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**Great to see
you again!**



D.U.K

Migration Information Centre's
"I choose Lithuania"
frequently asked questions



VIDAUS REIKALŲ
MINISTERIJA



Following your return to Lithuania after you had lived abroad, there will be many things that may seem to have changed here. The process concerning your return home from emigration may be less smooth than you would like it to be.

Returning expats are interested in different aspects of life in Lithuania: jobs or business opportunities, housing, health care, children's education and adaptation to the changed environment. The Migration Information Centre "I choose Lithuania" sees your return as a planned process which makes an extraordinary decision on returning to Lithuania much easier if you have an understanding of it in advance. Here you will find the main steps that should be taken before and upon your return to Lithuania.

Do you have any questions about returning to or coming to live in Lithuania? Visit the Migration Information Centre's "I choose Lithuania" website at **renkuosilietuva.lt**, ask burning questions using our live chat, by giving us a call or dropping an email and we will be happy to respond.

MIC KOMANDA

Photograph by Rima Urbanavičiūtė

The leaflet uses works of creative Lithuanians - photographs that capture modern day life and naturalness.



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WHAT ARE THE FIRST STEPS FOLLOWING MY RETURN TO LITHUANIA?

- #1** Before your return to Lithuania, you will first need to **declare your departure from the foreign country** of your previous residence. Upon your return, you will have to **declare your residence in Lithuania**. This can be done on the E-Government Gateway website at epaslaugos.lt or at your local ward (*seniūnija*) of your intended place of residence to be declared.



- #3** The next step is to **choose your health care institution and register with it**. Before registering, you should make sure that the chosen health care institution (*an outpatient clinic, a family medical centre, a clinic*) has an agreement with the Territorial Health Insurance Fund (*teritorinė ligonių kasa*) for the services provided to patients to be covered. This will ensure that you will not have to pay for the services covered through the budget of the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund (*Privalomojo sveikatos draudimo fondas* or *PSDF*).



- #2** **You must make arrangements for the Compulsory Health Insurance** (*privalomasis sveikatos draudimas* or *PSD*) to be in place. As soon as your residence is declared in Lithuania, you will immediately have an obligation to pay your PSD contributions to Sodra.

If you are employed under an employment contract, you will not have to do anything yourself as all compulsory contributions will be paid by your employer together with your wages.

If an expat returning to Lithuania from abroad is temporarily not in employment, they must pay the PSD contributions independently. If a person is retired, in school, a full-time student or a parent raising a child under 8 years of age (for more information see vlk.lt), they will be covered at the public expense. If a person has an intention to become a job-seeker, the PSD contributions will be paid by the state when they register with the Employment Services (*Užimtumo tarnyba*).

WHAT DOCUMENTS SHOULD I BRING WITH ME ON MY RETURN FROM ABROAD?

When returning to Lithuania, it would be practical to bring the following documents with you:



- #1 documents showing periods of employment and proof of employment** (*like employment contracts, payslips, P45, P60 and PD U1 forms*);

- #2 documents showing social contributions paid** (*like E104 forms or their equivalents*);



- #3 documents proving health insurance during your residence abroad** (if social contributions and health insurance were paid for you by your employer, an employment contract will suffice);



- #4 documents showing your child's/children's completed or partial education abroad** (*diplomas, certificates, letters from school*).

For more information, please visit
renkuosilietuva.lt/en/first-steps-in-lithuania/

WHEN AND HOW DO I DECLARE MY RESIDENCE AFTER RETURNING TO LITHUANIA?

Declaration of residence notifies public authorities of your return and lets you receive a variety of services: social support, priority in nurseries (kindergartens) and free health care. You will need to declare your residence *either in person at a local ward (seniūnija) based on your address or on the E-Government Gateway website at **epaslaugos.lt**.*

Please note that if you wish to declare your residence at a property owned or used (under the right of loan for use (commodate)) by another person, you will be required to have this person's authorisation *(to be issued at the local ward based on your address or on the E-Government Gateway website if the property owner approves the declaration that you have completed).*

WHEN AND HOW DO FOREIGN NATIONALS DECLARE THEIR RESIDENCE IN LITHUANIA?



EU citizens must declare their residence in Lithuania if they come to Lithuania for a period in excess of 3 months (over half a year). Residence must also be declared by other foreign (third-country) nationals that hold a temporary/permanent residence permit or a residence card for an EU citizen's family member.

Foreign nationals may declare their residence at the Migration Department's local office when collecting their Lithuanian residence permit or at a local ward (*seniūnija*) of their intended place of residence to be declared.

For more information, please visit
renkuosilietuva.lt/en/registering-as-a-resident/

HOW DOES A CHILD RETURNING FROM ABROAD START SCHOOL IN LITHUANIA?

Children born or raised abroad often face challenges at school upon their return to Lithuania because they have lost the language or have never spoken Lithuanian at all. Pursuant to the Lithuanian legislation, **every public school has an obligation to hold additional Lithuanian lessons, create levelling classes and draw up personalised curricula for Lithuanian children returning from abroad.**

It is advisable to discuss your child's integration options directly with the administration team at the school of choice.

Children of foreign nationals who are resident in Lithuania and of Lithuanian citizens returning from abroad are able to study at Vilnius Lithuanians' House (*Vilniaus lietuvių namai*). This school also accepts children that do not speak Lithuanian. Vilnius Lithuanians' House takes on pupils of all ages. Free dormitory accommodation and extracurricular classes are available to them (for more information, please visit lietuviunamai.vilnius.lm.lt).



When you have selected the school of choice, you will need to present the following documents:

- #1 an application;**
- #2 a document certifying learning achievements** (*a document proving completion of an educational curriculum or a part of it abroad*), which must be translated into Lithuanian (the requirement to have the translation notarised is subject to every school's internal procedures);
- #3 other documents requested in the school's admissions procedure** (*each school may have different requirements as to the documents to be provided or selection exams to be passed*).

Schools (*primary, secondary and progymnasiums*) prioritise children with their residence registered within the school's catchment area. Hence, you may be required to present a certificate of declared residence.

For a child under 14 years of age, a school admission application has to be submitted by either of the parents (*guardians*), whereas pupils over 14 years of age usually make the application themselves.

For more information, please visit
renkuosilietuva.lt/en/education/

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A PUPIL TO BE LEARNING IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN LITHUANIAN?

Lithuania has ethnic minority schools where teaching is offered (*or certain subjects are taught*) in Russian, Polish or Belarusian.

In addition, there are both private and public schools in Lithuania with a focus on foreign language learning or bilingual education. Such schools teach children of all ages certain lessons in English, French or German.



A secondary education curriculum to be completed in English is available at the American International School of Vilnius, Klaipėda Lyceum and Klaipėda International Universa Via School. Teaching in English under the basic education curriculum is offered by the VIMS – International Meridian School, and under the primary education curriculum, by the Queen Morta School. The tuition fees charged by private schools may vary. Therefore, you will need to make enquiries directly with individual schools.



Those willing to continue their education in English in senior classes are able to study under **the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme**. The two-year IB programme is designed for Year 11–12 pupils. Under this programme, all subjects, with the exception of the Lithuanian language and literature, are taught in English.

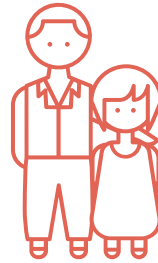
In Lithuania, the IB programme is available at Vilnius Lyceum as well as Kaunas Jesuit, Šiauliai Didždvaris, Tauragė Versmė and Kaunas Jonas Jablonskis gymnasiums. Vilnius International School offers the IB programmes for primary and basic education, while Kaunas Jurgis Dobkevičius Progymnasium, for primary education.

For more information, please visit
renkuosilietuva.lt/en/education/

WHERE CAN I LEARN LITHUANIAN?

Basic Lithuanian may be studied online, for example, on the **Let's Be Friends** project website at friends.ugdome.lt as well as on the loescen.com or surfacelanguages.com websites. It is also possible to learn Lithuanian at language schools located in all major cities across Lithuania.

Lithuanian language teaching is also offered on a one-to-one basis by private teachers. Most universities which have foreign students also offer Lithuanian language courses.



For more information, please visit

renkuosilietuva.lt/en/lithuanian-language-classes/

MAY A CHILD HOLD DUAL CITIZENSHIP?



For more information, please visit

renkuosilietuva.lt/en/dual-citizenship/

Although as a general rule Lithuanian citizens may not hold foreign citizenship, the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania provides that children born outside Lithuania may acquire Lithuanian and foreign citizenships at once. When they turn 21, they will no longer have to choose which country's passport they wish to keep as their dual citizenship is enshrined in the said law.

WHERE IS DISTANCE LEARNING AVAILABLE IN LITHUANIA?

Mainstream schools offer distance learning in two ways:

- #1 **under the general educational curricula**, where a person studies all subjects and, upon completion of a general educational curriculum, is awarded a certificate of completion of primary/basic education or a maturity certificate (*brandos atestatas*) (those who complete only part of the curriculum will be awarded a certificate of completion of the relevant part of the curriculum);
- #2 **under the Lithuanian language package**, where a person selects only the subjects of the Lithuanian language, literature, history and geography (a certificate of completion of these subjects will be awarded).

Distance learning takes place via video conferencing, using online, telephony and computer software (*Skype and others*), e-lessons, video recordings, etc. There is a requirement to attend the educational institution only for the maturity exams in Year 12 and, in certain cases, for a knowledge test in Year 10.

Free distance learning is available at **Vilnius Ozo Gymnasium** (Years 1–8 and Years I–IV for gymnasium classes), **Šiauliai Simonas Daukantas Gymnasium** (for young people aged 20 years or under in Years 9–12), **Šiauliai Sandora Progymnasium** (Years 1–8), **Akmenė District Youth and Adult Education Centre** (for young people aged 16 years or above in Years 5–12) and **Kretinga District Education Centre** (Years 11–12).



For more information, please visit
renkuosilietuva.lt/en/e-learning/

IS IT POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT FROM ABROAD WHILE SEARCHING FOR A JOB IN LITHUANIA?



Unemployment benefits are paid in Lithuania if the following conditions are met:

- #1** a person must register with the Employment Services (*Užimtumo tarnyba*) (uzt.lt) and make a claim for unemployment benefit to be awarded;
- #2** a person's last job must be in Lithuania;
- #3** a person must have been in employment for at least 12 months in the past 30 months before making a claim;
- #4** if a person has not been in employment for 12 months in Lithuania over the past 30 months, but has worked in another EU/EEA member state, Switzerland, Ukraine or Belarus during this period, they may present a statement of unemployment insurance and employment periods, to the Employment Services, from a competent institution of that country. The latter document is the U1 form (for Europe; Ukraine and Belarus have other forms to be issued). If a person does not have such a document, Sodra may also take other documents concerning their employment abroad. In such event, you will need to contact Sodra.

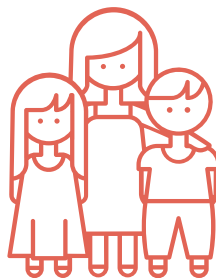
For more information, please visit
renkuosilietuva.lt/en/unemployment-benefits/

Unemployment benefit is calculated only on the basis of income received in Lithuania.

If a person in receipt of unemployment benefits abroad has come to Lithuania to seek employment, they may be able to transfer the benefits to Lithuania.

Any such benefits will be paid in Lithuania (for a period of up to 3 months) if:

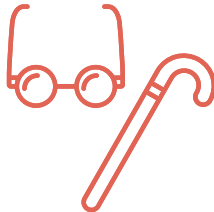
- #1** a person was entitled to unemployment benefits in the country from which they come to Lithuania;
- #2** unemployment benefits were awarded to a person no more than 4 weeks before the date of application for the unemployment benefit transfer;
- #3** prior to leaving, a person requested authorisation from the employment service of the country of departure to have the unemployment benefit transferred, i.e. the unemployment social insurance benefit (*nedarbo socialinio draudimo išmoka* or *NSDI*) export document PD U2;
- #4** following return to Lithuania, a person registered with the Employment Services within 7 days and followed their instructions.



WHAT HAPPENS TO MY RETIREMENT PENSION ACCRUED ABROAD WHEN I RETURN TO LITHUANIA?

The minimum employment record required for a Lithuanian retirement pension is 15 years. If a person has the necessary record for a retirement pension, but has no insured income, and there are no more than 5 years left until their retirement age, they may make a claim to Sodra for an early pension to be awarded.

Persons resident in an EU/EEA member state and Switzerland are subject to the principle of benefit export. If a person moves from one of the said countries to another, their pension continues to be paid by the awarding country. An export of employment record for retirement pension purposes is also possible from Canada, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.



IF I AM RETURNING TO LITHUANIA FROM ABROAD TO GIVE BIRTH, WILL MY HEALTH INSURANCE BE VALID DURING PREGNANCY?

Before returning to Lithuania, you should obtain proof of your entitlement to free health care (*S1 form*) in the country of departure where you are insured. As soon as you submit this form to the National Health Insurance Fund (*Valstybinė ligonių kasa*), you will be covered in Lithuania and will be able to receive free health care services (*you will be required to declare your residence in Lithuania prior to this*). The processing of this form usually takes a few months. So it is advisable to apply for it in advance.

If a person is returning to Lithuania temporarily, only for pregnancy and childbirth, they must obtain an S2 form, which lets scheduled health care services to be received in Lithuania free of charge (*covered by the country where the person is insured*). If you have this form, you do not need to declare your residence in Lithuania.



If you returned to Lithuania solely for pregnancy and childbirth, you must have the S2 form with you every time you contact a health care institution. It is important to note that an S2 form entitles you only to such scheduled health care services that are listed on the form (*for example, those related to pregnancy and childbirth*). The processing time for this form is usually shorter than for an S1 form.

If you come to Lithuania without these documents, you will have to pay for any health care services yourself directly to the provider. If you are insured in **a country outside the EU, you will need to find out the terms and conditions applicable to the medical services related to pregnancy and childbirth to be received in Lithuania.**



If you declare your residence in Lithuania, you will have insurance cover in Lithuania from week 28 of your pregnancy until childbirth and 56 days after it.

For more information, please visit
renkuosilietuva.lt/en/can-i-get-treatment-in-lithuania-if-i-am-insured-abroad/

IS MATERNITY BENEFIT PAID ON RETURN TO LITHUANIA?

Entitlement to maternity/paternity and childcare benefits extends to all persons who have at least 12 months' worth of sickness and maternity social insurance record in the past 24 months. It is important to note that the person's last job must be in Lithuania.

A person intending to claim maternity/paternity or childcare benefit must contact the local Sodra office of their place of residence online, by post or in person (contacts of local offices can be found at sodra.lt/lt/teritoriniai-skyriai).

A pregnant woman who does not have a 12 month employment record in the past 24 months and who is not entitled to maternity benefit will be **awarded a one-off lump sum of 6.43 basic social benefits (bazinė socialinė išmoka or BSI) 70 calendar days before the expected due date.**

A one-off lump sum (*at the rate of EUR 429 in 2020*) is paid for every child born/adopted in Lithuania and declared here. This benefit is awarded if the child and at least either of the parents are permanent residents in Lithuania that hold either Lithuanian or foreign citizenship.

Each child born/adopted in Lithuania will be awarded a monthly payment (*child benefit*). The rate applicable in 2020 is EUR 60. This universal benefit is paid to all children from birth until they turn 18, or 21, where they are enrolled in the general education programme. Child benefit is paid regardless of the family's income. This benefit is awarded by a municipality. Therefore, a claim may be made in person at the municipality of your place of residence or online at spis.lt.

Additional benefits:

- #1 families raising and/or fostering 1 or 2 children are entitled to an additional benefit of EUR 40 per child if the family's monthly income per person is less than 1.5 of the state-supported income (*valstybės remiamos pajamos or VRP*);
- #2 families raising and/or fostering 3 or more children or a disabled child are entitled to an additional benefit of EUR 40 per child regardless of the family's income.

Municipalities may also award other benefits:

- #1 childcare benefit for those in training or education;
- #2 child maintenance benefit;
- #3 benefit for multiple births.

For more information, please visit
renkuosilietuva.lt/en/child-benefits/

HOW DO I USE LITHUANIAN HEALTH CARE SERVICES WHILE LIVING ABROAD?

If a person is covered by the compulsory health insurance in one of the EU/EEA member states or Switzerland, they are entitled to health care services to be received in any of them, including Lithuania. If a person has paid for their health care services using own funds, they may claim reimbursement of the fees from a competent institution of the country where they are insured. The institution will refund the money for the services received.

Reimbursement is limited to the costs of such services and the rates applicable in the country of the person's cover.

Before making a decision on a scheduled treatment in another EU/EEA member state or Switzerland, it is advisable to visit the nearest local health insurance fund (*teritorinė ligonių kasa*) to find out the rates and the treatments to be reimbursed and what documents will have to be provided upon return in order to receive a refund. To avoid any potential issues, upon your return to Lithuania you should submit the required paperwork to the local health insurance fund in a timely manner and without delay.



Lithuanian citizens resident in a non-EU country where they have declared their residence and where they work (for example, in the USA, Canada, Russia, Israel, etc.) are not eligible to reimbursement of health care service costs this way. They will have to pay for their medical services themselves.

For more information, please visit
renkuosilietuva.lt/en/can-i-get-treatment-in-lithuania-if-i-am-insured-abroad/

HOW CAN I MARRY A FOREIGN NATIONAL IN LITHUANIA?

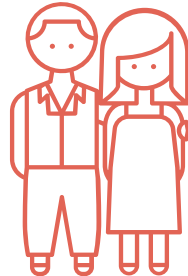
To marry a foreign national in Lithuania, you will need to file a marriage application with a civil registry office (*located at where either of the people getting married or their parents has/have declared their residence*). **Both people getting married must be present in person when submitting the application.** An application for document verification may also be filed on the MEPIS system via the E-Government Gateway website at epaslaugos.lt. The marriage will be registered **at least 30 days after the date of application.**



Foreign national's documents (*with the exception of their passport*) must be **legalised or certified with an Apostille** and translated into Lithuanian.

Documents to accompany the application:

- #1 **identity documents;**
- #2 **birth certificates** or birth records (*this requirement is optional for Lithuanian residents, but mandatory for any citizens coming from abroad*);
- #3 **a proof of payment or a receipt** confirming that the public fee has been paid (*these documents are not required if the application was submitted online and the payment was made via the E-Government Gateway*);
- #4 a foreign national must present a document issued by a competent authority in their home country to confirm that there are no obstacles to the marriage. If a foreign national is divorced or widowed, they must also provide a document to prove divorce or the death of their spouse.



For more information, please visit renkuosilietuva.lt/en/getting-married-in-lithuania/

WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO REGISTER A FOREIGN MARRIAGE IN LITHUANIA?

For a foreign marriage to be valid in Lithuania, it must be added to the marriage register. You can have this done by completing an application at a civil registry office in Lithuania (their contacts by districts can be found at mepis.registrucentras.lt/web/mepis/kontaktai) or at Lithuanian diplomatic missions abroad (their contacts by countries in an alphabetic order can be found at urm.lt/default/lt/embasycontacts).

Documents to be presented to register a marriage (*they may be submitted by either of the spouses*):

- #1 an identity document;
- #2 a marriage certificate issued by a foreign public authority, legalised or certified with an Apostille and translated into Lithuanian.

NOTE. Documents issued in Russia, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine and Moldova do not require legalisation or certification, but they must be translated.

If either of the spouses is a divorced or widowed foreign national, there is an additional requirement to provide a document issued by their home country's competent authority to prove their divorce or the death of their spouse.

IMPORTANT! Marriage does not entitle a foreign national to stay legally in Lithuania, but they may apply for a residence permit when they get married.



For more information, please visit renkuosilietuva.lt/en/getting-married-outside-lithuania/

ARRIVALS OF EU CITIZENS IN LITHUANIA: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?



Nationals of the EU/EEA member states (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and Switzerland may come to and stay in Lithuania for 3 months without any additional travel documents required.

Supporting documents (*proof of employment, study, family, business, etc.*) will have to be submitted to the Migration Department's local office of the foreign national's intended residence to be declared.

A decision will be taken no later than within 10 working days. The certificate is valid for 5 years. A list of documents to be presented can be found at migracija.lt/pateikiamu-dokumentu-sarasas.

You may submit the application and supporting documents in person at the Migration Department's local office or at a Lithuanian diplomatic mission or a consular office, through an authorised person or alternative representative at the Migration Department's local office or electronically.

ARRIVALS OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN LITHUANIA: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

Nationals of third countries subject to visa-free travel may come to Lithuania without a visa (*with an identity document only*) and stay here for up to 90 days. The countries subject to visa-free travel to Lithuania include Ukraine, Australia, Canada, USA, Argentina, New Zealand and others. A full list of such countries can be found on the Migration Department's website at migracija.lt.

Nationals of third countries not subject to visa-free travel will have to apply for a travel document (*a visa*) at a Lithuanian diplomatic mission abroad before they come to Lithuania.

Foreign nationals intending to live in Lithuania must have one of the three documents: a national (D) visa or a temporary/permanent residence permit.

A foreign national holding a national (D) visa may come to Lithuania and stay here for up to 12 months. An application for a national (D) visa must be submitted to a Lithuanian diplomatic mission or the Migration Department. A national (D) visa will be issued within 15 calendar days.

IMPORTANT! Submission of documents does not entitle you to a lawful stay in Lithuania.

Temporary residence permits are issued to foreign nationals other than EU citizens. They are generally issued for a period of one or two years, but may also be issued for a shorter period. A temporary residence permit may be issued for work, family, business or study purposes or because of Lithuanian origins.

An application for a temporary residence permit needs to be submitted to a Lithuanian diplomatic mission or the Migration Department's local office of the foreign national's intended residence to be declared. An application is processed within 4 months

under the standard procedure or 2 months under the expedited procedure. This period may be shorter under certain circumstances.

A permanent residence permit is a document that gives a foreign national the right of permanent residence in the Republic of Lithuania and certifies the foreign national's permanent residence status. Permanent residence permits are issued for 5 years with a possibility of renewal at the expiry.



This permit is issued to a foreign national who comes to Lithuania to live with a family member that is a Lithuanian citizen. The permit may be issued to a person who is entitled to reinstatement of Lithuanian citizenship or to those who have continuously lived in Lithuania for 5 years holding a temporary residence permit.

An application for a permanent residence permit needs to be submitted to the Migration Department's local office of the foreign national's declared residence. An application is processed within 4 months under the standard procedure or 2 months under the expedited procedure.

A list of documents to be presented can be found at migracija.lt/pateikiamu-dokumentu-sarasas.



Contacts

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