

THE
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
SURVIVAL
GUIDE
TO BRUGES



BY THE HOWEST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
2026-27

howest
university of applied sciences

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WELCOME TO HOWEST

Dear international student,

Welcome to Howest in Bruges, Belgium. We are delighted to have you here. By choosing Howest, you have selected a dynamic university of applied sciences located at the very heart of Europe, offering you the perfect gateway to explore not only Belgium but the entire continent. Bruges' rich history and student-friendly atmosphere will soon make you feel at home.

At Howest, we take great pride in our strong reputation for high-quality, practice-oriented education. Our programmes are built in close collaboration with industry, society, and international partners, ensuring that what you learn is both relevant and future-proof. Innovation, hands-on learning, and an open, forward-thinking mindset lie at the core of everything we do.

We are also deeply committed to supporting our international students. Through our Global Community, you will have access to a warm, welcoming environment where you can meet fellow students from around the world, engage in cultural activities, share experiences, and find guidance whenever you need it. Whether it's navigating daily life, academic expectations, or building friendships, the Global Community is here to help you feel connected and supported.

We hope your time at Howest will be inspiring, enriching, and unforgettable. Welcome aboard – your international journey starts here!

We are looking forward to welcoming you at Howest!

The Global Community Team

WELCOME TO HOWEST

Howest University of Applied Sciences distinguishes itself as an atypical, creative, innovative and enterprising institution. By nurturing talents and passions, our university guides students to become team-oriented, highly-skilled professionals ready for direct employment, equipped to anticipate global societal changes.

We integrate socially relevant, competence-oriented education, research focused on valorisation, and service offerings into our portfolio, establishing Howest as a robust “knowledge partner” actively collaborating with regional and international industries.

Our institution embraces openness and pluralism, valuing diversity, and inspires both staff and students to embody our core values of **service, empowerment, and care** in their personal and professional endeavors.

Our goal at Howest is to cultivate the unique talents of each student, accepting them as they are. Grounded in our core values, we prioritize student well-being, addressing individual needs and guiding them towards programmes where they can flourish.

Dedicated programme teams provide ongoing support throughout the students' academic journey, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for learning outcomes. Through multidisciplinary projects and international experiences, we enrich the educational experience, providing valuable opportunities for growth and learning.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

I am sure you want to know when you will have holidays/exams and study moments. You can find it all here.

[Academic calendar Howest](#)

2026

06.07-15.08	Summer break (Campus/ Students administration office are closed. Admissions team have a break only 10.08-16.08)
29.08	Info day at Howest Campus Bruges
31.08-11.09	Introductory courses (for some programmes, first-year degree students only)
14.09-18.09	Kick-Off/ Orientation Week (mandatory)
21.09	Start of classes
02.11-08.11	Autumn break
21.12-31.12	Winter break

2027

01.01-03.01	Winter break
04.01-31.01	Exam period
01.02-07.02	Inter-semester break
08.02	Start of the second semester
29.03-11.04	Easter break
31.05-03.07	Exam period
05.07-15.08	Summer break
16.08-04.09	Exam period (second chance)

5 holiday periods

02.11.2026-08.11.2026	Autumn break
21.12.2026-03.01.2027	Winter break
01.02.2027-07.02.2027	Inter-semester break
29.03.2027-11.04.2027	Easter break
05.07.2027-15.08.2027	Summer break

Additional public holidays

01.11.2026	All Saints' Day
11.11.2026	Armistice Day
29.03.2027	Easter Monday
01.05.2027	Labour day
06.05.2027	Ascension Day
17.05.2027	Whit/Pentecoste Monday
21.07.2027	National day

GRADING SYSTEM

Howest University of Applied Sciences uses the Flemish grading system of 0-20, with intervals of 1 point.

There are no half points.

- 0-9 are **failing grades**;
- 10-20 are the **passing grades**;
- 17+ are beyond excellent and **very hard to obtain**.

16 +	The student masters the skill(s) to an exceptional degree .
14-15	The student masters the skill(s) to the degree that the student distinguishes themselves .
12-13	The student masters the skill(s) more than sufficiently .
10-11	The student has acquired the skills to work in a professional environment .
7-9	The student has not yet sufficiently acquired the skills to work in a professional environment.
0-6	The student has not sufficiently acquired the skills.

CONTACT INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL OFFICE HOWEST BRUGES

The International Office is usually the first point of contact for all international students. If you have any questions and are unsure who to contact, need help with administrative matters, or simply want to talk, please visit our office or get in touch during working hours. If we are unable to assist you directly, we will gladly direct you to the appropriate person within Howest who can help with your query.

Our office location: Campus BST, Building D, room D.1.111 International Office

General phone: T: +32-(0)50-38.12.77

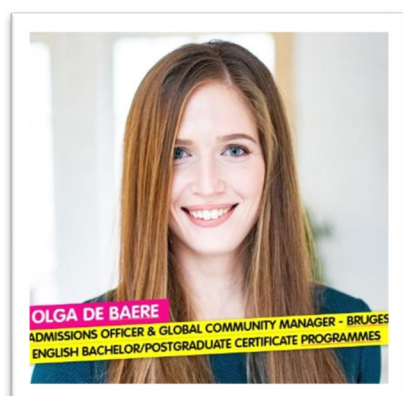


Mrs. An Goegebuer

International Coordinator

Non-curriculum contact for international Erasmus/exchange students

an.goegebuer@howest.be



Mrs. Olga De Baere

International Admissions Officer & Global Community Manager Campus Bruges

Admissions for bachelor's degree and postgraduate programmes, blocked accounts, community

olga.de.baere@howest.be

admissions@howest.be

blockedaccount@howest.be



Mrs. Heidi Decru

Assistant to the International Office

internationalohb@howest.be

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (STUVO)

The **Student Support Services (STUVO)** is a professional and free service that provides all students of Howest with **the opportunity to study in optimal conditions** and aims to make life at the college or university **exciting, pleasant, and carefree**.

Stuvo page <https://www.howest.be/en/stuvo>

Email STUVO stuvo@howest.be

[Instagram](#) STUVO

Students can turn to STUVO for:

- Social-legal advice
- Psychosocial support
- Individual support
- Social services
- Special status & facilities
- Housing
- Mobility
- Study coaching
- Assistance with study choices
- Cultural or sports events & activities
- Study grants
- Student financing
- ...

STUDY COACHING

In addition to guidance from within the study department, you can contact the study coach for extra support. You can contact us for the following **topics**:

- Taking notes in class
- Making summaries?
- Memorising
- Planning
- Study motivation
- Procrastination
- Fear of failure
- Exams

Contact the study coach of your programme [HERE](#).

STUVO CONNECTS

Building a future requires connection!

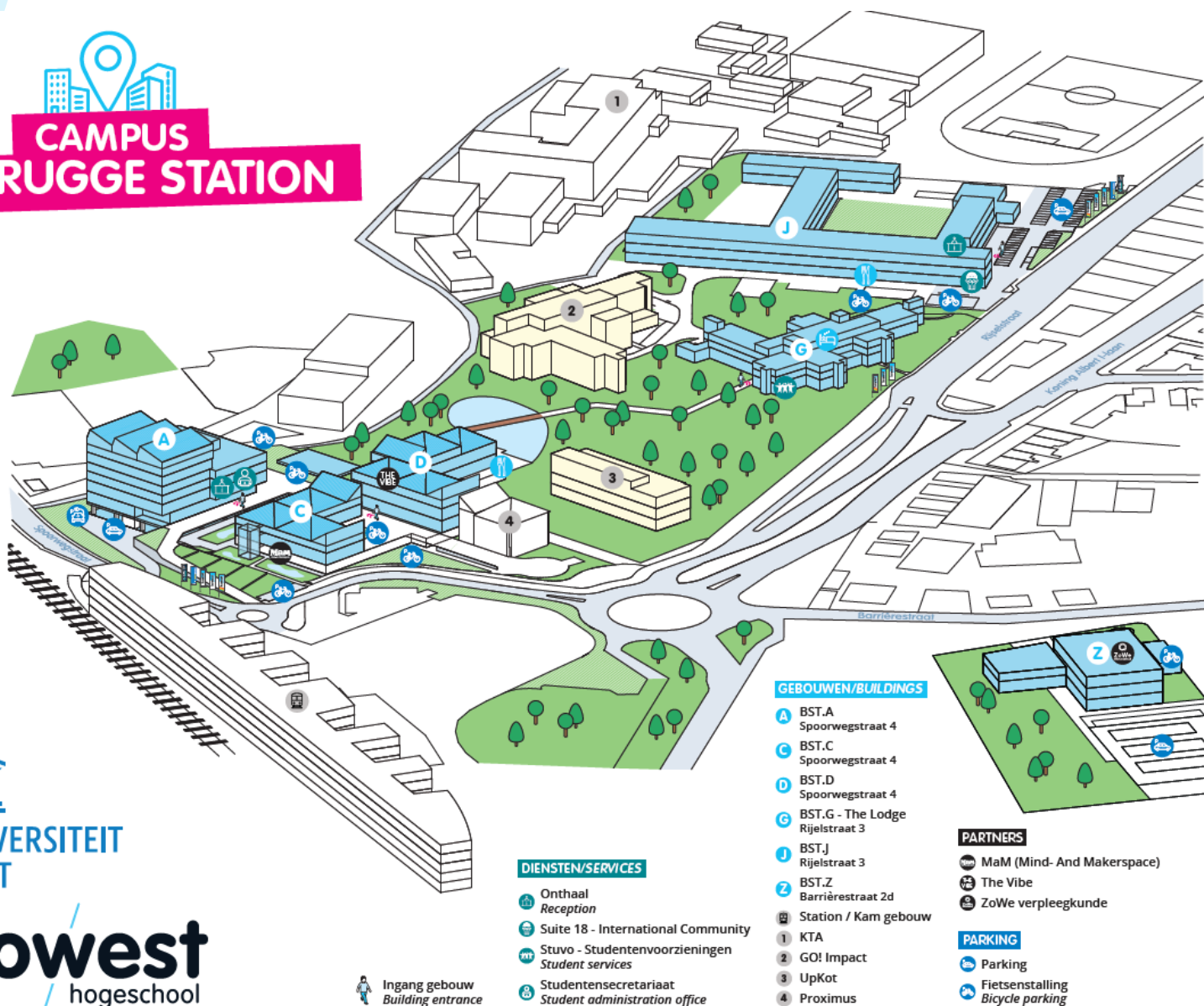
At [Stuvo Connects](#), we understand the importance of connecting with others for every student. We provide new opportunities to **meet like-minded individuals** and encourage sharing of interests.

Our focus is on fostering a positive mindset while offering a range of activities, created by and for students, with an **emphasis on community and well-being**.

CAMPUS MAP

You can find contact information and address of the campus [HERE](#).

CAMPUS BRUGGE STATION



Building A



Building C



Building D



Building J

FOOD

RESTAURANT DAD (building D)

Breakfast from 7:30 AM / Lunch 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

- Hot home-made dishes at noon
- Microwaveable takeaway lunches
- Customizable plate from the salad bar
- Sandwiches *
- Pastas
- Soups
- Desserts
- Soft drinks

* Order sandwiches and hot take-aways before 9:00 AM to get your preferred choice.

Breakfast from 8:15 AM / Lunch 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

RESTAURANT BST (building J)

- Pasta
- Salad Bar
- Sandwiches
- Hot Snacks *
- Desserts
- Soft drinks

* (fries, sausage, cheese croquette, hamburger, croque-monsieur, panini, etc.)

Vending machines

Drinks & snacks, ground floor campus BST, building D

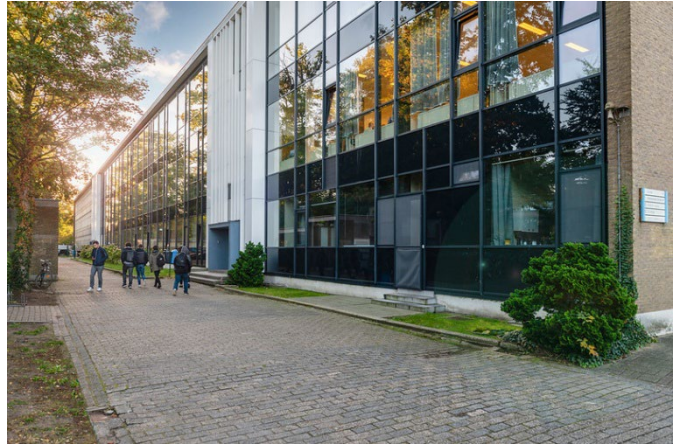
Drinks & snacks, 2nd & 5th floor, campus BST, building A.

Free filtered water fountains are available in each campus

SUITE 18

The 'Suite 18' lounge is open to **all Howest international students and their buddies**.

Location: **Rijselstraat 5, Bruges (entrance on the left side of the building)**



It has different facilities:

- Lounge with couches;
- Kitchenette;
- Beamer;
- Working/study areas.

It's a versatile space where students can hang out, enjoy a drink, chat, watch movies, relax, study, and work. The 'Suite 18' is a space students can personalize and make their own.

Join the Suite 18 Discord channel or the Whatsapp group for updates and connections with fellow international students. You'll be able to access those options during the Kick-Off/Orientation Week.

The 'Suite 18' is **accessible 7 days a week with the student card**.

It's not a party venue and a few rules apply. Please adhere to these rules

HOW TO GET TO BRUGES

The first step in the direction to your study story is getting to Belgium. There are 2 airports in Belgium that are used frequently for traveling. After arriving in Belgium you will have to use a train or bus to get to Bruges.

AIRPORTS

Belgium has 2 airports, that offer a big variety of flights to and from many different countries.

BRUSSELS AIRPORT (ZAVENTEM)

[Brussels Airport \(Zaventem\)](#) is the biggest airport in Belgium. All major airlines fly to this international airport.

From this airport there is a direct [NMBS](#) train from the airport to Bruges once every hour, between 04h42 and 22h24. The price for a one way ticket is € 26.80.

BRUSSELS CHARLEROI AIRPORT

[Brussels Charleroi Airport](#) is the 2nd biggest airport in Belgium. Many low-cost airlines fly to this airport.

Getting to Bruges from this airport is a little trickier than from Brussels airport. There isn't a direct train to Bruges, the best option is a direct [Flibco](#) bus. They drive even at night, but check carefully the hour. The price for a one way ticket is between € 23 and €27.

FLIXBUS

[FLIXBUS](#) offers hundreds of direct connections between different European cities and Belgium at advantageous prices when booked in advance.

You can enter 'Bruges' as your final destination. If a trip to Bruges yields a long transfer time in a larger city, it might be more convenient to travel to a larger Belgian city, e.g. Brussels or Ghent, and take a train to Bruges from there.



PREPARATION FOR STUDIES

ENROLMENT

As of June 27, 2026 you can complete your Enrolment at Howest [online](#)*. The detailed instruction you have received/ will receive together with the Acceptance letter.

**Students with Provisional acceptance letter, please make sure that you finalise your Admissions process with your final school documents and only then start the enrolment.*

Step 1. Upload the following documents:

- your Certificate of Acceptance (Final, not Provisional)
- ID card or passport
- Visa or residence permit for studying in Belgium (if applicable)
- Insurance certificate Full Cover from Expat and Co (for non-EEA citizens) or EU insurance (for EEA citizens)

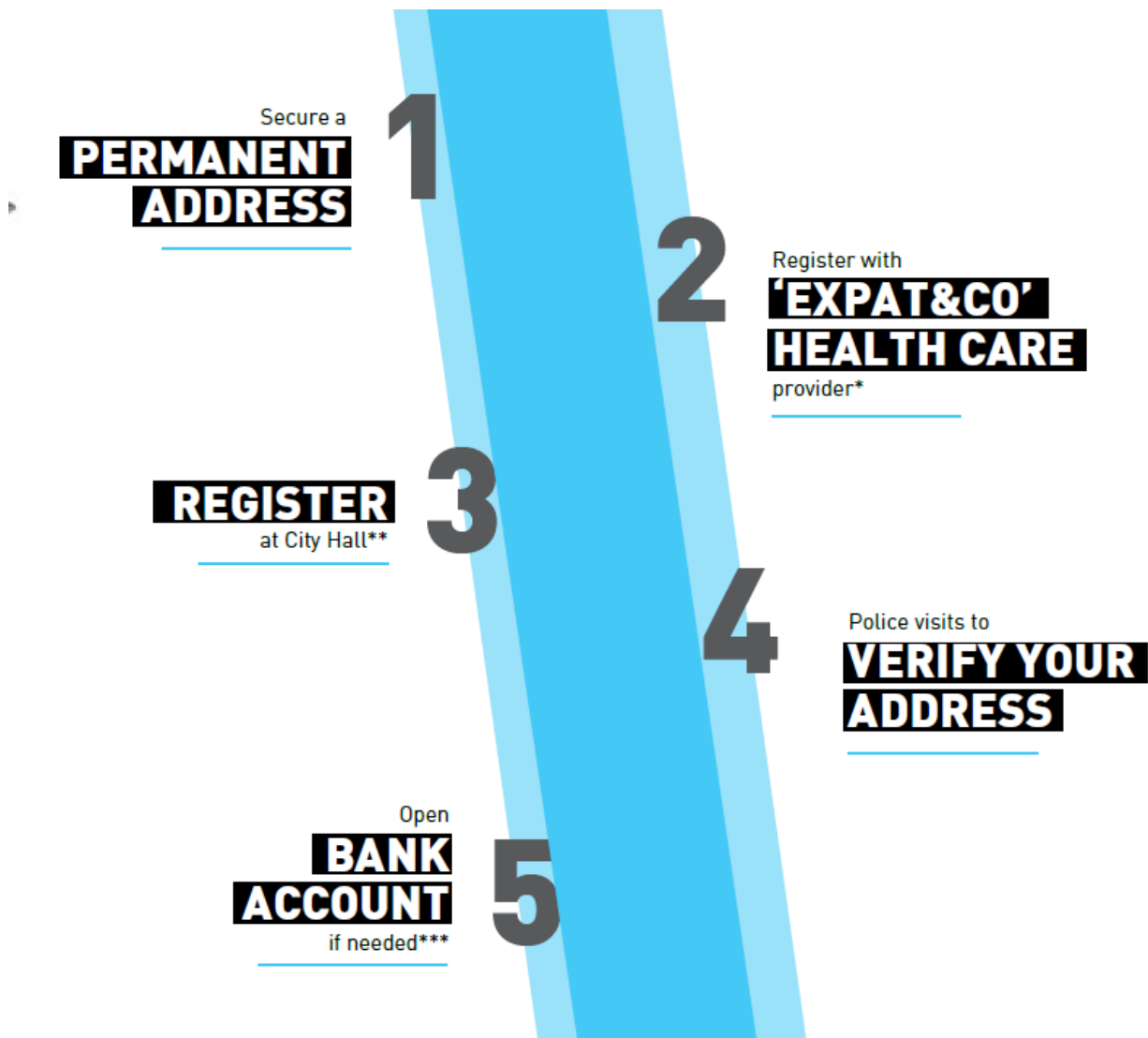
Step 2. Confirm your study programme and sign digitally your study agreement.

Step 3. If everything is correct, the student administration will send you an email with your Howest student account credentials and links to important info. If you received such an email, that means that you are officially a Howest student. Congratulations!

Step 4. Approximately a week after your enrolment is confirmed, you will receive the invoice for the tuition fee. Payment can be done only via bank transfer to the bank account that is indicated on the invoice. For non-EEA students, who already have paid the deposit, please pay attention that you need to transfer the difference between the total amount in the invoice and the deposit that you have made.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please address your questions to the student administration office brugge.studentensecretariaat@howest.be

A FEW TO-DO'S FOR INTERNATIONALS



*Please follow the Insurance policy instructions that you have received together with your (Provisional) Letter of Acceptance

- **Non-EEA students** must already purchase an Expat & Co insurance before they arrive in Belgium, and they must demonstrate this during enrolment.

- **EEA students** can choose which insurance they take. Most opt for the European Health Insurance.

** More information will be sent by the Howest International Coordinator closer to September, **to be completed after your arrival in Belgium.**

***For **non-EEA students** this step is necessary for the 'blocked account'- process; see information provided by Admissions via email. Not necessary for EEA students.

HOUSING

If you have any questions about housing don't hesitate to contact STUVO (Student Services) housing. They are the Howest department for housing. You can go to them with all your questions about both The Lodge (Howest student dorm) as student rooms on the private market.

STUVO HOUSING

Contact information:

Info web page - <https://www.howest.be/en/stuvo/accommodation>

Name: Mrs. Isabelle Stael

e-mail: housing.bruges@howest.be

THE LODGE - HOWEST DORMS

Unfortunately, Howest has a limited number of on-campus student rooms. All accommodation options for the 2026/27 academic year are already fully booked. We therefore encourage you to continue searching for housing on the private market.

127 single student rooms

- 116 Standard Rooms with shared kitchen, recreation rooms and bathroom (€ 423)
- 11 Studio's with personal bathroom & kitchenette (€ 528)
- For students from Howest, both degree and exchange students;
- With shared kitchen, dining room;
- Prices include water, electricity, gas & internet;
- Duration of the contract: 12 months.
 - > 5 months for exchange students (surcharge of € 60 per month)
- Strictly non-smoking.

Apply for Howest dorm: <https://howest.twa.rentmanager.com/Applynow?propertyshortname=BST.G>

Currently, the student house "The Lodge" is fully occupied. If an application is submitted, you will be placed on the waiting list.

PRIVATE MARKET

Searching for a student room: **the sooner, the better!**

Keep in mind that costs vary on the private market, depending on your preferences (shared/private kitchen or bathroom...). Consider opting for shared kitchen as cooking together and spending time with your roommates is something that you will appreciate during your stay here.

Before signing a lease agreement, ensure that energy/water/internet bills/fire insurance are included in rent and paid by the landlord. If not, the contract should specify how these costs will be calculated.

Please be aware that energy costs can be higher in Belgium than in other countries.

It's recommended to seek accommodation near the campus where you will attend classes and extracurricular activities. But if you cannot find anything close to campus, please look for options in other cities that offer direct train connection with Bruges (our campus is just next to railway station) - Oostende, Ghent, Roeselare and Kortrijk.

Here are some interesting websites:

- [Kotwest](#)
 - > the go-to website to start your search for a dorm in Bruges (or other cities)

Private dormitories close to Howest Campus

- [Upkot](#)

- > only for year contracts, no 5 or 6 months
- [Kotville](#)
- [CoKot](#)
- [B/Kot application form](#)

Remember, it's **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find and arrange accommodation**, but our 'Student Support Services' (STUVO) can offer guidance and support during your search.

LEASE AGREEMENT

THE RENTAL CONTRACT

There are several types of contracts:

- Student contract with a term of 10, 11 or 12 months
- Short-term contract
- '3, 6 or 9 years'-contract (used for apartments and houses)

Legally, once the contract is signed, it cannot be terminated before it expires, unless stated otherwise in the contract.

Make sure to have a look at the '[Vlaamse Woningshuurdecreet](#)' for student tenancy agreements (in Dutch - use Google Translate or ChatGPT).

It is advised to write down verbal promises made by the landlord (e.g. painting the room, renovating the kitchen, etc.), as well as make notes and photos of the individual gas and electricity meter in order to avoid misunderstandings in the future. Also make sure there is a clear place description (inventory) and photos of the room or apartment when you move in, as this provides proof of its condition and helps avoid disputes about damages when moving out.

THE DEPOSIT

Signing a lease contract will require a deposit:

- **Rooms:** a deposit of 1 or 2 months' rent
- **Studios & apartments:** 3 months' rent

The deposit can only be used to compensate for damage to the rented property caused by the tenant (or by third parties to whom the tenant has granted access). The deposit or its balance will be reimbursed within 2 months after the end of the agreement, taking into account that the landlord should have the opportunity to draw up the final bill for heating, electricity, etc.

The landlord can charge an extra cost if the keys were not returned in time and/or the property has not been cleaned thoroughly. Make sure that you ask for, and keep, the receipt when you pay the deposit in cash.

HOSTELS

In case your housing isn't arranged by arrival it is important to have a place to stay till you figured everything out. A hotel can be quite expensive, luckily Bruges has some good quality hostels.

SNUFFEL

Snuffel is a hostel on a 15 minute walking distance from the main square. Prices for a night: between 21-65 euros depending on the room.

Check in: ma-sun 8am-10pm (if later just e-mail) Includes: a locker, wifi, bedsheets and using the kitchen.
Continental Breakfast: 4 euro

Address: Ezelstraat 42, 8000 Bruges

BAUHAUS

Bauhaus is a hostel on a 15 minute walking distance from the main square. Prices for a night: between 18 euros and 55 euros depending on the room. Check in: ma-sun 24h

Includes: bedsheets, wifi, locker Breakfast: 7 euros

Address: Langestraat 133, 8000 Bruges

LAPTOP

Hardware

While selecting a laptop, it is **preferable to aim for specifications that closely align with the recommended laptop specifications for your study programme**. If you already have a laptop that closely matches these requirements, you are welcome to bring it. (the requirements for 2026-27 will be available as of May 9th, 2026)

[Check the laptop requirements here](#) (scroll down and select your study programme).

HOWEST PARTNER (Signpost)

Laptops can be purchased through Howest via an external company. For more information, please see the website above.

Through our partner Academic Shop, Howest students can join the group purchase for their laptop and other hardware. It allows students to get a discount, replacement laptop in case it is broken, and it comes with a warrantee and service contract.

Software

You will have the opportunity to purchase / receive the **software package for your studies** during your first week(s) here.

BUDDIES & PALS

We have the 'Buddies & Pals' system in place to welcome you to Bruges and assist you in settling in. You'll be **paired with local or international students if you wish so**.

They can guide you around Bruges, address your questions, acquaint you with student life, and overall, endeavor to make you feel at home in Belgium.

Later this year you will receive an email with the question if you want to be connected to a buddy. In case of your positive answer, you will have another email with information on who your buddies are on how to contact them (though normally, your buddies will contact you first).

KICK-OFF (ORIENTATION WEEK)

WHEN

14 - 18 September 2026

WHY

The Kick-Off week is a **mandatory introduction to get to know campus life and what's expected academically**. You'll check out campus facilities, and resources, plus get your student card. It's also a great time to meet other students, faculty, and staff, helping you settle in and build a community. Along with helpful tips on adjusting to Howest life, you'll also have a chance to learn about the support services available to you. Attending orientation will give you essential information and skills to make your transition to life in Bruges and at Howest a lot smoother.

BEST TIME TO ARRIVE IN BRUGES?

We recommend arriving a week before the Kick Off/Orientation Week, or a week before the introductory courses (if you plan to attend these). This will allow you ample time to settle in, complete practical arrangements such as final enrollment, city hall registration (residence permit), and bike rental, as well as make any necessary purchases.

Your **buddies will assist you with this process** and also introduce you to Bruges, ensuring you can fully focus on your classes once they commence. Additionally, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy social activities with other new students and buddies without the distraction of practical issues.

BELGIAN BANK ACCOUNT & SIM-CARD

Having a Belgian bank account & SIM card can make your life a lot easier (and cheaper even) while you're here. In this chapter, you'll find out what the best options are and where to go.

GETTING A SIM-CARD

Most telecom companies in Belgium don't offer subscriptions for short durations (i.e. less than a year), because of this your best option is a prepaid and rechargeable SIM-card.

A prepaid/rechargeable SIM-card doesn't require a Belgian bank account and can be recharged whenever you want. What's more is that when you're going back home, there's no need to cancel a subscription.

OPENING A BELGIAN BANK ACCOUNT

You might want to open a bank account while you're in Belgium, whether your cards from back home don't work here very well or you run into other complications that require you to have a Belgian bank account.

If you're **under 28 years old, the bank account is free**. The bank provides you with a regular debit card as well as access to online banking and Bancontact.

NOTE: If you are 17 years old, it might be difficult to open a bank account. Please contact International Office Bruges for more information.

You will need some documents to be able to open up a bank account:

- ❖ Your ID or passport
- ❖ Proof of Belgian address (lease agreement or residence permit)
- ❖ Proof of enrollment

All banks are reliable and you can choose any to open your account there. The names of the banks that have offices in Bruges:

- KBC
- CRELAN
- AXA Bank
- BNP Paribas Fortis
- Belfius
- Beobank
- VDK bank
- Agrenta
- Europabank
- ..

FAST-TRACK BANK ACCOUNT FOR NON-EEA STUDENTS (KBC PROCEDURE)

Opening a Belgian bank account for non-EEA students can be a lengthy process. To make it easier, KBC bank has introduced a special procedure that allows students to open an account more quickly, giving them faster access to their blocked account funds. However, several conditions apply:

- Apply online for your KBC account **NO earlier than 7 days before your arrival to Belgium.**
- The account documents must be **signed at a KBC branch in Belgium within 30 days of submitting your application**, otherwise the account will be blocked.
- It is your responsibility to inform the bank of any updates to your registration status in Belgium. After receiving your **Belgian national registration number** and later your **Belgian ID card**, please provide this information to the bank as soon as possible. If your administrative records are not up to date, the bank may block your account.

When starting your application, make sure to choose the correct option:

- if you are **younger than 25** then you are eligible for the "[Young persons account](#)," which is free of charge
- if you are **25 or older**, you should apply for [Basic or Plus](#), both of which will have a monthly fee.

You can find more information about the steps you have to make to apply [online for the bank account before your arrival via this link](#).

CLOSING UP THE BANK ACCOUNT ON DEPARTURE

Before you head back home, you'll have to close up your bank account at the same agency where you opened it, you will have to sign some paperwork, but it shouldn't take up too much of your time (up to 10 min).



LIFE IN BELGIUM

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BELGIUM



CITY TRIPS

A big advantage of studying in Belgium is that it is located in the centre of Europe, which means it is a perfect starting point for city trips. Some of Europe's prominent cities (London, Paris, Rotterdam,

Amsterdam, The Hague and Luxembourg) are all situated within a radius of 300 km from Kortrijk. In 3 to 4 hours you can get to London, Frankfurt, Strasbourg or Cologne. Isn't that great?

HISTORIC TOWNS

Flemish cities have a rich cultural heritage and vibrant night life. Kortrijk and Bruges have an interesting mix of the old and the new. They are 45 min away from each other and less than 3 hours away from Brussels, Paris, London or Amsterdam by train.

TRANSPORTATION

Belgium is a small country with a good public transportation system and a cycling network currently providing +/-8000 km of cycling pleasure in West Flanders.

FOOD

Our gastronomic reputation is well known around the world: Belgian chocolate, beer, French fries (which are actually Belgian), waffles - we cater to many different tastes.

FACTS ABOUT BELGIUM

Studying in a foreign country, getting to know new people, exploring different cultures - it's all a part of the international student life.

During your studies at Howest we hope you will discover more about your host country, its culture and history. To start you off, here are some basic facts:

652 DAYS -

A WORLD RECORD FOR BELGIUM AS THE COUNTRY WITH THE LONGEST PERIOD WITHOUT AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT.

Period from December 2018 until October 2020.

281 EMBASSIES 25.000 DIPLOMATS

Brussels is the second largest diplomatic city in the world.

WE PAY IN
'EURO' -
€

11,83 MILLION INHABITANTS

One of the smallest, diverse & densely populated European countries.

DUTCH, FRENCH, & GERMAN

Dutch & French are official languages in the Belgian capital Brussels.

BRUSSELS IS THE CAPITAL OF BELGIUM, FLANDERS & THE EUROPEAN UNION.

It is a major center of international politics and it hosts the European Commission, NATO, and many other international institutions.

Belgium was recognized as

AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY IN 1830.

The Monarchy was established in 1831 with Leopold I being the first King of the Belgians on the 21st of July.

6,7 MILLION PEOPLE SPEAK DUTCH

4,5 MILLION PEOPLE SPEAK FRENCH

HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING & EDUCATION

WHAT ABOUT BELGIANS?

Family ties and friendship bonds are very important for Belgians. No wonder that Belgian students leave their student homes almost every weekend to spend time with their family members and friends.

Flemish people are known for speaking several foreign languages. Most of the people whom you will meet will speak English quite well, and most are happy to switch to English to help you out if there is anything you don't understand. You will also find many people who speak or understand French, German, Spanish, Italian and many other languages

COST OF LIVING

Before coming to Bruges it is important to think about how much your monthly spending will be, to figure out how much money you will need.

GENERAL COSTS

Depending on where you live you will spend around €350 to €600 on housing every month, when looking for a room make sure if all utilities (water, electricity) are included in the price or not. For living costs you will spend around €450 monthly for food, social events and public transport.

It is important to keep in mind that your expenses will be higher in the first month of your stay. That month you may have to pay for temporary stay, your room deposit, bike deposit, equipment for in the kitchen, utensils or decoration.

In general you'll probably spend about:

- €400 on food
- €100 on social life
- €20 on printing costs
- €70 on public transportation every 3 months
- €7 on renting a bike
- €400 - €700 on renting a room

GROCERY SHOPPING

Knowing where to go for your groceries can save you a lot of money in the long term, which leaves more funds for your free time.

COST OF LIVING

Generally, you'll spend around €300-400 a month on food. Depending on where you do your groceries and what kind of food you eat, it can be more or less. Here's a page to give you an idea of some current prices for common food articles: <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Brugge>

Further in this chapter, I've listed some tips and information that will help you cut down more costs by shopping at the cheapest supermarkets.

SUPERMARKETS TO AVOID

If you stroll through the city center you'll come across a bunch of smaller supermarkets, a very common sight are small 'Carrefour Express', 'Proxydelhaize' and 'Smatch' supermarkets.

While they're handy if you're just looking for a snack or just a couple of ingredients, it's best not to do all your groceries there because these small markets are much more expensive than bigger supermarkets. If you do need something from Carrefour or Delhaize, go to a Carrefour Market, Carrefour Hypermarket or a regular Delhaize market.



SHOP SMART, SAVE MONEY

Although products may vary between different supermarkets, in the end they all provide basic everyday products, and you want to know where you can get them for the least amount of money.

COLRUYT

Colruyt is a supermarket chain that has generally the lowest prices on practically everything they sell. There are three Colruyt supermarkets not too far from the city center, you should check Google Maps to see which one is the closest or the easiest to get to.



ALDI & LIDL



If you're looking for private labels that are cheap and of good quality, look no further than Aldi or Lidl. They are supermarkets that sell mainly house brand products at a very low price, even lower than the private label products of Colruyt. They don't sell a lot of popular brands, however.

ALBERT HEIJN

Although not as cheap as Colruyt, this Dutch supermarket chain is still up there as one of the cheapest. Since it's a Dutch chain, it offers a bunch of products that Colruyt and Aldi don't have AND they also have great deals & promotions (you will often find popular brands such as Coca-Cola there at the lowest price).



SPECIALTY SUPERMARKETS

If you're looking for something specific, chances are you might not find them in the regular grocery stores.

RAAN ASIA

Although it's a bit further from the city, it's still worth a visit if you're looking for Asian ingredients. From fresh Asian vegetables to a huge selection of instant noodles (on the top floor), if you want something Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Vietnamese, Thai, ... this is where to go. You can check out their [Facebook page](#) to see their products.

Address: Oostendse Steenweg 135, 8000 Bruges

Open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10.00h until 18.00h



A LO LATINO SHOP



[A Lo Latino Shop](#) is a small supermarket with a selection of Mexican and South American specialities.

Address: Generaal Lemanlaan 94, 8310 Assebroek

Open from Thursday to Tuesday from 11.00h-13.00h and 14.00-19.00h

GROSZEK XL

[Groszek XL](#) is a Polish supermarket right outside the city centre. It has a big assortment of meat, fresh pastries and snacks.

Address: Fort Lapin 3, 8000 Brugge

Open from Tuesday till Sunday from 10:00h till 20:00h



ALI BABA SUPERMARKET

[Ali Baba supermarket](#) is a supermarket with a selection of food from Europe, Asia and Africa. They have a big selection from vegetables to spices, fresh bread and cheese.



Adress: Smedenstraat 39, 8000 Brugge

Open from Monday till Sunday from 10h00 until

21h00

HALAL BUTCHERY SHOPS

If you're looking for halal meat, you should go to the Smedenstraat (and the surrounding area). There are a couple of halal butchery shops there, as well as Turkish bakeries and the like. There are two notable butcheries in the area:

❖ [Boucherie Ya Salama](#) - Legeweg 2, 8200 Bruges

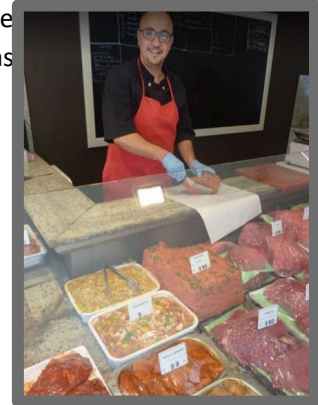
o Mo/We/Th/Fr/Sa 10.00h to 13.00h & 14.00h to 19.00h

o Su 10.00h to 17.00h

o Closed on Tuesdays

❖ Slagerij Baraka - Smedenstraat 9, 8000 Bruges

o Open every day from 9.30h until 19.00h, except Thursdays



BAWAR MARKET



Also located in the Smedenstraat, you'll find the [Bawar Market](#), a small Afghan grocery shop that sells a mix of Asian and African products. You can go there to find some fresh produce, with often a lot of produce you won't find in regular grocery stores, as well as products from Afghanistan and other countries.

Address: Biezenstraat 26 Middelkerke Open every day from 9.00h until 20.00h

FEZAN ASIAN AND AFRICAN SUPERMARKET

As you might guess, this Asian/African supermarket is also located near the Smedenstraat. They have a large selection of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as frozen foods and other different Asian/African products.

Address: Leemputstraat 14, 8000 Bruges Open every day from 10.00h until 21h30

MORE STORES IN GHENT

You can find more international stores in Ghent (a 20 minute train ride from Bruges): [International food shops and spice stores in Ghent - TheSquare.Gent](#)

MARKET DAYS

If supermarkets aren't really your fancy, you can always visit the public markets when they take place. Slowly strolling along numerous market stalls, who doesn't enjoy that? The two most notable public markets in Bruges are the Saturday Market and the Wednesday Market.

The Saturday Market (Zaterdagmarkt) is located at 't Zand, Vrijdagmarkt & Hauwerstraat and takes place every Saturday from 8.00h until 13.30h (except on 25/12 and 01/01). You can find anything from fresh vegetables and fruits to pastries, cheeses, meat, fish and even flowers and other plants.



The Wednesday Market (woensdagmarkt) is very similar to the Saturday Market in terms of products, the only difference is that it takes place every Wednesday from 8.00h to 14.00h (except on 25/12 & 01/01) on the Markt in the city center.

For all kinds of new merchandise you can visit the Sunday Market (Zondagmarkt), which takes place every Sunday from 8:00 to 13:00 at the Veemarkt (Kon. Astridlaan 101, 8200 Bruges)

You can find times and locations of other public markets [here](#) (website is only available in Dutch).

OTHER SHOPPING

This chapter deals mainly in stores that sell decorations and the like to liven up your student housing here in Belgium.

IKEA

We all know Ikea but in case you doubt your knowledge, Ikea sells mainly furniture at very affordable prices, although they do have more pricey furniture as well.

As a student you might want to save some extra money, so you'll be glad to know that Ikea sells damaged furniture and appliances at large discounts in a sales corner at the end of the store. Most of the time these defects aren't that noticeable and since you probably will be selling the furniture you buy when you're going back home, it's ideal as a temporary solution.

The closest Ikea store to Bruges is the one in Ghent, it's easily reachable by car and public transport. Just take the train to Ghent St-Pieters and from the station you can take the trolley to Flanders Expo, which is right next to the Ikea.

ACTION

Action is a very cheap store that sells a wide variety of things, such as snacks and drinks to appliances, toys, soap and bath products, cleaning products, decorations, products for arts and crafts, ...

Additionally if you're looking for LED lights to make your dorm room look extra fancy, Action sells a bunch of them.

There are two Action stores in Bruges:

- Action Bruges | Veemarktstraat 7

- Action Sint-Kruis | Maalse Steenweg 427

FLYING TIGER

Is a smaller store that sells mainly decorations and fun items that make for good budget presents. You can definitely find some fun new decorations here to spice up your living quarters.

There is one Flying Tiger store in the shopping street in Bruges:

- Flying Tiger Copenhagen | Zuidzandstraat 30

KRINGLOOPWINKEL

[Kringloopwinkel](#) is a thrift store that sells anything from couches to clothes & tableware at very affordable prices, the ideal place to get a lot of things for your dorm without emptying all your Erasmus funds all at once.

There are Kringloopwinkel stores all over Flanders and luckily there's a couple in Bruges

- De Kringwinkel 't rad Sint-Kruis | Maalse Steenweg 104
- De Kringwinkel 't rad Sint-Andries | Dirk Martensstraat 15
- De Kringwinkel Zilverpand | Zilverpand 17

ONLINE SHOPPING

In Belgium online and especially secondhand shopping are very popular.

Useful platforms to use:

SECONDHAND

- 2dehands - <https://www.2dehands.be/>
- Vinted - <https://www.vinted.be/>
- Facebook Marketplace

MARKETPLACES

- <https://www.bol.com>
- <https://www.amazon.com.be/>

CLOSING HOURS

If you're going shopping anywhere in Belgium, keep in mind that most stores close around 18h-19h and are closed on Sundays, so be sure to check beforehand whether a store is open before going, Google usually has accurate opening hours on every store.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

A lot of stores and restaurants will also be closed on public holidays, so don't forget to keep track of those.

Public holidays in Belgium include:

- New Year's Day – January 1, 2027
- Easter Monday – Monday, 29 March 2027
- Labour Day – May 1

- Ascension Day – Thursday, 6 May, 2027
- Pentecost Monday – Monday, 17 May 2027
- Belgian National Day – July 21
- Assumption of Mary – August 15
- All Saints' Day – November 1
- Armistice Day – November 11
- Christmas Day – December 25

Luckily your class schedule contains all public holidays in Belgium, so you should be made aware of them easily that way.

GETTING AROUND

While you're in Bruges, you'll want to see as much of the country as you can, but how do you do that most efficiently? There are many ways to get around: by bus, by bike, by train, all three at once, ... Knowing what the best and cheapest options are, however, isn't always that obvious.

BY BIKE

A bike is probably one of the best ways to move through the city center, you can get almost everywhere in Bruges in 15 min and just a couple of minutes when you're in the center. There are a couple of options if you want to rent a bike in Bruges:

- ❖ [Yellow student bikes](#): these bikes can only be rented by students from Howest, Vives and KU Leuven (from their respective campuses in Bruges) and are easily recognizable by their flashy yellow color. You can rent these bikes for a mere €6.00 a month, for a minimum period of 3 months. The deposit money is 75 euro, that you have to pay by card on the day you pick up your bike. To rent one of these bikes, visit "Fietspunt" at the front of the train station. If you sign up prior to the start of your international semester/ academic year, you'll be able to pick up your bike during the Orientation Week.
- ❖ [Blue-bikes](#): If you want to use a bike in a different city, Blue-bikes are quite handy. With Blue-bike you can reserve a bike in over 200 different locations in Belgium. For €12.00 you can get a subscription card sent to your home with two free rides. You get billed monthly by e-mail based on the amount of time you used their bikes, for which the [rates](#) are maxed out at €3.50 for 24h. Don't keep the bike around for multiple days, or you'll be fined.
 - **Ticket**: pay per ride - max. price per 12h: €6
 - **Member**: first 24h = price for 12h: €3,5
 - **Member+**: unlimited trips shorter than 12h: €35 /month

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Going by bus or train is ideal if you want to go a bit further than the center of Bruges. You can easily get to Ghent in a 25-min train ride and to Brussels in an hour.

BUS SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you're not sure about how many times you will use the bus, [The Lijn](#) is your best option. There is a ten ride-ticket that allows you to use the bus ten times. You have to buy it on the app and activate one ticket before entering the bus, the ticket will be valid for an hour. For 10 trips you will pay €22, which comes down to €2.20 per ticket.

If you just want to use the bus for one time you buy a ticket for the price of €3.00. You can buy this ticket in the 'De Lijn' app, on the bus with your card or by sending a text message with the word 'DL' to the 4884.

BUZZY PASS

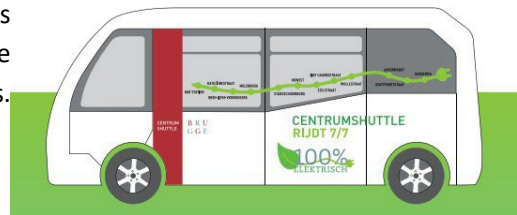
For 18-to-24-year-olds, unlimited travel at the following cost (+ €6 admin. fees):

- € 40 - 1 month
- € 98 - 3 months
- € 165 - 12 months

<https://www.delijn.be/nl/content/abonnementen/buzzy-pass/>

FREE CITY CENTRE SHUTTLE BUS

Every day between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., the center shuttle runs a fixed route through downtown Bruges. The center shuttle runs on a fixed schedule. Each stop is served every 20 minutes. The center shuttle runs 100 percent electric.



Price per ticket is 3.00€ Free for residents

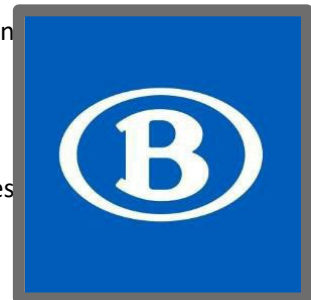
The center shuttle starts at the Kiss&Ride station stop and has a stop in the Sint-Jorisstraat just in front of Howest Bruges Centre (BCE) campus and also at Bruges train station.

TRAIN SUBSCRIPTIONS AND OTHER DISCOUNTED RATES

If you plan to live in another city than Bruges, you might have to commute by train. A student train subscription is the cheapest option then.

A certificate for a student train subscription can be downloaded after your final enrolment. This allows you to purchase an SNCB-NMBS school subscription or campus card (below 26 y/o):

- Choose between 1, 3 or 12 months of unrestricted travel when commuting to school (fixed route);
 - In 2nd or 1st class;
 - Rechargeable & personalised MoBIB card
 - Renew your Student Season Ticket online, at the NMBS ticketing machines or at the ticket counter;
 - Possible to combine several season tickets (also with Student Multi);
 - Renewable annually.



There are two types of train subscriptions you can apply for as a student, you have the NMBS [Student Season subscription](#), which allows unlimited travel between the city where you live and the city where you study.

Next there is the [Student Multi Card](#) which is intended for students who travel the same route a couple of times a week. It has a validity of 49 days and has 5 outbound journeys and 5 return journeys at a very low price.

If you travel by train, consider buying **Train+** <https://www.belgiantrain.be/en/products/trainplus>. You will enjoy **additional discounts** during off-peak hours and at weekends, as well as **capped fares** regardless of the day or time of travel.

If you want to use the train we recommend downloading the [NMBS app](#). You can use the app to plan your route and buy a ticket, it will also keep you up to date with delays and promotions.

CAMBIO

If you are studying in the city, you don't need your own car, right? By foot, by bike, by train, by bus or by tram, you will get wherever you need (or want) to be. Most of the time that is, but occasionally a car can be useful.

Luckily, there is a special car sharing tariff just for you! Cambio CAMPUS gives you the freedom to use a car whenever you need one, without having to buy a car yourself. You find more info [here](#).



DOING YOUR LAUNDRY

If you're used to doing your own laundry, this chapter obviously isn't for you. But, you'd be surprised by the amount of students that don't know how to do their laundry or other everyday things like cooking & cleaning.

So for those of you that don't quite know how to do your own laundry, don't worry, it's not that complicated.

WASHING MACHINES & LAUNDROMAT

Some student homes have their own washing machines that you can use freely as part of your housing, however, since most Belgian students go home nearly every week and do their laundry there, you'll find that most student homes here don't have a washing machine.

If you don't have a private washing machine at your disposal, you'll have to go to a laundromat. In Flanders, we call laundromats 'wasserette', so if you can't find a laundromat through Google close to your student home, try using that term for searching.

Usually laundromats have signs with instructions to help you on your way, they'll usually also have vending machines with detergents, but I recommend just buying a whole jug while grocery shopping and bringing that along on your washing trips.

WASBAR – DOING YOUR LAUNDRY HAS NEVER BEEN MORE FUN

Don't know what to do while you wait for your laundry, and you're not comfortable leaving the laundromat? WASBAR is a concept that combines a laundromat with a bar where you can eat and drink. It also has other advantages, you can ask the staff for help and tips if necessary, something that's hard to do at laundromats which are usually left unmanned. They offer breakfast, bagels, bagel burgers, soup, salads, sweets and a wide variety of drinks.

If this sounds like a fun alternative for you, be sure to look up the WASBAR in Bruges and pay them a visit at Markt 15, or visit their [website](#) for more information.

They are open between 9:00 and 21:00

WASSALON HAPPYROM

Ezelstraat 8, 8000 West-Vlaanderen

WASSALON 'T SCHAARTJE

Schaarstraat 27, 8000 Brugge

THE LAUNDRETTE

Niklaas Desparsstraat 5, 8000 Brugge

[Opening hours](#): Monday to Friday 10:00 tot 21h30, Sunday: 10:00 until 19h30

WASSALON 'T ZEEPBELLETJE

Rijselstraat 118, 8200 Brugge



TIPS FOR DOING YOUR LAUNDRY

In case you're scared that you'll do something wrong and end up with a sweater that has shrunk and turned pink from white, here are some tips for doing the laundry:

1. **Pre-Treat Stains:** If you stain a favorite item, the best chance it has at recovery is with pre-treatment. Drench the problem area in detergent or stain remover and let it sink in before washing. You can also soak the item in cold water before the cycle, which will ease out the stain.
2. **Don't Go Overboard With Detergent:** Believe it or not, more detergent does not equal cleaner laundry. In fact, using too much detergent can leave a residue on clothes, making them feel stiff and scratchy, and causing them to dull. All of this ages clothes more quickly than they need to as well.
3. **Ask the experts:** Seriously, running a laundry is more than just throwing some detergent in the machine and then waiting for everything to come out clean and sound. If you're still a total rookie, ask those in the know (your mom, an older roommate) if they'll teach you the basics of this noble branch of the higher art of housekeeping.
4. **Eco tip - Don't wash too hot:** Many clothes, such as shirts, sweaters and T-shirts, get clean just fine if you wash them at 30 degrees. In the end, this will make your clothes last longer, and you'll waste less energy.

5. **Sort your laundry:** For starters, it's always handy to buy a laundry basket. Then your room is not a sea of dirty laundry and in the process you have everything together, and that sorts easier. Wash different types of clothes together. Select by color and by fabric. Do you have a lot of white shirts or a whole collection of colorful skirts? Put them all together in one wash and wash them on the right program, which is better for your clothes and more convenient.

SORTING WASTE

In Belgium waste is sorted in order to be recycled. Some types of rubbish are collected at your house, but you can also get rid of it at collection points and container parks.

You can reduce your waste by buying products with less packaging, by using glass instead of plastic bottles etc. The following categories of rubbish can be sorted:

- ❖ Glass
- ❖ Paper and cardboard
- ❖ PMD waste
- ❖ Organic waste
- ❖ Small hazardous waste
- ❖ Old and expired medications
- ❖ Building waste and rubble
- ❖ Reusable textiles
- ❖ Discarded electrical and electronic appliances

Most of the waste types above have specific pick-up days when they need to be put in front of the house, so they can be picked up in the morning. I would recommend putting out the trash in the evenings, in case you oversleep.

Most student housing will have a calendar for the collection days for their specific area. If you can't find said calendar right away, you should

ask the landlord, or you can check the [IVBO website](#) where you just have to enter your address, and it will give you the relevant calendar. The website is in Dutch, though.

In Bruges, you pay for the waste collection through the purchase of official waste bags of the city of Bruges. You can get these in practically every supermarket in the city. There are bags for Residual Waste (yellow), PMD (Plastic Packaging, Metal Packaging and Beverage Cartons) (blue) & green waste (green). Paper & cardboard also gets picked up, this doesn't require a bag, you just have to bundle up all the paper and cardboard you have, and they'll pick it up.

Alternatively, sometimes landlords will have trash managed differently, by a private company and/or through larger containers in which you can just dispose your waste without expensive bags.



BRUGES

Bruges is often called the “Venice of the North”.

The famous Belfry of Bruges has 366 steps and offers panoramic views of the city.

Swans are a symbol of Bruges.

Bruges is famous for handmade Belgian chocolate.

Bruges is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

English is widely spoken in Bruges, so international students usually adapt quickly even without Dutch.

The movie In Bruges helped make the city internationally famous among travellers and film fans.

You can cross most of the center on foot in about 30 minutes.

Bruges is home to one of the oldest hospitals in Europe, the Sint-Janshospitaal, dating back to the 12th century.

CLIMATE & CLOTHING

SUMMER - June to August

Expect mild temperatures ranging from 15°C to 36°C (59°F to 97°F).

Opt for lightweight attire like t-shirts, shorts, skirts, and dresses. Carry a light jacket or sweater for cooler evenings or sudden weather changes.

AUTUMN - September to November

Temperatures drop, averaging from 10°C to 20°C (50°F to 68°F).

Layer up with long-sleeved shirts, sweaters, jeans, and trousers. Be prepared for rain with a waterproof jacket or coat and sturdy footwear.

WINTER - December to February

Cold temperatures range from 0°C to 7°C (32°F to 45°F) and may dip below zero to freezing temperatures. Bundle up in heavy sweaters, coats, scarves, gloves, hats, and thermal undergarments. Keep feet warm and dry with waterproof, insulated boots.

SPRING - March to May

Temperatures fluctuate between 5°C to 20°C (41°F to 68°F) with sometimes frequent rain showers.

Dress in light layers such as long-sleeved shirts, light jackets, jeans, and trousers. Carry an umbrella or waterproof jacket for unpredictable weather.

Overall, we recommend to pack a mix of clothing suitable for a variety of weather conditions, including lightweight garments for summer, layered clothing for autumn and spring, and warm, waterproof attire for winter.

CULTURAL TEMPLES

The culture in Bruges isn't limited to its old medieval structures and their history, Bruges holds plenty of "Cultural Temples" where you can go for exhibits, events, etc.

CONCERTGEBOUW (CONCERT HALL)

You may have already spotted the large building that protrudes above 't Zand, that building is the concert hall of Bruges. It is an international music and art center, offering the best contemporary dance and classical music.

Besides music and dance, you can also attend exhibitions.

For more information, you can consult their [website](#) for their current program and information about exhibitions and the like.

KAAP

[KAAP](#) is the first and only regional arts center in Flanders, created from a fusion of the former arts center Vrijstaat O. (Ostend) and De Werf (Bruges). Since 2017 they are one arts center lucky enough to work in two beautiful cities (Ostend & Bruges) around music, stage, visual arts and literature. Both with their own dynamics, charm and assets.

KAAP operates in two places in Bruges: [De Groenplaats](#) & [De Werf](#)



MAGDALENAZAAL (MAZ)

Because of its black box architecture, the MaZ lends itself perfectly as a platform for youth culture. Culture Center Bruges, in consultation with the Cactus Music Center, programs pop and rock concerts there, with large performances alongside smaller club events and regular young theater and dance work. You can find info concerning events at the MaZ and other locations [here](#).

STADSCHOUWBURG (CITY THEATRE)

As one of the best preserved city theaters in Europe, the Stadsschouwburg is the perfect example of a 'Cultural Temple'. The theater is over 150 years old and still regularly hosts dance performances, theater and concerts of various kinds. The interior of the theater is elaborately decorated in red and gold and will make you feel like you're attending a concert by Mozart himself (even though he had already been dead for forty years at the opening of the theater).

The theater has multiple levels of balconies and a beautiful chandelier hanging from the circular painted ceiling.

You can find info concerning events at the Stadsschouwburg and other locations [here](#).



CACTUS MUZIEKCENTRUM (CACTUS MUSIC CENTRUM)

[Cactus Muziekcentrum](#) is a professional music center with attention to a wide variety of global music culture: from roots, rock, alternative and indie to dub, hip-hop and electronica.

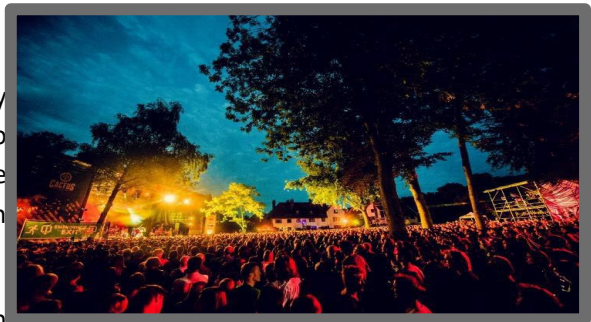
CONCERTS

Cactus Club (in the Magdalena Hall/MaZ in Bruges) is the regular concert venue where Cactus Muziekcentrum realizes most of its concerts during the year. From time to time they also move to the Biekorf or Ryelandtzaal. Cactus Club has a total capacity of up to 900 people, but for smaller concerts we transform the hall into a cosy concert club.

FESTIVALS

With the [Cactus Festival](#), Cactus Music Center offers a quirky antenna to the wider music world, with Minnewater Park as the crossroads of the most diverse musical styles and cultures.

Cactus Music Center also provides the summer city festival [Moods!](#) with its cosmopolitan spirit. For two weeks, musical migratory birds from the most diverse corners of the world will descend on various stages in the historic city center.



Cactus Music Center is also involved in the organization of [Benenwerk](#), which turns the city center into just about the largest (free!) ballroom in Flanders. The most diverse types of dance music take center stage on different stages. From tango and false muzette to salsa, brass band and funk to hip-hop, Brazilian beats or French touch.

With the highly individual [More Music](#), Cactus Music Centre and Concertgebouw Brugge are signing up for a new co-production in 2013. More Music is a fascinating encounter at the intersection of - at first sight - divergent musical worlds. A balanced and atmospheric total concept that takes the visitor on an adventurous musical trip from singer-songwriters over spoken word performers to electronica or ambitious multimedia projects.

MUSEUMS

Bruges, being a Unesco world heritage site, offers a lot of art and culture (though being a rather small city). You'll find all kinds of different museums throughout the city, such as Chocolate Museum and the Beer Museum. Of course, there are many more, and you'll find all their rates and opening hours through the links below:

[Arentshuis](#)

The beautiful 18th-century Arentshuis fills its first floor with temporary exhibitions of visual arts that tie in with the Groeninge collection, such as the rich collection of prints and drawings from the Steinmetz Cabinet. The upper floor is dedicated to the oeuvre of the versatile British-born artist Frank Brangwyn. He painted vivid, realistic scenes in which he depicted



industrial life in the docks and factories and the hard labor of workers. He also colorfully recorded his many travel impressions on canvases, watercolors and in etchings. The artist also designed furniture and carpets.

[Gezellehuis](#)



This location revolves entirely around Guido Gezelle (1830-1899), a significant poet and linguist in the Dutch language. His personality and work come to life in the multitude of manuscripts, photographs, and books. You will also find his writing desk, his travel case, and rosary. Gezelle was born in this house and spent his youth there. The house itself dates from the 16th century.

[Groeningemuseum](#)

Six centuries of Belgian visual arts in one location, with work by Flemish primitives such as Jan van Eyck, Hans Memling and Gerard David, neo-classicism by Joseph Odevaere and Joseph Ducq, Flemish expressionism, and 20th century modern art by René Magritte, Roger Raveel, Raoul De Keyser

[Gruuthusemuseum](#)

Gruuthusemuseum takes you to three crucial periods in the rich history of Bruges. There is the time of Burgundian prosperity, the less well known 17th and 18th centuries, and the historical 'reinvention' of Bruges in the 19th century.

These three periods come to life in over 600 collection items which all tell their own story. From majestic tapestries to unique Gothic stained glass windows, from elegant wooden

sculptures to historic lace, paintings, porcelain, and silver. The highlight is the authentic late 15th century oratory which connects the palace and the [Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk](#) (Church of our Lady) with a view of the Gothic chancel of the church.



[Sint-Janshospitaal \(St John's Hospital\)](#)

What was it like in a hospital in the past? Find out with a visit to St John's Hospital, one of the oldest preserved hospital buildings in Europe. The earliest traces date from the middle of the 12th century. The St. John's Hospital is filled with an impressive collection of artworks and medical instruments that tell the story of early hospital life and show how hospital wards used to look in the mid-17th century.

[BRUSK](#)

BRUSK is a new cultural and art space in Bruges where you can visit high-level exhibitions, events, and activities. It is more than a museum: it's a modern art hall where people can experience, discuss, and explore art from different periods and cultures. Designed as an international cultural hotspot, it brings together local heritage and global art in one place.

[Volkskundemuseum \(Museum of Folk Life\)](#)



In the Volkskundemuseum (Museum of Folk Life) you learn about ordinary daily life in Bruges in the 19th and early 20th centuries. You enter an old classroom, an old pharmacy, a tailor's workshop, a confectionery store, or grocery store. Time seems to have stood still in these restored labourer's dwellings. All the rooms have a treasury of old items: tobacco products, neatly cut pipe heads, pilgrimage pennants, old children's games, and cake and chocolate moulds.

[Choco-Story Bruges \(Chocolate Museum\)](#)

The museum is composed of three parts, telling the story of the origin and evolution of chocolate through a unique collection of almost a thousand objects. Besides the history, the museum also reveals how chocolate is made, with special attention for the variety of raw ingredients and the development of the production process.

In the demonstration centre visitors will uncover the secret of beautiful silky chocolate and get the opportunity to taste the chocolate products made in the museum.

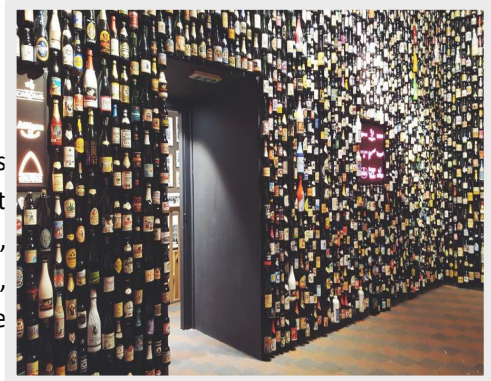
[Frietmuseum \(Museum of potato fries\)](#)

Up until now there was no Frietmuseum in the whole world, which means that the Frietmuseum in Bruges is the first and only museum dedicated to potato fries.

Together with delicious Belgian chocolate, the Belgian potato fry is certainly the product that is the most characteristic of Belgian culinary expertise. Over the years, fries have become known world wide to the delight of adults and children in practically all countries and we can be proud that they actually originate from Belgium.

[The Bruges Beer Experience](#)

Bruges Beer Experience is much more than just a museum! It is a must-visit for those who wish to experience the most fascinating aspects of beer! A fresh combination of interactivity, innovative technologies and the stimulation of all senses! Taste, smell and touch the ingredients. Play the quiz and discover the unique collection and numerous topics relating to beer...



TO THE MOVIES!

Who doesn't enjoy going to the movies once in a while? Whether you're going to see a movie with a group of friends or you're going on a romantic date, there are bound to be a couple of movies you'd like to go see that release while you're in Bruges.

KINEPOLIS

Kinepolis is one of the largest cinema chains in Europe, and thus you'll find their theaters in almost every major city in Belgium, especially since the company was founded in Belgium.



In Kinepolis you'll find all the new popular releases from Disney/Pixar, Marvel, DC, etc. You can check their [website](#) for all the movies that are currently playing and movies that will be released soon. Unfortunately, the Belgian website is only available in Dutch & French, so you might have to do some translating. If you're going to see an animation movie, most of the time these will be dubbed in Dutch.

PRICES & STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Kinepolis has great picture and sound quality, and that is reflected in the prices of their tickets and the food and drinks they sell. The standard ticket price is €14.70 and the reduction rate (for kids, senior citizens, teachers, ...) comes down to €13.70. Fortunately, Kinepolis loves students, that's why they have the [Kinepolis Student Card](#). This card gives you a 25% discount on your ticket, as well as 25% on soft drinks, beer, scoop candy, popcorn, nachos and ice cream! Other than that they also have separate promotions for students that vary every month, for example you could get a free Ben & Jerry's cookie dough ice cream on presentation of your Kinepolis Student Card. To see if there's a similar promotion as of right now, see [this page](#) on their website.

KINEPOLIS STUDENT CARD

To be able to use those 25% discounts, you need to get yourself the Kinepolis Student Card, for which you can register [here](#). When your registration is complete, you can access the barcode of your Student Card through the [app](#) (which is also in Dutch or French). Pick Dutch and follow the following steps:

2. Click “MEER” on the bottom right
3. Go to “My Kinepolis”
4. Finally, scroll down to “Mijn Voordeelkaarten” and you should find your student card

CINEMA LUMIERE

[Lumière](#) is a smaller cinema chain with four movie theaters in Belgium, one of which you can find in the center of Bruges, which is a lot more convenient than Kinepolis when you live in the center. While they do offer some popular new releases, most of their offer is limited to smaller movies, they do have a nice variety of movies from different countries and original Belgian movies most of the time.



PRICES & STUDENT DISCOUNTS

The standard ticket price at Cinema Lumière is €12, students and kids get a discount of €2, which brings the ticket price down to €10.00. For students, it comes down to about the same price as a standard Kinepolis Student Card ticket, however, there are no unexpected extra supplements that add to your ticket price.

Every last Tuesday of the month, Lumière has their “Student Tuesday”. At 20.00h on the last Tuesday of the month, all students can go to a movie for only €4.00 on presentation of their student card. It’s usually a popular movie, so keep an eye out for communication by STUVO about which movie features every month.

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

As you might quickly find out, the outgoing area in Bruges isn’t very large. The main outgoing area for students consists of a couple of dance cafés on the Eiermarkt and a couple of other cafés in the vicinity (such as ‘De Kuppe’ & ‘De Coulissen’). There are also some dance cafés on ‘t Zand, but they attract more of a high school teenager crowd.

DE EIERMARKT

Located very centrally in Bruges is the ‘Eiermarkt’, a small square filled with café terraces that are usually filled with tourists and locals during the day. Once the night draws closer, the music in some bars will get



louder and people will usually start dancing and having a blast until late at night, especially on Thursday. If you want to dance the night away, there are four dance cafés that you’re likely to end up in:

- ❖ Café Pick
- ❖ Starz
- ❖ Ambiorix
- ❖ The Place

SOCIAL MEDIA – PROMOTIONS & THEMED PARTIES

Café Pick and Ambiorix are probably the most popular among students, they regularly have promotions and specially themed parties that make them just a tad more fun. De Kuppe, although not always as lively, also

does quite a bit of promotion with students. If you want to know when something is going on, follow their Facebook pages or Instagram pages, Café Pick is by far the most active on social media:

- ❖ Café Pick [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)
- ❖ Ambiorix [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

OTHER LOCATIONS

If you want to switch it up or just don't feel like dancing much, there are other fine options to spend your evenings with a drink or two:

- ❖ 't Poatersgat: A very popular beer cellar with more than a hundred different beers to choose from, it's also very popular among students in particular.
- ❖ De Garre: They offer 140 different regional beers, as well as their own 'Tripel van De Garre'.
- ❖ 't Verdriet van België: In tourist-heavy Bruges, 't Verdriet is a breath of fresh air, popular among locals and foreign exchange students. Music from pop, rock to Funk and disco.
- ❖ Le Trappiste: Another beer cellar with a huge selection of beers, the owner knows his craft so if you can't quite make a decision between all the beers you can always ask for a recommendation.

STAY ACTIVE, FOR CHEAP! (MOSTLY)

It's not easy to stay in shape in a country with such a large selection of beer, so it's handy to know where you can go to spend your free time in a more active setting.

STUDENT SPORT AND CULTURE OFFERS

As you might have picked up during some presentations at the start of term, you have access to a cheap sports offer as a student. For a onetime payment of €20 you can go to the gym, go swimming, play tennis, badminton, squash, ... all for **FREE** during the rest of your stay. You can also go bowling or ice skating for €2 and get access to the tropical recreation pool in the Lago Olympia swimming pool complex in Bruges for €3.

Register on studentapp.be and follow the instructions to get access to the full range of sports.

SKATING

If, by chance, you've brought your skateboard to Belgium, you might not know where you should go to put it to use. There are quite a bit of skate spots in Bruges, so I would suggest checking most of them out and seeing which ones you like the best/ are the most convenient:

- ❖ [Skate park Beastwood](#) (indoor | €5/visit)
- ❖ [Skate park Gulden Kamer](#)
- ❖ [Skate park Tempelhof](#)
- ❖ [Skate park Daverlo](#)
- ❖ [Skate park Entrepot](#)

BOWLING

There's currently one spot you can go to for some bowling, and it's the [Bowl Inn](#), they have a couple of locations in Flanders, of which one is here in Bruges. Their regular rates are:



❖ €30.00 per lane, per hour | Tuesday – Thursday

❖ €36.00 per lane, per hour | Friday – Sunday

You can bowl with up to **six** people on a single lane, so the cost per person can go down to €5 a person. However, as stated before, if you have purchased the student sports offer on [studentapp.be](#) it can come down to be a lot cheaper with rates of **€2 a person for a student**.

POOL (BILLIARDS)

If you don't want to just sit in a bar while having a drink with friends, how about playing some 8-ball pool while having a drink with friends? There are a couple of places you can go to play some pool, there are two spots that are most frequented by students:

- ❖ [The Monk](#): a regular old bar downstairs with five pool tables on the top floor. You pay for the time that you play, so you don't have to stay for an hour, although you can stay for hours on end if you like. It's quite a popular place since it's pretty close to the center of the city and even has a view of the Belfry Tower, keep that in mind when you have to wait a bit for a table to be free.
- ❖ [Charlie Rockets](#): A bit further from the city center you have the Charlie Rockets, a very cool bar with lots of intriguing international decorations such as country flags, license plates from all the different states of the US, guitars on the walls, ... But, if you want to play pool, you can go to the back of the bar where you'll find a couple of pool tables for which you can pay by the hour (€8).

JUMPSQUARE

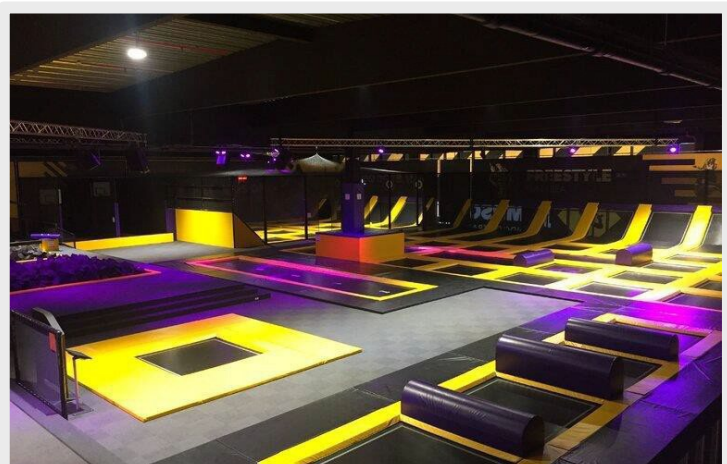
[Jumpsquare](#) is an indoor trampoline park, quite a while from the city center, where you can go to spend an afternoon jumping from trampoline to trampoline, practicing flips and jumping over obstacles. They have different trampoline zones: the sports zone, the challenge zone, the extreme zone, the pro

zone and the main court. There aren't just trampolines, there are also foam pits, and obstacle courses.

Students can go jumping with a discount after 16:00 every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (not on holidays or school vacations):

❖ €14.00 a person for 60 min

❖ €19.00 a person for 90 min



- ❖ €23.00 a person for 120 min

SWIMMING

If you're a real water rat, and you enjoy swimming a couple of laps as a workout or just for fun, there are a couple of public swimming pools you can go to:

- ❖ First off, if you have purchased the student sports offer, you can go swimming for free at the [LAGO Brugge Olympia](#) top-class sports pool. The Olympic top-class sports pool is 50 meters long and 25 meters wide and has 10 lanes. It's the ideal location for swimming laps, alone or with a couple of friends. The subtropical swimming pool of the LAGO is accessible for €3 with the student sports offer. (*Doornstraat 110, 8200 Bruges*)
- ❖ Next, there's the [Interbad](#). The Interbad is a 25-metre pool with a diving board. In addition, there is a water slide with separate landing area, a recreational pool, a small pool with separate slide offices and a paddling pool. You can go swimming here for €3 on presentation of your student card. (*Veltemweg 35, 8310 Bruges*)
- ❖ Last but not least: [The Jan Guilini pool](#) is an indoor 25-metre pool, with a minimum depth of 1 m and a maximum depth of 3 m. The pool is located in a protected building and was named after the swimming champion Jan Guilini. Adults can get access to the pool for €1.80. (*Keizer Karelstraat 41, 8000 Bruges*)

ICE SKATING

If you're in Bruges between the end of October and March, you can go ice skating on the 30 x 60m covered ice skating rink at the [Boudewijn Seapark Ice Rink](#).

Regular rates are €11.00 p.p. (includes skate rental) but students can go ice skating for €2.00 through the student sports offer by STUVO on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Opening hours are:

- ❖ Wednesday from 14:00 to 18:00
- ❖ Friday from 19:00 to 22:00
- ❖ Saturday from 14:00 to 18:00
- ❖ Sunday from 11:00 to 18:00

Every year you can also go ice skating for free as a student at the Students on Ice event by Brugge Studentenstad.

VISITING THE SURROUNDING AREA BY BIKE

Belgium's not a big country and Flanders doesn't have a lot of hills, so naturally a lot of Belgians ride their bikes to nearby cities and towns to combine burning some calories with an afternoon of sightseeing.

If you don't have a bike yet, there are a couple of options to rent a bike in Bruges, the chapter 'Getting Around' contains everything on how and where you can rent a bike at very affordable rates.

There are plenty of beautiful bike routes you can take and there are a couple of websites that have a bunch of these routes featured, as well as other bike routes in other parts of Belgium:

- ❖ [Komoot.com](https://www.komoot.com), this website has an English version, as well as English descriptions of the different routes (difficulty levels, type of terrain, ...). They also have a [Route Planner](#) to design your own routes for cycling, but also for hiking, running, ...
- ❖ [Bikemap](https://www.bikemap.net) (also in English) has a bunch of user-made bike routes as well as an option to design your own routes.
- ❖ [Routeyou](https://www.routeyou.com) (also in English) also has plenty of bike routes to offer, ranging from short and easy to long and challenging.
- ❖ [Vlaanderen-fietsland](https://www.vlaanderen-fietsland.be) is a website that contains information about the different bike nodes (fietsknooppunten) throughout Flanders, you can follow these nodes with planned routes, or you can use their [route planner](#) to use the nodes to make your own route, that way you can decide exactly where you're going and how long your ride will be. [This website is only available in Dutch, however, but it's pretty straight forward.](#)



You can find even more information and inspiration on [Brugseommeland.be](https://www.brugseommeland.be) if you don't know where you should start. I would especially recommend having a look at their very popular and beautiful [bike trails](#).

NATURE PARKS – GREEN AREAS AROUND BRUGES

Enjoy the nature and rest in one of Bruges parks or forests.

Looking for some nice green walks, pic-nic areas, quiet areas, around Bruges? See below. Or find out more [here](#)

TILLEGEMBOS Tillegemstraat 85, 8200 Brugge

GEM·ENE·WEIDEBEEK Gemene-Weidebeek, Gemeneweideweg-Zuid 113, 8310 Brugge

SINT· PIETERSPLAS Sint-Pietersplas, Blankenbergse Dijk 75, 8000 Brugge

RYCKEVELDE Holleweg, 8310 Brugge

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

If you want to be up-to-date on all the interesting events that Bruges and the surrounding area have to offer, be it exclusively for students or for everyone, this chapter will make sure every week of your mobility is lively.

WEBSITES & PLATFORMS

If you're not sure yet what you're looking for, you might just want to scroll through all upcoming events. There are a bunch of websites that offer an overview of general events, both free and paid, most are in Dutch though, so you might want to get a translating tool ready:

- ❖ [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

- ❖ [UitInVlaanderen](#)
- ❖ [Out](#)
- ❖ [Visit Bruges](#)
- ❖ [In & Uit Bruges](#) (concert tickets Bruges; site available in English)

You'll quickly notice that there's a whole variety of events, and you'll have to search a bit to find something interesting.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

If you're looking for fun events that are directed towards (Howest) students, you should keep an eye out for posters and flyers around the campus. STUVO also sends out a monthly mail with upcoming events to all Howest students, so keep an eye out for that as well. [Brugge Studentenstad](#) (≈Student City of Bruges) also has an overview of upcoming and past events on their website.

STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

Every student city in Belgium has at least a couple of student organizations, they are usually linked to a particular study program or a school/campus. During the school weeks, these organizations organize weekly activities for their members and non-members. Howest in Bruges has two of these organizations: [Brihos](#) & [Aethyra](#)

These organizations offer events that range from karting & skiing to parties and an annual ball. Since becoming a fully-fledged member of a student organization requires you to go through a hazing ritual and be a rookie member for a full academic year, it's not possible to go to every single activity they organize since some of them are strictly closed. But, worry not, if you contact them, they will most likely let you join as an unofficial member, and you'll be able to experience it just the same.

You can find all upcoming events by Brihos & Aethyra through their Facebook & Instagram pages. They usually publish their events a couple of weeks beforehand, and they also post a

calendar of their upcoming events for the whole semester or at least a couple of months on their pages:

Brihos: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) Aethyra: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

[ESN Leonardo \(Erasmus Student Network\) Kortrijk](#)



Other student organizations

SUITE 18

SUITE 18 is a shared living and study lounge for the global community of Howest Bruges. It is the perfect place to hang out with your friends from the community for a games night, movie night or a study session. It is not a party place, not a student house, not a bedroom. Suite 18 is always open, even during holiday breaks or in the weekend to everyone in our global community. Everybody should feel free to join and visit!

[Facebook](#) | [Discord](#)

STUDENTAPP

A must have is the [StudentApp](#). This app will give you an overview of all the upcoming events. This includes the sport events, cultural events and events hosted for the international students in Bruges.

To access this information you have to register on the site with your howest e-mail address and your ready to go!

THE STUDENT VILLAGE

[The student village](#) is a place where you can rent a room for free as a student. The offices of Bruges Student City (= Brugge Studentenstad) are located there. You can use it as a study room, hold a meeting or even host an event. They also offer a bar and party location for rent, called 'Cachot'.

ISIC STUDENT CARD

All Howest students have an [ISIC](#) (the International Student Identity Card) which is an internationally accepted proof of student status.

This ID verifies you as a student and grants you access to a diverse selection of benefits and discounts around the world. With the ISIC card a student may redeem discounts for travel, accommodation, visiting cultural institutions and other various benefits.

STUDENT DEALS

STUDENT DEAL @ PICK

If you like to go out to eat lunch but don't want to spend too much money, café [the Pick](#) at the Eiermarkt is the place to be.

They have a lunch offer with student friendly prices. Besides the good prices they have a student stamp card as well, if you eat there 10 times the 11th time is for free.

STUDENT DEAL @ WASBAR

[Wasbar](#) is restaurant/laundry place, on the main Market square. The concept makes it possible for you to do your laundry while having lunch or dinner. For only 12 euro, you can eat a bagel burger and waffle fries.

Address: Markt 15, 8000 Brugge

STUDENT DEAL @ ELLIS GOURMET BURGER

[Ellis Gourmet Burger](#) is a burger restaurant at the Simon Stevinplein in center Bruges. It has a big assortment on burgers and a student deal that is valid for lunch and dinner. For 12 euro you can pick one of their original burgers with a classic side dish.

Address: [Simon Stevinplein 14, 8000 Bruges](#)

STUDENT DEAL @ BOCA

[Boca](#) is a well-known pasta bar under students. It has a big assortment of pasta's for a student friendly price. A small pasta is 6,5 euro. Medium 8,5 euro and a big one 9,5 euro. It is open between 11u30 and 20u.

Address: [Dweersstraat 13, 8000 Bruges](#)

STUDENT JOBS

Being a student can be expensive, let alone being an international student. Depending on where you're from, Belgium can be quite expensive compared to what you're used to. A great way to get some extra funds while you're staying in Belgium is getting a student job. This chapter is here to help you find a student job, but also to inform you what you're allowed to do as an international student when it comes to working.

AM I ALLOWED TO WORK AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

First things first, different rules apply if you're from an EEA (European Economic Area) member state or not. If you're a student from an EEA country or Switzerland, you can work under the same terms as Belgian students, more about these terms later in the chapter.

If you're not from an EEA member state, you'll need permission to work in Belgium. If you have legal residence in Belgium and would like to earn some extra cash, having an **electronic residence permit card** is enough. In case you are allowed to work, it will be mentioned on the back of your residence permit card.

- ❖ Whether you're eligible to work in Belgium is automatically checked by the Immigration Office from the moment you apply for your residence permit.
- ❖ In case you received an annex 15 while awaiting your actual residence card, this document may also be used as a working permit.

As a non-EEA student you can work a maximum of **20 hours** every week except for official school holidays, there this limitation does not apply. If you arrive in Belgium during the summer vacation preceding the academic year, you're not allowed to work during that period.

If you're not sure about what's mentioned above or if you need help with your registration process and work permit application, you should contact Huis van de Bruggeling:

050 44 80 00

info@brugge.be

CONDITIONS TO WORK AS A STUDENT IN BELGIUM

As a student, you're always employed with a **student employment contract**, this contract must be temporary (max 12 months), must be drawn up in the official language of the region and must be signed by both parties before the employment begins.

As a student you receive a set of **475 hours every calendar year** during which you can work by paying only a solidarity premium of the social security contribution (2.71%). If you work more hours, you'll have to pay the normal social security contribution (13.07%). If the duration of your mobility is half a year, you probably won't be running out of hours very quickly. In case you're staying for a year, and you're starting in January, you might want to keep tabs on how many hours you have left, which can be easily checked on studentatwork.be.

WHERE TO FIND A JOB?

Now you know what you're allowed to do in terms of working as a student, you'll want to know where to find a job. You'll have to take in account that the main language in Flanders is Dutch, so if you don't speak the language, your options will be more limited.

A good place to start, although most job opportunities will be written up in Dutch, is the website <https://www.student.be/en/student-jobs/>. You can filter results by City to show you all the available jobs in your area.

You can also try your luck with the [Howest Student Job Database](#), the platform is available in English and can also be used for internships. The database contains over 10.000 vacancies for young talent.

With the app called '**NOWJOBS**' you can look for jobs in the vicinity (for [iOS](#) / [Android](#)). Apps like **AnyShift** connect students directly with local opportunities—flexible, with instant matches and no paperwork. [LINK](#)

The [VDAB Links to an external site.](#) is the Flemish governmental service for people looking for a job. They have a large overview of job opportunities and offer support.

Probably the best place to go, however, is an interim office. These people know the legislation and will be able to guide you towards a job more easily because they have most likely helped many international students before. Notable interim offices are:

- Randstad
- Adecco
- Manpower
- Unique
- Start People
- Tempo-Team
- ...

There are loads of offices in the city, just make a quick google search to see which ones are closer to you. Stop by a couple of offices to see what they are able to offer you. The more of them you visit, the bigger the chance you'll find something you really like!

GENERAL NEEDS

Going to a general practitioner, calling an ambulance, buying a bottle of cough syrup, or just simply sending letters back home to your family and friends by post. These are all services that you might or might not need during your international mobility in Belgium. This chapter gives a quick rundown how all these services work in Belgium.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, PHARMACIES & DENTISTS

If you are feeling sick and cannot make it to class or your internship, you will need a doctor's note, so your absence can be validated. If you wake up feeling sick, you will want to call up a GP(=general practitioner) on the same day, so your doctor's note is 100% valid, especially if you're interning somewhere (**some companies can be really strict and if you didn't call a GP on your first day of absence, they can deem your certificate of absence as invalid**).

You will need a doctor's note if you miss required classes, multiple lessons and especially if you miss exams. Please keep your teachers informed of absences and follow the procedure in Ibamaflex to register your absences. Contact An Goegebuer for question and help if necessary.

Recommended doctors (general practitioners) in the neighborhood:

- ❖ [GP Dr. Dewulf & colleagues](#): Rijselstraat 181, Brugge, +32 (0)50 38.29.81, online appointments possible ('maak een afspraak')
- ❖ [GP Dr. Pallemmaerts, Van Raemdonck & Vermeire](#): Gentpoortstraat 57, Brugge, +32 (0)50 44.40.42, online appointments possible ('maak zelf heel eenvoudig uw afspraak - Klik hier-')

- ❖ GP Dr. Lebbe: Beenhouwerstraat 33, Brugge, +32 (0)50 34.57.48 – call to make an appointment

Via [https://en.doctena.be/General Practitioner GP/brugge](https://en.doctena.be/General_Practitioner_GP/brugge), you can find a GP in your neighborhood.

For urgent doctor service outside regular hours (on weekdays after 8PM, during weekends and during nights), call the Bruges doctor service at 1733. More info on www.kgbn-habo.be.

Do not forget to introduce yourself as a Howest international student!

It is always recommended to see a general practitioner first before going to a specialist or to the ER.

PHARMACIES

If you've gone to see a doctor because of an ailment, you probably received a prescription that you'll have to exchange at a local apothecary. There are plenty of apothecaries in Bruges, and they're easily recognizable by their glowing green crosses on the outside of the buildings. Which one you go to doesn't really matter, the prices are the same, and you can use your prescriptions wherever you like.

If you haven't gone to see a doctor because you only have slight symptoms, you can try googling whether the medicine you need requires a prescription or not. You'll obviously have to pay for the medicine, so bring your debit card or some cash.

While most apothecaries aren't open on Sundays, there are plenty in Bruges that are, so if you need something urgently on a Sunday, have a quick google search on which ones are open, and off you go.

DENTISTS

Chipped a tooth after a few beers too many and falling down a set of stairs? It's not very likely, but it can happen if you're really unlucky. Well you'll probably want to see a dentist so not every photo of you on Erasmus has you smiling with a closed mouth. Here are some dentist practices where you can make an appointment online:

- ❖ [deTandartsen](#)
- ❖ [Tandartsen Dekeyser & Cammaert](#)

HOSPITALS

For very serious medical emergencies, you'll want to visit the hospital. There are two hospitals with an ER unit situated in Bruges:

- ❖ AZ Sint-Jan, Ruddershove 10, 8000 Brugge, ER +32 (0)50 45.20.00
- ❖ AZ Sint-Lucas, Sint-Lucaslaan 29, 8310 Brugge, ER +32 (0)50 36.91.12

INSURANCE

Paying a visit to a GP or buying some medicine isn't that expensive in Belgium, but you can save more money through your insurance.

So when you're visiting a GP, dentist, hospital, ... make sure to have your insurance information and keep all receipts, so you can recuperate costs. Cash payments are often required.

All incoming students need to arrange themselves sufficient health, but also third-party (civil) liability and travel insurance, including repatriation of corpse. More detailed information on the Howest insurance

policy for incoming students can be found on our website, see <https://www.howest.be/en/prepare-your-study-stay-in-belgium>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Let's hope you don't need these services while you're studying in Bruges, but in case you do, you'll want to know the phone numbers to the different emergency services.

The general emergency number for urgent medical assistance, police and/or fire assistance in Europe is **112**, so that's probably the most useful one to keep in the back of your mind.

Other emergency numbers in Belgium:

- ❖ Medical service: 100/ 112
- ❖ Fire service: 100/112
- ❖ Police: 101

You should call one of these numbers in any genuine emergency, such as serious or life-threatening medical problems, to report crimes or if you see a fire.

POLICE

If you want to contact the Bruges police, you can call them on +32 (0)50 44 88 44 or make an appointment on www.politiebrugge.be.

Police departments in Bruges:

- ❖ Police Commissioner's Office District Center | Kartuizerinnenstraat 4
- ❖ Main Police Station | Lodewijk Coiseaukaai 3

There are also police offices in every suburb of Bruges (Sint-Kruis, Sint-Andries, Sint-Michiels, Assebroek, Sint-Pieters & Zeebrugge).

POST OFFICE

The post office in the city center can be found at the *Smedenstraat 57-59*, there are various other post points located throughout the city. You can visit any of them for advice, also be bought at outlets you'll find throughout the shopping street and Hall on 't Zand.

LIBRARY

If you need to borrow some books, there are a couple of places to go but the "Biekorf", other libraries are included below.

- ❖ Main Library Biekorf | Kuipersstraat 3
- ❖ Library Sint-Michiels | Xaverinenstraat 3/002
- ❖ Library Sint-Andries | Albert Serreynstraat 1/0001



PHOTO BOOTH

There's a photo booth at the Bruges municipality and at the Bruges train station in case you need new passport pictures and there are several places in Bruges, listed below, where you can take official passport pictures according to the above mentioned requirements. Or create a valid passport photo online via [Online passport photo](#) | [Make your own passport](#) | [Faced.eu](#) and get it delivered at home for €7,95 (6 photos).

- Aksent Fotografie, Oostendsesteenweg 59, 8000 Brugge, [Contact - aksent fotografie](#)
- Dagbladhandel Kristof, Baron Ruzettelaan 211, 8310 Brugge, [Dagbladhandel Kristof Brugge](#)
- Portretfotografie Brugge, Het Groeneveld 41, 8200 Brugge, [Homepage - Portretfotografie Brugge](#)
- Profpict Fotografie, Tulpenstraat 3, 8310 Brugge, [Fotograaf Assebroek](#) | [Profpict fotografie](#)

GETTING A TATTOO

Getting a tattoo is something that quite a lot of people are into, it is especially popular with the newer generations. With 47% of millennials having at least one piece of body art, the taboo of getting 'inked' is slowly fading away. Getting a tattoo while you're abroad is a fun thing to do, and it adds another layer of meaning, serving as a souvenir and a personal piece of art at the same time.

But you do not want to get a bad tattoo that will make you regret ever stepping foot in Belgium. That's why, in this chapter, I'll be giving some tips where you should look & which cities have a great variety of skilled artists who can give you something that's worth your while.



GHENT

Bruges is extremely limited when it comes to tattoo artists and most people that I know don't get their art done here, an ideal place to start looking for an artist that suits your specific needs in terms of art style and quality is the city of Ghent. It's a much bigger city, and it shows when you look at all the different artists that work there.

These are some of the most popular spots in Ghent, most people that are into tattoos will know at least one of these places:

- ❖ [Noir](#): This is the most popular place in Ghent when it comes to tattoos, and it makes sense, they have 13 really talented artists that do a wide variety of styles, so you can easily get anything you can think of done there. They are rather expensive, but you don't want to be cheap when it comes to body art, they also ask for an advance payment of €50. Make sure you transfer the advance on time, because they are a terribly busy tattoo shop and will cancel your appointment if something isn't in order.
- ❖ [Bodydesign](#): Bodydesign is also an exceedingly popular place, the shop is owned by Tanne who has over 20 years of experience, and she collaborates with international artists who reside at the shop as guests, bringing some multicultural art to the city.
- ❖ [Klinik](#): A private studio hosted by three talented ladies that care a lot about your story and about a unique and special design.
- ❖ [Goons and Queens](#): This is an American style tattoo shop that does a lot of assorted styles as well as international collaborations.