

# Four Top Reasons Why You Should Study in Belgium

Celebrated for its waffles, beer and chocolates, birthplace of The Smurfs, and home to more castles per square foot than any other country in the world, Belgium **is** a destination **like no other**. While relatively small in size, Belgium has a mighty global footprint. Home to both the European Union and NATO, Belgium offers international students a unique education experience steeped in rich history and vibrant culture, right in the heart of Europe.

## 1) You can get a scholarship to go study in Belgium

While the Belgian government focuses much of its scholarship programming on international students from developing countries, there are a number of opportunities for international students from other regions of the world, as well.

## 2) You'll get the change to study in one of the most attractive countries in the world.

Here are five great reasons to study in Belgium (not counting the Brussels sprouts):

### 1. An Unbeatable Price Tag

Belgium's cost of living is low -- particularly for students, who **are** also **permitted to** work to defray costs. Factor in the premiere higher

educational opportunities and strong research culture and international students reap an unparalleled price to quality ratio. With a full one-third of the country's Ph.D. students hailing from other countries, the result is a vibrant and diverse research community. Besides, Belgium has six of the top 200 universities according to the "QS World University Rankings" : KU Leuven, University of Ghent, UCL, ULB, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, University of Antwerp, University of Liege.

## 2. At the Center of it All

People from all over the world aspire to study, work and live in the bustling business center of Belgium, due to its central location, tradition as an international trade hub and progressive global focus. Home to countless international institutions and represented by every nation, Belgium offers unparalleled educational and networking opportunities.

## 3. Multilingual Magnificence

In addition to multiculturalism, Belgium also offers astounding multilingualism, and higher education institutions prioritize the improvement of language skills for foreign students. With not one, not two but three official languages (Dutch, French and German), Belgium offers a multitude of opportunities to improve language skills. As the second or

third language of many native Belgians, most of whom speak two or three languages, English is also prevalent.

#### 4. Exceptional Quality of Life

Belgium is known for its safety, high quality of life and vibrant culture. From its internationally renowned healthcare to countless culinary delights, Belgium offers countless things to see and do. Architecturally rich cities like Brussels, Antwerp and Belgium are wondrous, while castles, tranquil gardens and historic battlefields provide a different view. For its many student-friendly amenities, Brussels is ranked 38th in the QS “Best Student City Rankings.”

#### 5. Home Base to Anywhere

Not only does Belgium offer premier public transportation for getting around within the country, it also offers an ideal home base for travel to parts unknown. London, Paris, Amsterdam and many other popular destinations are less than two hours away by train.

**3) You can study in English, but also practice your French, Dutch, and German.**

While Belgium offers a terrific opportunity to study in the three national languages, there are plenty of chances for study abroad programs in English, as well. The Belgian Association of Anglicists in Higher

Education (BAAHE) encourages and rewards research in English Studies through an annual prize --alternating each year between literature and cultural studies and linguistics and translation studies -- for outstanding undergraduate dissertations written in English.

Because of the diversity of languages offered at Belgian institutions, it can be helpful to first determine your preferred language of study before deciding on a school or program.

#### **4) You'll be part of the top EMBA and MBA programs.**

An increasing number of international students and expats are taking advantage of Belgium's premiere MBA offerings -- both traditional and executive. The executive MBA trend in particular has experienced exponential growth, with over 3,500 EMBA programs now offered across the globe. This trend can be seen playing out in Belgium, where international students receive an executive education through full- or part-time studies in management sciences, as well as corporate internships.

Belgium's reputation as an ideal place for international studies is amplified when it comes to MBAs -- particularly in a global economy in which employers are focused on international perspectives. MBA programs in Belgium offer not only great value but also great returns: they present a wide range of employment possibilities in multinational government and

non-government sectors, as well as the increased chance of meeting influential people who can help you after graduation both in Brussels and beyond.

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