

Student council program

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Green. International. Scientific.



Student life and environmental and social projects

1. Language exchanges and courses
 - a. Brussels offers so many languages. There should be a language exchange, possibly with the ULB. I would like to integrate a platform, where you can find a tandem partner to practice flexibly. Furthermore, organized group meetings with a native speaker can be organized. This can be also used to practice scientific and professional English for free.
 - b. Language courses, especially to learn Dutch and French, should be offered for a reasonable price. For integration it is essential to speak Dutch and/or French.
2. Drop and take
 - a. Install a place like a shelf where students can drop furniture, decoration and useful items and can take things that others left. This reduces waste and can give joy to people. I have installed such a shelf in my home town and it works, with about 50 visitors every day.
3. Common garden with greenhouse
 - a. A common garden, where students can register to work and harvest for a small fee. A gardener could guide and take care of the project. This can be also extended by a greenhouse and a small botanical garden.
4. Barbecue places
 - a. More common spaces with functioning barbecues outside, which students can rent and enjoy.

Teaching in Covid 19 times

5. Lab practicals and field work in person
 - a. The VUB should do everything in their power to make lab practicals and field work possible even in the current situation. Online options are not replacing in person experience. Numbers of students can be reduced and measures applied.

International students projects

6. Opt-out buddy system for international students
 - a. International students should have a buddy automatically that helps them if needed. There should be no registration, as some students forget to register. If a buddy is not wanted, the student can choose not to receive one.
7. Social contacts for international students
 - a. International students do not have family here that they can visit in the weekends and they cannot go home to their country due to the quarantine rules. Therefore, social contacts for international students should be extended in the dorms. One contact is not sufficient to make friends and the social isolation leads to mental health issues.
8. Communication in English
 - a. The VUB should communicate all emails and all videos on social media also in English. This insures equal treatment for all students and lets international students feel more integrated and understood.