



UNIVERSITY OF
LATVIA



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ANNUAL PUBLIC REPORT

2025

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E-mails	lu@lu.lv
Website	www.lu.lv
Legal status	State-established derived public person
Main areas of activity	To provide internationally recognised higher education To promote scientific activity and scientific excellence To create new knowledge and use it to solve problems important to Latvia's national economy
Financial reporting period	01.01.2025–31.12.2025

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ABBREVIATIONS MOST FREQUENTLY USED IN THE REPORT

BA	BA School of Business and Finance
EIB	European Investment Bank
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EU	European Union
ESF	European Social Fund
FESS	Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
FST	Faculty of Science and Technology
FARP	Fundamental and applied research programme
FH	Faculty of Humanities
IAC	Innovation and Acceleration Centre
MES	Ministry of Education and Science
FESP	Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology
FL	Faculty of Law
UL	University of Latvia
LAS	Latvian Academy of Sciences
FMLS	Faculty of Medicine and Life Sciences
CM	Cabinet of Ministers
QS	Quacquarelli Symonds – a British company specialising in the analysis of higher education institutions worldwide
PDA	Professional Development Academy (currently – UL Lifelong Learning Academy/UULLA)
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics
SRP	State Research Programme

UL 2025: EXCELLENCE, GROWTH AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY

The University of Latvia (UL) has a special responsibility and role in the development of our country. Latvia's human capital and national competitiveness are shaped here. Therefore, for the UL, the reporting period was a year of both growth and maturity – a time when, following extensive changes, we consolidated the chosen direction of development and demonstrated ever more clearly our place in the European higher education and research area.

Particular attention was paid to the strategic development of the UL. The UL Strategy for 2021–2027 was updated, aligning it with the management team's programme, changes in the external environment and the opportunities provided by the institutional funding model. These changes are not merely formal – they demonstrate our readiness to raise our ambitions, clarify the objectives to be achieved and move confidently towards even higher quality in studies, research, governance and cooperation with society. The year 2025 also marked the completion of internal and external consolidation, with the BA School of Business and Finance of the UL becoming fully integrated into the UL ecosystem and strengthening our capacity to develop an internationally competitive centre for business education and research in the Baltics.

In the field of studies, the reporting period provided clear evidence of the high value of a UL diploma. At the close of admission for the 2025/2026 academic year, the total number of applications to UL was 3,500 higher than in the previous year – almost 11,000. This shows that UL is young people's first choice for studies, because we are able to offer high-quality, modern studies that meet the needs of the future world and labour market. Our task is to justify this trust through excellent study content, academic rigour and an environment in which students can grow as professionals, citizens and individuals.

In research, 2025 demonstrated the UL's research capacity and its ability to be a national leader. The international research assessment was carried out successfully, and the funding attracted for research grew significantly. With 26 approved fundamental and applied research projects, the UL last year became the most widely represented research institution in this call. The University is increasingly purposeful in helping to transform researchers' knowledge into innovations, as well as promoting technology transfer and cooperation with industry. This is the path by which the excellence created by the University is transformed into a real contribution to Latvia's economy and society.

During the reporting period, the UL's international reputation also strengthened significantly. In the QS World University Rankings: Europe 2025 assessment, the UL ranked 19th in Europe for graduate employability, reached 267th place overall among 685 European higher education institutions and 99th place in Northern Europe. In THE Impact Rankings, the UL retained its position in the 201–300 band among more than 2,300 universities worldwide, while at the end of the year, in



the QS Sustainability Rankings 2026, it demonstrated growth in eight of eleven indicators, retaining 1st place in Latvia. The UL is highly regarded not only for its academic and research quality, but also for the preparedness of its graduates, responsible governance and ability to create a positive impact on society.

A special event was also the holding of the European University Association's annual conference at the UL. By welcoming European higher education leaders to Riga, we demonstrated that the UL is not only a participant in Latvia's academic dialogue, but also a participant and co-creator of Europe's academic dialogue. The conference focused on sustainability and resilience in higher education – topics that fully align with our own vision for development. At the same time, the UL continued to strengthen its third mission: we brought the public together at science communication events, including European Researchers' Night, and at the end of the year, for the second time, we honoured Latvia's most outstanding teachers at the awards ceremony of the "Latvian Teacher of the Year" competition, emphasising the importance of the teaching profession in the development of the country.

The past year has once again shown that the UL's strength lies in its people – students, academic and research staff, employees, graduates and cooperation partners. Thank you to everyone for your contribution and work towards our shared goals. Our task going forward is to strengthen the UL as a research university with a strong international reputation, as a place where knowledge and innovation are created, and where personalities and leaders grow and develop.

The year 2025 has provided a lasting and strong foundation for the UL's further growth, so that the coming years may be successful for our community.

Gundars Bērziņš, Rector of the UL, Professor



At times, when looking back at the beginnings of higher education in the Baltic States, a slight envy may creep into the hearts of us – members of the UL community. Our neighbouring universities can take pride in traditions dating back centuries: the University of Tartu was founded in 1632, Vilnius University as early as 1579, while our beginnings date back “only” to 1919. Yet it is precisely this historical youth that may be one of our greatest advantages.

Unlike the universities in neighbouring countries, which were founded by various foreign powers with the aim of creating a local elite loyal to them, the UL’s mission was unequivocal from the very first days of its existence – to serve the Latvian state and people. Our University was born as the academic pillar of an independent state, as a place where national thinking, science and a responsible professional elite are formed.

This mission was also clearly formulated in the constitution of the higher education institution, which was approved by the Saeima (Parliament of Latvia) of the Republic of Latvia on 28 March 1923 with the signature of the President of Latvia Jānis Čakste. It gave our higher education institution not only its name – the University of Latvia – but also the task of developing autonomous, internationally competitive academic education and science, based on the tradition of European universities, in the Latvian language and within the Latvian cultural space, shaping the country’s intellectual and professional elite.

How have we succeeded in fulfilling this mission in 2025? In short, we have made every effort. Moreover, we have reason to be satisfied with what has been done and with the results achieved.

Anyone can find the specific measurable performance indicators in this annual report, and I will not repeat them here. Instead, I would like to focus on feelings. In 2024, we completed the establishment of the six new faculties of the University, and in 2025 the BA School of Business and Finance of the UL joined them as the seventh faculty-level structural unit. Have these changes been successful? Have they delivered measurable results in studies and research? And – just as importantly – have they given the staff and students of these faculties a sense of fulfilment and belonging?

The first conclusions can now be drawn. One of the most outstanding introducers of new ideas and unconventional solutions, Steve Jobs, the founder and driving force behind Apple, said: “You can’t connect the dots looking forward.” No one can accurately predict the outcome of change, not even the most capable leader. The dots can only be connected by looking backwards and trying to understand which decisions have been successful and which have been less so, and therefore need to be adjusted.

Although the period of change at the UL is still ongoing and still proving itself, I dare say that the decisions taken in recent years by the University leadership, the Senate and the UL Council – at times even radical ones – are gradually beginning to form a coherent line of sustainable growth.



Students' interest in studying at the UL remains consistently high, despite growing local and international competition. Students appreciate the opportunities and the quality of studies. This is confirmed by the admission results. The UL's research capacity and the quality of its results have also reached a very high level. This is demonstrated both by the steadily increasing funding attracted for research and innovation and by the results of the international assessment of Latvian science, obtained in accordance with principles recognised in the European Research Area. The UL's performance in these assessments is the highest in its history, and we have every reason to be proud of it also within the wider academic community.

UL's recognition in Latvian society has also increased significantly. This is reflected both in policy-makers' readiness to listen to the views of the University's researchers and academic staff when taking decisions of national importance, and in the popularisation of science in society as a whole.

Such results would not be possible without a clearly formulated strategic vision and the ability to implement it. This ability, too, has been recognised

by society: in 2025, the UL Council received the Latvian Institute of Corporate Governance award in the category "Strategic Vision of the Council" for creating a modern, sustainable and strategically strong model of university governance.

It is particularly significant that, for the first time in the history of the award, the contribution of the academic sector has been highlighted.

Does this mean that everything has been achieved? Of course not. In every area of the University's activity, there will always be room for us to continue growing and improving.

In conclusion, however, I would like to remind us all of one lesson: genuinely new ideas and real breakthroughs are born of daring. Of the readiness to do things that no one has done before and about which those around us often say, "that is not right", "that is not how things are done". Without such constructive courage, major leaps in development are not possible. Therefore, alongside stable and carefully considered development, let us dare from time to time to do "positively crazy" things wisely. Let us be ready to take risks while retaining a rational mind.

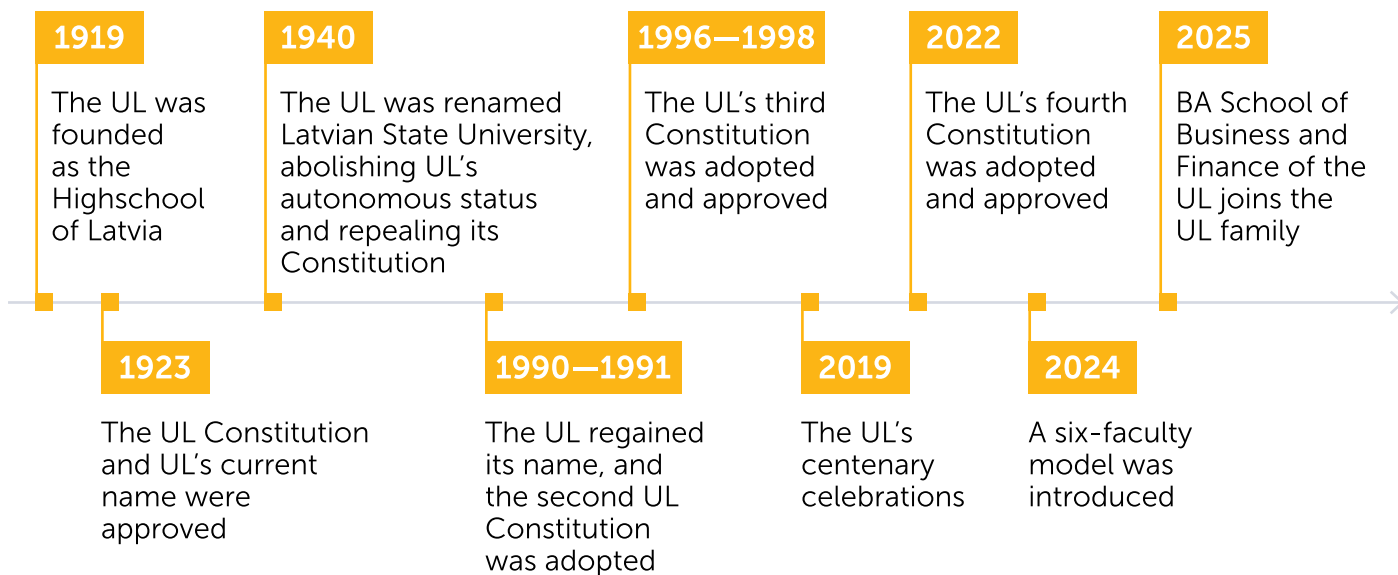
Mārcis Auziņš, Chair of the UL Council, Professor



1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. LEGAL STATUS AND HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT

UL is a higher education institution founded by the state in 1919 (a derived public person) – a comprehensive research university rooted in the classical European university tradition.



Founding and historical development of the University of Latvia (1919–2025)

The word “Latvia” in the University’s name symbolises the closely intertwined destinies of the University and the State of Latvia, and the University as a source of the Latvian language of science. The University of Latvia serves science and the fatherland. By participating in global processes in science and education, it promotes the development and sustainability of the State and nation of Latvia. The UL brings together and develops the country’s main multidisciplinary body of study and scientific research potential in the areas of strategic specialisation determined by the Cabinet of Ministers:

- natural sciences;
- humanities and arts;
- medical and health sciences;
- social sciences.

The University’s main areas of activity are science- and practice-based studies, scientific research, the development of society and the national economy, and the preservation and development of the Latvian language and culture.

1.2. STRATEGY, AREAS OF ACTIVITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1.2.1. MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

UL's mission, vision and values, as well as its strategic development directions and objectives, are set out in the UL Strategy for 2021–2027 (hereinafter – the UL Strategy).

UL MISSION is expressed in its motto, "Scientiae et patriae" (For Science and Fatherland). UL contributes to global processes in science, higher education, knowledge, technology transfer and innovation, ensures the growth of democracy and culture in Latvia, the development of the Latvian language and the prosperity of the national economy.

UL VISION is a space for excellence, an environment for development, and a time for responsibility. The UL is a research university with a strong international reputation. The UL creates an interdisciplinary, open and innovation-oriented environment of excellence for work and studies. The UL's activities form the basis for Latvia's sustainable development and economic transformation.

UL VALUES

■ THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

The UL community is its core value. UL is united by a creative, safe and inclusive study and work environment that provides opportunities for academic and professional growth.

■ STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

High-quality research and studies are the cornerstone of the UL. The development of all fields of research represented at the UL is important to the University.

■ RESEARCH-BASED DEVELOPMENT

Scientific achievements and their integration into studies form the basis of the UL's international reputation and competitiveness. The UL's areas of special responsibility are Latvia's prosperity, research into the Latvian language, history and society, Latvia's sustainable development and quality of life.

■ OPENNESS

Respecting traditions, building on the principles of equality and respecting diversity, the UL is open to innovations in academic activity, governance, the use of technology and sustainability.

■ COOPERATION

The UL is a responsible participant in the education and social environment ecosystem, focused on active cooperation.

■ ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Research and study programmes that contribute to the fulfilment of UL's mission are based on strict principles of academic ethics. Diversity of views and freedom of discussion are prerequisites for the existence of the UL as a research university.

1.2.2. STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with the UL Strategy for 2021–2027, the UL focuses its activities on six main areas. In line with these development areas, six strategic objectives have been set.

DEVELOPMENT AREAS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
DEVELOPMENT OF CORE ACTIVITIES	
Excellence in science	1. The University as an internationally recognised centre of science
Development of studies	2. A unique study offer and high competitiveness of graduates
Contribution to society	3. A development- and excellence-oriented personnel policy
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
Talent development	4. Green thinking and an attractive, sustainable university environment
Environment and governance	5. The university environment and effective administrative support
Organisational culture	6. An inclusive culture focused on cooperation and innovation

The UL's development areas and objectives for 2021–2027

1.2.3. MAIN TASKS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

- One of the most significant institutional developments was the integration of the BA School of Business and Finance into the UL. As of September 1, BA became an academic institution of the UL with faculty status, strengthening the UL's capacity in the fields of business, finance and management science and expanding the University's development opportunities in the field of internationally competitive business education in the Baltics.
- Following the conclusion of the annual strategic control process, the University of Latvia Strategy 2021–2027 was updated, aligning it with the programme of the new management team, the introduction of institutional funding, the recommendations of the external assessment of the quality management system, and the inclusion of BA in the UL ecosystem.
- The UL continued its institutional development and consolidation process, while also improving the study and research environment. During the year, the strategies of the newly established faculties for 2025–2027 were approved, the development of an interdisciplinary additional module approach was launched, artificial intelligence (AI) solutions were tested for the development of the study process, and the introduction of the research information management system Pure was begun.
- The transition to the new doctoral studies model also continued, and the work of the UL Doctoral School was strengthened, developing a more unified approach to supporting doctoral students, advancing academic careers and research governance at the University; the strategy of the UL Doctoral School was approved.
- The UL began implementing the project "Modernisation of the University of Latvia Study Environment in the STEAM Field", with the aim of improving the study environment at the UL and the medical colleges founded by it and introducing industry-relevant technologies into the educational process.
- The implementation of the higher education digitalisation project also continued in cooperation with the Higher Education and Science Information Technology Shared Service Centre, with the aim of introducing shared digital solutions and modernising study services at Latvia's higher education institutions. This project is a significant contribution to a more modern, flexible and student-centred academic environment.
- In the 2025/2026 academic year, the UL FESP established a new first-cycle professional higher education study programme, "Special Education Teacher / Teacher Speech and Language Therapist", in order to train appropriate teachers and speech and language therapy specialists and expand the UL's contribution to teacher education.

- Starting from the 2025/2026 academic year, a system of additional modules was introduced in the UL bachelor's study programmes, giving students the opportunity to take interdisciplinary courses within the restricted selective component and broaden their academic and professional profile. This innovation promotes a flexible, individualised educational process aligned with labour market needs.
- During the reporting period, the UL management identified improving the efficiency of governance and reducing bureaucracy as one of the main development directions, emphasising the need to improve information technology systems, review existing processes and develop a more flexible, modern and results-oriented University management model.
- An EIB delegation also visited the UL Academic Centre, where they visited the future House of Letters and discussed previous cooperation and future infrastructure development plans with University representatives. The visit confirmed the EIB's involvement in and confidence in these development projects.

CORE ACTIVITIES AND STRENGTHENING HUMAN CAPITAL

- During the reporting period, the UL made targeted preparations for the international evaluation of research institutions, developing the self-assessment report throughout the year, coordinating the evaluation process and hosting international experts. The results of this work were announced in 2026: the UL and all six of its faculties received the highest score among science universities in Latvia in the assessment – 4, or "very good", on a 5-point scale.
- In the UL competition "High-Impact Development Programmes", 16 research projects worth EUR 4.25 million were supported, covering several of the University's strategic research areas and strengthening scientific excellence, innovation and societal development.
- The UL continued to strengthen doctoral studies and research human capital by organising competitions for support instruments for both doctoral students and early-career researchers, thereby promoting the development of research in the areas of Latvia's Smart Specialisation Strategy.
- The UL also strengthened the innovation, acceleration and commercialisation ecosystem by ensuring the operation of the Innovation and Acceleration Centre as a support platform for students, researchers and employees to develop ideas, start businesses and transfer knowledge. The EU funds-supported programme "University of Latvia Innovation Grants for Students" was launched, the pre-incubation programme "Start in Business" was continued, and solutions for technology transfer, intellectual property governance, cooperation with industry and commercialisation support were strengthened, thereby promoting the practical use of knowledge created by the UL and the development of an innovation culture at the University.
- The UL also purposefully promoted the professional development of academic staff by implementing the new lecturers' programme. It is intended to improve pedagogical competences, and in 2025 the first 40 participants successfully completed it, demonstrating the University's systematic approach to improving teaching quality and developing academic careers.
- A new UL Personnel Policy was approved, improving employee support mechanisms and expanding the employee benefits package through amendments to the Collective Labour Agreement.

CONFERENCES, INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND ACADEMIC VISIBILITY

- During the reporting period, the UL International Scientific Conference took place; it is one of the UL's most important academic traditions and a platform for scientific discussion across various sectors.
- On 10–11 April, the annual conference of the European University Association (EUA), organised by the UL, took place at the UL House of Science, bringing together European higher education leaders and experts and strengthening the UL's international academic visibility.
- Latvia hosted the European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS) for the first time, and the UL participated in this event as one of the most visible institutions in the science ecosystem, including by presenting a special award to a young researcher.

- The UL also consolidated its position in the field of quantum technologies by providing the opportunity to host the world's most prestigious quantum information processing conference, Quantum Information Processing (QIP), in Riga in 2026 for the first time in the Baltic States. The Cabinet of Ministers approved the allocation of funding of up to EUR 250,000 for organising this conference, emphasising its importance in strengthening the international recognition of Latvian science and the development of quantum technologies.

ASSESSMENTS AND RECOGNITION

- The UL consolidated its position in international higher education rankings. In the QS World University Rankings 2026 assessment, the UL achieved a high position in the graduates' employment indicator and ranked first in Latvia in several of the assessed categories. In THE World University Rankings 2025 list, the UL maintained its place in the 1001–1200 band, confirming its stable position in the international higher education area and its role as a leading research university in Latvia. Meanwhile, in THE Impact Rankings 2025 list, the UL maintained its place in the 201–300 band, confirming stable performance in the field of sustainability and societal impact. In the QS Sustainability Rankings 2026 assessment, the UL rose to 553rd place in the world and 235th place in Europe and retained 1st place in Latvia among the higher education institutions included in the ranking.
- A new tradition – the UL Excellence Award – has been established to honour the most outstanding representatives of the University community in studies, research, innovation and cooperation. The first award ceremony took place on 30 January 2026, when the 2025 laureates received awards in ten nominations.
- In the reporting year, in an employer reputation survey, the UL was recognised as one of the most attractive workplaces in the public sector, confirming the UL as a modern, open organisation that promotes employee development.
- Representatives of the UL received significant external awards in Latvia and internationally. The highest state honour, the Order of the Three Stars, was awarded to Professor Mārcis Leja; Cabinet of Ministers awards and certificates of recognition were presented to several UL researchers and professors; UL researchers also received recognition from the Latvian Academy of Sciences, while Andrei Kholkin, a researcher at the Institute of Solid State Physics of the UL, received the prestigious IEEE Robert E. Newnham Ferroelectrics Award.
- In recognition of the UL's performance in environmental education, protection and sustainable development, the UL received the international Eco-University Green Flag for the second time, which is flying at the University during the 2025/2026 academic year.

1.3. GOVERNANCE BODIES, SUBORDINATE INSTITUTIONS AND STRUCTURE

1.3.1. CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Constitutional Assembly¹ is the representative body of the academic staff, general staff and students of the higher education institution. The Constitutional Assembly approves the constitution of the higher education institution and amendments thereto, elects the Rector, and elects members of the Senate and the Academic Court of Arbitration. The UL Constitutional Assembly has 200 members – 130 representatives of academic staff, 50 student representatives and 20 representatives of general staff – who are elected for three years. Elections of members of the Constitutional Assembly take place once every three years, unless, in the cases provided for by law, the powers of the Constitutional Assembly expire before the end of the term. The date by which the members of the Constitutional Assembly must be elected is determined by the Senate.

On 23 May, the new composition of the UL Constitutional Assembly was approved, and Professor Zanda Rubene was elected Chair of the Constitutional Assembly.

1.3.2. THE SENATE

The Senate² is the collegiate highest academic decision-making body of the higher education institution, responsible for excellence, development and compliance with internationally recognised quality standards in the higher education institution's education, research and creative activity. The Senate regulates the areas of the higher education institution's academic, creative and scientific activity. The Senate has 50 senators – 38 representatives of academic staff (ensuring representation from each faculty, including 25 professors and associate professors), ten students, the Rector and one representative of general staff.

Chair of the UL Senate – Professor Dace Balode.

1.3.3. THE COUNCIL

The UL Council³ is a collegial supreme decision-making body responsible for the university's sustainable development and for strategic and financial oversight. The Council must also ensure that the state higher education institution operates in accordance with the objectives set out in its development strategy. The UL Council consists of

11⁴ members – five nominated by the UL Senate, five nominated by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), and one nominated by the President of Latvia. Members of the Council are appointed for a four-year term.

Chair of the UL Council – Professor Mārcis Auziņš.

1.3.4. THE CONVENT OF COUNCILLORS

The Convent of Councillors⁵ is an advisory body to the UL Council, the UL Senate and the Rector, approved in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Law on Higher Education Institutions. The purpose of the Convent of Councillors is to promote the development of the UL and align it with the development interests of Latvia and its society. On the proposal of the Rector, eight members have been approved for the UL Convent of Councillors by a joint decision of the UL Council and the UL Senate.

1.3.5. THE RECTOR

The Rector⁶ is the highest official of the higher education institution, exercising its overall administrative management and representing it without special authorisation. The Rector of the UL is nominated and elected for a four-year term in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Law on Higher Education Institutions.

The Rector of the UL – Professor Gundars Bērziņš.



¹<https://www.lu.lv/en/about-us/university-of-latvia-council>

²<https://www.lu.lv/en/about-us/university-of-latvia-senate>

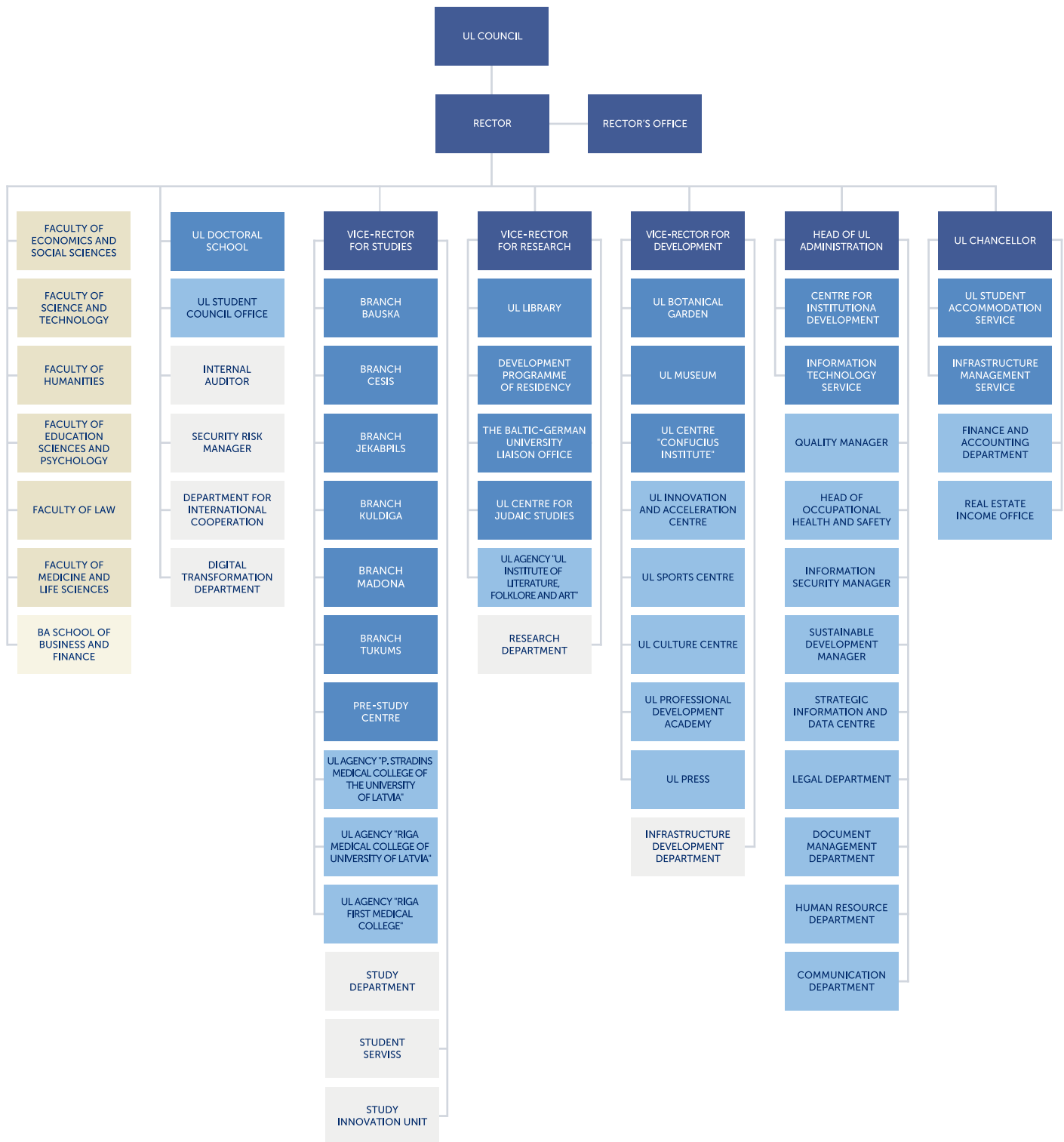
³<https://www.lu.lv/en/about-us/university-of-latvia-council>

⁴Since 2024, the UL Council has operated with ten members, as one member stepped down in order to continue working at the UL in another position. A new Council member has not been elected.

⁵<https://www.lu.lv/par-mums/padomdeveju-institucijas/padomnieku-konvents>

⁶<https://www.lu.lv/en/about-us/governance>

1.3.6. STRUCTURE



2. UL KEY OPERATIONAL RESULTS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2.1. THE UL KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS⁷

INDICATOR	2023	2024	2025
Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (ranking position)	801–1000	1001–1200	1001–1200
THE World University Rankings, Impact Rankings (ranking position)	101–200	201–300	201–300
QS World University Rankings (ranking position)	1001–1200	781–790	801–850
Number of scientific publications	1 756	2 052	1691
Total number of students, including	15 056	15 276	16 638
Number of students in short-cycle programmes	1 950	1 874	1 763
Number of students in first-cycle programmes	9 027	9 459	10 405
Number of students in second-cycle programmes	3 064	3 001	3515
Number of students in third-cycle programmes	1 015	942	955
Number of international students	1 145	1 206	1374
% of all students	7.6 %	7.9 %	8.3 %
Number of graduates	3 270	3 439	3 239
Number of UL employees	3 440	3 481	3 754
Including academic staff	1 278	1 305	1 355
Finance* (thousand EUR)			
Revenue	124 259	140 123	149 915
Expenditure	120 640	134 378	147 543

⁷ statistika.lu.lv

* Excluding transfers and borrowings.

2.2. FIELDS OF STUDY AND STUDY PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED

2.2.1. FIELDS OF STUDY

The UL offers studies in 22 fields of study:

- Education and pedagogy
- Arts
- Religion and theology
- History and philosophy
- Language and cultural studies, native language studies and language programmes
- Sport
- Psychology
- Sociology, political science and anthropology
- Economics
- Information and communication sciences
- Management, administration and real estate management
- Law
- Life sciences
- Geography and earth sciences
- Chemistry, chemical technology and biotechnology
- Physics, materials science, mathematics and statistics
- Information technology, computer engineering, electronics, telecommunications, computer control and computer science
- Architecture and construction
- Health care
- Social welfare
- Environmental protection
- Internal security and civil protection

Two fields of study have been successfully re-accredited for a six-year period:

- Law
- Psychology

2.2.2. STUDY PROGRAMMES

One UL study programme has been enhanced:

- The first cycle (academic bachelor's) study programme "Biology", which has been transformed into the study programme "Biology and Biomedicine" with two sub-programmes – "Biology" and "Biomedicine".

Three UL study programmes have been licensed:

- The first cycle (professional qualification) study programme "Teacher of Latvian as a Foreign Language"
- The first cycle (professional qualification) study programme "Special Education Teacher or Speech and Language Therapist" with two sub-programmes – "Special Education Teacher" and "Speech and Language Therapist"
- The second cycle (academic master's) study programme "Design of Art and Cultural Processes"

BA School of Business and Finance⁸ has been incorporated into the UL, and its study programmes have been added to the UL.

THE UL STUDY PROGRAMMES ⁹ (31.12.2025.)		Number of programmes
Short-cycle (college) study programmes	Short-cycle professional higher education study programmes	5
First-cycle study programmes	Academic bachelor's study programmes	31
	Professional bachelor's study programmes	17
	First-cycle professional higher education study programmes	3
Second-cycle study programmes	Academic master's study programmes	35
	Professional master's study programmes	16
	Second-cycle professional higher education (medicine) study programmes	2
Third-cycle study programmes	Doctoral study programmes	15
	Third-cycle professional higher education (residency) study programmes	1
TOTAL		125

⁸ <https://ba.lu.lv/en>

⁹ <https://www.lu.lv/en/studies/study-programmes-1>

EXCELLENCE AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT

The compliance of several UL study programmes with international field-specific standards is confirmed by European quality labels:

- The bachelor's study programme "Chemistry" has obtained the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTNA) quality label Eurobachelor in Chemistry;
- The master's study programme "Chemistry" has obtained the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTNA) quality label Euromaster in Chemistry;
- The bachelor's study programme "Computer Science" has obtained the European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics Education (EQANIE) accreditation quality label Euro-Inf Bachelor Quality Label;
- The master's study programme "Computer Science" has obtained the European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics (EQANIE) accreditation quality label Euro-Inf Master Quality Label.

2.2.3. LIFELONG LEARNING

During the reporting period, the UL Professional Development Academy¹⁰ (PDA) continued its targeted development, strengthening its position in the lifelong learning sector. During the year, 7,855 participants improved their skills through lifelong learning courses offered by the UL, including 4,650 participants who studied at the PDA and rated the quality of education highly: the average rating of PDA courses reached 8.8 out of 10. The PDA course "Using Advanced AI Tools in Work and Business" attracted particular interest and became the most popular training course of the year.

In addition to training, a strong community of professionals was developed, and at the end of 2025 the number of members in the "Friends' Club" reached 12,768. A large-scale conference, "Human Value and Artificial Intelligence – Where People and Technologies Meet", was also held, bringing together 1,090 visitors, and three business networking events and 13 educational webinars were organised.

Alongside the learning process, the PDA carried out in-depth qualitative and quantitative brand research. Based on the results obtained, a decision was taken to change the name of the PDA and to create a new, modern learning platform, which is planned to be fully implemented in 2026.

In total, 45 new lifelong learning programmes and professional development events were registered at the UL in 2025.

Interest education programmes	2
Non-formal education programmes	12
Education programmes for the development of teachers' professional competence	22
Professional development education programmes	2
Professional development events for UL academic and administrative staff	4
Continuing education programmes (without licensing)	3
Micro-credentials	18

¹⁰Since 2026, the structural unit has changed its name and operates as the UL Lifelong Learning Academy (LUMA).

2.2.4. DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF STUDIES

www.ozolzile.lu.lv

During the reporting period, the UL purposefully continued the process of internal and external consolidation, moving to an operating model based on six faculties and strengthening its academic ecosystem. A significant step in development was the integration of BA into the UL – since 12 May, it has been a fully-fledged part of the UL family, expanding the study offer and fostering interdisciplinary synergy.

From the 2025/2026 academic year, the UL, in cooperation with Vilnius University, provides a double master's degree programme in Baltic studies. It combines the programme "Latvian Language, Literature and Culture Studies" of the UL Faculty of Humanities and the Vilnius University programme "Baltic Linguistics" (Baltų kalbotyra), providing students with an international study experience and a competitive qualification in linguistics in the Baltic region.

In developing more flexible studies oriented towards students' needs, the UL has begun to introduce the core and supplementary module, or major/minor, approach. From the 2025/2026 academic year, it is available to students in six bachelor's study programmes. This system enables students, alongside their undergraduate studies, to take an interdisciplinary supplementary module worth 15 credit points to broaden their range of competences and strengthen their competitiveness in the labour market.

At the same time, support has been strengthened for young professionals working in the education sector. Opportunities to participate in the induction year programme have been expanded – applications may be submitted during the first two years after obtaining the qualification. The programme provides both financial support in the form of scholarships and practical professional development, facilitating full integration into the school environment.

During the induction year, young teachers are provided with structured professional support: work in development groups, observation of lessons and regular feedback. This system helps to develop pedagogical competences in a targeted way and promotes the consolidation of high-quality educational practice already at the early stage of a career.

The newly established study programme "Teacher of Latvian as a Foreign Language" was licensed. Its aim is to develop students' pedagogical competence so that they obtain a teacher qualification and can professionally teach Latvian as a foreign language to adults.

During the reporting period, the targeted development of the UL Doctoral School continued to fully implement the new doctoral studies model on 1 January 2027. The regulatory framework required for doctoral studies was improved, and the support system for doctoral students and research supervisors was expanded. At the same time, preparation of the first joint doctoral studies (cotutelle) agreements was launched.

In July, implementation of the project "Modernisation of the University of Latvia Study Environment in the Field of STEAM" began. Its aim is to improve the STEAM infrastructure of the UL and the medical colleges founded by it by introducing technologies that meet industry requirements into the study process.

UL experts continue to look for ways to use AI successfully for the development and modernisation of the study process. Based on an analysis of the needs of lecturers and students, four pilot projects are being developed:

- a chatbot for students, providing answers to frequently asked questions;
- AI-generated videos, presentations and other interactive visual summaries of study materials;
- the use of AI to assess student performance;
- checking links and references in students' work.



2.3. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

2.3.1. SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

During the reporting period, UL authors and co-authors prepared 1,964 publications, of which 86.1%, or 1,691, are scientific publications, including monographs, chapters in monographs, articles in local and international scientific journals, and conference proceedings papers. 59% of scientific publications are related to the STEM research field, 23% to the humanities field, and 17% to the social sciences field.

The Scopus and Web of Science databases include 1,126 publications by the UL staff, of which 947 were articles in international scientific journals and 179 were other types of publications.

77% of scientific articles were published in Q1–Q2 quartile scientific journals. In 2023–2025, 3,343 publications were indexed in the Scopus database and 2,498 in Web of Science. Of these, 61% were in open access. The average number of citations per publication during this period was 5.7.

2.3.2. RESEARCH PROJECTS

The UL successfully continued to apply for and implement projects funded by the EU, international organisations, EU Structural Funds and other funds, as well as by the state budget and Latvian and foreign companies.

During the reporting period, 277 projects were launched; the largest and most significant project groups were: 7 Horizon Europe projects, 20 Erasmus+ projects, 27 Latvian Council of Science FARP and SRP studies, and 59 EU Structural Funds projects.

PROJECTS LAUNCHED

Horizon Europe	7
Cooperation programmes (Latvia–Lithuania–Taiwan; Latvia–Ukraine; OSMOZE)	4
European Commission programmes (Digital Europe, CERV, EU4H, ERA 4Health NANOTECHMET, EDF, ERA-NET, M ERA-NET)	8
Interreg, NORD, NordForsk	8
COST	1
Erasmus+	20
Contract research (scientific)	92
Contract research (studies)	17
Other (projects funded by the Baltic-German University Liaison Office, the State Culture Capital Foundation, Baltic Bonus, ESP, donations)	34
EU Structural Funds	59
FARP	17
SRP	10
TOTAL	277

109 contract research projects were launched with Latvian and foreign institutions and companies.

HORIZON EUROPE PROJECTS

The UL has begun implementing seven new Horizon Europe projects with attracted funding of around EUR 3 million, as well as the European Research Council WICE grant, led by tenure professor Inta Mieriņa (grant amount – EUR 2 million).

Compared with 2024, the number of project applications increased – a total of 147 new project applications were prepared, including 18 for Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellowships. A support system was established for preparing applications for these fellowships.

The UL, in cooperation with the Institute of Solid State Physics and the Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science, launched a major ERDF 1.1.1.2 science infrastructure modernisation project worth EUR 10.7 million.

In cooperation with the aforementioned institutes, as well as the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, the ERDF 1.1.1.5 project continues, implementing the national partnership plans for ESFRI and ERIC and ensuring cooperation in the field of quantum computing.

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES / INTERREG PROJECTS

The UL continued to implement 13 European Territorial Cooperation Programme Interreg projects, generating annual revenue of EUR 1.08 million. The projects were implemented in various fields of science in partnership with countries of the Baltic Sea region and Central Europe. Three new projects were launched in 2025.

NORDPLUS PROJECTS

Within the Nordplus programmes “Higher Education” and “Horizontal Programme” established by the Nordic Council of Ministers, eight projects were implemented, nine were submitted and five were launched, promoting cooperation between educational institutions in the Baltic and Nordic countries.

POSTDOCTORAL PROJECTS

The aim of the programme (activity 1.1.1.9) “Postdoctoral Research” is to develop the skills of early-career researchers and increase scientific capacity by providing opportunities to begin careers in scientific institutions and with businesses, as well as to improve research

competences, renew human resources and increase the number of qualified specialists.

Support will be provided for research applications that contribute to achieving the objectives of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) or to developing areas of specialisation, including interdisciplinary applications that correspond to at least one of Latvia's defined areas of smart specialisation.

In the second selection round, the UL submitted 42 research applications, of which 11 industrial research projects with a total value of EUR 2.03 million were approved. These studies will be implemented in 2025–2029.

Through the implementation of these studies, new researcher posts will be created, the number of early-career researchers will increase, cooperation with other research organisations and enterprises will be promoted, the number of publications in Web of Science and Scopus journals will grow, and new products and technologies with commercialisation potential will be developed.

APPLIED (PRACTICE-ORIENTED) RESEARCH PROJECTS

During the reporting period, the UL continued its participation in the implementation of activity 1.1.1.3 "Applied (Practice-oriented) Research Projects" under Specific Objective 1.1.1 "Strengthening research and innovation capacity and introducing advanced technologies into the common R&D system" of the EU Cohesion Policy Programme 2021–2027. Its aim is to support applied (practice-oriented) and collaborative research projects, including interdisciplinary projects, that contribute to achieving the objectives of Latvia's Smart Specialisation Strategy, as well as increasing the capacity and export capacity of the innovation system of the national economy.

In the first selection-round call, the UL submitted 41 project applications, including 31 as the lead partner and 10 as a cooperation partner. Meanwhile, in mid-2025, 13 contracts (totalling EUR 8,486,812.56) were concluded for the implementation of projects in which the UL is the lead partner. The implementation period planned for these projects is up to three years.

STATE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

The UL began implementing 27 FARP projects (including one as a cooperation partner) for a total amount of EUR 7.9 million. In the new FARP project call, the University submitted 199 project applications as the lead or cooperation partner; of these, 17 projects received funding, and their implementation began in 2026. The UL also participated in two state research programme

(SRP) calls (submitting 14 project applications) and began implementing six SRP projects (including four as a cooperation partner) for a total amount of EUR 2.6 million.

UL HIGH-IMPACT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

During the reporting period, the University continued implementing the UL High-Impact Development Programmes, which aim to address challenges of global relevance and importance to Latvia. Nine priority themes have been defined for the programme.

1. Development of human capital and the formation of a healthy, knowledge-based society.
2. Preserving the state, language and identity, and strengthening historical research and civic education. Directions for a new social contract.
3. The country's technological and digital development.
4. Strengthening global competitiveness.
5. Increasing innovation capacity.
6. Development of the national financial system and capital market. The tax system and its principles.
7. Strengthening external and internal security.
8. Environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation.
9. Efficiency of public administration.

The development programme was established to promote cooperation among the UL academic units and to draw public attention to significant initiatives based on scientific research. The supported projects will make a significant contribution to the development of Latvian society and the economy, while also promoting excellence in science and innovation.

During the reporting period, support was granted to 17 projects in the amount of EUR 4,549,658; the deadline set for project implementation is three years.

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY (RRF) PROJECTS

In the project "Internal and External Consolidation of the University of Latvia", several research project activities were implemented.

1. Internal research and development grants – 21 projects were implemented for a total amount of EUR 4.2 million (13 of them in UL faculties, and eight in cooperation with BA before and after its incorporation into the UL). Internal consolidation projects were implemented in the UL's areas of strategic specialisation: four in the natural sciences, three in the humanities and arts, three in medical and health sciences, and three in the social sciences. External consolidation

projects, in turn, were implemented in the thematic research areas of the BA School of Business and Finance of the UL: the green and circular economy, digital transformation, innovation in the financial sector, and cybersecurity.

2. Post-doctoral grants – 17 grants were awarded through the competition for a total amount of EUR 1,166,220, and two further UL projects were additionally supported that corresponded to the priority areas of BA School of Business and Finance: the green and circular economy, digital transformation and innovation in the financial sector, strategic resilience and security in cyberspace. The aim of the post-doctoral grants is to create new knowledge, technological insights and comprehensive research capacity in the relevant branches of science, including by ensuring cooperation with the business sector and promoting international partnership.

3. Researcher (professor) grants in the humanities and social sciences – the UL continued to award these for a total amount of EUR 892,861. The UL is implementing 11 grants, while BA is implementing two. These

are individual grants aimed at developing the academic career of the project implementer. The aim of the grants is to create new knowledge and technological insights in preparation for the introduction of a guaranteed employment, or tenure, system in Latvia.

The grants have been awarded from Recovery Fund and state budget resources and are administered within the framework of the joint UL and BA project “Internal and External Consolidation of the University of Latvia” (No. 5.2.1.1.i.0/2/24/I/CFLA/007) provided for in Cabinet of Ministers regulations.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE INNOVATION AND ACCELERATION CENTRE

During the reporting period, the UL Innovation and Acceleration Centre (IAC) made a significant contribution to project development, providing institutional support in the preparation of 50 projects. The total budget of the projects prepared with the Centre’s involvement was EUR 100 million; of this amount, the UL’s share was EUR 15.7 million. Of the submitted projects, nine were approved, securing funding of EUR 7 million. The success rate of project applications reached 39%.

APPROVED IAC PROJECTS

Project title	Brief description
Next-generation workforce – enhancing opportunities for young people for better employment	Promoting youth employment by reducing the gap between education and labour market requirements. Training and cross-border traineeship opportunities in Latvia, Estonia and Finland, developing young people’s professional, digital and cross-sectoral skills while strengthening cooperation between higher education institutions and companies.
Development of AI – ICT for Manufacturing EDIH in Latvia	Promoting the digital transformation of companies and the public sector. Consultations, technology testing, training and support in developing digital development roadmaps.
University of Latvia innovation grants for students	Developing a comprehensive student innovation ecosystem by offering pre-incubation and incubation programmes, hackathons and cooperation with industry. The aim is to develop students’ entrepreneurial skills, create prototypes and promote the transformation of ideas into start-ups, while strengthening cooperation between the university and companies.
Biomedical and Photonics Research Platform for the Development of Innovative Products (BioPhoT)	A long-term interdisciplinary platform bringing together Latvia’s leading scientific institutions to develop innovations in biomedicine, pharmacy, photonics and smart materials. The aim is to create high value-added technologies, develop precision medicine and promote the introduction of future technologies.

PRO Youth Work	The project strengthens the quality and professionalisation of youth work by developing educational opportunities for youth workers and closer cooperation between researchers, practitioners and policymakers. The UL will lead the development of a new study programme for youth workers in Latvia and promote the development of the Baltic and Nordic youth researchers' network.
AI Factory Antenna – Latvia	The project will strengthen Latvia's AI capacity and connect the national ecosystem with the European-level network of supercomputing and AI competences. In the project, the UL contributes to the areas of research, competence development and knowledge transfer, promoting the use of AI solutions in science, business and the public sector.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

To effectively collect, structure and disseminate research results, during the reporting period the UL began implementing the Pure research information management system. It is an internationally recognised and widely used system that facilitates the registration, recording, analysis and visualisation of information, ensuring a unified and professional visibility of the activities of UL researchers both within the higher education institution and internationally. The system makes it possible to transparently manage research results, automatically synchronises data with ORCID, Scopus, Web of Science and other international registers and databases, and facilitates the preparation of data for reporting purposes.

2.3.3. SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

From January to March, the UL International Scientific Conference was held for the 83rd time. At the opening academic plenary session on 29 January in the UL Small Hall, the UL tenure professor Inta Mieriņa delivered a lecture entitled "Migrants and Refugees: A Paradigm Shift and Fortress Europe". The researcher has received a prestigious European Research Council grant to study the differences in, and reasons for, public attitudes towards migrants in the context of Russia's war in Ukraine.

The lecture was complemented by foreign migration researchers: Professor Emeritus Russell King of the University of Sussex, with the topic "What happens when free movement ends? Brexit, migration paradoxes and their control", and Monika Szulecka, researcher at the Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw, with the topic "Migration mechanisms and migration control in times of change: the example of Poland".

The conference was organised in 140 section sessions across seven blocks of section sessions: Exact Sciences and Technology, Education Sciences

and Psychology, Law, Medicine and Life Sciences, Economics and Social Sciences, Humanities, and Interdisciplinary, covering a wide range of topics on significant research areas and innovations. In total, more than 1,700 speakers presented scientific research, sharing their research findings, introducing the latest scientific achievements and establishing contacts with colleagues in Latvia and beyond.

During the reporting period, 139 international and national scientific events took place at the UL, including 52 scientific seminars, 66 conferences and 21 other events.

2.3.4. COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY

During the reporting period, the UL IAC concluded eight cooperation agreements with industry partners, including with AS Latvijas Finieris and the Competition Council, fostering long-term cooperation between the academic sector and industry. A research project with the State Chancellery on promoting productivity and reducing bureaucracy has been launched. The UL signed a memorandum with Anthem Foundation, strengthening cooperation at the Latvia–Italy level in the fields of medicine, healthcare, and life sciences. Cooperation memoranda were also signed with the Ministry of Defence, the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau, the State Police and LMT.

Last year, the UL was also part of the Ambition Forum, a significant event in the EIC Scaling Club community aimed at promoting rapid growth for Europe's most promising deep technology companies. The event took place in September in the UL Great Hall and brought together company founders, investors, corporate representatives, mentors and innovation leaders for engaging discussions, inspiring sessions and the development of new, valuable contacts.

In September, the European Hydrogen Valleys Investment Forum 2025 took place at the UL. The event provided an opportunity to present innovative hydrogen solutions and to establish

contacts with international industry experts and investors from around the world. In November, the Medical and Healthcare Industry Day was held at the UL House of Nature – an event that served as a cooperation platform for students, industry professionals, researchers, entrepreneurs and policymakers, bringing together approximately 80 experts from the sector. The development of the event was supported by Central Laboratory, the UL Riga Medical College and Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital.

During the year, the UL IAC participated in six exhibitions across various industries and held more than 100 meetings with business clients.

2.3.4.1. INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

During the reporting period, more than 100 potentially commercialisable products were identified at the UL, and researchers' ideas, inventions and solutions were surveyed with the aim of promoting their development and potential commercialisation. The IAC website provides access to the UL competence circle, or mapping, where industry representatives can select the research area of interest and contact directly the researcher who has the required competence.

The UL received approval for nine projects under the BioPhoT initiative. The long-term state research programme project "Biomedical and Photonics Research Platform for the Development of Innovative Products", or BioPhoT, was approved in late 2024. The UL is one of nine cooperation partners in it.

In two calls, a total of 66 research teams have been approved on the platform, promoting interdisciplinary cooperation in biomedicine, medical technologies, pharmacy, photonics, as well as smart materials, technologies and engineering systems. In the first call, 40 teams were approved, while in the second, 26 were approved. The third call will be announced in 2026, and it is planned that the new teams will begin work in August 2026.

2.3.4.2. UL'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Four Latvian patents were filed with the Patent Office. The UL intellectual property portfolio was supplemented by 16 new Latvian patents and four registered know-how items (Copyright.eu).

In the field of plant varieties, five rhododendron varieties were registered in the Royal Horticultural Society International Rhododendron Register: 'Gundega', 'Ingmārs', 'Kalsnavas Arborētums', 'Mana Madona' and 'Zanda'. In cooperation with the Lithuanian State Scientific Research Institute Nature Research Centre, the application process for the common duckweed (*Lemna minor* L.) variety 'Sta 2' was initiated with the Community

Plant Variety Office (CPVO).

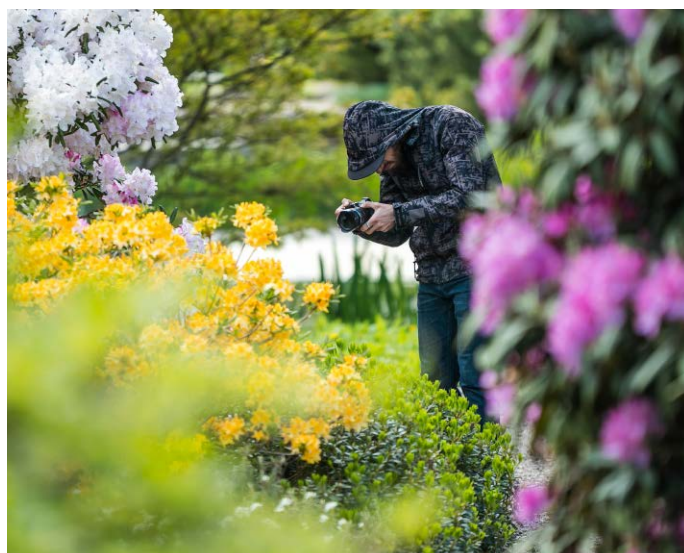
During the reporting period, the overall UL intellectual property portfolio comprised 53 Latvian patents in force (the highest figure in the last ten years), 31 registered items of know-how, 67 rhododendron varieties registered in the Royal Horticultural Society International Rhododendron Register, and 25 trademarks in force in the Patent Office register (not the result of scientific activity). A total of 25 intellectual property objects were licensed: 24 objects were granted an exclusive licence, while one object was granted 12 non-exclusive licences.

2.3.4.3. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND VALORISATION

During the reporting period, the UL significantly strengthened knowledge transfer by purposefully promoting the practical use and commercialisation of research results. The licensing indicators referred to above demonstrate growing industry interest in the technologies and solutions developed by the UL, as well as the potential of science to make a direct contribution to the development of the national economy.

At the same time, the UL purposefully expanded cooperation with the business environment, facilitating the transformation of research results into marketable products and services, as well as supporting the creation of science-based start-ups. Such cooperation promotes the uptake of innovation into practical use, the creation of new jobs, and the development of competitive solutions in areas of importance to society.

The development of the start-up and innovation ecosystem was further strengthened by initiatives aimed at students – hackathons, innovation festivals and programmes. They promote entrepreneurial skills, interdisciplinary cooperation and students' active involvement in addressing current societal challenges, turning academic ideas into practical, socially and economically significant solutions.



2.3.5. SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

During the reporting period, the UL intensified science communication, expanding and updating not only the volume of information provided but also the range of people involved, and the communication channels used.

The largest science communication event at the UL is the annual European Researchers' Night, during which more than 5,000 people of different ages learned about UL's scientific achievements. The UL's offering at European Researchers' Night is the broadest in Latvia and provides an opportunity to visit 70 science stations in all fields of science represented at the UL – from philosophy to laser technologies. The European Researchers' Night activities were complemented by the discussion series "Great Truths", in which UL researchers and experts from various sectors discussed topical issues such as public safety, innovation, health, etc. Video recordings of the discussion series were subsequently used for communication on social media and are also available for viewing by anyone interested on the UL YouTube channel.

At the annual conversation festival "Lampa", as usual, the Radio NABA studio "Alma Mater radio" operated under the "Science Café" brand and offered festival visitors' meaningful conversations on scientific issues. All UL faculties and several other structural units were involved in preparing the discussions; more than 20 UL experts discussed current issues.

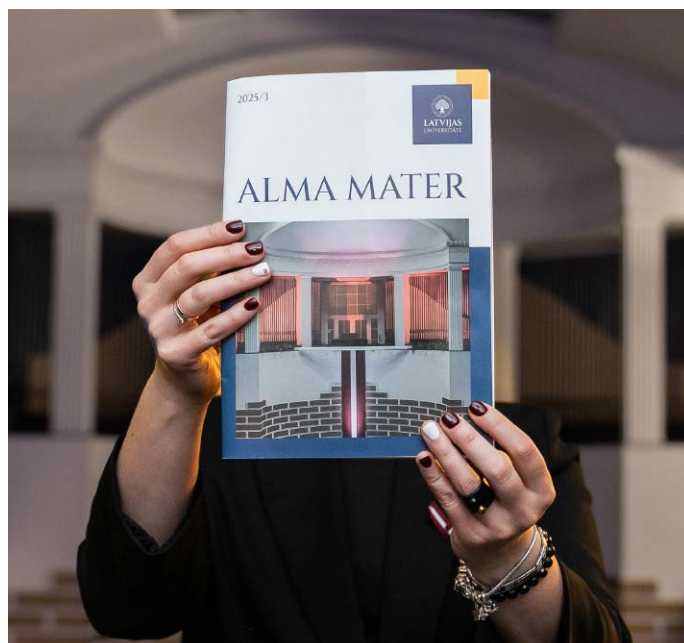
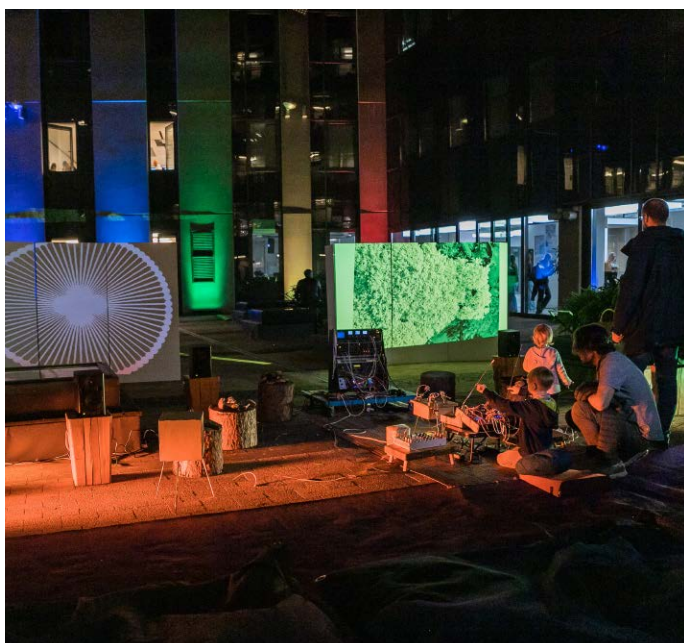
The UL magazine "Alma Mater" presented itself with a new design and content development principles and is available in both print and electronic formats. Each issue of "Alma Mater" features interviews with UL researchers, stories about current and significant projects, as well as discussions with foreign experts, etc.

UL communication channels, as well as the media, regularly reported on significant achievements and scientific publications by UL researchers – news can be read in the "Science" section of the UL website.

Informing the public about the defence of doctoral theses and new doctoral degree holders has become a regular and established practice. The faculties were actively involved in publicly honouring the new doctoral degree holders by creating content on social media and on their websites.

Raivis Bičevskis, tenure professor at the UL Faculty of Humanities, was included in the Science Calendar created by the Ministry of Education and Science, which each year highlights Latvia's most outstanding researchers. The exhibition of calendar portraits was also on display in UL buildings for several weeks.

Every week, the UL produces the internal newsletter "Be the First to Know", in which a special section is devoted specifically to current developments and achievements in research. One of the most popular programmes on UL Radio NABA is "In the Name of the Science", which regularly features UL researchers. Each month, several dozen UL representatives take part in interviews and comment on current affairs on television and radio programmes. The University's researchers are among the most sought-after commentators in the Latvian media on political developments, natural phenomena, historical facts and other fields.

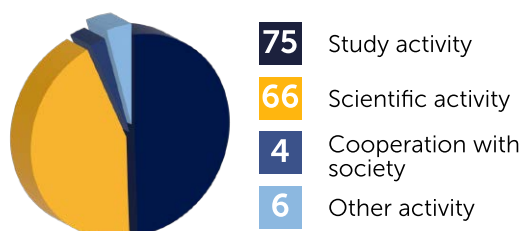


2.4. FINANCIAL INDICATORS, DONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

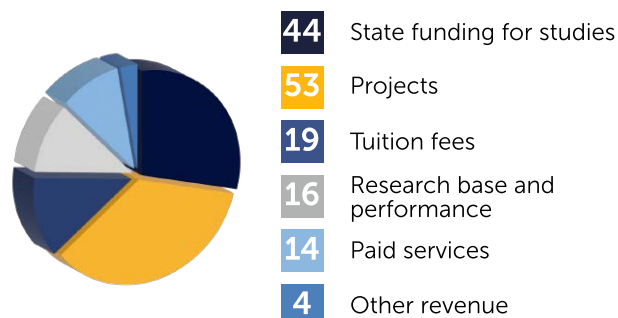
2.4.1. REVENUE

EUR THOUSAND	2023	2024	2025	2025
			Plāns	Fakts
State budget funding for studies	36 304	42 613	43 518	43 976
Tuition fees	16 483	16 823	17 936	18 767
Other paid services and economic activity	1 875	1 570	1 490	1 653
Project implementation	10 522	6 942	10 038	10 544
Bequests and donations	12	22	0	0
Study activity TOTAL	65 195	67 970	72 982	74 941
Science-intensive fee-based services	2 562	1 937	4 377	4 835
Base funding for scientific activity	8 311	10 061	10 242	10 242
Performance funding	3 678	5 065	5 497	5 497
Project implementation	30 840	40 192	40 543	40 664
Bequests and donations	1	2	0	0
State budget funding for scientific activity development	782	2 423	4 286	4 286
Scientific activity TOTAL	46 175	59 679	64 944	65 522
Other paid services and economic activity	1 864	1 711	1 985	2 105
Project implementation	216	691	1 309	1 610
Bequests and donations	10	16	30	33
Cooperation with society TOTAL	2 089	2 417	3 324	3 748
Other paid services and economic activity	5 285	5 107	5 301	5 608
Funds obtained from disposal of property	5 431	4 769	0	0
Project implementation	84	176	163	94
Bequests and donations	2	4	0	1
Other activity TOTAL	10 802	10 057	5 463	5 703
Borrowings received	0	21 000	6 500	6 500
Transfers to subordinate institutions and other revenue	5 645	6 602	6 847	6 847
TOTAL REVENUE	129 906	167 725	160 061	163 262

REVENUE 2025, EUR MILLION EUR



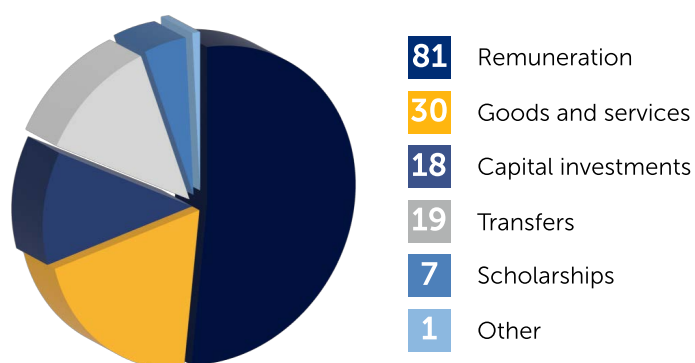
REVENUE 2025, EUR MILLION EUR



2.4.2. EXPENDITURE

EUR THOUSAND	2023	2024	2025	2025
			Plan	Actual
Remuneration	48 243	52 333	68 881	64 209
Employer's mandatory state social insurance contributions, benefits and compensation	11 970	13 621	17 652	16 453
Training, work and official travel, work trips	2 073	1 874	3 492	2 552
Services	23 963	22 508	30 329	23 489
Inventory, materials, energy resources and other goods	2 393	2 310	3 579	2 764
Tax, duty and penalty payments	1 222	1 189	1 495	1 247
Subsidies and grants to merchants, associations and foundations	3 209	1 108	1 805	1 380
Capital investments	14 285	12 226	22 363	17 643
Scholarships	4 182	5 261	7 192	6 713
International cooperation	4 998	16 786	3 989	4 107
Expenditure transfers for management of state-budget partially funded derived public persons and institutions not financed from the budget	3 680	4 683	4 648	6 034
Interest payments	421	478	953	953
Repaid borrowings	113	1 501	231	231
Transfers to subordinate institutions and other expenditure	5 734	6 597	7 527	7 527
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	126 487	142 476	174 136	155 301

EXPENDITURE 2025, MILLION EUR

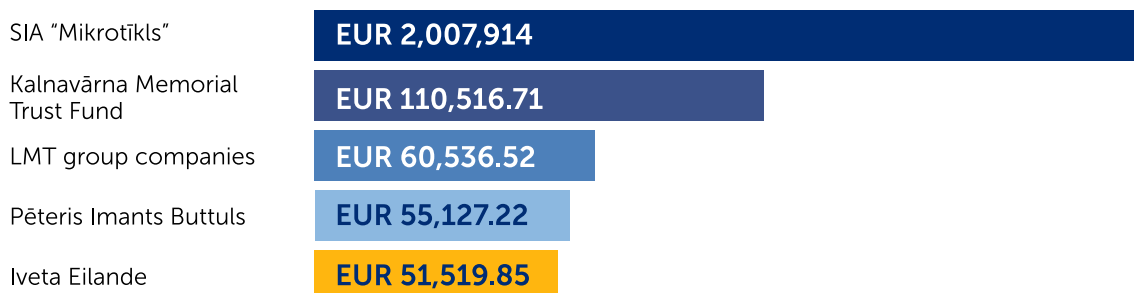


2.4.3. REPORT ON DONORS

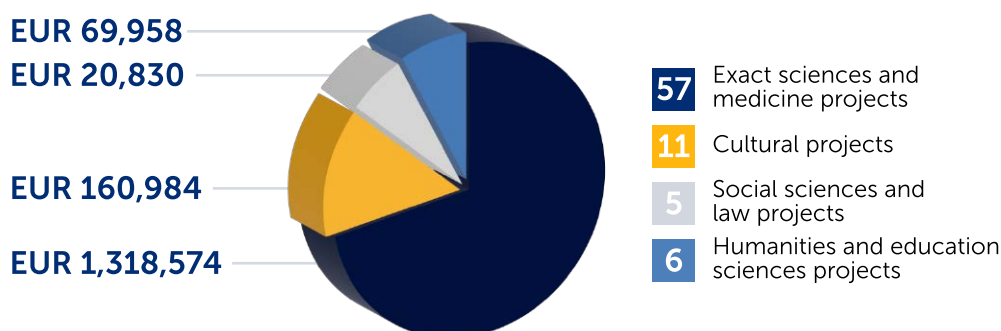
Through the UL Foundation, 557 patrons and supporters have contributed to UL scholarships and the development of science by donating EUR 2,866,365.57.



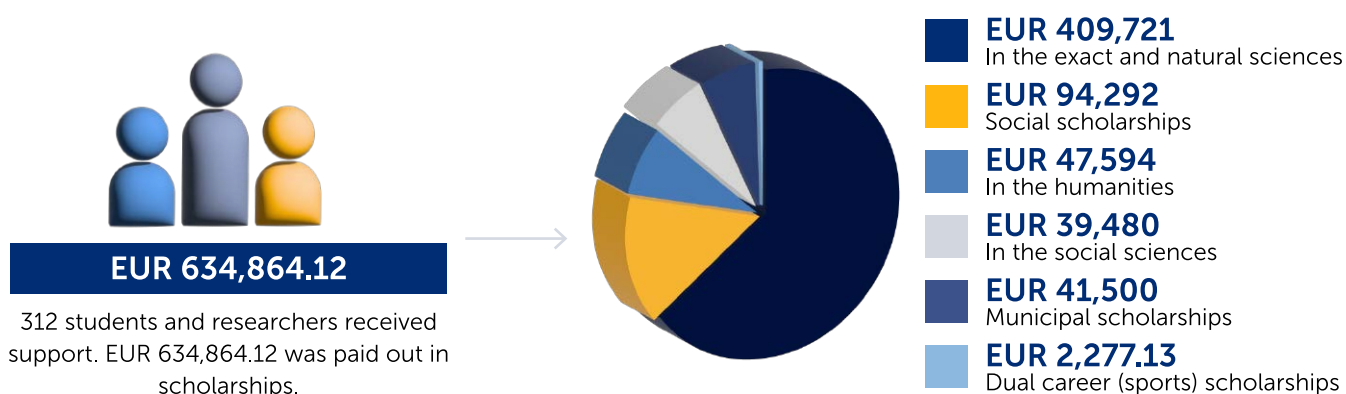
The most generous patrons in 2025



110 research projects were supported, and equipment was purchased for the development of UL research and laboratories, amounting to EUR 1,576,194.86. Funding allocated to projects and equipment purchases:



During the reporting period, students in various study programmes had access to **67 scholarship pools, of which 11 were new.**



2.4.4. SCHOLARSHIPS

The UL paid EUR 6.7 million in scholarships to students, including EUR 2 million in scholarships from the state budget grant, EUR 2 million in "Studēt gods" social scholarships, EUR 1.3 million under Erasmus+ programmes, and EUR 382,000 to students of the professional study programme "Teacher". Scholarships were also awarded under various projects implemented by the UL¹¹.

¹¹ <https://www.lu.lv/en/admission/scholarships-and-student-loans/fees-grants-and-scholarships>

3. STUDENTS, GRADUATES AND STAFF

3.1. STUDENTS

3.1.1. ADMISSION

www.gribustudet.lv

In the 2025/2026 academic year, the UL admitted 5,800 students.

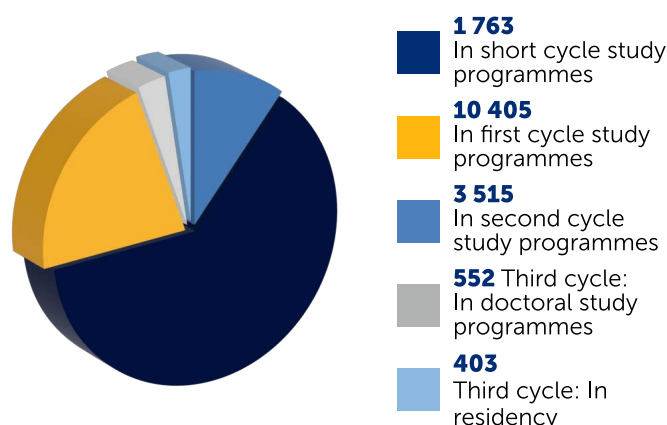
67% of matriculated students were women and 33% were men. Using the unified application system, the number of applications submitted to UL undergraduate study programmes as the first priority increased by 11% compared with the previous year.

Among higher education institutions, the UL consistently remains the most in demand in terms of the number of applications and first priorities – accounting for 54% of all applications and 55% of first-priority applications, respectively. In 2025, 10,156 applicants indicated a total of 47,874 priorities in their applications. The UL received 25,736 applications, of which 5,576 were first-priority applications. In the competition, 47% of all applicants registered in the unified admission system obtained a study place at the UL.

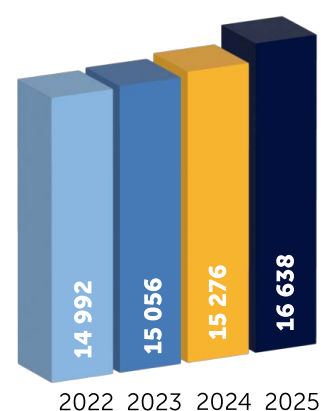
3.1.2. NUMBER OF STUDENTS

In terms of student numbers, the UL is the largest higher education institution in Latvia. During the reporting period, 16,638 students studied there.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY LEVEL OF STUDY



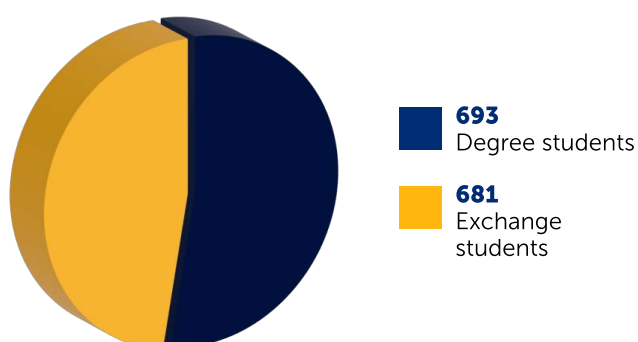
NUMBER OF STUDENTS



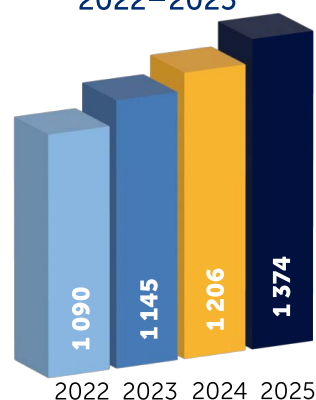
3.1.3. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students play an important role in the internationalisation of the UL. Compared with previous years, the number of international students has increased. In 2025, the share of international students in the total number of students at the UL was 8.3%.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
2022–2025



3.1.4. DOCTORAL STUDENTS

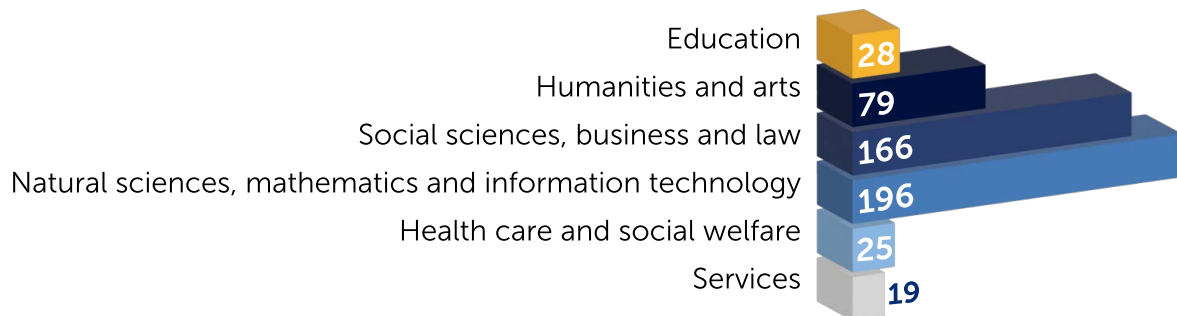
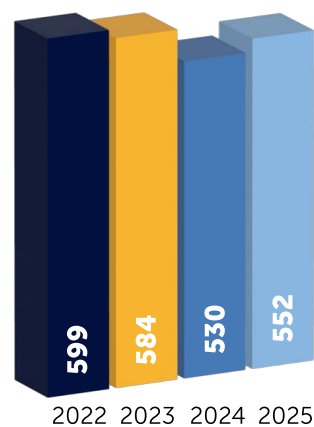
www.doktorantura.lu.lv/en

At the UL Doctoral School, work continued on developing a support system for doctoral students – monthly information seminars for doctoral students were introduced, and a Doctoral School website was created. To attract potential doctoral students, events entitled “Meet Doctoral Studies” were organised, as well as lectures on various topics relevant to research, etc.

As a result of the campaign to promote doctoral studies, both the number of applications for studies and the number of doctoral students admitted to programmes increased.

Work began on developing the Doctoral School’s offer to improve doctoral students’ transversal competences. There, doctoral students can receive both financial support for participation in conferences and support for consultations to improve research skills at the UL Statistical Research and Data Analysis Laboratory and the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

DOCTORAL STUDENTS



3.1.5. THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL

www.lusp.lv/en

During the reporting period, the UL Students' Council (SC) performed its functions and organised its regular events, as well as implemented new initiatives.

As usual, the priority was students and keeping them informed. An information seminar, "What is LSA?", aimed particularly at doctoral students while also involving other students, was organised in cooperation with representatives of other universities and the Student Union of Latvia. Discussions with lecturers on student-centred education also took place.

The SC actively promoted the university by organising the opening of the School for Young Professionals in September. The Council also improved students' everyday life at the university, for example by implementing the Social Programme and providing financial support to more than 80 students each semester. In future, students living in the BA School of Business and Finance student hostel, which became the UL property in the second half of 2025, will also be able to apply for the Social Programme.

Various student initiatives were supported in the SC project competition – 15 projects received funding with a total budget of almost EUR 50,000.

In cooperation with the UL Infrastructure Management Service, a pilot project was implemented to ensure the availability of menstrual hygiene products. For this initiative, which has received national recognition, SC representatives Laura Romanova and Annija Melece received certificates of appreciation at the Flame Awards for Women Leaders ceremony.

The SC also focused on active recreation, reviving the traditional student sports games "Engine". In cooperation with the UL Sports Centre, a winter sports day was held for students and staff, while the largest student festival in Latvia, "Aristotle", brought together approximately 2,000 visitors.

3.1.6. UL CAREER CENTRE

www.karjera.lu.lv/en

During the reporting period, the UL Career Centre provided 116 individual career consultations to both students and school pupils. The Centre organised eight seminars on choosing a profession for pupils in grades 9–12 (164 participants), as well as 17 seminars on other topics (249 participants). A Part C course, "Development of Career Management Competences", was developed and completed by 50 students.

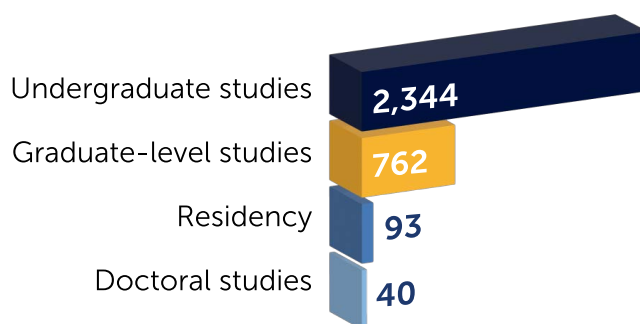
The team of psychologists provided 724 consultations to UL students and staff, including 29 international students.

Eight in-person psychology seminars for students and staff were held (166 participants), while, in cooperation with the International Mobility Unit, two webinars on psychological adaptation to life abroad within the framework of Erasmus+ were organised and attended by more than 90 students.

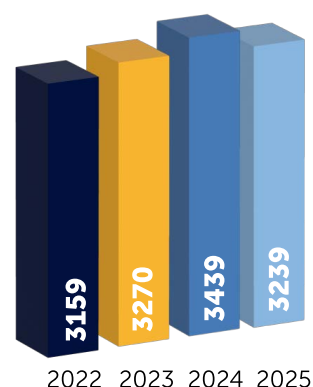
3.2. GRADUATES

In the 2024/2025 academic year, 3,239 students obtained a UL degree or qualification.

NUMBER OF GRADUATES BY LEVEL OF STUDY



NUMBER OF GRADUATES



3.3. STAFF

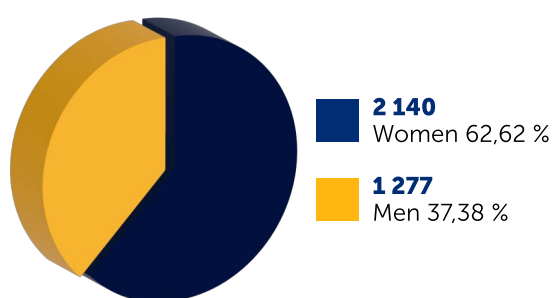
The UL personnel comprise a highly qualified body of academic and administrative staff who ensure the quality of studies, research and institutional development. UL employees are actively involved in international science, publish research in high-level scientific journals and participate in national and international research projects.

The personnel are characterised by interdisciplinary competence, a focus on innovation and cooperation with foreign partners, as well as a significant contribution to the development of Latvian society and the economy. UL employees regularly receive sectoral and national awards for their professional work, demonstrating the University's significant role in science and higher education.

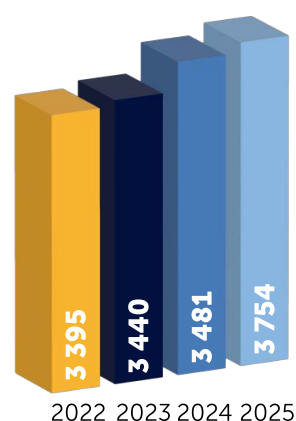
At the end of the reporting period, 3,600 employees¹² were working at the UL in primary and secondary employment.

In moving towards the new academic career model, UL and BA School of Business and Finance of the UL awarded exit grants to academic staff for the first time, providing support for a dignified conclusion to a professional career. Exit grants give teaching staff and researchers who have reached the age of 65 and do not plan to continue working in an academic post the opportunity to gradually and harmoniously conclude their professional path at the higher education institution. At the same time, this approach will promote the transfer of knowledge, experience and research results to the next academic generation.

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYEES BY GENDER



NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES



	2022	2023	2024	2025
Academic staff	1 314	1 278	1 305	1 355
Staff with a doctoral degree	851	831	888	1 064
General staff	2 081	2 162	2 176	2 399

¹² statistika.lu.lv

4. THE UL AND SOCIETY

4.1. KEY EVENTS

One of the most significant institutional events was the integration of BA into the UL. From September 1, BA became an academic institution of the UL with faculty status, strengthening the UL's capacity in the fields of entrepreneurship, finance and management sciences and in providing internationally competitive business education in the Baltic region.

During the reporting period, the traditional international scientific conference took place; it is one of the UL's most important academic traditions and a platform for scientific discussion across various fields.

The University also became a venue for large-scale international and local events. In April, the EUA Annual Conference took place, while in October the traditional international security forum, the "Riga Conference", brought together security sector experts from all over the world at the Academic Centre. The UL also welcomed future leaders by organising the final of the Latvian pupils' research project competition and supporting young researchers in the EU Contest for Young Scientists, "EUCYS 2025".

At the beginning of the summer, the UL Great Hall resounded with the voices of thousands of pupils, as the Hall hosted the choir final competition of the XIII Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Festival.

The academic year traditionally began in September with the largest student celebration in Latvia – "Aristotelis". Meanwhile, on the first day of studies, a new tradition was established – Student Day. This is an event at which first-year students can receive words of encouragement for their new life at the university, while senior students can receive useful advice from industry experts and even job offers.

Autumn is traditionally the busiest time for events at the University also because the UL celebrates its anniversary at the end of September. The motto of the anniversary week was "Everyone has their own story. Create it together with the UL!". For the first time, the Doctoral Degree Award Ceremony was held as a separate event, honouring recipients of doctoral degrees and emphasising their role in the development of science.

The UL anniversary week always coincides with European Researchers' Night, which traditionally brings together several thousand visitors of various ages at the UL Academic Centre.

In November, the competition and awards ceremony "Latvian Teacher of the Year", organised by the UL, took place for the second time. The aim of the award is to honour Latvia's most outstanding teachers and school teams in 13 nominations, highlighting their contribution to the quality of education, innovation and society. This award is heartfelt gratitude to teachers whose work inspires, changes lives and shapes the future.

In cooperation with the UL Foundation, a series of events, "Academic Readings", was launched, giving everyone interested an opportunity to hear world-class experts in various fields. The most attended event was Professor Charles Spence's lecture on human sensory perception and the interaction between the senses.



4.2. ACHIEVEMENTS

4.2.1. RANKINGS

During the reporting period, UL strengthened its position in international higher education rankings. In the QS World University Rankings 2026, the UL achieved a high position in the graduates' employment indicator and ranked first in Latvia in several of the assessed categories.

In the World University Rankings 2025, the UL maintained its place in the 1001–1200 band, confirming its stable position in the international higher education area and its role as a leading research university in Latvia.

In THE Impact Rankings 2025, the UL was once again ranked in the 201–300 band, confirming its stable performance in the field of sustainability and social impact.

In QS Sustainability Rankings 2026, the UL rose to 553rd place in the world and 235th place in Europe and retained 1st place in Latvia among the higher education institutions included in the ranking.

4.2.2. EMPLOYER ASSESSMENT

Employment is one of the most important indicators reflecting the quality of studies and the university's close links with the labour market, and in this area the UL has proven itself to be the undisputed leader in Latvia.

In the QS World University Rankings 2026, the UL strengthened its position as one of the leading higher education institutions in the region, ranking 89th in the world in the employment outcomes indicator, which is the highest achievement in this category among both Latvian and Baltic higher education institutions.

Data compiled by the Ministry of Education and Science on the employment and income in 2022 of 2021 graduates of Latvian higher education institutions show that the employment of UL graduates at higher levels of study was almost six percentage points higher than the average employment of graduates of other Latvian higher education institutions.

For the ninth year in a row, the bachelor's study programme "Computer Science" of the UL Faculty of Science and Technology was recognised as the most recommended in Latvia in the ranking of study programmes and educational institutions most recommended by employers, compiled by the Employers' Confederation of Latvia and the

career portal prakse.lv. In the ranking of educational institutions, meanwhile, the UL was ranked second.

The BA study programme "Finance", included in the UL ecosystem, took the honourable 4th place. The top 50 highest-rated study programmes also include UL's "Communication Science" (10th place), "Management Science" (16th place), "Law" (18th place), "Accounting, Analysis and Audit" (19th place), "Economics" (21st place), "Chemistry" (32nd place), the master's programmes "Computer Science" (40th place) and "Financial Management" (45th place). The ranking of schools and studies most recommended by employers has been compiled for 14 years. Its aim is to promote considered choices regarding further education and careers among graduates of basic schools, secondary schools and vocational education institutions, taking into account employers' views. In 2025, 2,710 employers took part in the survey. The ranking can be viewed at prakse.lv.¹³

4.2.3. AWARDS

During the reporting period, the honorary title of UL Professor Emeritus was awarded to Jānis Bičevskis, Juris Cālītis and Gunta Sprinģe, while the title of UL Honorary Doctor was awarded to Professor Iwan Michelangelo D'Aprile of the University of Potsdam, Professor Dmitry Budker of Johannes Gutenberg University and the University of California, Berkeley, Professor Vladislav Fomin of the Kaunas Faculty of Vilnius University, Professor Justin D. Holmes of University College Cork, Professor Emeritus Russell King of the University of Sussex, Māris Laiviņš, leading researcher at the Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava", and Professor Justyna Prusinowska of Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, and the University of Warsaw.

UL professor and Director of the Institute of Clinical and Preventive Medicine of the FMLS Mārcis Leja received Latvia's highest state award, the Order of the Three Stars, while the Cabinet of Ministers Award was received by Andris Šternbergs, leading researcher at the Institute of Solid State Physics of the UL, and Janīna Kursīte-Pakule, professor at the Faculty of Humanities.

The Cabinet of Ministers Certificate of Recognition was received by Jānis Spīgulis, professor at the Department of Physics of the Faculty of Science and Technology and Head of the Biophotonics Laboratory at the Institute of Atomic Physics and Spectroscopy; Valts Ernštreits, Director and leading researcher of the Livonian Institute of the Faculty of Humanities; Inta Mieriņa, tenure professor at the

¹³ www.prakse.lv/lv/tops

Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences; Baiba Martinsone, professor and leading researcher at the Faculty of Education Sciences and Psychology; and Edgars Vitols, conductor of the UL mixed choir "Aura" and principal conductor of the closing concert "Te-aust" of the XIII Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Celebration. The Prime Minister's Letter of Appreciation was presented to the UL leading researcher Māris Zunde.

The named awards of the Latvian Academy of Sciences were presented to Chair of the UL Council, Professor Mārcis Auziņš and Sandis Laime, researcher at the UL Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art. Named awards for young scientists were received by Anete Bērziņa and Tomass Stepiņš, young researchers at the Institute of Solid State Physics of the UL, while the awards for young scientists were received by the Institute's young researchers Vitālijs Dimitrijevs and Laura Pauniņa.

The Faculty of Science and Technology and UL Riga Medical College received the "Latvian Defence and Security Industries Annual Award 2026" (for achievements in 2025), confirming the UL's significant contribution to strengthening national security and defence. The Faculty of Science and Technology received this award in the "Research" category, while the College received it in the "Education" category.

At the "Psychologist of the Year 2025" ceremony, FESP lecturer Klāvs Ēvelis and assistant professor

Evija Strika, while at the "Annual Award in Medicine 2024" event organised by the Latvian Medical Association, the UL professor Uga Dumpis was recognised as "Lecturer of the Year".

The UL also received the Latvian Corporate Governance Award in the category "Strategic Vision of the Council". At the award ceremony, it was stated that the UL Council "has demonstrated a clear long-term perspective, successfully combining academic and practical experience, promoting the development of innovation, the integration of sustainability and high-quality risk management".

In the "LIFE Award 2025" competition organised by the Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development, the UL project "LIFE FOR SPECIES" received the award in the category "Most Significant LIFE Contribution to Environmental Protection".

For her significant contribution to the work of the Pharmacists' Professional Qualification Certification Commission of the Latvian Pharmacists' Society, active participation in pharmacists' continuing education projects, as well as for promoting the profession among young people, developing science and training students, the prestigious Vija Eniņa Award in Pharmacy was received by Zane Dzirkale, associate professor at the FMLS.



*President of Latvia Edgars Rinkēvičs presents the Order of the Three Stars to Professor Mārcis Leja, Director of the Institute of Clinical and Preventive Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine and Life Sciences of the University of Latvia.
Photo: Ilmārs Znotiņš, Chancery of the President of Latvia.*

4.3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The UL purposefully develops international cooperation¹⁴ and participates in the European Higher Education and Research Area. In 2025, the UL Internationalisation Strategy 2030 was developed, setting out the University's priority areas of international cooperation: international study experience, research with international impact, an internationally oriented university environment, and a sustainable international reputation. Considering geopolitical trends in the world, the UL is the first higher education institution in Latvia to have adopted an International Cooperation Policy, thereby providing significant support to the University's staff in developing safe international cooperation.

During the reporting period, several main areas of UL international cooperation emerged.

ENGAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS IN THE STUDY PROCESS

The UL has 690 degree-seeking students from more than 70 countries worldwide. International students are enrolled in 36 UL study programmes delivered in English at various levels of study. Six of these study programmes are double degree programmes implemented in cooperation with international higher education institutions.

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

The UL offers broad mobility opportunities for students and staff through Erasmus+ and other mobility programmes. During the reporting period, UL students undertook 454 study and traineeship mobilities, while UL staff undertook 166 teaching and experience exchange mobilities. In turn, 614 students from partner higher education institutions came to the UL for in-person mobility, while 117 students from partner higher education institutions used the virtual mobility opportunities offered by the UL. A total of 134 staff representatives from partner higher education institutions came to the University for experience exchange.

New mobility opportunities for students and staff were provided by four Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes implemented by the UL.

PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHEM EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE

As one of the first-wave participants in the European Universities Initiative, the UL continued its active involvement in FORTHEM, an alliance of nine European higher education institutions. The alliance is developing a shared multidisciplinary

higher education and research area encompassing various regions of Europe. Participation in the alliance provides the University with a strong platform for new cooperation projects, the development and implementation of innovative teaching and learning methods, support for early-career researchers, and opportunities to strengthen European civil society.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH LEADING EUROPEAN NETWORKS AND ASSOCIATIONS

The UL is represented in Europe's leading higher education and research associations, including the European University Association, the European University Foundation (EUF), the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA), The Utrecht Network and other organisations. In cooperation with the EUA, the University hosted almost 400 European higher education leaders from 36 countries at the EUA Annual Conference "Bridging Sustainability and Resilience". International events were also held and project initiatives implemented in cooperation with UNICA and EUF. The UL promotes international cooperation in research by participating in organisations such as CERN, ITER, ESA, etc.



¹⁴ www.lu.lv/en/cooperation/international-cooperation

4.4. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

During the reporting period, the UL intensified its cooperation with the media, developing special programmes and content materials for various target audiences. For example, cooperation with TV24 continued through the production of the discussion programme "Latvian Formula", in which experts from various fields, led by Professor Mārcis Auziņš, discussed topics important to Latvian society and the University. The University also began cooperating with print media, conducting interviews with representatives of the University's management and strengthening their role as opinion leaders in society.

A significant role in public communication was played by various large-scale local and international events, which shaped the UL's image as a place where important decisions are made and where the world's brightest minds gather: the UL hosted leaders of the EUA as well as international security experts at the annual "Riga Conference" and other important events.

In cooperation with the UL Foundation, the cycle of high-level expert public lectures "Academic Readings" was successfully held. Interviews with experts in written and video format received a broad response not only within the University community but also in society.

As increasing attention is being paid to science communication – the UL popular science magazine "Alma Mater" acquired a new design and content. It is designed to reflect the ideas, achievements and important events of UL researchers. Eight materials prepared by "Alma Mater" later also became media publications, thereby promoting both the magazine itself and the work of UL researchers.

During the reporting period, the websites of the six new faculties established in the consolidation process, as well as their social media accounts, became fully operational. The optimisation of the online communication channels under the UL's responsibility continued, and greater attention was devoted not to the number of websites and social media accounts, but to the quality of the information provided through them.

The largest and most attended public events at the UL, as always, were European Researchers' Night, the study festival "Universss@UL" and the events of the UL anniversary week.

CHANNEL	INDICATOR	2023	2024	2025
Social media	X follower count	10 031	8 539	8 600
	Facebook follower count	30 303	32 707	33 625
	Instagram follower count	13 200	15 252	16 440
	TikTok follower count	5 141	5 487	5 755
	LinkedIn follower count	51 457	49 441	56 470
	YouTube follower count	3 470	3982	4 220
UL portal	Number of visitors	506 000	579 000	264 471
	Number of news items	899	920	950
Student recruitment	Number of events for school pupils	6	6	6
	Remote school visits	16	12	5
	In-person visits	91	76	41
	Universss@UL	4 300	4 700	4 500
Photo archive	Number of images	139 248	15 6611	167 923
	New images	9 242	11 950	16 412
Radio NABA	Number of listeners per week	30 000	31 000	29 000
	Number of regular programmes	51	59	53
	New regular programmes	5	11	7
	Programmes aired in total	1 271	1 319	1 304
	Student and graduate engagement	90	100	90

4.5. UL LIBRARY

www.biblioteka.lu.lv/en

The UL Library, whose collection comprises around 3.5 million information resource items, not only provides significant support for studies and research, but is also open to anyone interested.

During the reporting period, the UL Library operated in nine locations, and the opportunities it offered were used 224,995 times by 18,514 registered users. The Library's collection was expanded by 32,943 copies, and visitors had access to 58 subscribed databases.

The UL Library expanded its operations and began serving users at a new location – the BA School of Business and Finance of the UL. The Library and Information Science Section of the UL 83rd International Scientific Conference took place, at which 14 papers were presented. On the 140th anniversary of the Misiņš Library, the international scientific conference "Seek in the Writings!" took place and the exhibition "Misiņš and His Library" was opened.

Educational activities implemented:

- 27 exhibitions were created;
- 39 public events were held;
- 182 classes were held for UL students and doctoral students;
- Two significant publications were published:
 - "Professor Dr habil. oec. Oļģerts Krastiņš: Life and Work" / compiled by Mārīte Saviča; UL Library. – Riga: University of Latvia Press, 2025.
 - "The 83rd International Scientific Conference of the University of Latvia. Library and Information Science Section: Book of Abstracts" / compiled by Mārīte Saviča. – Riga: University of Latvia Press, 2025.



4.6. UL MUSEUM

www.muzejs.lu.lv

To strengthen its links with society, the UL Museum successfully participated in the project "STEM and civic participation activities for broader educational experience and career choice" (Round 2), gaining the opportunity to deliver four natural sciences activities in schools.

The Museum's offering on Museum Night was appreciated by a record number of visitors. In total, 2,009 visitors viewed the cultural and historical elements of the UL Main Building – a cultural monument of national significance – on photo-orienteeing routes and became acquainted with items displayed in the botany and mycology, geology, and zoology collections. Children, school pupils, students, seniors, and foreign visitors were delighted by taxidermied birds and insects, vivid mineral crystals, fossils, and giant cones.

The 2024/2025 observation season at the UL Astronomical Tower concluded with a record number of visitors – 914 people climbed the tower and gazed at the stars. A new telescope began operating in the Astronomical Tower, the purchase of which was financed by 109 donors to a University of Latvia Foundation project. The diameter of the new telescope's lens is 254 mm, making it the largest lens in the tower.

Drawing on the results of research into collection artefacts, the Museum prepared several exhibitions that were on display at the UL Academic Centre. The exhibition "The University of Latvia Pharmacy" reflected the pharmacy's operations and the beginnings of higher pharmaceutical education in Latvia. The exhibition "Edge: Animals of the Year in the Habitat of the Year" was dedicated to the nature symbols of 2025, offering an opportunity to learn unusual facts about them.

The exhibition marking the 90th anniversary of the Freedom Monument, an outstanding Latvian national symbol, "Travertine and Granite for the Restoration of the Freedom Monument", features samples of stone materials and photographs obtained during the most important and extensive restoration works on the monument, as well as during pre-restoration research (1998–2001).

The UL Museum took part in preparing an exhibition dedicated to the 135th anniversary of Nikolajs Malta, the first director of the UL Botanical Garden and professor of botany, and it is currently on view at the Botanical Garden.

Honouring figures who have made a significant contribution to the development of the UL and Latvian science, the UL Museum organised an afternoon of remembrance dedicated to the centenary of Viktors Grāvis, a geologist, folklore collector, and advocate for nature and monument protection.

4.7. UL BOTANICAL GARDEN AND THE RHODODENDRON BREEDING AND TESTING NURSERY “BABĪTE”

www.botanika.lu.lv/en

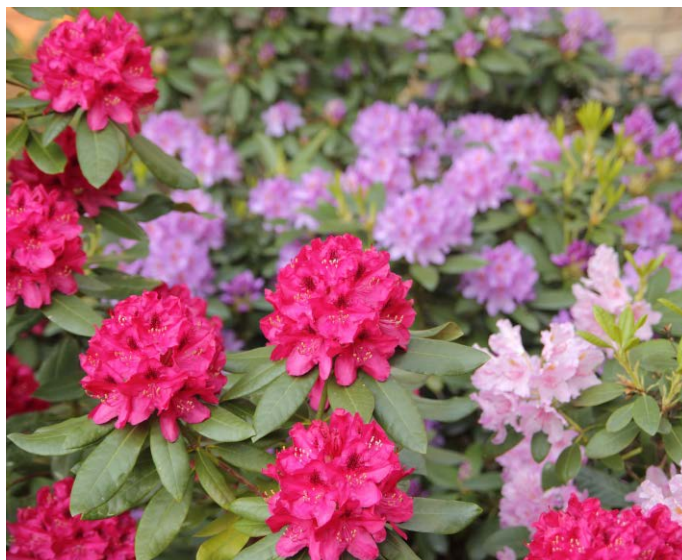
www.rododendri.lu.lv/en

The collections of the UL Botanical Garden contain 5,765 differently named plants, including 67 species that are rare worldwide. For seed exchange, seeds were collected from 569 different plants.

At the end of the year, the Palm House, which underwent significant changes during reconstruction, reopened its doors to visitors. In its very first days, it attracted many visitors.

In the competition “Best Building of the Year in Latvia 2024”, two garden expositions won first place in the “Landscape Structure” category. Two LIFE projects were implemented. The research results were summarised in three articles and one conference paper published in journals indexed in the Scopus database. Seven presentations on the results were given at international conferences and nine at the 83rd Scientific Conference of the UL.

During the reporting period, the UL Botanical Garden welcomed 39,846 visitors, and guided tours and classes were provided for 107 groups. Three international students (from Sweden, Australia and Denmark) chose the Garden as their internship placement.



The collection of the Rhododendron Breeding and Testing Nursery “Babīte” comprises 1,506 taxa:

- 119 wild species with varieties
- 410 cultivars
- 977 hybrids

Five outdoor rhododendron cultivars have been registered in the International Rhododendron Register maintained by the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain:

- ‘Gundega’
- ‘Kalsnavas arborētums’
- ‘Mana Madona’
- ‘Zanda’ (breeder R. Kondratovičs)
- ‘Ingmārs’ (breeder G. Riekstiņa)

The nursery’s staff have delivered presentations at seven conferences and seminars, and have taken part in nine exhibitions and fairs.

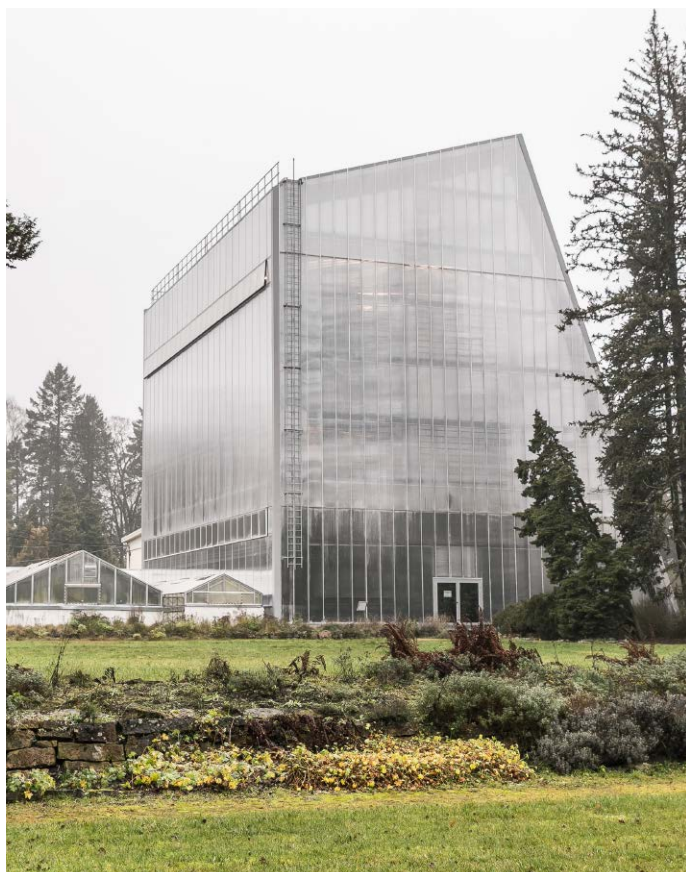
The nursery has been visited by 28,746 people, including 38 groups for which guided tours were led by a guide. Masterclasses and other events, including in cooperation with external partners, were organised to educate visitors.

4.8. CULTURE AND SPORTS

4.8.1. CULTURE

www.kultura.lu.lv/en

During the reporting period, the strategy of the UL Culture Centre was developed and approved. The Centre’s vision is to become a creative platform that brings together studies, science and culture. The aim is, by 2027, not only to ensure the active operation of 22 ensembles, but also to deepen the link with studies and research, as well as to promote interdisciplinary projects. In the future, the Culture Centre will become an open, inclusive and international cultural environment that strengthens the image of the UL in Latvia and worldwide.



In September, the BA mixed choir "Monēta" joined the UL Culture Centre, meaning that 22 artistic groups were actively operating at the UL: 11 choirs, five dance groups, a vocal ensemble, an early music ensemble, a student theatre, a wind orchestra, a folk dance group and a ceramics studio.

Several groups celebrated anniversaries: the dance ensemble "Pērle" – 15th, the folk dance group "Dandari" – 45th, applied art studio "Vāpe" – 50th, the dance ensemble "Dancītis" – 50th, the women's choir "Minjona" – 50th, the mixed choir "Dziesmuvara" – 100th, the Presidium Convention men's choir – 100th, and the mixed choir "Juventus" – 105th.

Throughout the year, the groups implemented their projects both in Latvia and abroad, and the total number of events involving UL groups exceeded 270, while the total number of visitors to them was 55,000.

In competitions in Latvia and worldwide, 18 diplomas and other awards were received. In the "Choral Music Annual Award" competition, UL choirs were nominated in nine categories. In the category "Choir Conductor of the Year", the award was received by Edgars Vītols, artistic director, conductor and teacher of the UL mixed choir "Aura" (the list of nominees also included Māra Marnauza, conductor of the UL women's choir "Balta", and Romāns Vanags, conductor of the UL women's choir "Minjona"). In the category "Cultural Venue of the Year in Latvia", the UL Great Hall was also named among the three nominees.

At the European wind orchestra competition Flicorno d'Oro 2025 in Italy, the UL Wind Orchestra won fifth place in one of the most demanding performance categories. At the international choir competition "Riga Sings", the UL mixed choir "Aura" and the men's choir "Dziedonis" received gold diplomas. At the international choir competition in Tampere, the UL mixed choir "Juventus" won the Grand Prix and received the highest jury assessment. At the 71st International Habaneras and Polyphony Competition in Spain, the UL women's choir "Balta" was awarded four top prizes: the Grand Prix, a gold diploma and two first places in various categories.

For his contribution to the XIII Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Festival, Edgars Vītols, artistic director of the UL mixed choir "Aura", received a Cabinet of Ministers Certificate of Appreciation. He was also presented with the Badge of Honour established by the "Lāčplēsis" Foundation for his significant, professional and creative contribution to educating the younger generation, developing choral music and ensuring the continuity of the Song Celebration tradition.

4.8.2. SPORTS

www.lu.lv/en/sport

During the reporting period, UL students actively attended training sessions in various sports: fitness, basketball, floorball, football, running, table tennis, judo, self-defence, chess and volleyball, and took the opportunity to develop their general physical fitness in functional training sessions.

To reduce the impact of sedentary work on health and work ability, UL staff were able to take part in the "Health Marathon" during the spring semester, attend various lectures on a healthy and active lifestyle, and participate in recovery breaks throughout the year. Nearly 800 students and staff attended Sports Centre training sessions during the year.

In the 2025/2026 academic year, the UL was represented in various sports leagues by one volleyball team and one floorball team, three basketball teams, as well as a cheerleading team.

All UL students and staff had the opportunity to register with a 50% discount for the 6 km, 10 km and half-marathon distances of the Rimi Riga Marathon. The UL was represented by 180 students and staff at mass participation events, including the marathon.

Fourteen active recreation and sports events were held: Winter Sports Day, hikes, night tournaments in various team sports, Student Sports Day, Family Sports Day and other activities, as well as staff bowling evenings. A total of 1,609 UL students and staff took part in these events. The traditional UL Staff Sports Games were also held in the summer, with 500 participants taking part. In total, 2,109 participants took part in the events.

In the 2025/2026 academic year, the UL awarded 59 sports scholarships to high-level athletes representing 17 sports. Students actively participated in the UL internal sports leagues in indoor football and volleyball, as well as in the joint Latvian higher education institutions' basketball league, which gave every student the opportunity to play their favourite sport once a week in healthy competition. The internal leagues brought together more than 240 UL students.

5. MAIN ACTIVITIES AND TASKS

The UL's strategic objective for the coming years remains unchanged – excellence in studies and research and international competitiveness.

IN 2026, THE UL WILL FOCUS ON FOUR MAIN PRIORITIES:

- developing the new UL strategy – a clear vision for development over the next five years;
- reducing bureaucracy – simplifying and optimising UL processes so that they can be implemented with less time, resources and energy;
- implementing legislative changes – two significant national-level reforms: a new institutional accreditation model and the academic career model;
- improving and developing IT systems – a modern and user-friendly digital environment, AI integration in studies and research.

2026 BUDGET PRIORITIES:

- development of the teacher training and professional development system;
- increasing the number of graduates in graduate-level studies in strategic specialisations;
- introducing new technologies and developing AI tools and a central platform at UL, promoting the safe, ethical and trustworthy use of AI in UL study and research processes;
- strengthening the UL's research capacity (training early-career researchers, productivity, reputation, citation impact, visibility);
- organising high-quality international and networking events, intensive involvement of academic staff, and internationalisation of the study process;
- promoting cooperation with industry and commercialisation.





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