



**UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED
SCIENCES AND ARTS**

PRE-ARRIVAL WELCOME GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Spring 2025

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WELCOME

We are delighted that you are planning a stay at PXL and we are looking forward to welcoming you in Hasselt soon. While preparing for your stay, the questions and practicalities you face may seem endless.

This Welcome Guide answers the practical questions about your arrival and about living and studying in Belgium and Hasselt.

Should you have further questions about your stay after reading this guide, please do not hesitate to reach out. See you soon!

PXL International Office
incoming@pxl.be

BELGIUM – FLANDERS - HASSELT

Belgium is one of the smallest countries in Europe and has a population of 11,7 million people. It is located in the center of Europe. The capital is Brussels. Belgium may be small, but there are plenty of things to do and see; historic cities, fine restaurants, hiking trails,... .



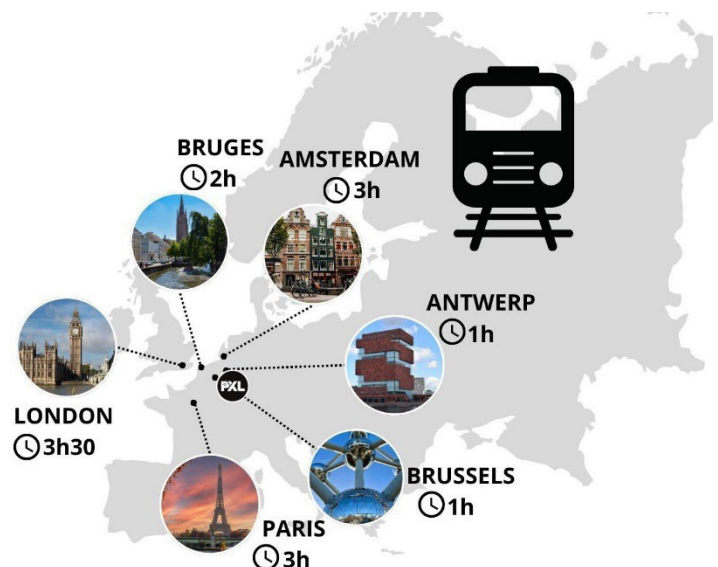
We are based in Hasselt, in the north-east region of Belgium. This is the Dutch Speaking part, called Flanders ('Vlaanderen').

In the South there's the French speaking part, Wallonia ('Wallonie'), and there's also small German speaking part.

But don't worry, most Belgians generally have a good knowledge of different languages, including English.

Hasselt is a less known city, but it surprises many international students in positive way.

There are lots of things to do, but it's not too big, which gives it a welcoming and charming vibe.



There are 2 other higher education institutions in Hasselt. Which makes that there's quite a large international community.

Everything in Belgium is close and the cities are easy reachable by train or bus. To give you an idea, the train from Hasselt to Bruges will take you 2 hours and 15 minutes. You can even go to London, Amsterdam or Paris in a few hours.

Belgium has a temperate climate characterized by moderate winters and pleasant summers. The weather is often unpredictable though and visitors can expect a downpour any time of the year. On average the warmest months are July and August. Winters can be cold, snow is possible, but not frequent.

GETTING AROUND

AIRPORTS

Belgium has five airports offering passenger services:

- [Brussels \(Zaventem\)](#) _
- [Ostend](#)
- [Charleroi](#) (Brussels South)
- [Luik – Bierset](#)
- [Deurne](#)

The Brussels airport in Zaventem is the largest of these five airports. Brussels is the capital of Europe and is therefore perfectly situated for easy access to all other European nations.

TRAIN

The easiest way to travel between cities in Belgium is by train. The Belgian railway system is exploited and run by the NMBS/SNCB. Most cities are connected to the railway system. Prices vary quite a lot between different products for different kinds of travellers. Most interesting tickets are the Key Card (short distances), the Youth Ticket and the Youth Multi (long distances for youngsters). If you are older than 25, use a Standard Multi instead.

More information on trains via www.belgiantrain.be!



Buy your ticket before boarding the train, as your ticket will cost an extra €9 on-board (contactless electronic payment only).

IMPORTANT: Travelling from/to Brussels National Airport by train? Make sure to pay the additional Diabolo Fee! There is no extra fee when travelling from/to Brussels-South Charleroi Airport.

BUS

The bus company that operates in the Dutch speaking part of the country is 'De Lijn'. The fare you pay depends on how often you take the bus, how you pay, etc. Check www.delijn.be for more on bus shedules, prices and such.



Students that often travel in Hasselt/Diepenbeek can make use of a special ticket called PXL-Campuspas. It can only be used at certain stops, but most student housings, all PXL-campuses and the relevant railway stations are included. Buy a MOBIB-card (€5) in the De Lijn-shop in front of Hasselt Railway Station. Bring it to the desk of Student Services to get registered for the campuspas (€20). This registration will take a few weeks to get processed, but we give you a temporary bus ticket (valid for 14 days).

Don't forget to tap the card every time you get on a bus.

TAXI

Taxis are available, but know that they can be expensive. Prices in Hasselt are regulated via City Council, but prices can still run up fast.

RENTAL BIKES

The easiest way to get around is using a bike. It is fast, independent of timetables and it is good for your health. Thanks to the partnership between PXL and VEDO, it is also very affordable.

The rent for a bicycle is €25 for a recycled one. bThere is also a deposit of €75 that is used as a guarantee. You will get it back if you turn your bike back in when you leave. VEDO can also help you with repairs at student friendly prices.

You can pick up student bikes at the VEDO Bike workshops. These can be found on campuses Diepenbeek and Hasselt Elfde-Linie.

Contact: VEDOfiets@uhasselt.be

Online reservation page: <https://citybike.uhasselt.be/citybike/>

Only in need of a bike once or twice? Lend one of the PXL-bikes for free! Get them at the library (Elfde Linie or Vildersstraat) or the campus desk (Diepenbeek). You can use them for free, but only until the next office day.



PXL UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS

PXL is known for its practice oriented programmes with interactive teaching. We aim for good and respectful contact between students and teachers.

It's a young and modern school. PXL was formed only 10 years ago, after a merger between 2 institutions.

We have excellent student services and many welcome activities like the student take off festival in October.

Education at PXL is ICT oriented. Working with a laptop is part of the training at PXL. It's important you bring your own laptop!

On the introduction day, you'll receive your student card. [Ping Ping](#) is a payment system build in to your student card. With PingPing you can print, pay your meals at PXL Catering (only way to get student reduction!), use the vending machines, pay for your sports card, etc. [More info about access to Ping Ping.](#)

DIRECTIONS TO PXL

For long distance travel, the best way is to fly to Brussels Airport Zaventem and then to Hasselt by train.

At Brussels Airport Zaventem you have a railway station directly at the airport. Brussels Airport's train station is equipped with access gates. As a result, you can only enter or leave the station using the square bar code (QR Code) on your train ticket.

Timetables can be found on the [website of the national railway company](#) or in the [app](#). To travel from or to Brussels Airport Zaventem by train, you need to pay an extra [Diabolo fee](#) (approx. € 6,4) in addition to your ticket.

From Charleroi airport you can take a [local bus \(TEC\)](#) to the nearest railway station 'Charleroi-Sud' or a [private shuttle bus](#) to 'Brussel South' railway station and of course private taxi services.

If you're from a neighbouring country check if you can get to Hasselt without flying by [international train](#) or [Flixbus](#).

At Hasselt railway station, you can take the bus to PXL-Campus Elfde Liniestraat or Campus Diepenbeek. Timetables can be found on the [website of 'De Lijn'](#).

[Google Maps](#) gives you access to the timetables of both busses and trains.

CAMPUSES

CAMPUS ELFDE LINIE (Elfde-Liniestraat 23-25, 3500 Hasselt)

[campusplan_ElfdeLinie.pdf \(pxl.be\)](#)

Building A



Central Administration
Library
PXL-Research

Building B



PXL-Business
PXL-Digital

Building C



PXL-MAD

Building D
PXL Next



Student Administration
International Office
Student Services
Book shop
Restaurant PXL-Catering
Campus Police

Building G



PXL-MAD
PXL-Digital

Building E Foodpark



Building F Tower



Laptop Service
Bicycle Rent

CAMPUS VILDERSTRAAT

(Vilderstraat 5, 3500 Hasselt)



PXL-Education

PXL-Media&Tourism

PXL-People&Society

CAMPUS QUARTIER CANAL

(Bootstraat 11, 3500 Hasselt)



PXL-Music

CAMPUS GENK

(Troisdorflaan 19, 3600 Genk)



Centre Sustainable Green

CAMPUS GUFFENSLAAN

(Guffenslaan 39, 3500 Hasselt)



PXL-Healthcare

CAMPUS DIEPENBEEK

(Agoralaan, Building H, 3590 Hasselt)



PXL-Green&Tech

CORDA CAMPUS

(Kempische Steenweg 293/16, 3500 Hasselt)



DEPARTMENTAL INTERNATIONAL COORDINATORS



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CATERING

RESTAURANT

PXL restaurants offers a variety of vegetarian and vegan options.

Hot meals are offered between 11:30 and 13:30 at student prices. The restaurants are closed during the holidays.

Pay with the PingPing option on your student card to get the reduced prices for students.

[Catering \(pxl.be\)](#)

- [Menu Campus Elfde Linie \(pxl.be\)](#)
- [Menu Campus Diepenbeek \(pxl.be\)](#)
- [Menu Campus Vildersstraat \(pxl.be\)](#)

SANDWICHBAR / FOODPARK

- Vildersstraat = Mo-Thu 8:00-17:00 and Fri 8:00-16:00
- Diepenbeek = Mo-Thu 8:00-17:00 and Fri 8:00-16:00
- Elfde Linie = Mo-Fri 8:00-14:30
- Healthcare

NESPRESSOBAR

- Vildersstraat = Mo-Thu 8:00-18:30 and Fri 8:00-16:00
- Elfde-Linie (Building B) = Mo,Tue,Thu 8:00-17:00 and Wed, Fri 8:00-14:00
- Elfde Linie (Builidng D) = Mo-Fri 8:00-17:00
- Healthcare

LAPTOP SERVICE

Do you have problems with your PXL account, online PXL tools or platforms? Go to the laptop service.

Contact: laptopdienst@pxl.be, +3211775760. There is a service point at each campus.

Check the opening hours on the [website](#)

BOOKSHOP

All syllabuses edited by members of the teaching staff can be bought in the “Standaard Student Shop” at reasonable prices. You can also go there for school- and office supplies.

www.standaardstudentshop.be

Contact: campus Elfde-Linie, building D - bookshop@pxl.be, +3211775814

PXL CAMPUS POLICE

Reporting a theft, problems or dangerous situations on campus..

Contact: Campus Elfde Linie – Building D, Student inspector Kris Delveaux, tel.: 0032499 59 57 28,

kris.delveaux@police.belgium.eu

LIBRARY

Three PXL campuses provide a library with all essential specialist literature, magazines and periodicals.

- campus Elfde Linie: business, IT, healthcare, languages, art & music.
- campus Vildersstraat: teacher training, social studies, communication and tourism.
- campus Diepenbeek: (bio)technology.

It's possible to print, copy and scan at the libraries (ensure you have enough credit on your [PingPing](#) student card).

You can study at the library. Reservation for a silent study corner (*'studieplaatsen'*) can be made at the desk or [online](#).

Check the opening hours and latest information on the [website](#) (Dutch).

Download the [PXL-Library guide for international students](#) for more information on how to borrow books, look up magazines or newspapers and use the databases.

Contact: tel. 011/775641 - bibliotheek@pxl.be

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Institutional Coordinator International Relations

Mrs. Kristien Bauwens



Kristien.bauwens@pxl.be

International Relations Officer

Mrs. Birgitte Wynants



Birgitte.wynants@pxl.be

International Relations Officer

Mrs. Sara Vanderhoydonck



sara.vanderhoydonck@pxl.be

Feel free to contact us with any question you may have.

Contact: Campus Elfde-Linie, building D, 2nd floor Room D212 – international@pxl.be, incoming@pxl.be

STUDENT SERVICES

You can find the student services front desk (STUVO-desk) at Campus Elfde Linie, PXL Congress, building D for all questions about mobility, housing, student jobs, culture, events and sports.

Contact: studentservices@pxl.be, Tel. 003211 77 58 40

<https://www.facebook.com/pxlstuvo>

When things do not work out the way you want them to: problems with your parents, sleepless nights, fear for exams, or when you feel bad. When you want to talk with someone about topics like relationships, sexuality, alcohol, drugs, ... The social workers offer a confidential conversation to find solutions or to clear your mind. If necessary, you can get to find further therapy or psychotherapeutic sessions.

Contact: Campus Elfde-Linie, building D, 2nd floor Room D205 – studentservices@pxl.be

BEFORE ARRIVAL

FINDING A PLACE TO STAY

[Housing \(pxl.be\)](#)

HEALTH INSURANCE

[Health Insurance \(pxl.be\)](#)

VISA

[Visa \(pxl.be\)](#)

REGISTRATION AT PXL

After you have done your [registration at PXL](#) you will receive an account. It will be e-mailed to you in December or January. This will consist of an username, e-mailaddress, student number and password. With this account you will be able to connect to the campus wifi, online learning tool [Blackboard](#), [your PXL student environment](#), [PXL e-mail account](#),...

'gebruikersnaam' = username = <[studentnumber](#)>@[student.pxl.be](#)

'wachtwoord' = password = given to you during registration

LEARNING AGREEMENT

Students carrying out an Erasmus study must submit a Learning Agreement. The learning agreement (LA) includes all the educational components (course code + title + number of ECTS) to be carried out by the student during the exchange.

For institutions connected to the Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) network, we will receive a signed LA from the home institution online through EWP. After checking if it matches with your course selection we'll digitally sign the LA.

For all others we require a signed LA for your application. You can use our LA template created in Mobility Online or a template from your home university.

AFTER ARRIVAL

These things will be explained on your introduction. You'll then also receive your student card and on the meeting with the department your departmental coordinator will go over your class schedule

CERTIFICATE OF ARRIVAL/STAY/DEPARTURE

In order to obtain the Erasmus+ scholarship from your home institution it's possible that PXL has to confirm the dates you were a student. Sometimes both at the beginning and the end of your stay, sometimes only at the end. Inform yourself at your home institution. If you were present at the introduction day, you can e-mail your [certificate of arrival](#) If not, you should come by the international office.

LEARNING AGREEMENT CHANGES

Do you want to change your courses?

TO DO before 10/03:

- Go to your workflow in PXL Mobility Online > Would you like to make changes? > YES
Add or delete courses
- Go to the platform of your home university and make changes to your online LA.

→ send us a PFD by e-mail or Digital LA online through EWP signed by yourself and your home institution

What happens next?

- The signed LA changes will be approved/rejected in Mobility Online/EWP/PDF by PXL
- The changes will be forwarded to the student administration for formal registration.

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS

The Transcript of Records will be sent to you by e-mail and uploaded in Mobility Online 2 weeks after the end of the PXL examination period.

PXL grade	ECTS grade	Definition
16 - 20	A	10% best of the succeeding results
14 - 15	B	Following 25%
12 - 13	C	Middle 30%
11	D	Following 25%
10	E	10% lowest
8-9	FX	Small failure
0-7	F	Substantial failure

Form of evaluation and possibility of retake exam can be checked in the [course catalogue](#).

You can check your grades on <https://mijnpxl.pxl.be>. Go to “**Reports**”. 2nd chance results are sometimes updated later.

REGISTRATION AT CITY HALL

International students staying for more than 3 months are required to register as an (exchange) student at the Town or City hall of the municipality where they reside. This should be done as soon as possible after you’ve received your student card and registration papers (in Dutch: ‘inschrijvingsattest’).

Bring your registration paper from PXL, ID and/or passport, housing contract, health insurance proof and passport photo. Mention how long you are staying and if you are an **Erasmus** student.

Remember that if you’re returning home, you have to **unregister** yourself. You are legally obliged to do so.

Are you a non-EU citizen staying for more than 90 days? After registration at the local Town or City Hall, a police officer will pass by your residence to check that you actually live there. Make sure that your name is on the doorbell. If you are not at home you will receive a letter inviting you to report to the police station of your district. You'll then receive a residence permit, called A-Card, for approx. 20 euros.

If you're staying in **Diepenbeek**:



Town Council, Dorpsstraat 14, BE-3590 Diepenbeek.

Make an appointment. Registrations between 9.00 and 12.30 am.

Check the website <https://www.diepenbeek.be/buitenlandse%20student>

If you're staying in **Hasselt**:



Administrative Services, Registration Office for Foreigners, Limburgplein 1,
BE-3500 Hasselt. Phone: +32 11 23 90 00

Make an appointment online <https://afspraak.hasselt.be/>

Instructions on how to make
appointment online can be
found on our website: [Registration City Hall.pdf \(pxl.be\)](#)

BANK ACCOUNT

If you keep using the bank account in your home country, please contact your local bank about transaction costs in Belgium for this account. If you only have a debit card, make sure it is a 'Maestro' debit card. Otherwise bring a credit card.

If you choose to open a bank account in Belgium you will need the following documents:

- a valid passport or identity card, proof of enrolment at PXL
- a copy of your rental contract

Additional documents for non-EU citizens staying over 3 months:

- written confirmation of registration in the foreigners register (done at the city hall)
- proof of scholarship
- visa

Most ATM's are equipped with universal self-services where everyone can withdraw money.

MOBILE COMMUNICATION

[Laptop & Telecom \(pxl.be\)](#)

HEALTH CARE

[Health & Safety \(pxl.be\)](#)

FREE TIME

[Leisure Time \(pxl.be\)](#)