



Vilnius
University

WELCOME TO VILNIUS UNIVERSITY!

International student guide



Your journey at Vilnius University **BEGINS!**

We are happy to welcome you to Vilnius University! In this international student guide, you will find all the important things to consider before arrival and at the beginning of your studies, as well as some tips for an easier start. We hope that your time at Vilnius University will become an unforgettable adventure!



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Meet Lithuania – YOUR NEW HOME!

Lithuania is one of the Baltic countries, located in Northern Europe. It is a small country with stunning nature, charming cities, and a rich history that's over 1,000 years old!



A few facts that will shape your experience here:

- About one-third of Lithuania is covered by forests. If you love outdoor activities, you'll have plenty of nature to explore right at your doorstep.
- Lithuania is a member of the EU and NATO, ensuring a safe and stable environment.
- The country is famous for its rich basketball culture – basketball is often called Lithuania's "second religion."
- Vilnius Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage site, full of colourful buildings, cobblestone streets, and vibrant cultural life.
- Lithuania is also known for its innovation and tech-savvy population. Cities like Vilnius and Kaunas are buzzing with startups (home to Nord Security and Vinted!), coworking spaces, and digital infrastructure, making it a great place for students interested in entrepreneurship or tech.

Labas! and other Lithuanian words

Although the majority of Lithuanians are multilingual, and the younger generation is fluent in English, knowing a few words in Lithuanian will help you get settled in!

Lithuanian is one of the oldest living languages in the world, with a history of over 5,000 years, and is closely related to ancient Sanskrit (sharing many similarities – words like dantis, diena, dūmas, and many more).

A few words to get you started:

Labas – Hello/Hi (informal)

Viso! – Bye!

Laba diena – Good day (formal)

Atsiprašau – Excuse me/sorry

Ačiū – Thank you

Šaltibarščiai – This one might be useful during the summer. It's a national pink soup served cold with warm potatoes

Iki! – See you later!



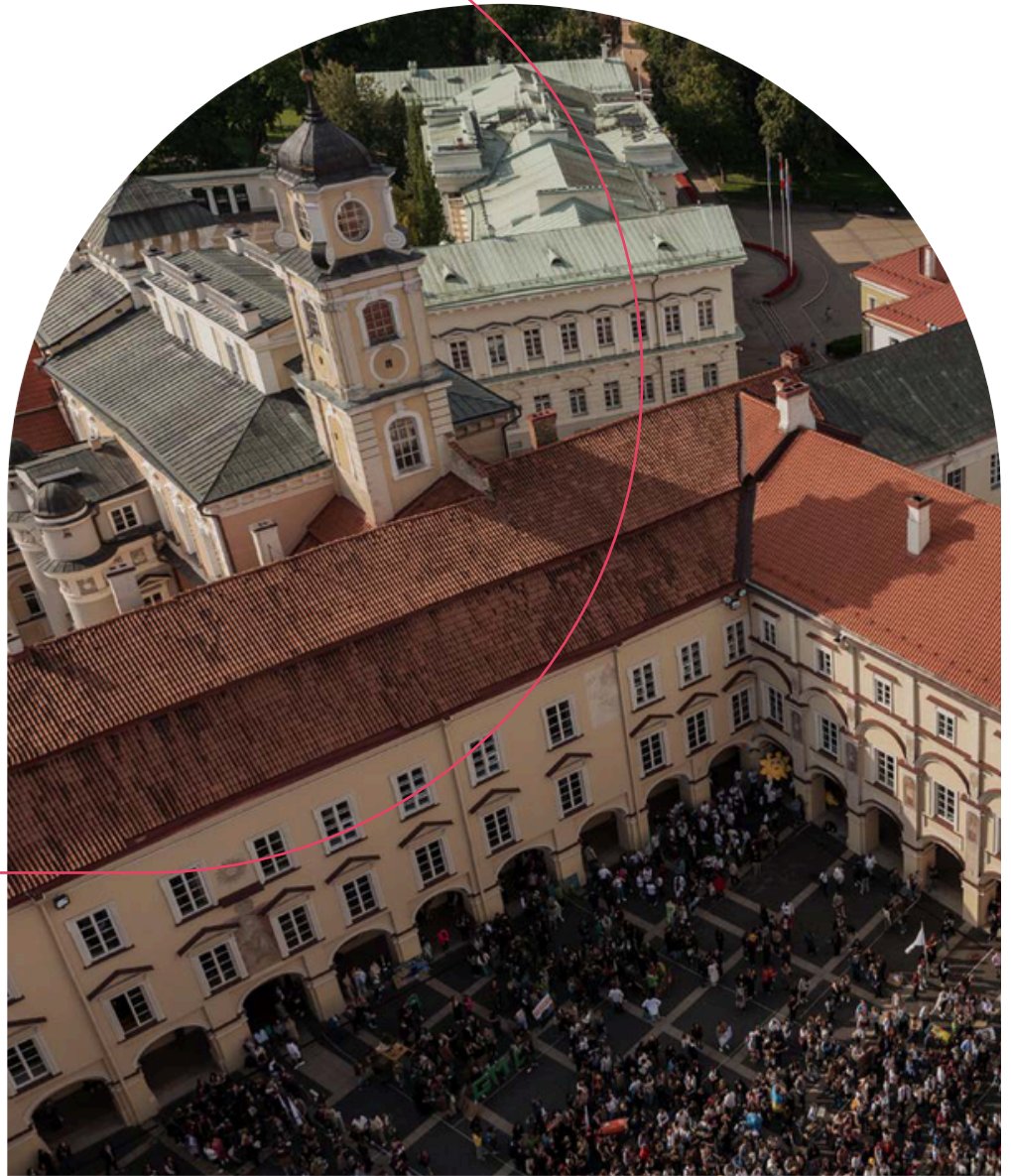
Meet Your UNIVERSITY!

Vilnius University is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Europe. Established during the Renaissance, it has been a hub of knowledge and culture for over four centuries.

Throughout its rich history, the university has played a **key role in shaping the intellectual and scientific landscape of Lithuania** and the wider region. Today, Vilnius

University combines its **historic traditions with modern innovation**, welcoming students from around the world to study in a vibrant, multicultural environment.

Here, you will find a welcoming community that values creativity, critical thinking, and global connections, offering you the perfect environment to grow both academically and personally.



Vilnius University in numbers:

1579

Founded in 1579, Vilnius University is the oldest and largest university in Lithuania.

#446

#446th globally (QS World University Rankings, 2026) – among the 3% of universities worldwide.

#93

#93rd globally for graduate employability (QS Graduate Employability Rankings, 2026).

25000

Nearly 25000 students overall and 3000 (around 11%) international students from over 100 countries.

**3
15
80+**

Campuses in 3 cities – Vilnius, Kaunas, and Šiauliai. 15 faculties, offering 80+ study programmes in English.

**200+
1700+**

200+ bilateral agreements and 1700+ Erasmus+ faculty-level agreements in Europe.

2 & 3

2 University hospitals, 3 botanical gardens.

34

34 sports & art clubs.

Things to Do BEFORE ARRIVAL

1. Arrange your accommodation

Securing a place to live before you arrive is one of the most important steps in preparing for your studies. Moreover, choosing to stay with other international students guarantees a fun student experience! There are a few different accommodation options for VU students:

■ **Vilnius University dormitories.**

These are situated close to the faculties in Vilnius and Šiauliai. You can apply for them via the online admission system at apply.vu.lt. More information about VU dormitories can be found by following these links: [Vilnius](#) and [Šiauliai](#).

If you are looking for alternative accommodation options or will be studying at the [Kaunas Faculty](#), there are many other options available! To make the right choice, consider the location, cost and potential roommates.

■ **Co-living communities.**

They can be a great option for living with students from different countries, gaining community support while also splitting the rent. If you choose this option, be mindful of potential communication barriers, differences in habits and lifestyles, and limited privacy.

Approach this with open communication, inclusivity, organisation, and respect for others to ensure the best possible experience!

Cautions to consider:

- Keep your belongings safe by always locking your room when you leave.
- Make sure that everyone is listed on the lease and has a clear agreement with the landlord.
- Read the contract carefully before signing to ensure it works for you!

A few potential co-living spaces to explore: [SoloSociety](#) in Vilnius and Kaunas, [SHED CO-living](#), [Liv-in](#) in Vilnius. Find more [here](#).

- Renting an apartment. This might be the option for you if you prefer more privacy and would like to live alone or with friends. Private rentals offer more independence, the freedom to choose your location, and flexible options for your lifestyle.

Cautions to consider:

- Some listings are too good to be true! Don't send money before you see the place or sign a contract.
- Sign a written rental agreement. Make sure you understand all of the terms, including the way utilities will be paid, the size of the deposit (usually 1-2 months' rent), and the notice period.
- Registration. You will need to register your place of residence as soon as you arrive in Lithuania. *Make sure your landlord explicitly allows this arrangement.*

Where to look: trusted rental websites like [Aruodas.lt](#), [Domoplius.lt](#), or Facebook groups (main keyword: nuoma (rent)). To help research different neighbourhoods, check the page [kurgyvenu.lt](#).

2. Get your health insurance

Even though we hope your time in Lithuania goes smoothly, it is highly important to be well-prepared for every scenario. Healthcare involves understanding the Lithuanian health system and having the right health insurance to cover your medical expenses in case of accidents or illness during your stay.

- **Your options for medical insurance:**
 - [The European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) is valid for citizens of the EU and EFTA countries. It covers all of the state medical services in the case of an accident. Please note that it does not cover services provided in the private sector.
 - Students from non-EU countries may obtain their health insurance either in their country of residence or in Lithuania. It costs approximately EUR 15.00 per month or more if you obtain it from a health insurance company in Lithuania. More information and a list of companies to contact are available [here](#).

Will you get help in English? The official language in healthcare institutions is Lithuanian, but many specialists are able to communicate in English. When you register at a clinic or book an appointment, ask if your consultation can be held in English.

■ **Some hospitals that provide help in English:**

- [Santaros klinikos](#) (Vilnius University Hospital). Address: Santariškių g. 2, Vilnius. Phone: +370 523 6 5000.
- [Republican Vilnius University Hospital](#). Address: Šiltnameių g. 29, Vilnius. Phone: +370 521 69455.
- [Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences](#) (Kauno klinikos). Eivenių g. 2, Kaunas. Phone: +370 373 26262
- [Republican Šiauliai Hospital](#). Address: V. Kudirkos g. 99, Šiauliai. Phone: +370 41 500111.
- [Meliva](#) (private). Multiple locations in Vilnius, Kaunas and Šiauliai. Phone: +370 620 33383.

Important!

112 is the number to call for medical or other emergencies.



3. Get the migration matters settled

Depending on your citizenship, you will have to register in Lithuania or apply for a Temporary Residence Permit (TRP). Although this process may seem challenging, you will get the necessary documents and helpful tips.

- If you are a citizen of an EU/EFTA country, you will have to register with the Migration Department (MIGRIS) within three months after you arrive in Lithuania, get a [certificate of temporary residence](#) and [declare your place of residence](#). Learn more [here](#).
- If you are a citizen of a non-EU/EFTA country, you will have to obtain a Temporary Residency Permit (TRP) in Lithuania. You must submit the original documents for a temporary residence permit to the nearest external service provider at least three months before arriving in Lithuania, or to the Migration Department after arrival (if you can legally enter and stay in Lithuania for at least 1.5 to 3 months).

A decision on issuing a temporary residence permit is made within two months from the date of receipt of the application (the 20 working days for card delivery from Lithuania to the country of application are not included).

Click here to find the [full application procedure](#) and a list of required documents.

Take a look at the latest [MIGRIS](#) rules for acquiring a TRP of Lithuania.

A CHECKLIST for Your First Week of Studies

Bring your educational documents

You might be asked to bring your educational documents and their certified copies to your faculty. Make sure to bring the **original graduation documents and their translations** into English or Lithuanian.

Meet your mentor

Getting a mentor is a good way for you to feel more at ease as you settle into Lithuania and begin your studies. Your mentor will be one of your first friends here!

You can apply for a mentor via the admission system at apply.vu.lt. If you have arrived and have no mentor, you can find their contact details according to your faculty [here](#).

Arrive, register and start your studies on time

You are required to arrive at the university **one or two days before the beginning of the semester – Welcome Day on the 31st of August and no later than the 1st of September**. If you are unable to arrive on time, make sure to inform your faculty study programme coordinator. Study agreements with students who do not arrive on time will be terminated.

Get your timetable [here](#) to start your studies on time!

□ Participate in VUniverse Introduction Days

Starting studies in a different country may sound challenging, but we've got you covered! A list of events – from a big gathering of international students at the Welcome Day (31st of August) during the VUniverse Introduction Week events to different integration sessions and informal meetings with other students – everything to ensure you learn everything there is to know and make some friends.

The full schedule of the VUniverse events can be found [here](#).

□ Register for the VU IT services

To access all essential IT services at Vilnius University, you must register with the Identity Management System: id.vu.lt. This should be done during September, but we recommend registering as soon as possible to avoid missing any important updates. You will need your student's registration (ID) number to register (you will receive it at the end of August). Follow the instructions [here](#).

After registering, you will get access to:

- [VU email account](#) | used for all official university communication
- [eStudent Information System \(eStudentas\)](#) | find all of your courses and exam results
- [Virtual Learning Environment \(VLE/Moodle\)](#) | get access to course materials, submit assignments, and take exams
- [Virtual Library](#) | browse academic resources, borrow materials and book study rooms
- [Campus internet access](#) | use Wi-Fi
- [And more](#) | other services to support your studies

Get your Lithuanian Student Identity Card LSIC (LSP)

All students should get their Lithuanian Student Identity Card (LSIC/LSP, as in the Lithuanian language).

With your LSIC (LSP), you will:

- get access to the university library services;
- prove your identity as a student at the university itself (especially while taking exams);
- get various discounts at theatres, cinemas, and on many other services and purchases;
- get discounts for public transport in the biggest cities of Lithuania.

Cost of your LSIC (LSP):

- EUR 20.00 – for bachelor's degree students
- EUR 12.00 – for master's degree students
- EUR 22.00 – for Medicine and Dentistry students.

Getting your LSIC (LSP):

You can register on the online LSIC (LSP) system at lsp.lt/en after the university registers your data in the Student Registry, and you get your student registration (ID) number. This is usually done in the second half of August or in September.

The whole procedure for obtaining your LSIC (LSP) is listed on the [Vilnius University Students' Representation website](#).

☐ Check out the student groups and other extracurricular activities

By joining student organisations, you will become more comfortable in the international community, make friends, and gain valuable experience. The best news is that there are loads of clubs to choose from! While you can enrol in most of the organisations throughout the year, it may be useful to check them out right from the beginning. You can choose from:

- **Art groups and other cultural activities.** There are 15 art groups, including choirs, orchestras, theatres, and various ensembles with more than 600 members. Also, look out for exhibitions, cultural events and other organised activities! [Learn more](#).
- **Sport teams and clubs.** Students are welcome at the VU Health and Sport Center located in different parts of Vilnius (Saulėtekio al. 2, Saulėtekio al. 26 and M. K. Čiurlionio g. 21). For a small fee, you can exercise and join a sports group or become a part of a team! Detailed information about all of the groups and memberships can be found [here](#).
- **Societies, clubs and associations.** Community and academic activities are a huge part of what makes the student experience. [Vilnius University Students' Representation \(VU SA\)](#), scientific societies in different faculties, and various clubs for different interests are waiting for you to explore! Find them all [here](#).
- **The Observatory, Museum, Architectural Ensemble, and the Botanical Garden.** Explore the most iconic parts of the university – perfect for the curious, the creative and nature lovers.

Tip: Make sure to participate in the [VUniverse Introduction Days](#) to learn more about the different groups and when they accept new members.

PRACTICAL Information

Once admitted to Vilnius University, you need to be well prepared to avoid unpleasant surprises during your stay here. You will find basic practical information on services you may use inside and outside the University.

Getting around

Arrival in Lithuania

You can reach Lithuania by plane, train, or bus. Vilnius and Kaunas have international airports. The closest airports to Šiauliai are in Riga (Latvia), Palanga, Kaunas and Vilnius.

You can travel in Lithuania [by bus](#) or [train](#) – check the schedules and buy your tickets by following the provided links. *Please note that in*

order to use a student discount, you need to have your student ID – LSIC (LSP); otherwise, you might not be able to get a discount before obtaining it after arrival in Lithuania.

The discount for intercity bus or train journeys is 50% for full-time students with an LSIC (LSP).

Public transport

Lithuanian cities have well-developed public transportation systems. You can use buses, trolleybuses, and minibuses.

Students are offered large discounts on public transportation tickets (daily, monthly, and yearly) with student cards, and are encouraged to use this form of transportation. Please note that you must always have your student ID – LSIC (LSP) with you

to prove that you are entitled to use the discount.

The discounts are:

80% discount on full-time monthly public transport tickets for full-time students

50% discount on one-time tickets

Please note that there are various types of tickets – choose the ones that work for you!

How to get your tickets:

- **Vilnius:** Tickets can be purchased via [Trafi](#) or [m. Ticket](#) apps, or by purchasing the [JUDU/Vilniečio \(Vilnius resident\) card](#) and topping it up. You can also buy your tickets by card by using the ticket validator on the bus. More information and ticket prices can be found [here](#).
- **Kaunas:** Install the [Žiogas](#) app to get discounted tickets, or purchase them from the bus driver for cash. More information and ticket prices can be found [here](#).
- **Šiauliai:** You can get the [ŠiauliaiBUS mobile app](#), buy an electronic ticket card (at the Šiauliai bus station and Šarūno st. 2), and top it up with a ticket or buy one from the bus driver with cash or by card.

How to get around:

Information on the routes and schedules (available in English for all major cities, including [Vilnius](#), [Kaunas](#),

and [Šiauliai](#)) is available on the [Trafi](#) website and mobile app, as well as on [Google Maps](#).



Taxi

Getting a taxi after your arrival in Lithuania could be a great choice. The most convenient way is to download an app – you can get a taxi 24/7!

The most popular taxi apps are [Bolt](#), [eTAKSI \(Google Play Store / Apple Store\)](#), and [Uber](#). Please note that while they cover all three cities, it

might be useful to have alternatives prepared if you are studying in Šiauliai, as there may not be convenient offers from drivers. [NEOtaxi](#) (app or phone +370 41 454545) and Euro Taxi (phone +370 41 421111) are available.

Car rentals

Need a car for a few hours or a weekend trip? Fancy driving instead of taking a taxi? Car-sharing services are a widely available way to get around without owning a car.

Get an app, upload your driver's licence, and drive away! You can pay

by the minute or even rent the car for a few days. The main options (available in Vilnius and Kaunas) are: [CityBee](#), [Bolt Drive](#) and [Spark](#).

Bike and e-scooter rentals

Exploring Vilnius, Kaunas, Šiauliai, and other parts of Lithuania can be even more fun and affordable with eco-friendly options, such as bike, e-bike, or e-scooter rentals. Get the

app, choose a payment method, and find your vehicle in a parking space. Make sure to wear a helmet and follow the traffic rules!

Most popular options:

- [Bolt scooters and e-bikes](#). Available in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Šiauliai. Pay by the minute or get a pass.
- [Cyclocity Vilnius \(orange bikes\)](#). Available in Vilnius. Get a pass (the first 30 minutes are free).
- **Moped-style rentals:** [RideMe](#) and [Rentebike.lt](#). Rent for a period from one hour to a week.



Telephone

It is likely that you will need to purchase a local SIM or eSIM card to get cheaper services for calling, sending messages, and using mobile data.

You can get a prepaid card or get a plan with one of the service providers:

- [Telia](#) | prepaid card [EŽYS](#).
- [Tele2](#) | prepaid card [PILDYK](#).
- [Bitė](#) | prepaid card [LABAS](#).
- [Saily](#) | eSIM option, convenient for digital setup.

You can find the prepaid card options in most grocery stores, kiosks, and convenience shops. If you arrive by plane, look for the **Narvesen** shops, which usually have a good selection.

Student Services

Having a large community of students, lecturers, administrators, and university guests means ensuring everyone's needs are met. Here, you will find a full list of student services. Make sure to get the most out of them during the study period!

1. Psychological counselling

VU students can access a limited number of free individual and group psychological consultations each year. In-person consultations are provided at the psychological counselling offices located in Vilnius, at the VU Faculty of Philosophy (Universiteto g. 9/1), Faculty of Physics (Saulėtekio al. 9), and Faculty of Medicine (M. K. Čiurlionio g. 21), as well as at Kaunas Faculty and Šiauliai Academy.

You can register for consultations by email at bgs@cr.vu.lt or via the [VU website](#).

VU regularly organises seminars and practical workshops on topics relevant to the community, focusing on improving emotional well-being. Information about events and group consultations can be found in the monthly newsletters. Vilnius University community psychologists offer urgent, **free-of-charge psychological help to students and employees if:**

- You are going through a psychological crisis – a tough period, such as losing a loved one, a traumatic experience, etc.
- You have thoughts about suicide or harming yourself.
- You have had severe psychological conditions, such as depression, psychotic episodes, etc., and you feel that it may happen again shortly.

You can register for urgent consultations by email at padek@vu.lt or via the [VU website](#). Consultations are available in Lithuanian, English, Russian, and Ukrainian.

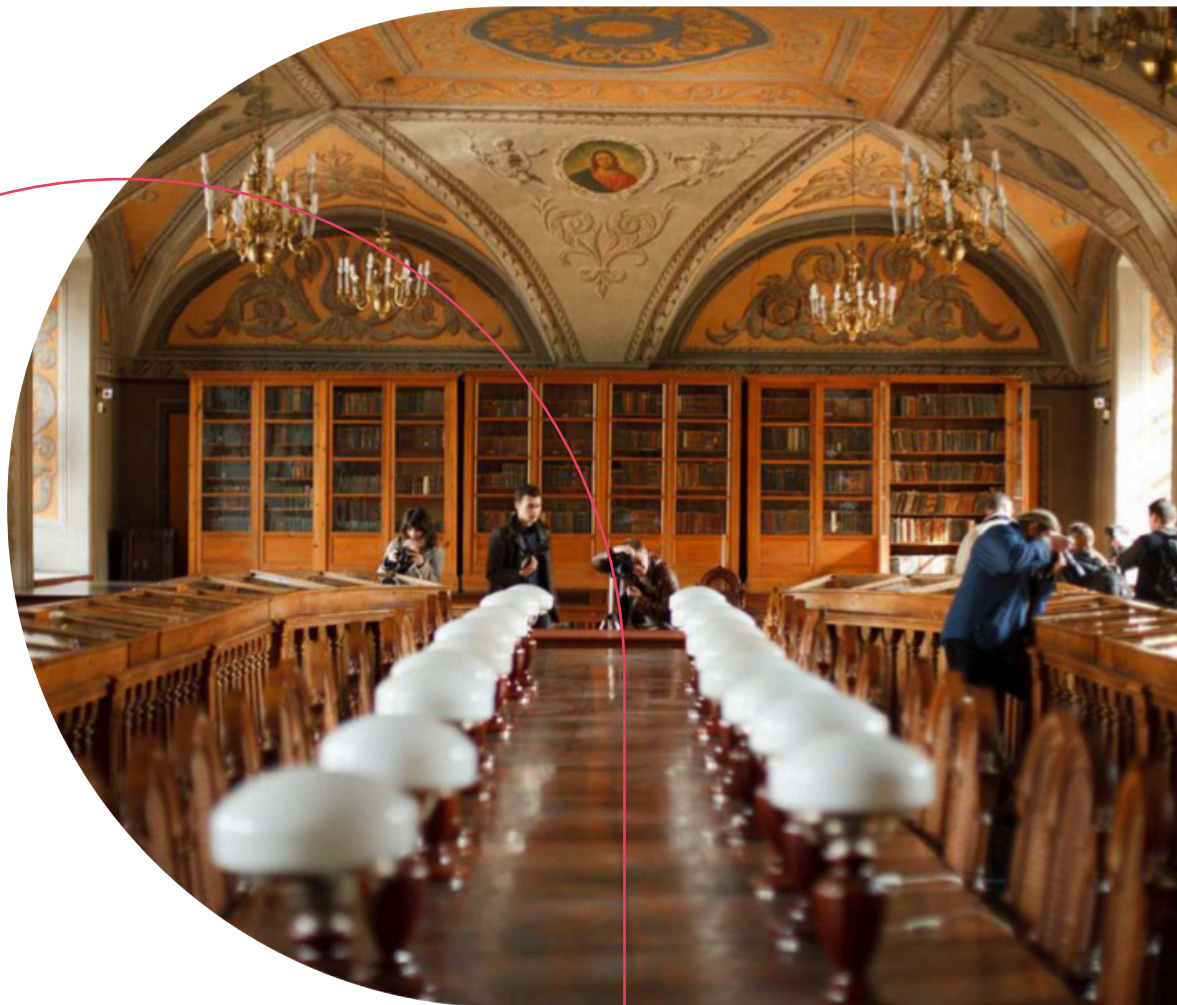
2. Vilnius University Library

Online and physical study materials, places for personal and group learning, printing, various types of equipment required for studies, and other resources can all be found at [Vilnius University Library](#).

Branches of Vilnius University Library can be found at the Central Campus and Saulėtekis in Vilnius, at some of the faculties (including Kaunas and Šiauliai faculties), and online.

You will only be able to access the available resources with your student ID – LSIC (LSP).

Discover all that the library has to offer [here](#).



3. Academic Advising

This information package does not cover all of the questions that may arise during your study period. If you have questions about your studies, finances, registration, admission to courses, and other matters, the Counseling and Career Centre and Academic Advisers in your faculty will be there to help.

In order to get a consultation from the Counseling and Career Centre, you can:

- **Call +370 5 219 3277**
- **Email ask@vu.lt**
- Apply for an in-person or online individual consultation [here](#) (free of charge).

If you would like to contact an Academic Adviser in your faculty, find their contact information [here](#).

4. Career and personal development guidance

Are you unsure where to start with your career? Are you looking for an internship or a job? Do you need help writing your CV or a motivation letter? Would you like to explore different career paths?

The VU Career Centre is here to help you find the right direction! They offer:

- Individual career consultations.
- Group workshops and activities.
- Explore all of the services they provide on their website: [For your development and career](#).

Address: Saulėtekio al. 9, Building III, Room 104 (Faculty of Physics)

Email: careercentre@vu.lt

[Learn more here](#).

Useful CONTACTS

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE VILNIUS

[Pre-registration for a visit](#)

Contacts:

Konstitucijos pr. 3, Vilnius

MIGRATION OFFICES

[Pre-registration for a visit](#)

Contacts:

Vilnius office:

Naugarduko g. 100, Vilnius

Kaunas office:

St. Gertrūdos g. 4, Kaunas

Šiauliai office:

Aušros al. 19, Šiauliai

Office hours

(the same in all three offices):

Monday 7:30 – 18:30

Tuesday 7:30 – 16:30

Wednesday 8:00 – 16:30

Thursday 7:30 – 16:30

Friday 7:30 – 15:15

TRANSLATION OFFICES

AIRV TRANSLATION AGENCY

Vilnius:

Raugyklos g. 4A, Vilnius, LT-01139

Phone: +370 612 73093; +370 5

2122496

Email: vilnius@airv.lt

Kaunas:

Savanorių pr. 204/Taikos pr. 2,

Kaunas, LT-50187

Phone: +370 650 51544; +370 37

313455

Email: kaunas@airv.lt

MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Office hours:

Monday 7:30 – 18:30

Tuesday 7:30 – 16:30

Wednesday 8:00 – 16:30

Thursday 7:30 – 16:30

Friday 7:30 – 15:15

Contacts:

L. Sapiegos g. 1, Vilnius

Email: info@migracija.gov.lt

Phone: +370 5 271 7112

KALBŲ SPEKTRAS

Vilniaus g. 123, LT-76294 Šiauliai,
Lithuania

Email: kalbuspektras@splius.lt

Phone: +370 687 57245

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

112 for:

Fire brigade

Police

Ambulance

+370 800 2888 for:

24/7 psychological aid (helpline
Youth Line)

ACADEMIC CONTACTS

Academic Advisers in your academic unit (faculty)

[Click here](#)

For questions regarding admission |
Admissions Office
Contacts:
Email: admissions@cr.vu.lt

For questions regarding migration |
International Relations Office
Office Manager (Visa/Temporary
Residence Permit)
Ms Diana Makevičienė
Email: diana.makeviciene@cr.vu.lt
Phone: +370 5 268 7250



Important Dates For 2026/2027

Autumn semester:

31 August – 5 September, 2026	VUniverse Introduction Days
1 September, 2026	Renovatio Studiorum. Beginning of the 2026–2027 academic year at Vilnius University
2 September, 2026 – 26 January, 2027	Lecture period
1 September, 2026, 9:00 – 6 September, 2026, 23:59	Registration for elective study subjects at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (LMTA) and the Vilnius Academy of Arts (VDA) for the autumn semester
1 September, 2026, 19:00 – 14 September, 2026, 23:59	Additional registration for elective courses (PD), individual courses in the field of study (programme), interdisciplinary studies, other fields of study, general university studies, and other (non-first) foreign language courses for the autumn semester
1 November – 30 November, 2026	Registration for minor studies starting in the spring semester
1 December, 2026, 19:00 – 7 December, 2026, 23:59	Registration for elective subjects (PD) in the study programme for the spring semester
8 December, 2026, 19:00 – 14 December, 2026, 23:59	Registration for individual courses in the student's major (programme), interdisciplinary studies, other majors, general university studies, and other (non-first) foreign language courses for the spring semester
17 January – 3 February, 2027	Winter break



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University**