The Brussels School of Governance is an alliance between the Institute for European Studies (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and Vesalius College.
Hello & welcome

Brussels, after Washington, is the second biggest diplomatic hub in the world. It hosts a large public, private and civil society policy community working in the areas of global and regional public policy.

The capital of Europe is therefore the location *par excellence* to establish a professional school of international governance and public affairs that combines international quality in both undergraduate and graduate teaching, cutting-edge research and extensive academic services. As an alliance of two long-standing frontrunners on the international academic scene, this is exactly the ambition of the Brussels School of Governance.

With a dedicated staff of more than 200 people, a good balance between research and education, a strong regional and international network, and a focus on innovation and outreach, we believe all our stakeholders can greatly benefit from our expertise, be they students, policy makers, the academic community, or the general public.

Karel De Gucht, President
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The Brussels School of Governance carries out interdisciplinary research, organises fully accredited higher education programmes and delivers a broad range of academic services in numerous policy-relevant fields, including energy & environment, security & diplomacy, migration & diversity, and digitalisation & democracy. The School is an alliance between the Institute for European Studies (VUB) and Vesalius College and has an international staff of more than 200 people. From our location in Brussels, our stakeholders benefit from a unique proximity to several national and international policy communities. Our in-house expertise is further strengthened by a close collaboration with an international network of partners, such as UNU-CRIS, the University of Warwick and the EUTopia European university network.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Luc Soete, Dean

POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH

The Brussels School of Governance brings together scholars from several fields: political science, international affairs, law, communications, and business and economics. Our interdisciplinary research focuses on some of the most urgent governance challenges confronting policy makers in Europe as well as elsewhere in the world in years to come. We publish our findings in leading international journals, organise and contribute to academic and policy conferences, and are regularly asked for our expertise by national governments, European institutions and other international organisations.

www.brussels-school.be/research

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

The 100% English-taught educational portfolio of the Brussels School of Governance covers the full array of tertiary education, from Summer Schools, Certificates, Bachelors and Masters to postgraduate programmes. Our teaching staff is a unique mixture of experienced practitioners and leading academics. Our career-focused teaching methods are characterised by flexibility and a personalised approach. We also have a dedicated team focusing on teaching and learning innovation.

www.brussels-school.be/education

BROAD OUTREACH

Our school organises a large number of online and offline events throughout the year to share the output of our research with policy-makers, the academic community, and the general public. We publish a series of policy briefs, papers, and newsletters to share relevant content with our various stakeholders, and respond to a vast number of press enquiries to interpret news events.

www.brussels-school.be/output
FACTS AND FIGURES

DATE OF CREATION  
2021

MEMBERS  
Institute for European Studies (IES-VUB) *2002 ; Vesalius College (VeCo) *1987

# OF STAFF  
Approx. 220

LOCATION  
Brussels, Belgium

TEACHING/RESEARCH LANGUAGE  
English (100%)

RESEARCH CENTRES  
Digitalisation, Democracy and Innovation  
Environment, Economy and Energy  
Migration, Diversity and Justice  
Security, Diplomacy and Strategy

EDUCATIONAL PORTFOLIO  
Summer and Winter Schools  
Certificate programmes  
Bachelors  
Masters  
Advanced Masters  
PhD

CLASS SIZE  
Small (20-30)

TEACHING STAFF  
Combination of external practitioners and academics

COURSE SCHEDULE  
Daytime; evening; online

ANNUAL STUDENT BODY  
Approx. 450

ABOUT THE BRUSSELS SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE

VESALIUS COLLEGE

Home to a thriving international community and established in 1987, Vesalius College (VeCo) offers students a truly unique educational experience, focusing on Bachelor and Master programmes. The College’s teaching methods are characterised by small, interactive classes, flexibility in course selection and continuous assessment. With a student body of approximately 300 and a low student-to-professor ratio, the faculty is accessible and able to take a personal interest in the success of students to help them achieve their potential.

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

As a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), the Institute for European Studies (IES) provides research, education and academic services focused on the EU in an international setting. The disciplines applied include law, social/political sciences, economics and communication sciences. The IES has a strong research focus and has built up a long-standing PhD track record. It also organises several postgraduate programmes.
WHAT SETS US APART

At the Brussels School of Governance, we pride ourselves in the seven core characteristics that define who we are:

• **Personalised approach**: both in our research and education, we offer our students and researchers an interactive experience with personal guidance.

• **Career focused**: our students get a real-world experience in class and are well prepared for a broad range of career options, can do internships, and can participate in career workshops.

• **Connected & interactive**: our unique location in Brussels provides a close connection to the policy and international community, which is deeply embedded in both our research and education activities.

• **Innovative**: we have a dedicated team focusing in particular on teaching and learning innovation.

• **International**: for decades, the two Brussels School of Governance members have built up strong reputations as frontrunners in education, research, and academic services on the international scene.

• **Diverse**: the diversity across our scholars and student community is one of the greatest strengths of our School, offering substantial added value to our work environment as well as the output of our rich human potential.

• **Interdisciplinary**: in our research as well as in our teaching we have a decidedly interdisciplinary approach, focusing on some of the most urgent governance challenges confronting policy makers worldwide.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Brussels School of Governance is the alliance between the Institute for European Studies (*2002) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Vesalius College (*1987). For decades, the IES and Vesalius College have built up strong reputations as frontrunners in education, research, and academic services on the international scene. Both being associated with Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), one of Belgium’s prime universities with a strong internationalisation focus, the Institute for European Studies and Vesalius College decided to work together more closely as of 2018.

Since the autumn of 2019, both institutions have aligned the members of its Boards and management teams. In 2021, they launched the Brussels School of Governance.
RESEARCH
The Brussels School of Governance’s multidisciplinary research activities focus on some of the most urgent governance challenges confronting policy makers in Europe as well as elsewhere in the world in years to come. They cover four broad policy areas: the sustainability transition; the impact of migration on European, national and regional identities; the shifts in political and military competition between the great powers and their implications for European defence and diplomacy; and the way that new digital technologies challenge existing organisational and management habits and routines, question education and participative democracy more broadly defined. In line with these areas, we have established a structure of four research centres.

The major challenges mentioned require quite fundamental, sometimes even radical transformations in the nature and scope of governance models that were developed over the last decades. Addressing them requires contributions from a broader set of academic disciplines, going beyond the usual set of social sciences, as well as insights from different public policy administrations on all different levels.

From our strategic location in Brussels, our ambition is to tackle the four research areas both with an outward look, i.e. how these major developments affect the position of Europe in the world, as well as with an inward look, focusing on their possible consequences for the redesign of Europe’s internal governance system. Challenge accepted!

Alexander Mattelaer, Vice-Dean for Research
The Research Centre for Digitalisation, Democracy and Innovation conducts cutting-edge academic and policy-relevant research on the ongoing digital transformation of society. We critically examine the evolution of new (digital) modes of governance from an interdisciplinary perspective, specifically multistakeholder and democratic processes that involve private, public, and civil society actors, whilst paying attention to issues of power and participation.

Does technology break down barriers to participate in decision-making? What are visible and invisible barriers to participation? How do traditional public values translate into an online environment? Do we govern technology or does technology govern us? Can governance of the Internet be entrusted to private actors alone?

Such questions address the difficulties in leveraging new technologies to enable effective citizen participation, the growing need for continued stakeholder engagement in global, European, national and local governance, and the need for concerted regulation and novel governance approaches in the digital environment.
The Research Centre for Environment, Economy and Energy operates at the crossroads of today’s turbulent transitions, which constitute key governance challenges and opportunities in Europe and worldwide. The sustainability imperative requires private and public decision-makers to steer our societies towards decarbonised, resource efficient economies as recognised in the European Green Deal, New Generation Europe, in the 2015 Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. If governed successfully, this presents the prospect of rejuvenating our socio-economic and political systems, making them fit for a sustainable future.

The Centre analyses and develops innovative legal and policy instruments that can be used to govern the transitions, within the EU and in its external relations. Positioning ourselves at the interface of academia with political, legal and other societal decision-making, we focus in particular on the international and European governance of the environmental, economic and energy transitions and their interactions.
The Research Centre for Migration, Diversity and Justice focuses on the Centre focuses on the multi-level governance and politics of immigration, justice and home affairs, immigrant integration, diversity and equality. It hosts the VUB's Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Migration and Minorities (BIRMM), which gathers more than 100 VUB researchers from 11 disciplines.

Controlling who enters and who stays in the national territory, who has the right to be a member of the national community, and what rights members and non-members of the national community have, have long been considered a prerogative of the nation state. Yet, during the last decades, elements of these policy areas have been shifted upwards, to the international level (EU and international organizations), downwards, to the sub-state level (regional and local authorities) and outwards (to countries of origin, transit and private actors). Whilst many research institutes study immigration and immigrant integration, we distinguish ourselves by our multi-level governance focus, as well as by the prioritisation of three key themes that will prominently figure on European and national policy agendas in the coming decade.

- EU asylum and migration governance, with a particular focus on its external dimension and the involvement of third states in the governance of immigration
- European anti-discrimination policies and politics
- EU Justice and Home Affairs
The Center for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the key contemporary security and diplomatic challenges of the 21st Century – and their impact on Europe – while reaching out to the policy community that will ultimately need to handle such challenges. Our expertise in security studies will seek to establish comprehensive theoretical and policy coverage of strategic competition and its impact on Europe, whilst paying particular attention to the transatlantic relationship and the wider Indo-Pacific region. Diplomacy as a field of study will be treated broadly and comparatively to encompass traditional statecraft and foreign policy analysis, as well as public, economic and cultural diplomacy.

CSDS builds on a critical mass of scholars with expertise and publication track record in the areas of diplomacy and security, and an ample network of policy and expert contacts within Brussels and beyond. Thanks to its Korea Chair and Japan program, CSDS is also emerging as a European hub for analysis of geopolitical and security dynamics in East Asia.
The Brussels School of Governance is home to a couple of dozen of PhD and postdoctoral researchers from many different backgrounds and nationalities. This enriching working environment allows them to contribute to policy debates and conduct fundamental as well as applied research projects. The School initiates annual calls for PhD projects and selects candidates on the merits of their research proposal. Keep an eye on the Jobs section of our website or register for our newsletter if you would be interested in contributing to this stimulating atmosphere yourself!
EDUCATION
Dear parents & students,

The Brussels School of Governance is an alliance between the Institute for European Studies (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), which has a long-standing reputation in postgraduate education & research, and Vesalius College, which has a solid undergraduate & graduate education offering. With these combined resources, our School provides a unique educational experience, according to our STEP approach: our programmes are Student centered, have a solid Theoretical base, their educational Excellence is guaranteed, and they are strongly Practice oriented. It makes our School a prominent hub for the study of European and global governance, from the BA right up to the PhD level.

Our fully accredited educational programmes are built on the strong foundations of decades of policy-driven research activities. Our students are taught not only by prominent academics, but also by practitioners from the highest levels of the Brussels policy community.

The following pages provide a brief overview of the programmes you can study at our school, as well as some of the many services our students benefit from. Make sure to check out our website for more details!

Sven Van Kerckhoven, Vice-Dean for Education

www.brussels-school.be/education
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

BA Preparatory Programme

- Study skills, academic preparation, and familiarization with university education
- Start in Spring or Fall
- 1-semester programme (2-semester option available)

BA in Global Business and Entrepreneurship

- 180 ECTS BA programme established in 1989
- Great balance between theory and practice
- Specialisation options in several fast-developing areas

BA in International Affairs

- 180 ECTS BA programme established in 1990
- Interdisciplinary curriculum (politics, economics, law and history)
- Teaching staff includes senior policymakers and diplomats

BA in International and European Law

- 180 ECTS BA programme established in 2016
- Flexible curriculum that addresses legal issues from an international and interdisciplinary perspective
- Students acquire skills to provide both legal and policy analysis

Our undergraduate degrees are issued by

Vesalius College
Brussels
**MA Preparatory Programme**

- Academic and practical preparation for a Masters’ programme or an international working environment
- Supports second language users of English to ensure their advancement into a university graduate programme

**MA in Diplomacy and Global Governance**

- 90 and 120 ECTS options - daytime and evening classes
- A truly global exchange between theory and practice
- High-profile internship opportunities

**MA in Global Security and Strategy**

- 90 and 120 ECTS options - daytime and evening classes
- Students acquire unique theoretical foundations, practical skill-sets and high-level contacts
- Taught by senior policymakers and international academics

*Our graduate degrees are issued by*
POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

LLM in International and European Law

• 60 ECTS Advanced Master degree – daytime classes
• Available options: public law, business law, data law
• Since 1971
• Unique combination of international and European law

Degree issued by

Advanced MA in European Integration

• 60 ECTS Advanced Master degree – evening classes
• Specialise in 2 EU policy areas
• Ideal for both students and professionals
• Flexibility to finish in one or two years

Degree issued by
Postgraduate Certificate in EU Policy Making

- 5 online EU modules (1 academic year) + a 2-week summer or winter school.
- Ideal for full-time professionals or students with daytime schedule.
- Provides in-depth expertise on functioning of and decision-making in EU, as well as roles of various actors.
- Flexibility to finish in one or two years.

Certificate issued by

Undergraduate Certificate in European Peace and Security Studies

- 4 interrelated courses (6 ECTS each).
- Theoretical and practical analysis of the comprehensive, civil-military nature of conflict and crisis management from a NATO, UN and EU perspective.
- 1-semester programme (option to finish in 2 semesters).

Certificate issued by

Postgraduate Certificate in Global Risk Analysis and Crisis Management

- 5 modules (15 ECTS) from September to December.
- Faculty includes senior officials from major international organisations.
- Classes in the evenings and on Saturday.

Certificate issued by

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Procurement

- 3 modules (20 and 30 ECTS options).
- Fully online, with option to follow some events in-person.
- Flexibility to finish in one or two years.

Certificate issued by
SHORT PROGRAMMES

Summer School on EU Policy Making

- Intensive 5 ECTS inter-university summer school
- 1 week in Brussels, 1 week in Vienna.
- Suitable for students and professionals
- Provides in-depth expertise on functioning of and decision-making in EU, as well as roles of various actors.

Undergraduate Summer School

- 7-week programme
- Students select up to 2 courses (6 ECTS each) out of a wide variety of subjects, ranging from art & culture to business, communication & media, management, politics and international affairs.

Certificate issued by

Winter School on EU Policy Making

- 2-week online programme (5 ECTS) - February
- Crash course in EU policy making
- Exclusive insight sessions with senior practitioners from EU institutions, UN and OSCE

Certificate issued by
The Brussels School of Governance offers students the best of both worlds: the personal attention and community environment of a small school, as well as access to the resources of major universities. The school shares relevant academic events and guest lectures, and also participates in faculty exchanges with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Université Libre de Bruxelles, the University of Kent in Brussels and Georgetown University, among others.

The Brussels School of Governance has an active and long-standing Study Abroad programme, welcoming every year students from across the globe for a semester as an ‘incoming’ student, but also sending students from its own undergraduate programmes abroad for an unforgettable ‘outgoing’ study abroad experience. Brussels School of Governance students may study abroad either at one of our partner institutions or at an approved college or university of their choice.

RESEARCH AND LIBRARY SERVICES
Students at the Brussels School of Governance have access to extensive resources for research at three major libraries: the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Université Libre de Bruxelles and The Royal Library, Belgium’s national library. Together, they provide students with access to over five million books. In addition, students have access to a wide variety of online resources including thousands of journals and newspapers, library catalogues and databases.

COMPUTER RESOURCES
Computer and internet access is an essential part of student life. The Brussels School of Governance computer lab is equipped with PCs and Apple computers as well as facilities for students with laptops to connect to the School’s computer network. Students also have access to the extensive computer resources at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, including the free campuswide wireless network.

ENGLISH & MATH WORKPLACE*
Strong language skills are crucial for academic achievement, as well as professional success. The English & Math Workspace aims to help students develop their ability to efficiently and effectively communicate their ideas in writing, in English. The Workspace also provides tutorial sessions for math and statistics courses. The Workspace directors offer students individual help on topics such as text structure, style, clarity and grammar in a relaxed and friendly environment to develop their writing skills.

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING
Moving to a new country, living alone, and facing the pressure of exams are just a few of the major changes that students may experience. The Brussels School of Governance offers free psychological counselling to students who would like to speak to a professional about missing home, exam pressure, or other challenges they might face.

* Available for Undergraduate students only
HEALTH SERVICES
The medical centre on the VUB campus provides medical assistance to students and staff. This includes consultation in case of illness, accidents, minor medical procedures, vaccinations, preventive care, etc.

HOUSING
To help students get settled in Brussels and ready to begin classes, our School provides them with links to help find suitable off-campus housing. With the large number of universities and higher education institutions in Brussels, student rooms are widely available. For off-campus housing, rates and availability, students can refer to www.brik.be/en. Our School also has access to VUB on-campus housing. For more information, visit www.uresidence.be. Study abroad students who join our School for one semester have the opportunity to stay with a local host family. This type of accommodation offers the student a unique experience that gives insight into the everyday life of Belgian families, culture, and social norms.

FOOD SERVICES
Every day, the VUB campus cafeteria serves a wide selection of warm and cold dishes, snacks, sandwiches and drinks - all at student friendly prices. Students pay a fixed price depending on the dish chosen. The set menus include soup, a main course and a dessert. There are daily vegetarian and vegan options. The cafeteria was awarded the MSC Sustainable Seafood Certificate in 2013 and also sources many of its ingredients from organic farms. It also serves breakfast, sandwiches and drinks. Students can also find two snack bars on campus: ‘t Complex and Opinio.

SPORTS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
Our students have full access to the sports facilities of the VUB. The facilities include two large multipurpose sports halls, one martial arts hall, three squash courts, a swimming pool and one climbing wall. Students also have access to a state-of-the-art fitness complex. Next to its indoor facilities, the VUB Sports Department also has outdoor sports fields, including one synthetic soccer field and an athletics track and rugby pitch. A membership fee and/or usage fee (discounted for students) applies. With numerous spacious parks and a vast forest within a stone’s throw of the city, students also have many opportunities for practising outdoor sports.
At the Brussels School of Governance, we want to offer our students not only valuable academic preparation, but also the opportunity to test career options, gain practical experience and build relationships with professionals and organisations in their areas of interest, before they graduate.

We offer a variety of internship opportunities to students, both in our BA and MA programmes. The internship is evaluated with a letter grade and is worth 1 academic course in ECTS credits. Our internship partners are prestigious and internationally renowned organisations and companies, ranging from European agencies to small start-up businesses, from think-tanks to international corporations. They provide our students with an excellent opportunity to implement what they have learned in the classroom and apply it to the real world, in a professional environment in Brussels, the ‘Capital of Europe’.

Our Internship Programme benefits both students and partners alike: whether having full responsibility for a project or working as part of a team in an organisation, our students apply their skills and provide the internship partner with valuable support.

Whether you are in an Undergraduate or Graduate programme of the Brussels School of Governance, you will always be offered hands-on services that will help you start or further advance your career.

In our Undergraduate programmes, we offer students in their final year the opportunity to attend career seminars and individual coaching sessions. Workshop topics range from CV and cover letter writing to networking. Students in our programmes of which the degree is awarded by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel can benefit from VUB’s Career Centre. Its services include CV editing, interview preparation and general career advice.

**Internship Partners**

- Carnegie Europe
- EUobserver
- EUREGHA
- Euronext Brussels
- European Cooperative for Rural Development
- European Security Round Table
- Extrapreneurs
- Fulbright Belgium
- International Crisis Group
- Laffineur Law Firm
- Make Mothers Matter EU Delegation
- New Europe
- Schuman European Affairs
- SolarPower Europe
- The Jane Goodall Institute Belgium
- Time Warner
- United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN PRME) WG
- Business for Peace
- Various embassies (Honduras, Dominican Republic, etc.)

And many more!
For many years, the two members of the Brussels School of Governance alliance have built a solid reputation in teaching and learning innovation. Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, blended and online learning was part of its educational portfolio. With the establishment of an Office for Teaching and Learning Innovation (OTLI) in the Spring of 2020, our School has taken the next step in this essential development towards the ‘education of the future’.

The OTLI serves as a knowledge hub for the School’s teaching staff and focuses on pedagogical innovation and the use of technology to enhance learning. Concretely, its dedicated team works on the design and implementation of sustainable teaching and learning policies that aim to improve the student learning experience for all course formats, from face-to-face to blended to fully online. In doing so, the OTLI team attaches great importance to student participation through continuous student feedback, in a spirit of co-creation, leading to the best result for all concerned.

Educational innovation is key for our School. Along with personalised attention for our students, it is what sets us apart. Therefore, the OTLI will be a cornerstone of our educational strategy in years to come. With this in-house experience, we want to pass a clear message to our current and future students: no matter what type of learning experience you have with us, face-to-face, blended or online, it will always be personal, flexible and high-quality.

www.brussels-school.be/office-teaching-and-learning-innovation
The Brussels School of Governance encourages students to work hard to reach their academic potential, but also to live a full life away from books and classes and enjoy everything that Brussels has to offer.

Although the international business and political world form an important part of Brussels’ culture, students quickly discover that it is vibrant and cosmopolitan with a warm, friendly charm. The quaintness of its cobblestone streets and rich variety of beer, chocolate and lace give the city a festive ambiance. 30% of the Brussels population is comprised of foreign nationals, so the city has something for every taste and culture in the areas of music, dancing, cuisine, art, associations and much more.

The city is home to an excellent music scene, with clubs and numerous festivals where almost any genre of music can be found from local musicians to the biggest touring bands. Brussels also has many museums and art galleries, ranging from classical to modern art, and also houses a national symphony, opera and theatre. In addition, Brussels has a rich variety of architecture including Baroque buildings from the 1600s, classic Flemish, art deco, art nouveau, and the modern architecture of the European Union buildings.

Finally, no description of Brussels would be complete without mentioning its renowned fine gastronomy. Ranging from prize-winning haute cuisine to the tastiest chocolate, beer, mussels and fries in the world, there is surely a dish for everyone.

Studying in Brussels affords students the unique opportunity to go on some great (as well as quick and inexpensive) travels and getaways. Belgium’s inter-city trains provide quick access to the coast of Flanders, Medieval Bruges, Antwerp (the diamond capital of the world), and the wooded hills of the Ardennes. Looking beyond Belgium, Brussels is the ideal base from which to visit the rest of Europe. Paris is a short 90 minutes by fast train and London, Cologne and Amsterdam are just two and a half hours away. In addition, most major European cities are two hours or less away by plane.
Our students visiting European institutions, enjoying the city of Brussels and celebrating their graduation
The Brussels School of Governance

Visitor’s address: Pleinlaan 5, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
Mailing address: Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

GENERAL ENQUIRIES
info_bsog@vub.be
+32 2 614 80 01

EDUCATION RELATED ENQUIRIES
Pre-application enquiries: study_bsog@vub.be
Post-application enquiries: admissions_bsog@vub.be
Study abroad: studyabroad_bsog@vub.be
Internships: studentinternships_bsog@vub.be

ACADEMIC SERVICES RELATED ENQUIRIES
Communication/press: marcom_bsog@vub.be
Events/meeting room rental: events_bsog@vub.be

www.brussels-school.be

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