

# Brussels-Lux Study Tour Travel Information

## Summer 2023

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

<p><b>Staff Contacts:</b></p> <p><b>On-site staff contact info will be provided at the 6pm orientation in Brussels on arrival Sunday (6/18). If you have any trouble during travel/arrival, please contact:</b></p> <p><b>During work hours (weekdays 8:30-5:00 ET): +1 412-648-7405</b>  <b>After hours: <a href="mailto:MeetEU@pitt.edu">MeetEU@pitt.edu</a></b></p> <p><b>Brussels Hotline: +1 412 537 5299</b></p>	<p><b>Other Important Contacts:</b></p> <p><b>Martin’s Brussels EU Hotel</b>          Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium          Phone:+32 2 230 85 55</p> <hr/> <p><b>Embassy of the United States in Belgium</b>          Regentlaan 27 Boulevard du Régent          (the Consular Section is at 25 Boulevard du Régent)          B-1000 Brussels, Belgium          Telephone: +(32) (0) (2) 811-4000          Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(32) (0) (2) 811-4000          Email: <a href="mailto:USCitizenbrussels@state.gov">USCitizenbrussels@state.gov</a></p>
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### ITEMS TO CARRY WITH YOU (i.e., on your person or in your carry-on luggage)

- The final itinerary (please also share a copy of the itinerary with family and/or friends)
- This travel document
- Passport
- Air itinerary confirmations/e-tickets
- Money
- Travel insurance policy

### PASSPORT and PROOF OF VACCINATION

Keep your passport with you during the daytime for all site visits. It is required for security at all site visits and you will be denied access without it.

While proof of COVID vaccination is no longer required for entry to Belgium, Luxembourg, or our site visits, it is recommended that you make a copy (digital or physical) of your vaccination card available in case it is needed while traveling.

Please make two copies of the front page (with your photo and passport number) of your passport and take photos of your vaccine card on your phone. Leave one copy/photo with a family member or friend at home and take the other with your belongings for the trip, but keep it in a separate location from the original.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Belgium is a party to the Schengen Agreement. U.S. citizens can enter the Schengen area for up to 90 days for tourist or business purposes without a visa. **A passport valid for at least three months beyond your date of departure from Belgium (or another Schengen country) is required for entry.**

For relevant COVID restrictions, see the page for "[Safety Information](#)".

## TRANSPORTATION AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION

The program will begin on the evening of the first Sunday of your tour dates at 6:00 pm in one of the conference rooms located in the Martin's Brussels EU Hotel (see address above).

To get to Martin's Brussels EU Hotel from the airport, take the Airport Line Bus ([bus 12](#)) to Place Schuman, approximately 30 minutes at the cost of €7.00. Tickets are available from the GO Vending machine located on bus station Platform C, or once you board the bus (with an additional fee). The bus station is located on level 0, one floor down from airport arrivals. You will need to purchase a "Go2City" ticket if you use the GO vending machine. You can find more details using the [trip planner](#).

After you get off at Place Schuman, the hotel is a short 3-minute walking distance. Head north on Rue Archimede toward Rue Stevin. Turn left on Rue Stevin. At the roundabout, take the second exit onto Boulevard Charlemagne. The hotel will be on your left.

Taxis are also available. It will cost approximately 40-60 euros to travel from the airport to the hotel.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation will be used frequently throughout the course of the tour. Upon arrival participants should purchase a multi-trip metro/tram/bus card. A 10-journey "[BRUPASS](#)" ticket costs approximately €22.00 (€16.80 for the journeys and €5 for the [MOBIB card](#)) and can be purchased at kiosks in most metro stops. You will need a debit or credit card with a pin number to purchase the ticket. See the [STIB \(Brussels Public Transit\) website](#) for more information, paying particular attention to the [Fares](#) page. The standard BRUPASS ticket is all that is needed for our itinerary; you can optionally purchase the [BRUPASS XL](#) 10-journey ticket for €22.40 (+ €5 card fee) if you would like to travel farther from the city center.

## HOTEL SERVICES

Free wireless internet is available at the hotel.

Guests have free access to the fitness center and sauna.

Your reservation includes a free complimentary breakfast.

A blue velvet gorilla will greet you at the hotel (trust us, this will all make sense later).

## **WEATHER**

The average temperatures in Brussels, Belgium, in June are in the mid- to high-60s and fall to around 50°F in the evenings. But that's an average, and fluctuations are possible. Brussels typically gets around 11 days of rainfall in June so make sure to pack raingear (including appropriate footwear) for the tour.

## **MEALS**

The hotel breakfast is included with your room and has many options. In addition, the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center for European Studies at the University of North Carolina will host one group meal during the tour. Otherwise, you are responsible for all other meals and incidentals.

## **MONEY**

Belgium's currency is the euro (€). You can exchange currency at the airport (prior to your departure in the US or upon arrival in Europe), at most train stations, and at banks in larger cities. You can also withdraw money using a US bank card at ATMs (fees may apply). Many small restaurants do not accept credit cards. Those places that do accept credit cards often require a “chip” (“puce” in French) with an associated PIN. If you do not have a credit card with a chip, please contact your bank to see if they have the technology available to issue you a new card prior to the trip. Additionally, please inquire about requesting a PIN for your chip (many businesses in the US do not require one, but European businesses do).

If you are in a pinch, most businesses are still able to swipe your debit or credit card. The strip is referred to as “piste” in French in the event that you need help explaining this to someone.

**Please contact your bank and/or credit card company to alert them that you will be traveling. Have ready your exact dates of travel. Failure to do so may cause the bank to put a hold on your account.**

**Important note:** Please make sure to keep documentation of your expenses during the trip – boarding passes, receipts, etc. Each university sponsoring your participation in the Brussels-Lux Study Tour may manage your travel grant differently so please retain all of your receipts, as they may be needed for reimbursements upon your return.

## **ATTIRE**

Business casual dress is required for all site visits. Please make sure to pack comfortable shoes as the group will use public transportation or walk to all site visit locations.

## **ADAPTER**

**Outlets in Belgium use a Type E plug and are not compatible with traditional US two prong (Type A) or three prong (Type B) plugs. Please purchase an international universal adapter to charge your phone or for the use of other electronics while staying in Brussels.**

### **Luxembourg Day Trip**

We will be visiting the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. We will be leaving Belgium for a day and entering Luxembourg. There are currently no COVID-related travel restrictions. Luxembourg is also a party to the Schengen Agreement so you will not encounter border checks. However, you must still have your passport in order to enter the European Court of Justice.