WHY VUB

VUB education delivers strong individuals, critical minds & world citizens

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) offers high-quality English-taught programmes, supported by outstanding research. Being a student at VUB means learning in an open atmosphere of tolerance and diversity and growing into an independent and critical-thinking individual.

All fields of study are offered on 4 student-friendly campuses in the cosmopolitan city of Brussels. At VUB, students have easy access to their lecturers and assistants. Faculty members are available and open to answer questions; small group workshops are used to ensure close interaction and hands-on experience.

VUB is a dynamic and modern university with almost two centuries of history. There are 15,000 students, 21% of whom are international students from more than 120 different countries.

The basis of our academic success

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel was founded on the principle of ‘free inquiry’ as formulated by the French mathematician and philosopher of science Henri Poincaré (1854-1912): ‘Thinking must never submit itself, neither to a dogma, nor to a party, nor to a passion, nor to an interest, nor to a preconceived idea, nor to anything whatsoever, except to the facts themselves, because for it to submit to anything else would be the end of its existence.’

Personal growth with a positive and critical attitude, a sense of responsibility and open-mindedness, these are characteristics that you will encounter in everyone at the university, from professors and researchers to students and staff. It lies at the heart of our academic success.
Research, policy and innovation in education through blended learning

Do you want to broaden your insight into the management of educational institutions? Are you looking to pursue leading or advising roles in educational offices in the government, NGOs, companies or institutions for higher education? Are you excited about using online facilities to support your learning process? Are you already working in education and seeking to broaden and deepen your knowledge? Do you want to become a catalyst for change, designing high quality professional development? Do you have a strong interest in models and techniques for designing effective learning environments?

If so, our Master in Educational Sciences is right choice. Our varied and flexible programme, tailored to the needs of international students, uses a range of methods, enriching your knowledge and refining your skills while preparing you for a wide variety of jobs, from management to education, all in the capital of Brussels: the heart of Europe, brimming with international influences.
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

Why study Educational Sciences at the VUB?
Lifelong learning is growing more and more important and is present in all domains, on a national and international level. Continuous (re-) education is a key element for success in a world where knowledge is the engine of many processes. The two-year Master in Educational Sciences focuses on research, policy, innovation and professional support in education. It prepares students for research into the nature, development and features of educational actors, institutions, policies and processes in educational development and practices.

Internships help you go professional
The internship worth 21 ECTS aims to introduce students to the reality of the pedagogical and educational field, in Belgium or abroad. Practising the insights you’ve acquired, you’ll evolve and grow as core competences are further developed, practised and put to the test in relation to the reality of educational practice.

An international perspective
We have a very diverse student population; our students come from more than 20 countries worldwide! So it’s not surprising that we have such strong international connections. Through our exchange partnerships and other scholarship schemes, students have the opportunity to experience learning in another university in countries such as Sweden, Finland, China, Thailand ... and worldwide.

Experience and explored innovation in education
The Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences is strongly involved in both research and practice. As such, it closely follows developments within society in a variety of fields: art education, sustainable development, culture policies, community building, diversity, ageing, educational environments, development of e-learning/blended learning and Massive Open Online Courses MOOC - This means students get to work on authentic research tasks and projects while studying abstract frameworks and methodologies, focused on theoretical and empirical research.

Flexibility through blended learning
Face to face lectures are complemented by online learning activities, individual coaching and contact with teachers and researchers. We create a flexible academic programme, designed for professionals and international students, using innovative methods and interactive technologies: discussion forums, blogs and wikis support online collaborative learning and peer interaction. In addition, we apply teaching and learning strategies such as case-based learning supported by online tools.
The programme is subject to change. Check www.vub.ac.be/en for the latest information about the programme.

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 1 credit represents 25-30 hours of study activity.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION
The programme consists of 120 ECTS. The compulsory courses consist of 54 ECTS in the first year and 51 ECTS in the second year. Students who don’t have the required background in statistics must take “Introduction to Applied Statistics and Applied Statistical Methods” as an elective course in the first year.

STUDY ABROAD
Students can study abroad for a semester. Among the many places in which you can study, there are Finland and Sweden, two countries known for their innovative approaches in education. Next to courses, you can also do an internship or thesis research at home or abroad.

FROM INTERNSHIP TO YOUR CAREER
After completion of this programme, graduates have many options. They’re qualified for research positions in fundamental or applied research in Educational Sciences and related areas. They can work in teacher education centres, centres for training and professional perfection, educational organisations, centres for educational media (multimedia and ‘edutainment’), and educational advising - They can also be employed in study services, and even be involved in specific training projects of private and (semi-) government bodies, higher institutions, governmental ministries and cabinets -

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<th>MASTER YEAR 1</th>
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<td>Compulsory Courses</td>
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<td>Approaches to Teaching and Assessment</td>
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<td>Selected Chapters in Education and Training</td>
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<td>Professional Development Support</td>
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<td>Research Seminar for Educational Sciences</td>
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<td>Management for Educational Change</td>
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<td>Modern Educational Systems</td>
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<td>Electronic Learning Environments and E-learning Design</td>
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<td>Management and Innovation for the Social and Non-profit</td>
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<td>Curriculum Development</td>
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<td>Social and Cultural Transition Strategies for Sustainability and Development</td>
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<td>Lifespan Education</td>
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<td>Academic English 5</td>
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<td>Approaches to Language Teaching and Learning for Multilingual Education</td>
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INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH-BASED EDUCATION

APPLYING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH METHODS

Innovative approaches to education are stressed through research-based education. Within the programme, students are encouraged and trained to apply scientific research methods to engage in educational innovations, including innovative teaching and assessment, blended learning, professional support and use of digital technologies to support education... Innovative thinking is not only needed for educating the current and future generations, it’s crucial for the development of our society. In this programme we address critical issues and our students are prepared with both theoretical and professional knowledge, gaining the skills to contribute to society’s educational and social innovations. In this, the uniqueness of our international student population is an asset: we’re able to conduct research in an international perspective, thus enhancing our students competences in a multicultural environment.

EDUCATION INNOVATION FIELDS:

• Blended learning
• MOOC
• ICT supported learning
• Innovative evaluation
• Teacher professional development
• Differentiated instruction and evaluation
• Mobile applications for teaching and learning
• Self-regulated learning
• Gender sensitive education
“The nice thing of research-based education is that students can experience the interaction between theory and reality. If I can show them how we experiment with new approaches to professional development and what the results are, if they can try out how to guide and support educational practitioners based on the newest counseling methods, if one of our researchers involves them in their research practice, ... students get more interested and learning becomes fascinating.”

Prof. dr. Nadine Engels
ADMISSION CRITERIA

Admission is based on the review of each application: proof of meeting academic and language requirements, personal motivation, etc.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Prospective students can provide proof of sufficient knowledge of English as language of instruction by meeting one of the following criteria:
- having successfully completed one of the following language proficiency tests:
  - TOEFL: minimum level: 213 for the computer-based test (CBT); 72 for the internet-based test (IBT); 550 for paper-based test
  - TOEIC: minimum level: 785
  - IELTS: minimum level academic module 6
  - CAE: minimum grade B
  - CPE: minimum grade C
  - ITACE for Students certificate with ERK/CEFR score B2
  - Cambridge English First (FCE)
  - Cambridge English: Business Vantage (BEC Vantage)
  - Cambridge Michigan ECCE
  - Trinity College London: ISE II, GESE Grade 7-9; or ALTE Q mark
  - The Pearson Test of English General (PTE General): minimum level 3
  - The Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic): minimum level 59
- having successfully completed at least one year of secondary education with English as language of instruction, or having successfully completed secondary school in a Belgian institution;
- having successfully completed programme units in higher education with a minimum of 54 ECTS-credits where English was the language of instruction.

For more details on admission requirements and application: www.vub.ac.be/en/apply

DIRECT ADMISSION

Direct admission is granted if you obtained a Belgian Bachelor’s degree in Educational Sciences, Pedagogical Sciences, Psychology and Adult Education Sciences.

APPLICATION BASED ADMISSION

If you obtained a foreign or other Belgian Bachelor’s degree, you can be allowed, after a selection process by the Admission Board, who will evaluate the applications. For the exact procedure, deadlines and content of the application file, please check our website.

www.vub.ac.be/admissions

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

A good knowledge of Statistics and an Educational background is required. Students with insufficient background will be required to follow the necessary courses during the first year of the Master programme.

Application deadline

Prospective students are advised to apply as soon as possible, even if they have not yet obtained their degree. Applications can only be submitted through our website www.vub.ac.be/en/apply
- Students who require a visa (non-EU/EEA nationals) need to submit their application before June 1st
- Students who do not require a visa must apply before June 1st
- Note: if the proof of English proficiency or APS certificate is not ready before the deadline, you can always submit it later instead of missing the deadline

Tuition fees

All Flemish universities in Belgium are subsidised by the government, which results in relatively low tuition fees. The general tuition fee for our master programmes is €890/year. Some master programmes have an increased tuition fee for students with a non EU/EEA nationality. A detailed overview of the tuition fees can be found on:

www.vub.ac.be/en/tuition-fees

Contact

For more info:
www.vub.ac.be/educational-sciences