

LITHUANIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

# **LIVING**in**LITHUANIA**

Summer Programs

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## **basic country information**

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### **WEATHER**

Lithuania's climate is relatively temperate. Average summer temperatures range from +17 to +22 degrees Celsius (65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit). Summer weather tends to be different ranging from exceptionally hot to cool and wet. Klaipeda is prone to westerly winds off the Baltic Sea.

### **TIME ZONE**

Lithuania is in the Eastern European Time Zone (EET) (GMT + 2). Lithuania is seven hours ahead of the Eastern Time Zone in North America.

### **WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Lithuania operates on the metric system, as does all of Europe. Distances between cities are marked in kilometers. Grocery items are sold by the kilogram and liter.

Europe, including Lithuania, communicates most commonly using the 24-hour clock.

## **language**

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### **Will I be able to get around town without speaking Lithuanian?**

Most expatriates do not find daily living to be difficult even though they do not have Lithuanian language skills. You will want to learn a few phrases in Lithuanian such as your address for a taxi driver or 'Stop, please' for the microbus driver. When shopping you will be able to get what you need however, it is always polite to learn to say 'please' and 'thank you' in the local language. Purchasing train or bus tickets can be done by writing the name of the city and the departure time on a piece of paper to give to the cashier. In most cases, these types of creative ways of communicating non-verbally are workable. Although English is becoming more common throughout the region, you will still find that many of the shopkeepers only speak Lithuanian. For this reason, you may wish to develop a basic vocabulary of food items and numbers to assist you when you shop.

### **If I need translation, who will I ask?**

The receptionists at LCC are available to assist in translation. For example, they can make phone calls to find out bus or train schedule information, or to call a taxi for you. They can also give you an oral translation of information that you are having a hard time deciphering or write a note for you in Lithuanian.

### **Will I have an opportunity to learn Lithuanian?**

All expatriates are encouraged to participate in Lithuanian language studies. If you would like to hire a private tutor, contact the Career Development Center at [cdc@lcc.lt](mailto:cdc@lcc.lt). If they have someone available, they will help arrange private tutor sessions.

### **Are there resources for learning some Lithuanian before I leave?**

We have prepared a document called 'Useful Terms and Phrases', which includes a basic vocabulary list as well as some simple phrases for you to study prior to departure. Learning to recognize the food items will be particularly helpful when going to the grocery store. If you have not yet received this document, please let us know so we can forward it to you.

## **recreational options**

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Klaipeda has a wide range of entertainment and activities for you to enjoy. There are several theaters for drama, music and ballet. The movie theater plays English films with Lithuanian subtitles. There are several museums. The beaches are excellent for swimming or walking. Some expatriates have taken horseback riding, dance or painting lessons. The sports court behind the Karklu student dormitory provides opportunity to play basketball or street hockey. Michealsen Centras also offers a variety of sports activities such as: basketball, volleyball, soccer. There also is a fully equipped fitness room for all faculty, staff as well as student use. The cost to faculty and staff is 2 LTL per session in the fitness room.

Expatriates can also spend weekends traveling and learning more about the region. For more ideas, visit our website at [www.lcc.lt/studyabroad/localiving.html](http://www.lcc.lt/studyabroad/localiving.html).

## **money**

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### **What is the Lithuanian currency and what is the exchange rate?**

The Lithuanian currency is called the 'litas' (LTL). Coins are denominated in centas (ct). Currently the litas is pegged to the Euro at a constant exchange rate of 3.45 LTL to 1 Euro. The exchange rate for US Dollar fluctuates, staying close to the range of 2.65 - 2.70 LTL for 1 US Dollar.

### **Can I use an ATM card?**

This is the easiest and most common way to get local currency. There are ATM machines all over Klaipeda and you have the option to do your transactions in English. Your card should work on the Cirrus or Plus systems. It is highly recommended that you make sure to have an ATM card from your bank before you come. Every bank has a limit on how much you can withdraw each day. Find out this limit before you arrive in Lithuania.

### **Can I bring traveler's checks?**

It is possible to cash traveler's checks at some banks but these locations are not always convenient. Many expatriates find that traveler's checks are more hassle than they are worth and prefer to use their ATM card to withdraw cash from their bank account when they need it. The easiest place to cash traveler's checks currently is at the Klaipeda Hotel, located in the center of town.

### **How easy is it to exchange money?**

Currency exchanges are available at all major banks. There are also exchange counters located throughout the city. Banks tend to offer better rates but have more limited hours of accessibility.

### **How easy is it to pay by credit card?**

Many shops and services in Lithuania accept credit cards, although they are not as widely accepted as in Western Europe and North America. The North American cards that are most commonly accepted are Visa and MasterCard. Other North American cards, such as American Express or Discover, are rarely usable.

## **local transportation**

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### **What is the most common form of transportation?**

Many Lithuanians get around town on foot. This is also the most common form of transportation for expatriates. Good quality footwear is important. Here are some examples of walking distances:

LCC campus to Karklu dormitory

25 minutes

LCC campus to city center	35 minutes
LCC campus to a grocery store	5 minutes
Karklu dormitory to city center	10 minutes
Karklu dormitory to a grocery store	2-10 minutes

### **What types of public transportation are available within Klaipeda?**

#### **BUSES**

Buses are the least expensive form of public transportation but also the slowest. Routes are published by every bus stop; also the LCC receptionist will be able to tell you which number to take for your particular destination. You can purchase a ticket in advance for 1.00 LTL from any newsstand displaying the "Spauda" sign as well as from the driver for 1.20 LTL.

#### **MICROBUSES**

Microbuses are large vans that can usually transport 10-12 people at a time. They run on the same routes as buses, but come more frequently and can be waved down anywhere from the sidewalk like a taxi. Route numbers are displayed in the front windows of the vans. The driver will stop whenever you signal you wish to get off. A microbus ride costs 1.70 LTL per person (2 LTL from 23:00-6:00). Children under 7 ride free with adults.

#### **TAXI**

Taxis are also an inexpensive form of transportation. Usual fare within the city is approximately 5-10 LTL.

### **What is the easiest way to travel to other cities in Lithuania and the region?**

Getting around Lithuania is relatively easy and inexpensive. A one way, first class rail ticket from Klaipeda to Vilnius (5 hours) is around 41 LTL. Buses, which travel more frequently, cost approximately 49 LTL and take 4 hours to get to Vilnius. Less comfortable microbuses cost approximately the same but arrive in 4 hours.

Trains and buses cover routes between Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Belarus, Poland and Germany. Ferries run from Klaipeda to Germany, Sweden and Denmark. Several airlines fly out of Vilnius (VNO), Kaunas (KUN), and Palanga (PLQ). Here are websites to both regular and low cost airlines:

AerLingus - [www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com)

Air Baltic - [www.airbaltic.com/public/index.html](http://www.airbaltic.com/public/index.html)

Air Gorilla - [www.airgorilla.com/ogeo/easterneurope.html](http://www.airgorilla.com/ogeo/easterneurope.html)

Europe by Air - [www.europebyair.com/efp/index.jsp](http://www.europebyair.com/efp/index.jsp)

Guide to Low Cost Airlines - [www.attitudetravel.com/lowcostairlines/europe/](http://www.attitudetravel.com/lowcostairlines/europe/)

Lithuanian Airlines - [www.lal.lt/en](http://www.lal.lt/en)

Lufthansa - [www.lufthansa.com](http://www.lufthansa.com)

Ryan Air - [www.ryanair.com/site/EN/](http://www.ryanair.com/site/EN/)

Scandinavian Airlines - [www.flysas.com](http://www.flysas.com)

Sky Scanner - [www.skyscanner.net/](http://www.skyscanner.net/)

### **Do I need a special driver's license?**

A valid driver's license from your home state, province or country is required to operate a vehicle anywhere in Europe. An International Driving Permit (IDP) is useful to have when driving in most European countries, but is not needed in Lithuania at this time. An IDP can be purchased at your local automobile association.

## **housing**

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LCC takes responsibility for locating and securing your housing. Several of the summer session faculty live in the Karklu student dormitory while other summer faculty live in apartments in Klaipeda.

There is a basketball court at the back of the dormitory. Barbecues and various kinds of events are held there, especially during the Summer Language Institute.

We will let you know of your housing arrangements before your arrival. The information below describes life in the dorm as well as in an apartment.

### **What are the rooms in the dormitory like?**

The dormitory has fifteen rooms per floor. Each student room has two sets of bunk beds, four desks, a wardrobe/closet, bookshelves, table and four chairs, refrigerator, sink, toilet and shower.

### **What types of cooking facilities are available?**

All dorm rooms include an electric kettle, toaster, pot, frying pan, basic dishes and cutlery. There is only one kitchen on each floor with a stove and two hot plates.

### **What other amenities are available?**

There is one washing machine in the Karklu dorm for staff use. There are a number of clotheslines in the laundry room for hang drying. There are coin operated washing machines and dryers for student use which cost 6 LTL per load including a dryer. These washing machines and dryers are located in the laundry rooms at the end of the hallway. An iron and ironing board are also available in this room. There is also a lounge on each floor for relaxing and visiting.

It is also important to note that these areas are public and one is not always able to do things the way one would in their own house. It is necessary to be flexible and respect each other's differences. Open, honest communication can often eliminate potential stresses (i.e. use of the kitchen, washing machine, etc.)

### **What type of computer and internet access is available from Karklu dormitory?**

Computers in the student computer lab have internet access. If you have your own laptop you will be able to connect to the internet in your dorm room. Student Life staff have a computer with Internet access in the Residence Life Office.

### **What are apartments like in Lithuania?**

While the exterior and common areas of most apartment buildings may appear rundown and unkempt, the individual apartments tend to be maintained quite nicely. Hallways may be unlit, unpainted and may have a mild odor. It would be a good idea to bring a small flashlight to help you find your way at night. Multi-story buildings of up to five floors usually do not have elevators. Buildings with more than five stories do have elevators, but they can break down from time to time. Repairs can sometimes take several days. You will find the inside of your apartment to be very well kept, though the furniture and decor may not be a style that you are familiar with.

### **What furniture will I find in the apartment?**

Your apartment will come fully furnished with all of the basic items including the following:

- Bed
- Night table and lamp
- Sofa and several chairs
- Desk

Bookshelf  
Kitchen table with 2-4 chairs  
Refrigerator  
Stove (usually gas)

**Besides furniture, what else can I find in my apartment?**

LCC will ensure that you have the following basic items in your apartment. Many of them will also be in the dorm if you are living in Karklu dormitory:

Phone  
Bedding  
Basic kitchen utensils  
Frying pan  
Several pots  
Cutting Board  
Kettle  
Basic kitchen utensils  
Cutlery, bowls, plates, cups and mugs for your family and several guests

**Will the apartment have laundry facilities?**

Apartments will have a washing machine. These will be European-style machines, which work on a 2 hour cycle and take a much smaller load of clothing than North American washing machines. You will not have a clothes dryer, as it is customary in Lithuania to 'hang dry' clothes on a clothes line.

**What about a telephone and a telephone number?**

Your apartment will have a telephone and we will provide you with your telephone number upon arrival. Most people can also access the internet through a local service provider by this phone line. If you plan to bring a laptop computer with you, we can provide you with more information upon arrival as to how this may be possible. Some staff, however, have found that the phone lines into their apartment are very old and do not work well for internet connection and international phone calls. Although the lines are being upgraded in many areas of Klaipeda, this is still a possibility in some areas.

**medical information**

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**What type of medical care is available?**

For small concerns, you can choose to go to the local hospital. They are able to treat minor injuries and illnesses, and are very inexpensive. The average of cost of a medical visit in Klaipeda is between \$10-20 USD and you can expect to pay up front. There are also several private clinics in Klaipeda with better quality service than the hospitals. The rates are higher than the hospitals but still remain quite reasonable. Many Lithuanians prefer going to these private clinics as well. A list of doctors who have been used by LCC expatriates in the past will be made available when you arrive (See "LCC at your Fingertips" during Orientation).

For more complicated problems, you will likely want to go to the Baltic American Clinic in Vilnius. It is staffed by American doctors and the treatment you will receive will be more akin to the North American style you are used to. Prices for medical treatment are equivalent to North American rates so you either will want to ensure that the treatment is covered by your medical insurance or

be prepared to pay high rates. Normally you do not need to pay up front for services, as the clinic will bill your medical insurance company directly. Their website: [www.bak.lt/en/index.php](http://www.bak.lt/en/index.php)

**Are medications and first aid readily available?**

Most medications and medical supplies can be purchased at local pharmacies, though preferred brands may not be available. If you are on prescription medication you may want to bring a supply with you or have one of our staff confirm that it is available locally. If you will be purchasing medications while you are there, we recommend bringing along a native Lithuanian to translate the labels for you.

**Do I need any immunizations?**

There are no special immunizations required particularly for Lithuania. There are several immunizations that are recommended for international travel, regardless of the destination. Check with your doctor to see which immunizations are recommended. If you plan to do any traveling to other destinations before or after your term in Lithuania, you will also want to consider immunizations for these places.

**Are vitamins available?**

Most basic vitamins are available at pharmacies in Klaipeda, although their form may be different than you are used to. If you have a question about the availability of a particular vitamin, we can have a local staff person confirm this for you prior to your departure.

**safety**

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You will want to be aware of your surroundings while in Lithuania. For your own safety we encourage you to go out in groups of at least two even during the day when you are in isolated parts of town, beaches or wooded areas. At night, larger groups are safer. Be aware of gangs and stay clear. Use cross walks, but take note that many cars do not stop, so be careful and make sure it is safe before stepping onto the street.

**Visible minorities**

Lithuania is not an ethnically diverse nation (more than 80% of the country are of Lithuanian background and the majority of others are of other Baltic heritage). The country presently does not have a large number of citizens who are not ethnically white. The LCC community promotes respect for all persons; however, in Klaipeda and other parts of Lithuania, you may not experience the same kind of respect or welcome. Unfortunately, non-white persons will experience stares or looks of surprise in the Klaipeda community.

Lithuania Christian College staff and faculty who come from a non-white ethnic heritage have experienced verbal abuse while in Lithuania. Although relatively few racial incidences including physical threat or abuse have been seen in Lithuania, racially motivated incidents do sometimes occur. In such an event, LCC staff and faculty can expect to receive support from the HR and Student Life departments, including emotional support, advocacy within Klaipeda city and judicial structures, and other needed support. Lithuanian judicial structures do not currently provide protection against verbal harassment; however, LCC will act as an advocate on behalf of staff and faculty if they experience racial harassment. Since gaining membership in the European Union in 2004, Lithuania is introducing intentional educational campaigns to promote racial and ethnic tolerance.

**food**

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**Where will I buy my groceries?**

There are numerous grocery stores in Klaipeda, ranging in size from small corner stores to larger supermarkets. Most foods are available although you will not find as many options in flavors and sizes as in North America. There are also convenience stores in most residential areas which are stocked with the basics: breads, produce, dairy products, etc. year round. The local outdoor market has a variety of produce, fresh meat and dairy products. Produce stands are located on many street corners in all but the coldest months of the year. Some of the smaller and older stores are Soviet style, where customers have to ask for goods that are kept behind the counters.

**What do typical food items cost?**

Products grown or produced locally are usually less expensive than what you will find in North America. Products imported from Western Europe tend to be more expensive. The following is of average prices for basic food items:

Reference:      1kg = 2.2 lb      1 liter = 0.25 gallons      1LTL = 0.349 USD

Fruit:            apples 1-2 LTL/Kg  
                      bananas 1-2 LTL/Kg  
                      oranges 3-4 LTL/Kg  
                      kiwi 2-3 LTL/Kg

Veggies:        tomatoes 4-5 LTL/Kg  
                      cucumbers 4-5 LTL/Kg  
                      potatoes 0.50-1 LTL/Kg  
                      carrots 1-2 LTL/Kg  
                      cabbage 0.40 LTL/Kg  
                      mushrooms 6 LTL/Kg

Milk:            1-1.50 LTL/Liter

Bread:           1-2 LTL/loaf

Meat:            Chicken 7-8 LTL/Kg  
                      Beef 11-13 LTL/Kg  
                      Pork 9-11 LTL/Kg

Pasta:           2-3 LTL/Kg

Rice:            1-2 LTL/Kg

Cereal:          2-4 LTL/box(275g)

Juice:           2.50-4 LTL/Liter

Water:          1.50 LTL/5Liter

Cheese:         9-16 LTL/Kg

Ice-cream:     0.50-2 LTL/cone

**Which foods are not available?**

All basic food items (bread, meats, vegetables, fruits, rice, pasta, etc.) are readily available in grocery stores. Packaged foods, although available, do not have nearly the variety as in North America. For example, breakfast cereals are available but your choice will be limited to 7-10 types whereas in North America 40-50 types are available. Common food items that North Americans miss while in Lithuania include: brown sugar, chocolate chips, black beans, maple

syrup, “creamy” peanut butter (you can get natural peanut butter), baking powder, corn starch, corn syrup, molasses, chili powder, cilantro, nutmeg and some other spices. Cheddar cheese, though available in some grocery stores, is very expensive because it is imported from Western Europe.

**Can I drink the water?**

While Lithuanians do drink the tap water, they also drink a lot of bottled water. Generally speaking, Europeans drink more bottled water than North Americans do. It is not recommended that expatriates drink the tap water even though it is safe for local people. Your body may not have developed resistance to the microorganisms in the water in this part of the world.

**What are restaurants like?**

There are many excellent restaurants in Klaipeda, offering a variety of food options. Sample prices are listed below:

Full meal in a small café	8 - 12 LTL
Full meal in a restaurant	12 - 25 LTL
Personal sized pizza	10 - 15 LTL
McDonald’s combo meal	11 - 14 LTL
Soup	3 - 5 LTL
Coffee or Tea	1.50 - 4 LTL

**clothing**

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**What type of dress is appropriate for work at LCC?**

Professional dress is similar to what is typically worn in university settings in North America, although Lithuanians tend to be more formal. Appropriate clothing for women includes slacks, skirts, blouses, and dress shoes. Men’s clothing includes slacks, shirts, and dress shoes. Clothing that is not appropriate for teaching includes t-shirts with writing, beach wear, or flip flops.

**What type of clothing will be suitable for Lithuania’s weather?**

A waterproof, lighter jacket is useful, as rain can be common.

**What type of footwear will be most useful?**

Because much of your transportation will be on foot, you will want to ensure that you bring sturdy walking shoes. You will also want to have waterproof shoes or boots for rainy weather.

**What types of clothing stores are available in Klaipeda?**

If you forget to bring something or do not have room to pack it, you will have many options as far as purchasing clothing in Klaipeda. Clothing and shoe prices are similar to what you would find in North America. Most students and many staff buy good quality clothes from second hand stores at extremely low prices. There are plenty of regular clothing stores throughout Klaipeda.

**electrical appliances**

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**What types of electrical appliances should I bring?**

Although most electrical appliances are available in Lithuania, some expatriates have chosen to bring them along. Examples include things like hair dryers, electric shavers, irons and small portable stereos. If you do bring appliances, be sure to research voltage conversions before leaving (see below).

**Is the electrical voltage different in Lithuania?**

The power in Lithuania is 220 volts whereas North America operates on 110 volts. Some electrical appliances are built for either voltage. Most laptop computers are built this way. Some appliances are built with a switch to convert between 110 and 220. For appliances that are not adaptable, there are two ways to change the voltage from 110 to 220.

**Power Converter**

A power converter is sometimes also called an inverter or a reducer. This device is most commonly sold in North America and is useful mostly for curling irons, hair dryers, electric irons and other similar appliances.

**Transformer**

Most North American electronic equipment will require a transformer (printer, radio, etc.). These are usually identified by their size and weight, and are awkward to transport. A transformer will work all equipment either A or B type, providing the voltage and wattage rating are observed (i.e. it takes a large, heavy transformer to operate a high output hairdryer of 1200 watts).

**Will I need an adapter to plug in my North American appliances?**

Yes, plugs in Lithuania have two round pins. You can purchase adapters for North American electrical appliances prior to your departure at electronic stores (eg. Radio Shack). You will not be able to connect your laptop or any other appliances without this adapter. You can also buy them in Lithuania, but they are more difficult to find.

**communications**

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**Where should I have my mail sent?**

You may use the university address for your personal mail. The address is:

Your Name  
LCC  
Kretingos g. 36  
LT-92307 Klaipeda  
Lithuania

Mail is delivered daily to the university. Personal mail will be placed in your mailbox located outside the staff lounge. Airmail letters take 7 to 10 business days to arrive in Lithuania. Airmail packages take 2 to 8 weeks.

**Will I be given an email address from the university?**

University summer session faculty will be given their own email address as they will have their own office, which has a computer, as well as needing to be reachable by email for LCC students. All LCC addresses end with "lcc.lt". Individual addresses are constructed by using the initial of your first name and your last name. For example, 'Jane Smith' would be [jsmith@lcc.lt](mailto:jsmith@lcc.lt).

Summer Language Institute (SLI) instructors will not receive LCC email addresses. Several people will be sharing offices and it is easier to check a personal email address from any computer in the office or the computer labs. We recommend that if you do not already have an Internet email account, that you set one up prior to arrival. An Internet based address will allow you to send and receive emails from any computer that is connected to the Internet. Common Internet based email providers are 'Hotmail' and 'Yahoo' but there are many others to choose from as well. Select the one that you are most comfortable using.

**What are the postal rates?**

Airmail stamps to North America cost 1.70 LTL. Postcard stamps to North America cost 1.20 LTL. Stamps for letters within Lithuania cost 1 LTL.

Charges for shipping packages include a base fee of 28.84 LTL and a weight fee of 11.03 LTL per kg.

**What about telephone access?**

**Office**

University summer session faculty and SLI teachers will have offices with telephones with local extensions. If sharing an office, you will also share the phone in the office. The receptionist will transfer incoming calls for you to your extension. The phone number for the university is:

Within Klaipeda	310745
Within Lithuania	8-46-310745
From North America	011-370-46-310745
From within Europe	00-370-46-310745

**Home Phone**

Expatriates living in apartments will be given home phone numbers when they arrive. We strongly request that you to make international calls from your office at the school rather than from your flat. It is almost impossible to get an accurate bill from the phone company while you are in the country. However, LCC has a reasonable rate. If you make a call from your office, the LCC Business Office will then give you a bill at the end of the month before you leave Lithuania.

**Mobile Phone**

You may also choose to purchase a mobile phone to use for local calls. Most staff and faculty have cell phones. A very basic phone costs approximately 100 LTL used, or 200 to 300 LTL new. There are options to purchase phone plans or pay-as-you go minutes. Rates vary between companies.

**Long Distance**

Long distance calls from Lithuania to North America are in the range of 2-4 LTL per minute. If you want to stay in touch by phone with family and friends in North America, we recommend that you have them call you. Another option is to arrange a 'call back service' from North America. This allows you to initiate calls to North America from Lithuania through the service. Rates are approximately 1-2 LTL per minute.

Many staff and faculty are choosing to use Voice over IP for international calls. This technology allows you to make phone calls through your computer to another computer (for free) or to a phone (at a low rate). In order to do this, you must have your own personal computer and an internet connection in your apartment. One of the most commonly used programs is Skype. You can find more information about the program at [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com).

**Is there a fax machine at the university?**

Yes, the university has a fax machine. Staff are free to use the machine for personal use and will be billed once a month for usage. LCC's fax number is:

Within Klaipeda	310560
Within Lithuania	8-46-310560

From North America 011-370-46-310560  
From within Europe 00-370-46-310560

## **university resources**

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### **Will I have an office? What about computers?**

All faculty will have an office in the faculty wing of the university. Most faculty will share an office with another faculty member. Offices have a desk, filing cabinet, chair and bookshelves. Offices all have computers. See the section 'Computers and Internet' Access for more information. Administrative offices are located in the administrative wing of the university. Work areas are assigned by the HR office.

### **What type of technology and equipment is available at the university?**

All classrooms have overhead projectors and whiteboards. A TV/VCR (VHS version), Component Stereo System, 4LCD Projectors, and Slide Projector are all available for sign out in the audio-visual storage room. All classrooms are internet-ready. The entire DeFehr centras is wireless.

There are two Toshiba photocopiers that can be used for large copying jobs. Two Lanier printers can be used for photocopying but are more commonly used for printing from faculty offices. Faculty computers are connected to these machines through the local network. There is also a small Toshiba copier available for small copying jobs.

### **What types of supplies are available?**

There is a faculty supply room that houses various types of office supplies for shared use. Supplies available include: overhead transparencies, staplers, paper cutter, rulers, tape, single hole punch, and double hole punch. White board pens can be obtained from the Receptionist or the Human Resource Office Assistant.

Individuals who wish to purchase their own office supplies can do so at a variety of stores in Klaipeda. Notebooks, loose-leaf paper, binders, paper clips, highlighters, scotch tape, staplers, pens, markers and white out are all readily available. Remember that Europe uses A4 as its standard paper size so binders and folders are compatible to this. Binders and paper are two-hole or four-hole punched rather than three-hole punched as in North America.

### **Should I bring my laptop?**

Although you will have a computer accessible to you at the university, many expatriates like having a computer at home. A laptop serves this purpose well. Some individuals prefer to have all of their files on one computer and use their laptop at the university as well, rather than using a university desktop computer. If you do want to use your laptop at work you may want to purchase a PCMCIA Ethernet network card so that you are able to connect to LCC's local network. You will also need an electrical outlet plug adapter. Many restaurants are beginning to offer wireless internet as well. You may want to make sure your computer has a wireless card.

### **Will I have internet access from my apartment?**

Internet access is available from a local Internet service provider through your apartment phone line. You will be billed for usage as part of your phone bill. Be sure that the laptop you bring to use at home has a modem. If you buy a wireless modem or router, you will want to make sure your computer has a wireless card.

## **packing & luggage**

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### **How much luggage will I be allowed on my flight?**

Most airlines allow each passenger to check two 23 kg (50lb) pieces of luggage, plus a carry-on bag on transatlantic routings. Check with your specific airline to confirm weights and size restrictions. You may want to consider packing light and leaving room for souvenirs. Most people find that it is better to pack less than more.

### **Besides my clothing, what else should I consider bringing?**

#### **Flashlight**

Streets and hallways are generally unlit so a flashlight helps with navigation. A keychain flashlight is small and very useful in unlit apartment buildings.

#### **Backpack/Canvas Bag**

As you will be doing most of your traveling on foot, this will be essential for carrying groceries and books. Plastic bags are not free at the grocery stores (small ones are 15 centas). A backpack or canvas bag will come in handy if you don't want to continually purchase plastic bags.

#### **Umbrella**

Weather in Klaipeda can be rainy so you will want something to keep you dry while walking. Umbrellas are useful on calm days but not when it is windy. A rain jacket with a hood may be a better option in these cases.

Note: All of these items can be purchased in Lithuania unless you have brand name preferences.

### **Are there any other packing tips?**

- Be sure that your entire luggage is labeled clearly with your name and address.
- You may want to pack one or two changes of clothes in your carry-on bag. The occasional times when luggage does not arrive with passengers happens as often in Lithuania as anywhere else in the world.
- Be sure to pack breakable items carefully. If possible, include breakable items in your carry-on luggage. (Eg. Your laptop computer should be carried with you.)