

The logo for KU Leuven, featuring the text "KU LEUVEN" in white, bold, uppercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

## Degree Programmes

This study placement is open to Aston Business Students.

Number of students: 2

This document provides basic information about the university. **Please do your own research before applying.**

## Application Process

To apply for this opportunity you must submit an online application.

Link to the online application can be found in the **How to Apply** section in each university ad. Online application form requires registration, please register with your Aston University e-mail.

Please note that you can submit one application only. As a part of the application, you must provide three universities in order of preference, which should also be specified in your motivation letter.

You are required to submit one motivational letter, which must be focused on your first priority.

**Please do not contact the partner university directly as all the applications are processed by Aston's International Projects Team.**

## The University

Ku Leuven  
Oude Markt 13  
3000 Leuven  
Belgium



## University Website

Today, KU Leuven is Belgium's largest and highest-ranked university as well as one of the most renowned universities in Europe. As a leading European research university, KU Leuven offers a wide variety of programmes in English. In addition to its main campus in Leuven, it has satellite campuses in Kortrijk, Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges, Ostend, Geel, Diepenbeek, Aalst, Sint-Katelijne-Waver, and in Belgium's capital Brussels. The old University of Leuven was founded at the center of the historic town of Leuven in 1425, making it Belgium's first university. After being closed in 1797 during the Napoleonic period, the Catholic University of Leuven was "re-founded" in 1834, and is frequently, but controversially, identified as a continuation of the older institution.<sup>C</sup> In 1968, the Catholic University of Leuven split into the Dutch-language Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven and the French-language Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), which moved to Louvain-la-Neuve in Wallonia.

Academics at KU Leuven is organized into three groups:

- Biomedical Sciences Group
- Humanities and Social Sciences Group
- Science, Engineering and Technology Group

## What is like to study at KU LEUVEN?

## Location

Brussels, Antwerp and Leuven are open to outgoing Aston Business students.

**Brussels** - Capital Region is located in the central portion of the country and is a part of both the French Community of Belgium and the Flemish Community. It is the economic beating heart of Europe. As a business hub, it has a central position in Europe and it hosts the EU and the NATO, as well as a



diverse range of international trade and finance organisations. Many Chamber of Commerce organisations from around the world have offices in Brussels. Hundreds of multinational corporations have their head offices in Brussels and many important political and economic decisions are made here.

**Antwerp** is a vibrant and innovative city. Antwerp is on the River Scheldt, linked to the North Sea by the Westerschelde estuary. It is about 40 kilometres north of Brussels, and about 15 kilometres from the Dutch border. It enjoys a strategic location in Europe, sitting at the crossroads of major traffic and trade routes. Foreign investors flourish in Antwerp. Antwerp Headquarters attracts head offices of logistics companies, shipping companies, (petro-)chemical companies and major maritime service providers, such as lawyers, banks and insurers. Antwerp is, among others, a university town, where students from all over the country take courses at one of the universities or institutes of higher education in and around the city centre. Foreign students too feel at home in Antwerp, where most of its hospitable inhabitants have at least a smattering of English, French and/or German.

**Leuven** is the capital of the province of Flemish Brabant in Belgium. It is located about 25 kilometres east of Brussels. In term time, and even during the holidays, some 25,000 students give the city an upbeat, creative air. The picturesque core is small

enough that you can easily see the sights in a short day trip, but characterful pubs and good-value dining could keep you here for weeks.

## Semester/Key dates

<b>During the week of Monday 16 September 2019</b> Monday 23 September 2019 Tuesday 24 September 2019 Saturday 21 December 2019	<b>Orientation Days International Students all campuses</b> Opening ceremony of the academic year 2019-2020 Start of classes in the first semester of 2019-2020 End of classes in the first semester
<b>Monday 23 December 2019 till Sunday 5 January 2020</b> Monday 6 January 2020 - Thursday 9 January 2020 <b>Friday 10 January 2020 - Saturday 01 February 2020</b>	<b>Christmas and New Year Holidays</b> Exam preparation. No classes First semester exams
<b>Sunday 2 February 2020 - Sunday 9 February 2020</b> <b>During the week of Monday 3 February 2020</b> Monday 10 February 2020	<b>Mid-year break. No classes</b> <b>Orientation Days for International Students</b> Start of classes in the second semester
<b>Saturday 4 April 2020 - Sunday 19 April 2020</b> Saturday 23 May 2020 Saturday 23 May 2020 - Thursday 4 June 2020 <b>Friday 5 June 2020 - Saturday 27 June 2020</b> Friday 14 August 2020 - Saturday 5 September 2020	<b>Easter Holidays</b> End of classes in the second semester Exam preparation. No classes Second semester exams Examination retakes for failed students 2019-2020

## Courses Available

### Dutch Language courses

Leuven and Brussels Language Institute organise 'Dutch for Foreign Students' courses. These are introductory Dutch language courses and they are only open to exchange students. These courses are offered free. The course lasts 1 semester and is meant for beginning students in order to activate communication through

conversational exercises. Students who successfully complete the course obtain a max. of 4 ECTS credits. 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 Campus of Applied Language Studies in Antwerp organizes a Crash Course Dutch which will be taught during the three weeks preceding the academic year. This course is only open to Erasmus students and corresponds with 60 hours in classroom and 15 hours of practice conversation/language laboratory. Students who successfully complete the course obtain 3 ECTS credits.

### **English Courses for Exchange Students**

These courses are part of degree programmes entirely or partly taught in English. Students can decide to live in Leuven, but follow classes in Brussels and vice versa. However, students cannot combine courses from different campuses. They need to select one campus for classes due to practical reasons. For detailed information on the wide range of courses, see [website](#).

### **Living in Belgium**

- **LEUVEN UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALLS**

The KU Leuven has reserved part of the rooms in KU Leuven student residence halls for international students. These rooms are randomly located amongst rooms for Flemish students and they are spread across the city centre.

You can find more information concerning these rooms on:

<https://www.kuleuven.be/english/studentservices/housing-leuven/housing-options/residence-halls/residence-halls>

Most exchange students stay in individual rooms with shared facilities in houses on the local private housing market. Depending on the period of your stay and the time of your arrival the offer can be limited. Information regarding private accommodation in Leuven for exchange students can be found on:

[www.kuleuven.be/accommodation](http://www.kuleuven.be/accommodation)

Single room: furnished, kitchen and bathroom to share with other students in the house. Average price: €350-€380 per month.

The average price for a single room with private comfort, e.g. a private toilet or kitchen, is €450/month.

Studio: private kitchen and bathroom, furnished. Average price: between €480 to €600 per month.

- Students staying in Brussels would have to find their own accommodation the university does not offer on-campus housing. However, they can contact BRIK, an organisation for students in Brussels, which also manages and coordinates student housing for all Dutch colleges and universities in Brussels. For all questions related to housing in Brussels, please contact mail to: [housingbrussel@stuvoplus.be](mailto:housingbrussel@stuvoplus.be) or Ms. Marieke Steurs on +32 2 609 88 16.
- Student rooms in Antwerp are rented by the month. The rent should be paid on the first day of the month. A deposit of 1, 2 or sometimes 3 months must be paid to the landlord upon arrival. Student rooms tend to be single rooms with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. Students must bring their own linen (sometimes also blankets or a sleeping bag). Student rooms cost around € 350 depending on the facilities, location etc.

### **KOTWEB**

All institutions located within the city of Antwerp have developed a database for student accommodation, called Kotweb, which offers a wide selection of studios and apartments. Kotweb also provides students with useful information concerning rights and obligations, garbage selection and fire insurance. For more information, go to [www.studentkotweb.be/en](http://www.studentkotweb.be/en)

## Next steps if you are successful

1. You will be invited for a face-to-face or phone interview with the Placements Team
2. You will be nominated by us to the partner university
3. You must complete and send us the Erasmus application form
4. Following the nomination you must in most cases, complete a registration online. The International Placements Team will contact you about this.
5. Read the Study Plan (available on Blackboard from June)
6. Complete a Learning Agreement once your modules have been approved by your Placement Tutor

## Visa

For all visa information, please visit the Belgium Embassy [website](#).

**Careers  
+ Placements**

[www.aston.ac.uk/careers](http://www.aston.ac.uk/careers)

