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HOW TO UGENT

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS WITH AN INTERNATIONAL BACKGROUND

How to UGent - A guide for students with an international background

1. Special Status for Students

A special status can grant you access to numerous benefits/help

1.1 Special status for exceptional social or personal circumstances

The special status for personal/social reasons can be requested by a student in a special situation (long-term illness, serious illness of family member,). This status must be applied for before October 15, when approved it offers several advantages. This can range from rescheduling exams, extra time to take an exam, ...

1.2 Special status for a foreign-language speaker

The special status for non-native speakers can be requested by a student whose native language is not Dutch. For this you may be enrolled in Dutch-speaking higher education for a maximum of 1 year, and you may only have completed a maximum of 3 years of Dutch-speaking secondary education.

This special status must be applied for before November 5 and can give you advantages such as extra time to sit your exam, the right to a translating dictionary during your exam or the right to a linguistic clarification of an exam question.

1.3 Requesting a facility

After granting the special status, you can request a facility within a course to receive these benefits within a course. Requesting a facility must be done by December 9 for first semester courses and April 29 for second semester courses at the latest.

More information on this subject:

<https://www.ugent.be/prospect/en/administration/application/special-status>

2. Study costs and study funding: Social Services

Ghent University provides financial support to students in need. This is done by the social services.

2.1 Allowance/interest free loan

If there is a shortage to bear the study costs, the Social Service can look at what support options are available. The Social Service can provide student finance in the form of an allowance or an interest-free study loan.

2.2 Psychological guidance

Limited intervention is possible for individual psychological counselling with a licensed therapist

- Maximum eight sessions per academic year
- Eighty percent of the cost of the session, with a maximum of €50 per session
- A maximum allowance of €400 per academic year

Every request for student finance is processed individually and with the necessary discretion.

2.3 Loan a laptop

Ghent University provides the option of borrowing a laptop via the Social Services. You can also opt for a rent-free loan to buy your own laptop.

2.4 Flemish scholarship

Social Services can investigate your eligibility for the Flanders Scholarship for you.

More information on this subject: <https://www.ugent.be/en/facilities/social-services/overview.htm>

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3. Study Guidance

Ghent University provides several mechanisms to help you achieve a positive outcome.

3.1 Student tutors

They can guide you with substantive questions about your studies and feasibility. They can also help you compose and modify your curriculum.

3.2 Student psychologists

If you are facing study problems and/or personal/psychological problems, you can contact the student psychologists.

3.3 Monitoraat

At each faculty, the study and pathway supervisors of the monitoraat take initiatives to make studying smoother and more efficient. You will receive substantive guidance on subjects, an offer of study skills, advice on study progress, individualized trajectory ...

3.4 Language guidance and advice

You can contact the language advisors for support in academic writing and speaking in Dutch and English.

3.5 Mentoring

Mentors are senior students who want to share their experience with you. Your mentor shows you around at Ghent University, gives practical tips on study planning and exams, offers support in processing the material and gives regular feedback. You can count on your mentor throughout the academic year.

More info on: <https://www.ugent.be/nl/univgent/missie/diversiteit-en-inclusie/voor-studenten/mentoring>

Sign up to send an e-mail to: mentoring@UGent.be

3.6 Language buddy

Ghent University provides a language buddy for every first-year student who wants extra language support. A language buddy is a student from your year or a higher year in your study programme. They will help you better understand academic Dutch by:

- guiding you around campus during the first weeks
- if you want them to:
 - answering your questions about classes and courses
 - meeting with you at least five times during the first semester to discuss your course material.

3.7 Language courses Dutch

The University Language Centre (UCT) offers practical language courses Dutch for Speakers of Other Languages from level 1 (A1) until level 6 (C1), as intensive day courses or as evening courses.

More information: <https://uct.ugent.be/en>

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4. Nutrition and housing

4.1 Student restaurants

As a student, you can go out to eat cheaply within one of Ghent university's student restaurants by showing your student card. The menu changes every day and ranges from meat/fish to vegan.

4.2 Student housing

Ghent University owns rooms, studios and flats and informs you about the private room market. In addition, as a scholarship student, you are also entitled to reduced rent.

4.3 Op Krot

Op Krot is an association for and by students. The purpose of the association is to provide free legal advice to students staying in digs during their studies.

Any student who has questions about renting their quarters and any related problems can visit www.opkrot.be.

5. Job service for students

The Ghent University Job Service for Students has developed a job database to help students find a suitable student job. However, this database is only available in Dutch. We therefore recommend that you contact the Job Service in person should you decide to look for a student job. They will also offer you valuable advice on your rights and responsibilities.

6. Preparatory higher education programme

This is a 1-year preliminary course that prepares prospective students with a migration background for their academic student career.

- Dutch as a second language and language coaching
- Training of study skills
- Study guidance and counselling
- Optional modules (academic English, mathematics, chemistry, physics)
- Optional: a selection of regular courses at a university or university college

7. Point of contact for refugees

Katrien De Bruyn
Refugee@ugent.be
T 09 264 98 22

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8. Ghent Student Council – Gentse Studentenraad

The Ghent Student Council is the central student council of Ghent University. We represent and defend (the interests of) the students to the university administration. Ranging from educational matters (Education and Examination Regulations, special statutes, study measures ...) to social matters (homes, student restaurants). If there is a problem you can know how to find us, or one of the student representatives at your own faculty, to find a solution.

You can always reach us via Facebook or via mail (info@gentsestudentenraad.be), or feel free to pop into our place. This is in the student house 'De Thermanal', located at Hoveniersberg 24. (Enter the building, first hallway on your left, on your left side is our room).

Find us online at www.gentsestudentenraad.be/en

9. DurfDoen.be – Dare Do

Think the classic student association is not for you, but you still want student activities outside of class time? There are several hidden gems in Ghent student life. The Ghent Student Council has developed a platform where a few questions will give you suggestions on which associations might suit you. This is completely anonymous and without the associations knowing. What is in it for us? Improving social cohesion between students and helping every student to have a worry-free student life.

Try it yourself at www.durfdoen.be