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# **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES**

## **2019**





# #1

Declared 'most innovative university of Europe' by Reuters 3 years in a row (2016, 2017 and 2018)

# TOP 100

KU Leuven consistently ranks in the top 100 universities worldwide in all major international rankings

# >150

More than 150 nationalities are represented at KU Leuven

# >120

KU Leuven has launched more than 120 spin-off companies

# 1425

KU Leuven was founded in 1425, making it one of the oldest universities in the world.

# 1 MIO

University Hospitals Leuven, the university's network of research hospitals, receives over a million patients each year

# Research partnerships

The university works closely with imec, the world-leading nanoelectronics research centre headquartered at the university's Science, Engineering & Technology campus

# >20

KU Leuven has more than 20 international student organisations in addition to faculty unions and LOKO, the umbrella student organisation

KU Leuven is a founding member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU)

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Founded in 1425, KU Leuven has been a centre of learning for almost six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's highest-ranked university as well as one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven offers a wide variety of programmes in English. These programmes are supported by high-quality interdisciplinary research carried out at both the university and its internationally acclaimed hospitals. Boasting an outstanding central location in the heart of Europe, KU Leuven offers a truly international experience, high-quality education, world-class research, and cutting-edge innovation.

## WHY KU LEUVEN?

### High-quality education

Excellence in education and excellence in research go hand in hand. KU Leuven's study programmes are research-based, which ensures that students acquire academic competences while also developing a critical and research-oriented attitude. Flexibility and state-of-the-art technology are integral to each study programme. A KU Leuven degree offers a significant competitive advantage and is highly valued around the world. The ECTS quality label guarantees that all credits obtained at KU Leuven are transparent and fully transferable.

[www.kuleuven.be/education](http://www.kuleuven.be/education)

KU Leuven consistently performs well in the international rankings. It is currently ranked **47th** in the Times Higher Education World Rankings (2018) and **81st** in the QS World University Rankings (2019).



## World-class research

KU Leuven boasts a strong international reputation for research excellence. As a comprehensive university, it pursues curiosity-driven and strategic frontier research as well as targeted and demand-driven research, all in an interdisciplinary environment. KU Leuven is a founding member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), a select group of distinguished research-intensive universities that sets the tone for research in Europe. KU Leuven has a strong record of securing funding from the most competitive research funds, including the prestigious ERC Grants awarded by the European Research Council. KU Leuven is the sixth-ranked university when it comes to the number of projects under the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, only preceded by Cambridge, Oxford, University College London, Copenhagen and Imperial College. Its total research output consistently ranks among the European top.

[www.kuleuven.be/research](http://www.kuleuven.be/research)

## Cutting-edge innovation and R&D

**KU Leuven Research & Development (LRD)** is the technology transfer office of KU Leuven. Established in 1972 as one of the first technology transfer offices in Europe, LRD has a long tradition of collaborating with industry, patenting, licensing, and creating spin-off companies. LRD is dedicated to valorising research, building bridges between science and industry, and transferring knowledge and technologies to the marketplace.

[www.lrd.kuleuven.be/en](http://www.lrd.kuleuven.be/en)

## International orientation

KU Leuven is home to a vibrant community of international students and staff members spread out over its various campuses. 18% of the university's **56,800 students** are international, representing **150 countries**. KU Leuven's Doctoral Schools provide internationally oriented PhD tracks for more than 5,800 doctoral researchers. KU Leuven works with a select number of top-level partner institutions worldwide and stimulates purposeful international mobility and intensive research cooperation. It continually strives to integrate the local and international student and research communities on all its campuses through a variety of programmes and activities.



An electric race car, built by our students



## WHY BELGIUM?

As a student or researcher you will discover a country full of surprising contrasts. Belgium is a place rich in art, history, and architecture. You are treated to its local specialties in a friendly atmosphere. The country has much to offer to students: a cosmopolitan lifestyle, great sport facilities, libraries, bookshops, restaurants, cafés, and a dynamic cultural scene. It is also an ideal base for exploring the rest of Europe. London, Paris, Cologne, and Amsterdam are all a proverbial stone's throw away, and can easily be reached by train and (budget) air travel. Belgium is the headquarters of many international organisations and companies and the beating heart of the European Union.

Belgium has three official languages – Dutch, French, and German – but English is rapidly becoming the business lingua franca. In daily life, as well, you'll find nearly everyone is able to communicate in English.

With a standard of living amongst the highest in the world, Belgians benefit from universal health-care, social security coverage, and an excellent education system. As an international guest, you might find Belgians initially reserved – an impression that will only last until your first visit to a Belgian home, where you will be warmly welcomed and well fed.



**>56,800**

Students at  
KU Leuven

**>10,000**

International students  
at KU Leuven

# CAMPUSES ACROSS FLANDERS

KU Leuven offers degree programmes at various campuses in **10 Belgian cities, including Brussels**. Five of these campuses offer programmes in English.

[www.kuleuven.be/campuses](http://www.kuleuven.be/campuses)



# LEUVEN

Since its foundation, KU Leuven has been located in the city of Leuven in the region of Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium. Leuven is a modern, bustling, and safe student city with a long and rich history. The city's beautiful, charming centre, which dates from the Middle Ages, is punctuated with stately colleges and historic buildings constructed over centuries by and for the university. Cultural and recreational opportunities abound.

Leuven's concentration of brain capital, its excellent infrastructure, and its convenient location create an exciting and creative climate for research and innovation. Leuven has established itself as one of Europe's technology hotspots and, together with Cambridge, Heidelberg, Maastricht and Copenhagen, is part of Health Axis Europe, an alliance dedicated to stimulating innovation and competition in healthcare technology.



**"The city of Leuven is wonderful, the cost of living manageable, the education top-level, the location for travelling exceptional, and the country beautiful."**

Sarah, Canada



**Brussels**

**Brussels** is the capital of Belgium and a modern, multicultural city that offers many activities for residing students. Thanks to its cinemas, theatres, museums, and art galleries, Brussels is never dull. In addition, it welcomes a large number of international students every year, which gives the city a cosmopolitan feel.

Brussels is the beating heart of Europe. As a student, you'll be living and studying in a true business hub and decision making centre: the city hosts the EU and the NATO, as well as a diverse range of international finance and trade organisations. Hundreds of multinational corporations have their head offices here.



**Ghent**

The bustling city of **Ghent** offers you its hallmark joie de vivre and a comfortable home away from home. The scenic Graslei waterfront, the medieval Sint-Baafs Cathedral, Gravensteen Castle, and charming bars: Ghent has it all. The numerous museums, music venues, and art studios give the city its artistic vibe.

Ghent is at once historical and contemporary, as its ambitious modern architecture and urban development strategy illustrate. With its elaborate educational network the city is also a hub of knowledge. Ghent is home to various institutions for higher education, innovative companies, and start-ups. The city appeals to international experts in many fields as well as to students.



**Antwerp and Sint-Katelijne-Waver**

**Antwerp** is a historical city of culture, architecture, fashion, and top-level gastronomy. The Antwerp harbour is the second largest in Europe. Antwerp's strategic location and its open-minded reputation attract many international investors and companies. The history of Antwerp is rich and fascinating. But for students, the city never grows old.

The green campus of **Sint-Katelijne-Waver** is a twenty-minute train ride away. The campus introduces you to state-of-the-art technologies. Antwerp is a convenient home base, as is art city Mechelen. Its historical centre may be compact, but Mechelen is welcoming and authentic.





“Every morning, I cycle to work, enjoying the green parks and it only takes 20 minutes to go from one place to another. Besides that, it is so easy to take the train and go visit other cities and even other countries without needing a visa.”

Haniyeh, Iran - PhD Biomechanics

## DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

KU Leuven’s three doctoral schools provide PhD researchers with high-quality instruction and support embedded in a stimulating international research environment. Under the guidance of one or more doctoral supervisors, PhD researchers pursue a doctoral curriculum tailored to their research interests and professional goals. PhD researchers have access to excellent research facilities and student services. In addition to academic, research-related coursework, all doctoral curricula include transferable skills training in topics such as effective communication, entrepreneurial skills, and leadership. The three doctoral schools welcome a total of 5,800 PhD researchers, of whom 49% are international.



**Arenberg Doctoral School for Science, Engineering and Technology**

- **Goals:** The Arenberg Doctoral School encourages young researchers to acquire scientific and technological knowledge within all fields of Science, Engineering & Technology, ranging from curiosity-driven fundamental research to applied technological solutions to social and industrial problems.
- **Fields of specialisation:** More than 20 PhD programmes, including several disciplines in Earth & Environmental Sciences, Architecture, Biology, Biosystems, Civil Engineering, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Materials Engineering, Microbial & Molecular Systems, Physics & Astronomy, Mechanical Engineering, and Mathematics.
- **Careers:** PhD researchers from the Arenberg Doctoral School become researchers with professional confidence and pride. They conduct research and establish collaborations within academia, as well as with external private and public partners.

[www.set.kuleuven.be/phd](http://www.set.kuleuven.be/phd)  
[www.shapetheworld.eu](http://www.shapetheworld.eu)



**Doctoral School of Biomedical Sciences**

- **Goals:** The Doctoral School of Biomedical Sciences trains biomedical researchers to explore the fundamental elements of living systems at all levels – from gene to cell, body and mind – and to translate that knowledge into improved healthcare.
- **Fields of specialisation:** 12 thematic programmes including Cancer, Cell Signaling and Therapeutics, Cognitive and Molecular Neurosciences, Drug Design and Development, Emerging Concepts in Cardiovascular Medicine, Exercise and Physical Activity in Health and Disease, Health and Technology, Immunology and Microbiology, Mechanisms of Human Disease, Genetics & Genomics, Molecular and Stem Cell Medicine and Patient Related and Public Health Research.
- **Careers:** PhD researchers from the Doctoral School of Biomedical Sciences are prepared for a successful career in any sector requiring deep rigorous analysis, such as academia, healthcare, consultancy, research and the pharmaceutical and biotech industry.

[www.gbiomed.kuleuven.be/phd](http://www.gbiomed.kuleuven.be/phd)



**Leuven International Doctoral School for the Humanities and Social Sciences**

- **Goals:** The Doctoral School for the Humanities and Social Sciences helps young scholars acquire an open, inquisitive, and critical worldview and encourages them to play a meaningful role in society both within and outside the academic world.
- **Fields of specialisation:** 28 PhD programmes including Theology, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Economics, Business Economics, Law, Criminology, Canon Law, Social Sciences, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Educational Sciences, Psychology, Linguistics, Literature, Ancient Near East Studies, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Sinology, Classical Studies, Japanese Studies, Oriental Studies, Slavonic and East European Studies, Art History, History, Musicology, Archaeology, Translation Studies, Cultural Studies and Arts.
- **Careers:** PhD researchers from the Leuven International Doctoral School pursue academic and professional careers in international business, public policy, international organisations, NGOs, journalism, the arts, education, the cultural and communication sector, ...

[www.ghum.kuleuven.be/phd](http://www.ghum.kuleuven.be/phd)

	CREDITS	LOCATION	URL
<b>BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES</b>			
• BSc in Engineering Technology	180	Group T Leuven Campus	kuleuven.be/ba/BAET
• BA in Theology and Religious Studies	180	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ba/BATHEOLOGY
• BA in Philosophy	180	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ba/BAPHIL
• BSc in Business Administration	180	Brussels Campus	kuleuven.be/ba/BBA

## MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

### SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

#### MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

• MSc in Astronomy and Astrophysics	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MASTROL
• MSc in Biology	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MBIOEL
• MSc in Biophysics, Biochemistry and Biotechnology	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MBBBL
• MSc in Chemistry	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MCHEMEL
• MSc in Geography	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MGEOGEL
• MSc in Geology	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MGEOLEL
• MSc in Mathematics	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MMATHL
• MSc in Nanoscience, Nanotechnology and Nanoengineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNNEL
• MSc in Physics	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MPHYSL
• MSc in Statistics	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MSTATEL
■ Erasmus Mundus MSc in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNNEMML
■ Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Sustainable Territorial Development	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/EMMSTDL
■ ICP-MSc in Sustainable Development	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MSDL
• MSc in Biomedical Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MBIEL
• MSc in Chemical Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MCEL
• MSc in Electrical Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MELEL
• MSc in Engineering: Energy	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MEENL
• EIT-KIC MSc in Energy	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MEEITL
• MSc in Engineering: Computer Science	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MECSL
• MSc in Materials Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MMEL
• MSc in Mathematical Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MMAEL
• MSc in Bioscience Engineering: Human Health Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/HHE
• MSc in Bioscience Engineering: Agro- and Ecosystems Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/ACE
• MSc in Mechanical Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MMEEL
• MSc in Engineering: Logistics and Traffic	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MELATL
■ Erasmus Mundus MSc in Theoretical Chemistry and Computational Modelling	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MTCMML
• MSc in Biochemical Engineering Technology	60	Group T Leuven Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MBETL
• MSc in Chemical Engineering Technology	60	Group T Leuven Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MCETL
• MSc in Electromechanical Engineering Technology	60	Group T Leuven Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MEETL
• MSc in Electronics & ICT Engineering Technology	60	Group T Leuven Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MEITL
• European Master of Food Science, Technology and Business	120	Ghent Technology Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MFSTBGT
• MSc in Architecture	120	Sint-Lucas Brussels Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MARCEBX
• MSc in Architecture	120	Sint-Lucas Ghent Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MARCEGT
• MSc in Bioinformatics	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MBINFEL
■ MSc in Food Technology	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/IUPFOOD
• MSc in Molecular Biology	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MMBL
■ MSc in Water Resources Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/IUPWARE
<b>ADVANCED MASTER'S PROGRAMMES</b>			
• MSc in Digital Humanities	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MDHL
• MSc in Space Studies	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMSSL
• MSc in Artificial Intelligence	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMAIL
• MSc in Conservation of Monuments and Sites	90	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MCMS
■ MSc in Human Settlements	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MAHS
• MSc in Nuclear Engineering	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMNEL
• MSc in Safety Engineering	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMSEL
• MSc in Welding Engineering	60	Sint-Katelijne-Waver Technology Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMWES
• MSc in Urbanism and Strategic Planning	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMUSPL
<b>POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES</b>			
• Postgraduate Programme in Biomedical Engineering	39	Leuven	kuleuven.be/pg/PGBEL
• Postgraduate European Module Spatial Development Planning	30	Leuven	kuleuven.be/pg/PGEMSDL
• Postgraduate Programme in Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Engineering	60	Group T Leuven, Geel, Ghent, Bruges, Sint-Katelijne-Waver	kuleuven.be/pg/PGIEE
• Postgraduate Programme in Research Valorisation in Engineering Technology	60	Group T Leuven, Geel, Ghent, Bruges, Sint-Katelijne-Waver	kuleuven.be/pg/PGRVET

	CREDITS	LOCATION	URL
<b>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES</b>			
<b>MASTER'S PROGRAMMES</b>			
• MSc in Biomedical Sciences	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MBSL
• MSc in Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MRSPL
• International MSc in Adapted Physical Activity	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/IMAPAL
■ Erasmus Mundus Joint Master of Arts in Sports Ethics and Integrity	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MASEIL
<b>ADVANCED MASTER'S PROGRAMMES</b>			
• MSc in Bioethics	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMBIOEL
• MSc in Forensic Odontology	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMFOL
• MSc in Deglutology	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMDEGLL
• MSc in Global Health*	120	Ghent et al.	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMGHG
<b>POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES</b>			
• Postgraduate Studies in Advanced Medical Imaging	57	Leuven	kuleuven.be/pg/PGAMIL
• Postgraduate Studies in Pharmaceutical Research	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/pg/PGPRL
• Postgraduate Studies in Algology	40	Leuven	kuleuven.be/pg/PGALGL
<b>HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</b>			
<b>MASTER'S PROGRAMMES</b>			
• MA in Theology and Religious Studies	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MTRSL
• Research Master: Master of Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MASTRL
• MA in Philosophy	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MPHILL
• Research Master in Philosophy	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/RMPHILL
• MA in Society, Law and Religion	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MSLRL
• MSc in Criminology	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MCRIMEL
• Master of Law	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MLAWL
• MSc in Business Administration	60	Brussels Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MBABX
• MSc in Business Administration	60	Antwerp Carolus Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MBAA
• MSc in Business Economics	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MBEL
• MSc in Business Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MBENL
• MSc in Business Engineering	120	Brussels Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MBENBX
• MSc in Economics	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MECONL
• MSc in Information Management	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MIMEL
• MSc in International Business Economics and Management	60	Brussels Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MIBEMBX
• MSc in Business and Information Systems Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MBISEL
• MSc in Actuarial and Financial Engineering	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MAFEL
• MSc in International Politics	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MIPL
• MA in European Studies: Transnational and Global Perspectives	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/EURSTUDIES
• MSc in Social and Cultural Anthropology	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MSCAEL
■ Erasmus Mundus Master of Science in Public Sector Innovation and eGovernance	120	Leuven et al.	kuleuven.be/ma/PIONEER
• MA in Cultural Studies	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MCSEL
• MA en langue et littérature françaises	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MLLFL
• MA in Linguistics and Literature: English	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MLLEL
• MA in Western Literature	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MWLEL
• MA in History	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/MHISL
• MSc in Psychology: Theory and Research	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MTREL
• MSc in Educational Studies	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MESEL
<b>ADVANCED MASTER'S PROGRAMMES</b>			
• MA Canon Law (Iuris Canonici Licentiatius)	120	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMCLL
• Master of Laws in European Social Security	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMESSL
• Master of Laws in Intellectual Property and ICT Law	60	Brussels Campus	kuleuven.be/ma/MIPILBX
• Master of Laws (LL.M.)	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/LLM
• MSc in Advanced Studies in Economics	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMASEL
■ MSc in Cultural Anthropology and Development Studies	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/CADES
• MSc in European Politics and Policies	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MEPP
• MA in Advanced Studies in Linguistics	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMASSL
• MA in Estudios Ibéricos e Iberoamericanos	60	Leuven	kuleuven.be/ma/MNMEIIL
<b>POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES</b>			
• Postgraduate Programme in Specialised Translation	60	Antwerp Sint-Andries Campus	kuleuven.be/pg/PGSTA
• Postgraduate Certificate in Korean Studies	24	Leuven	kuleuven.be/pg/PGKSL
• Postgraduate Executive Summer School Social Security	20	Leuven	kuleuven.be/pg/PGESSSL
• Postgraduate Studies in Big Data and Analytics in Business and Management	20	Leuven	kuleuven.be/pg/PGDBABML

\* Awaiting approval by the Higher Education Commission and the Flemish Government

■ Erasmus Mundus master's programme

■ International course programme

#### ECTS CREDITS?

One ECTS credit represents 25 to 30 hours of study (including attendance of lectures/class). In the course of one academic year, students are usually expected to complete 60 ECTS credits. Programmes of 120 ECTS credits will normally take two academic years to complete.



“The type of research that we do in Leuven is actually quite similar compared to what I have been doing in America. And there are large collaborations with many different international people. The biggest difference in Belgium is that you're actually interacting with these international people face to face. And so you get a lot of different cultures interacting. And it's interesting to see how the different cultures come with different ideas for research projects.”

Spencer, USA - Bachelor Biology

## SHORT-TERM EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### Exchange programmes

When you are a degree student at another university outside of Belgium, it may be possible to come spend some time at KU Leuven. You would still be a student at your home university, but also an **exchange student at KU Leuven** for a period ranging from a couple of months to a full academic year.

You can become an exchange student via European exchange programmes such as ERASMUS or via bilateral agreements between your university and KU Leuven.

[www.kuleuven.be/exchange](http://www.kuleuven.be/exchange)

### Summer schools

KU Leuven offers several top-level **summer courses** that are open to students, researchers, and professionals from all over the world. A significant share of the short programmes offers advanced insights into academic subjects and is intended to supplement the regular curriculum. With an exciting range of options in the heart of Europe, you will not only enjoy high-quality classes, but also truly experience the European lifestyle.

[www.kuleuven.be/summerschools](http://www.kuleuven.be/summerschools)

# ACADEMIC CAREER PATH

## Bachelor's programmes

KU Leuven offers **49 bachelor's programmes**, 4 of which are taught in English. Bachelor's programmes consist of 180 ECTS credits and can be completed in 3 years.

## Master's programmes

You can choose from **127 master's programmes** at KU Leuven. 65 of them are completely in English, 2 of them in French. Programmes will take 1 year (60 ECTS credits) or 2 years (120 ECTS credits) to complete.

## Advanced master's programmes

Advanced master's programmes are aimed at students who already have a master's degree. They provide training at an advanced level. KU Leuven offers **21 advanced master's programmes** in English and 1 in Spanish. The curricula are strongly linked to top research domains of KU Leuven. Programmes usually take 1 year (60 ECTS credits), but 2-year programmes also exist.

## Postgraduate programmes

Postgraduate programmes are advanced programmes of 20 ECTS credits or more. They target students who have already obtained a bachelor's or a master's degree. Postgraduate programmes help you expand your knowledge and provide opportunities for further specialisation. Upon successful completion of the programme, you receive a certificate.

## Doctorate / PhD

Full-time doctoral programmes usually take a minimum of 3 to 4 years. You will tackle fundamental or applied topics to make an innovative contribution to your field of study.

**"In Leuven, I never have the feeling that I am living in a country where people's first language isn't English. Everybody is happily speaking English. Leuven is an ideal place for international students."**

Sajjad, Pakistan - PhD Climatology

### Academic calendar

- **1st semester:**  
3rd week of September >  
end of January (exams in January)
- **2nd semester:**  
2nd week of February >  
end of June (exams in June)

[www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar](http://www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar)



**49**

bachelor's  
programmes

**127**

master's  
programmes





# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## Admission requirements

Graduate study programmes at KU Leuven are divided into three categories: **initial master's programmes**, **advanced master's programmes**, and **doctoral studies**. Degree requirements vary by category and programme.

- In most cases, to qualify for admission to an initial master's programme, you must hold an appropriate undergraduate degree (usually a bachelor's degree) consisting of at least three years of full-time, university-level studies.
- To qualify for admission to an advanced master's programme, you are expected to hold a master's degree.
- To qualify for admission to a doctoral programme, you must hold a master's degree and have a doctoral advisor (in Dutch, a 'promotor') willing to supervise your doctoral studies.

Final admission decisions are made on a per-programme basis by the board responsible for that particular programme. Students must meet the admission requirements specific to their chosen programme of study.

[www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes](http://www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes)

Students are expected to be proficient in English. All non-native English speakers are required to submit proof of English proficiency. KU Leuven currently accepts TOEFL (iBT) and , IELTS and Cambridge English Examination results. Minimum language requirements vary by programme, so it's best to consult the language requirements specific to your chosen programme for more information.

Students who wish to follow Dutch-language study programmes can visit our website for more information.

[www.kuleuven.be/dutch-proficiency](http://www.kuleuven.be/dutch-proficiency)

## Application procedure and deadlines

Application deadlines can be found at

[www.kuleuven.be/application](http://www.kuleuven.be/application)

Some programmes have a limited number of places and are very selective. We therefore recommend that you apply as soon as possible.

KU Leuven begins accepting applications for the 2019-2020 academic year on 1 November 2018.

For detailed instructions on compiling your application, see

[www.kuleuven.be/application](http://www.kuleuven.be/application)  
[www.kuleuven.be/admissions](http://www.kuleuven.be/admissions)





**“It’s a great opportunity to have a choice from so many majors, minors and electives. I could tailor my study choice to my interests. KU Leuven also has a great reputation internationally and the professors are top-notch.”**

Nikita, Russia



## Tuition fees

The Flemish government’s generous co-financing system ensures that tuition fees for most bachelor’s and initial master’s programmes remain relatively low: EUR 922.30 per academic year (subject to annual indexation). EEA students pay the same tuition fees as Belgian students. Non-EEA students pay a higher tuition fee for certain bachelor’s and master’s programmes. Fees for advanced master’s programmes range from EUR 1,750 to EUR 8,500 (subject to change without notice). Programmes with increased fees can be consulted at [www.kuleuven.be/specialfees](http://www.kuleuven.be/specialfees)

[www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees](http://www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees)

## Scholarships

For certain programmes eligible candidates can apply for an Erasmus+ or VLIR-UOS scholarship. The EU-funded Erasmus+ programme aims to enhance quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation. VLIR-UOS, the Flemish Interuniversity Council for Development Cooperation, awards scholarships to students from developing countries to follow one of the International Course Programmes (ICPs) offered at KU Leuven.

[www.kuleuven.be/international](http://www.kuleuven.be/international)  
[www.vliruos.be](http://www.vliruos.be)

For general information on scholarship opportunities, visit

[www.kuleuven.be/scholarships](http://www.kuleuven.be/scholarships)

## Visa and permits

EEA students don’t need a visa to enter Belgium. After registration, they will have to present themselves at the city hall of their place of residence in Belgium to obtain a residence as EAA student. The following items have to be presented to complete the registration

- **Registration certificate**
- **Valid ID card or passport**
- **Proof of health insurance**

Non-EEA students need a visa for their study stay in Belgium. After obtaining the admission letter from KU Leuven, they can start the visa procedure at the Belgian consular post in their country of residence.

[www.kuleuven.be/english/admissions/travelling/visa](http://www.kuleuven.be/english/admissions/travelling/visa)

## Living expenses

You will need **between EUR 750 and EUR 1,350** a month (rough estimation) to cover your living expenses in Belgium, depending if you are travelling with or without family members. This includes study necessities, housing (including rent, heating, water, electricity), meals, clothing (including washing), medical expenses and insurance, others (e.g. recreation, grocery store, transport).

[www.kuleuven.be/english/admissions/budget](http://www.kuleuven.be/english/admissions/budget)

## Working while studying

The Student Career Center provides guidance for international students who want to work during their studies at KU Leuven. Depending on your country of origin you might require a work permit.

[www.kuleuven.be/studentcareercenter](http://www.kuleuven.be/studentcareercenter)



# STUDENT SERVICES IN LEUVEN

## Housing

Leuven offers a wide range of housing opportunities at reasonable prices. Most students choose to rent a room ('kot' in Dutch) in a privately-owned student house with shared common spaces and facilities. If you need any help with this, the KU Leuven Housing Service can offer some assistance. The university owns and manages a number of student residences and a limited number of rooms in these residences is reserved for international students with specific scholarships.

[www.kuleuven.be/housing-leuven](http://www.kuleuven.be/housing-leuven)

You can also browse the Housing Service's online database:

[www.kotwijs.be/english](http://www.kotwijs.be/english)

## Welcome to Leuven

Leuven is a student-friendly city where meeting new people is easy. To help you settle into your home away from home, KU Leuven hosts an intercultural meeting centre: Pangaea. Our university also organises a full programme of welcome and orientation activities.

[www.kuleuven.be/welcome](http://www.kuleuven.be/welcome)

Other student facilities include a Study Advice Service, a team of faculty-specific tutors and counsellors, a Social Service, Student Legal Services, a Student Career Center, Student Health Centre, and various student restaurants.

[www.kuleuven.be/studentsservicesleuven](http://www.kuleuven.be/studentsservicesleuven)

## Libraries and study centres

KU Leuven's extensive library network is spread across the university's various faculties and campuses. Together they form the KU Leuven Libraries. These libraries play a crucial role in the university's innovative and international research policy through large-scale physical and electronic collections. You can also find a place to study at the AGORA Learning Centre, which offers a fully-equipped space for students and staff, with a focus on collaboration and new technologies.

[www.kuleuven.be/libraries](http://www.kuleuven.be/libraries)

[www.kuleuven.be/agora/english](http://www.kuleuven.be/agora/english)

The university also offers a wide range of cultural activities as well as fully-equipped sport facilities:

[www.kuleuven.be/culture](http://www.kuleuven.be/culture)

[www.kuleuven.be/sports](http://www.kuleuven.be/sports)

# STUDENT SERVICES IN BRUSSELS, GHENT, ANTWERP AND SINT-KATELIJNE-WAVER

When you are a student at one of our campuses outside of Leuven, student services are available on site. More information for each campus is available at

[www.kuleuven.be/studentsservices](http://www.kuleuven.be/studentsservices)





## LEARN MORE

[www.kuleuven.be/english](http://www.kuleuven.be/english)

### PUBLICATIONS

[www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes](http://www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes)

[www.masterskuleuven.be/publications](http://www.masterskuleuven.be/publications)

### MEET OUR STAFF ABROAD

[www.kuleuven.be/meetusabroad](http://www.kuleuven.be/meetusabroad)

### MEET OUR STAFF IN BELGIUM

[www.kuleuven.be/meetusinbelgium](http://www.kuleuven.be/meetusinbelgium)

 [www.facebook.com/kuleuven](https://www.facebook.com/kuleuven)

[www.twitter.com/LeuvenU](https://www.twitter.com/LeuvenU)

 [www.instagram.com/kuleuven](https://www.instagram.com/kuleuven)

### CONTACT

[admissions@kuleuven.be](mailto:admissions@kuleuven.be)



#### Can't wait to discover Leuven?

Take a virtual tour even before you arrive in Belgium!  
[www.kuleuven.be/universitytours](http://www.kuleuven.be/universitytours)