



LATVIJAS UNIVERSITĀTE

UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA



OUR LEADERS ARE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCIENTISTS!

www.university.lv



The University of Latvia – it is science-based higher education!

The moment has come in the last days of school, when one has to make a choice – whether to study, what to study, and, of course, where to study? This is the first independent choice each adult makes after finishing school. This choice is probably the most important in life because it affects the future course of our lives and the mistakes are not forgiven.

In contemporary society education is the foundation of a wealthy and, most significantly, exciting life. Choose a profession you love and your job will not be a burden to you! It is plain truth that a good job and a happy family is the fulfilment of life. Choose a field of interest, one you succeed in, and you will become acknowledged professionals; besides, you will achieve not only material comfort but also satisfaction and enjoyment.

Choose the University of Latvia – the only classical university in Latvia – as a place to study your chosen speciality, and you will enter an intellectually bustling environment, where the students discover exciting realms of knowledge, where the lecturers are enthusiasts of their field, internationally renowned Latvian scientists. You will be among soulmates and gain friends for life, ones who can not only labour seriously in lectures, seminars and labs but also enjoy creative pastime activities. Make the right choice!

*Rector of the University of Latvia, Professor
Mārcis Auziņš*



Studies

The University of Latvia (UL) with its 25,000 students, 13 faculties and more than 20 research institutes is the largest comprehensive university in the Baltics. The University offers more than 150 state-accredited academic and professional study programmes.

At UL, you can obtain an academic bachelor's or master's degree in humanities (philology, philosophy, history, theology a.o.), pedagogy, social sciences (economics, communication studies, political science, psychology, sociology, law, management a.o.), sciences (biology, physics, geography, geology, chemistry, mathematics, environmental science a.o.), and health sciences (pharmacy, nursing). The UL also offers professional qualifications or bachelor's or master's degree, including MD, qualifications of doctor, teacher, social worker, economist, translator/interpreter etc.

Doctoral study programmes offer a degree in biology, economics, computer science, demography, pharmacy, philology, philosophy, physics, geography, geology, engineering, law, chemistry, communication studies, medicine, mathematics, pedagogy, politics, psychology, sociology, theology and religious studies, management, linguistics, history, and environmental science.

The UL offers an opportunity to study interuniversity master's programme "Nutritional Science", interuniversity master's programme "Educational Treatment of Diversity", interuniversity master's programme "Studies of the Baltic Sea Region", master's programme "European Studies" and other unique study programmes.

Each year, approximately 300 students of the UL study abroad with the help of international exchange programmes, thus perfecting their skills and abilities; in turn, the University of Latvia welcomes approx. 250 international students.



Research

The University of Latvia is renowned for its research on Latvian studies, material science, information and communication technologies, process simulation and socio-economic as well as environmental and health problems of the transition period.

At UL, research is conducted in over 50 research fields which represent 4 main areas of enquiry: the humanities, sciences, social sciences, and education sciences.

With the help of the funding of the European Structural Funds, procurement and modernisation of equipment is currently carried out in many institutes and faculties. This will aid the competitiveness of the achievements of our scientists among the global scientific community.

The institutes of the University of Latvia have long-standing research traditions, and they cooperate with their respective faculties. For instance, the Institute of Solid State Physics is a European Union 6th Framework Programme Center of Excellence, where advanced research is conducted on nanotechnologies, holography, and robot technologies; the Institute of Educational Research of the Faculty of Education and Psychology carries out comparative research on education in cooperation with approx. 50 countries all over the world.

At UL, students learn to conduct research under the guidance of experienced professors, participate in the research process and acquire specific skills. After successful completion of the PhD studies and presentation of a thesis students obtain Doctor's degree.

Each year, the University researchers take part in the development of around 900 projects, participate in approx. 1,000 international scientific conferences, publish approx. 700 research papers in peer reviewed journals. The students report in the annual Conference of the University of Latvia and publish the results of their research in "Scientific Papers of the University of Latvia" and in academic series, for example, "Agora" and "Domino".

The Innovation Centre of the University promotes cooperation between scientists and companies and commercialisation of selected research results.



Library

The Library of the University is a library of national significance, the largest of the libraries of Latvian higher education institutions, founded in 1862. Today its collection boasts over 2 million printed units, available to everyone in:

- ◆ the central building of the library (loans desk, reading room, the department of rare prints and manuscripts);
- ◆ branch libraries:
 - the Biology Library;
 - the Economics Library;
 - the Physics and Mathematics Library;
 - the Education and Psychology Library;
 - the Law Library;
 - the Humanities Library;
 - the Humanities and Linguistics Reading Room;
 - the Chemistry Library;
 - the Social Sciences Faculty Library;
 - the Theology Faculty Library;
 - the Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences Library.

Among the library services are: electronic ordering/re-borrowing/reservation of the prints (the Main Catalogue link in the Library section of the UL portal); consultations and inquiries; exhibitions; user guides; specific information requests; cataloguing of information; scanning and thermobinding of documents, interlibrary loaning and many others.

For further information about the history of the library, working hours, library regulations, offered services, and current events, go to the University website, Library section (<http://www.lu.lv/eng/library>).

Call: +371 67220087,
or send your mail: info-bibl@lu.lv



Scholarships and Benefactors

Scholarships

In addition to the state scholarships provided in the state budget, the students of the University of Latvia have an opportunity to receive special scholarships established by our benefactors.

The Foundation of the University of Latvia awards over 250 scholarships a year to the students of higher education institutions of Latvia. The annual total sum exceeds 200,000 EUR, and it is increasing with every year.

The UL Foundation invites to sign up for scholarship all financially or socially disadvantaged students; the most talented or hardworking students of each study field; promising athletes; socially active new talents who carry the name of the University and the country into the world.

Benefactors

In 1928 the most generous benefactor of education in Latvia's history, Kristaps Morbergs, bequeathed eight buildings in Rīga and Jūrmala to the University of Latvia. They made profit using which Kristaps Morbergs Scholarships were established in pre-war Latvia. The tradition survives today, and around 50 talented students are awarded the scholarship.

Among the benefactors of the University of Latvia are Minna Matilde Vilhelmīne Petkevičs, Roberts Rūsis, Aina Dravnieks, Kārlis Kaufmanis, the Alunāns family, Guntis Bērziņš, Elizabete Akmentiņa, Anna Čakste, Viesturs Koziols, and many other alumni of the UL, their families, friends of the University, patriots of this country and supporters of science. Each year the number of companies which begin cooperation with the Foundation of the University of Latvia with an aim to improve the study environment and support the best students increases.

Information about scholarships is available at:
www.lu.lv/stipendijas, www.fonds.lv.



Student Services

The aim of the department of the Student Services is to organize support for the future and present students from admission to graduation. The services and academic and career counselling provided by the department help students to plan their studies more effectively and to use the resources of the University, to develop their knowledge and skills for individual and professional success.

The Student Services provide student support in the following areas:

Information and counselling – advice on the admission and organizational requirements, prepares and systematizes topical information, as well as organizes and participates in informative events and projects on study opportunities. Issues certificates, statements, copies of documents, gives advice and information on social questions, sports and culture activities, study loans, manages the university dormitories.

Career guidance (Career Centre) – information about career and employment issues. Students have an opportunity to receive individual consultations, take part in career planning seminars and events organised by the Career Centre, as well as submit their CV to the database of the internet resource “E-career” (www.karjera.lu.lv) to facilitate their internship, part-time, or full time job searches.

Psychological support – services of psychologist to University students and staff, consulting on study problems, personal questions and relationship issues.

Student Register – organizes and controls student registration, prepares study documentation and qualification documents, provides keeping of students` records.



Traditions

Since 1966, each year before the beginning of the autumn semester, freshmen are welcomed at the Aristotle Celebration. The large group of new students gather at the Riga Dome Square for a procession heading to the main building of the University.

The University's anniversary is celebrated each year on September 28. Choir, orchestra and other concerts as well as dance performances are held regularly in the Aula Magna of the University's main building.

Each autumn senior students organise "initiation" or freshmen parties for the first-year students.

The student councils of the faculties and the main Student Council of the University organise culture and entertainment events, for example, theme parties, club dancing, sports events and tournaments. In the event "The University of Latvia Garden", held each spring in *Vērmanes* Park, each faculty informs about its study opportunities and traditions.

The student councils of just about every faculty organise annual events: geography students have their *Georally* (rowing event), physics and maths students have their *Physmaths Days*, chemists have their *Chemist Days*, etc.

Students are also invited to take part in joint work to clean up the vicinity of the University.

Each summer graduation ceremonies take place in the Aula Magna.





Sport

The sports life of the University is organised by the UL Sports Centre, which is located in the Olympic Sports Centre (Grostonas Str. 6b); the centre will serve as the sports basis of the UL students in the future years. In cooperation with the Student Council and the Sports Department of the Faculty of Education and Psychology, which is the academic and professional knowledge centre of sports and health subjects, competitions and sports events are held in various disciplines.

Students can apply for training in basketball, football, volleyball, swimming, floorball, athletics, wrestling, chess, aerobics, table tennis, physical health exercises, athletic gymnastics and physical therapy exercises. Recently, football has become very popular; in cooperation with the football school *METTA*, the football team *FS METTA/Latvijas Universitāte* was established, which now plays in the 1st league of Latvian Football Championships.

The best football players of the University play in the main team. Even secondary school students can claim participation in the team if they commit to studying at the University of Latvia and are capable of playing at such level. The football team trains 6 days a week in professional circumstances and are fully equipped to perfect their playing and aim for the national team. Other priority sports of the University follow a similar pattern of development.

The best athletes are included in the UL team that participates in international and national championships – the LASS University Games, the SELL Student Games, the World Student Games, European Student Championships, a.o.

Each year the University Cup for male and female teams is held, where participation is open to all students from the faculties. Among them are the Athletics Day, sports events, football events, aerobics festival, street-ball tournament, and others.

The University's partners among professional clubs are: the team *Barons/LU* in basketball, the *FS METTA/LU* in football, the *Jelgava/LU* in volleyball, and the *Latvijas Avīze/LU* in floorball.



Study Environment & Recreation

Wireless Internet access is provided in almost all of the University buildings. This provides students and staff with access to the net via portable workstations (the username and password is issued by the University).

Each student receives a University e-mail address and access to the computers in each faculty's computer labs and libraries.

The University portal at www.lu.lv provides information about current events, news, opportunities, research, and new developments in the higher education system of Latvia. Authorised users have access to all University's e-resources at a single location.

The University radio station *NABA 93.1 FM* boasts 70 DJs who broadcast the best music and over 40 entertaining original programmes at twenty-four-seven.

The University journal *Alma Mater* in its thought-provoking articles informs about recent achievements in research, gives insight into the University life, and offers interviews with popular teaching staff members and graduates of the University. Each day, articles are also published in the University electronic newspaper at <http://avize.lu.lv>.

The main University building and the faculty buildings all contain cafeterias, where students can spend time relaxing between the lectures and have a good meal.

The students can join any of the 18 amateur performance groups – the choirs *Juventus*, *Minjona*, *Latve*, *Dziedonis*, *Dziesmuvara*, *Prezidiju Konvents Male Choir*, the choir of the Faculty of Biology *DeCoro*, the choir of the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics *Aura*, the choir of the Faculty of Theology *Jubilate*, the early music ensemble *Canto*, the men's ensemble *Dancis*, the dance groups *Dancis*, *Dancītis*, *Senā Daile*, the Students Theatre Group, the Chamber Orchestra, the folk dance group *Dandari*, and the applied folk art workshop *Vāpe*.

The University offers student accommodation in 8 student hostels.



Student Council

The University's Student Council is an institution elected by the students and has 38 elected members; however, any student interested in the work of the Council and in organizing events is welcome to take part.

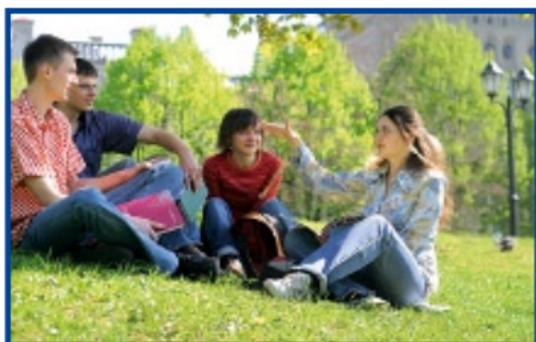
The objective of the Student Council is to represent the rights and interests of all the University students and to promote developments in education and science in Latvia.

The Student Council is the largest university student council in the Baltic states. Its performance and active dealing with a wide range of student issues and events has made the Council very popular with the students.

If you are a born organiser, interested in cultural events, you have every opportunity to organise the UL Garden, the Student Council's Sports Event, and, of course, the Aristotle Celebration, the welcoming event of the new students.

If you are more of an academic sort, you have an opportunity to decide upon or influence the decision of important academic issues, take part in seminars on study process organisation and other matters of academic life.

Art? Social issues? Sports? Politics? You can engage in all of it with the help of the Student Council. The main thing: you have many an opportunity to influence your student life, and that of your fellow students.



On September 28, 1919, at a time when fights for national freedom were still going on, in a ceremony in the building of the former Riga Polytechnic Institute, the Higher School of Latvia (since 1922 – the University of Latvia) was established.

The University of Latvia was the first university in the world to conduct studies in Latvian. At the twelve faculties of the University, the humanities (including theology), sciences, and technology were studied.

In 1940, the government of the Soviet Union abolished the constitution of the University of Latvia, making it a Soviet higher education institution.

In 1958, the University of Latvia was renamed P. Stučka Latvian State University.

In 1990, P. Stučka Latvian State University regained its original name – the University of Latvia.

In 1991, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia ratified the constitution of the University of Latvia; the University's flag, emblem, hymn, rector's chain of office, and the official robes of rector, pro-rector, and dean were also renewed.

In 1998, the Parliament ratified the Third Constitution of the University of Latvia.

In 1999, the University became state-accredited.

In 2009, the University will celebrate its 90th birthday.

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UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA

19 Raiņa Blvd, Rīga, LV-1586
Phone: 67034444
Fax: 67225039
E-mail: lu@lu.lv
Website: www.university.lv

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