Faculty of Science

Information guide for international students

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Dear international scientists,

Congratulations! You are one of the hundreds of international students who’ve just arrived in our wonderful old Burgundian university town of Leuven. Leuven, in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium, is for many a surprise discovery in itself. It is a very safe, family-friendly, and student-oriented town with a long and rich history located a stone’s throw from Brussels and the international airport. Few towns in Flanders appeal to the imagination more than this haven for students, where history, culture, architecture, gastronomy and modern science are intermingled to form a compelling cocktail. Belgium lies at the crossroads of cultures in Europe. Hence, English is widely spoken, also by local non-academic population. Our country enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world as well as first class health care, education and social security services.

Let us introduce ourself first. We are Scientica International, students of the Faculty of Science who aim at guiding international students during their stay in Leuven and Herleer. This information brochure provides a lot of practical information about studying at the Arenberg campus III (campus exact sciences), the scientific library, the student associations you will soon belong to, the most important agencies and organisations and activities. This guide may offer you the very first assistance during your first days, but always keep in mind that our team will be available to help 24/7.

We hope you will have a great stay in Leuven! Don't hesitate to contact (one of) us if you have any questions. If we cannot solve your problem, more than probably we can redirect you to the correct agency. Our job is to help you!

Enjoy your Leuvely time! We are looking forward to seeing you.

Scientica International team
Contact: international@scientica.be
www.facebook.com/faculteitwetenschappen

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Faculty of Science administration

The administration of the Faculty of Science can be found at the Arenberg Park, number 11. The house is called ‘the yellow house’. Contrary to what the name might suggest, the outside of the house is red.

The offices of the Faculty administration are open from 9 a.m. till 12.30 a.m. The faculty administration can help you with all the administrative problems you might encounter.

Geel Huis (Yellow House)
Kasteelpark Arenberg 11 bus 2100, 3001 Leuven (Heverlee)
info.wet@kuleuven.be, wet.kuleuven.be/english
tel.: 016 32 14 01

2. Scientific library

The campus library Arenberg (in Dutch “Campusbibliotheek Arenberg, hence the abbreviation CBA) is situated in the community of Heverlee, 5 kilometers outside the center of Leuven, on the campus Heverlee, right on the corner of the "Celestijnenlaan" and the "Willem de Croylaan". A collection consisting of books, magazines … is available for education and research of the Faculty of Science. Study rooms are also available; the library has a wireless network including 400 power outlets to plug in your laptop.

Don’t forget your KU Leuven student card, otherwise you can’t enter the library for free. It is also impossible to check out books or magazines without your student card!

Campusbibliotheek Arenberg
Willem de Croylaan 6 bus 2000, 3001 Leuven (Heverlee)
arenberg@kuleuven.be, bib.kuleuven.be/cba
tel.: 016 32 81 81

More information about opening hours on:
http://bib.kuleuven.be/2bergen/cba/cba-english/home
WHO TO CONTACT

Exchange students facing problems with their exchange contract, the learning agreement, the transcript of records … can contact:

Isabel Lauweres
(isabel.lauweres@kuleuven.be)

International masterstudents facing problems with can contact:

Bieke Dutoit
Advisor Education and Internationalisation
(bieke.dutoit@kuleuven.be)

For problems with their programme, exchange students can contact the exchange coordinator of their programme.

Erasmus Mundus Theoretical Chemistry and Computational Modelling:
mario.smet@kuleuven.be

Ma Astronomy and Astrophysics:
hans.vanwinckel@kuleuven.be

Ma Biology:
robby.stoks@kuleuven.be

Ma Chemistry:
mario.smet@kuleuven.be

Ma Geography:
maarten.loopmans@kuleuven.be

Ma Geology:
rudy.swennen@kuleuven.be

Ma Mathematics:
wim.veys@kuleuven.be

Ma Biophysics, Biochemistry and Biotechnology:
carmen.bartic@kuleuven.be

Master programmes

Each master programme has a programme director or a study advisor for the students. The programme director/study advisor can help you with your programme, which courses to choose …

Erasmus Mundus Theoretical Chemistry and Computational Modelling:
mario.smet@kuleuven.be

Ma Physics has different advisors for each specialisation:
• condensed matter physics:
joris.vandevondel@kuleuven.be
• nuclear physics:
riccardo.raabe@kuleuven.be
• theoretical physics:
thomas.vanriet@kuleuven.be

Ma Astronomy and Astrophysics:
hans.vanwinckel@kuleuven.be

Ma Biology:
robby.stoks@kuleuven.be

Ma Chemistry:
mario.smet@kuleuven.be

Ma Geography:
maarten.loopmans@kuleuven.be

Ma Geology:
rudy.swennen@kuleuven.be

Ma Mathematics:
wim.veys@kuleuven.be

Ma Biophysics, Biochemistry and Biotechnology:
carmen.bartic@kuleuven.be

TOLEDO - online blackboard

Toledo is the online blackboard system used at KU Leuven. It is a means of communication between teachers and students, administration and students. The internet link is http://toledo.kuleuven.be. You have to login with your student number and password. Once you are logged in, your courses and announcements are displayed. Course related info can be found there, for example powerpoint slides used in class, course documents, assignments …

It is NOT the official registration tool for courses! That is the ISP-tool.
1. Course-sale services
All students can buy the required books and course materials at the student course-sale service. The opening hours of the course-sale services are not fixed.

Surf to http://cudi.scientia.be if you want to know the opening hours.

2. ACCO Heverlee
At the “Acco Heverlee” book store, you can buy office supplies. The most important scientific books and course materials are also available at the shop, but don’t buy your course material there. The student course-sale service can generally offer better prices.

3. Food and drinks
“De Moete” serves popular breakfast (chocolate milks, croissants) and a wide assortment of soups and sandwiches at lunchtime. “De Moete” is primarily the meeting place for students following classes at the campus of exact sciences.

This facility is located in the same building as ACCO Heverlee. You will pass it when arriving at the campus.

At a five minutes walk from the campus, a large student restaurant “Alma 3” is located halfway between the University Sports Centre and the campus of exact sciences. The tables are all on the upper level, which gives you an even better view of the park. The menu changes daily, with a choice of pasta and an extensive dessert buffet. For a drink after dinner, there’s a cozy coffee corner that is open in the evenings.

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**STUDENT FACILITIES @ ARENBERG III**

**1. Velo (rent a bicycle service) -** [www.kuleuven.be/velo/_eng](http://www.kuleuven.be/velo/_eng)

Velo is a non-profit organisation that promotes the bicycle as an ecological means of transport in the city by recycling, renting and repairing bikes. At Velo you can rent a safe, fully equipped and registered second-hand bike with a solid lock.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period (months)</th>
<th>Price (€)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 to 12</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>140</td>
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If you want to rent a bike, you must pay a deposit of 70 euro.

Bicycle theft exists in Leuven. A good lock to secure your bike is very important. If your bike is stolen, you must report it. Bicycle theft report forms can be found at Velo, Pangaea or at the police office. You will get a replacement bike from Velo. The deposit for the stolen bike will be withheld until the bike is found (at the latest within six months after the date of theft). For the replacement bike you only pay a new deposit, no new rent. If you bring your own bike to Leuven, it is important to get your bicycle engraved with your ID-number. This is no guarantee against theft, but it helps to prevent theft and makes it easier to find your bike. You can have your bike engraved at Fietspunt Leuven.

**GENERAL STUDENT FACILITIES**

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2. Pangaea

Pangaea is the international meeting centre of the university. The many social and cultural activities held at Pangaea enhance the feeling of belonging to an international/intercultural community. A number of popular board games and newspapers/magazines from all corners of the world are all available for free. The coffee-lounge is open from Monday to Thursday between 12 noon and 8 p.m. On Friday and Saturday from 12 noon till midnight. Free coffee and tea for members!

3. Housing services

The housing service can help you in your search for suitable student accommodation. They will also answer all your questions concerning renting laws, contract details, fire safety, etc. The housing service advises and mediates in cases of conflict between landlords and tenants.

4. Study Advice Service

The Study Advice Service can help and support you with a number of study related questions and problems, such as the choice of your programme, study support, further education either in Belgium or abroad, etc.

5. Health care

In case you fall ill in Leuven, the Medical Centre provides health care catered especially for students. You pay the legally regulated fee for a visit to the doctor, but with the added advantage that the doctors are specialised in student-related health issues.

Are you suffering from psychological or personal problems? Professional help from student psychologists and psychiatrists is available at the Psychotherapeutic Centre.

6. Other Alma restaurants

Every day, Alma serves around 6000 meals in the KU Leuven university restaurants and cafeterias. These student restaurants and cafeterias strive to be more than just a place where you come to eat and drink. Alma is also a source of information about what’s going on in Leuven. Alma uses governmental and university subsidies to reduce the price of meals for students. It’s cheap, but don’t fear for the quality of the food. Alma serves only fresh ingredients. “De Moete” and “Alma 3” belong to the Alma group.

More information about the social services: http://www.kuleuven.be/socialservices/

STUDYING @ CAMPUS ARENBERG III

Located south-west of Leuven, the Arenberg III campus is where you will be following most of your classes. Starting at the inner city centre of Leuven, it takes less than 15 minutes to reach the campus by bike. The campus is accessible by bus “De Lijn”. Approximately every 10 minutes a bus (bus 2 towards “Heverlee Campus”) leaves at the station of Leuven to the campus. The campus is the final destination of the line. This bus passes through the centre of Leuven and Heverlee. It is also possible to reach the campus by car. At the campus of exact sciences each building is indicated by a letter.

A list of the most important buildings you can find at the campus:
- 200A: CS (Computer Sciences)
- 200B: Mathematics and astronomy
- 200C: Physics, auditorium
- 200D: Physics
- 200E: Earth sciences (Geology and Geography)
- 200F: Chemistry and Biochemistry and Biotechnology
- 200G: Chemistry and Biochemistry
- 200I: Tutorial
- 200K: Auditorium
- 200L: Auditorium and Student Course-sale services
- 200M: Classrooms
- 200N: Auditorium
- 200S: Classrooms

Students in biology will follow classes at different locations outside the campus:
- The botanical institute is located near the Arenberg Castle.
- The zoological institute and “kolenmuseum” are located in the city centre of Leuven.
STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

In Leuven, all students become a member of a student organisation which organises a lot of activities (sports, parties, cultural activities, lectures …) for their members, provides books and course material for their students and represents their students at different levels at the catholic university and the city of Leuven. Student organisations are run by students for students. The ‘praeses’ is the chairman of the student association. The board of the student association is also called “the presidium”. Most student associations have their own favorite pub, also called “fakbar”.

At the Faculty of Science, five student organisations are operating (see below). They are integrated in an umbrella organisation, called Scientica. The most interesting part for you is Scientica International, which aims at uniting international students with each other and with local students. Scientica International itself organises small social activities for international students at the Faculty of Science and promotes activities organized by the five student associations.

For more information about Scientica International and its activities, surf to http://www.scientica.be/en, join the facebook group “Scientica International”, or contact international@scientica.be

The five student associations at the Faculty of Science are:

- **Bios** (association of students in biology)
  - website: www.bioseuven.be (in Dutch)
  - praeses: Emma Van Steenweghen en Jonas Lequeu (praeses@biosleuven.be)
  - fakbar: “de Blokhut”, Oude Markt, each Tuesday evening

- **Chemika** (association of students in biochemistry and chemistry)
  - website: www.chemika.be (in Dutch)
  - praeses: Quiten Goovaerts (praeses@chemika.be)
  - fakbar: “het Vervolg”, Damiaanplein, each Monday evening

- **Geos** (association of students in geology)
  - website: www.geosleuven.be (in Dutch)
  - praeses: Zoë Van Beeck (praeses@geosleuven.be)

- **Merkator** (association of students in geography and master in tourism)
  - website: www.merk.student.kuleuven.be (in Dutch)
  - praeses: Kristof Vanden Branden (praeses-merkator@mail.com)
  - fakbar: “het Vervolg”, Damiaanplein

- **Wina** (association of students in mathematics, physics and computer sciences)
  - website: www.wina.be/?language=en (in English)
  - praeses: Raf Sablon (preses@wina.be)
  - fakbar: 103 (alma 3, floor level), every Wednesday evening

CALENDAR

Some of Scientica’s most important activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24-hours run</td>
<td>23/10 until 24/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientica ski trip</td>
<td>course free week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual state ball</td>
<td>to be decided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONTACT AND QUESTIONS

Scientica’s international representatives:

- Chemika: Elly Van der Heyden - internationaal@chemika.be
- Wina: Seppe Lenaerts - internationaal@wina.be
- Merkator: Loes Rutten - loes.rutten@student.kuleuven.be
- Bios: Stef Jans - internationaal@biosleuven.be
- Geos: Alexander Clark - internationaal@geosleuven.be
English website: www.kuleuven.be/english
KU Leuven International Office
Naamsestraat 63 bus 5001
3000 Leuven
international@kuleuven.be