

Latvia's Current Educational System

by Dr. Andrejs Rauhvargers

An Overview

The three Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, and their educational systems were changed to the Soviet model in the post-war period. When the Soviet Union began to break apart, the Baltic States became the first republics to declare their independence in 1990 and were recognized by the Soviet Supreme Council the following year. They are not part of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Latvia is a parliamentary republic, with the *saeima* (parliament) elected in general elections. The parliament in turn elects the president. A cabinet of ministers is nominated by the leading coalition.

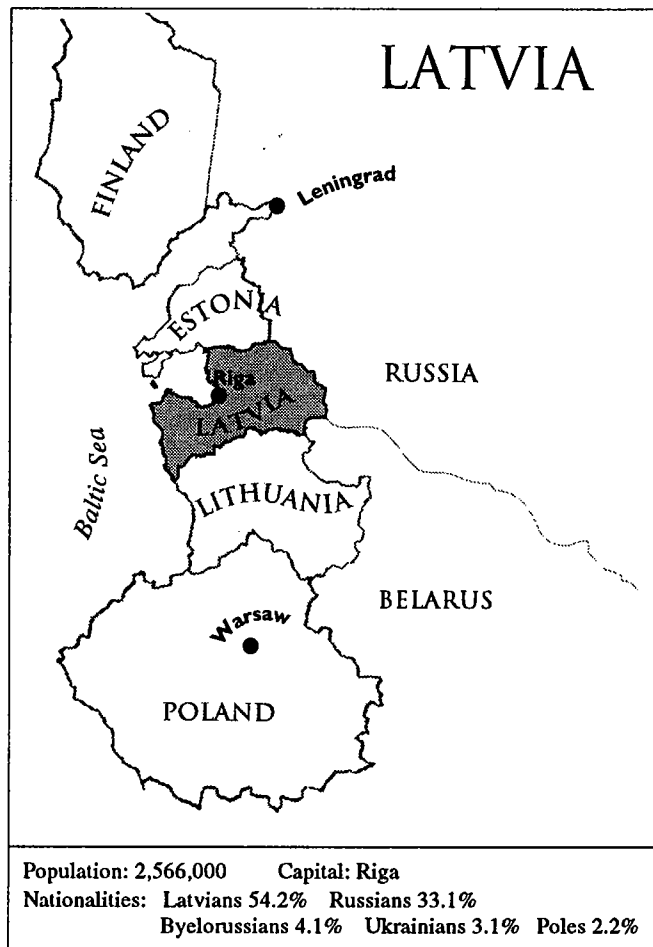
The country is not very rich in natural resources, although it has forests and wildlife, the like of which no longer can be found in many other European countries. There is some peat and iron ore. Oil deposits recently were found both in Latvia and in its territorial waters under the Baltic, but the oil is not likely to be utilized in this century.

Latvia's economy has always been a combination of industry and agriculture. In the 1980s, metal-working, machine-building, and food industries were the mainstays. After regaining independence, Latvia lost its wide Soviet market and could not compete with Western products in the world market. As a result, the gross national product in 1993 was just 49 percent (35 percent for industry and 60 percent for agriculture) of what it had been in 1990. In the countryside, private farming has completely replaced the Soviet *kolhozes* (collective farms). Latvian farmers are unable to make the huge investments in modern technologies which are required to compete with Western Europe.

Latvia is gradually recovering, primarily because of the importance of its seaports of Riga, Ventspils and Liepaja. Service industries and tourism also contribute to the economy. *Lats*, the Latvian currency, remains stable, and the rapid development of the country's banking system has made it an important financial center of the region.

State Goals for Education

The current government has declared: "The geopolitical situation of Latvia (limited resources of raw materials and energy) determines that the main factors ensuring Latvia's competitive abilities are and will be highly qualified and educated inhabitants, and a scientifically, intellec-



tually capacious national economy, which is based on low consumption of material resources."

The Education Act of 1991 states: "the right of Latvian residents to an education is guaranteed by the State and local governments. The right to an education in one's native language, in accordance with the Language Law, is also available to residents of other nationalities living within the state, but it is mandatory to acquire the official state language of Latvian."

Funding of Education

Primary and secondary education is completely funded by the state, including both Latvian schools and schools of national minorities.

According to the Education Act of 1991, yearly tuition fees for higher education are completely or partly covered by the State budget. In practice, almost all study in public higher education institutions is state-financed. However, there is a *numerus clausus* which allows tuition fees to be charged to those students who meet the entrance requirements of a program, but fail to be admitted to state-financed places in the most popular specialties (which are currently economics and business administration, law, and foreign languages). In the future, tuition fees will probably be gradually introduced for all students, as well as a system of loans for study.



The Current Educational System

Under the Soviet system, secondary schooling lasted for 11 years in Latvian schools and 10 years in Russian schools. Higher education was five years in length, except for those programs which took six years and led to a diploma in a given specialty, such as medicine. Programs at both secondary and postsecondary levels were strictly prescribed and uniform.

As Soviet influence waned, secondary education was extended from 11 to 12 years in Latvian schools and from 10 to 11 years in Russian schools by 1986. After independence, the length of education became a uniform 12 years, regardless of the language of instruction.

One of the first laws adopted after independence was the Education Act of 1991. Important changes introduced by the Act were: the dividing of the upper secondary curriculum into compulsory and elective subjects; granting autonomy to higher education institutions; and allowing the establishment of private institutions at all levels.

Although the law allowed many positive changes, it also overreacted to the rigidities of the Soviet system, granting too much freedom of choice to upper secondary school students and too little state supervision over higher institutions. These shortcomings will be remedied by the new Education Act and Higher Education Act, currently under review by academics and government officials and scheduled for adoption in 1995.

Pre-school Education

The major responsibility for pre-school education is returned to families instead of kindergartens. In 1991, Latvia had 1,123 kindergartens attended by 112,261 children. In 1994 the number of kindergartens had dropped to 647, with only 60,521 children attending. Parents who care for their children at home can take them to playgroups where children prepare for primary school for a few hours each day. Kindergartens plan their activities based on childcare and education programs approved by the Ministry of Education and Science.

Basic Education (*Pamatizglitiba*)

Education is compulsory for nine years, including four years of *sakumskola* (primary school) plus five years of *pamatskola* (lower secondary school), and this is uniform throughout the country. Graduates receive the *atestats par pamatzglitibu* (nine-year basic education certificate.)

Children start school at six or seven years of age until completion of the nine-year basic cycle, or until age 15. Students then have a choice of entering general secondary education, vocational, or specialized secondary education.

The regular school year (except for examination periods in grades 9 and 12) lasts 36 weeks from the beginning of September until the end of May. The total number of 40-minute lessons per week is 20 in second grade, 29 in fifth grade, 34 in ninth grade, and 36 in the 12th grade.

General Secondary Education (*Vispareja Videja Izglitiba*)

Secondary schools are known as *vidusskola* (middle schools). Some prestigious secondary schools may specialize in a given group of subjects such as mathematics, physics and computer science, chemistry and biology, language, humanities, etc., and are known as *gimnazija* (gymnasium). There are no formal differences between the two, except that the latter usually do not offer instruction below grade six.

Usually, general secondary schools are obliged to admit any holder of the nine-year certificate who lives in the area surrounding the school, although a gymnasium may set certain requirements for admission.

Compulsory and Elective Subjects

General secondary education includes studies of at least 12 subjects, of which five are compulsory: Latvian language and literature, mathematics, foreign language, history, and physical culture and sports.

The seven elective subjects may be chosen from physics, chemistry, biology, computer science and information, economic geography and basics of business, technical drawing, visual arts, housekeeping, a second foreign language, sociology, music, history of culture, history of religion, amateur performances, and other subjects which

have the approval of the Ministry of Education and Science.

Two different curricula, *pamatkurss* (basic) and *profilkurss* (advanced), exist in each subject. Out of the 12 subjects, the advanced curriculum must be chosen in at least two.

To be awarded an *atestats par visparejo videjo izglitibu* (certificate of general secondary education), a student must successfully complete both the five compulsory and at least seven elective subjects and successfully pass school-leaving examinations, including:

- two examinations in compulsory subjects (Latvian language and literature and another examination which is set nationally each year; and

- three examinations chosen by the student.

One of these five examinations must be chosen at the advanced level of the appropriate subject.

The certificate of general secondary education is accompanied by a list of marks which contains the final marks in all 12 subjects as well as all five examination marks. The level of the subject is noted as *pamatkurss* (basic) or *profilkurss* (advanced).

All holders of the general secondary education certificate are eligible for admission to higher education.

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Vocational Education (*Arodizglitiba*)

Institutions of vocational education are listed in Table 1, which specifies whether general secondary education is completed concurrently with vocational training in these institutions. Only four-year vocational schools provide general education which gives access to higher education.

Institutions of Vocational Education and Access to Higher Education. Table 1

Type of School	Admission Requirements	Duration of Studies	General Secondary Education
<i>arodpamatskola</i> (vocational basic school)	9-yr. education may be incomplete	2	no
<i>arodvidusskola</i> (vocational secondary school)	completion of 9-yrs. education	3	no
<i>arodgimnazija</i> (vocational gymnasium)	completion of 9-yrs. education	4	yes
<i>arodskola</i> (vocational school [postsecondary])	general secondary education	1-2 yrs.	no

Specialized Secondary Education (*Videja Speciala Izglitiba*)

Specialized secondary educational institutions have a four-to-five year curriculum for holders of the nine-year basic education certificate.

Holders of the certificate of general secondary education study for two to three years, and the curriculum includes professional training.

Regardless of the type of curriculum, holders of the diploma of specialized secondary education are eligible to enter higher education institutions. Specialized secondary schools may specialize in technical studies, music, art, nursing, etc. These schools are usually called *tebnikums*, or *koledza* (college), e.g. *industriais koledza* or *musicas koledza*. *Koledza*, which were renamed recently, used to

have names such as *muzikas vidusskola* (music secondary school), *makslas vidusskola* (art secondary school), and *medicinas skola* (nursing school).

The fate of these institutions of specialized secondary education, particularly their programs for holders of the general secondary school certificate, is currently in question. Studies in these programs last for two to three years after completion of general secondary schooling and are often high-level; therefore, this kind of specialized secondary education could be compared to the "short-term, non-university higher education" which exists in several European countries. Such a concept does not exist in Latvia.

Qualifications Awarded in Secondary Education

Institutions of general secondary education award the *atestats par visparejo videjo izglitibu* (certificate of general secondary education).

Institutions of vocational secondary education award diplomas of vocational education at various levels:

- *diploms par arodpamatizglitibu*: diploma of basic vocational education, or
- *diploms par videjo arodizglitibu*: diploma of secondary vocational education.

If secondary vocational education is acquired concurrently with general secondary education, no separate certificate is issued, but *iegustot visparejo videjo izglitibu* (acquired with general secondary education) is indicated on the diploma. The name of the appropriate vocation also is added.

Institutions of specialized secondary education award the *diploms par videjo specialem izglitibu* (diploma of secondary specialized education).

Access to Higher Education

In principle, access to higher education is possible for all holders of general secondary education certificates. However, each institution of higher education is free to specify the elective subjects to be taken in secondary school in order to become eligible for admission to a chosen program. Qualifications for admission may vary between different institutions and even between different faculties of the same institution.

Common admission requirements may be as follows: one to four competitive entrance examinations; a *diplomu konkurss* (competition of diplomas), in which applicants are ranked according to the marks given in their secondary education certificate supplement, with emphasis on subjects important to the chosen program; plus an interview by the admission board, which may include general questions in subjects important to the chosen specialty. Knowl-



edge of the Latvian language is tested in those cases where the applicant has not had Latvian as the language of instruction in secondary school. All higher educational institutions

have an admissions board consisting of staff members which carries out admission procedures in accordance with conditions announced at least five months before.

Higher Education (*Augstaka Izglitiba*)

In 1994, 33,665 students were enrolled in higher education programs. The percentage was 14.5 percent of the 19-24 age group.

Institutions of higher education provide academic and/or professional higher education. *Akademiska augstaka izglitiba* (academic higher education) is defined as general higher education. *Profesionata augstaka izglitiba* (higher professional education) provides knowledge and skills for professional activities.

Higher institutions may offer one- or two-year programs leading to a professional qualification after achieving the *bakalaura* (bachelors) degree, although some institutions offer four-year programs leading to both the *bakalaura* and a professional qualification at the same time.

Program Structure and Degree Requirements

Prior to independence from the Soviet Union, postsecondary institutions in Latvia offered strictly prescribed five-year programs leading to a *diplom*, followed by three years of research leading to the *kandidat nauk*, and additional research leading to the *doktor nauk*.

Since the 1991 Education Act, higher education institutions have been given broad autonomy to plan their own programs of study. Individual faculties usually plan their own programs, which are then approved by the main decision-making body, usually called the Senate, of the particular institution.

Currently about 300 different programs of study exist at State-recognized institutions at the undergraduate and graduate levels. There is no uniform standard for program lengths throughout the country. Therefore, the duration of programs leading to the *bakalaura* may vary from three years to 4.5 years at different institutions, although defense of a thesis is always required.

The University of Latvia, the largest institution in terms of enrollment, offers mainly academic programs of study in such subjects as biology, chemistry, economics, education, geography, geology, law, library science, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, physics, and theology.

Typically, undergraduate programs at the University are four years in length, and require an average 160-165 credits and a thesis. One credit equals 24 classroom hours or one week of study. Academic programs usually consist of three components: compulsory subjects, which may not total less than 50 percent of the total number of credits; elective subjects within the specialization, which usually comprise 30 to 40 percent of credits; and optional subjects which can be chosen from any program at the University and account for about 10 percent of credits.

Riga Technical University offers a wide range of one- and two-year professional qualifications for which a *bakalaura* diploma is a standard entry requirement.

Study for the Doctor of Medicine degree at the Medical Academy of Latvia is a six-year program, stomatology and pharmacy programs are five years in length, while nursing is a four-year program.

Teachers of Latvian literature, history or a foreign language undergo five years of training at the Daugavpils Pedagogical University. Teacher training programs at the Liepaja Pedagogical Higher School are four years in length for pre-school teachers; five years for a speech therapist; and 4.5 years for a teacher of the Latvian language and literature.

Postgraduate Study

The *bakalaura*, acquired at the end of the first stage of postsecondary study, is required for entrance to *magistrs* programs, the second stage of academic education. (Holders of the three-year *bakalaura* may enter *magistrs* programs at the same institution, and may also continue their studies at an institution where the *bakalaura* program is longer, if they can meet additional requirements. In practice, there is very little mobility of students between institutions.)

The degree *magistrs* or a degree equivalent to it (e.g. medical studies are of a level of the *magistrs* degree but the name is not applicable) can be awarded after five to seven years of university studies. *Magistrs* programs at the University of Latvia are almost all two-year programs requiring 80 credit hours and a thesis. The degree *magistrs* is required for admission to doctoral studies.

There are two doctoral degrees in Latvia: the *doktors*, which is comparable to a Ph.D., and the *habilitets doktors*, which is required for the title of a full professor.

The *doktors* can be earned in two ways: either by carrying out a minimum of three to four years of full-time research while enrolled as a student; or by working at a university, research institution, in industry, or at a hospital, etc., while undertaking part-time research which must eventually equal three to four years of full-time research. In addition, the candidate must undertake a successful public defense of his/her doctoral thesis.

The *habilitets doktors* is awarded after defense of a *habilitation* (scholarly research) thesis, which is often a short summary of several important scientific and/or pedagogical publications or a monograph. The *habilitation* thesis is usually a continuation of research undertaken for the first doctoral degree and is written after defense of the first doctoral dissertation.

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Doctoral degrees are awarded by specialized councils:

- *promocijas padome* (promotion council), which awards the *doktors* degree only;
- *habilitācijas padome* (habilitation council), which awards both degrees.

The regulations for awarding of doctoral degrees are set by the *Latvijas Zinatnes Padome* (the Latvian Science Council) which also approves the promotion and habilitation councils.

Quality Assessment

A quality assessment process resulting in State accreditation of all study programs is under development. It will begin after the Law on Higher Education Institutions

is adopted by Parliament. The trend is to try and develop a more uniform higher education system in all three Baltic States. According to the "Declaration on Cooperation in Quality Assurance of Higher Education in the Baltic States," which was signed by the ministers of education of the Baltic States on October 25, 1994, quality assessment in all Baltic States will be carried out by international peers, with the results of the quality assessment to be published throughout the Baltic region. However, binding decisions on accreditation of higher education institutions and their programs of study will be left to national quality assurance bodies which are currently being established in each Baltic State.

STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. TABLE 2

Institution	Number of Students			1994 Admission		
	Full-Time	Extra-mural	Total	Full-Time	Extra-mural	Total
University of Latvia	6,204	3,657*	9,861	1,639	585	2,224
Riga Technical University	5,452	1,027*	6,479	2,403	127	2,530
Latvia University of Agriculture	2,846	1,442	4,288	800	262	1,062
Latvian Academy of Medicine	1,973		1,973	199		199
Daugavpils Pedagogical University	1,739	361	2,100	496	50	546
Riga Aviation University	2,313	248	2,561	625	97	722
Liepaja Pedagogical Higher School	980	401	1,381	269		269
Latvian Academy of Sports Pedagogy	626	300	926	190	92	282
Latvian Maritime Academy	274	96	370	109	9	118
Police Academy of Latvia	114	66	180	110	10	120
National Academy of Defense	175		175	117		117
Rezekne Higher School	622	139	761	250	56	306
Latvia Academy of Culture	348	17	365	106	9	115
J. Vitols Latvian Academy of Music	360		360	101		101
Latvian Academy of Arts	537	3	540	107		107
Stockholm School of Economics/Riga	56		56	56		56
Riga Pedagogical Higher School	1,116	184	1,300	255	184	439
TOTALS:	25,735		33,676	7,832		9,313

*including evening students

Several of the institutions in Table 2, such as all institutions bearing the name "university," "medical," "art," and "music" academies, etc., are well-established.

Others, such as Riga Pedagogical Higher School, Rezekne Higher School and other more recently established State-founded and State-financed institutions, which may or may not have a State-approved statute, are in the process of meeting accreditation standards. The State, as the founder, has to take responsibility for the quality of education in these institutions, and therefore these insti-

tutions are to some extent "unofficially-recognized" by the State.

The Stockholm School of Economics in Riga is a special case. It was founded by an agreement between the governments of Sweden and Latvia and is financed by both states. Teaching now is almost exclusively carried out by staff members from the Stockholm School of Economics, but a Latvian staff will take over gradually during the next ten years.

Private Higher Education Institutions

The 1991 Education Act allowed the establishment of private higher education institutions. Since then, a dozen

private institutions have been licensed to offer higher education activities, mainly in the fields of business, psychol-



ogy and religion. (A license does not mean State recognition.) The total number of students now enrolled in private institutions is estimated to be about 3,000.

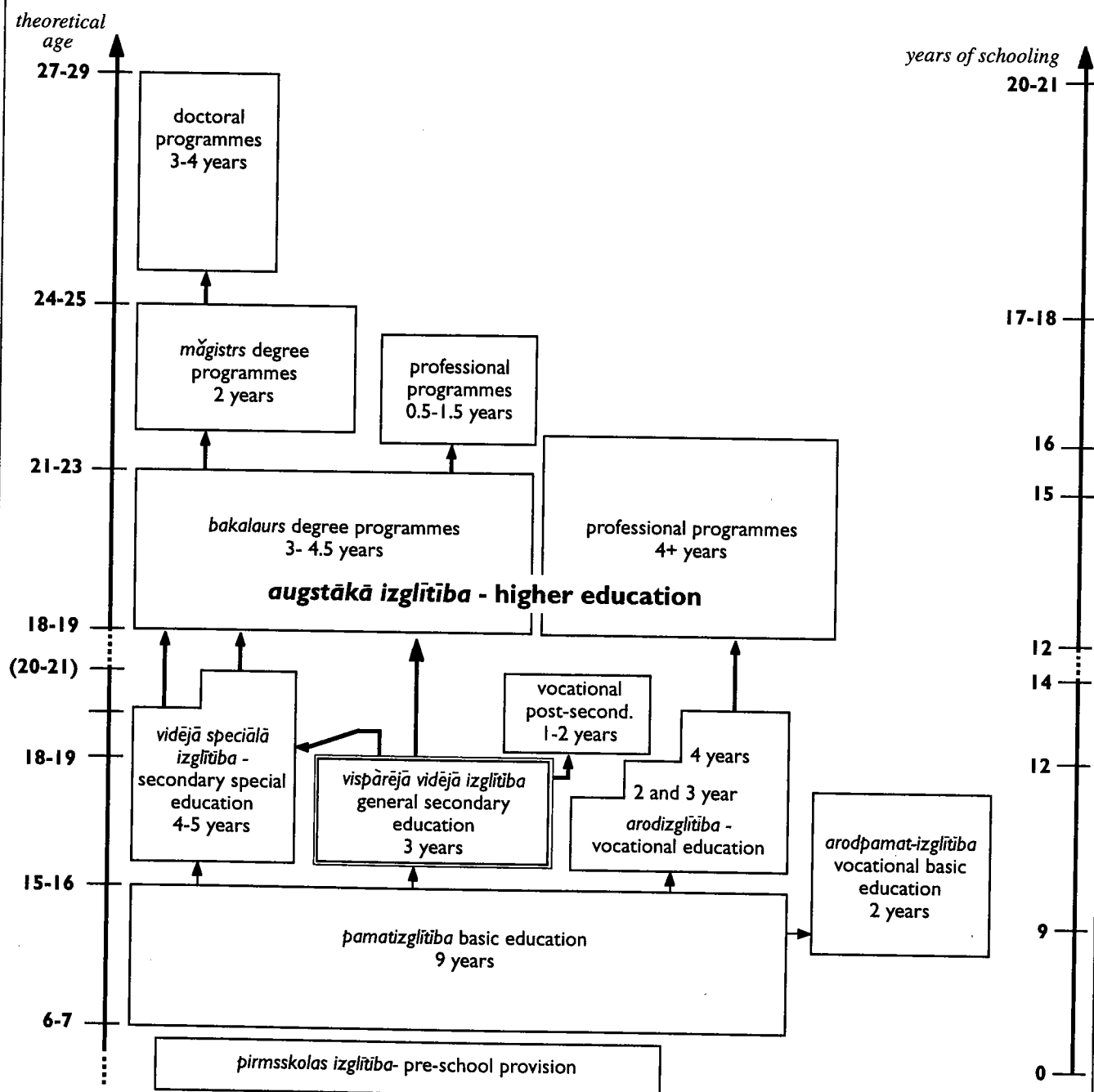
Most private institutions have no means of funding aside from tuition fees. Therefore, private institutions share many common problems—very few permanent staff members, very small or no libraries, no research activities by the staff or students, etc.

Most teaching in private institutions is done by the

academic staff of public universities on a part-time basis; therefore, the quality of teaching is not necessarily poor. Some even think that these small institutions may be more flexible in curriculum development.

Because of the problems listed above, it is expected that the quality assessment of these institutions will be a long-term process. Until these licensed private institutions and their programs of study are accredited, the State takes no responsibility for the quality of their programs.

EDUCATION SCHEME OF LATVIA





Degrees Awarded in Higher Education

Name of Degree	Comments
<i>bakalaurs</i> (bachelor)	An intermediate (undergraduate) degree awarded in: all the natural sciences, agriculture, architecture, art, business administration, commercial science, pedagogics, philology, philosophy, social science, and theology. (The sub-specialization is usually mentioned after the name of the degree and specialization.)
<i>magistrs</i> (masters)	A graduate degree awarded in the same fields as above, plus veterinary medicine.
<i>doktors</i> (doctor, Ph.D.)	A postgraduate (doctoral) degree awarded in the following fields: agriculture, architecture, art, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, engineering, forestry, geography, geology, history, law, linguistics, mathematics, medicine, pedagogics, pharmacy, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, sociology, theology, and veterinary medicine.
<i>habilitets doktors</i> (qualification for a full professorship)	A postdoctoral degree awarded in the same fields as the <i>doktors</i> .

Qualifications Awarded in Professional Higher Education

Name of Qualification	Comments
<i>agronoms</i> (agronomer)	undergraduate qualification
<i>arsts</i> (physician)	graduate qualification, equal to the <i>magistrs</i> , and qualifying for eligibility for doctoral studies.
<i>ekonomists</i> (economist)	undergraduate qualification
<i>farmaceits</i> (pharmacist)	graduate qualification, equal to the <i>magistrs</i> , and qualifying for eligibility for doctoral studies.
<i>inzenieris</i> (engineer)	can be either a graduate qualification awarded after completion of the <i>bakalaurs</i> program in engineering plus 1.5-2 years of professional studies, or a qualification awarded after four years of professional studies.
<i>izpilditajmakslinieks</i> (performing artist)	qualification awarded after professional study in music specialties. The name of the specialty is added to the name of the qualification.
<i>makslinieks</i> (artist)	qualification awarded after professional study in art specialties. The name of the specialty is added after the name of the qualification.
<i>praktiskais inzenieris</i> (practical engineer)	qualification awarded after completing a specially designed three-year engineering program at universities for those who had a specialized secondary education in engineering.
<i>socialais darbinieks</i> (social worker)	undergraduate qualification
<i>skolotajs</i> (teacher)	may be awarded to those who have taken courses in pedagogics parallel to their studies in academic programs of <i>bakalaurs</i> and <i>magistrs</i> ; those who have taken a professional teacher training program; those who have taken a teacher training program after completing a <i>bakalaurs</i> program. [The name(s) of subject(s) the holder is qualified to teach are given after the name of the qualification. If the qualification allows teaching in certain grades only, this is also added to the qualification, e.g. "teacher of mathematics in grades 1-4.]
<i>stomatologs</i> (dentist)	graduate qualification, equal in level to the <i>magistrs</i> . Eligible for doctoral studies.
<i>tehnologs</i> (technologist)	undergraduate professional qualification. In some cases, can be achieved parallel to a <i>bakalaurs</i> in agriculture or engineering.
<i>veterinararsts</i> (veterinarian)	a professional qualification eligible for admission to <i>magistrs</i> programs.

Marking Systems

Two marking systems exist. The traditional five-point marking system is still the main system used in higher education. Secondary education recently switched from the five-grade system to a 10-point system.



The five-point system is:

5 <i>teicami</i>	excellent
4 <i>labi</i>	good
3 <i>apmierinosi (viduveji)</i>	satisfactory (fair)
2 <i>neapmierinoai</i>	unsatisfactory
1 <i>joti vaji</i>	totally unsatisfactory (seldom used)

The 10-point system is:

10 <i>izcili</i>	with distinction
9 <i>teicami</i>	excellent
8 <i>joti labi</i>	very good
7 <i>labi</i>	good
6 <i>gandrīz labi</i>	almost good
5 <i>viduveji</i>	satisfactory
4 <i>gandrīz viduveji</i>	almost satisfactory
3-1 <i>neapmierinosi</i>	different levels for students who perform below what is expected for the appropriate age group.

Institutions of Higher Education in Latvia

According to the 1991 Education Act, the only way to strictly determine whether the State recognizes an institution is to see whether the *satversme* (statute) authorizing the institution is approved by the State. However, there are some recently-established, State-founded and State-financed institutions which may or may not have a State-approved statute, but which are in the process of meeting accreditation standards.

Latvijas Universitāte (University of Latvia)

Founded: 1919 (based on Riga Polytechnical Institute founded in 1862)

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Prof. Juris Zakis

Address: 19 Raina Blvd., Riga, Latvia LV-1586

Telephone: +371-2-228928 Fax: +371-2-225039 or +371-7820113

Faculties: Philology, Education, Foreign Languages, History and Philosophy, Biology, Physics and Mathematics, Geography, Chemistry, Economics, Management and Economics, Law, Theology

Students: 9,851 in 56 study programs

Rīgas Tehniskā Universitāte (Riga Technical University)

Founded: 1862 as the Riga Polytechnical Institute; from 1919-1958 existed as several faculties of Latvia University. Called Riga Polytechnical Institute from 1958 and known by its current name since 1990.

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Prof. Egons Lavendells

Address: Kalku iela 1, LV-1658, Riga, Latvia

Telephone: +371-2-225885 Fax: +371-7-82 00 94

E-mail: lavendelis@kl.rtu.lv

Faculties: Architecture, Civil Engineering, Chemical Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Power Engineering, Computer Science and Computer Engineering, Radio Engineering and Telecommunications, and Engineering Economics.

Students: 6,479 in 66 study programs

Latvijas Lauksaimniecības Universitāte

(Latvia University of Agriculture)

Founded: 1863 as Agric. Dept. of Riga Polytechnical Institute

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Prof. Voldemars Strikis

Address: 2 Liela iela, Jelgava LV-3001, Latvia

Telephone: +371-30-22584 Fax: +371-30-27238

E-mail: rector@adm.lua.vernet.lv

Faculties: Agriculture, Economics, Agricultural Engineering,

Veterinary Medicine, Rural Engineering, Food Technology, and Forestry

Students: 4,188 in 41 programs

Latvijas Medicīnas Akadēmija (Latvian Medical Academy)

Founded: 1919 as the University of Latvia Faculty of Medicine.

Took its present name in 1990.

Status: Statute approved by the State.

Rector: Dr. hab. med. Janis Vētra

Address: Dzirciema iela. 16, Riga LV 1007, Latvia

Telephone: +371-2-459752 or +371-2-459283 or +371-2-450708

Fax: +371-7-828155

Faculties: Medicine, Stomatology, Pharmacy, Rehabilitation, Nursing

Students: 1,973 in five study programs

Daugavpils Pedagoģiskā Universitāte

(Daugavpils Pedagogical University)

Founded: 1923 as Daugavpils Teacher Training Institute; re-named in 1993

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Assoc. Prof. Bruno Jansons

Address: Vienības iela 13, LV-5407, Daugavpils, Latvija

Telephone: +371-54-22180 Fax: +371-54-22890

Faculties: Humanities, Physics and Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Music

Students: 2,100 students in 34 study programs

Rīgas Aviācijas Universitāte (Riga Aviation University)

Founded: 1960 as Riga Institute of Civil Aviation; adopted present name in 1992

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Prof. V. Hodakovskis

Address: Lomonosova iela 1, LV-1019 Riga, Latvia

Telephone: +371-2-1-3285, +371-2-10312

Fax: +371-2-140293

Faculties: Mechanics, Radio Electronics and Computers, Economics

Students: 2,560 in 31 programs

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Liepājas Pedagoģiskā Augstskola

(Liepāja Pedagogical Higher School)

Founded: 1954 as Liepāja Pedagogical Institute; renamed in 1993

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Assoc. Prof. Karlis Dobelis

Address: Liela iela 14, Liepāja, LV-3401, Latvia

Telephone: +371-34-24011, +371-34-23568

Fax: +371-34-24223

Departments: Primary School Pedagogy, Pre-school and Special Pedagogy, Secondary School Pedagogy

Students: 1,381 in 18 study programs

Latvijas Sporta Pedagoģijas Akadēmija

(Latvian Academy of Sports Education)

Founded: 1921 as Institute of Physical Education; renamed 1991

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Assoc. Prof. Uldis Gravītis

Address: Brīvības iela 333, Rīga, LV-1006, Latvia

Telephone: +371-2-520595 or +371-2-520156

Fax: +371-2-225039

Faculties: none

Students: 926 in two programs

Latvijas Jūras Akadēmija (Latvian Maritime Academy)

Founded: 1840 as Riga Naval School. Introduced higher education programs and renamed in 1990.

Status: Founded by the State, but not yet approved.

Address: Kronvalda bulv. 6, LV-1010 Rīga, Latvia

Rector: Assoc. Prof. Janis Berzins

Telephone: +371-2-321161, +371-2-321312

Fax: +371-7-830138

Institutes: Marine Engineering, Shipboard Electrical Automation, Navigation

Students: 370 in 9 study programs

Latvijas Policijas Akadēmija (Latvian Police Academy)

Founded: 1991

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Assoc. Prof. Zenons Indrikovs

Address: 8 Ezermalas iela, Rīga LV-1014, Latvia

Telephone: +371-2-551070 Fax: +371-2-551070

Faculties: None

Students: 180 in two higher education programs; 1,200 total

Latvijas Republikas Nacionālā Aizsardzības Akadēmija

(National Academy of Defense of the Republic of Latvia)

Founded: 1991

Status: Statute approved by the State

Address: 8 Ezermalas iela, Rīga, LV-10104, Latvia

Telephone: +371-2-522810 Fax: +371-2-522810

E-Mail: kadets@mil.lu.lv

Faculties: Border Guards, Mobile Infantry, Zemessardze (home guards), and Security Service

Students: 175 in two higher education programs; 439 total

Rezeknes Augstskola (Rezekne Higher School)

Founded: 1993

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Assoc. Prof. Irena Silīneviča

Address: Atbrīvošanas aleja 90, LV-4600, Rezekne, Latvijas Republika

Telephone: +371-2-46 23709 Fax: +371-2-46-23709

Faculties: Economics, Engineering, Humanities

Students: 761 in 13 programs

Latvijas Kultūras Akadēmija (Latvia Academy of Culture)

Founded: 1990

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Assoc. Prof. Peteris Lakis

Address: 24 Ludzas St., LV-1003 Rīga Latvia

Telephone: +371-2-140175 Fax: +371-2-141012

Students: 365 in three study programs

J. Vītola Latvijas Mūzikas Akadēmija

(J. Vītols Latvian Academy of Music)

Founded: 1919 as Latvian Conservatoire; renamed in 1991

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Prof. Juris Karlsons

Address: Kr. Barona iela 1 LV-1708, Rīga, Latvija

Telephone: +371-2-228684 Fax: +371-7-820271

Students: 360 in two study programs; 11 music specialties

Latvijas Mākslas Akadēmija (Latvian Academy of Arts)

Founded: 1921

Status: Statute approved by the State

Rector: Prof. Indulis Zarins

Address: Kalpaka Bulv. 13, LV-1867 Rīga, Latvia

Telephone: +371-2-33222447 Fax: +371-2-228963

Students: 540 in three study programs; 14 branches of art

Rīgas Ekonomikas Augstskola

(Stockholm School of Economics of Riga)

Founded: 1993 by Governments of Sweden and Latvia

Status: Operating under supervision of Stockholm School of Economics; not yet approved by State

Rector: Prof. Jan-Erik Vahlne

Address: Strelnieku iela 4a, LV 1010 Rīga, Latvia

Telephone: +371-7-83-02-48 Fax: +371-7-83-02-49

Students: 56 in one program

Rīgas Pedagoģijas Augstskola (Riga Pedagogical Higher School)

Founded: 1994, resulting from a merger of Riga and Imanta Teacher Training Institutes, which offered higher education programs from 1992.

Status: Not yet approved by State

Rector: Assoc. Prof. Juris Stabins

Address: Rīga LV-1083, Imantas 7, līnija, m.1.

Telephone: +371-7-281934 Fax: +371-7-828055

Students: 1,300 in ten study programs

Dr. Andrejs Rauhvargers is Head of the Division of Academic Information at the Latvia Ministry of Education. For further information, he can be reached at Fax: +371-2-213992 or +371-78-20171