



# GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



2023 – 2024 a. y.

# Dear International Students!

**Congratulations on choosing Šiaulių valstybinė kolegija for your studies or internship abroad!**

Šiauliai State Higher Education Institution (Šiaulių valstybinė kolegija), which strives for high-quality higher education, has organized an *industrious, creative and viable academic* community. During studies and internship students *cooperate with competent teachers*, who steadily improve their qualification, participate in conferences, seminars, and work placements in Lithuanian and foreign companies and higher schools.

Nation-wide and international external relations of Šiaulių valstybinė kolegija offer wide *opportunities* for cooperation in academic, public and cultural space. Therefore, we are happy to invite foreign youth to study at our higher school.

*We look forward to welcoming you and sincerely hope your stay in Lithuania will be a pleasant and rewarding one.*

**International Relations Office**



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# I. What a beautiful land!

Our country is very interesting and attractive.

Lithuania, country of northeastern Europe, the southernmost and largest of the three Baltic states.

The hilly landscape of Samogitia (or Lower Lithuania) is patterned with clear lakes and torrential rivers; it merges with quiet valleys, fertile fields and forests of Higher Lithuania.

Facts about Lithuania	
Location	Central Europe
Capital	Vilnius
Area	65 300 km <sup>2</sup>
Time	Winter time: UTC +2; Summer time: UTC: +3
Official language	Lithuanian
Currency	Euro
Population	2,8 million
President	Gitanas Nausėda
Political system	Parliamentary Republic



## II. Šiauliai



Šiauliai is a city in the North West of Lithuania, the roots of its origin dates back to the *Battle of the Sun* in 22, Sep 1236.

Šiauliai was titled **the city of the Sun** due to its peculiar image: a bright Broadway, original and vivid cultural activities; the city is always young and full of life energy. There are about 15 000 people studying at Higher Schools in Šiauliai; about 2 000 of them study at Šiauliai State University of Applied Sciences.

Guests of the County as well as its inhabitants have a possibility to get acquainted with significant cultural monuments and famous places. There are museums, estates, mounds, more than 20 homesteads, natural monuments and parks in the region.

Šiauliai even has their own song, which you can listen here: <https://youtu.be/kiGJw2uvNH4>.

You can find more information about the city in <https://www.siauliai.lt/en> and <https://www.visitsiauliai.lt/en/>.



# III. Short information about Šiaulių valstybinė kolegija

Šiaulių valstybinė kolegija :

- provides higher education;
- strives to ensure that the studies are practice-oriented;
- offers *more than 20 study programmes* for its students; the programmes include *IT, Health Social sciences, Engineering and Business management* fields;
- provides opportunities to acquire Bachelor's degree as well as professional qualification that are based on applied scientific activity; it ensures quality of the studies as well as the study process that meets the standards of the European Union;
- quickly and flexibly reacts to the changes in labor market; trains qualified specialists, performs re-qualification, continuing education, educates the society that is open to culture, education and knowledge;
- educates a personality that is creative, respectable, educated, ethically responsible, civil, independent and entrepreneurial;
- ensures that the students have all possibilities not only to study in modern and cozy rooms and laboratories, but to stay at renewed dormitories, to go in for sports, to take part in applied scientific activity as well as in various events, contests of entrepreneurship, social projects and professional mastership; to implement their creative projects.



# Buildings

Šiauliai State Higher Education Institution has 4 buildings.

## 1. Central Building. Address: Aušros av. 40, 76241.



## 2. Faculty of Business and Technologies.

I building, address: Aušros av. 40, 76241



### 3. Faculty of Business and Technologies.

*II building, address: Vilnius str. 137*



### 4. Health Care Faculty.

*Address: M. K. Čiurlionio street 16A*



## IV. Academic Calendar

**Autumn Semester – 01.09.2023 – 02.02.2024**

Christmas Holidays – 23.12.2023 – 01.01.2024

Exam Session – 02.01.2024 – 02.02.2024

**Spring Semester – 05.02.2024 – 28.06.2024**

Easter Holidays 01.04.2023

Exam session – 01.06.2024– 28.06.2024

**Summer Holidays – 01.07.2023 – 31.08.2023**

## V. Application Procedure

Incoming Erasmus+ students have to fill in the documents provided by Šiaulių valstybinė kolegija or they can be found on the website:

<https://svako.lt/en/international-relations/erasmus-plus/admission-procedure-for-incoming-student-mobility>

**Documents to send before the departure:**

- Application form;
- Learning Agreement for Studies / Traineeship;
- Transcript of Records;
- Copy of Identification (ID) card / Passport.

**Forms must be sent to the following e-mail: [g.kacinskaite@svako.lt](mailto:g.kacinskaite@svako.lt)**

After submitting necessary documents, International Relations Coordinator will provide Invitation and Acceptance letters within 3 weeks of submission of documents .

For non-EU citizens Meditorial letters for visa will be issued within 2 weeks after receipt of Copy of Passport.

**Nomination deadlines:**

- **For autumn semester:** 15<sup>st</sup> May
- **For spring semester:** 30<sup>th</sup> November

**Application deadlines:**

- **Autumn semester:** 15<sup>th</sup> of June
- **Spring semester:** 31<sup>st</sup> of December

# VI. Attendance and Marks / Grading system

## Erasmus+ studies:

- ⇒ During 4 weeks after arrival to University – students have to make all changes to their original Learning Agreements. Students have to arrange their Changes to LA with the departments at Sending and Receiving institutions.
- ⇒ The schedules of lectures are given out by certain department.
- ⇒ The marks consist of: Attendance, Work during classes, Assignments and Exam.
- ⇒ The attendance will be guided by each teacher.
- ⇒ During Exam session teachers will fill in the Transcript of Records. Final versions of TOR will be issued by the end of the semester.
- ⇒ Each student will receive the Certificate stating one's period of stay.

## Erasmus+ internship:

- ⇒ During 4 weeks after arrival to the University – students have to make all Changes to original Learning agreement for Traineeship (if there is a need to change).
- ⇒ The mark consists of Attendance, Work during internship and extra assignments.
- ⇒ Certificate and Transcript of records will be issued by the end of the internship.

ECTS Grade	Percent-age	Grade	
A	100-96	10	PASSED
B	95-86	9	PASSED
C	85-76	8	PASSED
D	75-66	7	PASSED
E	65-61	6	PASSED
E	60-46	5	PASSED
FX	45-36	4	FAILED
FX	35-26	3	FAILED
F	25-16	2	FAILED
F	15-0	1	FAILED
NP	NOT PARTICIPATED		

## VII. Arrival to Šiauliai city

### The nearest airports to Šiauliai:

#### Riga International Airport (Latvia)

Distance from Riga (Capital city of Latvia) to Šiauliai is 128 km. Information on bus lines and schedules from Riga Airport to Šiauliai city is available on:

- <https://www.ollex.lt/en/international-routes/Lithuania-Latvia/buy-a-ticket/Riga-Siauliai>
- <https://www.eurolines.lt/en>
- <https://luxexpress.eu/en/>

There is no train connection with Šiauliai city from Riga.

#### Vilnius International Airport (<https://www.vilnius-airport.lt/en/>)

Distance from Vilnius (Capital city of Lithuania) to Šiauliai is 214 km.

There is a direct train route from **Vilnius Airport to Vilnius Railway Station**. Ticket price is 0,80 Eur (3rd class).

There is a direct bus line from **Vilnius Airport to Vilnius city**. Information is available at <https://www.vilnius-airport.lt/en/before-the-flight/transport/public-transport>.

#### **How to get from Vilnius Railway Station to Šiauliai City?**

- The most convenient way to get to Šiauliai city is to take a train (<https://ltglink.lt/en>).

#### **How to get from Vilnius Bus Station to Šiauliai City?**

- The second option to get to Šiauliai city is to take a bus (<https://www.autobusubilietai.lt/en>)

**NOTE! Please pay attention, that there are no night routes (train or bus) !!!**

In case of late arrival to Vilnius — please take care of the accommodation in the city. And safely board the chosen transportation the next day.

# VIII. Transport system

## Railways

You can reach the capital of Lithuania and other major cities using the *railway system*. It is also possible to use this mean of transportation for reaching Poland, Russia, etc.

For more information you can visit: <https://www.litrail.lt/en/home>.

## Bus routes

Šiauliai is in a very comfortable position for reaching Latvia, Poland, Germany and other countries. For more information about bus routes check at: <https://www.busturas.lt/lt/>.

Residents in Šiauliai City use e-card to get around by bus. You can get this card at the **Central Bus Station** (address: Tilžės str. 109, Šiauliai LT-77159 ). The card is pre-paid, so you will have to *add additional money* everytime it is empty. Residents in Šiauliai city also use the app *ŠiauliaiBUS*, you get this app here:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=lt.lexita.siauliaibus&hl=lt&gl=US>

You can find all bus timetables by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.stops.lt/siauliai/test.html#bus/en>

## Driving

If you want to drive a car you *must have a driver's license*. Usually the traffic is not very heavy in Šiauliai. Rush hours in the morning are from 7a.m. till 9a.m. and in the evening from 4p.m. till 7p.m. The traffic is on the *right side*!

## Bicycle rent

You may see a lot of people driving the bicycle and not the car. Enjoy the beautiful weather by going everywhere by the bike!

You can *rent the bicycle* in: Šiauliai tourism information center, Vilniaus Str. 213

## Bolt scooters rent

You may see a lot of people using scooters. Enjoy the beautiful weather by going everywhere using scooter!

For more information about Bolt scooters and where to find it: <https://bolt.eu/en-lt/scooters/>

## Bolt taxi

Bolt taxi is great way to get around in Šiauliai city. To download the app go to

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ee.mtakso.client&hl=lt&gl=US>

# IX. Accommodation

Exchange students are accommodated on their demand at Šiauliai State University of Applied Sciences Student dormitories:

Address of student Dormitory – M. K. Čiurlionio g. 20, Šiauliai

**The price for a month: 130 Eur / person**

More information about the dormitory: <https://svako.lt/en/accommodation-4>

**How to get from the City center to the dormitory by bus?**

- Please check Šiauliai city bus transportation in here:  
<http://www.stops.lt/siauliai/test.html#bus/en>

The best way to get to the dormitory by bus is to take **Bus No. 12** (Route: Dainų žiedo st. – Kuršėnkelio žiedo st.) and get off the bus in bus stop called “Darbininkų st.”

## Dormitory rules

1. Peace and rest time from 11 p. m. till 7 a. m.
2. Guest visitors can visit till 11 p. m.
3. The student who has a visitor is responsible for keeping up with the rules.
4. The dormitory's residents carry out the dorm manager's requirements.
5. The residents maintain the order and cleanliness of the rooms and other premises.
6. The resident saves electricity and water. Turns the lights off before going out of the room, turns off the water before going out of the shower or kitchen.
7. To maintain the cleanliness in the kitchen according to given schedule.
8. It's strictly forbidden for dorm residents to:
  - 8.1. to move to another room without manager's permission;
  - 8.2. to selflessly carry out dormitory's inventory to other rooms;
  - 8.3. to return to dormitory intoxicated;
  - 8.4. use alcoholic drinks, drugs, gamble in the dormitory premises, play loud music after 11 p. m.
  - 8.5. make noise, litter, smoke in rooms, hallways, kitchens, lavatories, toilets, stairweels;
  - 8.6. keep easily flammable liquids, explosives, use electric heating devices in the room;
  - 8.7. provide accommodation for unauthorized persons;
  - 8.8. pour garbage through the window, throw in the toilet and other common areas
  - 8.9. use kitchen lavatories or toilets if the sewerage is out of order. The resident have to let dormitory's manager, watcher or other Universities staff into their room at any time of the day.
9. The resident have to let dormitory's manager, watcher or other Universities staff into their room at any time of the day.

## X. Working Hours

**I – IV:** 08:00-17:00 (Lunch Break: 12:00 – 13:00)

**V:** 08:00 – 15:45 (Lunch Break: 12:00 – 13:00)

**VI-VII:** University is closed

### ERASMUS+ CONSULTING HOURS

**I – IV:** 13:00-15:00

**V:** 9:00-11:00

## XI. Contacts

### International Relations Coordinator

*Outgoing Erasmus+ students  
mobility, Outgoing staff,  
International Credit Mobility*

Raminta Kudrickaitė

E-mail: [r.kudrickaite@svako.lt](mailto:r.kudrickaite@svako.lt)

Telephone: +370 414 33 793

### International Relations Coordinator

*Incoming Erasmus+ and student  
mobility; Outgoing students for  
practice, Incoming staff*

Guoda Kačinskaitė

E-mail: [g.kacinskaite@svako.lt](mailto:g.kacinskaite@svako.lt)

Telephone: +370 414 33 793





## XII. Important dates

### **Official days when institution is closed**

**Nov. 1** All Saints' Day

**Nov. 2** Day of Remembrance for the Dead

**Dec. 24** Christmas Eve

**Dec. 25–26** Christmas Day and Christmas 2nd day

**Jan. 1** New Year's Day

**Feb. 16** Independence Day

**March 11** Day of the Restoration of Independence

**Apr. 17-18** Easter

**May 1** International Labour Day

**Jan. 13** Day of the Defenders of Lithuania's Freedom

**May 1st Sunday** Mother's Day

**June 1st Sunday** Father's Day

**June 14** Day of Mourning and Hope

**June 24** Midsummer Day

**July 6** State Day (The coronation of Lithuania's only King, Mindaugas, in 1253)

**July 15** Grunwald Battle (Žalgiris Battle in 1410)

**Aug. 15** Feast of the Assumption

**Aug. 23** Black Ribbon Day

**Sep. 1** Science and Knowledge Day

**Sep. 8** Day of the Nation (The coronation of Grand Duke Vytautas was planned for this day in 1430; he died before it took place)

**Sep. 23** Commemoration Day of the Victims of the Holocaust

# XIII. Student organizations

**Student Association** – a student organization of the Šiauliai State University of Applied Sciences. This organization is organizing all the events that concern students, like Freshmen year Christening, etc.

## **Funky Erasmus Rules:**

- ⇒ Use every day, every minute for your *memories* – Erasmus happens only once in your life, find new friends, go out with them.
- ⇒ You must try *traditional food*. For example: cepelinai (made of potatoes and meat), šaltibarščiai (a cold borsch soup [very, very delicious]), kugelis (made of potatoes and meat) or kastinys (it is supposed to be eaten with boiled potatoes).
- ⇒ Eat *more potatoes and meat* than ever before in your life.
- ⇒ *Rise up our economics* making shopping days for instance: in *Akropolis* or *Saulės miestas*.
- ⇒ *Don't go for a walk alone at night*, because sometimes you can meet some unfriendly people.
- ⇒ Do things you would never do in your hometown.
- ⇒ Use "Labas" instead of "Hello", it is way cooler.
- ⇒ You have to *fall in love* with LITHUANIAN.
- ⇒ *Do not get caught by police* being drunk, anywhere.
- ⇒ Do not be late, we *hate* to wait 30 minutes!
- ⇒ Remember, *Lidl, Maxima, Bolt* and *Wolt* are *the best friends* when you are hungry.
- ⇒ Don't worry about what people think, they don't do it very often.
- ⇒ Don't even try to understand why some people like to wear socks and flip-flop together.
- ⇒ *Keep on partying* with your friends: organize theme parties, crazy parties, alternative parties, but make them always in your friends' flat.
- ⇒ Bring your *Erasmus spirit* among your friends: get them drunk of independence, dissipation and fun.

# XIV. Erasmus+ English – Lithuanian

## short dictionary

Lithuanian language is *one the most difficult languages* to learn in the World, and its one of the *oldest*. If you want to get by easier while being in Lithuania you should learn some words. Bellow you will find a short introductory dictionary which will help you to start conversation with Lithuanians, or get by in the city! Good luck :)

**Hello!** – Labas!

**Yes!** – Taip

**No** – Ne

**Thank you!** – Ačiū!

**Excuse me** – Atsiprašau

**Good morning** – Labas rytas

**Good afternoon** – Laba diena

**Good evening** – Labas vakaras

**Good night** – Labanaktis

**See you! Bye bye!** – Iki! Ate!

**Enjoy!** – Skanaus!

**What is your name?** – Koks tavo vardas?

**My name is ....** – Mano vardas.....

**Nice to meet** – Malonu susipažinti

**How are you?** – Kaip tau sekasi?

**Good/Fine/Ok** – Gerai

**I am from.....** - Aš esu iš.....

**I'm lost** – Aš pasiklydau

**I live in a students' dormitory** – Aš gyvenu studentų bendrabutyje

**I live in a Hostel** – Aš gyvenu hostelyje

**I don't have internet** – Aš neturiu interneto

**I don't know** – Aš nežinau

**I don't understand** – Aš nesuprantu

One **coffee/Tea/beer** please – Vieną kavos/arbatos/alaus prašau.

**I don't eat meat** – Aš nevalgau mėsos

**Bring my bill please** – Sąskaitą prašau

**I like it** – Man patinka

**Today** – Šiandien

**Yesterday** – Vakar

**Tomorrow** – Rytoj

**Tonight I'm going to .....** – Šį vakarą aš einu į.....

**Your eyes are very nice** J - Tavo labai gražios akys

**You are very beautiful** – Tu labai graži

**I want to call a taxi** – Noriu išsikviesti taxi

**I love you** – Aš tave myliu



# XV. Places to visit

## 1. Šiauliai Cathedral of the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul

**Address:** Aušros str. 3

Renaissance architectural monument St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral (till 1997, the church) is the most striking landmark of the city.

The visitor is kind of directed to the city centre.

The cathedral dominates both due to its impressive height (the apex of the tower reaches 70 m) and the convenient and well-chosen location. This is the merit of builders of the first wooden church of Šiauliai.



## 2. Iron Fox and Talkša lake

**Address:** The southern shore of Lake Talkša, Šiauliai

The shore of Lake Talkša is simply created for active recreation; here you will always find what to do: jogging and cycling trails, Wakeboarding Park FoxSpot, the Equestrian Centre operating in the Centre of Young Naturalists.

The Iron Fox, designed by V. Purnas, has stood near Lake Talkša since 2009. It is recorded in Lithuania's Book of Records that it is the largest animal sculpture: its weight is nearly 7 tons, length is about 15 meters and height is 6,6 meters.

## 3. Sundial Square and Golden boy

**Address:** Ežero St. - St. Šalkauskio St.

The main idea of the square is to give a sense to *the three most important symbols* of Šiauliai city: *the Sun*, remembering the Battle of the Sun, which took place in Šiauliai land, *the archer* (lit.- Šaulys), associated with the origin of the name of the city, and *time* that has passed since the day when the name of the city was mentioned for the first time.

On a sunny day, this obelisk turns into the gnomon: casting the shadow of the Sun, moving around the dial face with infused metal numbers (12, 3 and 6), it shows local time of the geographical latitude. It is the highest sundial in Lithuania.

The sculpture "The Archer", symbolising the city of Šiauliai, often by Šiauliai residents referred to as the golden boy or he small archer. The four-meter-high sculpture was covered with 1900 *gold foil sheets*, thickness of which is just a few microns.



## 4. Šiauliai Boulevard

**Address:** Vilniaus str.

In 1975, we were brave: the third in Europe (after Rotterdam in 1972 and Erfurt in 1973) and the first in Lithuania who turned the central part of Vilniaus Street (1,28 km from Žemaitės Street to Draugystės Avenue), which belonged to vehicles, into a boulevard. Šiauliai Vilniaus Street, like Tilžės Street, built in the 18th century, is a historical road leading from the east to the west; while Tilžės Street, from the south to the north.



## 5. Hill of Crosses

**Address:** Piliakalnio str. 7, Domantų village

In the Middle Ages, there stood a wooden castle on this hill, called Kula in the chronicles. It was destroyed by the Livonian army in 1348. For many years, the hill called Pilis, Maldavimai, Jurgaičiai, Domantai Mound, stood bare. Local people told that the first crosses had been built in the middle of the 19th century, praying God for grace and health, because people considered this hill to be a holy place. Others claimed that it was started to build crosses to remember those who were killed in the uprisings of 1831 and 1863 against the Tsarist Russia. After suppressing the uprising, the occupation authorities prohibited construction of crosses and destroyed the already built ones. Now It has about 100 000 crosses.



# XVI. Museums

## 1. Rūta Chocolate museum

**Address:** Tilžės str. 133, Šiauliai

Take a look at nearly four millennia-long history of chocolate. Learn how it was made by the Maya and Aztec peoples, and how chocolate and its consuming traditions have changed since then. Find out about the first chocolate and candy factories in Lithuania and take a closer look at RŪTA, the oldest operating candy factory in the country.



## 2. Bicycle museum

**Address:** Vilniaus Street 139, Šiauliai

The only devoted to the history of bicycles museum in Lithuania welcomes the visitors with interactive exposition. In the museum, which was established 4 decades ago, the traditional expositions match with the latest technologies. Each visitor here becomes an active participant, capable to familiarize with the history of bicycle and try out the entertainment. Visitors can order guided in Lithuanian, Russian, English languages.



### 3. Žaliūkių Village Miller's Farmstead

**Address:** Architektų St. 73, Šiauliai

A space for ethnoculture, customs and traditions, activities and merry-making is surrounded by modern city. There was recreated miller's farmhouse and restored the only survived in Šiauliai construction of Lithuanian traditional wooden architecture from the 2nd part of the 19th c. – Žaliūkių Windmill. All-year-round the everyday life of Miller's family – grain grinding, bread baking – is going on; sometimes it is spiced by Lithuanian traditional calendar celebrations.



### 4. Chaimas Frenkelis Villa

**Address:** Vilniaus Street 74, Šiauliai

The restored Chaimas Frenkelis Villa with a park, and a fountain located in it, is a very exclusive site in Šiauliai city. The Villa is unique, one of only a few in Lithuania constructed in early 20th century buildings in the Art Nouveau (Modern, Secession, Jugend) architectural style. Elements of different styles interweave in decoration of this State protected cultural monument's facades, authentic interior fascinates the visitors with ornate wooden decorations, stucco works, and imposing fragments of frescos.



## 5. Photography Museum

**Address: Vilniaus Street 140, Šiauliai**

Photography Museum is a specialized museum of photography art, one and only in Lithuania. It is an important multifunctional center, which preserves and represents significant collection of 150 000 objects, an important part of Lithuanian visual heritage: photographs, technology and equipment of photography, collection of prints and documents, other objects. In 2014th, modernized museum started to organize photography exhibitions of contemporary and historical Lithuania, as well as foreign exhibitions.



## 6. Museum of Cats

**Address: Žuvinių Street 18, Šiauliai**

For more than 20 years, the Cats Museum has been putting Šiauliai city on the map around the world. The museum was founded in 1990 by the naturalist Vanda Kavaliauskienė (1923-2011). Her abundant collection of the most various cats, which even could not be accommodated at home any longer, was brought here. Now, the exposition collected by Mrs Vanda is a unique museum of this kind in all the Baltic states. Here one can see cat statues, pictures, postcards, postage stamps, dishes, toys, drawings, books, even read poems about cats.



Further information about places to see – <https://www.visitsiauliai.lt/en/>