

Key Data for Exchange Programmes

Faculty of Bioscience Engineering (FBSE) – KU Leuven

1. Exchange programmes: key data

Full legal name of the institution	KU Leuven
Erasmus+ code	B LEUVEN01
Rector	Prof. Luc Sels
Address	Naamsestraat 22, box 5000
Postal code and town	3000 Leuven
Country	Belgium
Website	https://www.kuleuven.be/english/

2. International office FBSE

Name	Kristel Rock (Exchange coordinator) Matt Tips (Policy advisor) Julie Willebrords (Policy advisor)
Address	Kasteelpark Arenberg 20, box 2300
Postal code and town	3001 Leuven
Country	Belgium
Telephone	Kristel: +32 (0)16 32 10 10 Matt: +32 (0)16 32 85 87 Julie: +32 (0)16 37 47 78
Email	kristel.rock@kuleuven.be matt.tips@kuleuven.be julie.willebrords@kuleuven.be

For all questions regarding exchange programmes, Kristel Rock is your main point of contact.



3. Academic calendar 2023-2024

Wednesday 16 August 2023	Start of the registration period for 2023-2024
Monday 18 September – Sunday 24 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation Days for all new incoming international students of Campus Leuven - Welcome and information sessions www.kuleuven.be/orientationdays
Wednesday 20 September 2023	Opening ceremony of the academic year 2023-2024
Monday 25 September 2023	Start of classes in the first semester of 2023-2024
Saturday 23 December 2023	End of classes in the first semester
Saturday 23 December 2023 – Sunday 7 January 2024	Christmas and New Year holidays
Monday 08 January – Sunday 14 January 2024	Exam preparation, no classes
Monday 15 January – Saturday 3 February 2024	First semester exams (*)
7 days after the announcement of the exam results	Period for consultation of the exams
Friday 2 February 2024	Patron's Feast Day – University offices will be closed
Saturday 03 February – Sunday 11 February 2024	Mid-year break, no classes
Monday 5 February – Sunday 11 February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation Days for all new incoming international students of Campus Leuven - Welcome and information sessions www.kuleuven.be/orientationdays
Monday 12 February 2024	Start of classes in the second semester of 2023-2024
Saturday 30 March – Sunday 14 April 2024	Easter holidays, no classes
Saturday 25 May 2024	End of classes in the second semester
Saturday 25 May – Sunday 09 June 2024	Exam preparation, no classes
Monday 10 June – Saturday 29 June 2024	Second semester exams (*)



7 days after the announcement of the exam results	Period for consultation of the exams
Friday 16 August 2024	Start of the registration period for 2024 - 2025
Monday 19 August – Saturday 07 September 2024	Examination retakes for failed exams 2023-2024 (*)
7 days after the announcement of the exam results	Period for consultation of the exams
Monday 23 September 2024	Opening ceremony of the academic year 2024-2025

(*) Depending on the examination schedule of the academic year, exams might start a few days earlier.

4. Application procedure

To apply for an exchange semester at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, students will need to fill in the **online application form** and upload their **Learning Agreement** (signed by the student and the exchange coordinator), **Transcript of Records** and a **copy of the identity card**.

The deadline for application is 30 April 2023 for the first semester (September – February) and 1 October 2023 for the second semester (February – June).

[Website application procedure](#)

5. Educational possibilities

5.1 Course catalogue

Exchange students at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering can select courses of one of its six MSc programmes taught in English, if the prerequisites of the courses are met. In addition, exchange students can follow a limited number of courses at the other faculties of KU Leuven, as long as the majority of the courses are followed at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering.

[Website FBSE](#)

[Website KU Leuven](#)

5.2 Erasmus dissertation

The focus of the Erasmus Dissertation is on experimental work that has to be carried out in an independent way under the guidance of a promotor, who is a member of the academic staff of the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering. A minimum stay of one semester is required and the Erasmus



Dissertation contains 30 ECTS. Students can only take additional courses when they stay for a full year, up to an additional 30 ECTS credits. To be admitted for an Erasmus Dissertation, the faculty will help in making the first contact with the most suitable professors for the research field you want to work on. Written approval of a member of the academic staff of the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering is required to be allowed to start an Erasmus Dissertation.

[Website FBSE](#)

5.3 Erasmus placements

Student mobility for placements enables students at higher education institutions to spend a placement (traineeship/internship) period between 3 months and 12 months in an enterprise or organisation in another participating country. The research groups at KU Leuven might act as a host organisation. Students considering this possibility need to contact their home coordinator.

[Website FBSE](#)

6. KU Leuven credit and grading system

[Credit system](#)

[Grading system](#)

7. Housing

7.1 University residence halls

KU Leuven has reserved about 480 of its 2400 non-subsidized university residence rooms to house international students. These rooms are randomly located amongst rooms for Flemish students and they are spread over 12 residences across the City of Leuven. The offer of rooms in university residences is limited.

You can find more information concerning these rooms and an application form on the [KU Leuven housing website](#).

Practical arrangements (date of arrival, what to do on arrival, checking in, etc.) can be made directly with the landlord.

7.2 Private market

Most exchange students stay in individual rooms with shared facilities in houses on the local private housing market.

[Housing website](#)



8. Language requirements

Students taking courses (and consequently also exams) in English should have a proficient knowledge of both written and spoken English. For applicants from countries where English is not the language of instruction this level corresponds to a score of at least 550 on the TOEFL-test (or a score of at least 213 on a computer TOEFL test or at least 79 on the TOEFL iBT) or a score of at least 6.5 on the IELTS-test.

However, **exchange students do not need an official language certificate** to study at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering

[Language website](#)

9. Introductory Dutch courses

At the request of the International Office, the **Leuven Language Institute (ILT)** organizes 'Dutch for Foreign Students' courses. These are **introductory Dutch language** courses and they are only open to Erasmus+ students. On presentation of the Erasmus-student card these courses are offered for free. The course lasts 3 months and is meant for beginning students in order to activate communication through conversational exercises. It is a practical course based on the principles of Dutch grammar. The aim is to make students acquainted with the vocabulary of every-day life.

Students who already have a basic or advanced level of Dutch can gain entry to one of the higher levels of the regular courses if they pass the placement test. In total, 5 basic levels and 1 perfection level of Dutch are taught. The level 1 to 5 modules can be taken either intensively (12 hours/week) or over a more extended period (6 hours/week). The perfection level 6 is only offered at a pace of 6 hours/week.

Besides the courses throughout the academic year, ILT also offers a full-time **intensive summer course** in Dutch language and culture. The course consists of 80 hours and takes place for one summer month. The course is open to undergraduates and graduates of all areas of study who wish to improve their knowledge of and communicative skills in Dutch. The communicative approach is used in all 5 levels. Besides the theoretical courses, many conversational exercises and complementary activities are planned (lectures, cultural happening, trip etc.). The course is intended for students of different levels, from beginners to intermediate and advanced. The tuition fee is **€ 250** for all students.

For the latest information, please visit the ILT website: www.ilt.kuleuven.be/