



PUBLIC FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE

Brussels, November 5 – 16, 2018



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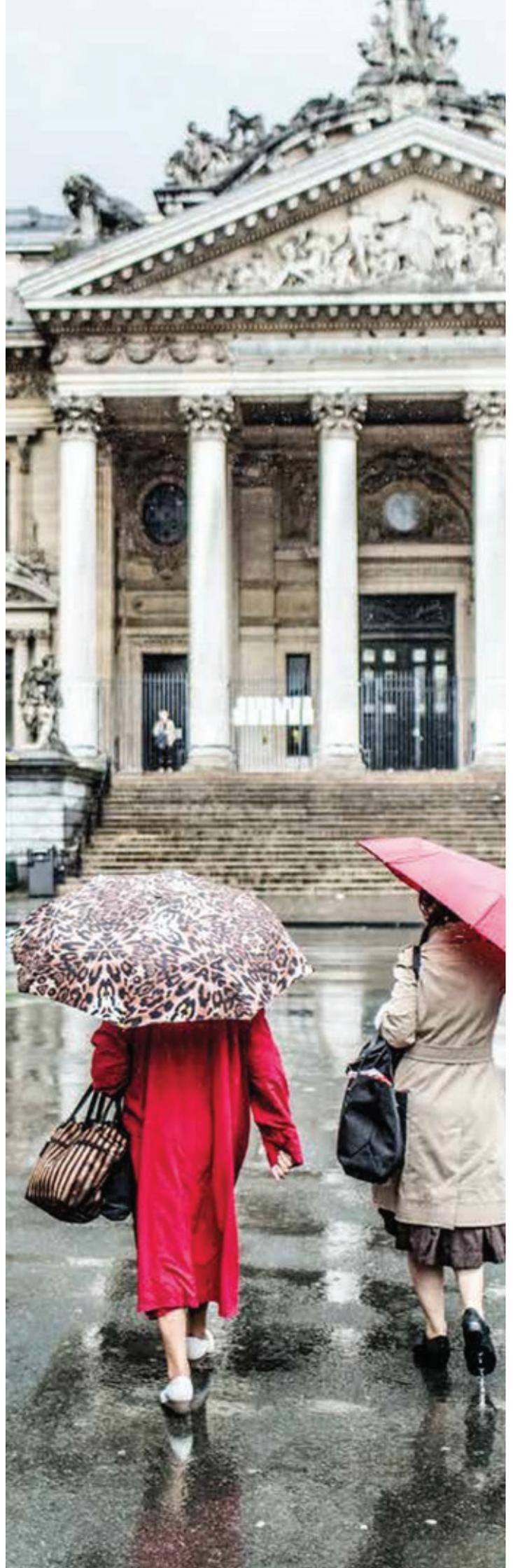
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www.pfm-vub.com





WELCOME

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel welcomes you for the second edition of the Public Finance and Management training course. This short-term program is designed for experienced professionals in public administration who want to improve their capacities in public finance and management, and apply the practices and experiences acquired during the course in their home department. We are glad to have this program funded by the National Treasury of South-Africa and hope to continue this collaboration in the coming years.

Prof. Dr. Peter Claeys
Associate Professor

PROGRAM

Many countries face enormous challenges in managing public finances at various levels of government. Trends in fiscal decentralisation has shifted the focus of public finance from the central government to other levels to respond more effectively to policy needs. These needs require sufficient budgetary powers as for example with transport infrastructure, housing and education.

International agreements bring in new responsibilities in cooperation at higher levels, as for example with climate change. Decentralization of government tasks to subnational levels is required to respond to local needs, as for example with transport infrastructure. These developments have great budgetary consequences and create new challenges in public finance management. First, understanding the limits of fiscal policy helps to create a common understanding. Second, raising budget power at different levels requires capacity building in human resources at newly developed government organisations. And third, the coordination problem between different government levels needs to be tackled.

TRAINING COURSE

The training course on public finance management offers a two-week intensive training where public officials go through three different stages:

STAGE 1: A baseline course on fiscal policy and public finance

STAGE 2: Capacity building

STAGE 3: Best practices

The teaching approach is unique as the trainees develop their own case study, taken from recent experiences at their own department, under the guidance of a core team of teachers. Morning classes are discussing the relevant theory; afternoon classes are dedicated to guided in-team work on the case studies.

FACULTY

Prof. Claeys and Prof. Vanneste direct the training program. They are joined by Achtee Al Yussef as the administrative director. The team is also supported by the faculty of Social Sciences and Slovy Business School of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Teachers have over 20 years of experience in research on the topics of these courses, and have worked at or counselled the EC, ECB, OECD, and national governments on the development of public finances.

Experts in public finance from the European Commission, OECD, the European Central Bank, and national ministries are part of the training course to give their specific insight in practical policy-making problems.

SCHEDULE

The course is organised in two training sessions. The first one will take place in the Etterbeek Campus of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel from the 5th till the 16th of November of 2018. The second session will take place in the National Treasury offices in Pretoria during February 2019.

The Brussels term is organised in ten working days, nine of them will be in-class session with theoretical and applied discussions of the course themes. On November 15th, a session will take place in the headquarters of the OECD (Paris) and officials will have the unique opportunity to attend have an overview of the OECD, its work, and finally attend the presentation of an official from the OECD.



PUBLIC FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT
Training course, 2018

BRUSSELS TERM

5th November

Revenues Management

6th November

Debt Management

7th November

Fiscal Federalism

8th November

Governance, Fiscal Policy I

9th November

Project Evaluation

12th November

Fiscal Policy II

13th November

Financing Health Care

14th November

Public Transport Management

15th November

OECD Seminar (Paris)

16th November

Papers Presentation

After this two-week program in Brussels, analysis and conclusions follow in the Pretoria term. Once the officials have presented and successfully defended their case studies, they will receive an official diploma by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

THE COURSE

Structure of classes

The set-up of the classes is organised such that each day covers one specific topic:

The **morning session** starts sharply at 09h00 and will finish at 12h30. Around 11h00, there is a short break to enjoy a coffee or a tea in the restaurant of the campus. During the morning sessions fiscal and management issues will be addressed from a more theoretical point of view with professors who are experts in their respective fields.

After a lunch break, the **afternoon session** will start with a keynote lecture from an applied perspective regarding the topic. The rest of the afternoon will be used for discussing the case studies and improving them with the inputs and experiences from the teachers, the keynote experts, and a researcher from the University. Afternoon sessions will end around 18h00.

MORNING

09h00-10h30	Theory (Session A)
10h30-10h55	Coffee break
11h-12h30	Theory (Session B)
12h30-13h45	Lunch

AFTERNOON

13h50-14h50	Talk
15h00-16h15	Practice (Session A)
16h15-16h30	Coffee break
16h30-18h00	Practice (Session B)

TEACHING STAFF

The teachers (and teaching assistants) of the different sessions are affiliated with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Universiteit Antwerpen and several European universities. A short bio of each professors is available below the calendar.

5th November	Jacques Vanneste (Achtee Al Yussef)	12th November	Peter Claeys (Achtee Al Yussef)
6th November	Jacques Vanneste (Achtee Al Yussef)	13th November	Alex van den Heever (Achtee Al Yussef)
7th November	Gani Aldachev (Achtee Al Yussef)	14th November	Bruno De Borger (Achtee Al Yussef)
8th November	Theo Jacobs, Bert Georges, Peter Claeys (Achtee Al Yussef)	15th November	OECD Seminar (Paris)
9th November	Marcos Poplawski Ribeiro (Achtee Al Yussef)	16th November	Paper presentation



Peter Claeys

Peter Claeys is an Assistant Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, in the research group APEC. He obtained his Ph.D. at the European University Institute, and after a Marie Curie Fellowship at AQR, became an Assistant Professor at the Universitat de Barcelona. His work focuses on the econometric modelling of various aspects of fiscal policy, including the macroeconomic effects of government spending, fiscal consolidation, spillover of budget decisions, fiscal federalism and more generally the interaction between monetary and fiscal policies. He has worked on various projects on fiscal policy for the European Commission, the ECB, the OECD, the European Parliament, and the Spanish and Swedish government. He is coordinator of the Erasmus Mundus Master on Globalisation and European Integration, and Research Fellow at the United Nations University.



Jacques Vanneste

Jacques Vanneste is full professor in economics at the University of Antwerp and visiting professor at KU Leuven University. He teaches macro-economics, public finance and financial markets. He has been Dean, Faculty of applied economics, KU Leuven-campus Kulak; Chairman, Department in Economics, University of Antwerp and Chairman, Education Council, Faculty of Applied Economics, University of Antwerp. In 1986 he was the winner of bi-annual prize for 'Economics and Finance' (10.000 ECU) for the best PhD thesis in Belgium. His current research is focussed on tax systems in the OECD and on macro-economic stability in the Eurozone.



Gani Aldashev

Gani Aldashev is Professor of Economics at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and research fellow at the European Center for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics (ECARES). He received a B.A. in International Economics from the American University of Paris, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Bocconi University (Milan, Italy). His main research and teaching fields are development economics, political economics, and economic history. His main research expertise concerns decentralized development aid (in particular, the economics and organization of the NGO sector), the role of institutions for development, as well as the economic history of Central Asia.



Bert George

Bert George is an Assistant Professor of Public Management at the Department of Public Administration - Erasmus University Rotterdam. He teaches courses on strategy, management & organization in the public sector. He also coordinates the Master of Public Management program at Erasmus University Rotterdam. His research focuses on the behaviour underlying public management processes as well as the determinants of public service performance. Bert was a visiting scholar at City University of Hong Kong's renowned Laboratory for Public Management and Policy. He currently acts as a consultant for the OECD Directorate for Education and Skills. He has won several awards for his research and has published in top journals in the field - including *Public Administration* and *Public Management Review*.



Marcos Poplawski-Ribeiro

Marcos Poplawski-Ribeiro is a senior economist in the African Department of the IMF. He is also currently the IMF Resident Representative for Gabon in Central Africa. Mr. Poplawski-Ribeiro has previously held positions in the IMF's Research, Fiscal Affairs, and African Departments. Before the IMF, he worked and lectured in various institutions and universities in Brazil, Europe, and the United States, including the United Nations, the University of Amsterdam, the Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales, and Sciences Po in Paris. Mr. Poplawski-Ribeiro holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Amsterdam. He has published in leading academic and policy-oriented journals on several topics in the fields of public finance, macroeconomics, international economics, and development.



Bruno De Borger

Bruno De Borger is professor of economics at the University of Antwerp. He specializes in transport economics, public economics and applied microeconomics. He widely published on public policy issues related to transport pricing and investment. He is on the editorial board of various scholarly journals, including *Transportation Research B*, *Transportation*, and *Economics of Transportation*. Consulting experience includes work in Bolivia, Mali and Slovakia.



Theo Jacobs

After a long career as a judge in Belgium, Brussels-based Theo Jacobs at present is in charge of reforming the Albanian justice system as part of wider public sector reforms that the European Commission has started up in Albania with a view to EU admission of the country in the future.



Alex van den Heever

Prof Alex van den Heever presently holds the Chair of Social Security Systems Administration and Management Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand and is an adjunct professor in the Wits School of Governance.

He holds a Masters in economics from the University of Cape Town and has worked in the areas of health economics and finance, public finance and social security in various capacities over the past 23 years. This includes participation in the Melamet Commission of Inquiry into medical schemes, the Taylor Committee of Inquiry into Comprehensive Social Security, and the Ministerial Task team on Social Health Insurance.

Over the period 2000 to 2010 he worked as an advisor to the Council for Medical Schemes, which he was responsible for establishing, and in an advisory capacity to the social security policy processes (including the Department of Social Development, the National Treasury, and the Inter-departmental Task Team on Social Security) taking forward the recommendations of the Taylor Committee.



COURSE MATERIAL

The training has its own learning platform, by Dropbox. You will receive an invitation to join the course. Teachers are uploading their slides online. You will need to upload your work on the page for the teachers to be able to follow up on the case studies before the Pretoria term.

We will provide paper for you to take notes during the classes.

For the case studies, it is important that you bring a laptop so you can work together in group on the different tasks in the case studies.

EVALUATION

Officials are required to attend 100% of the classes (unless medical issues with medical certificate) and other compulsory activities and to be active in-class during the Brussels and Pretoria terms.

The evaluation system will be based in the following criteria:

- 20% on-site work in the VUB (Brussels term: 5th-16th November 2018)
- 20 % first draft of the case study (Deadline: 16th November 2018)
- 40% final version of the case study (Deadline: 15th December 2018)
- 20% defense of the case study (Pretoria term: February 2019)

VISITS

OECD visit

The 15th of November we will take an early train and go to the headquarters of the OECD in Paris. The day will start quite early: the Thalys train direction to Paris-Nord will depart from South-Brussels Station at 06h30 and is expected to arrive in Paris at 07h35. The meeting point in the station will be in front of the Thalys offices at 05h40.

After the visit to the OECD and taking the advantage of being in Paris, we would like to recommend the officials a visit to the Louvre Museum. Besides of La Gioconda, the Louvre Museum has a lot to offer: the collections of Egyptian, Greek, and Roman Antiquities, and one of the biggest collections of paintings and sculptures in Europe.

The meeting point in Paris-Nord will be in front of the tourism office at 21h25. The return train will depart from Paris-Nord at 21h25 and will arrive to South-Brussels Station at 22h47.

EP Visit

The visit is comprised of a presentation by one of our speakers and a visit to the Plenary Chamber. The presentation covers the legislative procedure of the European Union and the role of the three institutions involved this procedure and provides some more detailed information about the European Parliament.

Farewell event

We are preparing a farewell event to wave you goodbye from Brussels and the VUB. Bring your good mood and enjoy the beer we are preparing for you.

Enabel (BTC) visit

On 13th of November the classes will be organized in the building of Enabel. In the morning session Professor Alex van den Heever will give his presentation on public health. In the afternoon, an official from Enabel will make a presentation about the organisation in the light of the Belgian development cooperation policy. During the midday, there will be a standing lunch where the participants and guests will have the opportunity to meet with officials at Enabel.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Visa

You require a Schengen visa to be in Belgium, even for a short stay as is the case for this course. If you still haven't thought about it, please remember that you must apply as soon as possible. For advice on this process, please contact your local Belgian embassy:

<http://southafrica.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/travel-to-belgium/visa>.

Health insurance

Please note that all foreign residents and visitors are required by Belgian law to have health insurance.

Check if your current health provider is able to cover you during the travel and stay here. If this is not a possibility, the University can cover you from the moment that the plane arrives in Brussels. This service has a cost of 2 Euro/day per person (approx. 32 ZAR/day). We need to know if you are going to need this service with some anticipation, please contact us as soon as possible in case you need it.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Electricity

Electricity in Belgium is 230V, with a frequency of 50hz, the following plugs are used:



Money and Cards

The only currency accepted in shops, restaurants, and other public services is the euro. In www.xe.com you can find the exchange rate with your national currency.

We recommend exchanging your money at the airport, in order to get an interesting rate. Alternatively, you can withdraw money from an ATM upon arrival.

Visa and MasterCard are the most used cards and are accepted in almost all restaurants and shops. If you need to withdraw money, there is a big number of bank offices in Brussels including one in the Etterbeek Campus (ING Bank) opened 24/7. Note that not all bars and restaurants accept cards.

ON THE VUB CAMPUS

The day of the arrival to Brussels, someone from the university will be in charge of accompanying you to your hotel, and give you the main information for the start of the sessions.

VUB campus

As your arrival is scheduled for a Saturday, all the buildings and services of the VUB will be closed but the campus is an open space so it is possible walk freely around to start to be familiarised with it. On Monday after lunch, a short visit is scheduled to show you the facilities and services at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. You will get a map of the campus in the folder.

VUB card

As temporary trainees of the VUB, you will receive a VUB card which will give you access to services as the library and the book loan service or special rates for the lunch menu in the 'Resto' Restaurant.

Wi-Fi

During your stay at the VUB, you'll have a temporary username and password for access to the VUB guest network. This and other relevant information will be in the folder that we will hand you at your arrival.

LIFE IN BRUSSELS

Accommodation

Throughout their stay in Brussels, officials will be hosted at the following accommodation. Please check which one is yours. You will be transferred with a shuttle from the airport to the hotels.

U-Residence

The accommodation is conveniently located on the campus, just 100m away from the main conference room. It is building U on the campus map.

The apartments are spacious and fully equipped with a private bathroom, shower and a basic kitchen. Amenities include Wi-Fi, TV and daily housekeeping.

The U-Residence has no reception office: everything is automatic. In the folder, you will receive a personalised code to get your key card and before leaving you will have to leave it in a letterbox. All the information needed for the lodging will be provided at your arrival.

Regent 55

Regent 55 is the name and the address of the hotel in the city centre of Brussels, near the federal Parliament, the Flemish Parliament and the European institutions. It has apartments, studios and a penthouse. The hotel is located near metro station Arts Loi where you can take metro line number 5 direction Herman Debrox and step out in Petillon, which is at a distance of 5 minutes walking to the campus of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Hotel Pantone

The Pantone hotel is located in one of the most vibrant neighbourhoods of Brussels, Saint-Gilles. It is near Parvis du Saint-Gilles, a square with many restaurants and cafés. The hotel is close to Metro-station Munthof. To get to the campus, you need to change the metro line in Arts Loi and take metro line number 5 direction Herman Debrox and step out in Petillon, which is at a distance of 5 minutes walking to the campus of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Transport

Brussels has an excellent public transportation network. The Etterbeek Campus of VUB is very well connected with the city centre, the main train stations of the city, and Zaventem Airport. In the annexes of this guide, you will find a reachability sheet with all the transport connections available from the Etterbeek Campus and also a Metro map. The campus has a railway station, two metro stops (Petillon and Hankar), a tram stop (line 7 and 25), and several bus lines passing.

Weather

Belgium has a mild oceanic climate with relatively moderate changes in temperature. Rain is frequent and the weather is quite changeable, even in the same day. During October, the average temperatures range from 9o C and 15o but it can be lower. Do not forget your umbrella or a waterproof coat!

Languages

Brussels is a bilingual city (French and Dutch) but English is also spoken in restaurants, shops, universities, and most people you will encounter.

Dutch and Afrikaans are mutually intelligible: there are estimations that suggest that around 90% of Afrikaans vocabulary has Dutch origins. If Afrikaans is your mother tongue do not lose the opportunity to use it!

TOURISM

Atomium

Built for the World Fair in Brussels in 1958 the Atomium is the most popular touristic attraction and the symbol of Brussels. Eight levels spread over five spheres are open to the public. There is a permanent exhibition about the Expo58 and temporary exhibitions. The panorama (92m) in the upper sphere offers spectacular views of the city of Brussels (360o) and when the sky is clear, the view reaches Antwerp.

Grand Place, Manneken Pis, and city centre

Grand Place is the central square of Brussels. It is surrounded by opulent guildhalls and two larger edifices, the city's Town Hall and the Breadhouse building containing the Museum of the City of Brussels. Very close to Grand Place, is the Manneken Pis, a small bronze sculpture that is one of the best-known symbol of the people of Brussels. In the same area you can also visit the Royal Galleries Saint-Hubert and the Bourse of Brussels.

Parc du Cinquantenaire and European Neighbourhood

The Arch of Cinquantenaire is located in the park with the same name and was built for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Belgian Independence in 1880. The park is very close to the European Parliament and the European Commission buildings.

MUSEUMS

There are more than 100 museums in Belgium. Here you can find some of the most interesting ones in Brussels.

Museum of Cocoa and Chocolat

Belgium is known around the world for his chocolates and pralines. If you want to know more about this fineness you can't miss this museum. The visit to this museum has two parts. The first one is an exhibition of the chocolate history through the present day. The second part is conducted by the museum chocolatier and shows the elaboration of chocolate and pralines.

More information: <http://www.mucc.be/>

Autoworld

More than 250 vehicles cover the story of the automobile since its early days. One zone is dedicated to sports and racing cars. During your stay in Brussels the themed temporary exhibition will be around the history of the Lotus 7.

More information: <http://www.autoworld.be/home>

Museum of Natural Sciences

Meet the famous Bernissart Iguanodons in the largest Dinosaur Gallery in Europe, learn about the human body and how we evolved in the Gallery of Humankind and go back in time in the Gallery of Evolution.

More information: www.naturalsciences.be

Belgian Comic Strip Centre

Smurfs and Tintin are just a few of the cartoon characters immortalized by Belgian cartoon artists, and kids and adults alike can explore cartoon characters at the Belgian Comics Art Museum.

More information: <https://www.comicscenter.net/en/home>

Rene Magritte House Museum

The René Magritte Museum occupies the house in which the Belgian surrealist painter worked nearly 24 years of his life. On the ground floor the museum presents the apartment where the painter lived and worked from 1930 to 1954. A biographical exhibition is spread on the two other floors. More information: <http://www.magrittemuseum.be/>

SHOPPING

The main shopping streets in Brussels are located in the city centre with very good connections by public transport.

Rue Neuve

A pedestrian-only shopping avenue in Brussels is by far the most populated Belgian shopping street with many international brands. It is also the location of one of the biggest city malls of Brussels: City2

Chaussée d'Ixelles

Chaussée d'Ixelles is full of stores devoted to fashion, decoration and leisure. Attached to this street, in the Matonge neighbourhood, you'll find exotic food stores, beauty salons and clothing shops offering a little piece of Africa on Belgian soil.

Avenue de la Toison d' Or and Avenue Louise

These two streets are filled to the brim with international luxurious fashion stores and boutiques.

Rue Bailli

Not too far from Avenue Louise in the heart of the Ixelles neighbourhood, Rue Bailli is a focal point for independent stores and knick-knack boutiques.

OTHER BELGIAN CITIES

Belgium is a small country with a lot of beautiful cities and places to discover. Be sure to visit some of them!

Antwerpen

The Central Station, chosen by Newsweek as the fourth most beautiful train station in the world, is the perfect point of departure for a day in Antwerp. From the station, you walk through the Diamond district. A little further the Rubens House is situated is surely worth a visit. Other very nice spots are The Cathedral of Our Lady and the Grote Markt.



Brugge

Brugge is the capital city of the province of West Flanders. Is a canal-based city and is sometimes called the Venice of the North.

The canals of Brugge can be visited by boat and the minibuses of City Tour provide a guided tour that passes all the most beautiful spots in the city.



Gent

Ghent is a historic city, yet at the same time a contemporary one. Among all the nice spots to visit, the Castle of the Counts, St. Bravo's Cathedral and St. Michael's Bridge are compulsory visits.



USEFUL ADDRESSES

VUB Campus Etterbeek

Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels

U-Residence

Generaal Jacqueslaan 271, 1050 Brussels

Pantone Hotel

Place Loix 1, 1060 Bruxelles

Hotel Regent 55

Boulevard du Régent 55, 1000 Bruxelles

Paris Nord Station

Rue de Dunkerque 18, 75010 Paris, France

South-Brussels Station

Avenue Fonsny 47B, 1060 Brussel

OECD Headquarters

Rue André Pascal 2, 75016 Paris, France

EMERGENCY PHONES

Ambulance/ Fire 100

Police 101

European Emergency call 112

On campus security +32 02 629 21 76

U-Residence (emergency) +32 02 263 52 98



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