

WHERE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES COLLIDE



INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTUS







VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES



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EUROPEAN UNION European Regional

GREEN, WELL-CONNECTED AND SAFE, LATVIA IS SET TO BECOME THE GREAT NEW DESTINATION FOR GLOBETROTTING STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS.

FAST FACTS

1. Latvia declared its independence on November 18, 1918. Its centenary celebrations started way before 2018 and will continue way beyond.

2. Latvia's population is 2 million and the land area is 64.6 km2 – making it 5 times smaller than Germany and twice as big as Belgium.

3. Latvia's political, economic, and cultural centre is its capital – $R\bar{l}ga,$ where more than one third of the

country's population lives and works.

4. Located by the Baltic Sea, Latvia boasts a 500-kilometre long coastline of both gentle white sandy beaches and more savage rocky ones.

5. Latvia shares its border with Estonia, Lithuania, Belarus and Russia.

6. Latvia is one of the rare countries where half of the territory is wooded – any place is no more than 30 minutes away from a natural forest. Amazing, right?

7. Latvian is one of Europe's oldest languages. Spoken by just 2 million people in the world where the population is reaching 8 billion – our language is surely rare!

8. Around 12,000 rivers and 5,000 lakes call Latvia their home. In summer you will see more traffic jams on our waters than on the roads as people dive into outdoor-action-loving ritual called Boating.

9. Latvia has four distinct seasons. Depending on when you visit, you will find yourself in a white winter

DISCOVER LATVIA

wonderland, colourful autumn, blossoming spring or sunbathing somewhere on the coastline during a hot summer.

10. Latvians are also tech-savvy. Latvia is in the top 10 countries with the fastest internet speeds across in the world and Rīga has been named the Europe's capital of free WiFi.

FIND OUT MORE latvia.eu

VALMIERA BOASTS A POPULATION OF AROUND 25,000. IT HAS PLENTY OF GREEN AREAS AND PARKS AND THE LONGEST RIVER OF LATVIA, GAUJA, RUNS THROUGH THE CITY, SHOWCASING ITS SPECTACULAR BANKS.

THE CITY HAS A BUZZING BUSINESS COMMUNITY, WHICH PROVIDES GREAT CAREER **PROSPECTS FOR THOSE DECIDING TO SETTLE DOWN IN VALMIERA.**

THE CITY IS ALSO A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SPORTS, CULTURE AND EDUCATION.

VIBRANT BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- · Financial Times newspaper fDi Intelligence has placed Valmiera in the TOP 3 Micro European Cities of the Future
- 120 foreign capital companies with a total turnover of €133.1 million are registered in Valmiera
- The number of workplaces in Valmiera exceeds its population
- The city boasts its own Business Incubator

LOCAL BUSINESS SUCCESS:

- JSC "Valmiera Glass": produced a membrane for roof constructions in Heathrow Airport and roof of a football stadium in Turkey
- Ltd. "Valpro": jerry can design used for bags in spring/summer cruise collection 2015 fashion show of Chanel. One of the largest can producer for NATO army
- Ltd. "Wunderkraut": Web services provider consults, designs, maintains, trains, supports solutions on Drupal. Created web page for MTV channel

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

- Student Union
- Football
- Floorball
- Ice-hockey
- Debate club
- Theatre
- Eco-living
- AISEC
- Choir
- Concerts
- · University sports and entertainment events

TOURISM HIGHLIGHTS

- Valmiera Drama Theatre
- St. Simon Church
- Concert Hall "Vecpuisis"
- Valmiera Culture Centre
- Valmiermuiža Brewery
- Vidzeme Olympic Centre







FOUNDED IN 1283, VALMIERA IS THE LARGEST CITY OF THE **VIDZEME REGION, LOCATED 107 KM FROM RĪGA AND JUST**

FIND OUT MORE visit.valmiera.lv/en

VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES (VIA) WAS FOUNDED IN 1996 AND IS A STATE HIGHER **EDUCATION INSTITUTION.**



THE THREE STRATEGIC **PRIORITIES OF VIA ARE:**

EDUCATION

ViA offers higher education study programmes, lifelong learning opportunities and extra-curricular education for secondary school students.

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

ViA has set a research development strategy that proactively responds to the current social challenges and external demand.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND LEADERSHIP OF IDEAS

ViA takes on a role of an intellectual leader to advance the growth of its region and Latvia, through building lucrative partnerships and collaborating with various businesses and educational institutions across the globe.

• 6 study fields

FAST

- 17 study programmes
- 2 research institutions (SSII & HESPI)
- · Faculty of Society and Science
- Faculty of Engineering
- Professional and academic degrees
- Flexible study options
- Lecturers industry professionals
- · Strong links with the business community
- Knowledge and Technology Centre

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- · Partnerships with more than 100 his education institutions in around 45 count
- More than 150 internship partners worldy
- Collaboration with EAIE, EkoTekN Businet, ATLAS, Microsoft Academy **IEEE Computer Society**
- Erasmus+ and Nordplus excha opportunities
- · International Study Module for excha students
- Annual Baltic International Summer Sche
- Lecturers with global experience

MODERN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

gher	State of art facilities:		
tries	• Library		
wide	 Two faculty buildings 		
lord,	 Contemporary classrooms 		
and	 Digital learning eco-system 		
	 Multimedia laboratory 		
ange	 Virtual reality and augmented reality laboratory 		
ange	 Computer network laboratory 		
l	 Mobile technology laboratory 		
ool	 Spatial analysis laboratory 		
	Radio frequency identification laboratory		
	Cybersecurity laboratory		
	 Electronics laboratory 		
	 Mechatronic laboratory 		
	 Energy efficiency laboratory 		







IN



VIA TAKES AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH ITS STUDY PROGRAMME DESIGN, **ENSURING THAT STUDENTS DEVELOP SKILLS** AND UNDERSTANDING ACROSS MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES, WHICH IN RETURN WILL HELP THEM EXCEL WORKING ACROSS VARIOUS **SECTORS AS THEIR CAREER PROGRESSES**

STUDY FIELDS



- Mechatronics
- Wooden houses and eco-building
- **BACHELOR'S DEGREE**
- Communication and public relations • Media and journalism

PROGRAMMES IN ENGLISH



- Business Environment Administration
- Media and Information Literacy
- Strategic Communication and Governance
- Cybersecurity Engineering
- Virtual Reality and Smart Technologies
- Socio-technical Systems Modelling

PROGRAMMES IN LATVIAN

- Business administration
- Information Technologies
- Tourism organisation and management
- Mechatronics

MASTER'S DEGREE

Strategic Tourism Management

- Tuition fees: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation 1924 EUR per academic year (2886 or 3848 EUR for the full programme depending on its length). Non-EU, Non-EEA 2406 EUR per academic year (4812 or 3609 EUR for the full programme depending on its length)
- Application deadlines: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation -June 30. Non-EU, Non-EEA – May 1



Language: English

- Duration: full-time 1.5 years (3 semesters) or 2 years
- ECTS: 90 or 120 (depending on the programme length)
- Degree title: PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE IN **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**
- EQF: Level 7



MASTER'S IN BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION

DVERVIEW

The programme prepares highly competent top level managers for work in both, public and private sector organisations and provides students with the skills necessary to succeed in the rapidly changing business world. Particular emphasis is placed on providing learners with practical experience and competences in the management of business environment. This is achieved through practical classes, applied and scientific research, live projects, a study internship and a master's thesis.

CAREER

Graduates of the programme secure roles in various fields of business administration in Latvia and worldwide and continue their academic career in PhD study programmes.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Global marketing and client services management, Business and public finances, Modern logistic systems, Human resources, Project management strategies and management Organisational psychology. Business imitation and modellina. Corporate social responsibility. EU politics in business The administration, International legal environment. Cross-cultural communication, Research methods in Social sciences.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT



WHY THIS PROGRAMME?

- processes, process
- · An opportunity to specialise in a field of your interests - business export, employee motivation, creative industries, remote working, etc.
- Unique prospect to receive a globally recognised BUSINET network certificate that recognises that your degree meets the needs of international markets
- · Industry professionals who boast experience in international business are involved in the study process, offering students an opportunity to test their skills on different projects at their enterprises



- Tuition fees: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation 1924 EUR per academic year (2886 or 3848 EUR for the full programme depending on its length). Non-EU, Non-EEA 2406 EUR per academic year (4812 or 3609 EUR for the full programme depending on its length)
- Application deadlines: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation -June 30. Non-EU, Non-EEA – May 1



Duration: full-time 1.5 years (3 semesters) or 2 years

Degree title: ACADEMIC MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL



MASTER'S IN MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Study programme is based on developing in-depth knowledge of the key questions within the communication science with an emphasis on media and information literacy, additionally focusing on critical issues from social sciences and humanities. Students will develop understanding of the interaction between an individual, media, society and technology and its cultural, economic, and political features. Students will also gain knowledge about media as a business and the logic behind media economics.

CAREER

VERVIEW

Graduates can work in various sectors such as marketing, media, journalism and social media management, where skills and knowledge of media content monitoring and analysis, content creation and dissemination are important as well as at institutions that provide media literacy education, such as schools, museums, archives and more.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme is arranged in five broad modules: Theoretical Perspectives on Mediated Communication in Networked Societies. Digital Media Economies and Innovation. Critical Media Consumption, Prosumption Skills and Promotion of Participatory Culture and Research Competencies and Internship.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

COMMUNICATION, MEDIA AND GOVERNANCE

WHY THIS PROGRAMME?

- The programme has been developed in collaboration with communication and media experts. It is based on recommendations for international media and information literacy education
- It's the only such programme available in English across Europe (other programmes with similar content are only available in the USA)
- · Programme is based on utilising such innovative study methods as strategic games and simulations, which help to integrate theoretical knowledge with the development of practical skills when looking for solutions for various strategic communication issues in the ever-changing world



- Tuition fees: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation 1924 EUR per academic year (3848 EUR for the full programme). Non-EU, Non-EEA 2406 EUR per academic year (4812 EUR for the full programme)
- Application deadlines: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation -June 30. Non-EU. Non-EEA – May 1



Duration: full-time 2 years (4 semesters) Degree title: ACADEMIC MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL



MASTER'S IN STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND GOVERNANCE

The aim of the study programme is to provide knowledge of strategic communication and its management in the private and public sectors as well as within non-governmental organisations. Programme provides students with extensive and comprehensive understanding of modern communication trends and the current political, social and economic challenges nationally and world-wide, as well as the skills necessary to put their knowledge into practice.

CAREER

ERVIE

Graduates can work in the public and private sector institutions and be responsible for planning strategic communication, branding, communication management or creating and managing integrated communication campaigns.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme is arranged in four broad modules: Societal security and digital technology, Strategic communication, Governance and innovation, Research and Innovation.

WHY THIS PROGRAMME?

 The programme integrates hands-on work experience. which can be gained through participation in problem-based student consultancy projects. It also

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

COMMUNICATION, MEDIA AND GOVERNANCE



utilises such innovative study methods as strategic games and simulations. This ensures that students can apply their theoretical knowledge in practice

- The current and interdisciplinary study content offers knowledge about the role of strategic communication in the context of strengthening national security. It highlights cognitive processes and decision making at an individual and group level. The governance courses within the curriculum will provide knowledge about modern and innovative government management practices
- · International academic team and guest lecturers, which ensures multi-cultural study experience - vital in the communication sector

- Tuition Fees: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation 1924 EUR per academic year (3848 EUR for the full programme). Non-EU, Non-EEA 3282 EUR per academic year (6564 EUR for the full programme)
- Application deadlines: Applications will open in spring 2018



MASTER'S IN CYBERSECURITY ENGINEERING



The programme's goals are to provide the necessary competencies for a cybersecurity specialist who is responsible for hardening information systems as well as responding to cyberattacks and security incidents, carrying out vulnerability analysis and offering security measures to mitigate threats in the workplace. Study methods are face-to-face sessions, teamwork exercises, case study analysis and simulations related to solving real life cybersecurity problems. The study programme includes an internship.

CAREER

OVERVIEW

In the near future the demand for Engineering and Information and Communication Technology specialists will surpass supply, which opens up great career prospects for cybersecurity specialists. Graduates can work in various public and private sector organisations as penetration testers and cybersecurity specialists, who can collaborate effectively, think critically and make data-based decisions.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Core courses: Ethical hacking, Web application pentesting, Reverse engineering, Cybersecurity policy, Information security risk management.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

INFORMATION **TECHNOLOGIES**

WHY THIS PROGRAMME?

- The first professional Master's degree programme in the Cybersecurity Engineering field in Latvia
- Students will have the opportunity to build hands on skills at ViA Cybersecurity laboratory and the university's Knowledge and Technology Centre
- Students will get an opportunity to participate within the cybersecurity community in Latvia



- Tuition Fees: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation 1924 EUR per academic year (2886 EUR for the full programme). Non-EU, Non-EEA 3282 EUR per academic year (4923 for the full programme)
- Application deadlines: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation -June 30. Non-EU, Non-EEA - May 1



Language: English

- **Duration:** full-time 1.5 years (3 semesters)
- Degree title: PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE IN VIRTUAL REALITY AND SMART TECHNOLOGIES

MASTER'S IN VIRTUAL REALITY AND SMART TECHNOLOGIES



The study programme provides extensive knowledge about Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) technologies, their usage and role in innovation. A vital part of the programme is the opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience whilst working on live projects alongside various tech businesses, start-ups and industry professionals to solve current problems and create new solutions. The study programme includes an internship. Students will have to attend an intensive learning event, Hackathon, which is dedicated to finding new VR/AR solutions.

CAREER

OVERVIEW

Graduates can work in the VR/AR system design and engineering and use the skills gained through studies to plan, implement and manage various VR/AR projects as well as apply their knowledge to innovating new products/solutions and ensuring the advancement of the VR/AR through scientific research.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme is arranged in five broad modules: VR/AR project planning and implementation, VR/AR authoring, User experience design and implementation, recognition services and intellectual environments and VR/AR project sustainability and transformation.

WHY THIS PROGRAMME?

• The study programme has been developed in collaboration with leading Latvian VR/AR businesses that offer and deliver their solutions throughout the

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

INFORMATION **TECHNOLOGIES**

world. Guest lectures from industry professionals will be an integral part of the study process. Business representatives will share their experience and work with students on current industry challenges, giving learners the opportunity to gain hands-on industry experience

- The latest VR/AR technologies and software will be available throughout the course. The university's Virtual reality and augmented reality laboratory boasts 20 sets of equipment that consist of high performance computers and VR/AR tools from such manufacturers as Meta, Dagri, ODG, Microsoft, MagicLeap, Neuron, Samsung, Vive. Oculus. MSI. Gooale. Vuzix. etc.
- · Programme utilises innovative study methods and has been developed by merging experience and insight from similar programmes around the globe, which prepare high level specialists for working in such industries as medicine and healthcare, logistics, architecture, urban planning, tourism, history, marketing, art, entertainment, etc.



Tuition Fees: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation -3635 EUR per academic year (10 905 EUR for the full programme). Non-EU, Non-EEA 6338 EUR per academic year (19 014 EUR for the full programme)

Application deadlines: EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation - August 24. Non-EU, Non-EEA – Mav 1



Language: English

Duration: 3 years (6 semesters) ECTS: 150 Degree title: PHD IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES **ISCED:** 0611 EQF: Level 8

VIDZEME UNIVERSITY VIDZEMES VA VIDZEME UNIVERSI

The aim of the programme is to promote the development of system analysis and modelling within the information technology field. We want to encourage and educate young competitive researchers, who would be able to bring forward the newest scientific results within system modelling into the social sciences in the digital age, thus raising the quality of products and services.

CAREER

VERVIEW

Graduates of the programme secure roles in various research fields.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

ENGINEERING SCIENTIFICALLY ACADEMIC WORK MODELLING

Methodology of research work and modelling data processing, modelling of business information systems, tourism systems and regional development, political systems and modelling of public administration, systems in social theories, logistic information systems and organisation of transport.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PhD students will have an opportunity to participate in the European Research Area as well as undertake various preparation and design activities for Horizon 2020 projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

PHD IN INFORMATION SOCIO-TECHNICAL **TECHNOLOGIES** SYSTEMS MODELLING







- year

EXCHANGE STUDIES WITHIN INTERNATIONAL STUDY MODULE:

APPLICATION DEADLINES: May 1 (autumn; academic year), October 15 (spring). **REQUIREMENTS:** Good command of English, online application. STUDIES BEGIN: September (autumn semester) and February (spring semester).

Orientation days in the beginning of each semester. Latvian student mentor for each international student.

EXCHANGE **OPPORTUNITIES**

ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

 Around 50 incoming exchange students per academic year • Around 80 outgoing students for studies and internships per academic

• 1 semester or 1 academic year

Bachelor and Master's levels

• Media, Communication, Tourism, Business, Information Technologies

· English courses as an integral part of all study programmes and exchange students join the groups of local students



BALTIC INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL (BISS) IS A 10-DAY INTENSIVE COURSE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES.

The programme is entirely taught in English and includes classroom teaching, seminars, workshops, company visits, and meetings with managers, professionals and important stakeholders. BISS also features exciting trips and social activities to help students discover Latvia and its culture. Students have a chance to enjoy a truly intercultural experience, to make friends from all over the world and make the most of the green and sunny Latvian summer.

DURING THE SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS CAN TAKE PART IN **ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS SUCH AS:**

- Official Summer School Opening and Welcome Party
- Local Orienteering Game WHERE AM I?
- International Snack Party
- Traditional celebration of Summer Solstice
- Pizza night
- Visit to a local brewery, Valmiermuiža
- Sports activities
- Closing Ceremony

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Students should have a good command in English in order to be able to follow the lectures, participate in the discussions and complete written assignments
- Applicants must be at least 18 and should have completed at least a secondary school education
- We welcome students, researchers and teaching staff who are engaged in any HEI to apply for scholarships available (subject to country of origin)



BALTIC INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES CARRIES OUT RESEARCH WITHIN ITS **KEY STRATEGIC DIRECTION - DIGITAL** SOLUTIONS FOR SOCIAL CHALLENGES. IT COVERS:

- Smart technologies and eco-buildings in the national economy
- Virtual reality technologies and visualisation
- management E-learning and technologies
- Socio-technical systems modelling technologies
- · Sustainable national economy and knowledge society
- Communication ecosystem and technologies

VIA SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTES

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH (HESPI)

Established in 2013. The main focus of HESPI is developing research activities in regional development and planning, sustainable development, development of high added value products based on local resources as well as to strengthen research institution capacity and cooperation with stakeholders in the region, Latvia and neighbouring countries as well as the FU.

SOCIOTECHNICAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING **INSTITUTE (SSII)**

Founded in 2006. Its main research directions are logistics information systems and RFID technologies, Modelling the adoption and

sustainability of sociotechnical systems, heterogeneous and divided imitation modelling technologies, the use of imitation modelling simulation in engineering and social environment, electronic teaching tools as well as Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality technologies.

KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (KTC)

A department of the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences that was established in September 2014. IT OFFERS:

- SUPPORT for young entrepreneurs: preincubation cooperation with business incubators.
- **COOPERATION** in the region, Latvia and abroad: with educational and scientific institutions with partners from private, public and non-governmental sectors
- CONSULTATION AND INDIVIDUAL SOLUTIONS for individuals and legal entities:
 - Student practice laboratory
 - Innovation laboratory
 - Participation in development projects

High quality **LIFELONG LEARNING** services:

OPEN UNIVERSITY

- Individual and non-formal education programs
- Professional development programs
- Preparatory courses for university Applicants and students from comprehensive schools





MAY 1 Application for full-time studies Non-EU, Non-EEA

JUNE 30

Application for full-time studies EU, EEA, Swiss Confederation

MAY 1 (autumn, academic year) OCTOBER 15 (spring) Application for exchange studies (Erasmus+, Nordplus etc.)

LAST WEEK OF AUGUST (autumn) LAST WEEK OF JANUARY (spring) Orientation days

SEPTEMBER – JANUARY Autumn semester

FEBRUARY – JUNE Spring semester

NOVEMBER 18 Independence day of Latvia

DECEMBER 24 – JANUARY 1 Christmas holidays

LAST WEEK OF JANUARY Registration week (full – time studies)

MARCH/APRIL Easter holidays

MAY 1 National holiday – Labour Day

MAY 4 National holiday - Declaration of Independence Day

JUNE 24 Summer Solstice

CONTACT INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE E-MAIL: INTERNATIONAL@VA.LV PHONE: +371 64250853; +371 22042022

Z	Achievement level	Grade	Meaning
	uon binb	10	with distinction
	very high	9	excellent
	1.2 × 1.	8	very good
9	high	7	good
		6	almost good
	medium	5	satisfactory
		4	almost satisfactory
6	low	3-1	unsatisfactory

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Non-EU nationals need a visa or residence permit (up to 5 months) to enter Latvia.

EU/EEA citizens should obtain the European Health Card. Students from other countries should obtain a valid health insurance policy.



WWW.VA.LV/EN



PRACTICAL **INFORMATION**

LIVING COSTS

AFFORDABLE LIVING UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACCOMMODATION LIVING COSTS PER MONTH. EUR

- from 90 EUR Accommodation from 200 FUR • Food Local transport from 25 EUR
- Social life, personal costs 50+ EUR

Full-time students can apply for Latvian State Government Scholarships and/or monthly scholarships at the university.



in, VIDZEMES AUGSTSKOLA







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