



Welcome.

International student guide

2025-2026

**HO
GENT**

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Welcome to HOGENT!

University of Applied Sciences and Arts

As a foreign student, you bring your culture, language, traditions and perspectives. This enriches our learning environment and enhances the international dimension of HOGENT.

HOGENT is situated in Flanders' most popular student city, Ghent, which was called Europe's best kept secret by Lonely Planet and listed as the most authentic historic city in the world by Geographic Traveler Magazine.

Every year, Ghent attracts 90.000 students, which effectively makes it the higher education capital of Flanders.

**Enjoy your
exciting time
at HOGENT!**





Contact.

Incoming student advisors

Fien Moerman (exchange)
incoming@hogent.be

Els Moens
(exchange school of arts)
els.moens@hogent.be

Katrien Van Acker (regular)
admission@hogent.be

Paul Lamont
(regular school of arts)
paul.lamont@hogent.be

Campus Schoonmeersen
Building D
Valentin Vaerwyckweg 1
hogent.be/en



Campuses.

HOGENT has 8 campuses in Ghent, 1 campus in Aalst and 1 campus in Lokeren. Check with your student advisor on which campus(es) you will be attending classes.

School of Teacher Training Campus Ledeganck

K.L. Ledeganckstraat 8
BE-9000 Gent

School of Social Welfare

Campus Schoonmeersen

Building T
Voskenslaan 264A /
Valentin Vaerwyckweg 1
BE-9000 Gent

School of Healthcare

Campus Vesalius

Keramiekstraat 80
BE-9000 Gent

Campus Aalst

Arbeidstraat 14
Be-9300 Aalst

School of Built Environment

Campus Schoonmeersen
Building P
Valentin Vaerwyckweg 1
BE-9000 Gent

School of Bioscience and Industrial Technology

Campus Schoonmeersen

Building C

Valentin Vaerwyckweg 1

BE-9000 Gent

Campus Melle

Brusselsesteenweg 161

BE-9000 Gent

Research Farm Bottelare

Diepestraat 1

BE-9820 Bottelare

Site Buchtenstraat

FTI Lab, Buchtenstraat 9-11

BE-9051 Gent

School of IT and Digital Innovation

Campus Schoonmeersen

Building B

Valentin Vaerwyckweg 1

BE-9000 Gent

Campus Aalst

Arbeidstraat 14, BE-9300 Aalst

School of Business and Management

Campus Schoonmeersen

Building B

Valentin Vaerwyckweg 1

BE-9000 Gent

Campus Mercator

Henleykaai 84, BE-9000 Gent

Campus Aalst

Arbeidstraat 14, BE-9300 Aalst

Campus Lokeren

Groendreef 31

BE-9160 Lokeren

School of Arts (KASK & Conservatory)

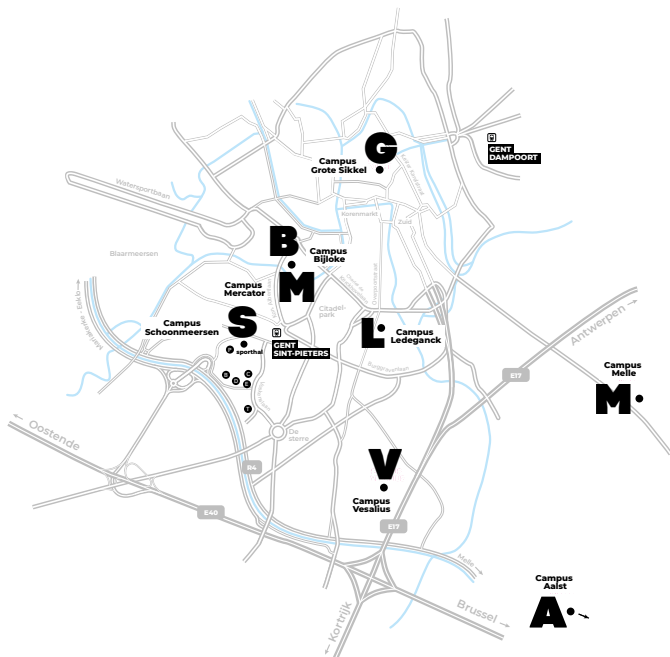
Campus Bijloke

J. Kluyskensstraat 2

BE-9000 Gent

Campus Grote Sikkell

Hoogpoort 64, BE-9000 Gent





What do you need to do upon arrival in Ghent?

Registration at HOGENT

Upon arrival, **international exchange students** are welcomed and registered by their incoming student advisor at the International Office and during the Welcome Days (p. 12). Each registered incoming student at HOGENT receives a student card (p. 12).

International degree students who wish to follow a full degree programme at HOGENT, starting with a preparatory language year of Dutch, report to the

Ghent University Language Centre in accordance with their guidelines.

Those students who already obtained a conditional admission and reached the Dutch language level B2 can enroll at HOGENT following the procedure mentioned on the website hogent.be/en/future-student/degree, bringing along the original approval, language certificate and other required documents.

Registration at the City of Ghent: The Migration Counter

All international students without a valid Belgian residence card must obtain or apply for a student residence permit when moving to Belgium for educational purposes. Depending on your country of origin (EU/EEA or non-European) and the length of your stay, different procedures apply.

You can find all the up to date information on the website of the City of Ghent **stad.gent/international-students**, including the procedures and guidelines on how to apply for your residence card.

Depending on your residential address, the Migration Counter of the Administrative Centre Zuid (Woodrow Wilsonplein 1, Gent) or the service center of your municipality will handle the application.





What do you need to do when you leave Ghent?

Documents

As an **exchange student**, make sure you have all the necessary documents for your home institution to have your exchange programme recognized.

Make an appointment with your student advisor at HOGENT and check what needs to be done.

International regular students

leaving Ghent must inform the student office of their faculty when they decide to leave Belgium or finish their studies.

Deregistration at the City of Ghent

Foreign students temporarily or permanently leaving Belgium, need to report to the municipality or Migration Counter a few days prior to departure to close their record. You can find the departure form and all the necessary information via **stad.gent/international-students**

Welcome Days.

Before the official start of the academic year, HOGENT invites you to Welcome Days.

Meet teachers and fellow students, get all the information you need and enjoy some fun activities.

**Welcome Days
autumn semester**

18 & 19 September 2025

**Welcome Days
spring semester**

5 & 6 February 2026

**Welcome Days
School of Arts**

19 September 2025
23 January 2026

Student card.

Upon your arrival at HOGENT, you will receive a student card. This card can be used for different purposes:

- Borrow books and other material from our libraries
- Discount at the student restaurants
- Access to several buildings
- To make copies
epurse.hogent.be
- Discounts at most of Ghent's cultural institutions and museums
- Identification during exams
- Printing, copying, scanning on all campuses

Academic calendar.



The academic year starts on Monday 22 September and consists of two semesters of 12 weeks each. In week 13, postponed classes and supervising activities are organized.

The autumn semester ends on January 30th. Spring semester starts February 10th and ends in June.

Each block of 12 weeks is followed by a first examination period (January and June). Second chance exams take place in August/September. Academic calendar of the faculties hogent.be/en/student/academic-calendar

Academic calendar of the School of Arts (KASK & Conservatory):

- Visual and Audiovisual Art, Music and Theatre: autumn semester starts on 23 September 2024 and ends on 24 January 2025. Spring semester starts on 27 January 2025 and ends on 4 July 2025.
- Interior Design, Landscape & Garden Design: autumn semester starts on 23 September 2024 and ends on 31 January 2025. Spring semester starts on 10 February 2025 and ends on 4 July 2025.

More information: schoolofartsgent.be/en

On the public holidays listed below, classes at HOGENT are suspended. Also banks, public offices and shops are closed.

Date	Name Holiday (English)	Name Holiday (Dutch)
01.11.2025	All Saints' Day	Allerheiligen
02.11.2025	All Souls' Day	Allerzielen
11.11.2025	Armistice	Wapenstilstand
15.11.2025	Constitution Day	Koningsdag
22.12.2025 - 04.01.2026	Christmas holidays	Kerstecies
25.12.2025	Christmas Day	Kerstmis
01.01.2026	New Year's Day	Nieuwjaar
02.02.2026 - 06.02.2026	HOGENT Holidays	Intersemestriële vakantie
16.03.2026	Suspension of classes	Vrije dag
05.04.2026	Easter	Pasen
06.04.2026	Easter Monday	Paasmaandag
01.05.2026	Labour Day	Feest van de Arbeid
14.05.2026	Ascension Day	Onze-Lieve-Heer-Hemelvaart
15.05.2026	Bridging day	Brugdag
24.05.2026	Whit Sunday	Pinksteren
25.05.2026	Whit Monday	Pinkstermaandag
11.07.2026	Day of the Flemish Community	Vlaamse Feestdag
21.07.2026	Belgian National Holiday	Nationale Feestdag
15.08.2026	Assumption Day	Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-Hemelvaart



Housing.

HOGENT rents out a number of student rooms to incoming exchange students. The rooms are located in student residence Mercator D, approximately 1,5 km from the city center, and in student residence Eddies, approximately

4,3 km from the city center. International degree seeking students can also apply for a student room if they meet the general conditions. All information on student housing of HOGENT can be found on **hogent.be/housing**.

If you prefer renting a room on the private market, feel free to contact the Housing Service if

- you need help with your search for a student room
- you have any doubts about a rental agreement you want to sign
- you need general advice on your rights and obligations as a tenant
- you require assistance with a rent dispute.

The Housing Service is located on campus Schoonmeersen, underneath the student residence.

Office for Student Services
and Student Life
Overwale 42
BE 9000 Gent
huisvesting@hogent.be

Useful links for students who are trying to find a place to live in Ghent are:
kotatgent.be
ikot.be
kotzoeker.be
allekoten.be
immoweb.be



Student support services.

The office for Student Services is dedicated to support international (exchange/regular) students throughout their time spent in the HOGENT community. Our Student Services staff will provide you information, support and advice on a wide range of topics while studying at HOGENT.

Our services include:

- primary psychological counseling
- medical assistance
- legal advice
- workshops on social skills
- support for students with disabilities
- info and advice on social status as a student

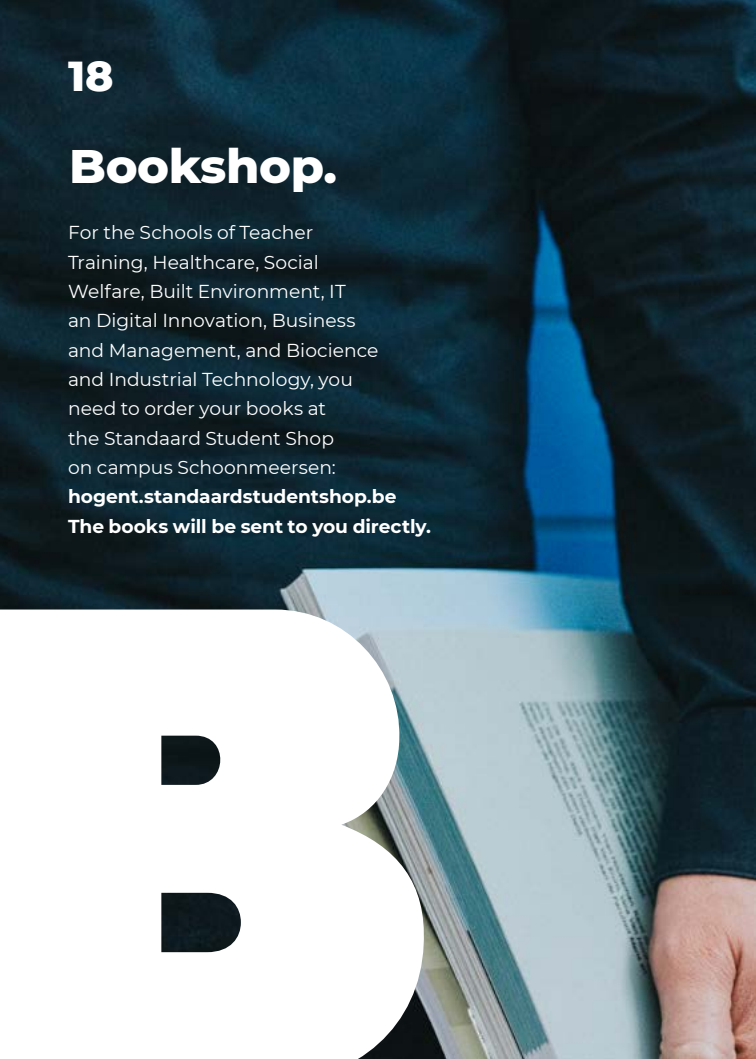
- (scholarship, child benefits, student employment, taxes, ...)
- financial support (study loan, payment plan for tuition fee, free use of laptop, ...)

If you want more information about our services, don't hesitate to contact the office for Student Services (zorg@hogent.be).

The assistance is free, anonymous and without obligation.

Office for Student Services

Overwale 42
BE-9000 Gent
T +32 9 243 37 38



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Bookshop.

For the Schools of Teacher Training, Healthcare, Social Welfare, Built Environment, IT an Digital Innovation, Business and Management, and Biocience and Industrial Technology, you need to order your books at the Standaard Student Shop on campus Schoonmeersen: **hogent.standaardstudentshop.be**
The books will be sent to you directly.

B

B

Communication & e-learning.

Teachers and administrative staff will communicate only through your HOGENT email account, and the electronic learning platforms Chamilo and iBaMaFlex.

Email

After your registration at HOGENT, you will receive a letter with your account login and password required to check your emails.

It is very important to check this email address at least twice a week!

You can check your emails online on **webmail.hogent.be**

- Click on the Logo 'Microsoft Office 365'
- 'Wachtwoord' means 'password' in Dutch!
- Click on 'OUTLOOK' (upper right corner of your screen) to read and answer your emails.

Another interesting website is **mijn.hogent.be**, where you can manage your general account information.



If you want to contact a teacher or a member of the staff, always apply the following rule:

- `firstname.lastname@hogent.be`
- Wireless internet
HGSecure or eduroam.
- Login with your
HOGENT account.

Chamilo e-learning environment

Chamilo is an electronic learning environment where courses are managed online. Students can access course materials, exercises, participate in discussion forums and groups.

Log in

You received your account login and password together with your email account.

Your username consists of 6 numbers followed by your initials, for example: 024023kc.

iBaMaFlex

On iBaMaFlex, all students can access their digital student files with study programmes, their curriculum, exam results, ...

- Go to **`ibamaflex.hogent.be`**
- Set the preferred language as English
- E-postbox: to sign your study programmes
- Exam results: individual reports
- Study survey
- Enrolment next year for degree students (Mijn herinschrijving)

Website

Our corporate website is an important source of information.

You will find information and updates about education, research, artistic activities, calendars, ...

`hogent.be/en`

Libraries.

HOGENT has 8 libraries, one on each campus, with a wide variety of services and content. There are 6 learning centres and 2 art libraries. Our libraries provide content on all of the university college's subject areas. Our services and resources will help you with learning and research.

The libraries offer room for study and working in groups. You can borrow audiovisual tools, make 3D-prints and book meeting rooms on some campuses.

Print Collection

Our print collection contains about 400,000 records. The collection can be retrieved by searching in the catalogue, **bib.hogent.be**

Digital library

Many of the library resources are available online. You can find them on our website, **bib.hogent.be** (tab 'databanken')

Study@home

If you want to connect to most of our databases, e-journals and e-books at home, you must use the Academic Software, **academicsoftware.eu**

Academic Software also offers remote access to software. You can find more information about connecting to the Academic Software on: **bib.hogent.be** (check 'handleidingen')

If you need more information, do not hesitate to contact the library staff. They are committed to helping you find and use the information you need.

Libraries

Campus Schoonmeersen (Central Library)

Valentin Vaerwyckweg 1
BE-9000 Gent
T +32 9 243 35 60/61/62
bibschoonmeersen@hogent.be

Campus Aalst

Arbeidstraat 14
BE-9300 Aalst
T +32 9 243 38 10
bibaalst@hogent.be

Campus Mercator

Henleykaai 84
first floor, room G 1.114
BE-9000 Gent
T + 32 9 243 35 80
bibmercator@hogent.be

Campus Melle

Brusselsesteenweg 161
BE-9090 Melle
T +32 9 243 28 14
bibmelle@hogent.be

Campus Vesalius

Keramiekstraat 80
BE-9000 Gent
T +32 9 243 23 76
bibvesa@hogent.be

Campus Ledeganck

K.L. Ledeganckstraat 8
BE-9000 Gent
T +32 09 243 30 50
biblera@hogent.be

Kunstenbibliotheek (Library of Arts)

Godshuizenlaan 2A
BE-9000 Gent
T +32 9 243 36 89
kunstenbibliotheek@hogent.be

Muziekbibliotheek (Library of Music)

Geraard de Duivelstraat 5
BE-9000 Gent
T +32 9 243 36 70
muziekbibliotheek@hogent.be





Culture at School of Arts (KASK & Conservatory).

The School of Arts of HOGENT is an important cultural hotspot in the city of Ghent. It is a cultural actor, organizing exhibitions, concerts, festivals, lectures, film screenings that can be enjoyed by the general public.

KIOSK

Space for contemporary visual arts. There are three exhibitions a year that are complemented by smaller presentations, performances and a digital offer. KIOSK questions the position of the contemporary arts institution through critical and transparent operation. kiosk.art

MIRY Concert Hall

Concert hall offering a stage to young musicians and established artists, located in the historic center of Ghent. miryconcertzaal.be

Club Telex

Club Telex is a concert club in our jazz and pop campus Paddenhoek, part of Campus Grote Sikkel. Regular jazz and pop jams by students are organized here as well as master classes and concerts. It is a breeding ground for creativity, where our musicians and music producers come into contact with professionals and an interested audience. **clubtelex.be**

KASKcinema

Atypical cinema on the Bijloke site that concentrates on showing films that fall outside the regular circuit. Classics from the canon of film history, unreleased contemporary festival films and more artistic and experimental works are shown three evenings per week. **kaskcinema.be**

KASK Drama

Young theater talent can be admired in the KASK drama projects. Up-and-coming theater makers and performers make unusual productions that can be seen year-round at different locations in and around Ghent. **kaskdrama.be**

Zwarte Zaal

Every year dozens of artistic productions by students and researchers of KASK & Conservatorium are housed in this multifunctional space. Try-outs, exhibitions, drama projects and concerts, conferences and colloquia are presented here, both internally and externally.

Keynotes

Lecture series on interior design and landscape and garden architecture. Professionals from the field take the floor and share experiences from their own discipline.

Studium Generale

Forum for reflection on society, art, culture and science.

International guest speakers discuss a contemporary theme from their own perspective.

studiumgent.be

Design Dialogues

In collaboration with Design Museum Ghent, unique thinkers, dreamers, doers and makers from the large field of design are invited to reflect together on the role, impact and future of design in a changing society.

MAP

MAP is a project space where master students in visual arts, multimedia design, photography and graphic design can present their work to the public.

KASK lectures

A series of lectures about visual and audiovisual arts, design, drama and music. International artists dissect their work in Cirque, the anatomic auditorium on the Bijloke Campus.

Events

Our degree programmes organize all sorts of activities on a regular basis. Sometimes one-off but often annually recurring activities: the opera of the singing class, the Wall Drawing Experiment and the Graduation festival are just a few. Check out the agenda at **schoolofartsgent.be**



Sports.

HOGENT offers a wide range of possibilities to practice sports every day of the week.

Campus Schoonmeersen

Sports hall
Sint-Denijslaan 251
BE-9000 Gent
sport@hogent.be
T +32 9 243 37 50

 @HOGENTsport

Information

- Make your reservation and pay online with the new HOGENT sports-app!
- The sports season starts on 29.09 until 08.05
- There are no classes during public holidays, Autumn holiday, Easter holidays and from 12.12 until 08.02
- Check out the schedule 2025-2026 on Wallie or in the sports app!



Events

- **20.10**
Move & Groove
(dance workshops)
- **31.01 - 08.02**
Ski/Snowboard trip
Les 2 Alpes (France)
- **23.03**
Dodgeball tournament

More information:

**[hogent.sharepoint.com/
sites/Incomingstudents](https://hogent.sharepoint.com/sites/Incomingstudents)**

Student AUGent, HOGENT

1 group lessons	€ 5
20-turns card (only for group lessons)	€ 50
Sports field (without instructor)	different prices check the HOGENT sports-app!

School Competitions

HOGENT students can participate in several school sport teams. More information: contact the Student Sports Office.

Fitness

(cardio-power & personal training room)

- First semester (01.09 - 19.12): € 50
- Second semester (05.01 - 30.06): € 80
- Full academic year (01.09 - 30.06): € 120
- Buy your membership in the sports hall.

Outdoor sports accommodation

The artificial turf field, tennis fields and new padel fields can be hired at a reasonable student price.

- More information:

hogent.sharepoint.com/sites/Incomingstudents

Catering.



The student restaurants at HOGENT offer students fresh and varied meals at a reduced price.

Office for Student Services and Student Life

Overwale 42
BE-9000 Gent
T +32 9 243 37 38
catering@hogent.be

Restaurants

Working days only, from 8 a.m.

- Campus Schoonmeersen
Building D open from
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Italian Corner open from
11.30 a.m. until 6.30 p.m.
On Friday open until 2 p.m.
Building P & B
open until 4 p.m.
On Friday open until 2 p.m.
- Campus Bijloke
open until 3:45 p.m.
- Campus Mercator
open from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- Campus Vesalius
open until 3:45 p.m.
- Campus Ledeganck
open from 8 a.m.
until 3.45 p.m.

Coffeeshop

Working days only,
from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

On Friday until 2 p.m.

- Campus Schoonmeersen
Building D

Coffeeshop

- Campus Schoonmeersen
Building T
- Open from September on

You can only pay with
your debet or creditcard.

HOGENT students can also
buy meals at reduced prices
in all the Ghent University
restaurants. Working days only.

Transport in and around Ghent.

Bike

The easiest and fastest way to get around the city is riding a bike or walking. You can rent a bicycle at the 'de Fietsambassade'.

You can rent a bike for 3 months, for € 55. A strong and practical bicycle lock is included in the rental price. The use of a lock is necessary to discourage thieves.

De Fietsambassade
Kattenberg 2
BE-9000 Gent
fietsambassade.gent.be/en
T +32 9 269 18 98

Trams and buses in and around Ghent

Public transport in Ghent is well organized. Buses and trams will take you to every possible destination in and around Ghent from early in the morning until late at night. The tickets of De Lijn can be used in all the Flemish cities but not in Brussels. When you buy a single ticket online on the website: **delijn.be/en**, you pay € 3. Or you can buy a 10-journey ticket for € 21. Easy to use with 'De Lijn app'.



Once you get on the bus or tram, do not forget to validate your card in the yellow boxes. If you will be using buses and trams for a longer period, it will be cheaper to buy a seasons ticket. Depending on your age, you can buy a 'Buzzy Pazz' (- 25) or an 'Omnipas' (+ 25).

Both passes are valid on any tram and/or bus of De Lijn, even in other cities. **delijn.be**

Train

There are two railway stations in Ghent: Gent-Sint-Pieters and Gent-Dampoort. They allow smooth access to the Belgian railway network. If you are planning to travel by train frequently, and if you are younger than 26, it is more economical to buy a 'Youth Multi'.

This pass is valid for 1 year and allows you to travel by train 10 times to any destination in Belgium. Students older than 26, can buy a 10-trip 'Standard Multi' **belgiantrain.be/en**

You can also travel by highspeed train from Brussels to:

- Paris, Amsterdam, Aachen, Köln, Schiphol, The Hague, Marne-La-Vallée Euro Disney, Rotterdam, London, Ashford and Lille with the Eurostar train.
- London, Ashford and Lille with the Eurostar train.

eurostar.com



Taxi

Taxi ranks can be found at the two railway stations, Gent-Sint-Pieters and Gent-Dampoort, or at Korenmarkt, Woodrow Wilsonplein, Flanders Expo. Taxi prices are considerable more expensive than tram or bus tickets.

→ Gentax: +32 9 245 45 45

→ V-tax: +32 9 222 22 22

Hop on hop off water tram

From April 1st to November 1st, you can travel on the hop on hop off water tram in Ghent on Saturdays and Sundays. The water tram has six stops: Castle of the Counts, Graslei-Korenlei, Museum Site, St. Peter's Abbey, St. Bavo's Cathedral and Veldstraat. For students, a day pass costs € 14.5 and a two-day pass costs € 19.5.

It's a new way to visit the city's numerous attractions. From the water, you get an entirely different view of the city, in a language of your choice.

hoponhopoff.be/en

CityCard Gent

With a € 42 or € 48

CityCard Gent you will get, respectively, 48 or 72 hours:

- Access to the main historical houses, museums and attractions (and their complete offer)
- A free guided boat tour
- Free public transport
- Free use of hop on hop off water tram way (1 day)
- Free bike rental (1 day)

visit.gent.be/en/good-know/practical-information/citycard-gent



**Other important
contacts and
information.**

Banks

Most of the banks in Ghent are open on weekdays from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Some banks are open on Saturday morning and have late opening hours once a week. Withdraw money at the many ATM dispensers in the city.

Most banks will not allow you to open an account, if you are only staying for a few months. An exception is made for students living in a student residence of HOGENT. The Accommodation Office will assist you.

City library

Apart from the libraries of HOGENT (p. 22), you can visit the city library. It is a well-equipped library with fiction, non-fiction, audio and documentation. In the library, you can use wifi for free.

Library De Krook
Miriam Makebaplein 1
BE-9000 Gent
gent.be/bibliotheek

Medical care

In case you have health problems, you can make an appointment with or call the student doctors of Ghent University. As experienced doctors, they are perfectly qualified to deal with any medical or psychological problem you might have.

Make an appointment on **ugent.be/student/en/study-support/medical** or on T +32 9 264 70 20.

Medical Centre for Students
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25
BE-9000 Gent

As health care is not free, each visit to the doctor must be paid on the spot. Always bring your blue health insurance card. Non-European students or students without a European Health Insurance Card have to take an insurance and should contact a Belgian health fund as soon as possible.

Mobile phone providers

- base.be
- mobistar.be
- proximus.be
- orange.be
- mobilevikings.be

Police

Commissariaat Gent Centrum
Belfortstraat 4, BE-9000 Gent
studenten.gent@police.belgium.eu
lokalepolitie.be/gent
T +32 9 266 61 11

Find other important emergency telephone numbers on page 48.



Waste management.

**In Ghent, we
aim at carefully
sorting waste.**



Waste collection calendar

The waste collection calendar gives the dates of collection for different kinds of waste and recycled garbage, and the rules for separation and collection procedures. You can ask for the correct calendar by e-mailing your full address to info@ivago.be with subject "calendar".

You can also consult the calendar on **ivago.be** (click on "ophaalkalender" at the right side and fill in your full address).

Waste collection

In accordance with police regulations you are only allowed to put your household waste outside on the day before collection and not earlier than 7 p.m. The waste collecting teams start collecting at 7 a.m. If you put your waste outside too late, it will not be collected and you will have to take it back inside.

Leaving household waste outside on the wrong day, in an inappropriate recipient or depositing your garbage in public waste baskets is considered illegal dumping. Such violations are liable to severe penalties! Identified offenders may expect a fine of approximately € 120 and a clean-up bill of € 250.

How types of waste are collected

Household waste = combustible and nonrecyclable household waste. In official green IVAGO bags* (30 or 50 liters). Please note that the 15 liter bags can only be used for collection containers in student houses with over 10 residential units! Collected every week. The bags must be tied (not taped).

- PMD = Plastic bottles , containers and flasks, metal packaging and drink cartons. In official blue IVAGO bags*. Collected every two weeks.
- GFT = Vegetables, fruit, meat and garden waste. In green IVAGO container with electronic chip. This must be ordered at IVAGO or via **ivago.be**. Collected every week. If you do not have a green IVAGO container, dispose your vegetable, fruit and garden waste in your green household waste bag.
- Glass = Transparent empty glass bottles, bowls and flasks. In a plastic bucket or solid plastic box with closed bottom and lateral walls. Collected once a month.
- Paper and cardboard = Newspapers, magazines, books, cardboard boxes, etc. In a closed cardboard box or tied together with a string. Collected once a month.

Collection containers

Student houses with over 10 residential units have special collection containers for household waste, glass, paper and cardboard, PMD and possibly GFT (Vegetable, Fruit and Garden waste). Ask your caretaker or landlord for the correct collection dates. Place these bags in the correct container.

*The IVAGO bags can be purchased in most supermarkets, local shops, the City Shop (Woodrow Wilsonplein 1) and at IVAGO (Proeftuinstraat 43).

Belgium, Flanders, Ghent.



Belgium

Belgium has been an independent constitutional monarchy since 1830. Belgium has an area of 30,528 km² and is located centrally and strategically in Europe. Two out of three citizens of the European Union live within a radius of 350 km around Brussels, the capital of Belgium and Europe.

In Belgium three cultures coexist: the Flemish, the French and the German. In 1980, the country's institutional system was reshaped to accommodate that reality. Currently, there are three language-based Communities, which are self-governing in many important areas such as education, culture, economics, agriculture and environment.

Belgium has a maritime climate, as a consequence of which fog and rain are common here, as is snow in winter. The most pleasant months in terms of temperature are between April and October. Temperatures vary between 10°C and 35°C in summer and -5°C and 15°C in winter. Rainwear, warm clothes and an umbrella will be needed, but not all the time!

Flanders

Flanders has an area of 13,522 km² and is situated in the northern region of Belgium. This Dutch-speaking part of Belgium boasts about 6.5 million inhabitants. French is spoken in the southern part of Belgium, Wallonia, and to a large extent in Brussels as well. The very small German-speaking community is located on the eastern border of Belgium.

Flanders is in the center of the major Western European industrial regions. The dense road, waterway and railway network, sea ports and airports make Flanders the ideal gateway to Europe, which is why many multinationals have chosen Flanders as the base for their operations on the European market.

It is important to realize that the language spoken (and lectured) in Ghent is Dutch, the language of 23.5 million Dutch and Flemish people. Dutch is similar to German and related to English. There are only some marginal differences between the Dutch spoken in Flanders and that in The Netherlands, comparable to the differences between British and American English (mainly in the accent, and some in vocabulary).

Multicultural society

In Flanders, several cultures coexist peacefully. The Turkish, East European, African, Moroccan and Asian minorities are considered to be cultures that enrich the Flemish culture. Mutual respect is very important in a multicultural society. Racism, violence and discrimination against migrants are crimes that will be prosecuted.

Interpersonal relations

At first, Flemish people appear to be modest and introverted. Initially, most of them do not make contact easily with people they do not know. From the moment they get to know you, however, they become very sociable. Never hesitate to start a conversation, the Flemish people are helpful and friendly. If people hear that you do not speak Dutch easily they will switch to

French, English, German or another language to help you. Young people meet at home, at their student room, in pubs and in clubs. When the weather is nice, students also meet in the center of the city. It is good to know that if you are invited to dinner, you should bring your host a little present, such as flowers or a bottle of wine. Students prefer to cook together and, usually, everybody contributes to the meal.

Ghent**Geography**

Ghent is situated in Flanders, the northern part of Belgium, 50 kilometers from Brussels, Bruges and Antwerp. Ghent, originally named Ganda, arose at the confluence of the two rivers Schelde and Leie. In the late medieval times it was the second largest city in north-western Europe.

Ghent covers 156 km² and houses over 269,000 inhabitants. It is the capital of the East Flanders Province and the second largest city of Flanders. Ghent is centrally located in Europe, at the crossroads of highways between Amsterdam, Paris, London and the Ruhr Area. The city is as easy to reach by car as by train.

History

In 1537 Emperor Charles V, who was born in Ghent in 1500, found the inhabitants of Ghent guilty of disobedience and rebellion. He sentenced them to public humiliation: they had to walk the streets barefoot, wearing only a shirt and a noose. For that reason the inhabitants of Ghent are called noose-wearers. Nowadays, they re-enact the incident with their heads held high, as proof of their proud obstinacy.

With 90,000 students, Ghent is the largest city of students in Belgium.

Today, the historical center enjoys the unique atmosphere provided by the rivers and canals. The city of Ghent bathes in the enchanting light of its buildings and monuments every evening.

With 90,000 students, Ghent is the largest city of students in Belgium. Thanks to its unique combination of first-class education and many leisure activities, our city attracts a very large number of students. Boasting a university and four university colleges, Ghent is able to offer a wide range of study opportunities.

Culture

Knowledge and culture are at the heart of the city of Ghent. From the well-known Mystic Lamb of the brothers Van Eyck, to the beguinages, to the tower of the University Library which was built by Henry Van de Velde. The new city library 'De Krook' has already become a beacon of modern architecture.

Ghent has many museums, art centers, theatres, concert halls, film screens and an opera. One of the museums you really should visit, is STAM, located on the historic Bijloke site. It presents the story of the city of Ghent. It brings past and present together and it is a stepping stone to Ghent's other cultural attractions.

In the area of modern and fine arts, two museums play a leading role: The Museum

of Fine Arts in Ghent (MSK) and the Municipal Museum for Contemporary Art (SMAK). The Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent (MSK) houses a superb collection of old masters. The Municipal Museum for Contemporary Art (SMAK) is a relatively new museum, and is renowned both for its permanent collection and for its provocative exhibitions.

- City Museum Ghent (STAM)
Godshuizenlaan 2
BE-9000 Gent
stam@gent.be
stamgent.be/en
- Municipal Museum for Contemporary Art (SMAK)
Jan Hoetplein 1
BE-9000 Gent
info@smak.be
smak.be/en
- Museum of Fine Arts (MSK)
Fernand Scribedreef 1
Citadelpark
BE-9000 Gent
museum.msk@gent.be
mskgent.be/en

Art and music lovers from all over the world know Ghent thanks to famous exhibitions and festivals such as Ghent Festival of Flanders where music of all sorts and times are cherished, Ghent Jazz Festival, Film Fest Ghent, the Floralties, the Light Festival.

The music scene is alive and original, with many international bands playing in Ghent and at the Belgian festivals all year round such as Rock Werchter, Pukkelpop and Tomorrowland.

We are also known for our Burgundian nature. In Ghent there are uncountable restaurants, cafés and pubs. One by one nice places to have a drink with your friends!

Need more information about student life in Ghent?

- hogent.be/en/city-of-ghent
- studentingent.be
- visitgent.be
- use-it.travel/home
- Tourist Office of Ghent
(Dienst Toerisme)
Oude Vismijn,
Sint-Veerleplein,
9000 Gent
T +32 9 266 56 60
visit@gent.be
visit.gent.be/en
- Use-It
(The Tourist Office for young people)
ghent@use-it.travel
use-it.travel/cities/detail/ghent/

Important telephone numbers.

112	Urgent medical assistance and fire brigade
101	Urgent need police
+32 9 332 34 90	Burns Unit University Hospital (24/24)
+32 9 266 61 11	Non-urgent need Ghent police
+32 9 210 10 10	Gentinfo (the Ghent information line)
+32 9 236 50 00	General practitioners of the city of Ghent during nights, weekends or festive days
+32 9 039 90 00	Pharmacies with weekend and night duty (€ 1.50/min)
+32 9 033 99 69	Dentists with weekend and night duty (€ 1.50/min)
070 245 245	Detox Centre
106	Tele-onthaal, a listening ear for urgent psychological needs
1813	Suicide Prevention
116 000	Child Focus

Dutch survival dictionary.



Basics

Hello: hallo (HAH-low)

Good morning: goedemorgen (GOO-duh-MORE-gun)

Good afternoon: goedemiddag (GOO-duh-MID-dahg)

Good evening: goedenavond (Goo-duhn-AH-vunt)

Good bye: tot ziens (TOT seens)

How are you?: hoe gaat het? (hoo GAHT hut?)

Fine, thank you: goed, dank u (GOOT, dahnk uu)

Do you speak English?: spreek je Engels? (SPRAYKT uu ENG-uls?)

I don't speak Dutch:

Ik spreek geen Nederlands (ick SPRAYK gayn NAY-dur-lawnts)

My name is...: mijn naam is... (meyn NAHM is ...)

What's your name?: hoe heet u? (hoo HAYT uu?)

I am from...: ik ben van ... (ick ban van...)

Nice to meet you: aangenaam (AHN-guh-NAHM)

I don't understand: ik begrijp het niet (ick buh-GRAYP hut neet)

How much does that cost?: hoeveel kost dat? (HOO-vale cost dat?)

Please: alstublieft (AHL-stuu-BLEEFt)

Thank you: dank je (DAHnk yuh)

You're welcome: graag gedaan (GRAHG guh-DAHN)

Yes: ja (YAH)

No: nee (NAY)

Sir: meneer (MEneer)

Miss/madam: mevrouw (MEfrauW)

Can I use your phone?:

mag ik uw telefoon gebruiken?

(MAHG ick uu tay-lay-PHOHN ghuh-BROWK-kuhn)

I need your help: ik heb uw hulp nodig (ick HEP uu HULP noh-duhg)

It's an emergency:

het is een noodgeval (hut IS uhn NOWT-guh-vahl)

I'm sick: ik ben ziek (ick ben ZEEK)

I'm injured: ik ben gewond (ick ben ghuh-WONT)

I need a doctor:

ik heb een dokter nodig (ick hep uhn DOCK-tuhr no-duhg)

Time

Now: nu (NUU)

Later: later (LAH-tuhr)

Before: voor (VOHR)

Morning: ochtend (OHG-tuhnt)

Afternoon: middag (MID-dahg)

Evening: avond (AH-vuhnt)

Night: nacht (NAHGT)

One o'clock: één uur (AIN uuhr)

Two o'clock: twee uur (TWAY uuhr)

Days

Today: vandaag (vahn-DAHG)

Yesterday: gisteren (GHIS-tuh-ruhn)

The day before yesterday: eergisteren (AIR-ghis-tuh-ruhn)

Tomorrow: morgen (MORE-ghun)

The day after tomorrow: overmorgen (O-vuhr-more-ghun)

This week: deze week (DAY-zuh WAKE)

Last week: vorige week (VOH-ruh-ghuh WAKE)

Next week: volgende week (VOL-ghun-duh WAKE)

Monday: maandag (MAHN-dahg)

Tuesday: dinsdag (DINSS-dahg)

Wednesday: woensdag (WOONS-dahg)

Thursday: donderdag (DON-duhr-dahg)

Friday: vrijdag (VRAY-dahg)

Saturday: zaterdag (ZAH-tuhr-dahg)

Sunday: zondag (ZON-dahg)

Transport & directions

How much is a ticket to... ?:

Hoeveel kost een ticket naar ... ? (HOO-vale cost uhn TICK-et nahr...)

One ticket to ... , please.:

Een ticket naar ... , alstublieft. (uhn TICK-et nahr ..., AHL-stuu-BLEEF)

A one-way ticket, please.:

Enkele reis, graag. (ANG-kuh-luh reyss ghrahg)

A round trip, please.:

Heen-en-terug, graag. (HAYN-an-trugh ghrahg)

Where does this train/bus go?:

Waar gaat deze trein/bus heen?

(WAHR ghaht day-zuh treyn/ bus HAYN)

When does the train/bus for ... leave?:

Wanneer vertrekt de trein/bus naar ...?

(won-NAYR vur-trekt duh treyn/bus nahr...)

How do I get to ...?: Hoe kom ik bij ...? (HOO kum ick bey)

Can you show me on the map?:

Kunt u mij dat tonen op de kaart?

(KUNT uu may daht TOW-nuhn op duh KAHRT)

Frequently used words

bread: brood

chicken: kip

coffee: koffie

cold: koud

difficult: moeilijk

easy: gemakkelijk

fish: vis

heavy: zwaar

left: links

less: minder

light: licht

long: lang

meat: vlees

money: geld

more: meer

potato: aardappel

pretty / nice: mooi

price: prijs

rice: rijst

right: rechts

short: kort

small: klein

sweet: zoet

table: tafel

tea: thee

ugly: lelijk

vegetables: groenten

warm: warm

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