HE & Research in Flanders
Flanders Knowledge Area

- Flanders Knowledge Area
- Non profit, umbrella organisation.
- Established in October 2008.
- Mission: to contribute to the internationalisation of Flanders’ higher education and research by visualising its qualities.
- Study in Flanders and Research in Flanders are...
Belgium, at the heart of Europe
Flanders

- Bordered by the North Sea in the west, Flanders is the northern part of Belgium.
- Located between the Netherlands, Germany and France.
- Some of Europe’s leading cities – London, Paris, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Cologne, Bonn and Luxembourg – are all situated within 300 km of Brussels.
Flanders: key features

- Federated entity of the federal state of Belgium.
- Capital city: Brussels.
- Area: 13,522 sq km (5,220.87 sq miles).
- Number of inhabitants: 6,251,983 (in 2010).
- Language: Dutch.
- Currency: euro (€).
Brussels

- Brussels is the **capital** of both Belgium and Flanders.
- In Brussels the headquarters of the EU, NATO and many **international organisations** are located.
Economy

- Most important industrial sector: chemical industry
- Antwerp: center of diamond trade
- Industry focused on processing
- Knowledge-based economy
- Flourishing pharmaceutical industry
- World leader in medical imaging
Reasons to come to Flanders

- First-rate education
- International networks at PhD level
- Over 1/3rd of PhD students come from abroad
- Excellent student facilities
- Cosmopolitan population: open-minded, multi-lingual
- High quality of life
Higher education: institutions

- 17 university colleges (hogescholen)
- 5 universities
- 9 other postgraduate training institutions
- 5 higher institutions for fine arts
- www.studyinflanders.be < institutions
5 Flemish universities:
PhD degree

- Highest level of specialisation in scientific research.
- Based on an original research project.
- Takes at least two years.
- Public presentation of a doctoral thesis.
- Degree awarded by universities.
Internal and External Funds

Every Flemish university has two types of research financing

1) Internal:
   - A) BOF
   - B) IOF

2) External Funding
   - FWO, IWT, BELSPO etc.
Internal funds

Operational subsidies:

- KU Leuven: 37%
- UGent: 33%
- UA: 14%
- VUB: 12%
- UHasselt: 4%

(parameters: 55% Education / 45% Science)

(2011: ca 800.000.000 €)
Internal funds

BOF (Special Research Fund)

- KU Leuven: 43%
- UGent: 32%
- UA: 12%
- VUB: 10%
- UHasselt: 3%

Parameters: Excellence Based (< PhD degrees, publications & citations, internationalisation & diversity)

(2011: ca 140.000.000 €)
Internal funds

IOF (Industrial Research Fund)

- KU Leuven: 47%
- UGent: 31%
- UA: 9%
- VUB: 9%
- UHasselt: 4%

Focused on:
- collaboration between universities & industry;
- valorisation of research

(2011: ca 17.000.000 €)
External funds

- National
  - Flemish
  - Belgian

- International (European grants)
External

National:
- Flemish
  - FWO
  - IWT
  - SOC’s
  - Hercules

- Belgian
  - BELSPO (IUAP, Brain–be etc)
External: Flemish

FWO (Research Foundation Flanders)

“Science pushes the boundaries of our knowledge. The Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) is the agency that supports ground-breaking fundamental research at the universities of the Flemish Community. The FWO also stimulates cooperation between the Flemish universities and other research institutes.”

(2011: ca 105.000.000 €)
“Objective:

- The Odysseus programme supports outstanding researchers who have built up a career outside Flanders. The programme provides start-up funding in order to develop a research group within a Flemish university or to set up a research line and become progressively more involved in the Flemish research establishment.

- What makes this programme unique is the combination of a permanent position at a Flemish university and sufficient project funding to establish your own research team. This symbiosis forms the ideal starting point to attract high level, international research to Flanders.”
External Flemish

Profile and conditions:
The subsidy is used for two types of start-up funding:

- **Odysseus Group I**
  - for researchers who are internationally recognised as pioneers in their field and who already have a position at a foreign university
  - research funding: €400,000 to €1,500,000/year (€2,000,000 to €7,500,000 for the 5-year period)

- **Odysseus Group II**
  - Researchers who have at least 3 years’ post-doctoral experience abroad and whose work has convinced leading colleagues in the field that they have potential to develop a leading international position.
  - Research funding: €100,000 and €200,000/year (€500,000 to €1,000,000 for the 5-year period)

- Only the Flemish universities can, potentially in cooperation, nominate candidates at the FWO.
To be considered an eligible candidate:

- you have been employed by a foreign institution for at least one year before the date of the application.
- you have for at least three years been affiliated to a foreign institution in the last five years.
- you meet the criteria of excellence, as demonstrated in the CV and bibliography.
- you submit a research plan at the relevant universities. This plan includes a budget with an indicative breakdown of planned expenses over a period of five years. This research plan is approved by the university or universities and is consistent with the research policy.
- In case of a nomination by two or more universities, they should formulate a common proposal.”
External Flemish

Odysseus programme FWO:

External Flemish

- IWT (Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders)

- “IWT is the government agency for Innovation by Science and Technology. We help Flemish companies and research centres in realizing their research and development projects. We offer them financial funding, advice and a network of potential partners in Flanders and abroad. We also support the Flemish Government in its innovation policy.”

(2011: ca 2,500,000 €)
External Flemish

SOC’s (Strategic Research Centers)

iMinds
IMEC
VIB
External Flemish

SOC’s: iMinds  

http://www.iminds.be

“iMinds is an independent research institute founded by the Flemish government to stimulate ICT innovation. The iMinds team offers companies and organizations active support in research and development. It brings together companies, authorities, and non-profit organizations to join forces on research projects. Both technical and non-technical issues are addressed within each of these projects.”

(2011: ca. 7.000.000 €)
Imec performs world-leading research in nanoelectronics. Imec leverages its scientific knowledge with the innovative power of its global partnerships in ICT, healthcare and energy. Imec delivers industry-relevant technology solutions. In a unique high-tech environment, its international top talent is committed to providing the building blocks for a better life in a sustainable society.

(2011: ca. 7,500,000 €)
External Flemish

SOC’s: VIB  www.vib.be

“VIB is a life sciences research institute, based in Flanders, Belgium. We perform basic research with a strong focus on translating scientific results into pharmaceutical, agricultural and industrial applications.”

(2011: ca. 16,500,000 €)
Useful links

- VLIR-UOS – [www.vliruos.be](http://www.vliruos.be)
- VLUHR – Council of Universities and University Colleges – [www.vluhr.be](http://www.vluhr.be)
- Flanders Knowledge Area – [www.flandersknowledgearea.be](http://www.flandersknowledgearea.be)
- Study in Flanders – [www.studyinflanders.be](http://www.studyinflanders.be)
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