

LIVINGinLITHUANIA

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basic country information

WEATHER

Lithuania's climate is relatively temperate. Average winter temperatures range from -5 to +5 degrees Celsius (22 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit). However, the average winter temperatures can be somewhat misleading as Klaipeda often experiences several weeks in the winter where the temperature drops as low as -10 to -15 degrees Celsius (18 to 8 degrees Fahrenheit). These lower temperatures can often be accompanied by snow. 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. Spring and fall see many days of rain. 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

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. LCC instructors may attend a university Lithuanian language class free of charge. LCC's Lithuanian Studies Department offers classes in the fall and spring semesters. Alternatively, expatriates can employ a private tutor for 20 to 30 LTL per hour in the fall or spring semesters.

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.

Websites for learning Lithuanian:

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/lithuanian.php>

<http://www.debeselis.net/>

recreational options

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 Karklu Hall provides opportunity to play basketball or street hockey. Bikes are available at local stores and bikers enjoy well groomed bike trails. 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. Spouses and children of the staff and faculty members will be able to pay the same price for the fitness card. The cards are sold at a minimum of 5 entries. A 5 entry card is valid for 1 month. A 6 to 30 entry card (max) is valid for 3 months.

Sometimes day trips are planned for those interested in seeing more of Lithuania. Expatriates also spend weekends and breaks traveling and learning more about the region. For more ideas, visit our website at www.lcc.lt/studyabroad/localliving.html.

In the past few years, more and more bed and breakfasts, guest houses and hotels in the countryside have opened in Lithuania. Many are inexpensive, modestly equipped, quaint and very comfortable.

Websites for renting flats, rooms in Vilnius, Nida and Palanga: <http://www.kopos.lt/en/default.php>

Website for country tourism: <http://www.atostogoskaime.lt/en/>

money

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

The Lithuanian currency is called the 'lita' (LTL). Coins are denominated in centas (ct). Currently the lita is pegged to the euro (EUR) at a constant exchange rate of 3.45 LTL to 1 EUR. The exchange rate for the US dollar (USD) fluctuates, staying close to the range of 2.20 - 2.50 LTL for 1 USD.

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.

Can I cash North American checks?

Yes, checks written on North American banks can be cashed in Lithuania. Processing time can be up to two weeks since the bank in Lithuania has to communicate with the bank that the money is coming from. To cash a check you will need to open a bank account at a Lithuanian bank. This involves filling out an application form and presenting your passport and temporary residence permit.

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

What is the most common form of transportation?

Most 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 Hall	25 minutes
LCC campus to city center	35 minutes
LCC campus to a grocery store	5 minutes
Karklu Hall to city center	10 minutes
Karklu Hall 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 1.50 LTL. from any newsstand displaying the "Spauda" sign as well as from the driver for 1.70 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 2.00 LTL per person (more 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 8-20 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 minibuses cost approximately the same and 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

Air Baltic - www.airbaltic.com/public/index.html

Air Gorilla - www.airgorilla.com/ogeo/easterneurope.html

CheapOAir - www.cheapOair.com

Europe by Air - www.europebyair.com/efp/index.jsp

Guide to Low Cost Airlines - www.attitudetravel.com/lowcostairlines/europe/

Lithuanian Airlines - www.lal.lt/en

Lufthansa - www.lufthansa.com

Ryan Air - www.ryanair.com/site/EN/

Scandinavian Airlines - www.flysas.com

Sky Scanner - www.skyscanner.net/

What costs are involved in buying and maintaining a car?

European model used cars are available in Klaipeda for \$1,500 to \$2,500 USD. Car insurance and registration costs can range from \$600-\$800 USD per year depending on the type of car. Gas prices are approximately 3.80 LTL per liter.

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.

medical information

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

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

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.

LCC International University 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

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 = 0.422 USD

Fruit: apples 2-3 LTL/Kg
 bananas 3-6 LTL/Kg
 oranges 4-6 LTL/Kg
 kiwi 3-4 LTL/Kg

Veggies: tomatoes 4-5 LTL/Kg
 cucumbers 4-5 LTL/Kg
 potatoes 0.50-1 LTL/Kg
 carrots 3-4 LTL/Kg
 cabbage 0.40 LTL/Kg
 mushrooms 6-8 LTL/Kg

Milk: 1-1.50 LTL/Liter

Bread: 2-3 LTL/loaf

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

Pasta: 2-3 LTL/Kg

Rice: 2-3 LTL/Kg

Cereal: 2-4 LTL/box(275g)

Juice: 2.50-6 LTL/Liter

Water: 1.50 LTL/5Liter

Cheese: 9-16 LTL/Kg

Ice-cream: 0.80-4 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 and some other spices. Cheddar cheese, though occasionally 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	9 - 15 LTL
Full meal in a restaurant	15 - 30 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

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. You may want to bring a formal outfit for special occasions (Christmas banquet, graduation, etc.). Appropriate clothing for women includes slacks, skirts, blouses, and dress shoes. Men's clothing includes slacks, shirts, and dress shoes.

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

You will want to be sure to have warm clothes for winter weather: coat, scarves, gloves, hat and boots. Although winter temperatures are not extreme, you will spend more time outside than you would at home because you will be walking more. A waterproof, lighter jacket is also useful for the rest of the year, as rain is 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 or snowy 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 higher than what you would find in North America but still reasonable. Handmade wool socks, scarves, and sweaters are sold at the market. 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 as well.

electrical appliances

What types of electrical appliances should I bring?

Although most electrical appliances are readily available in Lithuania and reasonably priced, 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. It is much easier to buy adapters in North America than in Lithuania.

communications

Where should I have my mail sent?

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

"Your name"
LCC International University
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.

Meest-America, Inc.

This company offers surface and airmail service from the US to Eastern European countries and Russia. They generally offer less expensive rates than the USPS.

Meets-America: <http://www.meest.us/>

Will I be given an email address from the university?

Yes, all expatriates receive an email address, which will be set up on your computer at the university. All addresses end with "lcc.lt". Individual addresses are constructed by using the

initial of your first name and your full last name. For example, 'Jane Smith' would be jsmith@lcc.lt.

What are the postal rates?

Airmail stamps to North America cost 2.45 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

Your office will have a telephone with your own local extension. 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

Most expatriates living in apartments will be given home phone numbers when they arrive. Expatriates living in Karklu Hall may have telephone access from their room. Some rooms share the main line into the student residence. A few rooms do not have telephone access and expatriates use the phone at the reception desk. All local and long distance calls are charged by the minute. Billing is usually done on a monthly basis.

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 - 300 LTL new. There are options to purchase phone plans or pay-as-you go minutes. Rates vary between companies.

You may also have an option to bring your own cell phone. GSM (Global System for Mobile) is the cell phone standard in Europe and much of the world. If your regular USA or Canadian cell phone service is through T-Mobile or Cingular, then you probably have a GSM phone. Other North American cellular service providers may also operate GSM systems. GSM phones have a little SIM card plugged in next to the battery.

If you have a GSM phone, you can probably use it in Lithuania. You will need to purchase a SIM card from one of the local service providers in Lithuania, a couple of dollars; then load it with a few more dollars (will actually be in LTL) for your talk minutes. Pull out your US or Canadian SIM, put in the Lithuanian SIM. You will be assigned a local phone number, just like regular subscribers.

A few issues:

Your phone must be 'unlocked' for use in other systems. Your local service provider can do this before you leave for Lithuania. They may give you a hard time, try to sell you a European service upgrade (too expensive, per minute, all calls count as international long distance); just tell them to unlock the phone. One of the cell phone repair shops can unlock it here in Klaipeda, but it will cost 50 LTL or more. Your phone should be a 'Tri-band' or 'Quad-band'. Most of the mid to

upper end phones are this way. This refers to extra sets of frequencies used in Europe, not available in North America. Motorola Razr's are like this, for example. If your phone is not 'tri- or quad- band' it will still probably work, but not as reliably.

Text messaging is very popular in Lithuania and it is cheaper than making a phone call most of the time.

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.

We suggest that you make international calls from your office at the school rather than from your flat. LCC has a reasonable rate at about \$0.16 a minute. If you make a call from your office, the LCC Business Office will then give you a bill at the end of each month.

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.

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	310-560
Within Lithuania	8-46-310-560
From North America	011-370-46-310-560
From within Europe	00-370-46-310-560

university resources

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.

Is secretarial help available?

Some secretarial help is budgeted each year as part of the student work program. Individuals should request this type of student help from their department chair. Because budgeted funds are limited, you may not have access to as much of this assistance as you would like. If this is the case, you should feel free to hire a student personally to assist you with the remainder of your administrative needs. The standard pay rate for students is 4-6 LTL per hour.

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 punched rather than three-hole punched as in North America.

computers and internet access

Will I have computer and internet access at the university?

All expatriates with a full time assignment will have computer and Internet access from their office at the university. All computers are networked, allowing for file and printer sharing. The Internet is also accessible from the network. MS Office 2000 is installed on most computers. The DeFehr centras is wireless.

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.

What type of computer and internet access is available at Karklu Hall?

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.

packing & luggage

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.

How much will I be charged for extra luggage?

Extra luggage charges vary between airlines. It is best to call your airline to confirm the details so that you will not be surprised when you check in at the airport. Costs per bag usually range between \$130-170 USD per bag.

Are there other ways to send my personal items?

Most airlines offer a cargo service, which usually costs slightly less than the extra baggage fee. Call the airline to determine the actual cost and shipping time.

Surface mail is an inexpensive option if you are not concerned about time. Packages often take 2-3 months to arrive. Surface mail prices are usually determined by package weight, making this a good option for bulky, lighter items like a winter coat or boots.

See more about shipping options under the 'Communications' section.

Besides my clothing, what else should I consider bringing?

Flashlight

Streets and hallways can be dark at times 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 0.15 LTL). 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.

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.)

miscellaneous living questions

What type of domestic help is available?

It is usually easy to find students who are willing to help with household tasks and looking after children as a way of earning funds for their educational costs. The standard hourly wage for these types of services is between 4 - 10 LTL per hour. In order to locate a student you can contact the Career Center at LCC who will be able to either post your position or recommend a student.

How are buildings usually heated?

Heat in most buildings is controlled by the city's centralized system. This means that there will not be a thermostat in your apartment to control the heat. The city decides when the heat is turned on for the winter and off for the summer based on daily temperatures. Heat is usually turned on in mid to late October and turned off again in mid to late April. Buildings can be cool, damp, and drafty during the weeks before the heat is turned on and after it has been turned off. Most expatriates use a space heater during these weeks to moderate the temperature.

Some buildings and homes are now being built with independent heating systems. The LCC university building does have its own independent heating system. Karklu Hall does not.

Resources for Living in Lithuania

http://www.unofficialwebsiteoflithuania.com/#/doing_business/999

Resources for Klaipeda

Here are some resources for living in the city of Klaipeda.

The Baltic Times: <http://www.baltictimes.com/>

Cinamon movie theatre: <http://cinamon.lt/intro.php>

Exploring City, Klaipeda:

<http://www.exploringcity.com/?menu=explore.places.lithuania.klaipeda&lang=en>

In Your Pocket: <http://www.inyourpocket.com/index.html>

Excellent city guides for many of the cities you may visit while in Lithuania.

Klaipeda bus schedule: <http://www.klaipedatransport.lt/index.php?517995331>

Klaipeda Concert Hall: <http://www.koncertusale.lt/?en=start>

Klaipeda in Your Pocket: <http://www.inyourpocket.com/city/klaipeda.html>

Leisure and Entertainment Guide: <http://en.lt.leisureguide.info/>

Smiltynes Perkela (Spit Ferry) Schedule: <http://www.keltas.lt/en/tvarkarastis.php>

http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Europe/Lithuania/Klaipedos_Apskritis/Klaipeda-448409/TravelGuide-Klaipeda.html

Resources for expatriates living abroad.

CRA (Canadians Resident Abroad) Magazine: <http://www.cramagazine.com/>

CRA Magazine is Canada's first E-Magazine designed specifically for Canadians who are presently living abroad, who have done so in the past or who are contemplating an out-of-country sojourn in the future.

Expatica: <http://www.expatica.com/>

Country-specific news and features pertaining to international life in Europe. Although it focuses on some Western European countries, there are other general resources for expatriates living abroad.

MD Travel Health: <http://mdtravelhealth.com/index.html>

Travel health information.

Overseas Digest: <http://www.overseasdigest.com/>

Overseas Digest is a website full of articles about living overseas.