

International students: new conditions for extending and ending their stay in Belgium

The [Royal Decree of 23 April 2018](#) introduced changes with regards to extending or ending the stay of international students. It details – inter alia – in which cases an order to leave the territory can be issued to a student when he/she extends his/her studies in an excessive manner considering the results.

Criteria for “excessive extension of studies”:

The Immigration Services will not grant a renewal of your residence permit if your study progress is deemed insufficient. With regard to master’s programmes, this means:

- Not obtained at least 60 credits after the second year of the programme;
- Not obtained at least 120 credits after the third year of the programme;
- Not successfully completed the programme after three years;
- If the programme was taken up together with a bridging programme, the study period may be extended by one additional academic year;
- The university is obliged to inform the Immigration Services of any instances of [study progress control](#).

In effect, foreign full-time students are expected to obtain at least 30 credits during each of their first two academic years, and to graduate by the end of their third academic year. Students whose study progress does not match this standard will be denied a renewal of their residence permit.

Students who meet the requirements established by the university’s study progress control will be granted a renewal of their residence permit.