The following indications are supposed to be valid with two assumptions:

* No delays due to the COVID situation
* The next year program will be the same as this year

GENERAL INDICATIONS FOR EVERYONE

* **Exams:** during the second year of the SUMA Program you are going to take 8 courses (4 per semester). The first exams session will be in the second half of January and it’ll last around three weeks. Consider then that the approach is very different from the University of Milano Bicocca. The advice here is to keep track of the courses, in order not to have 4 “unknown” exams to sustain in three weeks.
* **Thesis:** A list of proposals will be given at the start of the first semester. This year, about 80% of the topics regarded metals. I guess next year will be the same. I have one advice about the choice of the topic: prioritize the research group which you are going to work with instead of focusing only on the project. Even though the proposals are (slightly) different from each other in terms of materials, they’re pretty much the same in terms of work. You are going to characterize some material in order to have the first real practical approach to the different techniques that you studied in the past years. You will also acquire the skills to analyse the results obtained from several methods to reach one single goal. What really makes the difference is the people who will surround you, help you and guide you.
* **Accommodation:** I think that the website of the university explains in detail what the options are. To sum up, you have basically three choices: university residence, private residence and private apartment. As you can imagine, these three are different in terms of price, quality of the rooms, freedom. <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/studentservices/housing-leuven>
* **Internship:** As you probably know, is also required to spend (at least) 6 weeks on an internship in a company. This internship **cannot** have the same subject as your thesis. A database of some companies will be given to you but basically, you have to find your internship by yourself. After this period, a report and a presentation about your experience in the company will be required.

General deadlines: by the end of the first semester you will have to hand in a literature review of your thesis together with a presentation of it (in our case was in the second week of February). The program forsees that you’ll take the internship in the month of July and the first two weeks of August. Personally, I don’t see how it is possible to do that, since the delivery of the thesis is due for the 14th of August and the defence for the 28th. Almost all of us (if not everyone of us) will look for an internship to do after the defence. In this way you will have time to write the thesis and do a better work and spend more time on the internship. There are some things that are not clear and regarding this, a launch with EIT representants and coordinators is organized at the end of each month.

To sum up, for the general path you have two choices:

* + Take the internship in the summer and graduate in August/September: doable (maybe) but with very short time to dedicate to the writing of your thesis.
  + Take the internship after the defence and graduate in January/February.

FOR NON-EU STUDENTS: VISA APPLICATION

In order to request a VISA for your stay in Belgium you need to follow the procedure in the attached document.

These are the main information that I thought you should know. If you have any doubts don’t hesitate to contact me at [f.volonte@campus.unimib.it](mailto:f.volonte@campus.unimib.it)

Ps. Consider that I’m an Italian student and I’m not informed about all the procedures that a non-EU student has to follow. However, in case you should need help, I’ll do my best to help you find you an answer.