

Description of the study programme

Second level professional higher education study programme “Dentistry”

2015/2016
academic year

1. Title of the study programme, degree, professional qualification or degree and professional qualification, aims and tasks.

The graduates acquire a dentist degree and the professional qualification of a dentist. The goal of the study programme “Dentistry” is to prepare qualified dentists, whose knowledge and practical skills will allow them to practice general dentistry – treat patients with oral cavity diseases and dental diseases, and carry out practical public awareness activities for prevention of these diseases.

The **tasks** of the programme:

1. To provide high-quality knowledge of fundamental disciplines of basic medical and biological sciences corresponding to the level of higher education.
2. To provide sufficient theoretical and practical knowledge of general medical courses.
3. To provide high-quality theoretical knowledge and promote the development of practical skills and acquisition of specific skills in relation to specialty-related specialized study courses.
4. To promote professional attitude and behaviour, that contributes to the development of good interaction with patients and colleagues.
5. To provide motivation for the development of particular attitude that would encourage future dentists to continue their professional growth and make the students aware of the necessity of life-long learning.

2. Expected outcomes of the study programme

1. Basic knowledge and understanding of the dentistry-related basic biological and general clinical sciences that allow understanding of normal and pathological conditions related to dentistry.
2. The necessary professional knowledge required for performing face and oral hard/soft tissue evaluation, diagnostics of pathological changes and their treatment, to restore anatomical and physiological functions of the tooth-jaw system.
3. Up-to-date knowledge and understanding of issues related to organization and management of the dental practice, care and prevention activities.
4. Knowledge of how to obtain and use information critically, analyse clinical data, present it to larger audiences, and explain one’s own opinion.
5. Understanding of the moral and ethical responsibility, when providing care to individual patients and general population.
6. Awareness of the need to take care of one’s own health, awareness of possible development of occupational diseases and awareness of necessity of application of principles of ergonomics in practical work; awareness of the need to promote the

observation of the occupational safety and taking care of one's own health among colleagues.

7. To acquire knowledge of data collection, processing and analysis for further research.

On completion of the programme the following skills will have be obtained:

- To use one's knowledge obtained in studies of bio-medical and general clinical sciences in order to assess and diagnose pathological conditions of soft and hard oral tissues.
- To use professional terminology in the official language and at least in two foreign languages.
- To master the official language.
- To evaluate social, cultural and environmental factors contributing to health maintenance or development of diseases, and to educate patients on aetiology and prevention of oral diseases.
- To communicate with dental patients, including children, patient families, relatives and other healthcare employees.
- To practice dentistry respecting patient's interests and demonstrating professional attitude towards colleagues.
- To work in a team.
- To obtain and record patients' general (social), medical, oral and dental state anamnesis; to evaluate oral condition and to perform general health condition assessment of patients of all ages by taking into account their biological and psychological characteristics.
- To diagnose and to provide medical assistance in dental emergencies, to perform differential diagnosis of health-threatening conditions, to perform resuscitation measures, and to provide immediate medical assistance in situations that may be encountered in general dental practice.
- To perform proper manual and instrumental examination of a dental patient's oral mucosa, periodontal and dental condition.
- To assess and record the condition of oral mucosa and teeth, to interpret the findings, and to recommend further necessary investigations.
- To write medical consultation statements in outpatient or inpatient medical records.
- To make clinical judgements by interpreting the findings and correlating clinical, radiographic, laboratory and other diagnostic examination data, to make decisions, and to plan future actions for establishing differential or final diagnoses in dental patients of all ages and all necessities.
- To diagnose and treat caries, pulps and peri-radicular pathological processes, most common diseases of periodontal tissues and oral mucosa in dental patients representing all ages and all necessities.
- To diagnose and assess the functional disorders, which may cause development of anomalies in mixed dentition in dental patients representing all ages.
- To evaluate the development of permanent tooth buds and to assess the necessity of interdisciplinary treatment.
- To plan the treatment for restoration of tooth form, function and aesthetics, replacement of defective teeth and to consider optimal and alternative treatment options.

- To perform restoration of single-rooted and multi-rooted teeth by applying modern filling materials.
- To perform therapeutic manipulations for preservation of pulp vitality.
- To perform endodontic treatment of single-rooted and multi-rooted teeth in uncomplicated cases.
- To perform pre-prosthetic preparation, to inform the patient about the characteristics of the design, use, and prognosis of dental prostheses, and to assess the long-term results of prosthetics.
- To design prosthetic treatment plans for treating defects of teeth and the teeth row.
- To use indirect dental restoration methods.
- To restore the tooth form and function by using removable, fixed and implant-based dental prostheses.
- To provide information on possibilities to use osseointegrated implants in prevention of the tooth row pathologies.
- To perform removal of uncomplicated teeth, their roots, and to perform uncomplicated soft tissue surgery.
- To perform uncomplicated surgical procedures in order to prepare patients for oral prosthetics.
- To treat the most common complications during surgery and the postoperative period.
- To diagnose pain and to perform differential diagnosis in the area of the face and the oral cavity, to initiate treatment or to recommend a specialist counsellor in a relevant field.
- To apply pharmacological treatment.
- To use preventive methods for the prevention of the oral mucosa diseases and tooth hard tissue diseases, thus promoting oral health.
- To educate and to motivate dental patients of all ages and with any needs in the maintenance of oral hygiene.
- To evaluate the limits of one's own skills and competence, and the necessity to recommend treatment provided by another specialist in an appropriate field.
- To observe employment-related regulations.
- To observe occupational safety, fire safety and environmental protection regulations.
- To use information technologies in one's own professional activities.
- To observe the normative acts related to the dental practice and ethical norms.

In accordance with the Cabinet Regulation No. 512 of the Republic of Latvia, the duration of studies is 5 years, one year is equal to 40 CP, and five years are equal to 200 CP. The general education courses provide at least 20 CP, the theoretical basic study courses of the field and the information technology courses provide 36 CP, the professional specialization courses of the field provide at least 60 CP, and the placement provides at least 20 CP. The research paper taken together with the National Examination provides 12 CP.

The student placement consists of time intended to be spent in practical work with adult patients and children. It includes the clinical study courses (34 CP) at the Institute of Stomatology of RSU, for which RSU study programme "Dentistry" serves as a clinical base.

Study course	CP
Cariology	4
Periodontology	2
Endodontics	2
Therapeutic Dentistry	4
Therapeutic Stomatology	4
Dental Prosthetics	4
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	2
Paediatric Therapeutic Dentistry	8
Paediatric Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	2

4 additional credit points are intended for the placement in the restricted elective part of the programme

3. Admission requirements (specify admission requirements of the study programme). If the programme is implemented in a foreign language, applicant's language proficiency should be tested. Specify the link on RSU website with the relevant information

The result of the competition is as follows:

- 15 % – the assessment received in the objective structured professional aptitude exam (OSPAE),
- 45 % – assessment received in the centralised exams (CE) in chemistry;
- 40 % – assessment received in the centralised exams (CE) in biology.

In case of equal sums of the assessment, the following is taken into account in the competition:

- assessment of the CE in the Latvian language,
- 2) assessment of the CE in the foreign language.

The purpose of the admission requirements is to ensure admission of the best candidates to the dentist speciality. To obtain a certificate of a general practice dentist and to start working independently in the profession already after 5 study years, extensive background knowledge is required.

The applicants of the study programme "Dentistry" are matriculated according to the results of the competition. Results are composed of the grades received in the OSPAE and the CE of chemistry and biology. These exams give an overall idea of the applicant's ability to acquire a regulated profession and achieve the outcomes mentioned in the standard of the profession.

Student admission is carried out in accordance with the Admission Regulations approved by the RSU Senate for the respective academic year and external regulations. According to Paragraph 3 of the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 846 "On Requirements, Criteria and Procedure for Admission to Study Programmes" of 10 October 2006, the rules for admission to study programmes (hereinafter referred to as the admission rules) for the next academic year shall be drawn up, approved and published (also on the website) each year by 1 November.

The technical procedures of admission are established and described in Paragraph 7.1 of RSU Process Description No. 7 “Service Provision for Students”.

RSU applicants apply electronically on website: <http://www.rsu.lv/studiju-iespejas/uznemsana>

Submission of the documents for study year	Number of applicants	Competition rate	Number of those admitted to the studies; budget students / students paying the tuition fee	
2012	349	13.68	25	30
2013	107	4.4	24	0
2014	146	6.1	24	0
2015	130	5.4	24	6

According to Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 36 “On Recognition of the Study Results Achieved in Previous Education or Professional Experience”, one is entitled to submit an application to Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) regarding recognition of knowledge, skills and competencies acquired in previous education or professional experience in a study programme or part thereof implemented by the University.

Decision on recognition of study results achieved in previous education or professional experience is made by the Commission on Recognition of Study Results Achieved in Previous Education or Professional Experience established by the University. Its rights, duties, rules of formation, as well as specific conditions of the procedure for recognition of study results achieved in previous education or professional experience are established in the Regulations on Recognition of Study Results Achieved in Previous Education or Professional Experience at Rīga Stradiņš University.

For the study results to start being recognised, the following should be submitted to the Commission on Recognition of Study Results Achieved: an application; documents confirming the study results in the previous education or professional experience; a bank payment order for the payment made.

The application is examined and the resolution is made within one month from the receipt of the application.

2015

8 cases were considered: 1 case for recognition of the results achieved in previous education or professional experience in the professional bachelor’s study programme “Midwifery”. Both the results obtained in professional experience and previous education were recognised. 7 cases for recognition of the results achieved in previous education or professional experience in the professional bachelor’s study programme “Nursing”. In one case both the results obtained in professional experience and previous education were recognised. In 6 cases the results obtained in professional experience were recognised.

2016

3 cases were considered altogether: 3 cases for recognition of the results achieved in previous education or professional experience in the professional bachelor's study programme "Nursing". In one case both the results obtained in professional experience and previous education were recognised. In 2 cases the results obtained in professional experience were recognised.

4. Curriculum of the study programme (list of study courses and study modules, their volume in credit points, their division into the compulsory, restricted elective or elective parts by specifying their volume in credit points, plan of their implementation).

International name (Priekšmets)	Block	CP per semester	Sequence number of the semester
Medical Physics	A	2	1
Human Molecular Biology	A	1	1
Human Anatomy	A	3	1
General Medical Chemistry	A	2	1
Medical Terminology in Latin	A	2	1
Medical terminology in the English Language	A	2	1
First Aid	A	1	1
Histology with Basics of Embryology	A	4	1
Introduction into Speciality	A	1	1
Philosophical Anthropology	A	2	1
Introduction to Organic and Biological Chemistry	B	1	2
Basics of Biochemistry of Vitamins and Coferments	B	1	2
DNA in Vitro	B	2	2
Practical Anatomy	B	2	2
Sports for Health	B	2	2
Trends and challenges of the Contemporary society	B	2	2
Biomaterials in Dentistry	A	1	2

Human Molecular Biology	A	3	2
Dental Anatomy	A	2	2
Dental Functional Anatomy	A	1	2
Human Anatomy	A	2	2
Medical Biochemistry	A	3	2
Medical terminology in the English Language	A	2	2
Preclinical Course in Operative Dentistry	A	2	2
Histology with Basics of Embryology	A	2	2
Biomaterials in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	A	1	2
Business Etiquette. Good Manners. Psychology of Communication	B	2	3
Preventive Dentistry	A	2	3
Methodology and Statistics	A	1	3
Medical Laser Physics	B	2	3
Medicinal Plants and their Use	B	2	3
Medical Genetics	A	3	3
Normal Physiology	A	3	3
Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Radiology	A	2	3
Preclinical Course in Operative Dentistry	A	3	3
Preclinical Course in Prosthetic Dentistry	A	3	3
Clinical Pathological Physiology	A	1	3
Normal Physiology	A	3	4
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical Anatomy and Surgery	A	2	4
Preclinical Course in Operative Dentistry	A	2	4
Preclinical Course in Prosthetic Dentistry	A	2	4
Clinical Pathological Physiology	A	2	4
Internal Diseases and Propaedeutics	A	2	4

Microbiology, Immunology, Virology	A	3	4
Pathological Anatomy	A	2	4
Cariology	A	2	4
Preclinical Course in Prosthetic Dentistry	A	4	5
Internal Diseases and Propaedeutics	A	2	5
Environmental and Occupational Health	A	2	5
Cariology	A	2	5
Preclinical and Clinical Course in Endodontics	A	3	5
Preclinical and Clinical Course in Periodontology	A	3	5
Oral Surgery	A	2	5
Emergency Medicine	A	1	5
Preventive Dentistry	A	1	5
Public Health Care in Dentistry	A	2	6
Oral Microbiology	A	1	6
Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Radiology	A	2	6
Disaster Medicine Toxicology and Narcology	A	1	6
Morphoclinical Diagnostics of Oral Pathologies	A	2	6
Preclinical Course in Prosthetic Dentistry	A	4	6
Preclinical and Clinical Course in Endodontics	A	2	6
Preclinical and Clinical Course in Periodontology	A	2	6
Cariology	A	2	6
Oral Surgery	A	2	6
Paediatric Therapeutic Dentistry	A	1	7
Clinics and Morphology of the Diseases of Skin and Oral Mucosa	A	2	7

Preclinical Course in Prosthetic Dentistry	A	3	7
Infectious Diseases	A	2	7
Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy	A	2	7
Clinical Pharmacology	A	2	7
Oral Morphology	A	2	7
Therapeutic Dentistry	A	2	7
Orthodontics	A	2	7
Maxillofacial Surgery	A	2	7
Paediatric Therapeutic Dentistry	A	4	8
Clinics and Morphology of the Diseases of Skin and Oral Mucosa	A	1	8
Otorhinolaryngology	A	2	8
General Surgery	A	1	8
Paediatrics	A	2	8
Prosthetic Dentistry	A	2	8
Study Placement in Therapeutic Dentistry	B	2	8
Effective Communication with Patient in Paediatric Dentistry	B	2	8
Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome	B	2	8
Aesthetic Reconstruction in Prosthetic Dentistry	B	2	8
Therapeutic Dentistry	A	2	8
Orthodontics	A	2	8
Paediatric Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	A	2	8
Clinical Immunology	B	2	8
Prosthetic Dentistry	A	2	9
Manifestation of Systemic Diseases in Oral Cavity and Body	B	2	9
Manifestation of Systemic Diseases in Oral Mucosa	B	1	9

Dental Problems in Clinical Rheumatology	B	1	9
Therapeutic Dentistry	A	2	9
Paediatric Therapeutic Dentistry	A	1	9
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	A	2	9
Orthodontics	A	2	9
Complex treatment of Oral Pathology	A	3	9
Economic and Business	A	2	9
Praxis in Oral surgery	B	2	9
Preprosthetic Surgery	B	2	9
Public Health Care	A	1	9
Preventive Dentistry	A	1	9
Research Paper	A	2	9
State Examination	A	10	10
Integrated Treatment Planning	A	2	10
Therapeutic Dentistry	A	2	10
Paediatric Therapeutic Dentistry	A	2	10
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	A	2	10
Orthodontics	A	2	10

5. Practical implementation of the study programme: Study methods and forms used, distance learning methods. Assessment system (educational criteria and assessment methods for reaching and assessment of learning outcomes, forms and assessment procedure).

The study programme is a classical study programme; it consists of lectures, seminars, laboratory works, practical activities, clinical practice, and writing of medical history, presentations of clinical cases, literature review presentations, preparation of research projects, and presentation of it to the audience. Computers, multimedia, internet and interactive boards are used in the study process. Analysis of clinical cases and elements of problem solving are used within the programme. The study programme is built on a student-centred education model, and hence attention is given to emphasizing acquisition of opinions and treatment methods based on scientific research (evidence based dentistry, medicine). Starting from 2009/2010 part of the training material, tests, knowledge evaluation forms etc. have also been available in the e- study environment. With every year, the material available on e-studies is rapidly increasing both quantitatively and qualitatively. Main motivation for studies is the necessity to use knowledge at clinics, when working with a patient. The requirements for each course, assessment and types of assessment are clearly described in the descriptions

of study courses. At clinics there are practical work standards that can be achieved if the level of theoretical knowledge is adequate and the practical skills have been trained on regular basis. To make sure the students know the material they have to acquire during their study years, a Study Guide has been prepared; the Study Guide includes clearly described study course guides for every study year. It includes the content, goals, and the expected learning outcomes: knowledge, skills and competences. It contains assessment criteria, organization of independent work and tasks. The guide of each course is developed by the Head of the study course; the guide provides information on the amount of credit points, the description and the background knowledge required for successful course acquisition, and shows the list of compulsory and optional readings. The descriptions of the study courses are available in Latvian and English. The descriptions of the study courses are reviewed once a year.

Within the study course, the knowledge is tested by using various methods; the assessment methods vary from department to department; the most appropriate assessment methods are chosen according to the tasks and goals of the respective study course. The teaching staff of each department inform the students about methods, procedures, and requirements for testing of their knowledge. In several study courses students write a short test at the beginning of each activity. After a theme is finished the students do a written test (called "colloquia"). Computerized tests have also been introduced. At the end of each semester students shall take the exams and tests set within the programme. The clinical departments collect information on assessment of the student knowledge, speaking at seminars, attitude towards patients and personnel, and quality of clinical case presentations. An essential issue is the examination of practical abilities the students have acquired in dentistry. The "point evaluation system" that has been developed by Ludwig Maximilians Universität München and upgraded by lecturers of the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Oral Health has been used for evaluation of the student practical work. In the seventh semester students have to pass a test on a patient's tooth restoration. This test helps to evaluate manual abilities of each student almost 2 years prior the final examination. Students of dental prosthetics have to produce a certain number of work pieces. Consultations are offered to students in theoretical courses before written tests („colloquia"). Similarly, consultations are also offered before the profession-related final exams and the National Examinations. The OSCE (Objectively Structured Clinical Examination) is organized for assessing clinical skills after completion of preclinical studies. If all the tests have been successfully passed, the students are allowed to continue their studies in the next year of studies. During the semester examinations the students' answers are recorded in audio format. Students can lodge an appeal. There are two ways of testing the students' knowledge on completion of the study course: a test (pass or fail) and an exam (evaluated according to a 10-point grading system in accordance with the existing instruction). Students usually shall have the examination at the end of the compulsory (A) study courses, but at the end of the restricted elective study courses (B), the students shall take a test.

Complex assessment of students' theoretical knowledge and practical skills is made during the State Examination (SE), which takes place at the end of the 10th semester. The SE is organized according to the Procedure that annually is reviewed and approved in the meetings of the Faculty Board and the Dean's Council. The Commission of the SE consists of the Dean of the Faculty, the Dean of the International Student Department, Heads of the departments of dental disciplines, representatives from the Board of the Latvian Dental Association and Employers' institutions. An expert of the industry, who is not involved in the training of students, is invited to be the

Chairperson of the SE. In the academic year 2015/2016 the expert Dr.Med. R. Kundziņa was the Chairperson of the SE Commission. Employers, managers of dental care companies: Z.Štekerhofa, D.Rakicka, A.Paeglītis, V.Šiliņa were the members of the SE Commission.

The average grade at the state examination in year 2016:

Part	Form of examination	Rating
1st part of the SE	the student research work	8.3
2nd part of the SE	the cumulated exam	8.1
3rd part of the SE	the integrated written test	8.3
4th part of the SE	the integrated oral test	7.3

Total average grade for the SE – 7.9

The average grades in year 2015:

Part	Form of examination	Rating
1st part of the SE	the student research work	8.5
2nd part of the SE	the cumulated exam	7.6
3rd part of the SE	the integrated written test	5.9
4th part of the SE	the integrated oral test	7.2

Total average grade for the SE – 7.0

6. Analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the study programme

Advantages and problems due to internal and external factors	
Internal factors	
<u>Strengths</u> 1) Modern equipped clinical base – the Institute of Stomatology; 2) Application of the latest technologies in clinical training of students; 3) Compliance of the study programmes with the recommendations of the ADEE; 4) Application of virtual simulators in preclinical training; 5) Highly qualified lecturers who hold PhD; 6) Development of new training clinics.	<u>Weaknesses</u> 1) Planning of lectures and practical classes; 2) Academic staff workload in clinic; 3) Competition with private practices for highly qualified lecturers; 4) Ratio between the number of students and capacity of the infrastructure.
External factors	
<u>Opportunities</u>	<u>Threats</u>

1) Continuous development of the study programme according to recommendations of the ADEE; 2) Modernisation of examination methods; 3) Examinations are in line with the defined learning outcomes; 4) International cooperation with universities; 5) Participation in international projects; 6) Opportunities for the teaching staff professional and educational growth.	1) A small number of graduates of secondary schools; 2) Low state budget funding; 3) Migration of highly qualified lecturers to other countries; 4) Bureaucratic procurement procedure.
---	--

7. Employment prospective for programme graduates by including references to information sources to justify the statements.

The issues regarding the employment opportunities of the graduates are being solved in cooperation with employers and professional organizations. Draft plans for preparation of specialists required in the labour market have been prepared and the university participated in working groups for updating the action programme developed by the Ministry of Health "Development of Human Resources for Health Care in 2006 – 2015". This programme states that one of the most important factors for providing high-quality healthcare services to inhabitants at every level of health care are the specialists involved in the healthcare provision process, i.e., human resources and their qualification, adequate numbers and rational distribution. This understanding fully conforms to the goals and development directions of the programmes of the health care direction. It shall be noted that RSU as the only implementer of strategic specialisation in the health care during the following 6 years may create substantial changes in preparation of professionals, in development of common programmes, improving of study quality and creating better employment opportunities for the graduates. According to the data in the Dentistry Yearbook of 2015 there were 1524 dentists, i.e. 1 dentist per 1303 inhabitants in Latvia.

The age distribution can be seen in the table below.

YEAR	up to 39 years of age	40-54 years of age	55-69 years of age	over 70 years of age
2012	380	572	354	101
2013	392	577	394	113
2014	397	601	433	93

As it is visible in the table there is a very high number (35% or 526) of dentists at the retirement of pre-retirement age. Because of this, new professionals will be needed for purely demographic reasons. One more factor influencing the demand for professionals is the number of dentists (mainly younger dentists) who have migrated to other countries.

The number of dentists who have taken a notice from the Latvian Medical Association for departure to foreign countries is given in the following table.

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014

Number	9	6	23	21	38	45	22	21
---------------	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----

More detailed overview of the results during the State Examination is included in Section 5.

After analysis of the survey questionnaires completed by graduates (see Annex 7) the following improvements have been made to the study programme:

- The course "Dental anatomy" has been fully redone and renovated.
- A process of integrating general medical courses and dental courses was started.
- Several new restricted elective courses were prepared, and the introduction of these courses into the study programme for 2016/2017 has been planned.
- A course on gathering, processing and analysing of literature for scientific research projects was developed.
- Starting from the academic year 2017/2018, a course titled "Integrated Dentistry" will incorporate several subspecialties (cariology, endodontics, periodontics and dental prosthetics). The course will be implemented in the 9th and 10th semesters and it will allow improving clinical and theoretical skills required for a general practice dentist.

8. Introduction of proposals (if applicable) given within the framework of the licensing of the study programme during the previous accreditation (if applicable).

There was a recommendation to increase the funding for the study programme, and as a result of this recommendation the tuition fee was reviewed and raised to 11,500 EUR a year.

9. Information about external relations:

9.1. Cooperation with employers and professional organizations in Latvia and other countries.

To promote cooperation with employers' organisations, their involvement in the education of prospective professionals, as well as to increase the RSU students' competitiveness in the labour market, each year the university hosts a Career Week. It includes presentations of employer organisations, where representatives of employers tell about career opportunities in the organisation they represent, offer RSU students and graduates current vacancies, as well as provide practical advice on how to succeed in the labour market. More than 30 employers participated in the Career Week from 27 to 29 October 2015. RSU students and graduates had an opportunity to meet the representatives from medical and healthcare institutions from Riga (such as Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital, Children's Clinical University Hospital, Riga East Clinical University Hospital, association of Health Centres, Health Centre 4, MFD medical company, the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) and regional healthcare institutions (such as Ziemeļkurzeme Regional Hospital, Daugavpils Regional Hospital, Madona Hospital, Rēzekne Hospital, Tukums Hospital, National Rehabilitation Centre "Vaivari"). The event was attended by more than 250 healthcare students.

Employers from the social direction: Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, State Revenue Service, State Police, Prison Administration, Delfi, National Information Agency LETA, McCANN Consulting, PricewaterhouseCoopers, INVL Asset Management, Nordea bank, Statoil Fuel & Retail Business Centre, Deloitte Latvia. 72 RSU social direction students attended the event.

- EADPH – EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
- INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS European Section
- The Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE)
- Pierre Fauchard Academy
- International Association of Dental Research
- Council of European Chief Dental Officers
- International Federation of Dental Hygienists
- FDI World Dental Federation

9.2. Quantitative indicators of the international exchange of students and academic staff.

See section 8.3. in the description of the direction of studies.

In the academic year 2015/2016 six students from Latvia participated in the Erasmus exchange programme. From these students 2 were in Lithuania, 1 in Germany, 1 in Hungary, 2 in Poland.

9.3. Cooperation with local and foreign institutions of higher education and colleges that implement similar study programmes by indicating whether the institutions has cooperation with libraries of other institutions of higher education or college.

Cooperation with:

Poznan University of Medical Sciences	Poland
Vilniaus universitetas	Lithuania
Universidad Europea de Madrid	Spain
Medizinische Universität Graz	Austria
Universite Libre de Bruxelles	Belgium
Cardiff University	Great Britain
Kaunas University of Medicine	Lithuania
University of Oslo	Norway
Akademia Medyczna We Wroclawu	Poland
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitat Munchen	Germany
Technische Universitat Dresden	Germany
University of Debrecen	Hungary
Universitat Rostock	Germany
Universite Claude Bernard Lyon 1	France

Turku University of Applied Sciences University of Oulu	Finland
--	---------

9.4. International certificates, accreditations etc. of the study programmes.

Rīga Stradiņš University has been certified in conformity with international standard ISO 9001:2008 “Quality management system, Requirements” since 2002. Fields: higher education, lifelong learning, research, assessment of research results, assessment of knowledge and skills, issue of documents certifying the acquisition of the degree of education, higher professional education, academic degree, scientific degree.

At the end of 2014, re-certification took place that testifies to the fact that Rīga Stradiņš University keeps continuously developing and fitting in unified European Higher Education Area by improving the quality of education and raising the prestige of the university so that RSU’s academic staff and students would be eager to work and study at Rīga Stradiņš University.

Document certifying the conformity to the requirements of ISO 9001:2008 is available on RSU website: http://www.rsu.lv/images/stories/dokumenti/sertifikati/ISO_LV_2014.pdf

In February 2016, PASCL experts paid a visit to RSU, within the frame whereof RSU is recognised as a student-centred university (see Paragraph 9.2. of the Description of Study Direction).

10. Conformity of the study programme to the needs of the labour market, employer survey results.

RSU is one of the two Latvian universities implementing the study programme “Dentistry.” 32 students, whose study language was Latvian, graduated from the university in 2016; it is an adequate number taking into account the general trend towards decreasing of the total number of dentists.

Data of the Latvian Dental Association and the National Health Centre indicate insufficient number of dentists in most of Latvian cities. There should be one dentist per 1500 inhabitants. Such situation exists only in Riga – one dentist per 764 inhabitants. Nearly optimal situation exists also in Daugavpils – one per 1520; in the district – one per 5412 and in Liepāja – one per 1926; in Liepāja district – one per 4294. At the same time in many other towns of Latvia and in the rural areas the situation is different. In Alūksne there is one dentist per 3988 inhabitants; in Kuldīga – one per 3903; in Ludza – one per 3788; in Preiļi – one per 3721; in Krāslava – one per 3557; in Aizkraukle – one per 2824; in Balvi – one per 2641; in Dobeles – one per 2338; in Limbaži – one per 2466; in Cēsis one per 2240, in Valmiera - one per 2147.

To analyse the level of preparedness of the new specialists, the university cooperates with the largest dental clinics of Latvia. Representatives of employer institutions and the Board of Latvian Dental Association are invited to participate in the work of the State Examination Commission. Employers’ views on preparedness of new dentists have been summarised. It is obvious that the employers gladly recruit new graduates and that the general level or preparedness is high rather than low. However, there are also negative indications: 1) greater attention shall be paid to the level of practical skills; 2) greater attention shall be paid to the ability of cooperating with more experienced colleagues, of asking for advice, and 3) issues of ethics shall be addressed repeatedly.

For more detailed information, see Section 7.

See the employers' surveys in the attachment.

11. Prospective evaluation of study programmes taking into account priorities specified in development planning documents at national level, Latvia's tasks in implementing the strategy of the European Union, as well as conformity of the study programme to the recommendations for the development of the European Higher Education Area.

The following laws and regulations have been taken into account in planning the content and structure of the study programme:

- 1) Regulations No. 481 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia on the National Standard of the Second Level Professional Higher Education of 20 November 2001.
- 2) Law On Institutions of Higher Education and decisions of RSU Senate.
- 3) Profession standard "Dentist" (currently being discussed after the revision as required by the Regulations No. 149 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia "Procedures for the Development of Professional Standards and Vocational Standards" of 27 February 2007.
- 4) Regulations on the specialty of a dentist developed by the Latvian Dental Association and approved by the Ministry of Welfare (Order No. 152 issued on 18 May 1999 by the Ministry of Welfare).
- 5) Requirements laid down for the candidates for continuing postgraduate studies in residency in orthodontics, dental prosthetics, endodontics, periodontics, paediatric dentistry, oral and maxillofacial surgery as well for the certification exam in dentistry.
- 6) Directive of the European Union: Directive 78/687/EEC concerning the coordination of provisions laid down by Law, Regulation or Administrative Action in respect of the activities of dental practitioners; Directive 78/686/EEC concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of the formal qualifications of practitioners of dentistry; Requirements laid down in EU documents regarding the clinical competency level of new dentists (Advisory committee on the training of dental practitioners XV/E/8316/8/93-EN Orig. version modified on 10.11.98).

Documents developed by the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE): "Profile and competences for the Graduating European Dentist" (2004), which was in force until year 2009, Curriculum Content, Structure&European Credit Transfer System for European Dental Schools" (approved in 2005, to be reviewed in 2010); 2nd part: "Methods of Learning and Teaching, Assessment procedures and Performance Criteria" (approved in 2006, to be reviewed in 2011); Quality Assurance&Benchmarking, an approach for Education Dental schools" (approved in 2006, to be reviewed in 2011).

The Head of the study programme _____ /Andris Ābeltiņš/
Personal signature, name and surname

Date: 12.09.2016.

Rīga Stradiņš University
Faculty of Dentistry
joint meeting of the Council and the Quality Council
of 12 September 2016
Minutes No. 12.5.-3/2016/4