

Gent

Belgium

General Guide



You will find the Campus Gent of Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School in the heart of the city centre of Ghent. Within walking distance you will find several hotels such as Ibis, Novotel, Sofitel and a brand-new Marriott.



Our completely renewed campus, residing in a former seminary, is definitely worth a visit. The building, centered around two impressive atria, was thoroughly reconstructed and renovated in 2003. The original character of the building was conserved as much as possible. The concept of the Gent Campus was conceived to enable maximum facilitation of communication and integration between the different users of the building: students, researchers, professors, visitors,...



Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School moved to the new campus in August 2003. The first atrium or campus square, decorated with a work of art by Panamarenko, forms the passage between the historical centre of Ghent and the entrance to the building. The second atrium, the garden, is a green oasis of peace and quiet in the historical city centre of Ghent.



The campus Gent has seven spacious auditoria with a total capacity of 185 seats. All auditoria have daylight and are equipped with data and video projector, computers with internet access and air-conditioning. The library with an extended collection is at the disposal of all visitors.



Vlerick Campus Gent
Reep 1
9000 GENT
BELGIUM
Tel: +32 9 210 97 55

Dress Code

At Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School the dress code is business/smart casual attire.



Getting around in Gent

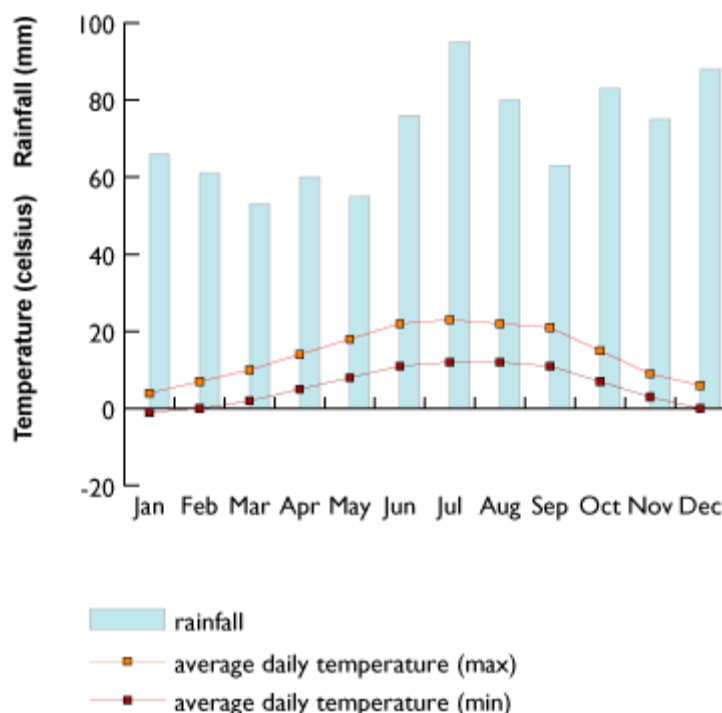
The center of Gent is traffic-free, but is served by public transportation (buses, trams, taxi's and boat-taxi). Many car-parks are located near the city center. They can be easily reached by following the so-called "parking route" which is clearly marked by traffic signs.

Weather

Belgium is subjected to a temperate climate from the coastal regions inland to about Brussels. Towards the Ardennes the climate becomes more continental, with colder winters and warm summers. Rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year. Snowfalls are rather rare. The average daily temperatures range between 4 degrees in winter and 22 degrees in the summer.

Clothing: Medium weight clothing all year, with a jacket or pullover for the cooler summer evenings. Waterproof clothing is useful at any time of year. Heavier clothing is advisable in the winter months.

Except during severe winter weather in the Ardennes, the weather and climate of Belgium are rarely unpleasant or uncomfortable. Average daily sunshine amounts range from about two hours a day in January to between seven and eight hours in June.



Voltage

Local electricity is 220V and plugs are European plug model with two circular metal pins



Smoking

Smoking is forbidden in Belgium's public places, including public transportation, companies, universities and restaurants. Smoking is allowed in bars and pubs.

Calling Belgium

The international dialling code for Belgium is 00 32. For example, to call Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School you will need to dial +32 9 210 97 55

Medical Assistance

Conference and programme participants are responsible for their own medical insurance. If you require medical assistance, there are a number of different places to receive assistance, depending on the severity and urgency of the matter.

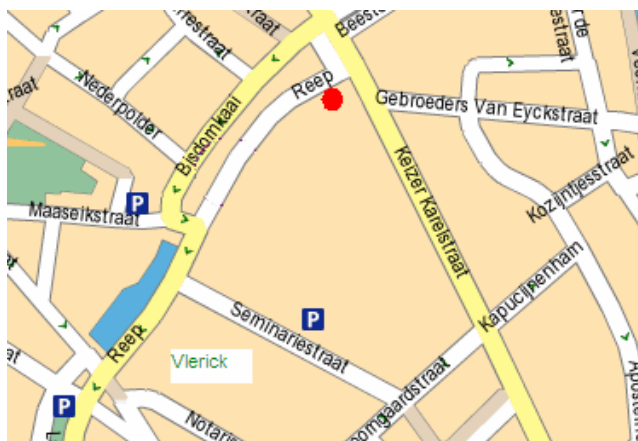
Emergency Telephone Number

For any serious emergency or accidents – call 100

Pharmacy



The nearest pharmacy to Vlerick Campus Gent is located on the corner of Reep and Keizer Karelstraat and is open every weekday from 8:30 till 13:00 and from 14:00 till 18:30.



Sightseeing



Belfry

In the middle ages the tower functioned as a treasury (the rights and privileges of the city were kept safe here), watchtower and military head quarters. Nowadays the bells don't sound the alarm but a friendly tune is played by the carillon.



Graslei

The river Leie runs through the hart of the city. The Graslei once was a bank of a flourishing harbour as you still can see at the beautiful medieval houses along side of it. Now there are mostly restaurants housed in them.



Gravensteen

The Gravensteen is the Dutch name for the 'castle of the count'. The counts of Flanders had castles built in the principal cities of the county. Because they had to maintain law and order, they continuously had to move from one city to the other. Therefore, they disposed of a castle in most cities where they wanted to stay for a few months. The castle of Ghent is the only one which survived the centuries more or less intact. Through time it purposed many goals, such as: count's residence, cotton spinning mill, prison, symbol of power and off course tourist attraction.



Patershol

Near the Gravensteen lies the 'Patershol'. This quarter is a network of little medieval streets. In the middle ages the traders and craftsman used to live here. When in the 17th and 18th century the Gravensteen became a law court, the magistrates lived in the houses. In the next century the Gravensteen became a cotton factory so the textile workers moved in this quarter. It became a run-down quarter when the industry didn't flourish anymore. After the Second World War the Patershol was renovated. Now you'll find many nice restaurants here.



The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb

This famous painting (1432 – Brothers Van Eyck) can be seen in the Saint Bavo cathedral of Ghent. It is considered to be one of the artistic masterpieces in Belgium. It also is considered one of the most influential and beautiful painting of the Middle-Ages and the Flemish painting school.

Specialties - Belgian Chocolates

Belgian chocolate has been the food of champions, a lure for lovers, the indulgence of the rich and the favourite of the masses. Belgium produces 172,000 tons of chocolate per year with more than 2,000 chocolate shops throughout the country.

Pralines in Belgium are sublime chocolate confections. A beautifully sculpted chocolate shell conceals a center of filling which explodes with a surprising texture and flavour in your mouth. Many chocolatiers still make their pralines by hand. Every town and even small villages have chocolate stores with luxurious pralines.

Famous chocolatiers can be found at:

- Neuhaus – Sint Baafsplein 20
- Daskalides – Henegouwenstraat 1
- Leonidas – Zonnestraat 3

Specialties - Belgian Beer

Belgian beer varies from the popular pale lager to the esoteric appeal of lambic beer and Flemish Red. Belgian beer-brewing's origins go back to the Middle-Ages, when monasteries began producing beers. High esteem of Belgian beer is supported by beer experts such as Michael Jackson (not the artist). Although beer production in Belgium is now dominated by Inbev and Alken Maes, there are approx 125 breweries in the country, producing about 500 standard beers.

A high variety of beers can be tasted at:

- Het Waterhuis Aan De Bierkant - Groentemarkt 9 (140 different beers)
- Den Trollekelder – Bij St. Jacobs 17 (150 different beers)
- Brasserie Deus – Vlaanderenstraat 128 (160 different beers)

History of Gent

Archaeological research has proved that there was human settlement in Ghent during prehistoric times. Only later, in the Roman period, the nucleus of a city began to grow near the confluence of the two rivers Scheldt and Leie. (The Flemish name 'Gent' is probably derived from the Celtic 'Ganda', which meant confluence). It was around the year 630 that Ghent continued to



grow when the Abbey of Saint Peter (later Abbey of Saint Bavo) was founded. Later, a second abbey was founded on the so-called 'Blandijnberg'. It was around these two religious centers that a residential nucleus came into existence. This early city was important enough to create a 'portus' with commercial activity. Charlemagne gave it a fleet for protection against the Vikings. In both 851 and 879 the Vikings attacked and plundered the city. Shortly afterwards a first wooden fortification was built for better protection. It stood on the spot where now the impressive 'Castle of the Count' can be visited.

From the 11th until the 12th century Gent rose to become an important trade center, especially because of the production of cloth based on the import of English wool. In 1178 Count Philip of Alsace granted Gent its first privileges. The same Count also transformed the wooden fortification into the impressive stone Castle of the Counts. In the 13th century the city was governed by an oligarchy of patricians who, continuously, defended their own interests against the Count and the corporations. During the Hundred Years' War the count of Flanders chose the side of the French king. Gent, however, depended heavily on the import of English wool. Therefore, the people of Gent asked Jacob van Artevelde, a corporation frontman, to try and preserve the trade-relations with England. Through diplomatic actions he succeeded and managed to avoid an open conflict with the French King.



In the 15th century, Gent was under stricter rule of the Dukes of Burgundy (who had obtained the County of Flanders through marriage policy). The city managed to regain its important privileges under the young Duchess of Burgundy, Mary. Her marriage with Maximilian of Austria moved the Low Countries into the House of Habsburg. The grandchild of Mary and Maximilian was born in Gent in the year 1500 : CHARLES V. Although a native of the city of Gent, CHARLES V punished his hometown severely when the citizens refused to pay more war-taxes.

Under the rule of Philip II of Spain (son of Charles V) Gent suffered like most other cities of Flanders and the low countries under the continuous religious troubles between Protestants and Catholics. Lots of people left the impoverished Flanders and settled in England and Germany. It was only under the Archdukes Albert and Isabella that Gent could flourish once more. Later, the economic situation improved thanks to the construction of the canal between the Gent harbor and the city of Ostend. War, however, was never far away, especially when Louis XIV of France repeatedly tried to conquer Flanders.

The Austrian period of the 18th century again brought peace and prosperity. New industries were developed (sugar refineries and cotton mills).

In 1795 the former Austrian Netherlands were annexed to France. As from 1800 the cotton industry started to flourish. A citizen of Gent, Lieven Bauwens, had smuggled the plans for a cotton mill out of England. Gent turned into one of the most important industrial centers of the French Empire. After the battle of Waterloo and the defeat of Napoleon, the French Netherlands were united with Holland into the United Kingdom of the Netherlands. King William I founded the Gent University in 1817 and had the canal Gent-Terneuzen constructed. Gent continued to grow as an industrial center.



The number of inhabitants tripled in the 19th century. The miserable working and housing conditions of the working-class resulted in the creation of the first Belgian trade union in Gent. Gent also played an important part in the Flemish movement in Belgium. In 1886 the Royal Academy of Language and Literature was founded. In 1930 the Gent University became a Dutch-language university. Now, Gent has a population of about 250.000 inhabitants. It is the capital of the Belgian province of East-Flanders.

Gent – Citizens



The people of Ghent proudly wear the nickname 'Stropke', which is actually the round part of the rope through which a convict has to stick his head before being hanged. The citizens of Ghent received this name because of the punishment inflicted on the city by its most famous citizen, Emperor Charles V.

In 1537 Ghent had refused to pay more taxes for a new war of Charles V against the king of France. To deal with his rebellious birth-city for once and for all, Charles V had the city walls destroyed. He also abolished most of the city's privileges and ordered the most important citizens to appear before him to ask for mercy while carrying a rope around their necks, as a sign that they were ready to be hanged if the Emperor would order it.

The punishment was not new. The people of Ghent had already experienced this under one of their former rulers. The first to do it, was Duke Philip the Good

of Burgundy in 1458, and this is to what the people of Ghent refer. Duke Philip was punishing the citizens for their uprising of 1448. He had already defeated the city in the bloody Battle of the Gavere in 1453, where upwards of 10,000 of Ghent's soldiers died, but Philip withheld the city's rights and privileges (a virtual shut-down in trade) until a major ceremony staged in 1458 to garner the Duke's forgiveness.

At the onset of this ceremony, Duke Philip marched the leaders of the city and its guilds outside the city walls, stripped them to their undergarments, had them kneel in the mud wearing nooses around their necks, and pledge to him eternal allegiance. After this, they led him through Ghent's streets, decorated with banners and torches and dramatized mythological and biblical scenes, including a live-action version of the Van Eycks' Ghent Altarpiece as the centerpiece