



Faculty of Law, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium)

Study Guide

1 Overall impression

The studies are greatly focused in European Law and core constitutional basis. You will have to know and read a lot of basics and major EU case law, which is very extensive. However, studies in international subjects are very detailed and interesting, especially international tax law, finance and investment law and contract law. Overall, coordination of the program could be better, do not expect that everything will be clear from the first day, at the same time deadlines are very tight. If you want to have a pass, you will need to study a lot and spend a lot of time in the library. Take a use of SC - groups of students on the facebook that are made for those studying the same subject.

2 Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

Organizational matters could be better, some things were cleared by way of studying, especially details of the program. Very tight deadlines for choosing courses. However, very friendly and helpful staff that is eager to help you to find information.

3 Contacts/Responsibilities

(e.g. important contact persons at the Partner University and Faculty)

For the program the best person is Els Depijpere who knows everything regarding your program and can refer you to the right person. Make use also of assistants to the chair of each course. They are very helpful and can provide with a lot of information.

4 Housing

Check facebook groups or website of KU Leuven - accommodation. Waterview Towers are especially nice.

5 Arrival

Arrive at least one week before official start of studies to move in and make registrations - they are not easy. A lot of beaurocracy in registration and settling.

6 Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

Orange mobile operator offers very nice deals.

7 Bank account

BNP Pariba can open a bank account urgently without having residence permit for 1 month (other banks do not do it). Upon 1 month you should present your residence card.

8 Transport

Plane (very expensive Swiss Air fares - book as much as possible in advance).

9 General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

Student life is fantastic. Make use of all events provided by the University and student organizations: festivals, parties, cantuses.

10 Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

(e.g. program structure, methodology, exams, etc.)

Teaching is made in classic way, however majority of courses require prior knowledge of EU law. You will need to read a lot of cases and readings before each lecture in order to catch up. Do not leave one week for preparing for the exam, it will not be possible due to the amount of information. The exams are mostly cases/essays - which are very difficult. If it is an open book exam, it means that there would be almost no time to read your materials in order to answer the questions (due to the amount and difficulty). Chose oral exams if possible.

11 City

(e.g. cultural activities, sports, discounts, nightlife, must-sees, short trips, etc.)

Almost no normal University sport facilities or they are overcrowded. Get a bicycle as its the main type of transport in the city, otherwise just walking. It takes 30 mins to cross the whole city. Buses are very rare, not on time. Incredible amount of bars, restaurants, cafes and shops. Very cheap train tickets so try to see most of Belgium and Netherlands.

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