

SURVIVAL KIT for EXCHANGE STUDENTS

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Office for International Relations is the first place you have to visit after your arrival. It will provide all necessary information about practical matters, study information, etc.

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Room 112

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Room 110

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025/2026

Autumn semester:

Welcome meeting for incoming students (*participation mandatory*): **08.09.2025**

Teaching period: **08.09.2025 – 21.12.2025**

Examination period: **22.12.2025 – 25.01.2026**

Holidays: 26.01.2026 – 01.02.2026

Spring semester:

Welcome meeting for new incoming students (*participation mandatory*): **02.02.2026**

Teaching period: **02.02.2026 – 17.05.2026**

Examination period: **18.05.2026 – 19.06.2026**

ACCOMMODATION

JVLMA does not have student dormitories, but there are several options:

- <https://rigastudentapartment.com/room/>
- <https://youthments.com/>
- PRIMA student hotel: <https://www.lu.lv/en/studies/student-life/accommodation/> (please inquire by email: prima@lu.lv)
- RSU Student Hostel: <https://www.rsu.lv/en/rsu-student-hostel-mezciems> (please inquire by email mezciems@rsu.lv)
- Facebook group: *Riga Student Apartment Market*

ENTRY and RESIDENCE

EU/EFTA citizens

Students who are EU/EFTA citizens have the right to move and reside freely within the territory of Latvia no longer than one year. It is not required to register at the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs or receive the registration card.

Non-EU/EFTA citizens

Information about visas: <https://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/visas-and-invitations>

For further questions, please contact Vita Šiliņa, vita.silina@jvlma.lv

ISIC CARD

JVLMA will issue your ISIC student card at the beginning of your exchange studies. The ISIC card entitles you to use the Academy library, collection of recordings, as well as grants discounts on theatre and concert tickets. Visit <https://www.isic.lv/en> or use the mobile application for more information on current discounts and offers.

Your ISIC card means free entrance for performances in the National Opera and Ballet Theatre with the exception of premieres and guest performances. You will have no assigned seat, but usually it is possible to find some free seat.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT & STUDENT TICKET

Trams, trolleybuses and buses provide public transportation in the city. Information of public transport routes and timetables you will find on *Rīgas Satiksme* website: <https://www.rigassatiksme.lv/en/for-riga-guests/>

You can apply for student discounts on monthly public transport ticket. The ticket is valid for all types of city public transport and it costs 12 €.

Should you wish to purchase a student ticket, please visit the International Office (Room 112) first to receive a Certificate that confirms your status as a JVLMA student. You should submit the Certificate and present your personal identification document at the customer centre of *Rīgas Satiksme* afterwards.

The nearest customer centres are located on Stacijas laukums 2 (Central Railway Station), Brīvības iela 49/53, and Prāgas iela 1 (Central Bus Station); see the map at <https://www.rigassatiksme.lv/en/tickets-and-e-ticket/ticket-trade-outlets/customer-centres/>

ROOMS for PRACTICING

JVLMA has online room reservation and event management system **ASIMUT** that is used in the most prestigious music academies in Europe. The ASIMUT system can be accessed using the direct link: <https://jvlma.asimut.net>.

Your user name and password for ASIMUT will be sent to your e-mail address before beginning of the studies. In case of some problems, please contact the International Office or IT department: it@jvlma.lv

Latvian is set as the default language of ASIMUT. Under *Manas preferences* -> *Valoda* you will find an option to change the language. Please confirm your changes by clicking *Saglabāt*.

All rooms in the system are divided in groups according to the floors – Basement (*Pagrabstāvs*), Floor 1, Floor 2, Floor 3 (I), Floor 3 (II), Floor 4, Floor 5. Clicking on the group you will open all rooms on the respective floor.

The rooms that are open for reservation are displayed as white spaces. After making reservation click *Save* and your reservation will appear on your personal planner.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CANCEL RESERVATION IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO USE IT, otherwise you will lose your quota. You can make reservations 3 days in advance for max. 4 hours.

The reservation should be reconfirmed before it starts. Don't be late – after 15 minutes your reservation will be automatically deleted. Reconfirmation can be done in your ASIMUT account by clicking *Reconfirm* on the booked time. This option is available only via WiFi network of JVLMA.

The employee at the key desk will issue the key for the room. **Please remember to return the key as soon as you finish practicing.**

Before you left the room, please close the piano lid, shut the windows, switch off all electrical equipment and make sure that no personal belongings are left in the room. Both JVLMA buildings are architectural monuments; please be very gentle with them.

OPENING HOURS OF THE ACADEMY

Working days 7:30 – 22:00

Saturdays 8:30 – 18:30

Sundays 9:00 – 15:00

Keys of classrooms will be issued no later than 30 min. before the closing time and they should be returned 10 min. before the closing time.

CLOAKROOM

It is advisable and safe to leave your coats and jackets in the cloakroom. Personal belongings should be kept in the lockers that are located in the cloakroom. **Renting a locker** costs € 1 a month; please ask Vita if you are interested in this option.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

There is a common lockable storage space for instruments in the cloakroom. No books, scores, clothes and other belongings are allowed there - instruments only! Please ask Vita if you are interested in this option.

INTERNET ACCESS

The Wi-Fi connection is available in both Academy's buildings.

Access to the network *eduroam* (Education Roaming) is available with the same *eduroam* credentials you are using at your home university.

Other Wi-Fi networks are password-protected; the International Office will provide you with the access credentials.

Access to computers (including music notation program *Sibelius*) and Internet is available in Room 507 and in the book library (Room 106).

PRINTING/COPYING

Printing and copying services are available at several locations:

- Book Library and Scores Library of JVLMA
- "Merķeļa Druka" (Merķeļa iela 13): <https://www.merkeladruka.lv> (working hours 9:00-18:00)
- "CopyPro" (Raiņa bulvāris 17): <https://www.copypro.lv/en> (working hours 7:00-22:00)

SWIMMING POOL

Starting from September it is possible to visit a swimming pool in Ķīpsala (Ķīpsalas str. 5) twice a week: on Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-9:00. Monthly ticket for JVLMA students costs € 25. The International Office will provide you with further information.

LIBRARY

JVLMA library is the oldest music and related literature repository in Latvia, safekeeping rare manuscripts, scores, books, sound and video recordings, and periodicals. Library stock holds approximately 92000 scores and 4500 books; special funds consist of research works by academic staff and students of former Latvian State Conservatoire and JVLMA. Musical scores by Latvian musicians, manuscripts, photographs and historical materials are also available.

There is a free of charge information database in the reading room: encyclopaedias, dictionaries and periodicals. Reading room provides excellent environment for studies and information gathering as well as free Internet access.

Opening hours:

	Scores (Room 103)	Books, Reading room (Room 106)	Audio-visual recordings (Room 215)
Monday	9:00 – 16:00		9:00 – 16:00
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			9:00 – 12:00
Friday			
Saturday	Closed		
Sunday			

Contact information:

E-mail	jvlma_biblioteka@jvlma.lv
Facebook	JVLMA Bibliotēka
Twitter	@JVLMA_bibl

Main rules:

- During your first visit, the librarian will assign you a User ID number, which allows using the JVLMA library online catalogue and following the return deadlines.
- In case of overdue library books/scores/materials, the fine is charged for each day and each borrowed item.

Books and scores:

- The maximum borrowing time is 1 semester, the minimum – 1 day, depending on the actual book/score.
- It is not possible to take home materials from archive and the single-copy items.
- Twice a year (in December and June) all borrowed materials must be **re-registered** by presenting them at the library.

Audio-visual recordings:

- It is possible to take sound recordings home (CD, DVD, except vinyl) for 2 days maximum.

Available databases:

- Digital catalogue of books, scores and recordings, archive of photographs: https://kopkatalogs.lv/F/?&func=find-b-0&local_base=Ima01. (access using your Library-user ID number);
- Oxford Music Online: <https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/> (the access information is provided by a librarian);
- Berliner Philharmoniker Digital Concert Hall: <https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/> (available from IP address of JVLMA);

- Naxos Music Library: <https://www.nml3.naxosmusiclibrary.com/login> (the access information is provided by a librarian);
- JSTOR Arts & Sciences III: <https://about.jstor.org/librarians/journals/arts-sciences-iii/> (available from IP address of JVLMA);
- ScienceDirect: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/> (available from IP address of JVLMA);
- SCOPUS: <https://www.scopus.com/search/form.uri?display=basic#basic> (available from IP address of JVLMA);
- Web of Science: <https://www.webofscience.com/wos/woscc/basic-search> (available from IP address of JVLMA).

CANTEEN

The Academy's canteen serves comfort food for a reasonable price. Opening hours on working days 9:00-16:00, closed during the weekend.

CONCERTS

You are welcome to attend all concerts organized by JVLMA. The admission is usually free; however, donations are welcome. Ticketed concerts can be attended for free as well, but only after the third bell and if there are free seats. Please follow the information on posters, the computer screen in the lobby, Academy's website (Event calendar) or Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

TELEPHONE

There are three main GSM operators in Latvia: LMT, Tele2 and BITE. New SIM cards and pre-paid cards can be purchased in most newsagent's shops, e.g., Narvesen.

ROOMS, DEPARTMENTS and CONCERT HALLS

Room 002 - Canteen

Room 026 - Stone Hall

Room 101 - Department of Study Programmes

Room 103 - Music Library – Scores

Room 106 - Books, Reading room

Room 215 - Audio-visual Library

Room 109 - Head Office, Secretariat and Rector

Room 110 - International Relations: Sigita Razminoviča

Room 112 - International Relations: Vita Šiliņa

Room 113 - Department of Creative Projects

Room 121 - Department of Wind Instruments

Room 122 - Department of String Instruments

Room 123 - Department of Music Education

Room 128 - Organ Hall

Room 134 - Department of Early Music

Room 136 - New Chamber Hall

Room 137 - Department of Choreography

Room 202 - Great Hall

Room 207 - Piano Department

Room 210 - Department of Musicology

Room 211 - Department of Composition

Room 224, 225 - Department of Choir Conducting

Room 232 - Chamber Hall

Room 305 - Opera studio

Room 319, 320 - Department of Music Technology

Room 328 - Department of Jazz Music

Room 405 - Department of Compulsory Piano

Room 504 - IT department

Room 507 - Computer room (available if not reserved for lessons)

Practicing rooms are mostly located in the second building and on the 3rd floor of the main building.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- In case of alarm  , immediately take your instrument and documents and proceed to the emergency exits. All the exits on the 1st floor are emergency exits. It is strictly prohibited to use the elevator!!! 
- In case the emergency exit door to the courtyard is closed, you can open it by pushing the button in the green box next to the door. 
- In case of fire  , proceed to the nearest emergency exit or call **112** and tell the Fire and Rescue Service dispatcher the address (Barona Street 1), room number, your name and describe the situation.
- In case of a serious injury, call **112** and tell the Fire and Rescue Service dispatcher the address (Barona Street 1), room number, your name and describe the injury.
- It is strictly prohibited to smoke in the premises of JVLMA. No smoking near the central entrance! Smoking area is located in the backyard. 
- In case of electricity/power blackout  proceed to the key desk, lighting up your way with the mobile phone.
- Immediately inform the key desk attendant or your fellow students in case of any extraordinary situation in the Academy.

Fire and Rescue Service: 112

USEFUL LINKS

www.jvlma.lv – homepage of Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music

<https://riga.esn.lv/> - Erasmus Student Network Riga

https://www.instagram.com/esn_riga/ (Instagram)

<https://www.facebook.com/ESN.Riga/> (Facebook)

<https://www.latvia.travel/en/article/culture>

<https://www.latvia.travel/en/article/interesting-facts-about-latvia>

<https://www.integration.lv/en> - Information Centre for Newcomers

<https://www.latvijaskoncerti.lv/en/> – Latvian National concert agency

www.lnso.lv – Latvian National Symphonic Orchestra

<https://www.opera.lv/en/> – Latvian National Opera and Ballet

www.sinfoniettariga.lv – State chamber orchestra *Sinfonietta Rīga*

<https://www.bilesuparadize.lv/en/>, www.bilesuserviss.lv/eng/ – online booking office, tickets for concerts, theatre etc.