

DESIGNED FOR
Creators of Tomorrow's World

PREPARED BY
Artevelde UAS



GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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Welcome to Artevelde UAS

Welcome to Ghent, the vibrant city voted '**Erasmus Destination of the Year**' in 2023! As an international student preparing to embark on your journey here, we have written a comprehensive **guide** to provide you with **practical information** and help you settle in seamlessly.

Whether you need assistance with opening a bank account or navigating public transportation, this guide will be your **go-to resource**. Our aim is to make your transition to Ghent as smooth as possible, allowing you to focus on your studies and enjoy the **incredible experiences** this city has to offer.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ghent and being a part of your exciting journey as an international student.

Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Get ready for an unforgettable time.



Learn some Flemish (Dutch)

Hello!	Hallo! / Dag!
Good morning!	Goedemorgen!
Good afternoon!	Goedemiddag!
Good evening!	Goedenavond!
Bye!	Dag! / Salut!
How are you?	Hoe gaat het (met jou)?
Have a good day!	Fijne dag!
Enjoy your meal!	Smakelijk!
Enjoy!	Geniet ervan!
Cheers!	Gezondheid! / Santé! / Schol!
Please	Alsjeblieft
One beer, please	Een pintje, alstublieft
One Cola, please	Een cola, alstublieft
Thank you (very much)!	Dank u wel! / Bedankt! / Merci!
No problem	Geen probleem
You are welcome	Graag gedaan

If you want to try to learn some more Dutch independently, you can try language apps like Duolingo, Babbel, Rosetta Stone, Busuu, ...

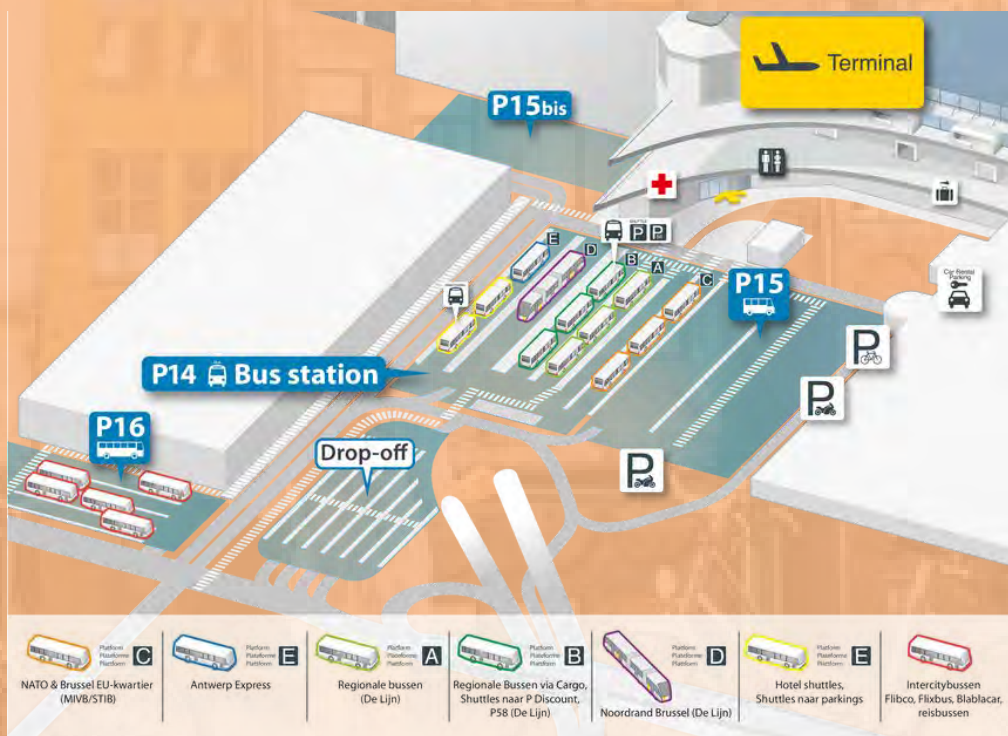
Values, norms, and culture

- 1. Multiculturalism:** Belgium is a diverse country with three official languages: **Dutch, French, and German**. It is not uncommon to hear multiple languages spoken in a single conversation, especially in the capital city of Brussels. Belgians are proud of their cultural diversity and often celebrate it through festivals and events.
- 2. Punctuality:** Belgians place a **high value** on **punctuality** and expect others to do the same. If you are running late for an appointment or meeting, it is considered polite to notify the other party ahead of time.
- 3. Tipping:** Tipping in Belgium is not as common or expected as it is in some other countries. If you receive good service in a restaurant, it is typical to round up the bill or leave a **small amount** as a **gesture of appreciation**.
- 4. Directness:** Belgians generally prefer **clear** and **factual communication**. The use of **humour** and **sarcasm** is also a characteristic feature of Belgian communication. Belgians prefer to express themselves rather directly yet politely and modestly.
- 5. Respect for privacy:** Belgians value their **privacy**, and it is considered impolite to pry into others' personal lives or ask intrusive questions. It is also common for people to keep their **professional** and **personal lives separate**.
- 6. Personal space:** Flemish people value their **personal space** and tend to stand at a **comfortable distance** from others when **talking**. Touching or hugging someone you do not know well is generally not considered appropriate.
- 7. Equality:** Belgians place a high value on **equality** and **fairness**. Discrimination based on gender, race, or sexual orientation is not tolerated. The country has made significant progress in recent years in promoting **LGBTQIA+ rights** and combatting discrimination.
- 8. Social etiquette:** Belgians place a high value on **social etiquette** and **proper manners**. It is important to greet others with a polite 'hello' or 'good morning', and to say 'please' and 'thank you' when making requests. Interrupting others or speaking too loudly is generally considered impolite.

BRUSSELS AIRPORT

Brussels Airport is the national airport of Belgium and is located in Zaventem. The airport has a train station called **Brussels National Airport**, with a **direct train** to Ghent **every hour**. The station is underneath the airport and can be accessed via **escalators** in the **arrival hall**.

Several car rental companies also operate from Brussels Airport.



How to get here: From Brussels Airport (Zaventem)



By Train:



Travelling by train from **Brussels Airport** to **Gent-Sint-Pieters railway station** takes approximately **1 hour** and costs **€ 13.40** for a one-way youth ticket (26 and under) and **€ 17.80** for a standard adult ticket (26-59 years old). You can buy tickets at the train station or via the following link: [SNCB official website](#)

By Bus:



Another way to reach Ghent is by bus, which takes approximately **55 minutes** and will cost around **€ 9** for a one-way ticket.

Purchase tickets online through [Flibco](#), [Flixbus](#), or any other transportation company.

By Taxi:



Brussels Airport to Ghent city centre is roughly **40–50 min** by taxi. Costs vary depending on the time of the day. We recommend you budget at least **€ 100** for this. Cars are lined up outside the airport at the allocated taxi rank. Multiple firms operate from this area; if you have booked a [taxi](#) beforehand, check with the drivers for your reservation.

Alternative options:

[Brussels Airport Transfers & Transportation | BRU | Uber](#)
[How to book transfers and get the best offers | GetTransfer.com](#)

How to get here: From Brussels South Charleroi Airport



By Train:



It takes an average of **2 hours** to travel from Brussels South Airport to Ghent by train. Train fare starts from € **18.00** for a one-way ticket.

For more information about times and ticket prices, you can use [Trainline.com](https://www.trainline.com)

By Bus:



The only buses you can take to get from Brussels South Charleroi Airport to Ghent, are [Flibco](https://www.flibco.be) buses, which take **1 hour and 20 minutes**.

The cost starts from € **13.00** for a one-way ticket.

By Taxi:



There is also the option of taking a taxi.

For more information on this service or to make a reservation, click this link:

<https://airport-driver.be/home>

Alternative options:

[Airport Transfers & Transportation](#) | [CRL](#) | [Uber](#)
[How to book transfers and get the best offers](#) | [GetTransfer.com](#)

Accommodation

Artevelde UAS has **four student houses** of its own in the heart of Ghent close to the campuses. We also collaborate with Upgrade Estate, which means we can offer rooms in Bro UpKot, Ter Plaeten UpKot and Baudelo UpKot. You can **apply online** and submit your **housing preferences** via the **application tool** on our [housing webpage](#). **The procedure for exchange students is different than for degree students, so please read our website carefully.**



Artevelde UAS rooms

From € 450 to € 800
per month

More information: housing@arteveldehs.be

Alternative options:

- [UpKot](#)
- [Xior](#)

Contact KotAtGent (kot@gent.be) to check if the room is registered.

Find a room: [Kotatgent \(stad.gent\)](#)

The official Ghent city website provides helpful tips to help you avoid falling victim to fraud.

Other sites to assist you in your housing search:

- [Flat Ghent — iKot.be](#)
- [Real estate for rent in Ghent \(9000\) | Zimmo](#)
- [Student rooms and apartments in Ghent - Homepage | Facebook](#)
- [Flat/House for rent in Ghent | Facebook](#)
- [For rent: Student room in Ghent | Facebook](#)
- [Co-housing in Ghent | Facebook](#)

Registration with the city of Ghent:



All international students must get registered at the city hall.

It is mandatory for EU and non-EU citizens; however, the procedure and the required documentation will differ.

If you need to register for a **Belgian residence card**, it is best to do so when you arrive in Belgium and already have accommodation to which your local address can be registered. The community police officer should be able to visit you at this address. If you are staying in a hostel, for example, you cannot yet register.

To register, you will be required to pay an administration fee of **€ 25**, and you will receive your permit within **2-3 weeks**.

If you want to expedite the process, you can receive your card within 2-3 days; however, the fee will increase to € 114.

Make sure that you are up to date on all the details by checking the following link:
[Registration as international student | Stad Gent](#)

Financial Information

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT (ONLY FOR NON-EEA STUDENTS)

If you are a **non-EEA student** traveling with a **visa**, opening a Belgian bank account is essential when you need to receive a payment of a scholarship or the payment of the adequate resources. Once you have this Belgian bank account (IBAN number), please send an email to admissions@arteveldehs.be and to our Financial Department (accountsreceivable@arteveldehs.be) so they can start the monthly deposits as soon as possible.

We can help you apply for a bank account even before arriving to Belgium, so you do not have to do it yourself. If you want to apply for a bank account via Artevelde UAS, a **€ 3 insurance** contribution **per month** is mandatory.

If you directly obtain an insurance with **KBC**, one of the biggest banks in Belgium, this is not mandatory.

The admissions office will send you an email one month before the start of the academic year with more information.

CURRENCY

The currency that we use in Belgium is the **EURO**. It is important to note that most Europeans use a comma instead of a decimal point when separating the cents from the Euro.

For example, if something is three hundred euros and ten cents, it will look like this: **300,10**. However, if it is three thousand euros, the comma is dropped with a space instead to determine the amount: **3 000,10**

On the following webpage, you can find an overview of the exchange rates:
[Exchange Rate \(xe.com\)](http://ExchangeRate(xe.com))

Be aware that these rates can change hourly.



BUDGET

Estimated budget to live in Ghent:

According to [livingcost.org](https://www.livingcost.org), the average cost of living in Ghent can be anywhere from € 750 to € 1,500 per month; as of January 2023, the average budget of a student is between € 875 and € 1,370 per month, housing included.

But, of course, this amount depends on your lifestyle and living arrangements.

[Create a budget](#)

SHOPPING IN GHENT

City centre

Veldstraat is the biggest shopping street in Ghent. You will find well-known stores there, like H&M, ZARA, Stradivarius, Pull & Bear.

Langemunt is the second most prominent street with other known brands such as Primark, Lush, and Holland & Barrett.

Shopping centre Gent Zuid

In Belgium, enormous shopping malls are uncommon. However, Shopping Centre Gent Zuid is an alternative to the traditional high street. There, you can find all kinds of stores, ranging from clothing to shoe shops, supermarkets, coffee shops, and bakeries.

Prefer smaller local stores? Then check out Brabantdam, all streets from Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat to Koestraat, Mageleinstraat, Donkersteeg and Serpentstraat.

Supermarkets

Ghent has a lot to offer when it comes to grocery shopping. It may take you some time to find your favourite place. If you do not want to spend too much on food, you can opt for house brands whenever possible in supermarkets.

We have provided a list of places to start:

- **Colruyt €**
- **ALDI €**
- **Albert Heijn €**
- **Lidl €€**
- **Delhaize €€€**
- **Carrefour Market or Carrefour Express €€€**

An average monthly budget for groceries here is between **€ 250** and **€ 400** depending on what you like to eat, your dietary requirements and what stores you shop at.

For an estimation of food costs, the site <https://livingcost.org/cost/belgium/ghent> is considered a reliable source.

Phone providers

We recommend getting a **European / Belgian sim card** to reduce your monthly phone bills if you do not already have one. Average monthly plans are between **€ 15** and **€ 25**, which fluctuates based on your needs.

- [Proximus](#)
- [Mobile Vikings](#)





Working in Belgium

Looking for a part-time job while studying in Ghent as an international student? Check out the [‘Student Jobs’ webpage](#) provided by the city of Ghent! This webpage is a comprehensive guide that lists all the necessary information and resources to find a part-time job that suits your needs.

If you are a **national** of an **EU member state** or Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein, **you do not need a work permit.**

Students who are **not nationals** of an **EU member state** or Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein need an **inscription** in the **National Register** and a **valid residence permit** (see page registration Ghent).

The **minimum wage** for students who are 21 years old starts from **€ 10.0153** per hour.

You are allowed to work up to **600 hours** per year.

Study Material

Once **accepted** to Artevelde UAS, you will be **informed** on what **books** you need for your programme.

The price will be approximately between **€ 450** and **€ 600**. Buying second-hand books is a great option as they are often **15-25 % cheaper** than brand new books.

When choosing this option, make sure to check the book's edition and publication date. You can find these books on **Yammer**, a communication channel linked to My Dinar, the central platform of Artevelde UAS.

You will learn more about this platform and receive access to its resources once you are enrolled and during the introduction week.

Transportation

BICYCLE

Cycling is a common way to get around in Ghent.

It is **environmentally friendly** and the healthiest and, believe it or not, fastest way to get around. Below, you can find the most affordable prices for bike rentals based on your needs.

De Fietsambassade Gent: long-term rentals (3-12 months).

Additional costs: deposit of € 80 EUR. Theft insurance is € 10 (highly recommended!)

Swapfiets: looking to buy or rent a bike in Ghent? Swapfiets offers unisex Dutch-style bikes or electric bikes.

Blue-bike: short-term rentals (daily); cost per blue-bike: €3.50 for the first 24 hours.

Donkey Republic: bike rental prices that get cheaper every hour you use it. The first 30 mins are free of charge.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Buses and trams frequently run through the city.

Ticket prices for 2023 are:

- **Single ticket** – € 2.5
- **Day ticket** – € 7.5
- **10-journey ticket** – € 17.00
- **50-journey ticket** – € 75.00
- **Travel Passes (Monthly)**: from € 33 to € 59

To purchase tickets or passes, or for more information, click the link: [Travel passes - De Lijn](#).

You can also download the [De Lijn app](#) on your phone.

It is available for both iPhone and Android.

Transportation



TRAIN

You can take the train at Gent-Sint-Pieters railway station or at Gent-Dampoort railway station.

- **Youth ticket** – € 6.60 (< 26 years old)
- **Standard ticket** – the price depends on the destinations
- **Weekend ticket** – € 11.00 (valid from Friday to Sunday)

There is also an option to buy a seasonal ticket. For details, check the website: [SNCB official website - Buy your train tickets online \(belgiantrain.be\)](https://www.belgiantrain.be).

Or download the SNCB app:

App Store: <https://apps.apple.com/be/app/sncb-international/id577730301>

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=be.sncbnmbs.b2cmobapp&hl=en&gl=US>



The Weather in Belgium

The chart below shows the **average temperatures** in Belgium throughout the year.

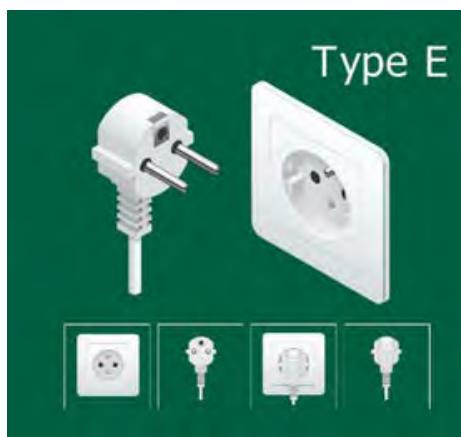
But, of course, these are approximate numbers and are **subject to change**. Some good advice: be prepared for **unpredictable weather conditions**.

[Check the current weather forecast](#)

Month	Day	Night
September	19°C	11°C
October	15°C	8°C
November	10°C	6°C
December	7°C	5°C
January	5°C	0°C
February	2°C	-2°C
March	8°C	3°C
April	13°C	5°C
May	16°C	9°C
June	19°C	11°C
July	23°C	15°C
August	24°C	16°C

Electricity

In Belgium, **plug** and **socket types C** and **E** are the official standards. The voltage may differ from your home country, so it is best to check before bringing appliances.



If you need to buy an adapter or charging device when you arrive, **Hema** in downtown Ghent supplies a range of homeware and necessities. Or you can go to **FNAC**.



Medical

Doctor's visit

As a student in Ghent, you can always go to a **doctor** at **Ghent University**. They only see patients **by appointment**, so you will have to **book online** or over the **phone**.

Emergency Services

General number: **112 – Ambulance/Fire Department/Police**

·You can also download the APP (112.be), used for various emergencies. Based on your ID card and phone's location, the emergency services will know where you are, any previous conditions you might have, and your current medication.

·**More information: Emergency services | Visit Gent**



Insurance

All EEA and Swiss students are covered by their home country's medical insurance while studying in Belgium. Ask your insurance company for a **European Health Insurance Card** for **reimbursement of medical costs**.

What is the European Health Insurance Card?

A **free card** that gives you **access** to medically necessary, state-provided **healthcare** during a temporary stay in any of the **27 EU countries**, under the same conditions and at the same cost as people insured in that country (free in some countries).

Your national health insurance provider issues these cards.

Important – the European Health Insurance Card:

- is not an alternative to travel insurance. It does not cover any private healthcare or costs such as a return flight to your home country or lost/stolen property,
- does not cover your costs if you are travelling for the express purpose of obtaining medical treatment,
- does not guarantee free services. Each country's healthcare system is different, and services that cost nothing at home might not be free in another country.

Non-EEA students must purchase their travel insurance privately and ensure that it covers all medical expenses and emergencies.

One travel insurance provider: [International website | CM](#).

You can also have a look at their brochure: [Welkom-Engels_tcm47-19735.pdf](#).

The basic package is approximately € 100 per calendar year.

Student Clubs at Artevelde UAS

Artevelde International Club

A club for both **international** and **Belgian students** enrolled in **business studies**.
Join us to meet **new people** and do **fun activities**.



The community aims to close the gap between Belgian and international students. Its purpose is to bring **people together** and learn about each other's **cultures** and **countries**.

Interested in joining?
Check out **My Dinar** to sign up & stay updated on our upcoming events!

SDG Corner

The SDG Corner (**Green Office**) is a student place on the **7th floor** of **Campus Stropkaai** where students get informed about the **Sustainable Development Goals** of the **UN**.



Every student aspiring to make a **sustainable change** is welcome to participate in the SDG Corner project. We listen to our members' **ideas** and develop them into **sustainable projects**. If you have an idea, we will help you get students on your team, organise materials, and create a buzz around the action.

We have hosted **plant propagation** and **bee hotel workshops**, **second-hand clothing sales**, **movie nights**, **city cleanups**, and our members' efforts really made them shine!

Student Clubs at Artevelde UAS

Idea Factory

Idea Factory is the place for anyone who wants to **develop an idea** in any form.



Idea Factory is a place where students with an **entrepreneurial mindset** can look for **guidance** and **help** in the process of **starting their own company** or structuring their innovative ideas.

Who knows? Maybe you will be showing off **your own business** soon. Or maybe your idea will be given a different but **better interpretation**? Idea Factory works with you to find the **unique** and **innovative character** of your **idea** or **company**.

An Idea Factory coach **helps students** and is their **first point of contact**. You can find the contact [details here](#). The office of Idea Factory is at Campus Stropkaai on the 4th floor, so if you have any questions, feel free to drop by.

[Interested in joining? Check out the Facebook page to sign up and stay updated on our upcoming events!](#)

ESN – European Student Network

ESN is an organisation for **exchange students** all over **Europe**.

They want to ensure that your **international experience** is **unforgettable**, **exciting**, and **affordable**. So not only do they organise **parties** and **fun events** in **Ghent**, but they also provide you with various **discounts** and **exclusive offers**.

Interested? You can become a member for only **€ 15!**

You can do it here: [ESN Gent](#).

[ErasmusIntern: Find your internship abroad](#)

ErasmusIntern.org is an online platform where companies and organisations can offer their internship vacancies to individuals looking for international opportunities.

[ESNcard: Discounts for international students](#)

The ESNcard is a membership card of the Erasmus Student Network. It gives you access to all the services and offers of ESN and their partners. The aim is to support international students and trainees by giving them affordable opportunities abroad.

[Discounted student accommodation.](#)

Erasmus Student Network has partnered with two reliable booking platforms, [Uniplaces](#) and [Spotahome](#), to provide international students and trainees with suitable housing options for their time abroad.



ESN – European Student Network

[Movin'Europe: Ask questions about living abroad](#)

The Erasmus Generation Portal is the biggest student-led NGO in Europe in the field of mobility. It aims to provide easy access to information for anyone wishing to study abroad. It is made by students, for students.



Follow them on social media:

For more information, you can also join their Facebook group: [Erasmus Student Network Belgium – Startpagina | Facebook](#) or check out their [online services](#)

Klik app

Meet fellow students in Ghent with **similar interests!**

If you are looking for a sports buddy, somebody to cook dinner with or someone to have a coffee with?

New friends are only a KLIK away!

Click the link to download the app and start connecting with other students in Ghent:

<https://stad.gent/en/international-students/culture-sports-leisure/klik-studentapp>



University contacts

You can contact us for:

- **Admission and enrolment procedures**
- **Student cards**

Exchange students, please contact
incoming@arteveldehs.be

Degree students, please contact:
admissions@arteveldehs.be



Student Support

The Office of Student Support helps you with almost everything. Whether you need financial assistance to cover your studies, require psychological or medical support, have questions about renting a student accommodation in Ghent, or have any other doubt or question.

Other Mental health resources:

<https://moodspace.be/en/where-you-can-get-help-search>