

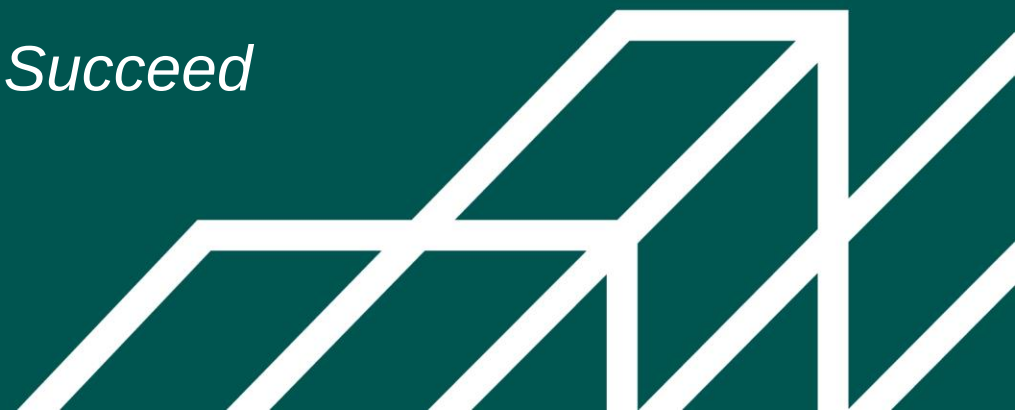


Lifelong learning and career growth

Career Course

Career Lab: Plan, Practice, Succeed

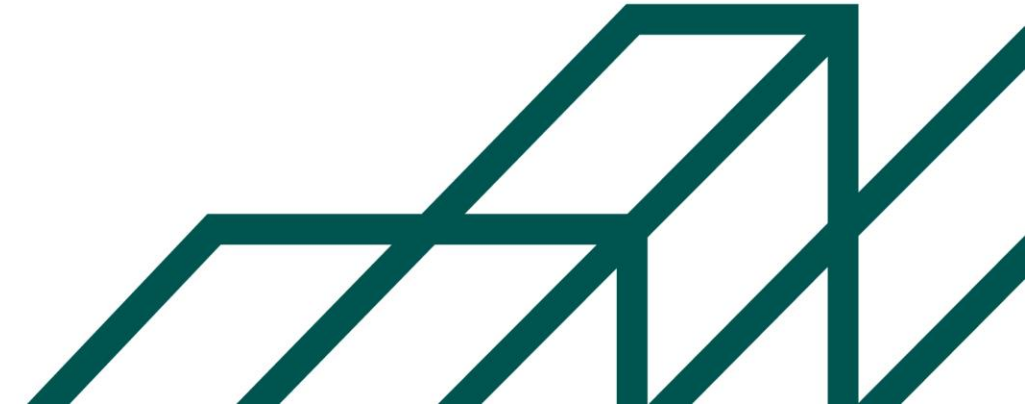
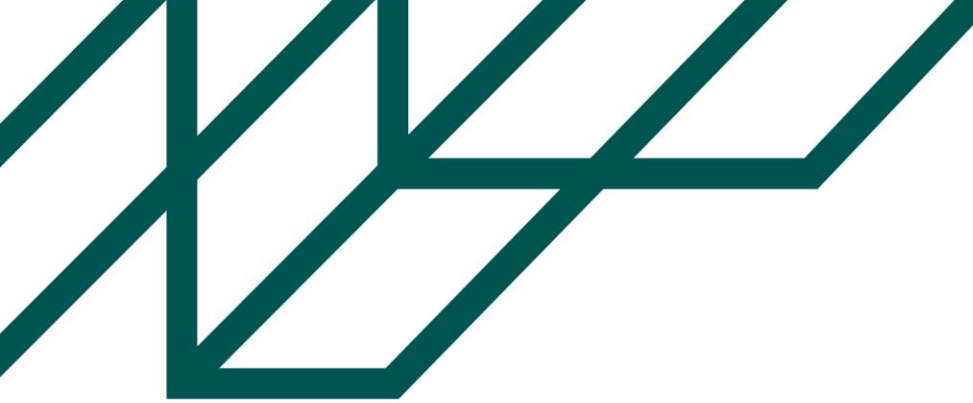
Santa Latkovska





Content

- How a career develops over a lifetime
- The importance of lifelong learning and available resources (MOOC, etc.)
- How to assess and plan the next career steps: master's and doctoral studies
- Continuing education courses for professional development: offers from RTU



How a career develops over a lifetime

Stages of career development

Growth & Exploration (Childhood – Early 20s)

Discovering interests, talents, values
Testing possible paths

Establishment (20s – 30s)

First jobs, training, networking
Building credibility

Mid-Career Growth (30s – 40s)

Promotions, leadership, retraining
Recognition & stability

Maintenance & Reassessment (40s – 50s)

Sustaining performance, mentoring
Reevaluating direction

Late Career & Legacy (50s – 60s)

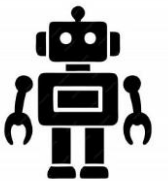
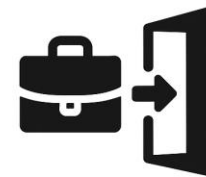
Teaching, consulting, succession
Impact & independence

Retirement & New Roles (60s+)

Volunteering, hobbies, part-time
Purpose & flexibility

Important!

- The path of career development isn't linear for everyone
- Each person's career path and development is unique and individual
- Today, building a career often involves various challenges, such as:
 - **transitions** (promotion, switching role or company for growth)
 - **career changes** (re-evaluating career direction, adapting to changes in industry)
 - **lifelong learning** (developing new skills, possibly retraining)
 - **portfolio careers** (multiple roles at once)



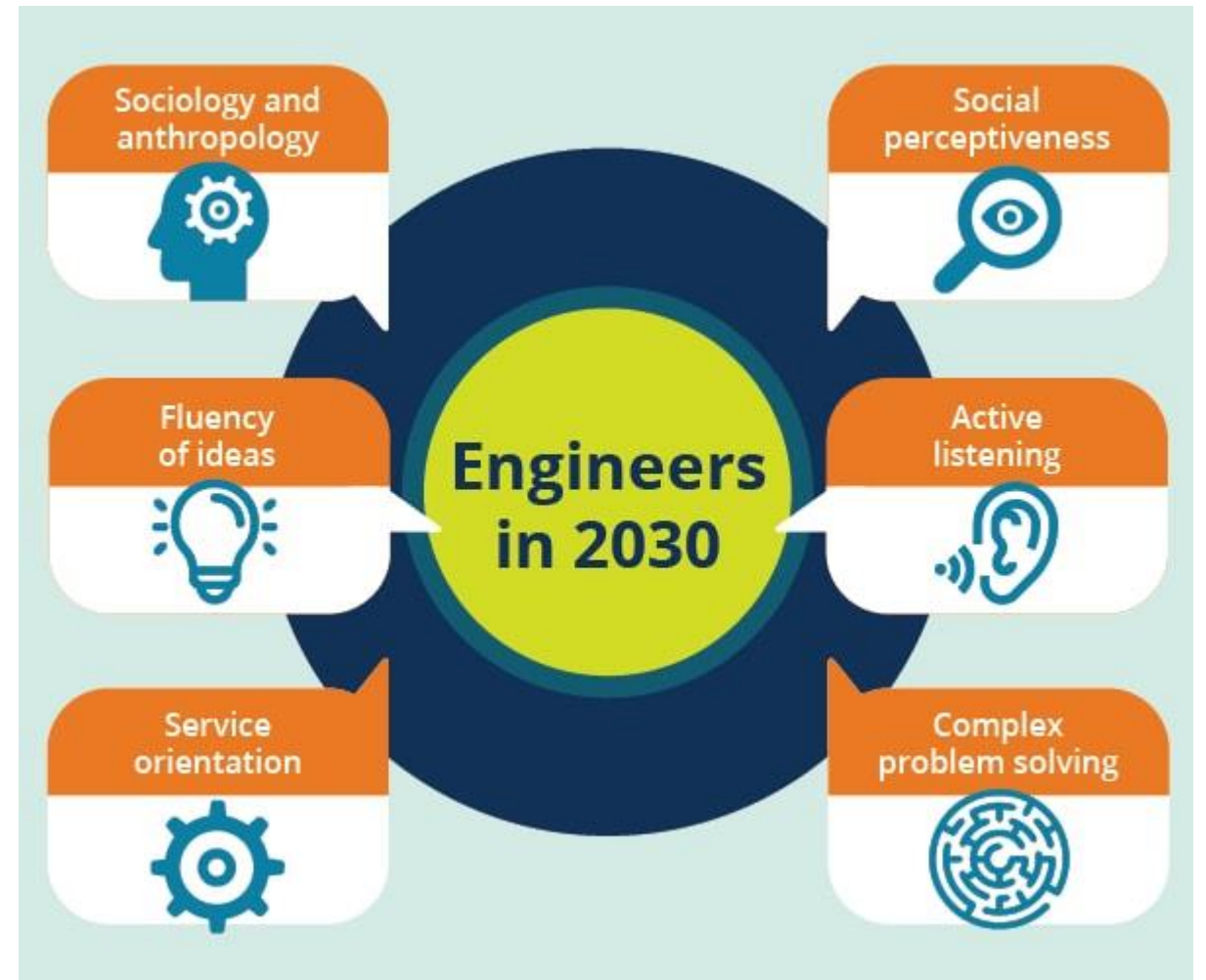
Top 10 fastest growing skills by 2030

1.  AI and big data
2.  Networks and cybersecurity
3.  Technological literacy
4.  Creative thinking
5.  Resilience, flexibility and agility
6.  Curiosity and lifelong learning
7.  Leadership and social influence
8.  Talent management
9.  Analytical thinking
10.  Environmental stewardship

 Cognitive skills  Self-efficacy  Working with others  Management skills  Technology skills  Ethics

Note: The skills selected by surveyed organizations to be increasing most rapidly in importance by 2030.

Source: World Economic Forum. (2025). *Future of Jobs Report 2025*.



[What is the Future of Work? | World Economic Forum](https://www.weforum.org/publications/future-of-jobs-report-2025/)

<https://youtu.be/b5hJ1EtGBPc>

RTUconnect

The platform allows RTU graduates to maintain a link with their university and other graduates after the end of their studies



CONNECT



NETWORK



**ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS**



**EXPAND
CLIENT BASE**

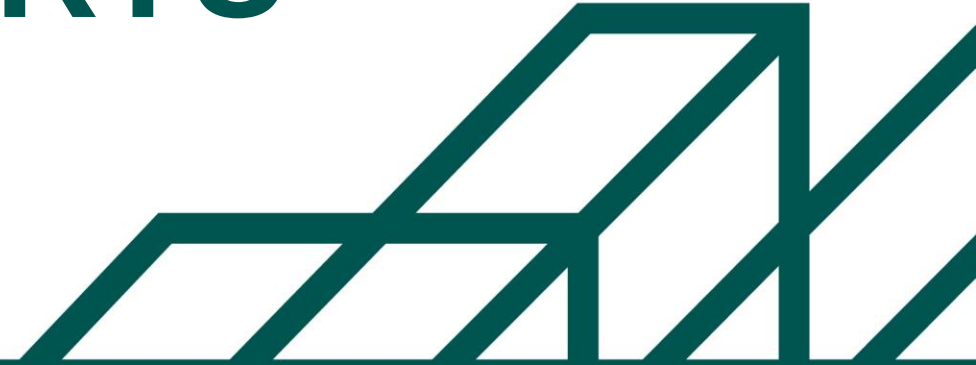


**LEARN FROM
OTHER PROFESSIONALS**



**FIND
OPPORTUNITIES**

The importance of lifelong learning and available resources at RTU

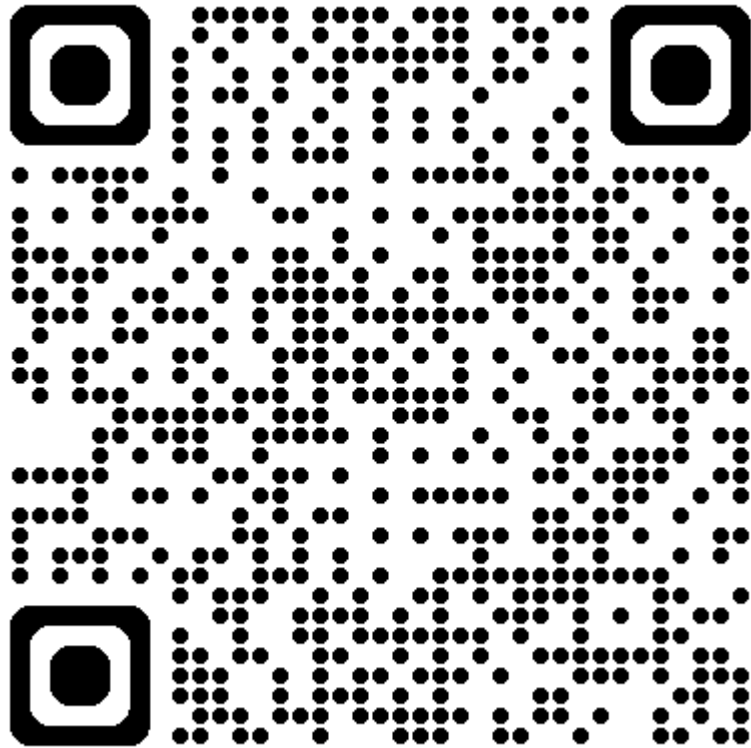


Expand your knowledge with MOOC

- **MOOC courses are interactive additional educational materials for RTU students and anyone interested**
- free courses
- lectures can be paused, continued, and repeated at any time
- included: theory, videos, and tests.
- receive a certificate with RTU credit points or just broaden your knowledge and skills.
- courses and their materials are in English



More about courses



Register

Username

Email

Password

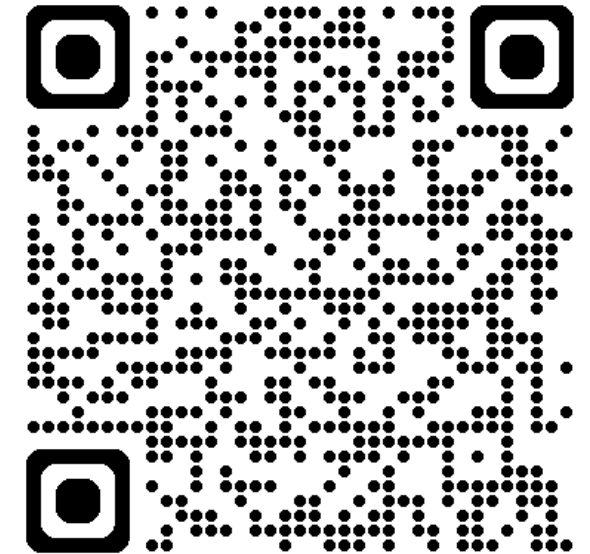
Register

[Sign In](#)

RTU Science and Innovation Centre (SIC)

Aim: to help students acquire innovation and entrepreneurial skills

- **Prototyping** – possibilities for prototype development
Provides an open-type workshop, the LAB, where RTU students and scientists can materialize their inventions using technological tools (3D printing, laser cutting and engraving, plotting, large-format printing, and other auxiliary equipment)
- **Event organization** – conferences, seminars, lectures, hackathons, and more.

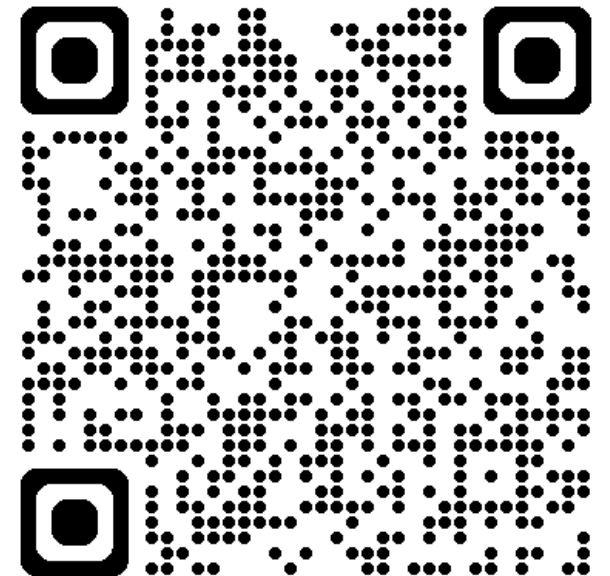


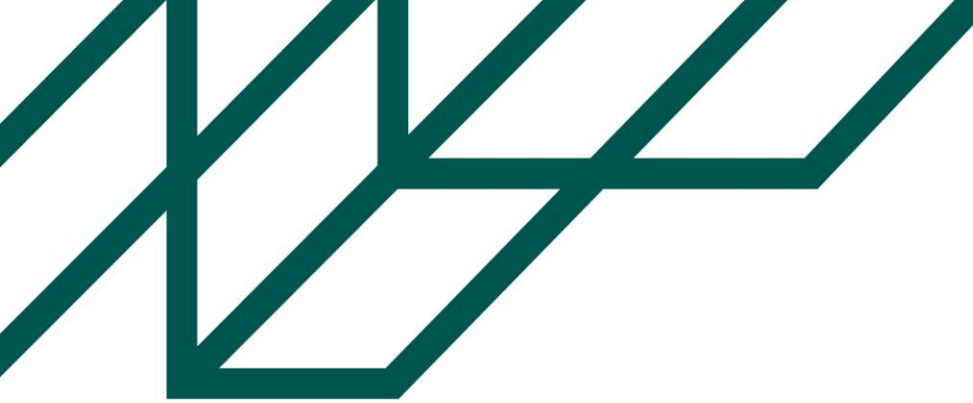
High Performance Computing Center (HPC Center)

For students and RTU academic personnel:

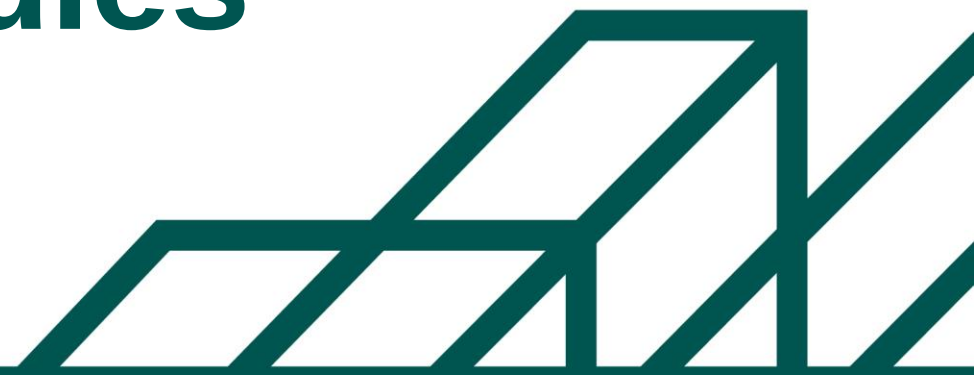
- Training software
- Support
- HPC Cluster RUDENS resources for writing Bachelor, master or PhD thesis
- Training events about HPC and digital tools
- Traineeship opportunities at the RTU HPC Centre
- It is planned to offer courses in English, as well

More about trainings and courses:





How to assess and plan the next career steps. Master's and doctoral studies



Should I continue studying after obtaining a bachelor's degree?

- RTU offers Master's programs (1-2 years) and doctoral studies (3-5 years, intakes – all year long)
- Depends on a your **goals, interests, lifestyle priorities, and career direction.**
- It is important decision. Next is a breakdown you can use to reflect and decide.

Individual assignment

Evaluate your current readiness for Master's or Doctoral studies!

Student Worksheet: **Masters vs PhD (Decision Matrix)**



[Link to Worksheet No.5 Masters vs PhD \(Decision Matrix\)](#)

Start working vs. Continue studying

Give evaluated answer to following questions :

- Am I ready for a junior, specialist, or managerial role?
- Do I want to boost employability, advance or change career?
- Do I prefer applying *knowledge* (Master's) or *creating it* (PhD)?
- Can I handle years of workload, uncertainty, and not so high income?
- Can I afford the financial investment? (Master's usually **self-funded**, PhD may offer **scholarship/grant/salary**. Tuition fee discounts can be granted either in full or partially)
- Do I have strong interest in the field or passion for one problem?

If you're unsure:

Test yourself:

- Try **research internships** or **assistantships** to see if you like research.
- Talk to professors, PhD students, or professionals in your field.
- Make a **5–10 year career map**: where does each path take you? (in our last session, you'll create your own career map to guide your next steps.)

Rule of Thumb!

If your priority is **career advancement and employability** → Masters.

If your priority is **research, academia, or deep specialization** → PhD.

Individual assignment

Test your readiness – work or studies?

Students Worksheet: **Evaluation Matrix**



[Link to Worksheet No.6 Job vs Master's vs PhD \(Evaluation Matrix\)](#)

Continuing educational courses for professional development

Boost your compatibility and competitiveness

Some online courses for gaining certificates and degrees

- [Coursera Plus | Unlimited Access to 10,000+ Online Courses](#)
- [edX | Online Courses, Certificates & Degrees from Leading Institutions](#)
- [FutureLearn: Online Courses and Degrees from Top Universities](#)
- [Online Courses With Leading Universities and GetSmarter](#)

Continue learning Latvian

- [Learn Latvian - Integration and Inclusion Agency of Latvia](#) - includes a current list of free language sessions and even improv performances;
- [e-Laipa](#) – online learning platform for developing vocabulary at beginner level;
- [Loecsen – Learn a language easily | 50 languages](#) – online learning platform teaching you basic phrases;
- [Self-assessment](#) – language assessment;
- [Latvian Language agency](#) (use the *Translate to English* option) – a collection of resources for learning the language;
- [Mondly](#) – language learning app



If you need a career consultation, write to career@rtu.lv
Want to receive job vacancies on your phone? Join at ej.uz/career_elevator
More useful resources [here](#)

RTU Well-being and Career Support Centre
2025

