



An Analysis of Higher Education at Republic Lithuania From Republic India

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ABSTRACT

Lithuania is the largest of the three Baltic States and it is bordered by Latvia, Poland and the Kaliningrad Region of Russia and Belarus. The capital of the country is Vilnius and the official language is Lithuanian. Lithuania has a population of slightly over 3 million people and it is a member of several international organizations including the European Union, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). From cities and towns full of historic monuments to wonderful retreats in a pristine natural environment, Lithuania has places to go and see for everyone. Officially recognized as the geographical centre of Europe and connected by numerous routes to major European cities, Lithuania can be easily reached by land, water or air. The strength of the Lithuanian economy - and that of its Baltic neighbours – gave rise to the unofficial title 'The Baltic Tiger'. The country has strong industrial, financial and service sectors and is developing its research and innovation and high-tech capacity. India and Lithuania enjoy cordial and friendly relations. Lithuanians believe that there is a close similarity between Lithuanian and Sanskrit, Lithuanian being the Indo-European language grammatically closest to Sanskrit. (2) Study of Indian languages (mainly Hindi and Sanskrit) has been carried out at the Vilnius University for several decades as part of the Philology Department. A separate centre of Indian studies, under the Department of Oriental Studies, was set up in the Vilnius University in 1996.(2)

KEYWORDS : – REPUBLIC LITHUANIA, HIGHER EDUCATION, OVERSEAS STUDY,INDO-LITHUANIA,BALTIC TIGER

INTRODUCTION:

Lithuania is known worldwide for its expertise in laser technology, agricultural and medical sciences, engineering and courses in art. Indians are now among the top 5 countries as far as the origin of our international students is concerned.(1) Indian students have started to explore new parts of Europe for higher education and many are headed to Lithuania.(1)Lithuania has recorded a massive increase in the number of Indian students heading to its universities with the latest data showing that the number of Indian students studying full time in the Baltic country have increased from 37 in 2011 to 357 in 2014.(1)Mostly Indians are prefer Republic Lithuania as a country to study because “The Quality of Education is among the top in Europe while living costs and tuition fees are tremendously cheap compared to UK?”(1)

THE ANALYSIS:

In August 2013, around 300 Indian citizens lived in Lithuania. The majority were students, while the rest were engaged in business activities. Many Indians are employed at the OP Lohia Group's PET plant in Klaipėda. The Indian information technology sector often sends Indian citizens to temporarily work on projects in Lithuania.(3)

As of 2015, the QS World University Rankings published a list of the best universities in emerging Europe and central Asia. Four Lithuanian universities made it to the top 100. Vilnius University was placed 32nd, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University - 47th, Kaunas University of Technology was placed within the 61-70th rank and Vytautas Magnus University - 81-90th places.(1)

THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

There are 47 higher education institutions in Lithuania, which include 14 state universities, 9 private universities, 13 state colleges and 11 private colleges. University studies provide universal academic education, theoretical training and the highest level of professional excellence.(4)

Higher education studies in colleges are oriented towards training for professional activities, practical training covers at least one third of the study programme, in colleges, applied research is carried out. Studies are conducted according to degree and non-degree study programmes.

Studies can be of different intensity: full-time and part-time. They are organised in three cycles: undergraduate (1st cycle), post-graduate leading to a Masters (Magistras) degree (2nd cycle), and post-graduate leading to a doctorate (3rd cycle). The duration of Master studies is 1.5 to two years. University degree study programmes can be integrated, when studies of the first and second cycles are combined (e.g. in law, medical studies, etc).(4)

Postgraduate studies leading to a Doctor's degree in science or art can be conducted by universities or universities together with research institutions. Higher education institutions can provide joint study programmes, upon the completion of which a joint qualification degree is awarded, as well as programmes, upon the completion of which a double qualification degree is awarded.(4)

Post-graduate tuition fees in Lithuania vary depending on the course and institution, although a typical price for a Masters course is somewhere in the region of 150,000 – 250,000 INR. According to UNESCO's latest figures (2012) Lithuania is a host destination for some 4,000 international tertiary level students each year, the bulk of which come from Belarus, although there are also students from India, Spain and Sweden.(4)

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF LITHUANIA HIGHER EDUCATION TO INDIANS:

Tuition fee is minimal and sponsored by tax-payers of Lithuanian Citizens.

Home to excellent universities and colleges, as they have always been known for their high level of teaching and quality of education.

Many institutions of higher education are well equipped with superb research, literature, computing & technology facilities.

The students graduated from Lithuanian higher education institutions are widely approved across the world for their knowledge and skills.

Lithuanian Universities guarantee that student will become more confident and well-versed, richer as a person, a citizen of the world with a much broader perspective by completion of education.

Students have the best conditions to carry out their research in a convenient environment and with highly reputable professors.

Indian Students are exempted from submitting IELTS/TOEFL for admission in to majority of the programmes.

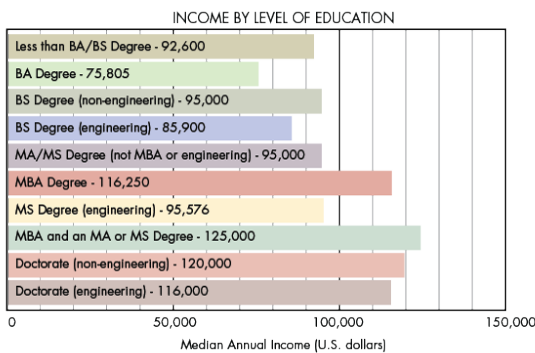
Known for Safe environment, friendly people, historic heritage and enchanting nature.

The population of Lithuania is one of the most educated in the Europe and majority of the population speaks English.

Due to the generous subsidized housing offered by Lithuanian Universities, Indian students are able to manage living in 250 Euros per month.

International Students are allowed to work part-time up to 20 hours per work.

Provides Schengen visa with access to more than 25 countries in Europe.(5)



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