

ERS Summer School 2026 in Riga, Latvia



From 4 July to 1 August 2026, the ERS Summer School will take place in Riga for the 5th time. It was created as a joint project between the universities of Fribourg, Basel, Bern and Lausanne, but students from a wide range of universities in Switzerland, Europe and the USA are now taking part in the summer school.





Our project is called ERS -- 'Espaces - Räume - Spaces'.

It is much more than 'just' an intensive summer language course. The aim of our project is to discover, explore and create different linguistic, cultural and living spaces.

Language and culture in Latvia or why learn Russian in Riga?

Latvia is a fascinating, multilingual country.

Around 40 % of the population speak Russian as their first language.

Latvia's history is closely linked to the Russian and Soviet history. These topics are complex and fraught with conflict, but they also offer exciting insights, especially for experts on Eastern Europe and anyone interested in history and politics.

Latvia is also a beautiful touristic destination and has a distinctive holiday flair in summer.



ERS creates new learning spaces

Our courses are interactive, activity-orientated and linked to the thematic focus of the respective weekly module.

Depending on the topic and activity, weather, mood and desire, the lessons take place in your living room or outside (in a café, at the market, in the park, in a museum, etc.).





The participants live in shared flats with other students, teachers, experts or organisers. We make sure that our flats are mixed so that different ages, countries and languages are represented. In this way, new friendships are formed, and a lot of Russian is spoken.

Meet like-minded people interested in Eastern Europe!

Exchange with students from different universities and countries!

Maintain contacts outside the Summer School via Telegram and Instagram!

Come to our large annual ERS meeting!

Meet regularly on a smaller scale for cultural events!

Where do Summer School students live?



The concept of our school includes spending time together and socializing apart from lessons and excursions. We meet in kitchens and living rooms, visit each other, play board games, cook together and have parties. This way the learning never ends.



We do not place our students with host families.

We rather create a big family together and make sure that no one feels alone.

We are always there for you and ready to communicate!



What else is there besides lessons and parties?
A cultural program! You meet local and international scientists, public figures and journalists, try local food and make acquaintance with local customs





Every week we invite
an *interesting person*.

If you have a special
interest in someone
who currently lives in
Riga, write to us and
we will try to invite
them.



Once a week we have a tour to one of Riga's districts. You will see the non-touristic Riga as it is for those who have known it for a long time.

Also once a week we will travel around Latvia. These are full-day trips, and each time we try to combine history and culture with nature, because Latvian nature is beautiful! Learning, relaxation and a delicious lunch await you!

What else happens during your stay? Spontaneous parties and cooking together... and also our funny quest around Riga with tasks in Russian and a final movie!



Playback Theatre outdoor



How much does participation cost?



Accommodation EUR 260/week
Language cours EUR 250/week
Programme EUR 50/week

ICTS: 1/week



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