Riga Graduate School of Law

BACHELOR | MASTERS | PHD

PROGRAMMES IN LAW, BUSINESS, LINGUISTICS, AND DIPLOMACY
Experience tells you what to do; confidence allows you to do it

Prof. Dr. George Ulrich
RIGSL Rector

In life, everything constantly ebbs and changes, but dreams remain. At times, when you have to make an important decision, the best choice is the one that really reflects your heartfelt interests. I have met many talented people, and while there is no doubt that having talent gives you a head start, still, in order to make the most of that talent, it is essential to invest a lot of effort and hard work in order to be successful.

At RIGSL, one of our primary aims has been to create a study environment that rewards a combination of talent and hard work. By facilitating the dynamic interaction between outstanding students and lecturers from Latvia, Europe and the wider region, we provide an ideal setting for a truly rewarding learning experience. One can feel it in the classrooms and corridors of the beautiful RIGSL campus: an atmosphere of enthusiasm and high ambition.

I cordially invite you to join this magical experience. The present booklet contains description of a rich array of RIGSL study opportunities which just may be the ideal vehicle for you to pursue your career aspirations.
Good reasons to study at RGSL

Competence of teachers
RGSL has a resident faculty as well as a very large international faculty that comes to Riga to teach specialised courses. The faculty represents academic excellence, and at the same time offers substantial practical experience, leading to teaching that is both soundly based and highly relevant for career development.

Student participation forms an important aspect of all programmes. During discussions, professors ensure that the class as a whole move forward in learning and that students have occasion to apply their newly-gained knowledge.

Distinctive study programme
RGSL offers a full range of education, all taught in the English language, starting with Bachelor programmes, through graduate studies on Masters programmes, to postgraduate studies for the award of a PhD. All RGSL diplomas are internationally recognised and reflect that the student has achieved a high level of academic and professional development.

Studies are based on interdisciplinary student research activities. Class sessions form a platform for discussion, so as to enhance the learning experience gained from studies, combining lectures with small group seminars. The learning experience is further enhanced by trial courts and other role-plays or simulations.

International atmosphere
Riga and Latvia are located at the very centre of the Baltic States. Latvia forms part of several interlocking regions, as a Member State of the European Union, as part of the Nordic region, and as a portal to Eastern Europe. Currently, students at RGSL come from up to 20 different countries, and almost 50 % are international students. Erasmus students are welcomed, based on agreements between RGSL and the individual educational institutions. The course catalogue provides a wide range of relevant courses for Erasmus exchange.

Attractive employment opportunities
Law firms, banks, and international companies recruit RGSL graduates for their excellent knowledge of European and international issues—and fluent English, Parliaments, ministries, government agencies, and courts also highly regard RGSL graduates. The web site of RGSL serves as an important reference point.

Evidence of the quality of education at RGSL is the high employment rate of our alumni at the international level, including positions at the European Commission, the European Court of Justice, the European Council, and the European Parliament as well as the European Court of Human Rights, the World Bank and the United Nations.

Student environment
RGSL encourages an active student life both at the academic and social level. All masters study facilities are available at RGSL, including high speed internet. The library offers access to databases and online academic publications, which students may also access remotely.

Many teaching facilities are shared with the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, creating a campus atmosphere and adding to the international atmosphere. The student and faculty careers shared by the two institutions forms a daily contact point for students.

“The school gave me an intensive year of studies with first class teachers from all over Europe. Very relevant to my everyday’s practice is the knowledge gained in various areas of EU law. There is hardly any case or matter not involving at least a bit of EU law.”

Moritz Wagner
RGSL Alumnus 2005
Associate in Reed Smith’s European Corporate Group in Munich
PhD candidate at the University of Hamburg
Your success lies in research and creative thinking

Riga Graduate School of Law

RGSL is a centre of excellence linked to the University of Latvia, with programmes that are all taught in English. The international faculty comes from both academic and professional backgrounds. The campus is located in the Art Nouveau district of Riga and hosts an outstanding law library.

Master programmes have since 1999 covered international and European law, as well as subjects such as finance and linguistics. Bachelor programmes focus on law, business, and diplomacy. All programmes are interdisciplinary in nature.

Graduates have found important positions in law firms, international organizations, and business corporations. New PhD programmes will be offered in cooperation with international partners, which has increasing importance for professional career development.

The teaching method is case-based and directed towards practical application, but is also based on achieving a clear understanding of the complex underlying theoretical problems in the fields of study.
Bachelor programmes

Structure

Bachelor programmes at RGSL have an interdisciplinary approach with focus on law together with respectively business and diplomacy. The programmes comprise 180 ECTS credit points, corresponding to 120 Latvian credit points.

The overall duration of each programme is three years, ending with a Bachelor thesis. They entitle students to continue on RGSL Masters programmes, subject to additional requirements for entry to the one-year programmes.

Each course lasts six weeks, with students following three courses at the same time and a total of 15 class hours weekly, to which is added research work on assignments and class preparation. At the end of each course an exam has to be passed.

Courses

The programmes include courses in both mandatory and elective fields. They are taught from a comprehensive theoretical perspective, but also relate theory to practical application. Research tasks and course assignments support this double perspective on subjects.

The legal components of the programmes have a comparative approach, drawing on several legal systems, and together with the elective courses they cover all main topics found in an international law programme.

Support for studying in English is available during the programmes, and students may also follow courses in French and German. Currently, the range of elective courses is being expanded, including focus on Asian business, politics and languages.

LL.B in Law and Business

This programme directs itself towards students wishing to work either in a managerial environment, with a clear understanding of legal issues, or in legal practice with a clear understanding of business transactions.

Legal issues are dealt with in a regional and international perspective, with the main focus on the legal environment of the EU and its Member States, as well as that of major trading partners, such as the USA, Russia, and China.

Business issues are addressed in all fields relevant for successful commercial operations. This includes major areas such as economics, accounting, management, and marketing.

BA in Law and Diplomacy

This programme directs itself to students intending to work in the Foreign Service of their home countries as well as in international organizations. However, candidates will be attractive for employment in many other fields, including the media.

Legal issues take their point of departure in international and European Union institutions and how these are regulated in relation to international relations. To this is added an understanding of major fields of law with which international relations are concerned, along with fields relevant for diplomatic officers serving on postings abroad.

Issues relating to diplomacy have a broad reach into history, culture, and political science, with special focus on conflict resolution and negotiation. The programme is operated jointly with the University of Latvia.

“... The degree from RGSL is always regarded as the best reference for the start of a professional career. The alumni of RGSL are employed by law firms, multinational companies, public entities including the European Commission and the European Court of Justice, as well as diplomatic corps throughout the Baltics, countries of the European Union, and other parts of the world.”

Egils Levits
Judge at the European Court of Justice
Masters programmes

Structure
RGSL offers a wide range of Masters programmes combining the fields of law, business, international relations, and linguistics. The programmes are one-year programmes with 63 ECTS credit points, corresponding to 42 Latvian credit points.

The study plan includes both theoretical studies and thesis writing, which forms a central part of the programmes. Courses have a six-week structure, with students following two concurrent courses, which leaves time for the high-level research activities expected of graduate students on a Masters course.

Some programmes have a higher credit rating, and some are offered also in a two-year professional format with integrated internships. RGSL facilitates solutions for students not meeting the "Bologna requirements" for a one-year Masters programme.

The programmes are also offered on a part-time basis, so that the duration of the part-time Masters programme depends on the individual programme followed by the student.

LL.M in International and European Law
The programme is designed for students interested in pursuing their professional careers in international organisations, private law firms, public authorities, and academia. The programme allows for a combination of courses covering European Union Law, International Commercial Law, and Public International and Human Rights Law.

LL.M in Transborder Commercial Law
This programme is designed to focus on practical aspects of transborder trade within the European Union and an international conditions framing European Union trade. It is designed to meet the needs of lawyers working in the private sector.

LL.M in European Union Law and Policy
This programme is designed to promote highly qualified experts with theoretical knowledge of both European Union law and policy issues. It covers integration, the role of the European Court of Justice, as well as policy implementation and negotiation.

LL.M in Law and Finance
The programme equips both law and finance specialists with knowledge regarding the interface of financial affairs and its regulatory background. It facilitates understanding of the wide array of multidisciplinary issues involved and delivers in depth knowledge of the mesh of legal and economic aspects of firms and markets.

MA in Legal Linguistics
The programme is designed as an interdisciplinary programme, covering a range of legal and linguistic skills useful for lawyers and language specialists working with legal texts. The interdisciplinary approach allows development of comparative legal and linguistic analytical skills in national, multilingual, and international contexts.

“RGSL is one of the first institutions in the larger Northeastern region of Europe with a solid programme on topics of law and finance, with a selection of international lecturers and all taught in English.”

Bob Wessels
Guest professor at RGSL
Professor of International Insolvency Law in Leiden (Netherlands) and New York.
Advisor to the European Commission for crisis-management in the cross-border banking sector.
PhD programmes

Structure

RIGSL is preparing to launch new PhD programmes for holders of a Masters or similar degree who wish to continue their studies in the field of law and related interdisciplinary fields. The programme duration will normally be three years.

PhD candidates may either be enrolled as students or employed as research members of the RIGSS faculty, depending on available financing. Applications for enrollment and employment will be invited through public announcements of available positions. A general possibility for PhD students leading to a doctoral degree will also be offered on a fee-paying basis.

Each PhD candidate will have a supervisor appointed to monitor and assist the development of their dissertation, which when completed is submitted to an evaluation committee appointed by RIGSS. In addition to tutoring, each candidate will follow a programme of specially designed courses to ensure training in relevant topics and general principles of scientific research.

After graduation, the holder of a PhD diploma will be eligible for appointment as a full member of the RIGSS faculty, depending on available positions. Apart from academic employment, achieving a PhD diploma has become an increasingly important element in professional career development.

International partners and study possibilities

In cooperation with the University of Copenhagen, RIGSS is aiming to launch a PhD programme beginning in 2011. Programme duration is three years, with employment as a PhD research fellow, and leads to a doctoral degree in law.

Research fellows will be employed at RIGSS during their period of study, but will be integrated into both research institutions and will spend approximately equal time in Riga and Copenhagen. They will be granted a special posting allowance for their period of stay at the University of Copenhagen.

Individual supervisors will be appointed by both participating institutions, and candidates will be offered a wide selection of courses and research seminars. Research fellows will have some teaching obligations, which will be related to their field of research.

The PhD programme will focus on subject matter researched and prioritised by both institutions. It will primarily involve research fellows who wish to devote their studies to international law issues, especially including human rights and EU law.

Recruitment of research fellows will be based on open advertisements, with assessment by an expert committee and personal interviews with shortlisted candidates.

RIGSS is currently entering into partnerships with other institutions in order to offer additional possibilities for sponsored PhD studies in Riga.
Continuing education and research

Continuing education
The RSSL Continuing Education (CE) programme offers educational opportunities for private and public sector lawyers, managers and support staff:

- Selected courses from the various programmes are open for external participants through GE, obtaining academic credit points.
- In addition, in-house training provides tailor made training solutions within public authorities and private companies.
- Public courses on the latest international case law and legislative developments and legal language skills are offered in English.

Projects
RSSL have a reputation as high level experts and are running and managing a variety of projects. At present, RSSL is leading or actively participating in the following international research projects:

- ENACT – European Citizenship
- PREPARE – Regulating Privatisation of “War”: the Role of the EU in Assuring Compliance with International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- JURITRAN – Means for Justice: creating curriculum studium for judicial training

Advisory and consultancy services
Faculty members of RSSL have a reputation as high level experts and are frequently contacted by the mass media for expert opinions on various current matters. With its experience, RSSL can draw on its resources and provide specialist advice and research to both public and private sector organisations.
The year spent in Riga can be described as one of the most unforgettable times in my life both academically and socially. I met dozens of amazing people from all over the world and enjoyed the warm atmosphere of the Riga Law School family. Certainly, I can freely state that the School is a great part in my formation as a human rights lawyer.

Levan Meskhoradze
RGSL Alumnus 2007
Government Agent of Georgia to the European Court of Human Rights

Library and information services
The RGSL Library offers one of the top legal collections in Central and Eastern Europe, widely used and appreciated by a growing number of students and professionals. The library is open to the public, thus serving RGSL, other students, professors, and members of the general public interested in law.

The library holds an impressive collection of current law books, legal journals, and yearbooks, as well as valuable legal databases, including Westlaw, HeinOnline, EBSCO, and others.

In addition, the SSE Rigas library on business and economics in the same building is available for students, and inter-library relations have been established throughout Latvia and Europe.

Workspaces in the library are available for students, with full access to internet and printing facilities. Workspaces enjoy an undisturbed view over the Art Nouveau rooftops of Riga, and the library also offers access to a rooftop terrace for relaxation.

Use existing knowledge to create new
Admissions and tuition fees

Admission requirements

RGSL accepts highly qualified students who are interested in the programmes offered and who are eligible and qualified to undertake studies at Bachelor and Masters level. Entry requirements vary between the different programmes:

**LLB in Law and Business**

BA in Law and Diplomacy

Both available to individuals with a secondary school degree from any accredited school or a degree considered equivalent to an education necessary to undertake studies at RGSL.

**LLM in International and European Law**

LLM in Public International Law and Human Rights

LLM in Transborder Commercial Law

LLM in European Union Law and Policy

All available to individuals with a Bachelor, Masters, or equivalent degree in law or related fields, on condition that basic knowledge in law and corresponding work experience is acquired.

**LLM in Law and Finance**

Available to individuals with a Bachelor, Masters, or equivalent degree in law, business, finance, economics, or related fields.

**MA in Legal Linguistics**

Available to individuals with a Bachelor, Masters, or equivalent degree in law, philosophy, or related fields.

At least four years of undergraduate or graduate studies are required for access to the one-year Masters programmes.

Applications

Applicants for Bachelor and Masters programmes should present the following documents:

- Completed application form
- Certified copies of diploma and diploma transcript with an English translation
- Passport copy

For Bachelor programmes, applicants should include the following additional documents:

- Documentation of proficiency level in English
- For Law and Business, documentation of proficiency level in mathematics
- For Law and Diplomacy, documentation of proficiency level in social sciences (e.g., Politics and Law, History etc.)
- Motivation letter, which may also refer to relevant professional experience

The level of proficiency may be documented by a course grade in relevant subject matters at ECTS level of C or higher, but alternative documentation may also be submitted.

For Masters programmes, applicants should include the following additional documents:

- Official results of TOEFL or IELTS not more than three years old
- Motivation letter, which may also refer to relevant professional experience

The required minimum result is 525 points for TOEFL (for a computer based test – 196, Internet based test – 69) and 5.5 for IELTS. For the Legal Linguistics programme, the minimum result is 550 points for TOEFL, for a computer based test – 213, Internet based test – 79-80 and 6.0 for IELTS.

Tuition fees

For Bachelor and Masters programmes admission will be decided on:

- 15 April for applications received before 15 March. This will be a pre-selection approval for later formal admission on 28 July.
- 26 July for applications received before 28 June. Later applications may be submitted for remaining available places. Studies begin in September.

Students are admitted in order of priority of application submission and based on grade averages in the qualifying diploma. Students may be invited for an interview at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

For PhD programmes, conditions for enrolment as a PhD student with financing or employment as a research fellow will be announced in notices concerning available positions. For enrolment as a PhD student on a fee basis, applicants should contact the RGSL administration for information about conditions and available places.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study programmes</th>
<th>Per academic year</th>
<th>Total per programme</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FULLTIME</strong></td>
<td>LVL</td>
<td>EUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLB in Law and Business</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>2988</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA in Law and Diplomacy</td>
<td>2100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLM in International and European Law (academic)</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>4980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLM in International and European Law (professional, two year programme)</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>4980</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLM in Public International Law and Human Rights</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>4980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLM in Transborder Commercial Law</td>
<td>3500</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLM in European Union Law and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLM in Law and Finance (two year programme)</td>
<td>4900</td>
<td>6792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA in Legal Linguistics</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>4980</td>
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RGSL facilitates contacts with credit institutions for student loans.
LL.B in Law and Business

Mandatory courses

Law
- Comparative Constitutional and Administrative Law
- International Public Law
- Comparative Property Law
- European Union Law
- Philosophy of Law
- International Human Rights
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Trade Law
- Competition and State Aid Law
- Internal Market Law
- External Relations of the European Union
- Comparative Company Law
- Free Movement of Capital
- International Private and Procedural Law
- Banking and Securities Law

Business
- Organization to Economics
- Introduction to Marketing
- Micro Economics
- Business Accounting
- Macro Economics
- Economics and Politics of European Integration
- Economic Development and Demography
- Corporate Finance
- International Trade Policy
- Business Strategy
- Information Management Systems
- Professional Ethics
- Management Accounting and Control
- International Monetary Economics
- Investments and Capital Markets
- Research
- Research Methods
- Advanced Research Methods
- Study Work

Thesis

Elective courses

Law
- History of Law
- Comparative Personal, Family and Inheritance Law
- Comparative Criminal Law
- International Arbitration
- Business and Human Rights
- Freedom, Security and Justice in the European Union
- Free Movement of Persons and Establishment
- Diplomatic Law
- International Tax Law
- Comparative Constitutional and Administrative Law
- International Public Law
- European Union Law
- International Human Rights
- International Trade Law
- External Relations of the European Union
- Diplomatic Law

Economics
- Introduction to Economics
- Micro Economics
- Macroe Economics
- Economists and Politics of European Integration
- Economic Development and Demography
- International Trade Policy
- Professional Ethics
- International Monetary Economics

Policy
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations Theory
- International Organisations
- International Conflict and Crisis Management
- Foreign Policy Analysis

Humanities and Skills
- Contemporary World History and Conflict Resolution
- World Religions and Dialogue
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette
- Languages
- Communicating in English
- Research
- Research Methods
- Advanced Research Methods
- Study Work
- Internship

Programme outlines

BA in Law and Diplomacy

Mandatory courses

Law
- Comparative Constitutional and Administrative Law
- International Public Law
- European Union Law
- International Human Rights
- International Trade Law
- External Relations of the European Union
- Diplomatic Law

Economics
- Introduction to Economics
- Micro Economics
- Macroe Economics
- Economists and Politics of European Integration
- Economic Development and Demography
- International Trade Policy
- Professional Ethics
- International Monetary Economics

Policy
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations Theory
- International Organisations
- International Conflict and Crisis Management
- Foreign Policy Analysis

Languages
- Communicating in French
- Communicating in German
- Communication in Asian Languages
- Communicating in English
- Research
- Research Methods
- Advanced Research Methods
- Study Work
- Internship

Elective courses

Law
- International Market Law
- Freedom, Security and Justice in the European Union
- International Private and Procedural Law
- International Tax Law

Economics
- Economic Policy of the European Union
- Business Strategy
- Baltic and CIS Economic Policy
- Information Management Systems

Policy
- International Security
- Russian Foreign Policy
- Presentation Techniques and Simulations
- Simulations of UN Procedures
- Asian Politics

Humanities and Skills
- History of Diplomacy
- Contemporary History of Central and Eastern Europe
- Intercultural Dialogue
- Formal Logics and Critical Thinking
- Strategic Planning
- Negotiation Skills

Languages
- Communicating in French
- Communicating in German
- Communication in Asian Languages
- Communicating in English
LL.M in International and European Law

Elective courses
International Law System and Human Rights: Theory and Development
International Humanitarian Law
Changing European Human Rights Law
State Responsibility in International Law
Business and Human Rights
International Criminal Law
Integration of Political Economy
Integration and the European Court of Justice
Freedom, Security and Justice
External Relations of the European Union
Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union
Policy Implementation and Negotiation Techniques
Transborder Business Activities: Services, Establishments, Workers
Transborder Business Activities: Goods
Trade Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
Merger and Competition Procedures
State Intervention in the Market
Resolution of International Business Disputes

LL.M in Transborder Commercial Law

Mandatory courses
Transborder Business Activities: Services, Establishments, Workers
Transborder Business Activities: Goods
Trade Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
Merger and Competition Procedures
State Intervention in the Market
Resolution of International Business Disputes

Elective Courses
See under LL.M in International and European Law

Thesis

LL.M in European Union Law and Policy

Mandatory courses
Integration of Political Economy
Integration and the European Court of Justice
Freedom, Security and Justice
Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union
Policy Implementation and Negotiation Techniques
EU Environmental Law

Elective Courses
See under LL.M in International and European Law

Thesis

LL.M in Law and Finance

Mandatory courses
Legal Reasoning
Introduction to Law
Micro and Macro Economics
Corporate Finance
Economic Analysis of Strategy
Financial Accounting
European Union Law
Monetary Policy
Legal Research

Elective Courses
European Competition Law
International Financial Management
International Insolvency Law
International Commercial Law
Portfolio Analysis
Investment: Capital Dynamics
International Financial Management
Business Valuation

Elective Courses
Corporate Governance
Financial Analysis
Investment, Mergers and Regulatory Compliance
European Company Law
Risk Management
Mergers and Acquisitions
European and International Taxation
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Advanced Competition Law
Capital Markets and Securities Law
Contract Drafting
Management Control and Performance

Thesis

MA in Legal Linguistics

Mandatory courses
Comparative Law and Comparative Legal Linguistics
Introduction to Law
Legislative Drafting
Characteristics of Legal Translation
Contract Drafting
Legal Writing
Legal Research
EU Law
Theory and Practice of Terminology
Legal Terminology
Translation and Editing Legal Texts

Elective Courses
Latvian Grammar and Stylistics
English Grammar and Stylistics
Secondary Foreign Language – Grammar and Stylistics
ILEC Preparation

Thesis

This is a publication of RGSLL, the Riga Graduate School of Law. The brochure was prepared with great care. However, RGSLL reserves the right to change without notice any programmes, policies, requirements, or regulations published or referred to in this brochure.

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