Higher education in Belgium

Belgian higher education includes:

- Universities and
- non-university colleges.

The non-university higher education offers:

- Studies of short duration (up to 3 years of study duration),
- Studies of long duration (more than 3 years).

The latter correspond to the type and level of university studies.

Higher education in the German-speaking Community

In the German-speaking Community there is only a non-university higher education system of short duration.

The higher education system of the German-speaking Community is organized after political reform since 2005 in one single higher education institution: the Autonomous High School in the German-speaking Community.

The Autonomous University in the German-speaking Community

The philosophical basis of the AHS is its articulated plurality, as it is the only school institution in Belgium that does not belong to any of the three networks.

Training
At the only university of the German-speaking Community (AHS), studies are organized in three subject areas:

- Bachelor as a nurse
- Bachelor as a primary school teacher or as a kindergarten teacher
- Bachelor in Finance and Administration.

For other programs, students from the German-speaking Community enroll at colleges or universities in the French or Flemish Community or abroad.

Further training offers
The AHS also offers, at the secondary level, a brevet training as a nurse, as well as a
preparatory year for the purpose of obtaining the vocational certificate from an external examination board.

**Other areas**
In addition to the initial training, the Autonomous University is responsible for:
- Continuing Professional Development
- Research and Development.

**Mission Statement of the Autonomous High School**
Four anchored goals guide the work of the AHS and are an incentive for all staff members of the AHS:
- The Autonomous High School in the German-speaking Community (AHS) is committed to the interests of the inhabitants of the German-speaking Community of Belgium in the field of education and health.

- As far as possible, the AHS responds to inquiries from the education and health sectors in terms of education and training and research.

- The AHS is making every effort to integrate itself into the European Higher Education Area and is seeking cooperation with domestic and foreign universities in order to provide students with high-quality training in line with European standards.

- The AHS realizes its own school culture.