

Results of the Students Survey 2019 at the Riga Graduate School of Law

In October 2019, Riga Graduate School of Law (RGSL) conducted a student survey to determine student satisfaction with the programme. The survey was attended by 170 students, of whom 122 were bachelor students and 48 were master students (see Figure 1).

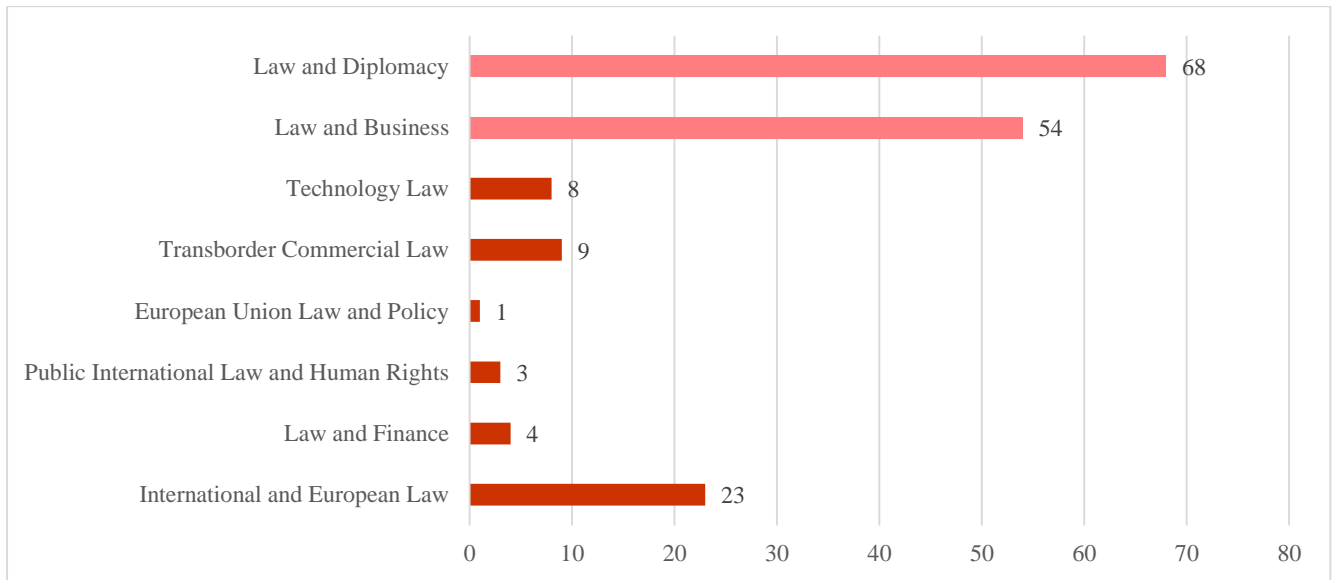


Fig. 1. Distribution of students participating in the survey by study programme

Number of respondents: 170, research period: October 2019

Respondents were asked what determined their choice to study at RGSL (see Figure 2). Most students (128) responded that the deciding factor was their ability to study in English. Just like the international environment, the high quality of studies and access to good education were the determining factors. The interdisciplinarity of the study programmes and the reputation of the RGSL were also important factors.

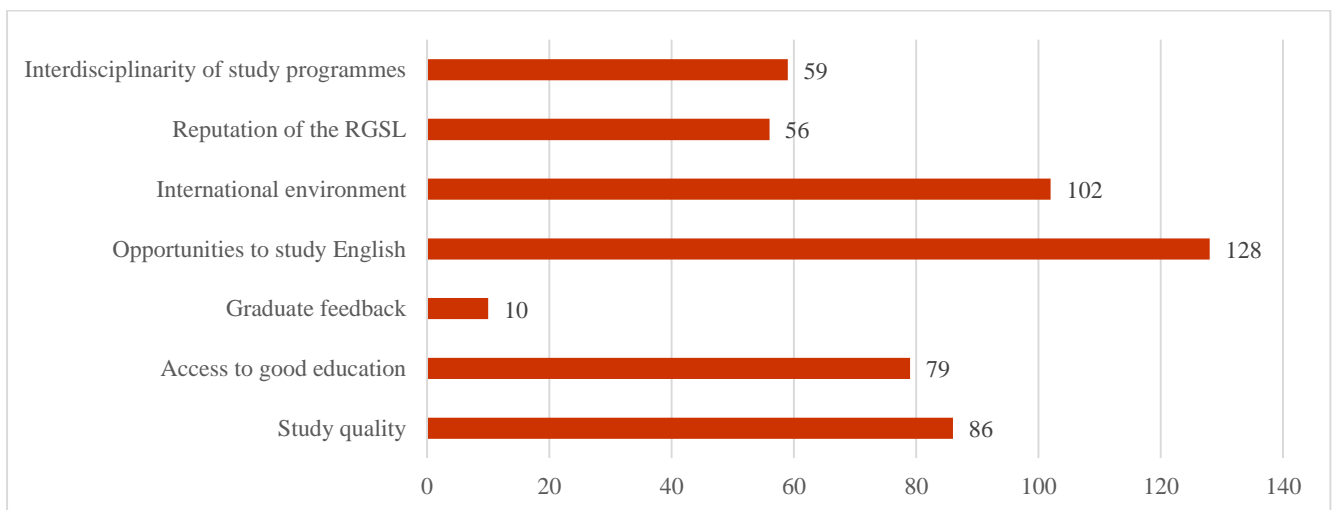


Fig. 2. Answers to the question "What determined your decision to study at RGSL?"

Number of respondents: 170, research period: October 2019

The students also mentioned in their answers that the studies at RGSL were determined by the recommendation of friends, the location of the school, the advertising banners, the post-graduate work opportunities, as well as the international recognition and the practiced module system.

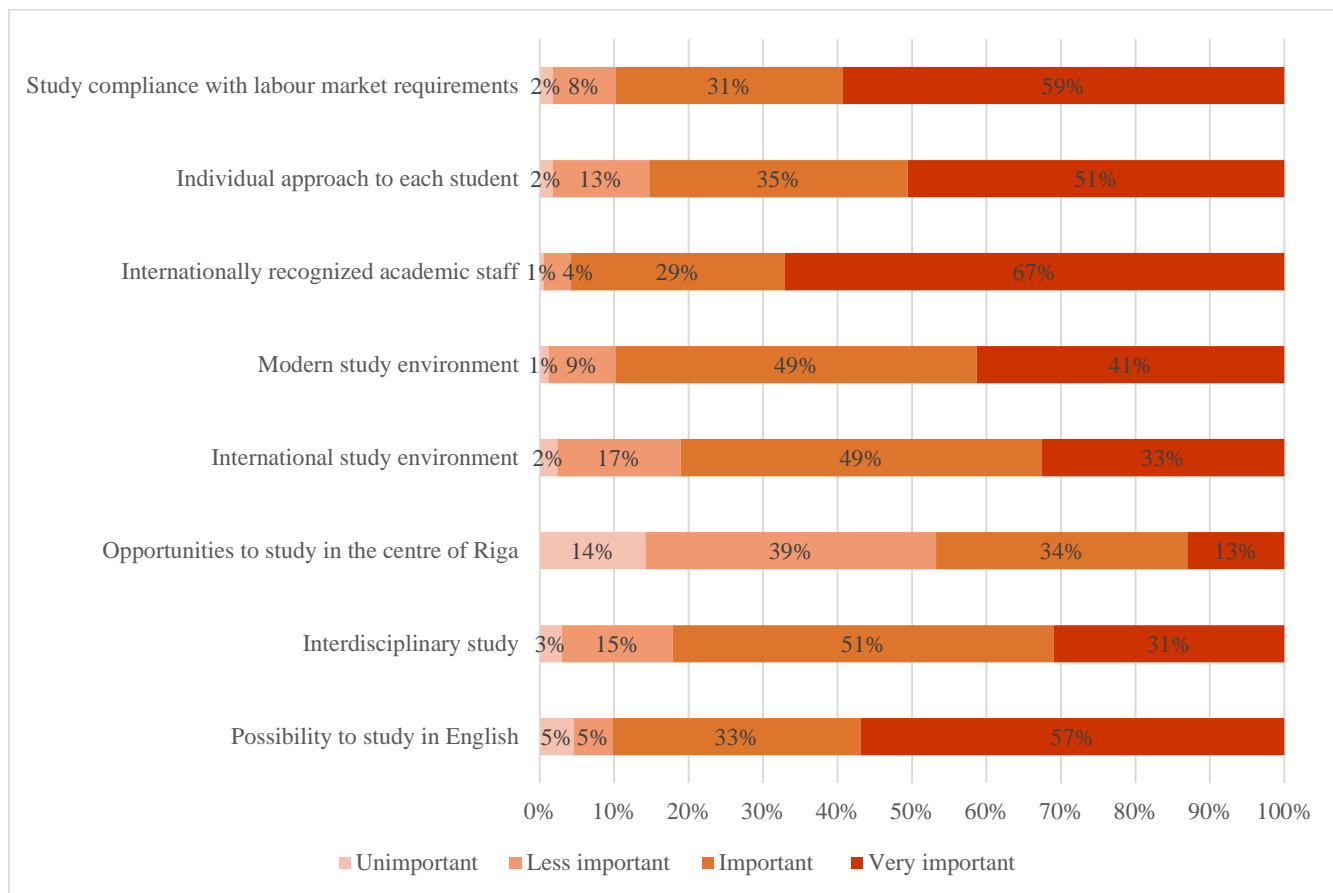


Fig. 3. Answers to the question about the importance of factors in choosing a higher education institution
 Number of respondents: 170, research period: October 2019

Next, students were asked to assess the importance of various factors when choosing a higher education institution (see Figure 3). The most important factor in choosing a place to study is internationally recognized lecturers - 67% of the students said that this factor was very important. The next most important factor, according to the students, is the opportunity to study in English - 57% of the students considered this factor as very important. Equally important is the relevance of studies to the requirements of the labour market and the individual approach to each student - these factors were also considered very important by more than half of the surveyed students.

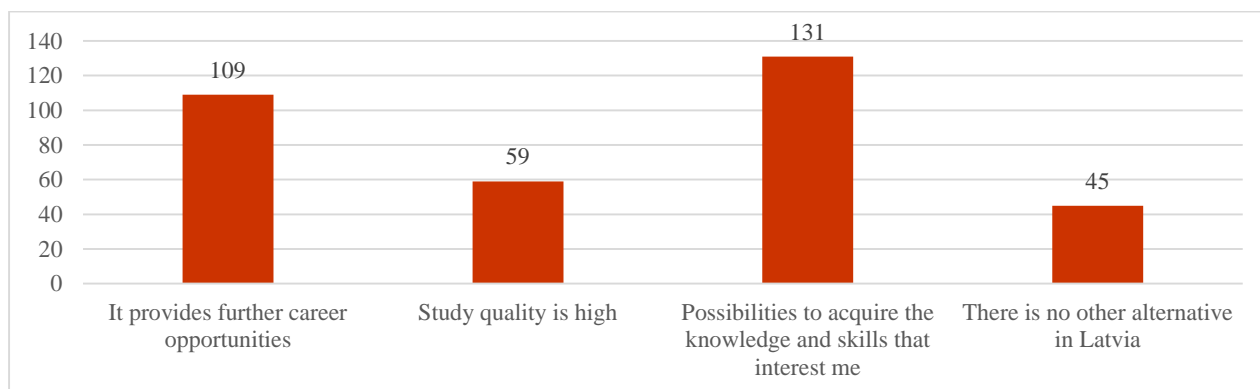


Fig. 4. Answers to the question about the rationale for choosing a study programme
 Number of respondents: 170, research period: October 2019

The next question was what determined the choice to study in a particular study programme (see Figure 4). Most of the students (almost 80%) said that they are studying in a particular study programme because it is an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills they are interested in. The decisive factor in choosing the study programme was also the further career opportunities provided by the particular study programme. The students also stated that they were attracted to the international environment and the lecturers.

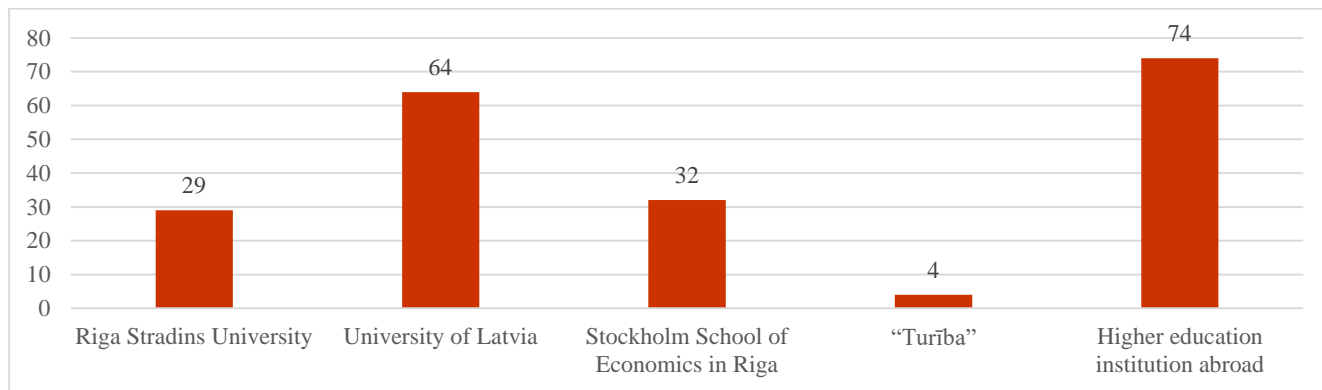


Fig. 5. Answers to the question "What other higher education institutions did you consider when you chose the study programme?"

Number of respondents: 170, research period: October 2019

When asked what other higher education institutions were considered when choosing the study programme, it was noted that the offer of foreign higher education institutions was mostly considered (see question 5). From Latvian higher education institutions, opportunities to study at the University of Latvia were evaluated. Approximately one fifth of the students also considered the study programmes offered by Riga Stradins University and Stockholm School of Economics in Riga. Several students also stated that they did not appreciate the programmes offered by other universities, because the study programmes at RGSL are unique in the Baltic States.

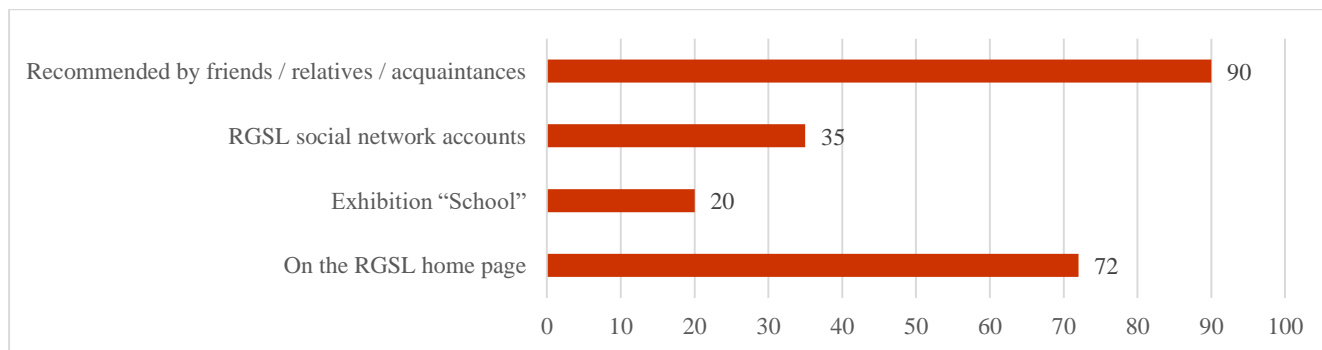


Fig. 6. Answers to the Question " Where did you get an information about RGSL "

Number of respondents: 170, research period: October 2019

Next, students were asked where they obtained information about the RGSL (see question 6). Most (more than half of the students) stated that the information came from friends, relatives or acquaintances. The RGSL website was also a very important source of information. About a fifth of the students received information about RGSL through RGSL social network accounts. A number of students said they were attracted by the RGSL advertising on E-Class and Youtube, open days, Google search advertising, and feedback from RGSL alumni.

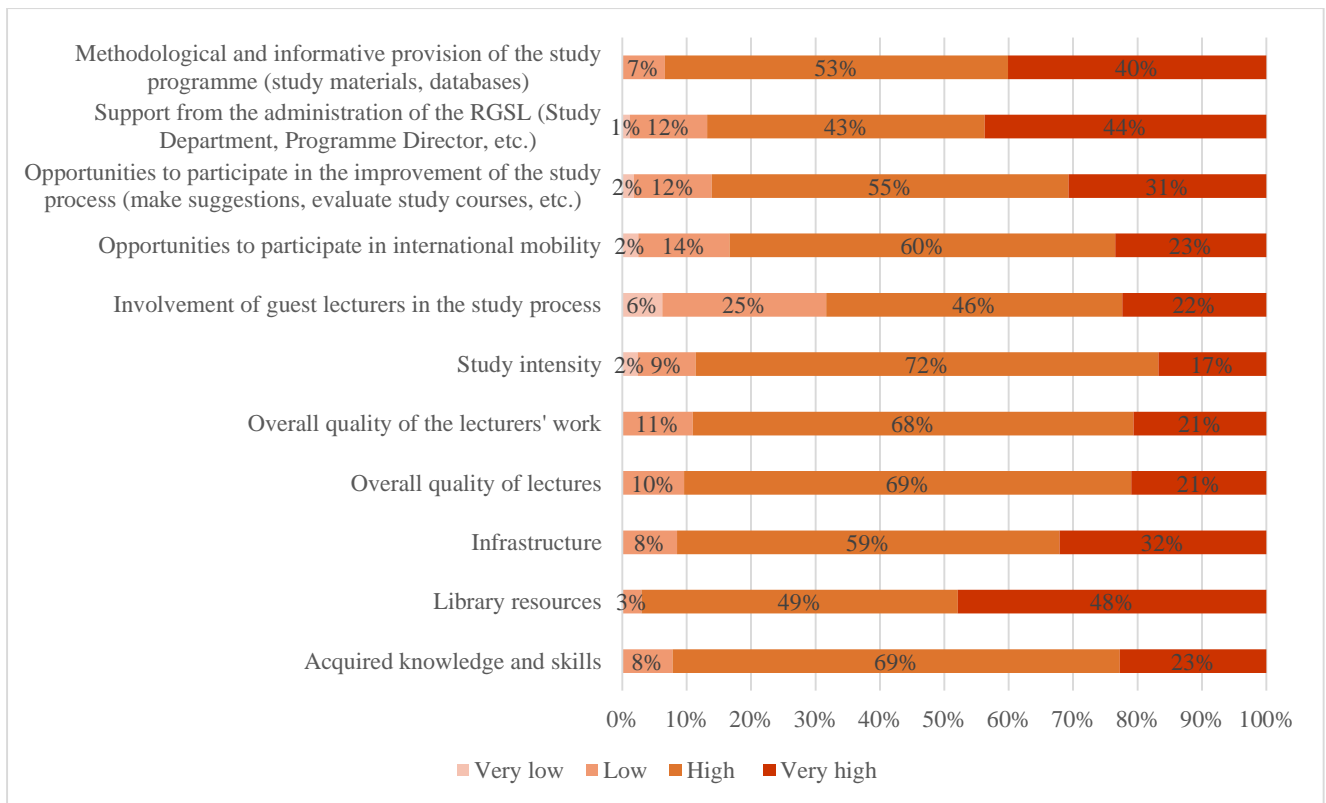


Fig. 7. Assessment of student study quality in their study programme

Number of respondents: 170, research period: October 2019

In the next question, students had to evaluate different study quality criteria in their study programme (see Figure 7). Most of the criteria were rated high or very high, especially the library resources, the support of the RGSL administration and the methodological and informative provision of the study programme. The results of the survey indicated that more attention should be paid to the involvement of guest lecturers in the study process, as well as the possibilities to participate in international mobility should be increased.

Next, the students assessed how their expectations on various factors characterizing the quality of studies correspond to reality (see Figure 8). About half of the respondents admitted that every factor characterizing the quality of studies in reality corresponds to their expectations. In many cases, the opportunities offered to students by the RGSL go beyond their expectations, especially students appreciate the support of the administrative staff and library resources, as well as the methodological and informative provision of study programmes. The students also very much welcome the opportunities to participate in the improvement of the study process - about one fifth of the students did not expect to be given such wide opportunities to participate in the improvement of the study process. The survey showed that some students had higher expectations in terms of guest lecturers involvement in the study process as well as opportunities for international mobility.

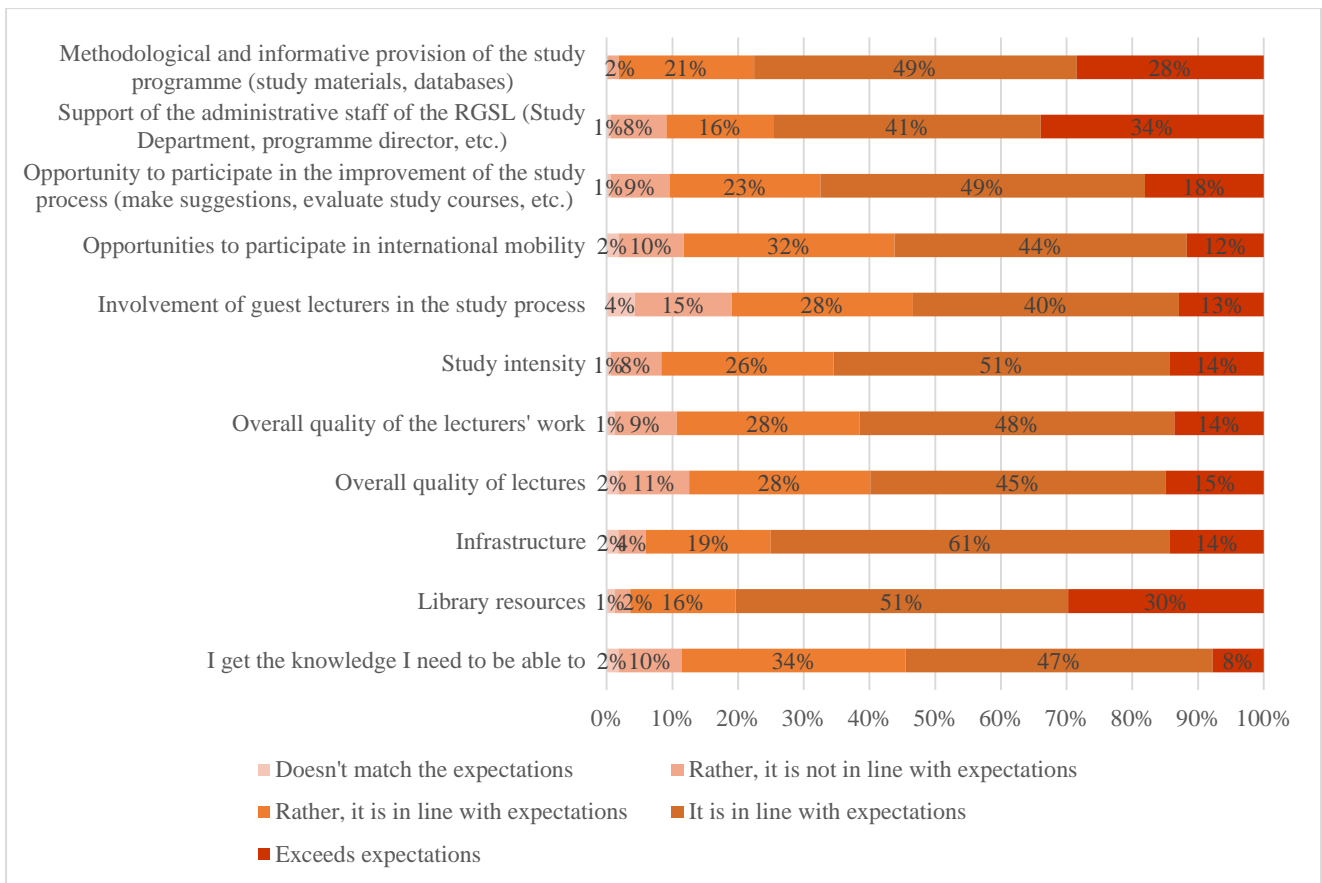


Fig. 8. Students' evaluation of how their studies on university studies are in line with reality

Number of respondents: 170, Research period: October 2019

An absolute majority of students (95%) would recommend the RGSLs for others (see Figure 9). In support of their answer, students have indicated that there is no other equivalent choice in Latvia to study law and to obtain an interdisciplinary degree.

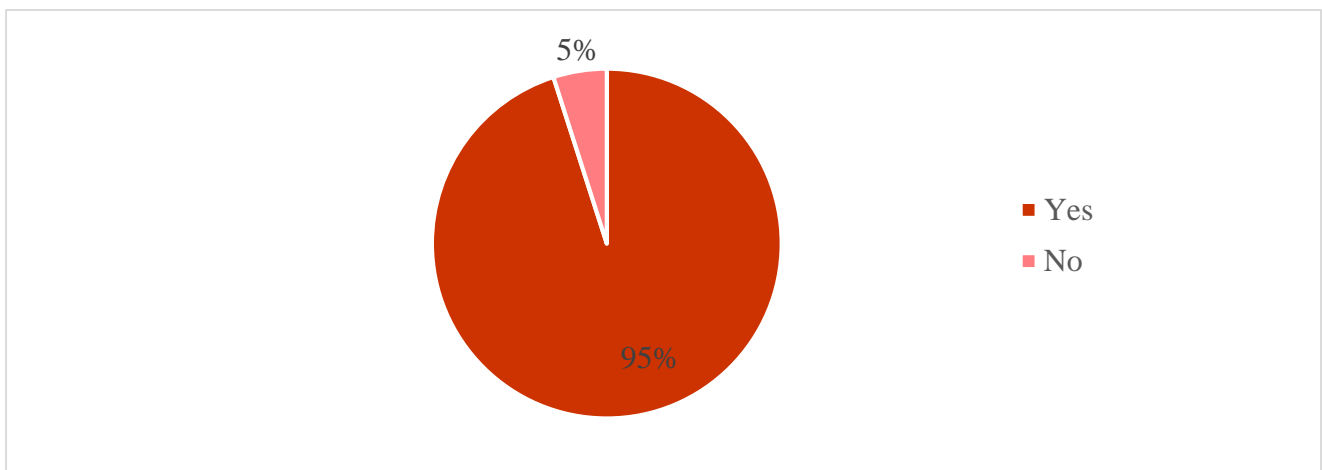


Fig. 9. Answers to the question "Would you recommend to others to study at RGSL?"

Number of respondents: 170, research period: October 2019

At the conclusion of the survey, students were asked to make suggestions on how to improve the quality of studies at the higher education institution. Students point to the need for more careful planning of study workload throughout the school year, relieving the time taken for exams. Students would also like to know the exact dates of the tests and exams so that they can plan their time more successfully.

In addition, students point to the need for more networking activities, more guest lecturers, especially professionals in the field. Students would also like to see more emphasis in the study process on where they will be able to put their theoretical knowledge into practice. As a solution, students are offering more events to meet with alumni to understand how to better prepare for the labour market.

Some students emphasise that more attention should be paid on the Latvian legal system. Students also suggest that study courses should be made more extensive so more knowledge can be acquired. It is also emphasised that a wider catalogue of optional courses should be offered. Students also encourage to be more careful with overlapping of the subject in the several courses. The students also point out that the quality of the lecturers' work should be very carefully monitored, i.e. the lecturers should offer various ways to involve students in the study process, publish work materials in a timely manner, and communicate more with students. Students of Master's study programmes point out that longer study programmes should be offered.