
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

2023



A HIGHLY RANKED UNIVERSITY

1 declared 'Most Innovative University in Europe' by Reuters 4 years in a row

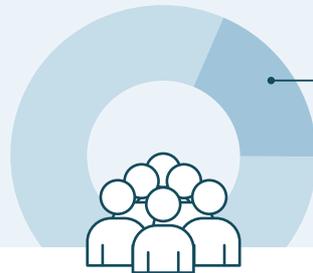
45 in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking (2021)

70 in the QS World University Ranking (2022)



That every one of these subjects ranks in the top 100 of their field, with half of them in the top 50 world-wide, is truly a mark of honour.

60,292
students



of which
12,577
international
students

HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION



+140

different nationalities
represented

100

PROGRAMMES
IN ENGLISH

5 bachelor's

72 master's

23 advanced master's

+20

international student
organisations





WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

#1 in the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme (HEI only)

#6 in the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme (HEI only)

#14 in the ERC grants programme (HEI only)



FOUNDED IN
1425

Making it one of the oldest universities in the world.

VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY

The KU Leuven **Research & Development (LRD)** technology transfer office was **one of the first in Europe.**



149 spin-off companies

7,988 researchers & professors

6,386 PhD researchers

Do you want to help shape the society of tomorrow?

Every era starts its own revolution, a leap in progress courtesy of creative minds, sharp thinkers, and leading researchers. You'll meet just that sort of professor – the ones who imbue their students with inspiration and new insights – at KU Leuven. A commitment to foundational and applied research has earned KU Leuven the honour of being named most innovative in Europe for the fourth time in a row. Follow your curiosity at KU Leuven today, and find your answers tomorrow.



BELGIUM, THE HEART OF EUROPE

Whether as a student or researcher, you'll discover in Belgium a country full of surprising contrasts. A country rich in art, history, and architecture. You'll be treated to its local specialties in a friendly atmosphere. Belgian cities have so much to offer to students: a cosmopolitan lifestyle, great sport facilities, libraries, bookshops, restaurants, cafés, and a dynamic cultural scene.

As an international guest, you might find Belgians initially reserved – an impression that will only last until you share a round of beers at an outdoor café or make your first visit to a Belgian home, where you will be warmly welcomed and well fed. Belgium is also an ideal base for exploring the rest of Europe. London, Paris, Cologne, and Amsterdam are all a proverbial stone's throw away. It is the headquarters of many international organisations and companies and the beating heart of the European Union.





13 CAMPUSES ACROSS FLANDERS

KU Leuven offers degree programmes at various campuses in **10 Belgian cities**, including Brussels. Six of these campuses offer **programmes in English**. The city of Leuven has been the focal point of the university's educational mission for almost 600 years.

www.kuleuven.be/campuses





The Grand Square in Leuven



Grand Place in Brussels



The quays in Ghent



The skyline of Antwerp

LEUVEN

Since its foundation, KU Leuven has been located in the city of Leuven in the region of Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium. **Leuven is a dynamic, elegant, and safe student city with a long and rich history.** The city's beautiful, charming centre, which dates back to the Middle Ages, is dotted with stately colleges and historic buildings that were constructed by and for the university over the course of many centuries. There are also many cultural and recreational opportunities to be found.

A true hub of innovation and technical entrepreneurship, Leuven has a long tradition as one of Europe's leading tech ecosystems. Not only is the city home to the university, it is also fast becoming a destination for the knowledge economy. Imec, VIB and the University Hospitals all have their head office in Leuven, allowing them to harness and contribute to the city's energy. Taken together, the tech industries, significant investment capital, highly educated employees, technology platforms, research parks and research networks all make Leuven a unique and progressive hub for innovation.

BRUSSELS

Brussels is the capital of Belgium and a modern, multicultural city that offers many activities for students. **Thanks to its parks, cinemas, theatres, museums, and art galleries, Brussels is the epitome of urban elegance.** In addition, it welcomes a large number of international students every year, which gives the city a cosmopolitan feel.

Brussels is the beating heart of Europe. As a student, you'll be living and studying in a true business hub and decision making centre; the city is home to the EU institutions and NATO, as well as a diverse range of international finance and trade organisations. Hundreds of multinational corporations have their head offices here.

GHENT

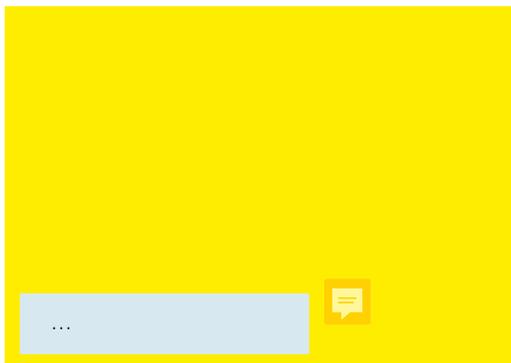
The bustling city of Ghent offers you its hallmark joie de vivre as well as a comfortable home away from home. **The scenic Graslei waterfront, the medieval Sint-Baafs Cathedral, Gravensteen Castle, and charming bars ... Ghent has it all.**

Numerous museums, music venues, and art studios give the city its artistic vibe. Ghent is a city as contemporary as it is historical, illustrated by its ambitious modern architecture and urban development strategy. With its elaborate educational network, the city is also a knowledge hub, appealing to international experts in myriad fields.

ANTWERP AND SINT-KATELIJNE-WAVER

Antwerp is a historical city of culture, architecture, fashion, and top-level gastronomy. Antwerp harbour is the second largest in Europe. Antwerp's strategic location and its open-minded reputation attract many international investors and companies. The history of Antwerp from its Roman origins to its Napoleonic buildings is rich and fascinating, but students know it as a city that never grows old.

The green campus of **Sint-Katelijne-Waver** is a twenty minute train ride away. **The campus introduces you to state-of-the-art technologies.** Meanwhile, nearby Antwerp is a convenient home base, as is the artistic city of Mechelen. Its historical centre is compact, welcoming and authentic.



GEEL

Geel Campus is a unique green campus that combines a practice-oriented education with a personal approach. Your professors are uniquely accessible and available for direct interaction. We offer exciting technological and biology-oriented engineering courses, and we work closely with industry leaders to prepare you for a promising career.

MEET OUR STUDENT AMBASSADORS

We have students on every campus who will be happy to tell you about life in Belgium and at KU Leuven. Curious about their experiences? Just head over to www.kuleuven.be/chatwithourstudents.

'KU Leuven is a community of people; a huge diverse international students community that provides a friendly environment away from home. You'll have abundant opportunities to enrich your experience outside the lecture rooms and laboratories. Leuven is a cultural beautiful city with a vibrant atmosphere and rich heritage. I don't regret coming here, I highly recommend you come to study in Flanders.'

Tafadzwa Makara

'KU Leuven supports its students in the development of valuable professional and personal skills through the help and guidance of its dedicated and distinguished faculty. KU Leuven's diverse community of students from around the world creates a dynamic and international learning environment where you meet new lifelong friends along the way.'

Alex Saliba

'As someone who has lived 6 years in Leuven as a student and 2 more years as a postdoc, I would suggest you to take the opportunity to apply for the amazing KU Leuven and come to this beautiful city. It will be a very special experience in your life!'

Mahoor Mehdikhani

'Transitioning from an ambitious corporate environment to academia, KU Leuven has helped me broaden my knowledge horizon while encouraging a culture of perfection.'

Shourya Bhattacharya



Our researchers developed a solar panel that converts sunlight and air into hydrogen, which burns cleanly and without emissions.

ACADEMIC CAREER PATH

Bachelor's programmes

KU Leuven offers 48 bachelor's programmes, **6 of which are taught in English**. Bachelor's programmes consist of 180 ECTS credits and can be completed in 3 years.

Master's programmes

You can choose from 138 master's programmes at KU Leuven. **72 of them are completely in English**, 1 of them in French. Programmes will take 1 year (60 ECTS credits) or 2 years (120 ECTS credits) to complete.

Advanced master's programmes

Advanced master's programmes are aimed at students who already have a master's degree. They provide training at an advanced level. KU Leuven offers **23 advanced master's programmes in English** and 1 in Spanish. The curricula are strongly linked to top research domains of KU Leuven. Programmes usually take 1 year (60 ECTS credits), but 2-year programmes also exist.

Postgraduate programmes

Postgraduate programmes are advanced programmes of 20 ECTS credits or more. They target students who have already obtained a bachelor's or a master's degree. Postgraduate programmes help you expand your knowledge and provide opportunities for further specialisation. You receive a certificate upon successful completion of the programme.

Doctorate / PhD

Full-time doctoral programmes usually take a minimum of 3 to 4 years. You will tackle fundamental or applied topics to make an innovative contribution to your field of study.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- **1st semester:**
3rd week of September >
end of January (exams in January)
- **2nd semester:**
2nd week of February >
end of June (exams in June)

www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar

DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

PhDs at KU Leuven

As a comprehensive university, KU Leuven offers the opportunity to pursue a world-class **PhD programme in a wide variety of academic fields**. Our three doctoral schools provide both high-quality education and expansive academic support, ensuring that KU Leuven is the ideal university to finalise your advanced education.

Research is the heart of our university, and all of our PhD programmes are embedded in a stimulating international research environment. Your original research will be performed under the guidance of a highly respected supervisory team, whether that involves a literature review, working in a laboratory, gathering data, attending seminars and conferences, presenting your findings in presentations and articles, writing your dissertation, etc. You will be able to pursue a doctoral curriculum tailored to your professional goals while enjoying access to excellent research facilities and student services. In addition to academic, research-related coursework, **all doctoral curricula include transferable skills training in topics such as effective communication, entrepreneurial skills, and leadership**.

In approximately 4 years, you will obtain your PhD after a successful public defence. Today, more than 6,000 researchers are working on their PhD at KU Leuven and each year about 800 of them successfully defend their PhD. About half of the PhD community comes from abroad.

Finding a PhD position

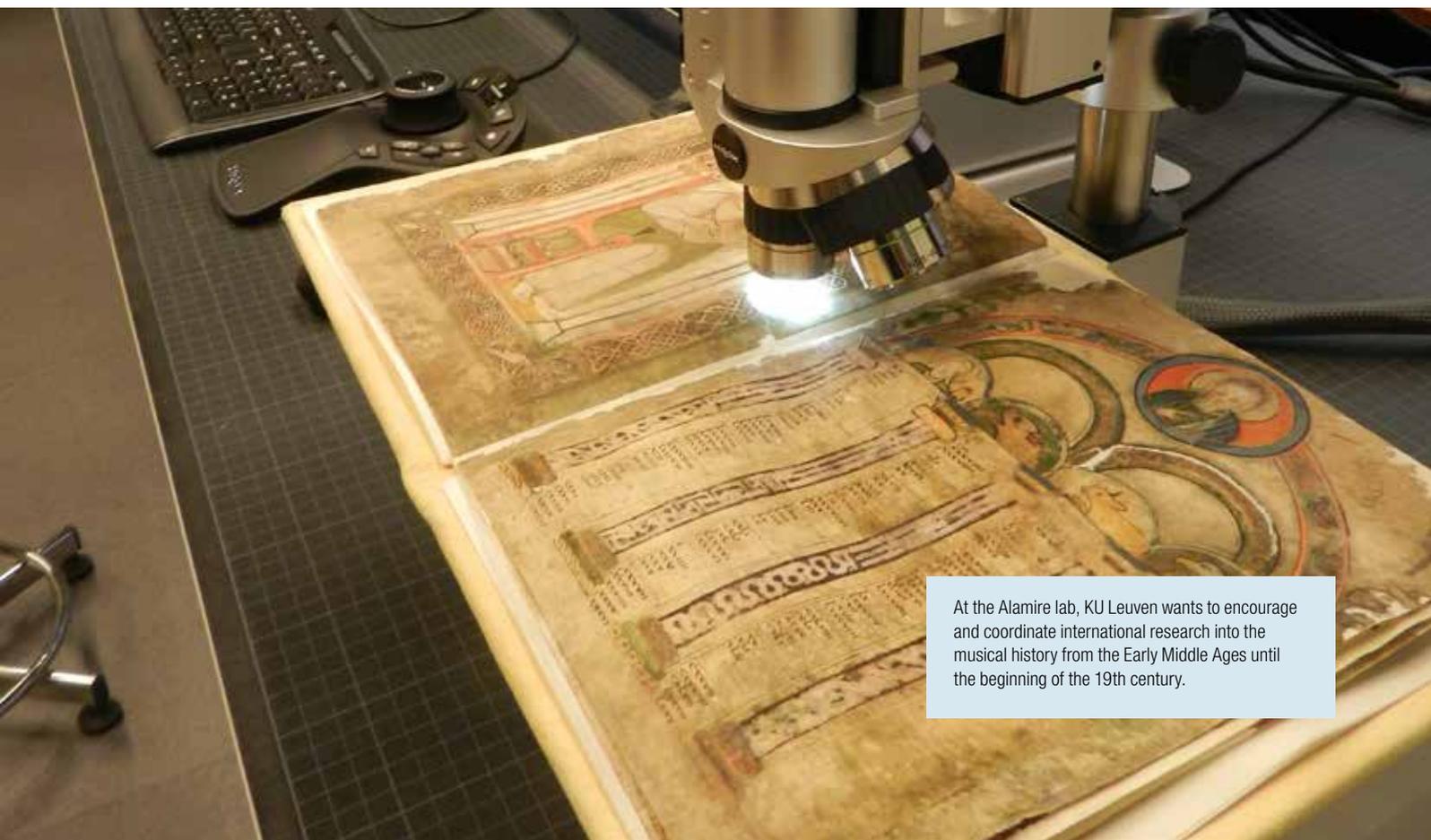
There are two methods of beginning a doctoral programme at KU Leuven:

- Write a proposal yourself and look for a supervisor on your own initiative.
- Apply for a PhD vacancy on the jobsite.

Funding

Funding is required to pay for your research, and there are several methods for receiving research funding at KU Leuven. Our doctoral schools and Research Coordination Office are ready to help you in your search for financial support.

www.kuleuven.be/PhD



At the Alamire lab, KU Leuven wants to encourage and coordinate international research into the musical history from the Early Middle Ages until the beginning of the 19th century.

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Exchange programmes

If you are a degree student at another university outside of Belgium, it may be possible to come spend some time at KU Leuven. You would still be a student at your home university, but also **an exchange student at KU Leuven** for a period ranging from a couple of months to a full academic year.

You can become an exchange student via European exchange programmes such as Erasmus+ or via bilateral agreements between your university and KU Leuven.

www.kuleuven.be/exchange

Summer schools

KU Leuven offers several top-level **summer courses** that are open to students, researchers, and professionals from all over the world. A significant share of the short programmes offer advanced insights into academic subjects and are intended to supplement the regular curriculum. With an exciting range of options in the heart of Europe, you will not only enjoy high-quality classes but also partake in a truly European lifestyle.

www.kuleuven.be/summerschools

MOOCs

KU Leuven offers Massive Open Online Courses via its own channel on the well-known MOOC platform edX. On edX, over 10 million people follow online courses offered by MIT, Harvard, UC Berkeley and other leading educational institutions. More than 250,000 learners from over 170 countries are following KU Leuven MOOCs.

www.kuleuven.be/mooc



A bike is the favourite means of transport for students at KU Leuven



Students at our Welcome Desk at Brussels Airport are there to give you a warm reception and assist you with any urgent questions.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admission requirements

Graduate study programmes at KU Leuven are divided into four categories: bachelor's programmes, initial master's programmes, advanced master's programmes, and doctoral studies. Degree requirements vary by category and programme.

- To qualify for admission to an initial master's programme (in most cases), you must hold an appropriate undergraduate degree (usually a bachelor's degree) consisting of at least three years of full-time, university-level studies.
- To qualify for admission to an advanced master's programme, you are expected to hold a master's degree or – depending on the study programme – a bachelor's degree obtained after a four-year programme.
- To qualify for admission to a doctoral programme, you must hold a master's degree and have a doctoral advisor (in Dutch, a 'promotor') willing to supervise your doctoral studies.

Final admission decisions are made on a per-programme basis by the board responsible for that particular programme. Students must meet the admission requirements specific to their chosen programme of study.

www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes

Students are expected to be proficient in English. All applicants who have not obtained a previous diploma in a programme taught in English in Australia, English-speaking Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America must submit a certificate proving their proficiency in English. KU Leuven currently accepts TOEFL (iBT), IELTS and Cambridge English Examination results. Minimum language requirements vary by programme, so it's best to consult the language requirements specific to your chosen programme for more information.

Students who wish to follow Dutch-language study programmes can visit our website for more information.

www.kuleuven.be/dutch-proficiency

Application procedure and deadlines

Application deadlines can be found at:

www.kuleuven.be/application

Some programmes have a limited number of places and are very selective. We therefore recommend that you apply as soon as possible.

KU Leuven begins accepting applications for the 2023-2024 academic year on 13 October 2022.

For detailed instructions on compiling your applications:

www.kuleuven.be/application

www.kuleuven.be/admissions

KU Leuven's Rega Institute is a global reference point for viruses. Every day, our scientists conduct research on viruses of all kinds in order to quickly respond to new diseases at scale.

Tuition fees

The Flemish government's generous co-financing system ensures that tuition fees for most bachelor's and initial master's programmes remain relatively low: 979,60 euro per academic year (subject to annual indexation). EEA students pay the same tuition fees as Belgian students. Non-EEA students pay a higher tuition fee for certain bachelor's and master's programmes; check your specific programme's website for the latest fees. Fees for advanced master's programmes range from 2,000 euro to 9,000 euro (subject to change without notice).

www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees

Scholarships

For certain programmes, eligible candidates can apply for an Erasmus+ or VLIR-UOS scholarship. The EU-funded Erasmus+ programme aims to enhance quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation. VLIR-UOS, the Flemish Interuniversity Council for Development Cooperation, awards scholarships to students from developing countries to follow one of the International Course Programmes (ICPs) offered at KU Leuven.

For general information on partial fee waivers and scholarship opportunities, visit:

www.kuleuven.be/scholarships

Visa and permits

EEA students don't need a visa to enter Belgium. After registration, they will have to present themselves at the city hall of their place of residence in Belgium to obtain a residence as EEA student. The following items have to be presented to complete the registration

- **Registration certificate**
- **Valid ID card or passport**
- **Proof of health insurance**

Non-EEA students need a visa for their study stay in Belgium. After obtaining the admission letter from KU Leuven, they can start the visa procedure at the Belgian consular post in their country of residence. Graduates will be able to extend their residence permit for 12 months in order to find a job or start a business in Belgium.

www.kuleuven.be/immigration

Living expenses

You will need around 950 euro to 1,350 euro per month to cover your living expenses in Belgium. This estimate includes study materials, housing costs (rent, heating, water, electricity etc.), food, clothing (i.e. laundry), medical and insurance costs, and other expenses (e.g. leisure, groceries, and transport).

www.kuleuven.be/cost-of-living

Working whilst studying

The Student Career Center provides guidance for international students who want to work during their studies. KU Leuven Career Zone is a KU Leuven database where students can find student jobs, volunteer work opportunities and more.

www.kuleuven.be/studentcareercenter/en



The Opening of the Academic Year, a pageantry of processions and ceremonies that mark the official start of a bustling new academic year at KU Leuven.



KU LEUVEN STUVO, YOUR ONE STOP FOR STUDENT SERVICES

HOUSING

Leuven offers a variety of different housing opportunities. Most students choose to rent a room ('kot' in Dutch) in a privately-owned student house with shared common spaces and facilities. Look for student accommodation with the Kotlabel. The landlord and the building comply with the norms regarding the quality of living, fire safety, contract and student friendliness. If you need any help with this, the Housing Service of KU Leuven Stuvo can offer assistance. The university owns and manages a number of student residences. A limited number of rooms in these residences is reserved for international students.

www.kuleuven.be/housing-leuven

You can also browse the Housing Service's online database:

www.kotwijs.be

Will you be studying at one of our campuses? Please check the following housing databases for the different cities:

- Brussels:
brik.mykot.be/en
- Ghent:
stad.gent/en/international-students/living/accommodation
- Antwerp:
www.studentkotweb.be/en

WELCOME TO LEUVEN

Leuven is a student-friendly city where meeting new people is easy. To help you settle into your home away from home, KU Leuven organises a welcome week and a buddy programme at the start of each semester and hosts a meeting place for international and local students, the intercultural meeting centre Pangaea

www.kuleuven.be/Pangaea

KU Leuven Stuvo is also here for you with information, advice and tips on money matters, study counselling, studying with a disability, health and well-being, working and career, and life after graduation.

www.kuleuven.be/english/stuvo

LIBRARIES AND STUDY CENTRES

KU Leuven's extensive library network is spread across the university's various faculties and campuses. Together, they form the KU Leuven Libraries. These libraries and learning centres play a crucial role in the university's innovative international research policy incorporating large-scale physical and electronic collections. In many libraries and learning centres, KU Leuven staff and students can also find a place to study or to collaborate in our well-equipped study areas, groupwork rooms and research zones.

bib.kuleuven.be/english/

The university also offers a wide range of cultural activities and fully-equipped sport facilities:

www.kuleuven.be/culture
www.kuleuven.be/sport/eng

As a student on one of our campuses outside of Leuven, you can consult Student Services on site. More information for each campus is available at www.kuleuven.be/english/stuvo

READ MORE



LIFE AT KU LEUVEN

Get to know more about student life and the study environment at KU Leuven. Find information on accommodations, practical matters, finances, cultural aspects and more.

www.kuleuven.be/life-at-ku-leuven



PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

All information for future students is available in one place. You can learn more about programmes, admission requirements, tuition fees, etc.

www.kuleuven.be/prospectivestudents



WHY KU LEUVEN

Still need convincing?

Studying at KU Leuven offers you more than just a highly valued diploma. Discover the myriad benefits that will make your time at our university unique!

www.kuleuven.be/english/why-choose-kuleuven.html

KU LEUVEN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES



www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes

www.kuleuven.be/english

PUBLICATIONS

www.masterskuleuven.be/publications

MEET OUR STAFF

www.kuleuven.be/meetusabroad

CHAT WITH OUR STUDENT AMBASSADORS

www.kuleuven.be/studentambassadors

 www.facebook.com/kuleuven

 www.twitter.com/ku_leuven

 www.instagram.com/kuleuven

CONTACT

admissions@kuleuven.be

ONLINE OPEN DAY

Discover KU leuven on our online open day on **1 december**. Learn more about our international programmes, admissions, housing and much more.

www.kuleuven.be/onlineopendays