

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

Overall, my Erasmus experience was great. I would definitely go back because Ghent is a very beautiful city, with a lot of students and a lively environment to study abroad. Moreover, I feel that the high academic level and the variety of courses can really help you define what you like to work on or specialise in.

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

As I do not have a European passport, I had to apply for a visa. However, I did the whole procedure through Ghent University, which was very easy and quick. I just had to send some basic documents by e-mail and that was it.

2. The flight

I flew, with all the MOMA students, from the south of France (Bezier) to Brussels (Ryan Air). We arrived a day before the check-in day and rented an Airbnb for one night. I recommend going with your classmates as it is much easier and more fun.

3. My luggage

Certainly winter clothes and scarves/gloves, as the weather is not at all like in the South of France. The items mentioned will be very useful, especially for cycling and getting around. Nevertheless, Ghent has many shops, including Zara, Pull & Bear, Primark, IKEA, so anything you didn't bring, you can buy there.

4. Bank account

I did not need to open a bank account. However, some shops only accept cash, and others only work with another card that is neither Visa nor Mastercard. But this is very rare.

5. Insurance

I subscribed to the one recommended by the University of Ghent at the beginning of the semester. I did not have to pay anything.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

I definitely recommend living at the dorms, you will meet a lot of people there and the rooms are not bad at all. If it's not possible then near the city center.

2. Find a flat or a room

Through the university. 100% recommend the student residence. Nevertheless you have to be quick cause the places run out fast.

3. Cost

Dorms 445 if I'm not mistaken. If you are staying in an Airbnb, then from 600 to 700 euros per month.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

The process was very easy. We went to the dorms, got our keys and that was it.

Then you have to buy plates and cutlery because they only give you sheets. But, before you buy, see if there are any pots and pans left in your kitchen, as most people leave their stuff!

B. Information on the university

1. Courses

Ghent University is ranked in the top 100 universities in the world, so it's not easy, and the level is higher than MOMA. I recommend you to take courses that you like, because after the Easter holidays you have to stop going out and travelling so much and study.

I have taken the following courses: Business Skills, Behavioral Finance, Sustainable Development, Economics of Migration, Ecological Economics (Master), Marketing I, International and Cross-Cultural Marketing.

2. Advice on "contrat d'étude"

As I said before, choose courses that you like and are good at, as the level is higher. You will have a lot of assignments to do before your exams which take place in June.

IV. When I live there

A. Safety

I consider Ghent to be a safe city. Getting around between the dorms, the campus and the city centre is quite safe. I wouldn't recommend going to the Citadel Park at night and alone, because it's really dark and it can be dangerous, but during the day it's amazing..

B. Phone and Internet

I used my same plan from France and there was no problem. The residence and university have wifi.

C. Events

There is a Facebook, Telegram and WhatsApp group of international students and Erasmus. You can also talk with other students in the dorms and figure out what events are organized between students.

D. Sports

The university offers a lot of sports and has a sport center. There are also gyms nearby.

E. Eating

Definitely try Mission Massala, Gigi's, Guiseppe's Pizza, Frites Atelier.

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

As in Amsterdam, there are a lot of bikes, and it is the most common mode of transport. You really get used to it and it's the best way to get around Ghent (to go to classes, bars, restaurants...). If it takes you 20 minutes on foot, it takes you 5 minutes by bike.

G. Travels

Travel as much as you can until the Easter Holidays. Week-ends have a reduced price if you buy the tickets in the train station.

One of the most famous destinations are Brussels, Brugge, Antwerp, and when the weather gets better you can go to the beach!

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

I think the most important thing is to go out in the first weeks and meet as many people as possible. There are also a lot of cool bars in the city centre, so don't limit yourself to one. I don't recommend going to the ESN trips, you can do it with your friends and pay less and it will be more fun, but it is up to you! Also, I used the ESN card only twice (at the beginning), so if you are not going to the trips and stuff then I don't recommend buying it.

The parties in Overpoort can be crazy! I think it's best to try other clubs/bars in the centre like Bar des Amis, Ray, Club/Beer Central.

Ghent may seem small but there are so many parks, gardens, museums, cafes... that you won't be bored at all!

V. Photos

