

Brussels Study Tour Travel Information

Summer 2022 (for 2020, 2021, 2022 cohorts)

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

<p>Staff Contacts:</p> <p>These will be provided on the first night orientation in Brussels on arrival Sunday. If you have any trouble during travel/arrival, please contact:</p> <p>During work hours (weekdays 8:30-5:00 ET): +1 412-648-7405 After hours: MeetEU@pitt.edu</p> <p>Emergency Number: +1 412-616-4994 (phone or WhatsApp/Signal only)</p>	<p>Other Important Contacts:</p> <p>Martin's Brussels EU Hotel Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium Phone: +32 2 230 85 55</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Anthony Travel Contact Information For those whose flights were booked through Pitt's travel agency, Anthony Travel, you should reach out to the AT staff with any flight-related issues during your travels (e.g., delays, cancellations, etc.). They are often a more effective option than trying to contact the airline directly. Business Hours (M-F 8:30am-5pm ET): +1-844-583-5963 or +1-412-246-9024 PIIT@anthonytravel.com After Hours: +1-888-645-4280 – provide VIT code IN2F</p>	

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 ESC Travel Information document (at least the first page)
- Passport
- Vaccination Certificate/Proof of Vaccination (your CDC card will work)
- Air itinerary confirmations/e-tickets (BE SURE TO SAVE YOUR BOARDING PASSES)
- Money
- Travel insurance cards/information
- [Belgian Passenger Locator Form](#) (No longer required at this time, but check prior to departure.)

PASSPORT and PROOF OF VACCINATION

Keep your passport and your vaccine card with you during the daytime for all site visits. They may be required for security at all site visits and you will be denied access without them.

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

Updated 6/6/22

Belgium is a party to the Schengen Agreement. As a U.S. citizen, you 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”. You will no longer be required to show proof of vaccination and the QR code generated by the Passenger Locator Form which needs to be completed prior to departure from the U.S. <https://travel.info-coronavirus.be/public-health-passenger-locator-form>

TRAVEL INSURANCE

If you booked your travel through the University of Pittsburgh, you have some additional travel and medical coverage through International SOS. You should have received an email about your upcoming trip from online@internationalsos.com. There is a link to a printable version of your Membership Card. Print it out and bring it with you among your other papers.

We encourage you to review your coverage and book additional travel or medical coverage as necessary. If you did not book travel through the University of Pittsburgh, check with your University sponsor to determine if you have any additional coverage.

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.

There is also a train from Zaventem to Brussels-Schuman (near the hotel), which will cost about €13 and take about 20 minutes. The trains depart from level -1.

You should be able to use a US Debit or Credit card with a chip in it. **Be sure you know the PIN number.**

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. A taxi stand is available directly outside the Arrivals Hall. Licensed taxis have yellow-and-blue license marks. Transit time varies depending upon traffic. But if you arrive around the same time as other tour participants, you can split the fare. This is easily coordinated via the Facebook Group.

Lyft and Uber also operate at the Brussels Airport. You will need to verify with the app/driver for the pick-up area, but it may be in one of the parking structures opposite the terminal.

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 €21.00 (€15.60 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 €21 (+ €5 card fee) if you would like to travel farther from the city center. Once you purchase a card, you can then reload it again and again.

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 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 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. **EVERYONE SHOULD RETAIN THEIR BOARDING PASSES!!**

Updated 6/6/22

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 (subject to cancellation)

The plan is to visit the European Court of Justice, as long as such a visit is allowed. If it is, we will be leaving Belgium for a day and entering Luxembourg. The relevant information about travel restrictions in Luxembourg can be found here:

<https://covid19.public.lu/en/travellers/visiting-luxembourg.html>

<https://lu.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

As of 5/24/22, no additional steps are required beyond those for Belgium, and arriving by train in the country should not be difficult. Should the Belgium Covid Safe Ticket be reinstated, the QR code received in Belgium for the Covid Safe Ticket should also be valid in Luxembourg stores and restaurants.

Returning to the U.S.:

While testing is not currently required to enter Belgium or travel to Luxembourg, it **is** required to return to the United States (as of 2/25/2022).

Testing in Belgium:

Covid PCR and/or antigen tests are available, reliably so within one calendar day. See <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/testing/> for locations of testing centers. The Brussels Airport offers COVID-19 testing for both arriving and departing passengers, though this is the most expensive option. Details will be provided closer to the trip, as locations, prices, and requirements are subject to change. We will be facilitating appointments for people leaving directly after the study tour to ensure everyone can comply with whatever regulations are in place at the time. Arrangements/appointments will be made on-site and communicated to each participant. If you are extending your trip or traveling to other countries/destinations, you are responsible for making your own arrangements for COVID testing prior to your return to the U.S.