

## FEEDBACK ON EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO UCL, BELGIUM

### A. Ways of getting scholarships either in India or abroad and getting other funding there (Rooms, grants)

Most of the scholarship programs were limited to EU students. I didn't come across any scholarship for Asian students.

You get 500 Euros from Ms. Nancy towards the accommodation fees.

### B. Visa Requirements

- Passport
- Medical clearance certificate issued by a doctor whose name will be prescribed by the Belgian embassy
- Police clearance certificate issued and attested by the Ministry of External Affairs (this can be initiated from the place of original issue of passport)
- In case your study are sponsored by somebody else (i.e. your father), physical presence of the sponsor and his bank statement
- Letter of acceptance form UCL

### C. Lodging Details

Lodging in a big problem during the period of Aug-Oct as this is time when most exchange students flock in. So, it is **strongly** advised to book your apartment much in advance. Ms. Nancy Gulliamme, the international exchange coordinator at UCL will be of help in choosing an inexpensive and comfortable apartment. Various options of lodging that are available there are as follows:

#### - **Kot-a-Project**

It is an apartment shared by many students (personal rooms and common kitchen, toilet and bathroom) and they commonly do a project, which can be based on themes like music, French language, sports, homosexuality etc

#### - **Apartment / Kot**

It is a simple apartment as mentioned above but with no projects

#### - **Studio**

It is a big hall/living room shared by 2-4 people. There will be a common kitchen and bathroom. This option comes out to be cheaper as the occupants share the rent

### D. Supermarkets and shopping

There are two supermarkets in LLN. One is called Delhaize and the other one is Aldi. Delhaize is an expensive chain with more variety whereas Aldi is a discount store, very inexpensive but with limited variety. It is preferable to shop from Aldi as it can meet all the requirements of a student. Apart from these, there is a supermarket called Carrefour at Wavre, which is 15 mins by train from LLN.

For apparel and other kinds of luxury shopping, a shopping complex called City 2 at Brussels Midi can be visited. Stores like H&M offer good quality at reasonable prices.

### **E. Transport**

Inside LLN, there is no need for transport as everything can be covered by foot. One can buy a campus pass to ply between LLN and Brussels. This pass entitles to 5 return journeys from LLN to Brussels and comes for 20 Euros. Apart from that, if one wishes to travel inside Belgium in a group, he can buy a Go-Pass, which comes to be cheaper than individual person buying tickets for the destination.

### **F. What to take from India**

- Blanket
- Warm clothes (jacket, sweater, Muffler, gloves)
- Umbrella
- Indian gifts to gift to room mates, friends, teachers
- Indian spices
- Pressure cooker

### **G. Cheapest way to get currency**

One can take traveller's cheque, which can be encashed at a bank. Fortis Bank charges the least commission to redeem the TCs and offers a bank a/c to students for free of cost. One should always carry some Euros in cash at the time of leaving India and dollars are not required.

### **H. Professors to contact there**

N.A

### **I. Possibility of Research Assistantships**

One can always try for research assistantship work. The only bottleneck in this is the knowledge of French. Still, professors in the field of finance, operations and marketing can be contacted.

### **J. Name of the Administrative Coordinator**

Ms. Nancy Gulliamer, International exchange co-coordinator, UCL  
E-mail Address: [guillaume@iag.ucl.ac.be](mailto:guillaume@iag.ucl.ac.be)

### **K. Good courses**

- Supply Chain Management
- Managing and financing of Technical Innovation
- Seminar on Cross cultural Communication and negotiation

Apart from these, one can also take courses from other dept like the Economics Department. Good courses in English in the Eco Dept. are International Trade, Economic Integration of European policies etc.

### **L. Dates for arrival and departure**

The first fifteen days at UCL is kind of a shopping period where you can attend the classes and choose the course that you want for yourself. Registration for courses

happens only after these 15 days. So one can arrival in UCL in this shopping period. But it is advisable that you reach at the earliest and attend the induction program. The exams for students like us (who have to return in December because of the trimester system) get over before Christmas. So one can safely return between 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of December.

**M. Comparative experiences of students of other IIMs (If different from IIML students)**

Most of the students from other IIMs share the same experiences. The difference is made by involving in different extracurricular programs like AIESEC, ERUSMUS etc. Apart from these, there is a lot of scope to take part in case competitions and attend festivals, conferences in Brussels (as it is the seat of European Union). Besides, networking and making presentations on India to organisation like Belgian Chamber of Commerce, commercial organisations like OXFAM, local business schools can be worthwhile.

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