DESIGNED FOR

Creators of Tomorrow's World

PREPARED BY

Artevelde UAS



GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

artevelde
university of applied sciences

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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.

Get ready for an unforgettable time.

Feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or need further assistance:
Degree students: admissions@arteveldehs.be
Exchange students: incoming@arteveldehs.be



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 on your own, you can try language apps like Duolingo, Babbel, Rosetta Stone, Busuu, etc.
Wondering what Flemish sounds like? Try listening to the words on Google Translate or listen to this recording!

Values, Norms, and Culture

1. Multiculturalism: Belgium is a diverse country with three official languages: **Dutch**, **French**, and **German**. In Ghent, English is commonly used in everyday interactions, especially among students and university staff and even in restaurants, bars or supermarkets. 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**. Hugs are uncommon in formal situations.

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.

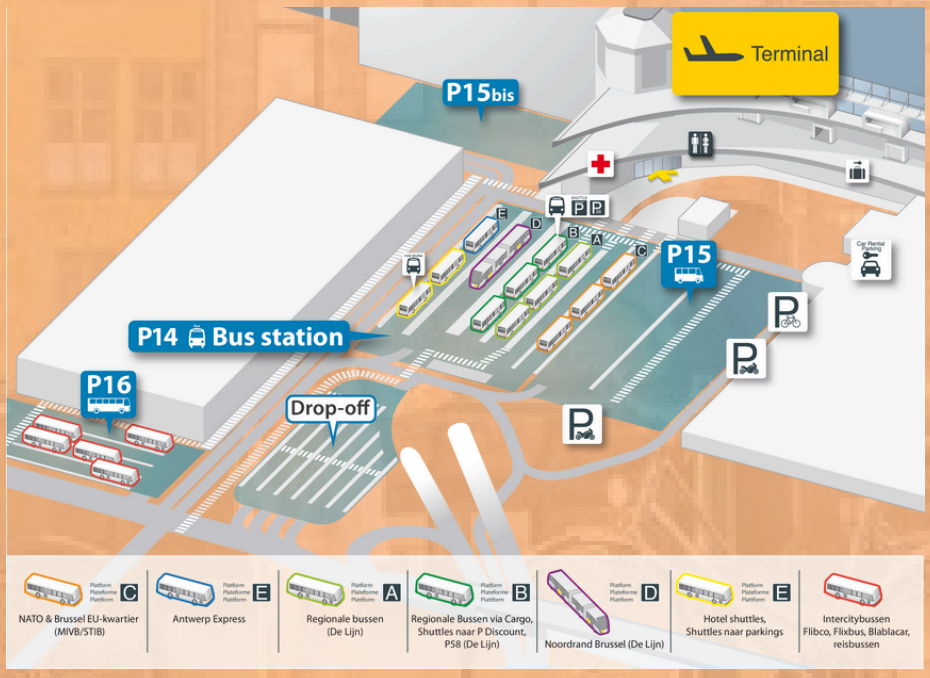
7. Equality: Belgians place a high value on **equality** and **fairness.** Discrimination based on gender, race, or sexual orientation is not tolerated. The country has made significant progress in recent years in promoting **LGBTQIA+ rights** and combatting discrimination.

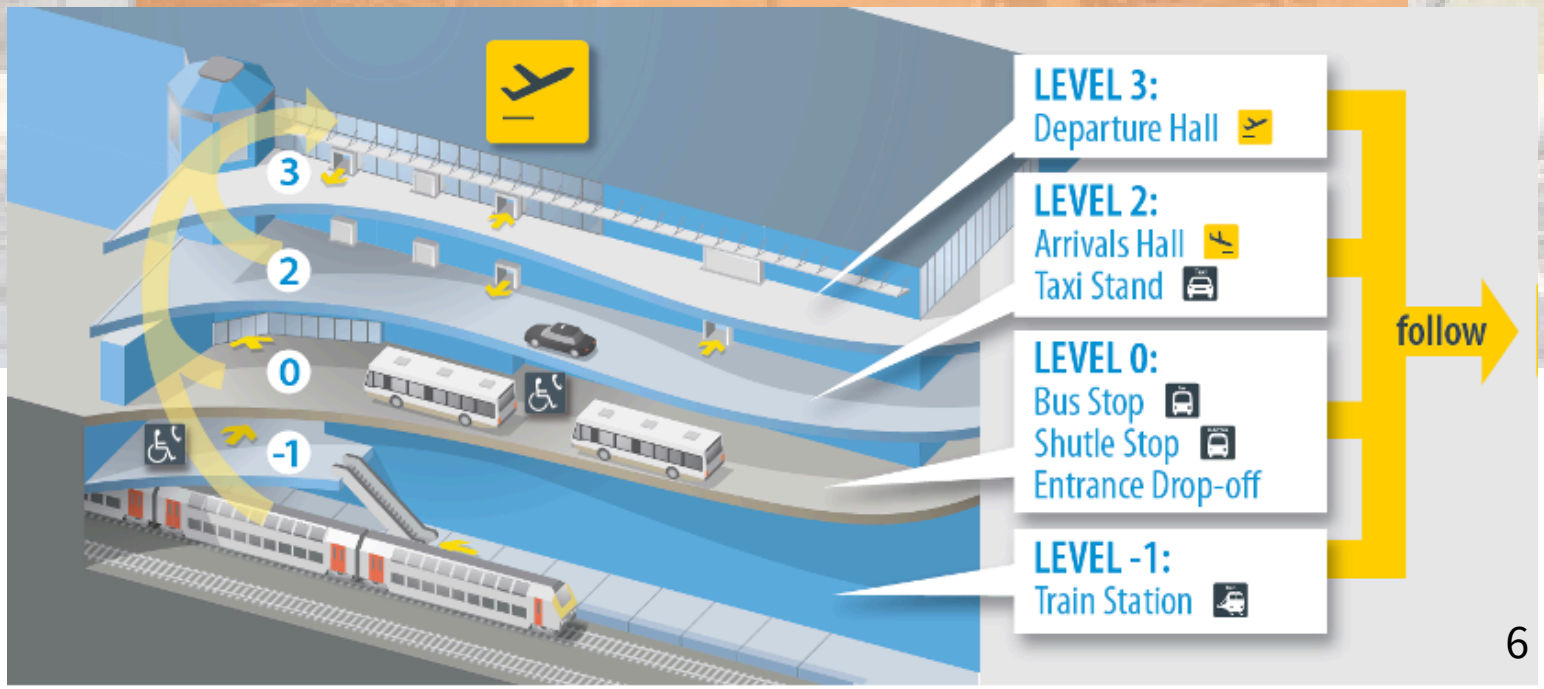
8. Social etiquette: Belgians place a high value on **social etiquette** and **proper manners**. It is important to greet others with a polite ‘hello’ or ‘good morning’, and to say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ when making requests. Interrupting others or speaking too loudly is generally considered impolite.

HOW TO GET IN GHENT FROM 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.

You might also consider flying into nearby international airports like Amsterdam, Paris, or Düsseldorf and taking a convenient train ride to Ghent.





How to Get in Ghent: From Brussels Airport (Zaventem)



By Train:



Travelling by train from **Brussels Airport** to **Gent-Sint-Pieters railway station** takes approximately **1 hour.** Train fares start from **€ 14.10**. You can buy tickets at the train station, through the NMBS app or via the NMBS website.

By Bus:



Another way to reach Ghent is by bus, but it takes approximately 2 hours (it has a lay-over in Antwerp) and will cost around **€ 10** for a one-way ticket.

Purchase tickets online through 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 **€ 120** 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 in Ghent: From Brussels South Charleroi Airport



By Train:



It takes an average of **2 hours** to travel from Brussels South Airport to Ghent by train. The train fare starts from **€ 14** for a one-way ticket. You can buy tickets at the train station, through the NMBS app or via the NMBS website.

By Bus:



The only buses you can take to get from Brussels South Charleroi Airport to Ghent, are Flibco buses, which take **1 hour and 20 minutes**. The fair starts from **€ 18.00** 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 **student housing** available in the heart of Ghent close to the campuses. 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.**

Please note: Applying doesn't mean that you automatically will have a room: **the number of rooms available is limited.**



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

SCAMMING! Be aware of internet fraud, especially when you find an offer via social media. In case of doubt, don't hesitate to contact the Housing Department in advance. If the offer is too good to be true, it probably ISN'T true.

Registration as an International Student in Ghent



All international students must get registered online at the city.

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 **€ 30**, 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 € 133.

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 (for degree students) or incoming@arteveldehs.be (for exchange students) **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.
Please note: This option is not possible for students coming from Iran, Russia or Turkey. They need to make an appointment after they received the Belgian residence card.
If you directly obtain an insurance with **KBC**, one of the biggest banks in Belgium, this is not mandatory.
The admissions office (for degree students) or the International office (for exchange students) 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 (€).** You can pay by card in most stores — cash is rarely needed.
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)
Be aware that these rates can change hourly.



BUDGET

Estimated budget to live in Ghent:
According to livingcost.org, the average cost of living in Ghent can be anywhere from €750 to €1,600 per month; as of January 2024, the average budget of a student is between €875 and €1,450 per month, housing included. However, 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 as Zara and H&M.

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

Ghent is also a paradise for the fans of **second-hand and vintage** items. Find out more on the website of VisitGent.

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 € (includes a range of veggie/vegan and world cuisine products)**
- **Lidl €€**
- **Delhaize €€€ (includes a range of veggie/vegan and world cuisine products)**
- **Carrefour Market or Carrefour Express €€€ (includes a range of verggie/vegan and world cuisine products)**

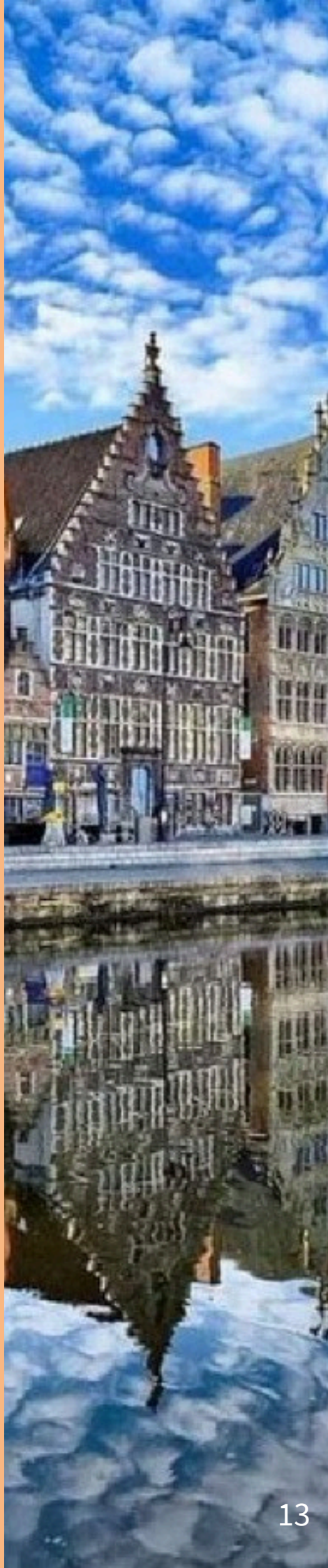
An average monthly budget for groceries here is between **€ 250** and **€ 500** depending on what you like to eat, your dietary requirements and what stores you shop at.
In Ghent you will also find many world cuisine shops like, Gentebrasil, Himalaya Exotic Market, Dun Huang, Da Luigi and many more!

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 **€17** and **€30**, which fluctuates based on your needs. There is WiFi available on campus and student houses!

- Proximus
- Mobile Vikings
- Orange or BASE for short stay in Belgium





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.
Knowing Dutch is not required to find a student job, but it can be an advantage and may help you find one more quickly.

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 **€12,34** per hour.

You are allowed to work up to **650 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. Ghent is easy to explore on foot, with most places within walking distance. The car-free city center also makes walking or cycling a pleasant experience. 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 around € 80 EUR, depending on the type of bike. Theft insurance is € 12 (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 2026 are:

- **Single ticket** – € 3
- **Day ticket** – € 9
- **10-journey ticket** – € 22.00
- **50-journey ticket** – € 95.00
- **Travel Passes (Monthly):** from € 40 to € 62

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** – € 7.50 per one-way travel (< 26 years old)
- **Standard ticket** – the price depends on the destinations
- **Weekend ticket** – € 11.00 per return travel (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)

Or download the SNCB app:

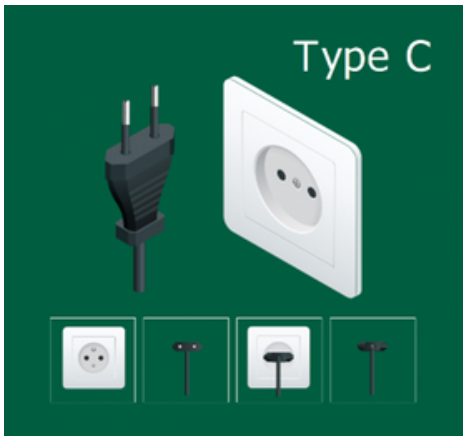
- App Store
- Google Play Store

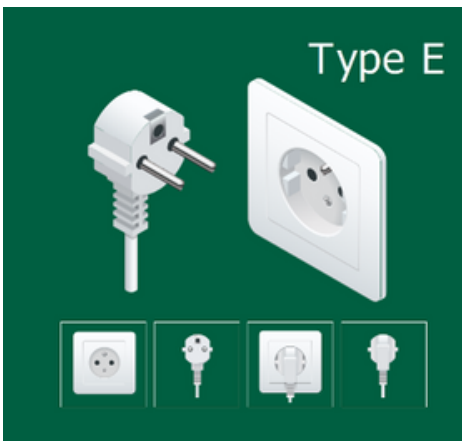
Hop on a train and explore Belgium! Bruges and Brussels are just 30 minutes from Ghent, Ostend 45 minutes, and Antwerp about an hour away!



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**.

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. We have a temperate maritime climate.**

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



Medical Information

Doctor's visit

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

Usually, you will have to pay between 20 and 30 euros. Your health insurance fund will reimburse a large part of that amount. The portion you have to pay yourself is called a copay or a personal contribution.

More information: https://stad.gent/en/general-life/healthcare-services

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.
TIP: Open the app regularly to ensure it is updated so that you can use it without any problems.

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



Insurance

All students who come to study in Belgium, regardless of the length of your stay, must be able to prove that they have a valid health insurance. **Check whether your health insurance covers you in Belgium and for the entire duration of your stay.** Make sure to bring your health insurance card of proof that you are properly covered.

If your health insurance does not cover you in Belgium, or not for the entire duration of your stay, you can consider whether you should take out an extension of your own insurance or take out health insurance here in Belgium.

Please note: the exchange students from the non-EEA countries are required to purchase a Student Insurance on our website: SI - AHS - Expat & C°

Take a look at the following websites for all information about health insurance in Belgium.

- Helan;
- CM;
- SI (only possible for exchange students and highly recommended!);
- Solidaris;
- Etc.

We recommend that if you stay in Belgium for a long period of time, you take a health insurance here in Belgium.
When extending your residence card, you must be able to present your insurance again.

Good to know: Additionally students enrolled at Artevelde UAS automatically have a secondary insurance via Artevelde UAS Policy.
If you have any questions, please email verzekeringen@arteveldehs.be

Student Clubs at Artevelde UAS

Artevelde International Club and Artevelde Media Club



A club for both **international** and **Belgian students** enrolled in **business or communication 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!

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:

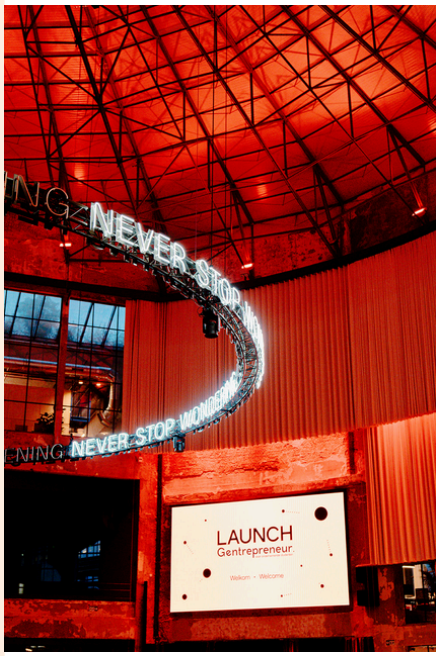
For more information, you can also join their Facebook group:
Erasmus Student Network Belgium – Startpagina | Facebook
or check out their online services

Gentrepreneur

Gentrepreneur is the go-to hub in Ghent for all (international) students who want to develop an idea or start their own business.

Students and researchers with a business, an entrepreneurial idea, or an interest in entrepreneurship are welcome to receive personal guidance and access to a diverse and extensive range of programs and events.

A team of 13 coaches, trainers, and staff members is ready to assist them at Ghent's new entrepreneurial hotspot, the Wintercircus. Would you like more information? Check out our website or follow us on Instagram, TikTok or LinkedIn.



Contact Details

You can contact us for:

- **Admission and enrolment procedures**
- **Student cards**
- **Visa procedures**
- **Opening a bank account**
- **Insurance**



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