



University Association Brussels
Your gateway to Europe



University Association Brussels (UAB)

The university college Erasmushogeschool Brussel and the university Vrije Universiteit Brussel are partners in the University Association Brussels (UAB). Together, they have 13.500 students and 3.500 staff members.

Studying at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) or the Erasmushogeschool Brussel (EhB), in an open atmosphere of tolerance and diversity, means growing into an independent and critically thinking individual who can cope with our rapidly changing world.

Personal growth and a positive and critical attitude, in addition to a sense of responsibility lie at the heart of our academic success. These are characteristics you will encounter in everyone at our Association, from professors and researchers to students. The Association has as its goal the promotion of social diversity, in its study programmes as well as in its student and staff policies. It aims to achieve this by guaranteeing equal opportunities for all, without distinction on the grounds of gender, social or ethnic origins, beliefs, sexual orientation, age or disability.

This vision is further strengthened by the nature of a large city like Brussels, with its many and various cultures and nationalities. Brussels encourages the independence, open attitude and critical spirit that characterise both partners of the Association. We stand by our viewpoint, sometimes in spite of current trends, but our stand is always informed by reason. The Association has always led and fostered discussion about ethical and social issues and continues to do so.

UAB in Brussels, your gateway to Europe

Brussels is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. The Brussels-Capital Region is one of Belgium's three regions, but it is also a city with 19 municipalities, covering 1.632 km² and housing a million inhabitants. It is officially bilingual (French and Dutch), although it boasts an astonishing variety of cultures, styles and nationalities.

Brussels is the headquarters of the European Commission, the European Council, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee. The city also plays host to NATO, international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The Brussels-Capital Region is one of the European hubs of scientific research and advanced technologies. It has adopted a proactive policy based on its inherent assets – the presence of university centres of excellence. These include the University Association Brussels, four industrial higher education institutes, three faculties of medicine and university hospitals, as well as several public and private research centres. Against this lively intellectual backdrop, university research centres are closely linked with Brussels-based companies involved in the high-tech sector. Scientific research in the Brussels-Capital Region is mainly geared towards highly specialised sectors and advanced technologies, such as information technology, electromechanical engineering, biotechnology and life sciences, medical research and environmental protection, which utilise state-of-the-art equipment and procedures. The UAB is also actively involved in (applied) scientific research and collaborates intensely with the business and industrial world, as well as contributing to the development of the arts through its drama, film and music schools.

Internationalisation at the UAB

Internationalisation is an important part of the strategy of the University Association Brussels. At present, the UAB manages institutional cooperation agreements with universities around the world. This includes student and staff exchange agreements with more than 300 universities in 150 cities in 29 European countries.

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel is an active member in the network of the Universities of the Capital Cities of Europe (UNICA) which represents more than 1.500.000 students. The Erasmushogeschool Brussel is a member of the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU). Members of both networks are responsible for numerous European initiatives and undertake joint European projects.

Through cooperation with the Institute for European Studies (IES), the UAB offers high quality courses in international relations, international law and conflict analysis.

The Brussels Institute of Contemporary China Studies (BICCS) is a collaboration between the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Renmin University P.R. China. BICCS focuses on the current state of affairs in China and on the expected developments in the future, both of which are too often just a footnote in existing programmes in Chinese studies. Moreover, contemporary China is studied in all of its aspects: economy, politics, diplomacy, culture, society and law.

Education at the UAB

Together, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Erasmushogeschool Brussel offer 55 Bachelor's programmes, 98 Master's programmes and 22 postgraduate programmes within four study domains: Science and Technology, Rehabilitation and Health Care, Social Sciences, and Art and Culture. The Bachelor's programmes are given in Dutch and the Master's programmes and postgraduates in English and/or Dutch.

Fields of study within the University Association Brussels

Applied biological sciences
Applied linguistics
Archaeology and art sciences
Architecture
Audiovisual and visual arts
Business and commercial science
Economics and applied economic sciences
Education
Engineering
Health care
History
Industrial sciences and technology
Law, notarial studies and criminology
Linguistics and literature
Medicine
Music and performing arts
Pharmaceutical sciences
Philosophy and ethics
Physical education, rehabilitation sciences and physical therapy
Political and social sciences
Psychology and education
Public health sciences
Sciences
Social work

Research at the UAB

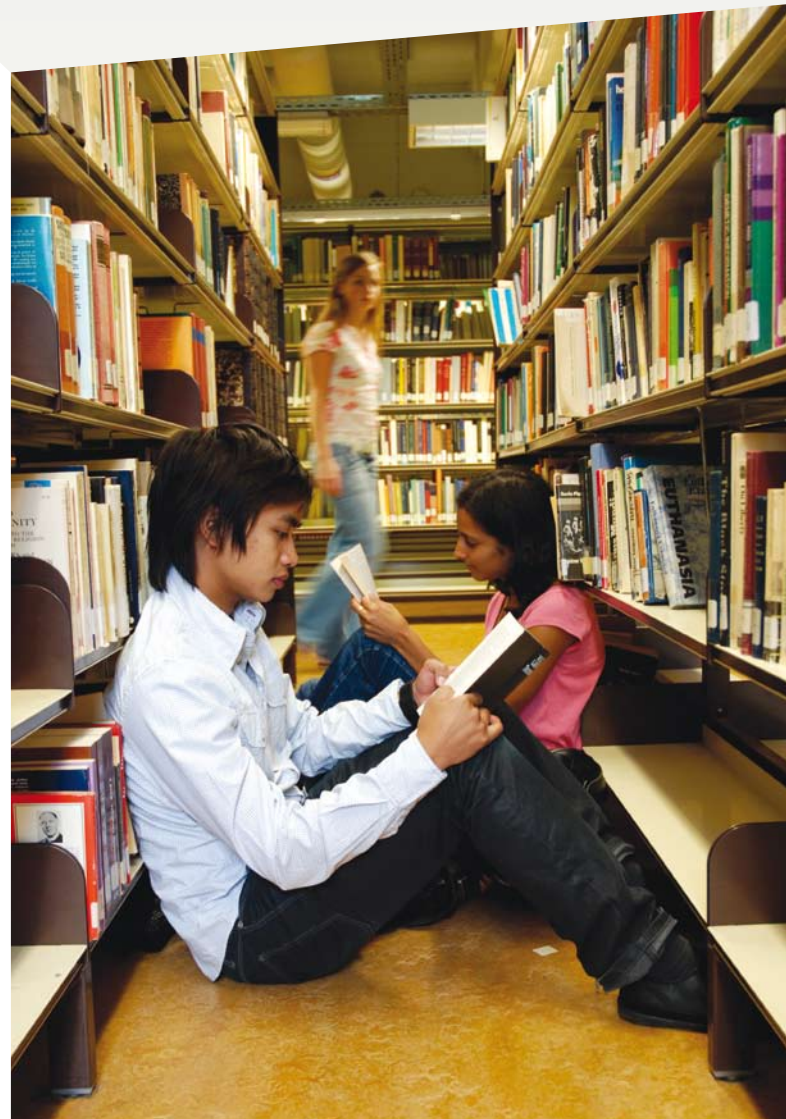
In 2007 the Vrije Universiteit Brussel had at its disposal a research budget of over 73 million euro. There were 133 doctorates submitted in 2007.

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel supports all R&D activities throughout the research process, from scientific discovery and exploration of new knowledge to invention and development. This includes the interface with regional and worldwide industrial players, the non-profit sector, policy makers and governments.

The research funds available for university colleges are not on the same order as those for universities. Due to the academising process (until 2013), the research funds for university colleges rose steadily; as a result, the Erasmushogeschool Brussel had two million euro at its disposal in 2007. The majority of this was used for applied research and for artistic research.

Earning a PhD at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel

PhD students get all the support they need from the Doctoral Schools and the Central PhD Office of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. These departments help PhD students to start, conduct and complete a PhD project. This covers diverse aspects of the doctoral process, such as offering workshops in the framework of the PhD programme, providing information about the administrative aspects of a PhD, helping shape the policy concerning the PhD process and furthering co-operation with other institutions in the domain of PhD studies. The emphasis lies on a flexible PhD programme. This approach fits the image of PhD students as early-stage researchers who may need a certain degree of guidance and support, yet are themselves best placed to identify their own particular training needs, issues and concerns. In this way the support provided by the Doctoral Schools and the Central PhD Office is tailored to the actual needs of individual PhD students. The UAB also provides support and advice on the Doctor of Arts degree.





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