

Latvian Scholarships for the 2012/2013 academic year

In accordance with bilateral agreements on co-operation in education and science, the State Education Development Agency (Valsts izglītības attīstības aģentūra – VIAA) offers scholarships to students, researchers and teaching staff of several countries for studies, research and participation in summer schools in Latvian higher education institutions (HEIs) in the 2012/2013 academic year.

Only citizens from countries which have signed an agreement on co-operation in education and science can apply for the Latvian government scholarships. These countries are: **Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium (Flanders Community and French Community of Belgium), Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.**

Citizens from countries that offer scholarships for Latvian students, researchers and teaching staff without formal agreements on co-operation in education and science are welcome to apply for the Latvian scholarship as well. These countries are: **Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland.**

The agreements can be found on the following web-sites:

- <http://izm.izm.gov.lv/starptautiska-sadarbiba/starpvaldibu-ligumi.html>
- <http://izm.izm.gov.lv/starptautiska-sadarbiba/starpresoru-ligumi.html>

I. Latvian Scholarships for studies in Latvian Higher Education Institutions in the 2012/2013 academic year

Tuition language at Latvian higher education institutions is Latvian, but there is a lot of study programmes offered in English (please visit the website: www.studyinlatvia.lv for more information).

Applications will be accepted from students who have successfully completed at least one academic year of studies at their home HEI.

(Students already studying in a Latvian HEI may apply for the Latvian scholarship as well.)

Scholarships for studies are granted for a time period up to 10 months. They are applicable only towards full-time studies in Latvia. On-the-job studies, part-time studies and correspondence courses are not eligible for scholarship funding.

If a student wants to continue her/his studies in Latvia for one extra year, she/he has to apply for the Latvian scholarship again. The Latvian scholarship can be awarded twice.

In general, the academic year in Latvia lasts from September 1 to June 30.

Application procedure

The following documents are necessary to apply for the Latvian scholarship for studies:

- 1) Application form:
http://viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/scholarships/
- 2) Curriculum Vitae;
- 3) Motivation letter;
- 4) Certified photocopies of HEI-Diploma, including transcripts, or transcript of records, if studies are not finished yet;
- 5) One recommendation letter (written within the past six months) from the HEI lecturer/professor;
- 6) **Invitation letter from the proposed Latvian HEI** (please contact the International Relations Department/Unit or Foreign Students Department/Unit of the Latvian HEI directly); List of contact persons in the Latvian HEIs:
http://viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/scholarships/contact_persons_in_hei/
- 7) Certificate (or other document) of language proficiency required for studies;
- 8) Copy of passport or identity card.

All documents that are not in Latvian or English, must be translated into Latvian or English. All translations must be officially certified.

Curriculum vitae and Motivation letter must be dated and signed. Application form and all the enclosed documents must be completed in two sets. Any incomplete applications or applications handed in after the deadline will not be taken into consideration. Documents sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted. Application documents will not be returned.

Application dossiers for scholarships for studies in Latvian HEIs have to be sent directly to VIAA. Lithuanian, Estonian and Czech candidates have to send the dossiers to the competent authorities of their countries:

http://viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/scholarships/

The application deadline for study and research stay is **May 1, 2012**.

All applications will be evaluated and the final decision on granting scholarships will be made by the evaluation committee of VIAA.

The list of accepted candidates will be published on the website of VIAA (English version) at the end of June 2012. All candidates will be informed personally about the results by e-mail.

Financial provisions

The amount of the Latvian scholarship for studies is:

- a) for bachelor and master students – LVL 350 per month;
- b) for PhD students – LVL 470 per month.

The Latvian scholarship holders are not exempt from the tuition fee. Scholarships can be used for covering of the tuition fee or for accommodation and meals.

Upon request, the host HEI provides the scholarship holder with a place in a dormitory or a guesthouse. Requests for accommodation in the international student dormitories must be submitted one month before arriving. Alternatively, foreign students may consider renting an apartment in the city.

In the month in which the foreign student is present in the territory of Latvia for less than 15 calendar days no scholarship is provided.

The Latvian scholarship cannot be awarded concurrently with other scholarships.

Travel expenses to the Latvian HEI and back to the country of origin are not covered by the Latvian scholarship.

Scholarship holders are required to make their own arrangements for insurance coverage.

II. Latvian fellowships for research work in Latvian Higher Education Institutions in the 202/2013 academic year

Only PhD students and teaching staff of foreign HEIs are eligible candidates for the Latvian fellowship.

The fellowships are granted for a time period of up to 1 term (5 months).

In general, the academic year in Latvia lasts from September 1 to June 30.

Application procedure

The following documents are necessary to apply for the Latvian fellowship:

- 1) Application form:
http://viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/fellowships_for_research/
- 2) Curriculum Vitae and list of scientific publications;
- 3) Research plan for research work in Latvia (approx. 3 pages) and motivation letter;
- 4) Certified photocopies of Master Diploma (including transcript) and of PhD diploma;
- 5) **Invitation letter from the proposed Latvian HEI** (please contact the International Relations Department/Unit or Foreign Students Department/Unit of the Latvian HEI directly); List of contact persons in the Latvian HEIs:
http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/fellowships_for_research/fellowships_contactpersons/
- 6) One recommendation letter (written within the past three months) from the home HEI or employer;
- 7) Copy of passport or identity card.

All documents that are not in Latvian, must be translated into English. All translations must be officially certified.

Curriculum vitae, Motivation letter and Research plan must be dated and signed.

Application form and all the enclosed documents must be completed in two sets. Incomplete applications or applications handed in after the deadline will not be taken

into consideration. Handwritten documents and documents sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted. Application documents will not be returned.

Application dossiers for fellowships to do research work in Latvian HEIs have to be sent directly to VIAA. Lithuanian, Estonian and Czech candidates have to send the dossiers to the competent authorities of their countries:
http://viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/fellowships_for_research/

The application deadline for research stay is **May 1, 2011**.

All applications will be evaluated and the final decision on granting fellowships will be made by the evaluation committee of VIAA.

The list of accepted candidates will be published on the website of VIAA (English version) at the end of June 2012. All candidates will be informed about the results by e-mail.

Financial provisions

The amount of the Latvian fellowship is LVL 20 per day and max. LVL 120 for accommodation per month.

The fellowship holder is expected to remain in residence in Riga/ Latvia for the full duration of the proposed period. If she/he is absent from the host HEI more than one week (7 days), no fellowship will be granted for this time.

Upon request, the host HEI provides the fellowship holder with a place in a dormitory or a guesthouse. Requests for accommodation in the international student dormitories must be submitted one month before arrival. Alternatively, foreign researchers may consider renting an apartment in the city.

The Latvian fellowship cannot be awarded concurrently with other scholarships.

Travel expenses to the Latvian HEI and back to the country of origin are not covered by the Latvian fellowship.

Fellowship holders are required to make their own arrangements for insurance coverage.

III. Latvian Scholarships for participation in summer schools in Latvia in 2012

Only students and academic staff of foreign HEIs are eligible for the Latvian scholarship for participation in summer schools.

To apply for the scholarship for participation in one of the summer schools, one must visit the website of the organizing HEI for information and submit all the **necessary documents**:

- 1) Application form of the summer school (<http://biss.va.lv>;
<http://www.summerschool.rtu.lv>; <http://www.summerschool.llu.lv>)

- 2) Curriculum vitae;
- 3) Motivation letter;
- 4) Photocopies of HEI-Diploma, including transcript, or transcript of records, if studies have not been finished yet.

The application package has to be sent **directly to the organizers of the summer schools**.

There are three summer schools where foreign students and academic staff can participate with the financial support of the Latvian scholarship in the summer of 2012:

- 1) Baltic International Summer School "Learn and Experience Baltics: Nature, Culture and Spa Tourism" (additional information – <http://biss.va.lv>) in Valmiera and Pärnu, organized by the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences in July 29 – August 12, 2012.
Contact Person: Vineta Krivina, e-mail: Vineta.krivina@va.lv.
Phone: +371 64250853.
Address: BISS 2012, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Cēsu iela 4, Valmiera, LV-4200, LATVIA
- 2) International Summer School "Event City" (additional information – <http://www.summerschool.rtu.lv>) in Cēsis, organized by the Riga Technical University in July 27 – August 11, 2012.
Contact person: Evita Serjogina, e-mail: evita.serjogina@rtu.lv.
Phone: +371 67089021.
Address: International Summer School, Riga Technical University, International and Public Relations Department, Kaļķu iela 1, Rīga, LV-1658
- 3) International summer school "Discovering the Multifaced Landscape of the Baltic Sea Coastal Area" (additional information – <http://summerschool.llu.lv>), organized by the Latvian University of Agriculture in July 29 – August 11, 2012.
Contact person: Dace Šterne, e-mail: dace.sterne@llu.lv.
Phone: +371 63005715.
Address: International Summer School, Latvian University of Agriculture, Lielā iela 2, Room 163, Jelgava, LV-3001, LATVIA.

The amount of the Latvian scholarship for summer school is LVL 500. If the Latvian scholarship does not cover all expenses of the summer school, the scholarship holder has to pay the difference himself. The finances for scholarships will be transferred by VIAA to the summer school organizers, no money will be handed out to the Latvian scholarship holders. The participants of the summer schools have to cover travel expenses from the country of origin to the summer school location in Latvia themselves.

The application deadline for the summer schools is **May 1, 2012**.

The evaluation committee of VIAA takes the decision on granting of Latvian scholarships. The organizing HEI informs all scholarship candidates about the final granting decision in June.

Additional information on the scholarships granted by VIAA can be obtained in the International Cooperation Programme Unit, Management and External Cooperation Department, VIAA.

Contact address:

State Education Development Agency
Valņu iela 1, Rīga LV-1050

Contact person:

Ms Aija Jakovica, Senior Specialist of the International Cooperation Programme Unit,
telephone: + 371 67814331, e-mail: scholarships@viaa.gov.lv

Important web pages:

- list of higher education institutions and study programmes taught in English: www.studyinlatvia.lv; <http://www.aiknc.lv/en/index.php>
- information on the education system of the Republic of Latvia, on education related regulatory enactments, higher education institutions and recognition of foreign diplomas in Latvia can be found at the home page of the Latvian Academic Information Centre: <http://www.aic.lv/portal/en/home/>
- information on receiving residence permits is available at the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs home page: <http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en>
- information on foreign embassies in Latvia: <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/ministry/mission>