

Faculty of Arts and Humanities Strategic Plan A2027

The Strategic Plan of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities up to 2027 (A2027) is based on the University of Tartu Strategic Plan up to 2025 (A2025) and forms a coherent whole with it. The Strategic Plan includes the most significant goals to be achieved by 2027.

1. Promoter of Estonian language and culture

We are a centre of excellence in the research and teaching of national sciences – the Estonian language, history and culture of Estonia and its peoples. We are responsible for studying intellectual and tangible cultural heritage. Our studies and research help to make the Estonian language and culture more visible in Estonia and in the world.

We teach Estonian to international students and employees and introduce Estonian culture to them. We provide everyone at the university with an opportunity to improve their academic use of Estonian.

Upon selecting employees for academic positions and in their professional review we value Estonian-language textbooks for higher education institutions and participate actively in the development of Estonian-language terminology.

We are a centre of professional competence in training teachers of humanities and through the Centre for Didactics we support the development of research-based activities in teacher training.

2. International university

We develop international cooperation in research, learning and teaching by providing support for fostering partnerships through projects and networks and using for this purpose more extensively sabbatical semesters of academic employees.

We encourage studying abroad at all study levels. We provide the students with opportunities for practical training not only in Estonia, but also abroad.

We facilitate studying foreign languages so that our graduates would be proficient in more than one foreign language. For that purpose, we support learning languages as optional courses not included in the students' own curricula.

We develop international master's studies in order to provide master's students with a competitive and comprehensive education and find motivated students who would be excellent candidates for doctoral studies.

3. Inspiring learning environment

We develop teaching skills of our teaching staff in order to encourage the use of modern methods in teaching and supervising.

We provide our students with opportunities for developing their creativity, enterprising spirit and critical thinking, the skills of cooperation and self-management, digital and other future skills.

In cooperation with our students, we create a physically and spiritually inspiring learning environment by improving, as far as possible and necessary, our study rooms and recreational facilities and developing digital resources.

We increase the opportunities of the students from other faculties to select the subjects offered by us.

We ensure the diversity of studies and an opportunity for efficient teaching in small study groups.

4. University of life-long learning

We improve the integration of degree study curricula, continuing education and lifelong learning programmes and use our experience obtained in e-learning to promote learning.

We create new and flexible learning opportunities, for example, micro degree programmes and open e-courses (MOOCs).

We improve interdisciplinary cooperation to publicise opportunities for lifelong learning.

5. Supporter of development of the talented

We introduce modern opportunities of humanities to the general public. In order to decrease the dropout rate and increase the number of students who have chosen their speciality deliberately, we develop diverse ways of introducing our curricula, use the help of our graduates to invite new students, and work closely with the University of Tartu Youth Academy.

We involve bachelor and master level students in research in order to provide them with hands-on experience needed to pursue a research career.

We enlarge the students' opportunities for practical training and introduce career prospects at and outside the university, involving for that purpose other employers.

We provide flexible opportunities for completing doctoral studies, for example, working as a part-time junior research fellow, to facilitate the transition of specialists with a doctoral degree outside the academic field.

6. Influential research centre

We value baseline studies on internationally oriented research themes and strive for top-level research results in the whole faculty, involving partners from Estonia and abroad.

We make our research internationally more visible by publishing actively in the publications with global outreach.

We actively submit proposals in response to calls for research projects, for example, within the programme Horizon Europe. We increase awareness of the opportunities for science communication in order to be more visible in disseminating our research results.

We support more active participation in international scientific networks, engaging also doctoral students.

We develop international scientific cooperation by assembling researchers with various competences in thematic research teams or by joint publications or supervision.

7. Developer of research-based society

We start and support research-based investigations and public discussions on matters important to the Estonian society.

We help to draw attention to experts of high importance to society and provide everyone who is interested with opportunities to benefit from expert assessments and opinions.

We shape attitudes accepted in society by training competent teachers who resort to research-based views.

We participate in shaping the policies related to the Estonian language, culture, education and research, for example, by the participation of our employees in relevant committees, retaining academic values and advancing inclusive, research-based debating culture.

8. Accelerator of smart economy

We promote digital humanities and provide the component of humanities for digital development.

Through (continuing) learning of languages and cultures we contribute to the international cooperation of entrepreneurs.

We participate actively in experimental development and support the emergence of sector-specific enterprises in our field, using the skills and knowledge specific to humanities and arts.

We initiate applied research and continue efficient cooperation with the public and private sector, also propose projects of applicational nature in cooperation with ministries.

9. Inspiring and pioneering organisation

We value every person working and studying in the faculty and move towards a more open and cooperation-minded organisational culture.

We develop strategic leadership at the level of the faculty, institutes and colleges, implementing the goals and courses of action defined in the strategic plan.

We explore new opportunities for a balanced combination of research, studies and administrative work and the task of serving society to avoid overloading our employees. We prepare a guide at the level of faculty for drawing up work plans.

We involve our employees and students in the decision-making process and develop a clear and targeted internal system in order to ensure better communication.

Working closely with institutes and colleges, we develop a structure that unites the faculty by assigning tasks reasonably, for example, through master's schools and the Centre for Doctoral Studies of the faculty.

We draw on the experience of developing doctoral studies for providing our employees with better conditions for academic mobility and for planning the time they need for research.

We strongly encourage the development of our employees and recognise their achievements, following the procedure established for recognition at the level of the faculty, institutes and colleges.

10. Key partner of regional development

We help to design and shape Estonia's regional policy and strengthen Viljandi Culture Academy as a centre for regional development and cooperation.

We support the preservation, teaching and development of indigenous languages and cultures in cooperation with regional institutes of language and culture in Estonia.

We participate in the preparation and completion of the joint project of Tartu and Southern Estonia "Tartu 2024 – European Capital of Culture".