

EU Study Abroad Program, May 5-18, 2024

Cost Estimates

- **Tuition.** \$700 (approximately: based on fees for 2023)
- **Shared accommodation.** \$1,000 at the Irish College* (@52 euros per day, which includes breakfast: this is an approximate figure that depends on the exchange rate)
- **Program fees.** \$70 (this pays for various administrative costs associated with the program)

SUB-TOTAL \$1,770 (approximate)

*This is based on the exchange rate average over the past year.

The Irish College (www.leuveninstitute.eu) has spacious accommodation including a desk for each student in the shared rooms. Students in the program stay there every year and love it.

- **Airfare.** (\$1,100) This is difficult to anticipate. Students paid an average of roughly \$1,000 in 2023. Most flew out of Toronto with Aer Lingus. We will share information on airfares in the winter of 2024.
- **Meals and personal spending.** (\$300-400) This depends on each student's needs and preferences. A figure of about \$20-25 per day is entirely realistic if one wants to be frugal. There are many inexpensive student cafes in Leuven as well as abundant “street food” opportunities in both Leuven and in Brussels, where we have lunch most days. So I would place this cost at roughly \$300-\$400 for the 14 day period of the program. Students can, of course, spend much more depending on their taste in libations and such. Remember, breakfast is covered in the cost of accommodation.
- **Travel within Belgium** (\$200) The cost of a round trip on the train between Leuven and Brussels is about \$14. We go into Brussels most days, one day is spent in Bruges and another in Antwerp. Students will purchase multi-trip cards which reduces the cost of train fares. There will also be eight days when we take the metro in Brussels to get to some of our meetings. Again, we can buy cards for this which reduces the per voyage cost. Altogether, the cost of all this ground travel comes to roughly \$200. Because it is very difficult to predict in advance exactly how much in-country travel will cost and virtually impossible to book the metro and in-Belgium train tickets in advance, these are costs that students pay once in Belgium as they are incurred.
- **Entrance fees.** (\$20-25) There is a small entrance fee (about \$7) at Fort Breendonk, a Nazi transit camp north of Brussels, and there may be entrance fees for one or two other activities.

SUB-TOTAL \$1,700 (approximate)

Of course, students may spend much more if they have expensive tastes in food and drink, or want to do some shopping for gifts and souvenirs.

GRAND TOTAL \$3,470 (approximate)

This is the amount that some of the students from the 2023 program said they spent in total on all expenses related to the program.

UWindsor's Go Global Scholarships

University of Windsor students may apply for a Go Global Scholarship. The amount can be considerable, as indicated in the table below. My understanding is that most eligible students should qualify for at least the \$500 scholarship. I will make more information available, including deadlines and how to apply, by January 2024.

Go Global Scholarship Amounts

Student Group	Amount
Indigenous	3,000
Students with a disability	3,000
Low Income	3,000
Eligible - First Year	1,000
Eligible - Second Year	500
Eligible -Third Year	500
Non-Eligible	-

Can I find a Better Study Abroad Deal?

For purposes of comparison to other study abroad programs, it is important to keep in mind that this represents the total cost of the experience (tuition, accommodation, food, transportation), not simply what is often, and rather misleadingly, referred to as program fees by many other study abroad programs at Canadian and American universities. I can assure you that unless you find a program that is heavily subsidized by the EU, your university, or by some other sponsor, you will not find a more competitive price for a program that delivers the experience that ours does and that earns credit for an upper-level one-semester course. We are able to do this by compressing the program into 15 days (14 nights), thus reducing the cost of accommodation which is, of course, one of the major components of the overall costs for a study abroad program.