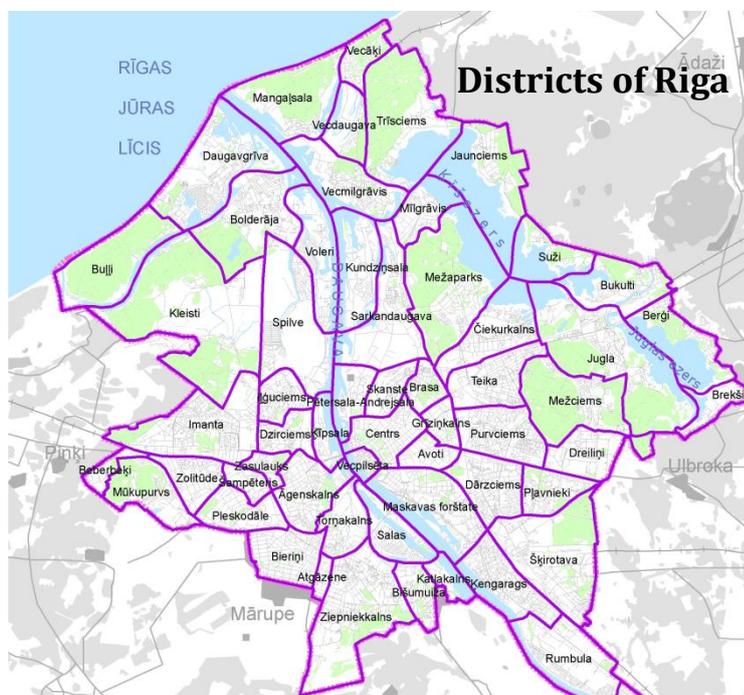


RSU is located in “Dzirciems” district on the left bank of the River Daugava, or what we, the inhabitants of Riga call “The other side of the river” (Pārdaugava); however, the majority of RSU students choose to live on the right bank of the River Daugava.

When looking for a flat to rent, you will be given an option to choose the region in Riga you are interested in. Below you will find our suggestions for picking a place to live. While the Centre in general can be advised, you can also look for other options either on the right or the left bank of the river.

Please note that there are many other regions in Riga (see the map), but they are either too far away, or have very bad transport connections, so we are not listing them here. The most popular rental districts among RSU students are marked with an asterisk*.



Council of Riga, Department of Development.

Location	Distance by public transport		Region	Public transport connections	Distance to the Old Town	Distance to RSU
	Old Town	RSU				
Centrs (Centre)						
Vecrīga (Old Town)*	-	20 min	Prestigious	Excellent	-	Quite close
Centrs (Centre)*	10 min	25 min	Prestigious	Excellent	Close	Quite close
Klusais centrs (Quiet Centre)*	10 min	25 min	Prestigious	Very good	Close	Quite close
Krasta rajons (Bank region)*	15 min	40 min	Good	Poor	Close	Quite close
Labais krasts (Right bank of the River Daugava)						
Pētersala-Andrejsala*	10 min	30 min	Very good	Good	Close	Quite close
Eksportostas rajons*	10 min	30 min	Good	Good	Close	Quite close
Skanste*	15 min	30 min	Very good	Good	Close	Quite close
Brasa*	20 min	40 min	Good	Decent	Quite close	Quite far
VEF rajons*	20 min	50 min	Good	Very good	Quite close	Far
Avoti (Latgales priekšpilsēta)	15 min	45 min	Disadvantaged, avoidable	Very good	Close	Quite far
Grīziņkalns	20 min	50 min	Disadvantaged	Good	Quite close	Far
Purvciems	35 min	70 min	Good	Very good	Quite far	Far
Mežaparks	40 min	60 min	Prestigious	Decent	Far	Far
Čiekurkalns	25 min	50 min	Decent	Good	Quite far	Far
Jugla	45 min	80 min	Good	Very good	Far	Far
Sarkandaugava	30 min	50 min	Decent	Decent	Far	Far
Pļavnieki	50 min	90 min	Good	Decent	Far	Far
Mežciems	50 min	90 min	Good	Decent	Far	Far
Ķengarags	30 min	60 min	Decent	Decent	Far	Far
Maskavas forštate	15 min	45 min	Disadvantaged, avoidable	Good	Close	Quite far
Pārdaugava (Left bank of the River Daugava)						
Dzirciems*	35 min	-	Good	Very good	Quite far	Close
Āgenskalns*	20 min	10 min	Decent	Very good	Quite close	Close
Tuvā Pārdaugava*	15 min	10 min	Good	Very good	Close	Close
Ķīpsala*	15 min	15 min	Very good	Poor	Close	Close
Zaslauks	35 min	20 min	Good	Decent	Quite far	Quite close
Imanta*	35 min	15 min	Good	Good	Quite far	Close
Ilģuciems	35 min	10 min	Good	Decent	Quite far	Close
Ziepniekkalns	45 min	50 min	Good	Good	Far	Far
Torņakalns	20 min	25 min	Decent	Decent	Quite close	Quite close
Šampēteris	35 min	30 min	Decent	Poor	Quite far	Quite close
Pleskodāle	40 min	40 min	Decent	Poor	Quite far	Quite far
Zolitūde	45 min	30 min	Decent	Good	Far	Quite far

Tips for apartment rental in Riga

Many international students who arrive in Riga find its real estate market very appealing and therefore choose private apartments for rent. The majority of students find it cheaper to share a bigger apartment with other students, however quite a few rent them all by themselves.

Below are a few tips that you should consider, when renting an apartment in Riga:

- 1. Location** – no doubt the Old Town is very appealing; however, there IS life beyond the Old Town. Our suggestion would be not to discard the idea of renting an apartment in other districts of Riga. FYI: In terms of safety, the Old Town is NOT the safest district. In terms of money, it is definitely the most expensive one.

Consider renting an apartment in *Pētersala-Andrejsala, Eksporta/Ostas rajons (Harbour District), Skanste, Klusais centrs (Quiet Centre), Kīpsala, Dzirciems, Āgenskalns*. See a more detailed list of Riga districts on the other side of this sheet.

- 2. Negotiation stage** – During the negotiation stage try to cover all possible fields – what is and is not included in the rental price! Specifically, ask the renter what bills you will have to pay! Request that they show you the bills of previous months, so that you can see what the expenses are. Note that heating is very expensive, and sometimes may constitute the amount of the rent, so have them show you a bill from a winter month (October-March).

Should anything seem suspicious with the renter during the negotiations process, please reconsider signing the agreement.

- 3. Rental period** – Make sure that during the negotiations you also discuss the rental period! It is possible to rent apartments for a relatively short period of time, e.g. 2 months, though most renters will not be very happy about it, and thus may refuse the apartment. The majority of rental agreements are signed for 1 (one) year. Make sure you discuss the rental policy for summer (July-August), when you will not be living there. Note that it is normal for the renters to request that you pay for these months, even though you will not be living there. If you will refuse to make the payment, you will most probably lose the apartment.

- 4. Bond money (deposit money)** – The most common reason for bond money is that sometimes dishonest tenants will not settle the final payment upon moving out of the apartment. Thus, bond money allows the renter to settle all payment issues with the tenant. There is no specific reason, why bond money should be a double or a triple amount of the monthly payment. If bond money constitutes a triple amount of monthly rent, reconsider signing the agreement. Always find out what the renter's reasons are for requesting such a large sum of money, and how the final payment will be settled.

- 5. Contracts** – DO NOT sign a rental agreement that is only in Latvian. You do not know what you are signing, and it is your full right to request the agreement to be translated also in English. Request that both texts are of equal legal standing (with no advantage given to the text in Latvian). Most notably, **ALWAYS take your time and read the agreement carefully!!!** Most problems arise because you have not read or have misunderstood something important that is mentioned in the agreement!

- 6. DO NOT rent an apartment without having seen it!** Specifically, do not move into the apartment if all requirements mentioned in the contract have not been fulfilled! E.g., if the contract says the apartment is furnished, do not move into it, if there is no furniture.