

Studying in Hasselt (Belgium)



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Erasmus Year: 3AI

The Campus

- Two universities share the campus area: KU Leuven and UHasselt.
- As an Erasmus student at UHasselt, it is possible (depending on your program and Learning Agreement) to take courses at both institutions.



KU Leuven



UHasselt

- UHasselt has two main campuses:
 - Hasselt (city center)
 - Diepenbeek
- Most engineering courses are held in Diepenbeek.

Cycling

- Vedo offers bicycle rentals and provides a lock.



- Numerous safe and well-developed cycling paths.
- Large bicycle parking facilities available.
- Car parking available on site.

Student Housing (Kot Life)

- A “kot” typically consists of:
 - A private bedroom
 - Shared common areas
- In my case, I had:
 - A private bedroom and private bathroom
 - A shared kitchen
 - Shared responsibilities (e.g., taking out the trash in rotation)



Welcome & Integration

- Very few Erasmus students. Only one other student with me in Engineering courses.
 - Mostly local students, but they are very kind and open-minded.
 - No feeling of exclusion.
- Their strong English proficiency means language is not a barrier.
- Professors are welcoming and supportive.



Academic Environment & Courses

- Numerous group projects across various disciplines.
- Exposure to different research centers such as:
 - ACRO
 - EnergyVille
 - Extrusion laboratory and other research facilities
- Example courses :
 - Machine Learning
 - Material Selection and Forming Processes
 - Materials and Production Technology for Energy
 - Intelligent Systems for Robotics



EnergyVille

Exams / teaching methods

- Courses and evaluations are conducted in English.
- Teaching styles vary:
 - Some professors allow high levels of autonomy.
 - Others provide more structured guidance.

- Official information for exchange students:

<https://www.uhasselt.be/en/international/study-uhasselt/exchange-students>

Integrated Research Project

- Extremely enriching academic experience.
- High level of responsibility. Students are treated like early-stage researchers preparing for a PhD.
- In my case (with ACRO): High autonomy, Significant workload



Worked with a collaborative robot (cobot) as part of the project.

Preparation Advice

- English level is generally very high
- However, learning a few basic local words can:
 - Improve daily practical interactions (e.g., shopping)
 - Facilitate better social integration
- Strong environmental culture:
 - Numerous wind turbines (flat geography)
 - Strong incentives for carpooling
 - Well-developed cycling culture

