Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Welcome to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities is the largest internationally recognised research and teaching centre of the humanities in Estonia, which has a special responsibility to promote such research fields of national significance as Estonian language and literature, archaeology, history, ethnology, folklore, heritage studies, semiotics, philosophy, theology and religious studies. However, we also teach more than 25 languages and do research on several foreign languages and cultures.

The teaching and research conducted in five institutes and two colleges are largely interdisciplinary and follow the public engagement strategy to share our knowledge with the wider society. Through the activities of the Viljandi Culture Academy we also contribute to the regional development of creative industries. We are proud to participate in the Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies.

The faculty is home up to 2,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students and 500 employees. Among them there are about 200 international students and nearly 40 international staff members. Currently we have four MA programmes in English covering various disciplines in the humanities from philosophy, semiotics, and folkloristics to European languages and cultures. The teaching and research of the faculty’s more than 250 PhD students is coordinated by two graduate schools, one dealing with linguistics, philosophy and semiotics and the other with cultural research and fine arts.

We develop partnerships with international organisations and universities around the world. The circle of our international contacts extends from the Baltic Sea to North America, Asia, India and Africa. Within the Erasmus programme, our faculty collaborates with more than 150 higher education institutions.

Professor Margit Sutrop, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Facts & Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDY PROGRAMMES</th>
<th>STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BACHELOR’S PROGRAMMES</strong></td>
<td><strong>STUDENTS (TOTAL 12,921)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>2,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MASTER’S PROGRAMMES</strong></td>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 PROGRAMMES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH</td>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHD PROGRAMMES</strong></td>
<td><strong>EMPLOYEES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAUGHT IN ESTONIAN AND/OR ENGLISH</td>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC STAFF</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACTS &amp; FIGURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN ESTONIAN STUDIES (CEES)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CENTRE FOR ETHICS</strong></td>
<td><strong>CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASIAN CENTRE</strong></td>
<td><strong>CENTRE FOR TRANSDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN ARCHAEOLOGY, GENETICS AND LINGUISTICS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>GRADUATE SCHOOLS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Institute of History and Archaeology
Institute of Estonian and General Linguistics
Institute of Philosophy and Semiotics
Institute of Cultural Research
School of Theology and Religious Studies
College of Foreign Languages and Cultures
Viljandi Culture Academy
The Institute of History and Archaeology provides research-based, university-level education in history, archaeology, art history and archival studies, and trains history teachers. The institute makes its expertise in history, archaeology and related fields available to society and aspires to the highest level of academic and research excellence, participating in international collaboration.

Institute of History and Archaeology

The Institute of History and Archaeology, located in the historical centre of the University of Tartu on the slopes of Toomemägi Hill, provides excellent opportunities for history studies at all academic levels. The institute’s research ranges from ancient cultures to the Cold War period. Traditionally, the institute's research has been focused on archaeological discoveries, cultural heritage preservation, social, economic and cultural history, the history of education, and the evolution of statehood in the Baltic countries. Working with other research institutions, the institute publishes several academic journals. The fellows of the institute also publish actively history books for the wider audience.

Our teaching staff include qualified, internationally recognised lecturers and experts. On average, 75% of our graduates work in jobs that are directly or indirectly related to their studies. PhD studies can be conducted in English as well.

The institute has developed international collaboration with other research centres worldwide. The institute has worked in especially close cooperation with universities in Germany, Finland, Sweden, the UK, Russia and Latvia.
BA, MA and PhD programmes in Estonian, Finno-Ugric and General Linguistics are taught here. Students can choose to specialise in Estonian language, Estonian as a foreign language, computational linguistics, Finnish language and culture, Finno-Ugric languages, Hungarian language and culture or general linguistics. Teachers of Estonian language and literature are also trained here at the MA level.

Leading researchers at the institute investigate written and spoken Estonian, dialects and related languages. Intensive projects focus on the history, structure and sustainability of Estonian, and new digital solutions are diversifying methods in language teaching, research and applications.

The institute collaborates in teaching and research with partners across the world, but especially with universities in Europe.

The institute is the flagship of research on linguistics in Estonia, hosting three of the Estonian national professorships. The QS World University Rankings table ranks linguistics in Tartu in the 101-150th range, thanks to the diverse, high-quality research conducted here.
Thinking about your major? Major in thinking!

At the institute, one can study philosophy and semiotics at all levels. Philosophy MA and PhD programmes in English welcome international students, who can benefit from individual tutoring. The semiotics MA and PhD study programmes in English are known and well respected worldwide.


The Department of Semiotics is one of the major centres of semiotics in the world. Its main research themes concern semiotic modelling of translation, media semiotics, models of semiosis, semiotics of landscape, semiotics of politics and biosemiotics.

The Department of Philosophy include philosophy of language and the mind, the study of research culture, practical metaethics, intellectual history, moral and political philosophy, and bioethics. The QS World University Rankings by Subject ranks philosophy in Tartu in the top 150 universities.

Institute of Philosophy and Semiotics

The Institute of Philosophy and Semiotics consists of two departments – Philosophy and Semiotics – and an interdisciplinary Centre for Ethics. As a regionally leading research institution in philosophy and semiotics, it offers an international work and study environment and steers the reflection on norms and values in Estonian society.

Thinking about your major? Major in thinking!

flfi.ut.ee/en
+372 737 5314
filosoofia.semiootika@ut.ee
The Institute of Cultural Research works in cooperation with academic centres in Europe, Asia and North America. Studies at the institute open up Estonian culture to world culture.

Institute of Cultural Research

Located in the historical eighteenth-century von Bock building in the town centre, the Institute of Cultural Research offers education in literature and theatre studies, ethnology, folkloristics, applied anthropology and heritage studies.

Research at the institute addresses empirical and theoretical dimensions of culture past and present. Ethnologists focus on everyday life, identity and culture dynamics, worldview and religion, foodways and tourism. They work in Estonia but also among the Finno-Ugric peoples in Russia and in the Arctic North. Folklorists study folklore as a tradition-bound creative process with roots, functions and meanings in social life. Besides classical narrative genres and songs they study oral history and life stories; they do fieldwork in Estonia, among the Baltic-Finnic peoples and in India.

Research at the Department of Literature and Theatre Studies focuses on verbal and performative arts in Estonia within the context of world literature. Emphasis is on theory, narratology, poetics and reception.

Research work at the interdisciplinary Centre for Oriental Studies ranges from Buddhist studies to the cultures of the ancient Near East. In addition to teaching in Estonian, the institute offers classes in English and an MA programme in English language folkloristics and applied heritage studies.
The School of Theology and Religious Studies focuses equally on teaching and research.

The two main fields of study are religious studies and theology. Both can be studied at the BA, MA and PhD levels. Religious studies concentrate on topics such as Eastern religions, religion in contemporary Western society, New Age movements and Ancient Near East languages, cultures and religions. Theological studies focus on church history, systematic theology, practical theology and the New and Old Testaments.

There are four main fields of research at the school. Research on Estonian church history focuses on the twentieth century and deals with the relationship between churches and the state and society. Research on contemporary religious trends focuses on (non)religious and spiritual developments in present-day Estonia. Ancient Near Eastern studies deal with texts and artefacts, using philological, literary, and intertextual methods. Research on religion and science focuses on the relationship of the two from the neurological, technological and philosophical aspects.

Be it world religions, ancient cultures, current religious issues, Christianity in present-day societies, sacred texts or religious dialogue, at the School of Theology and Religious Studies, broad-based research combined with creative learning has always been our commitment.
The College of Foreign Languages and Cultures teaches a wide range of modern and classical languages in its BA and MA level degree programmes and as general language courses. The main fields of research are applied linguistics, foreign literatures and translation studies.

BA level curricula in English, German, Romance (French or Spanish), Slavonic (Russian) and Scandinavian (Swedish, Norwegian or Danish) languages and literatures as well as classical philology develop language skills but also introduce foreign literature and culture. On the MA level, students can choose between three curricula: European languages and cultures, foreign language teaching and translation studies. In addition, over 20 languages are taught as electives. The college is known for its excellence in teaching – its lecturers are annually voted by students to be among the faculty’s best.

The main fields of research are contrastive and applied linguistics, translation studies, classical philology and intersections of discourse, ideology and literature.

The college has a wide network of international research partners and cooperates with foreign embassies to create a rich cultural programme to support and enhance studies and research. We also collaborate with Estonian partners: the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, Tallinn University, the Estonian Literary Museum and schools of general education.

Building bridges between cultures.

maailmakeeleed.ut.ee/en
(+372) 737 5357
keeled@ut.ee
Education at the academy spans four departments: performing arts, music, Estonian native crafts and culture education. Besides theoretical knowledge, our graduates obtain practical experience which enables them to readily enter the labour market.

Located in the idyllic small town of Viljandi, the academy actively collaborates with its partners and functions as the main engine for the development of regional creative industries. Our aim is to sustain and develop Estonian traditional culture.

Participation in several professional organisations and networks (AEC, IASJ, DAMA, NORDTRAD, NNME, NORTEAS etc) and international collaboration in general are also highly valued in the academy.

Viljandi Culture Academy

The University of Tartu’s Viljandi Culture Academy has offered culture education since 1952. The people in the academy are active and creative and value cooperation between different specialisations, which often results in numerous exhibitions, concerts, performances, cultural events and festivals.

Education at the academy spans four departments: performing arts, music, Estonian native crafts and culture education. Besides theoretical knowledge, our graduates obtain practical experience which enables them to readily enter the labour market.

Located in the idyllic small town of Viljandi, the academy actively collaborates with its partners and functions as the main engine for the development of regional creative industries. Our aim is to sustain and develop Estonian traditional culture.

Participation in several professional organisations and networks (AEC, IASJ, DAMA, NORDTRAD, NNME, NORTEAS etc) and international collaboration in general are also highly valued in the academy.

University of Tartu Centre for Arts

The centre offers a chance for all students of the University of Tartu to acquire new knowledge and skills and develop their creativity in the area of arts. The centre is situated in Tartu but is part of University of Tartu’s Viljandi Culture Academy.

The University of Tartu’s Viljandi Culture Academy unites traditional and modern approaches, merges local with international, combines science with creative arts and integrates theory and practice.
Interdisciplinary studies

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN ESTONIAN STUDIES (CEES)
CEES unites 6 partner institutions (coordinated by the Estonian Literary Museum) involving 15 research groups with 60 researchers and 50 PhD students. The CEES focuses on the complex study of transcultural and emblematic phenomena within Estonian linguistic and cultural space, and on the evolution of the digital humanities and computer analysis.

nces.ut.ee
monika.tasa@ut.ee

ASIAN CENTRE
The Asian Centre coordinates and develops research and the teaching of Asian studies as a cooperation network between faculties. The aim of the Asian Centre is to make the Asian studies at the University of Tartu more visible and more beneficial for society by arranging prestigious research events, developing the existing study modules, offering in-service training courses and actively seeking to popularise the acquired knowledge.

asiakeskus.ut.ee/en/
elo.suld@ut.ee

centre for ethics
The interdisciplinary Centre for Ethics joins different faculties. It was founded in 2001 to conduct research on the ethical issues of science and society, to teach ethics, and to organize conferences, workshops and seminars to promote public debate on moral values and norms. The main research foci are moral philosophy, ethics in education, bio-medical ethics, research ethics and ethics of new technologies.

eetikakeskus.ut.ee and eetika.ee
eetikakeskus@ut.ee

centre for digital humanities
The Centre for Digital Humanities encompasses all areas of the humanities. The aim is to increase digital competence in the humanities by developing interdisciplinary research and training at the crossroads of the humanities, information technology and data science. The centre organises events to introduce digital methods and provides counselling on research design, data collection and analysis.

dighum.ut.ee
andres.kimber@ut.ee

collegium for transdisciplinary studies in archaeology, genetics and linguistics
The collegium brings together researchers from archaeology, genetics and linguistics. Through the application of novel methods and using up-to-date theories, the cultural, linguistic and genetic history of the populations of Estonia and its closest surroundings are reconstructed.

valter.lang@ut.ee

graduate schools
Graduate School of Culture Studies and Arts, and Graduate School of Linguistics, Philosophy and Semiotics include all PhD programmes of the faculty. Both graduate schools are a network of several universities and partner institutions, involving international competence. Their activities aim to advance the quality and efficiency of PhD studies in humanities.

doktorikool.humanitaariteadused.ut.ee
doktorikoolid@ut.ee
University of Tartu

TOP 1.2% OF THE WORLD’S BEST UNIVERSITIES

#1 UNIVERSITY IN THE BALTICS

TOP 1% OF THE WORLD’S MOST-CITED UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN 10 RESEARCH AREAS

38 SCIENTISTS ARE IN THE TOP 1% OF THE MOST-CITED SCIENTISTS IN THE WORLD

EST. 1632

13 000 STUDENTS

1300 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM 90 COUNTRIES

26 INTERNATIONAL BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S PROGRAMMES

74 PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN 29 COUNTRIES

83% OF MASTER’S ALUMNI WORK IN EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

100 PHD THeses PER YEAR

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
University of Tartu
Jakobi 2, 51014, Tartu, Estonia
Phone: +372 737 5341
E-mail: hv.dekanaat@ut.ee
Web: humanities.ut.ee

2017