

howest

we develop people

MIGRATION & REFUGEES

INTERNATIONAL SEMESTER SOCIAL WORK

INTERNATIONAL SEMESTER – 30 ECTS

AUTUMN 2017



howest
/ international

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HOWEST

HOWEST UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Howest is a dynamic university of applied sciences, focused on innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. Our core values “serve - empower - care” stimulate an open, pluralistic and international outlook on education, research and service to society.

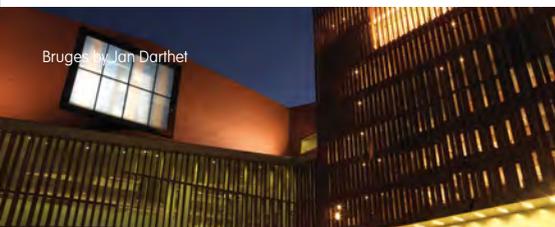
Howest is a member of Ghent University Association, which provides high-quality higher education to about 1/3 of Flanders’ student population. We offer 23 bachelor degree programmes in Architecture, Healthcare, Business and Management, Industrial Sciences and Technology, Education and Social Sciences, on four campuses in the historical cities of Bruges and Kortrijk, in the province of West Flanders, Belgium.

Over the years, Howest has built a solid reputation in application-oriented scientific research, services and continuous education, working with distinguished academic, social profit organisations and enterprises as partners in Europe, and all over the world. Our students and staff are given plenty of opportunities to go global, thanks to regional, national and international networks, scholarships and exchange programmes. Howest has coordinated highly successful national and international projects, and is an active partner in many others.

We constantly develop our course offer in English in order to position Howest as an attractive academic choice for students from abroad, who are looking for an open, vibrant, cosmopolitan and friendly destination. Our English-taught bachelor Digital Arts and Entertainment and our advanced bachelor of Bioinformatics attract people from all over the world. We warmly welcome students from our Erasmus and overseas partner institutions for an exchange period. Make your pick among our 18 English-taught international semester programmes.

**WE
DEVELOP
PEOPLE**

Studying in Bruges or Kortrijk means having several tourist attractions within easy reach: the Belgian coast, the Flemish & Belgian historical cities Ghent, Antwerp, Brussels... And in a couple of hours the train will take you to European cities like Paris, London, Amsterdam, or Cologne.



Bruges by Jan Darthel



Kortrijk by David Samyn

WHAT IS ...

INTERNATIONAL SEMESTERS, WHAT ARE THEY?

A Howest International Semester programme is a package of English-taught course units corresponding to at least 30 ECTS in total, which a Howest Bachelor programme offers as an option for semester exchange, to incoming students from its partner universities abroad, and as a study abroad option to other international students. Many of those course units are also followed by local Howest students, whereas the rest of the course units of their BA programme are offered in Dutch. Flanders has very strict language laws for higher education. That is why we cannot offer course options in English outside of these packages.

INTERNATIONAL SEMESTER PROGRAMMES IN AUTUMN:

FROM SEPTEMBER TO THE END OF JANUARY

- Applied Computer Sciences (Howest Bruges)
- Applied Health & Lifestyle Sciences (Howest Bruges)
- Digital Creative Projects in Tourism (Howest Kortrijk)
- Digital Creative Projects in Journalism (Howest Kortrijk)
- Global Business Management I (Howest Bruges)
- Integrated Building Design and Construction (Howest Bruges)
- International Nursing Programme (Howest Bruges) **NEW**
- Migration and Refugees. International Semester Social Work (Howest Bruges) **NEW**
- New Media & Communication Technology: Web & App Developer Specialisation (Howest Kortrijk) **NEW**
- Realisation in Product Design (Howest Kortrijk)
- We teach the World (Howest Brugge)

INTERNATIONAL SEMESTER PROGRAMMES IN SPRING:

FROM FEBRUARY TO THE END OF JUNE

- Applied Computer Sciences (Howest Bruges)
- Digital Creative Projects in Communication (Howest Kortrijk)
- Digital Creative Projects in Product Design (Howest Kortrijk)
- Global Business Management II (Howest Bruges)
- International Nursing Programme (Howest Bruges) **NEW**
- Methodology in Product Design (Howest Kortrijk) **NEW**
- New Media & Communication Technology: Infrastructure Engineer Foundations (Howest Kortrijk) **NEW**

In Flanders (Europe) 1 standard semester workload corresponds to 30 ECTS. Selecting courses from different International Semesters is seldom possible: the programmes need to be organised on the same campus and their schedules have to allow it. Schedules are only available shortly before the start of the semester, so we cannot guarantee in advance that combining will be possible.

IS THIS THE COURSE I'M LOOKING FOR?

The Social Work Faculty's international semester is designed for bachelor students in humanities.

We welcome expressions of interest from students keen to engage in core themes of migration embedded within the human rights framework and rights-based approaches. Are you keen to learn about migration - about what drives people to move across the world? For example, twenty-first-century transportation and communication technologies make mobility easier but this also means some uncertainty regarding the social transformations produced by vulnerable people moving from one geographical location to another. When people are in situations of vulnerability this can result in human rights violations.

This block study programme focuses on Belgian and European legislation by contrasting the developments and responses, to the opportunities and challenges, connected with migration today.



COURSE CONCEPT

The international semester on migration and refugees takes place in autumn as a block course with a wide range of modules. The modules include lectures, field trips, group works, testimonies of experts from the field and contact with people displaced due to conflict, war and persecution.

Our Social Work Programme affords you access to large network of NGO's and government departments, so you can be in contact with experts from different fields. This is also helpful if you are interested in voluntary work as an international student of Howest.

OUR INTERNATIONAL SEMESTER CONSISTS OF 30 ECTS IN TOTAL

As an international student in our Social Work Programme, you will notice how we value cooperation through strong communication structures. We will do our utmost to promote positive learning environments that foster sharing and understanding of different realities to improve the lives of people migrating throughout Europe.

Through this programme you will deepen your knowledge and competences in interactions with people by enhancing your understanding of the methods and approaches used in practice.



COURSE OVERVIEW

MIGRATION AND REFUGEES - AUTUMN (COMPULSORY MODULES - 24 ECTS)

CULTURAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTRODUCTION TO BELGIUM (3 ECTS)

In this module you will learn about Belgian and Flemish politics, culture and socio-economic data, all in comparison to the socio-economic data of your home country. This module includes a survival course Dutch and visits to several important cities in Belgium.

INTERCULTURAL LEARNING AND IDENTITY (3 ECTS)

Working with Refugees and Migrants means working with people with another cultural background. Social Workers need to be aware of their own cultural identity to be able to overcome the differences. In this Module we will see frameworks to understand group cultures, especially values and standards. As every human is unique and can make choices in their life, we'll focus also on personal cultural identity. We will use Non Formal Education methods to work on issues like stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination. We'll work with a group in an experience based and interactive way.

HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE BASIS FOR A GLOBAL (LEGAL) FRAMEWORK (6 ECTS)

Starting from the universal human rights and based on the global definition of social work, we approach migration ethically. The international policy visions, treaties, institutions, at global and at European level, will be discussed. The legal policy and human rights for migrants in Flanders will be the basis of discussions in the work field.

INTEGRATION IN DIFFERENT FIELDS (6 ECTS)

Introduction of the history and demography of migration in the world and Europe. Overview of integration projects in Flanders as case studies. Field visits in multiple domains (housing, employment, culture, sport, youth, education, ...). The result of this module will be comparative learning by analysing the situation in your country and comparing it with the Flemish situation and other European countries.

INTEGRATION ASSIGNMENT: IMPROVE YOUR NATIONAL REALITY (6 ECTS)

This International Semester will provide you with both legal and theoretical frameworks and good practices from different countries to discuss your national policies on behalf of Refugees and Migrants. In this module you will write a paper with substantiated arguments to improve aspects of your national reality. In addition will develop a strategy to disseminate your ideas. We will provide you with specific technical support to create your own media tools.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEES - AUTUMN (OPTIONAL MODULES - 9 ECTS)

ENGLISH FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS – OPTIONAL EVENING COURSE – 3 ECTS

This English course provides exchange students with an intensive training in speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, all focused on their ongoing or upcoming academic experience. The lecturer will take the diversity of academic areas of the participants into account, by addressing a range of topics and choosing subjects that are relevant to the attending students wherever possible.

The course aims at the B2 proficiency level and uses the IELTS methodology. We strongly recommend it to all exchange students who have not fully achieved the B2-level in English at the moment of application for their mobility project. For the more proficient students, we still see the course as a useful immersion experience.

HEALTH AND PREVENTION (3ECTS)

When masses of people are on the move in difficult conditions or accommodated in temporary camps this causes specific health risks. We will learn about the management of refugee camps. This includes an overview of hygiene measures, prevention and health promotion programmes targeting migrants in Flanders. We'll visit initiatives working on the accessibility of health care for newcomers. We also visit refugee camps and shelters.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MIGRATION (3ECTS)

The psychological impact of migration on people, for example when people leave their family and friends behind. We explore techniques used in the psychological counselling of children, adolescents and adults that have migrated to Flanders.

ORIENTATION WEEK & BUDDIES

We organise a fulltime orientation week before the start of the actual lessons. We strongly recommend all incoming students to attend it, since it will offer you the opportunity to:

- get to know the other incoming students and the locals through fun team building & other activities
- get to know Howest and the campus(es) where you will spend your semester/year
- explore the Howest cities Bruges & Kortrijk together with our local students and dive into student life
- discover some Belgian cultural treasures through student-friendly sightseeing trips to our most beautiful art cities like Ghent, Antwerp, Brussels, ...
- get loads of practical tips from our students while getting installed in your student room

Howest does not charge a participation fee for the orientation week, but students do need to pay for their own expenses, such as a couple of train trips (with a Go Pass this comes down to max. €5,1/train journey if your under 26), some entrance fees (at student & group fares) and your own food & drinks. Everything in the low-cost way, and without any obligation as to participate in the paying activities.



**YOU'LL GET A HOWEST
BUDDY TO WELCOME YOU
AND SHOW YOU AROUND**

PREREQUISITES

Minimum 2 successfully completed semesters or an equivalent of 60 ECTS in a Bachelor of Social Work, Applied Psychology, Social Cultural Work, HR, Orthopedagogics, Youth Work, Social Pedagogy. This will need to be confirmed by means of an official certificate, a survey of completed courses, or a signed letter from the sending university.

The English proficiency level we expect from incoming students is the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Foreign Languages (CEFR), in reading, writing, speaking and understanding skills. We expect applying students to provide proof of their proficiency in English in one of the following ways (Erasmus students provide the proof of their home university international coordinator):

- A signed confirmation letter from the sending university, stating that the applicant's language skills reach the B2 level and thus are sufficient to attend courses, participate in different types of classroom and examination activities. (Only valid for exchange students)
- The results of a (free) online language test which can be related to the CEFR B2 level, such as Dialang, Testpodium or the Erasmus online language test. The online test should have been taken under the supervision of the sending institution. The result sheet needs to be stamped and signed by a staff member of the sending institution. (only valid for exchange students)
- An official certificate or score report referring to the European Framework or from one of the recognised language tests, e.g. TOEFL: paper based 550/internet based 79/computer based 213 or IELTS: 5.5, no partial results below 5.

The following applicants are not required to document their language skills for study at Howest:

- applicants from countries having English as their national language;
- applicants attending a full-time degree programme at their home institution taught in English.

Howest reserves the right to contact the sending university to verify the information on language proficiency, or to contact the applicant for a telephone or Skype conversation in English.

PREREQUISITES

All Howest and exchange students should bring their own laptop, with all necessary and officially licensed software. The course overview above mentions the specific software (if any) necessary for the course unit. Howest applies a very strict policy on the use of legal software.

Non-exchange students can only attend the international semester as a Postgraduate course and need to have completed at least a full Bachelor degree programme at the time they start the international semester course at Howest.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

This international semester is an integrated part of the Howest Bachelor courses. Howest fully applies the ECTS grading system and awards credits for the successfully achieved course units. After concluding the semester, all students receive an official ECTS transcript of records and Certificate.



HOWEST GRADING SYSTEM

The Transcript issued by Howest contains both the Howest and the ECTS grades. The Howest (and Flemish) grading system is based on evaluations out of 20 points. 10/20 is the pass score. A 16/20 is considered excellent in Flanders, and students obtaining results of 18/20 are rather exceptional.

ECTS GRADE	DEFINITION	HOWEST GRADE ON /20
A	EXCELLENT Outstanding performance with only minor errors.	16/20 & 17/20 18/20 and more > A+
B	VERY GOOD Above the average standard but with some errors.	15/20
C	GOOD Generally sound work with a number of notable errors.	13/20 & 14/20
D	SATISFACTORY Fair but with significant shortcomings.	11/20 & 12/20
E	SUFFICIENT Performance meets the minimum criteria.	10/20
FX	FAIL Some work required before the credit can be awarded.	8/20 & 9/20
F	FAIL Considerable further work is required	7/20 and less

For partner universities who prefer to work with grading tables: Howest participates in the European EGRACONS project, which enables universities to convert grades based on a Grading Table system.

EGRACONS is fully compliant with the guidelines in the ECTS Users' Guide 2015 and is officially mentioned there as an example of good practice. You can find our tables in the EGRACONS tool.

We invite you to join the steadily growing group of EGRACONS users, which will make it really easy for both parties to operate the correct conversions. <http://egracons.eu/>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TIMING AND LOCATION

The course takes place in **Bruges**.

Our Autumn semester runs from September 18th 2017 until February 2nd 2018.

The first week is the fulltime Orientation Week. The actual lessons start on September 25th. From 30/10/2017 – 04/11/2017 there is one week of **Autumn Holiday**. **Winter holidays** are from 25/12/2017 till 06/01/2018.

The **examination period** starts immediately afterwards. In the last week of the semester (29/01-02/02) there are still exams, but also feedback sessions for students. The Howest second chance exams take place in the 3rd exam period (Aug/Sept).

As an exceptional service for exchange students AND only after explicit approval by the head of the study department, a second chance exam can be taken by the end of the 1st exam period, at a date to be determined by the study department.

You find our **academic calendar** in English at www.howest.be/english.

Address of the campus Howest Brugge:

Sint Jorisstraat 71, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Howest's campuses are cashless. You will need to activate the Maestro function of your bank card before departure from your country. You find more detailed info on this in our Practical information section on the website.

TUITION FEE

For **exchange students** sent by our Erasmus and overseas partner institutions this course is tuition free. **Non-exchange students** pay a tuition fee of €1000 per semester.

The fee does not include course or other materials, nor the cost for cultural visits or study excursions (transport, entrance fees ...). Those have to be paid on location. Howest has cashless campuses. Payments have to be made through a bank card. Do not forget to activate the Maestro function on it before you leave your country.

ACCOMMODATION

Howest Students Affairs (Stuvo) will help you find suitable accommodation. As soon as your application has been approved by Howest, go to Stuvo's website (www.howest.be/stuvo/Home/English) and you will find specific information regarding the housing possibilities Howest offers to international students, and about how to rent one of these rooms online. There are also pictures and descriptions provided.

A student room in Bruges will cost you between €230 and €350 per month; a studio flat between €400 and €600.

The sooner you apply and start the accommodation procedures, the higher your chances to get a room which comes up to your expectations. Howest cannot be expected to offer 'emergency housing assistance' upon arrival.

Next to housing Student affairs are also the ones to contact for all the things that can make your life as a student more comfortable.

Think about mobility, sports, ...

Be sure to check our website, that way you are prepared to have a pleasant stay!



APPLICATION AND DEADLINE

The application deadline is **June 20th**. For nationals from outside the European Economic Area we strongly recommend to apply at least one month earlier, by May 20th, since it will take you 8 weeks to obtain your Belgian student visa.

All applications are subject to approval by the Howest International Semesters team.

Send your Howest Application Form to international.office@howest.be.

You can download it at howest.be/application.

Please also send your proposal of Learning Agreement.

CONTACT

For more information about the **CONTENT of the programme contact Johan Bertels or Andy De Brabander**, the international coordinators of the Bachelors of Social Work.

St.-Jorisstraat 71

8000 Bruges - Belgium

Tel +32 471088343

johan.bertels@howest.be / andy.de.brabander@howest.be

For more information about your **APPLICATION contact Sophie Dewitte** of Howest International Office.

Marksesteenweg 58

8500 Kortrijk - Belgium

Tel +32 (0)56 24 12 90

Fax +32 (0)56 24 12 92

international.office@howest.be

Visit our website for more information about Howest: howest.be/english

For information about your stay at Howest read our "Practical information package for incoming students" on howest.be/practicalinfopackage.