

# BALTIC INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY



**ERASMUS**  
General Information

## Foreword

This booklet includes general information about Latvia and about the Baltic International Academy (BIA).

As this booklet can not cover every aspect of living in Latvia, please feel free to ask us about anything you are interested in during your stay in Riga.

**Welcome to the Baltic International Academy!**

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## Baltic International Academy



### Host places

#### Riga

**4 Lomonosova str., LV-1003**

1/24 Lomonosova str., LV-1019

3 Piedrujas str., Riga, LV-1073

#### Daugavpils

3 Dzelzcelu str., LV-5403, t. 65444236

#### Rezekne

21/17 Darzu str., LV-4600, t. 64624696

#### Liepaja

3 Liedaga str., LV-3416, t. 63425448

#### Ventspils

5 Targales str., LV-3602, t. 63624505

#### Jelgava - Ozolnieki

Jelgava region (Ozolnieki district), 4b Skolas str., LV-3018, t. 63050533

#### Jekabpils

9 Meza str., LV-5201, t. 65233030

#### Smiltene

17 Darza str., LV-4700, t. 64772851

### History and achievements

The Baltic International Academy (BIA) is one of the biggest private higher schools within the Baltic Region (established in 1992) with a number of students constantly increasing.

The BIA was awarded the permanent state accreditation status in 2000 with the right to issue diplomas of the LR State Standard. Study programs have been accredited by state and implemented at the BIA.

There are 7 branches of BIA in Latvia: in Liepaja, Jekabpils, Daugavpils, Rezekne, Jelgava, Ventspils and Smiltene.

### **Academic calendar**

01<sup>st</sup> September - start of Academic year

22<sup>nd</sup> December – end of lectures for the Autumn semester

23<sup>rd</sup> December – 05 January – Christmas holidays

07<sup>th</sup> January – 02 February – exam period for the Autumn semester

11<sup>th</sup> February – start of lectures for the Spring semester

31<sup>st</sup> May – end of lectures for the Spring semester

02<sup>nd</sup> June – 28<sup>th</sup> June – exam period for the Spring semester

01<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> August – summer holidays

### **Teaching methods**

Academic year is divided into two semesters, duration of each semester is 20 weeks, and credit points earned each semester – 30 ECTS.

Studies are divided on class work and independent study. Contact hour time is not more than 50% of a programme duration. Contact hours mean class work, exams, practice and other activities, which are conducted together with the lecturer. Independent study is homework assignments, preparations for the class, work with literature, as well as course reports and bachelor paper.

The Baltic International Academy study programs are carried out through traditional and interactive study methods.

Traditional study methods are:

- Lectures, seminars, “round tables”,
- Practice and Laboratory works.

Interactive study methods are:

- Trainings, workshops;

- Role-plays, brainstorming;
- Discussions;
- Annual works;
- Scientific seminars and conferences;
- Broadcasts of leading lecturers' and guest professors' lectures to all branches at the same time via Internet, what gives the possibility to exchange opinions despite the distance.

### **Academic staff**

Permanent academic personal consists of approximately 300 persons; more than 100 of them are professors or doctors of science.

### **Language of instruction**

Most of programmes are multilingual – Russian, Latvian and English.

### **List of degree programs offered**

Digital Visualization

Design of Environment

Cultural Administration

Translation and Interpretation

Financial Management

European Business School (International study program)

Business Administration (first and second cycles), Tourism management

Public Relations

Law

European Studies

## Study facilities

### Library

Nowadays the educational requirements and demands cause an increase in independent work and self-education of students. Therefore, there are some basic principles that have been involved here: purchasing academic books to certain proportions and release of the BIA's own books. Today we have got one of the richest book collections where best works of famous authors and outstanding scientists in diverse fields of knowledge have been presented. The centralized BIA library offers 7 reading halls in Riga and provides library facilities at the BIA branches in 8 Latvian towns.

The BIA library is a member of the Association of Latvian Academic Libraries.

In the both reading halls in Riga, there is access to academic printed matters on economics, philosophy, logics, political science, sociology, ethics, aesthetics, history, religion, psychology, public relations, arts, culture, design, web design, journalism, criticism in literature – in Russian, Latvian, English and some foreign languages.

### Electronic databases and computer classes

The book fund of BIA library is also presented in electronic version. Our students are its authors and creators.

Our readers also have access to normative document databases (such as EBSCO, HeinOnline + FILR, LETA, Letonika, Lursoft, NAIS, Rubricon and some Russian and Latvian databases) and world's best scientific magazines. Library's technical equipment allows students to print out the necessary documents from Internet or directly from electronic database using flash-storage.

Also BIA has special PC classes.

Students have an opportunity to use a projector or whole multimedia complex when preparing a presentation.

## International cooperation LLP ERASMUS programme

BIA is actively participating in various international programmes, such as, LLP ERASMUS, ERASMUS MUNDUS, TEMPUS activities. At the present BIA has partners in various EU countries. BIA is open to start cooperation with new international partners. Many students, including ERASMUS students, from 20 countries study at BIA. We are proud, that number of students, academic and teaching staff from different countries are visiting BIA within ERASMUS programme each year. BIA academic and administrative staff is actively participating in ERASMUS exchange activities. Each year our students have opportunity to meet guest lecturers and to visit their lectures, seminars within ERASMUS programme. Every year summer schools take place.

### List of ERASMUS partners

Country	Nr	Name, address, contact details	Program
Belgium	1.	ERASMUSHogeschool Brussel Brussels <a href="http://www.ehb.be">www.ehb.be</a>	Travel and Tourism Management Business Studies
Czech Republic	2.	Rašínova Vysoká Škola sr.o. Brno	Business Studies
Cyprus	3.	Americanos College Nicosia <a href="http://www.ac.ac.cy">http://www.ac.ac.cy</a>	Languages and Philological Sciences
Denmark	4.	Ceus School Of Business Nykoebing Falster <a href="http://www.ceus.dk/">http://www.ceus.dk/</a>	Business Studies and Management Studies Law Social Sciences Languages and Philological Sciences
Estonia	5.	Tartu University	Languages and














		Tartu <a href="http://www.ut.ee">www.ut.ee</a>	Philological Sciences
<b>France</b>	6.	<b>Université de Bretagne-Sud</b> Lorient cedex <a href="http://www.univ-ubs.fr">http://www.univ-ubs.fr</a>	Business Studies and Management Studies Law Social Sciences Languages and Philological Sciences
<b>Greece</b>	7.	<b>Technological Educational Institution (T.E.I.) of Athens</b> Athens, Hellas <a href="http://www.teiath.gr">www.teiath.gr</a>	Art and Design







<b>Lithuania</b>	8.	<b>Šiaulių Universitetas</b> Siauliai <a href="http://www.su.lt">www.su.lt</a>	Art and Design Philological Sciences Business Studies
<b>Poland</b>	9.	<b>Uniwersytet Rzeszowski</b> Rzeszow <a href="http://www.univ.rzeszow.pl">www.univ.rzeszow.pl</a>	Languages and Philological Sciences Linguistics Translation and Interpretation Business Studies Law Social Sciences Art and Design
	10.	<b>Wyższa Szkoła Administracyjno-Społeczna</b> Warsaw <a href="http://www.wsas.edu.pl">www.wsas.edu.pl</a>	Business Studies and Management Studies Law Social Sciences
	11.	<b>The Bronislaw Markiewicz State School of Higher Vocational Education In Jaroslaw</b> Jaroslaw <a href="http://www.pwszjar.edu.pl/lang/en/">http://www.pwszjar.edu.pl/lang/en/</a>	Travel and Tourism Management  Business Studies
	12.	<b>Akademia Podlaska</b> Siedlce <a href="http://www.siedlce.pl">www.siedlce.pl</a>	Business Studies Social Sciences Law
	13.	<b>Akademia Ekonomiczna im. Oskara Langego</b> Wroclaw <a href="http://www.ae.wroc.pl">http://www.ae.wroc.pl</a>	Business Studies and Management Studies

<b>Portugal</b>	14.	<b>Instituto Politécnico da Guarda</b> Guarda <a href="http://twintwo.ipg.pt/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp">http://twintwo.ipg.pt/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp</a>	Art and Design Business Studies and Management Studies Social Sciences
	15.	<b>ESAD - Escola Superior de Artes e Design</b> Senhora da Hora <a href="http://www.esad.pt">www.esad.pt</a>	Art and Design
<b>Spain</b>	16.	<b>Universidad de Alicante</b> Alicante <a href="http://www.ua.es">www.ua.es</a>	Economics Public Relations
	17.	<b>Universidad Antonio de Nebrija</b> Madrid <a href="http://www.nebrija.es">www.nebrija.es</a>	Business Studies
	18.	<b>Universidad de Zaragoza</b> Zaragoza <a href="http://www.unizar.es">www.unizar.es</a>	Law
	19.	<b>Mondragon Unversitatea (FRC)</b> Gipuzkoa <a href="http://www.mondragon.edu">www.mondragon.edu</a>	Business Studies
	20.	<b>Universidad Pontificia Comillas</b> Madrid <a href="http://www.upcomillas.es">http://www.upcomillas.es</a>	Law
<b>Sweden</b>	21.	<b>School of Education and Communication, Jonkoping University</b> Jonkoping <a href="http://www.hj.se">www.hj.se</a>	Social Sciences Art and Design Languages and Philological Sciences

<b>Turkey</b>	22.	<b>Hacettepe üniversitesi</b> Ankara <a href="http://www.hacettepe.edu.tr">www.hacettepe.edu.tr</a>	Economics
	23.	<b>Mersin Üniversitesi</b> Mersin <a href="http://www.mersin.edu.tr">www.mersin.edu.tr</a>	Business Studies Art and Design Languages and Philological Sciences
	24.	<b>Ege University</b> Bornova, Izmir <a href="http://www.ege.edu.tr">www.ege.edu.tr</a>	Art and Design Social Sciences Communication Sciences

### Embassies of ERASMUS countries in Latvia

<b>Embassy of the Austria Republic</b> 21a Elizabetes, apt. 1, Riga, LV-1010	67315432 67216125	
<b>Embassy of the Belgium Kingdom</b> 13-5 Alberta, 5 floor, Riga, LV- 1010	67114852	
<b>Embassy of the Czech Republic</b> 29 Elizabetes, Riga, LV-1010	67217814	
<b>Embassy of the Danish Kingdom</b> 11 Pils, Riga, LV-1863	67226210	
<b>Embassy of Estonia</b> 13 Skolas, Riga, LV-1010	67812020	
<b>Embassy of France</b> 9 Raiņa blvd., Riga, LV-1050	67036600	
<b>Embassy of Finland</b> 1 Kalpaka blvd, Riga, LV-1010	67078800	
<b>Embassy of Germany</b> 13 Raiņa blvd, Riga, LV-1050	67085100	
<b>Honorary consulate of Iceland</b> 45/47 Elizabetes, Riga, LV-1010	67228370	
<b>Honorary consulate of the Irish Republic</b> 54 Brivibas	67035286	
<b>Embassy of the Italian Republic</b> 9 Teatra, Riga, LV-1050	67216069	
<b>Embassy of Lithuania</b> 24 Rupniecibas, Riga, LV-1010	67320919	
<b>Embassy of the Netherlands Kingdom</b> 4 Torņa, 1a section, Riga, LV-1050	67326147	

<b>Embassy of the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b> 5 J.Alunāna, Riga, LV-1010	67774700	
<b>Embassy of the Norwegian Kingdom</b> 14 Zirgu, Riga, LV-1050	67814100	
<b>Embassy of the Polish Republic</b> 6b Mednieku, Riga, LV-1010	67031500	
<b>Embassy of Spain</b> 11 Elizabetes, Riga, LV-1010	67320281	
<b>Embassy of Sweden</b> 8 A. Pumpura, Riga, LV-1010	67686600	
<b>Honorary consulate of Turkey</b> 23/25 Terbatas, Riga, LV-1011	629342244	
<b>Embassy Of Turkey</b> 5a Blaumana, Riga, LV-1011	67821600	

## **ERASMUS coordinators**

Each programme director is responsible for ECTS recognition  
1 ECTS is equal to 1.5 Credit Points (CP) in Latvian education system

Documents for incoming ERASMUS students:

- Foreign Exchange Student Application Form;
- Photocopy of passport;
- Learning agreement;
- Two passport-size photo;
- Application for accommodation. Accommodation should be reserved in advance, at least two months before arrival. Concrete dates of arrival and departure should be indicated. Date of ERASMUS student's arrival to BIA should be agreed with ERASMUS coordinator.

All the documents should be sent by post to: Interinstitutional Mobility Centre, Ms. Victoria Petlak, Lomonosova 4, #210, Riga, LV-1003, and copies to e-mail: [viktoriya.petlak@bsa.edu.lv](mailto:viktoriya.petlak@bsa.edu.lv)  
Any questions could be solved also by phone: + 371 26772532

Students must have a valid passport during their stay in Latvia. For any information concerning residence permits please contact the Embassy of Latvia in your country.

Also students should inform ERASMUS coordinator if they need a residence permission or any other kind of documents for their legal stay in Latvia.

## **Facilities for students with special needs**

BIA buildings have special elevators for people with special needs.

## **Student affair office**

BIA students' parliament deals with students, and organizes out-of-class performances: student conferences, experience exchange, summer camps, and parties. Every autumn, in October, a party for 1<sup>st</sup> year students is traditionally organized. Academic staff together with older students prepares performances for 1<sup>st</sup> year students. Also New Year, St. Valentine's Day, 8<sup>th</sup> March and Easter parties take place.

## **Leisure time**

As to students' leisure time, the BIA offers an amateur theatre group, ceramics, and drawing and computer graphics studios. Sport groups: basketball, boxing. The Academy has its own football team.

Students together with academic staff organize exhibitions for PR-programme students in BIA buildings and in Internet as well as a part of students' promotion programme.

## **Language courses**

Language courses of Russian and Latvian for incoming students are available on request in advance – work in groups or individually. After finishing them every student gets a certificate of completion.

## **Accommodation**

Prices may vary depending on accommodation quality.

Hostels – starting from 150 EUR/month per person.

Renting a flat could cost starting from 100 EUR/month per person when sharing a flat.

Accommodation should be reserved in advance, at least two months before arrival.



## Hostels in Riga

[www.hotelprima.lv](http://www.hotelprima.lv)

<http://redroofs.lv/>

[www.backpackersplanet.lv](http://www.backpackersplanet.lv)

<http://www.hotelprusunams.lv/>

<http://www.cityhostel.lv/>

<http://www.citylounge.lv/>

<http://www.knightscourt.lv>

<http://www.profitcamp.lv/>

<http://www.riga-backpackers.com/>

<http://www.riga-hostel.com/>

## B. Information about the country and its capital

The Republic of Latvia is founded on November 18, 1918



**Location:** Latvia is situated in Northern Europe, on the coast of the Baltic Sea. It has borders with other Baltic countries – Estonia, Lithuania, and also with Russia and Belarus.

**The territory of Latvia:** 64,589 square kilometers (24,938 square miles), including mainland – 62046 km<sup>2</sup>, inland waters – 2543 km<sup>2</sup>.

**Administrative-territorial division of Latvia:** 4 regions – Kurzeme, Zemgale, Vidzeme, Latgale.

**Climate** in Latvia is influenced by its proximity to the sea; therefore it is moderately warm and humid. Summers are comparatively cool and cloudy (average temperature in July +16.9°C, but may vary from +17,5°C to +32°C). Winters are comparatively warm with frequent thaws (average temperature in January – 4,7°C, but sometimes the temperature can drop till

-30°C). Snow cover forms in the middle of December and remain through the middle of March. About 40% of the days in a year are cloudy.

**Total population:** 2 274 700 people.

**Ethnic composition:** Latvians -59.0% (1348344), Russians - 28.3% (646567), Belorussians - 3.7% (85434), Ukrainians - 2.5% (57794), Poles- 2.4% (54831), Lithuanians - 1.4% (31034), Others - 2.1% (01.04.2007)

**Capital city:** Riga (with 723931 inhabitants). Riga was formally founded in 1201 when the German bishop Albert built his castle on the site of a pre-existing Livonian settlement.

**Seven main cities:** Riga, Daugavpils, Liepaja, Jelgava, Jurmala, Ventspils, Rezekne.

**President:** Valdis Zatlers (since 8 July, 2007), is elected by the Saeima for a four year term.

**Constitution:** democratic parliamentary republic

**The parliament,** called the Saeima consists of 100 elected MPs. The head of the government – Prime Minister.

**National anthem:** “Dievs, svētī Latviju!” (“God Bless Latvia”).

**Time:** Latvia is part of time zone 2 (GMT +2) or Eastern European time. Latvia goes over to summer or Daylight Saving Time on the last Sunday in March at 3:00 a.m., when clocks are set one hour ahead. Summer or Daylight Saving Time is in effect until the last Sunday in October at 4:00 a.m., when clocks are set one hour back.

**Official language:** Latvian that belongs to the Baltic language group, part of the Indo-European language family. However Russian, English and German are widely spoken.

**Religion:** Latvia is predominantly Protestant (Lutheran) with a Roman Catholic community in the eastern part of Latvia, and Russian Orthodox

community. However there are a number of other religions present including Judaism, Buddhism, and also Krishna followers and Salvation Army representatives. Non-religious - 35%, Lutheran - 24%, Catholic - 18%, Orthodox - 15%, others - 8%.

**Currency:** the national currency is the Latvian lat (Ls). One lat equals 100 santims. There are 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500 Ls denomination banknotes, and 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 santims, and 1 and 2 lat coins.

The lat was introduced in October.

One lat equals approximately 1.5 euros.

Most shops, restaurants, and hotels in the major towns also accept credit cards, but if you travel to smaller towns, take a sufficient amount of cash with you.

Cash machines can be found in most banks, major petrol stations, and at the airport and the Central Post Office in Riga.

Travellers cheques and Eurocheques can be cashed in most banks.

Money can be changed in banks or exchange offices. The exchange rate is almost the same in all exchange points.

Banks are open on weekdays from 09.00 to 17.00.

**Electricity supply:** 220 volts, 50 Hz European-style 2-pin plugs

**International code:** LV

**Internet domain:** .lv

**International telephone code:** +371

### National holidays

**January 1** – New Year’s Day

**April** - Easter

**May 1** – Convocation of the Constitutional Assembly of the Republic of Latvia

**May 4** – Latvia proclaimed its independence from USSR, and restoration of the Republic of Latvia

**May 14** – Mother's Day

**June 4** – Summerdays

**June 23** – Midsummer Eve, Ligo diena

**June 24** – Midsummer Jani, the day of summer solstice

**September 1** – Knowledge Day

**November 18** – Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia

**December 25** – Christmas Day

**December 26** – second Christmas Day

**December 31** – New Year's Eve

### Some useful phrases in Latvian

Hello - Labdien

How are you? - Kā iet?

Yes – Jā

No - Nē

Please - Lūdzu

Thank you - Paldies

Sorry - Atvainojiet

Where is...? - Kur atrodas...?

What time is it? - Cik ir pulkstenis?

My name is... - Mani sauc...

What's your name? - Kā tevi sauc?

How much does it cost? - Cik maksā?

## C. Short digression on Riga

### Public transport

You can reach any part of the capital using trams, buses, express buses, route buses, trolleybuses. Tickets for buses, trams and trolleybuses can be bought on board from a ticket agent or a driver; the price is 40 santims per ride and 40 - 50 in minibuses. Using minibuses you can get out and in anywhere you prefer and where the traffic regulations permit stopping. Public transportation service usually begins around 5.00 6.00 a.m. and continues until midnight. [www.rigassatiksm.lv](http://www.rigassatiksm.lv); 80001919 (free of charge).

**Central train station:** 3 Gogola Street is in the centre of Riga, just some minutes of walk from Old Riga – the heart of the capital. Trains are connected to all parts of Latvia; there are also trains to many countries of Western and Eastern Europe.

Information: 1181; [www.ldz.lv](http://www.ldz.lv)

**Central bus station:** 1 Pragas street is located next to the Central Train Station. Buses to all parts of Latvia leave from the station. There are also international routes.

Information: 90000009; ticket reservation: 90001111; [www.autoosta.lv](http://www.autoosta.lv)

**Airport:** Riga airport is situated about 13 km from the centre of Riga. Bus number 22 express and regular bus number 22 connect the airport and Riga centre. It takes about 20-30 minutes to reach the centre, buses leaves every 20-25 minutes, price is starting from 0,40 Ls, express bus is more expensive. You can take a taxi from the airport; the price can vary depending on a company, but usually starting from 8 lats.

Information: 67209009; [www.riga-airport.com](http://www.riga-airport.com)

**Taxi:** prices start from 40 santims per kilometer (the price may be different in various regions, depending on taxi companies). Boarding a taxi is about 1,00 Ls.

Phone numbers:

Rīgas taksometru parks: 800 13 13; [www.rtp.lv](http://www.rtp.lv)

VIP taxi/Alviksa: 80003535; [www.viptaxi.lv](http://www.viptaxi.lv)

**Inquiries** by phone: 1188, 1189

You can buy prepaid mobile phone cards (Zelta Zivtīņa, O-karte, Amigo, Toxic of different values) in kiosks, shops, supermarkets, etc.

**Emergency calls:**

Fire	01
Police	02
Ambulance	03
Gas leakage	04
General emergencies from mobile phone	112

**Latvian Tourism Information Bureau**

4 Smilšu Street, Riga, telephone: (+371) 67224664

[info@latviatourism.lv](mailto:info@latviatourism.lv)

Open every day from 9:00 – 18:00

Tourist hotline: +371 22033000

[www.rigatourism.com](http://www.rigatourism.com)

**Insurance**

<http://eng.bta.lv/> - BTA Apdrošināšana insurance company.

<http://www.seesamlife.lv/en/> - SEESAM Life insurance Latvian Branch.

<http://www.balva.lv/Eng/main.htm> - BALVA insurance company.

**Main medical institutions in Riga**

**P.Stradins Clinical Hospital** - 13 Pilsonu, Riga; <http://www.stradini.lv>;  
67069600

**"Traumatological and ortopedical hospital"** - 2 Dunties 22, Riga,  
67399300

**Clinical Hospital GAILEZERS** – 2 Hipokrata, Rīga, 67042424

**The state angency of sexually-transmissive and skin diseases** – 70  
Pernavas, Riga, 67295601

**Meals**

**The Latvian cuisine** has taken in itself the traditions of the Estonian, Lithuanian, German and Belorussian cookeries.

For the first course you will be offered a soup from spinach and sorrel, soup from cabbage, thick soup from vegetables, or thick soup from meat of hen.

The most popular second dish for Latvians is a vegetable-grain pulp with addition of fat, smoked meat or fish, and also sour-milk products. Interesting potatoe and fish dishes - Baltic salmon and lamprey, crack's liver, baked pudding from cracks "zivju pudiņš", baked herring pudding with boiled potatoes "siļķu pudiņš", herring fried with onion sauce, the herring, fried on coals and pike's caviar.

Sweet dishes are very diverse. For dessert usually give cooked semolina with the shaken up albumens, or black bread with cranberry juice and honey, jelly from rhubarb with whipped cream, famous cake "Alexander" with raspberry or cranberry, most diverse patties with fillings, puffs from the rye bread, sponge cake and sandy pastry and baked articles.

**Entertainment complex LIDO** is located in one of the biggest wooden buildings in Europe. The building is constructed out of specially chosen fir-wood from Latvian forest (the age of the wood is more than 100 years). The complex contains a 3-floor bistro, parking lot for visitors and also an amusement park. 76 Krasta Street, Riga. [www.ac.lido.lv](http://www.ac.lido.lv)

Branches of this restaurant can also be found in Old Riga and the inner city: **Alus seta (Beer yard)**, 6 Tirgonu str.

**Russian cuisine:**

**Russkij Dvor (Russian Yard)** – 3 Kengaraga street.

**Arbat** – 3 Vāģnera str.

**Traktieris** – 8 Antonijas str.

**Asian, Japanese and exotic food:**

**Gan Bei** – Central Railway station, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

**Thali** – 46 Krasta str., shopping centre "Mols", 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**Kabuki** - 46 Terbatas str., 14 Kr. Barona str.

**American food:**

**T.G.I. Friday's** – 6 Kaļķu str.

**McDonald's** – 1 Merkela str., 18 Basteja blvd.

#### **Italian food and pizzerias:**

**Un Momento** – 58 Čaka str.

**Pizza Malibu** - 12/14 Kaļķu Street, Old Riga.

**Čili Pica** – shopping centres "Alfa", "Mols", „Stockmann”, 26 Brīvības str., etc.

#### **British:**

**Dickens pub** – 9/1 Grēcinieku str.

**Paddy Whelan's** - 4 Grēcinieku str.

**In the buildings of Baltic International Academy** there is a canteen, where for reasonable for students prices you can order different dishes which, despite their low price, can compete with best Latvian restaurants in taste.

#### **Night clubs**

**Club Essential** - 2 Skolas Street; [www.essential.lv](http://www.essential.lv)

**Fashion Club** – 2 Terbatas str., [www.vegas.lv](http://www.vegas.lv)

#### **Supermarkets**

Grocery supermarkets are open from 8.00 till 22.00, on weekends from 9.00 till 22.00.

There are many 24/7 shops in Latvia, most of them accept credit cards: VISA, MasterCard, American Express (AmEx cards are not so widely accepted). In the recent years in Latvia, especially in Riga, many shopping centres appeared, where you can not only make your purchases, but also to rest with your family, as there are also bars, cafés, restaurants and other entertainment facilities.

#### **Shopping centres and galleries**

**Mols shopping centre** – 46 Krasta street 46, Riga. Located not far from the BIA building.

**Azur shopping gallery** – 1 Rencenu Street 1, Riga. Located not far from the BIA building.

**Centrs shopping gallery** – 16 Audeju Street 16, Riga.

#### **Book stores**

**"Valters un Rapa" book house** - 24 Aspazijas blvd, Riga; <http://www.valtersunrapa.lv>

**"Karšu veikals Jāņa sēta" map store** - 83/85 Elizabetes, Riga; <http://www.karsuveikals.lv>

**„Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC" book store** – 6 Kr. Valdemara, Riga.

**"Globuss" book store** – 26 Valnu, Riga

**"Gora" book store** - 7/9 Jezusbaznīcas, Riga

**Baltic International Academy** has its own book stores, where it is possible to buy BIA lecturers' publishings, as well as study materials and science literature in Latvian, Russian and English. Book stores are on the 1st floor (4 Lomonosova street, 3 Piedrujas street).

#### **Leisure time**

Latvia is a small country on the Baltic Sea with ancient history and traditions. There are many interesting tourist sights which will attract everyone.

Students coming to Latvia are advised to also travel outside the cities. Visit Jūrmala, the "Latvian Riviera" or Sigulda, the "Latvian Switzerland", both easy accessible by train. Liepāja and Venstpils have large harbors of historic interest, as well as interesting architecture dating back to the beginning of the twentieth century.

If you are interested not only in entertainment but also in gaining new knowledge and information you are welcome to visit Old Riga, where you will find fabulous architectural monuments.

As to the capital of Latvia – Riga, people say that it is “a city that never sleeps” – it is a fairly just statement, especially in the summer season. Riga charms everyone with its wonderful interweaving of old architecture’s styles and elegant modern buildings, lovely parks and flowers, restaurants and cozy cafés.

### **Concert halls and opera theatres, circus**

**The National Opera theatre** is located right in the center of Riga, and represents the pride and architectural symbol of a nation which regained its liberty. Riga, 3 Aspazijas blvd.; <http://www.opera.lv/>

**Russian Drama theatre** was opened on the 2 of October 1883. It is the oldest Russian theatre of drama outside of Russia. Riga, 16 Kaļķu Street; <http://www.trd.lv/>

**Dailes Theatre** is one the most successful theatres of Latvia today. Proof of that are not only its hard-earned popularity amid as well as Riga’s population as amid visitors, but also numerous awards. Riga, Brīvības Street 75, <http://www.dailesteatris.lv/>

**The National Theatre** was built in 1902, using August Reinberg’s blueprints. Originally it was the Second Riga’s town theater. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 1919 it became home of the National Theatre. Riga, 2 Kronvalda blvd; <http://www.teatris.lv/>

**Riga’s circus.** Latvia is the only Baltic country with its own winter circus. It was built in the year 1888, but in the old building the circus shows continue to be staged. Riga, 4 Merkeļa Street; <http://www.cirks.lv/>

### **Popular historical objects**

**Riga Dome.** Though the square takes a considerable role in the history of the town, cultural events from folk dances up to fashion displays are held

there even today. However, visitors are mostly attracted by the 87m tall Dome cathedral whose construction was initiated already in 1211. Tourists are usually advised to see the organ which was built in the end of the XIX Century and is considered to be among the largest organs of the world. The organ has 124 organ-stops and 6 712 pipes.

**The Riga Castle** was built in 1330, but in the course of time rebuilt several times. During the soviet times the building served as pioneer palace, but currently it is the residence of the president of Latvia and houses museum of history and the museum of foreign art.

**The House of Blackheads** which you will find in the Old Town of the city as well could be considered one of the symbols of Riga. For the first time the building was mentioned in chronicles in 1334. During the World War II the Blackheads house was completely destroyed, but according to the wish of the citizens, restored in 1999.

**St. Peter's Church**, mentioned in chronicles for the first time in 1209, is regarded to be one of the oldest cultural symbols of Riga. In the time period from 1968 till 1973 the church was completely reconstructed and after reconstruction became more than 123 meters high.

**Cats' House** is a building on Meistaru (Master's) street 10, built in year 1910 as an apartment house with offices. The house gained its name because of the cat sculptures that are placed on the roof of the building. The cats' house faces a lively square where local painters and craftsmen are exhibiting and selling their works.

**The Big Guild.** In the old times, into the Big guild traders, high officials, priests, scholars, but from merchants - only goldsmiths were accepted. In the year 1963, the building was partly burned, in 1965 it was reconstructed with M.M. Gelzis’s plans, a new entry vestibule and the interiors are modified for the concert hall. Riga, 6 Amatu Street.

## Riga's and Latvia's museums and exhibitions

**Museum of Foreign Art** – The most impressive storage of foreign art in Latvia. Founded in 1920. It's located in Riga Castle. The most important collections: art of the Ancient Egypt, ancient Greece, Rome, Western Europe and the East. Riga, 3 Pils square; <http://www.amm.lv/>

**Museum of arts and crafts.** It has the works of Latvian professional arts and crafts dating from the end of the XIX century, when the Latvian national style was formed with elements of ethnographic traditions.

Riga, 10/20 Skarņu Street; <http://www.dlmm.lv/>

**The Latvian Military museum.** The museum was founded during the World War I, in the 1916 as museum of Latvian shooters. Since 1919 the museum is located in the Gunpowder tower (XIV cent) – one of the former 25 towers of the city's fortress walls. The museum resumed its work in the year 1990. Permanent exhibitions: "Latvian wars in the World War I 1914-1918", "The creation of the Latvian country and the liberty battles 1918-1920", "Latvia's army and fleet 1919-1940", "Latvia and the World War II", "The way to the barricades 1945-1991". Riga, 20 Smilšu Street.

**Museum of Nature.** There are plant collections which give image about the nature of Latvia and the World's. The exhibition consists of 6 parts: Geology, Botanic, Zoology-entomology, Anthropology, Nature preservation and Paleontology. Exhibitions are held regularly.

Riga, 18 K.Barona; <http://www.dabasmuzejs.gov.lv/>

**Riga Motor museum** is in the top 30 of technical museums in the world, but in Europe – in the top 5. There are cars and motorcycles of the beginning of the XX century, sport and military cars, cars made in Latvia, limousines, Kremlin's cars of the 30's (among them there are Molotov's car, the limousine of Brezhnev), sport motorcycles in its collection.

Riga, 6 Eizensteina Street; <http://www.motormuzejs.lv/>

**Museum of Medical History.** Here you can see medical machinery, evidences of illnesses and the results of different daring experiments (for example, a two-headed dog).

Riga, 1 Antonijas Street; <http://www.mvm.lv/>

**Ethnographic museum.** Real peasants', fishermen's and merchants' housings and household buildings are gathered from around Latvia and placed under the open air, as well as a manor and a windmill.

Riga, Brivibas gatve, 440. Site: <http://www.virmus.lv/index.php>

## Castles and the main monument of the independent Latvia

**Rundale's Palace** is located in the south of Latvia amidst Zemgale's lowlands. Architect - Rastrelli.

**Turaidas castle** was built upon the will Riga's bishop in the year 1214 in place of an ancient Livian castle, which was ruined in the 1212.

It's located in Sigulda, in a National Park, a very popular place of relaxation amid Latvians and foreigners.

**Riga's Castle (Old Riga)** was founded in the 1330. In the year 1938 the castle's interiors were remodeled for the Latvian government's needs. Now the castle is the Latvia's president's residence. Also there are several museums inside the castle: the museum of Foreign art, History of Latvia, Literature, theatre and music. Riga, 11. novembra Street

**The main monument of the independent Latvia** – the monument of "Freedom and Fatherland". The monument was built in 1931-35 with the donations gathered and its author is the famous Latvian architect Karlis Zale, sculpture R.Mirsmeden. The Statue of freedom holds in its hand three stars - symbols of the historic areas of Latvia: Kurzeme, Vidzeme, Latgale. The simple folk call the statue "Milda". In the year 2001 a full reconstruction of the monument was held. Guards of honor are watching the statue, and here are held different celebrations.

**The Clock „Laima”** is on the corner of Brivibas Street and Aspazijas boulevard. This watch, which was donated to the Latvians by the main chocolate producer, was always the favorite meeting point for the Latvian youth.

## Cinema

“**Coca-Cola Plaza**” – the largest cinema in Riga. The first multi-screen cinema in Latvia. 14 auditoriums are placed on two floors, 2 balconies (total of 3016 seats for viewers) and several cafés. 13 Janvara Street, nearby “Stockmann” shopping centre.

“**Riga**” – cinema with two auditoriums (the new auditorium has better acoustics). This is the place where the Latvian movie festival "Lielais Kristaps" is held. The last three rows are without arms (two-seat sofas), what lets couples more freedom for empathy. Riga, 61 Elizabetes Street.

**Film gallery “KSuns”**. The auditorium is middle-sized (181 seat), sound - Dolby SR, nearby - famous cafe A.Suns (or "Andalusian dog). Riga, 83/85 Elizabetes Street.

[www.janka.lv](http://www.janka.lv)

LLP programme ERASMUS information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/index_en.html)

Latvian National Agency of Academic Programmes (ERASMUS) –

[www.apa.lv](http://www.apa.lv)

## Some useful Internet sites

Baltic International Academy – [www.bsa.edu.lv](http://www.bsa.edu.lv)

About Latvia:

[www.latvia.lv](http://www.latvia.lv)

[www.welcomeguide.lv](http://www.welcomeguide.lv)

[www.rigatourism.lv](http://www.rigatourism.lv)

Daily news:

[http://www.baltictimes.com/news\\_latvia/](http://www.baltictimes.com/news_latvia/)

Leisure time, entertainment:

[www.freetime.lv](http://www.freetime.lv)

Web-TV and web-radio:

[www.eradio.lv](http://www.eradio.lv)

[www.corbina.tv](http://www.corbina.tv)