pis has more than 800 costumes.



Homeland of Tintin, the Smurfs, Lucky Luke, Marsupilami and many more comics, Brussels has a comic strip trail, which leads you across the city.

Other cities in Belgium worth the visit

Liège

Liège, a historical city on the river Meuse, is a dynamic commercial center situated at the crossroads of an important motorway network linking Paris, Amsterdam and Cologne. Only a few kilometers away from Maastricht, Holland and one hour by train from Brussels, Liège is the cultural center of Wallonia with an intense artistic life as well as an important architectural heritage.

Good to know fact: Part of the set for the planet of Xandar from the film "Guardians Of The Galaxy" was actually inspired by the Liège-Guillemins Railway Station (picture).



Bruges

Bruges, the capital of West Flanders in northwest Belgium, is distinguished by its canals, cobbled streets and medieval buildings. Its port, Zeebrugge, is an important center for fishing and European trade. Bruges is only one hour by train from Brussels.

Ghent

Ghent is a city and a municipality located in the Flemish Region of Belgium. It is the capital and largest city of the East Flanders province. Only 40 minutes from Brussels by train, Ghent's city center is a pedestrian area that is like a museum to early Flemish architecture and a testament to the city's medieval might.



Fun fact: According to the tourism office, Ghent is home to 653 restaurants, 620 cafes, and 250 different kinds of beer.

Foods and drinks



MOULES-FRITES

“..a popular main dish of mussels and fries originating in Belgium but also popular in France and in the rest of Northern Europe.”

BEER

“There are approximately 180 breweries in the country, ranging from international giants to microbreweries.

On average, Belgians drink 84 litres of beer each year, down from around 200 each year in 1900.”

Fun fact: the bar with the most varieties of beer commercially available in the world is located in Brussels. It is the Delirium Café, and it has currently 3162 different beers.



CHOCOLATE

Brands like Belvas, Corné Port Royal, Côte d'Or, Galler, Godiva, Leonidas, Neuhaus and many more...

WAFFLES

There are 3 main sorts of Belgian waffles:
Liège waffles (most common) ; Brussels waffles (bigger, lighter, rectangular and eaten with toppings like strawberries or ice cream) ; galettes (thinner, softer)



"FRENCH" FRIES

Belgians claim that they have invented French fries, and about all towns and villages have their own "friterie/frituur".



Money & prices

Currency: Euro

Some prices:

ARTICLE	PRICE (APPROX.)
MINERAL WATER, 0.5 L	0.60 €
MILK (REGULAR), 1 L	0.85 €
EGGS, 12	2.00 €
TOMATO, 1KG	1.39 €
PACK OF CIGARETTES	6.00 €
ICE CREAM	2.00 €
BEER (IN CAFÉ)	2.00 €
CONDOMS (DEPENDING ON BRAND)	6.00-12.00 €
FRENCH FRIES	2.00 €

University Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

The history of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) is closely linked with the one of Belgium itself. When the Belgium State was formed in 1830 from the nine provinces that broke away from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, there were three state universities in the country: Ghent, Liege and Leuven. Even though Brussels had been promoted to the rank of capital, it still had no university. For this reason, in 1831 a group of leading Brussels figures in the fields of the arts, science and education set themselves the objective of creating a university for the city. They had the choice between a state university and, failing that, a private institution, since the Belgian Constitution, the most liberal in Europe, allowed for his possibility. Finding the financial burden of the three existing universities too onerous, the Belgian government showed little enthusiasm for yet another state university. However, when in 1834 the episcopate decided to found the Catholic University at Mechelen, things began to happen very quickly. The liberal professions and Freemasons, who were promoting the Brussels university project, stepped up their efforts, with the result that the Free University of Belgium, as it was originally known, inaugurated its first academic year on 20 November 1834.

From 1836 it was to be called the Université Libre de Bruxelles, but although the geographical term may have changed, the adjective "free" remained. This was a key point. When it was inaugurated in 1834, the ULB had 96 students, whereas it now has over 18,000. The number of faculties and schools also increased in response to the emergence of new disciplines and an ever greater number of specializations.

Today the ULB provides teaching in all the main disciplines. It runs several teaching hospitals and administers research-oriented science parks. With the help of American sponsorship, the University moved out of the centre of Brussels in the 1920s and began construction of its Solbosch campus in Ixelles, a district to the south of Brussels. Having become the University's main campus, Solbosch now houses the ULB's administrative and general support services. Most of the faculties are based at this campus, with the exception of the Faculty of Medicine, the School of Public Health and the Pharmaceutical Institute.

From 1960, the ULB expanded to a new campus, the Plaine, situated less than a kilometer from the Solbosch campus and undertook the construction of buildings for its burgeoning science faculties. The Pharmaceutical Institute and the Faculty of Science, together with their secretariats, are all located at the Plaine campus. The Plaine campus also houses the Victor Horta Architectural Institute, which is associated with the ULB. In 1970, the University started building the Erasmus teaching hospital in Anderlecht, another district of Brussels. The Erasmus hospital has now become the focal point for a new campus which houses the Faculty of Medicine and the School of Public Health.

As a university which is resolutely open to the world, the ULB is involved in numerous international research and development programs and cutting edge research projects. It has been honored by many awards, including three Nobel Prizes, several Francqui Prizes and a Fields Medal awarded to Pierre Deligne. The ULB is a university of international standing which has carved out a leading place for itself in the international academic community during its 170 years of existence.

How can I reach this beautiful piece of land?

There are several ways to come to Brussels, here are the most suitable ones. If you want to come by bike, Montgolfier, hitch-hiking, feel free to ask for more information ; -)

BY PLANE

There are two international airports in Belgium: Brussels National Airport (Zaventem) and Brussels South (Charleroi).

⇒ In Brussels : <http://www.brusselsairport.be>

To reach the meeting point there are trains to Brussels North Station (it takes 20 min and costs around 8.5 €). You can also take the bus (takes around 45 min and costs 4€).

⇒ In Charleroi: (www.charleroiairport.com)

There are a two low cost companies: WizzAir (<http://www.wizzair.com>) and Ryanair (<http://www.ryanair.com>).

Charleroi's Airport is about 1 hour from the city center, the airport provides shift to Brussels South Station for 17€. However, if you buy your ticket on the Internet (<http://www.brussels-city-shuttle.com/>) in advance, it's cheaper. The starting price is at 5€, price increases with time)

Once in the city, you can use the public transport. Ticket cost 2€ if bought on the machine, 2.5€ if on the vehicle. Note that if you take the bus from Zaventem, your ticket already covers it. It is the same ticket for the bus, the tram and the subway.

BY TRAIN*

The international station is "Brussels South Station (Bruxelles Midi/Zuid Station)" but lots of trains also stop in Brussels North station. To reach the meeting point look in the section by plane.

BY BUS**

Eurolines' buses arrive at "Brussels North Station (Bruxelles Nord/Noord Station)".

*<http://www.sncb.be>

**<http://www.stib.be>

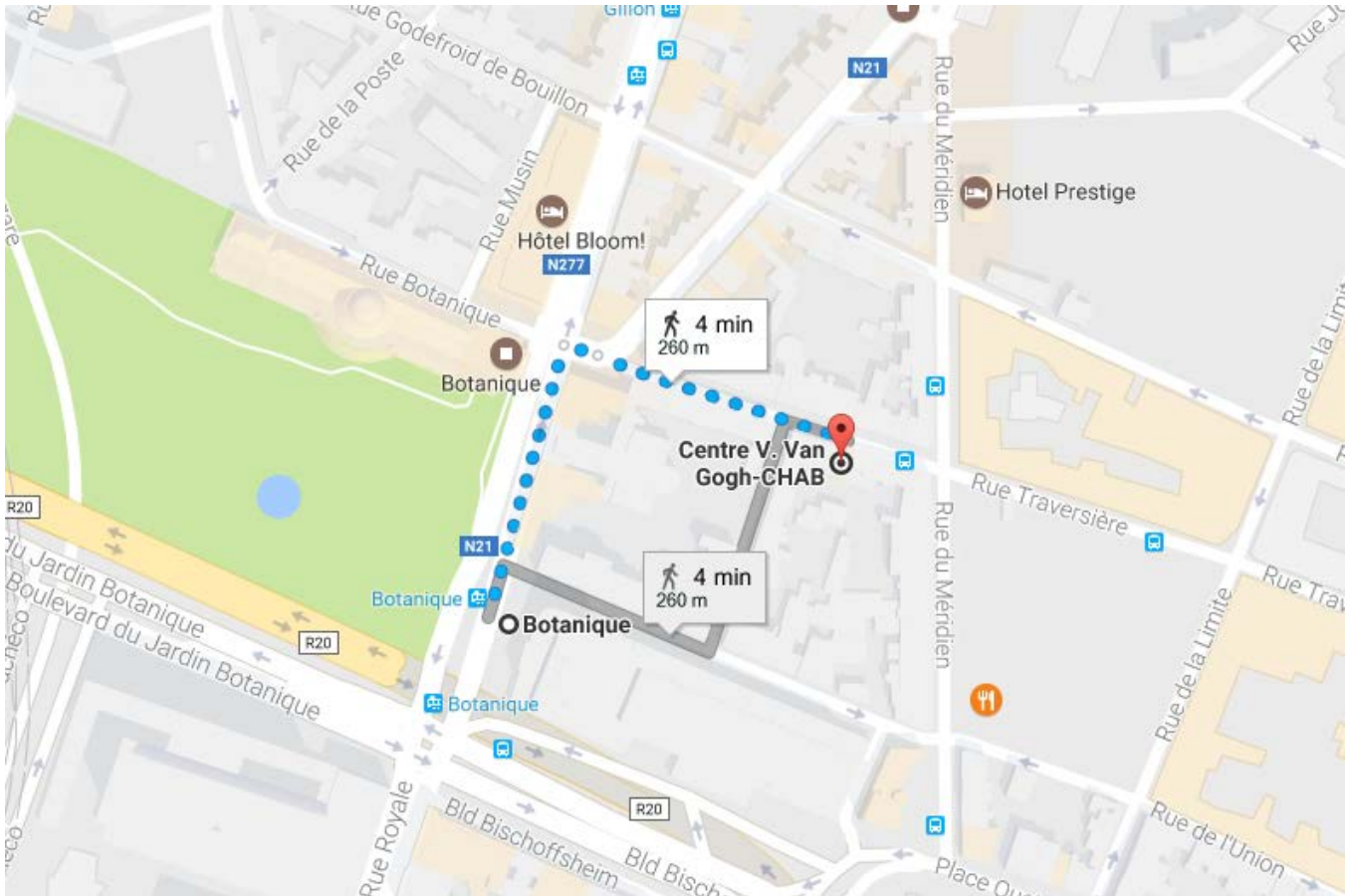
How to get to the accommodation?

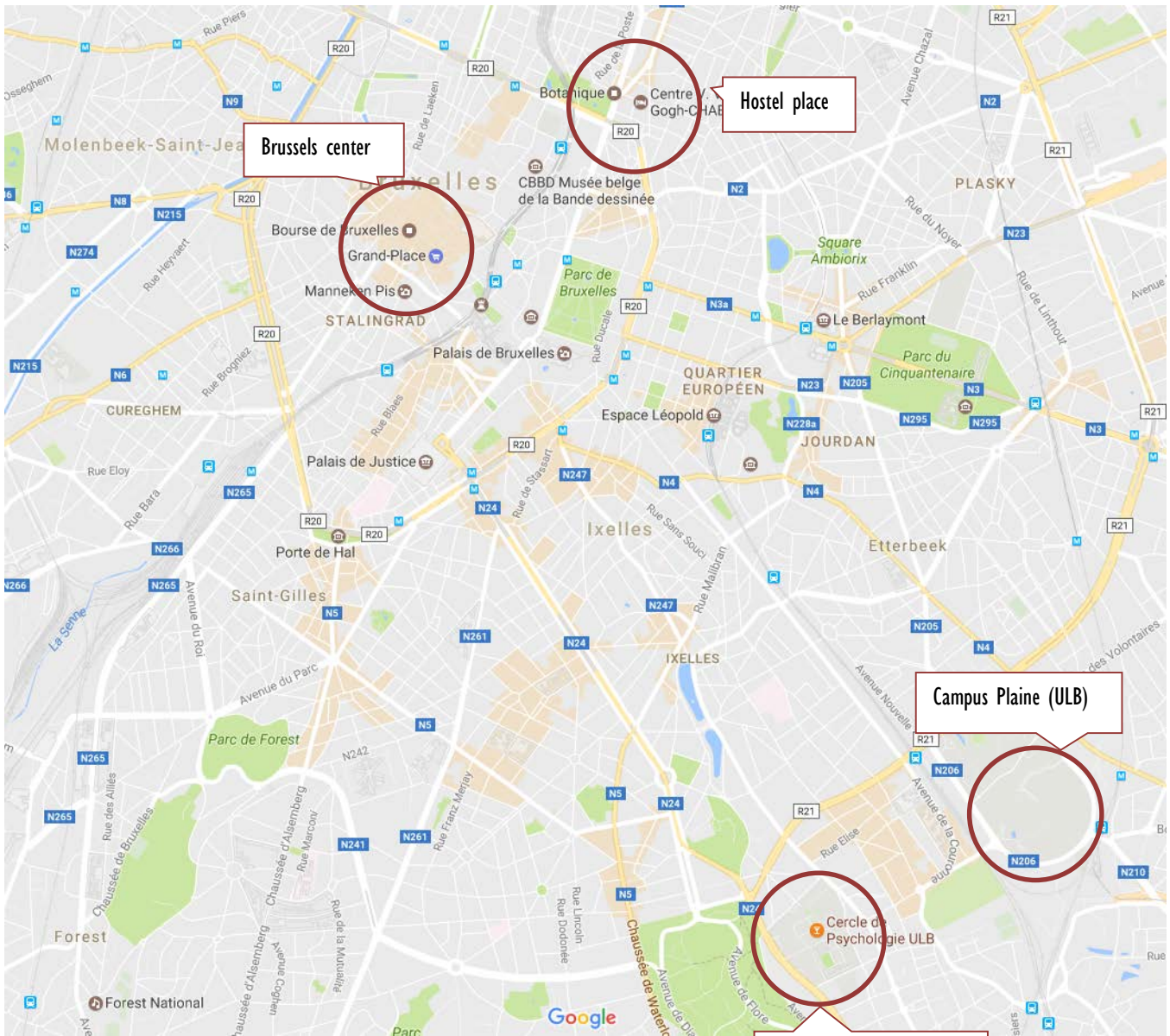
The accommodation is the De Waterman Hostel.

Address: Rue Traversiere 8, 1210 Bruxelles

Website: <https://www.chab.be/>

To reach it, take the metro M2 or M6 to “Botanique”. Then, it's close by foot, here is the map...





Brussels center

Hostel place

Campus Plaine (ULB)

Campus Solbosch (ULB),
where our BEST office is

What to bring?

What shouldn't you forget to take with you?

- ID Card or Passport (+Visa if needed)
- Medical insurance (you never know...)
- Student card if you have it. You might get discounts with it, so why pay more?
- About clothes: in Autumn, the weather is usually very changing, but quite cold and rainy. So don't forget to take some warm clothes! But don't worry, beer will cheer (and warm) you up.
- FOOD AND DRINKS FOR INTERNATIONAL EVENING. You must bring some specialty to eat and drink from your country. If you have some traditional clothes or anything don't hesitate just take it! There will be cooking facilities, but not enough for everyone to use it for hours, so please don't overdo it.
- Fee money + pocket money
- Old clothes and old shoes for a special party
- Your big **smile** and... the BEST spirit (if you don't know yet what it is don't worry, you'll get it quick)

Some useful sentences

The Kingdom of Belgium has three official languages: Dutch, French and German. A number of non-official, minority languages and dialects are spoken as well. English is widely spoken throughout the country as a second or third language by native Belgians. English is the working language for many of the international institutions and multinationals in Brussels, Ghent, and Antwerp.

Important sentences in French & Dutch

ENGLISH	FRENCH	DUTCH
HELLO	Bonjour	Goeiedag
GOOD EVENING	Bonsoir	Goeden avond
BYE BYE	Au revoir	tot ziens
THANK YOU	Merci	Dank u wel
PLEASE	S'il vous plaît	alstublieft
I AM LOOKING FOR...	Je cherche...	Ik zoek...
WHERE IS...?	Où se trouve...?	Waar is...?
HOW MUCH...?	Combien coûte...?	Hoever kost?
FRENCH FRIES WITH MAYONNAISE PLEASE!	Une frite-mayonnaise s'il vous plaît!	Frietjes met mayonnaise, alstublieft!
MY NAME IS...	Je m'appelle...	Ik heet.../Mijn naam is...
I AM FROM...	Je viens de...	Ik ben van...
I AM LOST	Je suis perdu	Ik ben verloren

Tongue twisters

- Have you seen Honolulu Lili's tulle tutu? - As-tu vu le tutu de tulle de Lili d'Honolulu?
- This strict green worm knows how to pour his green glasses. - Ce ver vert sévère sait verser ses verres verts
- Five dogs are chasing six cats - Cinq chiens chassent six chats

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