

Baltic Summer University



MCMXXII
VYTAUTAS MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY

WELCOME!

Greetings to everyone who has decided to start (or extend) their acquaintance with the Baltics! You have made a smart choice as Vytautas Magnus University has almost 20 years of experience working in the field of Baltic Studies, sharing its expertise in world-renowned networks and collaboration projects, and attracting people to personally experience Lithuanian culture and learn the language at the University's oldest summer programme. The success of this particular programme, Lithuanian Language and Culture Summer Course, has inspired us to introduce a wider range of topics and programmes - this is how Baltic Summer University was born in 2017.

For BSU-2018, we have designed a programme that offers the best courses from last year with some new and valuable additions. BSU will welcome everyone who wants to improve their language competences, knowledge in natural sciences, musical skills as well as gain hands-on job experience in our Summer Internship Programme.

Moreover, in the "3 Cs" (Creativity, Culture and Communication) courses, you will have an opportunity to gain skills in film-making, social marketing, and personal brand developing. The "Zoom in the Baltics" course will uncover the essence of the Baltic spirit to everyone interested in our region. As VMU is also the World Lithuanian University, a special module for World Lithuanians will be offered as well.

It remains to mention that 2018 is the best year possible to visit Lithuania as we will be celebrating the centennial of our country's independence all year around. To applause this wonderful occasion, we have compiled a list of 100 reasons for visiting Lithuania and hope to add another hundred suggested by you!

While you will be learning the new amazing things, we will not let you forget that it is summer after all. You will be offered a variety of social events, activities, and trips to enjoy together with your summer school fellow students. We will do our best to give you a summer in the Baltics you are not going to forget.

See you in Kaunas!
Ineta Dabašinskienė
Vice-Rector for International Relations



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WHY THE BALTICS

The time has come for you to discover the hidden gems (or rather amber stones) from the Baltic Sea shore – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, with their page-turning history, potato-based cuisine and tongue-twisting languages! It is not going to be easy but totally worth it.

What you might probably know:

- The Baltic countries - Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia - are the three countries on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea.
- While they are called the Baltic sisters, united in the late 80s - early 90s by the relentless desire to become free again, recently Estonia has also been associated with its Northern neighbours.
- But it is understandable, since it is probably easier for the Estonians and the Finns to hold a conversation. Their languages belong to the melodic Finnic language group, whereas Lithuanian and Latvian are Indo-European languages, equally beautiful and equally difficult to learn.
- We are the countries that sing! It is no coincidence that the movement which ended up in the re-establishment of our independence is called the Singing Revolution. By the way, Estonia and Latvia have already won the Eurovision Song Competition. How about Lithuanians? Well, we are very good at basketball!
- You haven't heard anything about the Baltics, right? So next time you contact someone on Skype, bear in mind that it is an Estonian invention. Jeans were invented by a Latvian-born US citizen, while George Maciunas, a founding member and the main coordinator of Fluxus (an international community of artists, architects, composers, and designers) is from Kaunas, Lithuania.



WHY LITHUANIA

Since you have already discovered the beauty of the Baltics, let us woo you into choosing Lithuania for your first (but definitely not last) summer in the Baltics.

Lithuanians take pride in a lot of things. For example, they take pride in the fact that in the 15th century the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was almost 14 times bigger than it is now. A famous legend tells that Vytautas Magnus, the Grand Duke of Lithuania, let his horse drink from the Black Sea. Whether the horses liked the salty water is a different question.

Lithuanians and Poles, with whom we have shared a great deal of time in a commonwealth, have adopted the first constitution in Europe. The Constitution of May 3, 1791 appeared just four years after the adoption of the United States Constitution in 1787. We could definitely call ourselves the trendsetters in Europe as the French Constitution was adopted four months later!

Fast-forwarding to a more recent history, Lithuania has become one of the fastest growing economies in Europe because of its impressive entrepreneurial talents and a developed infrastructure. This might also have something to do with the fact that Lithuanians have one of the fastest Internet services in the world!

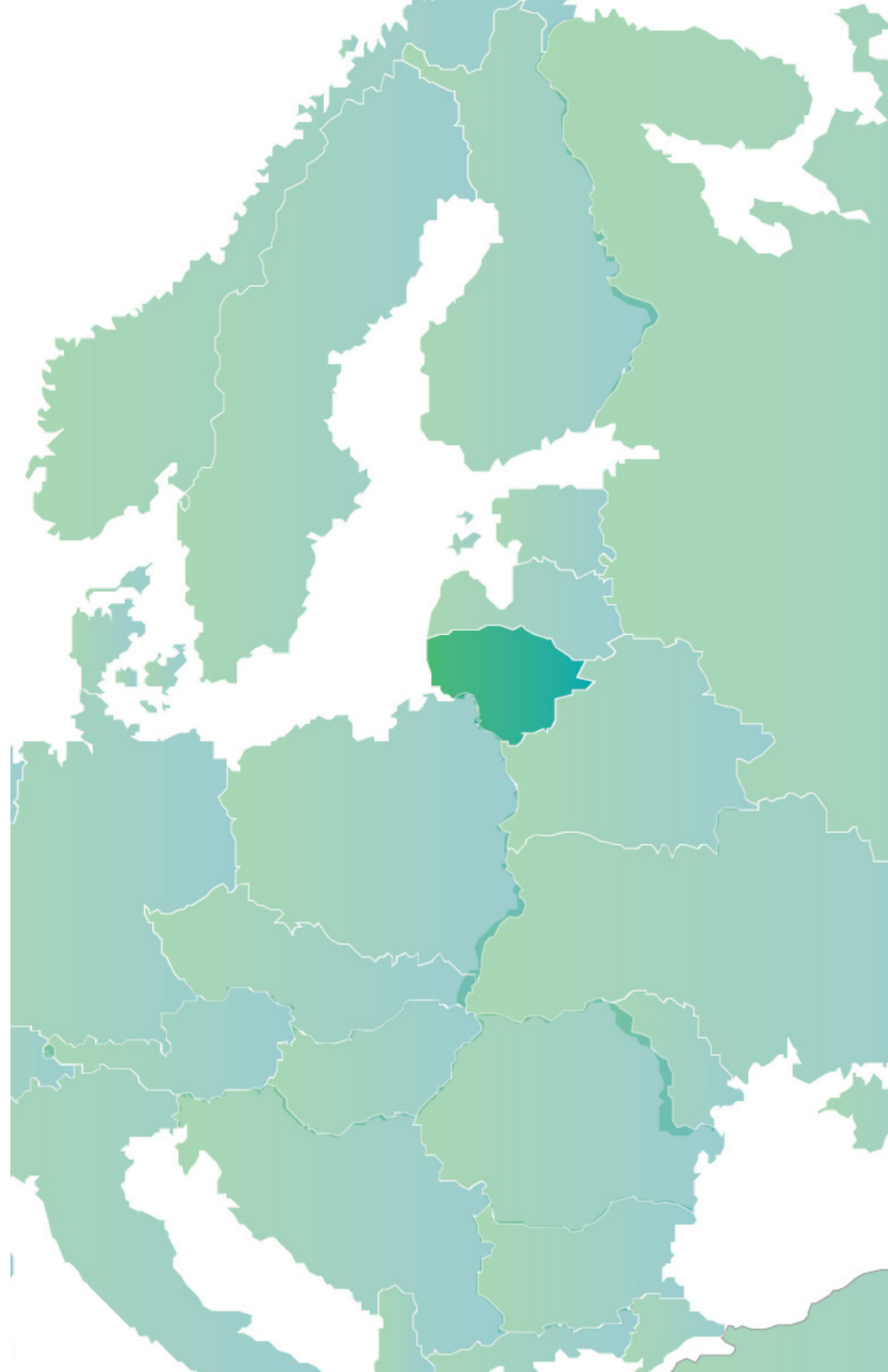
Lithuanians have the largest number of air balloons per capita. It does not mean that an average household has an air balloon and uses it to commute to work every day. But trust us, enjoying a wonderful view from above once in a while is indeed a great pleasure.

Lithuanians like basketball. We have quite a handful of other distinguished sportsmen, but winning the approval of a Lithuanian is easy if you know the names of some Lithuanians playing at NBA.

While in Lithuania, you won't see any impressive mountain peaks but you are likely to enjoy the excessive greenery, forests and some unique natural wonders like the Curonian Spit, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Even though our coastal line is not long, the one we have will be enough to mesmerize you! You may also take a walk in a forest 20 meters above the ground in Anykščiai, visit a castle in the middle of the lake in Trakai, watch some of the last bison in Europe, or have a road trip along the Nemunas River, enjoying the banks of Nemunas on the left and the scenery of mounds, castles and manors on the right.

But there also are our cities to enjoy! The Old Town of our capital Vilnius, Europe's largest baroque city, is another UNESCO World Heritage Site, while Klaipėda, a coastal city built in the fahwerk style, reminds visitors of the city's German past. There are other fascinating cities for you to discover, including the one you will see for yourself. We mean Kaunas, of course.

[You can find more reasons to visit Lithuania on our Facebook website](#)



WHY KAUNAS

The best part for anyone to start their acquaintance with the Baltics, and Lithuania in particular, is undoubtedly Kaunas. While you may think we are biased in our suggestion, just hear us out!

Kaunas is situated in the middle of Lithuania and, therefore, rather evenly distant from other spots worth visiting, such as the capital city Vilnius. Remember? The one with a wonderful baroque old town? It takes just an hour to drive there, while a two-hour drive will get you to the seaside. That's the beauty of Lithuania: everything is so close!

Kaunas is frequently mentioned among the best cities of art deco design, so you will be able to witness the spectacular spirit of the interwar period in the centre of Kaunas, riding a funicular or enjoying a breath-taking panorama from the top of the hills surrounding the city. Proud citizens might tell you that during the interwar period Kaunas was the provisional capital of Lithuania but while these were certainly good times for Kaunas, they have not ended at that point!

So yes, architecture is one of the most solid reasons to see Kaunas: from the art deco centre to the medieval castle at the confluence of two rivers, from modern office buildings that look like a 1000 litas bill (the currency of Lithuania before the euro) to globally-acknowledged works of street art.

You can beat your museum-visiting record here as well, since Kaunas has the largest concentration of museums in Lithuania, including the museums of sports/ devils/ war/ paintings/ zoology/ aviation/ medicine/ folk instruments/ open-air folk museum/ literature/ atomic bunker/ clowns and many more.

Kaunas is the city of universities and students - approximately every sixth person of the population is a student. While students might not seem to be such a prominent category during the summer time, the spirit of freedom and youth is present all year round.

In winter, Kaunas turns into a fascinating Christmas town, acknowledged around the world for its original, eco-friendly and unconventional Christmas trees, surprising both the citizens and the guests every year. While you will not see any of this in summer, imagining Kaunas all adorned and decorated might inspire you to come back here during the winter season (snow might not be included into the deal).

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Baltic Summer University has prepared a number of different social and cultural activities which are designed to accompany the academic courses you take. These activities will give you a chance to explore the Lithuanian culture and the beauty of our country. You will see so much more than just tourist highlights; you will have a possibility to enjoy and experience everything that Kaunas has to offer as a participant, not just an observer. We will definitely take you to our capital Vilnius and other wonderful places of Lithuania. You can join us and take part in all of our cultural activities or you can choose the ones you like best!



ABOUT VMU

Believe us when we say that we can talk non-stop why Vytautas Magnus University is great, but you have to experience this yourself. Just to get an idea, you need to know what makes us special:

The *artes liberales* approach to studies: preparing for life, not just a professional career, reacting to the most relevant issues of the day, while at the same time ...

... Maintaining the deep-rooted renowned traditions: the history of Lithuania, Kaunas and VMU are so interrelated that you cannot talk about one without talking about the other.

It will not take long for you to notice that VMU stands out as

An international and multilingual centre of learning with 30 languages offered every semester.

BALTIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2018


July 29		Creativity, culture and communication: content courses		August 11	
Date	Course	Creative Media Lab			
		Personal Branding: forming & managing your image			
		Zoom in The Baltics			
		Social Media Marketing			

August 5		Natural sciences		August 11	
Date	Course	Methods in Molecular Genetics			
		Wetland Biodiversity Assessment			

Date		Course	
July 13	July 29	Language courses	
		Lithuanian Language and Culture Summer Course 2018	
		Beginner English A1.1	
		Elementary English A1.2	
		Activate your English A2.1	
		Beginner German A1.1	
		Elementary German A1.2	
		Activate your German A2.1	

August 1		Masterclasses for musicians		August 11	
Date	Course	Classical Singing, Jazz Singing, Accordion, Piano, Strings			

July 9		Summer Internship Programme (SIP)		August 11	
Date	Course	SIP			



Content courses

Zoom in the Baltics

Baltic States have been traditionally treated as a unit in terms of their geographic position, without differentiating their individual traits. They definitely share some similarities in their history, in their flat and forested landscape and, as the name suggests, the proximity to the Baltic Sea. Moreover, they resemble each other in problematic relations with the Soviet past, the “return” to Europe, the position in today’s world, and the challenges that might be awaiting them in the future. However, each of the three countries possesses different traditions, languages, and an individual social, economic and cultural development.

To ensure your immersion into the Baltic world, you will be exposed to a two-week-long experience that will reveal what the Baltics are all about. While this summer programme takes place in Kaunas (Lithuania), Latvia and Estonia will be properly represented by professors from the respective countries as well.

The programme offers activities that introduce social, economic, political, cultural and historical aspects of the Baltic region, includes various field trips and hands-on tasks, and expects you to deliver a final project from the selected field of interest. You will also learn some Lithuanian phrases for survival, discover the treasures of Lithuania, and enjoy new facts from unexpected disciplines – all of this is meant to introduce the Baltic Region. Still remember the Singing Revolution? We are going to sing too! The programme will, among other things, shed some light on the following thematic fields: politics, economy, society and culture.

An exciting module for World Lithuanians!

The programme offers activities that introduce social, economic, political, cultural and historical aspects of the Baltic region, includes various field trips and hands-on tasks, and expects you to deliver a final project from the selected field of interest. You will also learn some Lithuanian phrases for survival, discover the treasures of Lithuania, and enjoy new facts from unexpected disciplines – all of this is meant to introduce the Baltic Region. Still remember the Singing Revolution? We are going to sing too! The programme will, among other things, shed some light on the following thematic fields: politics, economy, society and culture.

Baltic Summer University invites people of Lithuanian descent from all over the world to revive and stimulate their Lithuanian identity during the exciting period of celebrating the 100th anniversary of Lithuania’s restoration of independence. Can the time be more fitting to get in touch with your Lithuanian heritage, culture, family histories, and Lithuanian language?

The module is designed to experience, share and discuss the essential concerns:

What does it mean to be a Lithuanian in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia or elsewhere?

Is there a “World Lithuanian” identity?

How can Lithuanians all over the world be more united and cooperative?

What projects can be accomplished working together?

If you value your Lithuanian heritage or maintain close ties with Lithuanian communities, join us to savour our genuine Lithuanian nature in Lithuania.

Interdisciplinary: History, Politics, Economics and Regional Studies, Art Studies

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 480 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 530 EUR

Social Media Marketing

The two-week-long course is divided into practical lectures and group work designed to apply the acquired knowledge in practice, such as in factual market situations, as students will work hand in hand with real companies. Groups will create, develop and present social media marketing solutions for CEOs from actual companies, thus gaining invaluable experience in using the method of Design Thinking, social media advertising, group work, contact making, and business negotiation practice.

Management, Marketing, Communications Business and Entrepreneurship, Communication, Media and Journalism

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 400 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 450 EUR

Personal Branding: Forming and Managing Your Image

In the times of strong competition in the labour market, it is necessary to understand and learn how to create and manage a solid personal image in both real and digital world. Your real life and digital style, ethics, rules and tactics of private and public communication, and the ability to create networks will allow you to design a unique and outstanding brand which will not stay unnoticed.

Management, Marketing, Communication Industry and Entrepreneurship, Communication and Media

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 400 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 450 EUR

Creative Media Lab

Creative Media Lab invites you to get hands-on experience and become acquainted with various contemporary media forms. In small teams students will use professional filmmaking equipment to create a documentary short film. The groups will be constantly guided by experienced professionals.

You will also learn to apply the knowledge gained during the programme creatively, grasp the specifics of video production technology, and understand the usage of lighting in film. At the camp, you will get to act, operate the camera, and direct, which will give you an understanding about filming and editing video material. In addition, you will be involved in analysing movies and study the art of rhetoric.

Media

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 500 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 550 EUR





Language courses

Lithuanian Language and Culture Summer Course 2018

Each summer, Vytautas Magnus University offers an intensive (4 weeks) Lithuanian Language and Culture Summer Course for people of all ages who want to improve their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in Lithuanian. During the summer course students are offered a comprehensive programme consisting of Lithuanian language classes, lectures, workshops, discussions, movie evenings, sightseeing tours and excursions to learn the language and deepen the knowledge about the Lithuanian lifestyle and culture.

There are courses for all levels, from beginners to advanced learners. Qualified teachers and professors head the programme. Students who are not complete beginners will take a placement test on the first day of the course to determine their level of Lithuanian.

Language, Culture

13 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

6 ECTS

EARLY BIRD 650 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 700 EUR

Beginner English A1.1

The aim of this course is to enable students to communicate in English in everyday situations and to provide them with the relevant level of the English grammar. The course develops learners' reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. The form of studies includes lectures, self-study tasks and work in computer assisted language learning lab and virtual environment (video and audio input, interactive tests and exercises). Participants are also introduced to Lithuanian culture and contemporary lifestyle along with developing intercultural communication skills.

Languages, Intercultural communication

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 420 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 470 EUR

Elementary English A1.2

The aim of this course is to enable students to communicate in English in everyday situations and to provide them with the relevant level of the English grammar. The course develops learners' reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, improves their use of grammar and phonetics as well as enriches their lexical repertoire. The form of studies includes lectures, self-study tasks and work in computer assisted language learning lab and virtual environment (video and audio input, discussions, interactive tests and exercises). Participants are also introduced to Lithuanian culture and contemporary lifestyle along with developing intercultural communication skills.

Languages, Intercultural communication

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 420 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 470 EUR

Activate your English A2.1

The course provides students with the pre-intermediate (A2.1) level of four basic competences of English (writing, reading, speaking and listening) placing a special focus on communication and cross-cultural communicative skills. The form of studies is blended learning, including class interaction, self-study tasks, work in computer assisted language learning lab and in virtual learning environment. The course is designed to empower learners to use English in real-life situations by increasing their fluency, accuracy and effectiveness of language use at the relevant level along with boosting their self-confidence.

Languages, Intercultural Communication

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 420 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 470 EUR

Beginner German A1.1

The aim of this course is to enable students to communicate in German in simple everyday situations and to provide them with the basic knowledge of the German grammar corresponding to level A1.1. Students learn to read simple texts with the aid of dictionary and to produce their own written texts using simple language to communicate and practise pronunciation by completing exercises of phonetics. The form of studies includes lectures, self-study tasks, work in computer assisted language learning lab and in virtual learning environment (audio and video input, interactive tests and exercises). Participants are also introduced to Lithuanian culture and contemporary lifestyle along with developing intercultural communication skills.

Languages, Intercultural Communication

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 420 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 470 EUR

Elementary German A1.2

The aim of this course is to enable students to communicate in German in simple everyday situations and to provide them with the basic knowledge of the German grammar corresponding to level A1.2. Students learn to read simple texts and to produce their own written texts using simple language. They practise pronunciation and develop their fluency through phonetic exercises. The form of studies includes lectures, self-study tasks, work in computer assisted language learning lab and in virtual learning environment (audio and video input, discussions, interactive tests and exercises). Participants are also introduced to Lithuanian and German culture and develop intercultural communication skills.

Languages, Intercultural Communication

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 420 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 470 EUR

Activate your German A2.1

The aim of this course is to enable students to communicate in German in everyday situations and to provide them with the relevant level of the German grammar. Students learn to read various texts and to produce their own written texts using relevant level of language. The form of studies includes lectures, self-study tasks, work in computer assisted language learning lab and in virtual learning environment (audio and video input, discussions, interactive tests and exercises). Participants are also introduced to Lithuanian and German culture and develop intercultural communication skills.

Languages, Intercultural Communication

29 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

3 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 420 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 470 EUR



Masterclasses for musicians

Classical Singing, Jazz Singing, Accordion, Piano, Strings (to choose one)

A wide variety of practical lessons for young and advanced musicians will involve various disciplines including classical singing, jazz singing, accordion, piano, and strings. Lessons will be tailored to each individual or a group of individuals to cover auditions and development of instrumental or vocal techniques to reach certain musical expression. A collaborative and constructive learning environment will be created to learn from music educators, who will provide extensive and inspirational coaching with the feedback. All the aspects of the participants' performance will be improved in a friendly, creative and supportive environment. The masterclass will provide an opportunity to understand and develop relevant criteria which the student in the audience can apply when assessing their own performances as well as when working with fellow musicians. The masterclass will enable the students to develop an understanding of what the standards of the music profession are. The masterclass leaders will demonstrate these standards through the demands and expectations they communicate when assessing, coaching and providing feedback for the students.

The final concert of all participants is offered as the last activity of the masterclass, thus the participants who have successfully achieved good results might be offered the possibility to play in the orchestra or perform as singers.

Music

1 August 2018 – 11 August 2018

2 ETCS

EARLY BIRD: 250 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 300 EUR



| Internship

Summer Internship Programme (SIP)

It is a five-week internship programme which provides the students with the possibility to do an internship at workplaces or institutions, social partners of VMU, including Kaunas City Municipality, medical institutions, museums and various NGOs.

Internship placements for students are provided based on the fields of their choice, including finance and economics, politics and international relations, medicine and social work, communication and public relations, marketing, advertising, technology, engineering, etc.

This programme offers:

- Internship placements based on the major field of studies;
- A chance to get to know the university and the modern Lithuania;
- Introductory week at VMU;
- Lithuanian language classes (optional);
- Cultural programme and trips (optional);
- 6 ECTS credits and VMU certificates.

All fields of studies

9 July 2018 – 11 August 2018

6 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 450 EUR

FROM MARCH 1st: 500 EUR

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white lab coat over a green sweater and white gloves, is using a pipette to transfer liquid into a small vial. She is looking down at the vial with a focused expression. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with various equipment.

Natural sciences

Methods in Molecular Genetics

The course is a comprehensive overview of the key techniques in molecular biology mostly related to DNA analysis. It covers the techniques of DNA extraction, gel electrophoresis, PCR and restriction digestion. Upon completion of the course, the trainee will be able to extract genomic DNA from animal cells; perform agarose gel electrophoresis to analyse the DNA profile; amplify specific fragments of DNA using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique; perform restriction digestion experiments and visualise the obtained data. Teaching methods include lectures, practical exercises in laboratories, and case studies seminars.

Life Sciences

5 August 2018 – 11 August 2018

2 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 400 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 450 EUR

Wetland Biodiversity Assessment

The course introduces participants to field methods and data analysis and includes theoretical and practical instruction in both the field and the lab. Participants will gain knowledge in using the latest techniques in field methodologies and the most recent analytical and instrumental tools. The course is especially suited to those interested in wetlands ecology, especially plant, avian and invertebrate biodiversity. During the entire course participants will stay on the territory of one of national parks in Lithuania.

Life Sciences

5 August 2018 – 11 August 2018

2 ECTS

EARLY BIRD: 500 EUR

FROM MAY 1st: 550 EUR



Application process

How to apply

There are two steps in the registration procedure. The first step involves submitting an application; the second stage involves paying the fee for the chosen course. Check the prices in the description of each course.

After submitting the registration form, you will receive a confirmation email within 2 to 3 working days with detailed information about the payment. Finally, you will be asked to provide additional documents:

- Copy of passport / ID card
- Curriculum Vitae
- Payment receipt
- Confirmation of student status from home university (or a copy of your diploma);

The registration fee is 30 EUR.

Application period

- February 1st – March 1st for Summer Internship Programme
- February 1st – June 1st for the rest of the courses

Health Insurance

Health Insurance is one of the obligatory requirements for all international students at Baltic Summer University that should be taken care of before students' arrival. There are two types of Health Insurance recognized in Lithuanian healthcare institutions:

- European Health Insurance Card
- Private health insurance

The insurance shall be valid throughout the entire study period and cover any expenses which might arise in connection with repatriation for medical reasons, urgency medical services, emergency hospital treatment or death during the stay.

Note! Applicants should possess the original documents together with their translations into English. Documents printed from emails will not be accepted.

VISA INFORMATION

Lithuania is a member of the Schengen Area so citizens of the countries not included in the waiver agreement need to have a visa to enter the country. Visa application procedure is students' responsibility.

Types of visas:

- Schengen visa for visits of less than three months.
- National visa (D) for visits between three months and a year.

Citizens of 78 recognized countries do not require a visa to enter Lithuania (a list of countries is available at www.migracija.lt).

Citizens of other countries need to apply for a Schengen visa or a National visa at Diplomatic Missions or Lithuanian Consulates. Please contact the diplomatic mission / embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in your country or in the nearest country where it is situated and provide us with the relevant documents. The decision is taken in 14 days.

Baltic Summer University can provide to you, if needed:

- Confirmation of Acceptance (original in English)
- Mediation Letter (original in Lithuanian)

HOW TO ARRIVE

The city of Kaunas is located in the centre of Lithuania, 100 km north-west of Vilnius, the capital city. There are several possibilities to come to Lithuania and Kaunas:

- 1. by plane:**
 - to Kaunas airport
 - to Vilnius airport
- 2. by train:**
 - to Kaunas railway station
 - to Vilnius railway station
- 3. by bus:**
 - to Kaunas bus station
 - to Vilnius bus station

International students are met upon their arrival. Therefore, it is important that you contact the staff of Baltic Summer University and inform us about the date, time and place of your arrival at least a week in advance.

ACCOMMODATION

Baltic Summer University can provide accommodation at a VMU dormitory located in the city centre. Accommodation here costs 5 EUR/night (a shared room for two or three). As the number of rooms is limited, students should book a room in advance.

Students can also arrange their own accommodation if they wish. Hostel prices start from around 10 EUR/night. There is also a wide selection of 2 to 4 star hotels in Kaunas. Find more information about hotels at visit.kaunas.lt/en/accommodation.

CONTACTS

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