

/ HOW TO SURVIVE AND NOT GET BORED IN KAUNAS /

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DISCOVER VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY



WE WERE AND STILL ARE WAITING FOR YOU TO COME!

Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) is open for academic community from all over the world. Each year students and a number of teachers from different international universities come to VMU and enjoy their time here.

Over 350 semester-long courses in all the faculties are offered in English for students from foreign countries, also for exchange and visiting students. It is also possible for an exchange student to study any of the offered subjects individually, do research projects and get consultations.

VMU also offers foreign languages courses, including Lithuanian, Latvian, Japanese, Hindi, Turkish, Arab, Ancient Greek, Norwegian, Finnish languages and many others. Studying at VMU also renders a great opportunity to learn Lithuanian language, become acquainted with Lithuanian culture, literature, art, history and politics.

International students also have an opportunity to travel around Lithuania and other two Baltic States (Latvia and Estonia), students also often decide to visit St. Petersburg (Russia) and Stokholm (Sweden).

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY – WHEN? WHERE? WHY?

In February 1922, the Lithuanian Government of Ministers decided to establish the University of Lithuania in Kaunas. The ceremonial opening of the university took place on February 16, 1922. On June 7, 1930, the university was named Vytautas Magnus University. It was closed during the Soviet occupation. The act of re-establishing Vytautas Magnus University was proclaimed on April 28, 1989.

During the university's first decade the number of students and teachers grew more than twenty times. It has become the centre for academic work in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Political Science and Law, Fine Arts, and Catholic Theology in Kaunas. Vytautas Magnus University is the only university in Lithuania having the Faculty of Catholic Theology. Modern programmes have been expanded in Information and Computer Science, Environmental Sciences, Biology, Mathematics and Physics.

The key features of the present day Vytautas Magnus University are modernity, liberality and sociality. The core values of the University include academic freedom, autonomy, liberal system of studies, university culture, wide humanitarian-social and linguistic preparation of students, well-balanced studies, research and administration.

The university stands out for its well-rounded university education which facilitates the development of broad-minded personalities and formation of civil society and democratic state. Liberal system of studies allows students to create their own study plans, to decide when and what subjects to study. Students are also offered the opportunity to complete a minor programme along with their major programme and to get their BA degree with a certificate in this minor specialty.

Great attention is being paid to teaching foreign languages and students are offered the opportunity to study sixteen different languages at the Centre of Foreign Languages. The university has ten faculties with 70 study programmes.

Substantial attention is devoted to the development of international relations. Students can take an advantage of student exchange programme and study abroad in one of over 150 universities in Western Europe, the USA, Japan and other countries. To increase international student and teacher mobility is a strategic goal of the University.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

- around 7000 Bachelor & 2000 Master students;
- over 250 PhD students:
- around 100 Professional development students;
- over 550 teachers and researchers;
- over 26 000 alumni (after 1989);
- 70 BA and MA study programmes;
- 17 foreign languages courses;
- 10 faculties;
- situated in 15 buildings;
- 150 partner universities around the world;
- member of 11 international organizations & associations;
- member of Campus Europae university network.

In the future, Vytautas Magnus University is seen as Artes Liberales University with its unique system of liberal studies, openness to the world, dissemination of liberal thought and high quality of studies.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE - READY TO HELP YOU

LLP/Erasmus programme is administered by the International Office. The office acts as an advisor and coordinator for incoming and outgoing students and university teachers, organises informational LLP/Erasmus seminars for university staff and students, deals with administrative matters of the programme and publishes promotional leaflets, guides, booklets.



Postal Address: K. Donelaičio g. 58 LT-44248 Kaunas Lithuania

Visiting Address: S. Daukanto g. 27, rooms 301–309 LT-44249 Kaunas Lithuania

Tel. + 370 37 327 986, + 370 37 327 989

Fax + 370 37 327 989 E-mail: office@trt.vdu.lt Web page: www.trt.vdu.lt

Visiting hours Monday – Friday 8:00 – 12:00

SURVIVAL GUIDE

ARRIVING

INCOMING STUDENT'S TO-DO LIST BEFORE COMING TO VMU

- **1.** Before your studies at Vytautas Magnus University, please send to the International Office at Vytautas Magnus University (mailing address: K. Donelaičio g. 58, LT-44248 Kaunas, Lithuania) all required documents on time (deadline for Autumn Semester June 30, deadline for Spring Semester November 30): Application Form, Learning Agreement, Accommodation Form, Transcript of Records, copy of passport or your ID card, any Proof of English Language Proficiency.
- 2. Be sure that your travelling document (passport or ID card) is valid!
- **3.** Get the health insurance (in Lithuania, the European Health Insurance Card is also valid).
- **4.** Contact your mentor at Vytautas Magnus University and inform him/her about your arrival date if you want to be met in the bus/railway station or in the airport.
- **5.** If you have any questions or problems do not hesitate to contact your coordinator or mentor at Vytautas Magnus University.

LITHUANIAN CUSTOMS & CONSULAR INFORMATION

Information prepared according to www.cust.lt

No restrictions are applied to any goods purchased or carried when travelling inside the EU, if those goods are meant for personal use and not for sale. VAT and customs duties are included into the price of the products, and no further payment of taxes can be due in any another EU country.

Frequently asked questions are about the presence of rules regulating the amounts of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages intended for personal purposes. Please note that every country may determine different amounts of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages intended for personal use. If you carry goods in excess of these amounts, documents proving that they are for personal use may be required to be presented.

Visas and Temporary Residence Permits for Citizens of European Countries

An EU citizen can enter Lithuania with a valid travel document (ID card or passport). For stay up to 3 months no legalization of stay is necessary. For stays exceeding 3 months, an EU citizen has to make a registration and get a confirmation about his/her stay in the Migration Office. This document will be issued by the Migration Office. Fee: about 42 LTL (about 3 EUR).

To obtain a confirmation a student needs to submit the following documents to Kaunas Migration Office (Chemijos pr. 4b, room 115, Kaunas):

- Passport or ID card and its copy;
- Application Form;
- 1 photo (size: 34x45mm);
- Official Letter from Vytautas Magnus University;
- A copy of VMU Rector's order regarding student's acceptance for studies at VMU;
- Valid health insurance:
- · Payment Check.

Visas and Temporary Residence Permits for Citizens of Non-European Union Countries

The citizens of countries that need a visa for entering Lithuania have to obtain it while being in their home country as there is no possibility to get a visa at the customs when entering Lithuania.

Considering that visa regulations can change, please contact Lithuanian Consulate or Embassy for updated visa rules. For further information concerning visa regulations in Lithuania please contact The Consular Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania:

The Consular Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

J. Tumo-Vaižganto g. 2 Vilnius Tel. +370 5 2362 444 Fax + 370 5 2313 090 Web page: www.urm.lt

STUDYING

HOW TO DESIGN THE STUDY SCHEDULE?

How to design my study schedules at VMU? Most of the students face this question, groups of freshmen each year stare at the offered list of subjects with the most puzzled looks on their faces. However, it is not as difficult as it seems. All you need to know is what you want, then find out what you must, after this – to look what is offered and the last step – to choose.

VMU offers enjoyable environment for studies at all levels of university education as students arrange their schedule for the lectures (the study plan) according to the requirements of the chosen study programme and their own intentions.

Groups of Subjects

The BA level subjects are divided into four groups: A, B, C and D.

GROUP A comprises the subjects that are obligatory for all students at the university. Students have to study them during the first 2 years.

All VMU students have to take 4 levels of the English language and acquire the basics in computer literacy, if they do not have them, as obligatory subjects.

GROUP C consists of the subjects of the student's chosen study programme (speciality).

GROUP B is full of introductory courses to various branches of science and areas. They are divided into 5 subgroups: Biomedical and Physical Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts, Economics and Management. During the first 2 years one has to choose at least one subject from each mentioned subgroup.

GROUP D comprises the subjects which are chosen freely. They are not obligatory courses but the student may choose them if one wants to learn a foreign language or enlarge the knowledge in other fields

Exchange students register for the courses during their first lectures. Students should remember that the first two weeks of each semester is the time when ones may drop or add classes to their programmes of study. After the registration period, the university expects students to attend and complete all the courses in which they are enrolled. Regular class attendance is necessary for the maximum success in the university. Each student is responsible for the programme of courses listed at registration.

SYSTEM OF CREDITS & GRADING @ VMU

The System of studies at VMU is based on the three levels introduced already in 1993: Bachelor, Master and PhD. Undergraduate, in other words, Bachelor studies consist of 160 credits, meanwhile Graduate Master studies of 80 credits.

Number of Credits

In Lithuanian system one year of study is equal to 40 credits, so 20 credits per semester. One credit equals approximately 40 hours of studying in the form of lectures, exercises, practical training, independent research, group studies or written reports.

In ECTS, 60 credits represent the workload of an academic year of study and normally 30 credits for a semester. Have in mind that 1 VMU credit equals 1.5 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credit.

Transferring of the Credits

All the VMU credits are fully transferable to any university in the world recognizing university studies within the European Union.

Each exchange student is recommended to check with their university study abroad advisor prior to arrival how ECTS credits transfer into their national system of credit points.

Grading Scale

An absolute ten-point grading scale is used to access the knowledge of the university students. The mark indicates the level of knowledge expressed as a percentage from the intended volume of the programme The ten-point grading system is applied for the assessment of examinations, projects, homework, tests and other tasks.

Sufficient level of knowledge is indicated by these marks: positive marks – 10, 9, 8, 7, 6 and 5, and negative marks – 4, 3, 2 and 1. The examination assessed by negative marks is considered to be failed and this subject must be studied for the second time.

VMU Credit System in Comparison with ECTS:

Lithuanian grade	Evaluation	ECTS grade	Level of knowledge %
10	<i>Excellent</i> : outstanding performance with only minor mistakes.	Α	>96
9	<i>Very good</i> : above the average standards, but with some errors.	В	86-95
8	<i>Good</i> : generally sound work with number of notable errors.	С	76-85
7-6	Satisfactory: fair but with significant shortcomings.	D	66-75
5*	Sufficient: performance meets the minimum criteria.	E	56-65
4*	<i>Very weak:</i> Considerable further work is required.	F/FX	50-55
3*	Unsatisfactory	F/FX	40-49
2*	Bad	F/FX	30-39
1*	Unfair behaviour or failure to appear for evaluation.	F/FX	0-29

^{*}Grades from 1 to 4 mean that the examination was not passed.

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

The Lithuanian Language and Culture Summer Course (as well as Lithuanian Language Course during the academic year) is organised by Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy at VMU. The University offers: intensive language course, Lithuanian lifestyle course, attractive social programme, ECTS credit points.

Study Programme

During the summer courses you will be offered an intensive programme consisting of lectures, workshops and discussions, sightseeing tours and excursions to learn the Lithuanian language and deepen your knowledge about the Lithuanian lifestyle. Qualified teachers and professors will head the programme.

Language of Instruction

Language classes will be given in Lithuanian with explanations in English when necessary. Other lectures and workshops will be held in English.

Social Programme

An attractive social programme will be organised. It will include guided tours to heritage sites of Lithuania, visits to museums, film and folk dance evenings, a sailing tour and more.

For more information contact:
Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy
Regional Studies Department
Gedimino g. 44, Room 201, Kaunas
Tel. +370 37 208 514

Faks. +370 37 206 709

E-mail: z.zemaityte@pmdf.vdu.lt



LIBRARY & ITS READING ROOMS

The library has about 225 000 volumes in stock. Annual acquisitions make about 15 000 of new items. Services to more than 10 000 users are provided in 3 lending departments and 7 reading-rooms (468 traditional and 71 computer equipped workplaces). Among other services that library provides are interlibrary loans, Internet access, copying, printing and binding. You need a valid VMU student ID card to have access to the library facilities. You may find its catalogue and more information at http://biblioteka.vdu.lt

Note: the library and its reading rooms are closed on the last Friday of every month.

Reading Rooms

Vaclovas Biržiška Reading Room

{K. Donelaičio g. 52, room 218}

It is the biggest reading room in the library. The open stock comprises over 13000 books on political humanitarian. social, sciences. publications, art reference serials. publications, official documents. dissertations and their summaries, University master papers etc.

The Lithuanian Fund Foreign Languages Reading Room

 $\{K.\ Donelaičio\ g.\ 52,\ room\ 221\}$

There you may find textbooks and dictionaries, tapes, compact discs in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Latin, Greek, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Turkish, Latvian, Estonian and other languages.

Aleksandras Štromas Political Sciences Reading Room

{S. Daukanto g. 25}

The stock (more than 20000 items) consists of personal collections of Aleksandras Štromas, Bronius Kviklys, Vytautas Kavolis on political, social, humanitarian sciences in English, Russian and other languages, dissident periodicals.

Mykolas Römeris Law Reading Room

{S. Daukanto g. 28, room 205}

The open stock comprises over 4000 books (90% of which are in the English language), serials, reference publications on law.

Social Work Reading Room

{K. Donelaičio g. 52, room 410}

The reading room is comprised of publications (about 3000) in various languages on social work, psychology, sociology, gerontology, health security, psychotherapy.

Vincas Čepinskis Reading Room

{Vileikos g. 8, Room 605}

The reading room contains literature (approximately 5000 items) on environmental sciences, biology, physics, chemistry, informatics, mathematics and statistics.

Stasys Šalkauskis Theological Reading

Room (Papilio g. 5)

There you may find religious, theological, psychological, pedagogical, art, historical, and other literature in various languages.



ACADEMIC YEAR – WHAT & WHEN?

Academic year at Vytautas Magnus University starts on September 1 and lasts until the middle of June. It is divided into Autumn Semester (from September to December) and Spring Semester (from February to June). Each semester includes 15 weeks of lectures and two weeks of examinations. Usually in the middle of each semester students have to take midterm tests.

During the first two weeks of semester, students have to register for courses at the departments where those courses are offered: they have to sign twice on the course attendance list.

Autumn Semester

Beginning of Autumn Semester	September 1
Orientation days for incoming students	Last week of August
Registration for the courses	First two weeks of September
All Saints' Day	November 1 (no lectures)
Last day of Autumn Semester	Friday, first week of December
Examinations	December 7 – 21
Winter Holidays	From Christmas till the beginning of February

Spring Semester

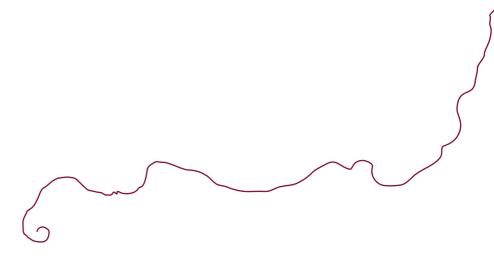
Beginning of Spring Semester	First week of February
Orientation days for incoming students	Last week of January
Registration for the courses	First two weeks of February
Independence Day	February 16 (no lectures)
Restoration of Lithuanian Independence	March 11 (no lectures)
Footon Holidaya	
Easter Holidays	March–April (1 week depending on a year)
International Labour day	
·	depending on a year)
International Labour day	depending on a year) May 1 (no lectures)

LIVING

INCOMING STUDENT'S TO-DO LIST AFTER COMING TO VMU

- **1.** After your arrival at Vytautas Magnus University get the key to your dormitory room (dormitory address: Vytauto pr. 71, Kaunas), sign the contract, register in the dormitory (for registration you'll need: your passport or ID card and 2 photos) and pay your rent and deposit till the 5th day of each month.
- **2.** Please fill in the registration form in the International Office (S. Daukanto g. 27, Kaunas, room 305), leave the copy of your passport (or your ID card) and the copy of your health insurance.
- **3.** Register for Lithuanian Student Card (LSC) (more information is available contacting LSC coordinator (S. Daukanto g. 27, Kaunas, room 212).
- **4.** Get your ID and password to use internet at the university (you will get ID and password for internet from your coordinator in the International Office at VMU).
- **5.** If your study period at VMU is more than three months, please make registration in the Migration Office and get the confirmation from the Migration Office. To obtain a confirmation you need to deliver the following documents to Kaunas Migration Office: passport or ID card and its copy, valid health insurance, Application Form, 1 photo, an Official letter from the university, a copy of Rector's order regarding your acceptance for studies, payment check (please get more information about all procedures and documents in the International Office).
- **6.** Give the original of Learning Agreement duly signed to your coordinator at VMU as soon as possible. If you need to make changes in the Learning Agreement, you have to fill in the form "Changes to Learning Agreement" which you can get from the International Office. It's recommended to do all changes to your Learning Agreement during first month of semester.

- 7. When a course begins, you have to register for it at the department where it is provided: put your signature twice on the course attendance list. Remember: you have to register for the courses during the first two weeks of each semester. Note: a student may drop classes and add classes to their programs of study during the first two weeks of a semester. After the registration period, the university expects students to attend and complete all courses in which they are enrolled. Regular class attendance is necessary for a maximum success in the university. If students do not attend the courses in which they are enrolled, at the end of the semester student will not be able to pass the exam (and to get a positive mark): negative mark will appear in the students' Transcript of Records. Each student is responsible for the programme of courses listed at registration.
- **8.** If you have any questions or problems, do not hesitate to contact your coordinator or mentor at Vytautas Magnus University.



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE DORMITORY OF VMU



Address: Vytauto pr. 71 LT-44321 Kaunas Lithuania

Office of Student Affairs, Economy Service, and Council of Dormitory are coordinating the accommodation of students. Incoming exchange students (LLP/Erasmus or bilateral exchange students, as well as governmental scholarship awardees) apply for student dormitory through the International Office. Individual foreign students (free-movers) are not entitled to apply for the university housing, unless there are places available.

You can apply for student dormitory if you meet the following requirements:

- You are a student of one of VMU partner universities according to LLP/Erasmus exchange programme or Bilateral Agreement, or you are a student who receives a scholarship from the Government of Lithuania.
- If you want to live in a dormitory, fill in the Accommodation Form and send it (deadline for Autumn Semester – June 30, deadline for Spring Semester – November 30) to the International Office by post:

International Office Vytautas Magnus University K. Donelaičio g. 58 LT-44248 Kaunas Lithuania

by e-mail: office@trt.vdu.lt

or by fax + 370 37 327 989

LIFE IN A DORMITORY – SOME RULES, TIPS & TRICKS

Nobody will deny that dormitory is a great place to find new friends and have never-to-be-forgotten parties. However, living in a dormitory should associate not only with having fun with your colleagues but also with sharing duties and responsibility. We advise to read the following information, advice and rules.

Payment

Dormitory fee is 180 Lt for one person per month. Dormitory fee must be paid by the 5th day of each month (after your arrival!) at SEB bank. Registration

Pleased don't forget to register in the dormitory! Contact administrator (room 211), sign a contract and get a dormitory permission (two photos and your ID card or passport are required for registration).

Rooms

Rooms are allocated by the Office of Student Affairs of Vytautas Magnus University.

Residents are materially liable for damages that they caused to the facilities and the equipment of the dormitory. Students are not allowed to hang posters, to stick pictures or photos on doors and walls, to change door locks.

Students should reside in the rooms to which they were allocated. A room change is possible with prior approval of the Office of Student Affairs.

Any defects in the rooms should be reported by the residents at the reception.

Quiet hours in the dormitory are from 11 pm to 6 am.

It is not allowed to sell and use alcoholic beverages, to use and distribute drugs or other psycho-tropical materials in the dormitory.

Residents are not allowed to keep pets in the dormitory without the administrator's permission.

Cleaning

Students are responsible for keeping their rooms, bathrooms, kitchen, etc. tidy and clean. They are also responsible for washing up their personal dishes and cutlery immediately after use.

Kitchen

There are cooking facilities to enable residents to prepare their own meals. Each floor has a shared kitchen. After you finish cooking, please clean the work surface, cookware and tables.

Kitchen utensils (cookware, i.e. pots, pans, etc.) are not provided: you have to buy them or bring with you.

Internet

Internet access is available in each room. The price for the internet is not included in the rent price of the monthly dormitory fee. Internet fee: 5 Lt per month + internet connection fee 20 Lt.

Visitors and Guests

Visitors/guests are welcome until 11 pm. All guests are required to leave an identity document at the reception desk and to register in the Guest book. For your roommate's peace and your own safety we advise you not to invite visitors/guests to the dormitory, especially the ones you met at a bar.

No overnight visitors are allowed in the dormitory without administrator's permission.

Students are fully responsible for their visitors/guests who stay in the dormitory.

Smoking

No smoking in the dormitory except in designated areas. It is not allowed to smoke in the kitchen!

Laundry

There are laundry facilities in the dormitory (for more information please contact laundry administrators). There is a washing machine and a tumble dryer in the laundry room. The laundry room must be left clean after use.

Fines

Note that fee for the dormitory should be paid on time. In case the fee is paid after the official deadline, the next month enlarged fee will apply.

Violators of rules will be verbally warned for their first offence.

If a student ignores dormitory rules after the verbal warning, the offender will be issued a written warning and fined by 20 % enlarged dormitory fee.

Strict written warning will be issued by the director of the Office of Student Affairs based on administrator's official report: the student will be fined by 40% enlarged dormitory fee. After the second strict written warning the student will be asked to move out of the dormitory.

These rules are intended to maintain the dormitory's pleasant atmosphere. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

Office responsible for student accommodation: Office of Student Affairs {S. Daukanto g. 27, room 210}



HEALTH CARE & INSURANCE

In this case everything depends on the country from which you come.

If you come from European Union and Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland:

When you visit Lithuania, please have one of these documents confirming your entitlement to reimbursement of health care services:

- European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
- Provisional Replacement Certificate (PRC)
- CertificateE106
- CertificateE109

If you (or your family members) have EHIC, you are entitled to necessary medical care services which are free of charge in the health care institutions belonging to the Lithuanian National Health System.

Each doctor consulting you as a patient has to take the planned length of your stay in Lithuania into account.

According to the EU legislation you are entitled to obtain the required medical treatment preventing you from being forced to return to your country until you have planned.

You do not need to register at Territorial Patient Funds (TPF) if you (or your family members) have EHIC.

As for private medical institutions, ask if they have a contract with TPF for providing medical care free of charge.

How do you get hospital treatment? In case of emergency you can go directly to the hospital, which has a contract with TPF. You have to present your EHIC or PRC and an identification card or passport at the reception desk. There is no charge for those eligible under EU regulations. For scheduled hospital treatment, you will have to consult with a general practitioner or a specialist.

How do you get transport to go to a hospital? If you need to call an Ambulance, use telephone number 03 or 112. There are no charges for ambulance transport in case of emergency.

Information for persons coming from other countries than European Union, Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland, and for person who are not insured in EU, Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland:

Please, insure your health privately before you come to Lithuania. You will have to pay for all the health care services yourself, as your insurance company will reimburse your expenses.

Hospitals and Clinics:

Kaunas Academic Clinical Hospital

{Eivenių g. 2, Kaunas}

Red Cross Hospital

{Laisvės al. 17, Kaunas}

Kaunas Central Outpatient Clinic

{A.Mickevičiaus g. 4, Kaunas}

Kaunas Medical Centre

{Savanorių pr. 284, Kaunas}

Bendroji Medicinos Praktika/General Medical Practice

{Savanorių pr. 423, Kaunas}

Information prepared according to www.vlk.lt

MENTORS PROGRAMME @VMU

The student mobility at Vytautas Magnus University has started in 1999. After Lithuania became the member of the European Union, the number of incoming students has been increasing every semester. In these years the University system and the academic community, as well as study programs, has become more open and flexible for the needs of the incoming students and professors.

In order to make the adaptation process of incoming students at our University easier, the Mentors Programme was established.

A mentor is a student of Vytautas Magnus University who has already studied abroad (or perhaps is planning to study in the future), has the international and intercultural experience and voluntarily helps the incoming foreign students. A mentor is a person who:

- Meets at the station and accompanies new incoming students to the dormitory;
- Assists students to orient themselves in the University and in Kaunas during the study period;
- Helps to find the library and computer classes, to register for the courses;
- Helps in making new friends among Lithuanian students, etc.

The Mentors Programme at VMU aims to help incoming students to adapt to the new academic, social and culture environment. The International Office at VMU coordinates the Programme.

Every semester VMU mentors together with International Office organise various meetings, excursions and parties for all incoming students.

STUDENTS' UNION & LITHUANIAN STUDENT ID CARD

Coordinators at the Students' Union will help you to obtain a Lithuanian Student ID card. They also organise a lot of parties during the year, e. g. the academic year opening party, VMU Spring Festival, St. Valentine's, party and others.

Address:

S. Daukanto g. 27, rooms 201–202 Kaunas

Web page: www.vdusa.lt

COMPUTER FACILITIES, INTRANET

Each student after entering the university gets the possibility to use the University Intranet and receives a free e-mail account. Students can register for the courses, receive the latest information using the intranet. Computers are available in the reading rooms of the library.



HOW TO GET WHERE YOU WANT - PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Buses and Trolleybuses

Kaunas has 16 trolleybus routes and 30 bus routes, generally running from 5:00 until 23:00, some run later as well. The further you are from the centre, the less chance you have of catching a bus late at night.

Tickets cost 1.80 LTL and can be purchased at any newsagents. You can also buy tickets from the driver for 2 LTL. Tickets are 80 percent cheaper for those who have Student ID Card, ISIC is also valid.

If a conductor catches you without a punched ticket you will have to pay a fine of 100 LTL. Monthly electronic ticket (for bus and trolleybus) for students (Lithuanian Student ID Card is obligatory) is available for 16.80 LTL (electronic ticket).

Minibuses

Tickets cost 2.50 LTL. Pay the driver as you get in and when you reach the place where you want to get out, say Prašom sustoti (Please, stop), add čia (here) or stotelėje (at the bus stop). Minibuses generally run from 5:00 to 23:00, some run later as well, but then it may cost more. You can stop a minibus by raising a hand.

Taxi

It is recommended to call a taxi rather than to get one at a taxi stand. This way you will be sure that pay is fair. Taxi costs about $2.00-3.00\,LTL$ per km. It is also wise to negotiate a price before entering. Drivers are obliged by law to display their operating licenses and taximeters. Prices are higher at night. Dispatchers generally can speak basic English.

Taksi kelyje {Savanorių pr. 151, Kaunas} Tel. + 370 37 366 666 **Greitasis taksi** {Naujakurių g. 66–1, Kaunas} Tel. 1444 **Kauno taksi paslauga** {Pravieniškių g. 7, Kaunas} Tel. + 370 37 341 111 **Merulos taksi** {Skuodo g. 2b, Kaunas} Tel. +370 800 76 666 **Smūgis** {Salyno g. 9a, Kaunas} Tel. +370 37 333 333 **Žaibiškas greitis** {Varpo g. 23, Kaunas} Tel. +370 37 333 111

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DRUGS, ALCOHOL & SMOKING

In case you come to Lithuania for the first time, read the following notes. If you don't want unnecessary adventures with police officers, try not to violate these rules. You should try not to forget that you are in a foreign country which may have different common and official laws if compared with those which exist in your native one.

Drugs

It is forbidden to use drugs (marihuana, opium, heroin, hashish, hallucinogen, synthetic drug) and other psycho-tropical materials (various solvents, volatile stuffs, lenitive and sleeping pills, etc.) without doctor's prescription.

Alcohol

It is not allowed to drink alcohol, beer or to be seen drunk in a public places in Lithuania. What is more, don't be surprised if a salesperson in a supermarket asks you to show your ID card when buying alcohol, they are obligated to check documents and not to sell any kind of alcohol for those younger than 18 years old. Sellers are strictly fined for violations of this rule thus sometimes they overdo and all who seem to be younger than pensioners are asked to show a document. So don't get offended if you are 25 and still need to show your ID card to confirm your age.

Shops do not sell alcohol between 22:00 and 8:00.

Smoking

Smoking is forbidden in cafés, bars, restaurants, clubs and other places where any kind of food is served. In case you are a regular smoker, you may have a puff by the door – such places have ashtrays there.

Noise

It is forbidden to disturb public order (loudly listen to the music, whistle, shout) from 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. For a violation or disturbance a person could get an administrative fine according to the Lithuanian law.

It is worth noting that much depends on the patience of your neighbours. If you have extremely sensitive ones, police officers may visit you even if in the late evening you watch TV louder than your neighbours do.

In such cases it is recommended to pay a friendly visit on your sensitive neighbours and try to discuss what is unacceptable for them and why.

PRACTICAL SAFETY ADVICE & TIPS

- Be attentive in a public transport. The fact that you are surrounded by many people does not mean that your belongings in your back bag or pockets are safe. If the bus or trolleybus is full of passengers, it is advisable to hold your bag in front of you;
- If in clubs or bars you drink alcohol or soft drinks, choose a company you could trust if you leave your drink or belongings. In case you spend time with unreliable people, there is a possibility that somebody may pour sleeping pills or drugs into your drink;
- Spend your leisure with people whom you know and trust;
- Never leave your mobile phone on the table in public places even if you leave only for few minutes;
- Don't leave clubs, bars, discos with unknown people;
- Do not carry all your cash in one place (only wallet or one pocket) as all
 cities have pickpockets. It is advisable to keep money in several places
 and not to take large sums of money with you. Every time you should
 take not more than you may need for the going out. That is also a great
 means of preventing from spending more than you have planned;
- In case you are robed or defrauded, immediately call the police. It is also advisable to memorise the faces, numbers, cars, colours, etc.;
- If you think that you or your flat is being watched or in the neighbourhood you notice strangely behaving persons, call 02 from fixed phone line or 112 from mobile phone;
- If you get aware about made or planned crime, please inform police on anonymous telephones:
 - + 370 37 303 050,
 - + 370 37 303 060,
 - + 370 37 303 333.

LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION

The Lithuanian language and its close northern relative Latvian are known for being exceptionally antique. The oldest Indo-European languages still spoken today, they are remarkably similar in grammatical form to Sanskrit. With seven noun cases, five declension patterns there is absolutely no similarity to anything you have come across before, as well as the necessity to pronounce the stress of a word in the right place in order to be understood.

In the central bars and restaurants of Lithuania's major cities (Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda) it is possible to get by with English, but if you move too far from the bigger cities it might be more difficult to communicate.

Here are a few words for your first steps in Lithuanian.

Greetings

Hello Laba diena
Hi Labas
Good morning Labas rytas
Good evening Labas vakaras
Good night Labanakt
Goodbye Viso gero
See you! Iki!

Practicalities

Yes Taip Nο Ne What? Ka? Who? Kas? When? Kada? Where? Kur? Kodėl? Why? J sveikata! Cheers!

Civilities

How are you? Kaip sekasi?

Thank you Ačiū

Sorry/excuse me Atsiprašau Please Prašom

Necessities

Where's the toilet? Kur tualetas?
What is your name? Koks tavo vardas?
You look great! Gražiai atrodai!
How to find...? Kaip rasti ...?

What is your telephone number? Koks tavo telefono numeris?
Do you speak English? Ar jus kalbate angliškai?
I do not speak Lithuanian Aš nekalbu lietuviškai

I do not understandAš nesuprantuPlease repeatPakartokite, prašauPlease write it downUžrašykite, prašau

I do not know Nežinau
I love you Myliu tave

I would like to buy... Norėčiau nusipirkti...

...bread ...duonos
...milk ...pieno
...beer ...alaus
...fruits ...vaisių
...sweets ...saldainių

HOW TO CASH MONEY – BANKS & CARDS

Lithuanian currency is the Litas (LTL). Coins come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents and 1, 2, and 5 Litas coins. Banknotes: 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 LTL. The official fixed exchange rate of the Litas into the euro: 1 EUR = 3.4528 LTL. Official Litas and other currencies exchange rates are announced every day by the Bank of Lithuania and can be found on its website: www.lb.lt.

Exchange rates

The exchange rates in banks will differ from the official rate by no more than 2%. All convertible currency can be exchanged at banks and currency exchange offices. The latter are located at hotels, airports, railway and bus stations, shops. Transactions are usually made in cash.

Credit Cards and Traveller's Cheques

Most hotels, major restaurants, shops and banks accept cards including Globus, Eurocard, Master card, Visa, Maestro.

American Express is less widely accepted. Traveller's cheques are not accepted by retailers and can be exchanged at banks only. Some currency exchange offices (Valiutos keitykla) might also exchange traveller's cheques.

Usually banks are open from 8:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday (some of them work even longer). All banks have cash machines (ATMs) where you can withdraw money 24 hours a day. You will find ATMs in the city centre and near the biggest supermarkets.

The Main Lithuanian Banks are:

SEB bankas {Laisvės al. 82 / 17, Kaunas} Web page: www.seb.lt **Swedbank** {Maironio g. 26b, Kaunas} Web page: www.swedbank.lt **Nordea Bank** {Laisvės al. 86, Kaunas} Web page: www.nordea.lt **Ūkio bankas** {Maironio g. 25, Kaunas} Web page: www.ub.lt **Bankas Snoras** {K. Donelaičio g. 76, Kaunas} Web page: www.snoras.com

You will find many blue Snoras minibanks, which are savings outlets of this bank.

Vytautas Magnus University has agreements with SEB bankas and Ūkio bankas, where you will be able to open an account and get Visa Electron or Maestro card free of charge. All major banks in Lithuania are offering electronic banking services.

WHERE TO SPEND MONEY - SHOPPING PLACES

Largest Shopping and Leisure Centres:

Department Stores

Akropolis (Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49, Kaunas) Mega (Islandijos pl. 32, Kaunas) Savas (Savanorių pr. 346, Kaunas) Molas (K. Baršausko g. 66a, Kaunas)



Markets Home-Grown Agricultural Products and Other Goods

Urmas/Wholesale And Retail Trade/ {Pramonės pr. 16, Kaunas} *Railway station Market* {M. K. Čiurlionio g. 23, Kaunas}

Main shopping centres:

Maxima, IKI, Rimi, Norfa. There you will find everything: food, clothes, shoes.

Books

Centrinis knygynas {Laisvės al. 81, Kaunas} Baltos lankos {Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49 /Akropolis/, Kaunas} University bookstore Humanitas {K. Donelaičio g. 52, Kaunas} Gintarinis suvenyras {Vilniaus g. 32, Kaunas} Humanitas {Vilniaus g. 11, Kaunas} Pegasas {Vilniaus g. 43, Kaunas}, {Laisvės al. 75, Kaunas}

Handicrafts and Souvenirs

Austėja {Vilniaus g. 56, Kaunas} Monos galerija {Laisvės al. 50, Kaunas} Dailė {Rotušes a. 1, Kaunas} Kiemas {Vilniaus g. 10, Kaunas} Slenkstis {Laisvės al. 57, Kaunas}

RAW FACTS FOR FIRST TIME COMERS

Time Zone

Lithuania is in the Eastern European time zone (GMT+2). On the last Sunday of March, when the countries of the Central European time zone spring forward one hour, and on the last Sunday of October, when Central European countries spring back one hour, Lithuania changes time too.

Weather

Average winter temperature: -5° C (minimum -27° C), average summer temperature: $+17^{\circ}$ C (maximum $+35^{\circ}$ C). It is always difficult to forecast the temperature for the next winter or summer. It is recommended to have an umbrella with you in spring and autumn. In late spring storms can start suddenly. If you are coming in winter, do not forget your overcoat, woolen socks, sweaters, caps and gloves.

Geographical Position of the Country

Lithuania is the largest and southernmost country of the Baltic States. In its area (65303 km²) Lithuania is larger than countries such as Denmark, Belgium and Switzerland. In the north, the Republic of Lithuania borders on Latvia, in the east and southeast – on Byelorussia, in the southwest – on Poland and Russia (Kaliningrad District). In 1989, the French National Geographical Institute named a spot on the road to Molėtai, 25 km north of Vilnius, as the very centre of Europe. A park of modern art sculptures was established in this place being called Europe Park.

Timekeeping

Lithuanians are quite punctual. Thus if they say that a party starts at nine o'clock, they will expect you to come at nine.

Discos normally start at 10-11 p. m. and end, unlike in Southern countries, at 1-2 a.m.

On a Visit

Usually when Lithuanians go to visit someone, they bring something to the host (e. g. wine, chocolate, cakes, etc.). It is not a must but it would be appreciated if you did so.

Telephones

Answering a telephone Lithuanians say *Alio* or *Klausau* (hello), they do not start a telephone conversation telling their names. So if you call someone to a fixed phone, you can never be sure that you are talking to a person you wanted to call.

There are three main mobile telephone operators:

Omnitelweb page: www.omnitel.ltBitéweb page: www.bite.ltTele 2web page: www.tele2.lt

You can buy SIM cards for pre-paid services such as *Extra*, *Ežys* (*Omnitel*), *Labas* (*Bitė*), *Pildyk* (*Tele2*) at newsagents or in every place marked with the sign of the service.

If you need to find a particular regular phone number, you can call the national telephone company teo.lt (www.teo.lt), short number 118 for information.

In order to make a long distance call you need to dial 8, a city code, and a telephone number.

For making international calls you have to dial 00, a country code, a city code, and a telephone number. In order to call a Lithuanian number from abroad you should dial +370-<city code>-<phone number>.

Emergency Calls

The following numbers can be dialed free of charge from any fixed or card-phone:

01 - Fire Station and Rescue Service;

02 - Police;

03 – Medical emergency.

From mobile phone you should dial 112 and you will be connected with the nearest Police Station.

Post

The main post office of Kaunas is located in Laisvės al. 102, Kaunas. It is open from 7:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday and from 8:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays.

WHERE TO EAT OUT & HAVE A DRINK?

LITHUANIAN CUISINE

A wide variety of restaurants in Lithuania offer local and international cuisine. Everybody visiting Lithuania should try national dishes: cold beet soup (*šaltibaršciai*), Lithuanian sausage, and of course potato meals – the most famous among which are potato pancakes (*bulviniai blynai*) and *cepelinai* – potato dumplings stuffed with meat, curd cheese or mushrooms, also koldūnai.

Cepelinai

Undoubtedly, the most famous dish when we talk about food is the Lithuanian cepelinai. Made with a mass of boiled potatoes and meat it is one of the quintessential dishes. Consumed with sour cream and can be found almost everywhere.

(Erasmus student)

Šaltibarščiai

Certainly one of the most typical dishes of Lithuania is *šaltibaršciai* – a cold beetroot soup. It is a special soup which is very different from others because the essence of it is kefir with grated boiled beetroots, Lithuanians also add chopped spring onions, diced cucumber, diced boiled eggs. This is one of the most delicious for Lithuanians, especially when it is very hot outsides. Meanwhile for foreigners it is one of the most striking due to its pink colour.

(Erasmus student)

Koldūnai

Another dish that you cannot skip in Lithuania is *koldūnai*, which are small dumplings stuffed with curd or meat. It is so easy to find and to prepare: just fry in oil or boil in water the ones you buy in the supermarket.

(Erasmus student)

PLACES TO HAVE BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

The University has a cafeteria *Svarida* (S. Daukanto g. 28, Kaunas), where it is possible to eat at a reasonable price throughout the day.

There are also many restaurants, bars, cafes, pizzerias and fast food corners in the vicinity of the central University buildings. Being at the heart of the city, Vytautas Magnus University students can take full advantage of its location.

If you are eager to try traditional Lithuanian food, you do not have to go far...

Bernelių užeiga

{M. Valančiaus g. 9 and K. Donelaičio g. 11, Kaunas}

Žalias ratas

{Laisvės al. 36b, Kaunas}

Tado Blindos smuklė

{Kęstučio g. 93, Kaunas}

CAFÉ PLACES

Presto

{Laisvės al. 90, Kaunas}

Vero Cafe

{Laisvės al. 75, Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49, Kaunas}

Supremo

{S. Daukanto g. 23, Kaunas}

Kavos klubas

{M. Valančiaus g. 19, Kaunas}

COSY RESTAURANTS

Miesto sodas

{Laisvės al. 93, Kaunas}

Lunch of the day, salad bar, sandwiches, etc., ideal for coffee or other drinks. Spacious and lets the sun and light in through the glass walls.

Pizza Jazz

{Laisvės al. 68 and Laisvės al. 106, Savanorių pr. 349, Kaunas} You can taste not only pizzas but also try a lot of kinds of coffee.

Avilys

{Vilniaus g. 34, Kaunas}

Restaurant offers local brewed beer, jazz music and various meals, though expensive.

In case you prefer tasting something very original, try Avilys restaurant's beer soup. This soup is made from home-made beer. It is also worth tasting their speciality: *medaus alus* – beer with honey.

(Erasmus student)

Senieji rūsiai

{Vilniaus g. 34, Kaunas}

Jums

{Laisvės al. 61, Kaunas}

The best cakes and other deserts. Various salads, from the hot meals list worth trying: troškinys (meat or fish with vegetables stewed in pot) or chicken/pork in brandy sauce.

Pompėja

{V. Putvinskio g. 38, Kaunas}

Medžiotojų užeiga

{Rotušės a. 10, Kaunas}

55°

{Laisvės al. 79, Kaunas}

FOREIGN CUISINE

Italian

Bella Italia (S. Daukanto g. 14, Kaunas)

Italian chef will definitely come to your table to say hello and wish to enjoy your meal. After you finish your meal you will be treated a free cup of coffee.

Students like Italian restaurants. Well, except Italian Erasmus. They believe that the food served there is good but not real Italian: "We never pour cream over the pizzas, the pasta is not cooked av dente (less cooked so it is a bit hard) and ingredients are completely different". Among the less exigent young people *Pizza Jazz* chain is really popular. One of the best Italian restaurants is *Pas Romano*, where students can choose from a variety of pizzas and pasta dishes, as well as, desserts & Italian coffee for a very good price. We suggest finishing your lunch with a piece of tiramisu and one cappuccino. Che meraviglia!

(Erasmus student)

Chinese

Sičuan {Kumelių g. 16 and A. Mickevičiaus g. 30, Kaunas} Fu Long {Gedimino g. 30, Kaunas} Didžioji siena {Kumelių g. 7, Kaunas} Čanas {Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49, Kaunas}

Japanese

Sinto {Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49, Kaunas} Yakata {M. Valančiaus g.14, Kaunas}

Egyptian

Ramzis II (M. Daukšos g. 29, Kaunas) Ramzio haremas (Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49, Kaunas)

Lebanese

Al Diwan (Girstupio g. 9–12, Kaunas)

Russian

Sudaruška {Pramonės pr. 15, Kaunas} Legenda {Šiaures pr. 5a, Kaunas}

More information: www.meniu.lt

NIGHT CLUBS & DISCOS

Nautilus

{Savanorių pr. 124, Kaunas}

Quite a popular place. Check the website http://nautilusclub.lt/ for more details.

Amerika pirtyje

{Vytauto pr. 71, Kaunas}

It is recommended to go there with a group of friends as various people come there.

Exit

{Maironio g. 19, Kaunas} Famous for dance music parties.

Empassy

{Kovo 11-osios g. 22, Kaunas}

Combo

{Raudondvario pl. 107, Kaunas}

Latino

{Vilniaus g. 22, Kaunas}



Latino is considered to be one of the most expensive places in the city, but it is worth paying more to have Caribbean & Latin America music in the hearth of Kaunas! Latino is a perfect for good ambience lovers & those who want to try a different night. !Todos a bailar!

(Erasmus student)

Džem Pub

{Laisvės al. 59, Kaunas}

Centre of the city, the fifth floor. Amazing view of Kaunas, live music on Mondays (hard music in the evenings), guitar evening on Thursdays (even beginners are welcome to participate) and special programme on weekends.

Džem Pub is also called "the fifth floor" because of its location. This bar offers good food, cool music and great drinks! Erasmus students are really welcomed there: "We gave CD of Spanish music to the DJ. He plays one or two of our songs each night. It is fantastic listening to them in Kaunas!" says one Spanish student.

Bar 91

{Islandijos pl. 91, Kaunas}

Far from the centre but really worth visiting. Especially if you like rock music (live music concerts every weekend).

B.O.

{Muitinės g. 9, Kaunas}

A bohemian place for students in the Old Town. You can have snacks for a reasonable price, drink beer and meet interesting people there. In the evening it becomes quite crowded. Usually they play good rock and roll.

Blue Orange (B. O.) attracts all the night-birds. Its alternative ambience is unique. On the second floor you may often enjoy coolest live music followed by an electronic music sessions. Before leaving, don't forget to take another look at its colorful and original decorations. Every time you will discover a new peculiar detail!

(Erasmus student)

Skliautas

{Rotušės a. 26, Kaunas}

Amazing yard: feels like at home but still enough place for all your friends, attractive music, interesting projects in summer.

Europa

{J. Gruodžio g. 19, Kaunas}

Live music at weekends, a good place to listen to jazz every Wednesday.

Liberty Pub

{V. Putvinskio g. 48}

Both students and some academics took a fancy to this club.

ALTERNATIVE PLANS FOR GOING OUT

Instead of pubs & discos, you can have a good party with your mates. You may also go out for playing some pool or bowling.

Bowling & Pool

Straikas

{Draugystės g. 6a, Kaunas} Web page: www.straikas.lt

Boulingo alėja

{Maironio g. 19, Kaunas}

Web page: www.boulingoaleja.lt

Neo Kaunas

{Savanorių pr. 350, Kaunas} Web page: www.neokaunas.lt

In the supermarkets *Mega*, *Molas*, *Akropolis* you will find bowling clubs as well.

Raves

Time by time Kaunas has special parties, called raves. They always take place not in bars or discos, but in free spaces. Some of them are spontaneous. Electronic music, frenetic ambiance & a lot of fun are main ingredients of raves.

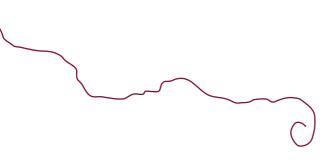
8th Floor Kitchen

Home, sweet home. You can always stay at home, with your lovely dormitory partners. What for? For talking, playing cards, eating, drinking and even singing. The best place in the 2nd Bendrabutis is the 8th floor kitchen, also known as Erasmus headquarter.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

VMU INCOMING STUDENT'S TO-DO LIST BEFORE LEAVING VMU

- **1.** Be sure that you have returned all books to the library and paid all taxes/charges for the dormitory. Please visit main library of the university (K. Donelaičio g. 52, room 102) also Office of Students Affairs (S. Daukanto g. 27, room 210) and administrator in the dormitory.
- **2.** Inform your coordinator about all required documents. All documents will be sent to your home coordinator in one month period after completing your studies at Vytautas Magnus University.
- **3.** Please fill in the "Exchange Student Report" and return it back to the International Office.
- **4.** Important: please follow up all those indicated procedures step by step. In case you do not pay attention to required regulations, the International Office will not be able to send you the official Transcript of Records after completing your studies at Vytautas Magnus University.





HOW NOT TO GET BORED – ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

DISCOVER KAUNAS

INSPIRING MODERN CITY OF 600 YEARS OF HISTORY

Kaunas with nearly 350 thousand inhabitants is one of the most significant cities of Lithuania. It is situated in the centre of Lithuania, at the confluence of the rivers the Neris and the Nemunas, 100 km far from the capital Vilnius. It is the second largest city in Lithuania.

It is a fast-growing modern city with 6 universities, 2 academies and 3 affiliates of other universities which are located in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

Kaunas is also an attractive centre of business and industry as well as science, studies and culture. Famous music, dance, visual art festivals and outstanding projects are held.

in Kaunas. Kaunas – the provisional capital of Lithuania – is famous for its history, cosy parks, remarkable and wonderful Old Town, interwar spirit as well as active, young and ambitious people.

Kaunas was and still is an important historical and cultural city in Lithuania. In 1408, Magdeburg rights were granted to the city of Kaunas by the privilege of Vytautas the Great. During the early 20th century, Kaunas was the home of the Lithuanian Government and the capital of the country; a period considered by many as the golden age of the city. However, history tells us that even before this date, the city experienced many other periods of great prosperity and national importance.



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY OF TOURISTS AND THEIR REMARKS ON KAUNAS

Some members of the virtual community of tourists (www.virtualtourist. com) provide with really great and quite objective comments and tips for tourists who are planning their trip to Kaunas or other region.

Just bear in mind that some tips might have been composed more than few years ago and in such categories as Shopping or Hotels & Accommodations one may find misleading information. However, there are really interesting and useful remarks in other categories.

You may also check pages composed by other members of the virtual tourist community who have written their remarks about Kaunas. However, it is advisable to bear in mind that it depends on people what they notice in a city or what annoys them. What is more, some members of the community provide with inaccurate or out-of-date facts and misleading tips, so be attentive and do not take everything for granted.

WHAT SHOULD I VISIT IN KAUNAS?

Kaunas offers a number of interesting places worth visiting. We render only a list with short descriptions to raise your interest. It's time to get to know Kaunas better.

Kaunas Castle

A brick castle on the confluence of two rivers – the Nemunas and the Neris – was built in the late 13th century in order to resist the attacks of the Crusaders. It was the first defence castle in Lithuania having played a significant role in the defence system of the city. The castle was rebuilt several times and lost its significance in 1408 when Kaunas was granted Magdeburg rights. Since 2003, the office of Kaunas Tourist Information Centre has been located in the castle.

St. Francis Xavier Church and Jesuit Monastery

{Rotušės a. 7, 8, 9}

The Church in the late Baroque style was constructed in the early 17th century. In 1787, it was transferred to the Order of Franciscan Monks, later it served as an Orthodox Church, Alexander Nevsky's Cathedral and a Technical College. In 1990, the Jesuit Community, which established Jesuit High School in the building, regained the Church.

Town Hall

{Rotušės a.}

It combines the elements of Gothic, Baroque and early Classicism and is often called the White Swan of the city. In the Middle Ages, the Town Hall was the centre of Kaunas with the main market place. After the reconstruction of the building in 1973, the Town Hall was turned into the Wedding Palace and in its basement the Museum of Ceramic Art has settled.

Kaunas Cathedral

{Vilniaus g. 26}

It is the only church in Lithuania in the Gothic style with Basilica design. Have been reconstructed a number of times, it acquired architectural features of Renaissance and Baroque. The Cathedral has 9 altars and crystal-type arches in the sacristy.

Vilniaus Street

It is the most beautiful street in Kaunas, located in the Old Town and is intended for pedestrians. The majority of its buildings have survived since the 16th century and many of them have been reconstructed. This unique street connects the old and the new parts of the city.

Vytautas Church

{Aleksoto g. 6}

This Church was built in the 15th century. It is one of the first brick buildings in Gothic style in Kaunas. The building belonged to Franciscan monks during the Napoleonic Wars and was used as a warehouse of weapons. Vytautas Church is a burial place of a famous Lithuanian writer J. Tumas-Vaižgantas.

The House of Thunder

{Aleksoto g. 6}

It is original and impressive building of Gothic architecture. It was constructed in the 15th century for Hanza merchants. In the 19th century, the statue of Thunder was found in one of the walls. The first Kaunas Drama theatre was established in the house in 1844. Now the House of Thunder belongs to the Jesuit High School.

Laisvės alėja

{Laisvės al.}

It is a 1.7 km long street intended only for pedestrians. It connects the old and the new parts of the city.

The street is one of the first places that every visitor should visit while staying in Kaunas. The street starts with *Soboras* and brings you to *Vilniaus gatvė*, where the Old Town beginns. This street was built during the last years of the 19th century and finished in the 20th century. After a reconstruction in 1982, it became a pedestrian street. Nowadays, *Laisvės alėja* is one of the main places for entertainment in Kaunas. It has a special charm which invites to go for a walk during the sunny days.

(Erasmus student Iván Llera Huerta)

Monument to Vytautas the Great

{at the turn of Laisves al. and L. Sapiegos g.}

This monument was unveiled in 1932 in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Grand Duke Vytautas of Lithuania.

St. Michael the Archangel Church

{Nepriklausomybės a. 14}

This is a neo-Byzantine style building with architectural traits of the Orthodox sanctuary. The church was designed and constructed by Russian architects and built for Kaunas military garrison. Later it was turned into the Art Gallery, however, the Catholic Church has regained the building and now worships there.

Garden of Military Museum

{Vienybės a.}

Monumental busts of famous Lithuanian writers and politicians were unveiled here. The Eternal flame and wooden crosses commemorate those who lost their lives for the independence of Lithuania.

Kaunas Funiculars

{Skriaudžių g. 8 and Aušros g. 6}

Kaunas is the only town in Lithuania which has funiculars – one of the oldest means of transport. The funiculars are used for two purposes – transportation and pleasure trips. The funicular in Aleksotas links the old part of the city with the slopes of Aleksotas which offer a beautiful view of the city.

Statue of Liberty

{Vienybės a.}

This sculpture is the symbol of Lithuanian Statehood. It was inaugurated in 1928, destroyed during the Stalinist regime and restored in 1989.

Kaunas Zoo

{Radvilėnų g. 21}

This zoo-park is the only one in Lithuania. It is set up in the old oak grove and has around 270 species of animals and birds.

Pažaislis Monastery

{T. Masiulio g. 31, Kaunas}

It is one of the most beautiful architectural ensembles of the Baroque style in Lithuania. It was built in the 17th century as a Camaldoli Abbey under the supervision of Italian masters from Florence. Pažaislis music festivals are held here every summer. More information: www.pazaislis.lt

Kauno Marios Regional Park

{Miškininkų g. 2, Vaišvydava, Kaunas District}

Artificially made Kauno Marios (Kaunas Lagoon) covering a total area of 63,5 km² was created in 1959. The open-air Folk Museum, Pažaislis Monastery and Kaunas Yacht Club are located nearby.

A. Mickevičius Valley

The stone, whereon poet A. Mickevicius loved to sit and create poems, lies in the valley that surrounds the Girstupis rivulet.

PLACES WORTH YOUR ATTENTION @ VMU

VMU provides with meaningful leisure offers for all willing to get involved into cultural life of the academic community. Such events as public lectures on thought provoking topics take place in the rooms where lectures are organised, however, the university also has special spaces dedicated for the cultural life of the community.

VMU Aula Magna/Didžioji aula/

{Gimnazijos q. 7, Kaunas}

A few years ago, in a renewed Faculty of Catholic Theology, which is located in the Old Town, one of the most beautiful concert halls in Kaunas opened its door to visitors.

Aula Magna classical music evenings organised by Aula Magna Music Fellowship and Chamber Music Maintenance Fund have been taking place here since 2003. The concerts are held once per month. A big final concert is organised at the end of June which gathers young performers as well as winners of various music contests.

The main goal of the classical music evenings is to enrich the city's musical life and raise the interest of youth in classical and modern music, to attract the audience which could admire and value the professional music as well as to form society's more delicate musical culture and aesthetic needs. The chamber concerts are held in Aula Magna because of its good quality of space and acoustics, which are suitable even for the most fastidious performers.

VMU Concert Hall

{S. Daukanto g. 28, Kaunas}

The most important and exceptional annual cultural events and festivals of the city, such as the International Modern Dance Festival (www.dancefestival.lt), "Kaunas Jazz" (www.kaunasjazz.lt), take place in VMU Concert Hall.

Botanical Garden

{Ž. E. Žilibero g. 6}

This is a place of parks, small bridges and natural beauty. Visitors can take a look at medicinal herbs and decorative plants, as well as to look in a glasshouse.

Sugihara House

{J. T. Vaižganto g. 30, Kaunas}

Chiune Sugihara was the Japanese consul to Lithuania for the period between 1939 and 1940. Together with a Dutch colleague he saved thousands of Polish Jews by issuing visas (against the orders of the Japanese government) to get them out of the country to a safe place. This is the house where he lived with his family whilst living in Kaunas. Nowadays there is a small museum inside.

Web page: www.vdu.lt/japonistai/en/index.php

Building of VMU Rectorate & Museum of S. and S. Lozoraičai

{K. Donelaičio g. 58, Kaunas}

VMU Rectorate is settled together with Museum of S. and S. Lozoraičiai in a renewed building which now adorns the centre of the city. The visitors of the museum may take a look at exhibitions of documents which tell a lot about the famous Lozoraičiai family of diplomats.

Club "Sesija"

{S. Daukanto g. 27, Kaunas}

University club "Sesija" is a meeting place of different people, not only members of VMU community, but also guests of the University, as well as active members of Kaunas society and guests of the city. "Sesija" is open for active people who are interested in multifunctional culture and art. The club provides the society and the community of the University with cultural, educational and social activities, introduces outstanding original projects and attractive events. In the club one may watch non-commercial movies, enjoy concerts, festivals and presentations or take part in thought provoking discussions.

Gallery 101

{Laisvės al. 53, Kaunas}

Opened on March, 2008, University gallery is a place where educational, cultural and historical projects find their place. The founders of the gallery aim to enrich the intellectual life of the community, to encourage a critical dialog and an interdisciplinary interpretation of the art and the culture.

KAUNAS FOR KEEN THEATRE GOERS

Kaunas has four theatres that offer regular performances and many more that offer occasional spectacles or theatre festivals. A ticket for a performance might cost from 15 to 150 LTL and might be bought via Internet or in the box-office.

Kaunas State Drama Theatre/Kauno valstybinis dramos teatras/

{Laisvės al. 71, Kaunas}

They offer discounts for students, but only for a limited number of tickets. If you want to get a 50 percent discount, it is recommended to book tickets right after the repertoire of the next month is announced. After a week or two, there may be no cheap tickets for students left.

In case all cheaper tickets for students and school pupils are sold out, you can still get a 20 percent discount if you book tickets more than two weeks before the performance. If the performance will take place after one week. you may get a 10 percent discount.

Tickets from 10 to 40 LTL

Web page: www.dramosteatras.lt

Kaunas State Musical Theatre/Kauno valstybinis muzikinis teatras/

{Laisvės al. 92, Kaunas}

The Musical Theatre was established in this building in 1940. Presently, operas and operettas are being performed on its stage.

Box-Office Hours: II-VII from 11.00 to 18.00. Tickets for the next month are sold from the 15th day of the current month.

Tickets from 8 to 100 LTL

Web page: www.muzikinisteatras.lt

Kaunas Minor Theatre/Kauno mažasis teatras/

{M. Daukšos q. 34, Kaunas}

Offers plays for people of different ages. The hall is guite small (60 seats), so the tickets are more expensive than in other theatres – about 25 LTL. Web page: www.mazasisteatras.lt

Kaunas Chamber Theatre/Kauno kamerinis teatras/

{Kęstučio g. 74a, Kaunas}

It is a municipal repertory drama theatre with a constant troupe and apartments (100 ir 40 seat halls). Sometimes they offer interesting performances in foreign languages. For example, last year theatre goers had a pleasure to meet with the Prince of Cameroon Felix Kama. Real Prince told stories in German, French and few sentences in English, with a synchronic translation into Russian.

Prices of tickets vary from 8 to 40 LTL, they also offer special prices for students (tickets for students are 20 percent cheaper).

Web page: www.kamerinisteatras.lt

Kaunas State Puppet Theatre/Kauno valstybinis lėlių teatras/

{Laisvės al. 87a., Kaunas}

The name of the theatre quite clearly says what you may expect. The majority of performances are for children, however, they also stage shows for adults as well.

Web page: www.kaunoleles.lt

Kaunas Dance Theatre/Kauno šokio teatras/

{M. Daukšos g. 30 a., Kaunas}

Artistic Director of Aura Dance Theatre Birutė Letukaitė welcomes passionate dance lovers by words which characterise the theatre very well: "Let's brake through the banality and cheap popularity, one-day stangle, trite music, suppressed minds, limited ideas, primitivism, indifference and our laziness! We can, we want, we are different!". The theatre offers really delightful and startling performances, also each year arrange the International Festival of Modern Dance.

Web page: www.aura.lt

Kaunas Pantomime Theatre/Kauno pantomimos teatras/

That is the only Lithuanian professional theatre with a repertoire of pantomime genre only.

Web page: www.kaunopantomimosteatras.tinkle.lt

KAUNAS FOR PASSIONATE CINEMA GOERS

In Kaunas, you may find two commercial cinema theatres and few non-commercial ones, which offer less popular but really interesting movies.

You can check what movies are shown in cinemas on the web page www. cinema.lt/ or by checking websites of each cinema theatre. The movies are shown in their original languages with Lithuanian subtitles. Tickets cost about 8–20 LTL.

Faculty of Political Sciences and Diplomacy, Faculty of Arts or Students' Union at Vytautas Magnus University are organizing many cinema evenings during the academic year – just follow the information given on the www.vdu.lt

Cinema Theatres:

Forum Cinemas

{Karaliaus Mindaugo pr. 49, Kaunas } Web page: www.forumcinemas.lt

Cinamon

{Islandijos pl. 32, Kaunas} Web page: www.cinamon.lt

CULTURE WHICH SURROUNDS YOU IN KAUNAS

Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery

{Nepriklausomybės a. 12, Kaunas}

Built in 1989, this gallery houses the art collection of its benefactor Mykolas Žilinskas. The museum has many permanent collections: Art of the Ancient World, Applied Art of the World (17th- 20th c.), European Fine Arts (16th- 20th c). There are also temporary exhibitions of foreign and Lithuanian art organized in extraordinary spaces.

Kaunas Museum of Ceramics

{Rotušės a. 12, Kaunas}

This museum includes a collection of 30,000 archaeological items. Lots of them come from the excavations made in the Kaunas Old Town and surroundings. You can find historic ceramics of Kaunas from XV century to XIX such as Renaissance and Baroque tiles, tile stove ornaments, roof tiles of impressive size. Contemporary Lithuanian Ceramics are shown there too. For example, you can find Jiesia's products that are not just common pottery & chinaware but experimental artistic work.

Juozas Zikaras House and Museum

{J. Zikaro g. 3, Kaunas}

The museum was opened in the house of famous Lithuanian sculptor Juozas Zikaras (1881–1944), creator of the Liberty monument in Kaunas. Some of his original works are displayed.

Kaunas Picture Gallery

{K. Donelaičio g.16, Kaunas}

The museum collection includes 20th century Lithuanian and Lithuanian emigrants art and a collection of North American Indian art donated by Juozas Kaributas (USA), an émigré actor and cultural activist. It also houses exhibitions such as Jurgis Mačiūnas FLUXUS cabinet or Art Collection of Algimantas Miškinis.

Žmuidzinavičius House and Museum (Museum of Devils)

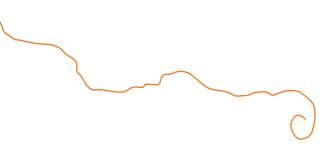
{V. Putvinskio g. 64, Kaunas}

It is considered to be the only museum of devils in the world. It has a rich collection (about 3000 items) of devils and Shrovetide masks once owned by artist Antanas Žmuidzinavicius. It includes not just Lithuanian devil representations but also sculptures and figures from different countries. The exposition shows devil diverse faces (a creator, musician, dancer, drunkard, and wag), although most of the people and cultures consider Satan just as an evil spirit. But in Lithuanian verbal folklore (legends, customs, tales, proverbs, puzzles) it is represented as an attractive & cheerful young man. Pay attention to Hitler and Stalin evil figures dancing over Lithuania.

M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art

{V. Putvinskio g. 55, Kaunas}

It houses a large variety of exhibitions. The most original ones are those dedicated to the national art: works of the most prominent Lithuanian artist and composer Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1875–1911), Lithuanian Art from XV to XIX century, Lithuanian contemporary art and Lithuanian Folk Art.



DISCOVER LITHUANIA

MAIN FACTS AND FIGURES

Official Name Lietuvos Respublika /Republic of Lithuania;

Location Eastern Europe. Situated along the south-eastern

shore of the Baltic Sea, it shares borders with Latvia, Belarus, Poland, and Kaliningrad district

(Russia);

Government Parliamentary democracy with one legislative

body the Seimas;

Population About 3,4 mln. (83 % Lithuanians, 7 % Russians,

7% Polish, 3% others);

Territory 65 303 km²;

Capital Vilnius;

Language Lithuanian;

Currency Litas (LTL);

Religion Roman Catholic;

Climate Average winter temp.: –5°C (min. – 27°C),

average summer temp.: +17°C (max. +35 °C)

European Union Member since May 1, 2004;

NATO Member since March 29, 2004;

The Largest Cities Vilnius (540 thou.), Kaunas (353 thou), Klaipėda

(187 thou.), Šiauliai (129 thou.), Panevežys (115

thou.);

The Baltic Sea Seashore 99 km;

The Longest River Nemunas;

The Largest Lake Drukšiai.

WHEN DO LITHUANIANS MOURN OR CELEBRATE?

January 13 Freedom Defenders' Day

February 16 Independence Day

March 11 Restoration of Lithuanian Independence

March / April Easter

May 1 International Labour Day

1st Sunday of May Mother's Day **1st Sunday of June** Father's Day

June 14 Day of Mourning and Hope

June 24 Feast of St. John

July 6Crowning Day of MindaugasAugust 15Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

October 25 Constitution Day
November 1 All Saints' Day
December 24 Christmas
Christmas

MAIN DATES OF HISTORY

in historical chronicles.

1236 Lithuania is united by Mindaugas (later crowned king).

1323 Vilnius founded.

1392–1430 Under Grand Duke Vytautas, Lithuania stretches to the

Black Sea and is temporarily the largest state in Europe.

1410 The joint army of Lithuania and Poland achieved a victory

against the army of the Teutonic Order at the famous

Battle of Žalgiris.

1547 The first Lithuanian book was published in Konigsberg.

1579 Vilnius University was established.

1795 Lithuania falls to Czarist Russia.

1864–1904 Prohibition of the Lithuanian press by Russian rule.

1918	Lithuania declares independence from Russia.
1939	Hitler and Stalin carve up Europe in the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.
1940	The Soviet Union occupies and annexes Lithuania; deportations begin.
1941	Nazi Germany occupies Lithuania.
1944	Soviets occupy Lithuania again.
1972	At the very Kaunas city centre, a student R. Kalanta sets himself on fire in protest against the Soviet occupation.
1989	About 2 million people from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia form a human chain Vilnius–Riga–Tallinn protesting the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact.
1990	Lithuania declares independence.
1991	During a crack down in January, Soviet troops kill 14 unarmed civilians in Vilnius.
1991	After a failed Kremlin putsch, Lithuania secures independence.

NATURE OF THE LAND

There are no mountains or great waterfalls in the country though its beauty lies in the diversity of landscape: this is a place of hills and plains, the quietly flowing rivers and lakes (over 3.000 in number).

The Nemunas is the major river in the country (937 km) granting Lithuania with the second entitlement – the Land of the Nemunas.

Without dispute, an unforgettable place in Lithuania that still carries its own secret is the Curonial Spit and its National Park being included in the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2000.

The country blessed with an absence of earthquakes or adverse forces of nature is admirable in all nature seasons, though each one may marvel at its unique beauty revealing particularly in verdurous spring and colourful summer.

FEATURES OF THE NATION

The foundations of the nation character were laid in ancient times, and were determined by the geographic location, politics, work characteristics and religious holidays.

Lithuanians may be characterised as strong-willed, cool-headed and rational. Even though there may be many different characters and people, Lithuanians should not be grouped together with the dynamic or particularly expressive nations. However, even in such a little country as Lithuania there are noticeable differences in character of the residents, dialects, customs, songs and cuisine. Four ethnographic regions have been classified according to these features: *Aukštaitija* (Highland), *Žemaitija* (Samogitia), *Dzūkija* and *Suvalkija*. The Dzukai, who live in southeast, are considered to be the most expressive ones, meanwhile the Žemaiciai, settled in the west, being the oldest ethnic group are the most reserved. The Suvalkieciai are exclusive for their practical thinking and therefore once in a while are called "scrooges". No matter where you live in Lithuania, shaking hands after having crossed the threshold of the door is traditional custom of greeting.

LEARN [LT] IS EASY IF YOU KNOW HOW

There may be various reasons why people decide to learn languages, but the most common is that they want to understand and be understood in a foreign country.

Even though nowadays internet is one of the main sources to improve languages, students prefer studying languages in classes.

Thus, incoming students are the ones that form the majority of the foreign learners of Lithuanian language at Vytautas Magnus University.

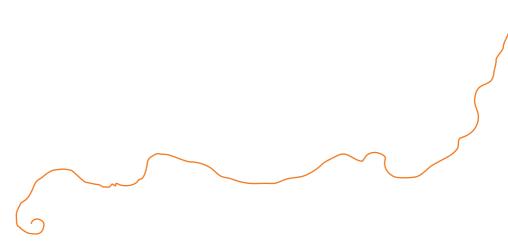
Language Courses

Willing to learn Lithuanian language during their time in Lithuania may attend special courses offered by Vytautas Magnus University (VMU). You may choose from three levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced).

In case you really want to learn Lithuanian but cannot attend the courses during normal semester, you may take part in the intensive Lithuanian language and culture courses. These courses are offered twice per year (summer and winter) with one month duration. If you know at least few Lithuanian words it will be very useful for your daily activities in the city and also at the University.

Lessons Online

The ones who cannot attend the mentioned courses or just prefer learning by themselves, may find some software and websites that allow you to study independently. Studying online has become so popular during the last years thanks to the development of the internet recourses. Nowadays it is possible to find online courses for almost every language all over the world.



TOURISM INFORMATION CENTRES

Kaunas Region Tourism Information Centre

Laisvės al. 36, Kaunas

Tel. + 370 37 323 436

Fax + 370 37 423 678

E-mail: info@kaunastic.lt

Web page: www.kaunastic.lt

Kaunas Castle

Pilies g. 17, Kaunas

Tel. +370 37 323 436

Fax + 370 37 423 678

E-mail: info@kaunastic.lt

Web page: www.kaunopilis.lt

International Kaunas airport

Karmėlava, LT-54460, Kauno r.

Tel. + 370 616 50 991

E-mail: info@kaunastic.lt.

Vilnius Tourist Information Centre

Didžioji g. 31 (Town Hall), Vilnius

Tel. + 370 5 262 6470

Tel./Fax + 370 5 262 0762

E-mail: turizm.info@vilnius.lt

Vilniaus g. 22, Vilnius

Tel. + 370 5 262 9660

Fax + 370 5 262 8169

E-mail: tic@vilnius.lt

Geležinkelio g. 16 (Railway Station), Vilnius

Tel. / Fax + 370 5 269 2091

E-mail: tic3@vilnius.lt

Konstitucijos pr. 3 (Vilnius Municipality), Vilnius

Tel. +370 5 211 2031

E-mail: turizmas@vilnius.lt

More information: www.vilnius-tourism.lt, www.travel.lt, www.tourism.lt





Rectorial and Senate Building	International Office	Faculty of Natural Sciences
	Rooms: 301 – 309	Dean's office 212
Information center	Office of Students Affairs	Faculty of Informatics
Room 116	Rooms: 210 – 211	Dean's office: 409 – 410
Main Library and	Student Council	9.
Reading Rooms	Rooms: 201 – 202	Faculty of Catholic Theology
Rooms: 103, 218 – 221	5.	Dean's office: 105 – 106
Faculty of Humanities	Center of Lithuanian	10.
Dean's office: 215 — 217	Diaspora Studies	Theological Library and Stasy
Faculty of Social Sciences	6.	Šalkauskis Theological
Dean's office: 301 — 302	Faculty of Political Science and	Reading Room
Faculty of Social Welfare	Diplomacy	11.
Dean's office 408	Dean's office 201	Center for Japanese Studies
Center of Foreign Languages	7.	and Civic Tolerance Centre
Room 603	Faculty of Arts	12.
	Dean's office: 403 – 404	Sports Centre
Faculty of Law	VMU Art Gallery	13.
Dean's office 102	Room 101	Student Dormitory No. 1
Faculty of Economics and	Office of Academic Affairs	14.
Management	Rooms: 201 – 209	Student Dormitory No. 2
Dean's office: 303 – 304		15.

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