



# NEWCOMERS GUIDE

## 2020



SSE RIGA



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# WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

Dear class of 2023,

Hope the first days of SSE Riga have not scared you away already. Although we cannot hug you, we are still sending virtual and safe hugs and support your way, and will try to do that throughout the year since you are finally a part of our family!



**SĀRA ZDANOVSKA AND KASPARAS RUTKAUSKAS,  
THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT AND VICE  
PRESIDENT**

Be strong and do not lose the motivation that got you here in the first place! Do not be afraid of failing – it happens to the best of us. However, in the hardest moments we wish you to remember that you can still choose your own path here and it doesn't have to be the same as for your other course mates. Take from this experience what you desire the most and do it with your heart. You got this! We know it!

We cannot wait to see you all in real life and we really wish to see you as a part of Student Association as well.

With love,  
Your friends – Sāra and Kasparas



# SSE RIGA MISSION AND VALUES

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The mission of the School has always been to provide a state-of-the-art education in business and economics that contributes to the economic and social development of the region, in particular Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

SSE Riga produces state-of-the-art research of relevance to the Baltic countries and actively participates and fosters public debate in its field of competence.







## COMMUNITY

We nurture a diverse and caring community in which each member of the School is valued and respected; a positive and friendly atmosphere is created, allowing space for individual uniqueness and teamwork collaboration.



## INTEGRITY

We adhere to high ethical standards by applying accountable academic and administrative policies, practices and services; the School requires practicing dignity and honesty in actions and words.



## EXCELLENCE

We demand intellectual rigor and critical enquiry in advancing academic work and expanding knowledge; we serve as a catalyst for positive changes in the Baltic countries and beyond.



# CODE OF CONDUCT

## DO'S

**Help Others** - when seeing someone struggle with a topic that you are sure you know well, give them a helping hand. This will go a long way during the rest of your studies, as everyone needs a little help at some point.

**Keep it clean** - when back on the SSE Riga premises, it will become the place where you spend more time than your actual home, so treat it with respect. Not only you will appreciate being in a tidy space, but you can also earn some karma points.

**Be a good SSER representative** - becoming a student here means that you carry the School's name now, make sure to do so with pride, as the value of the diploma that you will receive at SSE Riga is dependant of the students coming after you as well. Show yourself in the best light and inspire other young, bright minds to join the student body.

**Fill in the surveys** - you might not notice it yet, but there will come a time when your inbox is filled with emails asking to fill in a survey. Do so! There will come a time when you send such email yourself and it is nice to know that you can count on other students to fill them in.

**Plagiarise or cheat** - this option should not even cross your mind. The consequences for this are severe and not doing so will help you avoid standing in front of the Disciplinary Committee. The minimum sanction is a failing grade for the course, but can also lead to expulsion from SSE Riga.

**Be late** - be respectful of everyone's time and especially the lecturer's. Barging in after the beginning of the lecture is disruptive, but if you happen to miss the beginning, be as quiet as you can and take a seat somewhere on the side. You can move to your unofficial-official spot in Soros after the break.

**Use electronic devices during lectures** - this does not apply for studies online, of course, as it will be hard to do so. But when back to on-site studies, there is a no electronic device policy for most of the lectures. It will be a good change after the past few months, so don't take them out unless asked otherwise!

**Most importantly** - don't give up! Even when its hard, remember that it is all worth in the end and that we are all in this together, ready to help whenever you need it!

## DON'TS

# GOOD TO KNOW



## LIBRARY

### Working hours:

Weekdays: 9am - 5pm

Weekends: closed

The reading rooms will be open from August 24 for individual studies only. Students are welcome to come pick up their textbooks, as well as check out books and calculators while maintaining a 2m distance.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **MIDTERM BREAK:**  
November 18
- **CHRISTMAS BREAK:**  
December 21 - January 3
- **SPRING SEMESTER START:**  
January 11
- **EASTER BREAK:**  
April 2 - April 5
- **MIDTERM BREAK:**  
May 1 - May 4
- **GRADUATION:**  
June 12
- **END OF YEAR:**  
June 18

## » E-TALONS

For public transportation in Riga use E-talons, which comes with a discount for students. Grab your ID and ISIC card with you and head to the nearest "Rīgas Satiksme" office to get your rechargeable card. You can add extra rides to it at any Narvesen. One ride costs EUR 0.30, but you can also get a monthly pass (EUR 10 for one route and EUR 16 for all routes)

## ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS



Advisory Board Meetings is the best way to communicate to the administration face-to-face about university-related issues and events, as well as hear about the newest changes in rules, policies and schedule. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if you just want to listen. You will receive an email whenever there is one coming up. If you happen to miss one, the Information Committee will send out a summary to all of the students afterwards.

## » PRINTING & COPYING

If you need to print something, you can go to the PC Lab at the Library and use the printing credits assigned to you.

Printing credits assigned at the start of each semester - 2.50 (250 pages)

Printing at the PC Lab - 0.01 credit per page (single or double-sided)

Printing at the Library - 0.02 credits per page (single or double-sided)

Color printing - 0.1 credit per side (only possible in the library)

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS



You will notice that the courses in SSE Riga are mostly split between lectures and seminars. The seminars will be lead by TAs (Teaching Assistants). They are Y2 and Y3 students who have received the highest grades in the respective courses. During the seminars you will go through the material covered in lectures in more depth and will be able to ask any question that may arise. Although seminars are not mandatory, it is highly advised to attend them to prepare for the exams more successfully.



## » EXAMS AND RE-EXAMS

When held online, the exams will be remotely proctored using Respondus software. It is an automated remote proctoring platform that will help make sure that remote exams are taken in a controlled environment and academic integrity is preserved. Although daunting at first, it is quite easy to get used to, moreover, you can do a test exam beforehand to understand how it works.

When there is no emergency situation, most of the exams are written on paper, on-site. They can be up to three and a half hours long and you are not allowed to take any breaks. Some courses that have more material to cover also have a midterm exam.

There are only very few select people who manage to go through SSE Riga without failing an exam, and the rest of us have to take re-exams. Usually, preparatory sessions are offered beforehand, to help you revise the material. However, if you do not pass the re-exam, you will have to retake the course next year. Additionally, if you are ill during an examination, make sure to bring a doctor's note for the exam not to be counted as failed.

## EVALUATION <<

<b>0-99</b>	—	<b>100 -139</b>	—	<b>140-159</b>	—	<b>160-200</b>
Fail		Pass		Merit		Excellent

When receiving the Diploma, you will see an academic transcript with the SSE R grades on a 200 point scale and ECTS grades, that make the transcript compatible with international standards. To qualify for the BSc degree, you must earn 187.5 ECTS and present a Bachelor's Thesis.

# » SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT POINTS

Social Involvement Points (SIPs) are used to evaluate students for their academic performance and their involvement in social activities. The system is mainly used for selecting students for the exchange program during the third year of studies.

## ACADEMIC RANKING

GPA: Max 200 points

### EXAMS:

No re-exams	30 points
1 re-exam	10 points
2 re-exams	-10 points
3 re-exams	-30 points

70%

## SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT RANKING

### ACTIVITY IN ORGANISATIONS

Board members and  
associates  
TAs  
International Office  
BSc Programme Promotion

30%

## FINAL EXCHANGE SELECTION



## » ELEARNING

Perhaps the most visited site on your computer will be the elearning platform, competing only with your email. The platform is mostly used to receive course materials, submit assignments and see the grades. You should enroll yourself in the upcoming courses before they start and familiarise yourself with the course outlines to know what to expect.

## » LAIS.LV

LAIS is an online grading platform used by most universities in Latvia. There you can see your exam results, apply for elective courses and see the letters (A-F) assigned to your grade that will later be shown on your diploma as well.

## E-MAILS «

Checking your email will become a second nature to you at SSE Riga. You will receive them from your fellow students, the administration and lecturers regarding any changes in the schedule, upcoming events and conferences, job opportunities, accommodation offers, etc. Additionally, if you haven't before, then you will quickly learn how to write emails and will do so frequently.

Here's the best ways to reach the student body:

MAILING ONLY Y1  
STUDENTS:

year1@sseriga.edu

MAILING ONLY  
BELARUSIAN STUDENTS:

bel@sseriga.edu

MAILING ONLY Y1  
BELARUSIAN STUDENTS:

1bel@sseriga.edu



# FALL SEMESTER COURSES

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## 1. ACADEMIC STUDIES AND CRITICAL THINKING

As the name suggests, you will have to wreck your brains a little bit during this course. Be prepared to write essays and spend sleepless nights reading academic articles, as it is great practice for what will come in other courses. Pro tip - do the readings beforehand and discuss them with your friends to understand better.

## 2. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

No matter what happens during this course, make sure that everything is in balance, that each Debit has a Credit and that you get plenty of sleep before the next lecture. Falling asleep during one would not be a good idea, as this course lays a good foundation courses later on.

## 3. MATHEMATICS

No matter how good you are at derivatives and compiling matrices, make sure to do the seminar tasks beforehand, as mathematics might just catch you by surprise!

## 4. ECONOMIC STATISTICS

This will be your first course lead by Morten, which by default means that the lectures will be interesting, no matter if you're talking about normal distribution or the birthdays of Morten's closest relatives. Also, the exam is open-book, so make sure that your notes are understandable and well written.

## 5. MICROECONOMICS

Microeconomics is one of the most important and longest courses during your whole time at SSER, as it provides you with a lot of concepts that will be used continuously throughout other courses. Do not be intimidated though! You get to spend more time with Morten and will have a chance to apply the theoretical knowledge in real-life situations while writing the Micro Report.



## 6. ACADEMIC ENGLISH

You have proven that your English is good, but do you know the proper way to paraphrase and reference other's work? Do you feel at ease when talking about commas, articles and semicolons? Worry not, as during this course you will have a chance to revise what might have become forgotten during the summer and learn much more.

## 7. DATA ANALYSIS

By the end of this course you will become the master of Microsoft Excel, navigating spreadsheets with just a few clicks on the keyboard and making tables that would make Picasso proud. However, you might have to betray your Macbook and switch to a Windows system for a bit - just trust me, it will be easier.

## SPRING SEMESTER COURSES :

8. Managerial Economics and Operations Management
9. Organization and Management
10. Macroeconomics
11. Ethics and Sustainable Business
12. Introduction to Entrepreneurship
13. Marketing
14. Economic and Consumer Behaviour
15. Management Accounting and Finance
16. Public Economics
17. Civil Protection
18. Business and Leadership Skills & Internship

## ELECTIVE COURSES

During the 3 years at SSE Riga each student must earn at least 9 ECTS for elective courses, taking no more than one per semester. There is a range of electives offered in social sciences, humanities and of general interest. We would suggest taking the first semester slow and applying for one during the second semester, as you will have a better understanding of the study process and the workload. Electives are a great way to study exactly what interests you and some of them happen in small groups, so you get to have exclusive one-on-one time with the lecturers.

# STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

## THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION



[www.association.lv](http://www.association.lv)

@sserigasa

The Student Association of SSE Riga is the cornerstone of student representation both within and outside of the School. It consists of seven committees, each responsible for a different aspect of student activities and is led by the President and Vice President. Part of the SA Board is also the **Chief Accountant** who ensures that there is plenty of resources for the upcoming year and the **Alumni Coordinator**, keeping up the good relations with the graduates of SSE Riga and takes care of the Scholarship application process together with the Alumni Association.

The SA aims to improve your university experience in any way possible, be it an academic need or a need to party. Filled with hard-working associates, each committee fulfills an important role in the association. Every student is highly encouraged to apply for a role in the Student Association and to participate in shaping the years in SSE Riga exactly as they would like to experience them.

Each student is highly encouraged to apply for a role in the Student Association and to participate in shaping the years in SSE Riga exactly as they would like to experience them. Not only will you be able to participate in organising events and parties that are famous for being the best ones with the **Event Committee**, but you will also gain first-hand experience talking to real businesses around the Baltics and arrange sponsorships for the SA with the **Business Committee**. You are able to work closely with the administration and manage the study process in **Education Committee**. The amazing social media accounts, where you can see the best pictures from events and much more, are upkept by the **Marketing Committee**. To ensure that everything is running smoothly, **IT Committee** is here to manage the SA website and fix any projector that is not working properly. The **Information Committee** ensures that everyone is up to date with what is happening at the school, as well as delivers the Newcomers Guide (hi, there!), the Yearbook and many other projects throughout the year. But to make sure that you get your dose of activities, the **Sports Committee** organises weekly practices and tournaments in a wide array of sports.



SĀRA ZDANOVSKA  
PRESIDENT



KASPARAS RUTKAUSKAS  
VICE PRESIDENT



AELITA SKROMULE  
ALUMNI COORDINATOR



TOMS OSIS  
CHIEF ACCOUNTANT



VERONIKA MOROZOVA  
MARKETING COMMITTEE



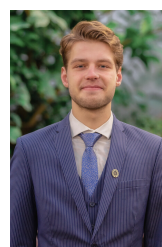
KASPARS BELAŠS  
IT COMMITTEE



KSENIJA SUNEPE  
INFORMATION COMMITTEE



MADARA BUŠA  
EVENT COMMITTEE



ĒRIKS KRISTSONS  
SPORTS COMMITTEE



LAURA KAMERGRAUZE  
BUSINESS COMMITTEE



BETIJA MELKE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## » THE INSIDER

The Insider is the School's magazine managed entirely by students. Six issues are published throughout the academic year, each different from the other. The topics discussed are ever-changing, there you can find interviews with alumni, current students and faculty, study tips, fun articles about the life at SSER. Much can change from issue to issue, but one thing remains - the Gossip Page, held sacred by our students. Everyone is welcome to express what is on their mind in the pages of the Insider.

INSIDER

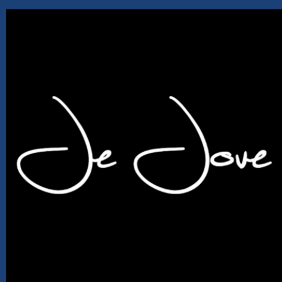
## DAYS OF OPPORTUNITIES



The annual careers fair that has been happening ever since the School was founded is organized by the Days of Opportunities team. There international companies and government institutions from all over the Baltics, as well as recognised universities offering Master's Programs gather to give presentations to the most hard-working and intelligent students of the region. Students regard the event as the best way to start their careers and to have meaningful conversations with their future employees.

## » INVESTMENT FUND

As one of the oldest organisations at SSE Riga, the Investment Fund aims to prepare young financial specialists who are fluent in financial markets and trading. Knowledge and experience is shared throughout the organisation via various seminars, which are held by professionals who work in investment and retail banking, audit, or financial advisory. During the seminars people share their experience in the industry and describe the process of working in the financial sphere from the inside. Members of the organizations also write a weekly analysis of stock markets during the Investment Game.



JE JOUE



Je Joue ("I play" in French) is a place where all students can come together and express their talents, dreams, and ideas through the medium of art and culture. We encourage students to use their minds, question the status quo and embrace their own uniqueness. After all, if you won't chase your dreams, someone else will hire you to build theirs.

## » CHARITY CLUB

The principal goal of the Charity Club is to increase awareness of the responsibilities we bear to one another. Charity Club goes on trips to animal shelters, organizes different donations, has a long-term friendship with orphanage "Zīļuks" in Madona's district, and collaborates with Māras center. A friendly atmosphere is guaranteed.



Charity Club  
SSE Riga

## THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SOCIETY <



The Entrepreneurship Society organizes activities to foster entrepreneurship, and motivate, educate, and support young people willing to start their own businesses. Mission and vision of Entrepreneurship Society is to strengthen an entrepreneurial environment at SSE Riga, in Latvia, and throughout the Baltics.

## » DEBATE SOCIETY

Debate Society is a community of people interested in controversial issues and current affairs by engaging themselves in debates on various topics. Even though the schedule lists meetings as happening two times per week, Debate Society members meet more often with all their discussions, beer evenings, crazy sauna and forest parties, and, of course, tournaments. They participate in various competitions across Europe, and also run the annual international SSE Riga Debate Tournament.



## LATVIAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS <



Revived this year, Latvian Model United Nations (LVMUN) is an organization with the aim of promoting open dialogue on complex global issues, including international peace and security, economic and social progress. At LVMUN, delegates gain insight into the workings of the United Nations and the dynamics of international relations by engaging in a debate on pre-selected topics, as well as react to crises that emerge during the conference.



## » 180 DEGREES CONSULTING

180 Degrees Consulting is the world's largest student-driven consultancy, which offers consulting services to organizations driven by a social mission. By working on projects in marketing, strategy, fundraising, organization management, etc., our consultants not only get a hands-on experience, but also tackle global problems. In addition, students master McKinsey case solving methodology and receive professional training by management consultants who work for the world's leading consulting firms.



## LEIF MUTEN SOCIETY



The Leif Mutén Society (LMS) motivates students to study harder and achieve greater results by providing financial support, such as covering the expenses for participation in international seminars, forums or conferences. Moreover, LMS provides scholarships for top performing students in some courses during the year, and also covers expenses occurred while writing Bachelor Theses.

## » SSE RIGA CHOIR

The SSE Riga Choir unites current and former students who are passionate about singing. As a multicultural choir, the repertoire surpasses genre, period and national limitations. The concert programmes vary in form and theme, and include Medieval, Renaissance, sacred, jazz, popular music and many more. The SSE Riga Choir participates in Latvian Song Festivals, Baltic Student Song Festivals, and many other local events and competitions.



## WEEKLY PRACTICES



The Sports Committee organises regular practices in various sports, all free of charge for the SSE Riga students. Whenever the emergency restrictions are lifted and practices will restart, you can try your hand at Volleyball, Basketball, Swimming, Football, Table Tennis, Yoga, Aerobics and Floorball. More information about each practice (schedule, location, etc.) can be found on their respective Facebook groups.

# » EVENTS

Unfortunately, due to the emergency situation, some of the SSE Riga parties that we have grown to love will have to be postponed, changed or cancelled altogether. However, we aim to deliver as many events as possible, so that each student gets to experience the highs and lows of partying SSE Riga style.



Perhaps taking on a little different concept this year, Newcomers Camp is the event of the year when Y1 students get to experience a little taste of SSE Riga life, meet their new coursemates and get to know Y2 and Y3 students. This is the event that you will not forget (or perhaps, will not remember) !



Get your game-face on and be ready to play beer pong! This event reignites the competitive spirits in each SSE Rigan while allowing both the participants and the viewers sip on a cold beer.



Even though internship is somewhere far in your mind right now, this event gives a nice glimpse of how your next few summers might be like. Y2 students share their experience and stories of what happened during their internships, so keep an eye out for what might interest you!





## SSE VS RBS OLYMPIC GAMES

A week full of intense atmosphere and sports events happening almost every day. To participate you will need to be in your best shape to make sure you defend the honour of the School.



## ANNUAL ICE HOCKEY GAME

Once again the Sports Committee shows what they are capable of, organising a hockey game, where both the current students and alumni alike participate. Sharpen your skates and apply to be a part of the team!



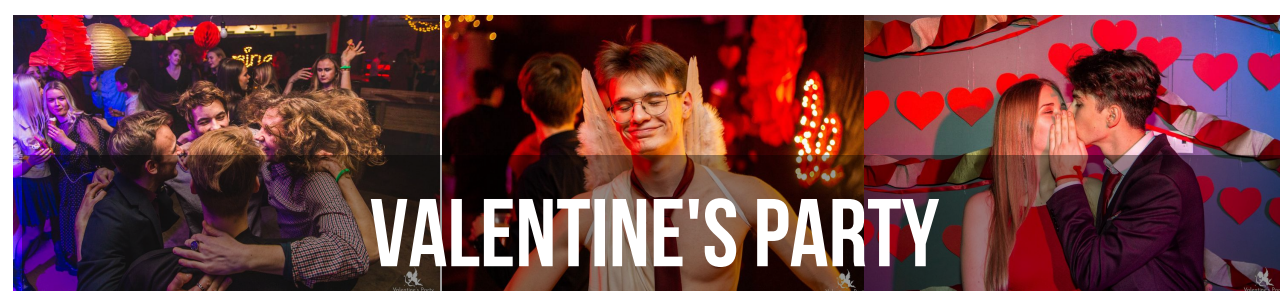
## CHRISTMAS BALL

After the last exam of the semester has been written, it is time to take out your ball shoes and get ready for the fanciest event of the year. The Christmas Ball guarantees good music to dance to, a good company and no sleep, of course! You will get a chance to sleep in during the Winter Break.



## BOAT TRIP

Perhaps one of the most loved traditions in SSE Riga is to gather the whole school on a cruise ship and go to Stockholm for a day. These might be the loudest, craziest and most fun three days of the entire year. But after them, make sure to check The Insider's gossip page, because, well, ship happens.



## VALENTINE'S PARTY

Love is in the air no matter if you're in a relationship or enjoying the single life, everyone's welcome in the Valentine's party!





The time of the year when everyone who holds SSE Riga dear comes together and remembers the years spent here. Not only is it a great chance to dance to the max and sing your heart out at the karaoke, but you can also meet the alumni of the School in a more informal setting.



Summer coming closer also means that your time to choose a place for an internship is nearing as well. Days of Opportunities provides you with exactly that - a chance to meet your future employers, have your first face-to-face conversation with them and network, network, network..



Takeover is famous for two things - a great theme and the presidential striptease. Yes, you read it right. Its a long-lasting tradition, and the newly elected SA Board has to keep up with all of their responsibilities, including the ones to party!



Our dear Y3's have returned from their travels abroad and are ready to tell you all about them. Its an incredibly interesting event where you can gather your first insights of where you would like to go yourself.



Although you have three courses lead by Morten in one year, it simply is not enough, and so he returns to talk about life, review memes and, of course, drink a lot of tea.





## GAME NIGHT

A chill evening with your schoolmates where each of you can show off your card skills and what you have learned during the first economics courses by playing Monopoly. Those who are ready to really show off can participate in a Durak contest and win not only prizes, but also jealous looks of other participants.



## GRADUATION PARTY

As the graduates celebrate having finished their last year of studies, you are invited to join and raise a glass of champagne for their success! Take the last chance to party with them, listen to their stories and congratulate them!



## GRADUATION BBQ

After a long night of partying and one too many champagne glasses, the graduation bbq provides you with a chance to chill, eat and drink something while gossiping about the last night's events.



## SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

There is only one proper way to start the summer, and that is to play sports with your coursemates during the day and party during the night. This will be a sports event like you have never experienced before!

Keep an eye out for the upcoming events!  
We cannot wait to meet you all and hope to  
do so as soon as possible!



# YOU ARE NOT A TRUE SSE RIGAN IF..

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... you have never said "sorry for spam"

... you haven't tried to learn a whole course in one night

... you don't open the gossip page in The Insider before any other article

... you haven't chosen your unofficial-official seat in Soros

... you haven't been thrown out of school for studying too late

... you haven't fallen asleep in Soros

... you haven't started talking to a student in a language they don't understand

... you have never felt like a movie star entering the school in front of a hundred excited tourists

... you haven't joined any of the organizations

... you have never had to ask your neighbours to stand up and let you leave your seat in Soros

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» SEE YOU ALL SOON! «



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SSE RIGA

[www.sseriga.edu](http://www.sseriga.edu)



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@SSE\_Riga



[www.association.lv](http://www.association.lv)

@SSERigaSA

**STUDY HARD.  
PARTY HARD.**