



VRIJE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
BRUSSEL

**MASTER OF  
SCIENCE IN**  
**EDUCA  
TIONAL  
SCIEN  
CES**

[www.vub.be/educational-sciences](http://www.vub.be/educational-sciences)

**120  
ECTS**

**2023-2024**



# WHY VUB?

## **VUB education shapes strong individuals, critical minds and world citizens**

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) offers high-quality English-taught programmes, supported by state-of-the-art research. Being a student at VUB means learning in an open atmosphere of tolerance and diversity, as well as growing into an independent and critical-thinking individual.

VUB is a comprehensive university that offers education on student-friendly campuses in the cosmopolitan city of Brussels. At VUB, lecturers and assistants are available and approachable to students. Faculty members are on hand to answer questions and teaching often takes place in small groups to ensure close interaction and hands-on experience.

VUB is a dynamic and modern university with almost two centuries of history. We welcome more than 21,500 students, 24% of which are international students from more than 152 different countries.

## **The root of our academic success**

Vrije Universiteit Brussel was founded on the principle of 'free inquiry' as formulated by the French mathematician and philosopher of science Henri Poincaré (1854-1912):

*"Thinking must never submit itself, neither to a dogma, nor to a party, nor to a passion, nor to an interest, nor to a preconceived idea, nor to anything whatsoever, except to the facts themselves, because for it to submit to anything else would be the end of its existence."*

Personal development, open-mindedness, a positive and critical attitude and a sense of responsibility are values that characterise everyone at our university: from professors and researchers to students and staff members. It lies at the root of our academic success.





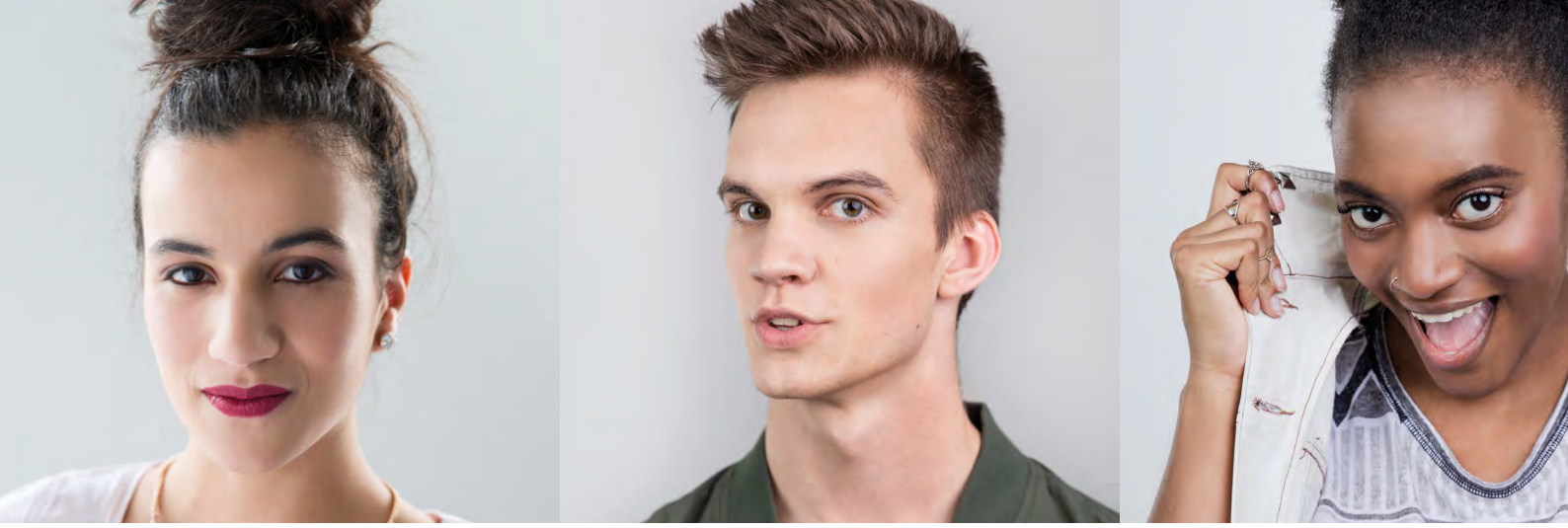
## **Research, change and innovation in education**

Do you have a professional or academic bachelor's degree and want to continue your studies in an international environment?

Do you want to learn about educational innovation, e-learning and effective learning environments?

Do you want to contribute to research and solutions to global education issues?

If so, our Master in Educational Sciences is the right choice. Our programme is varied, flexible and tailored to the needs of international students. It uses a range of pedagogical approaches, enriching students' knowledge and refining their skills while preparing them for a wide variety of jobs, from educational change agents to future leaders in education, all in the capital of Brussels: the heart of Europe, brimming with international influences.



# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

## Why study Educational Sciences at the VUB?

Today, change is the rule rather than the exception in society. This is even more the case for education because of the changing nature of learning itself. Continuous (re-)education is a key element for success in a world where knowledge is the engine of many processes. The two-year Master in Educational Sciences focuses on research, change and innovation, instructional design and professional support in education. It prepares students as future leaders and change agents for educational practice and policy.

## Internships help you go professional

The internship aims to introduce students to the reality of the pedagogical and educational field, in Belgium and abroad. Practising the insights you've acquired, you'll evolve and grow as core competences are further developed, practised and put to the test in relation to the reality of educational practice.

## An international perspective

We have a multicultural student population; our students come from more than 20 countries worldwide! So, it's not surprising that educational theories and pedagogical approaches are discussed within a global context and international connections are established.

## Experience and explored innovation in education

The Department of Educational Sciences is strongly involved in both research and practice. As such, it closely follows developments within society in a variety of fields: student diversity, educational innovation, development of technology enhanced learning environments, arts education, sustainable development and community building. Students often work on authentic tasks and projects while applying theoretical insights and scientific methods to make evidence-based decisions.

## Flexibility and varied experiences in learning

Face-to-face lectures are complemented by online learning activities and individual coaching. We create a flexible academic programme, designed for professionals and international students, using innovative methods and interactive technologies: discussion forums, blogs and wikis support online collaborative learning and peer interaction. In addition, we apply teaching and learning strategies such as case-based learning supported by online tools.



MASTER YEAR 1	ECTS
<b>Compulsory Courses</b>	
Educational Change and Innovation	6
Educational Design	6
Data Analysis Educational Sciences	6
Electronic Learning Environments	6
Research Seminar and Research Ethics	6
Curriculum Development	6
Professional Development and Leadership	6
Educational Effectiveness	6
<b>Optional Courses choose 12 ECTS</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

MASTER YEAR 2	ECTS
<b>Compulsory Courses</b>	
Internship Educational Sciences	24
Master Thesis Educational Sciences	18
Case Studies Change and Innovation	6
Thesis Seminar Educational Sciences	6
School Improvement and School Policy	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

The programme is subject to change.  
Check [www.vub.be/en](http://www.vub.be/en) for the latest information about the programme.

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System):  
1 credit represents 25-30 hours of study activity.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

The programme consists of 120 ECTS, 60 ECTS in the first year and 60 ECTS in the second.

### STUDY ABROAD

Students can study abroad for a semester. Among the many places in which you can study, there are Finland and Sweden, two countries known for their innovative approaches in education. Next to courses, you can also do an internship or thesis research at home or abroad.

### FROM INTERNSHIP TO YOUR CAREER

After completion of this programme, graduates have many options. They can work in teacher education centres, centres for training and professional perfection, educational organisations, centres for educational media (multimedia and 'edutainment'), and educational advising. They can also be employed in study services, and even be involved in specific training projects of private and (semi-) government bodies, higher institutions, governmental ministries and cabinets.

# INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH-BASED EDUCATION

## APPLYING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH METHODS

Innovative approaches to education are stressed through research-based education. Within the programme, students are encouraged and trained to apply scientific research methods to engage in supporting educational innovation and change processes in formal and informal learning contexts, and in face-to-face as well as online learning environments. Innovative thinking is not only needed for educating the current and future generations, it's crucial for the development of our society. In this programme we address critical perspectives on educational systems and our students are prepared with both theoretical and professional knowledge, gaining the skills to contribute to society's educational and social innovations. In this, the uniqueness of our international student population is an asset: we're able to conduct research in an international perspective, thus enhancing our students competences in a multi-cultural environment.

## EDUCATION INNOVATION FIELDS:

- Educational Change Processes
- Personalised and Self-Regulated Learning
- Effective learning environments
- Technology-Enhanced Learning Environments
- Continued Professional Development
- School improvement and policy
- Curriculum Design & Assessment

### ONLINE INFO SESSIONS

Are you interested in this programme? The Educational Sciences programme organises online info sessions at various times throughout the year.

You get an explanation of the programme (courses, professors, assignments, internship...) and the application requirements. Questions about the course can also be asked during this info session. Choose a time that suits you. Check the website for specific dates and times.  
[www.vub.be/en/online-information-sessions](http://www.vub.be/en/online-information-sessions)

**When?** December 2022 - May 2023



Internship



30 students per year



Over 20 nationalities



*"One of the many reasons I chose to pursue my studies at VUB is its international character. On top, I was drawn to the MSc. in Educational Sciences due to its focus on innovation and progressive thinking. It has the perfect balance between research and practice. The programme allows for individual creativity and fosters effective teamwork. Overall my experience at VUB was enriching and helped me develop on an individual, academic and professional level."*

Yara Teffaha, from Lebanon  
Master in Educational Sciences

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*"I chose VUB due to the uniqueness of the programmes. The MSc. in Educational Sciences is particularly unique because it has numerous real-world initiatives. The interactions between the staff and students were extraordinary. I consider it a great pleasure and honour to be a member of the VUB community."*

Simbarashe Manyika, from Zimbabwe  
Master in Educational Sciences

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*"Many professors have inspired me on a personal and professional level through their passion, expertise and attention to the needs of students. I enjoyed the practical aspect of most courses that included group projects, some of which were applied in real-life contexts. These projects have not only made learning more meaningful, but they have also given us the opportunity to practice soft skills such as collaboration, communication skills, organizational skills and leadership skills."*

Marta Lucchetti, from Italy  
Master in Educational Sciences

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## ADMISSION CRITERIA

Admission is based on the review of each application: proof of meeting academic and language requirements, personal motivation, etc.

### LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Prospective students can provide proof of sufficient knowledge of English as the language of instruction.

More information about the language requirements:

[www.vub.be/en/language-requirements](http://www.vub.be/en/language-requirements)

### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

If you obtained a non-Belgian Bachelor's degree in Educational Sciences, Pedagogical Sciences, Psychology, Social Sciences or Academic Teacher Education, your file will be evaluated by the Admission Board. The Board will take your educational expertise and academic proficiency into account. Depending on your background, the Board might impose you to register for the course "Data Analysis" as one of your optional courses. Therefore, the department advises you to demonstrate your academic writing competence (cf. formal writing, APA guidelines) in your motivation letter and to make your educational background knowledge (cf. obtained credits or work experience) explicit.

If you obtained any other degree, your file will be screened thoroughly by the Admission Board. Evidence of educational expertise, academic proficiency and background in social sciences will substantiate the decision of acceptance. Therefore, the department

advises you to demonstrate your academic writing competence (cf. formal writing, APA guidelines) in your motivation letter and to make your educational background knowledge (cf. obtained credits or work experience) explicit. If accepted, you will be required to substitute your optional courses by the course "Data Analysis".

For more details on admission requirements and application: [www.vub.be/en/apply](http://www.vub.be/en/apply)

### DIRECT ADMISSION

Direct admission is granted if you obtained a Belgian Bachelor's degree in Educational Sciences, Pedagogical Sciences, Psychology, Adult Education, or Social Sciences.

### APPLICATION BASED ADMISSION

If you obtained a foreign or other Belgian Bachelor's degree, you can be allowed, after a selection process by the Admission Board, who will evaluate the applications. For the exact procedure, deadlines and content of the application file, please check our website.

[www.vub.be/en/apply](http://www.vub.be/en/apply)

### Application deadline

Prospective students are advised to apply as soon as possible, even if they have not yet obtained their degree. Applications can only be submitted through our website [www.vub.be/en/apply](http://www.vub.be/en/apply)

- Students who require a visa (non-EEA nationals) need to submit their application **before April 1st**.
- Students who do not require a visa must apply **before September 1st**.
- Note: if the proof of English proficiency or APS certificate is not ready before the deadline, you can always submit it later instead of missing the deadline

### Tuition fees

All Flemish universities in Belgium are subsidised by the government, which results in relatively low tuition fees. Some master programmes have an increased tuition fee for students with a non-EEA nationality. A detailed overview of the tuition fees can be found on: [www.vub.be/en/tuition-fees](http://www.vub.be/en/tuition-fees)

### Contact

For more info:

[www.vub.be/en/educational-sciences](http://www.vub.be/en/educational-sciences)