INFORMATION FOR DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS
Bachelor’s and Master’s programmes taught in Estonian

This information sheet summarizes the most needed and relevant matters for getting started at the University of Tartu. The same information, though in different sectors, is also provided at the university’s website on www.ut.ee/en/welcome. Please let us know if any questions arise from the content below.

Main contacts

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<tr>
<th>International Student Service</th>
<th>Accommodation Office in Tartu</th>
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| International Student Coordinators  
Ms. Kaija Murasov and Ms. Piret Saluveer  
Tel: (+372) 737 5152 and (+372) 737 6031  
E-mail: admissions@ut.ee  
www.ut.ee/en/international-student-service-3 | Narva mnt 25  
51013 Tartu  
Tel: (+372) 740 9959  
E-mail: info@campus.ee  
www.campus.ee |

Academic year 2016/2017

Autumn semester: from 29.08.2016 to 29.01.2017  
Spring semester: from 06.02.2017 to 25.06.2017  
Academic calendar: http://www.ut.ee/en/academic-calendar
Housing in Tartu

International students can apply for a place at the student dormitories and the dormitory places are guaranteed for them. Dormitories mainly consist of twin rooms with a shared bathroom and kitchen (usually 2-3 rooms share a bathroom and kitchen, in some dormitories bathroom and kitchen are shared with the entire floor). The chances of getting a single room are very limited. A place in a twin room costs up to 130 EUR per month (price depends on the dormitory). The rooms include essential furniture. Students should buy their own linen, blanket, pillows and cookware. Before buying new cookware, find out if previous tenants have left behind any cookware that you could use. More information about the dormitories: www.campus.ee.

After arrival to Tartu, you can go directly to the dormitory. Dormitories are open 24/7. NB! Each student is personally responsible for paying a refundable deposit of 100 euros on arrival; otherwise, you will not get a key to your room.

If dormitory life does not seem to be your style, you can rent an apartment. The prices range from approximately 160 EUR in the farther parts of the town to 450 EUR or more in the centre (1-2 rooms). The rents are the highest in autumn – late August, early September. Information on apartments for rent is available on real estate sites, e.g. www.city24.ee, www.kv.ee, www.yyr.ee.

Tutors
All new international students are most welcome to make use of our tutoring system. Tutors are students who volunteer to help newly arrived students adapt into the academic environment at the University of Tartu. They are ready to give additional guidance and information on several matters, varying from studies to living conditions in Tartu. All international students are divided into small groups and each group has a tutor. Please feel free to contact your tutor once you have heard from him/her, tutors will most probably contact you in the middle of July 2016, no sooner. If you have not received any message from your tutor, please contact tutors’ coordinator Ms Liana Martin at liana.martin@ut.ee.

Orientation course
Before the beginning of the semester, 24-26 August 2016, the International Student Service offers an orientation course for newly admitted international students. The course includes:

• meeting the representatives of the university and the International Student Service;
• introduction to the university’s study system;
• tour of the university, the library and the town;
• meeting the tutors.

It is strongly recommended to participate in the orientation course. The orientation course starts on 24 August 2016 at 10:00, Vanemuise str 46. Please make sure to be present on time. If you cannot participate in the orientation course, please inform your coordinator, either Piret Saluveer (piret.saluveer@ut.ee) or Kaija Murasov (kaija.murasov@ut.ee) of your planned arrival in Tartu.

More information about the orientation course: www.ut.ee/en/welcome/orientation-course-international-students. The schedule of the orientation course will be available on the same website about 2 weeks before the course.

Courses
You can register to courses in the online Study Information System during the first two weeks of the semester. You will receive your username and password for the UT Study Information System by email at the end of August. Information on how to register for courses will be given during the orientation course. Guidelines are also available on www.ut.ee/en/studies/study-regulations/examinations-and-passfail-evaluations.

Cost of living
Average monthly living cost is 450 euros, including 130 euros for accommodation in the dormitory. See more on http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/cost-living

Estonian intensive course
Students pursuing a degree in Estonian need to take an intensive Estonian course in the academic year 2016/2017, unless their knowledge of Estonian corresponds to the level B2. All admitted students are informed, in their admissions letter, whether they are required to take a test of Estonian at the University of Tartu before studies start or they just begin with language studies without prior testing. Please read your admissions’ letter and accompanying e-mail very carefully.
Those how have been invited to the language test, please remember that the language test will take place on August 23, in Tartu.

Students not knowing Estonian shall not take a test, they will be definitely placed in the beginners’ group. We highly recommend that admitted students start learning Estonian independently already now. One very useful website for learning Estonian online is https://www.keeleklikk.ee/index.php.

Cost of Tuition
Students can study without paying the tuition fee if they manage to get a required number or credit points (ECTS) each semester. A full-time student is supposed to get 30 ECTS per semester and 60 ECTS per academic year. The payment threshold is 6 ECTS: if you get 24 ECTS by the end of semester, you do not have to pay yet. If you get 20 ECTS by the end of the first semester, you have to pay for 4 ECTS on the basis of the invoice prepared at the
beginning of the next semester. For details as how many credits one needs to take very semester, please see http://www.ut.ee/en/cost-tuition
During language studies, students need to follow their work load (credits) in order to avoid payment of tuition fee. Credit point price list is available on http://www.ut.ee/en/admissions/tuition-fees-english-taught-degree-programmes-20162017

Right of Residence for EU citizens
EU citizens have the right to stay in Estonia based on a valid travel document or identity card for the period of up to three months. As you are staying longer, you must register yourself as citizen of Tartu within three months from the date of entering Estonia in order to obtain the right of temporary residence. The registration process and the documents required for registration are listed here: http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/eu-citizens-right-residence
After the registration, the right of permanent residence is granted for a period of five years.

Health Insurance for EU citizens
International students studying in Estonia are not covered by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund (Haigekassa), unless they are employed in Estonia or have the right of permanent residence or a long-term residence permit. Thus, you need to ensure that you have some other health insurance for your period of study in Estonia.

If you have valid health insurance in your home country during your studies in Estonia, you can apply for the EU health insurance card (EHIC) or substitute certificate of an EU health insurance card (form E128). You should apply for that from the social service authorities in your home country before arriving in Estonia. For further information, see www.ut.ee/en/welcome/health-insurance-0

Residence permits for non-EU students
All non-EU students must have a residence permit, if they are going to stay in Estonia for more than three months. Still, once you have read this section, please also read the section on entering Estonia with a visa, as there might be a need to consider visa option as well.

There are two groups of citizens with different rights to enter Estonia:

Group 1: citizens who can come to Estonia without a visa and apply for a residence permit in Estonia.
Group 2: citizens who need a visa or a residence permit to enter Estonia.

GROUP 1:
The holders of passports of the following countries do not need visa to enter Estonia and can stay in the Schengen area (incl. Estonia) for up to 90 days in any 180-day period and can apply for the residence permit in Estonia:
Albania*, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Israel, Japan, Macao Special
Administrative Region, Macedonia*, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova*, Monaco, Montenegro*, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Réunion, San Marino, Serbia*, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, St Kitts-Nevis, Taiwan**, United States of America, Vatican City, Venezuela.

*only for the biometrical passports holders

** Passports issued by Taiwan which include an identity card number

Students from these countries will receive their official invitation for the residence permit at the beginning of the semester in Tartu.

GROUP 2:

Citizens of the countries NOT mentioned above (group 1) must have a visa or a residence permit to enter Estonia.

If you have more than 2 months before your planned arrival in Estonia, apply for the residence permit at an Estonian representation of your home country or at the nearest Estonian representation. Please check the list of the Estonian embassies and representations here: [http://www.vm.ee/en/embassies-and-representations](http://www.vm.ee/en/embassies-and-representations)

After receiving the admission letter, please contact the nearest Estonian representation to apply for the Estonian temporary residence permit. It takes more than 2 months to receive the temporary residence permit from the Estonian representation.

**NB!** To have the right to hold the Estonian temporary residence permit for study, you must take courses for at least 22.5 ECTS per semester, otherwise your residence permit will be cancelled.

For the residence permit, you must submit the following documents

1. Application forms
2. Document, which certifies your legal income or that of your family members who support you financially. The document must show the amount, regularity and sources of the income during the six months before the submission of the residence permit application. If you get a stipend during your studies in Estonia, the proof of scholarship can be used to prove income. If the UT pays the scholarship, the document was sent to you with the admission letter.
3. Copy of an insurance contract guaranteeing that any costs related to medical treatment as a result of illness or injury during the period of validity of the residence permit applied for will be met. NB! Sign the copy of the insurance contract and the conditions of your insurance (summary of cover). For additional information with a providers accepted by the Police and Border Guard Board: [http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/health-insurance-0](http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/health-insurance-0)
4. A letter of guarantee confirming that in the case the existing insurance is not valid in Estonia, you will purchase a valid health insurance contract from Estonia. Note that if you apply for the permit in Estonia, the letter of guarantee is not acceptable and you need to submit the insurance contract with a provider accepted by the Police and Border Guard Board right away!
5. A document certifying the payment of the state fee
6. An identity document. Make sure the document is valid for at least 3 months after your intended period of stay.
7. A color photograph sized 40x50 mm

**Health insurance**

International students studying in Estonia are not covered by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund (*Haigekassa*), unless they are full-time PhD students, employed in Estonia or have the right of permanent residence or a long-term residence permit. There is a strict policy in Estonia what a health insurance must cover, if applying for the residence permit. The Estonian Police and Border Guard Board has confirmed that only the following listed companies can be accepted: [www.ut.ee/en/welcome/health-insurance-0](http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/health-insurance-0)

**Coming to Estonia with visa**

There is no specific student visa to be applied for studies in Estonia. All students studying in Estonia need the residence permit to study Estonia.

Still, in some cases applying for a visa is recommended. For example, if there is shortage of time (less than two months until arriving in Estonia) it may be reasonable to apply for the visa and enter Estonia with the visa. We suggest that all degree-seeking students intending to enter Estonia with the visa would at the same time also apply for the residence permit. Students can get their residence permit in Estonia, yet the application process should be started abroad. Please be aware that entering only with the visa is allowed for master and PhD level students!

Bachelor’s level students need to apply for the residence permit abroad. Since granting of the residence permit takes time, bachelor’s students can also apply for the visa and enter Estonia, yet this is allowed only if the student has already applied for the residence permit abroad. The students usually ask the permit to be issued to them in Estonia. Normally, the visa (either type) will be issued in two weeks.

There are two main types of visa, which could be applied: D (long stay – 6 months) visa and C (short stay – 3 months) visa. Documents to be submitted upon application for the visa are described on [http://vm.ee/en/applying-visa-schengen-area](http://vm.ee/en/applying-visa-schengen-area)

**D visa** - can be applied in person only at the [Estonian representations handling visa applications](http://vm.ee/en/estonian-representations-which-are-handling-visa-applications). As stated above, for full time studies, the residence permit is needed, and we suggest applying for the D visa only if an Estonian representation requires or suggests this. Degree seeking students coming to Estonia with D visa are required to start applying for the residence permit immediately, regardless of the fact that they have obtained D visa. See more [http://vm.ee/en/estonian-representations-which-are-handling-visa-applications](http://vm.ee/en/estonian-representations-which-are-handling-visa-applications)

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**NB!** Start to apply for the residence permit within 10 days after receiving the admission letter; otherwise you might not receive the permit on time.
**C visa** - can be applied in person only at the **Estonian representations handling visa applications** or at the representation of the EU member state representing Estonia in issuing Schengen visas, please see on [http://vm.ee/en/countries-where-estonia-represented-issuing-schengen-visas-other-member-state](http://vm.ee/en/countries-where-estonia-represented-issuing-schengen-visas-other-member-state)

We highly recommend that all students thinking of applying for C visa in a country where Estonia is represented by some other EU member state embassy would first make sure this is at all possible, since to our best knowledge most foreign representations do not issue C visa for studying purposes.

Please be aware that the University of Tartu or any of the Estonian embassies cannot issue a visa invitation (in case you need it) to enter another country where the Estonian embassy, closest to an applicant, is located. Applying for a required visa is the student’s responsibility only.

Neither can we, the University of Tartu, convince any foreign embassy representing Estonia in issuing C visas, to provide our student with a C visa, if the foreign embassy does not agree to do that.

**Health insurance for the students entering Estonia with a visa**
Students entering with the visa need to make sure that they have a valid health insurance for the period of stay covered with the visa. Once applying for the residence permit, the following companies listed here must be considered: [www.ut.ee/en/welcome/health-insurance-0](http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/health-insurance-0)

**After arriving to Tartu**
Upon arrival to the university, all international students must bring the **original documents of their previous education levels** to the International Student Service. This is not required in the case, the same set of documents was sent directly by the higher education institution you graduated from. Documents must reach the International Student Service within the first week after arrival to Tartu.

**Useful links**
About the city of Tartu – [www.tartu.ee](http://www.tartu.ee)
Study and research opportunities in Estonia – [www.studyinestonia.ee](http://www.studyinestonia.ee)
About Estonia and Estonians – [https://www.visitestonia.com](https://www.visitestonia.com) [www.estonica.org](http://www.estonica.org)

Learning some Estonian before coming to Estonia may make your arrival and first days in Estonia more enjoyable. One way to learn the basics of the Estonian language is to take the free online course on [www.keeleklikk.ee/index.php](http://www.keeleklikk.ee/index.php).
Looking forward to seeing you in Tartu!

Yours sincerely,
International Student Service
University of Tartu