

Board of European Students of Technology
Best Brussels ULB

Winter course 2009 in Brussels

“AI, more than a movie”

Survival guide

From 6th until 15th of february
<http://best.bepolytech.be/course>

Welcome!

Hello lucky guy! Yeah, you who were accepted to this best BEST course. First of all let us welcome you in the beautiful city of Brussels at our university “Université Libre de Bruxelles” (Free University of Brussels).

Together with 20 other European students, we’ll have a great time visit Brussels, drinking best beers in the world and partying hard and harder. Our main goal? Having 20 students joining their LBG after the course just requesting more and more. More trips, more meetings, more countries...

But it’s not yet time to think about what we’ll happen after the course! Here under we’ll give you: some practical information and an introduction of our nice country, just what a survival guide is supposed to do. During your reading I hope you’ll be more and more impatient to reach us and make an unforgettable event with our help 😊. So here a small summary of what you’ll find in the following pages:

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When & Where?

The arrival day is on the **6th of February** in Brussels **before 17h** at (Bruxelles Nord/Noord Station).

ATTENTION: We'll leave around 17h to the week-end place, so try to arrive before that time (even the day before if needed!!!).

Here is the address of our accommodation in Brussels for the main week:



Auberge de Jeunesse Jacques Brel

Rue de la Sablonnière, 30

1000 Bruxelles

Here is our week end place in the south of Belgium (from 6th to 8th February):

Provedroux, 15

6690 Vielsalm



How to arrive in Brussels?

There are several ways to come to Brussels, here are the most suitable.

But 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 train to Brussels North Station (it takes 20 min and costs around 3€).

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 around 11€.

To reach the meeting point there are trains* or trams** (3, 4 or 25) to Brussels North Station, the trip costs 1,5€ or 2€ if you buy it on the tram (you can use your ticket on the train inside brussels).

By Train

The international station is "Brussels South Station (Bruxelles Midi/Zuid Station)" but lots of trains stops also 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>

What to bring?

What shouldn't you forget to take with???

- 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 to more?
- About cloths: in February, it's usually cold, damp, rainy, grey, depressive. So don't forget to take some warm clothes!!! But don't worry, beer will cheer 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 cloths 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
- Sleeping bag
- Old shoes for a special Belgian party
- Your big smile and... the BEST spirit (if you don't know yet what it is don't worry, you'll get it fast)

Emergency number 112

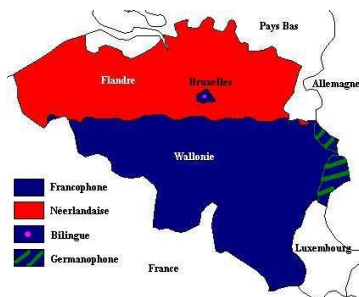
Belgium

Belgium is a strange country, so strange that some people usually say that Belgium is only a joke. Can you believe that we have not less than 6 governments and parliaments? Can you believe that Belgium is a founding country of European Union, but that there are serious rumors of splitting the country for years? Belgium is much more complicated that you can imagine! But Belgium is more than that, it's also famous for its beers, chocolate, fries, comics and painters. This course will provide you the opportunity to discover all this, but here you'll find a little overview.



Belgium is a small country that has in the past belonged to most of the others European countries (France, Spain, German Empire, Roman Empire,...). The last ones were the Netherlands, from which we became independent in 1830. At that time it was decided to become a kingdom, and a king was looked for. The parliament first decided to ask to Louis d'Orléans, but as he refused, they proposed to Léopold de Saxe-Cobourg Gotha, who had just refused the throne of Greece. He accepted, and became therefore the first king of Belgium.

The kingdom now has three communities, based on the official languages: Dutch, French and German. The country is divided in three regions: Flanders (Dutch-speaking, in the north), Wallonia (French-speaking, in the south), and Brussels (bilingual). The current king is Albert II, but nobody really cares about this, because the king has nearly no power. Each level of the state has one government and one parliament. The current Prime Minister of the federal government is Yves Leterme, but we cannot promise you that this information will still be valid in February, as the political situation is very unstable now.



Brussels

Brussels is the capital of Belgium, it's a very international and multicultural town. The official languages of the city are French and Dutch, but the majority speaks French, and English is the second more 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.

Specialties

Of course ones arrive you'll discover all of it but here is an "avant-gout".



University

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.

Money

The current money in Belgium is euro (EUR), you can exchange your currency in any bank or change office. In the city center there are plenty of them.

Prices in Belgium:

¼ liter beer (student party)	0,5€
¼ liter beer (regular café)	2€
A special and exquisite beer	Up to 3-4€
Some Belgian fries	2€
A delicious Belgian chocolate stick	1,5€
A pack of cigarette	5€

Some useful sentences

English	Français (French)	Néerlandais (Dutch)
name	prénom	voornaam
surname	nom	naam
Good morning	Bonjour	Goeiedag
Good evening	Bonsoir	Goeienavond
Good night	Bonne nuit	Goeienacht
Hi!	Salut!	Dag!
Goodbye	Au revoir	Tot ziens
My name is...	Mon nom est...	Mijn naam is...
I'm ... years old.	J'ai ... ans.	Ik ben ...
I'm from...	Je viens de...	Ik kom uit...
Thank you	Merci	Dank u
Please	S'il vous plait	Als u wilt
Yes	Oui	Ja
No	Non	Nee
What's your name?	Comment tu t'appelles?	
I find you very attractive!	T'es bonne!	
Do you want to dance with me?	On danse?	
Would you like a drink?	Je t'offre un verre?	
I'm very pleased to meet you!	Heureux de t'avoir rencontré	
Cheers	Santé!	
Do you want to have sex?	On baise?	
I'm not drunk!	Je suis pas bourré!	

Contact info

Feel free to contact us!!!



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