

# Study and living costs

These estimates are based on research into the study and living costs by CEBUD (centre for budget advice and research), a research group linked to the Bachelor programme in social work of Thomas More. This information is provided to ensure that you are fully aware of the likely costs of your study and consider them very carefully.

The likely **living costs for 2019/20** published below are based on a **single, full-time degree student**.

	Likely living costs for 1 month		Likely living costs for a start in spring (7 months)		Likely living costs for a start in autumn (12 months)	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Accommodation</b>	€ 280	€ 490	€ 1.960	€ 3.430	€ 3.360	€ 5.880
<b>Food</b>	€ 170	€ 200	€ 1.190	€ 1.400	€ 2.040	€ 2.400
<b>Personal items</b>	€ 60	€ 70	€ 420	€ 490	€ 720	€ 840
<b>Social activities</b>	€ 150	€ 160	€ 1.050	€ 1.120	€ 1.800	€ 1.920
<b>Study costs</b>	€ 100	€ 110	€ 700	€ 770	€ 1.200	€ 1.320
<b>Transport</b>	€ 70	€ 80	€ 490	€ 560	€ 840	€ 960
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 830</b>	<b>€ 1.110</b>	<b>€ 5.810</b>	<b>€ 7.770</b>	<b>€ 9.960</b>	<b>€ 13.320</b>

## Food

You can eat well for less than € 5 in the **student restaurant**.

You can find [more detailed information on this webpage](#).

## Accommodation: rents vary per city

Average per month	Room	Studio
Sint-Katelijne-Waver	€ 260	/
Geel	€ 275	€ 350
Mechelen	€ 300	€ 400
Antwerp	€ 390	€ 450
Leuven	€ 390	€ 450
Brussels	€ 400	€ 490

There is a wide range of student rooms near campus Geel. Students at campus Mechelen and De Nayer (at Sint-Katelijne-Waver) often choose to live in one of the larger student cities in the area. The use of the train to commute for work or study is very common and comfortable in Belgium, and for a daily trip to Mechelen it costs about € 20 per month or € 190 per year.

Allow on average € 30 - € 60 per month for utilities, depending on the type of student home, and € 25 per year for a fire insurance via Thomas More. You can find more information about renting a student room on this [webpage](#).

## Study costs

These are expected costs directly related to your study, such as text books, stationery, printing and photocopying, course-related equipment and materials. [Tuition fees](#) are not included.

Any additional course-related expenses will be communicated by the programme coordinator and are not included in the above figures.

## Public transport

- Bike: Thomas More rents out city bikes at about € 6 per month. Other bike rental services include [Blue bike](#) in most railway stations, [Mobit](#) in Mechelen and Antwerp, [Velo](#) in Antwerp and [Villo](#) in Brussels.
- Bus [De Lijn](#): unlimited travel for € 32 per month or € 209 per year
- Train: [NMBS](#)

## Additional costs

You may need to make additional provision for costs such as a student visa, international travel to and from your study location and internships.

## Estimated annual increase

When planning your finances for future years of study beyond 2019/20, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 2 to 3% each year.

## Combining work and studies

Studying is a full-time activity. Combining your studies with a student job may be challenging. In the Flanders region it is more difficult for international students to find a student job as a basic knowledge of Dutch is often required, in Brussels English and/or French is sufficient.

If you are an EEA-national, you can work in Belgium under the same conditions as Belgians. As a non-EEA-student you can work for a maximum of 20 hours a week during the academic year, provided you have a work permit C. During the [official school holidays](#) you can work without a work permit C.

The hourly wage in a student contract is between € 10 and € 12.

[Information](#) on working as a student in Belgium.

[Information](#) on the type C work permit.

## Job offers

- [VDAB](#)
- [www.jobat.be/en](http://www.jobat.be/en)
- [www.monster.be/en](http://www.monster.be/en)
- [www.stepstone.be/en](http://www.stepstone.be/en)