

Visas and residence permits

Written by Jānis Nicmanis

Thursday, 22 November 2012 13:18 - Last Updated Thursday, 22 November 2012 13:21

For citizens of European Union, European Economic Area States and the Swiss Confederation

A student has to apply for the registration certificate in person at the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs in Riga (Ciekurkalna 1. Linija 3; www.pmlp.gov.lv/en) within 90 days as of the first day of entry, if a Union citizen resides in the Republic of Latvia for longer than 90 days counting from the first day of entry. A registration certificate will be issued to a Union citizen without delay after submission of all necessary application documents.

A Union citizen will be entitled to receive a registration certificate if he or she acquires his or her education in an accredited educational establishment in the Republic of Latvia and he or she has a sufficient level of subsistence to avoid becoming a burden on the social assistance system and a valid European Health Insurance Card, a statement issued by a European Union Member State or European Economic Area State that the person in the Republic of Latvia is entitled to receive medical assistance in the amount guaranteed by the State or a health insurance policy.

To request a registration certificate the Union citizen has to present a valid travel document and submit the following:

- 1) Application form (will be available at the Office of Citizenship and Migration);
- 2) Study agreement;
- 3) Health insurance;
- 4) Bank account statement confirming sufficient level of subsistence, which shall be a monthly income that is greater than 50% of the minimum wage (200 LVL in year 2012).

For citizens of other countries

A citizen of Albania (only holders of biometric passports), Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina (only holders of biometric passports), Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Korea, Israel, Japan, Macao, Macedonia (only for holders of biometric

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passports), Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro (only for holders of biometric passports), Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Northern Mariana Islands, Panama, Paraguay, San Marino, Seychelles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Serbia (only for holders of biometric passports), Singapore, Taiwan (Only for holders of passports which include an identity card number), Uruguay, USA, The Vatican and Venezuela in order to receive a residence permit has to pursue the following procedure:

After a positive admission decision, the academy will prepare an official invitation for the residence permit.

After the invitation is approved, the student can submit the documents for the residence permit either at the Embassy of Latvia or, within 90 days as of the first day of entry, at the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs in Riga (Ciekurkalna 1. Linija 3; www.pmlp.gov.lv/en).

When applying for the residence permit the following documents should be submitted:

- invitation document;
- residence permit application form (available at www.pmlp.gov.lv/en);
- copy of passport (original must be presented). Passport should be valid at least 3 months longer than planned residence permit term;
- one photo;
- document confirming the necessary subsistence (at least 200 LVL (~286 Euro) per month);
- document which approves the place of accommodation in Latvia;
- copy of study agreement (original must be presented);
- legalized documents on previous education;
- state duty payment check for the examination of submitted documents.

The residence permit procedure takes over 40 days. A student may receive the residence permit for studies in Latvia for the period on which the student has paid their study fee. The documents for the prolongation procedure must be submitted not later than 40 days before the validity of the current permit has run out.

On receiving the residence permit the student has to present a life and health insurance policy which is valid in Latvia and a copy of statement on fluorography or x-ray results (original must

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be presented) issued by a competent institution in Latvia.

Citizens of other states have to pursue the following procedure:

After a positive admission decision, the academy will prepare an official invitation for the residence permit.

After the invitation is approved, the student can submit the documents for the residence permit in person at the Embassy of Latvia which is not located in a Schengen country.

If the student has a valid residence permit in any of the Schengen countries, she/he has the right to submit the documents in the Embassy of Latvia which is located in a Schengen country or at the Office of the Citizenship and Migration Affairs in Riga.

When applying for the residence permit the following documents should be submitted:

- invitation document;
- residence permit application form (available at www.pmlp.gov.lv/en);
- copy of passport (original must be presented). Passport should be valid at least 3 months longer than planned residence permit term;
- one photo;
- legalized statement on punishability issued by a competent institution of the citizenship or the host country if a foreigner has resided in that country longer than 12 months;
- document confirming the necessary subsistence (at least 200 LVL (~286 Euro) per month);
- document which approves the place of accommodation in Latvia;
- copy of study agreement (original must be presented);
- legalized documents on previous education;
- state duty payment check for the examination of submitted documents.

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