



**RIGA
GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF
LAW**



Erasmus+

Pre-arrival guidelines for Incoming exchange students in the SPRING /2nd semester 2018/2019

PRIMARY CONTACT FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS

RGSL ERASMUS Institutional coordinator
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Facebook: Ulla Zumente-Steele

STUDENT NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION

We are pleased that you have chosen Riga Graduate School of Law for your studies abroad. If you have been **officially nominated** by your university for exchange studies at RGSL you can proceed with **registration online**.

The deadline for on-line registration is **1 November 2018**.

The link to the system: <https://apply.rgsl.edu.lv/courses/course/25-exchange-exchange-programmes>

The following **documentation** must be attached to the online application form:

- academic **transcript** in English (list of courses and grades you have studied so far at your home University),
- copy of **passport**, or EU national identity card,
- **photograph** - passport size, this will be used for student ID and library card at RGSL and for student group lists, make sure to choose a good quality picture,
- (Optional) *Preliminary Learning Agreement*: RGSL does not require signed LA before the arrival due to final course selection made after orientation and introduction days in Riga but if the sending university requests it, preliminary draft LA can be approved. Exception: students who will need to apply for Latvian entry visa, must obtain a signed LA beforehand.

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 **1 November 2018** RGSL ERASMUS coordinator to consult individually on additional documentation and steps for processing immigration. E-mail: ulla@rgsl.edu.lv

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2018/2019

Orientation sessions for Erasmus students are **mandatory**.

Bachelor (undergraduate) students: **14 January 2019**

Masters students: **28 January 2019**

Academic classes begin / end:

Bachelor courses: **14 January 2019 / 31 May 2019**

Masters courses: **28 January 2019 / 15 June 2019**

The study process at RGSL is **highly intensive** from the very beginning of the academic year, and class attendance is required minimum 50% for Bachelor and for Masters students.

Orientation sessions are mandatory and aimed at introducing incoming students with the study systems, academic and administrative procedures, and to settle practical matters.

*Students should bring their **laptops / tablets/ ipads** to the orientation session in order to login and set up IT access.*

During the orientation students will be able to make final choices of courses and finalize learning agreements, register individually for the courses at the study department, and receive RGSL student ID / library card. During the first days we also provide assistance 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 at RGSL = **27 ECTS** which consists of following 8-9 subjects in total. 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, while the classes for next module already begin.

LL.M. (Masters) programmes: “International and European Law” (with specialization in “International Law & Human Rights”, “EU Law & Policy” or “Transborder Commercial Law”, “Law & Finance”). Lectures on Masters courses are scheduled in the evenings from 17.00 till 21.00 on workdays and on **Saturdays** during the first part of the day. Generally a full work-load for Masters students in each semester is **24 ECTS** which consists of following 8 subjects in total.

Contact hours (in-class 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 very soon by the student representatives with an invitation to join **Facebook group for RGSL exchange students 2018/2019**. **We encourage you to look up the group yourself and ask to be joined.** 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.

Useful contacts for searching accommodation:

- **NEW suggestion by Erasmus students with positive feedback:** *large apartments with 4-5 bedrooms Brīvības iela 57 (tel. 00371 2555 1441 – contact person Dace):. +/- 360€ per student all included. Several apartments in the building.*
- **Francesco Cimini** on Facebook manages student apartments in Riga and has helped several RGSL exchange students with smooth arrival and accommodation in the city centre in buildings where many other international students are residing.
- Other contact on FB suggested by former students: **Inese Svilans**.
- **Appeltofft-Invest** www.stabu16.lv e-mail appeltofftinvest@gmail.com / RGSL students have reported renting individual rooms for EUR 230-300 with all utilities included and have given positive feedback. Contact person **Liene Jaudzema**.
- Office@apartments-riga.com - International have successfully rented flats from this owner.
- **Valdemara Residence** <https://www.facebook.com/valdemararesidence/> - they offer student rooms for affordable prices, great central location, 10-minute walking distance from RGSL, exchange students have given good feedback.

- **Jakob Lenz Guest house** / Student apartments. Several international students 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 around EUR 260 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 10-minute walk from the Old Town Riga. Address: Lenču iela 2, Riga. E-mail pasts@guesthouseLenz.lv You can find it on *Booking.com* or website www.guesthouseLenz.lv but write to the administration if you want to receive RGSL student offer.
- <https://1home.eu/student-hotel> - this is further away from the centre, opened just a couple of years ago, called **1Home Student Hotel** in Riga, they offer single and shared rooms. Feedback from students has been quite satisfactory, but the strongest disadvantage is the distance from RGSL and city area where Hotel is located.

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 check whether the utilities (water, electricity and especially heating in the winter season) are included 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).

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 **highly**

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>
- To find events, concerts, festivals:
<https://www.bilesuparadize.lv/en/>
<http://www.bilesuserviss.lv/eng/firstpage>

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