



## Guidelines for nominated incoming exchange students in the AUTUMN semester 2022/2023

*Updated 16 April 2022*

We at RGSL look forward to welcome you in Riga in August 2022. We continue operating in so called “**safe green mode**” – everyone on the campus **must present valid digital Covid-19 certificate with QR code (vaccination or recovery certificate), no exceptions**. Teaching in the Autumn semester is expected in the in-person in-class format, with few online sessions if international faculty member cannot travel to Riga. In case the governmental decisions and public health measures in Latvia will change, and new restrictions will be in place that will affect study process, you will be notified in email. Incoming exchange students are kindly asked to follow the [Latvian government updates](#) related to Covid-19 pandemic concerning essential travel precautionary requirements.

### PRIMARY CONTACT FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS:

Ulla Zumente-Steele, RGSL ERASMUS Institutional coordinator  
e-mail: [erasmus.mobility@rgsl.edu.lv](mailto:erasmus.mobility@rgsl.edu.lv) Tel.+371 29142588  
[website for incoming students](#)

### ONLINE REGISTRATION:

Registration is open only for students planning to study in the Autumn semester 2022 (or full year) and only if you have been officially nominated by your university to RGSL. You can proceed with your **application [online](#)** available from 1 April, the deadline is **1 June** 2022.

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

- **mandatory** - copy of passport or EU national ID card,
- **mandatory - 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, official style picture,
- **mandatory** - academic **transcript** in English from your home university,
- NOTE on language requirements: although we **do not require** Erasmus students to submit any English language test, because we trust your university selection procedure, we **strongly advise** you to **strengthen your legal English language skills** – both written and oral – before the arrival.
- About online learning agreement please read further sections down these guidelines.

### ACCEPTANCE LETTER

Acceptance letter as e-mail message will be sent after 1 June registration deadline, within 2 weeks.

### VISA / 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 25 May RGSL ERASMUS coordinator [erasmus.mobility@rgsl.edu.lv](mailto:erasmus.mobility@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, and have to book accommodation to obtain address in Riga.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2022/2023

**Bachelor courses:**

Orientation days mandatory	25/08/22–27/08/22
Module 1 (classes + final exams)	29/08/22-07/10/22
Module 2 (classes + final exams)	10/10/22-17/11/22
Module 3 (classes + final exams)	21/11/22-13/01/23

*Spring semester bachelor level begins 16/01/23, ends 19/05/2023*

**Masters courses:**

Orientation day	12/09/2022
Classes begin	12/09/2022 evening
Semester 1 for masters will finish by	31/01/2023
Semester 2 for masters will finish by	15/06/2023

## ORIENTATION DAYS

Student should bring his/her **laptop / tablet/ ipad** to the orientation session in order to login and set up IT Access to study portal and e-systems used at RGSL. Smart phone is not sufficient.

The study process is **highly intensive** from the very beginning of study module. **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 any necessary amendments of learning agreements, receive intro training to legal databases and other library resources. During the first days your Buddies will also provide assistance, if needed, in obtaining Riga city public transportation e-card for student discount.

## COURSES / COURSE OUTLINES

On the [website for incoming students](#) you will find yearly module plans (bachelor and masters). Most study courses are available to exchange students, except supervised writing of Research Papers and Thesis are not available to incoming exchange students.

### To avoid schedule overlaps in bachelor level courses:

- for each 6-week study period you should choose **only one** of the two study programmes (either Law and Business, or Law and Diplomacy), and select courses within one and the same study year during that particular 6-week study period (either Year Two, or Year Three).
- If you need to take 3 subjects during one study period (9 ECTS total during the 6 week period), and you are interested in Year Two or Year Three subjects, then choose 2 courses from the so-called A part “Mandatory” column and 1 course from B section “Restricted Electives” column. All Restricted Elective courses are scheduled parallel, so choosing more than one in the same module will likely create significant schedule overlaps. Restricted Electives are not available for students taking Year One courses, as they are scheduled at the same time.
  - **Example #1 of combination:** in module 29 August - 7 October you choose “**Law and Business**” programme **Year Three** mandatory subjects *RBC507: Private International Law + RBC211: Applied Business Strategy + one elective course RBE265: European and International IT - Security and Data Protection Law*

- **Example #2:** in module 10 October – 17 November you choose “**Law and Diplomacy**” programme **Year Three** subjects *RBC504: International Environmental Law, RBC503: Economic Diplomacy, (one elective) RBE306 Alternative Dispute Resolution - Mediation.*

The **exact class schedules** for each separate course and each module (6-week study period) become available approximately 2-3 weeks before the study module begins. **Final exams take place at the end of each module for each subject.**

**Course outlines** (=descriptions/syllabi) can be viewed, without login, on the study portal: [bachelor course outlines](#) or [masters course outlines](#)

Click on the “**i**” icon by each specific course to access an outline in pdf file. If you do not find a course outline, it is in the process of being developed (=new course), or updated, reviewed and will become available before the study period/module begins.

### ONLINE LEARNING AGREEMENT

RGSL is using Erasmus+ [Online Learning Agreement](#) (separate submission from above online registration). Provisional [OLA](#) to be sent **just 2-3 weeks before the arrival/orientation**. If other approval terms/formats are necessary, incoming students or coordinators are kindly requested to make individual arrangement with RGSL Erasmus office ([erasmus.mobility@rgsl.edu.lv](mailto:erasmus.mobility@rgsl.edu.lv))

In Online Learning Agreement form **signatory, responsible, contact info of receiving/host institution: LV RIGA34, Riga Graduate School of Law, Ulla Zumente-Steele, ERASMUS Institutional coordinator, e-mail [erasmus.mobility@rgsl.edu.lv](mailto:erasmus.mobility@rgsl.edu.lv)**

### ACCOMMODATION

All students have to find their own accommodation, as RGSL does not have its own student housing. 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 300 and up 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 300-400 depending on the room. 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.
- **Apartments on Brivibas street 57 (City center)**. Contact person: Dace Gerasimova +371 25551441 (also Whatsapp). You have to join FB group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/821414014625602/>

- **Check Facebook Group “Bruninieku Community”** (administered by Francesco Cimini) – they rent shared-flats for international students and organize social events to help integrate. Location is approx.30-40 minute walking distance from RGSL. Exchange students like the *community vibe* there.
- **FURTHER AWAY from the center - “Duck Republik”** student hostel <https://duckrepublik.eu/offer/special-offer/>, you will need to take 2 public transportations for a total about 20 minutes (switch 2 trolley buses), but previous exchange students report good conditions and good satisfaction with the place.They opened about three years ago, offer single and shared rooms. Feedback from students has always 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. **Because of the energy costs sharply rising in 2022, there might be higher heating costs than in the 2021/2022 season, as central heating depends on gas and electricity costs in the country, city and even specific building. In some buildings central heating can increase the total cost by more than 40-50% in winter months.**

Flats further away from the centre will have lower rental prices but then you have to factor in time for commuting.

**Living costs:** the cost for food and daily supplies are estimated at a minimum ~ EUR 300-350 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.

### **IMPORTANT - 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 30-40 per visit. In addition, any tests (blood test, for example) is at additional cost. Same with dentistry services. In general, there are no student discounts for medical services in Latvia.

### **STUDENT BUDDY NETWORK AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Your name and e-mail address will be shared with RGSL Student Association’s Board, in order for their coordinator of international and exchange students be able to offer you a **“Buddy network support”**, social and practical assistance. You will be contacted during the summer by the student representatives with an invitation to join social media groups for RGSL exchange students. This group can also be used as a channel to search for available housing and „team-up” as room-mates. RGSL

Student Association organizes regular cultural, tourist and social events, and engages incoming students in the student sports and social life.

**OTHER USEFUL INFO SOURCES:**

- Erasmus Student Network in Riga: [ESN Riga | Facebook](#) (to follow events, including student trips in Latvia and 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!*