

BElgium WALLonia REsearch Fellowships



BEWARE2_researcher's
welcome brochure



Hello and welcome to Wallonia!

Here you are on the verge of a change in your professional career. We are already hoping that the next few months of your BEWARE2 mandate will go smoothly, that the trial will be successful and the R&D unit that welcomes you today will be able to count you as a permanent member of its scientific staff.

The first site we would encourage you to visit is www.euraxess.be.

This will give you a comprehensive overview of everything you need to know about Belgium and your stay. It is divided into three main sections:

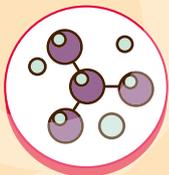
- Employment/funding
- General information (living in Belgium; working in Belgium; leaving Belgium ...)
- Specific research information

This website is updated regularly.

The following pages will provide you with additional information.

The sections are presented in alphabetical order.

Alexandra Lacroix & Pierre Demoitié



🕒 **Banking**

Your salary will be paid into a bank account. This is either your account in your home country or a new account that you have opened in Belgium (at a bank of your choice or the post office).

🕒 **Belgium**

[Belgium](#) has just over 11 million inhabitants.

The country is divided into three regions: [Wallonia \[FR only\]](#) (where the administrative language is French - in brown on the map), [Flanders](#) (where Dutch is spoken when communicating with the authorities and businesses - in blue) and [Brussels](#), which is a bilingual French/Dutch region (brown/blue shading). In the east of the country, the [German-speaking Community](#) has about 76,000 inhabitants who speak German (in green).

The country is also divided into [10 provinces](#).

Wallonia has 262 [municipalities \[FR only\]](#). The three largest, in terms of number of inhabitants, are Charleroi, Liège and Namur.



🕒 **B&W&E2**

Your contacts within the [administration](#) are [Alexandra Lacroix](#) and [Pierre Demoitié](#).

🕒 **Cinemas, theatres and opera**

There's no chance you'll get bored. Here you'll find the programme for the [cinemas, theatres \[FR only\]](#) and the [Royal Opera](#) in Liège.

🕒 **Embassy and Consulates**

The list of foreign embassies and consulates in Belgium is available [online](#) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

🕒 **Food and drink**

So, yes, the chip comes from Belgium but it is not the only speciality: mussels, waffles, chocolate, cheeses ... [Discover them here](#).

Belgium is also the land of beer. There are over 700 of them! Some cafés specialise and offer an impressive range. It should be noted that we also produce good wines and whisky!

Another speciality is mineral water and several companies share the market. The main one is Spa Monopole.

🕒 **French**

As mentioned above (see «Belgium» and «School»), French is one of the country's three national languages. It is used in all your contacts with the administration or businesses (in large cities, English is commonly used).

Universities offer French courses (usually in the evening).

Wallonia has created an online learning website: [Wallangues \[FR only\]](#). To your keyboards!

🕒 **Health**

You must register with a mutual [health insurance company \[FR only\]](#) (along with your spouse and children). Belgium has one of the most efficient health care systems.

If you are ill, your first point of contact is always your general practitioner.

🕒 **Higher education institutions**

There are [19 higher education institutions \[FR only\]](#) in French-speaking Belgium. Some of them have an associated research centre.

🕒 **Housing**

[Immoweb](#) is the reference site for finding accommodation in Belgium (house or apartment for sale or rent).

Do not hesitate to contact the [Euraxess offices](#) of each university to help you.

The owner of the property you are renting will tell you the names of the gas and electricity suppliers (the market is liberalised) and the water company (where you have no choice). The rented property must be insured and a two-month rental guarantee must be deposited at the bank in a joint account (opened in your name and that of the owner).

You will also have to be entered in your municipality's [foreign nationals' register \[FR only\]](#).

🕒 **Interface between university/higher education and companies**

The interface between universities and the industrial world is [LIEU](#); that between the higher education institutions and the same industrial world is [SYNHERA \[FR only\]](#).

🕒 **Mobility**

The public transport companies are [SNCB](#) (train), [TEC \[FR only\]](#) (bus in Wallonia) and [STIB](#) (bus in Brussels).

If you buy a motor vehicle (including a motorcycle), you will need to insure it with an insurance company of your choice and [register \[FR only\]](#) it. If this vehicle is second-hand, it will have to undergo a [technical inspection](#) every year. Your national driving licence is valid in Belgium (if you are in any doubt, please contact your municipal administration).

Motorways are free (and lit) in Belgium. The speed limit is 120 km/h. Drive safely!

There are two airports in Wallonia: [Charleroi Brussels-South](#) and Liège (more commonly used for freight). The national airport is [Brussels Airport](#).

🕒 **Museums**

There are an impressive number of museums in Wallonia and [Brussels \[FR only\]](#), from the smallest to the largest! Open your eyes and admire our treasures!

🕒 **Post and telecommunications**

The public telecommunications operator is [Proximus](#). The main private operators are [Orange \[FR only\]](#) and [Base](#). Belgium is not known for its affordable mobile telephone rates ...

[Post offices \[FR only\]](#) are open every day, including many on Saturdays.

🕒 **Religion**

[Freedom of worship \[FR only\]](#) is guaranteed by the Belgian Constitution. The Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish, Anglican, Protestant Evangelical and Islamic religions are all recognized.

🕒 **Research administration**

As Belgium is a federal country, the powers are distributed between entities. In Wallonia, the supervisory administration is [SPW Research \[FR only\]](#) based in Namur (which deals with applied research); for the French Community (also called the Wallonia-Brussels Federation), it is the [Ministry of the French Community \[FR only\]](#) in Brussels (basic research).

You will be dealing with SPW Research (see "BEWARE2").

🕒 **Research funds**

The [\(French-speaking\) scientific research Fund](#) is based in Brussels. In particular, it offers scholarships for researchers.

🕒 **Restaurants**

Take a look at [this website](#): they are almost all there! (see “Food and Drinks”).
Enjoy your meal!

🕒 **School**

School attendance is compulsory from the age of 3 up to the age of 18...

There are several “[authorities \[FR only\]](#)” in charge of education, called “organising bodies”. You are free to choose a school.

Primary school (6 - 12 years) and secondary school (12 - 18 years) education is free of charge. Teaching is in French.

🕒 **Scientists**

Several [Nobel Prize \[FR only\]](#) winners and many scientists were born in Belgium. Belgian scientific history is interesting and there are [many books](#) about it.

🕒 **Tourism**

The [Walloon tourist calendar](#) is available online and updated regularly. Be amazed by our region!

🕒 **Universities**

There are 6 French-speaking universities in Belgium: [Université libre de Bruxelles](#), [Université de Liège](#), [Université catholique de Louvain](#), [Université de Mons](#), [Université de Namur](#) and [Université Saint-Louis](#).

🕒 **Useful links**

Here are some general links:

- [The Belgian authorities](#)
- [Espaces Wallonie \[FR only\]](#)
- [Employment authorisation in Wallonia](#)
- [Study in Belgium](#)
- [Scientific visa](#)
- [Living in Belgium \[FR only\]](#)



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