

LATVIAN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017

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 foreign students, researchers and teaching staff for studies, research and participation in summer schools in Latvian higher education institutions (HEIs) in the 2016/2017 academic year.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

I Citizens from countries which have signed *an Agreement** on co-operation in education and science

Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan
Belgium (French Community of Belgium)	Lithuania**
Bulgaria	Mexico
China	Moldova
Croatia	Mongolia
Cyprus	Peru
Czech Republic	Poland***
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Slovenia
France	South Korea
Georgia	Tajikistan
Greece	Turkey
Hungary	Turkmenistan
Israel	Uzbekistan
Italy	

II Citizens from countries that offer scholarships for Latvian students, researchers and teaching staff without formal agreements on co-operation in education and science

Austria	Norway
Denmark	Slovakia
Germany	Sweden
Iceland	Switzerland
Japan	United States of America

**The Agreements can be found at the following links:*

- <http://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/starptautiska-sadarbiba/starpvaldibu-ligumi-un-to-izpildprogrammas>
- <http://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/starptautiska-sadarbiba/starpresoru-ligumi>

*** Applicants from Lithuania are required to apply via the Education Exchange Support Foundation of Lithuania (www.smpf.lt).*

****Citizens of Poland who are granted a scholarship for studies and research in Latvian HEIs based on the Latvian and Polish Cultural and Educational Programme of Cooperation for the Years 2013 – 2016 receive their scholarship from the sending Party. Applicants from Poland are kindly asked to contact the Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange of the Republic of Poland (<http://www.buwiwm.edu.pl>).*

I. Latvian Scholarships for studies at Latvian Higher Education Institutions in the academic year 2016/2017

a) Application conditions

Scholarships for applicants from one country **may not exceed 10% from the total grant amount for study scholarships of the year in question.**

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 for bachelor's and the first level of professional higher education studies will be accepted from students who have successfully completed **at least one academic year** of studies (at their home HEI or at a Latvian HEI if they already have been studying in Latvia) at the moment of application (February, March 2016).

Scholarships for bachelor's and master's studies are granted for a time period up to 10 months (for PhD-students – up to 11 months).

Scholarship for master's studies in the study programmes of Latvian philology, Latvian literature, Latvian culture and Latvian history can be granted for two academic years, i.e. for the duration of master's study programme.

If a student wants to continue her/his studies in Latvia for one more year, she/he has to apply for the Latvian scholarship again. The Latvian scholarship can be awarded not more than for two consecutive terms to one individual.

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

b) Application procedure (deadline 1 April 2016)

Required documents:

1. Application form:

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

2. Curriculum Vitae (applicants are asked to use the Europass CV form).

3. Letter of motivation (also including activities outside studies related to study field).

4. Certified photocopies of diplomas, including diploma supplements or equivalent documents or a transcript of records (if studies are not finished yet).

5. Two letters of recommendation of the academic staff dated not earlier than six months prior to the date of submission of the application.

6. **A letter of the relevant Latvian HEI** confirming the possibility to study in the chosen study programme and the language of studies (Latvian or other EU official language). 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/latvian_scholarships/

7. Study or academic work plan for planned duration of receiving a scholarship. Please use the form:

http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/latvian_scholarships/

8. Certificate or other document certifying the language proficiency required for studies.
9. Copy of passport.

Other important information:

All documents, which are neither in Latvian nor English, shall be translated into Latvian or English. All translations shall be officially certified.

Curriculum vitae and a letter of motivation shall be dated and signed.

The application form and all the enclosed documents shall be submitted in two sets.

Any incomplete applications or applications handed in after the deadline will not be taken into consideration. Documents sent by e-mail will not be accepted.

The submitted documents will not be returned.

Application dossiers for scholarships for studies at Latvian HEIs have to be sent directly to VIAA with the following exceptions: *Lithuanian, Estonian, Czech, Hungarian and Polish* candidates have to send the dossiers to the competent authorities of their countries:

http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/latvian_scholarships/

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

http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/latvian_scholarships/

The list of accepted candidates will be published on the website of VIAA (English version) in June 2016. All candidates will be informed personally about the results by e-mail.

c) Financial provisions

- The amount of the Latvian scholarship for studies is:
 - for bachelor`s and master`s students – **500 EUR** per month;
 - for PhD students – **670 EUR** per month.
- If the Latvian HEI asks the foreign student to pay tuition fee for the chosen study programme, he/she can use the scholarship for covering of the tuition fee or for accommodation and meals. Please take into account that the amount of the scholarship is not high enough to cover both.
- 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. In any 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 academic year 2016/2017

a) Application conditions

Only academic staff of foreign HEIs is eligible candidates for the Latvian fellowship.

The fellowships are granted for a time period of up to 5 months.

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

b) Application procedure (deadline 1 April 2016)

Required documents:

1. Application form:

http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/latvian_scholarships/

2. Curriculum Vitae and list of scientific publications (applicants are asked to use the Europass CV form).

3. Research plan for research work in Latvia (approx. 3 pages) and motivation letter.

4. Certified photocopies of Master Diploma, including transcript (if the PhD degree is not obtained yet) or 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/latvian_scholarships/

6. One recommendation letter (written within the past three months) from the home HEI or employer.

7. Copy of passport or identity card.

Other important information:

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

The curriculum vitae and motivation letter shall be dated and signed.

The application form and all the enclosed documents shall be submitted in two sets.

Any incomplete applications or applications handed in after the deadline will not be taken into consideration. Documents sent by e-mail will not be accepted.

The submitted documents will not be returned.

Application dossiers for scholarships for research work at Latvian HEIs have to be sent directly to VIAA with the following exceptions: *Lithuanian, Estonian, Czech, Hungarian and Polish* candidates have to send the dossiers to the competent authorities of their countries:

http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/latvian_scholarships/

All applications will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee of VIAA in accordance with the following evaluation criteria:

1) Plan for research work;

2) Motivation for research work in Latvia.

Foreigners who apply for research work in the field of Latvian language, literature or culture, are awarded one additional point.

The final decision on granting scholarships will be made by the Evaluation Committee.

The list of accepted candidates will be published on the website of VIAA (English version) in June 2016. All candidates will be informed personally about the results by e-mail.

c) Financial provisions

- **The amount of the Latvian fellowship is 30,00 EUR per day and max. 300,00 EUR 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 14 consecutive days, his/her fellowship will be cancelled.
- 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 2016

a) Application conditions

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

b) Application procedure (deadline 4 May 2016)

Information on how to apply for the scholarship for participation in summer schools can be found on the website of the HEI organizing the summer school session. The website will give details on all the necessary documents:

1. Application form of the summer school.
2. Curriculum vitae.
3. Motivation letter.

The list of Summer schools in Latvia in 2016 will be published on the website of the agency in the middle of February:

http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/summer_schools_latvia/?tl_id=18401&tls_id=688

Please note, that the application package has to be sent directly to the organizers of the summer schools with the following exceptions: *Lithuanian, Estonian, Czech, Hungarian and Polish candidates have to send the dossiers to the competent authorities of their countries:*

http://www.viaa.gov.lv/eng/international_cooperation/scholarships_gov/latvian_scholarships/

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.

c) Financial provisions

- The amount of the Latvian scholarship granted by the VIAA for summer school is **711 EUR per person** for the duration of the summer school.
- The scholarships will be transferred by the VIAA to the summer school organizers, no money will be handed out to the Latvian scholarship winners.
- The participants of the summer schools have to cover travel expenses from the country of origin to the summer school location in Latvia themselves.

Contact address:

State Education Development Agency (Valsts izglītības attīstības aģentūra)
Vaļņu 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