



Survival Guide BEST Course in Summer

Liège 2025

Ground zero :

**A deep dive analysis on
soil health**



Hello future friends and welcome to Liège.

We thank you for choosing our university to spend 9 awesome days with us.

To help you during this great adventure we wrote this survival guide. It will provide you with useful information about our beautiful country as well as BEST, the group that organizes this event.

It will also give you some practical tips and what you have to know before coming.



What is BEST?

BEST stands for "Board of European Students of Technology."

It is a constantly growing non-profit and non-political organization. Since 1989 we provide communication and cooperation between universities. BEST creates exchange possibilities for students all over Europe, for example BEST Courses. The Local BEST Groups (LBGs) in different countries are creating a growing, well organized, powerful, young and innovative student network. BEST strives to help European students of technology to become more internationally minded, by reaching a better understanding of European cultures and developing their capacities to work on an international basis. The core of BEST consists of the 86 Local BEST Groups (LBGs) scattered across Europe. They are the factories of our events and homes of our members. The main activities of a Local BEST Group are organizing and promoting international events as well as local activities. Nevertheless, we acquire a complementary knowledge that will help us not only as future engineers, but also as European citizens. We also happen to have (a lot) of fun while living our BEST life! Want more information about BEST group? Go on <http://www.best.eu.org>.



Information about Belgium

General context

Population:	11 700 000	State order:	Constitutional monarchy
Currency:	Euro €	Languages:	Dutch, French, German
Capital:	Bruxelles (French), Brussel (Dutch), Brüssel (German), Brussels (English)		
Major cities:	Antwerpen/Anvers/Antwerpen, Gent/Gand/Gent, Liège/Luik/Lüttich		

Belgium has been an independent country from the Netherlands since 1831, when the constitutional monarchy was established. It is one of the founding members of the European Union with its direct neighbors being the Netherlands and Luxembourg, as well as France and Germany. The organization of the country is quite complex. Belgium is a federal state which implies the land is split in 3 regions, 3 communities and 10 provinces. The regions define mainly the economical behavior and the communities deal with the cultural aspect (language, education, etc.).



Regions		
Wallonia	Flanders	Brussels-Capital
Southern population + Eastern population	Northern population	Brussels
Communities		
French-speaking community	Dutch-speaking community	German-speaking community
Southern population + Brussels	Northern population + Brussels	Eastern part
Provinces		
West Flanders, East Flanders, Antwerp, Limburg, Flemish Brabant, Hainaut, Walloon Brabant, Namur, Liège, Luxembourg		

Note that Brussels, the capital, even if it is bonded by the Flemish Brabant, is mostly French speaking. However, the city is officially bilingual. The provinces have nearly no specific responsibilities and no consequences on travel.

The current king of Belgium is Philippe the 1st (since 2015) and the current prime minister is yet to be chosen as I write this (end of january).

If you want more detailed information about Belgium, its culture, etc. you can visit Wikipedia's article about Belgium: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgium>. Or ask us ;)

Legal context

One of the first articles of Belgian law says that nobody is supposed to ignore the law. So, even if Belgian law is not especially different from neighbor (and more, European) countries, to avoid any problems, you must know that:

- Smoking on any place where you can buy food or drink is forbidden;
- You are of age at 18 years old;
- You can't bring with you any switchblade or knife;

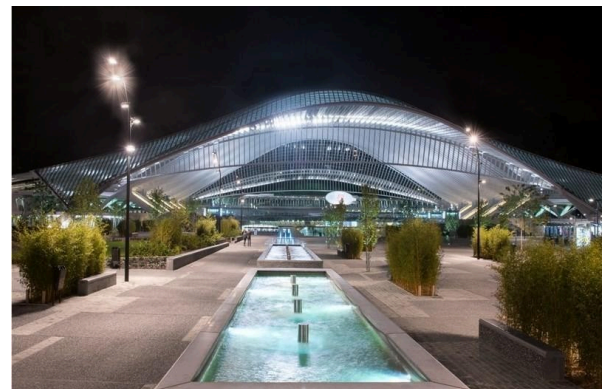
you should also know that:

- A pub cannot sell more than 25% of foreign beers;
- You can ask a glass of water for free in a pub;
- It's forbidden to throw Brussels sprouts on tourists;

Liège

General context

The city is situated in the valley of the Meuse River, near Belgium's eastern borders with the Netherlands and Germany, where the Meuse meets the Ourthe. It is in the former "sillon industriel", the industrial backbone of Wallonia. The Liège municipality includes Angleur, Bressoux, Chênée, Glain, Grivegnée, Jupille-sur-Meuse, Rocourt and Wandre. The city is the principal economic and cultural center of Wallonia (French speaking region). Liège counts approximately 200,000 inhabitants. It ranks as the third most populated city in Belgium, after Brussels and Antwerp, and the fourth municipality after Antwerp, Gent and Charleroi.



Main Sights

The 16th century palace of the Prince-Bishops of Liège is built on the Place St Lambert, where the old St Lambert's Cathedral used to stand before the French Revolution. An archaeological display, the Archeoforum, can be visited under the Place St Lambert.

The perron on the nearby Place du Marché was once the symbol of justice during the Prince-Bishopric and is now the symbol of the city. It stands in



front of the 17th century city hall.

The current Liège Cathedral, dedicated to Saint Paul, contains a treasure and Saint Lambert's tomb. It is one of the original seven collegiate churches, which include the German-Romanesque St Bartholomew's Church (Saint Barthélémy) and the church of St Martin.

The church of Saint-James (Saint-Jacques) is probably the most beautiful medieval church in Liège. It is built in the Flamboyant-Gothic style, while the porch is early Renaissance. The statues are by Liège sculptor Jean DelCour. Saint-Jacques also contains 29 spectacular 14th century misericords.

The main museums in Liège are: MAMAC (Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art), Museum of Walloon Life, and Museum of Walloon Art and Religious Art (Mosan art). The Grand Curtius Museum is an elegantly furnished mansion from the 17th century along the Meuse River housing the collections of the archaeology, decorative arts, religious art and Mosan art museums.



Other sites of interest include the historical city center, the Hors-Château area, the Outremeuse area, the parks and boulevards along the Meuse river, the Citadel, the 400 steps stairway "Montagne de Bueren" leading from Hors-Château to the Citadel, the "Médiacité" shopping mall designed by Ron Arad Architects, and the Liège-Guillemins train station designed by Santiago Calatrava, which you can see on the picture.

University

The University of Liège was founded in 1817, at the initiative of William I, King of the Netherlands. Today, it is composed of four campus, one in the center of Liège ("Place du XX août"), one outside the city, in the so-called "Sart-Tilman" Campus, a large wooded area (1,820 acres) located some 8 km south of the city, one in Gembloux and one in Arlon. During the BEST course in summer, you will be on the Sart Tilman campus. Parts of the site are dedicated to leisure activities: walkways, cycle and riding tracks, sport centers and barbecue facilities. A number of very rare species of trees can be found there. The staff of the university comprises 3,300 employees, including 2,900 faculty members and 800 administrative and technical support staff. The University of Liège is involved in many European and international research programs; 18% of its 24,500 students come from 70 different foreign countries! If you are interested, you can find more information about the ULiège on the web site: <https://www.uliege.be/>.





Language tips

Numbers

1	un	11	onze	21	vingt-et-un	40	quarante
2	deux	12	douze	22	vingt-deux	50	cinquante
3	trois	13	treize	23	vingt-trois	60	soixante
4	quatre	14	quatorze	24	vingt-quatre	69	soixante-neuf
5	cinq	15	quinze	25	vingt-cinq	70	septante
6	six	16	seize	26	vingt-six	80	quatre-vingt
7	sept	17	dix-sept	27	vingt-sept	90	nonante
8	huit	18	dix-huit	28	vingt-huit	100	cent
9	neuf	19	dix-neuf	29	vingt-neuf	1000	mille
10	dix	20	vingt	30	trente	0	zéro

Money

The local currency is the euro.

Coins	Notes
0.01€, 0.02€, 0.05€, 0.1€, 0.2€, 0.5€, 1€, 2€	5€, 10€, 20€, 50€, 100€, 200€, 500€
	

Some approximate prices:

Beer in a pub (25cl)	2.5€	Sandwich	5€
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Pack of cigarettes	8-10€	Pizza	12€
Movie ticket	10€	Bus card(8x)	9.20€
800g of bread	2€	Fries	3.5€
McDonalds Menu	10€	A bottle of water (1/2L)	0.50€
Youth Multi (10 train ticket for people under 26 to travel anywhere in Belgium)			57€

Little sentences

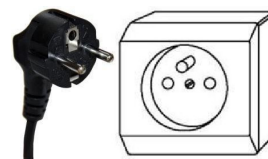
Liège is located in the Wallonia region and so it's a French - speaking town. Even if English is generally understood (especially by younger people), here are some basic phrases that might be useful:

Yes/no	Oui/non
Hi ! Good morning	Salut/Bonjour
Good night	Bonne nuit
You're welcome	S'il te/vous plait
Please	S'il te/vous plait
Sorry/excuse me	Pardon/Excusez moi
My name is.../I'm called	Je m'appelle...
Wine	Vin
Beer	Bière
Cheers	Santé
I love you	Je t'aime
Peasant	Baraki
Oh My god	Oh mon Dieu
Will you marry me	Veux tu m'épouser

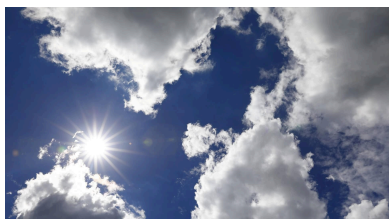
Electricity

In Belgium, we use this kind of electrical outlet: 220-230 Volts, 50Hz, two-pin, type E.

We do not guarantee Wi-Fi in the lodging. However, Wi-Fi is available on the university campus. Try Eduroam before coming.



Weather



Weather in Belgium changes all the time, it is impossible to predict anything! However, you can expect temperatures between 15°C and 30°C during the day and between 10°C and 20°C during the night. You should bring shorts and T-shirts but it's also really advised to bring your raincoat and/or umbrella! Anyway, it's not a bad idea to take some warmer clothes with you.

Participation fee

As this course will last 9 days, the nominal fee for this event is 72€.



Getting to BEST Liège

Address

Here is the exact address of BEST Liège, if you want to send us a postcard for instance:

BEST Liège ASBL
Montéfiore, B28 Local S131
Quartier Polytech 1
Allée de la découverte 10
4000 Liège (Sart Tilman) Belgium

Phone: 0032 4 366 92 78

Email: contact@bestliege.be

Web : <https://www.facebook.com/BestLiege/>



Getting to the accommodation

Address

Youth hostel of Tilff

Esplanade de l'Abeille,

9 4130 TILFF

Web : <https://aubergedetilff.be/about-us/>



How to reach the accommodation from the station?

If you reach Liège-Guillemins by train, take the train to **Tilff**. If you are under 26 this will be the cheapest way since you can set the destination to Tilff instead of Liège-Guillemins for the same price! There is one train per hour during the week and every 2 hours during the week-end. Its destination is MARLOIE.

If you came by another mean of transport or you don't want to wait for the train, take the bus **377** from the station Liège-Guillemins to COMBLAIN

Then, you have to get off at the stop : **TILFF Place des Porais**

Be careful : Arrival date is on a sunday, so there may be fewer buses/trains than on otjer days

Route

Meeting point is at the accommodation (the address is right above), where we will be waiting for you (don't forget to tell us when you plan to arrive on the excel!).

To get to Liège, several options are available (take a look in the powerpoint, there are more details).

By plane

- Brussels airport: (Zaventem, website: <http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/>) where most of the traditional airlines go. From there, you will have to take the train to reach Liège-Guillemins station. The airport train station is located below the terminal (basement level-1). In order to know the schedule for the trains, go to <http://www.belgianrail.be/en/Default.aspx> and select from Brussels Airport - Zaventem to Tilff. The price of the train is around 14e.

- Charleroi South Airport: (Charleroi, website: <http://www.charleroi-airport.com/>) where mainly low-cost companies go (Ryanair, Wizz Air, . . .). From there you have to take a bus to

Charleroi train station. The bus is from GOSSELIES Airport to CHARLEROI CENTRAL [SNCB] (see <http://www.belgianrail.be/en/travel-tickets/tickets/bus-tec-to-charleroi-airport.aspx>). There you can take a train to Tilff station. Combo bus + train is around 12e. you can also check out other bus lines such as flibco.

- Cologne-Bonn: (Germany, website: <http://www.koeln-bonn-airport.de/>). From there, it's easy to reach Tilff station by train.
(see <https://www.trainline.eu/trains/koln-bonn-flughafen/liege-guillemins>).
- Maastricht-Aachen: (the Netherlands : <http://www.maa.nl/en-us/>). You will have to take a shuttle from Maastricht Aachen Airport to Station Maastricht. From that point you can reach Tilff station by train.



By train

It's possible to go to Liège from any big city in Belgium or surrounding countries. Some direct connections are possible (Thalys, TGV, ICE): Liège-Cologne, Liège-Brussels, Liège-Paris. You can plan your train travel by going on <http://www.belgianrail.be/en/Default.aspx> and choosing as destination "Tilff". If you travel as a group or plan to come back to Belgium, a special 10 trips ticket called "Youth Multi" is available for youth (age < 26) for 55€ (valid for one year). There is also a "Youth Ticket" for 7,20€ valid for one trip from anywhere to anywhere in Belgium. You should buy this ticket if the normal one has a price above 7,20€.



ATTENTION! Belgium is a multilingual country, so don't fall into the trap of changing the name of cities. In French it's Liège, in Dutch it's Luik and in German you say Lüttich.

By bus

There is a Eurolines stop in Liège (<http://www.eurolines.be/en/>) and a Flixbus stop as well (<https://global.flixbus.com/>). Both stops are located near the Liège-Guillemins station.



By car

You have to drive to the correct address. . .

Do not hesitate to contact us! We will help you to find the cheapest and the best way to come.



Visa

For people who need a visa please let us know what kind of documentation is necessary to obtain it. We will send it as soon as possible and we will help you as much as we can to get the visa. We usually send an official invitation signed by our president and officially stamped by the University, and it normally works.

Troubles

If you are in trouble when you are in Liège, do not hesitate to contact one of the members (see below). We will be pleased to help you. If you are in real trouble, call the unique European emergency number : 112.

Information about the course

It starts on Sunday the 29th of June, in the evening. It would be nice if you could arrive in the afternoon.

During the BC you will have lectures and visits, of course, but be also prepared for all the other activities we have planned for you: Weekendtrip, beer tasting, parties and so much more !

And never forget: we are crazy Belgians who drink beer all night, party hard and think of the consequences later, so prepare your eyes for loooong nights, incredible parties and for sleeping one day long when you come back home!

One evening, there will be the **international party** (the BEST experience of your life!), where you're supposed to cook something national for all the participants so don't forget to bring with you recipes, national drinks and all the ingredients that you think cannot be found in Belgium.



Don't forget...

... to bring with you.

- National dishes and national drinks for the international evening (a trip to a supermarket is possible)
- A raincoat/umbrella and sunscreen
- Medical and general travel insurance
- Leisure wear: there will be sports and games
- Bed sheet, pillow sheet and blanket
- Any musical instrument (that you can play and you're able to bring)
- Music you like for the parties!
- Maybe something original from your country to decorate the room?
- A big smile with a lot of BEST spirit!
- A towel
- Some small presents for the organizers if you are sweet
- Your ID card/passport and any other official documents needed.

... NOT to bring with you

- Sleeping pills
- Your bad habits
- Your girl/boyfriend

Note that lodging, food and all planned visits will be paid by us. If you want anything that is not included (drinks in a pub for example), you will have to pay for it by yourself.

Remarks

Even if previous BEST courses in summer that BEST Liège has organized went well, some of the guests did not respect the propriety rules in Belgium and, for the harmony of the group, we would like you to respect those "rules."

Particularly:

1. Please, if you have to leave the accommodation during a course, tell us.
2. Remember that toilet paper goes in the toilet, not in the dustbin
3. Also remember that you are visiting a foreign country, with another culture and other

eating habits. You will discover what we eat in Belgium. It's a part of the trip. So don't expect to eat your local dishes and be open minded! In Belgium we eat only one hot meal per day. It is usually in the evening and some sandwiches at midday.

4. Finally, don't forget to let us know as soon as possible about possible allergies or special diets. We need to know it to prepare and buy adapted food.

Center



Campus



Contacts:



Main organiser : Sacha
Phone number : +32 492508004
E-Mail : sacha.del.bianco@best-eu.org

You can also contact us at the following email address: contact@bestliege.be