

# Welcoming international PhD candidates and researchers

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Head of International Welcome Desk – Communication and External relations Department

- The International Welcome Desk
- Accommodation in Brussels
- Registration with your local municipality (*commune*)
- Health insurance (*mutuelle*)
- Open a bank account
- Income tax return
- Public transport in Brussels
- Integration at the ULB
- Euraxess
- Contacts



ULB

# The International Welcome Desk:

ULB welcome desk for international students and researchers

#### Administrative support

If you have any questions regarding your:

- visa application
- commune (local municipality) registration
- residence permit
- blocked account
- health insurance (mutuelle)
- etc.





#### Integration throughout your studies

We offer you:

- a buddy system
- socio-cultural activities organized by the ESN student association
- International Welcome Desk
   events
- the Goin' Connect application

#### Welcome arrangements

We inform you via:

- our web pages
- our information sessions
- our welcome guide
- our Instagram
- our webinars



# Visit us!

- Avenue Jeanne 52 Ixelles 1050 Building Je52 (from Tuesday to Thursday 10AM-4PM)
- welcome@ulb.be

Please note that the International Welcome Desk can help you with questions relating to visas and residence permits. However, we are not in a position to speed up the application process with the Immigration Office or the commune (local municipalities).

- To book your accommodation in Brussels before you arrive, the Université Libre de Bruxelles recommends its partner platform <u>Studapart</u>
- Many other platforms :
- https://www.brukot.be/
- <u>https://housinganywhere.com/fr/</u>
- https://www.immoweb.be/fr
- Facebook groups :
- https://www.facebook.com/groups/195527370457521?locale=fr\_FR
- https://www.facebook.com/share/NuiUXZjRAFG9jp6p/
- Your accommodation must allow for domiciliation : domiciliation is the obligation to register with your local municipality (*commune*) with the address of the accommodation you are renting in your own name. It is normally always possible to be domiciliated in Belgium with a rented accommodation, unless it is explicitly specified in your rental agreement that domiciliation is not possible. If you have any doubt, please ask the landlord before signing your rental agreement

More information on the <u>l'Office du Logement de l'ULB</u>



# Accommodation in Brussels





- Make an appointment with your local town-hall : visit the website of your town-hall to check how you should make an appointment (by phone, by email or online)
- Required documents for your appointment:
- Passport
- ULB registration letter
- Permis unique/Proof of sufficient financial resources
- **g**uarantor
- scholarship
- or a blocked account
- Health insurance certificate (mutuelle)
- Formulaire standard



Annexe 15/Annexe 49

- The local police will visit you and check that you do reside at the address you provided (do not forget to put your name on the bell and the letter-box)
- Your residence permit : you will first receive the codes of your residence card by post, and then you go to your local town-hall to collect your card (instructions for this will be provided with the codes)



# Registration with your local municipality (commune)



- Mandatory registration covers your health costs in Belgium
- Many companies : *Partenamut, Mutualité Chrétienne, CAAMI...* compare them <u>here</u>
- The cost and cover varie according to the insurance company you choose, but for each health expense, always a part remaining at your charge

Numerous health and well-being services offered by the ULB at a very low cost : medical center with specialised doctors, psychologists, etc. Healthcare and well-being - ULB



# Health insurance (*mutuelle*)





# Open a bank account

- Many banks : ING, BNP, Belfius... compare them here
- To open a Belgian bank account you must first have received the *Annexe 15/Annexe 49* (document issued by your municipalty/commune, other required documents : passport/identity card (for European citizens), ULB registration letter, rental contract
- To open a bank account earlier even before moving to Belgium, you can open an online bank account with a neo-bank : Revolut, Wise, Nickel, etc.
- Deadline : as soon as possible





# Income Tax Return

The SPF Finances has a user-friendly website to help taxpayers find answers to their tax return questions. You may find this link extremely useful :

https://finance.belgium.be/en/private-individuals





- Brussels' public transport company is called STIB
- **Reductions** on monthly and annual plans for students under 25
- To obtain a subscription :
- **<u>BOOTIK</u>** (ID, identity picture, ULB registration letter)
- Kiosks to load your card
- **On board**, contactless payment only

Compare STIB products <u>here</u>

# Public transport in Brussels

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- **Buddy system** is a mentoring platform that enables young locals to help and support international students
- **Goin' connect** an application on which students can make contact before arriving in Belgium, in Brussels, and at the ULB in order to create strong links before the start of the academic year and to exchange throughout the year

### Integration at the ULB

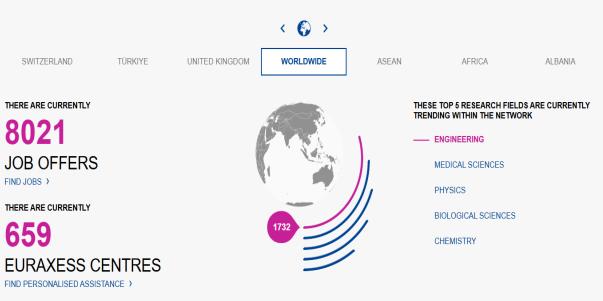




#### Are you a researcher ready to take your career to the next level by moving to another country?

Look no further! Join the EURAXESS network to access free personalised information and assistance.

#### EURAXESS FIGURES AT WORLDWIDE LEVEL.

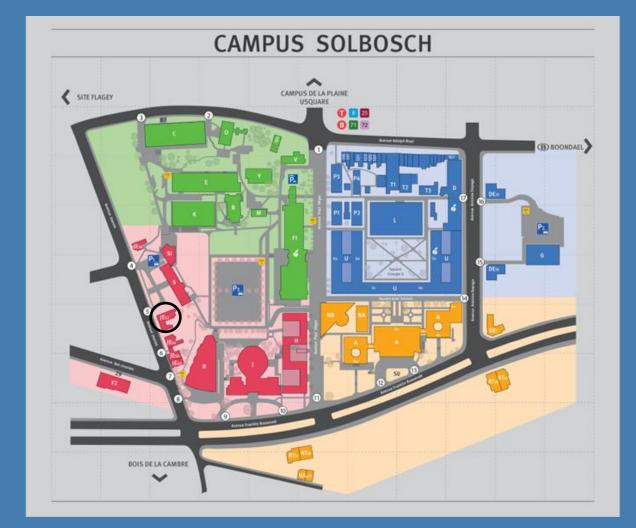


Euraxess



- The Registration Office : <u>carine.faniel@ulb.be</u>
- The PhD Office : <u>doctorat@ulb.be</u>
- The HR Department: <u>sprc@ulb.be</u> or <u>permisunique@ulb.be</u>
- The International Welcome Desk (Building Je52) : welcome@ulb.be
- Calendly Book an <u>appointment</u> with us
  - Our <u>Instagram</u> account
  - Buddy system Buddy system
  - Goin' connect application (to meet other international students)

# Contacts







# Questions/answers



