

Belgium, Brussels CIEE

IAP Academic Notes

Students on the CIEE Brussels Business, Communications & Culture track directly enroll at Vesalius College, a small English-speaking institution in Brussels. More information on Vesalius can be found in your CIEE program handbook and on the Vesalius web site: <http://www.vesalius.edu/>

All study abroad students take five courses including the CIEE core course, Contemporary Europe: The Belgian Experience, one required French or Dutch language course, and three Vesalius courses taught in English. Students with adequate French or Dutch language skills may replace Vesalius courses with regular ULB or VUB courses for a maximum of two regular university courses per semester. Students with advanced language skills may replace the required language course with a regular university course taken for credit. Students chosen for the Vesalius internship may replace one Vesalius course with the internship.

The Business, Communications, and Culture program has three goals: to provide opportunities to study European identity, culture, and policy-making from a non-U.S. perspective with other international students; to offer insight into Belgium and Brussels' unique political, cultural, and linguistic situation in Europe; and to enable students to improve their French or Dutch language skills.

Registration

IAP will register you for a special "Study Abroad Course" for the term(s) you will be studying abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a temporary registration, which will be converted into graded UW-Madison credit after the completion of your program.

CIEE will send you details on a course pre-selection process through your My CIEE account. You will want to follow these instructions carefully and indicate which courses you anticipate taking abroad on the program. This is not your final registration; the final registration process will take place onsite after you arrive with the assistance of the CIEE staff.

Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request (CER)

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison "equivalent" and the grade you receive in the course also transfers back to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request (CER) through your My Study Abroad account. The deadline to submit the CER is by the end of the fourth week of classes (not including pre-session terms). Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and in your My Study Abroad account under the academics tab.

Please note that every course you take abroad must be awarded an equivalent UW course. There are no exceptions. It is important to start the equivalent process as soon as possible to avoid any delay in posting your study abroad courses to your UW Madison transcript.

Limits and Load

Students are expected to enroll in a full-time academic program. The minimum requirement on this program is five courses or 15 credits and a maximum of 18 credits.

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit

Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for Academic Policies at UW. Please also refer to your CIEE program handbook for the CIEE academic policies. You will declare a class pass/fail through your My Study Abroad account. CIEE does not allow students to take courses pass/fail on this program.

Credits

Coursework at Vesalius College has a 1:1 credit conversion.

Grades and Grade Conversions

The grading conversion scale from Brussels, Belgium to UW Madison is the following:

Vesalius College	UW-Madison Equivalent
A+/A	A
A-/B+	AB
B	B
B-	BC
C+	BC
C/C-	C
D+/D	D
F	F

Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) grades	Recommended US Grade Equivalents
17-20	A
16	A-
15	B+
13 - 14	B
11 - 12	C
10	D
0-9	F

French Certificate

As a student studying abroad in France/on a program with French language, you are encouraged to consider adding a French certificate to your degree. This flexible, 15-credit program also strengthens the applications of students who intend to pursue careers or graduate study in areas where French is useful. 6 credits from study abroad can be applied towards the French certificate. To read more about the certificate, please visit this website: http://frit.wisc.edu/undergraduate/french/french_certificate.