VIDZEME UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED SCIENCES

WHERE SOCIAL SCIENCES
AND TECHNOLOGIES MEET

CONTENTS

VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020

EUROPEAN UNION
European Social Fund

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

WELCOME TO VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES (ViA)

BOOST YOUR CAREER AT A FORWARD-THINKING NORTHERN EUROPEAN EDUCATION INSTITUTION.

THE THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF ViA ARE:

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

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

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

WE OFFER 6 STUDY FIELDS

- Business Administration
- Travel and Leisure
- Communication, Media and Governance
- Construction
- Mechatronics
- Information Technologies

These 6 study fields comprise 15 study programmes.

2 RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

- Sociotechnical Systems Engineering Institute
- Institute of Social, Economic and Humanities Research

We have built strong partnerships with both students, lecturers, and industry professionals to offer an inspirational learning environment.

If you wish to know more, please don't hesitate to get in touch and we hope to see you in person soon!

WHY STUDY WITH US?

HERE ARE TOP 6 REASONS TO CHOOSE VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

1.
LEARN FROM THE BEST
Our lecturers and professors come from and maintain links with industry.
Many of them have their own business, they are leading professionals in companies and field specialists, for example, Accenture Latvia representatives, president of Latvian Mobile Telephone etc.

2.
TRANSFORMED TEACHING
We have transformed our curriculum with a new range of contemporary, flexible courses. We have built practice-based learning and international opportunities into every stage of our programmes.

3.
INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE
Partnerships with around 100 higher education institutions in 45 countries and expanding. More than 150 internship partners worldwide. Collaboration with EkoTekNord, Businet, EAIE, ATLAS, Microsoft Academy, IEEE Computer Society etc. Erasmus+ and Nordplus exchange opportunities. International Study Module for exchange students. Baltic International Summer School.

5.
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH
Study programme design, ensuring that students develop skills and understanding across multiple disciplines, which in return will help them excel working across various sectors as their career progresses.

4.
HELPING YOU INTO WORK
We have strong links with the business community which helps students to find job already in study process or shortly after graduation. Students develop skills and understanding across multiple disciplines, which in return will help them excel working across various sectors as their career progresses.

6.
BE A PART OF E³UDRES²
Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences represents Latvia in the Alliance of European Universities in consortium E³UDRES². Anyone, who is interested (including ViA students, partners, residents of Vidzeme region etc.), has the opportunity to participate in E³UDRES² activities and become part of European University.

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

1 Welcome to Latvia
Latvia declared its independence on November 18, 1918.
The official name is the Republic of Latvia. Capital city is Riga.

2 Latvia is among the world's greenest countries
Over half of Latvia's territory is covered with forests and one fifth of the country comprises protected nature areas.
Among others, there are four national parks, 42 nature parks, and 4 nature reserves – any place is no more than 30 minutes away from a natural forest. Amazing, right?

3 Geography
Latvia lies along the shores of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga and is part of the Nordic–Baltic region countries.

4 One of the world's oldest flags and language
Latvia's current flag design has been in use since 1280. Only Denmark's has been around longer. And Latvian is one of Europe's oldest languages. Spoken by just 2 million people in the world.

5 Latvia has four distinct seasons
Depending on when you visit, you will find yourself in a white winter wonderland, colorful autumn, blooming spring, and green summer.

FIND OUT MORE latvia.eu

10 MOST INSTAGRAMMABLE PLACES IN LATVIA

#1 Gauja River Valley in Sigulda
@anita.austvika_photographer
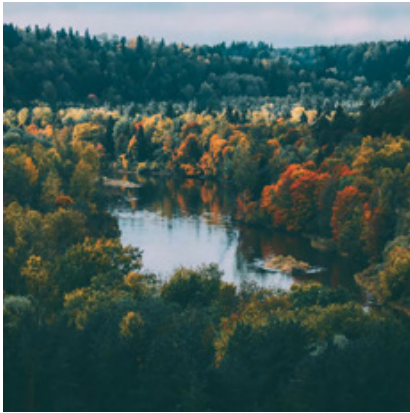
#2 Great Kemeri Bog Boardwalk
@arvids

#3 The most Instagrammable crossing in the Old Town Riga / @valdisskudre

#4 Northern Fort in Liepāja
@thefella
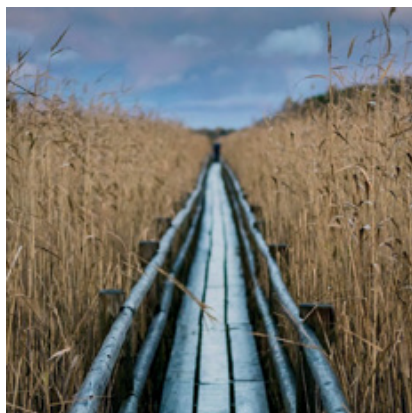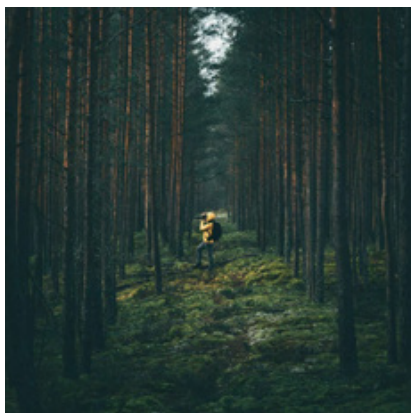
#5 The White Dune in Saulkrasti
@lindarutule

#6 Window at the Latvian National Museum of Art
@latviannationalmuseumofart

#7 Lake Kanieris nature trail
@billijs.world

#8 Pine forest
@yourlifevibe

#9 View from Riga St Peter's Church tower
@martinsnovikovs
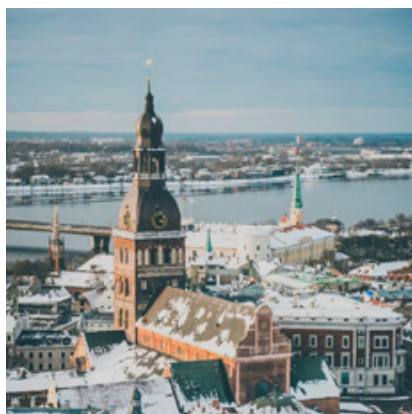
#10 Cabin in Lāčupīte arboretum
@helloundaa
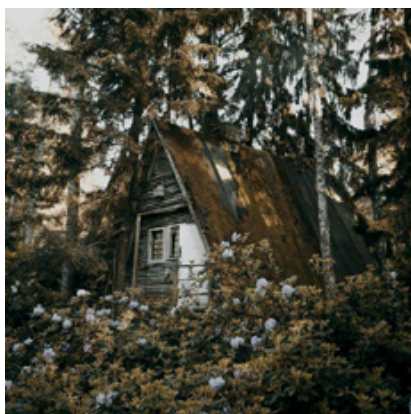
- In spring 2022 the Financial Times awarded leaders in "European Future Cities and Regions Ranking 2022/2023". Valmiera scored as the winner in the category "Micro Cities – Best for fDi Strategy".
- The city is proud to have its own Business Incubator
- Students and Alumni can live in Valmiera and work at Valmiera Glass group, Valpro, Food Union/AS „Valmieras Piens", Valmiermuiža brewery etc.

THE CITY IS YOUR

TOURISM HIGHLIGHTS

- Valmiera Drama Theatre
- St. Simon's Church of Valmiera
- Bachelor Park and Concert Hall "Valmiera"
- Valmiera Culture Centre
- Valmiermuiža Brewery
- Vidzeme Olympic Centre etc.

The River Gauja is the "main street" of Valmiera, dividing the city in two parts – the Centre and Pārgauja. Valmiera is located 107 km from Riga. The River Gauja endows Valmiera with a naturalness that one can enjoy when walking along the Gauja's banks; it takes just five minutes to reach the walking trails.

CAMPUS

CULTURE

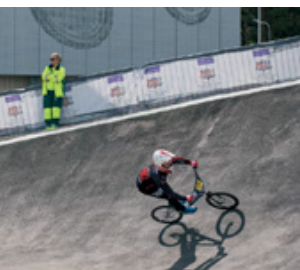If you are looking for a place to see the latest movie in cinema, eat in a restaurant with live music, have fun in nature or enjoy night life, then Valmiera is the right choice.

MUSIC

There are many places where you can enjoy music. In summertime Valmiermuiža brewery offers live music evenings, also through the year you can enjoy great music in concert hall "Valmiera" or culture center. The towns near Valmiera also offers plenty of choices so you will never get bored.

SPORTS

Whether you're interested in sport as a participant or a spectator, Valmiera has plenty to offer.
In 2019 new swimming pool was built, new BMX track was opened where the European Championship has been held.
Basketball, floorball, hockey, Janis Dalins stadium and many, many more.

Ready to joy for your team?
P.S. Best basketball, football, hockey etc. players can get university scholarships.

RELAXING

If you want to get out and about, then you need just 5 to 10 minutes to be in the forest. Often Valmiera is called city of forest.

visit.valmiera.lv/en

THE FACILITIES YOU NEED

ENGINEERING CAMPUS

10 Tērbatas street

FACILITIES INCLUDE

- Contemporary classrooms
- Digital learning eco-system
- Virtual reality and augmented reality laboratory
- Computer network laboratory
- Mobile technology laboratory
- Radio frequency identification laboratory
- Cybersecurity laboratory
- Electronics laboratory
- Mechatronics laboratory
- Energy efficiency laboratory
- Study rooms

SOCIETY AND SCIENCE CAMPUS

4 Cēsu street

FACILITIES INCLUDE

- Library
- Contemporary classrooms
- Digital learning eco-system
- Multimedia laboratory
- Spatial analysis laboratory
- Student Union
- Study rooms

PROGRAMMES IN ENGLISH

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- Information Technologies

MASTER'S DEGREE

- Business Environment Administration
- Media and Information Literacy
- Strategic Communication and Governance
- Cybersecurity Engineering
- Virtual Reality and Smart Technologies
- Tourism Competitiveness Management

PHD

- Socio-technical Systems Modelling
- Economics and Business

PROGRAMMES IN LATVIAN

COLLEGE LEVEL
- Construction of Sustainable Buildings

BACHELOR'S DEGREE
- Communication and Public Relations
- Media and Journalism
- Business Administration
- Tourism Organization and Management
- Mechatronics

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

TRAVEL AND LEISURE

COMMUNICATION, MEDIA AND GOVERNANCE

STUDY OFFER

CONSTRUCTION

MECHATRONICS

INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES

BACHELOR'S IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

The study programme has been developed and approbated within the framework of the Urban Innovative Actions Project Next Generation Micro Cities of Europe. In the framework of the project, an innovative teaching method is being implemented in the study programme with a greater emphasis on practically based training. The innovative methodology has been developed with a broader scope in mind, applying and combining it with other methodologies at the university – which promotes synergies in the study process between courses, projects, and other activities within and outside the university.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
More info: www.va.lv/en

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The content of the study programme has been developed in close cooperation with industry professionals and their requirements for the new IT specialists. The curriculum not only includes courses that provide students with the knowledge, skills, and competencies in the basics of the industry, systems' analysis and development, programming, but also incorporates the latest trends in the IT industry, such as introduction to artificial intelligence and machine learning, introduction to data science, internet of things, virtual reality, and cyber security.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIALIZATION FIELDS ARE POSSIBLE WITHIN THE STUDY PROGRAMME:

- Cyber Security and Programming
- Development of Virtual Reality and Mobile Systems

FAST FACTS

- **Duration:** 4 or 5 years
- **Mode:** full-time or part-time
- **Degree:** Software engineer
- **Language:** English
- **ECTS:** 240
- **ISCED:** 0610
- **EQF:** Level 6
- **Location:** Valmiera, Latvia

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Secondary education
- Grades in the following subjects: mathematics, computer science/applied informatics/programming.
- Online Interview
- Evidence of English language competence (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS)*

*In case you do not have English language proficiency certificate, you can pass ViA prepared English language examination

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Overly, Vividly, TestDevLab, Accenture, Latvian Mobile Telephone, Wunder

MASTER'S IN BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION

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

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE
More info: www.va.lv/en

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Compulsary part A: Corporate and Public Finances, Organization Strategic Management, Entrepreneurship Environment, Human Resources Development, Integrated Research Methods, Project Management Strategies and Tools, Organization Psychology, Internship I, Master's Thesis, Internship II.

Variable part B: Global Marketing and Customer Relationship Management, Advertising Trends, E-commerce and E-Business (E-Business Technologies), Modern logistic systems, Sustainable Cooperation Development Planning and Management, Communication in International Business, Social Networks in Business Environment, External Communication of the Organization, Smart Technologies and Data Security

Additional Courses: Civil protection and Environment protection, Latvian Language and Culture

Practical experience: All our students must intern or gain work experience whilst working towards their degrees. The aim of the internships is using their study knowledge and theory in sync with their practical skills in solving various operational problems for a vast array of businesses. Internships can take place outside Latvia.

FAST FACTS

- **Duration:** 1,5 or 2 years
- **Mode:** full-time
- **Degree:** Professional Master's degree in Business Administration
- **Language:** English
- **ECTS:** 90 or 120 (Depending on the programme length)
- **ISCED:** 0410
- **EQF:** Level 7

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in economics or management sciences
- Evidence of English language competence (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS)*
- Online Interview
- Exam**

*In case you do not have English language proficiency certificate, you can pass ViA prepared English language examination

**Exam only for Applicants who have not obtained a previous bachelor's degree in economics or management sciences.

MASTER'S IN MEDIA & INFORMATION LITERACY

Master's programme in Media & Information Literacy is designed to provide internationally competitive education in communication science with an emphasis on media literacy and information literacy, to train highly educated professionals for media content creation, distribution, analysis, and promotion of media education in various fields.

Over the course of these studies, students will acquire a set of theoretically informed competences to research, analyses, evaluate media content of any format and kind for its content and aesthetics, and utilize various media technologies to create sophisticated, artistic, and effective media materials. The programme will provide in-depth knowledge and skills for further career development and participation in today's globalized, digitized and mediated world.

WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE A MASTER'S IN MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY?

The programme has been developed in collaboration with communication and media experts. It is based on recommendations for international media and information literacy education. It's the only such programme available in English across Europe.

Programme is based on utilizing such innovative study methods as strategic games and simulations, which help to integrate theoretical knowledge with the development of practical skills when looking for solutions for various strategic communication issues in ever-changing world.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Communication theory
Communication Theories, Media and Information Literacy Theories

**Cognitive, social, and political aspects of media literacy**
Social Cognition and Behaviour, Persuasive Communication, Argumentation Theory and Critical Thinking, Culture, Society and the Digital Media.

Media ethics in a professional context
Media ethics
Media environment and business
Media Management and Online Economics, Media and Communication Law, Project Management and Innovation in Creative Industries
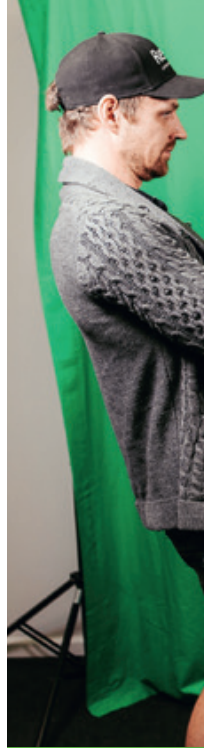
Research methods
Quantitative research methods, Qualitative research methods, Master's Thesis Seminar, Research Internship

Digital Storytelling
Visual Culture and Semiotics, Data Visualization, Basics of Multimedia Storytelling

Master's Thesis

Elective part B: Civic Society and Participation, Visual Culture and Semiotics, Visual Communication, Project Management and innovation in Creative Industries, Data Visualization, Multimedia Storytelling

Additional courses: Civil Protection; Environment Management and Protection, Latvian Language and Culture

FAST FACTS

- **Duration:** 1,5 or 2 years
- **Mode:** full-time
- **Degree:** Master's Degree of Social Sciences in Communication
- **Language:** English
- **ECTS:** 90 or 120 (depending on the programme length)
- **ISCED:** 0388
- **EQF:** Level 7

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Evidence of English language competence (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS)*.
- Master's thesis proposal
- Online Interview

*In case you do not have English language proficiency certificate, you can pass ViA prepared English language examination

MASTER'S IN STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION & GOVERNANCE

The programme is aimed at experienced communication professionals working in governmental and non-governmental sector and business organizations across a wide range of industries, where communication is considered as the critical competency to advance organization's goals and mission.

Over the course of these studies, students will acquire a sharpened strategic mindset and will become prepared to work successfully as communication leaders and offer strategic counseling in communication to any organization.

The programme offers an integral view on strategic communication management and role of leadership to achieve meaningful, purposeful, and ethical relations between individuals and organizations, in national and global contexts.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Individual, Society and Digital Technology
Democracy Theories and Security, Euro-Atlantic values in contemporary geopolitics, Persuasive Communication, Smart technologies and data security, Argumentation Theory and Critical Thinking, Social cognition and human behavior, Ethics, and values

Strategic communication
Theories of strategic communication, Communication theories, Strategic Communication Management, Change Management, Culture and communication, International Strategic Communication and Diplomacy

Governance
Governance and innovation, Strategic management of organizations, Media and Communication Law, Policy analysis, EU institutions and administration, Public Governance and Innovations, Sustainable resource management, Public Finances

Research
Master's Thesis Seminar, Research internship, Quantitative research methods and analysis of large data, Qualitative research methods
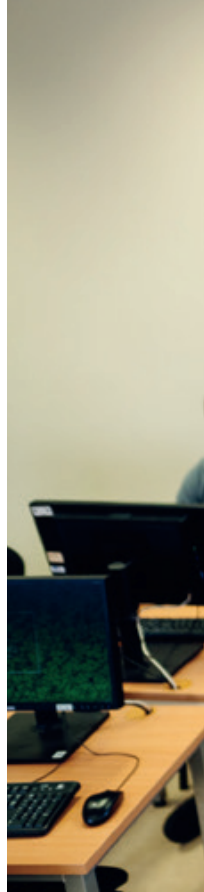
Master's Thesis

FAST FACTS

- **Duration:** 2 years
- **Mode:** full-time
- **Degree:** Master's Degree of Social Sciences in Communication
- **Language:** English
- **ECTS:** 120
- **ISCED:** 0388
- **EQF:** Level 7

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Evidence of English language competence (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS)*.
- Master's thesis proposal
- Online Interview

*In case you do not have English language proficiency certificate, you can pass ViA prepared English language examination

MASTER'S IN CYBERSECURITY ENGINEERING

The level of turbulence in the information space is growing rapidly. Security has become a broad and complex concept and being competent in matters related to cybersecurity is important to us as individuals as well as representatives of states and organizations. The course aims to provide the necessary competencies for a cybersecurity specialist who is responsible for strengthening information systems as well as preventing cyber-attacks and security incidents, carrying out risk analysis and offering security measures to mitigate threats in their workplace or for an external client. Soon, the demand for engineering and ICT specialists will surpass supply, which opens great career prospects for cybersecurity specialists. Upon graduating from this programme, specialists can work in various public and private sector organizations as integrated security testers and cybersecurity specialists, who can collaborate effectively, think critically, and make data-based decisions.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Strengthening of information systems: Security Incident Management, Secure Software Development, Cybercrime Investigation Preparation Course, Web application Penetration Testing, Mobile and Cloud Computing Security, Digital Forensics, Information System Security Engineering, Applied Cryptography, Reverse Engineering, App Security Testing, Ethical Computer Hacking.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Project Management Methods and Tools, Innovation and Creative Problem Solving, Strategic IT Management.

Collaboration in the digital age: Information Collection Techniques, Cybersecurity psychology.

Legal and ethical aspects: Obligations, Responsibilities and Rights on the Internet, Protection and investigation of personal data.

Cyber security management: Cyber Security Policy, Information Security Risk Management, Cyber Security Engineering Requirements, Information System Audit and Security, Security Culture.

Research: Python for Security Testers, Argumentation and critical thinking, Data Mining.

Internship, Master's thesis.

Additional courses: Civil Protection, Environment Management and Protection, Latvian Language and Culture

FAST FACTS

- **Duration:** 2 years
- **Mode:** full-time
- **Degree:** Master's in Information Technologies
- **Language:** English
- **ECTS:** 120
- **ISCED:**
- **EQF:** Level 7

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent higher education in Information Technologies (IT) or Information and Communication Technologies
- Work experience in IT field
- Evidence of English language competence (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS)*
- Online Interview

*In case you do not have English language proficiency certificate, you can pass ViA prepared English language examination

MASTER'S IN VIRTUAL REALITY & SMART TECHNOLOGIES

The study programme provides extensive knowledge about Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) technologies, their usage and role in innovation.

A vital part of the programme is the opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience whilst working on live projects alongside various tech businesses, start-ups, and industry professionals to solve current problems and create new solutions.

Participating in the annual AR/VR Hackathon is an integral part of the master's study programme in Virtual Reality and Smart Technologies at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences.

Upon graduation, students will have a complete skill set to implement and manage VR/AR projects as well as to apply their knowledge to innovating new products/solutions and ensuring the advancement of VR/AR through scientific research.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

VR/AR project planning and implementation: VR/AR innovations and actuality in various industries, VR/AR hardware and physical structure, elements of IoT, Interactivity, scenarios composition and serious games.

VR/AR authoring: Mobile technology solutions (Android), Web based VR and AR applications, 3D modelling approaches and scripting (Blender), Development of advanced 3D interractive environments (Unity).

User experience design and implementation: UX strategy framework, Human factors and human-computer interaction, Motion graphics and environmental effects.

Recognition services and intellectual environments: Geometry processing and visualization, Augmented reality and computer vision algorithms, Introduction in machine – learning and neural networks.

VR/AR project sustainability and transformation: Innovations and project management, Research methodologies and scientific publications, Hackathon and teamwork, Simulation modeling and data 3D visualization.

Internship, Master's thesis.

Additional courses: Latvian Language and Culture, Civil Protection, Environment Protections

FAST FACTS

- **Duration:** 1,5 years
- **Mode:** full-time
- **Degree:** Master's in Virtual Reality and Smart Technologies
- **Language:** English
- **ECTS:** 120
- **ISCED:** 0710
- **EQF:** Level 7

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent higher education in Information Technologies or Computer Sciences
- Work experience with 3D modeling and Unity
- Evidence of English language competence (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS)*.
- Online Interview

*In case you do not have English language proficiency certificate, you can pass ViA prepared English language examination

MASTER'S IN TOURISM COMPETITIVENESS MANAGEMENT

The study programme takes into account the current changes in the tourism, hospitality and leisure industries, which are actively resuming work after the pandemic and offer excellent career opportunities due to the extremely high demand for professionals in the labor market. By studying in the programme, you will learn how to strengthen the competitiveness of tourism places, business, and other organizations, and how to strategically manage these organizations in times of crisis, post-crisis and uncertainty.

Strengthening competitiveness, strategic management of smart tourism destinations and organizations is addressed through Nordic and Baltic best practice stories, highlighting the potential of modern technology starting from business data analysis to forecasting and product design, change management and resilience and other aspects while bearing in mind the multidisciplinary perspective.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Management and competitiveness (compulsory studies):
Self-leadership, Competitiveness in tourism, Tourism Marketing Strategies, Strategic Leadership in Tourism, Revenue Management in Customer-Oriented Organizations, Sales Excellence in Tourism Industry, New Product Development and Service Innovations.

Research and internship: Master Thesis I (Introductory seminar), Master Thesis II (Development seminar), Master Thesis, Business Perspective to Research Methods, Toolbox for Business Data Management, Research internship I, Research Internship II.

Professional specialization courses (restrictive electives):
Field school (in the Nordic-Baltic Region), Tourism Enterprise and Global Change.

Professional specialization study courses (optional): International Finance Management, International Economy, Advanced Technology in tourism, Digital Marketing, Smart Tourism Destination Management, Elective courses.

Additional courses: Civil defense, Environment Management and Protection, Latvian Language and Culture.

FAST FACTS

- **Duration:** 1,5 or 2 years
- **Mode:** full-time
- **Degree:** Master's in Social Sciences in Tourism and Leisure Organization
- **Language:** Latvian and English
- **ECTS:** 90 or 120
- **ISCED:** 1015
- **EQF:** Level 7

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in social sciences and humanities, commercial sciences and administration, or tourism and leisure organization, cultural management, or equivalent education

- Evidence of English language competence (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS)*.

- Online Interview

- Exam

*In case you do not have English language proficiency certificate, you can pass ViA prepared English language examination

PHD IN SOCIOTECHNICAL SYSTEMS MODELLING

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

CAREER
Graduates of the programme secure roles in various research fields.

PROGRAMME CONTENT
Engineering, Scientifically Academic Work, Modelling, Methodology of Research Work and Modelling Data Processing, Modelling of Business Information Systems, Tourism Systems and Regional Development, Political Systems and Modelling of Public Administration, Systems in Social Theories, Logistic Information Systems and Organization and Transport.

THE PROGRAMME IS BEING REALISED IN COOPERATION OF VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND 8 PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:

Riga Technical University, Latvia;

Warsaw University of Technology, Poland;

Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain;

University Koblenz–Landau, Germany;

Klaipeda University, Lithuania;

Universidad de La Laguna, Spain;

University of Genoa, Italy;

Franhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation, Germany.

FAST FACTS

- **Language:** English
- **Duration:** 3 years (6 semesters)
- **ECTS:** 180
- **Degree title:** PHD In Information Technologies
- **ISCED:** 0611
- **Level 8**

APPLICATION SUPPLEMENTS:

- A list of scientific and academic publications (If any);
- Evidence of English language competence (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS)*.

* In case you do not have English language proficiency certificate, you can pass ViA prepared English language examination.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Master's degree in sociotechnical systems modelling, or information technology, or computer science, or other natural sciences (mathematical or simulation modelling has been acquired during the studies);
- Summary of the possible doctoral dissertation;*
- The topic of the doctoral thesis must correspond to the scientific sub-sector and the application environment of the doctoral study programme;
- Online Interview

* No more than one A4 page signed by both the matriculated person and the potential scientific supervisor of the dissertation. A copy of the document certifying previous

PHD IN ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

The aim the programme is to prepare highly qualified experts (specialists) and researchers for analytical and top-level management work in the public and private sectors who are able to create new knowledge in business and economics in the Latvian, European and global research area. The joint study programme envisages in-depth study of design and visionary thinking, multidisciplinary approach, ability to understand economic development, organizational governance and individual behaviour, research-based decision-making, and the development of resilience to purposefully pursue research and innovation in business and in the smart growth of the economy.

CAREER
Graduates of the programmesecure roles in various research fields.

PROGRAMME CONTENT
Qualitative Research Methods, Quantitative Research Methods, Trends in Business and Economics, Competence Assessment, Scientific Writing, Science Communication, Development of Doctoral Thesis, Publications, reports at conferences, Summer/winter school, colloquium, institute.

THE STUDY PROGRAMME IS IMPLEMENTED BY A CONSORTIUM OF THREE UNIVERSITIES IN LATVIA:

Rezekne Academy of Technologies,

Ventspils University of Applied Sciences,

Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences.
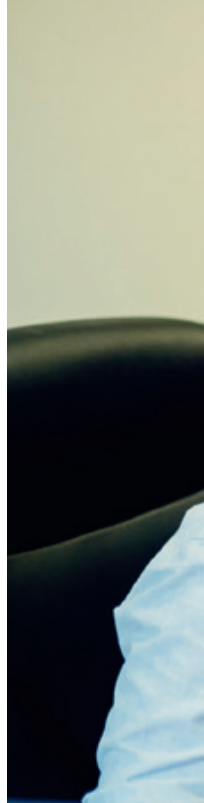
FAST FACTS

- **Language:** English
- **Duration:** 3 years (6 semesters)
- **ECTS:** 180
- **Degree title:** PHD in Economics and Business
- **ISCED:** 041
- **Level 8**

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Master's degree in social sciences or corresponding field of professional activity;
- Proposal on the prospective doctoral thesis (2 to 3 A4 pages);
- Online Interview

APPLICATION SUPPLEMENTS:

- List of scientific publications and copies of the publications (if any);
- Evidence of English language competence (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS)*.

* In case you do not have English language proficiency certificate, you can pass ViA prepared English language examination.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

VIDZEME UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES CARRIES OUT RESEARCH WITHIN ITS KEY STRATEGIC DIRECTION – DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR SOCIAL CHALLENGES

IT COVERS:

- Virtual reality technologies, visualization and computer vision
- Eco-buildings and smart technologies for national economy
- Socio-technical Systems Modeling Technologies
- E-learning management and technologies
- Cybersecurity engineering
- Sustainable national economy and knowledge society

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH (HESPI)

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

KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (KTC)

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

- SUPPORT for young entrepreneurs: preincubation cooperation with business incubators.
- COOPERATION in the region, Latvia and abroad: with educational and scientific institutions with partners from private, public and non-governmental sectors

SOCIOTECHNICAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SSII)

Founded in 2006. Its main research directions are logistics, information systems and RFID technologies, Modelling the adoption and sustainability of sociotechnical systems, heterogeneous and divided imitation modelling technologies, the use of imitation modelling simulation in engineering and social environment, electronic teaching tools as well as Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality technologies.

STUDY ABROAD

WE WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS:
- 1 semester or 1 academic year
- Bachelor's and Master's levels
- Media, Communication, Tourism, Business, Information Technologies

APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR EXCHANGE:
May 1 (autumn, academic year), October 15 (spring).

REQUIREMENTS: Good command of English, nomination from your home institution, online application.

STUDIES BEGIN: September (autumn semester) and February (spring semester).

YOU MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN MORE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE BY STUDYING ABROAD FOR A SEMESTER OR TWO AND PRACTISE THERE IN SUMMERTIME.

Decisions about how long you can study abroad for, where you can go, and how your international experience contributes to your degree are determined by your study field and University regulations specific to your degree.

Find out more: international@va.lv

Erasmus+ is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. One of its aims is to boost the skills and employability of university students by taking your studies overseas for between two and 12 months or internship. It's your chance to continue your course in a new environment and experience a different culture while you're at it.

PARTICIPATE IN THE INTENSIVE PROGRAMMES

Intensive programmes usually are one week long for international students at Vidzemes University of Applied Sciences.
The programme is taught entirely in English and includes classroom teaching, seminars, workshops, company visits and meetings with managers, professionals and important stakeholders.

Follow va.lv/en for announcement to next intensive programme.

E³UDRES²

Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver for European Smart and Sustainable Regions
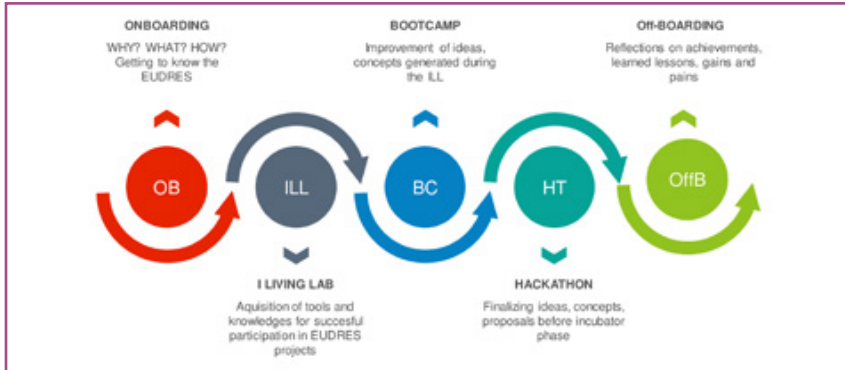
E³UDRES² is a European University Alliance – a network of higher education institutions located in Europe, that have decided to closely work together and collaborate in the fields of research, teaching, innovation and much more.

Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences represents Latvia in the Alliance of European Universities in consortium **E³UDRES²**. Nine universities from nine different countries (Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Netherlands, Germany, Finland and Latvia) combine their resources in the fields of learning, research and innovation to find solutions to the future challenges of the region. The Alliance follows the idea "From Europe – For Europe". Anyone, who is interested (including ViA students, partners, residents of Vidzeme region, etc.), has the opportunity to participate in **E³UDRES²** activities and become part of the European University.

As a result of the project:

- a European University model, a management concept and joint study courses and programmes will be established;

- the mobility of students and teachers, joint research in the following areas: human well-being (including population ageing), human and artificial intelligence, circular economy;

- joint knowledge transfer activities will be carried out.

Students participating in E³UDRES² activities, can implement their ideas in several stages

ONBOARDING
WHY? WHAT? HOW?
Getting to know the
EUDRES

BOOTCAMP
Improvement of ideas,
concepts generated during
the ILL

Off-BOARDING
Reflections on achievements,
learned lessons, gains and
pains

OB   ILL   BC   HT   OffB

I LIVING LAB
Aquisition of tools and
knowledges for succesful
participation in EUDRES
projects

HACKATHON
Finalizing ideas, concepts,
proposals before incubator
phase

Finland

Latvia

Netherlands

Belgium

Germany

Austria   Hungary

Romania

Portugal

1.
Apply online through
va.dreamapply.com
and attach all relevant
documents including
application fee payment

2.
Receive confirmation if
you are eligible to study
at your chosen program.
Academic Information
Centre Recognition

3.
For Bachelor level
Interview

For Master level
Master Thesis proposal and
interview

IMPORTANT DATES

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

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

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

OCTOBER (spring)
Application for exchange studies (Erasmus+, Nordplus etc.)

LAST WEEK OF AUGUST (autumn) Orientation days

LAST WEEK OF JANUARY (spring) Orientation days

SEPTEMBER – JANUARY Autumn semester

FEBRUARY – JUNE Spring semester

NOVEMBER 18 Independence Day of Latvia

MARCH/**APRIL** Easter holidays

MAY 1 National holiday – Labor Day

MAY 4 National holiday – Declaration of Independence Day

JUNE 24 Summer Solstice

See the list of programmes at www.va.lv/en

4.
Sign the study agreement
and pay tuition fee

5.
Apply for visa
(if needed)

6.
For more information: international
office e-mail: international@va.lv
phone: +371 22042022
www.va.lv/en

*The whole process might take 2–3 months.

Average temperature in Latvia per month:

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min (°C)	−8	−8	−5	1	6	10	12	12	8	4	0	−4
Max (°C)	−2	−2	3	10	16	20	22	21	16	10	4	0

So far, the highest observed temperature in Latvia is +36.4°C, the lowest: −43.2°C.

Latvian is the dominant language as well as the official language of Latvia. English, Latgalian, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian are also spoken. 1 out of 10 speak English.

Some phrases that may help in first few days:

„Es neprotu latviešu valodu" – *„I don't understand Latvian"*

„Angļu valodā, lūdzu" – *„English please"*

„Vai Jūs runājat angļu valodā?" – *„Do you speak English?"*

„Mani sauc..." – *„My name is..."*

Get your higher education diploma in Europe, Latvia!

Not the only practical experience that is highly valued by employers, but also the opportunity to study in programmes that responding to the challenges and needs of the modern world – information technologies, cybersecurity, virtual and augmented reality, strategic communication and management, media literacy and business environment administration.
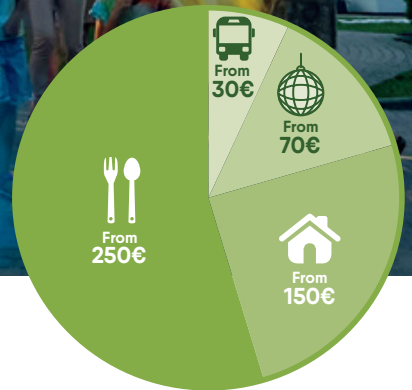
INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BOTHER YOU

LIVING COST

COSTS PER MONTH, EUR

- Meal/Food
- Transportation
- Sports and Leisure
- Accommodation

From 30€
From 70€
From 250€
From 150€

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Non–EU nationals need a visa or residence permit to enter Latvia.

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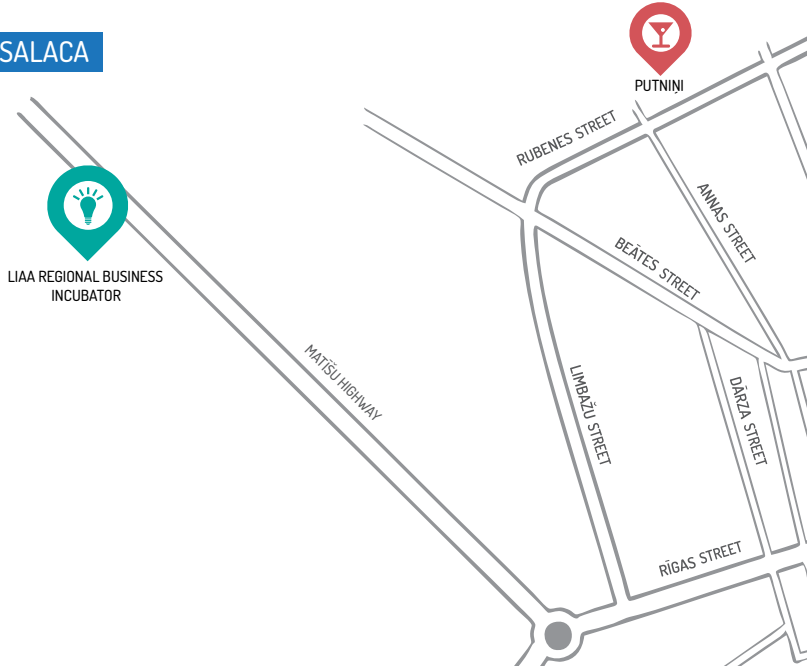
Students from other countries should obtain a valid health insurance policy.

GRADING SYSTEM

Achievement level	Grade	Meaning	Approx. ECTS grade
very high	10 9	with distinction	A
high	8 7	very good good	B C
medium	6 5 4	almost good satisfactory almost satisfactory	D E E/FX
low	3–1	unsatisfactory	Fail

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MAZSALACA

PUTNIŅI

RUBENES STREET

BEĀTES STREET

ANNAS STREET

LIAA REGIONAL BUSINESS
INCUBATOR

LIMBAŽU STREET

DĀRZA STREET

MATĪSU HIGHWAY

RĪGAS STREET

SMILŠU STREET

RĪGAS STREET

LEONA PAEGLES STREET

HESBURGER

A-DORMS

BRĒŽAS STREET

AUSEKĻA STREET

VOLDEMĀRA BALOŽA STREET

GAUJA

RĪGA

VIDZEME OLIMPIC
CENTRE / SWIMING POOL

NAKTSMĀJAS

DZELZĪTIS

VIDZEME HOSPITAL
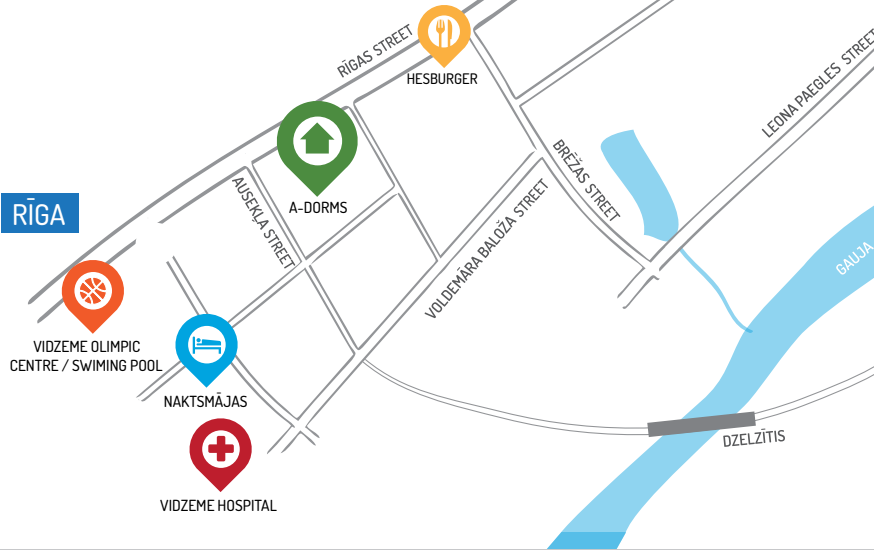
| VIA BUILDING | VIA DORMITORY | CAFE / RESTAURANT | SPORTS CENTER | TRAIN STATION | BUS STATION | POLICE |

VALKA

LIEPU STREET
BRĪVĪBAS STREET

GEORGA APINA STREET

ANDREJA UPĪŠA STREET

RAINA STREET

BEĀTES STREET

TĒRBATAS STREET

DĪVALINA STREET

M-KLUBS

WOLMAR
AGNESE

JANA DALINA STADIUM

STADIONA VIESNĪCA

ČILI PICA

LAUVAS SIRDS KLUBS

TINTE

VIDZEME UNIVERSITY

BASTIONS

RATES VĀRTI

THEATER VDT

JAUNA SAULE

HESBURGER

GARĀ STREET

CINEMA

AKUSTIKA

POLICE

VIDZEME UNIVERSITY

BUS STATION

ŠTOKA PICA

GAUJA

LINARDA LAICENA STREET

KĀRE

STACIJAS STREET

ZVEJNIEKU STREET

CĒSU STREET

Z-DORMS

S-DORMS

RATIŅŠ

TRAIN STATION

STROPS

CĒSIS

HOSPITAL/ CLINIC

THEATER

CLUB / BAR

CINEMA

TOURISM INFORMATION CENTER

BUSINESS INCUBATOR

HOTEL

Project No 8.2.1.0/18/A/011 "Development and Approbation of New Master's Study Programmes at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences for Promotion of International Competitiveness"

Apply: va.dreamapply.com

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