Janis Stendzenieks

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Education

Rice University | George R. Brown School of Engineering and Computing — Aug 2025 – Present
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering | GPA: 3.90/4.00 — Houston, TX

Riga Technical University Engineering High School — Sep 2022 - Jul 2025
GPA: 9.93/10.00 | Class rank: 1st — Riga, Latvia

- Math/Physics/Chemistry specialized curriculum, represented Team Latvia in international astronomy competitions, student government content creator & event host, tutor
- Received an Honorary Certificate for Academic Excellence from The Latvian Prime Minister

Experience

Rice Eclipse | Student-led multi-stage launch vehicle team — Oct 2025 – Present
Composites Team Engineer – Prestige V3 Launch Vehicle — Houston, TX

- Implemented tip-to-tip structural reinforcement using carbon fiber and epoxy resin for multi-stage launch vehicles meant to reach altitudes of 9 km
- Manufactured fins & body tube for sustainer engine, structural assembly
- Performed composite surface finishing for body tube and fins

Tarragon Aircraft — Jun 2025 – Aug 2025
Engineering Intern – High-Power Ultralight Aircraft (300-400 km/h at 340-650 kg) — Riga, Latvia

- Performed carbon composite sanding & surface finishing on ultralight parts–air intake, bulkhead, ailerons, fuselage, fuel tank–for 3 different customer aircrafts
- Bonded fuselage parts with aircraft-grade epoxy resin for fuselage assembly
- Machined force translation components for landing gear mechanisms–carbon tubes, joints, and more

Riga Technical University Engineering School Automotive | Student-led e-vehicle team — Oct 2024 – Jul 2025
Lead Mechanical Engineer – High-Efficiency Electric Tricycles — Riga, Latvia

- Led a team of 5 students to fully design & manufacture 4 energy-efficient electric tricycles from recycled materials
- Executed steering mechanism & part design/machining, frame welding, controller electronics & hydraulic brake system setup, soldering
- Performed a public showcase drive at the National Song and Dance Festival: 40,000+ attendees, broadcasted live on National Television (~ 1.5 million viewers)

Riga Technical University Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology — May 2023 – May 2024
Student Research Intern – Ta-TiO_2 Transient Optical Memory Material — Riga, Latvia

- Designed and manufactured an optically active memory material for photonic storage & computing applications using Ta-TiO_2 nanoparticles
- Performed 20,000+ datapoint analysis in MS Excel, spin-coating, acid etching, soldering, plasma cleaning
- Awarded Gold in the National Student Scientific Research Conference, achieving highest score in Engineering & Technology category

Riga Technical University Power Electronics | Student-led e-vehicle team — Feb 2023 – Jul 2023
Mechanical Engineer – High-Efficiency Electric Tricycles — Riga, Latvia

- Assisted a team of 10 students to design & manufacture an electric low-ride tricycle
- Manufactured the composite aerodynamic body and frame, as well as installed the hydraulic brake system
- Placed 1st in the National Vehicle Energy Efficiency Competition/Race

Skills

Fusion 360 CAD, 3D printing, Metal & Wood Fabrication (machining, cutting, grinding, surface finishing, heat bending, welding), Data Analysis (MS Excel, Vernier LoggerPro), HTML & CSS, DaVinci Resolve, Languages (bilingual proficiency in English, native in Latvian)