MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

JOURNALISM & NEW MEDIA

www.vub.ac.be/journalism-and-media

60 ECTS
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.
Become an expert in journalism and media in the capital of Europe

The Master of Communication Studies: Journalism and Media in Europe is an academic master that prepares you to become a media and communications professional with a profound strategic and interdisciplinary understanding of journalism and media in a European context. You will study changing journalistic business models, journalistic practices in today's digital age, and the relationship between journalism, politics, lobbying and ideology. With its range of European and international institutions and the many media, journalism and communication professionals working here, Brussels is the perfect place to study media and journalism in Europe.
Communication Studies at the heart of Europe: a unique opportunity

In Brussels you will study in an environment with all the European institutions right at hand. This master will acquaint you with European institutions, important journalism and media players, lobbyists and NGO’s, and communication and media agencies. The programme includes a yearly lecture series with prestigious speakers from the European media industry, journalism and European institutions. You will also get to see the reality of working in the field in Brussels through site visits and the possibility of a traineeship.

Evidence-based education

Evidence-based management and policy are increasingly important within the field of journalism and media as elsewhere. The Master of Communication Studies offers you the appropriate skills to base strategic actions on scientific evidence. To this end, you will learn not only to assess relevant empirical studies, but also to set up your own small-scale research, including gathering data and generating insights accordingly.

In this process, you will be guided by the experienced members of one of the department’s three research groups specialised in the field of media research: SMIT (Studies on Media, Information and Telecommunication), CEMESO (Studies on Media and Culture), and DESIRE (Centre for the study of Democracy, Signification, and Resistance). In previous years students have interviewed female political journalists on gender dynamics in the newsroom; analysed the impact of social media technologies on journalistic practices; assessed the impact of Silvio Berlusconi on journalism in Italy; analysed the social media strategies of Marine Le Pen of the far right Front National; analysed the geo-political narratives in Hollywood films.

An interactive, tailor-made programme

While giving you a broad and interdisciplinary understanding of journalism and media in Europe, the master allows you to pursue your own interests and develop a specific media and communication expertise through elective courses, a thesis on a topic of your interest and a traineeship. Students did traineehips at established EU-centered media organisations; at different kinds of international media organisations such as ELLE or Deutsche Welle; at NGO’s such as Votewatch Europe; at PR companies like Dober Partners; at European institutions and state and regional representations to Europe, such as Saxony Liaison Office Brussels.

Courses are taught using interactive teaching methods and encourage individual participation, critical thinking, and discussion with professors and fellow students.

After your studies

A master in Communication Studies opens doors to many positions in a wide range of sectors. You can opt for various career paths in a multitude of organisations. For instance in journalism, in media and communication companies, or as a press officer or communication official in European and international institutions, in companies, and in lobby organisations and NGOs.

VUB helps you take your first steps on the job market with workshops, networking events, job fairs, tips for job interviews and a dynamic alumni network. It’s all an ambitious student needs!
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.
‘Brussels Talking: Europe, Media and Society’ is a prestigious series of lectures and round tables on the role of media in changing European societies. The series cover economic, political, technical, legal and societal aspects of media in a context of European societal changes.

With guest speakers from the European media industry, journalism, academia and European institutions, Brussels Talking brings the media, journalism and telecommunication world right into the class room. Students actively participate in the discussions, have the chance to network, and write a paper on current issues related to the topics discussed.

Ethical aspects of the digital information society, threats and opportunities for broadcasting in the digital era, the challenges facing journalism and the future of education in the digital age are among the topics dealt with in the lecture series.

The series complements the courses offered in the Journalism and Media programme providing insightful debates and critical perspectives about European Media, Journalism, the European Public Sphere and the Digital Information Society.

― "US and EU Politico: similarities and differences, challenges and opportunities."
Matthew Kaminski
Executive Director Politico Europe

― "Threats to press freedom Europe."
Jean-Paul Marthoz
EU representative of the Committee to protect journalists

40+ nationalities
Traineeship opportunity
“Re-inventing media in the digital age.”

Thierry Geerts
Country Director Google Belgium
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); 80 for the internet-based test (IBT); 550 for paper-based test
  - TOEIC: minimum level: 785
  - IELTS: minimum level academic module 6.5
  - 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.


DIRECT ADMISSION

Candidates with a Flemish degree of ‘BSc in Communicatiewetenschappen’.

ADMISSION AFTER EXAMINATION OF APPLICATION FILE

An Admission Board will evaluate all other applications on an individual basis.

The Board can decide to oblige the applicant to complete an individual preparatory programme depending on their academic background. This preparatory programme can be combined with the Master programme.

Check the admission requirements on [www.vub.ac.be/journalism-and-media](http://www.vub.ac.be/journalism-and-media)

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](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/apply)

- All students need to 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](http://www.vub.ac.be/en/tuition-fees)

Contact