

GENT UNIVERISTY / BELGIUM



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My feelings about this Erasmus semester, I can't describe them in detail because I still don't realize that this semester is over. I have experienced incredible moments and met incredible people. I developed a different vision of the world around me and I evolved in a positive way as for my open-mindedness. I was able to develop my independence, find a job in a city where French is not spoken, join sports clubs and even find love. In general, my feeling is very positive.

I was still very lonely because I don't like to go out at night, sometimes it was difficult to find friends who don't go out every night in nightclubs.

As far as the preparation of the trip is concerned, nothing was very complicated, indeed no visa is necessary just a French identity card and a French passport. I was able to fly with Ryan air for 80 euros from Béziers airport. You can take an Erasmus ESN global card to get a 10% discount on your rayan air and flix bus tickets. When you arrive at Brussels airport, shuttles will take you back to Brussels midi station, where you can take the train to Gent for only 6 euros. I did not take any insurance in Belgium, I went with my French insurance. I kept my French bank account for Belgium. Be careful some shops don't accept Visa and Mastercard so you will have to withdraw cash in a cash machine.

The price of a room proposed by the university of Gent is 457 euros. I strongly advise you to take a student room at the university, it is here that you will meet a lot of people.

For the registration everything is done on the internet, nothing has to be done on the spot. The international relations department at Gent will answer all your questions by email.

I think that the fact that I took Master's level subjects led to my failure. Gent is a notoriously difficult university so be careful what courses you take.

I think it's better to take second and third year courses so you don't end up in the same situation as I did.

The city is very clean, a very safe city with very little crime. I have never had any problems there. The people are very friendly and everyone speaks English perfectly. You may come across some people who speak French but you will have to ask first, they will never address you in French.

There is internet at the university residence which is free. You can also get a lycamobile chip for extra 4G.

Take part in the national Erasmus games, which will allow you to represent Belgium abroad if your team wins. You can play volleyball, basketball and futsal

As far as sport is concerned, I went every Monday and Wednesday to the GUSB center to play basketball, you pay 3 euros and you have access to the basketball courts to play with many players. On Tuesdays I went to play volleyball.

If you are looking for a job you can rent an electric bike from swapfiets for 70 euros a month and sign up as a rider with Uber eats and Deliveroo as I did, I was also able to get hired in a company that only requires English.

For food I followed a special diet which is halal meat, there are a lot of Turkish neighbourhoods in the city so it was very easy for me to find this kind of meat. Otherwise the city is well known for its openness to veganism, so it is very easy to eat meatless if you wish.

The university campuses are a 5 minute walk from the hall of residence which is very convenient.

I was able to travel around Belgium for only 10 euros each weekend to different cities. Belgium is a very small country so you can go anywhere very quickly. I was able to go to the border of the Netherlands by bike in only 1h40 which was a very good experience.