

Dear Prospective Student,

You will be spending a semester or more studying in Brussels and you are trying to anticipate what it is “really going to be like”. No matter how hard you try, your actual semester(s) or year(s) abroad will rarely be what you had imagined. Thus the most important thing for you to bring along is an open mind. Be ready for anything; you never know what new experiences may come your way!

That is not to say that you should not organize your trip. The Infofile is meant to give you an overview and suggestions on how to prepare for your move to Belgium. It will also serve as a guideline when you are in Belgium to remind you of what you have to do, so **bring it along**.

The Infofile contains a multitude of important information. **Please read it carefully and try not to skip any of the pages!** We hope that you will be able to find answers to all your questions and if you need any help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Bert Mosselmans,
Dean

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Special thanks to: Forstis-VUB (creator of the Infocfiles)

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1. Introduction

First of all, we would like to congratulate you on your acceptance to Vesalius College, and we wish you good luck in your academic career. The Infofile will give you information about non-academic aspects of your stay in Belgium. The administration of Vesalius College hopes to help you achieve your academic goals in the best possible conditions. The Infofile contains valuable information about the formalities you have to take care of before you leave for Belgium. It will also give you directions to the College and information on the temporary residence permit for students.

1.1. Belgium

The Country

Belgium is a small country (30,518 square kilometers) in the north-west of the European continent. In the north-west of Belgium there is a small coastal strip, where it meets the North Sea, which separates the European continent from the United Kingdom.

Belgium's neighbours to the south are France and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (an even smaller country); in the east, the German Federal Republic, and in the north the Netherlands, a slightly larger country than Belgium. The country is flat in the north, and hilly in the south, the highest point is about 700 meters above sea level (Botrange, 694 m.). The climate is moderate, with great variation between seasons. In the summer temperatures are usually somewhere between 20°C (68°F) and 30°C (86°F), in the winter between minus 10°C (14°F) and plus 10°C (50°F). It usually rains a lot, no matter what season.

The People

Belgium has approximately 10 million inhabitants. There are two main language groups, French-speaking Walloons, mainly in the south and east (42% of the population) and Dutch-speaking Flemish mainly in the north and west (57% of the population). There also is a small German-speaking community in the east (approximately 1% of the population).

Not all people living in Belgium are native Belgians: at present some 9% of the population is of foreign origin, in other words about 900.000 people. Foreigners originate from countries both inside and outside the European Community. The largest groups of foreigners are Italians, Moroccans, Turks, French, Dutch, Germans and British.

The State

Belgium is a constitutional monarchy, founded in 1830. This means that the King's power is limited by the constitution. The present King of Belgium is Albert II.

The history of the Belgian State has to a large extent been determined by the way in which the two main cultural groups have related to each other. From 1970, the country has evolved from a unitary state into a federal state.

At present the state consists of three "language communities" and three "regions". The language communities, Flemish, French and German, have authority over cultural and "personal" matters. The regions Flanders, Wallonia and (bilingual) Brussels have authority over "territorial-bound" matters. This all adds up to a total of no less than six governments: the federal government, the Flemish regional executive, the French community executive, and finally the German community executive body.

1.2. Brussels

Geographically Brussels lies in the heart of Belgium. The city is bilingual, but predominantly French-speaking. About 80% of the population of greater Brussels is French-speaking. Brussels is, nevertheless, completely surrounded by the Flemish region. The bilingual aspect of Brussels is very obvious: all streets have a Dutch and French name, and even many of the 19 communes that together form greater Brussels, have a Dutch and a French name.

Brussels has many faces. As a city, it is the capital of Belgium, where the King resides and where the federal parliament and government have their seat. The Flemish parliament and government also have their seat in Brussels, so although Brussels is not part of the Flemish region, it is its capital.

Brussels is also called “the Capital of Europe”: the European Community has Brussels as its main administrative center next to Strasbourg in France. Many European administrators known as ‘Eurocrats’ live in Brussels. This European dimension has also turned Brussels into an important international business center: a lot of foreign and multinational companies and businesses have branches and people in Brussels. Add the large groups of Moroccans, Turks, Congolese,.... and you will see that Brussels is a place where not only the different cultures of Belgium but also the cultures of the world meet.

Brussels is also a region in itself, with its own parliament and government with territorially orientated authorities. This region comprises the 19 communities that form greater Brussels. Since Brussels is officially a bilingual region, the French and Flemish language communities have authority over cultural and personal matters of their language groups within the Brussels region. As this short introduction illustrates, Brussels is a junction in many ways. Want to know more about it? Come and see for yourself!

2. Admission to Belgian Territory

To be admitted to Belgium, you must go through certain entrance formalities. You can be admitted to Belgium on the basis of various different statutes. The statute on the basis of which you have to get into the country is a “**temporary residence permit for students**”. This is the only way to be able to stay in Belgium for the duration of your studies.

2.1. Who needs a temporary residence permit

All all foreign students, except citizens of countries of the European Union, need a temporary residence permit to stay in Belgium.

Important: A holder of a UK passport without the right of abode in the UK must apply to the Belgian diplomatic or consular in his/her country of residence for a temporary residence permit.

2.2. Visa “type D” or temporary residence permit

A temporary residence permit is a type of visa that gives you the provisional right to reside in Belgium, without a specific time limit, but only as long as certain conditions are fulfilled. These conditions are partly related to the purpose of your stay. The Dutch and French names for the type of visa that you need are “**Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf**” (MVV) and “**Autorisation de Séjour Provisoire**” (ASP).

When you arrive in Belgium, as a holder of a “type D” visa, you must register on the ‘Aliens-Register’ at a Belgian commune as soon as all the conditions are fulfilled. Afterwards you will receive an identity card, as proof of your registration. The identity card must be renewed every year.

2.2.1. Visa “type D” for students

As we stated earlier, what you need is a temporary residence permit for students. It gives you the right to reside in Belgium for the duration of your studies assuming the following:

- That you take the exams and enroll for the following academic year
- That you have sufficient financial means for every period of extension applied for

2.3. How to get a visa “type D” or temporary residence permit as a student

2.3.1. Where to apply for a temporary residence permit

The Belgian Embassy in your home country, or any other country where you have legal residence.

If there is no Belgian Embassy in your country, you have to go to:

- The embassy of another country that also manages Belgian affairs in your country (for instance the Dutch Embassy in Surinam). Please note that these embassies of third world countries cannot deliver student visas, only tourist visas. In this case, however, it is relatively easy to change your tourist visa into a student visa once you are in Belgium.
- If Belgium does not have an embassy from another country managing its affairs in your country, you will have to go to the nearest Belgian Embassy in a neighbouring country (for instance, if you are from Ghana, you will have to go to the Belgian Embassy in Ivory Coast).

Please note that it is not possible to get a temporary residence permit (or any other visa) once you are in Belgium!

2.3.2. Which documents do you need

At the embassy you have to present 5 documents:

- A valid passport
- A certificate of “good character”
- A letter of acceptance from an officially recognized educational institute
- A certificate of medical check up by a doctor appointed by the embassy
- Proof of sufficient financial means.

The first three documents do not need much explanation. You have already received the letter of acceptance. A valid passport is a matter for the authorities or embassy in the country where you currently reside, as is the certificate of “good character”. If you have to hand in the original letter of acceptance to the embassy, ask them to provide you with a legalized copy.

Certificate of medical check up: please ask the embassy which doctor they require you to see, they will probably supply you with a list.

A proof of sufficient financial means can be delivered in various ways but the legal text mentions three examples. Keeping to these examples will give you the best chance of getting a “type D” visa without any problems:

- 1) A scholarship or a student loan;
- 2) Someone who declares that s/he will support you financially;
- 3) You have a solid income from a remunerative activity.

For the first two possibilities, please read “proof of sufficient financial means”.

The third possibility will only be accepted in combination with 1) or 2), because there is always a possibility that you may lose your job and income. Furthermore, to be able to practice a remunerative activity in Belgium, you need a *work permit* (which has to be applied for by your employer) and, as a student, your work time may not exceed **20 hours per week**.

2.3.3. Procedure

When you submit the necessary documents to the embassy, they will send your file to the aliens department in Brussels. This department will investigate your case and finally they will send their answer to the embassy.

If the answer is positive, the embassy will issue your visa and you are all set to go.

If the answer is negative, ask the embassy for the reasons of their refusal. If the embassy does not answer, be persistent. If you have valid documents there is no reason for the embassy to refuse your visa.

Applying for a student visa can take 2 months up to 1 year. If your temporary residence permit arrives too late with a validity period that does not run within the period of enrolment, you will have to postpone your studies.

2.4. Proof of sufficient financial means

2.4.1. Scholarship or student loans

A scholarship or student loan is one way to finance your studies and stay in Belgium. As proof of financial support you must deliver a certificate that states that the loan or scholarship covers:

- Health care
- Accommodation
- The cost of your studies
- Repatriation costs.

This certificate may originate from:

- An international organization
- A national government institution.

2.4.2. Engagement to take financial responsibility

The sponsor

Anyone, regardless of nationality or location, can take financial responsibility for you. The sponsor can declare to support you for one academic year or for the entire duration of your studies in Belgium; the latter is preferable. Otherwise you will have to annually repeat the procedure of having forms filled out and investigation of the sponsor's financial means etc.

If an embassy refuses to consider a sponsor who does not have the Belgian nationality or who does not live in Belgium, tell them that you have different information. We have inserted below an *excerpt from the Belgian State journal* which clearly states that the sponsor can have any nationality and can live in any country. If the embassy does not believe you, please show it to them.

The document “agreement of financial responsibility”

This document proves that you have a financial guarantor and it is a specific form that must be completed by the sponsor.

If the sponsor lives in Belgium, he has to get the form from the municipality. The municipality will forward the form to the Ministry of Interior who will investigate if the person is financially capable of supporting you.

If the sponsor lives abroad, he must get the form from the Belgian Embassy in that country. In this case, the embassy will forward the document to the Ministry of Interior in Belgium.

The Belgian administration recognizes only two languages: Dutch and French. The sponsorship form exists in two versions: in Dutch (“**verklaring van tenlasteneming**”) and in French (“**engagement de prise en charge**”). Some embassies provide English versions that are official and therefore can be used. In this Infofile you will find the Dutch and French versions as well as our own English translation. The English translation IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT, the Belgian administration will only accept documents in English if these documents are published by official Belgian administrations, for instance embassies.

Ask the embassy to prepare several legalized copies of the document “agreement of financial responsibility”. One copy will be kept by the embassy; take the others with you when you move to Belgium. You will need them for your registration on the aliens-register at the commune.

Possible additional financial requirements

Some Belgian embassies require proof that the sponsor has a bank account in Belgium and sometimes even that there is a minimum amount of money on the bank account. Other embassies also require that a specific amount be transferred to a special Belgian account (“consignatie-kas”).

2.5. Validity period of your temporary residence permit

It is of extreme importance that the validity period of your temporary residence permit falls within the enrollment dates of Vesalius College (please refer to the academic calendar). You will not be able to enroll before or after this period.

The visa “type D” commits you to register in the aliens-register of the commune where you have found permanent residence. Besides the visa, you also need a certificate of enrollment (This is a “Proof of Registration” available from Vesalius College). If you arrive after the period of enrollment, you will not be allowed to enroll and therefore you will not be able to register at the commune. You will be in Belgium illegally with the risk of being expelled from the country after, for instance, an unexpected identity check.

Moreover, after having finally enrolled at the university, if you present yourself at the municipality for your registration with the proof of your enrollment months after your official date of arrival, the staff of the municipality will notice that you have been in the country illegally for several months. There is a risk that you will be expelled from the country if the staff of the municipality informs the aliens’ department.

Important: If the embassy sees no possibility to get you a student visa that falls within the period of enrollment, they may suggest that you apply for a tourist visa, which is easier for them. Do not agree to this *unless the embassy is willing to give you a written statement that mentions that they have advised you to apply for a tourist visa. A written statement is the only way to change your tourist visa into a student visa once you are in Belgium.* Otherwise a tourist visa will be of no use to you.

For more information on visas, please consult the Belgian government website www.diplomatie.be/EN.

3. Arrival: Practical Information

Warning: due to some changes in the legislations, you may be asked to state proof of the purpose of your journey when you enter our country. Have your letter of acceptance from the university (or a legalized copy) at hand so that you can show it when asked.

Mailing address:

Vesalius College
Pleinlaan 2
1050 Brussels
Web: www.vesalius.edu

Physical address of Vesalius College:

Triomflaan 32 and Schoofslaan 8
1160 Brussels
Tel: 32 (2) 629 28 21
Fax: 32 (2) 629 36 37

Vesalius College is open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 12:30 and from 13:30 to 17:00. The office is closed on August 15th (public holiday) and the week between Christmas and New Year.

3.1. Off-campus housing

Please let us know when you will arrive in Belgium. You should complete and return the confirmation of attendance form to us to let us know of your intentions.

Vesalius College does not have on-campus housing. Students are responsible for making their own housing arrangements. However, Vesalius College will help students find suitable off-campus housing if requested. Student rooms are available in a wide price range (350 to 600 Euros per month on average) and many are conveniently located to the campus. Housing cannot be arranged before you arrive in Belgium. The earlier you arrive in Brussels, the easier it will be to find accommodation. We suggest that you arrive one week before Orientation if at all possible. We advise you to arrange temporary housing in advance of your arrival (see the suggested list of temporary housing).

3.2. Temporary housing

Youth Hostels in Brussels

Hôtel de Jeunes “Sleep Well”

Rue du Damier 23
1000 Brussels
Tel: 32 (2) 218 50 50
Fax: 32 (2) 218 13 13
e-mail: info@sleepwell.be
web: www.sleepwell.be

Centre Sportif de la Forêt de Soignes

Chaussée de Wavre 2057
1160 Brussels
Tel.: 32 (2) 672 22 60
Fax: 32 (2) 672 19 39
e-mail: info@csfds.be
web: www.csfds.be

Auberge de Jeunesse “Jacques Brel”

Rue de la Sablonnière 30
1000 Brussels
Tel: 32 (2) 218 01 87
Fax: 32 (2) 217 20 05
e-mail: brussels.brel@laj.be

“Bruegel”

Heilige Geeststraat 2
1000 Brussels
Tel: 32 (2) 511 04 36
Fax: 32 (2) 512 07 11
e-mail: brussel@vjh.be

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR ROOM BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR BRUSSELS

Hotels near Vesalius College

Hotel Lambermont

Boulevard Lambermont 322
1030 BRUSSELS
Tel: 32 (2) 242 55 95
Fax: 32 (2) 215 36 13
email: lambermonthotel@skynet.be
web: www.lambermont-hotel.com

Forum Hotel

Avenue du Haut-Pont 2
1060 BRUSSELS
Tel: 32 (2) 343 01 00
Fax: 32 (2) 347 00 54

Hotel near Brussels airport

Novotel Brussels Airport

Bedrijvenzone Diegem-Vuurberg
Da Vincilaan 25, 1831 Diegem-Zaventem
Tel.: 32 (2) 725 30 50
Fax: 32 (2) 721 39 58
E-mail: H0467@accor.com

3.3. At Zaventem airport (Brussels airport)

3.3.1. Money-exchange agents, telephones

When you have passed the customs and leave the passenger-zone, you will find money-exchange agencies at your right-hand side, next to the arrival-exit. Do not exchange too much money there because these agencies are slightly more expensive than banks elsewhere. It is advisable to get at least 30 Euro. Ask for coins (1 and 2 Euro) as they come in handy.

At the end of the hall on your left-hand side, you will find a room with public telephones. You can buy telephone cards at the post office next to the room with the telephones. There are other telephones in the arrival hall, at the other end of the hall, passed the cafeteria.

Card-operated pay phones

This card is a kind of credit card which gives you credit for a certain time. Every time you use it, the machine deletes the amount of money you have used. The price for a card is 5 Euro. If you have a credit card you may use it too.

Take the receiver off the hook, wait for the dial tone, and then insert the card. The small window on the phone will display the credit on your card. Dial the number. When a small light starts flashing and/or you hear a sound signal your card is almost empty. If you have another card at hand if you want to continue your call without interruption, you have about 20 seconds to push the button marked with an arrow, remove the empty card and replace it with a new one. If you want to check how much credit you have left, insert your card in the apparatus without taking the receiver off the hook and the remaining credit will be displayed.

Coin-operated pay phone

These pay phones only accept 20 Cent, 50 Cent, 1 and 2 Euro coins. The minimum insertion is two coins of 20 Cents.

Take the receiver off the hook, wait until you hear the dial tone, insert the coins, and dial the number. The amount of money that you have inserted is displayed in a small digital window. When the display starts flashing, your time is almost over. If you want to continue your call without interruptions, you have to insert more money quickly, or else the connection will be cut off.

If you finish before your time is up, the machine will return any unused coins. Therefore it is better to use coins of 20 Cents if you only want to make a short call, or if you only want to extend your conversation a little after the display starts flashing. The apparatus will not return coins for a 50 Cent coin that was not used completely. For international calls it is better to insert coins of 1 or 2 Euro.

3.3.2. Luggage

If you wish you may leave your luggage (or part of it) at the airport, and pick it up later. Make sure that you have everything you need for the first two days in a separate bag to take with you. Here's how it works:

Turn left outside the passenger-zone and walk straight on. Walk until you reach the end of the arrival hall and you can't go any further. You will find a room with lockers on your left-hand side (just follow the sign "LOCKERS").

The lockers work with tokens that you can get from a machine located in the same room. The tokens cost 2 Euro each. First select the number of tokens you desire then insert the money. The machine will return the change. There are three sizes of lockers. The small lockers take 1 token, the medium 2 tokens and the large lockers 3 tokens.

If you collect your luggage before midnight the following day, you will not have to insert extra tokens. Next to the keyhole there is a small dial: within this period it will be in position “1” or “2” (the second day). If you collect your luggage before midnight two days later, the dial will be in position “3”. You will have to insert the same amount of tokens as you did when you stored the luggage in order to open the locker. If you come and collect your luggage after the third day at midnight, you will not be able to open the locker yourself. You will have to pick up the phone on the wall and dial 3974, 3971 or 3992. You will also have to pay an additional fee of 1, 2 or 3 tokens per extra day depending on the size of the locker.

If you do not collect your luggage within one month, your luggage will be considered abandoned and you will not be able to reclaim it!

3.4. From Zaventem airport to Vesalius College

3.4.1. Train

The cheapest way to get from Zaventem to Vesalius College is by train and tram. There are two ways of reaching the train station.

If you are near the exit of the passenger zone, just follow the “train” signs which lead you to the escalator. If you have a lot of luggage it is practical to take the elevator downstairs.

In the station you will find a ticket office of the national railway company. A ticket for Brussels costs 2.80 Euros. Go to the platforms. There are two platforms; an arrow will indicate from which of the two platforms the first train will leave. Trains operate regularly to Brussels (4 per hour).

Get off the train at “Brussel Noord”. From the platform go downstairs and to the main exit which is the direction of descending platform numbers. In other words, walk towards platform 1. You will enter a big hall, just walk (through the glass doors) and you will enter another big hall. Walk until you arrive between two rooms of escalators.

In between the escalators you will see an orange-colored ticket vending machine. This machine also gives instructions in English; choose the option “other languages” and then “English”. Buy a ticket; a one-ride ticket will do. (Cost 1.50 Euros).

Take the escalator underneath the sign “90 Midi-Zuid” (there is one to your left and one to your right; both lead to the same platform). Take a tram with the indication “90 Zuid/Midi” above the windshield. Insert the ticket in one of the orange colored punching machines and take it out again. After leaving the “Brussels Noord” station, the tram will go above ground and at a certain point it will go underground again (after the stop at “Meiser”). After four stops, it will go above ground again. Get out at the fifth stop called “Etterbeek” station. On your left-hand side you will see the “Etterbeek” train station. Next to the train station (on the left) you will see the City Bank building. Opposite the City Bank you will find an oval shape building (building M) located on the campus of the “Vrije Universiteit Brussel” (VUB). Walk alongside the campus of the VUB and turn right at the lights on the “Triomflaan or Boulevard du Triomphe”. Opposite entrance number 7 of the VUB campus, cross the street and you will find Vesalius College (number 32, ground floor).

By public transport this is the fastest and easiest way to reach Vesalius College.

If you miss “Brussel Noord” station, get out at “Brussel Centraal” station. Follow the signs “Metro” (or a white capital M on a blue background). Buy a one-ride ticket at the ticket window (1.50 Euros). Stamp the ticket in one of the orange coloured ticket stamping machines and then take it out again.

You need to get on a metro with destination “H. Debroux”. When you enter the passenger zone of the metro station, turn left immediately and go downstairs. The platform signs indicate the destination of the next metro-train.

Make sure you get on a metro-train with destination “H. Debroux”. Check the destination above the windshield of the vehicle because the information on the platform is not always accurate. Get out at “Petillon”, this is the seventh stop. Once out of the metro-train, turn left, exit “Vrijwillingerslaan or Avenue des Volontaires”. Outside the metro station, turn right and walk straight on. Cross the “Waverssesteenweg or Chaussée de Wavre” and you will arrive on the “Schoofslaan”, walk straight on and you will arrive at the “Triomflaan or Boulevard du Triomphe”, turn right and you will see Vesalius College on your right-hand side (number 32).

3.4.2. Taxi

Much easier than the train but also more expensive! The official taxis that have a license for Zaventem airport wait right in front of the airport. They can easily be recognized by a diagonally divided blue and yellow colored shield attached to the front (radiator) of the car. The normal price should be approximately 30 Euros.

Please ask the taxi-driver to drop you off on the corner of the “Triomflaan or Boulevard du Triomphe” and the “Schoofslaan” in “Oudergem or Auderghem” (1160 Brussels). Our offices are located on the “Triomflaan or Boulevard du Triomphe” 32.

4. Important Messages

Before you leave, make sure you have the following documents with you. Photocopy them, and keep the photocopies in a separate place in case you lose the originals. They will either help you renew the lost documents (your passport mainly) or replace them:

- Passport: photocopy the page with the picture and the personal information including the date and place of delivery and the page containing your student visa.
- Your student international ID.
- Your ticket: remember it is also valid for the return, so do not throw it away.
- The guarantee of payment pledge that your family completed for the Belgian Consulate or Embassy. It is essential that you have it to obtain your Belgian residence card.
- Proof of medical insurance from your home country that covers you while abroad.
- Birth certificate.

Electrical appliances

Do not bring any with you if you can avoid it. American appliances used with voltage converters usually burn out or cause problems with fuses. You will be able to purchase small electrical appliances easily in Brussels i.e a hairdryer should cost between 15 and 25 Euros.

Medicine

Bring along any medicine that you are taking at the time of your departure. Your prescriptions will not be repeated unless you see a doctor in Belgium. The drugs have different names in Europe than in other countries. Please check this with your doctor before you leave!

For most of the medicine you will need a doctor's prescription. Medicine is rarely sold over the counter here, except for aspirins.

If you wear glasses or contact lenses, bring along your prescription in case you lose them and need to replace them quickly. Otherwise, you will need to see an optician for a new prescription.

Money

You may be concerned with the problem of getting money for your expenditures in Belgium. There are various means. It is a good idea to have some travelers' checks. Most students open an account in a Belgian bank. You may open an account in Euros. One of the advantages of having a bank account in Belgium is that someone in your home country can send money and even wire it immediately if you have an emergency.

It is possible now to use the Visa card, Mastercard and other credit cards to withdraw money at certain banks and automatic teller machines (ATM's) in Europe. If you would like to do this, ask the bank in which you have a credit card account what you need to do, you will probably need a special access code for your card).

Please note that Belgium is a rather expensive country to live and study in, so try to make sure you have a small emergency fund available.

Cost of living in Belgium

Mail

The mail takes 7 to 10 days (outside Europe) and 3 to 6 days (within Europe). Mailing costs are higher in Belgium than in other countries. Postage costs vary depending on the weight and measurements of the letter, so you will need to go to the post office. To simplify your life always try to send the same type and amount of stationery so that you know the cost and can keep stamps at home to cover future mailings. The postage costs are usually increases at the beginning of each year.

Post Offices are generally open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00.

You can find the post offices locations as well as the price of the stamps on this website: www.post.be, click on EN on the top left hand-side corner for information in English.

Travel

If you want to travel in Europe, there are a few rules that you should keep in mind:

- * Always take your passport and Belgian residence card
- * Tell someone where you will be going and when you plan on returning
- * Be realistic in your plans
- * Above all, do not miss classes!

In Belgium, the best deal for travelling by train is the "GO PASS", 10 one-way trips within Belgium cost 45 Euros (For people under 26 years of age). Student discounts are available for longer trips outside of Belgium. You will probably be tempted to get an inter rail pass.

Website: www.brail.be

5. LIST OF APPENDIXES:

- Excerpt from the Belgian State journal

- Forms for “agreement to take financial responsibility”:
 - Dutch version
 - French version
 - Unofficial English translation