

MFSE Brussels

Posted to
Brussels –
Welcome!



Who is MFSE Brussels?



Mara Peters
Community Services
Manager



Beth Sandholm
Community Services
Provider



Martine Valet
Community Services
Provider



Brussels Canadian Military
Community Center

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[CFMWS](#) | [MFS](#) | [OUTCAN Europe](#) | [CFMWS](#) – Brussels

THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY IN BRUSSELS

41%

ANGLO HOUSEHOLD

16%

FRANCO HOUSEHOLD

43%

MIXED HOUSEHOLD

5

Singles

19

Families

39

Children at post

14

Couples
(no children
at post)



TIPS FOR YOUR TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION WHEN YOU MOVE

Whatever accommodation type you choose, ensure you are close to public transit in case your car and/or your plates are not in yet.

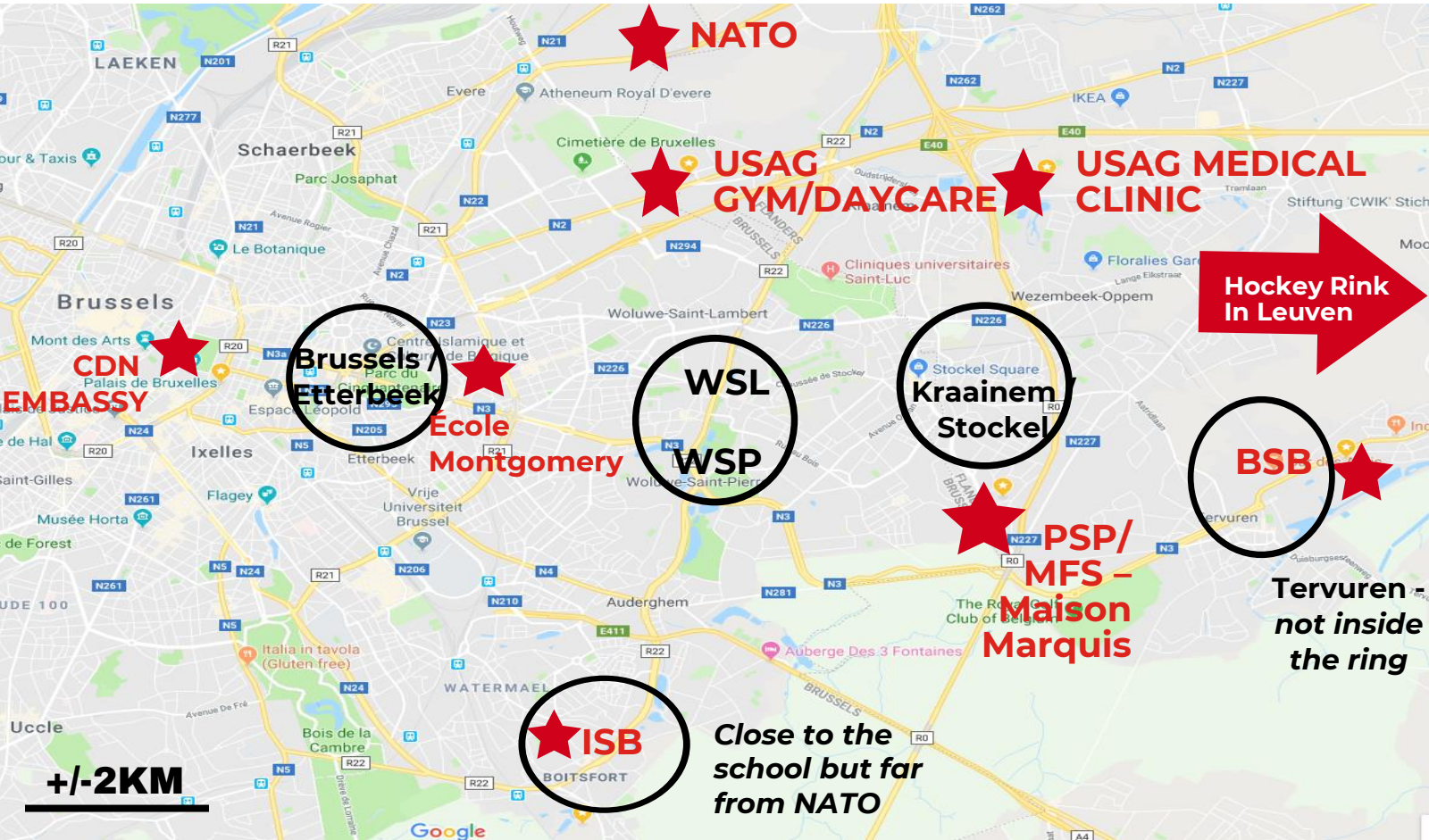
Hotels

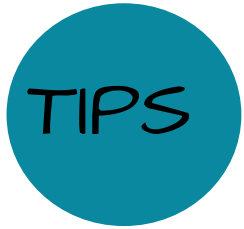
- Look for a "**fully equipped kitchen**" or a "kitchenette."
- An **outdoor space** is always nice.
- Has a **parking** lot available & parking is included in your rate, especially downtown (parking can be expensive).
- Did you bring **pets**? Make sure the hotel is pet friendly.

Airbnb

- Think **amenities** - Washer/dryer, TV, kitchen, sheets & towels provided, etc.
- **Flexible** on the date of departure.
- **Unlimited Wi-Fi.**
- **Landline** available to make local calls until you are settled with your telecommunications.
- Access to an **outdoor space** is always nice.
- Did you bring **pets**? Make sure the Airbnb is pet friendly.

WHAT'S WHERE?





WHAT'S WHERE?

If you live east of the Brussels/Flanders border (in [Kraainem](#), [Tervuren](#), [Wezembeek-Oppem](#)), **buses** run on a separate system and require a **secondary pass**. No **scooters** can cross from Brussels to the Flanders district. **Flemish** is also the first language in these communes.

Map out **bike routes** to work and schools from prospective properties; often biking is faster than driving in Brussels. Some Canadians didn't bring a car, and they don't miss it!

If you plan on sending children on the **school bus**, contact the potential school to find out **travel times** from your potential home address. Depending on the school and where you live, bus times can be upwards of 45–60 minutes.

HOUSING

Housing Rental Sites

Immoweb
www.immoweb.be

Century 21st
www.century21.be

Note

* The delegation/sponsors will be sharing realtor names

HHT

On your first day you will come to Maison Marquis for your briefing & be sure to bring:

- Official and personal passports
- Military ID
- SIN card
- 4 passport photos / each member of your family

Once your HHT request has been approved, a calendar invite will be sent to you by the OR detailing your first day.

HOUSING - WHERE TO LIVE?

Communes/Postal Codes in Brussels & close Flemish-Brabant (Flanders) communes

- ★ •1000 Bruxelles-Ville
- 1030 Schaerbeek
- ★ •1040 Etterbeek
- 1050 Ixelles
- 1060 Saint-Gilles
- 1070 Anderlecht
- 1080 Molenbeek-St-Jean
- 1081 Koekelberg
- 1082 Berchem-Ste-Agathe
- 1083 Ganshoren
- 1090 Jette
- 1140 Evere
- ★ •1150 Woluwé-St-Pierre / Stockel
- 1160 Auderghem
- 1170 Watermael-Boitsfort
- ★ •1180 Uccle
- 1190 Forest
- ★ •1200 Woluwé-St-Lambert
- 1210 St Josse-ten-Noode
- ★ •1950 Kraainem - Flanders
- ★ •3080 Tervuren - Flanders
- ★ •1970 Wezembeek-Oppem - Flanders



Where most Canadians live

HOUSING - WHERE TO LIVE?

The Greater Brussels Region is approximately the size of Ottawa. The city is broken into **communes** (neighborhoods), each of which has its own **postal code**.

Most Canadians live **within the Greater Brussels Region**.

Most Canadian families live **southeast of Brussels** city center (less than 10 km from NATO Headquarters).

Most Canadian families live **inside the ring**. If you live outside the ring, you either live in Flanders or Wallonia. Keep in mind that each region (like provinces at home) has its own set of rules and languages (transit, garbage, language, etc.).

HOUSING - WHERE TO LIVE?

Brussels **Communes/Postal Codes** (neighborhoods)

Map:

<https://be.brussels/about-the-region/the-communes-of-the-region>

Many people in Brussels choose to **cycle** or use **public transportation** because it is efficient and faster. Look at the various modes of transportation, and routes before making your decision about your home.

Driving takes a lot longer here due to traffic and speed cameras.

SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

Things to consider when choosing a school

- Languages spoken and programs

- Public and local schools

versus private & international schools

- Registration process and Timing

- Foreign Service Directive FSD 34 – British School of Brussels

Questions?

Contact CEM:

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PETS

If you bring a pet, consider....



- Vaccines, health records, and microchips
- Registered veterinarian “Fit to Fly” appointment and form
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency Agent
[Export of dogs, cats and ferrets to the European Union and Northern Ireland: Non-commercial and in-transit non-commercial movements - inspection.canada.ca](https://inspection.canada.ca)
- Check the airline’s pet policy (specifically UK)
- Local emergency vet services in Brussels (they will even come to your home/hotel/Air BNB)
[Vet Emergency – Veterinary home emergency service – 24h/7d](#)

TIPS FOR PAYMENT

Some shops accept only one type of payment

CASH ONLY (Euros):
Frequent in Belgium.



CARDS ONLY:

Have a credit card with enough funds.
"Interac/Debit" is NOT compatible with Bancontact system (the European debit system), but OK for withdrawals at an ATM.



Having a **VISA/DEBIT** card might be a good idea to pay AND have CASH while using the same card.

In Belgium, **it is not customary to add a gratuity or tip on top of the charge for item or service.** If the service is exceptional and you would like to leave a tip, it is recommended **not to exceed 10%.**

DRIVING IN BELGIUM



PRIORITY RIGHT: Warning for uncontrolled crossroads ahead, priority given to vehicles coming from the right. **No STOP signs** in Brussels.



“SHARK TEETH”: drivers must yield way to the drivers on the crossing street. You have **NO priority right**.



TRAMS: Trams follow different traffic rules than normal road users, and **ALWAYS** have priority.

ROUNDAABOUT:

Give way to vehicles **IN** the roundabout.



Note

- * The legal minimum age for driving is 18 years.
- * Mobile phones may only be used with a "hands free" system.
- * Driving in Belgium: [Traffic-rules.com \(rijbewijs-online.be\)](https://www.rijbewijs-online.be).



WHAT TO EXPECT & WELCOME EVENTS

JULY/AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

- ❖ **Coffee Mornings (kids are welcome)** – Thursdays @ Maison Marquis at 10 a.m.
 - ❖ **Welcome Briefing followed by Welcome BBQ** – September 5, 2025
 - ❖ **Brussels Guided Tour / Public Transportation Tour**
 - ❖ **Interactive Contacts / Warm Calls (Spouses & single members)** – During the first year
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