

Study in ESTONIA

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ONIA™

2002

Study in ESTONIA



'I was seeking a country about which I didn't have too much knowledge at the time I made my decision. A country where I haven't been on holiday yet and which differs in culture and environment from my own...Within Europe, Estonia sounded most exciting.'

Anna, Germany






'Estonians have a Scandinavian mentality. The silence also has a meaning.'

Adrian, Sweden







'There are some who have never been away and don't think of going to a foreign country. Those are especially shy. Others who have travelled or at least want to go abroad behave quite differently. They think and feel more European, are interested in different countries, languages and people and are more outgoing and active.'

Leo, Austria

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Studying in Estonia

Higher Education Studies

The Estonian educational system consists of basic, secondary, vocational, higher and adult education. After satisfactory completion of the compulsory nine-year basic education, pupils may continue their studies either in gymnasiums or vocational education institutions. Gymnasiums offer three-year secondary general education and vocational education institutions offer secondary vocational education from one to three years on the basis of both basic and secondary education. After completion of both types of secondary education, young people may choose between entering the labour market or continuing studies at the higher education level. Adult education providers support the principle of life-long learning in a variety of

The Estonian higher education system consists of universities and professional higher education institutions. Since 1999 some post-secondary vocational schools offer vocational higher education programmes. Recent trends in higher education, carried out in accordance with the objective to create a European higher education area, have led to the adoption of a higher education system based on two main cycles - undergraduate and graduate studies. According to the Amendment to the Law on University and Other Binding Laws adopted in July 2002 beginning from academic year 2002/2003 students are admitted only to reformed professional higher education study programmes, bakalaureus-, magister- and doktor-study programmes. Students admitted to higher education study programmes before June 2002 may continue their studies according

Universities

Until 2007 universities provide academic and professionally oriented diplom-study programmes. Since the academic year 2002/2003 universities admit students to academic higher education programmes and professional higher education programmes. Academic higher education comprises of three stages - bakalaureus-, magister- and doktor-study. University colleges offer one-

Professional Higher Education

institutions may offer professionally oriented diplom-study programmes and vocational higher education programmes to students admitted before June 2002. The difference

and vocational higher education programmes lies in the study fields and the proportion of practice in the programme. Diplom-study is carried out in the fields of engineering, teacher training, national defence, arts, music, transport, aviation etc. More practice-orientated vocational higher education studies can be carried out mostly in nursing, pharmacy, social work and pre-school pedagogy. By the academic year 2002/2003 professional higher education institutions must implement professional higher education study programmes according to the requirements set in the Amendment to the Law on University and other binding laws adopted in June 2002. Professional higher education offered beginning from academic year 2002/2003 is a one-stage non-academic higher education aimed at providing



'It's a completely new environment which is improving very fast. New ideas are very welcome and the social life is great. Estonia is not established yet. There is an opportunity to do things differently and maybe go a better way. It's like a big new project. Education here is very appreciated.'

Roland, Austria

Vocational Education Institutions

Secondary education-based vocational education institutions or professional higher education institutions also offer vocational higher education to students admitted before June 2002. Vocational higher education study programme is more practice-orientated than a diplom-study programme - practical training accounts for at least 35%. Beginning from the academic year 2002/2003 admission is available to new professional higher education programmes. Graduates who have completed their studies will be awarded diplomas that include indications

Recent Trends and Developments

In the higher education sphere, many programmes are underway to strengthen the ties with European higher education space and to adopt a system of easily readable and comparable degrees.

In June 2001 the Government approved the higher education reform proposal in accordance with the so-called Bologna process. According to the proposal, the government took the position to adopt a two-cycle higher education system corresponding to the Anglo-Saxon Bachelor and Master degree system.

In July 2002 the Amendment to the Law on University and Other Binding Laws was adopted, stating that beginning from the academic year of 2002/2003 students are admitted only to reformed bakalaureus-, magister- and doktor-study programmes and professional higher education study programmes. Depending on the field, bakalaureus studies in the one-cycle system generally took four to five years. In the new two-cycle system bakalaureus studies take three or four years, and magister studies one or two years. However, the total time required to earn a magister degree should be five years. In the field of medicine, veterinary medicine, architecture, civil engineering and teacher training there are one-cycle higher education programmes taking five to six years and upon



The first cycle concentrates on acquiring general job skills and knowledge. The second cycle involves further development of professional skills necessary to pursue a job in a certain study field. These developments depend upon the agreement of different social actors - policy makers, higher education institutions, academic staff, students and employers.

Other changes take place in the non-

Enrolment Procedures

International students seeking a degree from a higher education institution in Estonia must usually apply for admission on the same terms as Estonian students. For admission to higher education institutions there are general and specific requirements giving

access to higher education. The general requirements are binding on all higher education institutions and study programmes.

Admission to the study programmes is



International Student Office

Every higher education institution accepting foreign students has an International Relations Office or a person in charge of dealing with international relations. It is wise to establish contacts with this office well before commencing studies, in order to get detailed information on application

General Requirements

Undergraduate students - applicants wishing to pursue professional higher education studies or bakalaureus-study are required to have completed their secondary education or an equivalent education level necessary for higher education. Applicants must be eligible for higher education in their own country. In a country where the secondary school leaving certificate is sufficient in itself for admission to higher

Graduate students - applicants wishing to pursue magister study are required to have completed a bakalaureusekraad, or its equivalent, and those wishing to pursue a doktorikraad must have completed magistrikraad, or its equivalent.

Exchange students - student exchange is based on bilateral agreements between partner institutions. There are also different exchange programmes facilitating the mobility of students. Further information on application conditions and procedures is available at the

Nineteen Estonian higher education institutions participate in the European Community action programme SOCRATES/ERASMUS, the framework for the support of European activities of higher education institutions, including exchange of their students and teaching staff. Every participating higher education institution has its own ERASMUS co-ordinator who

Visiting students - visiting students are international students who plan to study at the host institution for up to one year at either the graduate or postgraduate level. Further information on application conditions and procedures is available at the home university

Specific Requirements depend on the higher education institution requirements and on the speciality. Specific requirements may include entrance examinations, an interview, or minimum grades on the secondary-level school-leaving certificate.

- Completed application form;
- Certified copies of certificates/degrees/qualifications giving access to higher education;
- Academic transcript(s);
- Statement of purpose (explaining the motivation for applying);
- Three or four photos;



Some universities also require a copy of the TOEFL or other recognised test score report form and a letter (or two letters) of recommendation.

Students applying for postgraduate studies in Estonia often must, in addition, submit a letter addressed to the Head of the Department, in which the candidate describes his or her subjects of interest, motives, and plans for study. Some universities additionally require that students applying for postgraduate studies contact the professor they would like to have supervising their studies.

Entrance examinations for foreigners usually include an English test, as mentioned above, and an interview. Other examinations or practical tasks depend upon the chosen speciality. There are also higher education institutions that do not require entrance examinations or interviews from international applicants at all - for example the Estonian Agricultural University.

All prospective international students should contact the International Relations Office, or another appropriate office of the higher education institution of their choice, for more

'I liked Estonia and the language, and all my Estonian friends are nice.'

Kirsten, Norway

Language Requirements

The language of instruction and coursework is usually Estonian; however, an increasing number of courses and study programmes are offered in English, and sometimes in other languages. Some higher education institutions provide courses in Russian for Russian-speaking students.

Applicants wishing to study a full undergraduate programme in Estonian must first complete a language competency examination. Performing academic studies

in Estonian requires a good command of the language. Many universities offer Estonian language courses for international students as a pre-study possibility or as part of the study programme.

Concordia International University Estonia is the only university in Estonia where the language of instruction in all programmes is English. Students applying for graduate studies must score 500 or above on the TOEFL or an equivalent English-language proficiency test. Students applying for postgraduate studies must score 550 or

Organisation of Study

Academic Year

The academic year at the higher education institutions is divided into two semesters: the autumn and spring semesters. The academic year begins in September and ends in the first half of June. The autumn semester usually runs from September to December, examinations taking place in January. Spring semester lasts from the end of January or beginning of February until the end of May,

but exams can be taken up until the middle of June.

Methods of Teaching

Higher education institutions in Estonia use a variety of teaching methods - lectures, seminars, colloquia, essays and written assignments. Placing emphasis on the student rather than on the teacher also demands a lot of individual and preparatory work from each individual student.

Concordia International University Estonia is exceptional in including a summer session. As a general rule a semester contains 40 weeks of lectures, seminars, practical training, independent work and an examination period. The higher education institutions operate five days a week for full-time studies.

The most common teaching method is still the lecture, in which, during 90 minutes (2 academic hours), the lecturer gives an overview of the fundamental topics of the subject to a large group of students. Some professors expect students to ask questions at the end of the lecture, while others prefer active participation of students during the lecture.

Discussion between students and professors usually takes place in seminars. A professor, or a member of the academic staff, and students gather in smaller groups to analyse and discuss the topics presented in the lecture or reading material. During a seminar, working groups on a particular question, oral presentations of analysed material, group and project work on a particular topic, case analyses, round tables, conferences or mini moot courts may be organised. These are only some of the examples of different non-traditional tasks



The colloquium is a method of intermediate assessment of student knowledge. A group of students prepare a certain number of topics from a list of final examination questions and are assessed according to the same rules as the final examinations, but colloquia compose only a part of the final grade.

Increasingly lecturers require students to demonstrate their self-study work and the ability to analyse and express personal views on the substance of the studied material by asking students to prepare written

assignments and essays. Students may either select a topic of interest or choose from among those given by the professor. The length of essays varies - from two hundred to a few thousand words. The content of

Credit System

Academic progress is measured in credit points (ainepunkt, or AP). One credit corresponds to forty hours (one study week) of studies completed by a student in a variety of ways. The academic year consists of 40 credits.

1 credit equals 1,5 ECTS credits. For the completion of all study programmes, the nominal length of studies, the balance of compulsory and optional subjects, the number of credits of any subject together with a general description of the content, available lines of study

Tests and Exams

All higher education institutions are obliged to end subject courses with examinations (eksam) or preliminary examinations (arvestus). There might be several independent examinations or tests in separate parts of a subject. Usually the oral and written examinations are held at the end of each semester during the four-week examination session. In an oral examination a student gets one or two specific questions at the beginning of the session, and after preparation answers the examiner. The examiner may ask additional questions which are required to pass the examination. Oral examinations usually last longer, with each student spending thirty minutes to one hour. Oral examinations may sometimes be organised in such a way that a small group of students may answer questions at the same time. In a written examination a group of students receive one or several questions related to the subject area that must be thoroughly answered. There may also be written tests that include questions with multiple answers and the students must



Grading System

Beginning in the 1999/2000 academic year, all higher education institutions started using a standardised grading scale:

Grad	Description Estonian/English	Percentage of Knowledge	Estimated Equivalent
5 or A	suurepärane / excellent	91 – 100	
4 or B	väga hea / very	81 – 90	
3 or C	hea / good	71 – 80	
2 or D	rahuldav /	61 – 70	
1 or E	kasin / sufficient	51 – 60	
0 or F	puudulik /	0 – 50	

*ECTS - European Credit Transfer

The University of Tartu, Estonian Agricultural University and some private higher education institutions use letters (A - F) in assessment,

while other higher education institutions use numbers (5 - 0). The grade F or 0 is the only failing grade, but in order to graduate

Qualifications

All Estonian higher education diplomas and degrees are issued as final qualifications in higher education. All recognised state and public higher education institutions have the right to award state-approved diplomas

which have a certain format and content. The private higher education institutions have the right to award state diplomas only to graduates who have completed an accredited study programme. The current

Non-Academic Higher Education Qualifications

Vocational higher education diploma (kutsekõrghariduse diplom) - qualification awarded after the completion of vocational higher education, one-stage form of higher education offered by vocational education institutions or professional higher education institutions (rakenduskõrgkool) education to students admitted before June 2002. The vocational higher education study programme is composed of at least 35% practical training. The length of

Diplom-study diploma (diplomiõppe diplom) - qualification awarded after the completion of diplom-study, one-stage non-academic professional higher education offered by universities and professional higher education institutions (rakenduskõrgkool) to students admitted before June 2002. The length of study is 3–4 years (120–160 credits).

Professional higher education diploma (rakenduskõrgharidusõppe diplom) - one-stage non-academic professional higher education offered beginning from academic year 2002/2003 by universities, professional higher education institutions and vocational education institutions. The length of study is 3–4 years (120–160 credits). Professional higher education is aimed at providing necessary skills and knowledge for working in a certain profession or continuing

Academic Higher Education

Bakalaureusekraad – a degree awarded after the completion of bakalaureus-study, the first stage of academic study. Its main purpose is to increase students' level of general education and develop theoretical knowledge and professional skills for the selected area of employment and further study. The length of bakalaureus-level study in the one-cycle system was generally 4–5 years leading to a final specialist qualification awarded after acquiring necessary knowledge in the given speciality in order to enter the labour market. Since the adoption of the two-cycle undergraduate and graduate degree system in 2002/2003 the length of bakalaureus-level study is generally 3–4 years (120–160 credits), leading to the first qualification of the two-cycle system awarded after acquiring basic skills and knowledge in the given speciality. Awarded degree is a relevant qualification for entering

Magistrikraad – a degree awarded after the completion of magister-study, the second stage of academic study. The main purpose is to deepen theoretical and specialist knowledge and develop proficiency in research, professional or other creative work for individual use of knowledge and skills. The admission requirement is the bakalaureusekraad or an equivalent level of education. The length of study is 1–2 years, but together with the bakalaureus-study no less than 5 years (40–80 credits). In the one-cycle system both research and professional degrees were awarded, but in the new two-cycle system magister-study leads to the first degree of the second cycle awarded after acquiring necessary specialist knowledge

Doktorikraad - a degree awarded after the completion of doktor-study, the third stage of academic study, consisting of comprehensive research, professional or other creative work and interrelated studies. The admission requirement for doktor-study is the magistrikraad or an equivalent level of academic education. The nominal length of study is 3–4 years (160 credits) and since 2002/2003 admission leading to a research degree. Students admitted

Diplomas in Basic Medical study and Veterinary Medicine – diplomas awarded after a one-stage form of academic study, the graduation level corresponds to magister-
Diplomas in Pharmacy, Stomatology, Architecture and Civil Engineering - diplomas awarded after a one-stage form of academic study taking five years. Graduates receive a
Teacher Study certificate - awarded upon passing an additional study programme after bakalaureus- or diplom-study or professional higher education at universities or

Recognition of Studies

Before making the final decision on what university or study programme to choose, it is important to check whether the higher education institution and the selected study programme is officially recognised in Estonia. All Estonian higher education institutions and their study programmes are recognised by the state after quality assessment and accreditation. Recognition by the Republic of Estonia is the basic requirement for the recognition of studies in the student's home country. Information on the accreditation of higher education institutions and their programmes can be found on the databases of Estonian higher education institutions (Õppekavade andmebaas) on the web site of the Estonian Accreditation Centre - <http://www.ekak.archimedes.ee>
Students wishing to continue their studies in Estonia on the basis of a foreign academic certificate, diploma or degree must apply for admission, as well as for recognition of their periods of study, directly to the higher education institution or ENIC/NARIC Network coordinators in Estonia.

The Estonian ENIC/NARIC is a member of the Council of Europe and UNESCO network ENIC (European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility) as well as the European Commission network NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres). The main activities of the Centre in Estonia are the evaluation of foreign educational qualifications (certificates, diplomas, degrees etc.) and offering information on education systems and



Students coming to Estonia for a study period as part of the SOCRATES/ERASMUS exchange programme are entitled to full academic recognition of their Erasmus study period at the host institution. To facilitate the comparability and recognition of acquired credits and marks, students are advised to complete a Learning Agreement to be signed by themselves and the home and host institutions. The Learning Agreement is an informal contract that indicates precisely what modules a student will be studying. At the end of the study period abroad, the host university will provide the exchange student, as well as the sending university,

Study Costs

Study costs may include application fees, tuition fees directly covering the course or programme offered and purchase of textbooks and other study materials. Both public and private higher education institutions charge tuition fees for international students.

'Prices of many products are even higher than in Austria. You know, I thought we will have a really cheap life here and some money left for whatever, but it is not really like that.'



Since universities reserve the right to revise tuition fees, study costs may differ in different universities. In addition to study costs, students should also take into account living

Tuition Fees

Due to changing economic conditions, tuition fees are modified periodically. Therefore, the most reliable information source on tuition fees is the higher education institution in which a student is interested.

Generally the tuition fee for international students varies from 960 EUR (15 000 EEK) to 1500 EUR (24 000 EEK) per semester. Magister- and doktor-study are more expensive, varying from 960 EUR (15 000 EEK) to 2550 EUR (40 000 EEK) per semester.

Exchange students are exempt from tuition

Financial Aid

International students in some universities have opportunities to attain scholarships from universities. Generally these scholarships range from twenty to eighty percent of tuition fees and are awarded according to the student's academic performance and initiative.

In addition to academic scholarships, students may apply to sponsoring companies for financial aid. This program usually requires that students sign contracts with their sponsoring companies in which they agree to work for the company for a specific period of time after graduation.

Students are encouraged to seek financial support from business enterprises or foundations in their respective countries, which may be interested in sponsoring a prospective employee.

Student Counselling and Career Services

Many higher education institutions offer academic and professional counselling to their students.

Information on academic procedures, entitlements and obligations can be attained from academic counsellors or tutors at the faculty. Tutors are usually second- or third-year students who have acquired knowledge on university procedures, student rights, student organisations and practical psychological skills needed in a specific course. Most tutors deal with groups of first-year students (5-20) during their first semester at the university, but some are specially trained to give advice to international students. The International Some universities organise an orientation course for all international incoming students. This course takes place before the beginning of the semester and offers students information on studying and living in Estonia. In recent years, bridges between higher education institutions and potential employers have been established. Student Career Services in many universities assist students in making contacts with employers and finding the best jobs according to their qualifications. Employers can choose and

This aim is achieved through information databases, continuous student counselling and training, work-related seminars, workshops and lectures, introducing Student Career Services to employers, cooperation with municipalities and State Employment

municipalities and State Employment Agencies and international contacts. Career Services organises lectures and provides information on themes such as how to plan a career and professional development, writing an impressive CV, behaviour at employment interviews, dealing with different legal problems and finding

Every international student wishing to pursue a job - whether it is full -or part-time - must apply for a work permit (See also page 39)

Career Services also provides information on international traineeship programmes. For example, students studying business management and information technology can work from two months to one and a half years in a foreign company through the AIESEC traineeship programme. Students wishing to become trainees in Estonia should first find out about procedures and other formalities from the Estonian Reception Booklet that is available at the local AIESEC office. In-coming trainees are warmly

Students who are studying or have recently graduated from applied or vocational higher education programmes are entitled to attend work practice in a foreign country through the EU Vocational Education Programme, Leonardo da Vinci. Students of some specialities can work as trainees in public or private sector organisations from three

Computer and Internet Services

Students in Estonia have found e-mail a great way to exchange information about student and academic life with their friends, fellow students and professors.

Most universities have IT centres that offer support for IT and networking to the university. They maintain and develop programmes, give instruction and

information about the use of computers, develop data processing within the university in general and provide IT assistance free for all staff and students. To use the computer network and get an e-mail address students should apply for an account at the Computing Centre. Student e-mail addresses are free of charge and available for all

Student Life

Studies in Estonia should provide international students with both new and encouraging academic experiences and be enjoyable and memorable social experiences. Numerous opportunities to actively take part in a wide range of cultural, educational, social and sports activities are open to foreign students at their higher education institutions and/or at local and national student organisations and venues. Hopefully every newcomer will



Student Organisations

There are many types of student organisations engaged in a variety of activities and themes. There are traditional academic student organisations - for example fraternities and sororities like the Estonian Students' Society, Fraternity Estica, Sorority Filiae Patriae etc. Other clubs and unions unite students with common interests and specialities - for example student debate clubs, nature protection circles, history circles, a society of psychology students, a moot court society etc. In addition, various cultural organisations bring students together - student theatres, choirs, orchestras, dance groups etc. Local student unions support students in everyday studies and international organisations such as AIESEC

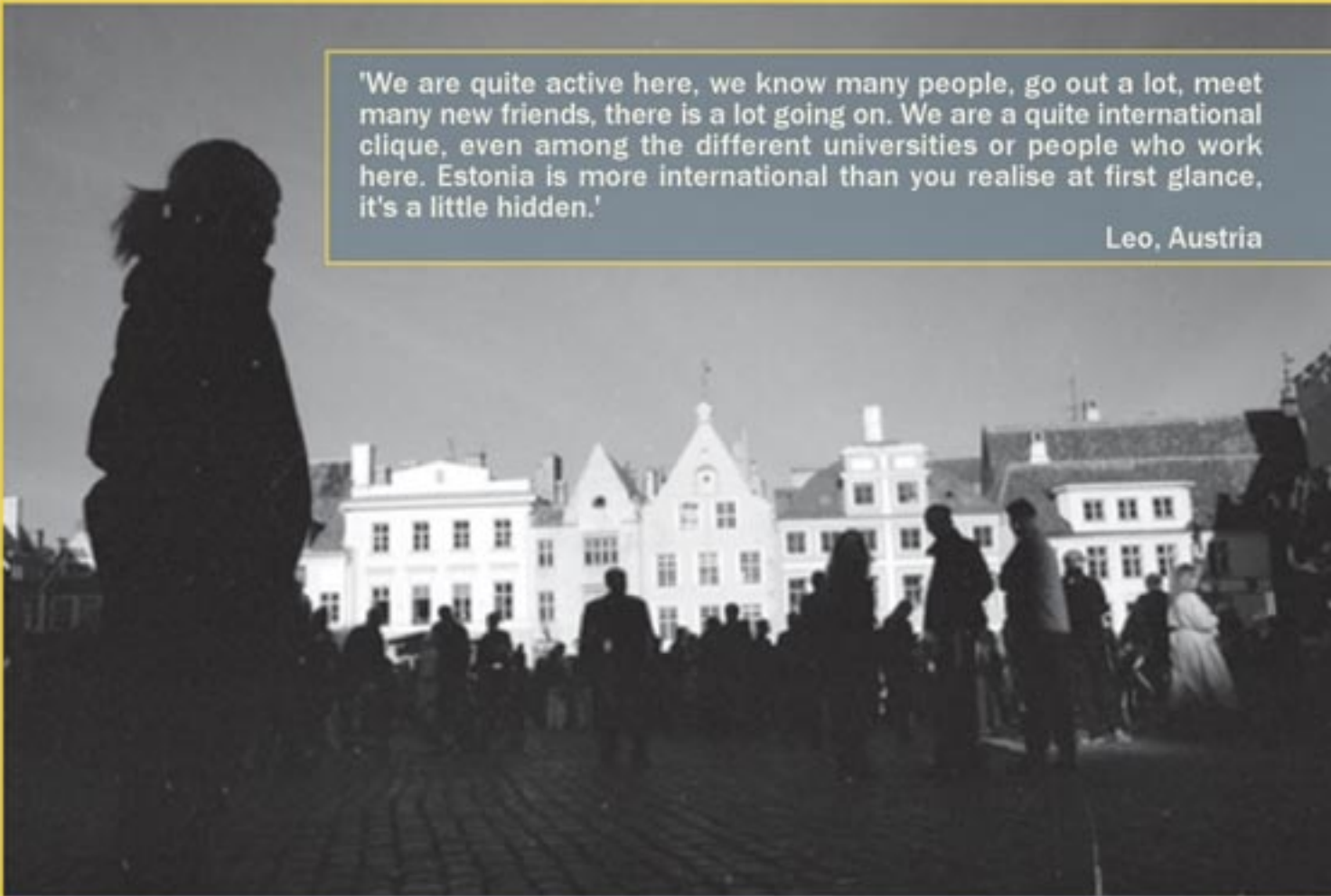
The Federation of Estonian Student Unions unites all the student unions at recognised higher education institutions. The Federation represents the interest of all students and protects them from any kind of injustice. The organisation also tries to improve academic as well as social standards for

International students have the opportunity to get in contact with the student union at their higher education institution to find out more about Estonian students, their activities and different student organisations. Whatever the question may be - how long will the semester last before the next holidays? which professors are especially demanding in what? where is the most popular pub or nightclub? etc - foreign students are welcome to

In addition, members of the Erasmus Student Network at the University of Tartu organize many activities, which range from parties to trips and sporting events to make the study period of foreign students in Tartu easier, more fun and as memorable as possible. The Erasmus Student Network

belongs to the international network of Erasmus students.

Probably one of the most well-known international student organisations AIESEC has had representation in Estonia since 1989. Today the Estonian branch focuses on organising international traineeship



'We are quite active here, we know many people, go out a lot, meet many new friends, there is a lot going on. We are a quite international clique, even among the different universities or people who work here. Estonia is more international than you realise at first glance, it's a little hidden.'

Leo, Austria

Further information about local events and traditions is available at higher education

Student Events

The most popular events among the students in Estonia are the Student Days in spring and autumn, which take place in both Tartu and Tallinn. The tradition of student days began in Tartu during the 1960s, but expanded to Tallinn at the beginning of the 1990s due to the growth of the student population in Tallinn. Fortunately for the students and unfortunately for the lecturers, the Days now stretch even longer than before since the competition between Tartu and Tallinn Student Days was eliminated. When the festivities in Tallinn are over, student

Other interesting events include the Student Jazz Festival in February, and the Sleepwalkers Student Film Festival in November-December.

ISIC Student Card

All full-time students can acquire an International Student Identity Card (ISIC) that makes it possible to save money on travel arrangements, accommodations, museums, cultural events, entertainment and much more in about 100 countries of the world. If a foreign full-time student has not yet obtained a personal ISIC card, he or she should turn to their local student union, which issues ISIC cards. An ISIC card holder is entitled to several discounts in numerous Estonian organisations and businesses - cinemas, theatres, shops, beauty salons, hotels, travel agencies, pubs, night clubs, bus lines, taxis, museums etc. The extent of the price reduction offered ranges from 5 - 50 %. Further information is available from the local student union and from the

Universities

	Estonian Academy	Estonian Academy of Music	Estonian Agricultural	Tallinn Pedagogical University	Tallinn Technical	University of Tartu	Audentes Business School	Concordia International	The Estonian Institute	Estonian Business	University Nord	Institute of Law	The Private School of Social Sciences	Euro University
Agriculture														
Applied Arts														
Architecture														
Art History														
Biology and														
Business														
Chemistry														
Computer														
Design														
Dramatic Arts and														
Economics														
Educational														
Engineering														
Environmental														
Fine Arts														
History														
Information														
Journalism														
Languages														
Law														
Mathematics														
Media														
Medicine														
Music														
Philosophy														
Physics														
Political Science														
Psychology														
Public														
Public Relations														
Social Work														
Sociology														
Sports Sciences														
Theology														
Veterinary Medicine														

Professional Higher Education Institutions

	Estonian Maritime Academy	Public Service	Estonian Joint Military Educational	Tallinn College of Engineering	Tartu Art College	Tartu Aviation	Viljandi Cultural
Air Traffic							
Aircraft Piloting							
Airport							
Architecture							
Business							
Computer Graphics							
Construction							
Correctional							
Customs							
Dance Arts							
Design							
Dramatic Art and							
Economics							
Engineering							
Fine Arts							
Hobby Leader							
Hydrometeorology							
Information							
Information							
Military Leadership							
Music							
National Handicraft							
Photography							
Police							
Public							
Rescue Services							
Searesources							
Shipping							
Tax Administration							
Theology							
Transport							

Vocational Education Institutions

	Kohtla-Järve Medical School	Lääne-Virumaa Higher Vocational	Tallinn Technical School of Light	Tallinn School of Economics	Tallinn School of Economics	Tallinn Pedagogical Seminary	Tartu Medical	Tallinn Transport	Viljandi Joint Vocational	Võru County Vocational
Bookkeeping										
Business										
Clothes Design										
Commercial										
Construction										
Economics										
Information										
Kintergarten										
Laboratory										
Law										
Material										
Midwifery										
Music										
Nursing										
Optomerist										
Pharmacist										
Radiography										
Services										
Social Work										
Tourism										
Transportation										
Wood Processing										
Youth Leader										



Living in Estonia



Estonia in Brief

Location

Estonia is situated in northeastern Europe, being the northernmost of the three Baltic States. It is bounded on the west and north by the Baltic Sea and on the east by Lake Peipsi and the Narva River. It is bordered on the east and southeast by Russia and on the south by Latvia. Tallinn, Estonia's capital city, is only about 85 km south of Helsinki, the capital of Finland, across the Gulf of

Area

Estonia is often referred to as a very small country. With an area of 45 000 sq. km, Estonia is in fact bigger for example than Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark or Switzerland, but still five times smaller than Great Britain. Estonia stretches 350 km from east to west and 240 km from north to south. Islands form one tenth and lakes about one twentieth of Estonia's territory. Almost half of the

Population

Estonia's population ranks amongst the smallest in the world. According to the last official census taken in 2000, there are only 1.37 million people living in Estonia. Despite its small population there are about one hundred different nationalities and ethnic groups represented in Estonia. The largest of these are Estonians (67.9 per cent), Russians (25.6 per cent), Ukrainians (2.1 per cent), Byelorussians (1.3 per cent), Finns (0.9 per cent), Tatars (0.2 per cent) and Latvians (0.2 per cent).

Estonian people see Estonia as a multicultural and multiethnic country. According to the Ethnic Relations Survey 2000, 75 per cent of Estonians are of the opinion that different nationalities and cultures enrich Estonian

Political System

Estonia is a parliamentary republic. The Parliament (Riigikogu) has 101 members elected for a period of four years. The head of state is the President, elected by the Riigikogu for a five-year term. The head of the Government, the Prime Minister, is

'I decided to come to Estonia first, in order to be part of the first movers and not to do what others do, going to high demand countries. I decided to break with the routine and discover an unknown geographic area.'

Marie, France

Administration

Estonia is divided into 15 counties, 207 rural municipalities and 47 towns. Major cities are Tallinn (population of 411 594), Tartu (population of 100 577), Narva (population of 73 831), Kohtla-Järve (population of 51 931) and Pärnu (population of 51 357).

Climate

The climate in Estonia is temperate and mild, characterised by warm summers and fairly severe winters. The weather is often breezy and humid due to the proximity of the Baltic Sea. Seasons in Estonia vary widely. Average temperatures range from 20.9° C in summer, with July usually being the hottest month, to -8° C in winter, although occasionally the temperature may rise to 30° C and above in summer or sink below -23° C in winter. The longest day of the year is June 21 with 19

Language

The official language in Estonia is Estonian, which belongs to the Finno-Ugric language family and is closely related to Finnish.

Currency

The national currency of Estonia is the Estonian kroon (abbreviation EEK) and was introduced on 20 June 1992. The smaller unit is called the sent, with one kroon equalling 100 sents. The Estonian kroon is pegged to the Euro, with one EUR equalling 15.65 EEK.

Major foreign currencies can easily be exchanged in banks and exchange offices. There are exchange offices in the port of

Time

Estonia is on Eastern European Time, which is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Coming to Estonia

Acquiring different obligatory documents in order to study and live in Estonia may take quite a while; therefore it is very important to gather information and submit applications

Some people treat us like stupid tourists. Maybe that is because they can't imagine that someone from Austria comes to live here for a year. I hope that will change when Estonia joins the EU.'

Leo, Austria

Visas

All students must have a valid passport for the period of study in Estonia. The citizens of 40 countries, including the USA, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, the Baltic States, as well as EU Countries, can enter Estonia visa-free for a period of three months. The citizens of other countries coming to study in Estonia for up to three months can obtain a visa from the nearest Estonian Consulate or Embassy. Updated information on visa

Residence permit

A temporary residence permit for study is required if an international student is going to stay in Estonia for more than three months (in some cases only one month). The residence permit should be obtained from the nearest Estonian Embassy or Consulate well before arrival in Estonia. Citizens of the European Union, the United States of America, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland or Japan can apply for a residence permit at a regional department of the Estonian Citizenship and Migration Board.

A residence permit may be issued for up to one year. If an international student wishes to continue studies in the same educational



Principal requirements for the residence permit (embassy or consulate):

- official invitation for residence permit (provided by the higher education institution) is valid for two months only
- a standard application form for a temporary residence permit (provided by the embassy or consulate)
- an additional application form (provided by the embassy or consulate)
- copy of a passport or other identity document and a copy of personal data

At present, the application fee for students is 1700 EEK/~109 EUR. (1000 EEK/ 64 EUR when applying and 700 EEK/45 EUR if receiving the residence permit in an embassy or consulate or 500 EEK/32 EUR if receiving the residence permit from the regional department of the Estonian Citizenship and Migration Board). Application fees may be modified periodically. It may take up to three months to get the residence permit.

In order to extend the residence permit, a student must apply at least 1.5 months before the expiration of the residence permit if the student applies through the Citizenship and Migration Board. Submitting the application for the extension of a residence permit to a representative of the Republic of Estonia should take place at least two months before the

For the extension of a residence permit one must submit the same documents you submitted when applying for the residence permit. The letter of confirmation from the higher education institution is valid for only one month.

At present, the charge for students is 500 EEK/~32 EUR (100 EEK/6 EUR when submitting documents + 400 EEK/26 EUR upon receiving the residence permit)

The decision as to whether to extend or refuse to extend the residence permit is made at least five days before the date of expiration of the temporary residence permit.

The list of Estonian Representations around the world is available on the web site of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs mentioned above.

Students who have received a residence permit for study in an educational institution in Estonia may also work in Estonia, but must



Work permit

Only foreigners who hold a work permit can take a job in Estonia. If a student has received a residence permit for study in an educational institution in Estonia, he or she has the opportunity to apply for a work permit at the Citizenship and Migration Board. One should submit the application for a work permit personally either to the local regional department

When applying for a work permit the following must

- a standard application form for a work permit
- the travel document of the applicant and a copy of his/her personal data pages (except in cases where an application for a work permit is submitted together with an application for a temporary residence permit);
- one photo (40 x 50 mm)
- a document certifying the payment of the state fee or an exemption form

The period of validity of the work permit cannot exceed the period of validity of the residence permit.

Processing of the application takes about one month. Additional information concerning work permits can be obtained from the Citizenship and Migration Board <http://www.mig.ee>



Arrival

Most international students probably see their first glimpse of Estonia from a plane or ship. Whether one is travelling by air, sea or land, none of the ports of entry are far from the centre of town.

Tallinn is accessible from everywhere in the world by plane, and currently 14 cities have direct connections with Tallinn.

Arrival to Tallinn is possible by ship from Helsinki and Stockholm, and Rostock in the summer. Helsinki is a mere hour and a half away in the summer, and larger ships will take you in 4 hours throughout the year.

International bus lines connect Tallinn to Europe, and trains travel eastward.

The harbour, bus and train stations are all a brief walk from the Old Town, the heart of the city. The airport is 2.5 km away, with bus connections and a perpetual stream of taxis. On arrival and departure, a traveller must declare to customs the goods liable for import duties and taxes or for import restrictions. Usually international students do not enter or leave Estonia with anything prohibited or liable for import taxes, but in order to prevent any possible misunderstandings, it is reasonable to ask

Upon arrival it would be wise to contact the International Student Office of the host higher education institution in order to make necessary arrangements for living.

Accommodation

There are several different alternatives for arranging accommodation, but these opportunities differ in different higher education institutions.

Some universities and higher education institutions have student dormitories with single, double and triple rooms. Dormitories are the most affordable accommodation for students, with the price per person ranging from 140 - 1000 EEK per month. Depending on the dormitory regulations, this rent may include all utilities (electricity, hot water, etc.) except for phone. But these regulations often vary.

Private rooms or flats can be found through newspaper advertisements or real estate agencies operating in town. However, the best flats are most often found via local acquaintances and friends. The International Relations Office can help in finding accommodation or recommending another university employee or student who will help to arrange housing.

Prices can vary widely depending on the

Social Security and Medical Care

Estonian social security is based on the principle of solidarity: Pensions and health care are financed from a social tax paid by all employers and the self-employed. The rate of the social tax is 33 per cent of the gross payroll. The share of the social tax allocated for pensions is 20 per cent and for health insurance 13 per cent.

The Estonian medical care system is based on family doctor services. Every individual must be enrolled with a chosen family physician in order to be eligible for medical care. Family practice offers primary health care services and aims at creating a more personal relationship between the doctor and the patient. International students are advised to sign up with a family physician in the town of the host higher education institution. Host higher education institutions provide information on which medical centres offer family physician services.

The family physician treats minor illnesses and determines whether and which specialist attention and examination the patient needs. Family physicians also make home visits if requested and needed. Without a family physician's referral it is possible to see the following specialists - oculist, dermatologist, venerologist, gynaecologist, physiologist, traumatologist-surgeon and psychiatrist. There is a wide range of dental care options in the public and private sector.

When going to a doctor's appointment, it is always necessary to have the Estonian Health Service Card along.



Public Safety

Long-term residents report feeling relatively safe in most towns and cities, but it is still wise to reduce risk to a minimum. The same precautions for personal safety that are recommended elsewhere in the world also apply in Estonia:

- don't wander around in unfamiliar areas alone during late hours
- at night choose your way along well-lighted and busy streets
- do not trust strangers, especially when spending time in a city or travelling around alone
- keep an eye on your purse, bag and other belongings
- always lock your bicycle and avoid remote areas
- park your car in guarded parking lots
- never leave your documents and valuables in the car
- upon leaving your apartment, make sure windows and the door are properly closed; keep money and valuables unexposed; write down the brands and other identification data of your radio, cassette and CD players etc.
- travelling is always more fun and safe with a friend or friends
- try to learn by heart certain important emergency numbers and contacts of

Should a person become a victim of crime, it is necessary to

- immediately call the police (phone 110)
- leave the scene of a crime intact and look for possible eye-witnesses

Cost of Living

In 2001 the average nominal salary in Estonia was 368.5 EUR (5767 EEK) per month and the hourly salary 2.06 EUR (approx. 32.33 EEK) per hour.

If a student wishes to travel and lead an active social life, he should expect to spend a few thousand EEK per month. At a minimum, students need 130-200 EUR (2000-3000 EEK) per month in addition to housing costs. Housing costs depend on the location and quality of the accommodation, but the prices per month usually range from 64 EUR (1000 EEK) in the

'Another positive aspect was the cheap price of alcohol. But now after some months I am starting to consider it negatively'

Gabriele, Italy

Some prices:

Bread	-	5 - 10 EEK
Milk products	-	5 - 25 EEK
Meat	-	50 - 80 EEK per
kg		
Fish	-	60 - 180 EEK
per kg		
Apples	-	13 - 35 EEK per
kg		
Rice	-	15 - 20 EEK per
kg		
Potatoes	-	10 - 15 EEK per
kg		
Cafeteria meal	-	25 - 35 EEK
Tea/Coffee at a cafe	-	15 - 25 EEK



The Estonian banking system is modern and efficient, with the strongest and best-regulated banks in the region. These provide both domestic and international services (including Internet and telephone banking) at very competitive rates. Both local and international firms provide a full range of financial, insurance, accountancy and legal services. Estonia has a highly advanced Internet banking system. The non-cash transactions altogether account for over 95 per cent of payments and are made through

Banks

Banks are open from Monday to Friday between 9.00 and 16.00. Most bank offices are closed on Saturdays and Sundays, but there are some exceptions. Currency exchange offices are open from Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 18.00 hours and on Saturdays from 09.00 to 15.00 hours. Some are also open on Sundays.

All major banks offer Internet services that

Debit and Credit Cards

Using bankcards to make payments is more convenient and secure. It is easier to keep track of expenses and upon losing a bank card it is possible to have the account closed and thus avoid any losses.

Debit cards are most widely used in Estonia. Debit cards make it unnecessary to carry cash around and enable people to pay directly without visiting any branch office or cash machine.

Another possibility is to use credit cards, which enable you to make payments even if there are insufficient funds in your bank account. Credit cards such as Visa, Mastercard/Eurocard, Diner's Club, American Express, etc. are accepted in most of the major hotels, restaurants and shops. Most banks will give cash advances on credit cards supported by a valid passport. Further details should be checked with the credit card company before travelling.



'I wanted to go somewhere, where I would never vacation and the currency exchange would not be a problem.'

Jason, USA

Traveller's Checks

The most widely accepted traveller's cheques in Estonia are Amex, Thomas Cook and Euro cheque.

Banks cash traveller's checks, but they are

Taxes

If a foreign student has the possibility and required documents to work, the working student will immediately become liable to income tax. The employer will cover the social security tax of 33% for their employees.

The Estonian tax system with its flat 26% rate individual taxation is one of the most liberal tax regimes in the world. Moreover, the new Law on Income Tax provides that undistributed profits of private companies are not subject to income taxation, regardless of whether invested or merely retained.

Value Added Tax at the rate of 18% is charged on the consumption of goods and services,

Life-style

'First we thought that Estonians are quite open. Estonians are friendly and polite but not very outgoing. They keep a certain distance, which is not easy to break.'

Leo, Austria



The life-style of Estonians is directly linked to the character of Estonians, the weather and different seasons. In winter Estonians tend to be more home- and work-centred, while summer is a time for active open-air activities and vacations in the countryside. In recent years Estonia has developed an excellent infrastructure of cultural, social and sporting facilities. Throughout the year there is a wide range of activities and events striving to meet and even exceed expectations of local inhabitants and their international guests. Since the regaining of independence and the rise of the living

Characteristics of an Estonian

The character of Estonians has been shaped by their country's history, natural environment, long dark winters and white summer nights. Like every citizen of a northern country, Estonians at first glance seem friendly but reserved, polite and calm but serious.

Estonians blame the various seasons and weather conditions for their moody and changing nature - dark and cold winter makes them self-absorbed and grim, but the first rays of sunshine bring out their easygoing and carefree side.

On first encounter, foreigners may be surprised to find that approaching Estonians with warm hugs and kisses has just the opposite effect from creating an open and

others on a personal level takes longer than with some other nationalities. But foreigners are advised to be patient in order to find an easy-going and fun conversation partner, a generous host and a faithful friend, who will give his or her warm hug only to special

Nevertheless, there are many qualities that have helped Estonians through rough times and to achieve high goals in different walks of life – an ironic sense of humour, stubbornness, curiosity, patience etc. But of course there are as many different qualities and personalities as there are Estonians.

Estonian Cuisine

The different historical rulers of the region - Danes, Swedes, Germans and Russians - have influenced Estonian traditional cuisine over the centuries.

Traditional meals include barley porridge with sour milk, or boiled unpeeled potatoes with curds or salted Baltic herring or smoked herring; on festive days butter, brawn, roast pork, sauerkraut, fried cabbage, black pudding or egg porridge are served. The traditional dishes and customs are still in use during the more significant festivals of the folk calendar, the most important being Christmas. Practically every Estonian is still very fond of black rye bread.

Modern cuisine, eating habits, food, and ways of cooking are similar to those in other Nordic countries. Depending on the rhythm of life, different Estonians also have different preferences in meal times and meals. Typically Estonians have a light breakfast before going to work or school. Between noon and three o'clock they have their most important meal of the day - lunch. Some prefer red meat and potato porridge, thick flour or bacon sauce, and others prefer light soups, salads, pasta, chicken and fish dishes. Pizza and American and Chinese fast food are also available. Dinner usually takes place around six or seven o'clock in the evening. Since people have more time than during the day, they might use it to relax and enjoy a hearty meal or they might have a small snack before or after working out in the gym.

The schedule and financial resources of a student are quite different from those of modern businessmen and women; therefore they usually prefer something quick and cheap. Many higher education institutions

National Customs and Holidays

On the evening of 23 June, Estonian cities become half empty. Everybody who can do so travels into the country in order to celebrate one of Estonia's most significant holidays- St. John's Day. On that night darkness lasts for only a few hours. Hundreds of bonfires are lit all over Estonia, people sing and dance around them, and when the



evils. St. John's (Midsummer's) Day marks the days of the year, and the customs relating to it go back to pre-Christian pagan times. St. John's Day and Christmas are the most important festivals in Estonia. Christmas, celebrated after the winter solstice, falls in the darkest period of the year and is primarily a family-centred holiday. Both the old and the young stand by a decorated, candle-lit Christmas tree waiting for Father Christmas to deliver presents. Afterwards, they all sit down to a festive dinner, which usually consists of roast pork, black pudding with cowberry jam, and sauerkraut with roast potatoes.

Other ancient customs, which relate to the time of year, are still practised. On Shrove Tuesday, in February, adults seize the chance to go sledging together with their children, on the pretext of the old custom. On St. Martin's Day (10 Nov.) and St. Catherine's Day (25 Nov.), children in costumes go from house to house, earning sweets with their singing and dancing.

In addition to these festivities, Estonians also have several national holidays. The most important falls on 24 February, when people celebrate the declaration of independence

Sports

Skiing is the most famous and popular of all winter sports in Estonia. The skiing capital Otepää is situated in the south of Estonia, where the land is not as flat as in other parts of Estonia, but is still only moderately hilly, taking into account that the highest peak reaches 318 meters. People make use of even the smallest hills to take up slalom skiing and snowboarding in addition to cross-country skiing.

Only recently football has become more popular in Estonia than basketball, which was considered almost a national game at one time.

The popularity of many sports is associated with the success of some Estonian athletes and their medals in these fields.

Besides the already mentioned fields there are many possibilities for active vacation or good exercise both for locals and foreigners.

In summer there are even more open-air activities to engage in - swimming, biking, horse-riding, canoeing, tennis, badminton, football, frisbee volley-ball etc. Unfortunately in the capital there are not very many biking or roller-blade paths. In other towns and cities the traffic is not as hectic and there are more biking possibilities. During warm and sunny summer days, one of the best ways to combine sightseeing in the beautiful countryside with exercise is to go canoeing on the rivers. More information on these options is available



Estonian Homes

About twenty years ago entering an Estonian home might have offered few surprises - many of them looked relatively alike. Apartment buildings in the main living areas not only contained apartments with a typical design, but also in the interior decoration almost identical tapestry and even the same pieces of furniture were used. Still the lack of choice and resources evoked some people's creativity, which can also be seen today in homes where a unique approach is valued. Changes in the society as a whole gave Estonians the possibility and will power to easily accept new and modern trends in almost every walk of life, including home improvement. Estonians are spending more time and energy making their residences beautiful, comfortable and safe for themselves and their families.

Although the largest families in Estonia have

14 children, the typical Estonian family is small, consisting of a mother, father and two children. It is not typical for different generations to live together under the same roof. Some young people leave home quite early for studies in another town and others become independent when they go to work after their studies. Still many families share their summer cottages and summer homes in the country - somewhere in the forest, near the lakes or by the sea. No matter how small and simple the house in the countryside, it generally has a sauna.

Estonians are fond of relaxing in a hot and steamy sauna while occasionally beating each other with a bunch of leafy birch twigs called a "viht" in order to maximise the utter joy of the cleansing ritual.

Regardless of current trends, a typical Estonian home can always be described as having the virtues of simplicity and comfort. In addition, a friendly and open atmosphere

Something to say in Estonian

'Estonians are more Scandinavian than Scandinavians! More quiet and more shy... until you try to use some Estonian phrases, then they shine up like the sun!'

Adrian, Sweden

The Estonian language is a melodic Finno-Ugric language that is currently spoken by less than a million people. Estonian is most closely related to Finnish, but is also related to the languages of several tiny ethnic groups living in the St Petersburg region, such as Karelian, Vepsan, Ingerian, the practically extinct Livonian, and Sami. Most Estonians (especially those who come from the northern part of the country) can understand quite a bit of Finnish.

Standard Estonian has been mostly formed from the dialects of North Estonian. Besides North Estonian there can be distinguished Southern Estonian dialects that are spoken by only a few people nowadays. The importance of slang and influences of the English language are much more felt in the common spoken language. One of the characteristics of the language is that words have no gender. It may not be clear to a foreigner whether some names belong to a man or woman. To clarify some troublesome names for foreigners - Kai, Eha, Anu, Tiia are girls and Tiit, Siim, Rein, and Koit are boys. There are a wide range of Estonian names - some parents have taken advantage of the freedom to give their children new and extraordinary names like Enlil and Piadoora.

Estonians highly value their language and culture, but generally do not expect foreigners to have any knowledge of them. Sometimes it even seems that they take pride in the Estonian language being so difficult for foreigners to learn - as if this feature alone would make the language exceptional and mysteriously beautiful. Practice has proved



Some useful phrases for students:

Tere/Nägemiseni - Hello/Good bye
Tsau - informal and a very common way between friends and acquaintances to say both Hi and Bye

Kuidas läheb? - How are you?

Täna küsimast, väga hästi - in answer to the previous question - very well, thank you

Mida Sa õpid? - What are you studying?

Kui palju see maksab? - How much does it cost?

Ma ei saanud aru, palun räägi natuke aeglasemalt -

I didn't understand you, could you speak a bit more slowly, please

Mulle meeldib kohtuda uute inimestega - I

Some Popular Everyday Catch Phrases from Famous Estonian Comedies

Aga praegu on ülesanne number üks: leida paat! – At the moment task number one is to find a boat (Men don't cry / Mehed ei nuta 1968)

Ütle talle, et me oleme Tallinnast, ütle talle, et me maksame... – Tell him we are from Tallinn, tell him that we pay... (Cottagers / Suvitajad 1977)

Tuleb jaht või ei tule? Kus on metssead, kus on põdrad? – Is this a hunt or not? Where are the wild boars, where are the elks? (Young pensioner/ Noor pensionär 1968)



Some Words with Two Meanings

Keel – means both 'language' and 'tongue'

Tee – 'road' and 'tea'

Kuu – 'month' and 'moon'

Some Words in Their Literal Sense of Meaning

Üliõpilane – Student, but in the literal sense of the word – super student

Ülikool – University or in the other words – super school

Abielu – Marriage, but in the literal sense of word – assistant life

There are plenty of interesting and beautiful places in Estonia to discover. There are ancient stonewalls, medieval fortresses and cobbled streets, leafy parks and romantic coasts, deep forests, sandy beaches and wooden windmills, modern hotels, luxury restaurants and tourist farms.

Not all of the worthwhile parts of Estonia can be covered in this short description. In

'The mix of old Soviet concrete and modern high-tech surprised me in Estonia. There are still places to visit for "shock-tourism", to see remains of the Soviet Era.'

Adrian, Sweden

Within Town

In most cities, buses operate regularly from 6:00 to 24:00. In the capital - Tallinn - there are also trolleys, trams, and minibuses. Tickets for public transportation can be purchased from newsstands for 10 EEK or from the driver for 15 EEK. There are also tickets for a monthly period.

Students can buy a discount ticket, but it is only valid together with proof of discount eligibility - in the case of international students an ISIC card.

Taxis can be hailed on the street or ordered by phone. Taxis differ in price, but each taxi

In the Country

Travel possibilities within the country are various. Most places can be reached by a bus. Travelling by bus is probably most affordable for students. Travelling by train is possible in many areas but trains don't operate as often as buses. Sometimes it is more comfortable to rent a car - especially while visiting the islands of Hiiumaa and Saaremaa. Before embarking on a journey across Estonia or to some specific spot of interest, it is recommended to visit one of the following tourism offices for information

Estonian Tourist Board

Estonia in Your Pocket

City Tourist Office, Tallinn

Travelling Abroad

Staying in Estonia offers a good opportunity to visit neighbouring countries - Finland or Sweden by ferry or ship, Russia and the other Baltic States by train or bus. From Tallinn, Helsinki is a mere hour and a half away in the summer, and larger ships will take you in 4 hours throughout the year. International buslines connect Tallinn to Europe, and trains travel eastward. The harbour, bus and train stations are all a brief walk from the Old Town of Tallinn.

While making plans to travel abroad from Estonia, it is important to receive detailed information about the necessary additional requirements. For example travelling to

Estonian Association of Travel Agencies

Rural Tourism

Small Guide to the Islands

<http://visitestonia.com>

<http://www.inyourpocket.com/Estonia/i>



Communication

Information and communications technologies and the use of ICT in society have grown rapidly in Estonia since the beginning of the 1990s. The positive attitude of most Estonians toward ICT innovations and development is one of the reasons Estonia is sometimes

Telephones

Dialling calls to Estonia, it is necessary to include the country code for Estonia - 372. When calling to Estonia dial 00 + the country code + area code + the subscriber's number.

Local calls can be made on public pay phones that accept telephone cards. Telephone cards may be purchased from hotel reception desks, tourist information offices, post offices, newsstands and some shops.

During longer stays in Estonia, it might be useful to buy a local mobile card; there are a variety of options offered by different companies.

Internet

The latest surveys indicate that nearly 40 per cent of the Estonian population regard themselves as Internet users. Internet is used mainly at work, followed by at school and then at home. Internet is used daily for information gathering and e-mailing. 25% of Estonians conduct their everyday banking via Internet. Internet banking has become a way to perform transfers, pay for services, pay taxes, communicate with the Tax Board etc.

All Estonian education institutions are connected to the Internet. There are about 200 Public Internet Access Points throughout Estonia; many of them are located in public libraries. There are many privately run Internet

Postal Services

Although e-mail reaches the recipient much more quickly, it is occasionally refreshing to send a hand-written letter or a postcard depicting beautiful places in Estonia to family and friends.

Post offices are generally open during normal shopping hours from 09.00 to 18.00 hours on weekdays, and 09.30 - 15.00 on Saturdays. Postage on letters and postcards within Estonia is EEK 4.40. Letters and postcards within the Nordic countries: EEK 5.50, EU



In Case of Emergency

Emergency numbers are the same and free of charge from all phones, including mobiles,

Police	110
Fire Department	112
Ambulance services	112

Interesting Links

<http://www.vm.ee/estonia/>
<http://www.estonica.org/>
<http://www.einst.ee>
<http://visitestonia.com>
<http://www.esto.info>
<http://www.culturepoint.ee>
<http://www.riik.ee/en/>

<http://www.southeastonia.info/>
<http://kultuuriaken.tartu.ee/>
<http://www.maaturism.ee>
<http://www.viroinfo.com>
<http://www.estoniainfo.com>
<http://www.rajaleidja.ee/>

Public Universities

Estonian Academy of Arts (Eesti Kunstiakadeemia)

Study fields: Fine Arts, Applied Arts, Design, Architecture, Digital Media, Photography, Art History and Conservation

Web page: <http://www.artun.ee>

Estonian Academy of Music (Eesti Muusikaakadeemia)

Study fields: Piano, String, Brass and Woodwind, Vocal, Chamber Music, Conducting, Composition, Musicology, Music Education, Vocal and Instrumental Teacher Training, Dramatic Arts

Web page: <http://www.ema.edu.ee>

Estonian Agricultural University (Eesti Põllumajandusülikool)

Study fields: Agronomy, Agricultural Engineering, Economics and Social Sciences, Forestry, Rural Engineering, Veterinary Science, Animal Science, Environmental Protection, Zoology and Botany, Experimental Biology

Web page: <http://www.eau.ee>

Tallinn Pedagogical University (Tallinna Pedagoogikaülikool)

Study fields: Philology, Physical Education, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Educational Sciences, Fine Arts, Social Sciences

Web page: <http://www.tpu.ee>

Tallinn Technical University (Tallinna Tehnikaülikool)

Study fields: Civil Engineering, Power Engineering, Humanities, Information Technology, Chemistry, Economics and

Business Administration, Mathematics and Physics, Mechanical Engineering

Web page: <http://www.ttu.ee>

University of Tartu (Tartu Ülikool)

Study fields: Theology, Law, Medicine, Philosophy, Biology and Geography, Economics and Business Administration, Education, Exercise and Sport Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Sciences, Physics and Chemistry, Social Sciences

Web page: <http://www.ut.ee>

Private Universities

Audentes Business School (Audentese Kõrgem Ärikool)

Study fields: International Business Administration, Financial Management, Personnel Management

Web page: <http://www.audentes.ee>

Concordia International University Estonia (Concordia Rahvusvaheline Ülikool Eestis)

Study fields: International Business, Law, Media

Web page: <http://www.ciue.edu.ee>

The Estonian Institute of Humanities (Eesti Humanitaarinstituut)

Study fields: English Studies, Estonian Cultural Studies, Romance Languages Studies, Germanic Studies, Theatre

Web page: <http://www.ehi.ee>

Estonian Business School (Eesti Kõrgem Kommertsikool)

Study fields: Business Administration

Web page: <http://www.ebs.ee>

Private University Nord (Eraakadeemia Nord)

Public Professional Higher Education Institutions

Estonian Maritime Academy (Eesti Mereakadeemia)
Study fields: Shipping, Engineering, Sea Resources Management, Institute of Hydro-Meteorology and Environmental Techniques
Web page: <http://www.hot.ee/maracad>

Public Service Academy (Sisekaitseakadeemia)
Study fields: Public Administration, Police Speciality, Rescue Services, Correctional Services
Web page: <http://www.sisekaitse.ee>

Estonian Joint Military Educational Institutions (Kaitseväe Ühendatud Õppeasutused)
Study fields: Military Leadership
Web page: <http://www.ksk.edu.ee>

Tallinn College of Engineering (Tallinna Tehnikakõrgkool)
Study fields: Architecture, Construction, Transport, Mechanical Engineering
Web page: <http://www.tktk.ee>

Tartu Art College (Tartu Kõrgem Kunstikool)
Study fields: Furniture Design, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Textiles, Leatherwork, Computer Graphics
Web page: <http://www.art.tartu.ee>

Tartu Aviation College (Tartu Lennukolledz)
Study fields: Air Traffic Management, Aircraft Piloting, Airport Management and Maintenance
Web page: <http://cockpit.tac.ee>

Viljandi Cultural College (Viljandi Kultuurikolledz)
Study fields: Supervisor of Creative Activities and Hobby Groups, Supervisor of Children and Youth Activities in Non-Estonian schools, Church Musician - Music Teacher, Folk Music; Pop and Jazz Music, Actor Training, Theatre Technicians and Administrators, Dance studies, Library and Information Science, Information Science and Administration of

Documents, National Handicraft
Web page: <http://kultuur.edu.ee>

Private Professional Higher Education Institutions

Estonian Information Technology College (Eesti Infotehnoloogia Kolledz)
Study fields: Information Systems Development, Information Systems Administration
Web page: <http://www.itcollege.ee>

Estonian-American Business College (Eesti-Ameerika Ärikolledz)
Study fields: Business Administration, International Economic Relations
Web page: <http://www.eabc.edu.ee>

Theological Seminary (EEKBL Kõrgem Usuteaduslik Seminar)
Study fields: Theology
Web page: <http://www.kus.tartu.ee>

Theological Institute of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELK Usuteaduse Instituut)
Study fields: Theology
Web page: http://www.eelk.ee/ui_tutvustus.html

Baltic Mission Centre Theological Seminary (Eesti Metodisti Kiriku Teoloogiline Seminar)
Study fields: Theology
Web page: <http://www.emkts.edu.ee>

Mainor School of Economics (Mainori Majanduskool)
Study fields: Business Administration, Marketing Management, Financial Management
Web page: <http://www.mmk.ee>

Institute of Economics and Management (Sillamäe Majanduse ja Juhtimise Instituut)
Study fields: Business Economics, Business Management
Web page: <http://www.smjinstituut.ee>

Tartu Academy of Theology (Tartu Teoloogia

Tallinn Technical School of Light Industry
(Tallinna Kergetööstustehnikum)
Study fields: Clothes Design, Management of
Clothes Design, Assistant Manager Studies
Web page: <http://www.tkt.ee>

Tallinn School of Economics (Tallinna
Majanduskool)
Study fields: Law, Economics, Commercial
Training, Extramural Department
Web page: <http://www.tmk.edu.ee>

Tallinn Medical School (Tallinna Meditsiinikool)
Study fields: Nursing, Midwifery, Pharmacist
Studies, Optometrist Studies
Web page: <http://www.medkool.ee>

Tallinn Pedagogical Seminary (Tallinna
Pedagoogiline Seminar)
Study fields: Social Work, Youth Leader
Studies, Kindergarten Teacher Studies, Music
Web page: <http://www.tps.edu.ee>

Tartu Medical School (Tartu Meditsiinikool)
Study fields: Nursing, Midwifery, Laboratory
Diagnostics, Radiography
Web page: <http://www.med.edu.ee>

Tallinn Transport School (Tallinna
Transpordikool)
Study fields: Transportation
Web page: <http://www.vedur.edu.ee>

Viljandi Joint Vocational Secondary School
(Viljandi Ühendatud Kutsekeskkool)
Study fields: Information Technology,
Construction Services
Web page: <http://www.vykk.vil.ee>

Võru County Vocational Education Training
Centre (Võrumaa Kutsehariduskeskus)
Study fields: Wood Processing, Business,
Tourism, Material Technology
Web page: <http://www.vkhk.ee>

Some useful links and addresses related to studies

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Munga 18, 50088 Tartu

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Fax: +372 7 350 250
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Web page: <http://www.socrates.ee>

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(Academic Recognition Information Centre)
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E-mail: gunnar@archimedes.ee

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Fax: +372 631 14 04
E-mail: heqac@archimedes.ee
Web page: <http://www.ekak.archimedes.ee>

Foundation Vocational Education and
Training Reform In Estonia
Liivalaia 2, 10118 Tallinn
Fax: +372 6 314 421
E-mail: sekr@sekr.ee
Web page: <http://www.sekr.ee>

Federation of Estonian Student Unions
In Tallinn: Gonsiori 9
Tel: +372 6 601 688
Fax: +372 6 267 169
In Tartu: Ülikooli 18A
Tel: +372 7 375 400
Fax: +372 7 442 035
E-mail: eyl@eyl.ee
Web page: <http://www.eyl.ee>

Erasmus Student Network Tartu
Ülikooli 18, 50090 Tartu
E-mail: info@esn.ee
Web page: <http://www.esn.ee>

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