STUDENT GUIDE

STUDY YEAR OF
2023/2024

CONTENTS

WELCOME TO LATVIA, WELCOME TO RIGA

Latvia is an Eastern European country situated on the Baltic Sea shore right between Lithuania and Estonia and bordering Russia, Belarus.

FACTS AND FIGURES	
Official name	Republic of Latvia
Political system	Parliamentary Republic, represented by a unicameral parliament (Saeima), with 100 members elected once in 4 years
Country code	LV
Capital city	Riga, the biggest city in the Baltic states
Other major cities	Daugavpils, Valmiera, Jelgava, Liepaja, Ventspils
Time Zone	GMT+2, GMT+3 (Summer)
Membership	European Union, Schengen Area, Eurozone, United Nations, Council of Europe, NATO, OECD, WTO
Currency	Euro (EUR)
Official language	Latvian
Most used foreign languages	Russian, English, German
Border countries	Estonia, Lithuania, Russia, Belarus
Coastline	498 km (Baltic Sea and Gulf of Riga)
Surface Area	total: 64, 589 sq km land: 63,589 sq km water: 1,000 sq km
International dialing code	+371
Internet domain	.lv
Population	1,906,743 (2019)

Latvia is one of the top study-abroad destinations due to low tuition fees and a wide range of universities with expert faculties.

The climate in Latvia is transitional from coastal to continental. It means that there are four seasons, and our students may enjoy each of them.

Due to the vast influence of the Baltic Sea, winter is usually mild here. It is not too cold, but it is still humid enough. Snowfalls can be observed from the middle of December to the beginning of March. Still, snowfalls aren't that heavy and don't last long.

WEATHER TO EXPECT

DECEMBER	APRIL	SEPTEMBER
Max average t°: -2 °C (28 °F) Min average t°: -7 °C (19 °F)	Max average t°: +10 °C (50 °F) Min average t°: +1 °C (34 °F)	Max average t°: +17 °C (63 °F Min average t°: +8 °C (46 °F)
JANUARY	JUNE	OCTOBER
Max average t°: -4 °C (25 °F) Min average t°: -10 °C (14 °F)	Max average t°: +21 °C (70 °F) Min average t°: +9 °C (48 °F)	Max average t°: +11 °C (52 °F) Min average t°: +4 °C (39 °F)
FEBRUARY	JULY	
Max average t°: -3 °C (27 °F) Min average t°: -10 °C (14 °F)	Max average t°: +22 °C (72 °F) Min average t°: +11 °C (52°F)	
MARCH	AUGUST	
Max average t°: +2 °C (36 °F) Min average t°: -7 °C (19 °F)	Max average t°: +11 °C (52 °F) Min average t°: +11 °C (52 °F)	

CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE

Latvia has a vibrant cultural life. With over 800 Art Nouveau buildings, Riga has one of the world's most incredible galleries of this lively style.

Classical and modern music and dance performances are of high quality.

Latvians are also big fans of theatre and contemporary music. We have museums that cover all sorts of topics and areas. Cinema theatres screen films in the original language with subtitles.

Swimming, track and field, basketball, volleyball and fitness are activities you can quickly get engaged in. Bowling and golf are the sports that rapidly gain their popularity with facilities opening all around the country. Ice hockey, football and basketball are the most popular spectator sports. By popular demand, bars and cafes set up large screen TVs during championships.

NATIONAL CUISINE

Latvians enjoy eating, and food is the central element of almost any celebration. Traditional food is filling and nourishing. Meat, fish, potatoes and dairy products are the most popular components of everyday dining. Salads are more often composed of vegetables and greens, and sour cream or mayonnaise are the preferred dressings.

Contemporary Latvians are still very fond of their traditional dark rye. Many people enjoy growing their own fruits and vegetables or harvesting wild berries and mushrooms from the forests.

TRANSPORT AND TRAVELLING AROUND

Several different airline companies serve Riga airport, including budget airlines. It is usually not a big issue to book a reasonably priced ticket.

Another way of arriving in Latvia is by ferry. Riga has a ferry connection to Stockholm in Sweden. Ventspils city port is connected with Ninneshamn in Sweden and Travemunde in Germany. The city of Liepaja also offers a ferry route to Travemunde in Germany.

International train routes are currently limited to connections with Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia and Minsk in Belarus.

Extensive bus connections very well serve Riga. Bus routes connect Latvia with Austria, Belgium, Belorussia, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, Russia, Switzerland, the UK and Ukraine.

LANGUAGE

Latvian is the official state language in Latvia. Latvian belongs to the Baltic branch of the Indo-European language family. Although the official state language is Latvian, you will easily get around with Russian and English command. A large part of the population of Riga is Russian-speaking, and most locals do understand English.

As for study instruction language, in the state universities, the language of instruction is Latvian. However, programmes for international students are designed and taught in English.

TERM DATES AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

The academic year in most universities starts in September. It comprises 40 weeks and is divided into two semesters.

Autumn semester

- Lectures: September to December
- Exams: December / January
- Holidays: Christmas time

Spring semester

- Lectures: February to the end of May
- Exams: May / June
- Holidays: July to August

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Most shops and all banks will be closed on the following dates:

- January 1 (News Year's Day)
- Good Friday and Easter Day
- May 1 (Labour Day) and May 4 (Constituent Assembly Convocation Day)
- Second Sunday in May (Mothers' Day)
- June 23 (Midsummer Eve) and June 24 (St John's Day)
- November 18 (National Day)
- December 25 and 26 (Christmas Eve and Day)
- December 31 (New Year's Eve)

![TSI logo] **TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATION INSTITUTE**

Transport and Telecommunication Institute (TSI) – is a modern university of applied sciences with a centennial history. TSI is a successor of the legendary RKIIGA (Riga Civil Aviation Institute) and RAU (Riga Aviation University).
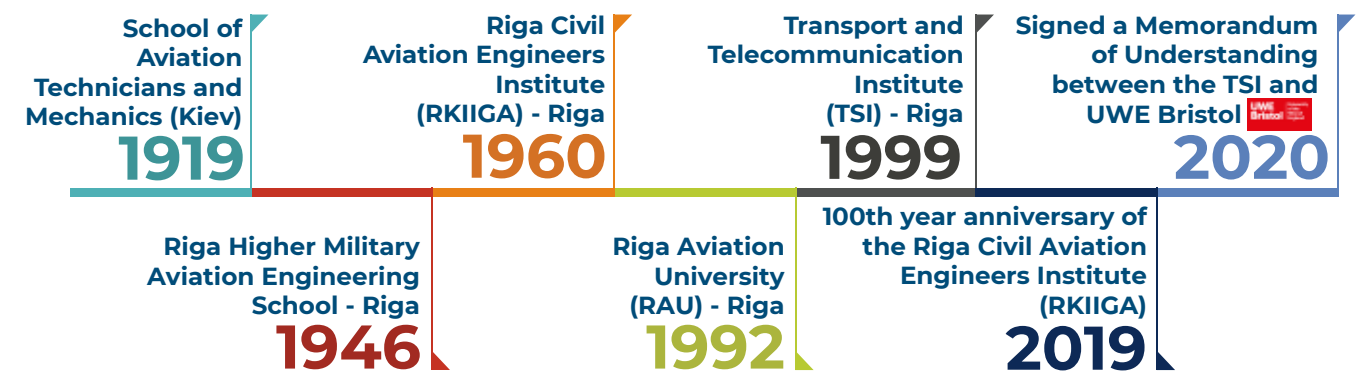
We are proud of its international environment. Currently, there are students from 32 countries of the world studying at TSI, including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Lithuania, UK, Spain, Turkey, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, India, Egypt, Peru and other countries.
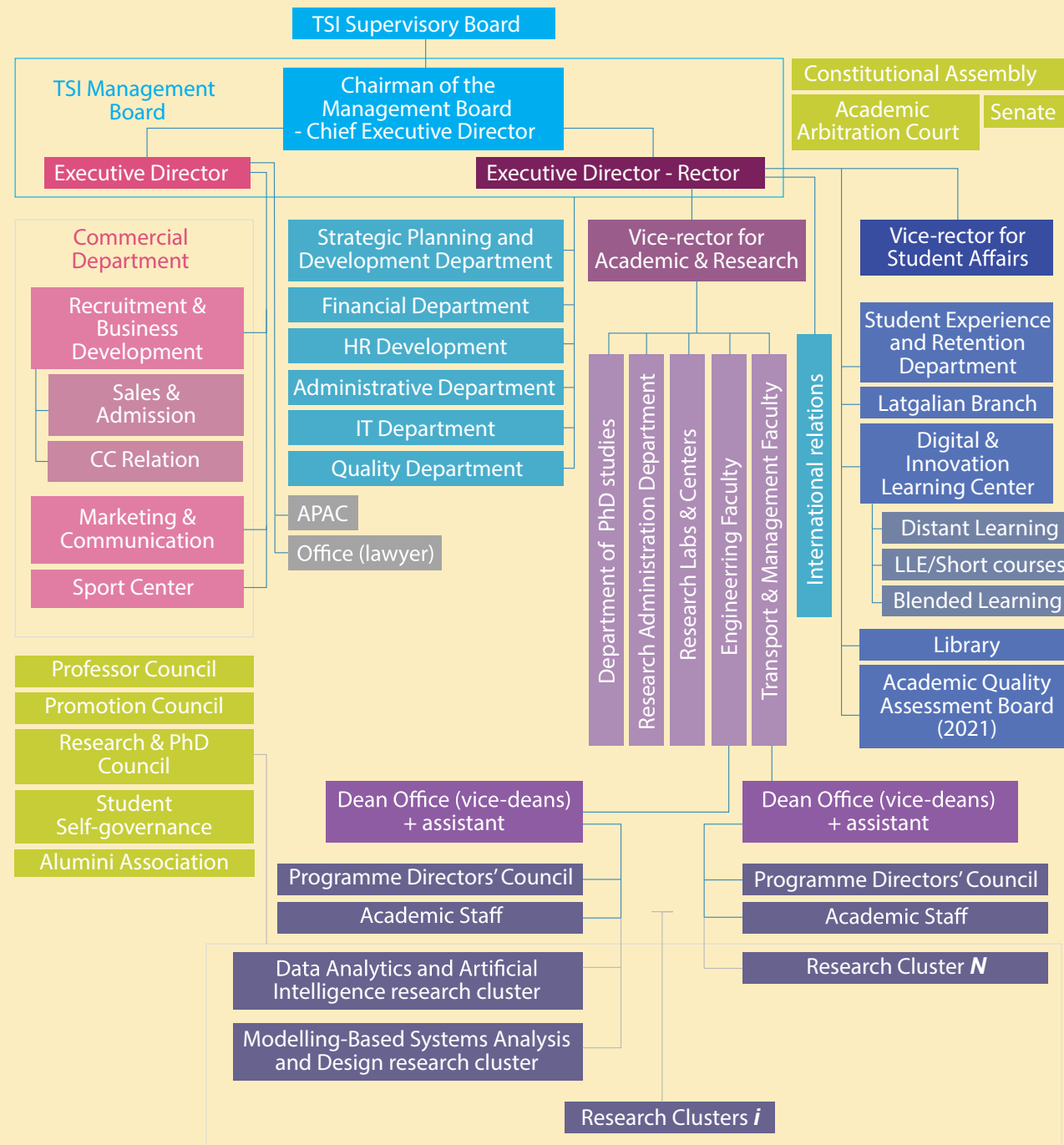
HISTORY

TSI was established in 1999. Nowadays, TSI – is the only private technical higher education institution in Latvia. All study programs are provided in two languages - Latvian and English. The Institute has received permanent accreditation in Latvia as a higher education institution.

TSI provides academic study programs in the following directions: transport and logistics, aviation, computer sciences and networks, electronics and robotics, management and business.

Our academia engages in diversified research and scientific work. According to expert evaluation results, Transport and Telecommunication Institute is the only among private higher educational institutions included in leading scientific institutions acting in Latvia.

School of Aviation Technicians and Mechanics (Kiev)
1919

Riga Civil Aviation Engineers Institute (RKIIGA) - Riga
1960

Transport and Telecommunication Institute (TSI) - Riga
1999

Signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the TSI and UWE Bristol
2020

Riga Higher Military Aviation Engineering School - Riga
1946

Riga Aviation University (RAU) - Riga
1992

100th year anniversary of the Riga Civil Aviation Engineers Institute (RKIIGA)
2019

STRUCTURE

- TSI Supervisory Board

TSI Management Board
- Chairman of the Management Board - Chief Executive Director

- Constitutional Assembly
  - Academic Arbitration Court
  - Senate

- Executive Director
- Executive Director - Rector

Commercial Department
- Recruitment & Business Development
  - Sales & Admission
  - CC Relation
- Marketing & Communication
- Sport Center

- Strategic Planning and Development Department
- Financial Department
- HR Development
- Administrative Department
- IT Department
- Quality Department
- APAC
- Office (lawyer)

- Vice-rector for Academic & Research

- Vice-rector for Student Affairs
  - Student Experience and Retention Department
  - Latgalian Branch
  - Digital & Innovation Learning Center
    - Distant Learning
    - LLE/Short courses
    - Blended Learning
  - Library
  - Academic Quality Assessment Board (2021)

- Department of PhD studies
- Research Administration Department
- Research Labs & Centers
- Engineering Faculty
- Transport & Management Faculty
- International relations

- Professor Council
- Promotion Council
- Research & PhD Council
- Student Self-governance
- Alumini Association

- Dean Office (vice-deans) + assistant
  - Programme Directors' Council
  - Academic Staff
  - Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence research cluster
  - Modelling-Based Systems Analysis and Design research cluster

- Dean Office (vice-deans) + assistant
  - Programme Directors' Council
  - Academic Staff
  - Research Cluster *N*

- Research Clusters *i*

HOW TO GET HERE

TSI is located in Riga, 1 Lomonosova Street

It's easily accessible by public transport

- by Trolleybus **#15**
- by Bus **#18**
- by Minibus **#204**
- by Express bus **#316**

DUCK REPUBLIK REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT HOTEL

Lauvas Street

Lauvas Street

1 LOMONOSOVA STREET

AVIATION CENTER

TSI

MEMORIAL PARK

Stop

Ebreju Street

Lomonosova Street

ROBOTICS CENTER

Stop

SUPPORT AND CONTACTS

Before arrival

ADMISSION TEAM
Telephone: +371 29 990 841
WhatsApp: +371 29 990 841
E-mail: admission@tsi.lv
Skype: infotsi

After arrival

ADMISSION TEAM
Telephone: +371 29 990 841
WhatsApp: +371 29 990 841
E-mail: admission@tsi.lv
Skype: infotsi

LIBRARY

TSI Library offers users access to over 3,000 eBook collections. Thematic coverage of the collection: STEM disciplines (computer science, electronics, telecommunications, information systems, mathematics, engineering), including aviation. In other scientific disciplines, including economics, management, transport and logistics, interdisciplinary books can also be found.

Each collection consists of hundreds of books and scientific publications, which will be especially useful for magistracy and doctorate students.

SPORT CENTRE

TSI is proud of its recently refurbished sports centre with several separate halls allowing students to engage in various sports activities starting from football and volleyball to climbing. Gym facilities with spacious and comfy changing rooms and showers are on-site, bringing a healthy, active life even closer.

Monthly membership fees start with as low as € 20.00.

STUDENT COUNCIL

So different yet so united. TSI student council consists of 20 fulltime members and uncountable supporters. The team is diversified in terms of ethnicity, age, background, and everyone is welcome here when in need of advice or just a pat on the back. Council organises multiple student events monthly. Whether it is Valentine day
or Eid-al-Fitr, or just a great sunny day, they find the best celebration solution.

It is not only about festivals, though. Significant support with your academic, financial matters vor day-to-day issues can also be found here.

Active members of the Council are eligible for a 10 % tuition fee discount.
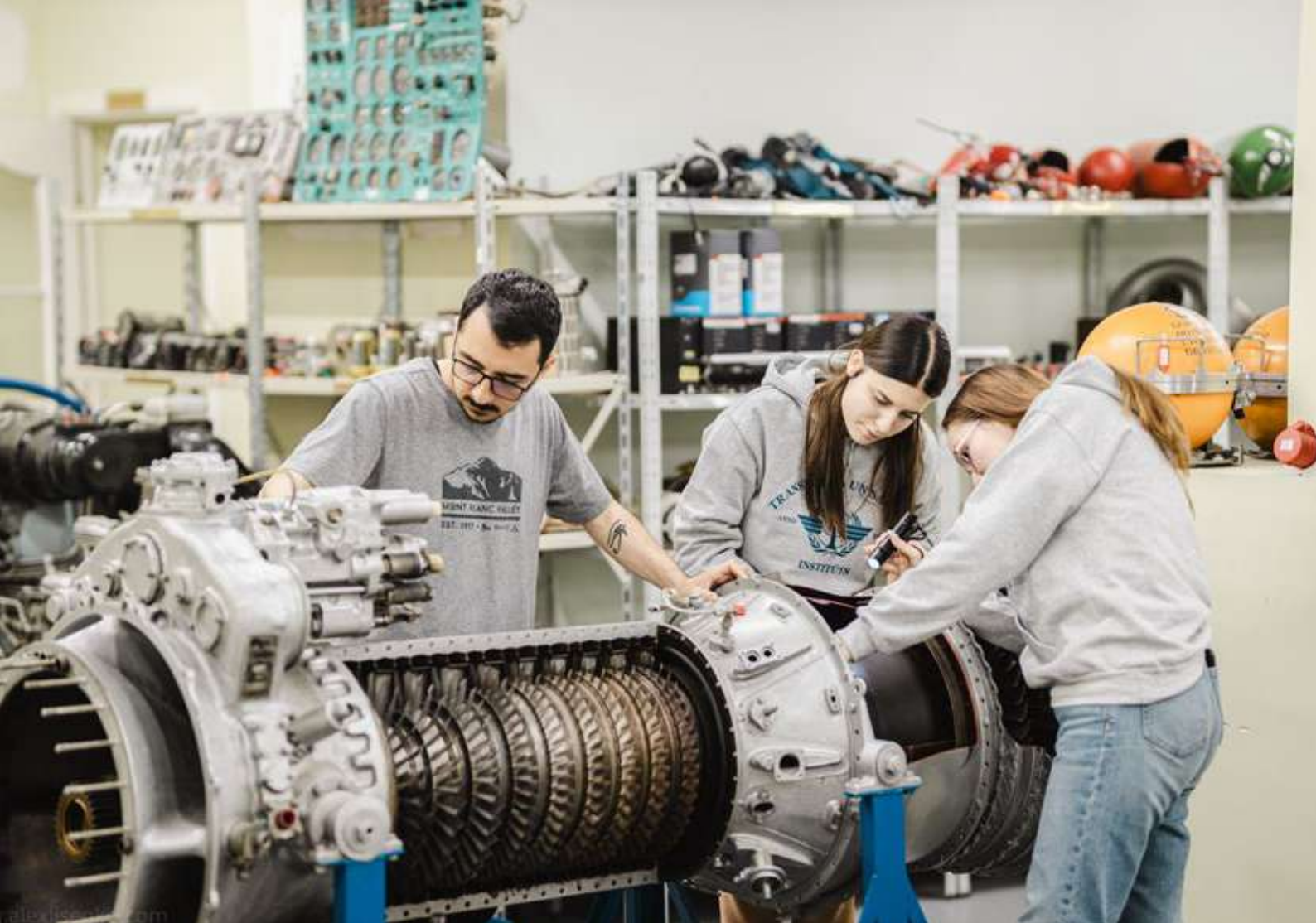
RESEARCH AND LABS

TSI engage in different international and local research projects.
We have developed an outstanding research infrastructure to provide students, academic and scientific personnel, and visiting researchers with opportunities to conduct research using up-to-date technical equipment and laboratories on-site.

There are 19 laboratories at TSI available for those seeking to develop their practical and research skills

The Academic and Professional Aviation Centre (APAC)
provides training to aviation professionals worldwide. Under Part 147, APAC is a certified organisation of the European Aviation Safety Agency.

The Telecommunications, Electronics and Robotics Centre (TERC)
consists of 11 labs equipped with advanced software and technical equipment that is actively used in academic and research work. Each lab is a modern technical, software and methodological complex allowing conducting classes with students at the highest level.

The Computer Networking Lab "CISCO Networking Academy"
was created with the support of the academic programme implemented by CISCO Inc., the world's leading computer network and cybersecurity company. The lab is equipped with the technical equipment and advanced software required to provide students with the opportunity to gain practical experience in the field of computer networks.

The Lab of Applied Software Systems (LAS)
provides the opportunity for students, doctoral students and TSI academic and research staff to use the unique software for the preparation and development of final papers, research and contract research. The software offered is mainly oriented to the modelling of transport flows, modelling of production processes, logistics and business process modelling.

Software and information system development laboratory (DevLab)
is a challenge-based laboratory of Computer Science and Telecommunication Faculty, targeted at organising creative teams of developers who can deliver innovative software solutions to the industry based on cutting-edge technologies. Laboratory unites researchers, students to create innovative solutions, develops new industry-demanded skills in the area, empowers start-up thinking and makes any student's ideas possible

CAREER

Cooperation with employers is invaluable because they give students first insights into their professional lives. TSI students have the opportunity to meet employers in person, find out about internships and career opportunities.

TSI offers continuous growth for students. The Institute maintains long-term relationships with more than 100 partners, ensuring an environment in which students have the opportunity to develop themselves and meet with industry representatives.

LOYALTY AND GRANTS

Annually, TSI supports excellent and determined students by offering 50%, 75% or even 100% discount on tuition fee. It is a matter of actual Student's performance, and this support is only available for those who already have completed at least one semester of their studies at TSI.

State issued scholarships are available in some cases, for more info about eligibility and application procedure, reach out to viaa.lv

ADMISSION PROCESS

- Fulfill application in the system and upload documents
  · International passport (main page)
  · Education documents (title page and grade lists)
  · B2 level English knowledge Certificate or
    Medium of Instruction Letter
- Pay registration fee directly to TSI account
Till 10 working days

- Pass entrance tests and Online Interview
- Receive positive decision for your educational
  documents from AIC
- Choose Accommodation in Riga
  Till 45 working days

- Pay Tuition fee and sign Study Agreement
  (upload Scanned agreement back to the system)
- Receive Invitation from TSI
- Make appointment in Embassy and inform TSI
- Receive Visa *(specified individually)*
  Till 45 working days

- Arrive to Latvia, to TSI
- Start studies
- Receive Residence Permit
Till 45 working days

3 - 6 month

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For the Academic Year 2023/2024:

- English language proficiency CEFR level B2 (International Certificate) or Merit of Instruction in English – IELTS, TOEFL, PTE, ECR, Cambridge Test
- Online entrance test – English, Maths or Physics (undergraduate programs only)
- Skype interview

TSI organises all Entrance tests once the Registration Fee has been paid. Tests are online-based.

EXAM REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Study programme	Entrance test
Bachelor in Aviation Engineering	English, Physic
Computer Sciences (Double Degree): Artificial Intelligence	English, Math
Bachelor of Natural Sciences in Computer Science	English, Math
Business and Management	English
Professional Bachelor of Transport and Business Logistics	English
Telecommunication Systems and Computer Networks	English, Maths, Physic
Academic Bachelor of Electronics	English, Maths, Physic
2th Level Professional Bachelor of Electronics	English, Maths, Physic
Robotics	English, Maths, Physic
Distance learning Programme	**Entrance test**
Business and Management	English

Registration Fee (non-refundable) is € 200.00 for Bachelor and Master study programs, € 275.00 for PhD study program, € 95.00 for distant undergraduate studies and € 135.00 for postgraduate studies accordingly.

Registration fee includes:

- Validation of high school documents (AIC – Academic Information Centre)
- Invitation
- Fluorography (X-rays) and insurance for initial residence permit application (the instruction for this service will be provided).

Extra costs, depending on your situation, may also include:

- Repeated Invitation number (if required) – € 100.00
- Delivery of the documents by express post € 110.00

For in-depth detailed information on fees and payments, please visit:

NB!

If you are coming from the HCCH country list, your documents must be legalised by the issuing State

If you are coming from a non-HCCH country list, your documents must be legalised in the issuing State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also by the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Embassy of Latvia

If you are coming from one of the countries mentioned **here**, your documents must be legalised in the issuing State by both zthe Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy, than also legalised by the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Embassy of Latvia.

Documents to be legalised:

- Education documents – diploma and transcripts
- Police record clearance

To obtain an Invitation, you have to upload the following documents into the Admission system:

- Digital copy of passport;
- Digital copy of education documents with mark sheets;
- English proficiency Certificate;
- Digital copy of the Accommodation Contract;
- Digital copy of the signed Study Contract;
- Full payment.

TSI ADMISSION PROCEDURE AFTER ARRIVAL

On the day of arrival in Riga or on the next working day, the Student has to visit TSI at 1 Lomonosova Street, Room 100 (Student Experience and Retention Department (Study Department) and submit all original documents to the TSI service specialist.

TSI specialist will help prepare all the documents for submission to the OCMA to obtain the Residence Permit or the Identification Card (ID card).

TO OBTAIN
THE RESIDENCE PERMIT

- Residence Permit Application – filled out
- International passport (copy of all pages with marks)
- Study agreement signed by the applicant (copy)
- Rental agreement (copy)
- Bank statement on one of the student's name (original, with at least 6000 EUR confirmed in equivalent currency, valid for three months from the date of issue; is to be valid until the Residence Permit is received)
- Police certificate on the student's name with Apostille (original), in English, Latvian or Russian language (or translation in one of these languages notarized), valid 6 months from the date of issue. Not required for those who entering with the biometric passports
- Educational documents with Apostille (copy)
- Application form fulfilled and signed by the applicant
- Student's picture 3*4 on white background
- Application fee payment confirmation (can be covered in Latvia). It takes 10-45 calendar days to receive a residence permit. The document review cost is € 70.00 (30 days) or € 200 (10 working days).

TO RECEIVE THE RESIDENCE
PERMIT CARD (ID CARD),
YOU WILL NEED

- Passport with a visa
- Fluorography x-rays
- Insurance

Once the ID card has been received, the student must present it to the TSI Student Experience and Retention Department; the Student Card will be issued after that.

NB! The student can start studies straight after arrival, given that the classes have already started.

GOOD TO KNOW

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Riga Public Transport system covers all territory of Riga city. The public transport includes buses, trams and trolleybuses, and micro-buses with over 100 routes; night public transport is also available. Find routes and timetables here:

www.rigassatiksme.lv/en/

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

€ 15 monthly student ticket with a discount on public transport of Riga (buses, trams, trolleybuses); € 1.5 the 90-minute ticket can be used in any kind of public transport in Riga.

€ 7–15 taxi from the city centre to suburbs in Riga (1 transfer).

SETTING UP A BANK ACCOUNT

As a Latvian resident, you will definitely prefer to open a local bank account to simplify your money management routine and save on the conversion and commission rates making your daily purchases. To set up a bank account, you will need your Residence Permit card an official TSI letter confirming your status as a student. It is a matter of filling an application form on our website and visiting our Study department.

You can visit any bank or call them by phone.

- Bank Citadele +371 67 010 000.
  The nearest branch: 46 Krasta Street, Riga (shopping mall Mols)
- Bank Swedbank +371 67 444 444. The nearest branch: 46 Krasta Street, Riga (shopping mall Mols)
- Bank Luminor +371 67 17 1880. The nearest branch: 12 Skanstes Street, Riga
- Bank SEB +371 26 6687 77. The nearest branch: 67 Dzirnavu Street, Riga

SECURITY AND PERSONAL SAFETY

Riga is a generally safe city. However, as in any big city, you have to be careful and notice your surroundings. If in need and you think there is a danger to you or the ones around regarding health, life and safety, you may dial the General Emergency Number 112. Call short number 110 only if you require rapid assistance from the police and want to report a breach of public order, a crime or traffic accident.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL

Firefighers	112	Police	110
Medics	113	Gas	114

COSTS OF LIVING AND ENTERTAINMENT IN RIGA

AVERAGE
PER PERSON
PER MONTH

Everyday expenses in Latvia are generally lower compared to other European countries.

Average monthly living expenses are estimated between € 450-700, depending on the accommodation type and other needs. It should be enough to cover basic food, accommodation, utilities, transportation and other expenses.

FOOD

Total average costs per month are around € 120-250 depending on the individual needs

- € 5-9 per meal in the city centre
- € 3-5 daily specials in pubs and cafes
- € 1.57-2 cup of coffee
- € 20-40 average restaurant meal

LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

- € 4-12 cinema ticket
- € 10-50 opera ticket
- € 10-30 rock concerts
- € 7 one visit to a swimming pool
- € 20-45 one month gym membership

ACCOMMODATION

- € 120-250 dormitories or student hostel
- € 250–350 solo flat rent
- € 100-200 shared flat to rent
- € 100-170 utilities
- € 12-15 internet

Accommodation recommended by TSI here

Transport and Telecommunication Institute

admission@tsi.lv

+371 29 990 841

+371 29 990 841

infotsi