

Ghent University

The Knowledge Hub With an Illustrious Alumni



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The city of Ghent, once the second city of medieval Europe, was recently typified by Lonely Planet (the world's largest travel guide book publisher) as "Belgium's best kept secret" and as "one of Europe's greatest discoveries – small enough to feel cosy but big enough to stay vibrant". It offers scenic old canals, connecting two rivers meandering through the city. It offers grand churches and an even grander cathedral, an iconic duke's castle and many public squares. In the last two centuries, since 1817, its history has been intertwined with an excellent university: Ghent University.

Ghent University currently counts 36.000 students and 8.622 staff members. Since 2003, according to the best world-wide rankings, it has been the highest ranked university in Belgium. In the Ranking of World Universities, it is currently the 8th best university in whole of Europe (including the UK). It offers courses many fields of study, organized through 11 faculties:

- Arts and Philosophy

- Law
- Sciences
- Medical and Health Sciences
- Engineering and Architecture
- Economics and Business Administration
- Veterinary Medicine
- Psychology and Educational Sciences
- Bioscience Engineering
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Political and Social Sciences

The widespread use of the English language makes it not just possible, but also attractive to study and work as an Indian at Ghent University. At the moment, most Masters courses are offered in English and soon bachelors courses should also be available in English. More interestingly, there are many opportunities in research and research training. Like most European universities, the strength of Ghent University lies in its intimate connection between research, education and service to society. It would be difficult for a researcher to find this kind of environment for developing, nurturing and sustaining innovative ideas anywhere else in the world. Only European universities play the crucial role of a bridge between generations: without asking for any benefit or profit, these institutions transmit knowledge and culture from generation to generation. Many centuries of fundamental research and research-based teaching have given a university like Ghent University a research culture that Americans and Asians can only dream of.

This fact has not gone unrecognized, since most Indian students at Ghent University are PhD students, researchers and researchers-in-training.

Research and Education

During your stay at Ghent University, you can discover the typical European link between research and education. Junior and senior faculty closely guide post-doctoral researchers, who in their turn each guide a number of PhD students. The latter also teach Masters' students and guide their dissertations. This leads to closely knitted research groups and a vibrant research environment. The importance that Ghent University gives to research is reflected in its heavy financial and logistic investments in research.



From Ghent University to the World: Our Alumni

Ghent University has produced multiple Nobel Prize winner and world renowned scholars, scientists and entrepreneurs: Maurice Maeterlinck (Nobel Prize laureate for Literature in 1911), Corneel Heymans (1938 Nobel Prize laureate in the category of Physiology and Medicine), Robert Calliau (co-inventor of the world wide web), Paul Janssen (founder of Janssen Pharmaceutica), Peter Piot (former Executive Director of UNAIDS), Jacques Rogge (8th President of the International Olympic Committee), the famous architect



Henri van de Velde , the chemist Leo Baekeland, the physiologist and psychiatrist Jozef Guislain, the civil engineer Gustaaf Magnel, the historian Henri Pirenne, the physicist Jozef Plateau, the statistician Adolphe Quetelet, and the molecular biologist Marc Van Montagu.

Living in Ghent

Living in Ghent and being part of our university is a very enriching experience. The university and its many facilities are spread across the city. This encourages participation in the rich and vibrant cultural life of the city. Not only can you feast your eyes on the countless historical buildings and museums, you can also immerse yourself in the music culture or watch performances by innovative theatre and dance companies. A lot can be done on foot, or with a bicycle –the most popular mode of transport in the city. Yet there is also a dense network of public transport facilities. Ghent University provides a large variety of academic facilities: well-equipped student homes, student restaurants serving healthy and tasty food at low cost, top sports facilities, language courses, cultural activities, personal safety tips, confidential guidance in family matters, and so on. To top it all off there is the health care system. Belgium has one of the best social security systems in the world and your health care is almost completely covered.

India Platform

Ghent University has something unique to offer to Indian students and faculty: the India Platform.

Established in 2008, the India Platform is a major player in European collaboration with Indian universities, colleges and research institutes. For example, the University of Antwerp is also part of the India Platform. The vision of its founder and director, Prof. S.N. Balagangadhara, aims at building a people to people relationship between Indians and Europeans, which goes far beyond the purely instrumental. It functions as a bridge between our two societies and cultures and enables us to develop a lasting bond. The India Platform organizes events of different kinds. For instance, in November 2013 , a welcome evening was organized, where Indian students and researchers came together with European researchers and professionals to brainstorm about potential projects in the domains of bioscience engineering, school education, urban planning and infrastructure, social sciences and health care, followed by delicious Indian food (see picture).

One of the dreams of the India Platform is to transform Ghent University into a home away from home for all the Indian students and faculty who visit us and live in Ghent.

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