

## **Description of the study programme**

### **Professional Bachelor's study programme "Nursing"**

2015/2016  
academic year

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

Title of the study programme – **Professional Bachelor's study programme "Nursing"**, degree awarded – **professional Bachelor's degree in health care**. Professional qualification – **medical nurse**.

Aims and objectives of the implementation of the study programme.

The aim of the study programme "Nursing" is to provide students of the study programme "Nursing" with a scientific foundation for professional activity, developing the ability to independently conduct scientific research, developing analytical skills in care, skills and techniques to act independently in different care situations, observing the requirements of professional ethical standards.

Objectives of the study programme:

- To prepare medical practitioners – nurses with a competence corresponding to the Classification of Education of the Republic of Latvia and the Law on Regulated Professions and Recognition of Professional Qualifications in patient care, who use scientific methods and other types of cognition to resolve different situations and problems in healthcare;
- To analyse changes in the healthcare system and to prepare professional nurses for work in different health sectors;
- To prepare specialists, who educate patients, their family members, members of the care team and community;
- To implement mastering of basic and specialised knowledge in nursing;
- To promote the creation of an independent, creative personality, who develops nurse's practice foundations, as well as organises and manages care work;
- To promote competitiveness of graduates of the programme in the local and international labour market in variable socioeconomic conditions;
- To give the students with a secondary education the opportunity to obtain level 2 higher professional education with a bachelor's degree in healthcare and nurse qualification of professional qualification level 5, as well as to prepare them for further master's studies;
- To develop lifelong learning skills.

## **2. Expected outcomes of the study programme.**

Planned outcomes of the study programme (EQF level 6)

### Knowledge:

- Graduates will have acquired sufficient basic knowledge and understanding of scientific disciplines that serve as the basis of general patient care, as well as anatomy, physiology and behaviour of healthy and sick persons and the impact of physical and social environment on the human health;
- Graduates will have acquired knowledge of the nature and ethics of nurse's profession, as well as general principles of care for patients; will have acquired understanding of the moral and ethical responsibility, when providing care to individual patients and the population as a whole;
- Graduates will have acquired knowledge of education of patients and their family members on healthcare matters;
- Graduates will have acquired knowledge of practical education of medical practitioners, who are working in the healthcare system;
- Graduates will have acquired knowledge and understanding, which will be needed for planning, providing and evaluating general patient care.

### Skills:

- Graduates will be able to independently use the theory, methods and problem solving skills of nursing in order to perform highly qualified professional functions in a nurse's profession and research activities in healthcare organisations;
- Graduates will be able to demonstrate skills in education of patients and their family members on healthcare matters, as well as skills of practical education of medical practitioners with those employed in the healthcare system;
- Graduates will know how to perform planning, providing and evaluating general patient care in direct contact with a sick or healthy individual (community), as well as the ability to work in a healthcare team and to lead it organising general patient care (also education of the individual and the community in health matters);
- Graduates will be able to reasonably explain and discuss complicated or systemic aspects of nursing sectors and professional areas (healthcare) with professionals and non-professionals;
- Graduates will be able to independently drive the improvement of his/her competences in nursing and its specialisations, to undertake responsibility for the results of staff team work (in healthcare) and their analysis, to do business in nursing and/or healthcare, to do work, research or further learning in complicated and unpredictable conditions.

### Competences:

- To independently obtain, select and analyse scientific and professional problems in nursing and healthcare, to take decisions and resolve problems in nursing and to conduct additional analysis, when needed;
- To demonstrate an understanding of professional ethics in healthcare;
- To provide an evaluation of the impact of own professional activity on the environment and community and to participate in the

work to develop the nursing profession.

The study programme was developed based on the following external regulatory enactments:

- Law on Institutions of Higher Education;
- Education Law;
- Law on Vocational Education;
- Cabinet Regulation No 141 “Regulations regarding the National Standard for First Level Professional Higher Education”;
- Cabinet Regulation No 268 “Regulations on the Therapeutic Expertise of Medical Personnel and Students Acquiring the First or Second-Level Higher Professional Medical Education and the Extent of their Theoretical and Practical Knowledge”;
- Cabinet Regulations No 461 “Regulations Regarding the Classification of Occupations, Basic Tasks Corresponding to the Occupation, Basic Qualification Requirements and Procedures for Use and Updating of the Classification of Occupations”;
- Law on Regulated Professions and Recognition of Professional Qualifications of 20.06.2001;
- Cabinet Regulation No 240 “Regulations on the State Academic Education Standard”;
- Cabinet Regulation No 68 “Minimum Requirements of Educational Programmes for the Acquisition of the Professional Qualification of Dentist, Pharmacist, Nurse and Midwife”;
- Council Directive 77/453/EEC concerning the coordination of provisions laid down by Law, Regulation or Administrative Action in respect of the activities of nurses responsible for general care;
- Council Directive concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of the formal qualifications of nurses responsible for general care, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of this right of establishment and freedom to provide services;
- Council Directive 2005/36/EEC;
- Council Directive 2013/55/EU;
- Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning;
- ENQA Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area;
- Profession standards;
- Medical Treatment Law.

The study programme corresponds to the classification of the Latvian education (Cabinet Regulations No. 990 of 02.12.2008 “Regulations on the Classification of the Latvian Education”) – level 2 professional higher education (level 5 professional qualification and professional bachelor’s degree, EQF 6) when preparing nurses, who prove to be knowledgeable professionals in the labour market basing their activity on principles of humanism, certifying cognitive, creative and scientific skills.

According to the Cabinet Regulations of the Republic of Latvia No 141 of 20 March 2001 Regulations regarding the National Standard for First Level Professional Higher Education (minutes No 12, § 5) the amount of the programme and the study course is

expressed in credit points. A credit point is an accounting unit, which corresponds to 40 work hours of students.

Study placement is regulated by Placement Regulations of the Bachelor's study programme Nursing approved at the Board meeting of RSU Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare. The placement regulations set out guidelines, functions of activities, duties and rights of teachers and students.

Placement is a mandatory study course in the Nursing study programme, which is implemented based on the Cabinet Regulations No 512. "Regulations Regarding the Standard of Second Level Professional Higher Education"

The following amount of CPs is set for the studies in the Bachelor's study programme Nursing: 1<sup>st</sup> year of studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester – 2 CP, 2<sup>nd</sup> year of studies, 3<sup>rd</sup> semester – 2 CP, 4<sup>th</sup> semester – 6 CP, 3<sup>rd</sup> year of studies, 5<sup>th</sup> semester – 6 CP, 6<sup>th</sup> semester – 12 CP, 4<sup>th</sup> year of studies, 8<sup>th</sup> semester – 10 CP (one of 7 basic specialties of nursing).

The head of the study programme develops a placement programme in cooperation with employers. A study placement is implemented in accordance with placement agreements, which envisage provision of placement places in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of studies. Clinical placement includes placement in health, public health and social care sectors. The study placement is organised in healthcare institutions, where students are acting under supervision of the placement supervisor. At the end of each placement, students submit a completed placement diary; a placement evaluation; a patient care history and present it.

Students have access to methodical instructions for completing placement documentation, as well as the placement programme, specifying the competencies and skills to be acquired. Binding placement documentation is available in the RSU e-study environment.

### **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.**

Admission requirements of the study programme comply with the aims and objectives of the study programme. Applicants for full-time studies are enrolled in the study programme through a general competition, based on the centralised examinations in Latvian, Biology and a foreign language or based on certification of the examination document of an international testing institution.

Applications for state-funded studies are accepted from applicants, who obtained level A, B, C, D or E in centralised examinations. The competition takes place by computerised summing up points of centralised examination assessment levels and the assessment in the secondary education document. In case of equal value of assessment the competition result depends on the CE assessment in Latvian.

Applicants are enrolled in their fourth year of studies based on 1<sup>st</sup> level professional higher education diploma (with 120 credit points) to receive in-depth training in one of the basic specialties of nursing: ambulatory care nurse, surgical nurse, operating theatre nurse, mental care nurse, internal medicine nurse, nurse anaesthetist, intensive and emergency care nurse or children's nurse. Applicants for the Nursing study programme are enrolled according to competition results formed by OSPAT (objective

structured professional aptitude test) assessment. In case of equal assessments, preference is given to the persons having higher assessment in the Latvian language CE.

The aim of the competition is to select the most appropriate applicants for the selected study programme.

Student admission is carried out in accordance with the Admission Regulation approved by the RSU Senate for the respective academic year and external regulations. According to Paragraph 3 of the Cabinet Regulations No 846 “Regarding the 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>;

The information is available on <http://www.rsu.lv/studiju-iespejas/pamatstudijas/medicinas-un-veselibas-aprupes-studiju-programmas/maszinibas>

According to the Cabinet Regulations No 36 “*Regulations Regarding 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 the learning outcomes 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 learning outcomes to start being recognised, the following should be submitted to the Commission on Recognition of Study Results Achieved: an application; documents confirming the learning outcomes 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 reception of the application.

11 persons have used this opportunity within the study direction “Healthcare” in the academic year 2015/2016.

#### Year 2015

7 cases were reviewed: on recognition of the learning outcomes of the previous education or professional experience *in professional Bachelor’s study programme “Nursing”*.

Both outcomes in professional experience and previous education were recognised in 1 case.

Outcomes in professional experience were recognised in 6 cases.



<b>MZF</b>	<b>Nursing</b>	<b>Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare</b>	<b>Latvian</b>	<b>Professional Bachelor / Eva Cela</b>	<b>4 years</b>
Code	Course Title	Year	Semester	CP	Category
FK_058	Biophysics	1	1	0	A
MDAK_052	Introduction to Nursing	1	1	1	A
B_003	Introduction to Use of Library	1	1	0	A
CFUBK_045	Medical Biochemistry	1	1	2	A
MDAK_137	Notion and Concept of Health	1	1	1	A
MK_001	Anatomy	1	1	2	A
VC_042	English Language in Nursing	1	1	2	A
BUMK_027	Biology and Medical Genetics	1	1	2	A
LUSDK_036	Philosophy and Medical Ethics	1	1	2	A
MDAK_051	Introductory Course	1	1	2	A
MDAK_055	Introduction to Psychology and Sociology	1	1	2	A
MDAK_057	Introduction to Evidence-Based Care	1	1	2	A
VC_027	Basics of Terminology in Latin	1	1	2	A
FK_043	Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics	1	1	2	A
BUMK_046	Microbiology with Virology and Pathology	1	1	2	A
MDAK_255	Basics of Clinical Care	1	2	2	A
KPUMTK_007	First Aid and Civil Defence	1	2	2	A
MDAK_120	Placement I	1	2	2	A
MK_001	Anatomy	1	2	2	A
CFUBK_029	Functional Physiology	1	2	2	A
MDAK_059	Infection Control in Patient Care	1	2	2	A

ISK_034	Propaedeutics	1	2	2	A
MDAK_005	Psychosocial Needs	1	2	2	A
MDAK_017	Interpersonal Communication in Health Care	1	2	2	A
MDAK_021	Transcultural Care	1	2	2	A
MDAK_066	Clinical Care	2	3	2	A
MDAK_121	Placement II	2	3	2	A
MDAK_078	Care Process and Nursing Theories	2	3	2	A
KK_011	Surgical Diseases	2	3	2	A
PAK_006	Pathological Anatomy	2	3	1	A
PAK_008	Pathological Physiology	2	3	3	A
MDAK_101	Paedagogy in Health Care	2	3	2	A
RAK_007	Radiography and Radiology	2	3	2	A
MDAK_017	Interpersonal Communication in Health Care	2	3	2	A
MDAK_031	History of Health Care and Nursing and Philosophy of Care	2	3	2	A
PAK_014	General Pathology	2	3	4	A
FLK_029	Pharmacology	2	4	2	A
ISK_194	Internal Diseases	2	4	2	A
MDAK_250	Internal Diseases and Patient Care	2	4	1	A
MDAK_066	Clinical Care	2	4	2	A
MDAK_080	Semester Paper in Public Health	2	4	2	A
MDAK_123	Placement III	2	4	6	A
MDAK_078	Care Process and Nursing Theories	2	4	2	A
MDAK_085	Surgical Patient Care	2	4	1	A
REK_006	Rehabilitation in Patient Care	2	4	0	A
MDAK_012	Public Health and Epidemiology	2	4	2	A
MDAK_141	General Care	2	4	2	A



DUGK_017	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	3	5	1	A
SVUEK_052	Infectious Diseases and Patient Care	3	5	1	A
MDAK_236	Home Care	3	5	0	A
NUNK_004	Neurology and Patient Care	3	5	1	A
MDAK_251	Oncology and Patient Care	3	5	1	A
MDAK_234	Palliative Care	3	5	0	A
PEK_007	Paediatrics and Patient Care	3	5	1	A
MDAK_129	Basics of Project Development and Management	3	5	1	A
MDAK_132	Psychiatry and Addiction	3	5	1	A
SUUK_103	Nutrition Education	3	5	0	A
VC_021	Language Culture for Managers	3	5	1	A
MDAK_235	Senior Care	3	5	0	A
MDAK_240	Legal Aspects of Health Care	3	5	1	A
MDAK_029	Organisation of Health Care	3	5	2	A
MDAK_237	Safety of Work Environment and Patients	3	5	1	A
FLK_010	Clinical Pharmacology and Drug Therapy	3	5	2	A
MDAK_124	Placement IV	3	5	6	A
MDAK_221	Business Module	3	5	6	A
MDAK_141	General Care	3	5	4	A
AURK_001	Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care	3	6	2	A
FK_004	Informatics and Statistical Methods	3	6	2	A
MDAK_079	Semester Paper "Analysis of Nursing Placement Standards"	3	6	2	A
MDAK_126	Placement in Patient and Public Education	3	6	2	A
MDAK_238	Placement V	3	6	10	A
MDAK_246	State Examination	3	6	2	A

MZFka	Nursing (Specialisation of Ambulatory Care Nurse)	Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare	Latvian	Professional Bachelor	4 years
Code	Course Title	Year	Semester	CP	Category
MDAK_105	Research Methods	4	7	2	A
MDAK_275	Specialisation Module of Ambulatory Care Nurse	4	7	21	B
AURK_001	Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_024	Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Patient Care	4	7	2	B
FLK_034	Pharmacotherapy in Practice of Ambulatory Care Nurse	4	7	2	B
MDAK_046	Internal Diseases and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
SVUEK_091	Infectious Diseases and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_084	Surgical Diseases and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_272	Oncological Diseases and Patient Care. Pain Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_098	Patient Care at Primary Healthcare Level (in practice, at home)	4	7	2	B
MDAK_102	Paediatrics and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_247	Psychosomatic Medicine	4	7	2	B
MDAK_245	Bachelor's Thesis	4	8	8	A
MDAK_246	State Examination	4	8	2	A
MDAK_111	Bachelor's Thesis and State Examination	4	8	12	A
MDAK_113	Placement (Basic Speciality of Ambulatory Care Nurse)	4	8	10	B

MZFkb	Nursing (Specialisation of Paediatric Care Nurse)	Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare	Latvian	Professional Bachelor	4 years
Code	Course Title	Year	Semester	CP	Category
MDAK_105	Research Methods	4	7	2	A
AURK_001	Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_280	Specialisation Module of Paediatric Care Nurse	4	7	21	B
MDAK_230	Organisation of Work of Paediatric Care Nurses in Paediatric Care	4	7	4	B
MDAK_231	Clinical Processes in Paediatric Care	4	7	6	B
FLK_040	Peculiarities of Pharmacotherapy of Paediatric Diseases in Practice of Paediatric Care Nurse	4	7	2	B
MDAK_247	Psychosomatic Medicine	4	7	2	B
MDAK_232	Healthy Child	4	7	4	B
MDAK_245	Bachelor's Thesis	4	8	8	A
MDAK_111	Bachelor's Thesis and State Examination	4	8		A
MDAK_246	State Examination	4	8	2	A
MDAK_115	Placement (Basic Speciality of Paediatric Care Nurse)	4	8	10	B
MZFkg	Nursing (Specialisation of Mental Health Nurse)	Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare	Latvian	Professional Bachelor	4 years
Code	Course Title	Year	Semester	CP	Category
MDAK_105	Research Methods	4	7	2	A
AURK_001	Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care	4	7	2	B

MDAK_122	Paediatric Psychiatry and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_281	Specialisation Module of Mental Health Nurse	4	7	21	B
FLK_035	Peculiarities of Pharmacotherapy of Mental Disorders in Practice of Mental Health Nurse	4	7	2	B
MDAK_092	Toxicology and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_004	Psychiatry and Patient Care	4	7	4	B
MDAK_247	Psychosomatic Medicine	4	7	2	B
MDAK_008	Psychotherapy in Psychiatry	4	7	2	B
MDAK_011	Rehabilitation in Psychiatry	4	7	2	B
MDAK_020	Therapeutic Communication	4	7	2	B
MDAK_245	Bachelor's Thesis	4	8	8	A
MDAK_246	State Examination	4	8	2	A
MDAK_111	Bachelor's Thesis and State Examination	4	8		A
MDAK_116	Placement (Basic Speciality of Mental Health Nurse)	4	8	10	B
MZFki	Nursing (Specialisation of Internal Care Nurse)	Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare	Latvian	Professional Bachelor	4 years
Code	Course Title	Year	Semester	CP	Category
MDAK_105	Research Methods	4	7	2	A
AURK_001	Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_259	Endocrinology and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
FLK_038	Pharmacotherapy in Internal Medicine In Practice of Internal Care Nurse	4	7	2	B
MDAK_279	Specialisation Module of Internal Care Nurse	4	7	21	B

MDAK_262	Cardiology and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_261	Neurology and Patient Care. Nephrology and Patient Care.	4	7	2	B
MDAK_260	Oncology, Haematology and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_257	Safety of Work Environment and Patients	4	7	2	B
MDAK_247	Psychosomatic Medicine	4	7	2	B
MDAK_258	Pulmonology and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_263	Rheumatology and Patient Care. Infectious Diseases and Patient Care.	4	7	2	B
MDAK_245	Bachelor's Thesis	4	8	8	A
MDAK_111	Bachelor's Thesis and State Examination	4	8	12	A
MDAK_246	State Examination	4	8	2	A
MDAK_208	Placement (Basic Speciality of Internal Care Nurse)	4	8	10	B
MZFkk	Nursing (Specialisation of Surgical Care Nurse)	Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare	Latvian	Professional Bachelor	4 years
Code	Course Title	Year	Semester	CP	Category
MDAK_105	Research Methods	4	7	2	A
MDAK_002	Abdominal Surgery and Patient Care. Proctology and Patient Care. Urology and Patient Care. Gynaecology and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
AURK_001	Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_277	Specialisation Module of Surgical Care Nurse	4	7	21	B

FLK_039	Peculiarities of Pharmacotherapy of Surgical Diseases in Practice of Surgical Care Nurse	4	7	2	B
MDAK_088	Sensory Organ Diseases, Traumas and Patient Care Endocrine Surgery and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_096	Oncology and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_247	Psychosomatic Medicine	4	7	2	B
MDAK_038	Maxillofacial Surgery and Patient Care Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_016	Cardiac Surgery and Patient Care. Thoracic Surgery and Patient Care. Vascular Surgery and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_023	Traumatology, Orthopaedics and Patient Care. Neurosurgery and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_036	General Surgery and Patient Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_245	Bachelor's Thesis	4	8	8	A
MDAK_111	Bachelor's Thesis and State Examination	4	8		A
MDAK_246	State Examination	4	8	2	A
MDAK_118	Placement (Basic Speciality of Surgical Nurse)	4	8	10	B
MZFkn	Nursing (Specialisation of Anaesthetic, Intensive and Emergency Care Nurse	Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare	Latvian	Professional Bachelor	4 years
Code	Course Title	Year	Semester	CP	Category

MDAK_105	Research Methods	4	7	2	A
MDAK_228	Anaesthetic Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_265	Anaesthetic, Intensive and Emergency Care in Paediatrics	4	7	2	B
MDAK_276	Specialisation Module for Anaesthetic, Intensive and Emergency Care Nurse	4	7	21	B
AURK_001	Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care	4	7	2	B
FLK_037	Pharmacotherapy in Practice of Anaesthetic, Intensive and Emergency Care Nurse	4	7	2	B
MDAK_227	Intensive Therapy Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_229	Emergency Care	4	7	2	B
MDAK_266	Emergency Cardiology	4	7	2	B
MDAK_247	Psychosomatic Medicine	4	7	2	B
KPUMTK_003	Interdisciplinary Approach to Emergency Medical Conditions	4	7	2	B
MDAK_264	Toxicology and Disaster Medicine	4	7	2	B
MDAK_245	Bachelor's Thesis	4	8	8	A
MDAK_111	Bachelor's Thesis and State Examination	4	8	12	A
MDAK_246	State Examination	4	8	2	A
MDAK_114	Placement (Basic Speciality of Anaesthetic, Intensive and Emergency Care Nurse)	4	8	10	B
MZFko	Nursing (Specialisation of Operating Theatre Nurse)	Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare	Latvian	Professional Bachelor	4 years
Code	Course Title	Year	Semester	CP	Category
MDAK_105	Research methods	4	7	2	A

AURK_001	Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care	4	7	2	B
FLK_036	Pharmacotherapy in Practice of Operating Theatre Nurse	4	7	2	B
MDAK_097	Organisation and Planning of Work of Operating Theatre Nurse	4	7	2	B
MDAK_278	Specialisation Module of Operating Theatre Nurse	4	7	21	B
MDAK_270	Operative Care in Abdominal Surgery	4	7	2	B
MDAK_267	Operative Care in Endocrine and Sensory Surgery	4	7	2	B
MDAK_268	Operative Care in Cardiac Surgery, Vascular and Thoracic Surgery	4	7	2	B
MDAK_269	Operative Surgery in Neurosurgery, Traumatology, Orthopaedics and Microsurgery	4	7	2	B
MDAK_271	Operative Surgery in Urology, Gynaecology and Obstetrics	4	7	2	B
MDAK_247	Psychosomatic Medicine	4	7	2	B
MDAK_273	Technologies, Materials and their Application in Operations. Minimally Invasive Surgery.	4	7	2	B
MDAK_245	Bachelor's Thesis	4	8	8	A
MDAK_111	Bachelor's Thesis and State Examination	4	8	12	A
MDAK_246	State Examination	4	8	2	A
MDAK_119	Placement (Basic Specialty of Operating Theatre Nurse)	4	8	10	B



**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 assessing learning outcomes, test forms and procedure).**

Place of implementation of the study programme – Rīga Stradiņš University, RSU Liepāja Branch. The fulfilment of the study programme is ensured by the Department of Nursing and Midwifery of the Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare of RSU, RSU Liepāja Branch. For successful implementation of the training process there is cooperation with departments of the Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare of RSU (Department of Sports and Nutrition, Department of Public Health and Epidemiology), departments of the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Rehabilitation, the Institute of Anatomy and Anthropology, the Language Centre, the Institute of the History of Medicine.

The study programme is discussed at least once a year in the Quality Council of Nursing, the Board of the Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare, approved by the Dean's Council and the RSU Senate.

Each study subject has the leading lecturer, who develops and improves the study subject being taught. Descriptions of study programmes are reviewed and approved at sessions of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery.

Theoretical studies are organised jointly for several groups of students, practical classes take place for each study group separately.

Different teaching methods are used in the study courses according to the aim of the study course: lectures, specification of the mastered theoretical knowledge in seminars, analysis of problem situations, preparation and discussion of reports, group work and analysis of problem situations and search for solutions, as well as work with the electronic library. The purpose of the teaching methods applied in the study courses is to develop the ability of the students to describe and critically analyse situations and problems, applying theoretical knowledge, practical skills and attitudes, to logically assess development of a situation and take decisions to deal with problems, to develop mutual communication skills, to develop the ability to work individually and in a group in cooperation with other social and healthcare professionals, the skills to discuss and justify their personal opinion in public, to improve written communication skills. During lectures and seminars different technical tools are used: manikins, moulages, interactive boards and multimedia projectors, collections of specimens, posters and diagrams.

Since academic year 2014/2015 new IT solutions are used in the study programme and students are provided with video lectures (the largest number of video lectures is available in Nursing specialisations).

Much attention is devoted to students' independent work – studying and analysis of literature. Both lecturers and students have the possibility to use scientific equipment, computers, audio/video tools and library resources, etc.

Changes were introduced in the study programme in the academic year 2015/2016: by optimising the study programme, it was made possible to include the following study courses in the programme – First Aid and Civil Defence, Clinical Care, Specialised Pharmacotherapy (in specialisation modules), and to reduce drop-outs of students in the first years of studies it was made possible to include supervisions in the amount of 4 IWU during clinical placement.

The Department of Nursing and Midwifery of the Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare of RSU has concluded placement agreements and cooperation agreements, has established successful cooperation with the State limited liability company “P. Stradiņš Clinical University hospital”, the State limited liability company “Children’s Clinical University Hospital”, Ltd “Riga Maternity Hospital”, the State limited liability company “Hospital of Traumatology and Orthopaedics”, the State Social Care Centre “Riga”, the State limited liability company “Vaivari”, Riga Social Care Centre “Mežciems”, Psychoneurological Clinic “Strenči”, Ltd “Jelgava City Hospital”, the State limited liability company “Hospital “Ģintermuiža””, the State limited liability company “Akniste Psychoneurological Hospital”, Ltd “Rēzekne Hospital”, Ltd “Liepāja Regional Hospital”, Ltd “Daugavpils Regional Hospital”, Ltd “Home Care”, as well as with many general practitioner’s practices.

Mastering of the study programme is evaluated according to the set programme aim and objectives, as well as knowledge, skills and competences, which the student has to achieve, are defined in detailed descriptions of study courses. A positive evaluation has to be received for mastering of the study programme. Evaluation takes place according to the Senate resolution of 2 September 2013 (minutes of the meeting No 1-2/02.09.13.). The basic form of evaluation is a test or an examination. Lecturer consultations are available during the acquisition of the study programme. The study plan is drawn up in accordance with the aims and objectives of the study programme.

The criteria and the system of evaluation of knowledge of students are described in the “Academic Regulations” approved by RSU Senate and posted on the university website [www.rsu.lv](http://www.rsu.lv). Students are introduced to the evaluation system during the introductory course and consulted during the semester.

To master the study programme successfully, all the study courses have to be attended, tests and examinations have to be passed successfully, placements should be passed, and all the intended projects, course papers and bachelor’s theses have to be prepared and defended. Much attention is devoted to students’ independent work. The task of lecturers is to help students to organise their independent work, to provide individual consultations and advice, when needed. Students have access to e-lectures, e-studies – methodical materials and tools in an electronic environment both in RSU premises and at home.

**6. Analysis of strengths, weaknesses opportunities and threats of the study programme:**

<b>Advantages and problems due to internal and external factors</b>	
<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A nurse with a Bachelor's degree – the main place for preparation of professionals in Latvia</li> <li>2. Experience and proper qualification of the academic staff in the implementation of the programme;</li> <li>3. Sufficient RSU resources for the implementation of the programme;</li> <li>4. Ability of lecturers and students involved in the programme to participate in mobility activities;</li> <li>5. Quality of the study programme;</li> <li>6. Possibilities of using e-studies in the study process;</li> <li>7. Satisfaction of the real labour market needs and implementation of other economic policies on the national level;</li> <li>8. Implementation of the programme in Liepaja Branch</li> </ol>	<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inadequate total funding for the healthcare sector affecting the profession and competitiveness of nurses;</li> <li>2. Insufficiently clear national human resource policy with a negative impact on the future development of the nurse's profession;</li> <li>3. Low competitiveness of healthcare professionals' salary level affecting motivation of the professionals involved in the direction;</li> <li>4. Lack of preclinical rooms for the development of skills during study courses of principal specialties;</li> <li>5. Insufficient funding for research, visiting international conferences and congresses.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are state-funded study places;</li> <li>2. There is a possibility to study with the money of natural or legal persons;</li> <li>3. To internationalise the academic staff and students;</li> <li>4. Mobility of students and lecturers;</li> <li>5. Implementation of the programme in other Latvian regions;</li> <li>6. Implementation and coordination of further development of the Nursing programme with national development guidelines, such as the National Development Plan (NDP) and attraction of the necessary resources.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Threats:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Young people are leaving Latvia;</li> <li>2. Demographic situation;</li> <li>3. Decrease in competitiveness – due to the lack of clinical facilities and infrastructure obsolescence;</li> <li>4. Decrease of students' motivation in the study programme when an alternative place of studies is available with lower requirements.</li> </ol>

## **7. Employment prospective of programme graduates by including references to information sources to justify the statements.**

The topicality of the study programme is linked to the labour market requirements and opportunities – the labour market guarantees the compliance of the education system with its requirements. Latvia is paying attention to the matters of professional preparation of labour resources according to the set labour market requirements, specifically respecting the labour market in regions.

There are four nurses per 1 doctor in the European Union on average, while there are only two nurses per doctor in Latvia. Forecasts on the number of nurses in the labour market are negative, because those employed as nurses tend to age (16.1% of the number of nurses having this profession as their main job are aged over 60, but the number of registered nurses aged below 30 is only 5.9%), as well as the EU labour market affects the sector – many nurses leave the country.

J. Kalējs, the Chairman of the Latvian Association of Hospitals, predicts that at least 5000 additional nurses will be required in the labour market by 2020.

The planned model of general practitioners' practices envisaging that each practice has a family doctor and two nurses has not been implemented due to insufficient number of nurses. There are also jobs available in the largest Latvian and regional hospitals on a regular basis.

### **Reference:**

\*EU Europe 2020 Strategy;

\*WHO Health 2020 Strategy;

\*National Development Plan of Latvia for 2014-2020

\*Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia "Latvia 2030", specifically the line of action specified in its Section 2 "Long-Term Investments into Human Capital" – quality and availability of health and social services;

\*Growth and Employment operational programme for 2014-2020.

The aim of the studies is to ensure that the learning outcomes are achieved and, thus, in the end, students have obtained the necessary knowledge, skills and competence. The study courses included in the study programme, their aims, objectives, content and outcomes to be achieved match the Standard of the Nurse's Profession.

The Bachelor's thesis is the final paper of the Bachelor's study programme in one of the nursing specialisations (7); students prepare and defend it in their fourth year of studies. It confirms that students have mastered skills required for a scientific written paper – the skill to independently select, analyse and critically evaluate historical sources and literature, the ability to handle the obtained knowledge freely, to independently draw justified conclusions, etc.

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

The Healthcare study direction is accredited until 6 June 2019; no significant recommendations were received for the study programme.

**9. Information about external relations:**

**9.1. Cooperation with employers and professional organisations in Latvia and abroad.**

To promote cooperation with employers' organizations, their involvement in the education of future specialists, as well as to increase RSU students' competitiveness in the labour market, a Week of Career Opportunities is organised in the university every year. 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 Week of Career Opportunities from 27 to 29 October 2015. Students and graduates were introduced to Riga medical and healthcare institutions (for example, Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital, Children Clinical University Hospital, Riga East Clinical University Hospital, Association of Health Centres, Health Centre 4, Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) and regional healthcare institutions (for example, Northern Kurzeme Regional Hospital, Daugavpils Regional Hospital, Madona Hospital, Rezekne Hospital, Tukums Hospital, National Rehabilitation Centre Vaivari). The event was visited by more than 250 students of healthcare direction. Employers of the social direction: Latvian Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 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. The event was visited by 72 RSU students of social direction.

The cooperation with employers, professional associations and other social partners within the framework of the programme takes place by establishing different forms of cooperation, formulating provisions of Cooperation Agreements and extending the range of clinical placement facilities. The closest and the most complicated cooperation with employers is the implementation of clinical placement as an integral part of a professional higher education study programme, which ensures a link and interaction between education and placement, as well as the compliance of students' professional competence with the labour market requirements.

Other types of cooperation:

1. Participation of employers' representatives in the Quality Council of Nursing;
2. Involvement of employers' representatives in the student education process (academic staff, teaching staff), clinical placement supervision;
3. Involvement of employers, professional organisations in the final state examination commission, clinical skills examination commission;

4. Lecturers of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery jointly with representatives of professional associations (Latvian Association of Nurses) work in work groups;

5. Mutual cooperation in the area of research, participating in the scientific research conferences organised by healthcare institutions.

### **9.2. Quantitative indicators of international exchange of students and academic staff.**

In the academic year of studies 2015/2016, 13 students participated in international exchange and placement in foreign medical institutions within the framework of ERASMUS and Nordman Network (Nordplus funding):

Higher education institution	Country	Number of students
Karelia University of Applied Sciences	Finland	9
Mälardalen University	Sweden	4

In the academic year of studies 2015/2016, 8 lecturers of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery of the Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare participated in international exchanges:

Higher education institution	Country	Number of academic staff
Karelia University of Applied Sciences	Finland	3
Tarty Health Care College	Estonia	4
Mälardalen University	Sweden	1

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

The Department of Nursing and Midwifery has been working in close cooperation with all Colleges in Latvia, which provide the first level higher education study programmes “Nursing”. According to the Cabinet Regulations, the graduates of these Colleges can resume their studies at subsequent study stages in the second level professional study programme “Nursing”. There is a representative of the Faculty of Public Health and Social Welfare in the Council of the Red Cross Medical College of Rīga Stradiņš University. There is also cooperation with many gymnasiums and secondary schools of Riga and Municipalities of Latvia informing pupils about the possibilities of studying in RSU.

Erasmus agreements, providing for mobility of students and lecturers, have been concluded and implemented with Medical University of Graz, Austria; Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen, Netherlands; Lahti University of Applied Sciences, Finland.

Through NORDSN and NORDBALT projects, there is cooperation with Dalarna University College, Sweden, JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Lithuania, Malardalen University College, Sweden, Sophiahemmet University College, Sweden, Tartu Health Care College, Estonia, Via University College, Denmark, as well as Åland University of Applied Sciences, Finland. There are teacher and student exchange agreements, within the framework of which the students have the possibility to master individual study subjects in foreign study programmes.

#### **9.4. International certificates, accreditations etc. of the study programme or the institution.**

Since 2002, Rīga Stradiņš University has been certified in accordance with the international standard ISO 9001:2008 “Quality management systems. Requirements”. The certified area is: higher education, lifelong learning, research, assessment of research results, assessment of knowledge and skills, issuing of documents certifying acquisition of education, professional higher education, academic and scientific degrees.

At the end of 2014, recertification was carried out, certifying that Rīga Stradiņš University is constantly improving and continuing its alignment with the single European Higher Education Area, increasing the quality of education and raising the prestige of the university, so that the academic staff and students would like to work and study at Rīga Stradiņš University.

Proof of compliance with the requirements of ISO 9001:2008 is available on the website of Rīga Stradiņš University: [http://www.rsu.lv/images/stories/dokumenti/sertifikati/ISO\\_LV\\_2014.pdf](http://www.rsu.lv/images/stories/dokumenti/sertifikati/ISO_LV_2014.pdf)

In February 2016, the experts of PASCL (Peer Assessment of Student Centred Learning) visited RSU and assessed it as a student centred university (see Paragraph 9.2 of the characterization of the study direction).

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

The Department of Nursing and Midwifery of RSU has close cooperation with employers in Latvia in the provision of clinical placement. Lecturers of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery are professionals working both in healthcare sector and in education ensuring the introduction of the latest developments in Nursing education and placement. The State limited liability company “Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital” provides most support to the Department of Nursing and Midwifery of RSU in this respect. In order to clarify the employers’ opinion about the compliance of aims, objectives and content of the study programmes with the requirements set by employers, the Department of Nursing and Midwifery of RSU is actively cooperating with professional employer associations, the Latvian Association of Nurses. Also those employers, with whom there are agreements on organisation of student placements, are surveyed about the compliance of the programme.

When evaluating the result of previous surveys, it may be concluded that graduates of the Nursing programme are appreciated in the labour market and their employers are satisfied with the knowledge and professional skills of these young specialists. When surveying graduates, it was clarified that 58% of graduates work in the Nurse’s profession they have mastered and 18% continue their studies in RSU and the University of Latvia.

Graduates survey data prove that most of the graduates, who have become part of the labour market, work in the State limited

liability company “Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital” (45% of graduates of the Nursing study programme) and in Ltd “Riga East Clinical University Hospital” (25% of graduates of the Nursing study programme), in many regional hospitals and outpatient practices.

Furthermore, one of the most significant problems highlighted by the employer survey data is that the movement of nurses in the labour market is restricted by a large number of principal specialties in the nurse’s profession, for example, a nurse specialising in internal care cannot work in a general surgical department independently without a proper certificate. Therefore, Latvia, similarly to other EU countries, must set a limited number of principal specialties in the nurse’s profession, for example, 2-3 specialties. Employers, associations and experts must be involved in the resolution of this matter to determine the optimum number of principal specialties.

**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 study programme is based on the education of a medical practitioner, whose obtained education complies with the requirements of level 6 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), and is in demand in the Latvian and international labour market. Graduates of the study programme may successfully proceed with EQF level 7 education.

The second level professional study programme Nursing corresponds to the Law on Regulated Professions and Recognition of Professional Qualification, Cabinet Regulation No. 68 (2002.02.19) “Minimum Requirements of Educational Programmes for the Acquisition of the Professional Qualification of Dentist, Pharmacist, Nurse and Midwife”. The study programme is organised according to Cabinet Regulations No. 512 “Regulations Regarding the Standard of Second Level Professional Higher Education”. The programme complies with the requirements set out in Cabinet Regulation No 268 “Regulations on the Therapeutic Expertise of Medical Personnel and Students Acquiring the First- or Second-Level Higher Professional Medical Education and the Extent of their Theoretical and Practical Knowledge”.

The Bachelor’s study programme Nursing also corresponds to Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Council of 7 September 2005 on coordination in relation to the initiation and expansion of nurse’s work provided by regulatory or administrative acts. The comparison is shown in the table.



***Comparison of the programme to the Directive of the European Council.***

<b>N o.</b>	<b>Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005</b>	<b>Compliance of the professional Bachelor's study programme Nursing</b>
1.	Adequate knowledge of the sciences the nurse's activity is based on.	Corresponds
2.	Adequate knowledge of professional ethics and professional laws.	Corresponds
3.	Detailed knowledge of biological functions in anatomy and psychology, knowledge of the link between a person's health condition and the physical environment, social environment and behaviour.	Corresponds
4.	Adequate clinical experience obtained in approved institutions under supervision of qualified nurses.	Corresponds
5.	Adequate understanding of training of medical practitioners and experience in the work with them.	Corresponds
6.	Adequate theoretical and technical training of the nurse training programme.	Corresponds
7.	Adequate practical training and clinical placement of the nurse training programme.	Corresponds

Head of the study programme: \_\_\_\_\_/Eva Cela/

*Signature, full name*

Date: 16.09.2016.

AGREED ON

Rīga Stradiņš University Study Quality Council  
of study programm "Nursing"  
meeting of 7 September 2016  
Minutes No 2

Rīga Stradiņš University  
SVSL Council meeting of 14 September 2016  
Minutes No 12.2-3/2016/08