



# *study guide*



**STUDY  
IN LATVIA**  
**STUDY  
IN EUROPE**



# Why study in Latvia?

AFFORDABLE TUITION FEES AND COSTS  
A DEGREE RECOGNISED IN ALL EU COUNTRIES

STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 80 PROGRAMMES  
BACHELOR, MASTER & PHD PROGRAMMES

STUDY IN ONE OF THE GREENEST  
AND MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY IN EUROPE!

EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

SAFE AND WELCOMING COUNTRY

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABILITY

PRACTICAL LEARNING AND TRAINING

# Study in Latvia

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

European Studies, Sport Science, Teacher Training and Education Science,  
Business and Administration, Finance, Law

## HEALTH CARE

Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Social Welfare

## IT/ENGINEERING

Computer Science, Telecommunications, Aviation Transport,  
Maritime Transport, Medical Engineering and Physics, Civil Engineering

## LANGUAGE STUDIES

English/French/German Philology, Interpreter, Technical Translation,  
Modern Languages and Business Studies, Theology

## ARTS

Music, Landscape Architecture,  
Audiovisual Media Arts, Choreography, Computer Design

## NATURAL SCIENCES

Mathematics, Biology, Environmental Sciences, Physics, Chemistry

...AND MANY OTHERS

## **LATVIA**

About Latvia	9
Key Facts	9
Geography	10
Weather	11
History	12
Politics	13
National Holidays	13
Eating traditions	14
Capital Riga	17
Literature, Art and Theatre	18
Museums	18

## **STUDIES**

Education system	21
European Qualifications Framework	23
Latvian Qualifications Framework	23
Tuition fees	24
Scholarships	25
Study process	26
Assessment	27
Basic steps of admission process	28
International Opportunities	30
Student organisations	31
Visa & residence permit	32

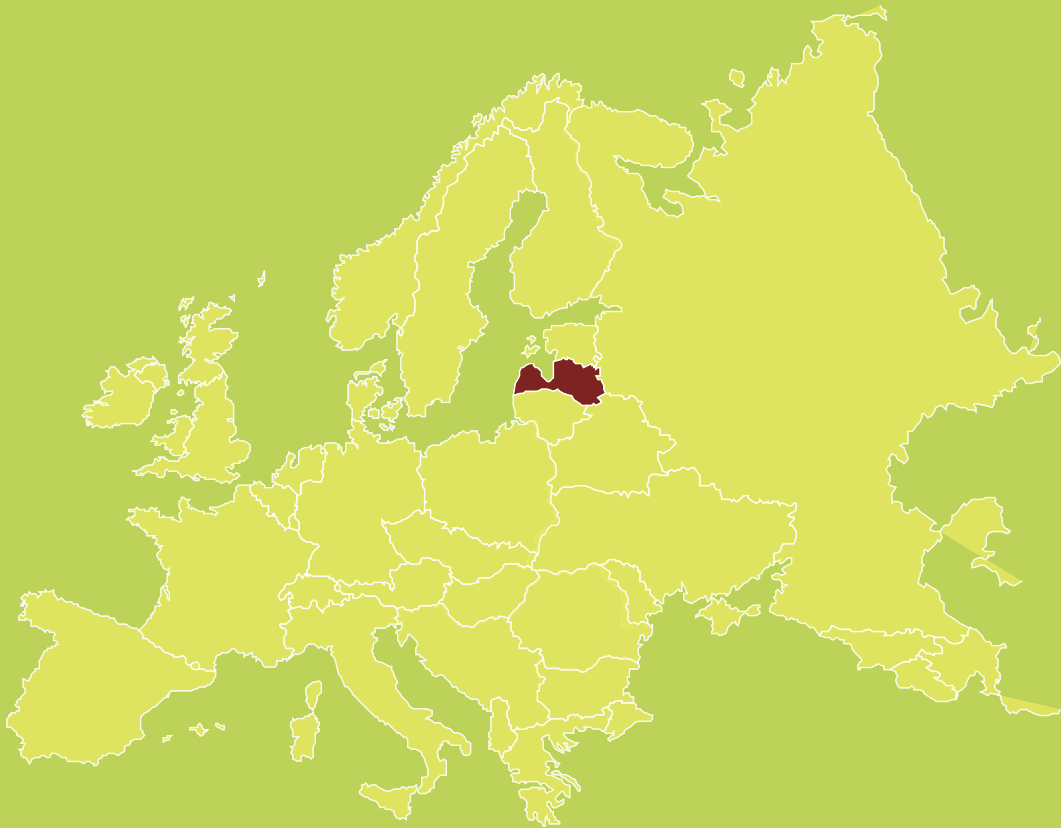
## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

Practical information for living in Latvia	35
Travel to Latvia	35
Tourism	35
Transportation	36
Cost of living	36
Accomodation	37
Good to know	38
Health insurance	39
Leisure time	40
Cafes & Restaurants	40
Cinemas	40
Riga's Creative Quarters	41
Rules to be observed in Latvia	43
Mini Dictionary	44
Useful links for international students	45
About us	46









*Latvia*



# About Latvia

With over 44% of its territory covered by forests, a vast network of free flowing rivers and thousands of lakes, Latvia is one of Europe's best preserved havens for a wide variety of wildlife.

Latvia, the pearl of the Baltic States, is one of the European Union member states and is situated in the North of Europe – on the shores of the Baltic Sea. Since ancient times Latvia has been at the cross-roads between East and West, North and South. Therefore, Latvia is a multi-cultured state, where the traditions of all these countries have merged, creating a unique environment, the like of which is not to be found anywhere in the world.

## KEY FACTS

- Official name – Republic of Latvia
- Capital – Riga
- Population - 1,97 million
- Area - 64 589 sq.km or 24 937 sq.miles
- Language – Latvian (official), Russian, English & German (widely spoken)
- Highest point - Gaiziņa Kalns 312 m
- Currency – 1 EUR = 100 cents
- Maritime climate - warm in summer (20oC), cold in winter –(5oC)



# Geography

---

Latvia is located at the crossroads of northern and Eastern Europe, on the east coast of the Baltic Sea. Latvia is bordered by Estonia to the north, Russia and Belarus to the east and Lithuania to the south, and has a maritime border with Sweden to the west. Other neighbouring countries include Finland, Poland and Germany.

Latvia is famous for its beautiful coastline and pine forests. You can see the well-known white sand beaches, and extravagant rocky beach near Tuja. Visitors to Latvia may generally experience a safe and secure country, and many of crimes could have easily been avoided using common sense practices.

---





---

# Weather

Latvia is located in such a geographical zone, which allows one to enjoy the magic and the differences of the four seasons, which is mostly not possible elsewhere in Europe. Therefore the climate in Latvia is mild and humid, without extreme fluctuations in temperature.

Nevertheless, that the weather conditions are changeable, Latvia has four pronounced seasons – winter, spring, summer and autumn.

The summer climate in Latvia is warm with an average temperature of 17°C, the peak occasionally going as high as 30°C. During spring and autumn weather is relatively mild but variable, generally humid with the average temperature around 10°C. Fall is popular with nature lovers due to colourful leafage.

Winters in Latvia usually starts in mid-December and last till mid-March. The average temperature in winter is around – 6°C, the cold can sometimes reach even – 25°C.

Latvia is a very lush green country for a good reason - it rains quite a lot. Be sure to bring a sturdy umbrella for year around use, warm clothes and sturdy, waterproof boots from September to March/April.



© Foto: Latvijas Nacionālais kultūras centrs

# History

Latvia is a country of rich history and cultural traditions and a relatively new national state. For a thousand years this land in the North-East of Europe was inhabited by the Baltic and Finno-Ugric tribes. Latvia's geographical location between East and West has historically made it attractive to foreign conquerors. The Germans, Swedes, Poles and Russians had ruled here, each leaving a cultural imprint on the country's architecture, infrastructure, style and personality.

The consolidation of the modern Latvian nation started in the 19th century. That was a period of national awakening that later served also as a precondition for the establishment of an independent national state in the 20th century. Today Latvia is a member country of the European Union.

Visit [www.latvia.lv](http://www.latvia.lv) to see History of Latvia: a Timeline offers you short insight in major events in the History of Latvia.

**History of Latvia:** Technological Milestones lists the dates of the most important technology innovations since the 13th Century.



# Politics

Latvia regained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Latvia has been a member of the European Union since 2004 and is represented in the European Parliament. Latvia is a member of the United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe, NATO, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organisation. Latvia has established diplomatic relations with 158 countries and maintains embassies in 35 countries. 37 countries maintain an embassy in Latvia's capital Riga.

## NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- January 1 – New Year* —
- March/April (according to the Church calendar) – Easter* —
- May 1 – Labour Day* —
- May 4 – a Declaration of the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia* —
- June 23-24 Līgo evening and Jāņi (Midsummer)* —
- November 18 – The Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia* —
- December 23 - 26 – Christmas* —
- December 31 – New Year's Eve* —

© Foto: Latvijas Nacionālais kultūras centrs



# *Eating traditions*

Latvia is a real paradise for gourmands – here you can enjoy a traditional meal as well as modern cuisine. Latvians Eating well is popular in Latvia and, also, as Latvia is on the crossroads between East and West, and North and South, you can observe the influence of many different national cuisines and enjoy the result – borrowing the best from each. Meat, fish, potatoes and dairy products are the most popular components of main dish meals. Salads are more often composed of vegetables than of greens, and sour cream or mayonnaise is the preferred dressing.

Many people in Latvia grow their own food, thus, it can be said that ecological food is widely available. Every person living in the countryside grows food for himself and city dwellers can purchase the farm-grown food in so-called green markets.

Latvians are still very fond of their traditional ***brown rye bread.***

100% sourdough rye bread is the traditional staple of Latvia, and it is central to Latvian culinary and cultural history.



## ***Grey Peas with Bacon***

perhaps is the most traditional Latvian hot dish. It can be served as a snack with beer, or as a main course.



### ***Beetroot Soup***

- a burgundy colour soup smells really nice when steaming in a bowl. Especially in the cold time of the year, this soup is like an elixir of renewal. The soup usually is served with sour cream and a few pieces of black or white bread. Traditional Latvian Beetroot Soup is without meat or mushroom. However, today it's often flavoured with these ingredients.

### ***Janis Cheese***

is the best-known cheese in Latvia. It's the tradition to have Janis Cheese during Midsummer festival, but you are always welcome to have some or to make some any time you want.



Slightly bitter scent reminding of summer even in mid-winter, golden brown colour and unmistakable taste -

### ***Riga Black Balsam***

is Latvia's most characteristic alcoholic drink. This strong and sweetish drink opens up a wonderful world of sensuality.

Black Balsam consists of 24 ingredients though its recipe is still kept secret.

According to legend, Empress Catherine the Great of Russia was cured after drinking Riga Black Balsam. In 2010, Riga Black Balsam was declared the best brand in Latvia. Try the drink to better understand Latvia!



13





### ***Hemp-seed butter***

usually is made of sweet-cream butter and hemp seeds that are crushed and added to the butter. The colour of hemp seeds makes the butter creamy green and adds a special bitter-fresh and slightly hazy flavour.



### ***Pearl barley and potato porridge***

served with sauce of fried pork and onions. Pearl barley and sliced potatoes are boiled in water, milk is added when they are ready, giving the porridge mild taste.



### ***Debesmanna,***

a cranberry mousse made from cranberry juice, farina (cream of wheat), and sugar. From so few ingredients comes a delightfully airy dessert that is so easy to whip up and is satisfyingly tangy

### ***Bread Soup***

is one of the famous desserts in Latvian traditional kitchen. The soup is made of brown tasty bread, flavoured with raisins and other dried fruits.





---

## *Capital Riga*

Riga is the Capital of Latvia, rich in architecture, culture and a plentiful array of attractions, Riga is by far one of the most amazing capital cities in Europe and well worth visiting.

Riga was founded in 1201 and is among most beautiful European medieval cities, and is the largest city in the three Baltic states with a population of about 660 000. Riga is well known for its fantastic integration of historic and contemporary architecture. In fact, Riga is considered to be the world's best epicentre of Art Nouveau. Tourists from all over the world admire Riga. The elegant Old Town and distinctive Art Nouveau architecture serve as stimulating setting for a vibrant modern business and cultural life.

All ages of contemporary European architecture can be seen in the streets of Riga - they perfectly complement each other and create the feeling that many things are happening simultaneously in Riga – the contemporary fashion fits very well with the medieval buildings and narrow streets. Riga has always been the city of youth, since the majority of Latvian higher educational institutions are located here. Riga has always been the birthplace of new ideas, and students fill the streets with their energy.

## LITERATURE, ART AND THEATRE

Latvian traditions still play a central role in the Latvian identity today. This unique Latvian culture is woven through its literature, music, theatre and the visual arts. Yet, the legacy of foreign rule has also given Latvia a second, European culture. As a distinctive Latvian identity emerged during the National Awakening in the 19th century, so did an appreciation for the achievements of other cultures. Latvians embraced all the classical arts – literature, painting, theatre, symphonic music, architecture, opera, ballet and film.

The largest figure in Latvian literature is Janis Rainis. Where Germans have Goethe, where the Spanish have Cervantes, Latvians have Rainis who Latvians say would be compared to the greatest authors of the world had he not written in a lesser known language. At the turn of the century the Latvian poet Rainis, and painters Janis Rozentāls and Vilhelms Purvītis had established international reputations. In the 1920's and 1930's Latvia's 'Rīga group' of painters became known internationally.

Latvians love theatre. They go to the theatre, they discuss it, actors are admired and theatre directors become opinion makers. With Alvis Hermanis alone, one of the leading theatre directors in Europe right now, Latvia's name would have gone down in the history of theatre, but there is certainly much more on offer.

## MUSEUMS

All over Latvia you can visit various museums that will help you understand better the culture of Latvia. These museums are small and cozy but typically showcase art and history in a modern, accessible manner. Visit Riga on the Night of the Museums in May to see many museums for free. Museums you can visit include the Museum of Decorative Arts, the Bourse Foreign Arts Museum, the Porcelain Museum, the Museum of the Occupation and many more.

**Read more on:** [www.latvia.travel/en/article/museums](http://www.latvia.travel/en/article/museums)







*studies*



# Education system

---

The Latvian education system consists of pre-school education, basic education, secondary education. General education in Latvia in total lasts 12 years consisting of compulsory 9-years basic education and 3-years secondary education. Secondary education stage comprises general secondary education, vocational secondary education and vocational education. Higher education comprises both academic and professional study programmes [source].

There is academic and professional higher education in Latvia. Most of the institutions of higher education offer both academic and professional higher education qualification.

Academic higher education programmes are tended to prepare graduates for independent research, as well as to provide theoretical background for professional activities. Academic education programmes are implemented according to the national standard of academic education. They usually comprise a thesis at the end of each stage and lead to a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree.

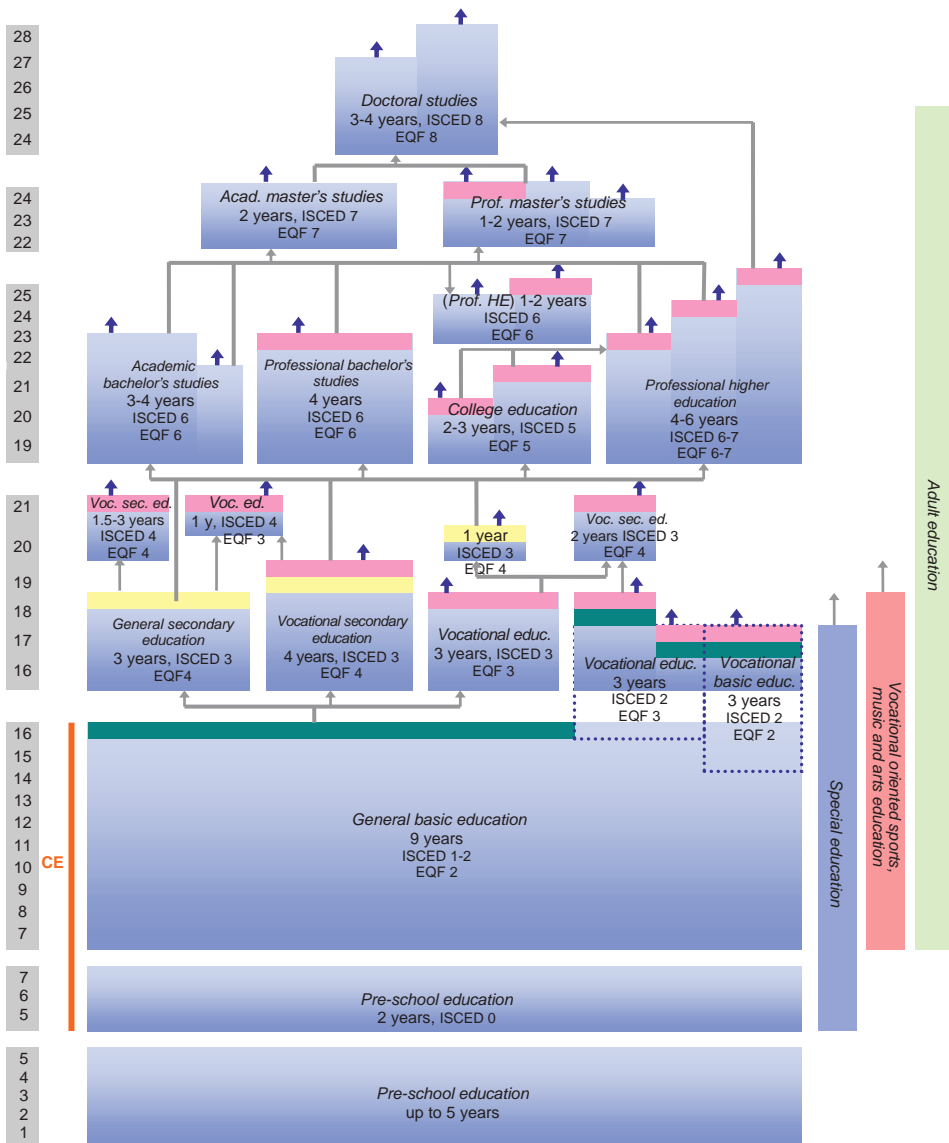
Professional higher education programmes are tended to provide in-depth knowledge in a particular field, preparing graduates for design or improvement of systems, products and technologies, as well as to prepare them for creative, research and teaching activities in this field. In total the duration of professional/vocational study programmes is not less than 4 years after secondary education and not less than 2 years after college education.

Duration of Bachelor's programmes may be 3 or 4 years. The total length of fulltime Bachelor and Master studies is not less than 5 years. Doctoral studies last 3-4 full-time years. **More information on [www.izm.gov.lv](http://www.izm.gov.lv)**

---



# THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA (2016)



■ Primary school leaving exams    
 ■ Maturita exams    
 ■ Professional qualification exam

3  
2  
1 Age

■ CE Compulsory education

↑ Next education level

↑ Labour market



# EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (EQF)

**EQF** is a common European classification system of qualifications that allows to compare qualification systems of various countries. EQF covers all types of education (general, professional, higher education, non-formal and informal learning) and all stages of education (basic education, secondary and higher education). The eight levels of EQF have been defined on the basis of achieved learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are expressed as knowledge, skills and competences.

# LATVIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (LQF)

**LQF**, similarly to the EQF, consists of eight reference levels and imparts the formal education in Latvia. LQF level descriptors are set by the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations and are based on learning outcomes that are expressed in three dimensions: knowledge (knowledge and comprehension); skills (ability to apply knowledge, communication, general skills); competences (analysis, synthesis and assessment).

**LQF/EQF** helps students to have greater awareness of learning/teaching process and guides students in choosing education programme according to their interests, abilities and needs. System also helps employers to understand better the education process and its outcomes, what graduates of higher education know, understand and are able to do.

*Since 2013 EQF and LQF level is indicated in the diploma supplement issued by the Higher Education Institution.*

# *Tuition fees*

## POPULAR BACHELOR STUDY PROGRAMMES TUITION FEES PER YEAR ARE APPROXIMATELY:

Medical Sciences	<b>7,000 – 15,000 EUR</b>
Business Studies and Management Sciences	<b>2,000 – 6,000 EUR</b>
Engineering and Technology	<b>2,200 – 4,000 EUR</b>
Mathematics and Informatics	<b>1,500 – 4,000 EUR</b>

The tuition fees depend on the institution and the study programme, but most of the Higher Education Institutions in Latvia offer affordable fees.

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Citizens from countries which have signed an Agreement on co-operation in education and science can apply for the Latvian government scholarships. These countries are:

Azerbaijan

Belgium

Bulgaria

China

Croatia

Cyprus

Czech  
Republic

Estonia

Finland

France

Georgia

Greece

Hungary

Israel

Italy

Kazakhstan

Lithuania

Mexico

Moldova

Mongolia

Peru

Poland

Portugal

Slovenia

South  
Korea

Tajikistan

Turkey

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan

Countries that offer scholarships for Latvian students, researchers and teaching staff without formal agreements on co-operation in education and science are eligible for the Latvian scholarship as well.

Austria

Denmark

Germany

Iceland

Japan

Norway

Slovakia

Sweden

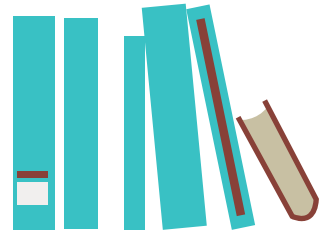
Switzerland

USA

**More information about scholarships you can find on the**

**[www.viaa.gov.lv/eng](http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng)**

**[www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international\\_cooperation/scholarships\\_gov/scholarships/](http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/scholarships/)**



# *Study process*

---

Academic year in Higher Education Institutions of Latvia consists of two semesters. First semester (autumn semester) usually starts in September and ends in December. The second semester (spring semester) starts in February and ends in June. Examination session usually is in January and June. The exact dates are set by HE institutions individually.

---



# Assessment

Examinations can be written or oral. If the student successfully passes all examinations in the examination session, he/she is allowed to continue the studies in the following semester. Final examinations are conducted by an examination board chaired by an academic or a professional from outside the institution. Latvian higher education system uses a ten-point grading scale, where 10 is the maximum grade and 4 is the lowest passing grade.

## Grade Explanation

ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL	GRADE	MEANING	APPROX. ECTS GRADE
Very high	10	Outstanding	A
Very high	9	Excellent	A
High	8	Very good	B
High	7	Good	C
Medium	6	Almost good	D
Medium	5	Satisfactory	E
Medium	4	Almost satisfactory	E/FX
Low	3-1	Unsatisfactory	Fail

# BASIC STEPS OF ADMISSION PROCESS IN LATVIA

1

APPLICATION

2

ENTRANCE  
EXAMS

3

AGREEMENT

4

VISA AND  
RESIDENCE PERMIT

**STUDY  
IN LATVIA**  
**STUDY  
IN EUROPE**

READ  
MORE!

# 1

- Have educational documents and transcription of records certified
- Send documents to university's admission office
- University sends documents for recognition
- Recognition time is approximately 1 month\*

\* *Sometimes recognition may take more time (depends on the country where educational documents are issued)*

# 2

- University sets what exams student should pass
- University sets exams accordingly to the chosen study programme
- University organises Skype interview
- English language knowledge should correspond IELTS 6.0, TOEFL 500 or IBT 90

# 3

- If educational documents are recognised, university sends agreement
- Student signs the agreement
- Student pays 1st year tuition fee (some universities may ask for security deposit)
- University informs about residence permit (RP) application process\*

\* *Please ask for the university's assistance regarding documents to be submitted for visa and residence permit!*

# 4

- University sends a call number to apply for RP
- Student submits documents for RP at Embassy of Latvia (EL)\*
- Documents should be submitted only at EL in student's home country
- If there is no EL in your country, contact university for further information

\* *For Masters, PhD students or considering students' country of residence, different RP regulations may apply*

Each university's admission procedure may vary!  
Please contact the university to have detailed information  
on the admission procedure



# International Opportunities

Higher Education Institution offer different international opportunities for students.

- ERASMUS + is a new programme for education, training, youth and sport activities, and it provides foreign students with opportunity to study for a semester abroad.
- Joint degree programmes – one academic year should be spent in partner university
- Different international projects
- Study visits - a short stay of three to five days in a host country for a group of 10 to 15 people
- Summer schools



# Student organisations

Each Higher Education Institution in Latvia has a Student Self-Government, which accepts students regardless of their nationality. The aims of the Student Self-Government usually are: to protect and represent the interests of all students in academic, material, cultural and social matters at the Higher Education Institution as well as at other institutions. This organisation is also an intermediary between the student and the Higher Education Institution administration. You can find the Students Self-Government of your Higher Education Institution through the administration. Also, you can find the full list here: [www.lsa.lv/pasparvaldes/](http://www.lsa.lv/pasparvaldes/)

Student unions delegate their representatives to the Student Union of Latvia – which protects the interests of students (including solutions of international students' problems) at the level of government. [www.lsa.lv](http://www.lsa.lv)

Erasmus Student Network is a wide European student volunteer organisation, based on “students helping students” principle. It works for the benefit of students, organises intercultural cooperation. ESN in Latvia is represented by ESN Riga, which organizes different activities for foreign exchange students in Latvia and Latvian students going abroad. Find out more: [www.esn.lv/](http://www.esn.lv/)

AIESEC is a global, non-political, independent, not-for-profit organisation run by students and recent graduates of institutions of higher education. Its members are interested in world issues, leadership and management. AIESEC in Latvia has a great international team and two active local committees located in Riga and Valmiera. Read more: [www.aiesec.lv/](http://www.aiesec.lv/)



# Visa & residence permit

Citizens of the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) need only valid travel documents, i.e. passports or identity cards to come to Latvia.

Non-EU nationals have to check if they need a visa to enter Latvia. The visa validity period depends on each specific case. Technically, with a valid visa you can stay in Latvia for up to 90 days. If students from outside EU come for a longer period than 90 days, they must apply for a residence permit in a Latvian Embassy abroad.

## Checklist

**before going to the Embassy of Latvia and applying for residence permit:**

- Complete application form  
<http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/pakalpojumi/residence/application.html>
- Photo
- Copy of passport (original must be presented, applying in person)
- Copy of study agreement with the university (original must be presented)
- Copy of Education/ Degree Certificate or Diploma and Transcripts of records/marks (originals must be presented and originals shall be legalized with APOSTILLE, if applicable)
- Copy of academic recognition of foreign qualification (sent by receiving university)
- Proof of study fee payment (provided by receiving university)
- A statement on punishability issued by a competent institution of the citizenship or the host country (legalized with APOSTILLE, if applicable)
- Bank statement that confirms sufficient financial means or living expenses for staying in Latvia during the validity period of the residence permit (it equals to 320 EUR/per month)
- Rental agreement or guarantee letter from university about the perspective place of residence
- Statement on fluorography or x-ray examining results (upon arrival in Riga)
- Health insurance for the whole validity period of the residence permit (upon arrival in Riga)







*practical  
information*

# Practical information for living in Latvia



## TRAVEL TO LATVIA

---

Latvia is easily accessible by land, sea or air, and has the largest railway terminal and international airport in the Baltics.



19 different airline companies serve Riga airport, including a number of budget airlines, so it should not be too difficult to find a reasonable price.



Another way of arriving in Latvia is by ferry.



International train routes are currently limited to connections with Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia, as well as to various destinations in Ukraine.



Riga is very well served by extensive bus connections. Bus routes connect Latvia with Belgium, Holland, France, England, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, the Czech Republic, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus and many other European countries.

## TOURISM

---

The key tourist attractions are concentrated in Riga, the Latvian capital. In the Old Town of Riga you can enjoy middle age architecture such as the Riga castle, the Dome and the House of Blackheads. Latvia can also offer beautiful national parks and historical heritage remains outside of the capital city.

***Check the top 10 travel destinations in Latvia!***  
***[www.latvia.travel/en/top-10](http://www.latvia.travel/en/top-10)***

## TRANSPORTATION

---

Riga has 9 tram lines, 20 trolleybus routes 54 bus routes. Public transport operates from as early as 05:00 to as late as 01:00, depending on the route. Also, every Friday and Saturday night transport services are available.

**Public transport tickets for students:** 16 EUR per month (trams, trolleybuses, buses)

**Public transport one-way ticket:** 2.00 EUR

**Night transport one-way ticket:** 2.00 EUR

The schedule of public transport you can find on **RTgas Satiksme** ([www.rigassatiksm.lv/en](http://www.rigassatiksm.lv/en)) website and each stop.

**It is suggested to use three taxi companies:**

- RED CAB call: 8383
- AirBaltic taxi: 8500
- Lady taxi: 27800900

## COST OF LIVING

---

According to the **EURES** (European Employment services) data on living and working conditions in Latvia, the country has a fairly lower standard of living as compared to other European countries, so students from abroad can spend more on their everyday needs.

Average cost of living per month

Accommodation:

Dormitories/Student Hostel: 70-120 EUR

Flat renting, not shared: 250-350 EUR

Flat renting, shared: 100-200EUR

Food: 120-250 EUR (Meals at the city centre: 5-9 EUR per meal)

Transportation:

Taxi (from the city centre to suburbs): 7-15 EUR (1 transfer)

Public transport tickets for students: 16 EUR per month (trams, trolleybuses, buses)

Public transport one-way ticket: 2.00 EUR

**Riga Public transport homepage ([www.rigassatiksm.lv/en](http://www.rigassatiksm.lv/en))**

Leisure, personal needs: around 100 EUR depending on needs.

Cinema ticket: 5-10 EUR

Opera ticket: 7-42 EUR

Rock concerts: 7.5-30 EUR



Average monthly living expenses in Latvia are estimated to be between 450 and 700 EUR, depending on the type of accommodation (student dorm or privately rented housing/flat). These amounts should be enough to cover food, accommodation, utilities, transportation and other expenses.

## Accomodation

Some Higher Education Institutions have their own student dormitories; others provide assistance with housing search. You should ask the international student advisor at your chosen Higher Education Institution for advice and/or assistance, since the real estate market in Latvia is rather unsettled even for locals.

Facebook group for apartment search: ***Riga Student's Apartment Market***

***Some Rental agencies:***

- APARTA
- LATIO
- Rīgas Kore
- SIRTA
- Centrum Apartments
- OLD RIGA APARTMENTS

© Turība University

BE BOLD  
OR ITALIC  
NEVER REGULAR



# Good to know



As a developed country of the European Union, all modern communication services are available in Latvia.



Research on Internet development in the world indicates that Latvia has the fourth fastest Internet speed in the world – in Latvia at the end of 2012, broadband lines reached an average peak speed of 37.5 Mbps.



WiFi is available in Latvia and is offered by many hotels, various public places – cafes, business centres, airport and bus terminals – just look for the WiFi sign. Mobile Internet is very convenient for travellers and is available in 98 % of the territory of Latvia.



There are both fixed and mobile phone communications available in Latvia. The international telephone code for Latvia is +371. There is developed network of mobile services in Latvia and consist of three operators that provide mobile communications (**LMT, Tele2, Bite**). Mobile connections are available in almost the entire territory of Latvia. It is possible to buy prepaid cards (**Okarte, Amigo, Zelta zivtiņa**) for calls in the GSM network to make calls both in Latvia and abroad.



There are Latvia Post branches in all cities and populated areas of Latvia. At the post offices, one can send letters, postcards, packages, parcels, small packages, as well as make different payments, money transfers, etc. Postage to other European Union countries costs 0.65 EUR for postcards and 0.79 EUR for letters; to other countries postage costs 0.72 EUR for postcards 0.85 EUR for letters. More information



# Health insurance

---

Each student must be aware that it is mandatory upon arrival to obtain health insurance for the entire planned period of stay in the Republic of Latvia. A health insurance is required to be able to receive a Residence Permit.

Citizens of the EU Member States, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland can use European Health Insurance Card (**EHIC**). This document certifies that the holder is a resident of one of the aforementioned countries and is covered by the social insurance system of this country. The card ensures the right to receive necessary or emergency health care to the same extent that it is available under the national social insurance system to the permanent residents of the country in question.

For non EU citizens – life and health insurance policy which ensure at least the following health care services:

- emergency medical assistance costs;
- treatment costs of growing chronic illness;
- transport costs to the closest medical facility providing the Services mentioned above;
- transportation costs to return the patient to his/her home country in the case of a serious illness.

The minimum coverage limit indicated in the policy cannot be less than 42 700 EUR over the insurance period.

Non EU citizens can get the above mentioned insurance policy at the local insurance companies:

- **If**
- **BTA**
- **Gjensidige**
- **Ergo**
- **Balta**

# Leisure time

## CAFES & RESTAURANTS

Latvia offers a wide variety of places to eat out, from American fast food, to chic and expensive restaurants.

Latvian cuisine: Lido, Valtera restorāns, Salve, Salmu Sēta, Melnā Bite

Student-friendly places: Dada, Istaba, Planet Sushi, Hare Krishna Centre, Mārtiņa Beķerija, The Flying Frog,

Fast food: McDonald's, Hesburger, Chilli Pizza, Pelmeņi HL,

Medieval restaurants: Pie Kristapa Kunga, Rozengrāls, Livonija, Lasīte

Vegetarian: Raw Garden, Rama, Miit, Buddha

Pubs: Ala, Paddy Whelan's, Donegan's Pub, Jaurā lapsa, Latvijas 1. Rokkafejnīca

Other: American, Armenian, Chinese, Czech, English, Finnish, French, Georgian, Indian, Irish, Japanese, Jewish, Korean, Latin American, Russian, Scandinavian, Spanish, Thai, Ukrainian and many other international restaurants

Teatime: Apsara, Kama, Smilšu pulkstenis, Zen

Cafes: Double Coffee, Sweetday cafe, Osīriss,

More information on:

[www.inyourpocket.com/latvia/riga/restaurants](http://www.inyourpocket.com/latvia/riga/restaurants)

[www.turismslatvija.lv/](http://www.turismslatvija.lv/)

## CINEMAS

Films in Latvian cinemas are mostly shown in the original language and are subtitled (not dubbed) in Latvian and Russian languages. The largest cinemas are situated in Riga (Splendend Palace, K Suns, Cinamon, Forum Cinemas, Multikino), but you can find some of them also in other towns.



# *Riga's Creative Quarters*

## **MIERA STREET REPUBLIC**

---

Miera Street is a flourishing creative quarter where little shops, cafes and all kinds of creative initiatives work side by side and warmly greet every guest. Cheerful people gather on the street, the air filled with long-forgotten melodies, and all worries fade away.

## **BERGS BAZAAR**

---

Hedged between Elizabetes, Marijas and Dzirnavu street, Bergs Bazaar is a miniature self-contained city – here one can find cinema, art, fashion, delicacies, a luxury hotel, and even one of Rīga's few fountains. Bergs Bazaar boasts the charming features of a metropolitan lifestyle: refinement, intelligence, hedonism, contemplating walks and conversations...

## **KALNCIEMA QUARTER**

---

Kalnciema Quarter, thoroughly renewed and open to everyone, is part of unique European wooden architecture heritage. The Quarter regularly hosts Seasonal Markets and series of cultural, educational and business events, which bring a lively buzz to its courtyards.

## **VEF**

---

The aura and spacious premises of a once flourishing factory have attracted many creative residents to VEF. Since 2008 various art events have been organized here: exhibitions, workshops, open days, performances and concerts. Today there are around 20 artists' studios along with several public event and art spaces.

## **KANEPES CULTURE CENTRE**

---

Kanepes culture centre (KKC) inhabits a wonderful building with a courtyard and a terrace, built at the end of the 19th century, in the very centre of the city. KKC offers a wide range of exhibitions, plays, live musical performances and social activities.

Grizinkalna has become one of the most sportive areas in Rīga, because already for five years it has been home to the most popular urban sports and culture event in Latvia – Ghetto Games.

## LATVIAN CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

---

Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art is an internationally active non-government cultural organization that offers an independent perspective on current topics and recent historical events through the looking glass of art.

## ANDREJSALA

---

Andrejsala is a pioneer among Rīga's Creative Quarters, and has managed to preserve its raw ambience despite the contrasting aims and ambitions of its residents. Here artists, designers, creative entrepreneurs and liquor sellers try to fulfil their dreams next to busy railwaymen and dockers, droning trains and mighty ships gliding by

## SPIKERI

---

Located next to the Central Market, Spikeri quarter attracts with a rich cultural agenda and gastronomic pleasures. In Spikeri creative industries, cultural organizations and restaurants of different concepts coexist and complement each other.

## THEATRE GERTRUDES IELAS TEATRIS

---

Theatre Ģertrūdes ielas teātris is contemporary art's stage – a professional production and presentation venue, where audience is offered to experience theatre, dance and interdisciplinary performances created and performed by local and international professional artists.

## RISEBA ARCHITECTURE AND MEDIA CENTRE H20 6

---

Rīga International School of Economics and Business Administration future education and culture epicentre is located in Pardaugava, in a former industrial area by Zunda canal. It is the largest media centre in the Baltics, inhabited by architecture, audiovisual media arts, culture, education and business.

## I-DEJAS MAJA

---

At this independent centre for dance and personality there are at least 30 various dance activities for adults, workshops and classes for the personality and life balance, dance and music classes for children.

**For more information please see** [www.latvia.travel/en/article/riga](http://www.latvia.travel/en/article/riga)



## *Rules to be observed in Latvia*

Smoking is prohibited within 10 m from the entrances of institutions of national and local government, as well as at the public transport stops.



Sale of alcoholic drinks is prohibited in all the territory of Latvia from 22:00 to 8:00 o'clock. It is prohibited to carry open bottles or cans of alcoholic drinks in public places. Use of alcohol in public places outside bars, clubs and cafes selling alcohol is also prohibited.



When driving you need a valid driver's licence.



Speed limits are strictly enforced in Latvia, and there are quite a few speed cameras installed in various places across the country. The maximum speed in built-up areas is 50 km per hour and outside of built-up areas, 90 km per hour. Should you ever be stopped by the police, do not leave the driver's seat unless invited to do so.



Dipped headlights during the day are compulsory (all year long!).



Winter tires are compulsory from 1 December until 1 March, but spiked tires are prohibited from 1 May until 1 October.



Drivers are prohibited to speak on the phone while driving, except when using a hands-free system.

# Mini Dictionary

## ENGLISH

Hello!  
How are you?  
Yes/No  
Please  
Thank you  
Sorry  
Where is...?  
What time is it?  
My name is...  
What's your name?  
How much does it cost?

## LATVIAN

Labdien!  
Kā iet?  
Jā/Nē  
Lūdzu  
Paldies  
Atvainojiet  
Kur atrodas...?  
Cik ir pulkstenis?  
Mani sauc...  
Kā Tevi sauc?  
Cik maksā?

## *Useful links for international students*

---

Ministry of Education and Science, Republic of Latvia [www.izm.gov.lv](http://www.izm.gov.lv)  
Republic of Latvia Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs: [www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/](http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/)  
Republic of Latvia State Border Guard: [www.rs.gov.lv/index.php?setlang=1](http://www.rs.gov.lv/index.php?setlang=1)  
Republic of Latvia Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [www.mfa.gov.lv/en/](http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/)  
Consumer Rights' Protection Centre (CRPC) [www.ptac.gov.lv/page/251](http://www.ptac.gov.lv/page/251)  
The State Police of Latvia [www.vp.gov.lv/?@langid=1](http://www.vp.gov.lv/?@langid=1)  
Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates: [www.advokatura.lv/?lang=eng](http://www.advokatura.lv/?lang=eng)  
The Latvian Centre for Human rights [cilvektiesibas.org.lv/en/](http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/en/)  
Latvia's official informative portal [www.latvia.eu](http://www.latvia.eu)

---

### **Real estate companies:**

Latio [www.latio.lv/en/](http://www.latio.lv/en/)  
Arco Real Estate [www.arcoreal.lv/en/](http://www.arcoreal.lv/en/)  
Balsts [www.balsts.lv/eng](http://www.balsts.lv/eng)  
Oberhaus [www.ober-haus.lv/](http://www.ober-haus.lv/)

---

### **Private medical institutions:**

ARS [ars-med.lv/](http://ars-med.lv/)  
Veselības centrs 4 [www.vc4.lv](http://www.vc4.lv)

---

**Driving related issues, see** [www.csdd.lv](http://www.csdd.lv)

---

### **Travel:**

[www.celotajs.lv/lv](http://www.celotajs.lv/lv)  
[www.latvia.travel/lv](http://www.latvia.travel/lv)  
[www.kodarit.lv/](http://www.kodarit.lv/)  
[www.pilis.lv/tulk/aktual\\_list.php](http://www.pilis.lv/tulk/aktual_list.php)  
[www.autoosta.lv](http://www.autoosta.lv)  
[www.ldz.lv/](http://www.ldz.lv/)  
[www.kultura.lv/](http://www.kultura.lv/)  
[www.rigathisweek.lv/](http://www.rigathisweek.lv/)  
[www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com)  
[www.rigatourism.lv](http://www.rigatourism.lv)  
[www.rigaoutthere.com/](http://www.rigaoutthere.com/)  
[www.anothertravelguide.com/](http://www.anothertravelguide.com/)  
[www.citariga.lv/](http://www.citariga.lv/)

# STUDY IN LATVIA STUDY IN EUROPE

***Study in Latvia*** and have a degree recognised in all EU countries! Come and meet students from more than 80 countries and be one of them! Study in Latvia is a national agency managed by Academic Information Centre (AIC) and supported by Ministry of Education and Science.

Study in Latvia takes part in International Education Fairs with an aim to inform foreign students on study possibilities in Latvia. At our national stand students can meet representatives from Latvian HEI who will inform about the study programmes in Latvia.

Study in Latvia actively promotes Latvian higher education among student groups in such countries as China, India, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Georgia and many others.

Our aim is to show the diverse range of study options that are available in Latvia, representatives from Study in Latvia give information on international study programmes that are available in English and Russian languages at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level.

**Find us:**

[www.studyinlatvia.eu](http://www.studyinlatvia.eu)

[www.facebook.com/studyinlatviaLV](https://www.facebook.com/studyinlatviaLV)

[www.twitter.com/StudyLatvia](https://www.twitter.com/StudyLatvia)

[www.instagram.com/studyinlatvia](https://www.instagram.com/studyinlatvia)



**STUDY  
IN LATVIA**

**STUDY  
IN EUROPE**