

# Riga Graduate School of Law

BACHELOR | MASTERS | PHD

PROGRAMMES IN LAW,  
BUSINESS, LINGUISTICS,  
AND DIPLOMACY



# Experience tells you what to do; confidence allows you to do it

**Prof. Dr. George Ulrich**  
RGSL Rector

In life, everything constantly ebbs and changes, but dreams remain. At times, when you have to make an important decision, the best choice is the one that really reflects your heartfelt interests. I have met many talented people, and while there is no doubt that having talent gives you a head-start; still, in order to make the most of that talent, it is essential to invest a lot of effort and hard work in order to be successful.

At RGSL, one of our primary aims has been to create a study environment that rewards a combination of talent and hard work. By facilitating the dynamic interaction between outstanding students and lecturers from Latvia, Europe and the wider region, we provide an ideal setting for a truly rewarding learning experience. One can feel it in the classrooms and corridors of the beautiful RGSL campus: an atmosphere of enthusiasm and high ambition.

I cordially invite you to join this magical experience. The present booklet contains description of a rich array of RGSL study opportunities, which just may be the ideal vehicle for you to pursue your career aspirations.

# Good reasons to study at RGSL

## Competence of teachers

RGSL has a resident faculty as well as a very large international faculty that comes to Riga to teach specialised courses. The faculty represents academic excellence, and at the same time offers substantial practical experience, leading to teaching that is both soundly based and highly relevant for career development.

Student participation forms an important aspect of all programmes. During discussions, professors ensure that the class as a whole move forward in learning and that students have occasion to apply their newly-gained knowledge.

## Distinctive study programme

RGSL offers a full range of education, all taught in the English language, starting with Bachelor programmes, through graduate studies on Masters programmes, to post-graduate studies for the award of a PhD. All RGSL diplomas are internationally recognised and warrant that the student has achieved a high level of academic and professional development.

Studies are based on interdisciplinary student research activities. Class sessions form a platform for discussion, so as to enhance the learning experience gained from studies, combining lectures with small group seminars. The learning experience is further enhanced by moot courts and other role-plays or simulations.

## International atmosphere

Riga and Latvia are located at the very centre of the Baltic States. Latvia forms part of several interlocking regions, as a Member State of the European Union, as part of the Nordic region, and as a portal to Eastern Europe.

Currently, students at RGSL come from up to 20 different countries, and almost 50 % are international students. Erasmus students are welcome, based on agreements between RGSL and the individual educational institutions. The course catalogue provides a wide range of relevant courses for Erasmus exchange.

## Attractive employment opportunities

Law firms, banks, and international companies recruit RGSL graduates for their excellent knowledge of European and international issues – and fluent English. Parliaments, ministries, government agencies, and courts also highly regard RGSL graduates. The web site of RGSL serves as an important reference point.

Evidence of the quality of education at RGSL is the high employment rate of our alumni at the international level, including positions at the European Commission, the European Court of Justice, the European Council, and the European Parliament as well as the European Court of Human Rights, the World Bank and the United Nations.

## Student environment

RGSL encourages an active student life both at the academic and social level. All modern study facilities are available at RGSL, including high speed internet. The library offers access to databases and online academic publications, which students may also access remotely.

Many teaching facilities are shared with the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, creating a campus atmosphere and adding to the international atmosphere. The student and faculty canteen shared by the two institutions forms a daily contact point for students.



*“The school gave me an intensive year of studies with first class teachers from all over Europe. Very relevant to my everyday's practice is the knowledge gained in various areas of EU law. There is hardly any case or matter not involving at least a bit of EU law.”*

**Moritz Wagner**

RGSL Alumnus 2005

Associate in Reed Smith's  
European Corporate Group in Munich

PhD candidate at the University of Hamburg



# Your success lies in research and creative thinking

## Riga Graduate School of Law

RGSL is a centre of excellence linked to the University of Latvia, with programmes that are all taught in English. The international faculty comes from both academic and professional backgrounds. The campus is located in the *Art Nouveau* district of Riga and hosts an outstanding law library.

Masters programmes have since 1998 covered international and European law, as well as subjects such as finance and linguistics. Bachelor programmes focus on law, business, and diplomacy. All programmes are interdisciplinary in nature.

Graduates have found important positions in law firms, international organisations, and business corporations. New PhD programmes will be offered in cooperation with international partners, which has increasing importance for professional career development.

The teaching method is case-based and directed towards practical application, but is also based on achieving a clear understanding of the complex underlying theoretical problems in the fields of study.

# Bachelor programmes

## Structure

Bachelor programmes at RGSL have an interdisciplinary approach with focus on law together with respectively business and diplomacy. The programmes comprise 180 ECTS credit points, corresponding to 120 Latvian credit points.

The overall duration of each programme is three years, ending with a Bachelor thesis. They entitle students to continue on RGSL Masters programmes, subject to additional requirements for entry to the one-year programmes.

Each course lasts six weeks, with students following three courses at the same time and a total of 15 class hours weekly, to which is added research work on assignments and class preparation. At the end of each course an exam has to be passed.

## Courses

The programmes include courses in both mandatory and elective fields. They are taught from a comprehensive theoretical perspective, but also relate theory to practical application. Research tasks and course assignments support this double perspective on subjects.

The legal components of the programmes have a comparative approach, drawing on several legal systems, and together with the elective courses they cover all main topics found in an international law programme.

Support for studying in English is available during the programmes, and students may also follow courses in French and German. Currently, the range of elective courses is being expanded, including focus on Asian business, politics and languages.

## LL.B in Law and Business

This programme directs itself towards students wishing to work either in a managerial environment, with a clear understanding of legal issues, or in legal practice with a clear understanding of business transactions.

Legal issues are dealt with in a regional and international perspective, with the main focus on the legal environment of the EU and its Member States, as well as that of major trading partners, such as the USA, Russia, and China.

Business issues are addressed in all fields relevant for successful commercial operations. This includes major areas such as economics, accounting, management, and marketing.

## BA in Law and Diplomacy

This programme directs itself to students intending to work in the Foreign Service of their home countries as well as in international organisations. However, candidates will be attractive for employment in many other fields, including the media.

Legal issues take their point of departure in international and European Union institutions and how these are regulated in relation to international relations. To this is added an understanding of major fields of law with which international relations interact, along with fields relevant for diplomatic officers serving on postings abroad.

Issues relating to diplomacy have a broad reach into history, culture, and political science, with special focus on conflict resolution and negotiation. The programme is operated jointly with the University of Latvia.



*“The degree from RGSL is always regarded as the best reference for the start of a professional career. The alumni of RGSL are employed by law firms, multinational companies, public entities including the European Commission and the European Court of Justice, as well as diplomatic corps throughout the Baltics, countries of the European Union, and other parts of the world.”*

**Egils Levits**

Judge at the European Court of Justice



*“ RGSL is one of the first institutions in the larger Northeastern region of Europe with a solid programme on topics of law and finance, with a selection of international lecturers and all taught in English. ”*

### **Bob Wessels**

Guest professor at RGSL

Professor of International Insolvency Law in Leiden (Netherlands) and New York

Advisor to the European Commission for crisis-management in the cross-border banking sector

# Masters programmes

## **Structure**

RGSL offers a wide range of Masters programmes combining the fields of law, business, international relations, and linguistics. The programmes are one-year programmes with 63 ECTS credit points, corresponding to 42 Latvian credit points.

The study plan includes both theoretical studies and thesis writing, which forms a central point of the programmes. Courses have a six-week structure, with students following two concurrent courses, which leaves time for the high level research activities expected of graduate students on a Masters course.

Some programmes have a higher credit rating, and some are offered also in a two-year professional format with integrated internships. RGSL facilitates solutions for students not meeting the “Bologna requirements” for a one-year Masters programme.

The programmes are also offered on a part-time basis, so that the duration of the part-time Masters programme depends on the individual programme followed by the student.

## **LL.M in International and European Law**

The programme is designed for students interested in pursuing their professional careers in international organisations, private law firms, public authorities, and academia. The programme allows for a combination of courses covering European Union Law, International Commercial Law, and Public International and Human Rights Law.

## **LL.M in Public International Law and Human Rights**

This programme is designed to focus on fundamental issues of public international law and human rights law, the interaction between the two areas of law, and in their current trends of development. Scholarships funded by the Open Society Institute are available.

## **LL.M in Transborder Commercial Law**

This programme is designed to focus on practical aspects of transborder trade within the European Union and on international conditions framing European Union trade. It is designed to meet the needs of lawyers working in the private sector.

## **LL.M in European Union Law and Policy**

This programme is designed to promote highly qualified experts with theoretical knowledge of both European Union law and policy issues. It covers integration, the role of the European Court of Justice, as well as policy implementation and negotiation.

## **LL.M in Law and Finance**

The programme equips both law and finance specialists with knowledge regarding the interface of financial affairs and its regulatory background. It facilitates understanding of the wide array of multidisciplinary issues involved and delivers in depth knowledge of the mesh of legal and economic aspects of firms and markets.

## **MA in Legal Linguistics**

The programme is designed as an interdisciplinary programme, covering a range of legal and linguistic skills useful for lawyers and language specialists working with legal texts. The interdisciplinary approach allows development of comparative legal and linguistic analytical skills in national, multilingual, and international contexts.

# PhD programmes

## Structure

RGSL is preparing to launch new PhD programmes for holders of a Masters or similar degree who wish to continue their studies in the field of law and related interdisciplinary fields. The programme duration will normally be three years.

PhD candidates may either be enrolled as students or employed as research members of the RGSL faculty, depending on available financing. Applications for enrolment and employment will be invited through public announcements of available positions. A general possibility for PhD studies leading to a doctoral degree will also be offered on a fee paying basis.

Each PhD candidate will have a supervisor appointed to monitor and assist the development of their dissertation, which when completed is submitted to an evaluation committee appointed by RGSL. In addition to tutoring, each candidate will follow a programme of specially designed courses to ensure training in relevant topics and general principles of scientific research.

After graduation, the holder of a PhD diploma will be eligible for appointment as a full member of the RGSL faculty, depending on available positions. Apart from academic employment, achieving a PhD diploma has become an increasingly important element in professional career development.

## International partners and study possibilities

In cooperation with the University of Copenhagen, RGSL is aiming to launch a PhD programme beginning in 2011. Programme duration is three years, with employment as a PhD research fellow, and leads to a doctoral degree in law.

Research fellows will be employed at RGSL during their period of study, but will be integrated into both research institutions and will spend approximately equal time in Riga and Copenhagen. They will be granted a special posting allowance for their period of stay at the University of Copenhagen.

Individual supervisors will be appointed by both participating institutions, and candidates will be offered a wide selection of courses and research seminars. Research fellows will have some teaching obligations, which will be related to their field of research.

The PhD programme will focus on subject matter researched and prioritised by both institutions. It will primarily involve research fellows who wish to devote their studies to international law issues, especially including human rights and EU law.

Recruitment of research fellows will be based on open advertisements, with assessment by an expert committee and personal interviews with shortlisted candidates.

RGSL is currently entering into partnerships with other institutions in order to offer additional possibilities for sponsored PhD studies in Riga.





# Continuing education and research

## Continuing education

The RGSL Continuing Education (CE) programme offers educational opportunities for private and public sector lawyers, managers and support staff:

- Selected courses from the various programmes are open for external participants through CE, obtaining academic credit points.
- In addition, in-house training provides tailor made training solutions within public authorities and private companies.
- Public courses on the latest international case law and legislative developments and legal language skills are offered in English.

## Projects

RGSL have a reputation as high level experts and are running and managing a variety of projects. At present, RGSL is leading or actively participating in the following international research projects:

- ENACT – European Citizenship
- PRIVWAR – Regulating Privatisation of “War”: the Role of the EU in Assuring Compliance with International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- JUSTMEN – Menu for Justice: creating *curriculum studiorum* for judicial training

## Advisory and consultancy services

Faculty members of RGSL have a reputation as high level experts and are frequently contacted by the mass media for expert opinions on various current matters. With its experience, RGSL can draw on its resources and provide specialist advice and research to both public and private sector organisations.





# Use existing knowledge to create new

*“The year spent in Riga can be described as one of the most unforgettable times in my life both academically and socially. I met dozens of amazing people from all over the world and enjoyed the warm atmosphere of the Riga Law School family. Certainly, I can freely state that the School is a great part in my formation as a human rights lawyer.”*

## **Levan Meskhoradze**

RGSL Alumnus 2007

Government Agent of Georgia  
to the European Court of Human Rights

## **Library and information services**

The RGSL Library offers one of the top legal collections in Central and Eastern Europe, widely used and appreciated by a growing number of students and professionals. The library is open to the public, thus serving RGSL, other students, professors, and members of the general public interested in law.

The library holds an impressive collection of current law books, legal journals, and yearbooks, as well as valuable legal databases, including Westlaw International, HeinOnline, EBSCO, and others.

In addition, the SSE Riga library on business and economics in the same building is available for students, and inter-library relations have been established throughout Latvia and Europe.

Work spaces in the library are available for students, with full access to internet and printing facilities. Work spaces enjoy an undisturbed view over the *Art Nouveau* rooftops of Riga, and the library also offers access to a rooftop terrace for relaxation.

# Admissions and tuition fees

## Admission requirements

RGSL accepts highly qualified students who are interested in the programmes offered and who are eligible and qualified to undertake studies at Bachelor and Masters level. Entry requirements vary between the different programmes:

### LL.B in Law and Business BA in Law and Diplomacy

Both available to individuals with a secondary school degree from any accredited school or a degree considered equivalent to an education necessary to undertake studies at RGSL.

### LL.M in International and European Law LL.M in Public International Law and Human Rights LL.M in Transborder Commercial Law LL.M in European Union Law and Policy

All available to individuals with a Bachelor, Masters, or equivalent degree in law or related fields, on condition that basic knowledge in law and corresponding work experience is acquired.

### LL.M in Law and Finance

Available to individuals with a Bachelor, Masters, or equivalent degree in law, business, finance, economics, or related fields.

### MA in Legal Linguistics

Available to individuals with a Bachelor, Masters, or equivalent degree in law, philology, or related fields.

At least four years of undergraduate or graduate studies are required for access to the one-year Masters programmes.

## Applications

Applicants for Bachelor and Masters programmes should present the following documents:

- Completed application form
- Certified copies of diploma and diploma transcript with an English translation
- Passport copy

**For Bachelor programmes**, applicants should include the following additional documents:

- Documentation of proficiency level in English
- For Law and Business, documentation of proficiency level in mathematics
- For Law and Diplomacy, documentation of proficiency level in social sciences (e.g., Politics and Law, History etc.)
- Motivation letter, which may also refer to relevant professional experience

The level of proficiency may be documented by a course grade in relevant subject matters at ECTS level of C or higher, but alternative documentation may also be submitted.

**For Masters programmes**, applicants should include the following additional documents:

- Official results of TOEFL or IELTS not more than three years old
- Motivation letter, which may also refer to relevant professional experience

The required minimum result is 525 points for TOEFL (for a computer based test – 196; Internet based test – 69) and 5.5 for IELTS. For the Legal Linguistics programme, the minimum result is 550 points for TOEFL (for a computer based test – 213; Internet based test – 79-80) and 6.0 for IELTS.

**For Bachelor and Masters programmes admission will be decided on:**

- 15 April for applications received before **15 March**. This will be a pre-selection approval for later formal admission on 26 July.
- 26 July for applications received before **28 June**. Later applications may be submitted for remaining available places.

Studies begin in September.

Students are admitted in order of priority of application submission and based on grade averages in the qualifying diploma. Students may be invited for an interview at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

**For PhD programmes**, conditions for enrolment as a PhD student with financing or employment as a research fellow will be announced in notices concerning available positions. For enrolment as a PhD student on a fee basis, applicants should contact the RGSL administration for information about conditions and available places.

## Tuition fees

Study programmes	Fulltime				Parttime			
	Per academic year		Total per programme		Per academic year		Total per programme	
	LVL	EUR	LVL	EUR	LVL	EUR	LVL	EUR
LL.B in Law and Business	2100	2988	6300	8964				
BA in Law and Diplomacy	2100	2988	6300	8964				
LL.M in International and European Law (academic)	3500	4980	3500	4980	2500	3557	5000	7114
LL.M in International and European Law (professional, two year programme)	3500 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year 2100)	4980 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year 2988)	5600	7968				
LL.M in Public International Law and Human Rights	3500	4980	3500	4980	2500	3557	5000	7114
LL.M in Transborder Commercial Law	3500	4980	3500	4980	2500	3557	5000	7114
LL.M in European Union Law and Policy	3500	4980	3500	4980	2500	3557	5000	7114
LL.M in Law and Finance	4900	6972	4900	6972				
LL.M in Law and Finance (two year programme)	4900 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year 2100)	6792 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year 2988)	7000	9960				
MA in Legal Linguistics	3500	4980	3500	4980	2500	3557	5000	7114

RGSL facilitates contacts with credit institutions for student loans.

# Programme outlines

## LL.B in Law and Business

### Mandatory courses

#### Law

Comparative Constitutional and Administrative Law  
Comparative Contract Law  
International Public Law  
Comparative Property Law  
European Union Law  
Philosophy of Law  
International Human Rights  
Intellectual Property Law  
International Trade Law  
Competition and State Aid Law  
Internal Market Law  
External Relations of the European Union  
Comparative Company Law  
Free Movement of Capital  
International Private and Procedural Law  
Banking and Securities Law

#### Business

Introduction to Economics  
Introduction to Marketing  
Micro Economics  
Business Accounting  
Macro Economics

Economics and Politics of European Integration  
Economic Development and Demography  
Corporate Finance  
International Trade Policy  
Business Strategy  
Information Management Systems  
Professional Ethics  
Management Accounting and Control  
International Monetary Economics  
Investments and Capital Markets

#### Research

Research Methods  
Advanced Research Methods  
Study Work

#### Thesis

### Elective courses

#### Law

History of Law  
Comparative Personal, Family and Inheritance Law  
Comparative Criminal Law  
International Arbitration  
Business and Human Rights  
Freedom, Security and Justice in the European Union  
Free Movement of Persons and Establishment  
Diplomatic Law  
International Tax Law

#### Business

Process Management  
Organisational Behaviour  
Project Management  
Business Statistics  
Risk Management  
Mergers and Acquisitions  
Economic Policy of the European Union  
Business Valuation  
Baltic and CIS Economic Policy  
International Financial Management  
Asian Markets

#### Languages

Communicating in English  
Communicating in French  
Communicating in German  
Communication in Asian Languages

## BA in Law and Diplomacy

### Mandatory courses

#### Law

Comparative Constitutional and Administrative Law  
International Public Law  
European Union Law  
International Human Rights  
International Trade Law  
External Relations of the European Union  
Diplomatic Law

#### Economics

Introduction to Economics  
Micro Economics  
Macro Economics  
Economics and Politics of European Integration  
Economic Development and Demography  
International Trade Policy  
Professional Ethics  
International Monetary Economics

#### Policy

Comparative Politics  
International Relations Theory  
International Organisations  
International Conflict and Crisis Management  
Foreign Policy Analysis

#### Humanities and Skills

Contemporary World History and Conflict Resolution  
World Religions and Dialogue  
Psychology  
Philosophy  
Diplomatic Protocol and Etiquette  
Languages  
Communicating in English  
Research  
Research Methods  
Advanced Research Methods  
Study Work

#### Internship

#### Thesis

### Elective courses

#### Law

Internal Market law  
Freedom, Security and Justice in the European Union  
International Private and Procedural Law  
International Tax Law

#### Economics

Economic Policy of the European Union  
Business Strategy  
Baltic and CIS Economic Policy  
Information Management Systems

#### Policy

International Security  
Russian Foreign Policy  
Presentation Techniques and Simulations  
Simulations of UN Procedures  
Asian Politics

#### Humanities and Skills

History of Diplomacy  
Contemporary History of Central and Eastern Europe  
Intercultural Dialogue  
Formal Logics and Critical Thinking  
Strategic Planning  
Negotiation Skills

#### Languages

Communicating in French  
Communicating in German  
Communication in Asian Languages

## LL.M in International and European Law

### Elective courses

International Law System and Human Rights:  
Theory and Development  
International Humanitarian Law  
Changing European Human Rights Law  
State Responsibility in International Law  
Business and Human Rights  
International Criminal Law  
Integration of Political Economy  
Integration and the European Court of Justice  
Freedom, Security and Justice  
External Relations of the European Union  
Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union  
Policy Implementation and Negotiation Techniques  
Transborder Business Activities:  
Services, Establishments, Workers  
Transborder Business Activities: Goods  
Trade Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights  
Merger and Competition Procedures  
State Intervention in the Market  
Resolution of International Business Disputes

### Thesis

## LL.M in Public International Law and Human Rights

### Mandatory courses

International Law System and Human Rights:  
Theory and Development  
International Humanitarian Law  
Changing European Human Rights Law  
State Responsibility in International Law  
Business and Human Rights  
International Criminal Law

### Elective Courses

See under LL.M in International and European Law

### Thesis

## LL.M in Transborder Commercial Law

### Mandatory courses

Transborder Business Activities:  
Services, Establishments, Workers  
Transborder Business Activities: Goods  
Trade aspects of Intellectual Property Rights  
Merger and Competition Procedures  
State Intervention in the Market  
Resolution of International Business Disputes

### Elective Courses

See under LL.M in International and European Law

### Thesis

## LL.M in European Union Law and Policy

### Mandatory courses

Integration of Political Economy  
Integration and the European Court of Justice  
Freedom, Security and Justice  
Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union  
Policy Implementation and Negotiation Techniques  
EU Environmental Law

### Elective Courses

See under LL.M in International and European Law

### Thesis

## LL.M in Law and Finance

### Mandatory courses

Legal Reasoning  
Introduction to Law  
Micro and Macro Economics  
Corporate Finance  
Economic Analysis of Strategy  
Financial Accounting  
European Union Law  
Monetary Policy  
Legal Research

European Competition Law  
International Financial Management  
International Insolvency Law  
International Commercial Law  
Portfolio Analysis  
Investment Capital Dynamics  
International Financial Management  
Business Valuation

### Elective Courses

Corporate Governance  
Financial Analysis  
Investment Firms and Regulatory Compliance  
European Company Law  
Risk Management  
Mergers and Acquisitions  
European and International Taxation  
Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Advanced Competition Law  
Capital Markets and Securities Law  
Contract Drafting  
Management Control and Performance

### Thesis

## MA in Legal Linguistics

### Mandatory courses

Comparative Law and Comparative Legal Linguistics  
Introduction to Law  
Legislative Drafting  
Characteristics of Legal Translation  
Contract Drafting  
Legal Writing  
Legal Research  
EU Law  
Theory and Practice of Terminology  
Legal Terminology  
Translation and Editing Legal Texts

### Elective Courses

Latvian Grammar and Stylistics  
English Grammar and Stylistics  
Second Foreign Language – Grammar and Stylistics  
ILEC Preparation

### Thesis

Riga Graduate School of Law

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