

List of situations in which non-EU students can be treated as Belgian students

In the event of a divergence between the different linguistic versions of these regulations, the French version shall prevail.

Assimilation must be proven, by no later than 31st October of the academic year in question.

ASSIMILATION CRITERIA	Documents must be submitted to the Registration Office during registration for a specific cycle to prove assimilation
1. You have been granted residency or are recognised as a long-term resident in Belgium.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'C' or 'K' Residence Card (ID card issued to foreigners giving unlimited residency in Belgium) • 'D' or 'L' Residence Card (ID card issued to long term residents)
2. EITHER you are a refugee, are a refugee candidate, are stateless or have subsidiary or temporary protection status OR you have submitted a request to be given asylum or subsidiary or temporary protection status or a request to be considered stateless, but this request is still pending decision, or is subject to appeal. All claims will be considered until the final decision is made.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have refugee status: an A or a B Card on which the refugee status is indicated on the reverse of the card. The old cards are gradually being replaced by new A or B cards. Refugee status is no longer indicated on the back of the card, but on the front with the letters 'XXB' under the 'Nationality' category. • If you are stateless: Official document from the local commune or the Immigration Office proving your stateless status • If you have subsidiary protection status: A or a B Card (certificate of registration on the immigration register) + decision from the Immigration Office attesting to the fact you benefit from subsidiary protection status (unlike those with refugee status, subsidiary protection status is not indicated on the reverse of the certificate of registration) • Temporary protection: A card + certificate from the General Directorate of the Immigration Office. • If you are an asylum seeker: Annex 26 and/or a document attesting to your request for asylum/subsidiary protection status/stateless person status which has not been rejected and, in case of appeal, a copy of the document proving an appeal has been launched (a solicitor's letter, registration for a 'carte orange'...).
3. You are allowed to stay in Belgium for more than 3 months and earn an income from a professional activity or from income support (the professional activity must have been active for at least 6 of the last 12 months prior to registration, and the amount of salary must correspond to half of the average monthly salary set by the National Labour Council (<i>Conseil national du Travail</i> – CNT).	<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence permit valid for more than 3 months • Professional activity: Proof of employment or employment contract supplemented by payslips corresponding to 6 months of the 12 months preceding registration (6 payslips) OR income support: proof of unemployment benefit, pension, social integration benefit or equivalent benefits from the CPAS, etc.
4. You are supported by the Public Centre for Social Welfare (CPAS) and live in CPAS housing or housing appointed by the CPAS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently issued attestation from the CPAS

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5. Your mother, father or legal guardian or legal cohabitant is an EU member state national or fulfils one of the criteria in points 1 to 4 above.	- ID card or documentation cited in points 1 to 4 above for your mother, father, legal guardian, spouse or legal cohabitant + official documentation providing proof of their relationship to you.
6. You are a grant-holder (CFWB-CDVLP) in accordance with article 105 §2 of the "Paysage" Decree of the 7 th November 2013.	• Proof of grant (CUD, CTB, etc.)
7. You benefit from an authorisation to stay in Belgium granted in accordance with article 61/7 of the law of 15 th December 1980 on access to the territory, residence, establishment and removal of foreigners.	AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence permit valid for more than 3 months • Document attesting the long-term resident status obtained in another EU Member State.

NB:

- Students holding a registration certificate for foreign nationals (unlimited stay - B card) are not covered by point 1. This provision only applies to students with a settlement permit (C card or K card) or long-term resident status (D card or L card).
- Students holding one of the following cards: B, F, F "*Membre Famille UE*" ("EU Family Member" - ART 10 DIR 2004/38/EC), F+ or F+ "*Membre Famille UE*" ("EU Family Member" - ART 20 DIR 2004/38/EC), E or EU "*Enregistrement*" ("Registration" - ART 8 DIR 2004/38/EC), E+ or EU+ "*Séjour permanent*" ("Permanent Residence" - ART 19 DIR 2004/38/EC), E+. Similarly, those listed in point 5 are deemed to be assimilated. As with the abovementioned cards, the M.50 TUE residence permit is considered proof of long-term or permanent residence.¹
- Status of diplomats and their relatives: Foreign nationals with the status of diplomat or the relative of a diplomat receive a special residence permit issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Due to this special status, they are not registered with the local authority (foreign nationals register and population register). Therefore, the issue of a special residence permit is sufficient.¹
- Official document proving filiation: household composition or, if they do not live at the same address as their parents, their birth certificate + father's or mother's identity card.
- Guardianship documents must be legalised by the Belgian embassies or consulates in the students' countries of origin.
- Foreign marriage certificates must be officially certified in Belgium by a local authority (see household composition).
- Legal cohabitation: document issued by the local authority certifying that a declaration of legal cohabitation has been registered.

¹ See the details set out in the [vade-mecum for Government Commissioners and Delegates](#) concerning the Decree of 11 April 2014 adapting the funding of higher education institutions to the new structure of study programmes (Article 3).

- British nationals:
 - 1) New British national student:

All British national students who are registered for the first time at an FWB higher education institution are subject to the higher fees unless they meet one of the assimilation conditions.
 - 2) British national student registered at an FWB higher education institution prior to the 2021-2022 academic year:
 - From the 2021-2022 academic year, British students who, after having obtained an academic degree, register on another academic degree course (regardless of the level of study) is no longer deemed to have met the conditions referred to in Article 3, §1². They will be subject to the increased fees (extract from "VM *financement*").
 - British students already registered on a course of study will continue to be assimilated for the whole of the course in accordance with Article 3, §2² and will therefore not pay the increased fees.
 - British students already registered on a degree course who change their course of study, in accordance with Article 5 4^o, will continue to be assimilated for the entire degree course in accordance with Article 3, §2² and will therefore not pay the increased fees.
 - British students already registered on a degree course who are no longer eligible for funding will continue to be assimilated for the entire degree course in accordance with Article 3, §2² and will therefore not pay the increased fees.
 - British students who suspend their studies during the cycle, even for a long period, will continue to be assimilated for the entire cycle in accordance with Article 3, §2² and will therefore not pay the increased fees.

² Decree of 11th April 2014 adapting the funding of higher education institutions to the new organisation of studies and Decree of 17th July 2020 determining the fundability of students for the 2020-2021 academic year. Extract from the VDM, June 2023 version: "Article 3 defines the nationality or similar criteria that students must meet in order to be fundable [from a nationality point of view]. These criteria may be met at the time of first registration or at the time of a subsequent registration, following a change in situation, but without retroactive effect. Once these criteria have been checked for one registration, they no longer need to be checked for the rest of the course. For students who are not nationals of a European Union Member State, the conditions aim to demonstrate, for the student or one of their relatives, the existence of a sufficient link with Belgian territory or institutions."