Universities in Estonia
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About Estonia

Estonia is quite a well-kept secret, still relatively unknown in many parts of the world. Situated in Northern Europe, across the bay from Finland and Sweden, we are a country of only 1.3 million residents living on 45 000 square kilometres. What we lack in numbers, however, we more than make up for in spirit and big ideas!

Did you know?
Estonia is:
• the first country in the world to offer e-residency
• the first country to adopt online voting
• a digital society: less hassle means time better spent
• ranked 4th in the world based on urban air quality
• a country of four distinct seasons, from warm summers to frosty winters

Why Estonian universities?
An innovative environment, combined with great value for money, has made Estonia a desirable destination for both students and researchers in a knowledge-based society.

We offer high-quality degree programmes and internationally accepted diplomas. 91% of international students in Estonia are happy with their studies at Estonian universities (Source: International Student Barometer™ 2019).

Estonian scientists are successful participants in Horizon 2020 projects, granting researchers almost twice the funding than other EU countries on average. 10.3% of publications published in 2015 by Estonian authors reached the 10% of the world’s most cited publications (OECD STI Scoreboard 2017).

In this brochure we will highlight 10 universities in Estonia that offer degree programmes taught fully in English.

For a list of all Estonian higher education institutions visit: hm.ee/en/activities/higher-education

- 7000+ international students
- 150+ degree programmes in English
- R&D funding focused on ICT, Health Tech, Effective Use of Resources
Estonian Academy of Arts (EKA)

**Type of education provided:** Higher Education
**Focus areas:** Arts and Humanities

**Quick facts:**
- EKA has the largest jewelry workshop in Europe.
- One of the best student-teacher ratios in Estonian universities, as every student can have individual supervising.
- EKA is located in Tallinn’s creative district of Kalamaja, right next to the Old Town.

- The brand new EKA building is situated in the former building of the Suva stockings factory.
- EKA loves dogs — you can see them in the university offices, classes and open areas.

**SUCCESS STORIES OF EKA:**

**Smart textiles by Kristi Kuusk**
Kristi Kuusk is researching the future of textiles and looks for new ways for textiles and fashion to be more sustainable through the implementation of technology. Kristi Kuusk works as an Associate Professor and researcher in the Textile Futures direction at the Estonian Academy of Arts.

**Mathematical algorithms in architecture**
Siim Tuksam and Sille Pihlak founded PART Architecture studios, where they experiment with digital and...
technological innovation research and implement the results as algorithmic architectural design. The duo was awarded the Estonian Young Architect Award in 2017.

**Collaboration with Estonian Forest Management Centre**
Estonian Art Academy interior architecture department collaboration with the Estonian Forest Management Centre has created unique works of forest shelters, observation towers, and floating saunas. One of the examples is Ruup, a forest amplifier that looks for ways to help us all notice and listen to the sounds deep in the forest.

My time spent in EKA was very enriching. Getting to feel like home took quite some time, but soon enough I was in love with this city. The animation department’s learning environment is warm and supportive. I also gained inspiration and new skills outside of the animation department, for example, I studied anatomical drawing and graphic art.

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Heta Jäälinoja (Finland), Animation
Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre (EAMT)

Type of education provided: Higher Education
Focus areas: Music and Theatre; Musicology; Education; Pedagogy; Dramatic Arts

Quick facts:
• Founded in 1919, EAMT is the only public university in Estonia offering higher education in all major fields of music and dramatic arts on all levels. With its approximately 650 students, EAMT is the smallest among six Estonian public universities and university-level higher education institutions.
• The EAMT library, founded in 1935, is the largest research library for classical music in Estonia, whose major part of the collections are unique in Estonia.
EAMT is the only university in Estonia that teaches musicology. All the most important fields of musicology are represented in the curriculum: history of music, music theory, ethnomusicology and cognitive musicology.

The EAMT is a world-class institution boasting an impressive roster of alumni including pianists Ivari Ilja, Peep Lassmann and Kalle Randalu, conductors Olari Elts, Eri Klas, Vello Pähn, Anu Tali and Arvo Volmer as well as the world’s most performed living composer Arvo Pärt.

SUCCESS STORIES OF EAMT:

LoLa technology
EAMT is the first in Estonia to use the unique LoLa (low latency) technology tool that enables real time musical performances where musicians are physically located in remote sites (up to 4000 km) connected by advanced network services with no significant distortion or delay. It was introduced in a concert “Music without Borders” in October 2018 that served as an
CoPeCo
CoPeCo is a two-year joint master’s programme in contemporary performance and composition, offering the students an open platform for experimental artistic practice within a European setting. The programme consortium includes the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, the Conservatoire National Supérieur Musique et Danse in Lyon and the Hamburg University of Music and Theatre. The programme aims to create a dynamic environment that supports and promotes contempo-

introduction to the 2nd Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting on Digital Economy featuring top musicians from Tallinn and Minsk, Belarus, who performed together in real time.
My experience as a student of EAMT has exceeded my expectations in every aspect. As I’ve had the chance to be an exchange student in top music universities in Berlin and Helsinki which represent the tradition of a long-established European higher music education, I have the possibility to compare EAMT with them. What I can say is that the professors and lecturers at EAMT are of the highest calibre. Moreover, in many regards EAMT has offered me even more: compactness of the infrastructure, very individual approach to every student, usefulness and utmost quality of all the supporting lectures.

Contemporary Physical Performance Making
The International MA in Contemporary Physical Performance Making (CPPM) is a two-year master’s course for professional performers and theatre makers from all disciplines who wish to develop, rethink and challenge their artistic processes and creative practices. It takes postgraduate education out of the classroom and puts practical experience with world-leading makers of performance at the heart of the learning process. The students work alongside some of the most exciting directors, choreographers, performance artists and performers to further their own creative practice through active collaboration, devising and performance.
Estonian Business School (EBS)

Type of education provided: Higher Education
Focus areas: Management; Entrepreneurship; Leadership; Finance; Marketing; International Business

Quick facts:
• Estonian Business School is among the top 300 business schools in the world according to Eduniversal Business Schools ranking.
• EBS is the only business university in Estonia with a campus in Finland. There are 1400 students at EBS, among which 36% are international.
• Bachelor programmes include a mobility window, which encourages students to use the 3rd semester for exchange studies abroad. The credits gained are easily transferred back to EBS and tuition fee discount of 20% applies to students who use the mobility window.
• EBS has innovative Master’s programmes with 6 specializations to choose from, designed to best suit students’ professional needs.
• Studying takes place in small groups to support students personal growth. EBS students are a network of likeminded people, who support each other in accomplishing their goals.
SUCCESS STORIES OF EBS:

EPAS accreditation
The International Business Administration Bachelor’s Programme at EBS was awarded EPAS accreditation, which is one of the most prestigious certificates for business schools. All EPAS accredited business and management programmes offer a global perspective and high-quality studies. During the evaluation, 3 aspects were highlighted as best practices of EBS: cooperation between the EBS’s faculty of economics and various enterprises, a willingness to react to the market’s needs with adapting the curricula, and high-quality international partners and student exchange programmes.

Successful alumni
EBS alumni are the most successful graduates in the labor market, scoring mostly high-paid jobs and enjoying the highest average salaries comparing to other business-related programme graduates. According to the survey conducted by Estonian job portal CV Keskus, around 88% of EBS alumni have no trouble finding employment right after graduating and entering the job market.

Studying a Master’s in Finance has provided me a comprehensive understanding of the “hard science” behind business. Subjects like Quantitative methods and Valuation of Financial Instruments are subjects that go into the intricacies of how big business drives the world economy. Living in Europe, in a single economic market, the importance of understanding such financial principles and learning how they work in practice has been incredibly interesting and prepares me for the future ahead.

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Sam McKenzie (New Zealand), Finance
Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences (EUAS)

Type of education provided: Professional Higher Education, Master’s studies
Focus areas: Business; Information Technology; Design

Quick facts:
- EUAS is the most gender-balanced university in Estonia. There is pretty much as many men at EUAS than there are women. No-one has a clue as to why this is so.
- Over the years, EUAS has had colleges in more than a dozen different cities and towns in Estonia.
- The students of EUAS are professionally active already during studies — and good at convincing their employers to pay their tuition fees. Around 15% of EUAS students have at least a part of their tuition covered by their employer.
- EUAS is the only Estonian university that guarantees a dormitory placement for international students. Also it’s the only university whose dormitory has a gallery connecting it to the nearest study
building — so no need to go outside when the notorious Estonian winter hits.

• EUAS has an official policy that international students should be encouraged to make friends and start businesses in Estonia. To boost this, EUAS arranges expat meetups, trips to different parts of Estonia and other social events several times a year.

SUCCESS STORIES OF EUAS:

Support for international students and alumni
EUAS is Estonia’s leading university when it comes to helping international students start a career in Estonia. All EUAS English-language curricula have integrated comprehensive Estonian courses, giving alumni an advantage. Also, EUAS is the only university in Estonia that guarantees every international student an internship placement already during their studies.

Many employment possibilities
Students from both business and IT fields in EUAS often find part-time work already while they study. Recently, EUAS students have started careers at Estonian technology companies such as TransferWise, Hansab, Perfectline and Levercode.

Students with startup spirit
EUAS students have the habit of starting up their own businesses during their studies. Some of the most recent examples include Crescere Media and Home BOTeez.

The thing I love about this university is that because it’s small, it’s informal. Instead of sitting in a huge lecture theatre while someone speaks at you for hours on end, here the class sizes are small, everybody knows your name and people really value what you have to say.

Michael Rhodes (Australia), Startup Entrepreneurship

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Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMÜ)

Type of education provided: Higher Education and Professional Higher Education

Focus areas: Agriculture; Animal Science; Aquaculture; Biodiversity; Biosystem Engineering; Energy Application Engineering; Food Science; Forestry; Geomatics; Landscape and Environmental Management; Landscape Architecture; Nature Protection and Nature Tourism; Rural Building and Water Management; Rural Life and Economy; Veterinary Science

Quick facts:
- The Estonian University of Life Sciences (founded in 1848) is one of the top 100 universities in the world in the field of agriculture and forestry (QS World University Rankings).
- The EMÜ Animal Clinic is the country’s most advanced 24-hour veterinary service provider. Every year over 6000 dogs, over 2000 cats, and nearly 500 exotic animals, including rabbits, ferrets, rats as well as turtles, snakes, iguanas, parrots and chinchillas, get help in the EMÜ clinic.

SUCCESS STORIES OF EMÜ:

VALORTECH
To realise the full potential of the university in the development of advanced zero waste/maximum utilisation and
valorisation technologies related to the food value chain, the new ERA Chair for Food (VALORTECH) was established. The broader vision is that it will develop into a leading centre of excellence in development of advanced technologies and components used in food and non-food value chains.

EcolChange
The Centre of Excellence, EcolChange, led by Estonian University of Life Sciences and EMÜ’s plant physiology professor, Ülo Niinemets, who is the most cited Estonian researcher, covers the field of global change ecology from molecular to biome-level responses. It represents a synergistic network of expertise to elaborate global and local scenarios for terrestrial ecosystems in the context of global change.

Polli Horticultural Research and Competence Centre
The Polli Horticultural Research and Competence Centre is unique in Estonia as its main field of activity and niche lies in the research and development of health goods and natural products using modern, high-technology methods, including extraction of bioactive ingredients of plant origin, that are used in functional foods, eco-cosmetics, household chemicals, pharmaceuticals etc.

Studying in EMÜ can give you many invaluable moments. For me, the three things I like most are constantly meeting new people from different countries, lots of learning opportunities (e.g. I had workshop in Belarus and studied in Mexico for a semester) and very helpful coordinators from the Department of Academic Affairs. Thus, if you look for it, there are many opportunities here.

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Ibuki Hara (Japan), Landscape Architecture
Tallinn Health Care College (THCC)

Type of education provided: State professional higher education
Focus areas: Health, Welfare

Quick facts:
- State professional higher education institution, founded in 1940
- Over 1800 students
- 2 successful campuses in Tallinn and in Kohtla-Järve
- Studies are provided in 8 higher education and 7 vocational education curricula

SUCCESS STORIES OF THCC:
Internationally recognized studies
Tallinn Health Care College provides internationally recognized studies in health and welfare in an up-to-date study environment, to advance the professions taught through research and development.
Elaborate learning support systems
The College offers different support services including psychological counselling, study counselling, career counselling and tutoring. Moreover, prospective students with special needs are offered counselling before studies also to help them make an informed choice.

Studying in Tallinn Health Care College gave me professional identity and competencies, a lot of practical skills and international learning experience through international lecturers and international intensive courses. Study process was supported by creative and reflective learning methods which were supported by practice placements. Teachers were incredibly passionate and always ready to help.

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Grete Anton (Estonia), Occupational Therapy
Tallinn University (TLU)

Type of education provided: Higher Education

Focus areas: Educational Innovation; Digital and Media Culture; Cultural Competences; Healthy and Sustainable Lifestyle; Society and Open Governance.

Quick facts:
• Both QS World University and Times Higher Education rankings place Tallinn University among the top 5% of the best universities in the world. In addition, TLU is awarded with three subject rankings (Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences and in Education), which cover all our five interdisciplinary focus areas.
• One of Estonia’s biggest international summer and winter schools is organised by Tallinn University.
• TLU provides all students with experiences of interdisciplinary learning — every student participates in at least one interdisciplinary project in the course of his/her studies.
• TLU is a green university. The university has joined the Green Academic Footprint initiative of the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA) in order to participate in the process of making the principles of sustainable development part of everyday life.
SUCCESS STORIES OF TLU:

Quality teacher training
TLU, with 100 years of experience in teacher training, is the central institution for teacher-education in Estonia. Our study programmes and research have a deep impact on the future of education. Our academic personnel are the best in their field and the designers of Estonian education who also do world-class research.

Northern Europe’s only English-language film and media school
Baltic Film, Media, Arts and Communication School (BFM) is one of Europe’s largest — and Northern Europe’s only — English-language film and media school. BFM is equipped with modern video and sound equipment, a TV studio, sound studios, a cinema hall, an editing centre and a film studio. We provide students with studio space and production support for their creative works, supervised by established professionals from the audiovisual industry.

Uniquely innovative programmes
We combine social sciences and humanities with technology and innovation and offer unique English-based degree programmes, such as Crossmedia in Film and Television, Digital Learning Games and Human-Computer Interaction.

Applying to Tallinn University wasn’t just a coincidence - I chose Tallinn University and Estonia. Estonian schools and students have outperformed many developed countries and Tallinn University, with 100 years of experience in teacher training, is the central institution for teacher-education in Estonia. I was looking for a place where I could learn from the best and Tallinn University turned out to be my PLAN A.

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Muhammad Umair Ali (Pakistan),
Educational Innovation and Leadership
Type of education provided: Higher Education
Focus areas: Business; IT; Engineering; Law; Governance; Science

Quick facts:
• The only technological university in Estonia.
• TalTech enrolls 70% of all Estonian IT students and employs leading e-governance and cybersecurity experts.
• TalTech has the largest university campus in Estonia (85ha).
• As part of a research project, TalTech transformed one of its old precast concrete dormitory buildings into a nearly zero-energy building that now houses the university’s family dormitory.
• TalTech’s campus neighbour is Science Park Technopol — a science and business hub that is home to 200+ high-tech companies and startups.

SUCCESS STORIES OF TALTECH:
New Generation Vehicles
The first self-driving car (ISEAUTO) in Estonia was completed in autumn 2018 at TalTech in cooperation with Silberauto and ABB. The team of ISEAUTO includes 20 students from...
the fields of IT and engineering as well as scientists supervising the working groups. In addition, the autonomous watercraft and the self-driving formula racecar are currently being developed at TalTech.

Robotics Industry and Nature
TalTech’s Centre for Biorobotics develops nature-inspired robots that help researchers in their daily work. For example, underwater archeologists use underwater robots to explore the seabed, the lateral line sensors inspired by fish help to assess fishways and the water quality in the reservoirs whereas artificial kidneys serve as important tools in the medical research.

Smart City
TalTech is developing a smart digital campus with smart traffic signs, barriers, and charging points for self-driving vehicles. Smart road pavement that produces electricity from solar energy and uses it to melt snow and ice from the pavement and illuminate the road is already being tested. In 2019, TalTech together with Telia and Ericsson launched the first 5G network in Estonia at TalTech campus.

I chose to study at TalTech because I was looking for a university that had both a strong academic programme and opportunities to develop technical skills. The Master’s degree at TalTech exceeded my expectations. The university has everything you need, including the best library. All lecturers have their own specialties, and they are all willing to dedicate their time to you and help you out.

Valerian Goguadze (Georgia), e-Governance Technologies and Services

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Tartu Health Care College (THCC)

**Type of education provided:** Professional Higher Education, Master’s studies, Vocational Education  
**Focus areas:** Health Care; Well-being; Service

**Quick facts:**  
- In 1811 a school of midwives was founded at the obstetric clinic of Tartu University. That school is considered to be the predecessor of the present Tartu Health Care College.  
- From 2011, THCC has a new study building combining a high-level learning infrastructure with modern architectural design solutions. The renovated dormitory ensures excellent conditions for daily studies and living.  
- There are various skills labs for every curricula that simulate the patient wards in the hospital environment, including numerous teaching/learning aids in the forms of phantoms, medical and hospital equipment etc.  
- 58% of the teaching staff are also employed by a health care organisation. This kind of teaching staff membership ensures the college with specialists who have excellent competence in their professional field.  
- The general employment rate of the graduates in 2018 was 96%, being the best result among all higher education institutions in Estonia.
SUCCESS STORIES OF THCC:

Unique in Estonia and in Baltics
Many of the higher education curricula (radiography, environmental health specialist, biomedical laboratory science, etc.) at THCC are mostly unique in Estonia. The focus of THCC makes it possible to have a specific role in the landscape of vocational and higher education, and to have successful collaborations with similar institutions in Estonia as well as in Europe.

Patentable invention
In 2012, THCC started applied research “Assessment of the 3-month effect of support taping aid to correcting 5 to 8 year-olds’ genu valgum and longitudinal foot arch”. Since 2015, THCC and University of Tartu own a patentable invention “Mehhanoterapic device and method for measuring”, which was created during the research process.

Community service
THCC has been recognized as a health developer in society. Community service (lectures, exercise hours, counselling, etc.) is interconnected with the studies in the form of a subject course, elective or optional subject course or voluntary work. In 2019, 110 events were organized by THCC and community services were offered to more than 6500 participants.

Being one of the first international students of MA of Radiography of THCC, I am feeling very much overwhelmed and honoured as my college offers a very colourful campus along with friendly professors, college staff and classmates. I am really hopeful that this programme will add a new era of knowledge in the development of my future.

Pramita Das (Bangladesh), Radiography

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University of Tartu (UT)

Type of education provided: Higher Education
Focus areas: Medical and Health Sciences; Computer and Information Sciences; Natural Sciences; Law; Business; Humanities; Social Sciences; Earth Science; Life Sciences

Quick facts:
- The University of Tartu is the oldest (est. in 1632) and the highest ranked university in Estonia. UT belongs to the top 1,2% of the best universities in the world (QS University World Rankings 2021).
- As the flagship of Estonian science, UT belongs to the top 1% of the world’s most highly cited universities and research institutions in 11 fields.
- UT students are behind every Estonian startup unicorn: Skype, Transferwise, Bolt, Playtech.
- UT is the co-organiser of the biggest business festival in the Baltics – StartUp Day.
- The Estonian national flag was born in the University of Tartu. The flag was created and adopted by Estonian Student Society in 1884.
SUCCESS STORIES OF UT:

**Estonia’s first student satellite**

ESTCube-1 was Estonia’s first satellite to be sent to the Earth’s orbit in cooperation with UT, Tartu Observatory and other research institutions. The concept of the mission and design are done entirely by university students. The Estonian Student Satellite foundation advances the Estonian space research and technology development by initiating the flagship of Estonian space mission.

**sTARTUp Lab**

The University of Tartu sTARTUp Lab provides pre-incubation services for all students and early-stage startup teams. Participants attend inspirational events, hackathons, workshops, meet-ups with entrepreneurs and pitching competitions. Hands-on workshops are supervised by entrepreneurs and integrated with mentoring sessions.

**Personalised medicine**

The National Personalised Medicine programme involves recruitment and genotyping of 100,000 new biobank participants. The idea is to develop national healthcare system by offering all residents genome-wide genotyping translated into personalised reports for use in everyday medical practice. This is a joint initiative of the Estonian Genome Center of the University of Tartu, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Institute for Health Development.

The vibe of the university and the coziness of the city of Tartu is the perfect environment for starting to build your life the way you want it to be. Here I learned to prioritize and find my focus. I met people that would be crucial to my career development. My career in Estonia has been a chain reaction, which started at the University of Tartu and keeps leading me to better and better things.

Anna Selecka (Latvia), Business Administration

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Study in Estonia is a cooperation platform of Estonian universities to increase visibility of Estonia as an attractive study destination and promote the possibilities for studying for international students.

The activities are coordinated by the Education and Youth Authority of Estonia in the framework of Dora Pluss activity and financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

More than 150 degree programmes offered by our partner universities are fully taught in English. Estonia hosts over 5300 international degree students, more than 1500 exchange students and ca 400 participants of summer or winter schools.

We hope that all of you who have made the decision to come to study in Estonia will experience something new and gain valuable experience for the rest of your life!

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@studyinestonia
Why Estonia?

**Clean**
Estonia has a low population density and plenty of untouched nature. There is always clean water for swimming and drinking. The clean environment also produces pure food.

- **51%** mainland covered in forest (Ministry of Environment 2017)
- **40%** of forests belong to the State and are certified as organic collection areas (State Forest Management Centre)
- **#4** cleanest urban air in the world (WHO 2018)

**Diverse**
Estonia offers unparalleled diversity on its territory of 45,228 km². Our history is a colourful fabric of intertwined influences. Nature, history, events — you can find everything just a short drive away.

- **192** different nationalities (Statistics Estonia 2012)
- **133k** documented folk songs (Ministry of Culture, 2017)
- **389** different bird species spotted (BirdLife Estonia 2018)

**Digital**
Estonia is an advanced digital society, where 99% of state services are online. The country is covered with fast 4G internet, all hotels and most restaurants/cafés offer free WiFi.

- **96%** 4G mobile internet coverage (Technical Regulatory Authority)
- **#2** best public WiFi in the world (Estonian World 2015)
- **#1** advanced digital society (Wired 2017)

**Connected**
Estonia connects the dots between Scandinavia, Central Europe and what lies to the east. Connected by budget flights and ferries, the compact country is easily accessible by car or public transport. Being among the least densely populated countries in Europe, Estonia makes for a great nature and city break destination.

- **#1** Value Destination: Tallinn (Lonely Planet 2018)
- **#1** Value Destination: Estonia (Lonely Planet 2016)