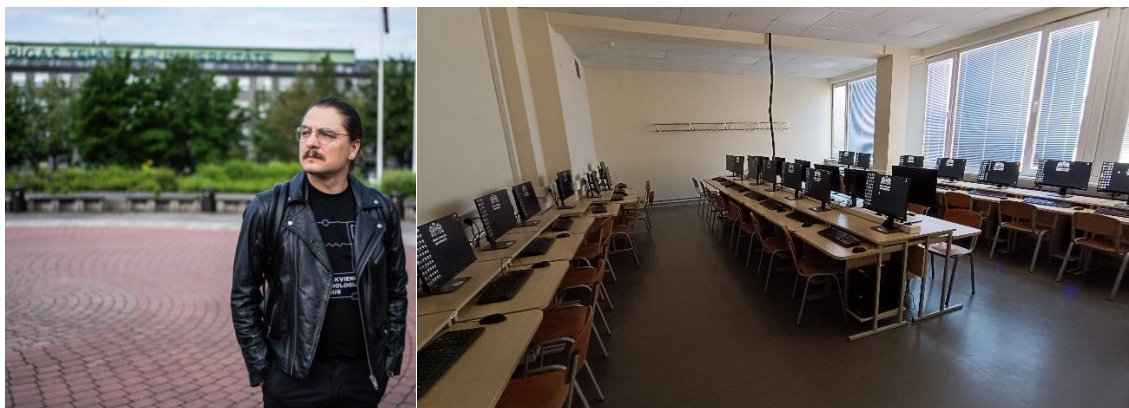


VISIT TO RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

During the week from June 16th to 20th, 2025, assoc. prof. dr. Andrius Jaskūnas from Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania, visited Riga Technical University, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology. An invitation was provided by Vice-dean of Academic Affairs and Research Ieva Jaunzeme.



The whole week was dedicated to teaching students and meeting the teaching staff. As Latvia and Lithuania share a similar history, it was interesting to compare the advancement of the higher education systems at RTU and KTU. While there are some differences between the two universities, they have so much more in common and are basically twin universities. It came as no surprise that we face similar challenges to those usually encountered in technological and engineering sciences, such as the difficulty of making “hard” sciences more popular. Integrating artificial intelligence and digital skills could make technological and engineering sciences more approachable, and specialised software for modelling chemical processes is very helpful in this regard. During our stay, we ran classes on modelling chemical reactors using Aspen Plus software. We analysed and modelled various types of reactors with different forms of kinetic equations. The adiabatic and isothermal modes of reactor operation were compared and evaluated based on conversion, chemical equilibrium, and vessel sizing. The software enables complex calculations to be performed relatively easily and the results to be presented in various forms.

RTU and KTU are located close to each other, so naturally the number of Lithuanian and Latvian students visiting neighbouring countries is small. In order to facilitate closer collaboration, Andrius Jaskūnas and Ieva Jaunzeme decided to organise a trip for RTU students studying the Chemistry and Chemical Technology programme to visit the Faculty of Chemical Technology at KTU in autumn 2025. In addition to classes at KTU, visits to the Orlen Lithuania and Achema companies will also be organised, as Lithuania has a larger chemical industry than Latvia.

I’m grateful to NORDTEK for providing this opportunity to meet my RTU colleagues.

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