

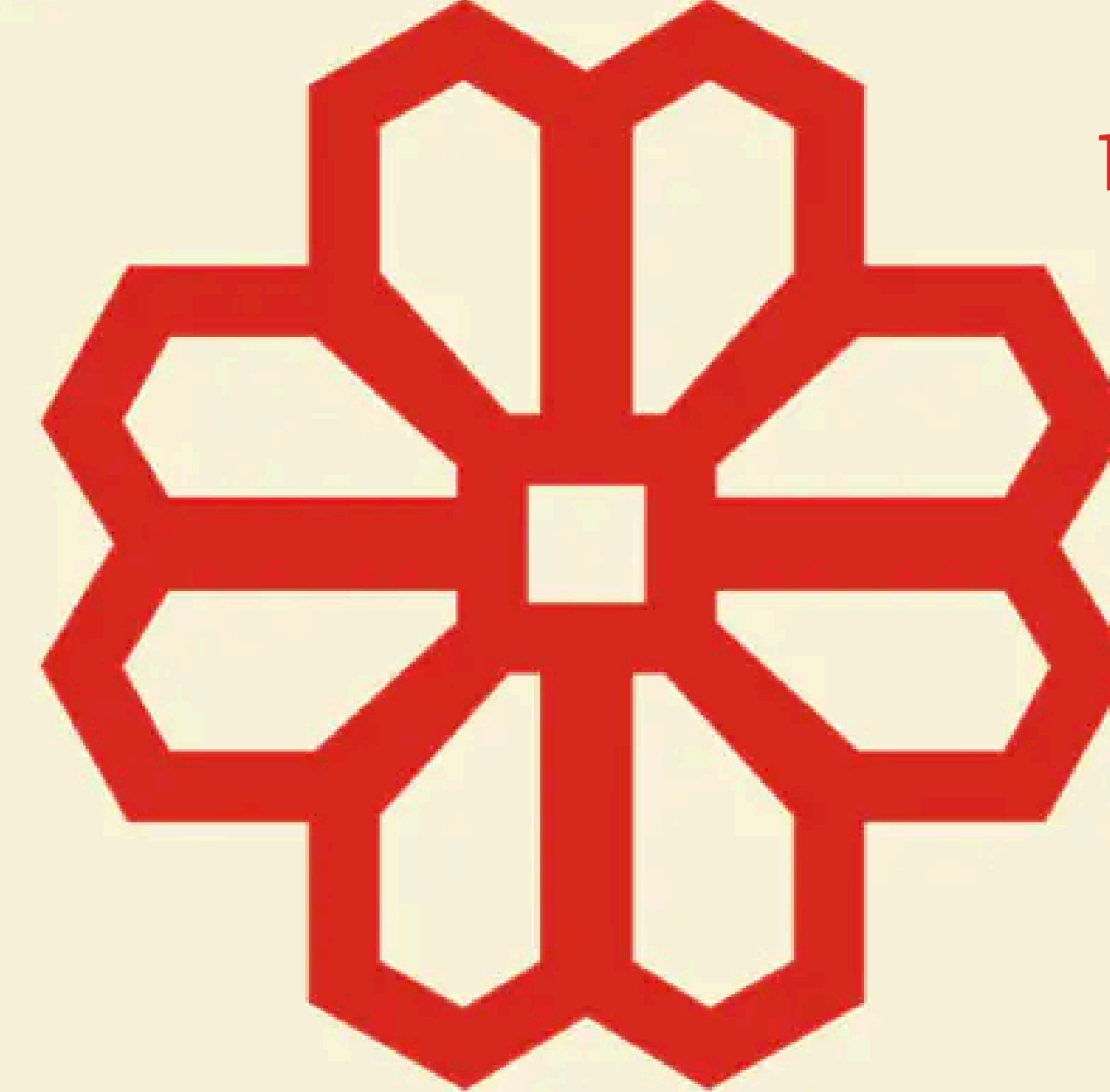
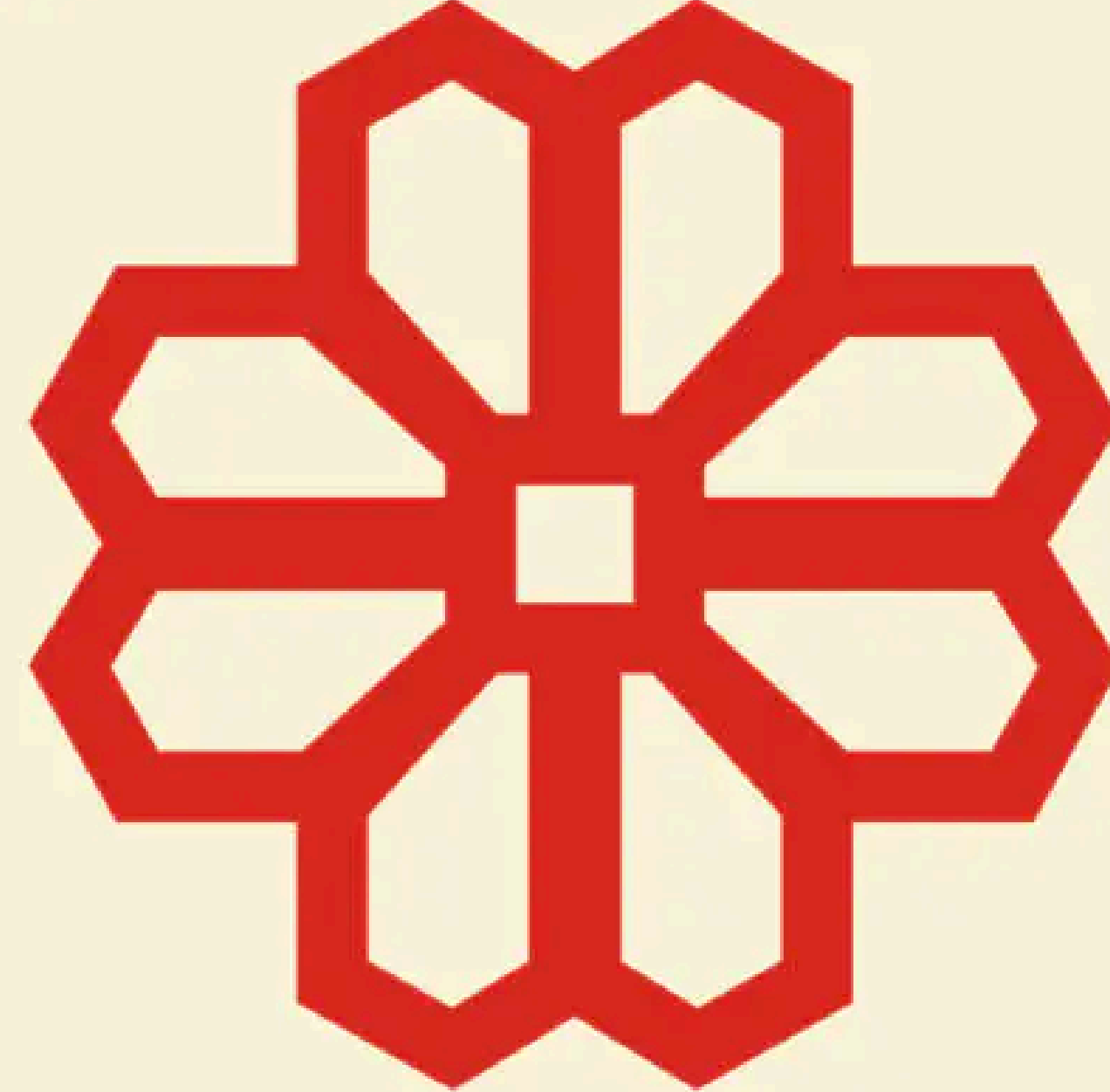
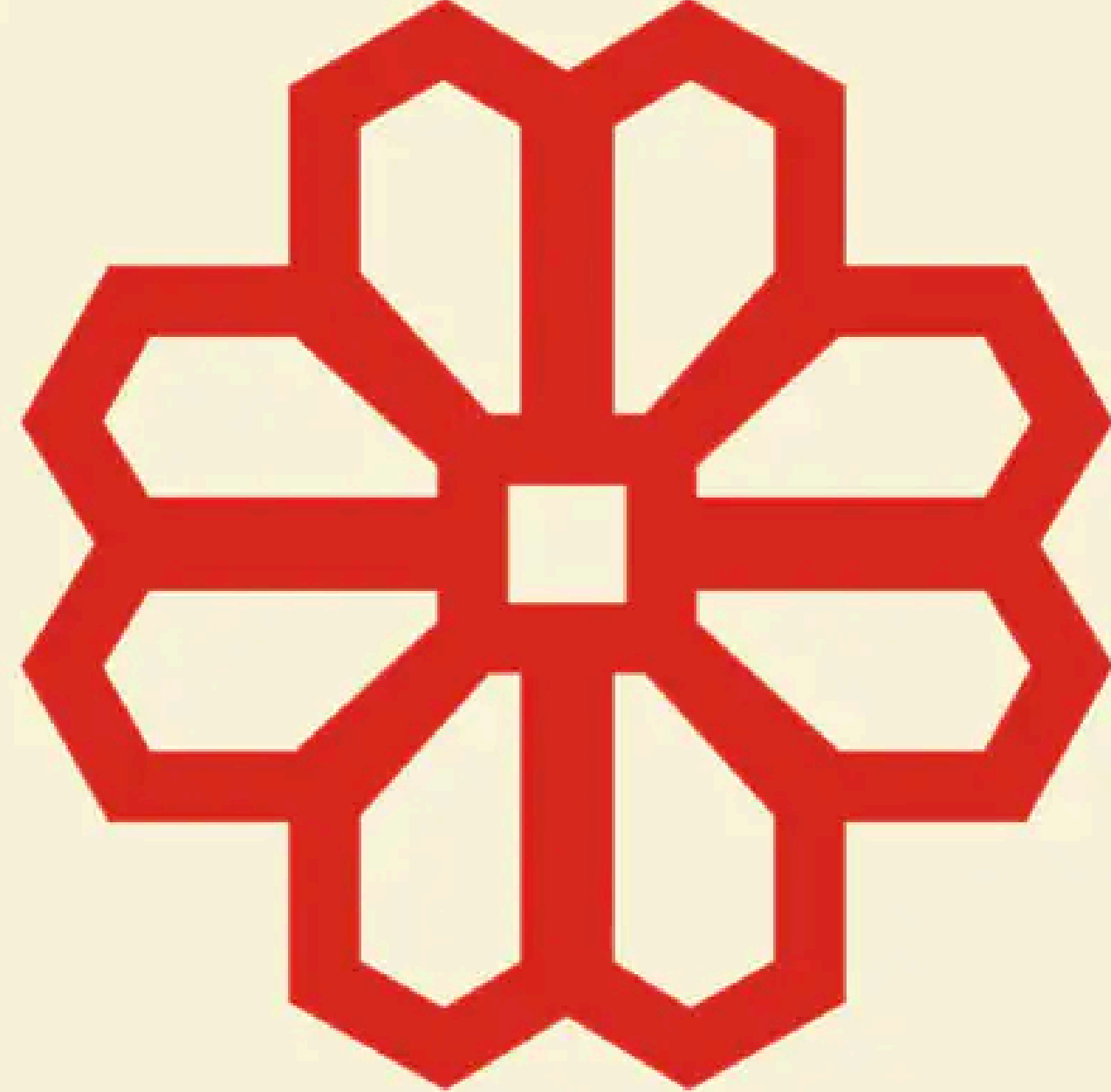
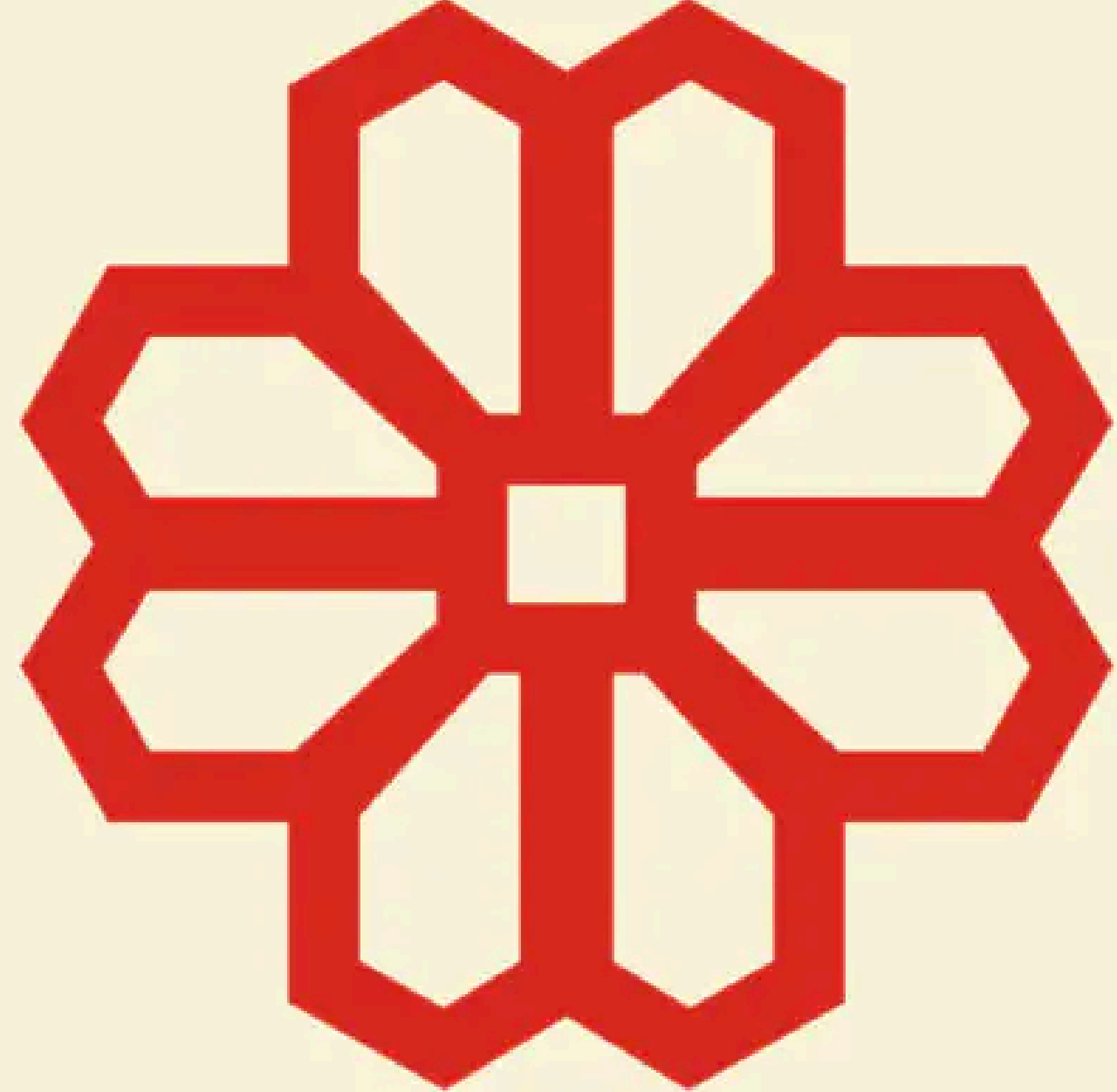
# THE STUDENT HOUSING GUIDE



## Welcome to Latvia!

This guide provides essential **insights** and **tips** to help you navigate student accommodations with ease, ensuring a **secure** and **hassle-free housing experience** throughout your studies.





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# RENTAL SUITABILITY CHECKLIST

- Ensure the total cost, including rent, utilities (e.g., gas, electricity, waste disposal), and potential extra fees (e.g., realtor, maintenance, internet), fits your budget.
- Request recent utility bills from the landlord or agent to understand additional costs.
- List essential amenities (e.g., dishwasher, washing machine, furnished or unfurnished) and confirm these are provided.
- Ask about the type of heating system, as this affects utility costs.
- If possible, speak to previous tenants about their experience with the rental and landlord.
- Compare similar rentals in the area to avoid overpaying.

# ESSENTIAL RENTAL FEATURES



Confirm the **rental term** aligns with your needs (check start and end dates in the contract).

Ensure the agreed rent and utilities (if “**all-inclusive**” is offered) are clearly stated in the agreement.

Clarify **maintenance cost** responsibilities (e.g., repairs to meters, light bulbs).



Document any **extra agreements** in the contract (e.g., holiday payment terms, responsibilities for repairs).

Make all payments by **bank transfer** for security and avoid cash or untraceable transactions.

Understand the **building's age** and **type**, as it impacts utility and maintenance expenses.



**Rent** and **utility costs** typically ranges from 70:30 to 60:40, depending on the season; ask for previous bills to estimate expenses.

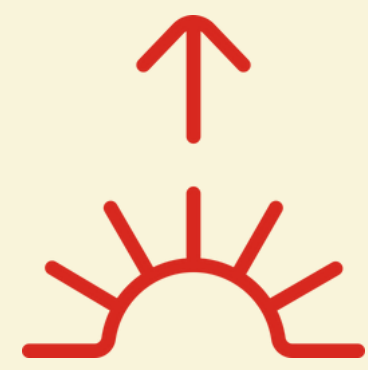
Discuss **property tax** responsibilities; these are often negotiable between tenant and landlord.

Ensure all **tenants are listed** in the contract if it's a shared rental.



# ROOMMATES

Find potential roommates through student Facebook and WhatsApp groups. Assess compatibility by discussing the following.



## Daily routines

(e.g., work hours, morning/evening preferences).



## Habits

(e.g., smoking, drinking, cleanliness).



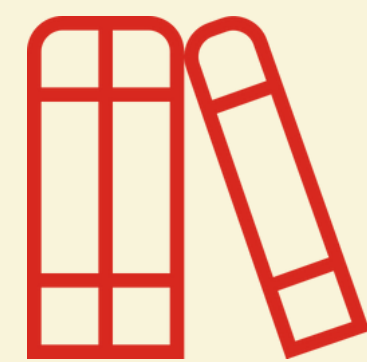
## Food habits

(e.g., dietary restrictions, cooking routines).



## Preferences

for sharing items and space.



## Leisure

Pets and free time/social activities.



## Planned

length of stay.



## Visitor expectations

and past roommate experiences.



# LEASE AGREEMENT ESSENTIALS

There are three types of leases. Always keep a signed copy of the lease (digital or physical).



## Fixed-Term Lease

Offers a set term, usually one year, with fixed terms for rent and rules.



## Month-to-Month Lease

Continues until either party ends the agreement.



## One-Way Lease

Uncommon; may involve fees if the tenant leaves early.

- Double-check all details (name, address, costs, policies) for accuracy.
- Look for any charges or penalties (e.g., for late payments, pet fees, cleaning).
- Confirm rules on subletting, guests, and other restrictions.
- Understand the conditions and refundability of the security deposit.
- Review the escape clause and notice period requirements.
- Check if the contract falls under Residential Tenancy Law or Arbitration (<https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/322216> in English).

# APARTMENT INSURANCE



## **Insurance type**

Many rentals have basic insurance covering the structure only; personal belongings are usually not covered.

## ***Renter's Insurance:***

Covers belongings in case of fire, theft, or damage.

## ***Liability Coverage:***

Covers damage caused by tenant negligence (e.g., flooding).

## **Providers**

Insurance providers include Swedbank, Balcia Insurance, Ergo, among others.

# AVOIDING RENTAL FRAUD



## **Use trusted rental sites**

- Arco Real Estate (broker fee may apply)
- [rentinriga.com](http://rentinriga.com), [estatelatvia.com](http://estatelatvia.com), [cityreal.lv](http://cityreal.lv)
- Use caution with [ss.lv](http://ss.lv) and Facebook groups.
- Explore university student housing options.

## **See yourself**

Always view the apartment in person and meet the landlord.

## **Payments**

Avoid unorthodox payment methods; pay only after signing a contract, using traceable payment methods.

# WHEN MOVING-IN

- Inspect and document any **pre-existing damages** with photos, including date and time stamps.
- **Report** any issues to the landlord in writing to avoid disputes later.

# WHEN MOVING-OUT

- Review your **contract's notice period** and any early termination penalties.
- Ensure your notice **aligns with the rental period** (typically 30 days).
- **Keep proof** of notice delivery (email, receipt, or photo evidence).
- Obtain a copy of any **personal records** to prevent misunderstandings.

# IMPORTANT WARNINGS



- **Avoid** any agreements **not documented in writing** and ensure you retain a signed copy.
- **Do not pay** rent or a deposit until the contract is **signed** and accompanied by an invoice.
- **Avoid paying in cash**, and don't use untraceable online services or wire transfers.
- **Never sign** a contract until you fully understand its terms and have all necessary information.
- Keep original **proof of payment** with you at all times.
- For legal support, students can access **free assistance** at the University of Latvia Law Faculty's Legal Clinic: <https://www.lu.lv/en/about-us/structure/ul-centres/fl-legal-clinic/>.
- **Residential Tenancy Law** of Latvia: <https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/322216>



# WELCOME TO RIGA

**Riga is the capital and largest city of Latvia**, renowned for its rich history, vibrant culture, and architectural beauty. The city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, celebrated for its well-preserved medieval old town and Art Nouveau architecture. With a population of around 632,000, it serves as a cultural, economic, and political hub of the country. Riga is characterized by a blend of modern urban life and historical charm, offering a diverse array of activities and attractions, including museums, theaters, parks, and lively nightlife.



# LIVING IN RIGA

Riga is a dynamic, student-friendly city with rich culture, affordable living, and great options for enjoying city life.



## Culture & Events

Riga has a vibrant cultural life with festivals, concerts, and art exhibitions happening year-round.



## Parks & Outdoors

Riga is rich in green spaces ideal for outdoor activities, and the beaches nearby are popular for summer relaxation.



## Affordable Living

The city's cost of living is student-friendly, with budget-conscious options for rent, groceries, and public transport.



## Transport & tivity

Riga's public transport is efficient, offering student passes, and the city is also bike-friendly.



## Student Life

Riga has a lively student scene with university-organized activities that offer great ways to connect and engage with city life.



## Food & Markets

Riga's markets are perfect for fresh, budget-friendly food. Trying local foods is an essential part of experiencing life here.

# RIGA NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDE

## **Vecriga (1 - Green Zone)**

Very safe area with excellent public transport, though rental prices are high.

## **Centra Rajons (2 - Orange Zone)**

Also very safe and central, with great transport options; however, still on the pricier side.

## **Avoti (3 - Blue Zone)**

Safe and central with good public connections; generally an expensive area.

## **Teika (4 - Pink Zone)**

Safe and relatively central with good transport links; more affordable than central zones.

## **Zemgale/Agenskalns (5 - Purple Zone)**

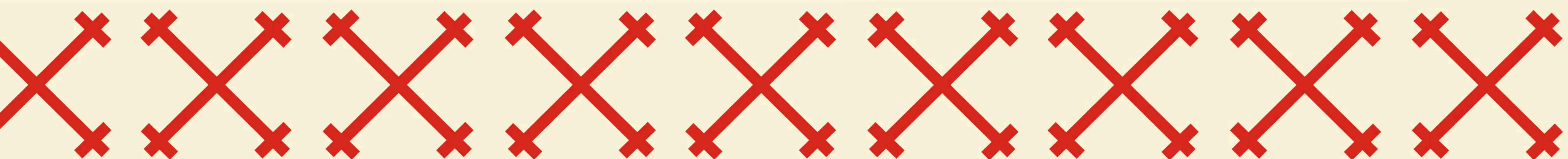
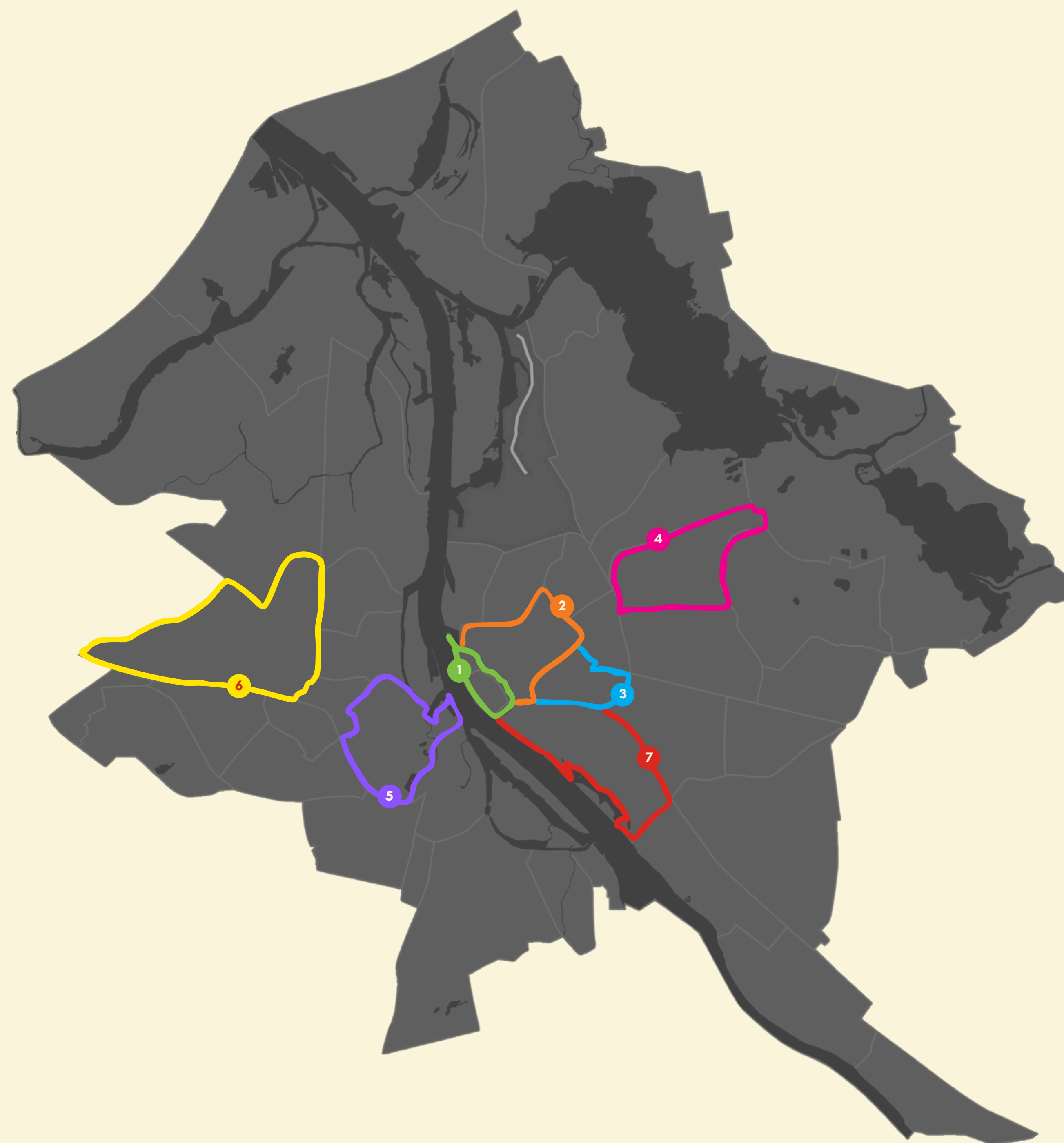
Safe and centrally located with good public transport; affordable rent.

## **Imanta (6 - Yellow Zone)**

Safe but farther from the city center, well-connected by transport, and affordable.

## **Latgale District (7 - Red Zone)**

Less safe and less central with limited transport options, but rent is affordable.



# KEY INSTITUTIONS

## **University of Latvia**

One of the oldest universities in the Baltics, offering diverse programs across sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

## **Riga Technical University**

Known for strong programs in engineering, IT, and architecture, and highly regarded for technical and scientific research.

## **Riga Stradins University**

Specializes in medicine, health sciences, and social sciences, with a strong reputation in medical and healthcare education.

## **BA School of Business and Finance**

Specializes in finance, business, and economics, with strong links to the finance industry and a focus on practical training.

## **Stockholm School of Economics in Riga**

Renowned for its high-level business and economics education, with a focus on analytical skills and international business.

## **Turiba University**

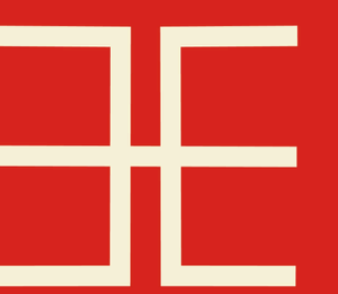
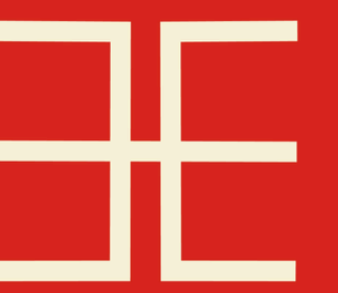
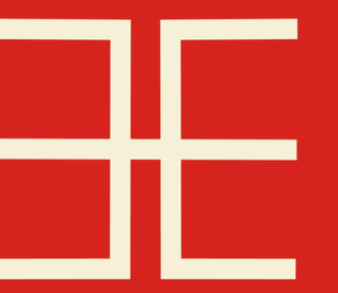
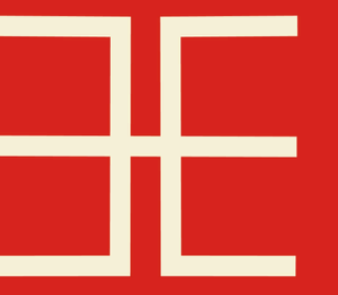
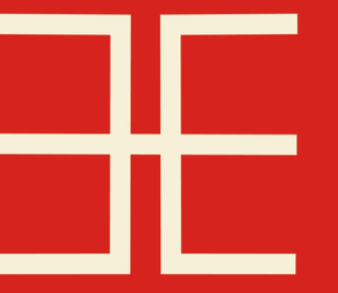
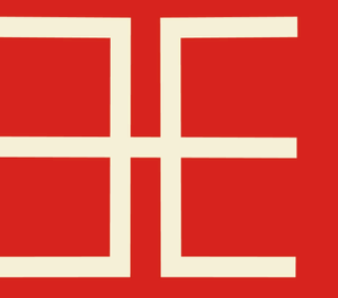
Focuses on business, law, tourism, and management, providing industry-oriented education.

## **Latvian Academy of Arts**

Latvia's premier institution for arts education, offering programs in fine arts, design, and art history, and fostering a vibrant creative community.

## **Riga Graduate School of Law**

Offers specialized programs in law, international business law, and human rights, attracting students from around the world for legal studies.



# ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS



## **University Dormitories**

Many universities provide student housing, including hostels and dormitories, which are typically more affordable than private rentals.

## **Private Rentals**

Numerous apartments are available for rent throughout the city.

## **Shared Housing**

Students often choose to share living costs, with many listings available through local social media groups.

# KEY RENTAL INSIGHTS



## **Visit the Property**

If possible, always inspect the property in person and meet the landlord to ensure the living conditions meet expectations.

## **Safety**

Pay attention to the neighborhood's safety ratings, especially if considering ground-floor apartments.

## **Lease Agreement**

Ensure that you have a written lease agreement that clearly outlines the terms, including rent, duration, and house rules.

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## **University Housing Options – RSU Housing Options**

<https://www.rsu.lv/en/rsu-student-hostels>

## **University Housing Options – LU Housing Options**

<https://shorturl.at/iDwNQ>

## **University Housing Options – RTU Housing Options**

<https://www.rtu.lv/en/studies/accomodation-1>

## **University Housing Options – BA Housing Options**

<https://shorturl.at/mA3Hl>

## **University Housing Options – SSE Housing Options**

<https://www.sseriga.edu/education/bachelor/campus>

## **University Housing Options – RISEBA Housing Options**

<https://riseba.lv/en/come-study/accommodation/>

## **University Housing Options – ISMA Housing Options**

<https://www.isma.lv/en/for-applicants/accomodation>

## **University Housing Options – TSI Housing Options**

<https://tsi.lv/campus-life/accommodation/>

## **University Housing Options – LSPA Housing Options**

<https://shorturl.at/VzGZt>

## **University Housing Options – TURIBA Housing Options**

<https://www.turiba.lv/en/university/accommodation>

## **International Rental Listings – Airbnb**

<https://www.airbnb.com/>

## **International Rental Listings – Erasmus Play**

<https://erasmusplay.com/en/>

## **International Rental Listings – SpotaHome**

<https://www.spotahome.com/>

## **International Rental Listings – UniPlaces**

<https://www.uniplaces.com/>

## **Student Hotel Options – YouthMent [Riga]**

<https://youthments.com/home/>

## **Student Hotel Options – DuckRepublik [Riga]**

<https://duckrepublik.eu/>

## **Student Hotel Options – SHED [Riga]**

<https://shedcoliving.com/riga/>

## **Rental Listings – RENT IN RIGA**

<https://www.rentinriga.lv/en/main>

## **Rental Listings – City Real Estate**

<https://www.cityreal.lv/en/>

## **Rental Listings – SS.LV [use with caution]**

<https://www.ss.lv/en/>



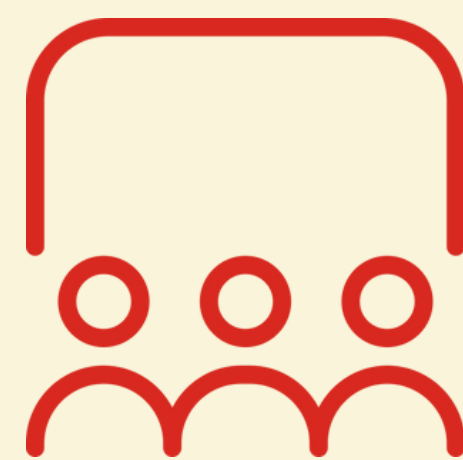
# WELCOME TO JELGAVA

**Jelgava, located** just 30 kilometers from Riga **in the lush and fertile region of Zemgale**, has evolved into one of Latvia's most dynamic student cities. Known for its rich cultural heritage and impressive Baroque architecture, the city is a prime destination for students, especially those enrolled at the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU). Jelgava's unique blend of historical elegance and modern student life makes it an attractive spot for both study and leisure. Landmarks like Jelgava Palace and the Holy Trinity Church Tower contribute to the city's charming atmosphere, while the surrounding countryside is perfect for outdoor activities.



# LIVING IN JELGAVA

Jelgava, in central Latvia, is known for its rich history, welcoming student community, and scenic university campus.



## Student-Friendly Environment

Known for its peaceful atmosphere, Jelgava offers a relaxed lifestyle with a close-knit community, making it ideal for students who prefer a quieter setting.



## Transportation & Accessibility

Jelgava is well-connected by train and bus to Riga and other cities, making travel convenient for students and residents.



## Cultural Life

Jelgava hosts various cultural events and festivals throughout the year, with museums, theaters, and local cafes offering a vibrant social scene.



## Education & Opportunities

Jelgava is home to Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, offering programs in agriculture, engineering, and natural sciences.



## Affordable Living

Jelgava offers a low cost of living, including affordable housing, groceries, and transportation compared to larger cities.



## Nature & Outdoor Activities

The city is surrounded by parks, forests, and the Lielupe River, providing excellent opportunities for hiking, cycling, and water activities.



# PARTS OF THE CITY



## **Jelgava Districts**

Jelgava is divided into the central city area and the district of *Parlielupe*, which sits across the Lielupe River.

## **The Area Difference**

*The city center* is home to key academic buildings, cultural sites, and various shops and cafes, while *Parlielupe* hosts some student dormitories and sports facilities.

## **Connection to the City**

Students in *Parlielupe* are just a short trip away from the heart of Jelgava, connected by the city's well-maintained bridges and scenic riverbanks.

# KEY INSTITUTION



## **Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies**

Jelgava's academic life revolves around LBTU, which draws both local and international students, particularly in disciplines like veterinary medicine, agriculture, and forestry.

## **Infrastructure**

The university's infrastructure includes specialized research facilities, laboratories, and a robust support network for students, which includes multiple dormitories and community activities.

# ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS



## **University Dormitory Housing**

Most students in Jelgava choose to live in university dormitories, which are conveniently located and provide affordable housing options.

### **Three main dormitory buildings**

*Dormitory 7:* Offers double and single rooms with amenities. Prices range from €148 for double rooms to €200 for a single room.

*Dormitory 8:* Provides a range of single and shared rooms. Rates start from €127 per month, with daily rates for short-term stays also available.

*Dormitory 9:* This dormitory primarily serves veterinary students. It is further from the city center, but offers a lower price point, with full-time student rates starting at €100 per month.

# KEY RENTAL INSIGHTS



## **Competitive Market**

The rental market can be fast-moving, so it's advisable to search early and be prepared to act quickly when an opportunity arises.

### **Costs**

Apartments in the city center are typically more expensive, and students are advised to carefully compare prices and amenities.

### **Language**

While many landlords understand English, posting rental ads in Latvian on platforms like SS.lv or local Facebook groups can have better results.

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT



## **Public Bus System**

Getting around in Jelgava is convenient, with several bus routes connecting different parts of the city.

## **Traveling to Riga**

Additionally, Jelgava is only a 30-minute train ride from Riga, giving students easy access to the capital for a broader range of cultural and recreational experiences.

## **Schedules**

Buses run frequently, and schedules are accessible online, making them a reliable option for commuting between the dormitories, university, and city center.

# USEFUL INFORMATION



## **Supermarkets & Shopping**

Jelgava has several supermarkets, like Rimi and Maxima, open daily. The city also features a lively central market, where fresh produce and local goods can be purchased.

## **Healthcare**

The Jelgava City Hospital provides medical services to students and residents, with emergency care and specialized clinics.

# WELCOME TO VALMIERA

**Valmiera is located in the Vidzeme region of northern Latvia**, lies about 110 kilometers from Riga and 50 kilometers from the Estonian border. It is one of the oldest Latvian cities, with roots dating back to 1283. The historic St. Simon's Church and the ruins of the Livonian Order Castle are symbols of its rich past. Besides its medieval charm, Valmiera stands out for its vibrant blend of nature and contemporary city life. The Gauja River flows gracefully through the city, and surrounding green areas make it perfect for outdoor activities. Valmiera is especially renowned as a sports city, hosting significant events like the Valmiera Marathon and the Riga-Valmiera Ultramarathon.



# LIVING IN VALMIERA

Valmiera is a peaceful city with rich history, natural beauty, and a relaxed lifestyle, offering easy access to outdoor activities.



## Community & Safety

Valmiera offers a tight-knit community with a safe environment, making it a great place for families and students seeking a quieter lifestyle.



## Cultural Life

The city has a strong cultural scene, with theaters, concerts, and festivals, as well as plenty of local cafes and social spaces.



## Affordable Living

Valmiera offers a low cost of living, with affordable housing, transportation, and daily expenses compared to larger cities.



## Transportation & Accessibility

While smaller, Valmiera is well-connected by bus to Riga and other cities, and the city is walkable with good local transport options.



## Education & Opportunities

Valmiera is home to Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, offering various programs with a focus on practical skills and regional development.



## Nature & Outdoor Activities

Surrounded by forests and rivers, Valmiera is ideal for hiking, cycling, and water sports, offering a close connection to nature.

# ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS



## **University Dormitory Housing**

Most international students at ViA live in the university dormitory on *Ausekļa iela 25A*, offering an affordable, community-oriented environment with basic amenities and options for single or shared rooms.

## **Private Rentals**

Private rental opportunities are limited, with high demand and higher prices compared to university accommodation. Apartments are often quickly taken, making apartment hunting more challenging.

# KEY RENTAL INSIGHTS



## **Competitive Market**

Students looking for private accommodation need to act fast, as the rental market is competitive.

## **Rental Agreements**

It is advisable to have rental agreements clearly outlined and to understand tenant obligations and rights.

## **Language**

Speaking some Latvian or seeking assistance from locals can be beneficial when negotiating with landlords.

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT



## **Public Bus System**

Getting around Valmiera is convenient, with a well-organized public bus system.

## **Traveling to Riga**

The city is also well-connected to Riga via daily bus services, taking about two hours.

## **Green Travel**

Cycling is popular among students and residents, thanks to several scenic bike routes. The proximity of green areas means that walking is another pleasant way to explore.

# USEFUL INFORMATION



## **Events & Discounts**

Valmiera offers numerous cultural and sports events, and students benefit from discounts.

## **Dining & Leisure**

The city has affordable dining options, such as local canteens and the famed Valmiermuiza Brewery.

## **Healthcare**

Valmiera has essential healthcare services accessible to students and residents.

# WELCOME TO RĒZEKNE

**Rezekne** is characterized by its picturesque **landscapes and historical sites**. One of its notable landmarks is the Rezekne Castle Hill, where remnants of medieval fortifications can be explored. The city is also home to the Latgale Culture and History Museum, which offers insights into the region's past and showcases local art. The Embassy of Latgale GORS serves as a major cultural venue, hosting concerts and events that celebrate both traditional and contemporary culture.





# LIVING IN RĒZEKNE

Rezekne is an affordable, peaceful city with a rich cultural heritage, great educational opportunities, and easy access to nature.



## Quiet and Small City Charm

Known for its peaceful and relaxed atmosphere, Rezekne offers a small-town lifestyle with a close-knit community, ideal for those seeking tranquility.



## Transportation & Accessibility

Rezekne is well-connected by bus and train to other cities in Latvia, and offers local public transport for easy mobility within the city.



## Cultural Heritage

Known for its rich history and cultural diversity, Rezekne hosts various festivals and events that celebrate local traditions and traditions of the region.



## Educational Opportunities

Rezekne is home to Rezekne Academy of Technologies, offering programs in technology, business, and social sciences, with a focus on practical skills.



## Affordable Living

Rezekne offers a low cost of living, with affordable housing, transportation, and daily expenses, making it ideal for students.



## Nature & Outdoor Activities

Surrounded by lakes and forests, Rezekne offers plenty of outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing, and boating, ideal for nature lovers.

# PARTS OF THE CITY



## **City Center**

The city is compact and easy to navigate, with the central area hosting a variety of shops, cafes, and cultural institutions.

## **Noteworthy places**

Noteworthy places include the House of Art, showcasing works from Latgalian artists, and the Rezekne Olympic Center, which features sports facilities including an outdoor swimming pool.

# KEY INSTITUTION



## **Rezekne Academy of Technologies**

Rezekne is home to several educational institutions, most notably the Rezekne Academy of Technologies, which offers programs in various fields including mechatronics and law.

## **The Art Academy of Latvia**

The Art Academy of Latvia also has a branch here, focusing on the creative arts.

## **Baltic International Academy**

The Rezekne branch of the Baltic International Academy is a private higher education institution offering a variety of accredited study programs in fields such as law, business, and public relations.

# ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS



## **University Dormitories**

For students, Rezekne offers various accommodation options. Dormitories associated with the local universities provide convenient living arrangements.

## **Private Rentals**

Additionally, students can explore private rental options in the city. Prices for accommodation vary, with dormitory rates typically being more affordable than private rentals

# KEY RENTAL INSIGHTS



## **Long-term Rentals**

When looking for accommodation in Rezekne, it's important to consider the duration of stay, as many landlords prefer long-term tenants for stability.

## **Rental Market**

Additionally, potential renters should be aware of the local rental market dynamics, as properties can be rented quickly, especially at the beginning of the academic year.

## **Costs**

Private rental options are available but can be more expensive. It is advisable to start looking early if opting for private housing and to utilize local resources, such as Facebook groups.

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT



## **Public Bus System**

The city's transport system is efficient, making it easy for students and residents to access various parts of the city.

## **Traveling to Riga**

Rezekne is well-connected by public transport, including bus and train services that facilitate travel to and from Riga and other regions.

# USEFUL INFORMATION



## **Hospitality**

Rēzekne is celebrated for its hospitality and cultural richness.

## **Cultural Life**

It hosts various festivals and events that highlight Latgalian traditions, and its diverse culinary scene includes unique local dishes.

## **Study & Leisure**

With a growing emphasis on cultural tourism and outdoor activities, such as trails around Kovsu Lake, Rezekne is an inviting destination for both study and leisure.

# WELCOME TO DAUGAVPILS

**Daugavpils, Latvia's second-largest city**, is a growing destination for Erasmus students, particularly those studying Russian philology, due to its unique cultural and linguistic landscape. Nestled along the Daugava River, the city offers a blend of historical charm, vibrant student life, and affordable living conditions. Daugavpils is an engaging place to live and study. In recent years, various other academic programs have been drawing an increasing number of international students to this dynamic, multicultural city.



# LIVING IN DAUGAVPILS

Daugavpils is an affordable, culturally rich city with a peaceful atmosphere, great education, and easy access to nature.



## Quiet and Peaceful Environment

Known for its calm atmosphere, Daugavpils is ideal for students seeking a more laid-back lifestyle, with a strong sense of community and fewer crowds than larger cities.



## Cultural Diversity

The city is known for its rich cultural diversity, with a mix of Latvian, Russian, and other ethnic communities, which is reflected in its festivals and cultural offerings.



## Affordable Living

Daugavpils offers a low cost of living, including inexpensive housing, transportation, and everyday expenses, making it an attractive choice for students.



## Transportation & Accessibility

Daugavpils is well-connected by train and bus to Riga and other major cities, with easy access to public transportation within the city.



## Educational Opportunities

Daugavpils is home to Daugavpils University, offering a wide range of programs, particularly in social sciences, education, and natural sciences.



## Nature & Outdoor Activities

Surrounded by rivers, forests, and parks, Daugavpils offers many outdoor activities, including hiking, cycling, and water sports, providing easy access to nature.

# PARTS OF THE CITY



## **Daugavpils is divided into several distinct neighborhoods**

Students living near the university dormitories have the advantage of being close to both academic and recreational facilities.

### **City Center**

The city center is the heart of student life, featuring shops, restaurants, and cultural institutions.

### **Daugavpils Fortress area**

The historic Daugavpils Fortress area provides a glimpse into the city's rich past, while various parks and green spaces offer a tranquil escape from urban life.

# KEY INSTITUTION



## **Daugavpils University**

The academic and social life of international students in Daugavpils centers around Daugavpils University.

### **Opportunities**

The university provides a broad spectrum of programs and organizes numerous events that make it easy for new students to integrate and feel at home.

# ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS



## **Daugavpils University Dormitory**

This dormitory is the most popular among international students due to its convenient central location. It is situated close to essential services and only a 15-minute walk from the main university buildings.

## **Daugavpils College of Medicine Dormitory**

This dormitory is a less common choice among Erasmus students and requires individual arrangements through the Erasmus+ coordinators. It offers the option of single-occupancy rooms. However, shared facilities, including the kitchen, bathrooms, and toilets, are used collectively by students on the same floor. This housing option is suitable for those seeking a quieter and more private living environment.

# KEY RENTAL INSIGHTS



## **Choosing Accommodation**

The most convenient and budget-friendly option for Erasmus students is the Daugavpils University Dormitory at Sporta iela 8. This dorm provides all essential amenities, and the costs are lower compared to renting private apartments.

## **Costs**

Private rental options are available but can be more expensive. It is advisable to start looking early if opting for private housing and to utilize local resources, such as Facebook groups.

## **Security Measures**

Students should always be mindful of safety, especially when living in shared accommodations or exploring the city at night.



# PUBLIC TRANSPORT



## **Public Bus System**

Though Daugavpils is easily walkable, the city boasts an extensive public transportation network, including buses and trams, which are convenient for getting around.

## **Traveling to University**

The central dormitory's location means that many students don't need to rely heavily on public transport. However, for those who do, the city's trams and buses provide quick and affordable connections to different areas.

# USEFUL INFORMATION



## **Supermarkets & Shopping**

Supermarkets like Maxima and Rimi are easily accessible. For more extensive shopping, Dittons and Solo shopping centers provide a variety of options.

## **Sports and Recreation**

The nearby Olympic Center offers a range of sports activities, from gym facilities to swimming pools.

## **Cultural Life**

Daugavpils is known for its vibrant art scene, with the Mark Rothko Art Centre being a must-visit destination. The city also hosts numerous cultural festivals and events throughout the year, enriching the student experience.

# WELCOME TO VENTSPILS

**Ventspils is a scenic port city** situated by the Baltic Sea and the Venta River. It is known for its clean, green environment and vibrant cultural life. The city is popular among students, offering a variety of higher education institutions, including Ventspils University of Applied Sciences (VUAS). In addition to its academic reputation, Ventspils provides plenty of recreational opportunities, from sports facilities to a beautiful Baltic Sea beach.



# LIVING IN VENTSPILS

Ventspils is a charming coastal city with affordable living, a vibrant cultural scene, and plenty of outdoor activities.



## Coastal Living

Ventspils is a picturesque coastal city with beautiful beaches, perfect for outdoor activities and relaxation, especially in summer.



## Cultural Life

Ventspils has a rich cultural scene with events like music festivals, theater performances, and art exhibitions. The city also boasts museums and cultural centers.



## Affordable Living

The cost of living in Ventspils is lower than in larger cities like Riga, with affordable housing, groceries, and daily expenses.



## Transportation & Accessibility

Ventspils is well-connected by bus to Riga and other cities. The city is bike-friendly, and public transport is affordable.



## Education & Research

Ventspils is home to the Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, offering programs in technology, engineering, and business, with a focus on research and innovation.



## Nature & Outdoor Activities

The city offers numerous parks, walking trails, and natural reserves, making it ideal for outdoor enthusiasts.

# VENTSPILS NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDE

## Ventspils City Center

The City Center is the primary area for students because of its proximity to VUAS. It offers easy access to various amenities, such as grocery stores, restaurants, and public transport hubs.

### Accommodation

*Studio Apartments:*

€200–€250 per month

*One-Bedroom Apartments:*

€200–€280 per month

*Two-Bedroom Apartments:*

€270–€370 per month.

Prices depend on the apartment's condition, whether it has modern amenities, and its size.

### Potential Risks & Problems

Higher rental costs compared to other areas. As a busy district, there can be more noise and traffic, especially during the tourism season.

## Parventa

Located across the Venta River, it offers more affordable housing options. Although further from the university, it's connected to the City Center by a bridge & a reliable public bus system.

### Accommodation

*Studio Apartments*

€180–€250 per month

*One-Bedroom Apartments*

€180–€250 per month

*Two-Bedroom Apartments*

€250–€350 per month

The area features older Soviet-era buildings, which may lack modern amenities.

### Potential Risks & Problems

Less social activity and nightlife compared to the City Center. Some buildings may require maintenance and may not have updated utilities. Public transport is less frequent at night.

# ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS



## **Ventspils University of Applied Sciences Dormitory**

*Location:* Inzenieru iela 101.

*Amenities:* Single and shared rooms, communal kitchens, internet, and laundry facilities.

*Cost:* €56–€107 per month. Rates increase by 12% in July and August.

*More Information:* [VUAS Dormitory](#)

## **Private Rentals**

Available in both the City Center and Parventa. Prices vary based on the apartment size, condition, and location.

# KEY RENTAL INSIGHTS



## **Language**

While many landlords speak English, knowing some basic Latvian phrases can be helpful, especially for negotiations.

## **Rental Agreements**

Always ensure your lease is in writing and clearly outlines payment schedules, rental duration, and any house rules.

## **Safety**

Stick to established rental platforms and avoid unverified listings.

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT



## **Ventspils Reiss Buses**

A well-developed bus system connects different parts of the city. Buses run every 10–15 minutes during the day but may be less frequent in the evening.

## **Travel Times**

From Parventa to the City Center, travel takes about 10 minutes by bus or 40 minutes on foot.

## **Transport updates**

Visit [Ventspils Reiss](#) for schedules and routes.

# USEFUL INFORMATION



## **Student Life**

Participate in cultural and social activities through the VUAS Student Council.

Contact: [VUAS Student Council](#)

## **Healthcare**

North Kurzeme Regional Hospital:  
Inzenieru iela 60.

Contact: [+371 636 24665](#)

## **Supermarkets**

Generally open from 8 AM to 10 PM.  
Mego (Ganibu iela 22): Open 24/7.

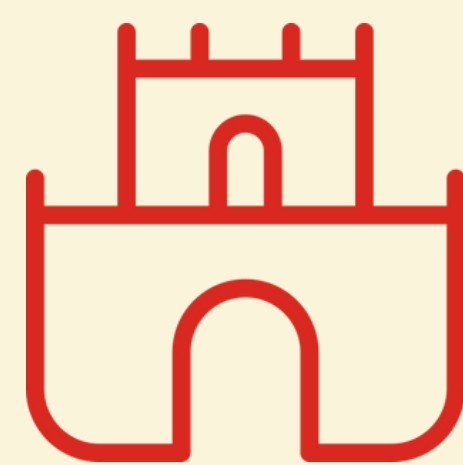
# WELCOME TO LIEPĀJA

**Liepaja, the third-largest city in Latvia**, is famously known as the “City of Winds,” a name that reflects its location on the shores of the Baltic Sea. Renowned for its rich cultural scene, creative spirit, and rock music heritage, Liepaja will also hold the prestigious title of European Capital of Culture in 2027. Located in the Kurzeme region, this coastal city attracts visitors and students alike with its unique atmosphere, historical landmarks, and lively events. With a blend of old and modern architecture, Liepaja offers an engaging and inspiring environment.



# LIVING IN LIEPĀJA

Liepaja is an affordable coastal city with a vibrant cultural scene, solid educational options, and scenic natural beauty.



## Historic Charm with Modernity

Known for its mix of historic architecture and modern amenities, Liepaja provides a unique blend of old-world charm & contemporary living.



## Vibrant Music & Arts Scene

Known as Latvia's music and arts hub with a lively cultural scene with music festivals, art exhibitions, and events celebrating its upcoming role as European Capital of Culture in 2027.



## Affordable Seaside Living

Liepaja offers a low cost of living with affordable housing and daily expenses, especially attractive for students and young professionals.



## Transportation & Accessibility

The city has a well-developed public transportation system and is connected by train and bus to other major Latvian cities.



## Educational Opportunities

Liepaja University offers programs in fields like information technology, arts, and social sciences, with a focus on innovation and creative industries.



## Beautiful Beaches & Nature

Situated on the Baltic Sea, Liepaja boasts beautiful beaches, parks, and opportunities for outdoor activities like windsurfing, cycling, and hiking.



# PARTS OF THE CITY



## 7 Key Areas

Liepaja is divided into several key areas, each with its own character and attractions.

### City Center

The city center is a hub of activity, featuring historical sites, music venues, and bustling cafes.

### Karaosta District

The Karosta district, a former military base, is known for its architecture and the Karosta Prison, now a museum and tourist attraction.

### Baltic Coast

The long, sandy beach along the Baltic coast is ideal for summer activities, and the scenic seaside park adds to the city's charm.

# KEY INSTITUTION



## RTU Liepaja Academy

The academic life in Liepaja revolves around the RTU Liepaja Academy, which welcomes both Erasmus+ exchange and full-time international students.

### Opportunities

The university provides a supportive and enriching environment for students, complete with modern facilities and numerous extracurricular opportunities.

# ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS



## University Dormitories

The location is just 800 meters from the RTU Liepaja Academy's main building in the city center. The hostel features shared rooms (2-3 students per room), a communal kitchen, shared bathrooms, a laundry room, and free Wi-Fi. Rent ranges from €65 to €210 per month, depending on room quality and the number of people sharing. For more info visit the website: [Liepu Hostel](#)

## Private Rentals

For students who prefer more privacy, renting a flat is a viable option. One- to two-room apartments in the city center typically start at €200 per month, excluding utility costs. However, rental agreements may often be seasonal. During the summer tourism season, from July to August, many owners opt to rent their properties short-term to tourists.

# TOP CHOICES



## Liepu Hostel

RTU Liepaja Academy offers accommodation at the Liepu Hostel, a student-friendly facility conveniently located close to the university.

## Hostel Brize

An affordable hostel option in the city.

## Liepaja Guest Apartment Liela

Comfortable guest apartments.

## Liepaja Travel

For a complete list of options, visit [Liepaja Travel - Accommodation](#)

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT



## **Public Bus System**

Liepaja is well-connected by various modes of transport. Students can reach the city by train, bus, or car from other parts of Latvia, and the city itself offers a reliable network of buses and trams.

## **Green Travel**

Additionally, the proximity of the city center and university buildings to key housing options means that walking or biking is often convenient.

## **For Travelers**

For travelers, there are also ferry and plane connections, as well as options for arriving by yacht.

# USEFUL INFORMATION



## **Seasonal Leases**

Many landlords prefer to rent flats on a seasonal basis, terminating leases in the summer to accommodate tourists. This is a crucial consideration for students planning to stay long-term.

## **Rental Costs**

While living in a private flat may offer more privacy, it often comes with higher costs, especially during the summer. Students are encouraged to budget accordingly for rent and utilities.

# ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK



**Erasmus Student Network Latvia** (ESN Latvia) is part of the largest student association in Europe; called the Erasmus Student Network (ESN AISBL), it is present in more than 500 Higher Education Institutions in 44 countries. ESN Latvia serves as a link between ESN AISBL and the 3 *Latvian sections*: **ESN Riga**, **ESN Valmiera**, and **ESN Jelgava**, each led by teams of dedicated student volunteers.

ESN Latvia focuses on supporting students both **before** and **after** their **international studies**, providing practical assistance, information, and activities that encourage cultural exchange and friendships among students.

ESN Latvia also promotes **student engagement** in a variety of events and activities related to education and culture at an international level. The organization's recommendations and initiatives are tailored to address the needs and well-being of students, offering **solutions** and **support** that align with the conditions of **studying** and **living abroad**.

# STUDENT UNION OF LATVIA



**The Student Union of Latvia** (LSA) represents the interests of all students in Latvia at national and international level. The organisation is an important partner of higher education **policymakers** on issues affecting students. The role of the LSA is enshrined in the Law on Higher Education. The union is a member of the **European Students' Union** (ESU).

The LSA's long-standing and constant slogan is "**Students matter - the right thing for students!**"

According to the Law on Higher Education of the Republic of Latvia, the Student Union of Latvia is established by the **student self-governments of higher education institutions** to represent students and express their views. The Student Union of Latvia is a union that brings together its members - student self-government.



# ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK LATVIA



## ESN Latvia

**Address:** [Bruninieku iela 73d - 28, Rīga, LV-1009](#)

**E-mail:** [esn@esn.lv](mailto:esn@esn.lv)

**Facebook:** [Erasmus Student Network Latvia](#)

**Instagram:** [@esn\\_latvia](#)

**Website:** <https://esn.lv/>

## ESN Riga

**Instagram:** [@esn\\_riga](#)

**Website:** <https://riga.esn.lv/>

## ESN Jelgava

**Instagram:** [@esn\\_jelgava](#)

**Website:** <https://esn.lv/>

## ESN Valmiera

**Instagram:** [@esn\\_valmiera](#)

**Website:** <https://esn.lv/>

# STUDENT UNION OF LATVIA



## Student Union of Latvia

**Address:** [Meza iela 1k-1, Rīga, LV-1048](#)

**E-mail:** [lsa@lsa.lv](mailto:lsa@lsa.lv)

**Facebook:** [Latvijas Studentu apvienība](#)

**Instagram:** [@studentulieta](#)

**Website:** <https://www.lsa.lv/>