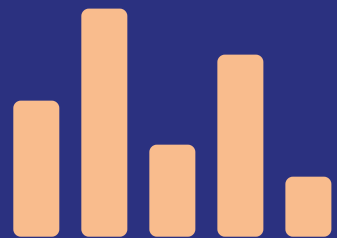


Moving to Antwerp

Everything you need to know before you pack your instrument: finding a room, what it costs, the paperwork, and where the music happens.



So you're thinking about it

Moving to a new city for music is one of those decisions that looks enormous from the outside and obvious from the inside, about three weeks after you've done it.

Right now you are probably doing the maths in your head. Where would I live. What does that cost. Do I speak enough Dutch. What if it doesn't work out. Those are good questions, and they all have answers — which is exactly why we wrote them down.

Here is the thing worth remembering while you read: nobody arrives here with it all figured out. Students have been showing up at this school since 1982, most of them nervous, a lot of them from somewhere else. They found a room. They found a bike. They found a band. Within a month the city stops being a map and starts being a place where you know which tram to take and which café stays open late enough after a jam.

You do not have to sort this out alone either. Read what's useful, skip what isn't, and message us on WhatsApp when something is unclear. We answer every message.

What's in this guide

1. Antwerp in five minutes — the city you'd be moving to
2. Finding a room — what a "kot" is, what it costs, where to look
3. What a month actually costs
4. Your first two weeks — the paperwork, in order
5. Coming from outside Belgium — EU and non-EU
6. Getting around — bike, tram, train
7. Working alongside your studies
8. Learning Dutch (you don't have to, but still)
9. Where the music is
10. Every link in one place

Before you rely on a number in this guide: prices, rules and websites change. Everything here was checked in September 2026 and is meant to give you a realistic picture, not a legal guarantee. Always confirm the details that matter to you on the official websites we link to.

1. Antwerp in five minutes

Antwerp is the cultural capital of Flanders and a genuine student city: tens of thousands of students, which means cheap food, late-night everything, and a rental market that is used to young people who need a room in September.

It is also small enough to cross by bike in twenty minutes, and big enough that there is live music every night of the week if you know where to look. Brussels is 35 minutes by train, Ghent 50, Amsterdam about two hours.

Where the school is

You will be spending your days in **Borgerhout**, a district just east of the centre. Theory and practical lessons happen at **Oudstrijdersstraat 9**, and practical lessons and jams at **Trix** (Noordersingel 28-30) — one of the best-known concert venues in the country, and a ten-minute walk from the school.

Borgerhout is young, mixed, loud in the good way, and noticeably cheaper to live in than the historic centre. Plenty of our students end up within cycling distance.

Three things people always say after their first month

- "I should have brought a bike sooner."
- "Everyone switches to English the second they hear you struggle — which is lovely and also the reason my Dutch took a year longer than planned."
- "I met more musicians in six weeks here than in three years at home."

You are not moving to a city. You are moving to a scene that happens to have a city around it.

2. Finding a room

In Belgium a student room is called a *kot*. It's pronounced like "cot", and it means a single room in a house or building shared with other students, usually with a shared kitchen and sometimes a shared bathroom.

A kot is the normal, unglamorous, perfectly fine way students live here. The step up is a *studio*: your own small kitchen and bathroom, more privacy, more money.

What it costs

Type	Average rent per month	What you get
Room (kot)	around €470	Your own room, shared kitchen and/or bathroom
Studio	around €587	Private bathroom and/or kitchenette
Apartment	around €816	Full apartment, often shared with others

Averages published by Kotweb for Antwerp. Rent usually excludes gas, water, electricity and internet — budget **€40 to €80 per month** extra if they are not included. Contracts shorter than a full year often cost more per month.

The deposit

Expect to pay a rental guarantee when you sign: the standard model contract says one month's rent, but a landlord may ask up to two. You get it back at the end if the room is in the state you found it — so photograph everything the day you move in. Everything.

Where to look

- **Kotweb** — the biggest student-room platform for Antwerp, prices and costs listed transparently: studentkotweb.be
- **Student.be** — rooms and co-housing in Antwerp: student.be/nl/antwerpen/koten
- **Kotfinder** — including a separate co-housing section: kotfinder.be
- **Alle Koten**: allekoten.be · **Immoweb** (filter "kot"): immoweb.be
- **Student Housing Antwerpen**: studenthousingantwerpen.be · **Skot**: skot.be · **Op kot why not**: opkotwhynot.be

2. Finding a room — continued

The Facebook groups — where the real speed is

A good share of rooms never reach a website. They get posted in Facebook groups, and they are gone within a day. Join these before you start looking, turn notifications on, and write to people the same hour they post:

- [Zoekt kot in Antwerpen](#) — students looking and landlords posting
- [Te Huur: Kot in Antwerpen](#) — rooms for rent
- Search Facebook for "kot Antwerpen", "kamer Antwerpen" and "housing Antwerp" — new groups appear every year, and the expat groups are useful if your Dutch isn't there yet

Write your message in advance so you can paste it fast: who you are, that you're a full-time music student at JazzPopStudio, from when you need the room, and that you can view it this week. Being quick and specific beats being charming.

Co-housing: more than a room

Co-housing means a group of people with their own private space who deliberately share a kitchen, garden, workshop or living room. For a musician that can be brilliant — or a nightmare if nobody agreed on noise. Ask about instruments before you sign anything.

- [Kotfinder co-housing Antwerp](#) — the easiest place to start
- [Cohousing Projects](#) and [wooncoop](#) — larger, more permanent projects in and around the city
- Facebook groups for co-housing and "samenhuizen" in Antwerp — smaller, but this is where the informal spots get shared

When to start

When	What to do
3-4 months before	Join the Facebook groups, set up alerts on the platforms, learn the neighbourhoods
2 months before	Plan a viewing trip — a day in Antwerp seeing four or five rooms beats a month of scrolling
1 month before	Sign, arrange your deposit, book a van or a very patient friend
First week	Photograph the room, register with the city, get internet sorted

2. Finding a room — before you sign

Before you sign — a short checklist

- ☐ Are gas, water, electricity and internet included, or on top?
- ☐ How much is the deposit, and where is it held?
- ☐ What is the contract period, and can you leave early?
- ☐ Can you practise in the room? At what hours? Get the answer in writing.
- ☐ Is there a working smoke detector? The city has fire-safety rules for student housing:
antwerpen.be/info/brandveilig-op-kot
- ☐ Did you photograph every mark on every wall before moving your things in?

Register as a kot student

The city of Antwerp asks students renting a room to register through its student-housing service. It is quick and it helps the city keep track of housing quality:
antwerpen.be/product/registreren-als-kotstudent. General information:
antwerpen.be/studentenhuisvesting

3. What a month actually costs

Here is a realistic monthly picture for a student living in a kot in Antwerp. Your mileage will vary — mostly depending on how often you eat out and how many records you buy.

What	Per month	Notes
Rent (kot)	€470	Average; cheaper outside the centre
Gas, water, electricity, internet	€40–80	If not included in the rent
Food and household	€200–300	Cooking at home, with the occasional kebab at 2am
Transport	€0–50	A bike costs almost nothing to run; see chapter 6
Phone	€10–20	Prepaid or a small plan
Health insurance contribution	a few euros	See chapter 4 — the contribution is small, the cover matters
Going out, gear, strings, reeds	€50–150	Be honest with yourself here

A realistic total: roughly €800 to €1,050 per month, on top of your tuition.

The one-off costs of month one

- Deposit: one to two months' rent
- First month's rent, usually paid up front
- A bike: €100–250 second-hand, and worth every cent
- Kitchen and bedding basics: budget a few hundred euros, or raid a second-hand shop
- MoBIB travel card: €6 if you take the train

Tuition is separate. Full-time at JazzPopStudio is €5,950 for the school year. Part-time options are cheaper: practical lessons €385 per 10 lessons, theory €260 per semester, part-time combo €385 per trimester. Ask us about payment arrangements before you decide that it's out of reach — it's a conversation worth having.

4. Your first two weeks — the paperwork

Nobody enjoys this part, so here it is in order, done once, and then never again.

1. Register your address

If you are staying in Belgium for more than three months, you register at the city office of the district where you live. Antwerp handles this by appointment; bring your ID or passport, your rental contract and passport photos. A local police officer will usually stop by your address to confirm you actually live there — this is normal, not a problem.

Start here: antwerpen.be (search "inschrijven" or "registration"), or ask us and we'll point you to the right desk.

2. Join a health insurance fund (ziekenfonds / mutualiteit)

Belgium's health system reimburses most of what you pay at the doctor, but only once you are registered with a health insurance fund. Joining is the normal thing every resident does; the yearly contribution is modest. The big funds are CM, Solidaris, Liberale Mutualiteit, Helan and others — they all cover the same basic care, and differ in their extras.

If you are an EU citizen, bring your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for the first weeks, and arrange Belgian cover once you're registered. Background: vreemdelingenrecht.be

3. Open a Belgian bank account

You'll want one for rent, and because some places still love a local bank transfer. Most banks let you open an account online with your ID and proof of address. The mobile-first banks are the quickest if your Dutch is limited.

4. Get a Belgian phone number

Prepaid SIMs are sold in supermarkets and phone shops. Cheap, no contract, and a Belgian number makes landlords answer.

5. Find a doctor

Register with a local GP ("huisarts") before you need one. Ask your housemates — the good ones fill up fast.

- ☐ Address registered at the city office
- ☐ Health insurance fund joined
- ☐ Belgian bank account open
- ☐ Belgian SIM card
- ☐ GP found
- ☐ Room photographed and registered as kot student

5. Coming from outside Belgium

If you're from the EU, EEA or Switzerland

The easy version. You can live and study in Belgium without a visa. You register at the city office within three months of arriving, as described in chapter 4, and you receive a residence document. Bring your ID card or passport, your rental contract, and proof that you can support yourself.

If you're from the Netherlands

You are an EU citizen, so the same applies. The practical differences are small: you register in Antwerp, you join a Belgian health insurance fund, and you'll want a Belgian bank account. Plenty of Dutch students make this move every year — and the train home is direct.

If you're from outside the EU

You will need a long-stay visa (type D) before you travel, applied for at the Belgian embassy or consulate in your country. That application asks for proof of enrolment, proof that you can support yourself financially, medical insurance, and a medical certificate and police clearance in many cases. After arriving, you register at the city office and receive a residence permit.

Official starting point — the EU immigration portal's Belgium page: home-affairs.ec.europa.eu

Read this before you book anything. Student visa rules require enrolment at an institution recognised for that purpose, and the requirements change regularly. JazzPopStudio is a private day school, so **talk to us first** if you need a visa to come here. We will tell you honestly what we can and cannot provide in terms of enrolment documents, rather than let you buy a plane ticket on a guess.

Where to get help in Antwerp

- **STAN — International Students Office, GATE15**, Kleine Kauwenberg 15, 2000 Antwerpen. Handles residence permits and registration for international students in the city. Phone +32 3 292 31 70, stanstan.be. Appointments normally run through your school, so ask us first.
- **Atlas, Integratie & Inburgering Antwerpen** — the city's service for newcomers: language, administration, finding your way. atlas-antwerpen.be
- **Us.** Seriously — message us on WhatsApp. We have watched a lot of students go through this and we would rather answer a question twice than have you stuck.

6. Getting around

Antwerp is a bicycle city. Buy a second-hand bike in your first week and you have solved transport for the whole year.

- **Bike.** €100–250 second-hand. Buy a good lock, use it always, and never leave the bike outside the station overnight if you're fond of it.
- **Velo Antwerpen** — the city's shared bikes, hundreds of stations, ideal for one-way trips and nights when you take the tram home. Prices and subscriptions: velo-antwerpen.be/tarieven
- **Tram and bus (De Lijn).** If you're 18–24 the Buzzy Pazz youth subscription is the cheap option. Current prices: delijn.be
- **Train (NMBS/SNCB).** Commuting from another city? The Student Season Ticket is for travellers under 26, available for 1, 3 or 12 months — and on the 12-month version you pay for 10. A MoBIB card costs €6. belgiantrain.be

From Antwerp Central Station to the school is a short tram ride or a fifteen-minute walk. Brussels, Ghent and Mechelen are all comfortable daily commutes if you'd rather not move yet.

7. Working alongside your studies

Many students here work a student job. In Belgium you get a yearly package of **650 hours** at a reduced social contribution rate (2.71% instead of 13.07%), which means you keep more of what you earn. You can work beyond 650 hours, but those extra hours are taxed at the normal rate.

Two things worth knowing if your parents still receive child benefit or claim you as a dependent: in Flanders, the limit is those 650 hours plus up to 80 extra hours per month, and for 2026 a student can be claimed as a dependent as long as gross earnings stay under €22,385. Check your own situation here: studentatwork.be

One honest caveat: student-job status and, for non-EU students, permission to work are tied to your enrolment status. Ask us and check studentatwork.be before you count on the income.

And a practical note: a full-time day school is 15 to 18 contact hours a week plus practice. Students who work more than one or two evenings usually end up choosing. Plan for that.

8. Learning Dutch

You don't need Dutch to study here — we teach in English and Dutch, and half of Antwerp will switch to English before you've finished your sentence. But learning some changes the experience: you catch what's said between songs, you follow the joke, you stop being a visitor.

- **Atlas Antwerpen** — courses, conversation tables and free practice groups for newcomers: atlas-antwerpen.be
- **Practice groups** — cafés and libraries across the city run informal conversation hours; Atlas keeps the list
- **The fastest method** — say the first sentence in Dutch every time, and let them switch afterwards if they must

9. Where the music is

This is the part that makes the rest worth it.

- **Trix** — concert venue and creative hub, and the place where you'll be playing and jamming yourself. Noordersingel 28-30, a walk from the school.
- **De Studio** — a thousand-capacity room in the city centre. Worth knowing; we may have news about it this year.
- **Djingel Djangel** — one of the places our own jams happen: djingeldjangel.be
- **Antwerp Jazz Club and the city's jazz cafés** — the small rooms where you actually get to play. Overview: visit.antwerpen.be
- **What's on tonight** — antwerpen.be/info/muziek and uitinvlaanderen.be

Our own jams run on Thursday evenings from November, at changing locations. The combo opens the night and then anyone can play. Come to one before you enrol — it is the fastest way to find out whether this is your room full of people.

The unwritten rule of a first jam

Show up early, listen to one full set before you sign up, know two standards well rather than eight badly, and talk to the drummer. It works everywhere, in every city, for the rest of your life.

10. Every link in one place

Housing

- Kotweb — studentkotweb.be
- Student.be — student.be/nl/antwerpen/koten
- Kotfinder co-housing — kotfinder.be/cohousing-antwerpen
- Alle Koten — allekoten.be/kot-antwerpen
- Immoweb (filter "kot") — immoweb.be
- Student Housing Antwerpen — studenthousingantwerpen.be
- Skot — skot.be/room-antwerp
- Op kot why not — opkotwhynot.be
- Facebook — [Zoekt kot in Antwerpen](#) and [Te Huur: Kot in Antwerpen](#)
- Co-housing — cohousingprojects.com and wooncoop.be
- City of Antwerp student housing — antwerpen.be/studentenhuisvesting
- Register as a kot student — antwerpen.be/product/registreren-als-kotstudent
- Fire safety in student housing — antwerpen.be/info/brandveilig-op-kot

Paperwork and support

- City of Antwerp — antwerpen.be
- STAN International Students Office — stanstan.be · +32 3 292 31 70 · Kleine Kauwenberg 15, 2000 Antwerpen
- Atlas, Integratie & Inburgering — atlas-antwerpen.be · Dutch courses: [scholen voor Nederlands](#)
- EU immigration portal, student in Belgium — home-affairs.ec.europa.eu
- Public health insurance explained — vreemdelingenrecht.be
- Student work rules — studentatwork.be

Getting around

- Velo shared bikes — velo-antwerpen.be/tarieven
- De Lijn Buzzy Pazz — delijn.be
- NMBS student season ticket — belgiantrain.be

10. Every link in one place — continued

Music

- Trix — trixonline.be
- Djingel Djangel — djingeldjangel.be
- Jazz clubs and music cafés — visit.antwerpen.be
- What's on — antwerpen.be/info/muziek · uitinvlaanderen.be

JazzPopStudio

- Website — jazzpopstudio.be · Book your level assessment — jazzpopstudio.be/en/apply
- WhatsApp — wa.me/32474864725 · Email — info@jazzpopstudio.be
- Instagram — instagram.com/jazzpopstudio · Facebook — facebook.com/jazzpopstudio

Still have questions? Ask a human.

We would much rather talk you through this than have you decide alone with a browser full of tabs.

WhatsApp / phone: [+32 474 86 47 25](https://wa.me/32474864725)

Email: info@jazzpopstudio.be

Website: jazzpopstudio.be

Instagram: [@jazzpopstudio](https://instagram.com/jazzpopstudio)

JazzPopStudio — Oudstrijdersstraat 9, 2140 Antwerpen

Trix — Noordersingel 28-30, 2140 Antwerpen

The school year 2026-2027 starts on 5 October. Every new student does a level assessment before the start — it is not an exam, it just puts you in the right combo. Book yours at jazzpopstudio.be/en/apply.

Guide compiled September 2026. Prices, rules and websites change — always check the official sources linked above. JazzPopStudio vzw, Oudstrijdersstraat 9, 2140 Antwerpen.