



## Registration and pre-arrival guidelines for Incoming exchange students

### AUTUMN semester 2021/2022

(Updated on 19 April 2021)

Thank you for choosing Riga Graduate School of Law for your exchange studies!

We hope you are doing well and staying healthy. RGSL is approaching the planning of Autumn semester 2021/2022 with a hope that there will be possibility for international travel and safe in-class studies in combination with some remote sessions, and that we will be able to welcome you in Riga. In case the governmental decisions and public health measures in Latvia will permit remote study format only, you will be notified by e-mail.

Incoming exchange students must read and follow the Latvian government rules and **weekly updates (on Fridays)** related to Covid-19 pandemic concerning essential travel, mandatory Covidpass, testing, self-isolation and other requirements:

<https://www.spkc.gov.lv/lv/valstu-saslimstibas-raditaji-ar-covid-19-0> (scroll down for travellers' info files in English)

<https://www.riga-airport.com/covid-19-faq/en> (Riga airport website with updates)

<https://covidpass.lv/en/> (Covidpass form and FAQ). Note that for completing this form you will need to list your residence address in Riga.

#### PRIMARY CONTACT FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS:

RGSL ERASMUS Institutional coordinator Ulla Zumente-Steele, e-mail: [ulla@rgsl.edu.lv](mailto:ulla@rgsl.edu.lv)

#### STUDENT ONLINE REGISTRATION:

Registration is open only for students planning to study in the Autumn semester or full academic year. If you have been officially nominated by your university to RGSL (Autumn semester or full year) you can proceed with your

**application online** – the deadline is **1 June** 2021.

After filling your basic information in the form, the following must be attached to the application form:

- copy of passport or EU national identity card,
- **official style photograph** - passport size, this will be used for printing your student ID and library card at RGSL and for student group lists, make sure to choose a good quality picture,
- academic **transcript** in English from your home university (can be without official letterhead or signatures due to remote operations of most universities this semester),

- NOTE: we **do not require** Erasmus students to submit English language test. We trust your university selection procedure. However, we strongly advise you to **strengthen your legal English language skills** – both written and oral – before the arrival.

### LEARNING AGREEMENT

Due to final course selections made after orientation and introduction days in Riga (as class schedules are known shortly before the first study module begins), RGSL generally does not require Incoming students to submit signed LA before the arrival.

If your home university requires it, preliminary draft LA can be approved **AFTER June 1st registration deadline**. In such case please contact individually Erasmus coordinator by email [ulla@rgsl.edu.lv](mailto:ulla@rgsl.edu.lv) sending your LA document or link to your home University online LA form.

**By mid-August RGSL will ask all incoming students about their initial study module (6-week study period) course choices via special online questionnaire.**

### ACCEPTANCE LETTER

RGSL will send acceptance letter as e-mail messages AFTER 1 June deadline and no later than 10 June.

### IMMIGRATION

If you are not a citizen or resident of EU/EEA country and will need Latvian visa to enter the country, please contact by **15 May** RGSL ERASMUS coordinator ([ulla@rgsl.edu.lv](mailto:ulla@rgsl.edu.lv)) to consult individually on further documentation and steps for processing immigration **!!! Students who need to apply for Latvian entry visa, must obtain a signed Learning Agreement beforehand.**

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2021/2022

**Bachelor courses:** 30 August 2021 - 21 January 2022 (1st semester)  
24 January 2022 - 31 May 2022 (2nd semester).

**Masters courses:** 20 September 2021 - 29 January 2022 (1st semester)  
1 February 2022 - 30 June 2021 (full year).

### ORIENTATION DAYS

Orientation days are planned on **26-27 August** Thursday-Friday for Erasmus students who plan to take Bachelor level courses at RGSL. The format: in-class or online (depending on what will be permitted). *If you plan to take only Masters level courses that start on 20 September, you will be asked to arrange the time for brief individual or small-group orientation session upon your arrival just before 20 September.*

**Students should bring their *laptops / tablets/ ipads* to the orientation session in order to login and set up IT Access to study portal and e-systems used at RGSL.**

The study process is **highly intensive** from the very beginning of the academic year. **Orientation days** are aimed at introducing incoming students with the study process, academic and administrative procedures, and to settle practical matters.

During the orientation session students will be able to make final choices of courses and finalize learning agreements, receive RGSL student ID / library card. During the first days we also provide assistance, if needed, in obtaining Riga city public transportation e-card for student discount.

### **STUDY PROGRAMMES OPEN TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION**

**Bachelor/Undergraduate** interdisciplinary programmes: LL.B in “Law & Business” and “Law & Diplomacy”. Bachelor classes generally take place between **9.00 and 17.00**. Some language courses may be scheduled in the evenings. Generally a full work-load for bachelor students in each semester are **27 ECTS** which consists of following 7-9 subjects in total.

During each semester Bachelor study process is divided into three **modules** (study periods), each lasting 6 weeks, during each of those students select up to 3 different subjects to follow. **Exams take place at the end of each module, and immediately classes begin for next module.**

**LL.M. (Masters) programmes:** “International and European Law” (with specialization in “International Law & Human Rights”, “Technology Law”, “Law & Finance”). Lectures on Masters courses are scheduled in the evenings from **17.00 till 21.00** on workdays and on occasionally on **Saturdays** during the day. Generally a full work-load for Masters students in each semester is **24 ECTS** which consists of following 8 subjects in total. **Courses are scheduled in 6-8 week modules and exams take place at the end of each module, and without any extended break classes for the next module begin.**

### **Contact hours (lectures/seminars) and ECTS**

Bachelor level courses: 3 ECTS = 30 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 minutes)

Masters level courses: 3 ECTS = 24 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 minutes)

### **STUDENT BUDDIES AND ACTIVITIES**

The RGSL students have set up a Buddy system to help incoming exchange students, and you will be contacted during the summer by the student representatives with an invitation to join **Facebook or WhatsApp group for RGSL exchange students**. This group will also be used as a channel to search for available housing (see below Accommodation) and „team-up” as room-mates. RGSL Student Association organizes cultural, tourist and social events, and engages incoming students in the student social life.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

All students have to find their own accommodation. From the feedback of previous exchange and full-degree international students we have learned that the most preferred option is to „team-up” with other international students mainly via Facebook

to rent an apartment in the city. Feel free to ask RGSL Erasmus coordinator about the location and proximity of your chosen housing address.

### Useful contacts for searching accommodation:

- **Appeltofft-Invest** [www.stabu16.lv](http://www.stabu16.lv) RGSL students have reported renting individual rooms for ~EUR 250-300 with all utilities included and have given positive feedback. Contact person **Liene Jaudzema**, e-mail [appeltofftinvest@gmail.com](mailto:appeltofftinvest@gmail.com)
- **Theatre Residence** on Terbatas street 34, Rent EUR 270-390 depending on the room - ALL INCLUDED (water, electricity, heating, internet, TV, cleaning of the common areas) - no agency fees. For more information and bookings contact e-mail: [zanete.merliva@gmail.com](mailto:zanete.merliva@gmail.com); Tel.: +371 29116762 <https://www.studentroomsriga.lv/>
- **Valdemara Residence** <https://www.facebook.com/valdemararesidence/> - they offer shared student rooms for affordable prices, great central location, 10-minute walking distance from RGSL, exchange students have given rather positive feedback.
- **NEW: IHG - Student Housing, Event and Travel** company providing students with freshly refurbished, fully-equipped apartments or rooms in historic buildings in the central part of the city. Website: [www.ihgestate.com](http://www.ihgestate.com) // Email: [riga.client.manager@ihgestate.com](mailto:riga.client.manager@ihgestate.com) // WhatsApp or call: +371 22 180 398 Instagram: @ihgstudentriga
- Apartments on Brivibas street 57. Contact person: Dace Gerasimova +371 25551441 (also Whatsapp). You have to join FB group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/821414014625602/>
- **Jakob Lenz Guest house** / Student apartments  
Several international students this year have been rather satisfied to stay at the *Jakob Lenz Guest house* (\*\*) – either for the first few weeks or for the full semester. Long-term rent has special prices depending on single or shared rooms (usually between EUR 250-300 per month). While the conditions there may be simple and modest, and Wi-Fi “acts out” occasionally, the price and location are its greatest assets. The Guest house is located 5-minute walking distance away from RGSL and 12-minute walk from the Old Town Riga. Address of both buildings: Strelnieku iela 17 and Lenču iela 2. E-mail [pasts@guesthouselenz.lv](mailto:pasts@guesthouselenz.lv) (can be slow in replying but after all things usually work out fine☺) You can find the place on *Booking.com* or website [www.guesthouselenz.lv](http://www.guesthouselenz.lv) but write to the administration if you want to receive student offer, refer that you will be RGSL exchange student.
- **“Duck Republik”** student hostel <https://duckrepublik.eu/offer/special-offer/> this is **much farther away from the city center part where RGSL is located**, opened about three years ago, they offer single and shared rooms. Feedback from students has been quite good, but the strongest disadvantage is the distance from RGSL and the neighbourhood area where it is located. The price, however, is lower than in the city center.
- *When new suggestions for housing are received, Erasmus coordinator will send it to incoming students as an update info.*

**Housing costs** in the Old Town Riga will be generally higher than in the rest of central Riga. Shared flats and student rooms outside the Old Town are estimated on average EUR 300-400 per month for a private room (including heating costs, and the internet).

**Always, always check whether the utilities - water, electricity and especially heating in the winter season** are included in the price or separate, and how much the cost is in the winter. In some buildings central heating can increase the cost by more than 30% in winter months. Flats further away from the centre will have lower prices but then you have to factor in time for commuting. In Riga people generally would consider distance as "close", if you can walk in less than 20 minutes to your destination.

**Living costs:** the cost for food and daily supplies are estimated at a minimum EUR 280-300 per month. For travel, cultural events, entertainment you will need additional finances.

**Public transportation (bus, tram and trolley-bus):** upon arrival in Riga, students will be able to apply for student transportation e-card and buy monthly pass with student discount (EUR 16,00 per month unlimited rides, or EUR 5,40 for 20 rides).

**Taxi Bolt** is available as well.

### **MEDICAL INSURANCE**

Incoming exchange students must have the European Health Insurance Card and/or private health insurance to cover emergency medical expenses during study period in Latvia. **Additional travel and accident insurance with broader coverage is strongly recommended.** If you need to visit a doctor in Riga, the cost will be around EUR 25-40 per visit. In addition, any tests (blood test, for example) is at additional cost.

### **OTHER USEFUL INFO SOURCES:**

- A page to like: <https://www.facebook.com/ESN.Riga> (to follow Erasmus Student Network events, including student trips abroad)
- Study in Latvia - <http://www.studyinlatvia.lv/>
- ISIC card <http://isic.lv/en>

*We look forward to welcoming you at RGSL! Stay in touch and let us know of any questions that arise!*