

Good afternoon,

Welcome to the 30th commencement ceremony of Riga Business School. Today, we gather to celebrate not only the achievements of our graduates but also the remarkable foundational journey of this esteemed institution. As we mark this milestone, we reflect with pride and a deep sense of responsibility on the beginning of the story of Riga Business School.

With a vocation for leadership and innovation, Riga Business School has built its reputation on two fundamental principles: a strong sense of purpose and excellence in quality. These are the wings that have propelled our institution forward. Leaders are most impactful when they build their lives and careers on these two pillars: having a strong, consistent intention in everything they do and possessing the skills to accomplish their goals.

The world, the Baltic region, and Latvia do not need perfect leaders who never make mistakes. Instead, they need leaders who inspire with their strong sense of purpose and aspiration for excellence. The story of Riga Business School is the story of a community of leaders, of institutions and countries united by a strong mission: bringing excellence in education with international standards to the Baltic region.

This mission has been a magnet, attracting students, faculty members, administrators, and many others who have contributed to making this dream a reality. It is in the proximity of great people that great things happen. We understand that the future growth of Riga Business School will depend on keeping this community together. In the friction and collaboration between these dedicated individuals, great things will continue to unfold.

Graduates of 2024, be great women and great men. Be intentional in your actions, and you will gather other great people around you. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, carry with you the values of purpose and excellence that have been the cornerstone of your education here. You will find resistance to your goals, as Riga Business School has always found as well. Don't be afraid. It is our experience in Riga Business School, that it is in the resistance we sometimes find that we grow in strength and wisdom.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to some of our colleagues who are the true leaders of Riga Business School. Riga Business School is a community; it is a home. As we say often, we are not a hotel where people have check-in and check-out dates. This is a home. This is for you graduates as well; this diploma is not your "hotel invoice", your journey with Riga Business School has not finished. This home is kept vibrant and thriving by those who have served selflessly for many years with a common purpose. Today, we recognize and congratulate our colleagues who have dedicated 15 years or more to our community, embodying the spirit and values of Riga Business School.

Thank you, and congratulations to the class of 2024!

Claudio Rivera, Director of Riga Business School