

Dear student,

I am glad to hear that you applied for an international study period at XIOS University College.

StuvoX (Student Services XIOS) assists international students in finding suitable housing as well as in solving all other problems relating to accommodation and living in Hasselt or Diepenbeek. Please [read this e-mail fully and very carefully because it contains very important information.](#)

I) Formalities upon arrival

Although exchange students remain registered at their home university during their study period abroad, you also need to register officially as exchange student at XIOS University College Limburg.

That's why it's absolutely essential that after your arrival in Hasselt or Diepenbeek, **you have to go to the student administration** in order to get registered, receive your student card and receive your registration certificate proving that you are officially registered as a student at the XIOS University College Limburg. This card is generally considered to be the proof that you have been recognized as a XIOS-student. You will need it when using the bus, the library, ...

Town hall

After arriving in Flanders, Belgium, foreign students have to register at the city hall within eight days arrival in Belgium. The local authorities will issue an identity document for a foreign student temporarily living in Belgium. This document will allow you to enter and leave the country. I will also show the exact duration of your stay.

Necessary documents :

- Identity : Identity Card/International passport (EU) or International passport still valid for minimum 1 year + Visa Type D (non EU).
- School : the registration certificate proving that you are officially registered as a student at the XIOS University College Limburg.
- Financial Guarantee (only non-EU) : proof of scholarship or grant or financial guarantee form.
- Proof where you live : housing contract.
- European Insurance Card delivered by your home country (only EEA+Switzerland)
- 2 Identity photos

After registration at the local Town Hall you will receive your resident permit, it's your Belgian identity card.

At the end of your stay in Belgium, you must hand this Belgian identity card to the Town Hall

Town hall Hasselt, Groenplein 1, Monday to Friday : 9.00-12.30 and 13.30-16.00
Town hall Diepenbeek : Dorpsstraat 14, Monday to Friday 8.00-12.00 + Wednesday and Thursday 13.00-16.30.

II) HOUSING

First of all XIOS University College Limburg does NOT have his own student residences. You need to rent a student room from PRIVATE landlords.

Don't wait until you arrive in Belgium to rent a room ! We don't have a youth hostel in Hasselt or other cheap accommodation where you can stay for a short period. Also, there are not much student rooms available (because of to huge number of students who come to Hasselt or Diepenbeek) so be sure that you don't wait until the last minute to find a room! In the text below we give you some tips about how to find a student room when you begin to look for it on time!

We have a **database** with available rooms. This database contains a list of all available accommodations, including the names of landlords / landladies and owners who use the official tenancy agreement. **The official tenancy agreement you can also find in the attachment.** All agreements are in Dutch but this way you can read it in English before you sign the it. Link : <http://uhintra3.uhasselt.be/svkamers/zoek.aspx?t=04>

You can enter your requirements regarding type of accommodation, facilities, maximum rent, etc, and the system will print out a selection of suitable addresses, together with the landlord's details. You always need to select "short periods : yes".

Tip: make sure you leave your name and e-mailaddress behind when you **contact a landlord**. It could be that another student cancels the room last minute. Then the landlord has your number and he can ask you for the cancelled room. **So don't forget to leave your contact information behind.**

It's advisable to use this **official tenancy agreement** as it guarantees the rights of a tenant. In case of a discord between tenant and landlord / landladies /owner, StuvoX acts as an intermediary. **BUT BE CAREFULL. A SIGNED CONTRACT IS A SIGNED CONTRACT! YOU CAN NOT SWITCH ADRESSES. So please e-mail the landlord with your questions before you sign anything.**

Students generally rent a **room** (or " kot ") in a **student house** shared with between 5 and 60 fellow students. Rooms are usually furnished and are minimum 12 m² in size. Bed linen and kitchen utensils are not provided. Each room has a private sink. Kitchen and shower is shared or individual. Access to internet is widely available in private student accommodation.

The average rent is about **250,00 euro per month**, including expenses for utilities.

For a flat or a studio, you may count about 400,00 euro per month.

You always need to pay a deposit of two months rent in advance. Your rent you need to pay monthly.

If you sign the contract for a certain period, you also need to pay the rent for the whole period, even if you want to leave earlier. So think about this before you sign the contract.

Suggestions - addresses where international XIOS students rented a room in the past:

You can look them up in our database: <http://uhintra3.uhasselt.be/svkamers/zoek.aspx?t=04>

- **Hasselt, Kempische Steenweg 51 (www.KS51.be), rooms are limited in KS51 due to popularity! Recommended!**
- Hasselt, Bosstraat 152
- Hasselt, Studho www.studho.be, info@studho.be, 0032/472389073
But beware!! Studho is not in our database because:
 - Very strict but fair landlord (ex. no unauthorised people in your room)
 - Permanent presence of camera's and landlord because it's a big building where also children houses of a boarding school. For your safety.
 - limited internet access
 - induction cooking plate (not for every casserole or pan)
- Hasselt, Djef Antenstraat 26
- Diepenbeek, Steenweg 61
- Hasselt, Kiezelstraat 51
- Hasselt, Blijde Inkomststraat 2 - not on database, but mail to landlord: l.crapts.advocaat@equilex.be
- Hasselt, Meldertstraat 26
- Hasselt, Paardsdemerstraat 11/2
- Hasselt, Hefveldstraat 28
- Hasselt, Stadsomvaart 1A
- Diepenbeek, Peperstraat 110 & Stationsstraat 3A - contact landlord: senolbayram@hotmail.com

Suggestions - positive reactions of the owners

- Hasselt, Bosstraat 246
- Hasselt, Pietelbeekstraat 47
- Hasselt, Congostraat 19
- Hasselt, Rapertingenstraat 4
- Hasselt, Stadsomvaart 78
- Hasselt, Kiezelstraat 55
- Hasselt, Pietelbeekstraat 40
- Hasselt, Lazarijstraat 185

III) STARTPACKAGE

Before your arrival, you can rent from **StuvoX** a **start package** including 1 pillow, 1 duvet, 2 glasses, 2 forks, 2 knives, 2 spoons, 2 teaspoons, 2 plates, 2 cups.

You have to ask your landlord what type of fire you use before you ask a start package.

If you take the normal cooking package you pay a deposit of 80€ in advance. You also have to pay rent 5€/month. This you have to pay at the end of your stay when you bring back the package. If everything is ok you will get your deposit of 80€ back, also at the end of your stay.

If you take the induction cooking package you pay 110€ deposit in advance. You also have to pay rent 5€/month. This you have to pay at the end of your stay when you bring back the package. If everything is ok you will get your deposit of 110€ back, also at the end of your stay.

But remember, you have **to order this in advance!**

IV) BIKE

You also can rent a free bike during your study period at XIOS from a bike shop. You pay a **deposit of 70,00 euro** on our bank account in advance, which will be fully refunded when you return the bike and everything on the bike is ok.

Beware! The bike shop is open **every weekday from 7:00-19:00**. If you want a bike and you paid the deposit, come to Stuvox and we fill in the paper work. If you have **problems with your bike** or you want to **return your bike**, remember the opening hours of the bike shop above. Remember, you have to order the bike in advance!

V) LOCKERS

The school has +/- 50 lockers available. If you are interested to rent a locker to store your books, come to Stuvox to see if any lockers are available because this is very popular among other students. The deposit is € 10.

VI) MOBILITY

Train (name of train organization: "B-Rail")

- With your **Go Pass 10** you can make 10 separate journeys anywhere in Belgium for only €50. It is valid for 1 year from the date of purchase and does not bear a name: you can lend it to your friends or let them travel with you on your Go Pass 10 as long as they are also under 26.
- **Campus** is the ideal formula if you do 2 to 3 return trips a week. Campus lets you do the same return journey 5 times between two Belgian stations over a period of 49 days
- With the **School Railcard** you can pick your route, then choose a period of validity (1 month, 3 months or 12 months), whether you want to go 1st or 2nd class and you can make this journey as many times as you like.

Visit this website for more information in English:

<http://www.b-rail.be/nat/E/tarifs/>

Plan your route by train? No problem! You can do it online:

Public bus transport is organized by De Lijn. Bus tickets can be bought on the bus.

Bus (name of bus organization: "De Lijn")

- With the Buzzy Pazz you can travel through **Flanders (not Belgium) 7/7** on any bus or tram as long as you are under 25. It is a cheap solution to your mobility problem.
- All XIOS-students are entitled to free bus transport from Hasselt to Campus Diepenbeek (and back) after showing their student card to the bus driver.

Visit this website for more information in English:

<http://www.delijn.be/en/vervoerbewijzen/types/index.htm>

Plan your route by bus? No problem! You can do it online and in English:

<http://www.delijn.be/en/index.htm>

VII) INSURANCE

Health insurance within Europe : The European Health Insurance Card

EU + Island, Norway and Switzerland and in addition, citizens of Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey and the former Yugoslavia are also entitled to a European Health Insurance Card.

If your parents are still paying for your health insurance contributions in full, all you need to do is to contact your health insurance provider a few weeks before your departure.

The European Health Insurance Card is valid for two years, one year of which covers your studies within the EEA. In many cases this is a separate card but in Austria, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Liechtenstein it can be on the back of your national health insurance card. You will need to contact your local health insurance provider for further information on this aspect.

If you do not have a European Health Insurance Card when you need medical treatment, you can apply for a substitute certificate from abroad. This certificate will give you the same entitlement as the card but it is only valid for the duration of your stay abroad.

Health insurance if you are from outside Europe

If you are coming from outside Europe to study in Belgium for a short period, you may not join a health insurance scheme. In such cases you are strongly advised to take out private short term health or assistance insurance.

VIII) OTHER INSURANCES

Third-Party Liability

We strongly recommend that you have a third-party liability insurance. This policy covers any damages to third parties caused by the student. Your own personal injuries are not covered, only damage caused to third parties.

Past experience has shown that the costs associated with damage you cause, even in a minor accident, can turn out to be much higher than many students are able to pay.

For example, if you accidentally scratch a parked car while riding your bicycle, and you are held responsible for the damage.

Fire insurance

When you rent a property, you are responsible for damage caused by fire, water, or explosion, except in circumstances beyond one's control. You should take out insurance to cover these risks. It's strongly advised to tenants to take out individual insurance policies. You pay +/- € 25,00 euro per year.

If you rent a room with the official rental agreement the XIOS University College has taken the necessary regulations to that end, you cannot be obliged to take out your own insurance. Therefore you need **to bring as soon as possible a copy of your rental agreement to the StuvoX Housing Service.**

Landlords can have a clause taken up in their fire insurance policy, by means of which the liability of the tenant is also covered : either the "renunciation of redress" clause which covers only the tenant's liability towards the landlord, or an insurance on behalf of the tenant by means of which not only the liability towards the landlord but also towards third parties (housemates) is

covered. The landlord then pays a higher premium, which the tenant reimburse. But if you rent a room with the official rental agreement the landlord cannot require a tenant to pay a share in an insurance premium.

The tenants personal belongings, however, are never covered by the landlord's insurance policy. Therefore you always need to take out separate insurance coverage.

IX) COSTS OF DAILY LIVING IN BELGIUM

It is important that you have sufficient financial resources, because XIOS University College, your host university or any other Flemish or Belgian organization will be unable to help you once you have arrived.

Average personal expenses are about **950,00 euro per month**. This includes your rent, insurances, meals, laundry, health care, study materials, mobility, ...

Financing your education by taking a student job is possible, but fairly difficult because of the language !

X) OPENING HOURS MATHIAS VAN DYCK

Do you need more information or help ? Please contact me.

Mathias Van Dyck

Contact international student - student services

mathias.vandyck@xios.be

	Campus Hasselt	Campus Diepenbeek
Monday	8:00 - 12:00	13:00 - 17:00
Tuesday	8:00 - 12:00	13:00 - 17:00
Wednesday	8:00 - 12:00	/
Thursday	8:00 - 12:00	13:00 - 17:00
Friday	8:00 - 12:00	13:00 - 16:30