

VUB 2022-2023

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF OUR UNIVERSITY





A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF OUR UNIVERSITY FACTS AND FIGURES

Everything you wanted to know about Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Our place in Brussels and the broader international context. Where we stand in global rankings. Our history and milestones: the basis for our values today. Who our students are, where they come from and what they are studying. How our alumni find their place on the job market. Academic and supporting staff: they are there for you every day. How our campuses not only grow but become futureproof. Which budgets finance leading research and what the results are. How innovation leads to patents, entrepreneurship and successful spin-offs. Where our university hospital UZ Brussel is and what pioneering science is carried out there. We continue to work together towards a sustainable university, committed to a better society.





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VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

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VUB – URBAN, ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

“VUB HAS CLEARLY CHOSEN TO BE AN ACTIVE PART OF OUR BRUSSELS METROPOLITAN ENVIRONMENT. BRUSSELS IS A GREAT LIVING LAB FOR OUR RESEARCHERS AND FOR OUR STUDENTS. WE ARE AN URBAN ENGAGED UNIVERSITY.”

Jan Danckaert
Rector of VUB

#WEAREVUB



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BRUSSELS: EASY ACCESS



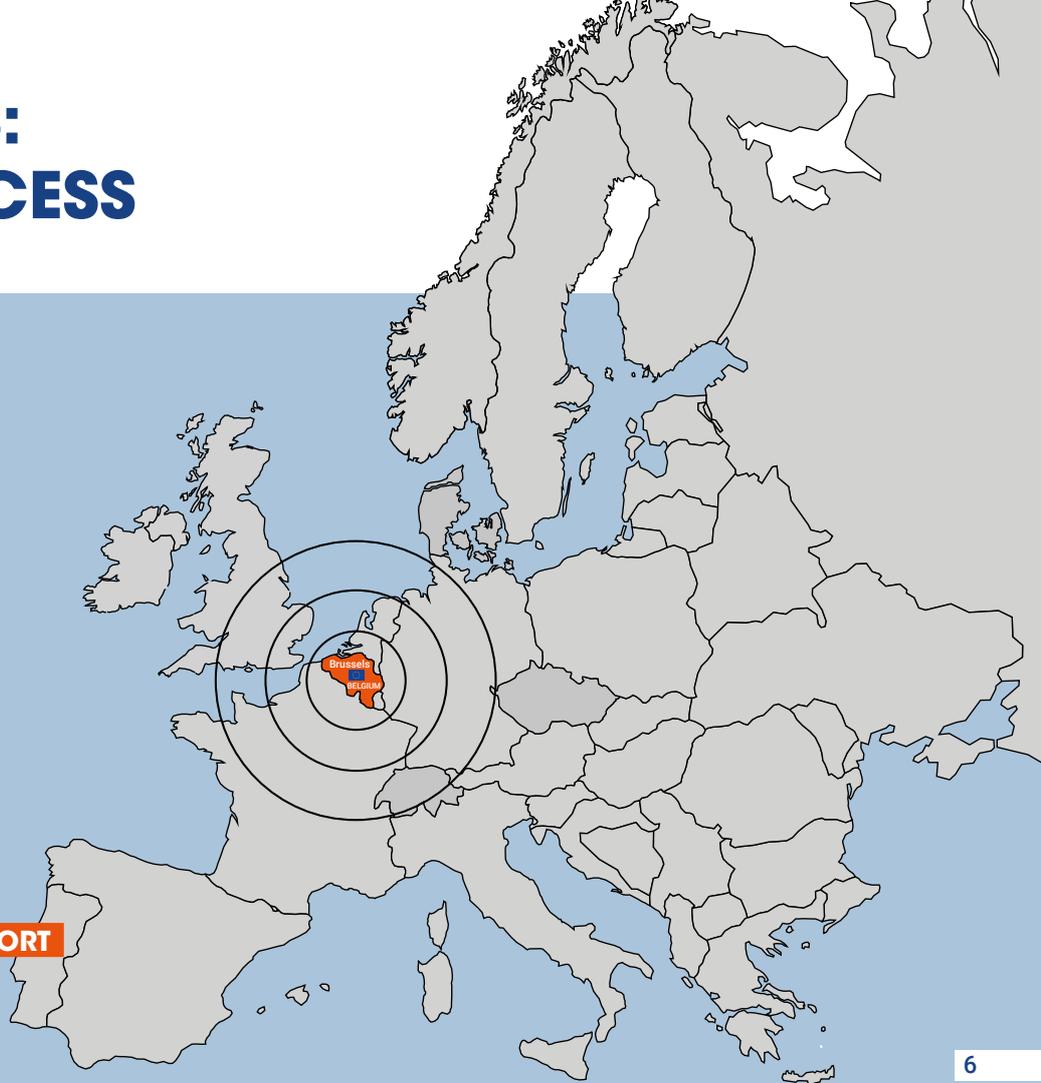
FROM BRUSSELS TO

London	2 hours
Paris	1 hour 20 minutes
Frankfurt	3 hours
Amsterdam	2 hours



MAIN CAMPUS ↔ BRUSSELS AIRPORT

25 minutes
2 trains/hour



BRUSSELS: BEATING HEART OF EUROPE



World's largest press centre

- 1,313 accredited journalists
- 979 foreign journalists



- > 1.2 million inhabitants
- 30% of foreign origin
- 107 languages



- 4th most important business city in Europe
- > 2,000 international institution headquarters

- International decision-making centre
- EU & NATO headquarters
- 1st city in Europe for conferences
- Largest diplomatic community in Europe

MAIN CAMPUS NEAR ULB*

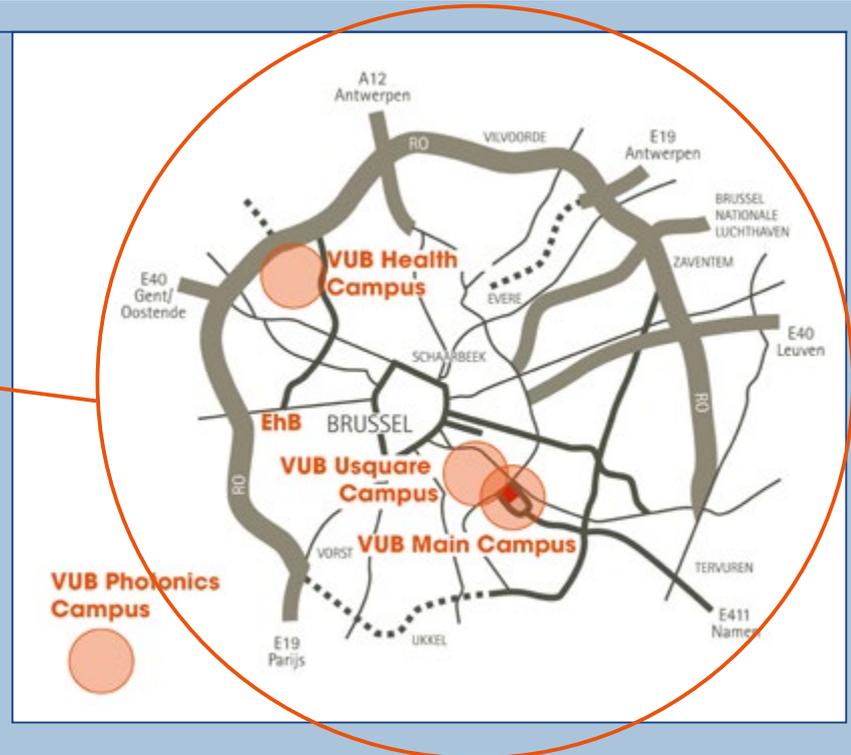
BRUSSELS HEALTH CAMPUS @UZ BRUSSEL**

CONNECTED KNOWLEDGE CENTRES

- Welcoming policy for international students
- Individual and group study coaching

BRUSSELS CITY CAMPUS - WEKONEKT

- City becomes classroom
- Connecting students,
Brussels & the professional world



* ULB = Université Libre de Bruxelles

** UZ Brussel = University hospital,
'Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel'



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

MORE THAN JUST STUDYING

THE WORLD NEEDS US

**“WE CAN DRAW ONLY ONE CONCLUSION:
THERE IS NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW TO STUDY,
NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW TO RESEARCH,
NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW TO ENGAGE. THE
WORLD NEEDS US.”**

Jan Danckaert
Rector of VUB

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

VUB Main Campus

Elsene



VUB Health Campus

Jette



VUB Usquare Campus

Elsene



VUB Photonics Campus

Gooik



Oranjerie & COOVI Campuses

Diest, Leuven & Anderlecht



FUTURE INVESTMENTS IN ELSENE AND JETTE

- **2024 Learning & Innovation Center (VUB-ULB)**
study & recreation facilities
- **2024 Research Alley renovation**
auditoria, laboratories and work spaces
- **2024 Building G, 2 lab floors and technical roof floor**
state of the art laboratories, work spaces and meeting rooms
- **2025 Building Combat sports Expertise Centre**
- **2024 Renovation/conservation Braem building**
- **2025 Building F Jette, 1 lab floor**
state of the art laboratories for research
- **2026 EhB renovation (Jette)**
skillslab & laboratories for students
- **2028 Usquare (VUB-ULB)**
auditoria incubators student rooms



VUB ESTATE 2023

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VUB IN BRUSSELS

- 99 buildings
- 325,000 m² built-up area
- 23,000 m² labs and research space
- 41,000 m² office space
- 120,000 m² green areas



IN JETTE

- 25 buildings
- 100,000 m² built-up area
- 6,500 m² labs and research space
- 5,000 m² office space
- 40,000 m² green areas



IN ELSENE

- 68 buildings
- 200,000 m² built-up area
- 14,000 m² labs and research space
- 35,500 m² office space
- 70,000 m² green areas



GOOIK, OETINGEN & SINT-GENESIUS-RODE

- 6 buildings
- 25,000 m² built-up area
- 2,000 m² labs and research space
- 746 m² office space
- 10,000 m² green areas

**37.000 METRES
UTP CABLES**



**ELECTRICAL POWER
BATTERIES**

- Network + Minkels: 64 kW
- POD: 200 kW

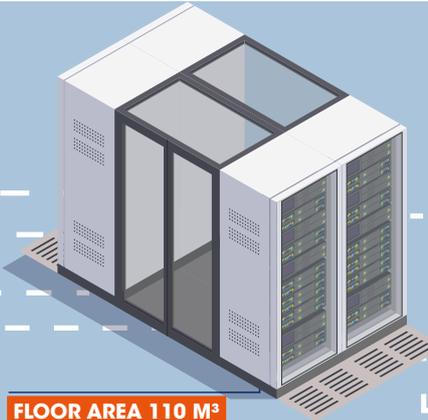


**COOLING CAPACITY
OF 405 KW**

Of which 210
KW for POD



**ELECTRICAL POWER
EMERGENCY GENERATOR: 1.2 MW**



**FLOOR AREA 110 M³
TOTAL INVESTMENT 2,647,000 EUROS**

Improvement
buildings
POD



Cooling &
Electricity

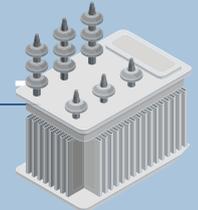
Improvement IT
installation

Transfo &
Emergency generator



**TOTAL NUMBER
RACKS: 60**

- Electricity: 5
- Supporting: 21
- IT: 34



**ELECTRICAL POWER
TRANSFORMER 1 MW**

**SAFE LOCATION FOR SERVERS
RESEARCH GROUPS**

- Installation in a rack
- Connectivity: high-speed 10 Gbps and more for normal interfaces and 1 Gbps for out-of-band management
- Secure access and fire protection
- Availability monitoring as basic function
- Performance monitoring
- Backup & data recovery for virtual machines





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RESEARCH PARK & INCUBATORS

www.vubtechtransfer.be



RESEARCH PARK & INCUBATORS 2023

RESEARCHPARK ZELLIK

- near UZ Brussel
- further development of collaboration with companies

www.researchparkzellik.be

GREEN ENERGY PARK

- created in 2019
- located at Researchpark Zellik
- large-scale living lab
- 2021: launch Smart Village Lab

<https://www.greenenergypark.be/>



VUB -VIB BV BIO INCUBATOR BRUSSELS

- on VUB main campus
- with partner VIB (Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie)
- focus on biotech
- in 2022 launch renovation of Willy Van der Meeren units
- operational in 2024

www.icabrussel.be

VUB BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR - ICAB NV

- near VUB main campus
- focus on technology & engineering
- high occupancy rate

www.icabrussel.be



INCUBATOR FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS - STARTLAB.BRUSSELS

- at Incubator Usquare near VUB main campus
- initialised by VUB and ULB

startlab.brussels



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HUMANISTIC SCULPTURE PARK & LIVING CAMPUS WALK



The Humanistic Sculpture park is a unique open-air museum with permanent and temporary art collections. All the artworks symbolise or question the values and philosophy of VUB.

The Living Campus Walk is an exploration of the fauna and flora that grows and flourishes on our campus.

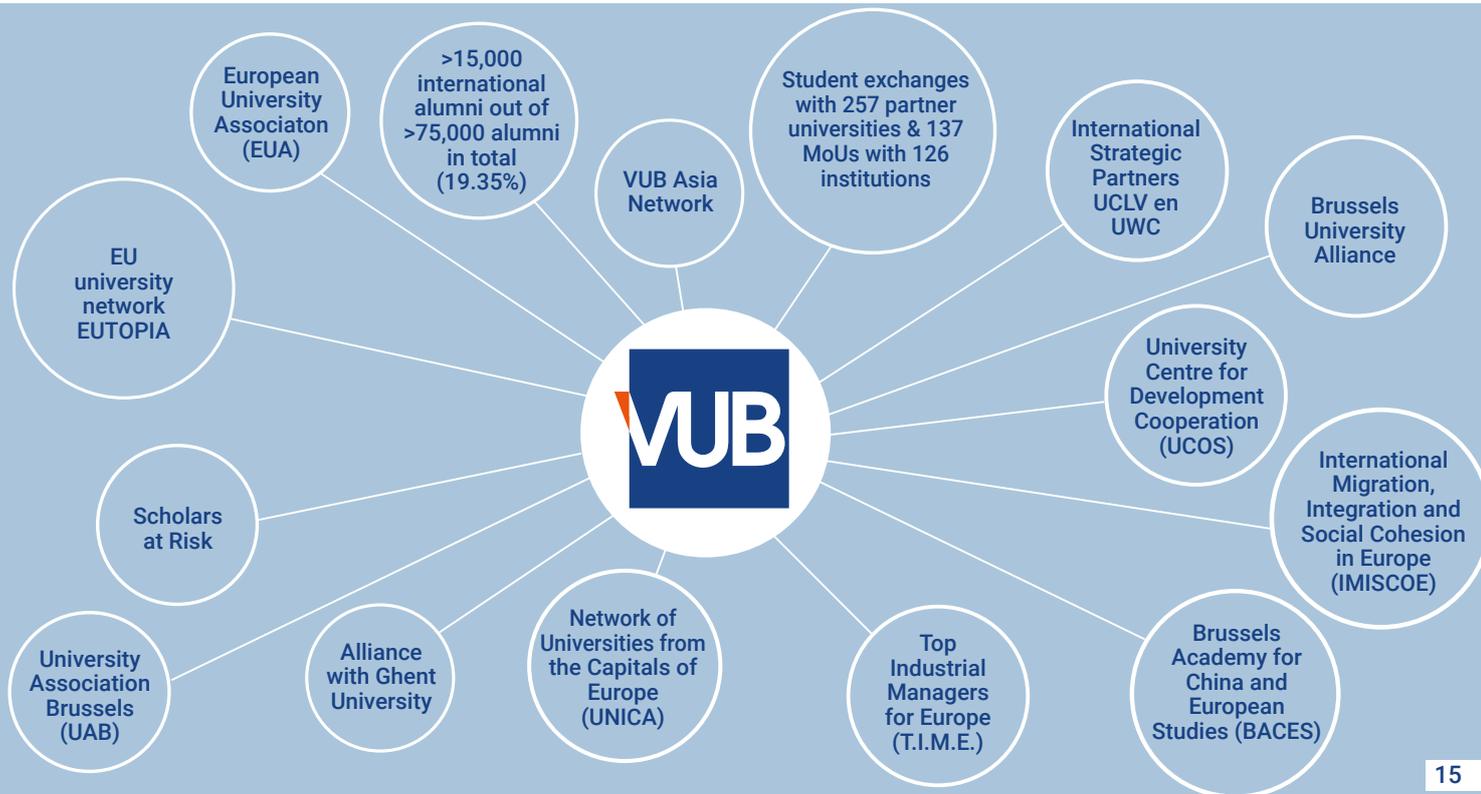
Find your route and starting point [here](#).





NETWORK

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VUB-ULB ASSOCIATION PROJECTS

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EVENTS

- Graduation ceremony at Brussels' Grote Markt
- Pride parade, open-minded universities
- St-Vé
- Difference Day with joint VUB-ULB Honoris Causa for former president of PEN International Jennifer Clement and Indian journalist Ravish Kumar



RESEARCH

- Joint PHDs ULB-VUB
- FARI: AI for the Common Good Institute



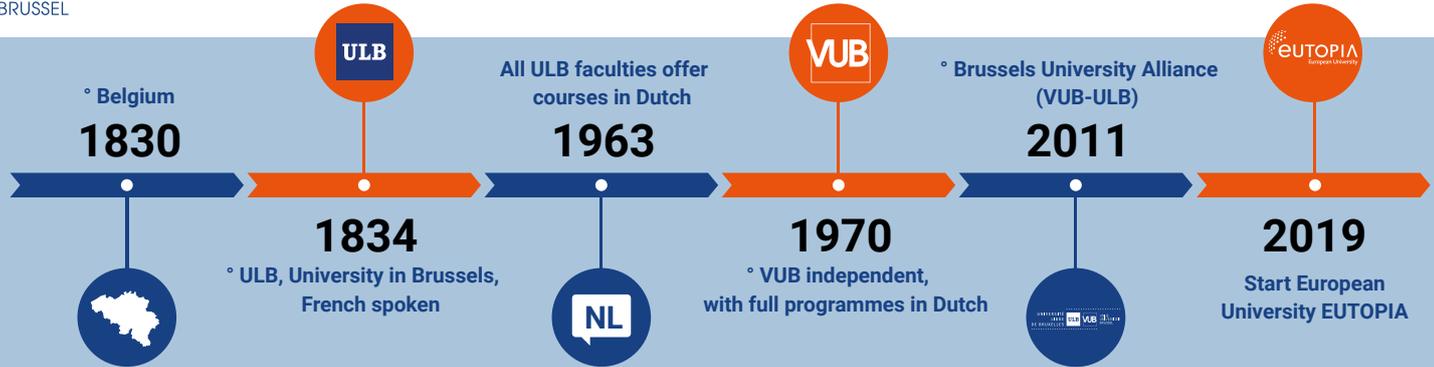
SOCIETY

- Cyclocross ULB-VUB



HISTORY

VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
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OUR VALUES

- Warm
- Open
- Eager to learn
- Connected
- Inclusive



“THINKING MUST NEVER SUBMIT ITSELF, NEITHER TO A DOGMA, NOR TO A PARTY, NOR TO A PASSION, NOR TO AN INTEREST, NOR TO A PRECONCEIVED IDEA, NOR TO ANYTHING WHATSOEVER, EXCEPT TO THE FACTS THEMSELVES, BECAUSE FOR IT TO SUBMIT TO ANYTHING ELSE WOULD BE THE END OF ITS EXISTENCE.”

Henri Poincaré (1854-1912)

RANKINGS 2023



53 of 140 in



251 of 1.422 in



VUB is in the top 18%
best universities worldwide

301-400 of 1,000 in



201-250 of 1.799 in



VUB is in the top 13%



**QS BEST STUDENT CITIES
2023
VUB RANKED 50TH**

The Belgian capital and European Union headquarters, Brussels, is known for its **international character** – and this is reflected in the high proportion of international students at its universities (13,000 to be precise).

Known for its international diversity and central role in European politics, Brussels is also famed for its delicious Belgian chocolate, pubs, french fries, comic strip art, cafés and attractive architecture.

STUDENTS & EDUCATION



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

STUDENTS 2022-2023

11.71% FIRST-TIME
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

2,612

9,687
students

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

+3,22%
22,313*
students

VUB + EHB
(ERASMUSHOGESCHOOL BRUSSEL)
28,528 STUDENTS

**new measuring
method**
(unique students,
preparation
courses included)



* **174 STUDY PROGRAMMES**
51 ENGLISH-TAUGHT, 98 DUTCH-TAUGHT

ENROLMENTS IN STUDY PROGRAMMES

Bachelor's	9,422
Master's	6,385
Advanced master's	888
PhD	2,145
Postgraduates	204
Teacher training	291
Preparation courses	2,627
Other (credit students, Erasmus students ...)	2,633

+3.7%

* Total of all study programmes does not = # students

STUDENTS BY FACULTY



	2022-2023	versus 2021-2022	versus 2021-2022	2022-2023	
SOCIAL SCIENCES & SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL	53% 47%	+4.09%	+7%	1,637 students 258 first-time university students 20% international	64% 36%
5,656 students 898 first-time university students 31% international				ARTS & PHILOSOPHY	
				2,039 students 252 first-time university students 32% international	
LAW & CRIMINOLOGY	72% 28%	+3%	-4%	1,559 students 177 first-time university students 42% international	42% 58%
3,015 students 375 first-time university students 8,92% international				SCIENCES & BIO-ENGINEERING SCIENCES	
				2,307 students 255 first-time university students 13% international	
MEDICINE & PHARMACY	69% 31%	+2%	+14%	1,065 students 201 first-time university students 8% international	75% 25%
2,307 students 255 first-time university students 13% international				ENGINEERING	
				1,559 students 177 first-time university students 42% international	
PSYCHOLOGY & EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES	82% 18%	+2.7%	-11%	1,065 students 201 first-time university students 8% international	44% 56%
2,403 students 283 first-time university students 10.61% international				PHYSICAL EDUCATION & PHYSIOTHERAPY	
				1,065 students 201 first-time university students 8% international	

OTHER

2,983 students (for example Teacher Training MILO [Multidisciplinair Instituut Lerarenopleiding])

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 2022-2023



146 NATIONALITIES

5,344 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

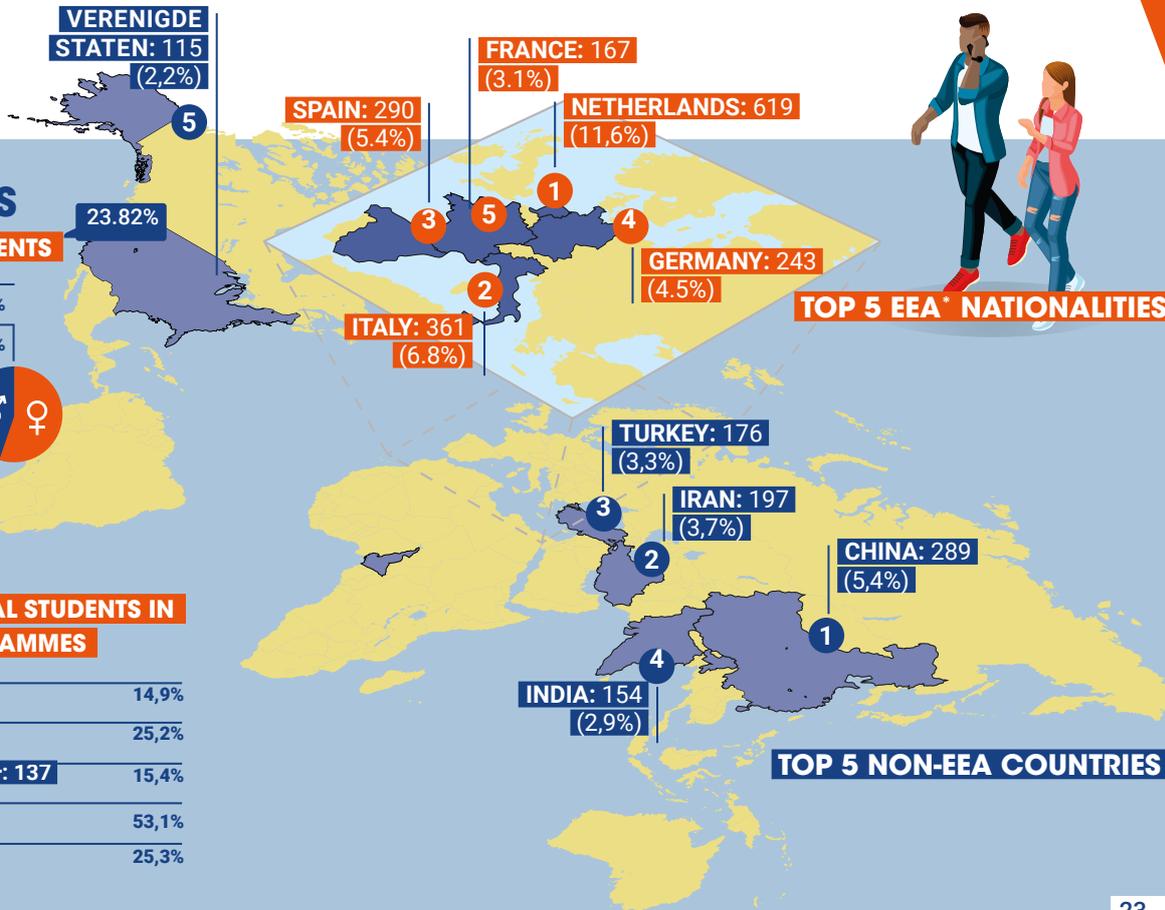
EEA COUNTRIES 47.2%

NON-EEA COUNTRIES 52.8%



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN STUDY PROGRAMMES

Bachelor: 1,316	14,9%
Master: 1,676	25,2%
Advanced Master: 137	15,4%
PhD: 1,140	53,1%
Other: 1,422	25,3%



* EEA: European Economic Area



EXCHANGE STUDENTS

VRIJE
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BRUSSEL



2022-2023 INCOMING STUDENTS



Total: 325 students (EBelgica included)

34 countries*

34 countries: 23 EEA - 11 non-EEA countries

TOP 5 INCOMING COUNTRIES*

1	SPAIN	67
2	ITALY	51
3	TURKEY	19
4	FRANCE	18
5	GERMANY	18

TOP 5 OUTGOING COUNTRIES

1	SPAIN	40
2	FRANCE	36
3	ITALY	35
4	NETHERLANDS	22
5	SWEDEN	21

2022-2023 OUTGOING STUDENTS

324 students (EBelgica included)

39 countries

22 EEA countries ; 17 NON EEA countries



32.72%
67.28%

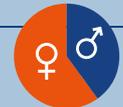
E BELGICA INCOMING

5 incoming
students



20%
80%

5 outgoing
students



40%
60%

* based on students' nationality

** EEA: European Economic Area

“INTERNATIONALISATION SITS AT THE CORE OF EVERYTHING WE AS A UNIVERSITY DO: FROM OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF, THROUGH TO OUR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TO OUR SOCIAL COMMITMENTS TOWARDS THE WIDER WORLD. OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ENSURING ALL OF OUR STUDENTS BECOME WORLD CITIZENS. IN ADDITION, WE WANT TO STRENGTHEN OUR EMPHASIS ON THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF OUR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, BY ELABORATING COLLABORATION WITHIN EUTOPIA AND WITH OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS, AS THIS IS VITAL IN FURTHER REINFORCING OUR COMMITMENT AND REPUTATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY.”

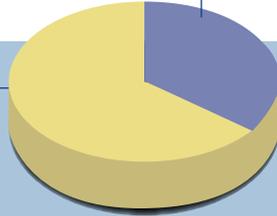
Karin Vanderkerken,
Vice-rector Internationalisation VUB



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

STUDENT HOUSING

OCCUPATION
35% international students



1,540 VUB ROOMS

STUDENT HOUSES XY (NEW: 2019)

650

STUDENT HOUSE NIEUWELAAN (*2008)

340

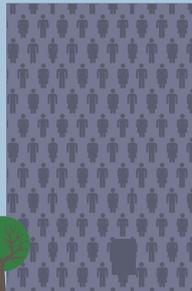
STUDENT HOUSE SCHOOFSLAAN (**1996)
& TRIOMFLAAN (2000)

304

STUDENT HOUSES JETTE (*2007)

246

* Renovated
** Renovation started (2024-2025)



JETTE
246 rooms

ELSENE
1,294 rooms



PLANNING USQUARE
(VUB-ULB)

+465 NEW STUDENT ROOMS

127 VUB, 292 ULB,

46 BRUSSELS STUDENT

+/- 4,500 PRIVATE-PARTNER ROOMS

U-RESIDENCE

95 rooms

Brik

400 rooms

Bru Upkot

216 studios VUB-ULB, of which 108 for VUB

Jet Upkot

143 studios, of which 91 for VUB

Brusello XL

130 studios

SVKS

380 rooms and studios

Social Housing Office for Students with limited income

Brik MyKot database

3500 rooms and studios

INCLUSIVE UNIVERSITY

**VUB WAS ONE OF THE FIRST UNIVERSITIES
TO WELCOME WORKING STUDENTS**

PARTICIPATION

- Students participate in rector elections
- 20% of students participate in student elections
- 10% of members of all VUB governing boards are students

OPEN CAMPUS

- Welcoming policy for international students
- Individual and group study coaching

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- 1.715 VUB-grants for students who experience financial thresholds that may complicate their study path (€1.393.814 in total)

MELDPUNT - REPORT IT

- 'Unwanted and inappropriate behaviour': report it!
- For students and staff

EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2021-2024

- For students and staff

FRATERNITIES

- The VUB has 46 recognised student fraternities

**18,9% SCHOLARSHIP
STUDENTS**

4.426

**8,7% WORKING
STUDENTS TRAJECT**

1.944

**21,6% STUDENTS WHO
ARE ALSO WORKING**

4.840

**GENERAL
SATISFACTION
SURVEY 2022-2023**

77% of students is satisfied with VUB. *



* 16% very satisfied, 36% satisfied, 25% previously satisfied, 13% neutral, 6% previously dissatisfied, 3% dissatisfied and 1% very dissatisfied

“THE VUB IS RESPONDING TO THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR AN INTERNATIONAL, DIGITAL AND FLEXIBLE RANGE OF EDUCATION. IN ADDITION FIRST YEAR STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY, PROFESSIONALS WHO NEED TO FURTHER DEVELOP THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS DUE TO CHANGING JOB CONTENT ALSO FIND WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR. FOR THEM, WE OFFER A WIDE AND VARIED RANGE OF MINI-COURSES FOR WHICH A CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED (MICROCREDENTIALS), OR LONGER CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES, POSTGRADUATE COURSES, ... MORE ATTENTION IS ALSO PAID TO BLENDED LEARNING.”

Nadine Engels,
Vice-rector for Education and Student Affairs



INCLUSIVE UNIVERSITY

VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL



983 STUDENTS WITH REFLEX* STATUS

PER FACULTY

Psychology & Educational Sciences	210
Social Sciences & Solvay Business School	194
Law & Criminology	183
Medicine & Pharmacy	96
Arts & Philosophy	89
Sciences & Bio-Engineering Sciences	85
Engineering	51
Physical Education & Physiotherapy	48
Cooperation agreements	23

MILO

4



TYPE

Developmental disorder: learning disorder	438
Developmental disorder: not Learning disorder	423
Chronic Disease	113
Psychiatric disability	66
Physical disability	20
Visual disability	17
Other	12
Hearing disability	10

* ReFlex stands for **reasonable flexibility**, involving adjustments to teaching and examination regulations. You can also get the ReFlex status for other reasons, For example, working students, student entrepreneurs, family caregivers, ...

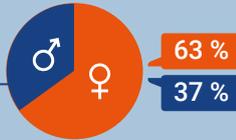


INCAMPUS PROGRAMME

Syria	3
Ukraine	16



19 refugee students



PER FACULTY

ES faculty	15
Engineering	1
LW	3

STUDY PROGRAMME

Ba	12
Ma	7

LANGUAGE

English-taught	19
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VUB AS AN URBAN ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

WHAT DO WE AIM FOR WITH OUR STUDENTS?

5 CORNERSTONES



OPEN-MINDED (redelijk eigzinnig)



COMMITMENT



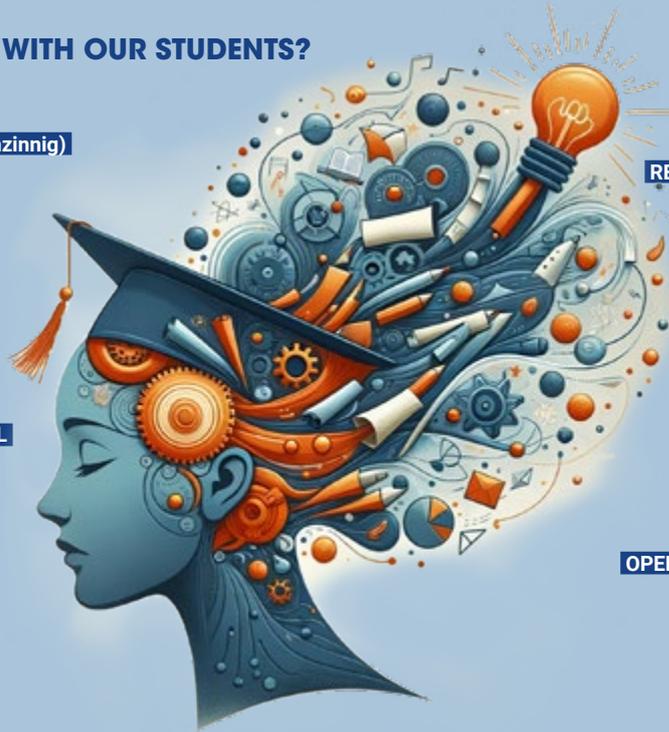
CITIZENS OF THE WORLD



ATTITUDE OF FREE INQUIRY



**READY FOR A PROFESSIONAL
CAREER**



HOW DO WE SHAPE OUR EDUCATION?

7 INGREDIENTS

RESEARCH-INFORMED DIDACTICS



STUDENT OWNERSHIP



INTERDISCIPLINARITY



THOUGHTFUL BLEND



MULTILINGUALISM



OPEN AND CO-CREATIVE EDUCATION



LIFELONG LEARNING



NEW IN 2022-2023

Bachelors

- Bachelor of Science in de artificiële intelligentie (fac. WE, taught in Dutch)
- Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literary Studies (fac. LW)

Masters

- Master of Science in Applied Informatics (fac. WE), 2 profiles: 'Big Data Technologie' and 'Artificial Intelligence'



Specialisations

- Within the Master of Laws in de rechten: 'Law and Technology' (fac. RC)
- Within the Master of Science in de toegepaste informatica: 'Big data technologie' and 'artificiële intelligentie' (fac. WE, taught in Dutch)

Postgraduate programs

- Rehabilitation and Human Sustainable Technology (fac. LK)
- Manuele therapie (fac. LK, taught in Dutch)
- Clinical Anatomy (fac. LK)



NEW WAYS OF LEARNING

DUAL LEARNING

Konekt.brussels CONNECTS students with

- Brussels as living lab

USE OF VIDEO IN BLENDED LEARNING

mix of in-class/distance learning

PANOPTO

- **18,761 recordings**
courses, instruction videos,
knowledge clips, student exercises
- **19,755 video hours**
- **1,043,731 hours watched or downloaded**

CANVAS

TESTS	4,633
ASSIGNMENTS	14,051
VIDEOCONFERENCES	4,419
DOCUMENT UPLOADS TO CANVAS	291,097





In 2023 the collaboration between the universities of Ghent and Antwerp and the VUB within “Nova Academy” was further perpetuated. The lifelong learning initiatives (postgraduates, micro-credentials, long-term and short-term courses, seminars and lectures) of the three universities was made visible on the common platform

www.nova-academy.be

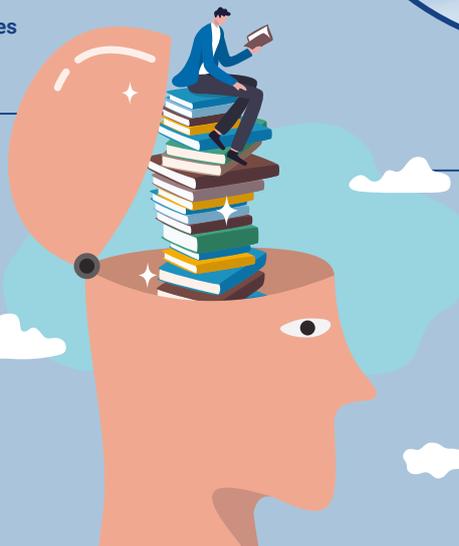
65 postgraduates

200 micro-credentials

224 long-term and short-term courses 202 lectures were spotlighted on this platform.

NEW MICRO-CREDENTIALS

- Brussels: Political and linguistic challenges (fac. LW)
- Ethics in care, philosophy and health care (fac. LW en GF, taught in Dutch)
- History of architecture and urban planning (fac. LW en IR, taught in Dutch)
- Migration and diversity: past and present (fac. LW en ES)
- Decision support for sustainability (fac. ES)
- Electrocardiografie (fac. GF, taught in Dutch)
- Rehabilitation and prevention in the healthy ageing context (fac. LK)



NEW MICRO-CREDENTIALS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ERASMUSHOGESCHOOL BRUSSEL

- Democracy: Challenges and Future (fac. ES)
- Preventive healthcare: nutrition, exercise, disease and infection prevention, and mental well-being (fac. GF, taught in Dutch)

“VUB HAS BUILT A TRADITION OF CONNECTING ACADEMIA AND SOCIETY, IN EDUCATION AS WELL AS IN RESEARCH. EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS THAT GIVE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HONE THEIR SOCIAL COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY AND ENABLE THEM TO USE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN COMPLEX REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS, REFLECT OUR MISSION AND VISION ON EDUCATION.

Nadine Engels,
Vice-rector for Education and Student Affairs

FUTURE PROOF INFRASTRUCTURE



Reprogramming user interface in auditoria

Fostering hybrid education with plug-and-play interfacing and user friendly and intuitive buttons to make audiovisual control of the classroom easy and hassle-free



Immersive small group hybrid collaboration Rooms

Teachers and students at the university and at a distance can work together as if they were only in 1 room.



BILDLab

Students work together in (hybrid) groups, in 1 room supervised by the teacher. A pilot for a lot of collaboration rooms in the upcoming Learning and Innovation Center.



LABBUDDY

LabBuddy is a 'Virtual labs' learning platform in which students are taught basic competences before starting a lab. The platform supports students in preparing for a lab, during the execution of a lab and in processing the results. This allows the ever-growing student groups to receive efficient support. LabBuddy is implemented at VUB in 7 programmes spread over 3 faculties and is already being used by more than 800 of our students.



BENEFITS OF LABBUDDY

- Getting feedback
- Maintaining an overview
- Being able to work independently
- Understand the content and purpose of the practical
- Final report becomes easier



VRrije
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

STUDY & TOP SPORT



2022-2023

131 STUDENT ATHLETES

28 SPORTS

8 FACULTIES

STUDY EFFICIENCY OF STUDENT ATHLETES

85% Student athletes

vs.

81% Total student population

study efficiency = $\frac{\text{number of credits acquired}}{\text{credits taken}}$



IN THE PAST 35 YEARS, TOPSPORT & STUDIE HAS COACHED:

1,134 student athletes

in 62 sports

24 Olympians

WORKSHOPS TO OPTIMISE DUAL CAREER COMPETENCIES, SUCH AS:

PLANNING & PRIORITIZING

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

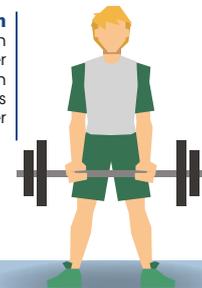
STRESS MANAGEMENT & RESILIENCE

CAREER PLANNING

SOCIAL COMPETENCES & MENTORING



Source: dpt. Topsport & Studie



WALL OF FAME



Ann Simons

Judo – Olympic Silver
Company owner



Erica Copey

Hockey – Olympian
Medical doctor



Jérôme Truyens

Hockey – Olympic Silver
Private banker



Nils Duerinck

Athletics – Olympian
Architect



Tom Vangeneugden

Swimming – Olympian
Retail programme manager & swimming coach



Jürgen Roelandts

Cycling – Olympian
Alumnus Sport &
Movement Sciences



Dirk Van Tichelt

Judo – Olympic Bronze
Alumnus Sport & Movement Sciences



Sebbe Godefroid

Sailing – Olympic Silver
Sailing coach
& entrepreneur



WALL OF FAME



Loïck Luypaert

Hockey
Olympic Gold
World Champion
Alumnus Sport
& Movement Sciences



Florent Van Aubel

Hockey – Olympic Gold – World Champion
Alumnus Communication Science



Johanne Monfret

Ballet dancing
Student Social
Sciences



Louis Croenen

Swimming – Olympian
Student Sport & Movement Sciences



Antonia Delaere

Basketball – Olympian
Psychology student



Pieter Verhees

Volleyball
Alumnus Sport & Movement Sciences



Yannick Lefebvre

Sailing – Olympian
Alumnus Sport &
Movement Sciences

Tim Declercq

Cycling
Alumnus Sport &
Movement Sciences



Loranne Smans

Snowboard
Student Psychology



Jorre Verstraeten

Judo - Olympian
Student Sport &
Movement Sciences



Jonathan Sacoor

Athletics - Olympian
Student Business
Economics



VUB ALUMNI

**>80,000 AMBITIOUS
PROFESSIONALS IN OUR
RECORD BASE**

**>64,000 ALUMNI WITH BELGIAN
NATIONALITY (80%)**

**>16,000 INTERNATIONAL
ALUMNI (20%)**



WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? *

* Country unknown 7.73%





ALUMNI RELATIONS 2018-2023

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CAMPAIGNS

- 2018: 4,000 alumni download Critical-thinking e-book
- 2020: 4,500 alumni request digital VUB-Alumni pass
- 2021: 2,500 alumni take part in VUB-Alumni Resit

IMPROVED DATA-CAPTURE

GRADUATES BETWEEN 1972-2018

- We now have the private mail address of 49% **+5%**
- We have the professional details of 50% (Linkedin, position, sector, etc.) **NEW**
- 832 proseniors (old-praeses) are now also included in the database **NEW**

GRADUATES AFTER 2018

- We have the private mail address of 99%
- We now have the mobile number of 85%

MORE DONORS

- 1,739 extra alumni donors since 2018
- 53% of Major Donors is alumnus/a

MORE DONATIONS

x6!

2018 donations by alumni



Total donations by alumni (2018-2021)
= €530,800

INCREASED APPEAL VUB

MORE READERS

+10%

- 23,367 alumni open one newsletter annually, 3/4 open 2 or more newsletters a year
- 4,511 alumni click on at least one article per newsletter
- Average number of readers per newsletter increased by 10% compared to 2018



+10%

BIGGER GRADUATION CEREMONY TURN-OUT

Graduates attending:

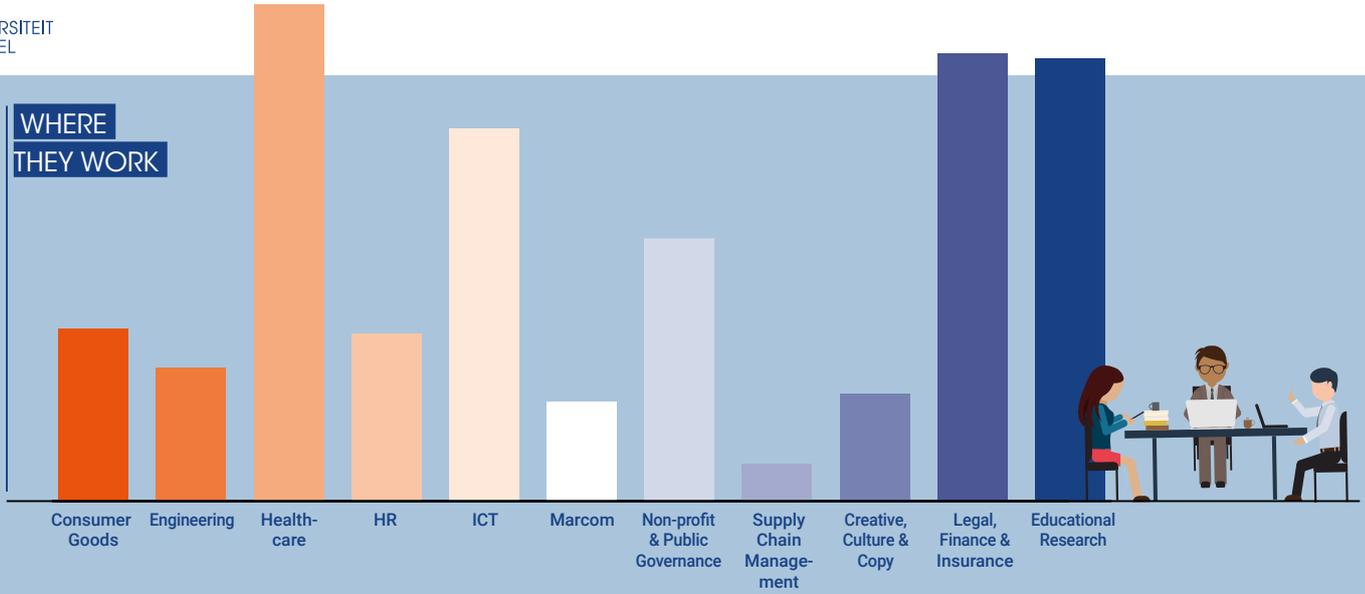
2018: 62%	2020: 60% (Covid-19)
2019: 85%	2021: 72%

MORE ENGAGEMENT

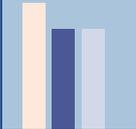
- 9 recognised alumni associations (6 associations more than in 2018)
- 5,315 alumni members of a VUB-Alumni association
- 125 alumni are VUB-Mentor & Professionals
- 55 alumni active as VUB webinar panel members
- 100 alumni are VUB-Dedicated Thinkers

ALUMNI AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL LIVES

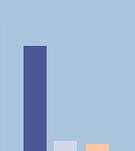
WHERE
THEY WORK



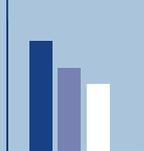
SOCIAL SCIENCES & SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL
Total: 2,982



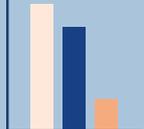
LAW & CRIMINOLOGY
Total: 2,684



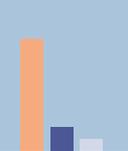
ARTS & PHILOSOPHY
Total: 2,078



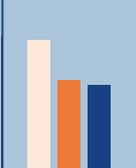
SCIENCES & BIO-ENGINEERING SCIENCES
Total: 1,890



MEDICINE & PHARMACY
Total: 1,855



ENGINEERING
Total: 1,748



PSYCHOLOGY & EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
Total: 1,729



PHYSICAL EDUCATION & PHYSIOTHERAPY
Total: 1,215



VUB STAFF



VUB STAFF

VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

3.978 EMPLOYEES 2023

* 22 employees have both academic and support staff status.

ACADEMIC STAFF

2.628

1.144 FEMALE

43,53%



1.484 MALE

56,47%

SUPPORT STAFF

1.380

883 FEMALE

63,99%



497 MALE

36,01%



50,5%

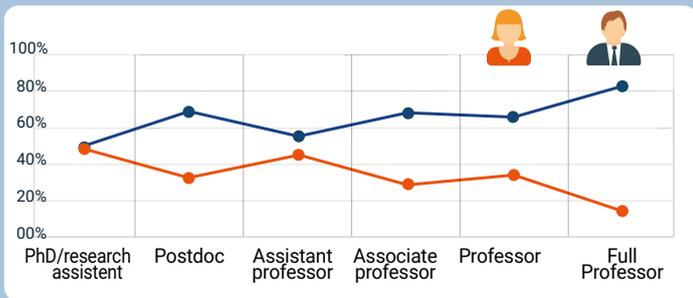
Female

49,5%

Male

VUB/UZ Brussel
biggest Dutch-speaking
employer in Brussels
7,835

STAFF & GENDER 2023



GENDER BIAS IN ACADEMIC CAREER

Female tenured academic staff (ZAP): 34%

GENDER IN GOVERNING ENTITIES

University council: 35% women

Board of directors: 40% women

Academic council: 37% women

Research council: 58% women

Education council: 65% women

Innovation and valorisation council: 36% women

International policy council: 41% women

Student council: 47% women



WORKING FOR THE VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Ethical and professional aspects

- Enhancing the awareness around ethics and integrity rules in research practices
- Stimulating equality and inclusion for all researchers

Training and development

- Skills and competences for all researchers
- Career development
- Stimulating team development
- Engaged leading in academic positions

Recruitment and selection

- A toolkit to support academic recruitment and selection
- Employer branding
- Optimising the digital hiring process and its use
- Monitoring HR data and OTM-R compliance (OTM-R: Open, Transparant and Merit Based Recruitment)

Working conditions

- An integrated and evidence informed health and well-being policy
- Internationalisation and an optimal start at VUB

HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY FOR RESEARCHERS



HRS4R is EU's Human Resources Label for Researchers

VUB PHDs



2022-2023

Doctoral Students: 2,140



52,36 % international

Succesful Doctorates: 241



52,28% international

36,51% EEA

63,49% non-EEA



3 Doctoral Schools

- Human Sciences (DSH): 777 registrations
- Life Sciences and Medicine: 473 registrations
- Natural Sciences & (Bioscience) Engineering: 857 registrations

Doctorates by Gender & Faculty*

4 doctorates in the interdisciplinary studies were granted

Social Sciences & Solvay Business School

43



48,84% international

Medicine & Pharmacy

45



28,8% international

Engineering

47



59,57% international

Arts & Philosophy

17



70,59% international

Physical Education & Physiotherapy

13



23,08% international

Psychology & Educational Sciences

13



69,23% international

Law & Criminology

12



50% international

Sciences & Bio-Engineering Sciences

47



70,21% international

Doctoral Derby laureates 2022-2023

- Kenza Mostaqim (Audience Award)
- Aarushi Audhut Caro (Jury Award)
- Flore Van Maldeghem (Written Research Summary)



(NEWLY) NEGOTIATED JOINT PHD'S

49

(NEWLY) NEGOTIATED INTERNATIONAL JOINT PHD'S

34

BRAZIL	4
ITALY	4
UNITED KINGDOM	4
FRANCE	3
CUBA	2
INDONESIA	2
NETHERLANDS	2
PORTUGAL	2
FINLAND	1
JAPAN	1
LITHUANIA	1
LUXEMBURG	1
MOROCCO	1
NORWAY	1
ROMANIA	1
SLOVENIA	1
USA	1
VIETNAM	1
SOUTH KOREA	1



DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY 3 DOCTORAL SCHOOLS 2023

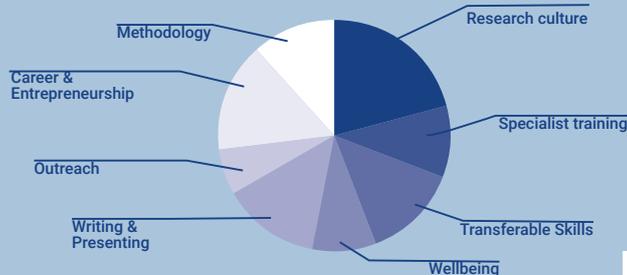
101 Certificates

190 workshops & info sessions for
early-stage researchers



DEFENDED JOINT PHD'S

BELGIUM	30
INTERNATIONAL	29



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



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RESEARCH & INNOVATION 2023 IN A NUTSHELL



€144,240,920 TOTAL
RESEARCH BUDGET



2,453 ACADEMIC
AND SCIENTIFIC STAFF



196 RESEARCH GROUPS

INCLUDING:

- 31 VUB-UGent alliance research groups
- 20 international joint research groups
- 12 VUB-ULB joint research groups



21 IOF GEARS

(GROUPS OF EXCELLENCE IN
APPLIED RESEARCH SUPPORTED
BY VUB'S INDUSTRIEEL
ONDERZOEKSFONDS)



2,140 DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS
IN **3** DOCTORAL SCHOOLS



15 RESEARCH-COUNCIL-
FUNDED INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH PROJECTS

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Supported by vice-rectorate
for RESEARCH and vice-rectorate
for INNOVATION &
INDUSTRY RELATIONS.



216 ACTIVE PATENT
FAMILIES



4 NEW SPIN-OFFS,
TOTAL ACTIVE **49**



3,310 PUBLICATIONS

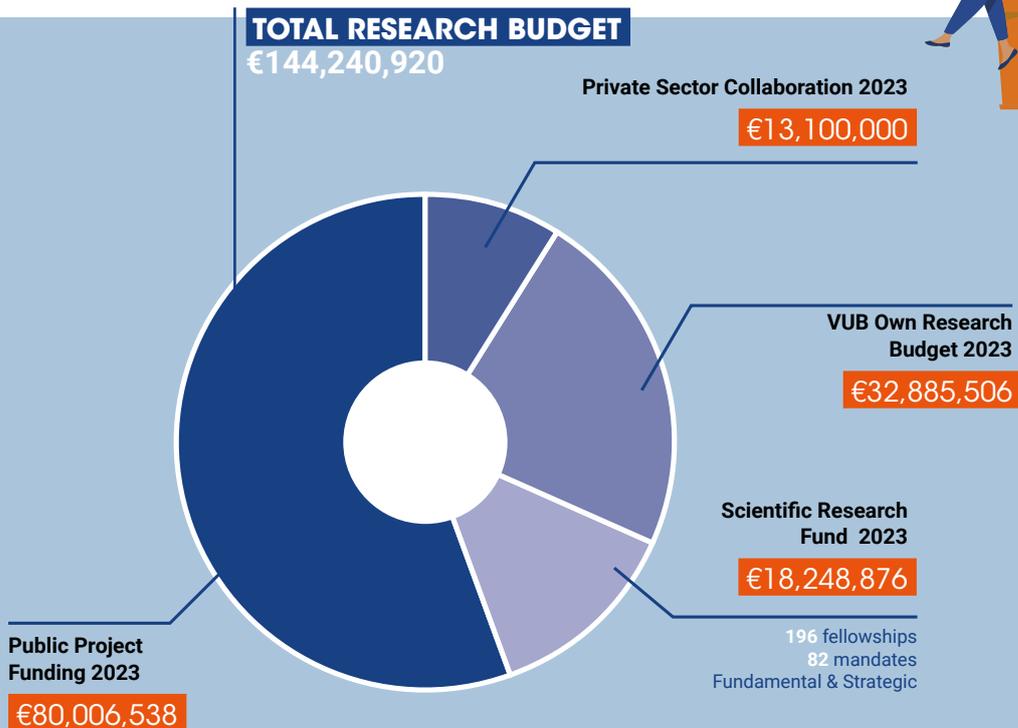


45 RESEARCH-COUNCIL-
FUNDED STRATEGIC
RESEARCH PROJECTS



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RESEARCH & INNOVATION 2023 BUDGET IN DETAIL





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FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH AT VUB IS STRONGER
THAN EVER, WITH RECORD NUMBERS OF ERC
GRANTS AT OUR UNIVERSITY. WE ARE PIONEERS
IN DECARBONISATION TECHNOLOGIES, AI &
ROBOTICS, STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY, PHOTONICS,
DIABETES, BIOARCHEOLOGY,...

Pieter Ballon,
Vice-rector Research VUB

SUCCESS IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH FUNDING



VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL EXTENSIVELY UTILIZES HORIZON PROGRAMS AND IS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL:

- Under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), researchers secured a total of 205 projects, amounting to €103.8 million in EU contributions.
- Between 2021 and 2023, for Horizon Europe, the VUB has already obtained 119 projects (approximately €88.0 million in EU contributions).

VUB IS

- In the top 20 of all participating universities
- The 3th of all participating Belgian universities
- The number ONE Brussels-based universitie

In 2023, VUB achieved a record by signing 8 European Research Council grants and 10 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (5 doctoral networks and 5 post-doctoral fellowships).

Our university contributes to making the Brussels-Capital Region a European innovation leader, notably excelling in the number of scientific co-publications.

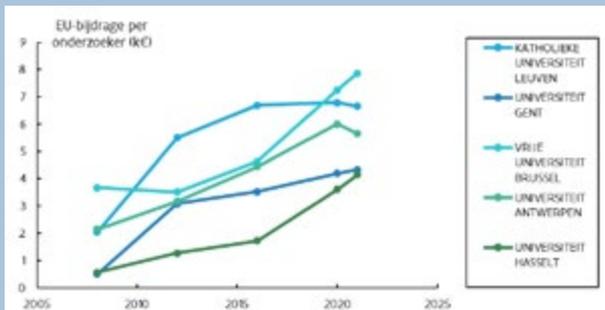


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GROWTH IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH FUNDING



AMONG THE FIVE FLEMISH UNIVERSITIES, VUB IS CURRENTLY MOST SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING EUROPEAN RESEARCH FUNDING.



LOOKING AT THE EUROPEAN FUNDING BUDGET, VUB COMES IN SECOND IN THE INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS WITH COMPARABLE UNIVERSITIES.

	#	Budget
Chalmers Univ of Techn	188	82.532.262
VUB	144	49.653.136
Univ of Tartu	127	35.082.360
Tampere University	116	43.624.928
Graz univ of Technology	109	45.686.968
UAntwerpen	104	57.609.457
University of Oulu	90	35.844.628
University of Bremen	73	21.322.647
University of Aberdeen	57	18.749.590
University of Turku	56	16.168.591
Univ Eastern Finland	55	20.491.030
University of Dundee	49	17.356.628
Univ Graz	39	11.625.565
Univ of Jyväskylä	37	11.896.790
Friedrich-Schiller - Jena	36	10.481.266
Carl von Oss - Oldenburg	20	8.463.909
Univ of Paderborn	20	6.381.507
Univ of Bayreuth	20	10.863.668
Univ Siegen	17	6.764.970

INVESTING IN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE 2023

CORE FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE PLATFORMS

Core facilities are autonomous units within the VUB that have highly qualified personnel and specialized equipment. We make them available to the research community at economic prices. Also our infrastructure platforms open up research facilities, such as instruments, to the entire VUB research community.

VUB SUPPORT OF CORE FACILITIES: € 23 MILLION

GOAL: SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE TO
FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR RESEARCH

- statistical-methodological support
- microscopy
- cell sorters
- cleanroom for microfluidics
- etc.

- ▶ Brubotics Rehabilitation Research Center
- ▶ In Vivo Cellular and Molecular Imaging
- ▶ FlowCore
- ▶ Materials Characterisation
- ▶ Microlab
- ▶ Support for Quantitative and Qualitative Research
- ▶ Animalarium
- ▶ Visual and Spatial Tissue Analysis
- ▶ Belgian Online Probability Panel
- ▶ Brussels Digital Text Lab
- ▶ HUMAN and Artificial miNDs and bodIEs



PROUD TO WELCOME TWO ODYSSEUS FELLOWS

**THE FWO ODYSSEUS PROGRAM
AIMS TO ENCOURAGE REMARKABLE
RESEARCHERS WORKING ABROAD
TO SETTLE IN BELGIUM.**



2 promising researchers supported by a 5-year starter grant from the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO).

- Mathematician David Tewodrose returns to the VUB from the University of Nantes in France.
- Climate researcher Harry Zekollari returns to the VUB from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands and ETH Zurich in Switzerland.

Tewodrose works on geometric analysis, which can be used to predict the development of brain tumors.

Zekollari and his new research group will simulate the future global evolution of glaciers using advanced computer models





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RESEARCH AWARDS A FEW HIGHLIGHTS



JAN STEYAERT

Becomes the first Belgian scientist to win the prestigious American Gabbay Award for pioneering work in Nanobody® Technology



JAN DE BEULE

Received the Hall Medal from the Institute of Combinatorics and Its Applications (ICA) for his significant international impact in the field of finite geometry and applications in coding theory.

ANN VAN GRIENSVEN

Received an AXA Research Chair for her project "Water Quality Model for Climate Change Adaptation



ALBA ROMERO-RODRIGUEZ

Received a Virgo Award from the Virgo collaboration, an international consortium tasked with research on gravitational waves, for her doctoral research.



STEVEN BALLE

Received the international Evotec Award for Excellence in Molecular Design.



ANTONELLA FIORAVANTI

Received recognition for her scientific career and her commitment to supporting women in science and the promotion of science.

JOOST BOECKMANS

Received the American Toxicology Award for animal-free research on the liver disease NASH.



JONATHAN HOLSLAG

Prominent VUB professor Jonathan Holslag was also knighted in this order.





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“RESEARCH NEEDS SOCIETY AS SOCIETY
NEEDS RESEARCH. THIS IS WHY VUB INVESTS
STRUCTURALLY IN THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF ITS
RESEARCH GROUPS.”

Pieter Ballon

OUTREACH 2023

5.467
participants and visitors for our
outreach activities in 2023

127.943
online visitors and reached
audience via our digital
channels in 2023 (website,
newsletter and social media
(fb & instagram))

374
vub researchers participating
in our supported
outreach-activities 2023



4 out of 10
KVAB science outreach awards
2023 for VUB researchers!

Jan De Beule, Kenny De Commer, Ann Doooms:
"BIMS - The Beautiful Impact of Mathematics in
Society" Zij brengen wiskunde als studiekeuze
onder de aandacht bij de jeugd.

Charlès Dupont: "Levenswensen kaarten",
maakt moeilijke onderwerpen bespreekbaar,
zoals vroegtijdige zorgplanning, het levenseinde,
sterven en de dood.

Francisca Mullens, "Welgemeend". Podcast en
website voor meer kennis omtrent begrippen als
werk en werktijd.

Iris Stiers, "Exoten". Informatie en sensibilisering
over exotische planten en milieu.

2
VUB projects win the production
of a science short documentary
@ pitch contest **DOCVILLE 2023:**
'Coral City' (Marc Kochzius en Kushlani
Dissanayake) & 'Testerep' (Soetkin
Vervust)



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OUTREACH VUB KINDERUNIVERSITEIT



VUB Kinderuniversiteit brings academic research to a child-friendly level. Under the guidance of a professional team, children discover the secrets of our bodies, explore the fascinating world of microbes under a microscope, or delve into the meaning of happiness. Anything is possible.

2022

- Campus day: 115 students from 6 schools
- Autumn workshops: 386 students from 20 schools
- 15 researchers

Total: 501 students

2023

- Campus day: 211 students from 11 schools
- Autumn workshops: 408 students from 20 schools
- 14 lead researchers and about ten assisting colleagues

Total: 619 students

<https://vubkinderuniversiteit.be/>



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**“AT THE HEART OF OUR UNIVERSITY’S MISSION
LIES THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE, BUT IT’S
IN THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THAT
KNOWLEDGE, GUIDED BY THE NEEDS OF
SOCIETY AND INDUSTRY, WHERE WE TRULY
MAKE AN IMPACT.”**

Hugo Thienpont,
Vice-rector Innovation & Industry Relations VUB

**Groups of Excellence in Applied Research or GEARs,
supported by VUB's Industrial Research Fund in 2023,
performing research in domains below**

Advanced GEARs (TRL 4-5-6):

- Photonics
- Electromobility
- Human Robotics

Consolidator GEARs (TRL 3-4-5):

- Artificial Intelligence
- Sustainable Chemistry
- Structural Biology
- Sustainable Material Technologies
- Tech4Health
- Accoustics & Vibration
- INTEGRAL - Immunotherapy
- Cybersecurity & Health
- Gene therapy
- Algorithmic systems
- House of Sustainable

Starter GEARs (TRL 2-3):

- Peptidomimetic TheranOstics
- Industrial Food Biotechnology
- Liver research
- Software Systems
- Advance Imaging
- Microfluidics
- AI in Neurology, neurosurgery & psychiatry



VUB INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH FUND 2023 (IOF)

Fostering excellent applied research with economic potential

Budget acknowledged to GEARs: 5.950.000€

Supporting 21 Groups of Excellence in Applied Research or GEARs



Go to our IOF portfolio:

<https://www.vubtechtransfer.be/industrial-research-fund-iof-research-groups-0>



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SUCCESSFUL EU INNOVATION DRIVEN CASES 2023

www.vubtechtransfer.be



SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

Prof. Dr. **Tuba Bircan** is a social scientist and head of VUB's AI, Migration and Society (AIMS) Lab, as well as a researcher at Cambridge University. She is a.o. promotor of the EU funded **DE-CONSPIRATOR project 'Detecting and Countering Information Suppression from A Transnational Perspective'**.

Over the last few years, Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) has grown into a significant threat to democracies worldwide. Against this, the project aims to provide novel insights, categories, concepts, measurements and empirical results, to help counter FIMI and information suppression in the EU and partner countries. DE-CONSPIRATOR aims to provide a clearer view of why foreign states engage in information manipulation and suppression, why domestic actors in and across the EU consume and spread such dynamics, and how to think about and measure why certain forms of FIMI become "more successful" than others.

VUB is partner in this project
Budget: €2,999,766



SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

The HORIZON Europe funded project REFORMERS - Renewable Energy Valleys is coordinated by prof. Dr. **Thierry Coosemans**, Project Coordinator of the EVERGi research team at VUB, and by NEC - New Energy Coalition, the Flagship Valley Coordinator. The research team will combine and integrate existing and innovative technologies for the generation, storage and distribution of green energy, such as renewable electricity and green hydrogen. The researchers will use new algorithms and a digital twin.

With a large test site at the Boekelermeer business park in Alkmaar, the Netherlands, 28 partners from 10 European countries with the VUB as the central hub, aim to prove how so-called Renewable Energy Valleys (REV) can be the optimal energy system for small to medium-sized industrial sites surrounded by residential and agricultural areas.

VUB is coordinator
VUB budget of almost 2 mio €



LIFE SCIENCES

Prof. Dr. **Karine Breckpot** is director of the Laboratory for Molecular and Cellular Therapy (LMCT) of the VUB, focusing on cancer immunology and immunotherapy, designing novel immunotherapies using technologies such as mRNA, lentiviral vectors and antibodies, including camelid single domain antibodies. The project **BAXERNA 2.0 'Immunopeptidomics-based Development of Next-Generation Bacterial mRNA Vaccines'** will establish a new vaccine development pipeline that relies on breakthrough technologies for the development of novel mRNA vaccines against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB), *Mycobacterium ulcerans* (MU), and *Acinetobacter baumannii* (AB). The new pipeline will overcome current limitations in vaccine development, namely a lack of known antigens and weak cellular immune responses. The technologies will consist of advances in mass spectrometry-based proteomics and novel vaccines such as mRNA vaccines. The novelty of the project is especially the combined application of these technologies, which will form the blueprint for next-generation bacterial vaccine development.

VUB is partner
Total budget: €8,859,050

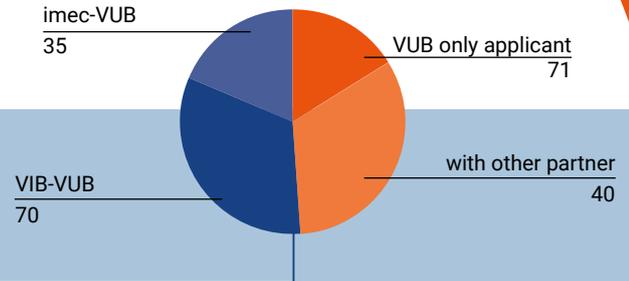
IP& SPIN-OFFS 2023

www.vubtechtransfer.be

PATENTS & SPIN-OFFS

IN 2023

- 59 inventions disclosed
- 29 new patent applications filed
- 216 Active patent families



49 ACTIVE VUB SPIN-OFFS

4 NEW SPIN-OFF COMPANIES

- **Sentometrics** - <https://sentometrics.com/>
UGent/VUB spin-off - Monitoring the news about ESG, financial health and reputation of EU companies
- **Presscuff** - <https://presscuff.com/>
VUB/UZ Brussel spin-off - The 1st Pressurized Endotracheal Tube
- **Bitagreen** - <https://www.bitagreen.io/>
Transforming Cities for a Resilient Future with Speed, High Resolution & Integrity
- **Bio Inx** - <https://bioinx.com/>
UGent/VUB spin-off - Materials and bio-inks for 3D bioprinting or biofabrication

“INNOVATION THRIVES AT THE INTERSECTION
OF APPLIED RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY
COLLABORATION, WHERE GROUNDBREAKING
IDEAS ARE NOT ONLY CONCEIVED BUT
ALSO BROUGHT TO LIFE, WHERE RESEARCH
GENERATES RESOURCES THAT CAN BE
REINVESTED INTO THE UNIVERSITY, ENSURING
CONTINUOUS GROWTH AND ADVANCEMENT.”

Hugo Thienpont,
Vice-rector Innovation & Industry Relations

PHILANTHROPIC FUNDRAISING



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

VUB. EVERY DONATION RETURNS. 2022-2023



FOUNDATION

THE VUB FOUNDATION RAISES PHILANTHROPIC FUNDS FROM COMPANIES, ORGANISATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TECHTRANSFER DEPARTMENT OF THE VICE-RECTORATE OF INNOVATION & INDUSTRY RELATIONS. THE VUB FOUNDATION COORDINATES ALL FUNDRAISING AT VUB UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE INNOVATION AND VALORISATION BOARD.



TOTAL REVENUE € 2.543.986

2022-2023

20% overhead € 508.797

Net revenue € 2.035.189

HOW WE GROW THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

Donations	€ 262.587
Legacies	€ 324.694
Chairs	€ 851.939
Sponsorships	€ 409.723
Funds by name	€ 695.042

24 ACTIVE CHAIRS



13 FUNDS BY NAME

VUBFOUNDATION.BE



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

“THE POLICY OF THE VUB FOUNDATION IS BASED ON THE CONVICTION THAT FOR EACH PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTION, THERE IS A SOCIETAL RETURN. EACH DONATION, SPONSORSHIP OR LEGACY SUPPORTS EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND/OR INNOVATION AT OUR UNIVERSITY. IT IS OUR AIM TO FIND THE PERFECT MATCH FOR EACH COMPANY, INSTITUTION OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, WITHIN OUR RESEARCH GROUPS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTION.”

VUB. EVERY DONATION RETURNS.

Hugo Thienpont,
Vice-rector Innovation & Industry Relations VUB

FELLOWSHIP



VRIJE
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BRUSSEL

CONNECTING ACADEMIA & SOCIETY



FELLOWSHIP

MISSION

VUB fosters a network of Fellows who connect academia with society. The interactions arising from this are of huge benefit for education, research and policy. The VUB Fellows are a diverse network of dedicated experts and leaders in their field who commit selflessly to the university and UZ Brussel. Thanks to their commitment, VUB can continue to evolve as an open institution connected with society and the business community.

To create a network of privileged VUB ambassadors who continue to challenge and inspire the university and UZ Brussel, and help propagate VUB's ideology as a progressive institution of independent research and critical thinking.

VISION

VUBFELLOWSHIP WEBSITE
<https://www.vub.be/fellowship>



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**THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM:
MAKING ACADEMIC AND SOCIETAL TALENT WORK
TOGETHER TO THE BENEFIT OF OUR STUDENTS AND
RESEARCHERS, TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE:
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU! SO, LET'S KEEP ON BUILDING!**

Karsten De Clerck
Chairman of the Board of VUB
& Honorary Fellow



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BRUSSEL

CONNECTING ACADEMIA & SOCIETY 2023

67 Fellows

21
35



176 Honorary Fellows

70
106



FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWS IMPROVE

- QUALITY OF RESEARCH & EDUCATION
- EMPLOYABILITY OF OUR GRADUATES
- CAPACITY FOR INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS
- INNOVATION

THROUGH ACTIVITIES

- (INTER)NATIONAL STUDENT INTERNSHIPS
- NETWORKING
- GUEST LECTURES
- CULTURAL ENRICHMENT
- COMPANY VISITS
- MASTER THESIS GUIDANCE
- SUPPORT OF RESEARCH
- INFLUENCERS' ROLE



UZ BRUSSEL

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



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BRUSSEL

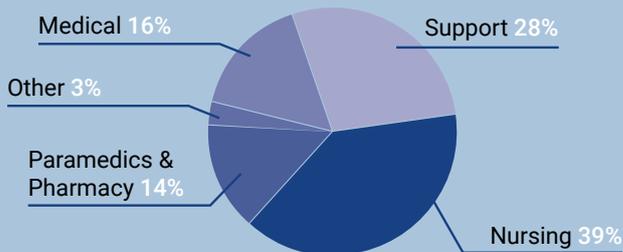
UZ BRUSSEL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN 2023



TAKING CARE OF A DIVERSE PUBLIC

Staff members of nearly 70 nationalities are taking care of a broad variety of patients of around 160 nationalities from all over the world.

4.775 STAFF MEMBERS



INVESTMENTS & ACTIVITIES

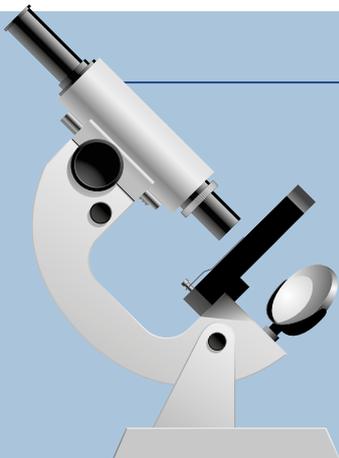
Total investment 2023

€45,7 million

Activities:

- admissions +5.9%,
- one-day hospitalisations +19.2%,
- interventions +5.5%,
- technical activities +0.5%
- consultations +2.8%.





10 RESEARCH CLUSTERS

- Development, Ageing and Pathology
- Diabetes, Transplantation & Pathology
- Liver & Cell Biology and Toxicology
- Medical Imaging & Physical Sciences
- Neurosciences
- Oncology Research Centre
- Pharmaceutical Research and Data Technology
- Public Health
- Reproduction, Genetics and Regenerative Medicine
- Research Center for Cardiovascular Diseases

MORE SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

1076 scientific papers
published in the 2021-
2022 academic year by
UZ Brussel & VUB
Medicine & Pharmacy
Faculty

409

Clinical Research Files
@Medical Ethics Commission
In 2022



'DESPITE A DIFFICULT SOCIAL AND BUDGETARY CONTEXT, UZ BRUSSEL WAS ABLE TO ACHIEVE A LOT IN 2023. THE NUMEROUS ACTIONS OF OUR DEPARTMENTS AND COLLEAGUES ENSURED THAT OUR HOSPITAL TOOK FURTHER STEPS IN OFFERING A QUALITY CARE OFFER, IN MODERNISING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND IN OFFERING INNOVATIVE SERVICES AND SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS, AS WELL AS IN ATTRACTING, TRAINING, MOTIVATING AND RETAINING STAFF, AND THIS IN THE MEDICAL, PARAMEDICAL, NURSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES.'

Marc Noppen
CEO UZ Brussel



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UZ BRUSSEL AS PIONEER

NEW SPIN-OFF FROM VUB AND UZ BRUSSEL PRESSCUFF

develops tube that reduces risk of pneumonia in long-term artificial ventilation in intensive care. The tube was developed by former UZ Brussel Intensive Care nurse Emiel Suijs, in collaboration with former Intensive Care department head the late VUB Prof Dr Spapen.

UZ BRUSSEL IS THE FIRST HOSPITAL IN THE BENELUX

to use a robot for micro- and supermicrosurgery for, among other things, lymphoedema treatment by using a lympho-venous bypass (a bridge between lymph vessel and vein).

PLANNING TO REMOVE BRAIN TUMOURS IS MORE EFFICIENT

and faster using augmented reality. This is the conclusion of the prospective clinical pilot study by Dr Frederick Van Gestel and Prof Johnny Duerinck, published in Frontiers in Neurology.

TEAM HEART RHYTHM MANAGEMENT CENTRE IMPLANTS LATEST WIRELESS MINI-PACEMAKER .

It differs from previous generation pacemakers because of its ability to expand to a dual-chamber pacemaker, a different tip to position the pacemaker and battery that lasts twice as long as a typical pacemaker.

BELGIAN FIRST:

Ophthalmology team implants first telescopic lens into the eye of a patient suffering from end-stage AMD (Age-Related Macular Degeneration).

UZ BRUSSEL IS THE FIRST HOSPITAL TO START PERSONALISED DIABETES CARE FOR CHILDREN BASED ON ALGORITHM

UZ BRUSSEL RECOGNISED AS ONE OF 21 PAEDIATRIC MULTIDISCIPLINARY OBESITY CENTRES

The federal government recognises 21 hospitals as Paediatric Multidisciplinary Obesity Centres to support a multidisciplinary approach to childhood obesity. The Kidz Health Castle, the children's hospital at UZ Brussel, is one of them.

JDRF RESEARCH GRANT OF \$1,199,550 FOR TYPE 1 DIABETES RESEARCH BY UZ BRUSSEL-VUB DIABETES RESEARCH CENTRE

This is a project on continuous monitoring of blood glucose levels in children and (young) adults at moderate to high risk of developing type 1 diabetes. The study aims to use low-impact follow-up to diagnose the disease earlier, thereby reducing the risk of accompanying serious complications.

IN FEBRUARY, UZ BRUSSEL BECAME THE FIRST HOSPITAL IN BELGIUM TO LAUNCH A SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH UNIT, LED BY PROF SARKOZY, WHERE THE MOST CRITICAL PATIENTS WILL BE CARED FOR.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN BELGIUM, A PATIENT WITH ACUTE HEART FAILURE RECEIVES A DUAL HEART PUMP. AN ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CARDIOGENIC SHOCK TEAM.

PUBLICATION IN NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY:

Clinical research with subcutaneous stem cell-derived implants shows for the first time that insulin-producing beta cells formed in them provide blood sugar stabilisation in patients with type 1 diabetes.



EUTOPIA

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

5 YEARS OF EUTOPIA IN NUMBERS

76

Science and Innovation Fellows:

EUTOPIA-SIF fellowships offer the opportunity for high-profile post-doctoral researchers to develop their own research project in the stimulating academic environment of the EUTOPIA Alliance.

30

Connected Learning Communities,

among which VUB leads: Technological Business Management - Sport for Social Change - Hackathon in Sustainable Transportation - Introduction to Artificial Intelligence - Legal History - Urban Education - Fairness, Equality & Ethics in Data Processing

63

Young Leader Academy Fellows:

Members of the EUTOPIA Young Leaders Academy constitute a community of promising independent research leaders on the EUTOPIA scale, sharing and promoting European values and the EUTOPIA vision of an interconnected academic environment.

73

PhD co-tutelles:

The EUTOPIA PhD co-tutelle program supports high-quality PhD projects in all research areas co-supervised by academics of 2 EUTOPIA member universities.

1

Joint Vision and Strategy

for Human Resources, Inclusion, Global Partnerships, Science Diplomacy, Open Science & Citizen Science, and Life-long Learning

20

Connected Communities:

uniting our research and education ambitions, among which VUB leads: CLARITI Mathematics for Technology and Innovation - Digitisation for hydro-climatic risk reduction

17

Connected Research Communities,

among which VUB leads: Trans-policy Perspectives on Transformation in Sovereignty - Photography & Dissent - Sustainable European Private Law - Durable Materials

eUTOPIA
Alliance of 10 European Universities

eUTOPIA

Alliance of 10 European Universities

VUB IS A PROUD PARTNER OF
EUTOPIA EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY

**One of the first 17 alliances to be
selected by the European Commission.**

EUTOPIA revolves around Connected Communities: inter-institutional platforms uniting our joint research and curriculum innovation ambitions. Using a co-creative approach, the Connected Communities provide the best possible environment for students and researchers to promote critical thinking and transferable knowledge and skills on interdisciplinary topics of global relevance and societal impact. With our Connected Communities, EUTOPIA directly inspires the further roll-out and successful development of the European Higher Education and Research Areas and explicitly aims to be a driving force for continuous innovation.



“EUROPE, EUTOPIA, AND THE NEED FOR A NEW RENAISSANCE”

“IT IS THROUGH OUR EUTOPIA NETWORK THAT STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS AND PROFESSORS CAN GAIN NEW IDEAS AND NEW INSIGHTS. AND IT IS PRECISELY THROUGH THIS CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN OUR UNIVERSITIES, AND OUR STUDENTS, TOGETHER WITH CURIOSITY ABOUT THE WORLD, TOGETHER WITH OPENNESS AND FREE ENQUIRY, THAT WE CAN START WORKING ON A NEW RENAISSANCE IN EUROPE.”

rector Jan Danckaert



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BRUSSEL

EUTOPIA EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY 2023



EUTOPIA TOTAL STUDENTS

298,303

EUTOPIA TOTAL
RESEARCH GROUPS

874



Reach and ambition spreads beyond Europe: EUTOPIA happily joins forces with its 6 global partners:

Université Internationale de Rabat (Morocco),
Kyungpook National University (South Korea),
Monash University (Australia), University of
Stellenbosch (South Africa), Universidad de
los Andes (Colombia), Arizona State University
(USA) Stellenbosch University (South Africa).

Ten regionally and nationally distinct universities. Together, they form the EUTOPIA Alliance

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)
CY Cergy Paris Université (France)
Göteborgs Universitet (Sweden)
Univerza v Ljubljani (Slovenia)
Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain)
University of Warwick (United Kingdom)
Ca'Foscari University Venice (Italy) *
Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Portugal) *
Technische Universität Dresden (Germany) *
Universitatea Babeş Bolyai (Romania) *

*since autumn 2021



eUTOPIA

Alliance of 10 European Universities

"JOINING FORCES TO BUILD A CONNECTED AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY, ADDRESSING GLOBAL AS WELL AS LOCAL CHALLENGES, ULTIMATELY BUILDING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE."





VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

“EUTOPIA IS NOT A PROJECT, IT’S A PROCESS
OF TRANSFORMATION. WITH EUTOPIA, WE AIM
TO INTERNATIONALIZE OUR CURRICULUM AND
RESEARCH, ADDING A EUROPEAN LAYER TO ALL
STUDENT AND STAFF EXPERIENCES”

Karin Vanderkerken,
Vice-rector Internationalisation VUB

**#ENGAGED
UNIVERSITY**

	absolute target 2030	% of reduction in 2030 compared to 2019
Scope 1 en 2	6.096	-46,2%
Scope 3	51.410	-18,4%

In setting up our Climate Action Plan, we charted all the greenhouse gases we emit, both our direct emissions (Scope 1) and our indirect emissions (Scopes 2 and 3).



SCOPE 1

Direct emissions of greenhouse gases on our campuses through the use of fuels, gas and the release of refrigerant gases.



SCOPE 2

Indirect emissions of greenhouse gases through the consumption of purchased electricity that was produced elsewhere.



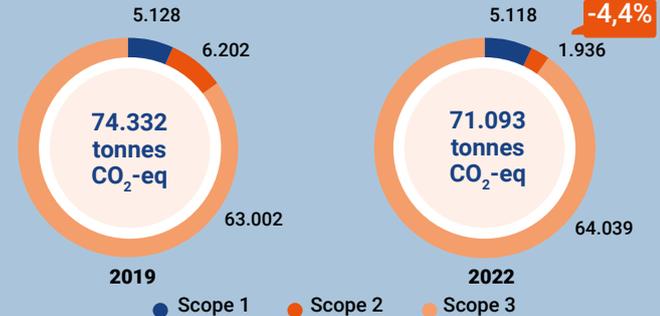
SCOPE 3

All other indirect emissions, mainly from:

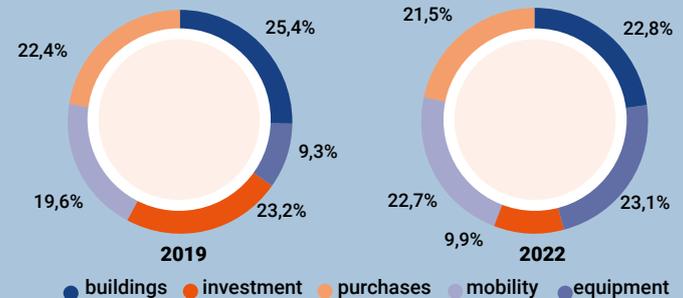
- mobility, in particular, commuting and the international travel of staff and students
- production of purchased materials such as equipment, ICT hardware, materials, chemicals, consumables, food for the student restaurants, etc.
- waste processing
- construction and renovation of buildings and paved surfaces
- investment portfolio

The subdivision into scopes stems from the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

Our climate footprint per scope*



Our climate footprint broken down by source



* market-based approach



The sorting rate

	Campus Etterbeek	Campus Jette
2016	18%	5%
2017	33%	15%
2018	30%	18%
2019	35%	13%
2020	30%	14%
2021	31%	23%
2022	37%	31%
2023	43%	35%



The sorting rate

	Kilo of waste per VUB member
2019	56,7
2020	35,5
2021	39,7
2022	30,0
2023	34,3

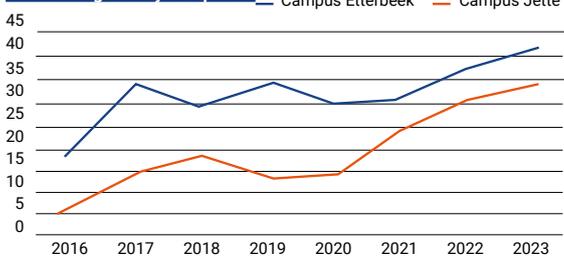


Total amount of waste (tonnes)

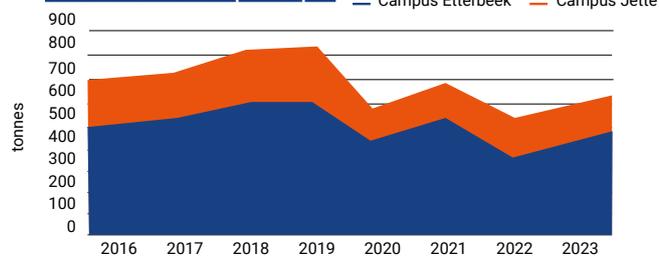
	Campus Etterbeek	Campus Jette	Total
2016	499	210	709
2017	505	237	743
2018	575	247	822
2019	580	258	838
2020	365	209	574
2021	463	229	692
2022	321	219	540
2023	428	207	635

Sorting ratio = amount of waste sorted over the different streams compared to total amount (unsorted = residual waste and bulky waste)

The sorting rate by campus %



Total amount of waste per campus





ENERGY

Evolution of off-take of electricity, heat and natural gas (MWh)

	2021	2022	2023	23 tov 22
NATURAL GAS*	31.750	28.871	24.679	-14,5%
HEAT*	7.562	7.462	7.419	-0,6%
ELECTRICITY	21.831	24.002	23.252	-3,1%

* Corrected to a standard year using degree days

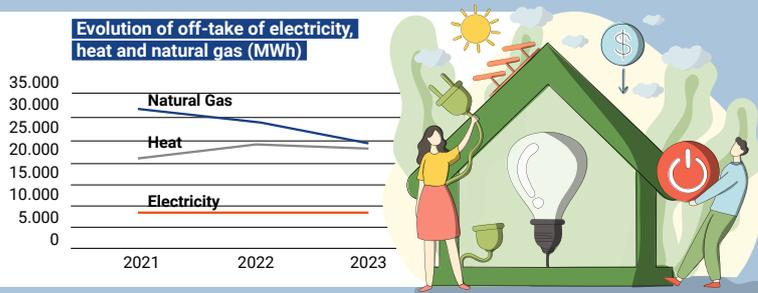
FOOD

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
MEAT	60,7%	57,8%	56,9%	58,5%	55,5%	52,0%
FISH	18,7%	20,7%	21,2%	17,2%	17,0%	20,0%
VEGAN	11,2%	12,5%	12,7%	19,6%	17,4%	17,0%
VEGGIE	9,5%	9,1%	9,2%	4,7%	10,1%	11,0%

28% of the meals sold are entirely plant-based!



Evolution of off-take of electricity, heat and natural gas (MWh)



SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY 2023



NUMBER OF CLUB SANDWICHES SOLD

2023: 143,875

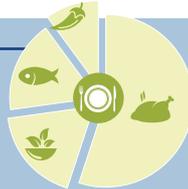
NUMBER OF LUNCHES SERVED

2021: 91,646
2022: 178,731
2023: 179,766



CONSUMPTION BASED ON TYPE OF MENU

1. Meat 52%
2. Fish 20%
3. Vegan 17%
4. Vegetarian 11%



MOST POPULAR DISHES

(> 500 servings a day in 2023)

1. Turkey durum
2. Beef stew
3. Vol-au-vent
4. Kibbeling
5. Swedish meatballs



MOST POPULAR VEGETARIAN DISHES

(> 250 servings a day in 2023)

1. Vegan Mexican wrap
2. Veggie student burger
3. Cheese croquettes
4. Vegan spaghetti bolognese
5. Vegan albondigas with patatas bravas



RESTAURANT

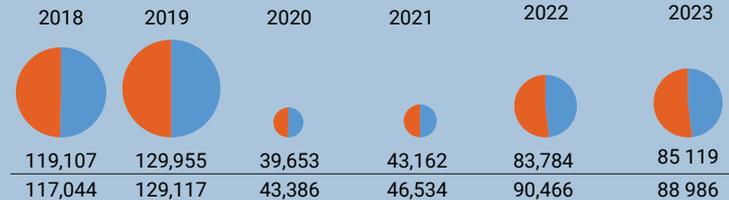
LUNCHES SERVED



STAFF



STUDENTS



1 daily **vegetarian** dish

1 daily **vegan** dish

All fish MSC/ASC-certified

New since 2022: vegan muffins

New since 2023: vegan coffee milk

New since 2024: daily (vegan) spaghetti bolognaise



**Fairtrade products
coffee, juices, crisps and chocolate**

PORTIONS PER SERVING

meat: **120g**
vegetables: **200g or more if wished for**
fish: **150g**



EXPERIMENTS

MORE FRUIT EXPERIMENT

Testing the effect of nudges
on fruit purchase

Experiment based on the renewed
Flemish Food Pyramid



WASTE REDUCTION IN THE KITCHEN

- Waste management through recovery of surplus food by rapid chilling
- Monitoring through periodic weighing
- Action: 'take all you can eat, but eat all you take' (leftovers are weighed and communicated)

RESTAURANT

NON-RECOVERABLE FOOD WASTE PER WEEK

	on 30/01*	on 25/05	on 24/08
MEAT/FISH	1	3	0
VEGETABLES (HOT)	11	7	5
VEGETABLES (COLD)	6	3	9
CEREALS AND POTATOES	2	10	5
SAUCES	9	4	7
TOTAL	30	27	26



*average per person

LOW IMPACT WEEK

Use the Ecotarian app to discover how eco-friendly your lunch is and what impact it has on global warming

Introduction of Freestyle devices for purchasing soft drinks with fewer packages.



- Disposable coffee cup replaced by Billie Cup
- Take-away re-usable (hot) food packaging system KioBox



GENDER EQUALITY PLAN 2023

MAIN GOALS

A bias-proof recruitment policy and equal opportunities in career development, together with a healthy work-life balance

An optimized and expanded monitoring of gender and diversity parameters

At least 33% female professors VUB-wide

Inclusive campus and working environment where everyone is treated with respect



VISION CODE OF CONDUCT

"VUB embraces diversity and rejects inequality.

VUB strives for equity without ignoring difference.

VUB campuses are welcoming places where discrimination, disadvantage and transgressive behaviours are not tolerated.

VUB strives to be an agent of change, offering opportunities, correcting inequalities and, in doing so, steering new generations towards increased equality and appreciation of diversity."





COMPASSIONATE UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL



DECLARATION OF INTENT

On 19 November 2019, our university signed a declaration of intent to become a Compassionate University. By doing so, we officially underline our commitment to make everyone within our community aware of the importance of support and compassion in times of serious illness, death, dying and loss.

RESPONDING
TO SERIOUS
ILLNESS,
CAREGIVING,
DEATH, AND
GRIEF



RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH COMPASSIONATE ACTIONS

Staff training, research seminars and workshops,
Compassionate Week

<https://www.vub.be/en/compassionate-university>



PLACES OF SOLACE

An annual remembrance ceremony is held at the **Monument of Comfort** for staff and students who have passed away or who are facing difficult situations.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROGRAMME (IRP)

Compassionate Communities Center of Expertise (COCO)

The Compassionate Communities Center of Expertise (COCO) wants to do pioneering work through developing, implementing and evaluating the Compassionate Communities model in Flanders, Belgium, Europe and even further. It is carrying out an extensive and interdisciplinary research programme which links fundamental research and action research. The main goal of COCO is researching the processes that lead to the successful development of a Compassionate Community in different contexts.

<https://coco.research.vub.be/>



FINANCES

BALANCE SHEET 2023

"VUB'S MODERN GOVERNANCE, BENCHMARKED AGAINST WORLD LEADING ORGANISATIONS, SUPPORTS THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS HOSPITAL IN ACHIEVING ITS STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL VISION AND WITH ITS FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES."

Karsten De Clerck,
Chairman of the Board of VUB

ASSETS	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS	420.926.204,89	401.235.285,04
I. Formation expenses	0.00	0.00
II. Intangible fixed assets	549.933,45	504.628,78
III. Tangible fixed assets	413.764.587,62	398.407.124,96
IV. Financial fixed assets	6.611.683,82	2.323.531,30
CURRENT ASSETS	421.711.948,13	407.392.245,15
V. Amounts receivable after more than one year	5.689.226,76	5.521.309,37
VI. Stocks and contracts in progress	167.755,93	188.644,83
VII. Amounts receivable within one year	47.286.160,27	40.492.937,20
VIII. Current investments	323.020.153,89	309.680.569,91
IX. Cash at bank and in hand	42.107.596,11	48.713.853,39
X. Deferred charges and accrued income	3.441.055,17	2.794.930,45
TOTAL ASSETS	842.638.153,02	808.627.530,19

LIABILITIES	2023	2022
EQUITY	559.801.285,92	575.217.764,46
I. Capital	17.336.423,06	17.336.423,06
III. Revaluation surpluses	0,00	0,00
IV. Reserves	532.970.144,30	512.602.009,57
V. Accumulated profits (losses)	-24.060.663,87	13.473.090,24
VI. Investment grants	33.555.382,43	31.806.241,59
PROVISIONS	13.622.501,83	11.493.506,54
VII. Provisions for liabilities and charges	13.622.501,83	11.493.506,54
AMOUNTS PAYABLE	269.214.365,27	221.916.259,19
VIII. Amounts payable after more than one year	37.434.190,95	36.125.643,35
IX. Amounts payable within one year	228.732.071,57	179.952.034,07
X. Accrued charges and deferred income	3.048.102,75	5.838.581,77
TOTAL LIABILITIES	842.638.153,02	808.627.530,19

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT 2023

INCOME STATEMENT OF VUB	2023	2022
OPERATING INCOME (+)	351.828.080,90	331.968.251,18
A. Income attached to education, research and services	329.508.190,95	313.908.235,56
A.1. Government grants and subsidy - core funding (first funding)	155.136.164,62	146.972.266,58
A.2. Government contributions fundamental basic research (second funding)	45.211.189,24	43.791.813,36
A.3. Government contributions applied research (third funding)	78.713.713,64	69.571.574,63
A.4. Contract research with private sector and scientific services (fourth funding)	12.996.203,71	14.952.777,44
A.5. Other income attached to education, research and services	37.450.919,74	38.619.803,55
B. Increase (decrease) of work and contracts in progress	-291.096,38	-1.399.681,19
C. Own construction capitalised	0,00	0,00
D. Gifts, donations and legacies	1.819.560,00	3.412.463,14
E. Other operating income	20.791.426,33	16.047.233,67
OPERATING CHARGES (-)	393.591.039,96	357.346.954,64
A. Purchases	9.718.058,59	8.643.300,80
B. Services and other goods	101.909.959,33	92.958.570,32
C. Remuneration, social security costs and pensions	251.309.997,82	230.613.214,66
D. Depreciation of and amounts written off formation expenses, intangible an tangible fixed assets	26.575.775,00	24.314.379,55
E. Amounts written down stocks and trade debtors (appropriations +, write-backs -)	392.887,42	125.193,27
F. Provisions for risks and charges (appropriations +, uses and write-backs -)	2.128.995,29	-1.968.478,80
G. Other operating charges	1.555.366,51	2.660.774,84
OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)	-41.762.959,06	-25.378.703,46
FINANCIAL INCOME (+)	10.098.276,48	26.594.482,20
FINANCIAL CHARGES (-)	-14.351.403,25	36.399.134,59
GAIN (LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	-17.313.279,33	-35.183.355,85
EXTRAORDINARY INCOME (+)	278.705,50	229.155,39
EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES (-)	131.045,55	368.785,22
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	-17.165.619,38	-35.322.985,68