



renkuosi
lietuva

Great to see
you again!



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EDUCATION



VIDAUS REIKALŲ
MINISTERIJA

Returning to Lithuania with your children may seem a challenge, but it is not necessarily true. Lithuania puts efforts to help both children returning from abroad and young people preparing for their further studies adequately enter the education system without experiencing major inconveniences.

Schooling is available remotely prior to your return. Schools offer Lithuanian and integration lessons, and universities, additional admission scores. Here you will find information on how to continue or start preschool education, schooling or studies in 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.

Photograph by IGNAS G.

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

Contacts

Toll-free number:

880022922 (calling within Lithuania)

+37052514352 (calling from outside Lithuania)

renkuosilietuva@iom.int

www.renkuosilietuva.lt

[Facebook.com/RenkuosiLietuva](https://www.facebook.com/RenkuosiLietuva)

EDUCATION

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

ADMISSION. The procedure for admission to a preschool institution is determined by its owner (most often it is a municipality). In some municipalities, children are admitted on a centralised basis – they are registered for their chosen nursery (kindergarten) by the municipality. In such a case, an application needs to be made to the municipality. Otherwise, children are admitted by the nurseries themselves, in which case the parents (guardians) need to submit an application for a child to be admitted to the nursery to its executives.

Information on admission terms and conditions applicable in a given municipality can be provided by the officers at the Education Department of that municipality.

Procedure for a child's admission to a public preschool:

- #1. submitting an application (online or in person at the preschool);
- #1. the application is added to the list based on the priority rules applicable at the municipality;
- #3. delivering a child's medical certificate and other required paperwork (a certificate of the declared residence or of family composition) to the designated preschool;
- #4. discussing the terms and conditions of educational or other services to be provided and signing a teaching contract with the institution.

Admissions to **private nurseries** generally take place all year round. If you want your child to attend a private nursery, you will need to submit the requested documents to its administration team (different private nurseries may require different documents) and sign a teaching contract with them.

A child may attend a preschool at least 4 hours a day or 20 hours per week on all or selected days of the week.

FEES. Parents (guardians) pay a fee for their child's meals. Some municipalities have an additional fee for educational materials or other supplies to be purchased. The average monthly fee is around EUR 60.

The fee may be reduced because of the family's income, social status, etc. The reduction procedure is set by the owner of the institution (most often a municipality). A claim for a fee reduction may be submitted to the municipality or the institution that offers the preschool education curriculum

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Children of Lithuanian citizens returning from abroad will be integrated into classes by age and will be schooled together with the peers of their age group.

School is responsible for the preparation of an integration plan and a personalised educational plan as well as additional advice or lessons. Additional help can be received from the local municipality's Department of Education.

The education of children returning from abroad attracts 30% more funding.

Those children with no proficiency in Lithuanian may be schooled in a special levelling class or a mobile group.

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.



Those willing to continue their education in English in senior classes are able to study under the **International Baccalaureate (IB) programme**. It is a two-year programme for Year 11–12 pupils where all subjects, with the exception of the Lithuanian language and literature, are taught in English. IB programmes are offered at the following schools in Lithuania:

- Vilnius International School (offers IB programmes for primary and basic education);
- Vilnius Lyceum;
- Kaunas Jesuit Gymnasium;
- Šiauliai Didždvaris Gymnasium;
- Tauragė Versmė Gymnasium;
- Kaunas Jonas Jablonskis Gymnasium;
- Kaunas Jurgis Dobkevičius Progymnasium (offers the IB programme for primary education).
- Rudutis Licėjus (private school)

The below schools also offer a chance to complete a secondary education curriculum in English:

- American International School of Vilnius;
- Vilnius International School (VIS)

Schooling in English under the basic education curriculum is also available at the I, Klaipėda Universa Via International School, British School Vilnius and under the primary education curriculum, at the Queen Morta School. The tuition fees in private schools may vary. Therefore, you will need to make enquiries with specific schools.

Many of those coming from abroad choose **Vilnius Lithuanians' House** (*Vilniaus lietuvių namai*) for their children. It is a gymnasium that offers general education to the children of exiles with Lithuanian origins, descendants of political prisoners, foreign nationals and Lithuanian citizens coming or returning to live in Lithuania as well as of Lithuanian citizens living abroad. Tuition, dormitory accommodation and meals while studying at the gymnasium are offered free of charge and are state-funded.

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

DISTANCE LEARNING

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 videoconferencing, 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.



Distance learning is free and offered by the following institutions:

- 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*);
- Kretinga District Education Centre (*Years 11–12*).

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES

Higher education study programmes are offered by two types of higher schools: **colleges** (*kolegijos*) and **universities**.

Study cycles:

- **1st cycle** (*undergraduate*) (*Bachelor's degree or professional Bachelor's degree studies*);
- **2nd cycle** (*graduate*) (*Master's degree studies*);
- **3rd cycle** (*PhD studies*).



Admissions take place online (at bakalauras.lamabpo.lt) via the Association of Lithuanian Higher Education Institutions for Centralised Admissions.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport encourages young Lithuanians to come to study in Lithuania and offers incentives, such as adding an additional score for admissions to higher education schools or giving a further score to Lithuanians who graduated from Lithuanian mainstream schools abroad.

Lithuanian expats may be awarded two types of support – a scholarship and/or a social benefit.

A monthly scholarship equivalent to 3.25 basic social benefits (*bazinė socialinė išmoka*) will be awarded for one semester. Meanwhile, the social benefit is a one-off payment. A student is entitled to both types of support. However, support is not available to students who study the languages of the countries which they come from.

Financial support for studying in Lithuania may be received if:

- a person is a Lithuanian expat who has completed secondary education under the educational curricula of foreign countries and international organisations;
- a person is a Lithuanian expat who had lived abroad for at least three years, but completed secondary education in the Republic of Lithuania (*following arrival in Lithuania started studying in Years 8–12 at a mainstream school or Years I–IV at a gymnasium*).

Lithuanian expats wishing to claim support need to register on the State Studies Foundation's (*Valstybinis studijų fondas*) website at vsf.lrv.lt. A claim for the autumn semester must be completed online by 30 September, and for the spring semester, **by 20 February**.

If a person has completed partial studies and wishes to continue studying in Lithuania, they will need to submit their application with the higher education school of choice. If a person has graduated abroad and intends to study further in Lithuania, they will need to have their degree acquired abroad recognised. The recognition procedure is undertaken by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (*Studijų kokybės vertinimo centras*) (skvc.lt) or an authorised higher education school.