

Limited Liability Company (SIA)
“International Studies and Research Fund”

PROCEDURE

for Cooperation with International Applicant Recruitment
Agencies

Procedure for Cooperation with International Applicant Recruitment Agencies

I. General Conditions

1. The present document lays down the procedures for initiating and developing cooperation between the limited liability company (*in Latvian - SIA*) "International Studies and Research Fund" (hereinafter – **ISRF**) and international applicant recruitment agencies (hereinafter – **Agents**).
2. The ISRF formalizes cooperation with Agents by concluding a cooperation contract for mediation services, i.e., the recruitment of international applicants (hereinafter – **Contract**).
3. In the context of the present procedure, international applicants are all applicants who apply for admission to the study programmes at Rīga Stradiņš University (hereinafter – **RSU**) taught in English. Each section of the present procedure refers to the study programmes taught in English.
4. RSU admits international applicants to the study programmes taught in English twice per year – during February and September intakes.

II. Initiation of cooperation

5. The ISRF shall initiate cooperation with the Agent in three ways:
 - 5.1. the Agent shall recruit first international applicants for studies at RSU by carrying out activities specified in Clauses 11 and 12 herein. If the international applicant successfully passes the Admission Competition and receives an offer of a study place at RSU:
 - 5.1.1. the ISRF responsible employee shall request the Agent to provide the following documents and data:
 - 5.1.1.1. completed ISRF Form No ISRF-1(2) "Agent Application Form for International Student Recruitment" (hereinafter – Application Form);
 - 5.1.1.2. Agent's data necessary for the conclusion of the Contract;
 - 5.1.1.3. contact details of two (2) reference providers – name, surname, institution of higher education represented, position, email address, direct telephone number;
 - 5.1.1.4. company registration certificate.
 - 5.1.2. the Agent shall fill out the Application Form and send it to the ISRF responsible employee;
 - 5.1.3. the ISRF responsible employee shall contact the reference providers specified by the Agent and request them to complete the ISRF Form No ISRF-2(2) "Agent Reference Request Form" (hereinafter – Reference Form);
 - 5.1.4. the ISRF shall evaluate the Agent's application and inform the Agent within three (3) weeks about the decision to offer or refuse to offer cooperation and the reasons thereof;
 - 5.1.5. if the ISRF decides to officially start cooperation with the Agent, within three (3) weeks after the fulfilment of the requirements mentioned in Clause 13 herein, the ISRF shall prepare the Contract, assign it a registration number, and make the necessary entries in the ISRF Agent Contract Register;
 - 5.1.6. two copies of the Contract shall be signed and sealed by a member of the ISRF Board and sent by post to the Agent by the responsible employee.
 - 5.2. the Agent shall submit an official application for initiation of cooperation with the ISRF on the recruitment of international applicants by following these steps:
 - 5.2.1. the Agent initiates first-time discussions about cooperation (face-to-face meetings, telephone communication, via e-mail (admissions@rsu.lv)).
 - 5.2.2. the ISRF responsible employee requests the Agent to provide the following documents and data:
 - 5.2.2.1. completed Application Form;
 - 5.2.2.2. Agent's data necessary for the conclusion of the Contract;

- 5.2.2.3. contact details of two (2) reference providers – name, surname, institution of higher education represented, position, email address, direct telephone number;
- 5.2.2.4. company registration certificate.
- 5.2.3. the Agent shall complete the Application Form and send it to the ISRF responsible employee;
- 5.2.4. the ISRF responsible employee shall contact the reference providers specified by the Agent and request them to complete the Reference Form;
- 5.2.5. the ISRF shall evaluate the Agent's application and inform the Agent within three (3) weeks about the decision to offer or refuse to offer cooperation and the reasons thereof;
- 5.2.6. if the ISSF decides to officially start cooperation with the Agent, the ISRF shall prepare the Contract, assign it a registration number, and make the necessary entries in the ISRF Agent Contract Register;
- 5.2.7. two copies of the Contract shall be signed and sealed by a member of the ISRF Board and sent by post to the Agent by the responsible employee.
- 5.3. the ISRF proposes the following steps to the Agent to commence cooperation on the recruitment of international applicants:
 - 5.3.1. the ISRF initiates first-time discussions about cooperation (face-to-face meetings, telephone communication, via e-mail);
 - 5.3.2. if the Agent agrees to commence cooperation, the ISRF responsible employee requests the Agent to submit the following documents and data:
 - 5.3.2.1. completed Application Form;
 - 5.3.2.2. Agent's data necessary for the conclusion of the Contract;
 - 5.3.2.3. company registration certificate.
 - 5.3.3. the Agent shall fill out the Application Form and send it to the ISRF responsible employee;
 - 5.3.4. the ISRF reserves the right to approach other institutions of higher education that cooperate with the Agent to learn their experience in cooperating with the Agent. In such case, a Reference Form shall be sent to the aforementioned institutions of higher education;
 - 5.3.5. the ISRF shall prepare the Contract, assign it a registration number, and make the necessary entries in the ISRF Agent Contract Register;
 - 5.3.6. two copies of the Contract shall be signed and sealed by a member of the ISRF Board and sent by post to the Agent by the responsible employee.
- 6. Upon receipt of both copies of the Contract, the Agent shall sign them and send one copy of the Contract to the ISRF responsible employees by post.
- 7. The ISRF responsible employee shall make the necessary entries in the ISRF Agent Contract Register regarding the receipt of the Contract and submit it to the ISRF Accounting Officer for safekeeping.

III. Cooperation Framework

- 8. After the commencement of cooperation, ISRF/RSU shall:
 - 8.1. create an Agent profile in the RSU Student Information System (hereinafter – SIS);
 - 8.2. add the Agent's contact information to its profile in the SIS;
 - 8.3. place the Agent's contact information on the RSU website in the section "International Cooperation Partners", subsection "Official RSU Representatives Abroad";
 - 8.4. at the request of international applicants, inform them about all Agents with whom the ISRF has a Contract or about Agents operating in the country of citizenship and/or residence of the international applicants.
- 9. The ISRF/RSU reserves the right to impose on the Agent a prohibition from:
 - 9.1. recruiting international applicants from certain countries or regions;

- 9.2. filling out an electronic application form on the RSU e-Admission Portal for international applicants from certain countries or regions.
10. After commencement of cooperation, the Agent may:
 - 10.1. receive and use the official logo, photo and video materials of RSU for recruitment of international applicants;
 - 10.2. create, prepare and use the Agent's own photo and video materials in recruitment of international applicants;
 - 10.3. photograph and/or film in RSU premises only if the taking of photographs and/or filming and its schedule have been agreed with RSU at least two calendar weeks before the respective activity;
 - 10.4. upon a written request, obtain information about their previous cooperation with ISRF and the results thereof. ISRF does not provide any information about its cooperation with other Agents and the results thereof.
11. The Agent shall perform the following actions in relation to the admission of international applicants:
 - 11.1. notify the international applicants on the study programmes offered by RSU in English, the set study fees and other required payments, admission criteria, requirements and the admission procedure, as well as the study process and other issues related to studies and practical matters;
 - 11.2. receive and process all the necessary documents of the international applicant;
 - 11.3. notify the international applicant of the necessary procedures for recognition and certification of educational documents, certification of other documents, as well as immigration procedures (procedure, costs, deadlines, etc.);
 - 11.4. fill out the international applicant's electronic application form on the RSU e-Admission Portal and upload the application documents requested by the RSU;
 - 11.5. send an electronic letter with the applicant's application number, name and surname to admissions@rsu.lv;
 - 11.6. ensure appropriate and timely communication and information exchange with the employees of the International Admissions Office under the RSU International Department (hereinafter referred to as ID IAO) regarding the applications of international applicants recruited by the Agent to RSU;
 - 11.7. at the request of ID IAO employees, complete the applicant's application (provide an explanation, submit additional documents, explain the rating scale indicated in the educational documents) and perform other required actions.
12. During the admission of international applicants, the Agent shall ensure that the international applicant shall:
 - 12.1. comply with all admission requirements, provide accurate information in the application and submit a complete package of documents required, as well as comply with all RSU requirements within the specified deadlines;
 - 12.2. indicate his/her personal e-mail address, which is regularly used and checked, in the electronic application form on the RSU e-Admission Portal. If RSU finds out that the international applicant's e-mail address has been created by the Agent, RSU shall not register this international applicant's application and notify the Agent/international applicant about the situation. As soon as the Agent/international applicant sends his/her personal e-mail address to RSU, RSU shall register the application of this international applicant;
 - 12.3. in his/her electronic application form on the RSU e-Admission Portal, clearly and unequivocally indicate the Agent as his/her representative or as the source of information about RSU. If the international applicant fails to state in the electronic application form on the RSU e-Admission Portal that he/she is applying for studies at RSU via Agent, however, if the Agent claims otherwise, an employee of ID IAO shall contact the international applicant and ask to confirm that the international applicant is applying for studies at RSU via the Agent;
 - 12.4. be fully and timely informed about the requirements, progress and results of the admission competition.

13. The Agent shall ensure that all international applicants recruited by them, who have successfully passed the admission competition and received an offer of a study place at the RSU, shall:
 - 13.1. make the payment of study fees and other payments, including the ISRF Registration Administration Fee;
 - 13.2. by making payments, confirm the study place by the deadline provided in the RSU study place offer letter;
 - 13.3. sign a study contract with the RSU before the commencement of the studies;
 - 13.4. present to the employees of ID IAO the originals or notarised copies of their educational documents, which the international applicant submitted for evaluation during the admission competition, before the commencement of studies;
 - 13.5. complete the entire immigration process in a timely manner and in full in accordance with the effective regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia, as well as notify the employees of the ID IAO about its result;
 - 13.6. arrive on time for face-to-face studies and begin participation in the study process at RSU.
14. After the international applicants recruited by the Agent have complied with all the requirements provided under Clause 13 herein at the end of the respective admission:
 - 14.1. the ISRF responsible employee shall prepare and send to the Agent a list of international applicants enrolled during the respective admission, who have become full-time RSU students and have started to participate in the study process at RSU (hereinafter – List of Students);
 - 14.2. the Agent shall examine the List of Students and, when required, clarify the information included therein (commission fee amount, number of applicants and personal data, etc.);
 - 14.3. after approval of the List of Students, the Agent shall prepare and send (electronically (scanned)) an invoice to the ISRF for the international applicants who have become full-time RSU students recruited during the respective admissions process, in accordance with the applicable commission fees as set by ISRF for international applicant recruitment agencies (hereinafter – the Commission Fee);
 - 14.4. the ISRF responsible employee shall verify the invoice sent by the Agent and ask the Agent to make corrections and/or additions to the invoice, when required. Invoices prepared in accordance with the ISRF requirements shall be forwarded to the ISRF Accounting Officer for payment.

IV. Payment for Agent Services

15. The ISRF shall pay the Agent for the international applicants included in the List of Students and recruited for the respective applicant admission, who have become full-time RSU students, via cashless settlement. The ISRF shall transfer the Commission Fee to the settlement account provided in the Contract within thirty working days from the day when the Agent has fulfilled the conditions referred to in Clauses 13 and 14 of this procedure.
16. The Commission Fee shall be paid as a lump sum after the conclusion of the admission of international applicants, during which the relevant international applicant has been recruited for studies at the RSU, having completed all the actions provided in Clause 13 herein.
17. The ISRF shall reserve the right not to pay the Commission Fee to the Agent if the Agent has failed to comply with the requirements set out in Chapter III herein.

V. Acknowledgement of Cooperation

18. The cooperation between the ISRF and the Agents is officially acknowledged by:
 - 18.1. the Contract;
 - 18.2. Agent Letter of Authorization;
 - 18.3. Agent's contact information on the RSU website in the section "International Cooperation Partners", subsection "Official RSU Representatives Abroad";
 - 18.4. written (signed) or electronic confirmation from the ISRF or ID IAO.

VI. Continuation of Cooperation

19. The ISRF's cooperation with the Agent shall terminate with the expiration of the term provided for in the Contract.
20. The ISRF shall continue cooperation with the Agent (conclude a new Contract) only if the Agent has recruited international applicants for studies at RSU during the previous Contract period and these applicants have become RSU students.
21. If the Agent failed to recruit international applicants for studies at RSU during the previous Contract period or the recruited applicants did not become RSU students, the ISRF shall not continue official cooperation with the Agent. The ISRF shall renew cooperation with the Agent (sign a new Contract) only if the Agent recruits new international applicants for studies at RSU and if these applicants become RSU students.
22. If during the current Contract period ISRF changes conditions of the Contract (for example, changes the Commission Fee amounts), but the Agent failed to recruit international applicants for studies at RSU during the current Contract period or the recruited applicants did not become RSU students, the ISRF concludes a new Contract until the end date of the current Contract.

VII. Termination of Cooperation

23. The ISRF shall unilaterally terminate cooperation with the Agent, that is, terminate the Contract, if the Agent:
 - 22.1. terminates its activity or changes its activity profile;
 - 22.2. distributes advertising about RSU in a way or to an extent that is opposed by the ISRF/RSU or that has not been approved by the ISRF/RSU in accordance with the terms of the Contract;
 - 22.3. provides false information/data to the RSU about international applicants or vice versa;
 - 22.4. carries out any illegal activities (fraud, document forgery, plagiarism, etc.);
 - 22.5. has failed to provide information related to the performance of the Contract upon requests from ISRF or RSU;
 - 22.6. conducts its activities and implements cooperation in a manner that contradicts the operating principles of the ISRF or RSU or is in conflict with the effective regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia regarding the recruitment of international applicants or other issues;
 - 22.7. causes damage to the ISRF or RSU by its actions or omissions;
 - 22.8. fails to perform the obligations provided in the Contract or fails to perform these obligations within the term provided in the Contract. The Agent shall bear the sole responsibility for the performance of the obligations under the Contract and other obligations provided herein, also in cases where it engages any third parties in the performance of the Contract;
 - 22.9. refuses to comply with the principles of international applicant recruitment, permissible behaviour or professional activities set out in ISRF/RSU documents (this procedure, RSU Admission Procedure for study programmes in English, etc.).
24. After unilateral termination of cooperation with the Agent, the ISRF Member of the Board shall:
 - 23.1. immediately notify the Agent in writing about the fact of termination of the Contract and provide reasons for the decision to terminate cooperation;
 - 23.2. request the Agent to remove any information about ISRF/RSU from the Agent's website and all other communication channels used by the Agent;
 - 23.3. in the correspondence with the Agent, include a reference to this procedure and the consequences provided therein, which occur in the event of termination of cooperation with the Agent.
25. In the event of a unilateral termination of cooperation with the Agent:
 - 24.1. the ISRF/RSU shall suspend any kind of cooperation with the Agent during the current admission and two consecutive admissions thereafter (hereinafter – Suspension of Cooperation);
 - 24.2. the ISRF/RSU shall suspend active communication with the Agent – any communication on issues of Contract termination and the related ISRF requirements, as well as the compliance

with these requirements shall take place only at the initiative of the ISRF and only in electronic form;

- 24.3. the ISRF responsible employee shall immediately remove the Agent's contact information from the RSU website placed in the section "International Cooperation Partners", subsection "Official RSU Representatives Abroad";
 - 24.4. the ISRF responsible employee shall notify the applicants recruited by the Agent during the current admission about the changes in cooperation with the Agent and the transition to direct communication with the said international applicants without the Agent specified in Clause 22 of the present procedure as an intermediary. These conditions refer also to international applicants recruited by the Agent during the Suspension of Cooperation;
 - 24.5. the Agent has an obligation to inform the applicants recruited by the Agent during the current admission and during the Suspension of Cooperation about the fact of termination of cooperation.
25. If the Agent has recruited international applicants for the RSU during the Suspension of Cooperation, the ISRF/RSU shall:
- 25.1. register the applications of these international applicants but shall not mark them as international applicants recruited by the relevant Agent;
 - 25.2. not pay the Agent a Commission Fee for these international applicants, if said international applicants become full-time RSU students;
 - 25.3. communicate exclusively with the said international applicants directly, without involvement of the Agent specified in Clause 22 of the present procedure.
26. After the termination of cooperation and during the Suspension of Cooperation the Agent, the Agent may not perform any actions referred to in Clause 10 herein, regardless of the reason for the termination of the Contract

VIII. Renewal of Cooperation

27. The ISRF can decide to resume cooperation with the Agent only after the expired Suspension of Cooperation.
28. In order for the ISRF to decide on the renewal of cooperation with the Agent, the Agent shall:
- 28.1. perform the activities referred to in Clauses 11 and 12 on international applicant recruitment;
 - 28.2. fill in the Application Form and send it to the ISRF responsible employee;
 - 28.3. submit the contact information of two (2) writers of recommendation letters to the ISRF responsible employee – name, surname, institution of higher education represented, position held, e-mail address, direct telephone number;
 - 28.4. certify in writing that the circumstances due to which the ISRF terminated cooperation with the Agent no longer exist or have been eliminated.
29. The ISRF responsible employee shall contact the writers of letters of recommendation provided by the Agent and ask them to fill in the Reference Form.
30. The ISRF Member of the Board and the ISRF responsible employee shall evaluate the Agent's application and provide an answer within three (3) weeks regarding the renewal or non-renewal of cooperation, as well as the reasons for the decision.
31. If the ISRF decides to offer the Agent official cooperation, the ISRF shall draft and sign the Contract in duplicate and send it to the Agent by mail within three (3) weeks after the compliance with the conditions outlined in Clause 13 herein.

IX. Duration of Cooperation

32. The term of the Contract between the ISRF and the Agent shall be one calendar year.
33. By fulfilling the requirements of Clause 20 herein, the ISRF Contract with the Agent shall be prolonged for one calendar year.
34. By fulfilling the requirements of Clause 20 herein for at least two consecutive calendar years (recruited international applicants who have become RSU students in four (4) consecutive admissions), the ISRF shall enter into a three (3) year Contract with the Agent.

35. The ISRF may conclude a Contract with the Agent for three (3) years also in other individual cases, if the ISRF believes that there are reasonable grounds to agree with the Agent on long-term cooperation prior to fulfilling the requirements under Clause 34 herein.
36. If a Contract for three (3) years has been previously concluded with the Agent, the ISRF Contract with the Agent shall be prolonged for three (3) years only if the Agent has recruited international applicants for studies at RSU during the previous Contract period and these applicants have become RSU students.

X. Closing Provisions

37. All issues related to the cooperation between the ISRF and the Agent, which are not regulated by laws and regulations in force in the Republic of Latvia or by this procedure, shall be dealt with by the ISRF.
38. This procedure may be changed as necessary or when the regulatory acts are amended.
39. Information about the cooperation of the ISRF and Agents can be obtained:
 - 39.1. electronically by writing to: admissions@rsu.lv or isrf@rsu.lv;
 - 39.2. in the respective section of the RSU website (www.rsu.lv/en);
 - 39.3. during face-to-face or online international educational fairs, webinars, RSU Open Days, visits by interested parties to RSU or other events.

Member of the ISRF Board

Valters Brigmanis