

APARTMENT HUNTING

In Riga



Made by the International Students'
Association



Hello and congratulations on getting a place at RSU!

Allow us to first wish a wonderful time here, and wishes that you enjoy your university years as much as we have!

After many years, students have divided Riga into two distinct locations, the Centre, and the so called "Other side" (aka Pārdaugava). Each have their own pros and cons, which we will try to summarize here.

So firstly, let us just briefly show you the layout of the city so you have a overview of what the city looks like and what the different areas are and where you could be looking for apartments. More details about each part can be found later in the booklet.

The largest and most favored place for students to live is "Centrs", this is literally the Center, all the restaurants, bars and cafés are here. Popular for good reason

Riga Old Town, is exactly what the name implies, it's the busiest and most crowded place but if you want to live walking distance from the best bars and clubs, this is your place.

The Maskavas area (Railway area), is slightly out of the center, meaning it's more quiet and you will most likely be living amongst the locals.

Āgenskalna is the quiet but cozy area which is the perfect distance from both University and the Centers. In this area you can find the University dorms among other apartments.



INTRODCUTION

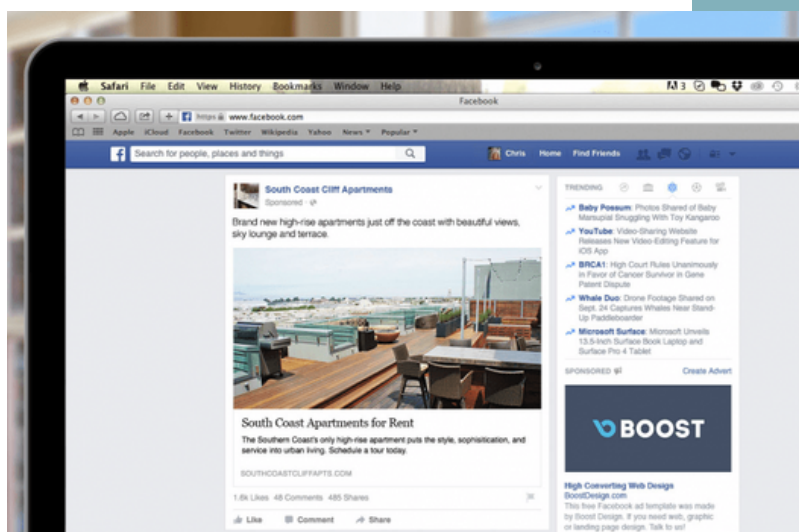
WHEN SHOULD I COME TO VIEW APARTMENTS?



“SHOULD I COME AND LOOK AT APARTMENTS BEFORE MOVING TO RIGA?”

In Riga, there are a lot of apartments that are up for rent all the time. But they rent out quickly. If you come to Riga and look for apartments, we do not think that they will be available for too long, that there would be an empty apartment/room that you could look at.

There are several real estate agents that can help you in your search but do understand that they charge commission. Similarly, they often represent the more expensive housing that Riga has to offer.



Regarding where to find apartments in Riga there are several websites and Facebook groups that we suggest you to join. A website that the local population, and students with some experience with the Latvian language, use is ss.lv. It acts as the local classifieds and sometimes there are good apartments up for grab. We sadly cannot put up the list of Facebook groups as they are quite numerous and often changing in name. A tip however is to use the keywords "student", "apartment" and "Riga#", and that ought to generate some results on Facebook.

WHERE SHOULD I LIVE?

Before we get into this, it would be best to first explain how Riga is divided according to the students.

THE "OTHER SIDE"

The "Other side" is the side you would be familiar with in your first years here as this is where the main university building is located. Students often select this side given its close proximity to for their early morning classes, and the relative peace it provides during all times of the day. However, keep in mind that it is quite a distance from the centre if there is no public transport available.

In this area, we have a few places worth mentioning given the volume of students that live there. The university dorms, situated at Darza iela 5, and Marupes iela 17. Additionally, there are a few private dorms in the area, with Riga Residence on Ventspils iela 2 and Liepajas iela 14 that are usually a choice for students in the first few years.

THE CENTRE "CENTRS"

The Centre is where most of the entertainment of Riga is situated, as is also the home to quite a few of the hospitals we will be visiting as part of our studies. This comes into effect once we are in our clinical years. There are some drawbacks, with relatively higher rent, noisy evenings and arguable distance to the university and the library.

Of course, it goes without mention that international students are often migratory, switching apartments every year or so.

Previously, students were informed not to live past the railway tracks due to it being considered the shadier region of the city. That has changed with recent renovations and has seen an increase in students living in that area.

HOW DO RENTAL COSTS WORK HERE?



When looking for apartments, it's best to take a look at what you're paying for. Certain apartments come with phrases like "hot rent" (rent includes utilities) and "cold rent" (without utilities included). They might come with additional expenses like security, internet, cleaning, and maintenance. The best way to go about this is to request the bill of a previous tenant in either season to see how much you would pay, however, prices are subject to change between years, so do keep that in mind.

When you are about to seal the deal on an apartment, watch out for a few things.

- The apartment you've seen is what you get. As any place, there will be some scam artists that try to pass off another house as their own. This is especially true for only online viewing apartments. Do make it a point to see the apartment with your own eyes, or a trusted friend in the area.
- Read the contract as there might be some penalties added on for any infringement of rules.
- Understand that your contract with the landlord might end at a moment's notice on their side. This is sadly out of our control as students and can only be addressed by the government.



GOOD LUCK!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

We sincerely hope that your apartment hunting goes well and that you have an enjoyable experience studying in Riga!

Never hesitate to contact us.

Yours ISA

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