



## International work camp in Belgium: Brussels International Fantastic Films Festival

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Project Title	<b>Brussels International Fantastic Films Festival</b>
Festival dates	From March 29 to April 10
City Location	Palais des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles 1000 Brussels – BELGIUM
SVI contact	Pierre De Hanscutter <a href="http://www.servicevolontaire.org">www.servicevolontaire.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@servicevolontaire.org">info@servicevolontaire.org</a> +32 2 888 67 13 +32 495 680 934 (mobile phone)
Type	Film Festival
Max volunteers	About 5 volunteers

You might want to download the latest version of this infosheet [directly from our website.](#)



# International work camp in Belgium: Brussels International Fantastic Films Festival

## Who are we?

SVI (In English: International Volunteering Service) is a Belgian pluralistic youth organization run by and for young people, by and for volunteers. It is an apolitical, non-religious organization. It is open to everyone, without discrimination of nationality, race, philosophy, financial resources, education or sexual orientation. SVI is registered in Belgium as a non-profit organization (NPO).



The organization mainly works in the field of international volunteering (international projects), but also in the areas of social economy, solidarity tourism and intercultural exchanges between young Europeans and the rest of the world. Each year, it sends more than 450 volunteers abroad and welcomes about 100 foreign volunteers in Belgium. The aim of the Belgian organization is to stimulate young people's interest (from 16 to 30 years old) to volunteering. SVI thinks it is not only an act of solidarity but also an opportunity to live an experience of active citizenship and a way to learn how to live as a community. Beside international projects, SVI also offers opportunities for young people to meet and encourages them to create their own projects and to take over the management of the organization.

## Our workcamp

The workcamp will be located in the Palais des Beaux-Arts and the Cinematek of Brussels (Belgium), in the very center of the city. About 5 foreign volunteers will join the local team of volunteers.





## The project

Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival is a 12 days film festival. 2000 artists and professional are invited to share their passion and experience about cinema in a fantastic atmosphere. More than anything, it is a unique concept. It is one of the most important festivals for genre films in the world. It welcomes more than 60 000 spectators every year. More than 100 films from many different countries are shown.

The festival is composed of international films competitions, competitions of face and body paintings, many creative workshops and master classes, a special day dedicated to Japan Animation, a Zombie Parade, and many more crazy events!

The line-up is more international than ever, however we dedicate a special part of our program to home-grown Belgian artists.

## Volunteer profile

Volunteers are young people (18-35 years old) who have to be extremely motivated, flexible, reliable and enthusiastic. They CANNOT have any physical condition. And most important, they must love cinema and particularly fantastic genre!



Notions of French or Flemish would be great, but English is absolutely compulsory.

## Work description

Volunteers will be part of the local team composed of more than 100 volunteers. They will have to be ready to work at least 5 hours every day. Tasks will be clarified continuously during the festival but volunteers will mainly work with the public: ticket control, public circulation, general information...

Volunteers might also have to do some physical work before and after the festival.

**DO NOT IMAGINE YOU WILL SIMPLY ENJOY THE FESTIVAL. IT WILL BE HARD WORK TOO!!!**



The job will be more or less the same throughout the whole festival, you have to be aware that it could be repetitive. Volunteers will have to work during the whole festival, from the beginning to the end. They will have to be present 2 days BEFORE.

If you plan it in advance, you will be allowed to take 3 days break maximum. During their free time, you will be free to go to the festival and enjoy the films and events (projections start at 3:00 PM and end at 1:00 AM).

Be ready to sleep little and to go to bed late!

### Food:

The organisation will give volunteers sandwiches, drink tickets and food tickets during the festival. The equivalent of only one meal will be provided every day.



There are a lot of shops, small snacks (pizza, fries, sandwich, Chinese...) and bars in Brussels.

→ You NEED TO HAVE A SMALL BUDGET FOR OTHERS MEALS (about 8€/day)

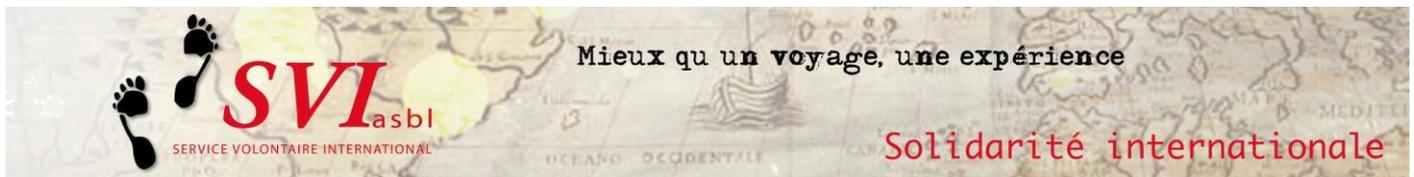
### Accommodation:

Foreign volunteers will be welcomed by local volunteers already implied in the Festival since many years. You will be hosted in "couchsurfing" conditions in order to facilitate the intercultural exchanges, to create new friendships and to spread the motivation among the participants! All the hosts will be located in Brussels itself.

You need to bring a sleeping bag and you should not expect luxury conditions!

You will be in contact with your host only one week before the beginning of the festival.

You must not expect them to host you before April the 6<sup>th</sup> and after April the 21<sup>st</sup>.



## Clothes and Material:



Casual clothes should be enough, but it should also be comfortable in order to be reactive and flexible during the rushes. You will be provided a BIFFF T-shirt.

Brussels is a rainy town so be ready for this and don't expect the temperature to be very hot in April. You must remember that you will spend some times outside for different activities.

No specific material is required out of a sleeping bag.

## Entertainment

After the work, you will be able to enjoy the films and events. The entry will be offered as well as your meals and your pass.

Members of SVI will be here to provide further information on the cultural sites and events in the region. There are several opportunities of sports and outdoor activities.

Belgium : <http://www.visitbelgium.com/>

Brussels : <http://visitbrussels.be>

Cultural Agenda : <http://www.agenda.be/>

The Tourism Promotion Office for Wallonia and Brussels: [opt.be](http://opt.be)

Please visit the Belgian Official Tourist Site: <http://www.belgique-tourisme.net/>

You can also find [guide books about Belgium](#) on our website (in English and French):

## Working language:

English and French or Flemish. Knowing the basics of French is very necessary. If you do not speak French, it is mandatory to speak good English.

## Fees:

There is no participation fee. You only pay the fees your sending organization asks them for itself. In Belgium, you just need to have money for additional meals and activities during your free time.

30 Rue des Capucins – 1000 Bruxelles  
BE: +32 (0)2 888 67 13 FR: +33 (0)3 66 72 90 20 CH: +41 (0)3 25 11 07 31  
[incoming@servicevolontaire.org](mailto:incoming@servicevolontaire.org)

# How to prepare their trip to Belgium

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## Plane trip to Belgium

Volunteers might want to visit [our website](#) for cheaper plane tickets.

## Visa:

European citizens only need a national identity card or a passport.

Non-European citizen may need a visa. The visa must be requested at the embassy or Belgian consulate of the country where you live.

If there is no embassy or Belgian consulate in the country where you live, you should contact the Belgian Embassy, which is responsible for their country. This one is usually located in a neighboring country.

The procedure for visa application can sometimes take a long time. Therefore, you must apply for a visa at least four weeks before their departure.

([http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/venir\\_en\\_belgique/visa\\_pour\\_la\\_belgique/](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/venir_en_belgique/visa_pour_la_belgique/))

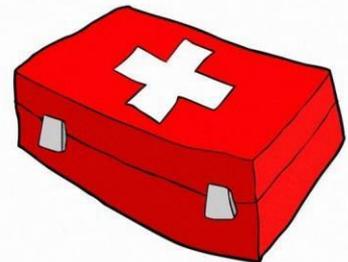
If you need an invitation letter, you can contact us at [info@servicevolontaire.org](mailto:info@servicevolontaire.org)

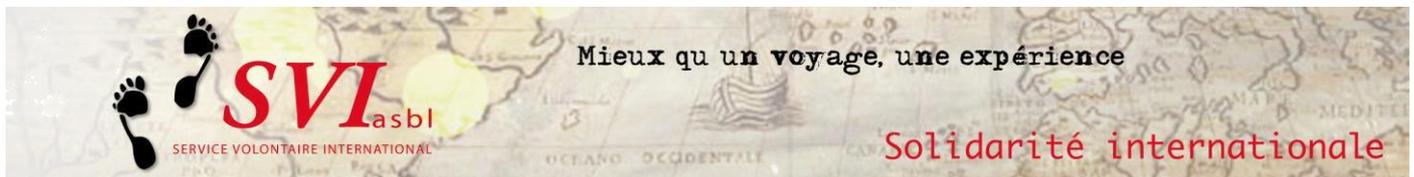
Volunteers can get extra info at <http://www.diplomatie.be/en/travel/visa/default.asp>

## Health

You need a health insurance to cover your entire trip to Belgium (however usually the host has an insurance to cover their working time). Your sending association may help to find a suitable one.

No vaccine is required but if you are going to do some physical work, we recommend that you take the vaccines against lockjaw and hepatitis. Make sure that you have seen a dentist before you leave home.





Volunteers must bring all the medicines they need. It might be complicated to buy them in Belgium if you do not have the necessary documents to get it. The medicine you need might have a different name from the one it has in your country.

In cases of accident all participants from foreign countries are insured by the International Volunteering Service. Nevertheless you need to have your insurance and a health insurance.

European volunteers need their [European Health Insurance Card](#) up to date. They can get it for free!

## Seven days prior to departure

You need to confirm your trip seven days before departure by sending a confirmation form to your sending association (at home). That form will be communicated to the SVI, and allow us to organize your arrival with our partner associations.

Volunteers need to know that their sending association is allowed to require some subscription fees independently from the project in Belgium. These fees allow them to work and provide them with volunteering projects. For more information, volunteers need to contact their sending association. Once they have arrived in Belgium, there is no fee to pay to the host association.

## When they arrive in Belgium

Volunteers need to go to the meeting point by their own way !

The meeting point is in the Central Station in Brussels at 12:00 p.m. Make sure to be PUNCTUAL!

A member of the Service Volontaire International will be waiting for you in front of the ticket desk.





*If you go there by train :*



If you are coming from Brussels airport, you can take a train. There are some direct trains to the “Brussels Central Station”. Check schedules on :

<http://www.belgianrail.be/en/Default.aspx>.

Set from: Zaventem (airport) to Brussel-Centraal.

If volunteers come before that time/date, they need to check youth hostels in Brussels ([http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE\\_en/sleep/youth-hostels.do](http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE_en/sleep/youth-hostels.do)). If they come after that time/date, they must go by themselves to the festival.

If you are coming from Charleroi airport (Brussels South airport), you can take a bus to the train station and then a train to the Central station.



You have two options:

- 1) You can buy a single ticket (if they buy a return ticket, they must go and come back on the SAME day) from a vending machine. You can pay in cash or by credit card. The price of the ticket is 5 Euros. You take bus A to the Charleroi train station. When you get to the train station, you buy a train ticket to “Brussel-Centraal”. Check schedules on: <http://www.belgianrail.be/en/Default.aspx>.
- 2) You can buy a ticket “to any Belgian station”. This ticket combines the bus ticket AND the train ticket from the airport to the Charleroi train station and then to any other Belgian station. You can buy a single ticket (if you buy a return ticket, you must go and come back on the SAME day) from a vending machine. You can pay in cash or by credit card.

*If you go there in taxi:*

If you are coming from Brussels airport:

Taxis are always waiting for passengers in front of the arrivals. The ones that have a license are the yellow and blue ones. Avoid the ones that do not have a license!! The price to go to the centre of Brussels is of about 45 Euros.

If you are coming from Charleroi airport (Brussels South airport):

Taxis are waiting in front of the arrivals. It costs between 85 and 95 Euros to go to the centre of Brussels.

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## General information about public transportation in Belgium

In Belgium, it is possible to go to most places by bus or train. Volunteers must always buy their ticket before boarding. There is also a network of trams and undergrounds in Brussels and some other cities. If you plan to travel a lot through Belgium in train ([train schedules and tickets](#)), they might want to buy a Gopass (50€ for 10 travels if they are younger than 26) ; if you plan to travel a lot around Brussels ([general travel information](#)), you can buy a « jump – 10 trips » card for about 12€. Caution: taxi is much more expensive than in some other countries.

## Phone

To give a phone call in Belgium, it is necessary to type +32 or 0032 then the number without initial 0. For example, if volunteers need to call SVI (International Volunteering Service) for any question or help about their volunteering, the local phone number is 028886713, but with a phone from any other country, they need to type +3228886713 or 003228886713. The same principle applies if their relatives want to call them from abroad.

## Cheaper international phone calls

When you are abroad, giving and receiving phone calls can become very expensive. SVI recommends two services that are cheaper than traditional phone services :

For a short term workcamp, [buy and international SIM card](#), it will allow volunteers to receive phone calls from a foreign country free of roaming fees. The person who calls them will only pay the price of a call to Europe, or nothing if you have a phone package in Europe. This card costs only 12€ and allows to write an unlimited number of text messages and have a cheaper internet access (if available).

For a long term workcamp, buy a local SIM card and open an account with a VOIP provider such as [www.12voip.com](#), or use a XXSIM card.

## Emergency phone numbers

If you encounter any trouble related to your volunteering project, call the SVI at +3228886713 or +32495680934.

The following numbers can be called from free in any emergency situation:

	100	Medical emergency and fire service
	112	European service in case of accident or aggression
	070 245 245	Poison center
	071 448 000	Burn care center
	105	Help in case of sinister and catastrophe

It might be useful for you to check the address and phone number of [your country's embassy or consulate in Belgium](#).

## How to prepare your luggage

It is crucial that you bring all your stuff in a backpack and not in any other type of suitcase, which might become very uncomfortable to move after a long journey.

### Bring your sleeping bag.

Belgium has a very unstable weather, it can be very cold or quite hot, and rain is always to expect. Keep that in mind when you pack up your clothes.

## We hope they will enjoy their stay in Belgium!

Pierre De Hanscutter

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