

Welcome to Leuven



Practical Information

Arrival Day

Leuven can be easily reached from Brussels airport. There is a direct train from the airport to Leuven with a one-way ticket costing you approximately 8 EUR. Taxis are also available and take approximately 25 mins to reach Leuven.

A week before the beginning of each semester (September and February) the Orientation Days take place. Participation is free, except for some activities and meals on the weekends. Further information can be found [here](#).

Accommodation

The Leuven housing market places an emphasis on individual students' accommodation. This means there is a large offer of individual student rooms. Depending on your situation and comfort level prices can vary from 360 EUR for a simple room to 500-700EUR for a studio apartment.

The [KU Leuven Housing Service](#) assists all students enrolled in an institution of higher education in Leuven. Check out Kotwijs, their online housing database. All rooms carrying 'KotLabel' label meet the proper standards. You can find information on KU Leuven International Students Residence Halls [here](#). [Immoweb](#), [www.zimmo.be](#), [www.hebbes.be/immoweb](#) are some other places that you can look for accommodation.

Depending on the type of contract there might be supplementary expenses for heating, electricity, water, etc. Read through the contract thoroughly and you can drop by the Housing Service office for any assistance.

Visa

Students from EU countries and from European Economic Area/EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland do not need a visa. Non-European Students must obtain a study visa before departure from their home country.

All international students are required to register at the Foreigners Office ('Dienst niet-Belgen') of City Hall in Leuven after your enrolment at the university. You need to make an [appointment](#) prior to your visit at City Hall. The Police will drop by your (Belgian) address to verify that you live there.

Further information can be found [here](#) and every time you change your address in Leuven you must report your new address within eight days to the City Hall of your place of residence.



Local Language

Places such as [Leuven Language Institute](#), Mobyus, [CVO VOLT](#), [CLT Language Centre](#) and Pangaea offer Dutch language courses.

Transport

You can rent a safe, fully equipped and registered second-hand bicycle with a solid lock at [VELO](#).

All main train stations in Belgium provide the service of bicycle rental ([Blue-bike](#)) to get from the train station to your destination.

For all information about timetables, bus lines and tickets you can go to the [Lijnwinkel](#).

From Leuven station, there are connections to every other major Belgian train station. The train schedule and online ticket purchase can be found [here](#).

The [Go Pass 10](#) is valid for people under 26, costs €50 and gives you 10 one-way trips to and from any Belgian railway station.

TAXI. In Leuven there are taxi stands in front of the station and in front of the Court House (Ferdinand Smoldersplein). The starting fee is € 2.40 and then on € 2.50 per kilometre. Further information can be found [here](#).

Utilities

In case of an emergency or an accident on campus, you must call 240-Hour KU Leuven emergency number for a fast and efficient aid. You can use the emergency phones available in every building on campus to dial 2222.

Major Belgian mobile phone operators are Proximus, Orange, Base, Telenet.

Emergency phone numbers

- 112. General emergency number
- 101. Police
- 100. Fire Brigade
- 100. Ambulance

Generally speaking Leuven is a very safe student town. The main thing you need to worry about is cycling accidents and bicycle thefts. We advise that you have your bicycle engraved with an ID number. This will not guarantee that it will not be stolen, but it could help in preventing it.





Banking

The Most popular local banks are: ING, KBC, Belfius, BNP Paribas, Fortis, Argenta and Cititbank. The procedures differ from university to university but as a common rule you need to present your valid ID, proof of your Belgian address, a proof of enrolment. You will have to pay a monthly fee that includes all the standard services.

Health

Everyone who resides in Belgium is required to have a valid health insurance. This is not covered by your university and has to be arranged by you personally. In most cases, you will have to affiliate yourself with a public Belgian health insurance fund that on average reimburses 75% of the official tariffs of medical expenses.

Christelijke Mutualiteit Leuven ([CM](#)), [Securex](#) are some of the health insurance providers.

If you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), you don't need to affiliate yourself. After finishing the procedure at City Hall, you will have to complete your file at the health insurance fund with Your Belgian identity card/residence permit or your temporary document (e.g. annex 15), if applicable.

Third Party Liability insurance is obligatory for non-EEA students. [Look here](#) for further information on insurance.

Emergency contact for doctors after hours is: 1733.



Food

The university restaurants, better known as [Alma](#), serve meals at subsidised prices; between €3,40 and €6,10 or you can order a [veggie bag](#).

Most supermarkets and shops are open every day except Sundays, usually from 9 am – 6/8 pm. In addition, Leuven also has a lot of night shops that offer a limited selection of food items. Some of the cheaper options are: Aldi, Colruyt, Lidl with Spar, Carrefour, Match and Delhaize a little bit more expensive.

In Leuven, waste needs to be sorted in a system with 8 different fractions. Wrongfully sorting or not respecting the pick-up days will be fined and can cost you up to € 250. Further information can be found [here](#).

Shopping

Leuven does not have shopping malls, but shops are scattered throughout the city. The most important shopping streets are the Bondgenotenlaan, Diestsestraat, Tiensestraat, Naamsestraat and Brusselsestraat.

You can buy fresh products, such as meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, local delicacies as well as household items in traditional local Belgian market and many second-hand shops, which are quite popular locally.



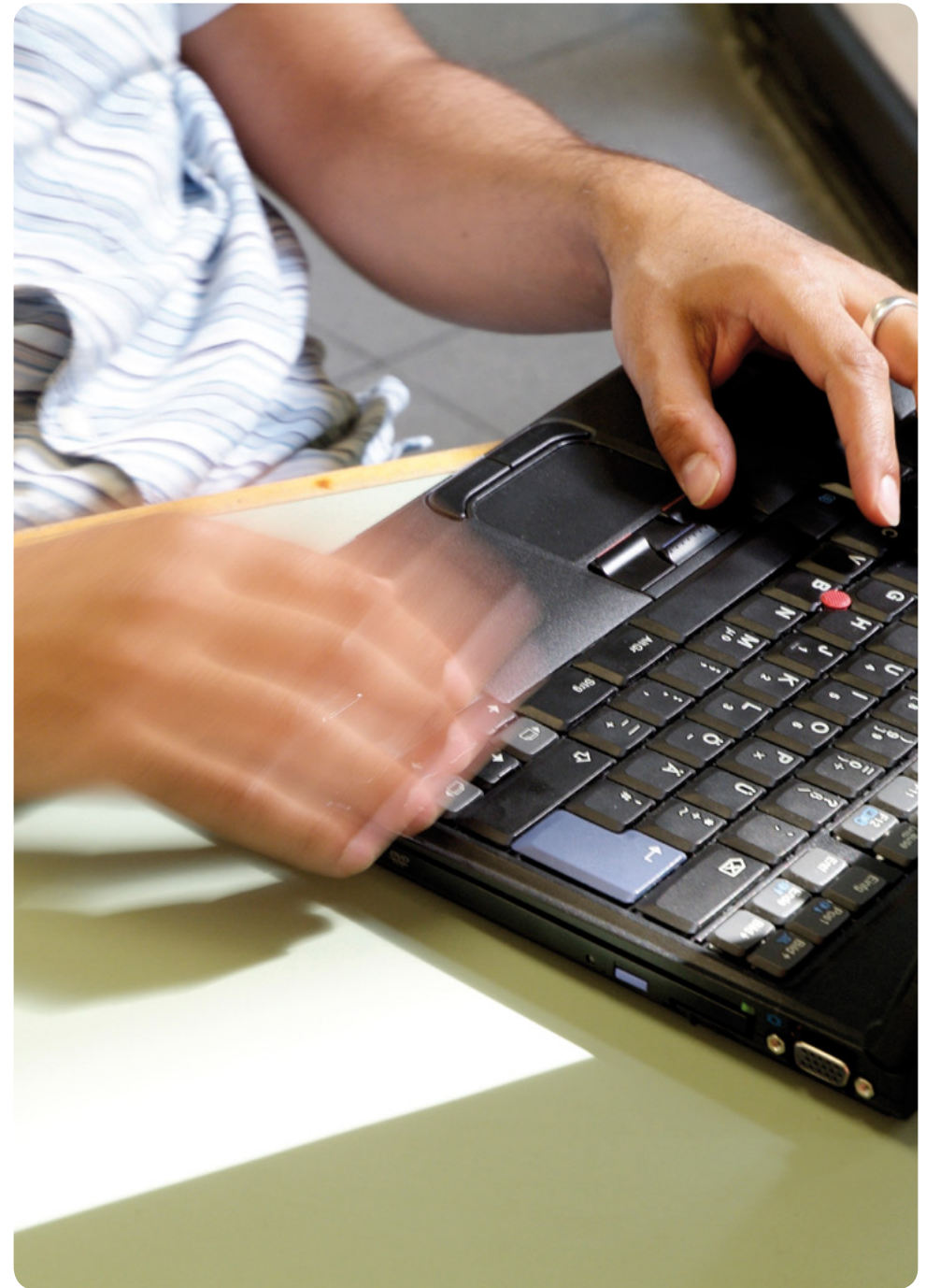
Industry in the region

Part-time jobs

EEA students must be registered at the City Hall in order to receive a national registration number that is needed to work in Belgium. Non-EEA students need to possess a valid residence permit. To work during the academic year, also a type C work permit is needed, and you can work a maximum of 20 hours per week.

The InnoEnergy Masters courses involve travelling to other European cities and are quite demanding. Hence do not fall chase money in exhausting part-time jobs which robs your energy and concentration from your main goal. However, I have tried to list down some of the part time jobs other than the few openings which might pop up at the InnoEnergy Office or on campus.

Through the database of KU Leuven, the [Student Job Shop](#), all students can find job offers online. You can find assistance at the [career centre](#). Further information can be found [here](#).



Fun

Fun Suggestions

You'll probably figure this part out by yourself but still, you might find some useful tips here.

For new incoming KU Leuven students and researchers, Pangaea organises the Orientation Days and a [Buddy Programme](#).

Some of the nice places to visit include the University carillon, Park Abbey (Heverlee), Vlierbeek Abbey (Kessel-Lo), Arenberg Castle and Park (Heverlee), Meerdael Forest (Heverlee), Zoet Water, Old Market Place (pubs, the Kotmadam), Great Beguinage with Sint-Jan-De-Doper Church, Sint-Geertrui

Church and Abbey, Sint-Michiels Church, Botanical Garden. With a culture card you get sizable discounts, free access to each UUR KULTUUR and some free tickets for a whole academic year.

Studying in Leuven you can easily could explore the world outside of KU Leuven in Flanders, Belgium and Europe. Further information can be found here.



Few usefull Links & Apps

Links

- InnoEnergy platform incoming Students 2019/20
- Download the IECommunity app
- [SPIT](#) second-hand shop
- [Leuven Walk](#)
- [LOKO](#)
- [Living in Leuven](#)

Apps



Recycle!



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