



# COST OF LIVING

If you are a single student, you will need an annual budget of around €14000 without travel costs. Accommodation expenses will represent the biggest share of your budget. Your actual expenses will of course depend on your lifestyle. In addition to accommodation costs, per month you should allow at least:

- €250 for food
- €30 for health insurance and medical fees
- €100 - €200 for utilities, if not included in the rent
- €30 for internet, €20 for cable TV and €20 for your mobile phone

The cost of living in Belgium is not exactly low but it is still cheaper than other EU countries, despite being home to the EU headquarters. It is close enough to other popular European destinations like Germany, France and Austria. Given this proximity, students in Belgium can enjoy regular trips to these countries.

## Accommodation

Naturally as the capital of Belgium, Brussels has higher rent prices and more competition for rentals. In Brussels' city centre, prices average around €850 to €950 per month for a two-bedroom apartment or €350 to €550 for a student rental accommodation ("kot").

## Utility costs

In Brussels, you can expect to pay about €125 a month for utilities, which generally includes electricity, water, heating and garbage, for an apartment measuring around 85sqm. Depending on your area, these prices can rise, but not by much. The price per month of a student accommodation often includes utility costs but be sure to check with your landlord beforehand.

## Recycling your rubbish

In Brussels, sorting and recycling your rubbish is compulsory (failing to recycle can result in fines).

You need to buy special bags sold in supermarkets and groceries:

- Blue bags: for tins, cans, plastic bottles, milk boxes...
- Yellow bags: paper and cupboard
- White bags: residual waste (all the rest, except for glass)
- Orange bags: food wastes (meat, fish, vegetable fruit peelings, coffee, paper towels handkerchiefs, napkins, etc) - those may not be in use/mandatory in all districts.

Collection days vary depending upon your district and of the bag colour. Please check the collection days here: <https://www.arp-gan.be/en/collection-days.html>

Glass bottles and pots must be brought directly to the nearest glass container from your place: [www.arp-gan.be/en/sorting-your-glass-waste#bav](http://www.arp-gan.be/en/sorting-your-glass-waste#bav)

## Eating out

Belgium and its capital city of Brussels in particular, is known for its culinary prowess. Brussels has been compared to such cities as New York, Hong Kong and even Paris because of the sheer quality and variety of dining experiences it has to offer. The prices, however, are also up there for fine dining.

Don't worry though, you can easily find cheaper options, so those who love to eat out will not have to limit themselves. Inexpensive meals for one person range from €10-15, with a half-litre of commercial beer costing around €3.50.

You can check the Belgium or Brussels consumer price index in comparison with those in 250 other countries by visiting the following website: [www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/rankings.jsp](http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/rankings.jsp)

