

STUDENT-ATHLETES AT GHENT UNIVERSITY

GHENT (GENT) Belgium.

- Second Flemish town after Antwerp and third Belgian port.
- Population: 224.000 inhabitants.
- Situated at about 20 km from the Netherlands in the north; 50 km from Brussels in the east; 50 km from France in the southwest and 50 km from the North Sea in the west.
- Mecca of the Sport with representative teams in the upper division of nearly every sport and, leaving the normal sports accommodations out of consideration, Ghent disposes of unique sports realizations as the Watersportbaan (2 km) for rowing, Topsporthall Flanders for indoor-athletics, Topsportgymnasticshall, trampoline-rhythmicshall, two velodromes...
- University town with a symbiosis between the town, the university and the high schools with over 60.000 students.

GHENT UNIVERSITY.

- Founded in 1816.
- 33.000 Students with a foreign student population of about 1.600 EU citizens and some 1.300 students from non-EU countries and a student exchange population of more than 500 Europeans.
- 7.100 Staff members.
- 11 Faculties.
- Very good sports accommodations.
- Biggest university in Belgium.
- Prof. Dr Corneel Heymans, Ghent University, Nobelprize winner medicine in 1938.
- The 'Higher Institute for Physical Education' now called 'Department of Movement and Sport Sciences' belonging to the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, founded in 1907 was the first and so the oldest Higher Institute for Physical Education in Europe and, may be, in the world.
- Most famous alumnus and elite athlete "avant la lettre" is Dr. Count Jacques Rogge, orthopedical surgeon and after years being president of the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee was elected in 2001 as president of the International Olympic Committee. He participated 3 times at the Olympic Games '68, '72 and '76 as sailor and was, as player in the Belgian National Rugby Team, founder of the Ghent University Rugby Club.

ELITE SPORT AND STUDIES

In 1988 was founded the "Working Group for Elite Sport and Studies" by Prof. Dr Paul Van Cauwenberge who is today rector of our university. The objective of the working group is to make the combination of elite sport and studies at our university possible and to support the student-athletes. In 2008-2009: 158 students were recognized as student-athletes at our university.

Whatever sport students practice they have to meet one of the following general criteria:

- 1) Recognized as elite athlete by the Belgian Olympic Committee or the BLOSO (Administration for Physical Education, Sport and Open Air Living).
- 2) Considerate by his own sport federation as elite or promise full young athlete.
- 3) Come up to the standards required for participating at the Universiade or the University World Championships.

Take for granted that facilities are for those students who need them, there are minimum requirements for every sport.

- For most of the team sports there is the requirement that they play in the highest national division.
- For individual sports in most of the cases they have to belong to the top-10 in Belgium and for some sports to the top 5 or even the top three during the Belgian championships.

The Facilities can be divided in three branches:

- Studies.
- Examinations.
- Sportive coaching.

Studies.

Elite athletes have the right to adjourn labs if it's organizational practicable. They are also legitimately absent in lectures and labs in case of training or competitions. In every faculty or department a professor is appointed to assist the student-athletes with these facilities.

Examinations.

The most important facility is the possibility to adjourn examinations. Many sports are seasonal and the classical periods of examinations can coincide with the most important competitions. Elite athletes can remove their examinations during the examination period and even before the opening of the examination period.

Sportive coaching.

As student-athlete you have free entrance to the university sports infrastructure. For physical or technical training you can obtain expert advice from professors of the Department of Movement and Sport Sciences.

Financial Support.

Since last year every student, recognized as elite athlete, participating in University World Championships, Universiades, European Championships, World Championships or Olympic Games, can claim a financial support from the university which varies from € 100 over € 200 to € 250.

PRIZE STUDY AND ELITE SPORT.

Every year a "Prize Study and Elite Sport", since 2008 called Prize Benny Vansteelant*, is awarded to an elite athlete whose studies just ended and who combined in an excellent way his studies (quality academics) with top-class (high level performance in sport) sports performances.

*Benny Van Steelant was 5 times European and 9 times World champion duathlon. He studied geography at our university and died 2 years ago after a collision with a car during training with his bike.