



STUDY IN **FLANDERS**

Higher Education in Flanders

www.studyinlanders.be

Belgium, at the heart of Europe



Flanders

- Federated entity of the federal state of **Belgium**
- Capital city: **Brussels**
- Area: 13,522 sq km (5,220.8734 sq miles)
- Number of inhabitants: 6,117,440
- Language: Dutch
- Currency: Euro (€)



Key features of Belgium and Flanders

- Belgium gained independence in 1830
- Founding EU-member state
- Has become a federal state with:
 - Three Communities: Dutch-, French-, and German-speaking
 - And three Regions: Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels
- Flemish Community and Region
Flanders is one authority > **Flanders**



Key features of Belgium and Flanders



- The **federal state** is responsible for foreign affairs, national security and welfare.
- The **Communities** are responsible for person-related issues, such as **education** and welfare.
- The **Regions** deal with territorial matters, such as economy, environment and transport.

Brussels

- The capital of both Belgium and Flanders is **Brussels**.
- In Brussels the headquarters of the EU, NATO and many international organisations are located.



Higher education



Educational system: structure

nursery education	age: 2.5 till 5
primary education	age: 6 till 12
secondary education	age: 12 till 18
higher education	start: age 18
and different forms of adult education	

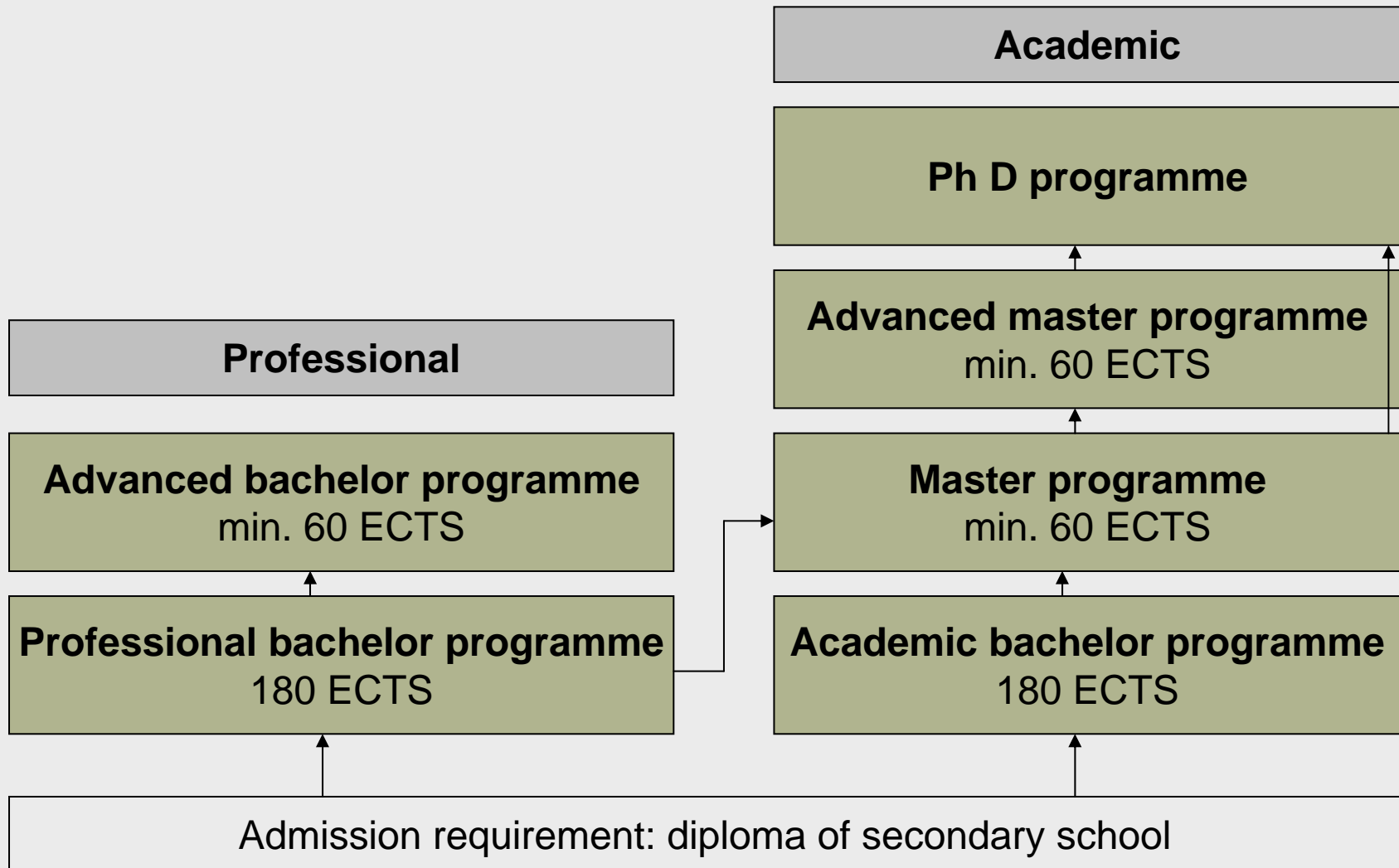


Educational system: principles

- Freedom of education
- Public funding for higher education:
 - Basic financing for all accredited institutions
 - Low tuition fee (~ € 520 / year)
 - Scholarships
- Basic mission of all higher education institutions:
 - Education / Teaching
 - Research (fundamental, applied)
 - Service to society



Higher education: structure



Higher education: associations

- The decree concerning the implementation of the Bologna structure also set up a new organisational structure, called **associations**.
- Five associations have been formed, consisting of one university and at least one university college.
- Their mission is: to steer, to plan and to improve, through mutual cooperation, the **quality and efficiency of higher education and research**.



Admission requirements

- In general: the secondary school-leaving certificate
- Otherwise:
 - The higher education-board can allow admission.
 - A foreign qualification of which recognition is based on a Belgian law, EU-directive or international convention.

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Degrees

- Bachelor's degree:
 - Professional bachelor's programmes
 - Advanced bachelor's programmes
 - Academic bachelor's programmes
 - Bridging programmes: may provide a route into master's programmes for holders of a professional bachelor's degree.
- Master's degree:
 - Master's programmes
 - Advanced master's programmes
- Ph D degree



Professional bachelor's programmes

- 180 ECTS
- Prepare students for specific **professions** in industry, education, commerce, agriculture, health and rehabilitation, social work, informatics, applied arts or the media.
- The courses are practice-oriented and include periods of work placement.
- The degrees are awarded by university colleges.



Academic bachelor's programmes

- 180 ECTS
- Prepare students for studies at master's level.
- Degrees awarded by universities and some university colleges.



Master's programmes

- At least 60 ECTS
- Depending on the field of study some programmes last longer (e.g. medicine, law, psychology, engineering).
- Integration of education and research and a master's dissertation.



Ph D degree

- Highest level of specialisation in scientific research.
- Based on an original research project.
- Takes at least two years.
- Public presentation of a doctoral thesis.
- Degree only awarded by universities.





	Flanders	Flanders	Wallonia	Wallonia
	University	University college	University	Haute Ecoles
Number of students	76 316	105 825	68 239	82 873
Staff (FTE)	8 330	7 543	8 322 (academic and scientific staff only)	4 946 (teaching staff only)





STUDY IN **FLANDERS**

Bologna process



Bologna process

Structural reform

- Implementation of the **BaMa-structure**
- Flexible learning paths
- Recognition of prior learning and experiential learning
- Matching higher education and research



Bologna process

Quality assurance

- Formal recognition of a study programme: based on a decision of an independent quality assurance agency, which verifies whether it meets the pre-determined minimal quality requirements.
- Three parts: internal audit, external audit, formal decision
- → Accreditation



Bologna process

Internationalisation

- **Joint degrees**
- Student support services (language training, information and study opportunities in other HEIs)
- Partnerships and mobility
- Widening access – EHEA
- Internationalisation at home



Bologna process

Innovation

- Curriculum reform – learning outcomes
- Lifelong learning
- Social dimension
- Employability – Engaging partners in the Bologna process and the Lisbon process
- **Diversity**
- **Quality**

