

WALLONIE  
BRUXELLES  
CAMPUS



Wallonia.be

EXPORT  
INVESTMENT

# Talent pool

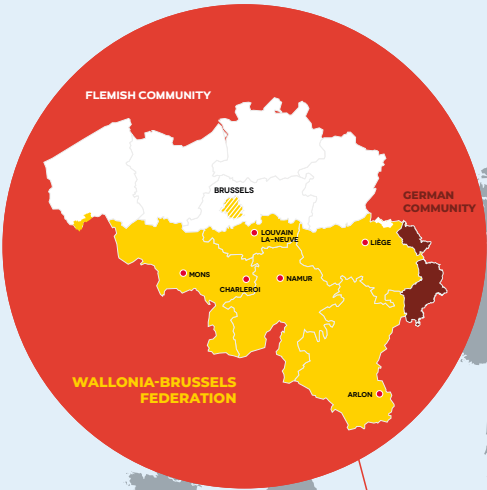
## in Life-sciences sector

### in Wallonia-Brussels

### Belgium



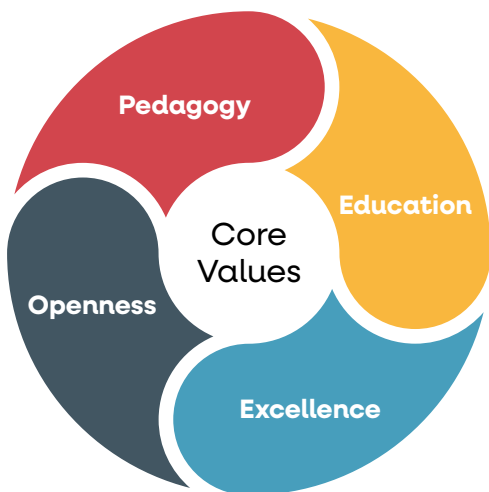
# French-Speaking Belgium = The Wallonia-Brussels Federation



# Diversity and Excellence of Higher Education in French-speaking Belgium

- French-speaking Belgium, also known as Wallonia-Brussels Federation, boasts over **2,500 study programmes** across its various higher education institutions.
- **Pedagogy, education support, excellence, and openness** form the core values of its 40 higher education institutions.
- Universities and university colleges excel in providing **high-quality training in the life sciences** sector.
- **Universities** in French-speaking Belgium cater to almost half of the total student population. They offer comprehensive study programmes and top-tier research-based education, ensuring **high employability** for future graduates. These universities benefit from a **robust academic and scientific staff**, along with PhD students and young researchers who engage in both research projects and training activities.
- Approximately 44% of the total student population is enrolled in **university colleges**. They establish strong ties with socio-professional environments and actively participate in **applied research**.
- **Collaboration between academic institutions and other organizations** to deliver the necessary education and training, **ensuring a steady supply of qualified personnel**.
- All universities and some university colleges in Wallonia-Brussels offer diverse life sciences curricula. **Graduates possess versatile profiles**, enabling them to contribute to the entire sector. Additionally, these institutions offer specialized courses, such as those focused on clinical testing.



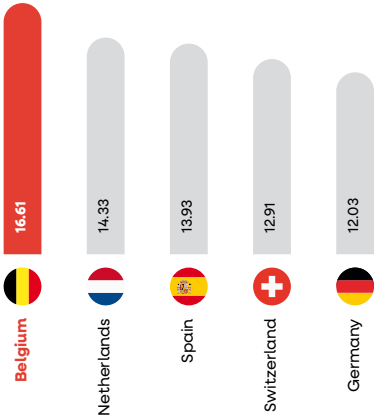


# Every year, Belgium has the **highest number of graduates in health studies**, per 1,000 inhabitants

To ensure a constant stream of talented people, academic institutions and other organisations work to provide the required education and training.

Belgium's universities offer comprehensive programmes in **life sciences and biological sciences**, providing students with a strong foundation in these fields. Furthermore, the universities are renowned for their bioengineering programmes, which train students to become proficient bioengineers able to bridge the gap between biology and engineering, applying their knowledge to develop innovative solutions in healthcare.

## Health graduates (per hundred thousand inhabitants)



© Source: Eurostat

- High graduation rates in health studies**
- Nurturing talent through education and training**
- Comprehensive programmes in life sciences**
- Bioengineering Excellence**

# Academic Excellence in Belgium

For a small nation, Belgium punches well above its weight when it comes to academic excellence. Many Belgian universities defend international top rankings and combine cutting-edge research with world-class teaching.

The Belgian landscape is adorned with shining examples of excellence:

- Three of our universities stand tall among the **top innovative institutions** in Europe.
- Over 15 distinguished French-speaking Belgian researchers grace the prestigious **Top 2% Scientists database**, a global authority in their respective domains.
- Notably, **11 Nobel Prizes** have been bestowed upon individuals nurtured in Belgian higher education.

Supported ardently by public authorities and driven by the active involvement of higher education institutions, **the nation's investment in Research and Development reached a commendable 3.17% of GDP in 2020**, solidifying Belgium's position as the second-highest investor in the EU.

With more than 20 diverse fields of study, the environment fosters an interdisciplinary approach that has borne fruit in the form of over 250 university spin-offs. Furthermore, the vibrant interuniversity doctoral schools see nearly a **thousand PhD students emerge annually**.

This dynamic milieu not only empowers our local researchers but also beckons to scholars from around the globe, beckoning them to embark on innovative projects within Wallonia-Brussels. The robust international research landscape is evident in the remarkable prevalence of co-publications between Belgian and international scientists, **with nearly 70% of scientific publications featuring international co-authorship** – a striking figure when compared to the EU average of 33%.



Over 12,000  
dedicated  
researchers



5 world-  
renowned  
research  
universities  
and over  
250 globally  
recognized  
spin-offs



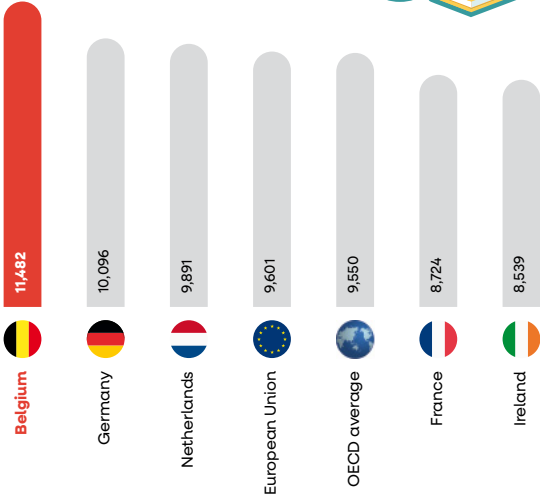
A collective  
of 300+ public  
and private  
R&D units,  
dedicated  
to pushing  
boundaries



Half a billion  
euros in public  
investment  
towards  
bolstering  
Research and  
Development  
(2015-2019)

# Belgium, Top investor in education

Public Spending per students



© Source: OECD 2021



*Belgium, number one worldwide  
in early childhood education policy*

# A pro-active Talent development policy : New promising education programmes

## **Solvay Advanced Master programme**

- Advanced Master in Biotech & MedTech Ventures
- Generating Future Biotech & MedTech entrepreneurial industry leaders

## **Training programme launched by APTASKIL**

- Competence Center for production-related professions in the chemical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnological sectors.
- 130 customized training modules
- Annually educating 4,500 individuals with a satisfaction rate of 98%.
- A job-integration rate of more than 85% of job seekers
- Extension project (€8m) in 2020
- Tailored-made formation on request

## **'Talent Now' project**

- Unique initiative to tackle recruitment acute shortages and challenges in the healthtech industry
- Public-Private consortium
- Industry leaders: GSK, Univercells, Takeda, UCB, Janssen Pharmaceutica & ThermoFischer
- Support of the Walloon Government

## **European Biotech Campus (2025)**

- State of the art biotech campus
- Competence center specialized in talent development for biotechnology and healthcare
- One-stop shop
- Active watch: evaluate needs and centralize job/training offers
- Focus on innovative teaching methods (VR/AR) & digital twins
- Supported by the regional & federal governments and Europe



# 5 research centres in life sciences



**Louvain Bionics:** Enhancing healthcare through tech-assisted body and brain support via collaborative research.



**Narilis:** Advancing life sciences for better health in humans and animals, spanning from genes to public health.



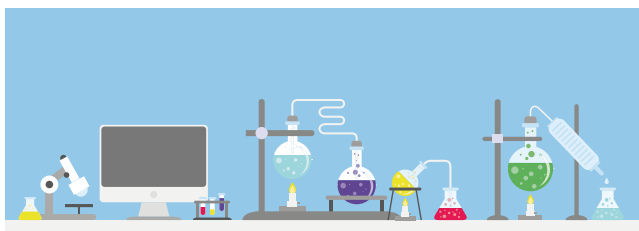
**CER groupe:** Driving life sciences research for improved human and animal wellbeing, from genes to public health.



**CMMI:** Preclinical imaging hub offering comprehensive services and training in sample prep, image acquisition, and analysis.



**ATC-Pharma:** Specialized Clinical Research Center for Early Phase Trials in University Hospital of Liège, ensuring excellence in phase I and IIa trials with a focus on healthy volunteers' participation and rigorous GCP standards.



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