

# Checklist:

## Just arrived in Belgium! What now?

Did you just arrive in Belgium with your children?  
What do you need to arrange in Flanders?



### Administration



#### Register with the municipality

Register your family with the municipality where you live and inform yourself about the conditions and steps to obtain a residency permit for more than three months. This is the first thing you need to do.

**More info:** [www.vreemdelingenrecht.be](http://www.vreemdelingenrecht.be)



#### Integration process

Contact Atlas (Antwerp), Amal (Ghent) or het Agentschap Integratie en Inburgering (for the rest of Flanders) for an integration process (living and working in Flanders, language courses, etc.) in your own language or a language you understand.



Go to:  
[www.integratie-inburgering.be](http://www.integratie-inburgering.be)

### Social assistance



#### OCMW

For social assistance, such as support with housing, psychosocial guidance, emergency medical aid or financial support: contact the Public Social Welfare Centre (OCMW) in your municipality.

### Finance



#### Groeipakket (Child benefits)

**Do you have any children?** Then you may be entitled to the Groeipakket (child benefits) starting after your registration with the municipality.

The **Groeipakket** supports you in raising and caring for your children. In Flanders it includes:

- a monthly basic amount of approximately €180 per child;
- possible supplements depending on your family situation and income;
- an annual school bonus based on your child's age
- if your child attends a Dutch-speaking school or Dutch-speaking daycare, you may be eligible for additional supplements.

Make sure your child(ren) have a valid residence permit, register with a payment provider, and provide them with your bank account details.

**Expecting a baby?** Apply for your startbedrag (maternity allowance). This is a one-time birth allowance of over €1,200. If you apply during pregnancy, you can receive it as early as two months before the expected date of birth.



Join us here:  
[www.parentia.be](http://www.parentia.be)



Expecting a baby?  
Apply for your maternity  
allowance here:  
[www.parentia.be](http://www.parentia.be)

## Health



### Health insurance fund

Join a health insurance fund to get a refund of your medical expenses. You can choose which health insurance fund you want to register with.

For an overview of **health insurance funds**: [www.parentia.be/welcomevla](http://www.parentia.be/welcomevla)



### Medical care

Make sure you have the necessary contacts for medical assistance. **Looking for a general practitioner in your area?** Go to [ordomedic.be/nl/vind-een-dokter](http://ordomedic.be/nl/vind-een-dokter) or [www.doctoranytime.be/en](http://www.doctoranytime.be/en)



#### Emergency numbers:

- Night and weekend calls: 1733
- Urgent assistance: 112 (or the 112 app)
- Poison Control Centre: 070/245.245
- Tele-Onthaal (emotional support): 106

## Work



### Find a job that suits you

VDAB helps you with your job search and suitable training programs. Visit: [www.vdab.be/other-languages](http://www.vdab.be/other-languages)

## Child care and school



### Child care (children aged 0-3)

Looking for child care for your children aged 0 to 3? Kind en Gezin will guide you. — [www.kindengezin.be/en/child-and-family](http://www.kindengezin.be/en/child-and-family)



### Preschool, primary and secondary education (children aged 3-18)

In Belgium, children between the ages of 5 and 18 are required to attend school. Start looking for a school in time via [www.vlaanderen.be/en/studying](http://www.vlaanderen.be/en/studying).

Are your children in secondary school? Through the Groeipakket, you receive a school bonus and possibly a school supplement (depending on your income): [www.parentia.be/en/vlaanderen/groeipakket/amounts](http://www.parentia.be/en/vlaanderen/groeipakket/amounts)

Want to learn Dutch quickly? Non-Dutch-speaking newcomers can learn Dutch fast through **OKAN** reception classes.



OKAN



### Higher education (children aged 18-25)

Are your children continuing their studies after secondary school? Check if you are eligible for a study grant.



Study grant