Dear reader,

The Faculty of Social Sciences is the largest faculty of four in the University of Tartu by number of students (44% of the university’s total). We have 6 institutes and two regional colleges with 6000 students and more than 500 employees. These numbers include 300 international students and about 35 international staff members. We have one English language bachelor programme and 9 master programmes covering different disciplines in social sciences.

Our aim is to conduct high level research in the fields of law, economics, business, educational science and educational management, psychology, sociology, politics, and media and communication studies. Three of our professors rank among the top 1% of most cited academics in the world in their field.

We promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and teaching through joint master programmes and research centres. Many of our researchers are public opinion leaders who publish regularly in traditional and social media and belong to different committees and advisory boards which advise our politicians, ministries and other Estonian public sector institutions.

The next few pages will give you a brief overview of our institutions and activities.

See you in Tartu in our good old Alma Mater!

Prof Raul Eamets,  
Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences
Facts & Figures

INSTITUTES & COLLEGES

Institute of Education
Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies
School of Economics and Business Administration
Institute of Psychology
School of Law
Institute of Social Studies
Narva College
Pärnu College

STUDY PROGRAMMES

23 BACHELOR’S PROGRAMMES
1 PROGRAMME TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

29 MASTER’S PROGRAMMES
10 PROGRAMMES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTRES

Centre for Applied Social Sciences (CASS)
Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Centre for EU-Russia Studies (CEURUS)
Centre for the Information Society (UTCIS)
Centre for IT impact studies (CITIS)
Pedagogicum

STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

5725 STUDENTS (TOTAL 12,970)
286 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
246 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS
535 EMPLOYEES
35 INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC STAFF
336 ACADEMIC STAFF
The quality of education given at the Institute of Education is reflected by the achievements of Estonian students in the PISA tests.
The Institute of Education provides research-based, pre-service training for teachers, special education teachers, speech therapists, and social pedagogues in a total of 15 Bachelor’s and Master’s programmes. There is an extensive list of different in-service training programmes for teachers.

The institute’s main fields of research consist of professional development of teachers, educational technology and digital literacy, special education, and educational management. Important recent publications deal with phases of inquiry-based learning, students’ metacognition, and interconnection between teaching practices and students’ achievements.

The institute’s staff participates in international co-operation, including several professional organizations such as EARLI, IEEE, etc. Other major international co-operation and development projects focus on web-based learning environments and learning analytics in e-assessment (Go-Lab, Next-Lab, Ark of Inquiry, WatchMe, BE-SmaRT, Lo-iMoCo).

The institute’s Centre of Educational Innovation promotes a new concept of learning in Estonian schools. The institute’s centre has experimental classrooms with modern recording technology as well as a variety of digital devices which can be used for testing these new ways of learning and teaching.
The Johan Skytte Institute is one of the most international units in the University of Tartu: our academic staff comes from 11 different countries. In 2017, 53% of our 360 students were from abroad.
Conducted research encompasses the main subfields of political science (comparative politics, international relations, political theory) and regional studies focusing on Europe and Eurasia. Emerging fields of study also include Asian politics, information and communication technologies and social policy analysis.

The institute is a member of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) and is involved in international consortia such as the H2020-funded UPTAKE consortium, and the Varieties of Democracy project. Since 2016, the institute serves as a host organization for fellowships supported by the Eurasia Programme of the Open Society Foundations. Study-related international projects and activities include Erasmus Mundus degree programmes, the Jean Monnet Network DESCNet, seasonal schools, and curricula-related teaching modules.
SEBA offers internationally acknowledged education in English on both the Bachelor’s (Business Administration) and Master’s levels (Quantitative Economics; Innovation and Technology Management), with a strong focus on entrepreneurship and research.
SEBA aims to provide a research environment that is linked to international centres of excellence and to produce high-level academic and policy-related economic analyses. The main areas of research are innovation studies, labour market and migration, internationalisation, organisational behaviour, entrepreneurship and knowledge economy, and financial management.

The researchers at SEBA participate in different EU, FP7, INTERREG and Estonian research projects, cooperate with several universities on the international level, and have launched interdisciplinary research groups. In Estonia, SEBA cooperates closely with economists from the Bank of Estonia and Tallinn University of Technology. The neuromarketing researchers collaborate closely with companies which use the insight in strategic marketing decisions.

The school’s researchers are opinion leaders who are involved in the country’s policy-making through participation in several decision making bodies, including: the Fiscal Council of Estonia, the Supervisory Board of the Bank of Estonia, the Innovation Policy Committee and the Research Policy Committee.
Over the last few years, the scientists of the Institute of Psychology have published between 50–60 articles a year in international journals including Nature, Science, PNAS, etc.
Following the traditions of the father of scientific psychiatry, current researchers at the institute are studying various areas of modern psychology: experimental psychology, neuroscience, psychopharmacology, personality and social psychology, clinical psychology, and cross-cultural psychology. According to the Essential Science Indicators, three professors – Jüri Allik, Risto Näätänen, and Anu Realo – are among the top 1% of the most cited scientists in their fields.

Besides fundamental research, members of the institute also contribute to applied research. For example, the Mercedes Benz Driving Academy in Canada and the USA is going to shape its students’ attitudes toward traffic safety with an intervention method developed in the Institute of Psychology.

The works of both the students and researchers of the Institute of Psychology are often recognized by national and international prizes (i.e. the National Science Prize). Members of the institute are active members of professional associations. They are public opinion leaders publishing regularly in the national media.
The School of Law is the only institution in Estonia which awards doctorates in law.
As Estonia’s leading centre for law studies, the School of Law’s (SoL) mission is to develop a legal framework for democratic governance based on the rule of law, and integrate Estonia into the international legal community.

SoL offers academic education in all occupations related to law. Additionally, they welcome international students in two Master’s programmes: a one-year program in IT Law and a two-year program in International Law and Human Rights. The one-year programme equips highly qualified specialists with interdisciplinary and comprehensive skills, while shaping them in becoming conceptual practitioners of the innovative generation. The two-year programme in International Law and Human Rights provides graduates with comprehensive knowledge of the international principles and regulations, subjects, and practice in the field.

SoL is committed to maintaining the high quality of domestic and international research and development in Estonia. The School has contributed extensively to the development of legal order and the integration of Estonia into international and regional structures. SoL’s researchers partake in preparing strategies and drafting laws, and in writing scientific commentaries. The main fields of research are the transition of legal systems, harmonization of European law, legal challenges regarding new technologies and practices, Russian approaches to law, cognitive processes, and legal behaviour.
Over the past several years, the QS University Rankings by Subject has positioned our media and communication research among the best in the world. This achievement is an extraordinary result for Estonia.
The Institute of Social Studies provides high-level education in journalism, communication, media, social work and policy, sociology, and information sciences, and is an esteemed centre of competence in these fields.

The curricula include many opportunities for students at all levels of study. A vibrant, community atmosphere is provided for more than 700 students seeking to enrich themselves and participate in the traditions of the institute.

The institute takes pride in interactive teaching methods, co-creation of knowledge with students, and in constantly updated study programmes. The development of a new venture – a faculty-wide Master’s programme on societal change management – is lead by the Institute of Social Studies.

The focus is on both basic and applied research, exploring the digital society, its saturation with information and technology, as well as its implications for everyday life, families, generations, and policies. Through involvement in numerous international and national research projects and networks, such as the European Social Survey, European Sociological Association, and International Association of Media and Communications, the institute also aims to tackle complex societal problems such as ageing, migration, inequality, and acceleration of (social) time.
The University of Tartu Narva College, a centre for the development of multilingual education, is noted in its field not only in Estonia but also throughout Europe. The college believes in multilingualism and passes these values and skills on to its students. In addition to working in multilingual schools and nursery schools, the college’s alumni hold positions as youth workers, officials in local governments, state authorities and project managers in private businesses and the third sector. The college is becoming a driving force for the development of IT and modern entrepreneurship in the area. Having long-term experience in teaching Russian to European and North American students, the college is also a centre for teaching the Russian language and culture. The college is part of an international higher education landscape with partners in Europe, as well as in the East, i.e. in Russia, Ukraine, and more.

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Pärnu College

The University of Tartu Pärnu College has been the Estonian flagship of service management education for several decades. The college promotes Estonian service management in the fields of tourism, social sciences and sports, and maintains and develops academic traditions in Western Estonia. The college’s international master curricula have brought numerous exchange students and visiting scholars from around the world to Pärnu. We cooperate with universities in Nordic countries, Great Britain and Italy, and a multitude of foreign tourism companies to extend our international reach.

Pärnu College is a member of several international cooperation networks (e.g. EuroChrie, EUHOFA, SDN, ECSB, IPMA) and partakes in various study, science, and development projects (e.g. CUBITUS, LIFE+).

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Interdisciplinary Centres

CENTRE FOR APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES (CASS)

CASS carries out high-quality applied research projects in social sciences. Between 2010 and 2016, over 100 research and consultancy projects were completed by CASS, commissioned by a wide range of national and international authorities, including ministries, local governments, and EU institutions.

skytte.ut.ee/en/centre-applied-social-sciences-cass
E-mail: rake@ut.ee

CENTRE FOR EU-RUSSIA STUDIES (CEURUS)

CEURUS brings together scholars, students and experts who share an interest in the relationship between the European Union and the Russian Federation, and its effects on the broader region. The centre coordinates and sponsors a variety of activities related to research, teaching and public outreach in the area of EU-Russia relations.

ceurus.ut.ee
E-mail: ceurus@ut.ee

CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

The Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation promotes enterprising attitudes and innovation awareness and coordinates teaching entrepreneurship at the university. The centre coordinates the pre-incubation programme STARTER that is for students all over Estonia. The pre-incubation services are offered to students by the Idea Lab of UT.

eik.ut.ee
E-mail: info@eik.ut.ee

CENTRE FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Centre for the Information Society brings together researchers of UT from four fields. These researchers study ways of using digital technologies to improve people’s quality of life and the well-being of the society, and investigate the positive and negative side effects of becoming saturated with information and technology.

utcis.ut.ee
E-mail: andra.siibak@ut.ee
CENTRE FOR IT IMPACT STUDIES (CITIS)

CITIS is an interdisciplinary research group comprised of data scientists, economists and political scientists working on auto-generated big data from public e-services to estimate the economic and social impact of e-government and develop new science-based e-services through the cross-usage of data.

citis.ut.ee
E-mail: mihkel.solvak@ut.ee

PEDAGOGICUM

The Institute of Education coordinates the work of Pedagogicum – a consortium established by all faculties of the university for the coordination and joint development of curricula, standards, and teacher training practice, as well as related development projects.

pedagogicum.ut.ee
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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 BY THE KING OF SWEDEN

4 FACULTIES IN 5 OF THE BIGGEST CITIES IN ESTONIA

13 000 STUDENTS

1300 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM 90 COUNTRIES

23 INTERNATIONAL BACHELOR’S AND MASTER’S PROGRAMMES

74 PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN 29 COUNTRIES

NOBEL PRIZE IN 1909 (WILHELM OSTWALD, CHEMISTRY)

100 PhD THESSES PER YEAR

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