

NTNU – GHENT UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

Prof. dr. Kim Verbeken, Faculty Chair for Internationalisation

August 26th 2025

'Belgium's best kept secret': Lonely Planet founder visits Ghent for the first time

Thursday 3 August 2023

By **Maïthé Chini**

The Lonely Planet travel guide labelled Ghent as "Belgium's best-kept secret" 12 years ago, but founder Tony Wheeler has now visited the city for himself for "the first, but certainly not last time," he said in a lyrical account.

"Whenever I read about Belgium as a tourist destination, Bruges is always prominently mentioned. Unjustly so, I discovered, because Ghent has just as much culture, heritage and atmosphere to offer and also benefits from its calmer underdog position," he said. "Report of my first, but definitely not my last, visit to the city."



Gent | Europe's best kept secret?

Catherine Thomson | 18th June 2025

BLOG

Unlike the popular European cities of Amsterdam, Paris, Florence and Berlin, Ghent (or Gent) is a largely undiscovered Belgian city. I knew very little about Ghent until a few months ago, when friends came back from holidaying there, waxing lyrical about how amazing it is.



Gentse Feesten & festivals



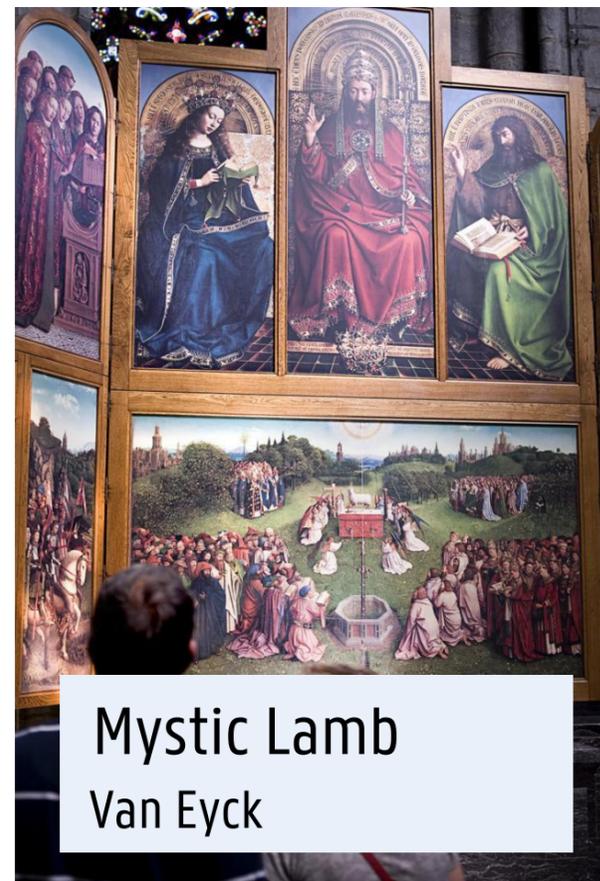
City of bikers



Gravensteen



Cuberdons
'Neuzekes'



Mystic Lamb
Van Eyck



Light festival

gent:



GHENT IN NUMBERS

- 157,9 km²
- 270,473 inhabitants
- 162 nationalities
- 87,500 students

(source:
https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Ghent%20in%20figures_extended.pdf)

gent:



GHENT: a rebel with a cause

A rebel, because the inhabitants of the Artevelde city simply follow their hearts and do their own thing. With a cause, because Ghent is a city that connects people, regardless of any differences. Changing standards, thinking outside the box, really looking and listening: Ghent is the place to be for open minds. And the city is a breeding ground for art, intellect and fun.



FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

AT A GLANCE



THIS IS GHENT UNIVERSITY

Top 100
university

Since
1817

Engirank
12



DARE TO
THINK



UNIVERSITEIT
GENT



ENGINEERING SCHOOL

°1835

OUR MISSION & VISION

From the faculty's educational mission statement:

“FEA is committed to training excellent engineers and architects, who are able to apply their technical and applied scientific skills and knowledge in any professional context, both in Belgium and abroad.

It seeks to do so by providing all of its students with a high-quality and state-of-the-art research-based education. Our engineering, engineering technology, and architectural engineering programmes meet international standards and fulfill the requirements of the work field and industry.”

FEA IN NUMBERS

Total staff 2319

10 departments

+65 research teams

412 professors

1661 researchers

246 supporting staff

+155 PhD's
per year

+2300
publications
per year

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY AT FEA



UNIVERSITEIT
GENT

EXCHANGE OR DEGREE STUDENT

What is an exchange student?

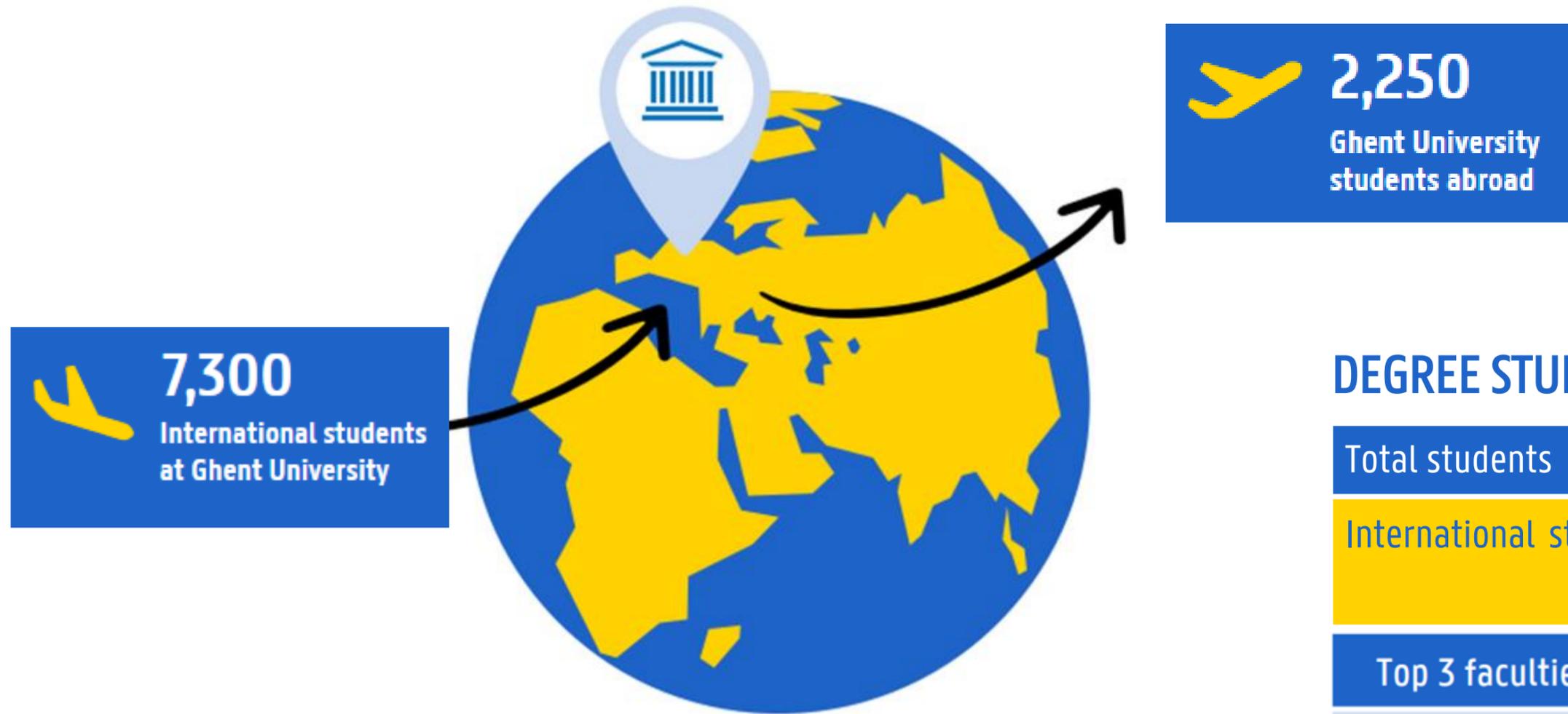
- Lives temporarily in a foreign country to study
- Min. 1 month - max. 12 months
- Credit transfer to home university, but NO UGent diploma

What is a degree student?

- Registration at UGent to obtain a UGent-diploma
- Most commonly: for 2 years



STUDENT MOBILITY



DEGREE STUDENTS

Total students	50,000
International students	7,300 (15%)
Top 3 faculties with international students	
Faculty of Science	1,061
Faculty of Bioscience Engineering	1,002
Faculty of Engineering and Architecture	997

Ghent takes home “Erasmus Destination of the Year” Award

SG Group / News

/ Ghent takes home “Erasmus Destination of the Year” Award

7 September 2023

During the Erasmus Generation Meeting in Bucharest last month, Ghent and ESN Gent conquered the title of the Erasmus Destination of the Year, winning against the amazing cities of Vienna, Valencia, Toulouse, and Padua.

This innovative award seeks to identify great practices in supporting student mobility at the city level, showcasing the role that local student associations can play in making their cities better mobility destinations and improving the quality and impact of mobility experiences.



Ghent voted best city in Europe to go on an Erasmus student exchange

The East Flemish city of Ghent has been named the “Erasmus Destination of the Year 2023” at an international conference. The city came in ahead of Padua, Toulouse, Valencia and Vienna in the search to find Europe’s best destination for students taking part in the Erasmus exchange programme.

PROGRAMMES MASTER OF SCIENCE

ENGINEERING

Biomedical engineering

Chemical Engineering

Civil Engineering

Computer Science Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Engineering Physics

Fire Safety Engineering

Industrial Engineering and Operations Research

Mechanical and Electrical Systems Engineering

Photonics Engineering

Ships and Marine Technology

Sustainable Materials Engineering

ARCHITECTURE

Architecture

Urbanism and Spatial Planning

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Civil Engineering Technology

Chemical Engineering Technology

Electrical Engineering Technology

Electromechanical Engineering Technology

Electronics and ICT Engineering Technology

Industrial Design Engineering Technology

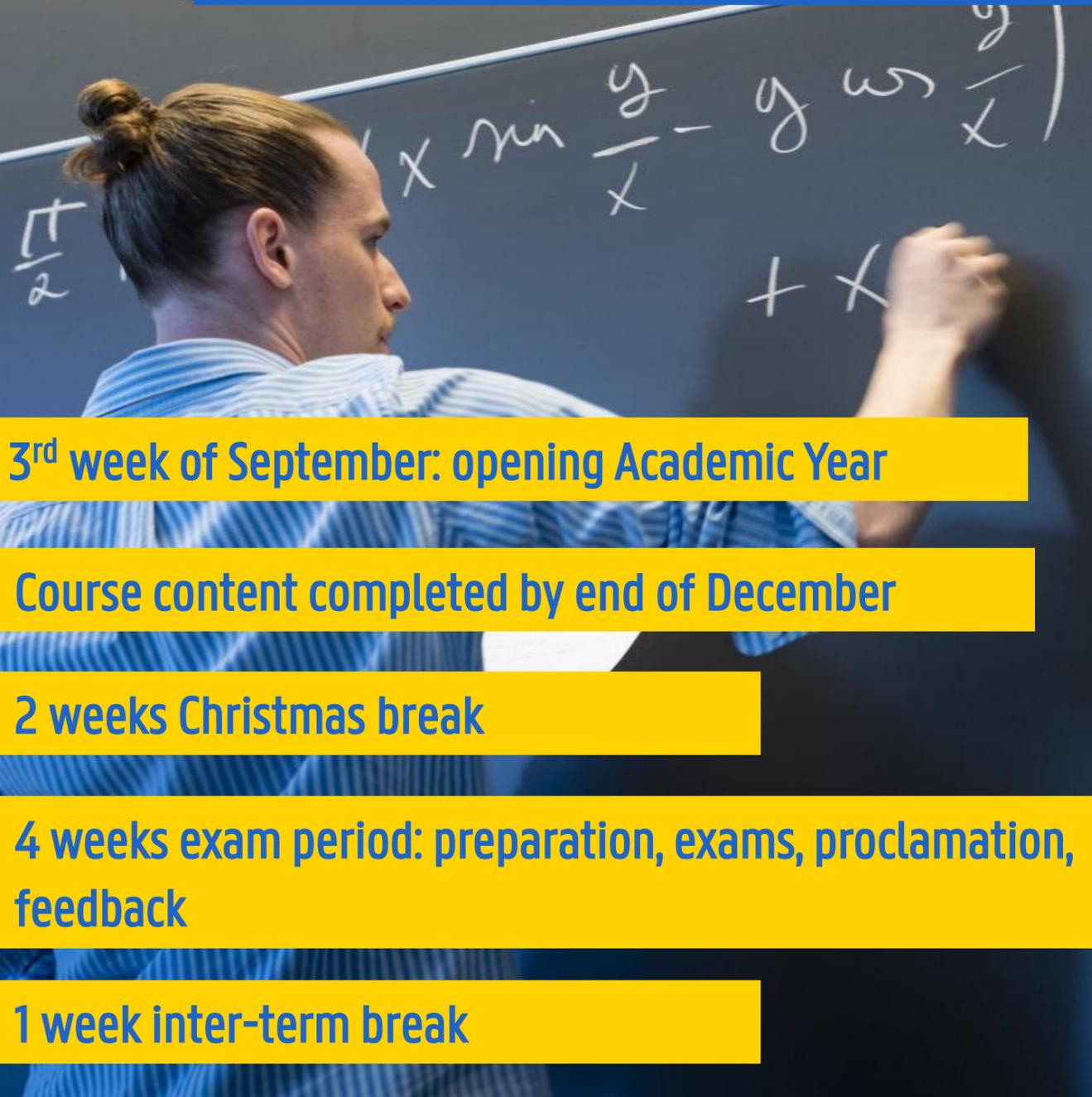
Information Engineering Technology

Land Survey Engineering Technology

Machine and Production Automation Engineering
Technology

ACADEMIC CALENDAR: SEMESTER SYSTEM

1st semester: 12 weeks of teaching activities



3rd week of September: opening Academic Year

Course content completed by end of December

2 weeks Christmas break

4 weeks exam period: preparation, exams, proclamation, feedback

1 week inter-term break

2nd semester: 12 weeks of teaching activities



Start: beginning February

Course content completed by end of May

6 weeks exam period: preparation, exams, deliberation, proclamation, feedback

Summer recess

Mid-August: Resit examination period

- Introduction Week for International Students in Engineering
- Kickstart your exchange at Ghent University's Faculty of Engineering and Architecture!
 -  Meet fellow international students and build your network from day one
 -  Get to know the campus, facilities, and support services
 -  Receive essential academic info: course registration, timetables, learning agreements
 -  Practical tips for living in Ghent: housing, transport, student life
 -  Interactive sessions with staff and coordinators to guide your academic journey

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

<http://www.ugent.be/ea/en/faculty/IRO>

Contact

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international.ea@ugent.be



Bert – incoming degree + traineeship /research Nele



Fien – incoming exchange



Ann – outgoing exchange

STUDENT UNIONS

- **VTK:** entire faculty – vtk@vtk.ugent.be
- **Centaura:** students at Campus Kortrijk - centaura@howest.be
- **Hermes:** engineering technology students - info@hermesgent.be
- **DLK:** architecture – dlk@ugent.be
- **Poutrix:** civil engineering - info@poutrix.be
- **MaChT:** chemical engineering & materials science - macht.gent@gmail.com
- **CenEka:** electrical engineering & computer science - info@ceneka.be
- **IEEE Student Branch:** electrical engineering - ieeesb.gent@gmail.com
- **VVN:** applied physics - vvn@student.ugent.be
- **Pkarus:** electromechanical engineering – pkarus@gmail.com
- **BEST:** Board of Engineering Students - ghent@BEST.eu.org
- **IAESTE:** Int. Ass. for the Exch. of Stud. for Tech. Exp. – iaeste@vtk.ugent.be



See <http://www.ugent.be/ea/en/faculty> for more information

ACADEMICS

- English 
- Internationally oriented
- Good support



MORE THAN JUST STUDYING

BIG EVENTS

- Student Kick-off
- IFK
- 12 hours run (12-Urenloop)
- ...

Party and drinks

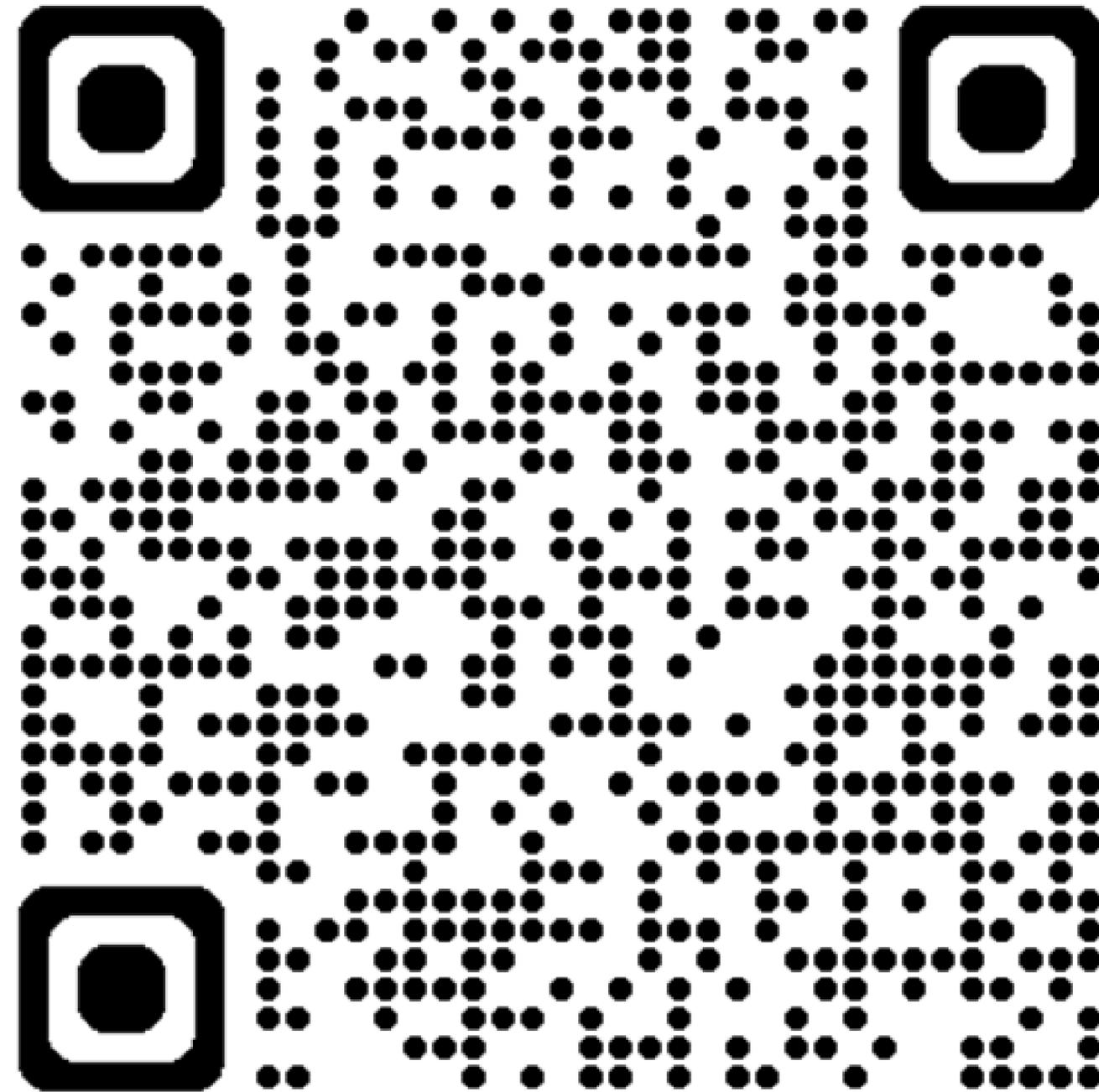


Sports



WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

READ MORE OR RE-VISIT THIS PRESENTATION?



Prof. dr. Kim Verbeken

FACULTY CHAIR FOR
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