

Contents

1. Foreign Student Department

2. To-Do Lists

- 2.1 Before Arrival
- 2.2 After Arrival
- 2.3 Registering for Studies (Degree and Exchange)
- 2.4 After visiting FSD office (Degree and Exchange)

3. Studies at RTU

- 3.1 ORTUS university's intranet and Wi-Fi
- 3.2 Classes and Schedule (using schedule, attendance, class times)
- 3.3 Academic Calendar
- 3.4 Grading system
- 3.5 Credits
- 3.6 Transcripts
- 3.7 Tuition fee and invoices
- 3.8 Passing exams
- 3.9 Latvian scholarships
- 3.10 Exchange opportunities for degree students

4. Immigration

- 4.1 Applying For Residence Permit in Latvia
- 4.2 How to Receive Residence Permit (RP) Card
- 4.3 How to apply for a long term visa (Exchange)
- 4.4 X-ray (Degree)
- 4.5 Insurance
- 4.6 Renewing current RP (Degree)
- 4.7 Registering place of residence (Degree)

5. Accommodations

6. Student Services

- 6.1 Student ID card
- 6.2 Copy/Scan/Print/Laminate
- 6.3 Career Centre

7. RTU Health Center in Kipsala

8. Student Parliament/ International Student Council

9. Life in Latvia

- 9.1 Public transport
- 9.2 Health Care ERGO Insurance
- 9.3 Security and Personal Safety
- 9.4 Opening a bank account/ATM's
- 9.5 Learning Latvian
- 9.6 Cost of Living & Shopping

10. Terms and Abbreviations

ERGO Insurance Maps

Foreign Students Department (FSD)

Being internationally driven is essential for the future success of the Riga Technical University (RTU) and especially for RTU Foreign Students Department.

The RTU Foreign Students Department (FSD) is the RTU structural unit, which has been working with International students coming from all around the world for more than 20 years.

We welcome all International students at our University!

- Our Department supports all applicants, current students and international partnerships.
- If you are interested in spending a semester or a year as an Exchange student or to be a full-time student in any degree programmes offered by RTU, you are welcome to contact the team of FSD.
- We will support you throughout the whole enrolment and study process.

1 Kalku Street, Room 318, Riga, LV-1658	E-mail: info@rtuasd.lv
	Skype: Admission_RTU
Phone: +371 6708 9766	Facebook: RTUglobal
Fax: +371 6708 9020	Twitter: @RTU_Global





1. Foreign Students Department

Room 212, 1 Kronvalda Boulevard

International Projects Unit

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Ms Anna Lejina

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Ms Elīna Norniece

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Ms Daina Urbāne

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Office Hours	
Mondays	10:00-12:30; 14:00-16:00
Tuesdays	10:00-12:30; 14:00-16:00
Wednesdays	14:00-16:00
Thursdays	By appointments ONLY*
Fridays	10:00-12:30

^{*} To schedule appointment please contact FSD by +371 6708 9766 or e-mail the respective person

1. Foreign Students Department

Room 312, 1 Kalku Street

Ms Signe Laizāne

Academic Advisor signe.laizane@rtu.lv +371 6708 9167

- Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications
- Faculty of Power and Electrical Engineering
- Faculty of Transport and Mechanical Engineering
- Institute of Applied Linguistics

Ms Elīna Peina

Academic Advisor elina.peina@rtu.lv +371 6708 9108

- · Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Engineering Economics and Management
- Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technologies
- Faculty of Material Science and Applied Chemistry

See Academic Advisor for such matters as courses, grades, academic debts, time tables, transcripts, tuition fee payments

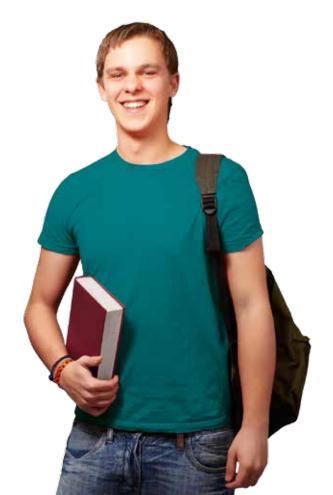
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Office Hours	
Mondays	10:00 –12:30; 14:00 –16:00
Tuesdays	10:00 –12:30; 14:00 –16:00
Wednesdays	14:00-16:00
Thursdays	Apointments by e-mail ONLY
Fridays	10:00-12:30



2. To-Do Lists

The following To-Do lists may help you to prepare for your arrival

2.1 Before Your Arrival

- Make sure to arrive at least 1 day before the start of a semester (31 August OR 30 January).
- Inform FSD of your arrival (degree students: anna.lejina@rtu.lv; or daina.urbane@rtu.lv; exchange students: arturs.lusis@rtu.lv);
- Make sure you have all the necessary information on immigration and you have applied for visa
 or residence permit, if necessary (see www.fsd.rtu.lv for more info and contact elina.norniece@
 rtu.lv in case of any questions);
- Contact accommodations@rtu.lv to make a reservation for RTU dormitories OR arrange an alternative accommodation option, e.g. apartment (see page 19 for info on accommodations);
- Read about the weather in Latvia and pack appropriate clothing;
- · Attend Introduction Week.

2.2 After Your Arrival

- Exchange currency the currency in Latvia is EURO;
- Be very careful with your personal belongings it is easy to lose track of them if you are not careful and are trying to take in new sights!
- Arriving in Riga International Airport get to your accommodations by taxi; you may pick any taxi outside of the airport exit – all of them are official ones, and accept cash and bank cards; OR by bus No 22 – the driver accepts cash but you may buy a ticket from the ticket vending machine at the bus stop before boarding the bus;
- Arriving in Riga International Train or Bus Station see the Riga Public Transportation web page
 to find the most convenient public transport to get to your accommodations www.rigassatiksme.lv/en/; OR take a taxi outside the station (all of them are official ones and accept cash
 and bank cards);
- Check in at the accommodation, make sure you get your own key and sign an agreement with the owner, and make sure it is in English.
- Come to the FSD office no later than 3 days after your arrival to register for your studies! Take a
 passport with you!



2.3 Registering for Studies

Degree Students

Come to the FSD office in 1 Kalku Street, room 318 no later than 3 days after your arrival (we work from Monday till Friday; see page 4 on FSD), and remember to take your passport with you!

NOTE! It is important to register for studies within 3 days because failure to do so will result in automatic cancellation of Residence Permit or visa.

- Sign up in the list of arrivals, provide your e-mail and mobile phone number;
- Sign the RTU Study Agreement; receive your copy after few days at FSD office;
- Receive information on ORTUS (see page 9);
- · Receive individual list of documents necessary to claim your Residence Permit;
- Receive your RTU Welcoming Package;
- Meet Foreign Students Department employees.

Exchange Students

Come to the FSD office in 1 Kalku Street no later than 3 days after your arrival (we work from Monday till Friday; see page 4 on FSD), and remember to take your passport/identification card with you!

- Sign up in the list of arrivals, provide your e-mail and mobile phone number;
- · Sign the RTU Study Agreement;
- Receive information on ORTUS (see page 9);
- Submit form to receive documents for long term visa (non-EU citizens ONLY);
- · Receive your RTU Welcoming Package;
- Meet Foreign Students Department employees;
- You will be contacted by your "Buddy".

Buddy programme for international exchange students

The buddy programme is a support system for incoming exchange students. It is designed to help new arrivals in their first steps in Latvia!

Programme covers questions from social to academic topics which may be unknown for newcomers upon their arrival. The idea of Buddy programme is to match a foreign with a local student in the beginning of the semester, where local students would be able to guide him or her at their best knowledge regarding any questions that arise or are unclear! We also encourage to use this as the opportunity to promote cultural exchange and international understanding, as this is a great chance to experience diversity of cultures!

Remember, we all are only humans, so if your "buddy" cannot provide an answer to your questions right away do not get frustrated, give him time!

So if you are admitted for an exchange studies at RTU, the person assigned as your "buddy" will contact you directly, and he will, be provided with your email ID not sooner than 1 month prior class's commencement date!

Enjoy!

2.4 After Visiting FSD Office

Degree Students

- Use your ORTUS login information to see your class schedule (or check nodarbibas.rtu.lv if you did not receive it yet);
- Update your ORTUS contact information and receive latest FSD news and information on Immigration requirements; Explore ORTUS;
- Get your Residence Permit ID card (see page 16 for instructions);
- Master students arriving with a visa see page 15;
- Get your Student ID Card (see page 21 for instructions);
- Get your Riga Public Transportation personalized E-Ticket (see page 24 for instructions);
- Attend all seminars organized during the Introduction Week (check Welcoming Package for schedule);
- Attend your lectures according to your schedule starting the first study week. Be on time! Contact FSD in case of overlapping lectures.

Exchange Students

- Use your ORTUS see your class schedule and find instructions on how to find alternative classes in case of them overlapping (happening at the same time);
- Use your Learning Agreement form and the class schedule to put together your individual class schedule; do Changes to the Learning Agreement ONLY if your chosen classes overlap (take place at the same time) within the first week of studies;
- For non-EU citizens prepare all the necessary documents to apply for a long term visa (see page 17 for instructions);
- Get your Student ID Card (see page 21 for instructions);
- Get your Riga Public Transportation personalized E-Ticket (see page 24 for instructions);
- Attend all seminars organized during the Introduction Week (check Welcoming Package for schedule);
- Attend your lectures according to your schedule starting the first study week. Be on time! Contact FSD in case of overlapping lectures.



3. Studies

3.1 www.ortus.lv

A portal (intranet) where you can find information about your studies and the latest news of RTU!

- You will receive your login & password by e-mail or in hand at FSD office.
- See section "HOME" and "FSD" for instructions on how to use ORTUS.
- · Use ORTUS to find your study schedule, materials for studies uploaded by professors, invoices for payments and use it to update your contact info available to FSD (phone number, current email ID, residence address in Latvia).

NOTE! ORTUS login & password also is used to access RTU-WiFi – available in all RTU buildings.

3.2 Classes and Schedule

Lectures take place during working days (Monday to Friday) from as early as 8.15am and some may finish as late as 10pm.

Find your lecture schedule on ORTUS (www.ortus.lv) under FOR STUDENTS and SCHEDULE, and all your courses under E-LEARNING.

Using Lecture Schedule

Be very attentive when reading information under "Course, lecturer, room"! The address and type of course in your schedule is indicated in abbreviated form.

For example:

Day	Time	Class, lecturer, room
Monday	10.15–11.50	Th.w. and Pr.w. Business Communication / V. Tiltiņa, K1 – 201 Weeks: ODD

There are three lecture types: **Th.w.** – Theoretical work, **Pr.w.** – Practical work, and **Lab.w.** – Laboratory work, see the added abbreviations in front of the course title.

The person indicated in the second line is the professor or lecturer of the course.

The letter K in K1 indicate name of a Street (see explanation below), but number 1 in K1 is the number of a building. The following number **201** is the room number.

Use the information below and RTU Campus Map to find the necessary building!

K - Kaļķu Street, Kr - Kronvalda Boulv., E - Ezermalas Street, Lo - Lomonosova Street, In - Indriķa Street, Ve - Ventspils Street, Kc - Kalnciema Street, PV - Paula Valdena Street, D2 - Daugavarīvas Street (before Meža 1/4 Street), Ķīp - Ķīpsalas Street (before Āzenes Street), \$1 - Sētas Street (before Meža Street).

The studies start on September 1 and the weeks of a study semester (16 weeks in total) are divided into EVEN or ODD (you may see the term added to some courses in your schedule). For example, the first week of the semester is week No 1 - and it is ODD, the next week will be week No 2, and it is EVEN – the system is based on the concept of odd and even numbers.

Courses and Attendance

Each course has a confirmed content and may possibly include midterm exam, course work, practical and laboratory tasks, etc. There is written or oral exam upon completion of every course. Ask the supervising professor this information at the beginning of course.

Attending the lectures is obligatory! We expect you to have close to 100% attendance!

If the attendance is below 50% the course has to be repeated.

The lectures start sharp at the indicated time so don't be late! Professors have the rights to turn students away if they arrive after the start of a lecture so not to disturb the study process of others.

If you become ill during the semester or exams session, you must visit a doctor and inform the Foreign Students Department about your illness on the first day you are missing the classes (e-mail Academic Advisor). After you get well, you must get a note from the doctor and have to bring it to the FSD office. If the period of studies you have missed due to bad helth exceeds 1 month, please contact FSD to arrange an academic leave due to health status.

Lecture Times

8.15-9.50	
10.15–11.50	
12.30–14.05	
14.30–16.05	Lectures last 1h 30 min
16.30–18.05	
18.15–19.50	
20.15–21.50	



3.3 Academic Calendar

The first week of a semester is Orientation Week. During the week students register for studies and attend introduction seminars on various topics, e.g. Academics, Immigration, ORTUS, etc.

The Autumn Semester is 16 weeks long, followed by 2 week Winter Holidays (Christmas and New Year's), the semester ends with the Examination Period of 3 weeks.

Spring Semester is 16 weeks long with a Spring Break during the Easter Holidays. The last week of May marks the start of Examination Period of 4 weeks.

Academic Year 2017/2018

Orientation week	28.08.2017–03.09. 2017
Autumn semester	04.09.2017–22.12.2017
Winter holidays	23.12.2017–01.01.2018
Examination period	02.01.2018–28.01.2018
Orientation week	22.01.2018–28.01.2018
Spring semester	29.01.2018–23.03.2018
Spring holidays	24.03.2018-02.04.2018
Spring semester	03.04.2018–27.05.2018
Examination period	28.05.2018–22.06.2018

3.4 Grading System

The final grade of each course may consist of several components (provided by the teacher at the beginning of the course): midterm exam, course paper, laboratory works, home works (assessment during semester) and final exam. A student is not allowed to take final exam without fulfilling and getting passing grades for each of the semester tasks. Exams are taken during the examination period.

Depending on the fact whether knowledge and skills demonstrated by the student comply with the requirements set for the particular assessment test, the performance may be given the Pass or Fail assessments.

Latvia's higher education uses a ten-point grading system, the assessments ranging from (10) "with distinction" to (4) "almost satisfactory" and the Pass assessment are considered to be positive. The final assessment may be and exam (graded with a mark from 10-0) or a test (graded with Pass or Fail).

10	With distinction
9	Excellent
8	Very good
7	Good
6	Almost good
5	Satisfactory
4	Almost satisfactory
3, 2, 1, 0	Insufficient

3.5 Credit Points

Each course is worth a certain amount of credit points (CP). The amount of CP's is determined by the amount of classes per week or/and the amount of work necessary to complete the class. The average amount of CP for full time study year is 40CP (20CP per semester). Latvian CP's differ from European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) yet it is compatible with it, which means that credits earned at RTU can be transferred to other higher education institutions in the EU/EEA. A multiplication by a factor of 1.5 is necessary to calculate Latvian credit points into ECTS.

3.6 Transcripts and Confirmation Letters

You may order a paper with your grades (transcript / grade sheet) of a specific semester or of all study period and a paper confirming your status as an RTU student at FSD office in Room 312.

3.7 Tuition Fees and Invoices

Tuition fee should be paid before the start of study period or before extending residence permit via bank transfer in USD.

Contact FSD office to receive an invoice for tuition fee. The tuition fee is also indicated in your Study Agreement, and the currency is USD.

Make sure to add your name, last name and purpose of the payment in the "Comments" section when doing the transfer.

You may use internet banking system and transfer the necessary amount as indicated in the Invoice.

3.8 Exams and Tests

All assessments given during the study period (Semester) must be passed until the start of the next Examination Period (see Academic Calendar). Re-taking of assessment during study period (current semester) is free of charge but they have to be coordinated with the responsible professor.

Final assessment (exam or test) of a course takes place during the Examination Period. If the exam or test has a negative assessment (lower than 4 or Fail), the exam has to be re-taken.

Final assessment can only be taken if the attendance is 50% or more, otherwise the course has to be repeated.

Re-taking final exam or test during Examination Period is free of charge but it has to be coordinated with the responsible professor and the RTU FSD Academic Advisor (Room 312).

A final test or exam can ONLY be taken 3 times in total; if the course is not passed, it has to be repeated. The third repeat of an exam or test will take place in front of Professor Commission.

To re-take the final exam or test contact RTU FSD Academic Advisor (Room 312) to receive an invoice for the fee. Remember to arrange time and place to take the exam or test with the responsible professor in a timely manner!

Fee to settle academic debt with a previous	25 USD
mark of 1 or 0 within 1st to 11th day of following semester	with a previous mark of 2 or 3 – free of charge
Easts sottle goodenie debt within 11th day to	Exam – 25 USD
Fee to settle academic debt within 11 th day to week 14 th of following semester	Test – 15 USD
week 14 Of following semicater	Assessment for a study work (paper) – 30 USD
Fee to settle academic debt within week 15 th of	Exam – 95 USD
following semester to the end of Examination	Test – 50 USD
Period	Assessment for a study work (paper) – 115 USD
Fee to improve a grade of a final exam by retaking it	25 USD
taking it	
Fee to present the final assessment of a study pro	gramme or state examination later or to repeat it:
Qualification paper	70 USD
Bachelor Thesis and Bachelor Thesis with a project	100 USD
Engineering Design Project, Diploma Project, Diploma Paper, Master Thesis, and Master Thesis with a project	155 USD

If the final exam or test is not passed until the end of following semester, the course has to be repeated!

Fee for re-taking a course is calculated based on the credit point amount of the particular course and the cost of 1 credit point. Calculate the cost of 1 credit point by dividing tuition fee for 1 year by 40. See Academic Advisor in Room 312 or send an e-mail to receive Invoice to pay for repeating a course.

If you have difficulty understanding the study material, you may approach the professor. Each professor has weekly consultations when students can discuss questions that are not clear, please ask them to specify the day and time of consultation during your lectures.

Sometimes learning difficulties may arise due to some adaptation or personal issues, or pressure not to fail. Do not wait and consult with a professional at RTU Student Services.

NOTE! A student will be exmatriculated from RTU if:

- At the start of a semester the total amount of academic debt is 15 or more credit points;
- The attendance during the semester is below 50%;
- The tuition fee has not been paid before the start of a study period;
- A course is not passed after repeating it for the second time.

3.9 Latvian Scholarships

In accordance with bilateral agreements on co-operation in education and science, the State Education Development Agency (Valsts izglītības attīstības aģentūra – VIAA) offers scholarships to students, researchers and teaching staff of several countries for studies in Latvian higher education institutions (HEIs) in the 2016/2017 academic year.

Only citizens from countries which have signed an Agreement on co-operation in education and science can apply for the Latvian government scholarships. These countries are:

Azerbaijan	Georgia	Peru
Belgium (Flanders Community	Greece	Poland*
and French Community of Belgium)	Hungary	Portugal
Bulgaria	Israel	Slovenia
China	Italy	Spain
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Turkey
Cyprus	South Korea	Tajikistan
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Turkmenistan
Estonia	Mexico	United Kingdom
Finland	Moldova	Uzbekistan
France	Mongolia	

Please see VIAA website for more info: http://viaa.gov.lv/eng/ – International Cooperation – Scholarships



^{*} Citizens of Poland who are granted a scholarship for studies and research in Latvian HEIs based on the Latvian and Polish Cultural and Educational Programme of Cooperation for the Years 2013–2016 receive their scholarship from the sending Party. Applicants from Poland are kindly asked to contact the Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange of the Republic of Poland (http://buwiwm.edu.pl).

3.10 Exchange Opportunities for Degree Students

Erasmus+ Programme

Riga Technical University cooperates with more than 200 European universities within the Erasmus+ programme. The programme is **financed by the European Commission**, and the implementation period of the programme is **2014–2020**.

Within the framework of Erasmus+ there are two possibilities of mobility:

- studies;
- traineeships.

The programme is available for all specializations and levels of higher education, including doctoral studies.

In the Erasmus+ programme there are **34** participating countries (programme countries).

28 EU member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

European Economic Area member states: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland**.

EU candidate countries: Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Scholarships

Within the Erasmus+ programme students can apply for and receive a scholarship and spend an officially recognized study period in one of the foreign partner universities without paying a tuition fee. The scholarships are intended to cover the extra cost related to studying abroad. The scholarships provided by the Erasmus+ programme will only partly cover the total cost of the mobility expenses. The students themselves are responsible for ensuring the

Prerequisites for Candidates

necessary additional funding in a timely manner.

To apply you have to be registered at least as a **3rd semester student on Bachelor level** or a **2nd semester student on Master level**. Please note – the first year students are not eligible! The

student must have **adequate grades** (weighted average grade cannot be lower than 6.0), good **knowledge of English, German or another language of the EU Member States**, and a well-defined objective for participating in a mobility.

How to Participate in the Erasmus+ Programme

To participate in the Erasmus+ programme, the student must apply for the scholarship competition which is organized twice a year – in September and in February.

Completed application (printed; in a document folder) must be submitted within the deadline at the International Relations Department International Mobility Unit in Kaļķu street 1, room 302.

RTU encourages students to enrich their study and practical experience abroad in partner higher education establishments and enterprises worldwide.

Coordinator for the Outgoing Students of the Erasmus+ Programme

Evita Miščuka

Erasmus+ students' coordinator International Relations Department Kalku street 1, room 302 Phone: +371 67089314 or +371 29484664

E-mail: evita.miscuka@rtu.lv

For more detailed information visit: www.rtu.lv/en/erasmus

General information on the Erasmus+ programme can also be found on the webpage of the European Commission and on the webpage of State Education and Development Agency.

^{**} Switzerland is participating as a partner country.

4. Immigration

4.1 Applying For Residence Permit (RP) in Latvia

1. 85 days before your Visa expires come to the FSD office, room 318, to fill in a form necessary to receive documents to apply for RP.

2. Call Immigration Office +371 6782 9750 and make an appointment to submit documents to apply for RP.

NOTE! The appointment should be at least 45 days before your visa expires!!!

3. Transfer state duty fee (9.96EUR for Bachelors only) for Invitation processing, to this account:

Rīgas Tehniskā Universitāte – Department of Foreign Students

Bank: AS Swedbank SWIFT: HABALV22

Bank address: 1a Balasta Dambis, Riga, LV-1048, Latvia

Account: LV10HABA0551033806568

4. Prepare and gather the following documents:

- RP Application Form (find the electronic version at www.pmlp.lv/en/ under Services Residence Permit; or on ORTUS under FSD.
- Invitation and Guarantee Letter pick it up at FSD office and bring a proof of Invitation processing fee payment;
- Previous education diploma (make sure it is legalized!) and a transcript;
- Police clearance certificate/Statement of punishability (make sure it is legalized!);

NOTE! The document is valid for 6 months.

- Bank statement/letter (Latvian bank letters must be in Latvian); 360 EUR per month (extension for 6 months=2280 EUR, 1 year=4560 EUR) or equal in any currency.
- Study Agreement with RTU;
- Agreement with the place of residence.

5. Collect all of the above mentioned and go to the **Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, 1. Division (OCMA)** (Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde, 1. nodaļa).

The office is located at Čiekurkalna 1. līnija, building K-1, and working from 9am-4pm.

To get to the Migration Office take **tram No. 11** (you can find its route on the big map you received in your Welcoming Package OR on www.rigassatiksme.lv/en).

Get off the tram at the second stop after the bridge over railway – the stop is called 2. Meža kapi.

The Office is right across the street on the right – it is a large glass building, use the first entrance on your right.

Inside the building use the tall touch-screen device to input your appointment code – click on the last option in red.

NOTE! The service is free of change for Masters when applying for 30 day option, and 71.14 EUR for Bachelors. The 10 day option for Masters and Bachelors is 214.71 EUR, and 5 day option is 355.10 EUR.

4.2 How to Receive Residence Permit (RP) Card

- 1. After arrival to Latvia, in order to receive the RP card you need the following documents:
 - Passport;
 - X-ray of your lungs (see page 17 for instructions);
 - Insurance valid for 1 year (see page 17 for info on insurance requirements);
 - (If requested) Previous education diploma OR transcript (ask at FSD office);
 - (If requested) Bank card (one you can access the bank account with your living expenses ask at FSD office).



NOTE! Request RP card within 5 working days after arrival in Latvia!

Make sure to go to the OCMA at least 3 working days before your visa expires!

2. Collect all of the above mentioned and go to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, 1. **Division (OCMA)** (Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde, 1. nodaļa).

The office is located at Čiekurkalna 1. līnija, building K-1, and working from 9am-4pm.

To get to the Migration Office take tram No. 11 (you can find its route on the big map you received in your Welcoming Package OR on www.rigassatiksme.lv/en)

Get off the tram at the second stop after the bridge over railway – the stop is called 2. Meža kapi.

The Office is right across the street on the right – it is a large glass building, use the first entrance on your right.

3. Inside the building go to the front desk and tell them you need to claim your Residence Permit ID card – they will then instruct you what to do next.

The making of RP card costs 28 EUR for the card to be done in 2 working days or 14 EUR if the card is done in 10 working days (the office accepts bank cards only - no cash!).



4.3 Applying for Long Term Visa for Non-EU Citizens

1. If you can enter Latvia without a visa and stay for 90 days then to prolong your stay, you need to apply for a long-term visa.

To apply collect the following documents:

- Passport (bring the original and a copy);
- Invitation and Guarantee Letter apply at FSD office by filling in a form;
- Visa application form find it on ORTUS under section FSD;
- Insurance covering the period of your stay (see page 18 for info on insurance requirements);
- A paper proving living expenses (bank letter or confirmation of scholarship), the amount should be 14 EUR per day;
- Agreement with the place of residence.
- 2. Collect all of the above mentioned and go to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA) (Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde). The office is located at Čiekurkalna 1. līnija, building K-1, and working from 9am–4pm.
- NOTE! Make sure to go to OCMA at least 5 working days before your 90 days expire!
- **3. To get to the OCMA take tram No. 11** (you can find its route on the big map you received in your Welcoming Package OR on www.rigassatiksme.lv/en)

Get off the tram at the second stop after the bridge over railway – the stop is called 2. Meža kapi.

The OCMA is right across the street on the right – it is a large glass building, use the first entrance on your right.

4. Inside the building go to the front desk and tell them you need to apply for a long-term visa – they will then instruct you what to do next.



4.4 X-ray (Degree)

One of the requirements to receive RP card is a medical certificate of lung X-ray results, in order to confirm your health.

Do the X-ray in any medical center offering such service, one of those is:

• Health care centre "Veselības centrs 4" (Located in K. Barona Street 117)

How to get there?

Take tram No 6 and get on the stop: **Nacionālā opera** > Merķeļa iela > Dzirnavu iela > Ģertrūdes iela > Bērnu pasaule > Tallinas iela > Get off on the stop: **Sporta nams "Daugava"**

After exiting the transport, cross K. Barona Street and continue walking down the street. You will soon see Health care centre "Veselības centrs 4" on your left.

Veselības centrs 4		
Working days	8:00-19:00	
Saturdays	9:00-12:00	
Registration desk (2nd floor):		
Working days	8:00-20:00	
Saturdays	9:00-13:00	

NOTE! Holders of ERGO medical insurance for students use the services of the medical centers indicated in the insurance policy. For more info see page 27 and to apply for the insurance contact arturs.lusis@rtu.lv.

4.5 Insurance

Insurance is an obligatory requirement for both RP and any type of visa.

NOTE! The insurance policy should meet the following requirements or the OCMA will not accept it!

The insurance should be:

- A medical travel insurance covering any expenses which might arise in connection with repatriation for medical reasons, urgent medical attention and/or emergency hospital treatment or death, during the period of stay;
- Valid throughout the territory of Schengen Zone;
- Cover the entire period of the intended stay or transit;
- With the minimum coverage of EUR 43 000.

If your current insurance policy does not meet the requirements mentioned above, you may buy insurance in Latvia.

NOTE! Please see page 26 for more info on student medical insurance ERGO.

4.6 Renewing Current RP

RP is valid until the date indicated on the RP card (derīga līdz). To extend the period it is necessary to renew the RP. Follow the list of steps to renew RP without additional penalties and payments.

1. 60 days before (make a notification on your phone), RP expires come to FSD to fill out a form and submit a copy of your passport to start the renewal process!

NOTE! Make sure to declare the address of your place of residence at OCMA or else we cannot process the Invitation request!

- **2. Call OCMA** +371 67829750 or e-mail: rigas1nod_pieraksts@pmlp.gov.lv, and make an appointment to submit documents for RP extension. The appointment should be at least 45 before your RP expires!
- **3. Transfer tuition fee** for the upcoming study year (check your Agreement) and **state duty fee** (9.96 EUR for **Bachelors**) for Invitation processing.

Rīgas Tehniskā Universitāte – Department of Foreign Students

Bank: AS "Swedbank" SWIFT: HABALV22

Bank address: 1a Balasta Dambis, Riga, LV-1048, Latvia

Account: LV10HABA0551033806568

- **4. 50 days before** pick up Invitation and Guarantee Letter at FSD and **bring a proof of payment** for Tuition Fee and State Duty Fee otherwise no documents!
- **5. Prepare** the remaining documents necessary to renew RP:
 - RP Application Form (find the electronic version at www.pmlp.lv/en/ under Services Residence Permit; or on ORTUS under FSD.
 - A proof of Living Expenses bank statement/letter (Latvian bank letters must be in Latvian); 360 EUR per month (extension for 6 months=2280 EUR, 1 year=4560 EUR) or equal in any currency.
 - Study Agreement with RTU.
 - Agreement with the place of residence make sure to declare the address in OCMA (see page 19 for instructions).
- **6. Go to OCMA** (see page 16 for directions) on the day of the appointment and use the appointment code by entering it in the touch screen device in front of the entrance.

4.7 Declaring Your Place of Residence

One of the requirements for RP holders is to declare the place of residence at OCMA within 3 days of changing the address.

Go to OCMA taking passport and agreement with the place of residence, as well as a bank card. The state duty fee for the service is 5EUR (the office accepts bank cards only – no cash!).

NOTE! Not declaring the place of residence within 3 days may result in penalty up to 150 EUR!

5. Accommodations

Experience the true student life by staying in one of RTU dormitories!

Ķīpsala Campus Dormitory

- Double shared rooms;
- Rent 144 to 180 EUR per month;
- Bedding, linens and internet included in the rent;
- Washing machines and dryers;
- Located on Kipsala Campus, few minutes' walk away from majority of RTU faculties;
- Big "green zone/back yard";
- Close to shopping mall "Olympia".

Olaines Street Dormitory

- Double shared rooms;
- Rent 92 EUR per month;
- Bedding, linens and internet included in the rent;
- Washing machines and dryers;
- 30 min away from Kipsala Campus;
- 2 nearby parks;
- A small gym.

Indrika Street Dormitory

- Triple shared rooms;
- Rent 78 EUR per month;
- Bedding, linens and internet included in the rent;
- Washing machines and dryers;
- 40 min away from Kipsala Campus;
- 2 nearby parks.

Ķīpsala

Campus Dormitory € 125–155 per month

Apply for accommodations in one of the dormitories on our website by filling in online application form. The deadline for Autumn Semester is May 30 (moving in from August 15), Spring – November 30 (moving in from January 15).

Security deposit for all dormitories 150 EUR (refundable).

See a list of alternative non-RTU accommodation options on our website: www.fsd.rtu.lv > Accommodations > Alternative accommodation options

NOTE! Tips when choosing off campus accommodation – choose the appropriate location, take into consideration your class schedule, neighbourhood, public transport availability etc.

If you choose to rent an apartment make sure you carefully read through rental agreement, pay extra attention to rental period, indicated rental fee, security deposit. Ask to see utility bills for the previous months so you have sense of the provisional expenses.

If you sign a rental agreement it shall be prepared in two languages, most common in Latvian and English, do not sign an agreement if you have not seen the place or have any doubts about the terms and conditions of the apartment use.

6. Student Service Centre

The "Studentu Servisa Centrs" (in Latvian) offers students various services, including help with student ID.

Find it on Kipsala Campus in dormitory building, first floor.

Studentu Servisa Centrs		
8 Azenes Street		
Phone: 67089364		
E-mail: ssc@rtu.lv		
Working hours:		
Monday to Friday	8am-8pm	
Saturday	10am-4pm	
Sunday	closed	



6.1 Student ID Card

RTU student ID card is the document proving your status as a current student.

The card is valid for one year - renew it every year!

Use your student ID to:

- Prove your status as a student;
- Use library services;
- Open faculty doors with electronic locks;
- Register your attendance in a classroom;
- Receive various discounts for services and goods.

Companies offering student discounts:

Copying services	Copypro Merķeļa druka
Food	 Cafe «Pipars», Olimpia 2 floor Expo cafe, Ķīpsalas exhibit centre 8, Ķīpsalas Street Cafe «Pankūkas», Olimpia 2 floor Cafe «Salātbārs», Olimpia 2 floor Soup restaurant «Tikai karotes», Olimpia 2 floor
Transport	Rīgas satiksme (Riga public transport)
Entertainment	Multikino, 71 Mūkusalas Street

6.2 Copy/Scan/Laminate/Print

Get your copies (in colour and black & white), A3 and A4 sizes, scans, printouts, laminate your documents for student prices.

RTU Digital Printing Center Faculty of Civil Engineering

6B / 6A Ķīpsalas Street

Working hours:

Monday to Friday 8am-5pm

6.3 Career Centre

Consult with Career Centre specialists about employment possibilities, preparation for job interviews, personality development and participate in workshops.

The Centre offers:

- Centre Library resources, where students can find books about personality development;
- Various career support projects;
- Help with job and internship search (vacancies publishing);
- Workshops about self and career development topics;
- Guest lecturer workshops;
- Individual career consultations;
- Individual psychological consultations.

To develop students' social skills the Career Centre organizes regular workshops for students, for example, "What is career?", "How to "sell" yourself?", "How to deal with stress before exams?", "Leadership", etc.

If you experience learning difficulties or have hard time adapting to life in Latvia, the Career Centre specialists are always open and ready to talk about life over a cup of tea and provide you with information on how to best deal with such problems or where to turn to get more help.

All Career Centre services are free of charge!



7. RTU Health Center in Kipsala

At the RTU Health Center it is possible to receive consultations of an internist, general practitioner or physician's assistant, perform electrocardiogram, undergo medical manipulations, such as injections, placement of intravenous system, blood pressure measurements, receive medical certificates etc.

Furthermore, at the RTU Health Center it will also be possible to get vaccines. For the convenience of our clients, there will also be a procedures cabinet for analysis and other things.

It is located on the 1st floor of the RTU Kipsala Swimming Pool at 5 Kipsalas Street, Riga.

8. Student Parliament / International Student Council

The RTU Students Parliament (SP) is a friendly students-focused organization rich in traditions and having a broad outlook on things not only at the University but also outside its walls.

SP is the oldest students' self-government in Latvia including representatives of all nine faculties of RTU – students, who care about students. All in all, there are 45 SP parliamentarians and the elected SP Board, composed of 10 persons. SP represents students' interests and is actively involved in tackling various students related issues at the RTU Senate.

SP focus areas are:

- topical issues concerning studies and consultations to fill information gaps, and organization of educational events, seminars and educational Olympiads;
- handling social issues, incl. how to obtain social scholarships as well as issues related with students' service hotel accommodation;
- legislation, activities in the RTU Senate, organization of elections of faculty students self-government;
- organization of various exciting cultural events;
- sport and recreation;
- public relations;
- management and raising of financing;
- external relations co-operation with other students organizations in Latvia and abroad;
- coordination of the activities of faculty students self-governments;
- services to students: transport compensations, issue of ISIC students cards, coordination of the operation of laundry at students service hotels.

SP is open to new ideas and is ready to cooperate with administration, supporters, non-governmental organizations and other persons concerned, as well as participate in the improvement of students life in Latvia by being an active member of the Latvian Students Association. SP has proved itself as a serious participant of the Technical Association of Universities of the Baltic Sea Region "Baltech", as well as focuses on cooperation with schools organizing online educational Olympiads in physics, mathematics, visiting schools in Latvia and propagating studies at RTU.

All these activities are aimed at making the time spent at RTU memorable, the diploma obtained – prestigious and social life – more versatile and qualitative.

More information in http://rtusp.lv/en/



9. Life in Latvia

9.1 Public Transport

Riga Public Transport system covers all territory of Riga city. The public transport includes buses, trams and trolleybuses, as well as micro-buses with over than 100 routes, also available is the night public transport.

Find routes and time tables here: https://www.rigassatiksme.lv/en/

E-ticket is a universal electronic ticket which enables the use of one of the most up-to-date and convenient means of payment for public transport services. Each trip is to be registered, regardless of the ticket type, each trip is to be registered immediately after entering the public transport.

Students receive 50% discount for all tickets. To receive the discount it is necessary to receive a personalized E-Ticket.

Use your student ID card and passport to request the personalized E-Ticket at any Riga Public Transportation Client Service Centre (see their webpage).

9.2 Health Care

To receive emergency medical attention call **03** or **112**! Receive primary health care by registering with a family doctor.

Closest medical practice to Kipsala Campus is "Asola" at Balasta dambis 3, Rīga, phone: +371 2839 9111

Purchase ERGO medical insurance for students and receive a high quality medical service with student discount in various medical institutions (see page 26–27). To apply for the insurance contact arturs.lusis@rtu.lv.

9.3 Security and Personal Safety

Riga is generally safe city though as in all capitals you have to be careful and take notice about your surroundings.

If in need and you think there is a danger to you or the ones around regarding health, life and safety you may dial the General Emergency Number **112**.

Call short number **110** only if you require rapid assistance from the police and want to report a breach of public order, a crime or traffic accident.



9. Life in Latvia

9.4 Opening a Bank Account

To open a bank account take your passport and RP card to any branch office. The account will be registered within a week.

Please contact Ms Inga Labsvīra (inga.labsvira-zelca@rtu.lv) if you are a scholarship holder.

9.5 Learning Latvian

Latvian language may prove to be a tricky at first but with practice along with an obligatory course (for Bachelors, free choice for Masters) in Latvian language for foreign students at the RTU you will soon be able to easily converse with your neighbors, people at the market and even teach some phrases to visiting family and friends.

Use the following links to learn Latvian easy!

http://maciunmacies.valoda.lv/eng http://www.sazinastilts.lv/?lang=en

Expressions of politeness

Thank you - Paldies

Please/you're welcome – Lūdzu

Good morning - Labrīt

Good day/afternoon - Labdien

Good evening – Labvakar

Hello/greetings - Sveicināti

Good-bye/see you again – Uz redzēšanos

Good night - Ar labu nakti

Cheers! - Priekā!

Useful words

Yes – Jā

No - Nē

Taxi - Taksometrs

Bus/coach - Autobuss

Shop - Veikals

Police - Policija

Currency exchange – Valūtas maiņa

Hotel – Viesnīca

9.6 Cost of Living

		Avg.	Range
Restaurants	Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	6.00€	4.00-8.50
	Meal for 2, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	40.00€	25.00-45.00
	McMeal at McDonalds (or Equivalent Combo Meal)	5.00€	4.25-6.00
	Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)	2.00€	1.00-2.50
	Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	2.00€	1.00-2.40
	Cappuccino (regular)	2.13 €	1.20-2.00
	Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	0.97 €	0.55–1.50
	Water (0.33 liter bottle)	0.65€	0.50-1.20
Markets	Milk (regular), (1 liter)	0.78 €	0.70-0.96
	Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	0.73 €	0.60-0.98
	Rice (white), (1kg)	1.26 €	1.00-1.70
	Eggs (12)	1.37 €	1.09-1.69
	Local Cheese (1kg)	6.00€	5.01–7.50
	Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)	4.67 €	4.50-7.00
	Apples (1kg)	1.08 €	0.80-1.50
	Oranges (1kg)	1.30 €	1.00-1.50
	Tomato (1kg)	1.36 €	1.00-2.00
2	Potato (1kg)	0.44 €	0.29-0.50
	Lettuce (1 head)	0.98 €	0.70-1.20
	Water (1.5 liter bottle)	0.68€	0.50-1.00
	Bottle of Wine (Mid-Range)	5.80 €	5.00-7.00
	Domestic Beer (0.5 liter bottle)	1.01 €	0.80–1.30
	Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	1.19 €	1.00-1.50
	Pack of Cigarettes (Marlboro)	3.30 €	3.00-3.50
ation	One-way Ticket (Local Transport)	1.15 €	1.15–2.00
	Monthly Pass (Regular Price)	50.00€	40.00-50.00
Ť	Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	1.95 €	1.00–2.00
Transportation	Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff)	0.49 €	0.40-0.71
	Taxi 1hour Waiting (Normal Tariff)	7.80 €	6.00-8.40
	Gasoline (1 liter)	1.07 €	1.00–1.11
Utilities monthly	Basic (Electricity, Heating, Water, Garbage) for 85m2 Apartment	176.48 €	141.67–224.09
	1 min. of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local (No Discounts or Plans)	0.07€	0.05-0.10
	Internet (10 Mbps, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL)	11.61 €	9.00–15.00
Sports and Leisure	Fitness Club, Monthly Fee for 1 Adult	40.02€	30.00–50.00
	Tennis Court Rent (1 Hour on Weekend)	20.82€	15.00–25.00
	Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat	6.00€	5.00–7.00
Clothing and Shoes	1 Pair of Jeans (Levis 501 Or Similar)	60.17 €	40.00–70.00
	1 Summer Dress in a Chain Store (Zara, H&M,)	36.46 €	30.00–50.00
	1 Pair of Nike Running Shoes (Mid-Range)	67.60 €	55.00-80.00
	1 Pair of Men Leather Business Shoes	86.15 €	70.00–100.00
Rent per Month	Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre	338.25 €	250.00-400.00
	Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre	235.00 €	200.00–300.00
	Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre	606.76 €	450.00-800.00
	Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre	383.76 €	300.00-500.00

These data are based on 1686 entries in the past 18 months from 159 different contributors. Last update: July, 2016 http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_result.jsp?country=Latvia

10. Terms and Abbreviations

Course - a study subject

CP - credit points

Degree - stands for degree students, all students obtaining a full degree in RTU.

ECTS – European Credit Transfer System

Exchange – stands for *exchange students*, all students studying at RTU according to Erasmus, bilateral or any other agreement between a university or consortium and RTU

Exmatriculation – deletion from the matriculation register – *means* exclusion from the list of active students

FSD - Foreign Students Department

Lecture – an 1.5 hours long class, types are theoretical work, practical work, laboratory work

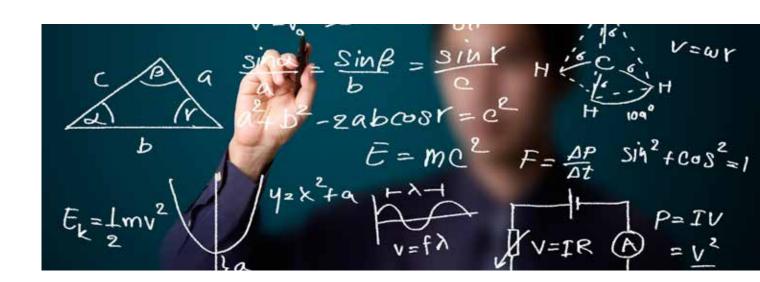
OCMA – Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs

ORTUS - university's intranet, see page 9

RP - Residence Permit

RTU - Riga Technical University

Transcript – or a mark sheet / report card is an inventory of the courses taken and grades earned of a student throughout a semester, year or whole study period



Detailed description of health insurance programmes of ERGO Life Insurance SE Latvian branch

- Area of the policy: The Republic of Latvia
- Validity period of the Insurance: 24 hours a day

Coverage/ services (EUR)	Sums insured/ limits (EUR)	
Total sum insured (out-patient and in-patient services)	45 000.00	
Limit per one sickness	5000.00	
Out-patient services, including		
Physical therapy treatments, out-patient rehabilitation	within one month after check-out from hospital	
State emergency medical care		
In-patient services (treatment in hospital)		
Emergency dentistry (1 case per period)	50.00	
Payment for medicine	60.00 (20.00 per one sickness)	
Additional coverage - Repatriation	5000.00	
Total sum insured of the programme	50 110.00	

Acute illness and chronic disease conditions are paid in accordance with the referral of the family doctor and/ or special doctor assigned by him/her.

Payment for service:

In contracting institutions (Partners specified by ERGO):

- 1. in the amount of 100%;
- 2. the EU and the European Economic Area Member State Students without EHIC cards in amount of 75%.

Non-contracting institutions in the amount of 75%.

Out-patient services:

- Family doctor services (consultations, examinations, manipulations etc.);
- Services of doctors specialists under the referral of the family doctor;
- Services of doctors specialists of direct availability without referral of the family doctor (gynecologist, oculist, psychiatrist);
- Laboratory and diagnostic examinations with referral of the family doctor or doctor - specialist assigned by him/her;
- Physical therapy treatment, out-patient rehabilitation with referral of the treating doctor within one month after check-out from hospital.

In-patient services (upon prior alignment) with

referral of the family doctor or doctor-specialist assigned by him/her.

State emergency medical care

Prevention of conditions/ cases dangerous for life. In order to receive payment, it is necessary to submit discharge from the in-patient institution.

Emergency dentristry (annual limit eur 50.00)

One case per period of insurance shall be covered. Provides payment for the services of emergency dentistry assistance during the first visit in case of acute teeth pain:

- · doctor's consultation
- X-ray in order to specify diagnosis
- · local anesthesia
- root canal opening and cleaning
- inserting temporary fillings
- tooth extraction

Purchase of medicine (annual limit eur 60.00)

Medicine shall be covered in accordance with prescription issued by treating doctor up to the amount of EUR 20.00 per one sickness, maximum up to EUR 60.00 during the period of insurance.

Repatriation (sum insured eur 5000.00) (Upon prior alignment)

Transportation of the insured person or human remains to the home country.

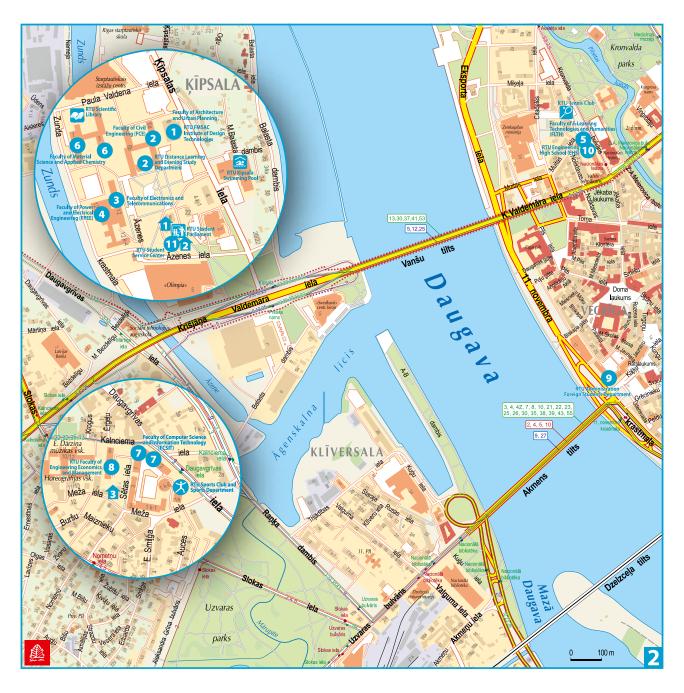


Key exclusions:

- General exclusions defined by Law On Insurance Contracts and by Special conditions of Insurance policies from Nr. 73-590-3000 till Nr. 73-590-3012;
- expenses, which have occurred, when treating the disease or injury diagnosed prior to the start of the Insurance contract, including expenses, which have occurred during the treatment of chronic illnesses;
- cosmetic services and treatment, services of aesthetic dermatology (surgery);
- non-traditional diagnostics/ treatment;
- family planning, contraception, infertility diagnostics and/or treatment, artificial insemination, services related to abortion without medical indications and treatment of consequences thereof;
- cardiovascular surgeries and medical treatment associated with organ transplants and prosthetics, eye refraction corrective surgeries, plastic and reconstructive surgery, tissue substitute materials, supplementary materials, accessories and technical aids;
- doctors' fees, selection of doctors, council of doctors, out-patient and in-patient services, social care, paid oncology, hematology and palliative treatment;
- diagnostics and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, as well as diagnostics and treatment of consequences thereof, diagnostics and treatment of viral hepatitis, diagnostics and treatment of fungal diseases;
- expenses of diagnostics and treatment of health disorders, which have occurred as a result of the use of alcohol, narcotic or toxic substances, treatment of mental diseases or syndromes;

- expenses, which have occurred due to the Insured person influencing his/her health (has intentionally caused bodily injuries him/herself) or self-treatment;
- expenses, which have occurred as a result of radioactive intoxication, radioactive contamination, natural disasters;
- expenses, which have occurred upon the Insured person participating in war or similar actions, formation of any kind of military groups, terrorism as well as mass disturbances;
- expenses, which have occurred upon the Insured person performing unlawful activities, violation of rights or committing criminal offence (or taking a part therein) if it has been recognized by the court or other competent institution;
- expenses, which have occurred due to Force Majeure;
- services, which are received upon failing to comply with the provisions of the Insurance contract;
- services, which are received without medical indications, expenses for the execution of medical documents;
- expenses, which have occurred from traumas or bodily injuries obtained as a result of professional sport (engagement in sport shall be deemed as professional if it is the basic occupation or one of the sources of income of the Insured person).





- Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning (FAUP)
 RTU FMSAC Institute of Design Technologies
 6 Ķīpsalas Street, Riga
- Faculty of Civil Engineering (FCE)
 RTU Distance Learning and Evening Study Department
 6A and 6B Ķīpsalas Street, Riga
- Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications (FET)
 12 Āzenes Street, Riga
- Faculty of Power and Electrical Engineering (FPEE)
 12, k-1 Āzenes Street, Riga
- Faculty of E-Learning Technologies and Humanities (FLTH)

 1 Kronvalda bulvāris, Riga
 - Faculty of Material Science and
- Faculty of Material Science and Applied Chemistry (FMSAC) 7 Paula Valdena Street, 3 Paula Valdena Street, Riga
- 7 Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT)
 2 Daugavgrīvas Street, 1 Sētas Street, Riga
- Faculty of Engineering Economics and Management (FEEM)
 6 Kalnciema Street, Riga
- 9 RTU Administration Foreign Students Department 1 Kaļķu Street, Riga

- RTU Engineering High School (EHS)
 Kronvalda bulvāris 1, Riga
- RTU Student Service Center 6 Āzenes Street, Riga
- RTU Student Hostel 8 Āzenes Street, Riga
- RTU Student Hostel 6 Āzenes Street, Riga
- RTU Student Hostel 5 Meža Street, Riga
- RTU Student Parliament 8 Āzenes Street (entrance facing 12 Āzenes Street), Riga
- RTU Scientific Library
 5 Paula Valdena Street, Riga
- RTU Ķīpsala Swimming Pool 5 Ķīpsalas Street, Riga
- RTU Tennis Club
 3 Kronvalda bulvāris, Riga
- RTU Sports Club and Sports Department
 1A Meža Street, Rīga



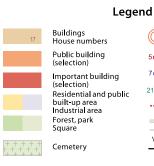












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- RTU FMETA Institute of Railway Transport 8A Indriķa Street, Riga
- RTU Riga Business School
 11 Skolas Street, Riga
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Transport and Aeronautics (FMETA) 36 Viskalu Street, Riga
- RTU FMETA
 Institute of Aeronautics
 1A k-1 Lomonosova Street, Riga
- RTU Student Hostel 4 Olaines Street, Riga
- RTU Student Hostel 4 Biešu Street, Riga
- RTU Student Hostel
 2A Burtnieku Street, Riga
- RTU Student Hostel
 2A Laimdotas Street, Riga

