

Brussels-Lux Study Tour Travel Information

Summer 2024

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Staff Contacts:	Other Important Contacts:
On-site staff contact info will be provided at the 6pm orientation in Brussels on arrival Sunday (6/16). If you have any trouble during travel/arrival, please contact: During work hours (weekdays 8:30-5:00 ET): +1 412-648-7405 After hours: MeetEU@pitt.edu Brussels Hotline: TBA	Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel Place Jean Rey, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium Phone: +32 2 800 08 88
	Embassy of the United States in Belgium 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: UScitizenbrussels@state.gov

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 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 (physical and/or digital) 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

Arrival in Brussels

The program will begin on the evening of the first Sunday of your tour dates at 6:00 pm in one of the meeting rooms located in the Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel (see address above).

To get to Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel from the Brussels airport, take the Airport Line Bus ([bus 12](#)) to Place Schuman on Rue Archimede, approximately 30 minutes/5 stops at the cost of approximately €7.00. You will need to purchase an “[Airport2City](#)” 1 journey ticket, which is €7.00 using contactless payment on the bus or €7.50 for a paper ticket. The bus station is located on level 0, one floor down from airport arrivals. You can find more details using the [journey planner](#).

After you get off at Place Schuman, the hotel is a short 6-minute walking distance. Head south on Rue Archimede toward the large Schuman Roundabout (in the same direction the bus was traveling). Follow the roundabout to the right, crossing Rue de la Loi, and turn right on Rue Froissart (second exit). Take the first right turn on Rue Juste Lipse. The hotel will be on your left.

It is also possible to take a [train](#) from the airport to Schuman Station; this is a little more expensive than the bus.

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

Luxembourg Day Trip

We will be visiting the Court of Justice of the European Union 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 Court of Justice.

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 €16.80-22.80 (€16.80 for the journeys; €6 for the [MOBIB card](#)). You can pay for single journeys via contactless payment (€2.10/journey), purchase a BRUPASS in the STIB-MIVB app, or purchase the physical MOBIB card at kiosks near most transit stops. You may need a debit or credit card with a PIN to purchase physical ticket(s). 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 (+ €6 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 24/7 fitness center.

Your reservation includes a free complimentary breakfast.

Grab-and-go items (beverages, prepared meals, snacks) are available 24/7, for a fee, at refuel by Aloft.

Each room is equipped with: air conditioning, in-room safe, iron and ironing board, hair dryer, coffee/tea maker, mini-fridge.

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. 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). The PIN is a security feature used in place of the card holder's signature.

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. Be aware of any associated fees (ATM withdrawals, foreign transaction fees, etc.).

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.

PHONE

Contact your wireless carrier to discuss your travel plans and any additional costs associated. Some carriers require you to register for an International Plan in advance of your travel. If you do not wish to use your US cell phone/plan abroad, you can buy an inexpensive SIM card or prepaid phone abroad. You will need to have an unlocked phone to use an international SIM card.

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.