Global BAs, MAs and Executive Programmes in the Heart of Europe 2020-21

www.vesalius.edu
Vesalius College is a unique educational institution in Brussels and beyond - a transatlantic liberal arts-style college with an interdisciplinary perspective. Since 2017, the College also expanded its academic offerings at graduate and life-long learning (executive training) levels.

The College is the oldest higher education institution in Brussels that offers Bachelor's programmes taught exclusively in English. Thanks to the influence of our founders, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Boston University, we combine the strengths of both the American and European academic systems. We offer students an American-style curriculum with interactive teaching, small classes, personalised attention and guidance. We also offer a rich, stimulating and international environment distinctive of a college based in Brussels, the capital of Europe. Students from all over the world have been drawn to this unique environment: more than 60 different nationalities are represented among our student body.

Our professors have been educated at the world's leading universities, continue to excel in their fields as researchers or advisors and have a deep passion for teaching. Our classes are small and interactive, with dynamic class discussions and continuous assessment throughout the semester. Vesalius College not only offers a highly global and interdisciplinary education, but also an approach that carefully balances theory with practice. Students acquire the theoretical and academic knowledge needed for further studies or a career in their field, but also develop key transferable skills and networks for professional success. They also have the opportunity to do an internship in Brussels for academic credit at one of our many partner organisations, which include government institutions, think tanks, media organisations, international corporations and NGOs.

A distinctive and important characteristic of our programmes is what we call 'Theory-Guided, Practice-Embedded and Experiential Learning' (or TPEL for short). We make the most of our location in Brussels and out of our professors' extensive networks by 'bringing Brussels to the classroom'. This comprises not only an extensive variety of guest lectures and events with leading experts and practitioners, but also simulations, honours classes and unique partnerships with leading universities in Europe and the US. Taken together, this approach gives our students valuable insight into the practical aspects of their education and allows them to gather unique global experiences, which will help them to make better-informed choices for their future career or study paths.

Whether you intend to earn a degree, participate in our study abroad programme, or enrol in a summer course, at Vesalius College you will find a rewarding opportunity to prepare for the exciting professional and personal opportunities that await you. We hope that you enjoy discovering more about the College in this brochure.

Prof. Dr. Sven Van Kerckhoven
Vice-Dean for Education
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Bachelor's
- Business Studies
- Communication and Public Relations
- International Affairs
- International and European Law

Master's
- Global Peace, Security and Strategic Studies
- Diplomacy and Global Governance

Certificates
- European Peace and Security Studies
- European Business Communication

Executive Course
- Global Risk Analysis and Crisis Management
About VeCo

A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Vesalius College (affectionately known as 'VeCo') is a tight-knit yet diverse college with a student body of approximately 350. With its low professor-to-student ratio, faculty members are very accessible and closely involved in all aspects of the students' intellectual and personal development. Classes are kept small but intellectually diverse and marked by a highly dynamic, innovative and personalised teaching style.

BELGIAN-AMERICAN ROOTS

VeCo, founded by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Boston University in 1987 to offer undergraduate education in English in Brussels, is the first Liberal Arts College in the Benelux. Now, 32 years since its founding, the College offers the best of American and European education.

BRUSSELS: THE CAPITAL OF EUROPE

The city is home to the European institutions, NATO and numerous international organisations and multinational companies. Students can benefit from this international setting through Vesalius College's academic programmes and its strong European focus, the Vesalius Internship Programme which offers exciting professional opportunities at leading companies and organisations, or by attending guest lectures and workshops given by local practitioners and experts.

QUALITY INSTRUCTION, GUIDANCE & SUPPORT

The quality and accessibility of the faculty is at the very core of the academic experience at the College. Thanks to our low student-teacher ratio, professors take a personal interest in the individual success of each student. Professors take a humanistic and interdisciplinary approach to intellectual inquiry, encouraging students to not only learn skills and knowledge important for their chosen careers, but to also think critically and develop themselves personally and as ethically responsible citizens of an increasingly multicultural and globalised world.

RECOGNITION & ACCREDITATION

Vesalius College is registered with the Flemish government of Belgium as an institution for higher education. The Bachelor's degree at the College is equivalent to a recognised Bachelor's degree awarded by a Flemish university. The four Bachelor’s programmes and two Master’s programmes are accredited by NVAO (Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatie Organisatie), the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders. Vesalius College follows the Bologna Process, the reform effort designed to standardise higher education qualifications throughout Europe.

"A unique profile in Belgium"
NVAO, 2018
Why VeCo?

+60 NATIONALITIES
represented among the College’s community of students and faculty.

OUTSTANDING LINKS
to Brussels’ professional scene and leading universities such as Georgetown, London School of Economics and Political Science, Oxford, Cambridge and Yale.

+50 STUDY ABROAD
partnerships with universities from North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Oceania.

1st AMERICAN LIBERAL ARTS College in the Benelux

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI
working in leading companies and organisations such as UN, NATO, CESA’s Leadership and Entrepreneurship Center and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

DEDICATED & PROMINENT FACULTY
educated at world-leading universities and who bring the institutional knowledge to the classroom.

60 INTERNSHIP PARTNERS
which range from multinational corporations, law firms and media houses to government institutions and NGOs.

UNIQUE CAREER-FORMING OPPORTUNITIES
Honours Class with the Global Economic Symposium and the US State Department, Capstone, Model EU, etc.
VeCo Style: Theory-Guided, Practice-Equipped & Experiential Learning (TPEL)

At Vesalius College we pursue a unique and specific approach to teaching, which combines the promotion of in-depth theoretical knowledge with ‘practice-embedded and experiential learning’.

TPEL draws on the College’s unique location and access to senior European and global policy-makers, business executives and entrepreneurs, legal experts and communication professionals. These experts are not only invited regularly to high-level guest lectures and weekend workshops, but they also form an important part of the College’s regular curriculum throughout the three years of undergraduate education. Through the simulations of real-life problems in international politics, business case studies, communication campaigns and legal advocacy exercises in the classroom, students receive practical feedback from senior professionals from ‘the real world’ and learn how theories learned in the classroom are applied into real-life situations. This method is also applied to our Master’s programmes.

TPEL Activities

- Internships
- Honours Class
- Special Lectures
- Conferences
- Capstone

Capstone (for BAs and MAs)

Towards the end of their studies, students are trained to apply their knowledge to a real-life problem. Utilising the College’s unique access to Brussels-based circles and international organisations, students are entrusted with real-life case studies just as they enter the final semester of their Bachelor’s or Master’s degrees and gain an initial experience of working life. For instance, the 2016 Capstone students worked with United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security to strengthen the partnership between the EU and the UN in the field of peacekeeping. In 2017, the theme was EU-NATO cooperation, and in 2018, it was with International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winner.
Our teaching approach of TPEL ensures that our students are equipped with in-depth theoretical knowledge and the essential practical skills and networks that they need to succeed in their professional callings.
VeCo BA Academic Structure

Degree Structure

1 ST YEAR
Students take Global Ethics, Critical Thinking and Academic Writing and Introduction to Statistics.

2 ND YEAR
Students take Intermediate Qualitative Research Methods and, for Business, Communication and International Affairs majors Intermediate Quantitative Methods in addition.

3 RD YEAR
Students develop the ability to approach problems from different perspectives, learn how to be flexible, adapt to change and lead others by exercising intellectual judgment.

Major :
Academic subject in which the student specialises
Students take compulsory and elective courses related to the Major that are identified by the academic department

Global Business and Entrepreneurship | Global Communication | International Affairs | International and European Law

Minor :
Secondary field of study or specialisation
In order to successfully complete a ‘Minor’ classification, students must pass at least four courses within their chosen Minor
Students choose from a wide range of topics


Electives :
Courses that are at the student’s choice and may be taken to further specialise in the Major, to explore fields outside the Major, or develop language skills
Students can choose electives from Vesalius College’s long list of elective courses, ranging from Law to Chinese or Psychology to Marketing
Students can also choose to take electives at one of the College’s partner institutions, such as Royal Military Academy (RMA) and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)
Finding your future with VeCo

INTERNSHIPS & CAREERS

Internship Programme

BA students have the opportunity to gain professional experience in Brussels while earning academic credit through the Vesalius Internship Programme (VIP). The VIP offers students a position with one of its many internship partners, which range from multinational corporations, law firms and media houses to government institutions and NGOs.

Whether having full responsibility for a project, or working as a team member within a bigger enterprise, students have the opportunity to exercise their skills and to provide the host organisation with high-quality results.

The internship counts as an academic course during the semester, and can be taken as a Major Elective. Degree-seeking students can earn 6 ECTS credits (3 US academic credits) for the ‘single’ internship option.

BA Study Abroad students may also choose to extend the internship in order to work more hours per week. This ‘double’ internship option is worth 12 ECTS credits (6 US credits).

By doing an internship at undergraduate level, students distinguish themselves from the competition, especially from students who have no professional experience at the time of graduation. Students show that they are able to balance their academic and professional commitments, and that they are hardworking and self-motivated. Moreover, for students who are not originally from Belgium, working in a foreign country will further help them to set themselves apart.

Career Counselling

To assist BA students with life after college, Vesalius College offers students in their final year the opportunity to attend career seminars and individual coaching sessions. This free service aims to help graduates gain a competitive advantage on the job market after graduation.

This is achieved by helping students determine their career objectives in addition to acquiring the skill set necessary to achieve their professional goals. The workshops range from CV and cover letter writing to information on networking and how to apply for various internship programmes offered in Brussels. For those planning to continue their education, assistance in choosing the right graduate programme is also on offer.

Internship Partners

- EU Observer
- Euro Jobsites
- Europe Commerce – Cross-Border
- European Academies’ Science Advisory Council
- European Composer and Songwriter Alliance
- European Cooperative for Rural Development
- European Disability Forum
- European Regional and Local Health Authorities (EUREGHA)
- Fulbright Belgium
- Gresham Belson Hotel
- ICom Institute for Competitiveness
- International Republic Institute
- Make Mothers Matte EU Delegation
- Management Centre Europe
- The Belgian American Education Foundation
- The Brussels Times
- The Embassy of the Dominican Republic
- The Embassy of Honduras
- The Royal Military Academy
- UPS

And many more!
Expanding your horizons with VeCo

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME

BA students at Vesalius College may study abroad either at one of our partner institutions or at an approved college or university of their choice. When studying abroad with a partner institution, all grades and credits earned with the host university will be transferred directly to the student’s transcript at Vesalius College. When studying with an approved non-partner institution, course credits can be transferred directly to the student’s transcript at Vesalius College while grades will not be transferred.

* Courses taken abroad may be applied towards curriculum requirements, including core, major or free electives and major requirements.
Partners

Europe

Anglo-American University - Prague, Czech Republic
Césine Business School – Santander, Spain
Dublin Business School – Dublin, Ireland
IE University - Madrid/Segovia, Spain
International University of Monaco – Monte Carlo, Monaco
London School of Economics (LSE) – London, UK
Köç University – Istanbul, Turkey
Richmond, The American University of London - London, UK
Saint Louis University Madrid – Madrid, Spain
The American University of Rome (AUR) – Rome, Italy
UBIS University – Geneva, Switzerland
University of Derby – Derby, UK
University of Ljubljana – Ljubljana, Slovenia
University of Lower Silesia, Wroclaw, Poland
University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) – UK

Latin America

CESA Business School – Colombia
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente, ITESO – Mexico
Tec de Monterrey, ITESM – Mexico
Universidad Casa Grande – Ecuador
Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales – Argentina
Universidad de Especialidades Espiritu Santo (UEES) – Ecuador
Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola – Lima, Peru

Oceania

Bond University – Queensland, Australia

Canada

Carleton University – Ontario

USA

American University - Washington DC
Auburn University – Alabama
Beloit College – Wisconsin
Birmingham Southern College – Alabama
Chatham University – Pennsylvania
College of Staten Island – New York
Covenant College – Georgia
Doane College – Nebraska
Hawaii Pacific University – Hawaii
Hobart and William Smith Colleges – New York
Marymount University – Virginia
Oglethorpe University – Georgia
Rutgers University – New Jersey
St. Louis University – Missouri
State University of New York at New Paltz – New York
University of Denver – Colorado
University of Hawaii at Hilo – Hawaii
University of Illinois Springfield – Illinois
University of Mississippi – Mississippi
University of Memphis – Tennessee
University of Missouri – Missouri

Asia

Ajeeiya DY Patil University – India
Akita International University – Japan
China University of Politics and Law – China
Chonbuk National University – South Korea
Hallym University – South Korea
Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics – China
Kansai Gaidai University – Japan
Konkuk University – South Korea
Kyung Hee University - South Korea
National Law School of India – India
Peking University HSBC – China
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University – Japan
Shanghai Lixin University of Commerce – China
Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) – Singapore
University of Nottingham – China
Waseda University – Japan

MULTIPLE US AND NON-US DESTINATIONS THROUGH CONSORTIUM PARTNERS:
• BCA Study Abroad
• Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE)
• International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP)
• International Studies Abroad (ISA)
Student Services

Vesalius College offers students the best of both worlds: the personal attention and community environment of a small college, as well as access to the resources of major universities. The College shares relevant academic events and guest lectures, and also participates in faculty exchanges with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Université Libre de Bruxelles, University of Kent in Brussels and Georgetown University, among others.

RESEARCH AND LIBRARY SERVICES
Students at Vesalius have access to extensive resources for research at three major libraries: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Université Libre de Bruxelles and the Royal Library, which is the national library of Belgium. Together, they provide students with access to over five million books. In addition, students have access to a wide variety of online resources including thousands of journals and newspapers, library catalogues and databases.

COMPUTER RESOURCES
Computer and internet access is an essential part of student life. The Vesalius College computer lab is equipped with PCs and Apple computers as well as facilities for students with laptops to connect to the College’s computer network. Students also have access to the extensive computer resources at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, including the free campus-wide wireless network.

ENGLISH & MATH TUTORING
Strong English and writing skills are crucial for academic achievement, as well as professional success. English & math tutors help students develop their ability to efficiently and effectively communicate their ideas in writing, and also provide tutorial sessions for math and statistics courses.

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING
Moving to a new country, living alone, and facing the pressure of exams are just a few of the major changes that students may experience. Vesalius College offers free psychological counselling to students who would like to speak to a professional about missing home, exam pressure, or other challenges they might face.
HEALTH SERVICES
The medical centre on the VUB campus provides medical assistance to students and staff. This includes consultation in case of illness, accidents, minor medical procedures, vaccinations, preventive care, etc.

HOUSING
To help students get settled in Brussels and ready to begin classes, the College provides them with links to help find suitable off-campus housing. With the large number of universities and higher education institutions in Brussels, student rooms are widely available. For off-campus housing rates and availability, students can refer to www.brik.be/en. Vesalius College students also have access to VUB on-campus housing. For more information, visit www.u-residence.be. Study abroad students who join Vesalius College for one semester have the opportunity to stay with a local host family. This type of accommodation offers the student a unique experience that gives insight into the everyday life of Belgian families, culture, and social norms.

FOOD SERVICES
Every day, the VUB campus cafeteria serves a wide selection of warm and cold dishes, snacks, sandwiches and drinks – all at student-friendly prices. Students pay a fixed price depending on the dish chosen. The set menus include soup, a main course and a dessert. There are daily vegetarian and vegan options. The cafeteria was awarded the MSC Sustainable Seafood Certificate in 2013 and also sources many of its ingredients from organic farms. The Cafeteria also serves breakfast, sandwiches and drinks. Students can also find two snack bars on campus: ‘t Complex and Opinio.

SPORTS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
VeCo students have full access to the VUB sports facilities. The facilities include two large multipurpose sports halls, one martial arts hall, three squash courts, a swimming pool and one climbing wall. Students also have access to a state-of-the-art fitness complex. Next to its indoor facilities, the VUB Sports Department also has outdoor sports fields, including one synthetic soccer field and an athletics track and rugby pitch. A membership fee and/or usage fee (discounted for students) applies. With numerous spacious parks and a vast forest within a stone’s throw of the city, students also have many opportunities for practising outdoor sports.