



Self-assessment report

**FIRST CYCLE (PROFESSIONAL BACHELOR'S) STUDY PROGRAMME  
"BORDER GUARDING"  
(code 42861)**

**RTU Rezekne Academy**

Rezekne, 2025

## **Contents**

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME "BORDER GUARDING" .....	3
3.1. Indicators characterizing the study programme .....	3
3.2. Content and implementation of studies .....	14
3.3. Resources and provision of the study programme .....	23
3.4. Faculty.....	28

### III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME "BORDER GUARDING"

#### 3.1. Indicators characterising the study programme

3.1.1. Description and analysis of changes in the parameters of the study programme that have been performed since the previous accreditation of the study field or licensing of the study programme, or assessment of changes, including changes planned within the framework of the assessment procedure of the study field.

Table 3.1.1.1

<b>Parameters of the higher education program</b>	
<b>Name of the higher education program</b>	"Border Guarding"
<b>The name of the higher education program in English</b>	"Border Guarding"
<b>Field of study</b>	Internal security and civil protection
<b>Profession standard</b>	"Senior Officer of the State Border Guard" (approved at the meeting of 14 February 2024, Minutes No. 1)
<b>Higher education programme code according to the Latvian Education Classification</b>	42861
<b>Type of higher education program</b>	First cycle (professional bachelor's) study programme
<b>Qualification level to be obtained (NQF/EQF)</b>	Level 6
<b>Scope of the higher education programme</b>	243 CP
<b>Form, form, duration and language of implementation</b>	Part-time extramural studies, 4 years 6 months, in Latvian
<b>Degree and Qualification Awarded</b>	Professional bachelor's degree in Border Guard and Qualification of Senior Officer of the State Border Guard
<b>Place of implementation</b>	RTU Rezekne Academy, Liberation Alley 115, Rezekne, Latvia
<b>Admission Requirements</b>	Acquired a 5th-level professional qualification, "Junior Officer of the State Border Guard"
<b>Director of the Higher Education Programme</b>	Iluta Arbidāne, Dr.oec., prof.

The study programme has been developed based on the Memorandum of Intent of the State Border Guard (hereinafter - the SBG) and Rezekne Higher Education Institution of 26.10.2010 (as amended on 29.01.2011) and the agreement No. 1 of 29.03.2011 attached thereto on the establishment of the second-level professional higher education bachelor's study programme "Border Guarding".

The study program was licensed on 13.07.2011 (license No. 04048-76), evaluated in 2012 with the mark "4", recognizing it as a sustainable study program.

Since the accreditation of the previous study programme on 12.08.2013 (accreditation sheet No. 107 of the Ministry of Education and Science), several changes have been made to its parameters in the first-cycle higher education programme "Border Guarding" (hereinafter - the Study Programme).

1. Based on the Cabinet Order No. 297 of 23.05.2023 "On the reorganization of the Rezekne Academy of Technology", the Rezekne Academy of Technology (hereinafter - RTA) was reorganized on 01.04.2025. By decision No. 01000-21.1.2-e/4 of the RTU Council on 10.02.2025, RTA was included in the composition of RTU under the name RTU Rezekne Academy (hereinafter - RTU RA).
2. By decision No. 2025/15-I of the Study Quality Commission of the Academic Information Centre (hereinafter - AIC) of 19.03.2025, the study programme has been included in the RTU study direction "Internal Security and Civil Protection".
3. In accordance with the amendments made in 2022 to the Law on Higher Education Institutions (hereinafter - the AL) and the Vocational Education Law, the type of study programme has been changed from "second level" to "first-cycle higher education programme".
4. With the transition from Latvia to the European credit transfer system, the amount of the study programme has been changed from 160 CP to 240 CP in accordance with the amendments to the AL. Accordingly, the volumes of the parts of the study programme are coordinated with the Cabinet Regulation No. 305 of 13.06.2023 "Regulations on the State Standard of Professional Higher Education" (hereinafter MK 305).
5. To ensure the compliance of the Study Programme with the professional standard "Senior Officer of the State Border Guard", approved at the meeting of the Sub-Council of the Tripartite Cooperation on Vocational Education and Employment on 14 February 2024 (hereinafter – the Professional Standard), the volume of the Study Programme has been increased from 240 to 243 ECTS credits, thereby also ensuring full alignment of the study content with the requirements of the professional standard.

In the updated study plan:

- the sequence of courses has been structured and logically arranged;
- the content of professional specialisation has been updated in accordance with the professional standard and sectoral developments;
  - management, risk analysis and crisis management competences have been strengthened;
  - closer integration of theory, practice and research has been ensured;
  - the study workload has been balanced, and ECTS credits have been specified.

All changes have been implemented in a targeted manner to ensure the quality of the study programme, its compliance with professional standards and labour market needs, as well as to prepare competitive Senior Officers of the State Border Guard in the context of the European Union.

Annex 1 (P01) provides an overview of the implementation of the recommendations made by the previous Accreditation Expert Group.

- 3.1.2. Analysis and assessment of the conformity of the study programme with the study field. Analysis of the link between the programme name, code, degree to be obtained, professional qualification or degree and professional qualification objectives and

objectives, study outcomes corresponding to the relevant level of NQF/EQF, as well as admission requirements. Characterisation of the duration and scope of the implementation of the study programme (including different variants of the implementation of the study programme) and assessment of the usefulness.

In accordance with decision No. 2025/15-I of the AIC Study Quality Commission of 19.03.2025, the study programme is included in the RTU study direction "Internal Security and Civil Protection" (hereinafter the Study Field). The higher education programmes corresponding to the study field cover the higher education programmes of the first cycle and the second cycle.

	Faculty of Engineering Economics and Management			Rezekne Academy
Cycle 2	Occupational Safety (47862)	Administration of Custom and Taxes (47861)		Strategic border management (45861)
Cycle 1	Safety Engineering (42862)	Administration of Custom and Taxes (42861)	Fire Safety and Civil Protection (44861)	Border guarding (42861)
Previous education	Secondary education	Secondary education	First cycle education Short cycle education Secondary education	Short cycle education

Figure 3.1.2.1. Higher education programmes included in the field of study.

By including the Study Programme in the Study Field, its conformity with the Study Field Development Plan for 2022-2027 has been evaluated (see Annex 20 (P20)). For the conformity assessment of the study field development plan, see Table 3.1.2.1.

Table 3.1.2.1.

**Conformity of the study programme with the development plan of the study field**

Tasks specified for the study field	Conformity of the study programme with the study field
<b>To determine the priority of research in the field of economic security</b> by implementing scientific activities in accordance with the RTU platform " <i>Security and Defence</i> " and developing the training of civil protection, security engineering, customs and tax specialists.	The study programme is part of the RTU research platform "Security and Defence"; research in the fields of border protection, internal security, migration and civil protection. The results of the scientific-practical conference are published in the journal "Border Security and Management".

<b>Tasks specified for the study field</b>	<b>Conformity of the study programme with the study field</b>
<p><b>Strengthen scientific capacity</b> by increasing the potential of research staff and involving students in research.</p>	<p>RTU RA in cooperation with the State Border Guard College (hereinafter - the SBGC) and the SBG is organizing a conference of students, lecturers and employees "Border Security and Internal Security: Development, Challenges and Solutions" (7 conferences). Every two years, the international scientific conference "Border Security and Management" is organized and the scientific journal of internal security and civil protection "Border Security and Management" (5 editions) is published. Involvement of lecturers in scientific projects.</p>
<p><b>Expand international and national cooperation</b> by conducting joint research with leading scientific centers, institutions and companies.</p>	<p>Long-term international participation in conferences (Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Moldova, Ukraine, etc.). The Latvian Federation of Security and Defence Industries "Latvian Defence and Security Industry Annual Award 2023" in the nomination "Research" was received by the SBGC and RTU RA for the international scientific-practical conference "Border Security and Management" and the Journal of Internal Security and Civil Protection Sciences "<i>Border security and management</i>". Regular cooperation with Frontex in the development and implementation of the CCC. Cooperation with the SBG and SBGC in the implementation of studies and research work.</p>
<p><b>Improve higher education programmes</b> by ensuring a balance between fundamental and professional courses and strengthening the practical component.</p>	<p>Introduction of frontex CCC, updated Profession Standard in 2024, cooperation with the SBG, territorial units of border guards in aligning the study content with the current requirements of the field.</p>
<p><b>Develop academic staff</b> through the involvement of young scientists, promoting mobility and establishing a system of pedagogical growth.</p>	<p>Regular professional development of teaching staff (digital teaching methods, academic ethics, innovations in higher education, etc.) is implemented.</p>
<p><b>To create a modern study environment</b> by providing e-learning opportunities and access to modern equipment.</p>	<p>RTU RA library resources; e-learning environment; a description of practical training and infrastructure together with the SBGC/SBG (simulators, shooting range, training posts, etc.).</p>
<p><b>To promote the development of continuing education and lifelong learning</b> through the accumulated academic experience.</p>	<p>Students' research activities and internships – study integration. Career growth opportunities, including continuing studies in the joint higher education program "Strategic Border Management".</p>

Tasks specified for the study field	Conformity of the study programme with the study field
<b>Ensure international accessibility of higher education programmes</b> by offering courses in foreign languages and promoting the mobility of students and lecturers.	The international dimension of study content and the use of Frontex/CEPOL materials.
<b>Strengthen cooperation with foreign universities</b> by jointly organizing the development of conferences, internships and teaching materials.	Cooperation with Frontex in the development and implementation of the CCC at all levels of training for border guards. Participation in Frontex agency projects on the development and implementation of the joint higher education programme and its modules. An international conference with a wide participation of foreign universities is regularly held.
<b>To raise the results of RTU international rankings</b> , especially <i>in the Eduniversal ranking of business universities</i> .	RTU RA participation in the consortium of the joint higher education programme "Strategic Border Management".
<b>Actively participate in international organizations and projects</b> , including the World Customs Organization, Geneva DCAF, UNDP, EC and ENETOSH platforms.	Use and activities of FRONTEX and CEPOL materials, participation in the consortium of the joint master's study programme "Strategic Border Management".

The study programme "Border Guarding" (42861) (qualification to be obtained "Senior Officer of the State Border Guard", classification code of profession 3351 08) corresponds to the Study Direction, where the element of the education classification code (42) indicates belonging to the first-cycle higher education programmes for the acquisition of a bachelor's degree and the sixth level professional qualification, and which are to be implemented after the acquisition of at least secondary education, element of the education classification code 86 indicates belonging to the educational for the thematic area – Civil and military protection, element 861 of the education classification code indicates belonging to the educational thematic group – Protection of persons and property. The duration of the study programme part-time in person is 4 years and 6 months, and its amount is 243 CP, as specified in Section 1, Paragraph 9 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions and Section 19 of the Cabinet of Ministers 305.

The title of the study programme, "Border Guarding," accurately reflects its content and professional orientation – the development of competencies in state border surveillance, border control, migration monitoring, security risk analysis, and management. The awarded degree, "Professional Bachelor's Degree in Border Guarding," and the professional qualification "Senior Officer of the State Border Guard" (profession code 3351 08) correspond to the level of professional activity defined in the Occupational Standard, which requires the acquisition of management, analytical, and strategic competencies. Thus, the parameters of the study programme are interconnected and precisely describe its substantive and goal-oriented profile.

The objective of the study programme is defined based on the requirements of the Profession Standard and the Labour Market, the laws and regulations of Latvia and the EU, as well as the requirements of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 6 and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

The purpose of the study programme is to ensure studies of the national economy, the State defence and security system, as well as the needs of the society, based on the theoretical foundations of the field and the requirements of professional qualification, by preparing a professional bachelor's degree in border guarding and senior officers of the State Border Guard who have acquired the 6th level professional qualification and who are competent to ensure the protection of the external border of Latvia and the European Union border control and other tasks of the border guarding service, to organise and manage the work of the Service in accordance with national and international laws and regulations, the principles of professional ethics and human rights, as well as to responsibly and safely use information and communication technologies in the performance of work duties, analytical work, research and creation and use of digital content, while promoting the competitiveness of graduates in changing socio-economic conditions and international work market and promoting motivation for professional development and lifelong learning, providing a basis for continuing studies in the next cycle of professional higher education programmes and career development in the security sector.

The study results of the study programme are defined on the basis of the objective and objectives of the study programme, as well as the requirements of the Profession Standard and NQF/EQF level 6. They reflect the set of knowledge, skills and competences that students need to acquire to successfully perform their professional duties in the field of border protection. The study results are linked to the needs of the labour market and the prospects for the development of the border guard sector, as well as ensuring the preparedness of students for further studies and professional development. The tasks of the study programme are defined on the basis of the objective of the study programme and the intended study results. They provide for:

1. To provide students with in-depth knowledge of the regulatory framework in the field of border protection, migration and security, developing the ability to apply this knowledge in practical situations.
2. To develop the skills to professionally carry out border control and border protection measures, using modern technologies and tactics, as well as to assess security risks.
3. To prepare students for independent and responsible performance of professional duties, ensuring the competence to make decisions in critical situations and respond to security threats.
4. To develop the ability to organise and manage the work of the service in border guard units, developing personnel management and cooperation competences at the inter-institutional and international level.
5. To promote respect for professional ethics, human rights and service discipline by strengthening the competence of responsible professional conduct.
6. To improve research skills by promoting the ability to independently analyse border guarding and migration processes, to conduct applied research and to use their results in the improvement of professional activity.
7. To ensure the readiness of students to continue their studies in master's level programmes and within the framework of lifelong learning, strengthening professional development competences.

The study results of the study programme are defined on the basis of the objective and objectives of the study programme, as well as the requirements of the Profession Standard and NQF/EQF level 6. They reflect the set of knowledge, skills and competences that students need to acquire to successfully perform their professional duties in the field of border protection. The study results are linked to the needs of the labour market and the prospects for the development of the border guard sector, as well as ensuring the preparedness of students for further studies and professional development.

**Knowledge (Z):** Graduate of the study programme:

**Z1** Knows and understands the laws and regulations of Latvia, the European Union and international in the field of border protection, migration and security.

**Z2** Is familiar with the methods, tactics and technologies of border control, border protection and immigration surveillance.

**Z3** Understands the principles of national security policy, human rights and international cooperation.

**Z4** Knows the basic principles of organization, management and risk management in the border guard service.

**Skills (P):** Graduate of the study programme:

**P1** Knows how to professionally carry out border control and border protection measures using modern technologies.

**P2** Able to analyze and assess security situations, identify risks and make informed decisions, including in emergency circumstances.

**P3** Knows how to organize and manage personnel service tasks, ensuring effective cooperation within the department and at the inter-institutional level.

**P4** Able to conduct applied research in the field of border protection and migration, analyze data and justify professional solutions.

**Competencies (K):** Graduate of the study programme:

**K1** Is competent to perform the duties of a border guard independently and responsibly, respecting professional ethics, human rights and service discipline.

**K2** Is competent to assess security threats and develop appropriate solutions in border protection practice.

**K3** Is competent to manage the work of the border guard unit and make strategic and tactical decisions.

**K4** Is competent to develop professionally and continue his studies in master's level programs by engaging in lifelong learning.

The total duration of the study programme is 4 years 6 months, and the amount is 243 CP, which is in line with the definition of part-time in Article 1(9) of the AL – a type of study corresponding to less than 60 credit points per academic year. A mandatory requirement for the commencement of studies in the 3rd year is a previously completed short-cycle professional higher education (college education) with the acquired qualification - a junior officer of the State Border Guard. Short-cycle professional higher education programme "Border Guarding" (code 41861) (accredited for 6 years until 27.02.2031.) In Latvia, the SBGC is implemented, with which an agreement has been entered into on the continuation of studies in the Study Programme and mutual coordination of higher education programmes. The study results of the two higher education programmes are compared with each other (see Table 3.1.2.2).

Table 3.1.2.2.

**Compliance of study results of the short-cycle higher education programme "Border Guarding" with the first cycle higher education programme "Border Guarding"**

<b>Study results of the short-cycle higher education programme</b>	<b>Compliance with the study results of the study programme</b>	<b>Justification for compliance (short cycle - first cycle)</b>
1. Border checks, regime	K1, K2, S1, S2, C1	Short cycle – practical test and

controls, checks on persons/vehicles, visa procedures		control; The first cycle – expansion of knowledge and risk analysis, strategic decision-making.
2. Border and regime surveillance, apprehension of offenders and wanted persons	K1, K2, S1, S2, C1, C2	Short cycle – operational activity; The first cycle is an additional assessment of security threats and a systemic approach.
3. Ensuring readmission and removal procedures	K1, K3, S1, S2, C1, C2	Short cycle – practical execution; The first cycle is the dimension of international law, human rights and cooperation.
4. Monitoring of regimes, detection and detention of irregularities	K1, K2, S1, S2, C1, C2	Short cycle – practical monitoring; The first cycle – risk management, security strategy, coordination with other institutions.
5. Procedural actions in the areas within the jurisdiction of the State Border Guard	K1, K2, S2, S4, C1	Short cycle – application of norms in practice; The first cycle – analytical and research approach, applied research.
6. Respect for fundamental rights, laws, ethics, labour and environmental protection	K3, K2, C1, C4	Short cycle – practical adherence; The first cycle is the ability to integrate ethical and legal aspects into management and research work.
7. Personnel management, training, professional development	K4, S3, C3, C4	Short cycle – basic management; the first cycle – management of larger structural units, strategic level decisions, lifelong learning.
8. Civic participation, acting in the public interest	K3, C1, C4	Short cycle – grassroots civic participation; The first cycle is linking civic responsibility with the international security dimension and professional development.
9. Personnel management, training, improvement (repetition)	K4, S3, C3, C4	Coincides with paragraph 7, but strengthens the succession: college – practical management, first cycle – strategic management and continuing education.
10. Preparation, maintenance and storage of documentation	K1, K4, S3, C1	Short cycle – execution of technical documentation; The first cycle – management, monitoring and integration of documentation in the management process.
11. Prevention of threats in co-operation with the NAF	K1, K3, S2, S3, C2, C3	Short cycle – hands-on participation; The first cycle is inter-institutional coordination, strategic planning and management.

Analysis of the cross-compliance of study results shows that all study results of a short-cycle higher education programme fit into the results of the Study Programme, which supplements them with a scientific-analytical, strategic and management dimension that meets

the requirements specified in the professional standards: the short-cycle higher education programme prepares a specialist for the performance of tasks of the operational and tactical level, while the Study Programme prepares an officer with the ability to plan, manage and analyze processes. Thus, the linkage of study outcomes and the educational continuity of both higher education programmes is ensured.

The short-cycle higher education programme "Border Guarding" forms part of the Study Programme in accordance with the regulation of Article 57(1)(3) of the AL. The first two years of study of a short-cycle higher education programme (120 ECTS) are recognised in the Study Programme. Thus, students start their studies in the later stages of the study program (from the 3rd year of studies), which ensures the continuity and progressivity of education and excludes duplication of content. The duration of the study program, 4 years 6 months, remains, but the already acquired higher education of the previous short cycle allows for optimising the study process and shortening the actual study time.

The study programme is implemented in a part-time extramural format, as its target audience is border guards with short-cycle higher education in the service who perform their duties continuously. Full-time face-to-face study is not possible for these students, as this would jeopardise the continuity of the service and the provision of human resources. Thus, the part-time extramural form is the most useful solution, as it allows you to combine service duties with studies without losing qualified labour and to adapt the training schedule to the specifics of border guards' work, coordinating it with the SBG's management.

Summarizing the conducted analysis, it can be concluded that the Study Programme:

- Aligns with the Study Field Development Plan, the State Border Guard (SBG) strategy, and the needs of the national security system.
- Ensures a clear and coherent link between the programme title, code, profile, degree, professional qualification, and learning outcomes.
- Fully complies with the requirements of NQF/EQF level 6.
- It is built upon a sequential short-cycle higher education foundation, thus preventing content duplication.
- Provides an academically and professionally justified duration and scope in part-time studies.
- Meets the standards of the professional qualification "Senior Officer of the State Border Guard."

In Annex 2 (P02), see the model of the diploma to be issued for the acquisition of the study programme and its annexes.

In Annex 3 (P03), see the model of study agreement.

In Annex 4 (P04), see the confirmation regarding the possibilities of continuing studies in case the Study Programme is closed.

In Annex 20 (P20) see the development plan of the study field.

In Annex 21 (P21), see the SBG statement on the Study Programme.

### 3.1.3. Economic and/ or social justification of the study program, analysis of the employment of graduates.

The study programme is implemented based on the priorities specified in the operational strategy of the SBG for 2023-2027: "Ensuring the necessary number of personnel for ensuring the border surveillance function of the external State border" and "To improve and develop the capacities of the State Border Guard to invest personnel resources in the asylum reserve of the European Union Agency for Asylum", as well as "To improve and develop the capacities of the State Border Guard to invest personnel resources of the European Border and Coast Guard

Agency In the permanent corps". The importance of professional training, upskilling and career development of personnel follows from the SBG strategy. It also determines the strategic decisions of the SRS in the implementation of higher education programmes. The study program is fully financed from the funds of the SBG budget; therefore, there are no financial costs for students, and studies do not create an additional burden on the state education budget. Students are border guards in service, so studies do not lead to a break in their professional careers or the risk of unemployment – they continue to perform their official duties in the study varnish. On the contrary, investment in education increases the effectiveness of the SBG, as border guards acquire a higher level of knowledge and competences, which allows them to reduce errors, use resources more efficiently and coordinate cooperation with other services (e.g. NBS, State Police, Frontex). Co-operation with these services shall be co-ordinated by the State Border Guarding within the limits of co-operation of subordinate institutions of the Ministries of the Interior and Defence, which are determined by legislative enactments and co-operation agreements. RTU RA does not require such agreements in the implementation of the study process.

Admission to the Study Program is carried out based on the order of the General of the VRS. Students are selected according to the criteria specified by the SBG in accordance with the principles of career development of the SBG and in compliance with the law "Law on the Course of Service of Officials with Special Service Ranks Working in Institutions of the System of the Ministry of the Interior and the Prison Administration" 4 and 7. Article requirements. Since all students are employees of the VRS, during the admission process, a separate check on the compliance of applicants with the requirements laid down in the law "Law on the Course of Service of Officials with Special Service Ranks Working in Institutions of the System of the Ministry of the Interior and the Prison Administration" is no longer necessary. Upon entering the Study Programme, students sign an agreement with the SBG on mutual obligations, which stipulates that after graduation, the student will work in the SBG for 5 years. If the student does not continue the employment relationship with the SBG, then he must reimburse the expenses of the study fee. The exception is if the student is retired from the SBG due to his or her health condition.

After completing the program, graduates of the study program acquire a professional bachelor's degree and the qualification of a senior officer of the State Border Guard, which allows them to occupy higher-level positions in border guard structures. This ensures career development and social mobility. The study program strengthens the resilience of the national security system, since officers with academic education are able not only to perform service tasks, but also to analyze risks, manage personnel and engage in international cooperation. The study program is aimed at ensuring that border guards remain in the internal affairs system in the long term, because the acquired higher education strengthens their attachment to the profession and motivates them to continue their service.

All students of the Study Program are employed in the SBG during their studies, thus the employment rate of graduates is consistently 100%. Upon graduation from the Study Program, border guards acquire the right to hold higher-level officer positions, which require broader management and analytical competencies. Graduates also have opportunities at an international level – they have to participate in Frontex missions, interstate border guard cooperation, training and research projects. The study programme promotes career stability: higher level qualifications reduce staff turnover, motivate professional development and longer service continuation.

In Annex 6 (P06), see the list of cooperation agreements of the study programme.

3.1.4. Statistical data on students in the study programme, dynamics of the number of

students, analysis and assessment of factors affecting changes in the number.

The number of students enrolled in the Study programme during the reporting period ranged from 47 to 59 per academic year (see Annex 7 (P07)). The dynamics of the number of students in the study programme are determined by the decisions of the SBG on the promotion of officials for studies. In accordance with the Protocol of Intent signed in 2010 between the State Border Guard (SBG) and the higher education institution, only those officers recommended for studies in the Study Programme by an order of the SBG Chief are admitted. Each academic year, the SBG evaluates officers' qualifications, prior education, service experience, career development prospects, and institutional needs, and decides on the number of officers to be nominated for studies. Therefore, the number of students in the Study Programme is not directly dependent on the RTU RA admission campaign or on individual applicants' choices, but rather on the institutional needs of the SBG and its personnel development planning for each academic year. This procedure ensures a targeted and professionally grounded selection of candidates, while simultaneously reducing fluctuations in student numbers based on the operational needs of a particular year. Such cooperation practice ensures purposeful personnel selection, promotes students' professional motivation, and strengthens the link between theoretical preparation and the practical needs of the service. For an overview of the correlation between admitted students and graduates of the Study Programme, see Table 3.1.4.1.

Table 3.1.4.1.

**Correlation of the number of students enrolled in the study programme with graduates of the study programme**

Academic year	2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026	
	A*	S*	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S
Study sem.														
Graduates		12		18		11		15		16		20		*
Matriculated	14		15		19		23		17		10		20	

\*A – Autumn semester

\*S – Spring semester

The dynamics of the implementation of the study programme are also influenced by the specifics of the service and the order of rotation. In some cases, students stop their studies because they are transferred to another position, place of service or structural unit, which can lead to a time lag between the admissions and graduation cycles. Such cases are a natural part of the movement of personnel in the security sector. The lag also occurs when female students go on parental leave and resume their studies after it. It should also be noted that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic (2020-2022) on the study process. The period of remote learning and the increased workload during the emergency extended the duration of studies for some students, as it was necessary to adapt to the organization of training and practical classes. In recent years, there has been a stabilization of the study process, which has been facilitated by close cooperation with the SBG. This coordination ensures a smoother flow of students, a timely exchange of information on the needs of the service and better resource planning for the coming study years.

Students of the study programme do not participate in ERASMUS+ mobility, as it is not possible to combine studies outside Latvia with work duties. Individual students, during the performance of their duties, participate in missions or long-term business trips abroad in the performance of work duties, which promote the acquisition and transfer of professional experience and international cooperation experience in study and research work.

Annex 7 (P07) contains statistics on students during the reporting period.

- 3.1.5. Justification for the establishment of the joint study programme and characterisation and assessment of the choice of partner universities, including information on the establishment and implementation of the joint study programme (if applicable).

Not applicable

### **3.2. Content and implementation of studies**

- 3.2.1. Analysis of the content of the study program. Assessment of the interconnection of the information included in the study courses/modules, the results to be achieved, the objectives set, etc., with the objectives of the study programme and the results to be achieved, which conform with the relevant NQF/ECF level, state standard, profession standard or professional qualification requirements. Assessment of the topicality of the content of study courses/modules and their compliance with the needs of the sector, labour market and scientific trends, whether and how the content of study courses/modules is updated according to the trends in the development of the sector, labour market and science.

The study programme aims to prepare qualified border guard specialists with the ability to ensure the protection of the EU's external border, to carry out border control, to organise and manage the work of the service, in compliance with national/international acts, human rights and security policy. It is aligned with the professional standard and the requirements of NQF/EQF level 6 (in-depth knowledge, problem solving, responsible decision-making, management). The study results of the study programme are derived from the objectives/tasks and correspond to professional activities (border control, assessments, management, inter-institutional cooperation, research). The knowledge section of the study results (Z1–Z4) is provided by study courses: State and human rights (3 CP); International and EU law (3 CP); Civil law and civil procedure (3 CP). These study courses provide a block of knowledge of the regulatory framework, human rights, governance and risk management and, in accordance with the requirements of the NQF/EQF level 6, deepen and expand the study courses acquired in the short-cycle programme, which are recognised as part of the second-cycle study programme: Administrative law (4 CP); Constitutional Law and Introduction to Psychology (2 CP); Basics of research work (2 CP); Professional ethics and psychology (4 CP); Entrepreneurship module (9 CP); Weapons and shooting training (5 CP).

The skills section of the study programme (P1-P4) is provided by study courses: Operational activities and pre-trial investigations (6 CP); Proactive threat and risk analysis (6 CP); Crisis/emergency management (6 CP); Resource management and analysis (6 CP); Border surveillance management (5 CP); Management of administrative procedure (3 CP). These courses of study develop professional tactical/operational skills, risk analysis, data use and evidence-based decision-making and, in accordance with the requirements of NQF/EQF level 6, deepens and expands the study courses acquired in the short-cycle programme, which are recognised as part of the second-cycle study programme: Border checks (5 CP); Border surveillance (4 CP); Immigration control, return and asylum process (5 OS); Technical research of documents (4 CP); Technical means and engineering equipment (3 CP). The continuation of research skills is ensured by study papers (9 CP in total) and bachelor's thesis (18 CP).

The competence section of the study programme (K1–K4) is provided by study courses: Inter-institutional and international cooperation (6 CP); Organization management and leadership (6 CP); Professional internships (6 CP); Bachelor's thesis (18 CP). These study courses are simultaneously focused on the development of support team and structural unit management, adherence to ethics and discipline, professional ethics and lifelong learning competences and, in accordance with the requirements of the NQN/EQF level 6, deepens and

expands the study courses acquired in the short-cycle programme, which are recognised as part of the second-cycle study programme: Project Management (3 CP); Basics of didactics (2 CP); Physical fitness (4 CP); Internship (24 CP).

Summing up compliance with the NQF/EQF level 6 standard, it can be concluded that the study programme provides broad, in-depth and interdisciplinary (law, security, engineering, management) knowledge, complex problem solving (risk analysis, crises), choice of methods/technologies (technical means, document research), data interpretation (study papers, analysis) skills and responsible decision-making, team/unit management, professional autonomy, ethics and lifelong learning competencies.

The structure of the study programme has been established in accordance with the requirements of the State standard of professional higher education, including in the overall content of the study programme, the study results of the short-cycle higher education program "Border Guarding" of the SBGC. Recognition is carried out by comparing the content of study courses, the study results to be achieved, the amount of CP and professional competence with the requirements of the Study Programme. Comparison of study results takes place in accordance with the procedures in the cooperation agreement between RTU RA and the SBGC, which stipulates that the Parties have an obligation not less than once a year to evaluate the implementation of cooperation at a joint meeting, which also provides for the alignment of the content of both study programmes for the successive implementation of the study process in accordance with the standards of vocational education and professions.

For the conformity of the study programme with the national standard of professional higher education, see Table 3.2.1.1 and Annex 8 (P08).

Table 3.2.1.1.

**Compliance of the study programme with the State standard of professional higher education**

	<b>CP in the SBGC short cycle program, which is part of the Study Program</b>	<b>CP in the RTU RA Study Program</b>	<b>CP total</b>
<b>General education courses</b>	30	0	30
<b>Industry theoretical courses</b>	30	24	54
<b>Professional specialization courses</b>	22	68	90
<b>Elective courses</b>	2	7	9
<b>Study papers</b>	9	3	12
<b>Professional practice</b>	24	6	30
<b>Bachelor's thesis</b>	0	18	18
<b>Together</b>	120	123	243

The content of the study programme covers the management of the work of the service, border control, border surveillance, migration processes (asylum, return), crisis management, risk analysis, operational activities and pre-trial investigations, inter-institutional/interstate cooperation, resource and personnel management, professional ethics and human rights. It corresponds to the operational-tactical and management competencies of the senior officer (for a detailed assessment of compliance with the professional standard of a senior officer of the State Border Guard, see Annex 11 (P11)).

In cooperation with the SBG and the SBGC, the relevance of the study programme to the labour market and industry/science trends is regularly assessed. Current issues of border

control, migration, external border security is covered by study courses Asylum, Return and Immigration Procedures and Management (6 CP); Proactive threat and risk analysis (6 CP); Crisis, emergency and emergency management (6 CP); Border surveillance management (4 CP); Border guard rights and service organisation (3 CP); Management of administrative procedure (3 CP); Inter-institutional and international cooperation (6 CP). These study courses are directly in line with the current functions and needs of the service (EU external border, mixed flows, hybrid threats). The technological dimension of border guarding and scientific trends is covered by study courses: Technical means and engineering equipment (3 CP); Technical research of documents (4 CP); Operational activities and pre-trial investigations (6 CP); Resource management and analysis (6 CP); Logistics and provision (3 CP). These study courses strengthen technological and analytical competence (NVTI, sensor systems, document security, digital evidence, data analytics). Research skills (study papers, bachelor's thesis) allow to integrate the latest data and recommendations (e.g. topicalities of Frontex TTF/CCC and CEPOL courses, changes to the EU/Schengen acquis, etc.).

State and human rights courses (3 CP) aim to strengthen international competence, corresponding to the European dimension, multilingualism, and respect for human rights. International and EU law (3 CP) is also offered. Additionally, intercultural communication and conflictology (6 CP) and foreign languages (7 CP) are available.

The content of the Study programme is regularly updated by performing:

- Assessment of the study results of the study programme in the final commission of state tests, in which RTU RA lecturers and three officials approved by the general of the SBG, including the chairperson of the commission, participate;
- receiving feedback from professional practice (practice managers in border administrations, internship evaluation sheets);
- integrating topical solutions of study papers and bachelor's theses into the materials of study courses;
- carrying out the hospitalisation practice initiated by integrating into RTU;
- regularly consulting with SBG officials and SBGC on the necessary improvements to the content of the study programme;
- Surveys conducted by the SBG and proposals for the improvement and development of the Study program.

3.2.2. In the case of master's or doctoral study programmes, indicate and provide justification whether the award of degrees is based on the achievements and insights of the relevant field of science or field of artistic creation. In the case of a doctoral study programme, a description of the main research directions, the impact of the programme on research and other levels of education (if applicable).

Not applicable

3.2.3. Assessment of the implementation of the study programme, including the methods for the implementation of courses/modules, indicating the methods and how they contribute to the achievement of the results of the study courses and the objectives of the study programme. In the case of a joint study programme, or in the case if the study programme is implemented in a foreign language or in the form of distance learning studies, describe in detail the methods used for ensuring such study programme. Include an explanation of how the principles of student-centered teaching, learning, and assessment are followed in the study process.

The study programme is implemented in the form of part-time extramural studies, which provides for the course of the study process in a combined format – in direct face-to-face classes

and remote or hybrid mode study elements. The amount of part-time contact hours is 25% of the amount of full-time contact hours, i.e. 4 hours per 1 CP. Remote studies are implemented not exceeding 50% of the number of contact hours of the study programme in accordance with the Cabinet Regulation No. 111 of 08.02.2022 "Procedures for the Organization and Implementation of Remote Learning". This form of study ensures flexibility for students who simultaneously perform service duties in the structural units of the SBG or participate in missions and business trips outside Latvia. Studies are organized by ensuring purposeful deepening of knowledge and skills from the short-cycle higher education program (SBGC) to the level of the first-cycle professional bachelors. The total amount of the study programme is 243 CP, which corresponds to the 6th level of the NQF/EQF and the profession standard "Senior Officer of the State Border Guard".

The study plan includes:

- 30 general education study courses of the Competition Council;
- 54 theoretical study courses of the CP sector;
- 90 study courses of professional specialization of the Competition Council;
- 30 CP practices;
- 18 CP bachelor's thesis;
- 9 CP elective study courses.

Various study methods are used in the implementation of the study programme, which ensure the achievement of the study results and the objectives of the study programme in accordance with the student-centred approach and the principles of adult education. The main study methods are:

**Lectures and seminars with elements of discussion**, which are used mainly for the study of theoretical courses (e.g. Administrative Law (4 CP), International and EU Law (3 CP), State and Human Law (3 CP), Criminal Law (3 CP)). In these classes, students are involved in discussions, case studies, and comparisons of situations, which promote critical thinking and the ability to interpret regulatory enactments. The lectures are complemented by digital presentations, interactive maps and video materials (e.g. demonstrations of border control procedures).

**Case study and problem-oriented learning (PBL)** is applied in professional specialization courses, such as Crisis, Emergency and Emergency Management (6 CP), Border Surveillance Management (4 CP), Proactive Threat and Risk Analysis (6 CP), Operational Activities and Pre-Trial Investigation (6 CP), etc. In these classes, students analyze real service cases, develop action plans, and assess risk scenarios that allow them to study the skills identified in the results (P2, P3) and competencies (K2, K3).

The study process uses an integrated **e-learning environment and digital resources**. **The materials of the study courses** are placed in the RTU e-learning environment *estudijas.rtu.lv*. This is especially important for part-time students who use remote access to study materials during their service. In this way, hybrid learning is implemented, ensuring the continuity of the study process even in changing working conditions.

To achieve the study results of the study programme, the study process is also organised **cooperative learning and group work** in a form that covers group tasks, presentations and discussions that are practiced, for example, in the study courses Interinstitutional and International Cooperation (6 CP), Behaviour and Leadership of Organizations (6 CP), Project Management (3 CP), etc. In these study courses, students solve situations in groups, dividing areas of responsibility that contribute to the achievement of the management and cooperation competencies (K3) defined in the study results.

Considering that all students are employees of the SBG, internship **and work-based learning are also implemented in the study process**. Professional practice is implemented in

the structural units of the SBG. Students are given individual internship tasks (see Internship programme and methodological recommendations in Annex 13 (P13)) to observe, analyze, prepare study reports, and participate in operational activities for which students prepare an internship report. Practice managers assess the professional readiness and competencies of students. The knowledge gained in practice is also integrated into study papers and bachelor's theses.

An essential part of the study programme is **the research component**, which includes the study course Basics of research work, the development of study papers and bachelor's thesis (see chapter 3.2.6 for an overview of the topics of the bachelor's thesis and their assessment). Studies and later bachelor's theses use data analysis of the real border situation, integration of EU project experience and service research. These study methods contribute to the development of analytical thinking and scientifically based solutions (P4, K4).

The study programme respects the following principles of student-centred teaching and assessment:

- active participation of students – students are involved in discussions, evaluations of projects and internships, improvement of study courses (using the results of the student questionnaire);
- flexible and individualized study schedule – study schedules adapted to service loads, students have access to remote material acquisition and consultations;
- formative evaluation – RTU has internal rules to implement at least 50% of the overall assessment in the formative assessment process, which promotes continuous feedback;
- summative assessment – examinations, practical examinations and assessment of practice are based on criteria that correspond to the study results defined for the study programme and study course;
- international and interdisciplinary aspect – training materials from Frontex, CEPOL and EU security agencies are used in the study process, which ensures compliance with European professional standards.

3.2.4. If the study programme provides for an internship, describe the internship opportunities, provision and work organisation offered to students, including whether the higher education institution/college helps students to find an internship. If the study programme is implemented in a foreign language, provide information on how internship opportunities in a foreign language are ensured, including for foreign students. To provide analysis and assessment of the linking of the tasks of student internships included in the study programme with the study results to be achieved in the study programme (if applicable).

Professional practice is a mandatory part of the Study Programme. Its purpose is to strengthen and deepen theoretical knowledge, to develop professional skills and competences necessary for the activities of a senior officer of the State Border Guard. The internship ensures the preparedness of students for the real service environment, promotes the practical application of regulatory enactments, security procedures, human rights and management principles, as well as develops analytical and research skills. The regulations of professional practice have been developed on the basis of the requirements of the profession standard "Senior Officer of the State Border Guard" and the State Standard of Professional Higher Education. The tasks of the internship are defined in such a way that they promote the achievement of the study results of the study programme

The total duration of professional practice in the study programme is 30 CP: 24 CP in the short-cycle higher education programme and 6 CP in the higher education programme part

of the first cycle, ensuring the gradual development of professional skills and competences during the transition from operational activity (short cycle level) to tactical and strategic management level first cycle level) (see Table 3.2.4.1 for the structure of professional practice).

Table 3.2.4.1.

**Structure of professional practice in the study programme**

<b>Programme phase</b>	<b>Name of the internship</b>	<b>Volume (CP)</b>	<b>The main focus of practice</b>
<b>Short cycle programme (SBGC)</b>	<b>Internship I</b>	12	Practical implementation of border surveillance and immigration control (operational activities, procedural actions, resolution of situations)
	<b>Practice II</b>	12	Border check, management and risk analysis practices at border control posts (planning, personnel management, coordination)
<b>First Cycle Final Internship / Integrated Internship</b>	<b>Internship III (professional specialization)</b>	6	Complex operation and conducting research in the structural unit, data analysis, proposals for improving work
<b>Together</b>		<b>30</b>	Full cycle of professional activity – from operational to strategic management

All stages of professional practice form a harmonised system of study outcomes, which gradually covers all study result groups of the Study Programme (see Tables 3.2.4.2 and 3.2.4.3).

Table 3.2.4.2.

**Correlation of the structure of professional practice with the study results of the study programme**

<b>Study results</b>	<b>Short cycle practice (Practice I, II)</b>	<b>First cycle internship (Internship III)</b>
<b>Knowledge (Z)</b>	Gains a practical understanding of the regulatory framework for border surveillance and immigration control, security and human rights aspects.	Deepens knowledge of border control technologies, international cooperation and risk management.
<b>Skills (P)</b>	Develops operational and procedural operational skills, is able to use information systems and document the service.	Manages personnel management, planning and resource analysis skills, is able to organize and manage a structural unit.
<b>Competencies (K)</b>	Achieves the competence to independently perform the duties of a border guard, observing ethics and service discipline.	Achieves the competence to manage the border guard unit, to analyse and improve the service processes.

Table 3.2.4.3.

**Linking of professional practice tasks of the study programme and study results (Z, P, K)**

<b>Study result</b>	<b>Relevant internship tasks and areas of experience</b>
<b>Z1</b> – Understands Latvian, EU and international laws and regulations	Practical performance of work in border control and immigration units, application of regulatory documents in practice, preparation of record-keeping documents
<b>Z2</b> - Knows the methods and technologies of border control and surveillance	Participation in the organization of border checks, risk analysis, use of technical means; operation in electronic information systems
<b>Z3</b> – Understands the principles of security policy, human rights and cooperation	Involvement in inter-institutional cooperation, human rights practices, emergency situation analysis
<b>Z4</b> – Knows the principles of management and risk management	Participation in personnel and resource planning, assignment briefings, evaluation of management processes
<b>P1</b> – Knows how to carry out border control	Practically performs inspection of persons and vehicles, control of documents, uses technologies
<b>P2</b> – Able to analyse and make decisions	Performs assessment of security situations, risk analysis, develops proposals
<b>P3</b> – Knows how to organize and manage personnel	Participates in the planning and control of the execution of service tasks, participates in briefings
<b>P4</b> – Knows how to conduct applied research	Develops a practice report with an analysis of the situation, conclusions and proposals
<b>K1-K4</b> - Professional, ethical and managerial competence, lifelong learning	During the internship, the student is evaluated for responsibility, discipline, ability to work in a team and comply with ethical norms; professional development reflected in the report

The duration of the internship in the study program is 6 weeks; It is implemented after completing theoretical study courses in two semesters. Such an internship period has been chosen purposefully, because students, in agreement with the employer and places of internship, undergo internships in installments in the period from April to September, so as not to disrupt the work and vacation regime. Places of practice are territorial administrations of the SBG, border control posts, border guarding and immigration units. The student chooses the place of internship independently, coordinating with the management of the SBG structural unit, the management of his or her administration and the Human Resources Department. RTU RA receives confirmation from the SBG regarding the appointment of students to internships. If the student already works in one of the structural units, then the place of internship may be the existing workplace, defining the tasks of the internship so that they correspond to the study results. SBG provides students with internships, according to the certificate from 27.05.2011. No. 23/4-3/1735. RTU RA ensures cooperation with the SBG, which guarantees students internships in all regions of Latvia. RTU RA coordinates communication with border guard units. Thus, students are fully provided with professionally relevant internships, where real border protection, immigration and security work situations are offered.

Every year the internship program and description are submitted to the SBG by RTU RA. At the place of internship, students comply with duties, rights and responsibilities corresponding to the service.

The student is provided with professional practice managers: RTU RA academic practice manager, who provides consultations, supervises the course and evaluates the report,

and SBG service place practice managers in the structural unit where the student undergoes the internship. The head of the internship is informed about the tasks of the internship, he acquaints the student with the rules of internal procedure, ensures the workplace and controls the performance of the tasks to be performed. At the end of the internship, each manager gives an assessment of the internship on a 10-point scale.

The student shall document the performance of the tasks of the professional practice and the course of the internship in the Internship Report (see Annex 13 (P13)). The internship report includes a description of the internship site, completed tasks, analysis, conclusions and proposals that the student defends orally in the practice defense committee, preparing up to 10 min. presentation and answering questions from the commission.

3.2.5. Assessment and characterisation of the doctoral opportunities and doctoral process provided to students of the doctoral study programme (if applicable).

Not applicable

3.2.6. Analysis and assessment of the topics of students' final papers, their topicality in the sector, including the labour market, and evaluations of final papers.

The topics of bachelor's theses of students of the study program are closely related to the operational and strategic needs of the SBG. Students choose the topics of the bachelor's thesis in the second year of studies and the study papers are purposefully directed to the gradual study of the topic. The director of the study programme compiles the students' choice and submits the topics to the SBG for approval. The HR department of the SBG, in cooperation with the heads of structural units, clarifies the topics, offers additional topics that are relevant to the SBG and encourages students to clarify the topics. Specified topics The Director of the Study Program submits to the SBG General for approval. In addition to each student, the SBG appoints a consultant who is competent in the subject matter and is familiar with internal documents and restricted access information. The thesis is submitted with the signatures of three parties: the student himself/herself, the consultant and the supervisor from RTU RA side.

The themes of the bachelor's theses reflect the study of the most pressing problems of a given period and contain the latest EU/regulatory environment, technological equipment, interinstitutional cooperation and human resources challenges. The theme features 7 main thematic directions of the topics of bachelor's theses.

**1. Border surveillance and operational activities.** This direction includes works that analyze the effectiveness of border surveillance processes, organizational solutions and the use of technical means. For example, "Analysis of the effectiveness of the use of technical means of border surveillance at the disposal of the State Border Guard" (10 points), "Organisation and management of the service at airport border crossing points, legal and practical aspects" (9 points), "Surveillance of external borders - maritime border surveillance, its organisation, efficiency and development" (10 points). This thematic group of bachelor's theses is especially important because border surveillance is the central direction of the activities of the SBG, it is especially relevant in the face of geopolitical tensions and lack of personnel.

**2. International and interinstitutional cooperation.** This thematic group includes bachelor's theses that analyze cooperation with European Union agencies, institutions of neighboring countries and national services. For example, "Cooperation with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of EU Member States (Frontex) and its impact on the performance of the functions of the SRS" (10 points), "Coordination of cooperation between the State Border Guard and border control authorities of

the Russian Federation, its analysis and opportunities for the introduction of innovations" (10 points), "Opportunities for improving cooperation between competent authorities at land border crossing points" (10 points). These themes are in line with the EU's integrated border management (IBM) policy and priorities for strengthening external border security.

**3. The use of technology and innovation.** Bachelor's theses are aimed at improving the use of information systems, data circulation and technical means. For example, "Implementation of EUROSUR in the State Border Guard, problems and solutions" (10 points), "Legal and practical aspects of the implementation, use and verification of digital travel documents" (9 points), "Problems and solutions of the operational aspects of the modules "Events" and "Control of Foreigners" of the State Border Guard Information System (RAIS)" (9 points). The thematic orientation is in line with EU requirements on digitalisation, data exchange and interoperability of systems (ETIAS, EES, VIS, SIS).

**4. Legal aspects and application of the regulatory framework.** The fourth group includes works on the interpretation of laws, disciplinary practices, administrative record-keeping and criminal law aspects. For example, "Disciplinary practice in structural units of the State Border Guard: problems and solutions" (10 points), "Criminal legal characteristics and qualification problems of criminal offences related to the use of forged and foreign documents in border control" (10 points), "Record-keeping of administrative offenses, problems and solutions" (10 points). The topicality of the topics of this group is related to the accurate interpretation and application of legal norms necessary for the professional activity of SBG officials.

**5. Migration and asylum issues.** The work of the fifth thematic group covers the problems of illegal immigration, employment and deportation of asylum seekers, foreigners. For example,

"Legal guarantees and practical provision of illegal immigrants and asylum seekers" (10 points), "Action of the Immigration Service of the State Border Guard with asylum seekers in case of mass influx" (9 points), "Development of the legal framework for the employment of foreigners and peculiarities of control in Latvia" (10 points). The topicality of the topics is very high, especially in relation to migrant flows and the risks of hybrid warfare on the Russian-Belarusian border.

**6. Human resources, training and human resources.** The sixth thematic group includes works on staff development, training and retention. For example, "Implementation of professional training in the State Border Guard: problems and solutions" (9 points), "Problems and solutions of attracting and retaining personnel in the State Border Guard" (9 points), "Promotion of physical fitness of border guards and the possibilities of its management in the State Border Guard" (9 points). The topics of staff training and human resources correspond to the realities of the labour market and the long-term personnel policy objectives of the SBG.

**7. Society, communication, ethics and human rights.** The bachelor's theses of this group analyze public image, the application of ethical norms and respect for human rights. For example, "Possibilities for improving the image of the State Border Guard in the public space: problems and directions of development" (9 points),

"Legal framework for the application of ethical norms and disciplinary responsibility in the State Border Guard" (10 points), "Mechanisms for the protection of human rights and aspects of their application in the State Border Guard" (9 points). The topicality of bachelor's theses is related to aspects that form the reputation of the service and public confidence in security institutions.

Thus, it can be concluded that the topic of the final works of the study programme covers all the relevant directions of the SBG activity, providing students with the opportunity to solve topical, practice-based problems. The average rating indicator (9.3) confirms high quality of work and compliance with professional requirements. Thematic diversity (legal, operational,

technological, personnel management, ethical aspects) testifies to a wide range of professional interests of students. An insignificant number of bachelor's theses (~6% of all works) were evaluated with 7 points (10 works), 6 points (two works), one work in the reporting period was evaluated with 5 points. Relatively lower-rated bachelor's theses are mostly related to the analysis of management, organizational and societal aspects, where the validity of research and the use of empirical data are often weaker than in works with legal or technological topics. The main disadvantages are the shortcomings of the methodology and the lack of a theoretical basis, and not insufficient professional competences of students.

In order to improve the quality of the development of final papers and to reduce the methodological shortcomings identified in individual cases, a number of targeted improvements have been implemented in recent years. In 2025, the methodological instructions for the development of bachelor's theses have been updated, which includes detailed samples for the formation of the research structure, example sections on data analysis methods, as well as clarified assessment criteria that ensure a unified approach to the assessment of the quality of work throughout the study field. In order to strengthen the quality of work management and ensure regular feedback, a system of advice for managers has been introduced, establishing at least three mandatory meetings between the student and the supervisor in each semester. Such procedures contribute to the continuity of the research process and help to identify possible risks or shortcomings in the course of work in a timely manner. As a mandatory condition, pre-defence of the final work is implemented, in which a representative of the Border Guard and all work managers of RTU RA participate. In the pre-defence, students have the opportunity to receive recommendations from the commission on improving the content of the study, clarifying the methodology and the quality of reasoning before the final defense. At the same time, access to databases and information resources has been expanded – students are provided with access to the RTU Library's e-resources, as well as international databases, including Frontex Research Library and EU Open Data Portal, which promote the use of internationally comparable data and the scientific validity of research. Strengthening interdisciplinarity is also an important improvement, enabling students to participate in internal research projects of the SBG and European security research initiatives, such as the Frontex Research Hub and CEPOL programmes. It allows students to broaden their professional perspective, gain international experience and develop research that meets both national and European Union security policy priorities.

Bachelor's thesis supervisors from RTU RA provide methodological support, depth and sequence of research on the topic, as well as compliance with the methodological rules. The officials of the SBG included in the composition of the commission are presented with the works at least one day in advance in order to be able to more objectively assess the quality of the study of the topic. The defense of the bachelor's thesis takes place at the commission, where the student presents his work and answers questions from the reviewer and the members of the commission. Bachelor's theses contain restricted access information, therefore managers and commission members from RTU RA have been warned about non-disclosure of information in accordance with the order of the General of the SBG.

In Annex 22 (P22) see the letter of the SBG on the status of limited information for the developed bachelor's theses.

### **3.3. Resources and provision of the study programme**

3.3.1. To assess the conformity of resources and provision (study base, science base (if applicable), informative base (including libraries), material and technical bases) with

the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and sub-programmes and for the achievement of study results, to provide examples.

The study program is implemented in Rezekne, in close cooperation with the SBGC and SBG administrations, where students work and undergo internships. **The study base** consists of training rooms, laboratories, auditoriums and technical resources that ensure the acquisition of both theoretical and practical competencies in accordance with the requirements of the profession standard "Senior Officer of the Border Guard" and frontex CCC (2022).

RTU RA study base consists of auditoriums and seminar rooms with interactive whiteboards, computer classes and video conferencing facilities that provide remote and hybrid lectures. The SBGC provides the study base with a training complex, including a tactical training area, a weapons shooting range, a border control simulation point, a vehicle control training area. In places of practical classes in border administrations (Ludza, Daugavpils, Terekhova, Silene, etc.), where students perform tasks in real operational situations, acquire border checks, immigration control and observation skills in a real working environment. The remote learning environment (estudijas.rtu.lv) provides access to learning materials, video lectures and tests, thus promoting individual learning and the development of self-directed competences.

Study programmes **science base** until 1 April 2025, it has been developed in close cooperation with the SBGC, for 10 years now jointly organizing an international scientific-practical conference "Border Security and Management", which is organized every two years.

On average, 60-70 researchers from different EU and other countries participate in the conference. For example, in 2024, the conference was attended by 65 participants from Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and other heads and representatives of educational institutions of border guards and police, as well as cooperation partners – representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and its subordinate colleges,

representatives of the Academy of Internal Security and RTA (now RTU RA), Deputy Executive Director of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (hereinafter – Frontex) in the field of capabilities, Chairman of the Board of the Federation of Security and Defence Industries of Latvia, Director of the Security and Strategic Research Centre of the Latvian National Defence Academy. The conference's research is an important contribution to the development of scientific research at European level in the field of border security. They are compiled and published in the scientific journal of Internal Security and Civil Protection:

BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT. The magazine is available at RTU RA [open access to the database of scientific journals](#). Indexed in the EBSCO and Index Copernicus database. By joining the RTU study direction "Internal Security and Civil Protection", the study programme fits into the RTU research platform "Security and Defence", within the framework of which research is carried out in the fields of border guarding, internal security, migration and civil protection. Every two years, RTU RA in cooperation with the SBGC organizes a conference of SBG staff, lecturers and students, where applied research is presented. Graduates of the study program have the opportunity to present their research to a wider industry audience.

Students of the study programme have access to informative and bibliographic resource bases in the RTU RA library. RTU RA Library is located in Rezekne in Liberation Alley 115 k-4 block. The structure of the library consists of a reading room, a subscription to teaching and sectoral literature, a collection and cataloguing sector, a bibliography and information sector.

The opening hours of the library are appropriate to the needs of students and ensure access to informative resources. The library is accessible to persons with reduced mobility. For the characteristics of the library premises, see Table 3.3.1.1.

Table 3.3.1.1

#### **Area of library premises, suitability for constant study and research work**

<b>Library premises</b>	<b>Indicators/evaluation</b>
Total area of premises (m2) <i>When working in the reading room, you can use the computers in the reading room or come with your own computers and connect to a Wi-Fi network.</i>	459
Reader service rooms (m2)	418.8
Number of readers' workplaces in the library	30
Technical condition of the premises (good, satisfactory, need for repair, in an emergency state)	good
When the last reconstruction was carried out, overhaul or current cosmetic repairs	The building was built in 2014, renovated in 2022.

The library has three individual work rooms where students can carry out study and research work without hindrance. RTU RA library provides all traditional services, including in the e-environment. The electronic catalogue reflects information about all books and magazines in the library's collection.

In order to provide high-quality support to the educational and scientific process of RTU RA, special attention is paid to user awareness, providing wider opportunities for searching for e-resources and obtaining information, educating and advising users in information literacy. Library staff constantly provide assistance to users in searching for information and references.

The library's collections correspond to rtu RA higher education programmes and study directions. The latest literature from the relevant sectors is regularly purchased, most of the funding for recruitment is used for sectoral books in English (see Table 3.3.1.2 for an overview of the literature available in the library). Book requests are regularly submitted to the library. For a more convenient and faster execution of the submission process, a Form for replenishing library funds was created, which is available electronically. A significant addition to the collection is given by books purchased or published in projects. Interlibrary Loan Services are available to library users.

Table 3.3.1.2

**Provision of the study programme with literature on 13.10.2025.**

<b>UDK index, industry</b>	<b>number of copies</b>	<b>number of names</b>
351.74 Public order services. Border guard	58	41
351.78 Civil protection	48	20
355 National Defence. General military issues	128	76
303 Methods of the social sciences	104	40
31 Demographics. Sociology. Statistics	1803	862
32. Politics. Political science	882	440
34. Rights. Legal sciences	3588	1358

9 Geography. History	4407	2177
005 Management	2022	570

In the 2025/2026 academic year, the library offers its users the following databases: School Name e-editions and repositories of methodological and digital tools, Jurista Vārds, iFinances, iRights, iBusiness, Latvian Standards Library, BalancePLZ, EBSCO, ScienceDirect, Scopus, Web of Science, LNB Digital Collections. From April 2025, our students can also use the databases subscribed to by RTU - *ACM Digital Library, Cambridge Journals Online, ProQuest Ebook Central, eBook Academic Collection, Letonika, O'Reilly learning platform, SpringerLink books, Wiley Online Library*. Databases can also be used remotely. In 2024, database usage was 36333 sessions, 40939 downloads. In order for students to gain knowledge about the e-resources of the RTU RA Library, their use and availability, the library offers classes and individual consultations. The library regularly offers to try e-resources of various foreign publishing houses.

RTU RA Library uses the Latvian library information system ALISE for accounting of its collection, which provides remote access to library catalogues and various information search options, as well as ordering/booking of expenses for authorized users. From the library's e-catalogue website, it is possible to connect to the joint catalogue of higher education institutions and special libraries, the joint catalogue of state significance, the joint catalogue of rezekne region, which ensures the search and ordering of the necessary resources, which is possible by using the possibilities of interlibrary subscription. Students of the study programme, in accordance with the cooperation agreement between RTU RA and the SBGC, also have the opportunity to use the SBGC library, where specialized literature on border guard tactics, use of weapons, border control procedures, Frontex and CEPOL training materials, as well as training videos, interactive e-learning modules and Frontex online courses (on the LMS platform) are available. In addition to the study programme, students have the opportunity to use the documents of the SBG procedures, as well as the SBGC library, which covers a specific database of border guard literature, international, Latvian and internal documents, t.sk. within the framework of the corresponding restricted access. When conducting research during the research of the bachelor's thesis, students write an application to the management of the SBG regarding the issuance of specific and/or classified (restricted) information or statistical data. Students, within the scope of their position or competence, shall also use the documentation of the internal FRONTEX AULA website.

The system of resources and provision fully complies with the conditions for the implementation of the Study Programme, ensures the achievement of study results, fulfilment of the requirements for professional qualification and readiness of students for the Service. The integrated infrastructure of RTU RA-SBGC-SBG forms a unified academic and professional environment that promotes the quality of studies, research growth and cooperation between the academic and border guard service sectors.

- 3.3.2. Assessment of the study and scientific base, including resources which are provided within the framework of co-operation with other scientific institutions and higher education institutions (applicable to doctoral study programmes) (if applicable).

Not applicable

- 3.3.3. To indicate the data on the available funding in the relevant study programme and its sub-programmes (if applicable), the sources of financing thereof and their use for the development of the study programme. To provide information on the costs per student within the framework of this study programme and sub-programme (if applicable),

indicating the items included in the cost calculation and the percentage distribution of funding between the specified positions. The minimum number of students in the study programme in order to ensure the profitability of the study programme.

The financing of the study programme is provided from the student tuition fees, which are covered from the funds of the State budget of the SBG, which reflect the inter-institutional nature of the Study Programme. The study programme shall be implemented in accordance with a contract which lays down uniform principles regarding the flow and administration of funding. The subject of the contract is the preparation of a certain number of specialists in the study programme for obtaining the qualification "Senior Officer of the State Border Guard" and a professional bachelor's degree in border guarding with the funds of the State budget. At the beginning of each semester, a financing plan is agreed and mutually signed according to the number of students per course.

The source of funding of the study programme is the SBG grant, which covers the main costs related to the implementation of the Study Programme (academic and general staff, maintenance of digital platforms, administrative coordination, etc.).

Table 3.3.3.1

**The available funding is structured into three main cost categories:**

<b>Cost position</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Share of funding (%)</b>
1. Remuneration of academic staff and visiting lecturers	Lectures, module development, research management, exams, review	<b>60 %</b>
2. Remuneration of general staff	Student and faculty administration, program coordination, communication, quality reports	<b>18 %</b>
3. Other costs (digital resources, quality assurance, literature, periodicals, material and technical base)	License maintenance, communication, quality reports, external evaluators, marketing materials, payment for services, updating and improving the content of the study programme and assessing the quality of the implementation of the study programme	<b>22 %</b>

The tuition fee is determined and reviewed every study year, it is determined by the RTU Council. In the academic year 2025/2026, the tuition fee for part-time on-site studies is set at 1880 EUR.

According to the financial records, the average cost per student is approximately 73,000 EUR over the entire period of the Study Programme in 2.5 years (approximately 29,000 EUR per year). This amount shall include:

- remuneration of teaching staff and administrative-technical staff and preparation of lectures;
- maintenance and technical support of the e-learning platform;
- subscriptions to libraries and scientific databases;
- license maintenance, communication, quality reviews, external evaluators, marketing materials, payment for services;
- Updating and improving the content of the study programme and assessing the quality of implementation

The threshold of profitability of the study programme in part-time studies is determined

on the basis of the fixed costs and volume of implementation. In order to ensure financial balance and full implementation of the Study Programme, the minimum number of students in part-time studies is 16 in one year of study, or 40 in the Study Programme in two years of study. Such a number of students ensures an even distribution of costs.

### **3.4. Faculty**

- 3.4.1. Assessment of the conformity of the qualification of the teaching staff involved in the implementation of the study programme (academic staff, visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers and visiting assistants) with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the requirements of laws and regulations. Provide information on how the qualifications of teaching staff contribute to the achievement of study results.

14 teaching staff are involved in the implementation of the study programme – academic, professional and visiting staff representing the fields of legal, internal security and social sciences. Of the teaching staff, 3 are professors and associate professors with a doctoral degree (Dr.oec., Dr.jur.), 5 assistant professors and lecturers with a master's degree (M.jur., M.sc.soc., M.sc.comp.) and lecturers with a master's degree (M.sc.soc., M.jur.), who are teaching staff of the strategic cooperation partner SBGC with professional work experience in the structures of the State Border Guard. All teaching staff are proficient in Latvian at the level of their native language, at the professional level they also know English or Russian, which ensures the use of international cooperation and study materials in foreign languages, which contributes to the implementation of the requirements of the profession standard.

The study courses of the study programme are implemented taking into account the academic and professional qualification profile of the teaching staff. The thematic block of law (study courses Management of administrative process (3 CP), Criminology (3 CP), Civil law and civil procedure (3 CP), International and EU law (3 CP), State and human rights (3 CP)) is taught by teaching staff with doctoral and master's degrees in law (Dr.jur., M.jur.), lecturers with research and practical experience in law, which ensures study results (Z1-Z3, P2) on the application and interpretation of laws and regulations in the field of border guarding. The thematic section of Management, Leadership and Strategic Planning (study courses Organization Management and Leadership (6 CP), Resource Management and Analysis (6 CP), Project Management (3 CP), Crisis, Emergency and Emergency Management (6 CP)) is implemented by Dr.oec. and M.sc.com. qualification teaching staff contributing to the achievement of study outcomes (P3, K3) in the field of management, personnel and process analysis competence. In the field of security and operational activities (study courses Operational Activities and Pre-trial Investigation (6 CP), Proactive Threat and Risk Analysis (6 CP), Management of Border Surveillance (4 CP) and Management of Border Control (4 CP), Management of Technical Means and ICT of the Border Guard (6 CP)) are led by professional border guard officers with practical service experience with a master's degree, which, respectively, ensures study results (P1-P3, K1-K2) in the field of operational, tactical and security management. In the field of inter-institutional and international cooperation and communication (study courses Inter-institutional and International Cooperation (6 CP), Intercultural Communication and Conflict Studies (6 CP) are implemented by M.sc.soc. and Dr.soc.sc. qualification teaching staff with experience in EU security and border guard projects that ensure study results (K3, K4) in the field of cooperation, communication and human rights. Research and analytical skills (study papers (9 CP in total), Bachelor's thesis (18 CP)) are managed by teaching staff with a doctoral or master's degree, ensuring the acquisition of research methodology and supervision of the bachelor's thesis in accordance with the skills and

competences specified in the study results (P4, K4).

All teaching staff regularly participate in professional development courses for lecturers (digital teaching methods, academic ethics, innovations in higher education, etc.), which ensure the transfer of lifelong learning competences for the achievement of study results.

Annex 14 (P14) provides basic information on the teaching staff involved in the study programme.

In Annex 15 (P15), see the biographies of the teaching staff (*in Curriculum Vitae Europass format*).

Annex 16 (P18) shall contain a certification that the knowledge of the official language of the teaching staff involved in the implementation of the study programme(s) conforms to the regulations regarding the amount of knowledge of the official language and the procedures for the examination of proficiency in the official language for the performance of professional and official duties.

Annex 17 (P17) provides a summary of quantitative data on scientific and/or applied research activities corresponding to the study programme during the reference period.

See Annex 18 (P18) for a list of faculty publications for the last 6 years.

Annex 19 (P19) contains statistics on foreign teaching staff in the study programme, as well as mobility indicators for the performance of official duties.

- 3.4.2. Analysis and assessment of changes in the composition of teaching staff for the reporting period, their impact on the quality of studies.

There have been no significant changes in the composition of the teaching staff.

- 3.4.3. Information on the number of scientific publications of academic staff involved in the implementation of the doctoral study programme during the reporting period, adding a list of the most important publications published in journals indexed in databases Scopus or WoS CC. In the social sciences and humanities and arts, scientific publications in journals indexed by ERIH+ and peer-reviewed monographs can be additionally counted. Information on teaching staff included in the expert database of the Latvian Council of Science in the relevant field of science (total number, given name/surname of the teaching staff, field of science in which the teaching staff has the status of an expert and the expiry date of the right of an expert of the Latvian Council of Science) (if applicable).

Not applicable

- 3.4.4. Information on the involvement of the academic staff implementing the doctoral study programme in research projects as project managers or main performers/ sub-project managers/ lead researchers, indicating the name of the relevant project, source of funding, amount of financing. To provide information on the reporting period (if applicable).

Not applicable

- 3.4.5. Assessment of mutual cooperation between teaching staff, indicating mechanisms for promoting cooperation in the implementation of the study programme and ensuring interconnection of study courses/modules. Also indicate the ratio of the number of students and teaching staff within the framework of the study programme (at the time of submitting the self-assessment report).

The teaching staff involved in the implementation of the study programme operate in a unified cooperation system that unites representatives of RTU RA, SBGC and SBG. The main types of cooperation are:

- **Meetings of the study direction commission** (until 01.04.2025 RTA, then RTU study direction Internal Security and Civil Protection) **coordinate the content, tasks, and assessment forms of study courses; analyse student feedback and practice results. Promotes** the linkage of study courses with the objectives of the Study Programme and study results.
- **Methodological working groups and thematic seminars** – joint discussions on the coordination of assessment criteria, study content in short-cycle higher education programmes and first-cycle higher education programmes. Ensures unity of the study process between RTU RA and SBGC lecturers.
- **Joint practice management system** – the heads of the SBGC and border guard units participate in the planning of the internship, coordination of tasks and criteria. Ensures the integration of studies and service practice.
- **Joint research** – joint conference and scientific papers on border guard tactics, risk analysis, human rights issues. Promotes scientifically based study content.
- **The digital collaboration platform** (estudijas.rtu.lv, MS Teams) provides a sharing environment for course study materials, practice guidelines, evaluation of student work.

The study courses of the study programme are interconnected vertically and horizontally, ensuring gradual and targeted achievement of study results. In vertical integration, short-cycle higher education programme study courses (e.g. Border Checks (5 CP), Border Surveillance (4 CP), Technical Research of Documents (3 CP), Military Preparation (5 CP)) provide the basics that are deepened at the bachelor's level (respectively Management of Border Surveillance (4 CP), Proactive Threat and Risk Analysis (6 CP), Management of Crises, Emergencies and Emergencies (6 CP), etc.). In horizontal integration, the study courses International and EU Law (3 CP), State and Human Rights (3 CP) and Inter-institutional and International Cooperation (6 CP) are implemented in coordination with the content of Criminal Law (3 CP), Management of Administrative Proceedings (3 CP) and Operational Activities and Pre-trial Investigations (6 CP) in order to develop a common understanding of border security and human rights. Integration of research work into the study programme takes place on the basis of the experience of developing a qualification paper (12 CP) of study courses acquired in the short-cycle study programme Basics of research work (2 CP), developing a qualification paper (12 CP), which together form the methodological basis for the development of a bachelor's thesis (18 CP).

Cooperation with the SBG, the SBGC and the border guard units has been given the highest priority, as the SBG is the commissioning and financier of the Study Programme. The SBG defines the main principles of the strategic Study Programme, guides the development of occupational standards, alignment of study programmes with Frontex CCC, occupational standards and NCA/EQF level 6 requirements. SBG transmission officials participate in undergraduate thesis defense commissions and make their proposals for improving the Study Program. With the support of the SBG and the Ministry of the Interior, joint seminars and conferences are organized, students and lecturers are involved in the study of border guard tactics and human rights.

Cooperation with the SBGC is the basic principle of the Study Programme, which ensures a unified cycle of vocational education (short cycle as part of the first cycle of professional higher education). The main directions of cooperation for cooperation with the SBGC are the integration of personnel. Several SBGC lecturers are visiting lecturers of RTU RA who

implement professional specialization study courses (Operational Activities, Border Checks, Weapons and Shooting Training, Crisis Management); RTU RA lecturers conduct methodological seminars for the teaching staff of the SBGC on issues of research and didactics of higher education.

With the participation of SBG administrations, professional practice and work-based learning are implemented. Internship tasks are developed in accordance with the professional standard of the border guard and the real situation of the service; The assessment of the internship takes place in three ways: student - academic manager - head of the border guard service.

Thus, cooperation between teaching staff ensures a common understanding of study outcomes, teaching methods and assessment principles. Cooperation with the SBGC, the SBG administration and the departments of the SBG allows linking academic education with service practice. Joint meetings shall contribute to the development of new courses of study and research directions. The use of e-platforms promotes openness, coordination and mutual learning. The cooperation model ensures a continuous cycle of vocational education, from the short-cycle studies of the SBGC to the level of the first cycle at RTU RA.

The ratio of students and teaching staff in the Study Programme has been examined in accordance with the methodology specified by the OECD, dividing the full-time equivalent of students (FTE) by the teaching staff employed in the Study Programme FTE. Part-time students in the FTE study programme comprise 12, and teaching staff in FTE – 0.7. Accordingly, the ratio of students in FTE to teaching staff in FTE is 17.1, which, according to OECD data, is slightly higher than the average indicator of Latvia (15) and the average of other OECD countries (15).