

Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

My classes and what I studied at Hogent

Hello, my name is Mathias.

I studied Economic and IT at KEA on my 4th semester before going on exchange in my 5th semester. I went abroad to Gent in Belgium between September 2024 - January 2025. I had enrolled in the course Applied Information Technology, where I had the courses RISE (Real-Life Integrated Software), Business Analysis, AI for the bachelor student and Belgian Culture Studies for a total of 30 ETCS points.

Academic experience

As far as my experience when applying the receiving school, Hogent, it was very good. They are good at answering emails and updating on MobilityOnline. This was very nice because it just makes for a better transition, and you don't have to think that much about it. Also, the way they have set up their course makes it very easy and understandable of what you get and what you don't get.

I found my course RISE, AI for the bachelor student and Belgian Culture Studies the most rewarding because it was the ones where I felt I got the most out of it academically. RISE is very programming heavy, which was fine and therefore I learnt a lot. AI for bachelor students is just nice course to have because it makes good sense to have in today's world. In Belgian Culture Studies I learned a lot about Belgian culture and their history which is always nice to know.

I found the Business Analysis the least valuable course because a lot of the things I knew beforehand. It was just a lot of repetition for me which was boring.

I would advise other students to take the AI for bachelor student and Belgian Culture Studies courses. I recommend these two because they are rather easy courses to have, and they are a lot of fun. In AI for bachelor student, we were only 8 in the class which made it more intimate, and we had a lot of discussions in the class which I enjoyed. In Belgian Culture Studies a lot of the other Erasmus Students were there which made it more fun, and you get to know them better. In the current state I would not recommend the RISE course to others just because the whole course was a bit chaotic and it felt like no one really knew what was going on.

Practical Experience

The application process was easy. KEA is good at helping you finding out what you need and respond to whatever questions you may have. I lived in Gent in Belgium which is a big student city. I found it very easy to find accommodation because Hogent was very helpful with finding

something. They had two different dorms you could choose. The rent was around 600 EUR per month, which is a little bit expensive compared to the other dorm, but not hard to find something. In general, you should expect that your living expenses are kind of the same as in Denmark. Alcohol is cheap but shopping in supermarkets is the same price, sometimes a bit more expensive. I maybe spend a bit more than budgeted but not much.

I received the Erasmus and SU, which was fine for me. But I would have some money saved for trips if you want to do that or not think about money. I did not apply for any other grants because I didn't find the need for it.

Cultural/Personal Experience

Hogent was good at inviting all the Erasmus students to different events in the beginning, so that we could all get to know each other. It was difficult to get some Belgian friends because you don't talk to them that much except if you have a class with them. But in general the school did what it could.

I will say that the best cultural experience was to just go around the city and have a look. Travel to different cities and talk with people you meet along they way. Best personal experience was going to football matches and traveling around the country to see different parts. Also all the different kinds of beer they have, really good.

Some advice I would give to future students considering going to Gent is that sign up for everything related to Erasmus program. It's a really good way of getting to know the city but also the other Erasmus students which are those you will spend the most time with. Then I would say also sign up for the Buddy program. You get assigned a person from the school from Belgium, who could show you around and meet more Belgian people.