

# 比利時根特返國報告書

## 學校簡介

根特大學是根據世界大學學術排名(ARWU)資料顯示，比利時學術排名第一的著名學府，成立至今已經有 200 年歷史。學校曾經蘊育出前國際奧委會主席札克·羅格伯爵,諾貝爾生理學或醫學獎得主柯奈爾·海門斯等傳奇人物。

跟一般的大學不一樣，根特大學並沒有單一校園區，學校大樓反而四散於根特市的不同角落，與城市融為一體。每天出門上學就是一次認識城市的機會，而不是終日龜在校園區中自我隔離。當然，這也代表找尋上課地點比其他大學來得麻煩，這時候估狗地圖就派上用場了。

Ghent University (UGent) is the top university of Belgium and one of the top universities of the world, according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). With 200 years worth of history under its sleeve, the university helped nurture a number of notable alumni, including Jacques Rogge, honorary president of the International Olympic Committee, and Nobel Prize winner Corneille Jean François Heymans.

Unlike most universities, UGent does not have a single campus area. Instead, the campus buildings are scattered all over the city of Ghent, to the point that it is difficult to tell where the city ends and the campus begins. As a result, the simple act of reaching your lecture hall is a chance to learn and connect with the city, in stark contrast to isolating oneself in the campus area. While this may prove frustrating when trying to find your way around in the beginning of the semester, at the same time Google Maps is your friend.

## 國外研修之課程學習（課內）

畢竟中山大學的 IBMBA 課程招生對象不限於管理學系畢業生，不少課程都會盡量照顧非本科生的學習進度。可是根特大學不一樣：交換計劃基本上假設學生都是本科生，對科目都有至少學士班程度的了解。雖然這也算是意料之中，但是作為非本科生，單是挑選自己適合修讀的科目就已經不容易。幸好各科目簡介都會列出學生需要有的背景知識，讓我避開明顯沒有把握的科目。

至於上課方面，由於我曾經在英國留學，對外國大學的教學方式算是有點經驗，但是也感覺到有所不同。（雖然也有可能是商科跟社會學科的分別吧？）由於一

百多人同時上課是等閒事，沒可能做到當年那種大量互動的教學方式，結果只能依靠最傳統的單向講解，這方面倒是有一點失望。

不過當中發展經濟學這一門課有安排閱讀文章之後小組討論的部分，再加上其他科目都要求小組研習跟報告，都讓學習過程不會太沉悶。小組研習能讓我們好好活用課堂上學到的知識跟技巧，例如行銷課就的研習就是為一個新品牌編寫行銷計畫。

另外也需要留意的是，小組分組是學期一開始就已經開始的事情，基本上沒有時間讓你先認識同學再決定跟誰分組(何況每一班人這麼多，也很難先聊聊再決定)

另外，發展經濟學除了小組討論之外，也需要寫論文。但是這篇論文不同於一般的論文，而是需要針對現有文章作分析跟批判。這一點顯示了東方跟西方教育的不同之處：東方教育除了重視考試跟背誦，也灌輸了一種講求標準答案的讀書態度；書本裡的老師教的就是真理，別想太多通通記下來就對了。相反，西方教育強調批判性思考，著重於如何表達自己論點而說服別人。批評文章這種我們會認為大逆不道的事情，對他們來說卻是等閒事。

Perhaps due to the IBMBA programme welcoming all post-grad students with open arms, most of the courses are designed to cater for the learning speed of students with non-business backgrounds. However, UGent mostly assumes that all exchange students have at least bachelor-level understanding of the subject. While this is nothing to be surprised about, but as a student from a different academic field, choosing the right courses alone had proved to be a challenge. Luckily most course descriptions also provided details about the background knowledge students were expected to have, thus allowing me to avoid courses that are obviously out of my league,

As for the courses themselves, I am certainly no stranger to western teaching methods as I have studied in the UK for my bachelors. However, studying in UGent still proved surprising (though this might stem from differences in academic fields). Each class can easily reach over 100 students, thus it was nigh impossible to have the same type of interactive, student-driven classes as before. Instead, the traditional, passive type of lectures reigned supreme, which can be rather disappointing.

The silver lining however lies in the group discussions and group assignments, a break from the usual mold. Group discussions in the Development Economics course allowed us to analyze the reading materials in smaller detail, while group projects were a good way to apply what we have learnt in class, such as writing a marketing

communication plan for a new brand.

One thing to note is that grouping for assignments were done in the beginning of the term, with no time allowed to get acquainted with your classmates first before deciding. Given how big the class is, I suppose this is inevitable.

Aside from group discussions, the Development Economics course also required us to write an essay. Unlike other essays, we are required to focus on one existing article to analyze and criticize. This serves as a perfect example to showcase the difference between Eastern and Western education. Eastern education not only emphasizes exams and memorization, but also instills the idea of a “model answer” - your textbooks and your teachers’ words are absolute, so stop thinking and start memorizing. In contrast, Western education focuses on critical thinking, to reach your own conclusions and to make compelling arguments. Criticizing an academic article may sound like heresy to us, but to the West this is perfectly normal.

## 國外研修之生活學習（課外

也許是因為比利時除了比荷盧聯盟之外也跟法德兩國關係密切，加上地理上位於歐洲的中心地帶，這個國家成為了歐洲學生留學交換的熱門選擇。因此，不論課堂上還是宿舍裡都會碰到不少透過 Erasmus 計劃來交換的學生。雖然不同國家學生少不免會有自己的小圈圈（要踏進去也有語言不通的問題），不過基本上都能用英文來交流。短短一個學期認識的不止比利時，還有德國，澳洲，土耳其，日本等國家的文化。雖然之前在英國留學也是住學生宿舍，可是宿友不少都是本地人或者中國人，反而沒有根特大學來得多元化。

至於根特市本身，雖然沒有布魯塞爾來得繁華，但是畢竟曾經是中世紀歐洲最大最富裕的城市之一，昔日的光輝還是深深地刻在古老的建築上。作為對歷史有興趣的人，有空閒時間時到市中心到處散步就最好不過。

Aside from the well-known Benelux union, Belgium also shared close ties to both France and Germany. This, combined with Belgium being in the central of Europe, led to the country being one of the top destinations for European students. Therefore, both the student dorms and lecture halls are chock full of exchange students under the Erasmus programme.

Although students from the same countries tend to form their own clique (which can be difficult to enter considering the language barrier), chatting in English was still perfectly fine. In the span of one semester, I have learnt more about not just Belgium,

but also other countries such as Germany, Australia, Turkey and Japan. I had spent my time in the UK in a student dorm as well, but back then most of my dormmates were either British or mainland Chinese, being less multicultural in comparison.

As for the city of Ghent itself, while it lacked the hustle and bustle of Brussels, its historical buildings made no secret of Ghent's glittering past as one of the biggest and richest cities of medieval Europe. Being interested in history myself, having a walk around the city centre proved to be the perfect way to spend my leisure time.

### 交換/研修之具體效益（請條列式列舉）

- 體驗外國教學方式，更多元化的課程
- 認識歐洲多國文化，與外國學生交流
  
- Experiencing education in the west, and a wider variety of courses
- Understanding cultures of other countries, and to befriend students from all over the world

### 感想與建議

與英美法德這些有名氣的大國相比，比利時也許不是香港或者台灣學生的熱門留學目的地。但是短短一個學期讓我意識到小小的比利時可是歐洲的重要成員跟文化熔爐，要認識歐洲的話比利時反而是最合適的地點之一。根特大學的名字在我們眼中也許不如劍橋牛津般響亮，不過這個老牌大學還是有它的魅力所在。希望大家決定出國留學時，在心儀名單上寫下根特大學吧！

Compared to countries such as the UK, the US, France and Germany, Belgium may have remained under the radar of students from Hong Kong and Taiwan. However, one semester in UGent proved that Belgium is not only an important member of the European family, but also the “cultural melting pot” of the area. If you want to experience and learn more about Europe, Belgium is your best bet. UGent may not be as well-known as Cambridge or Oxford, but its achievements are certainly nothing to sneeze at. If you are planning to go abroad for studying, please give UGent a chance!



為小組報告拍示範圖

Taking pictures for examples in a group presentation



聖彼得廣場，附近是經濟及工商管理系系所

Sint-Pietersplein, nearby is the main campus for the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration