

## BELGIUM RISK ASSESSMENT



### Country

BELGIUM, various destinations

### Prepared by

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### Before you go –

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides travel advice by country. It covers safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements, health and natural disasters along with a host of other useful information. We strongly recommend that students read the section related to their destination prior to departure and before undertaking any trip to another part of the county/region.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

### VISA REGULATIONS

Holders of British passports endorsed 'British Citizen' don't need a visa to enter Belgium. If you intend to work or remain in Belgium for more than 3 months you must apply to the local communal authorities for a residence permit. Those with other types of British nationality and other nationalities altogether should check entry requirements with the Belgian Embassy in London. Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay. \*\*\*Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website\*\*\*

### HEALTH

If you're visiting Belgium you should obtain a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Belgian nationals. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation. \*\*\*Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website\*\*\*

Type	Nature of the Hazard	Procedures to Minimise Risk
<b>CRIME</b>	Theft and pick pocketing is a problem in crowded areas. Take care of your belongings and passports at all train stations in Brussels.	Take only the minimum amount of cash, credit cards and personal ID necessary when you go out. As far as possible leave jewellery, other valuables and documents in a secure place like a hotel safe. Avoid carrying money, bank/credit cards and your passport in the same bag or pocket.
	Thieves and muggers operate around the Brussels Gare du Midi/Zuidstation (Eurostar terminal), Gare du Nord and Schuman (the EU quarter). Pickpockets also operate on international trains, mainly Paris-Brussels and Amsterdam-Brussels.	Be vigilant and take extra care in major railway stations, and on public transport, particularly late at night. Never leave luggage unattended. There have been reports of luggage being stolen from the racks at the end of carriages in high-speed trains (TGV and Thalys), usually just before the doors close.
	It is increasingly common for thieves, usually on motorbikes, to break a window and snatch valuables from the front or back passenger seat when the vehicle is stationary at traffic lights.	If driving while in Belgium, do not leave valuable items visible in your car, even when you are in it. Keep car doors locked and windows secure at all times. If you wish to drive in Belgium you must have a valid UK driving license, insurance

		and vehicle documents. If you are driving a vehicle that does not belong to you then written permission from the registered owner may also be required
<b>DRUGS</b>	Possession of drugs and trafficking in drugs are serious offences.	Do not get involved with drugs.
<b>OTHER</b>	Alcohol and drugs can lead to you being less alert, less in control and less aware of your environment.	If you are going to drink, know your limit. Remember that drinks served in bars overseas are often stronger than those in the UK.
	Demonstrations often take place in Brussels, including around transport hubs and the Schuman area. While the vast majority of demonstrations are peaceful, there is a risk of isolated incidents of unrest or violence. If you're in and around areas where demonstrations are taking place, remain vigilant and move away quickly if there are signs of disorder. Some demonstrations can affect access to the <a href="#">British Embassy and the British Consulate General</a> and cause travel disruption in central Brussels.	For regular updates on any disruption, you can check local news, the <a href="#">Belgian Railways website</a> (train and metro travel) and the <a href="#">HERE map website</a> (road travel).

<p><b>TERRORISM</b></p>	<p>Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Belgium. Attacks could happen anywhere, including on public transport and transport hubs and in other places visited by foreigners.</p> <p>There have been a number of high profile terrorist attacks across Belgium. The main threat is from extremists linked to Daesh (formerly referred to as ISIL).</p>	<p>You should be vigilant in public places and follow the advice of local Belgian authorities.</p> <p>Security operations are likely to be carried out at short notice. You should remain vigilant and follow the instructions of the Belgian authorities. Police have asked the public not to comment on police operations on social media. You can find more information on the <a href="#">Belgian Crisis Centre website</a> and <a href="#">Twitter channel</a>.</p>
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**Please also note and be sensitive to the following:**

- If you need to contact the emergency services in Belgium call 112.
- According to Belgian law, you must have some form of identification with you at all times.
- It is illegal to wear in public places (parks, buildings, public transport, on the street etc) clothing that hides a person's face largely or completely. People wearing such clothing risk a fine of up to €137.50 and/or detention for up to seven days. There is no exemption for tourists.