Dear degree-seeking PhD students,
This information sheet summarizes the most relevant aspects needed for getting started at the University of Tartu. The same information, though in different sectors, is also provided at the university’s website on www.ut.ee/en/welcome. Please let us know if any questions arise from the content below.

### Contacts for admissions and documents’ submission

| Admissions Office | Ms Kaija Murasov  
|-------------------|----------------------
| Address: Ülikooli 18, 134 50090, Tartu, Estonia | Tel: (+372) 737 5152  
| | E-mail: kaija.murasov@ut.ee |

### Contacts for study related matters and visas/residence permits

| Study Abroad Centre | Ms Ülle Tensing  
|---------------------|----------------------
| Address: Ülikooli 18, 132 50090, Tartu, Estonia | Tel: (+372) 737 5150  
| | E-mail: ulle.tensing@ut.ee |

| Visas/residence permits | studentvisasupport@ut.ee |

| Accommodation at UT dormitories | Narva str 25  
|---------------------------------|----------------------
|                                 | 51013 Tartu  
|                                 | Tel: (+372) 740 9959  
|                                 | E-mail: info@campus.ee  
|                                 | www.campus.ee |
Academic year 2017/2018

Autumn semester: from 04.09.2017 to 04.02.2018
Spring semester: from 12.02.2018 to 01.07.2018

Housing in Tartu

Please keep in mind the rules regarding application for accommodation at the UT dormitories and carefully read the information provided on the above-indicated website. The deadlines set for payment of deposit (150 euros) are strict and cannot be extended. Dormitories mainly consist of twin rooms with a shared bathroom and kitchen (usually 2-3 rooms share a bathroom and a kitchen, in some dormitories the bathroom and kitchen are shared with the entire floor). The rooms include essential furniture. Students should bring (or rather buy in Tartu) their own linen, blanket, pillows and cookware. Before buying new cookware, find out if previous tenants have left behind any cookware that you could use. More information about the dormitories can be found here: [www.campus.ee](http://www.campus.ee)

After arriving in Tartu, you can go directly to the dormitory. Dormitories are open 24/7 and there is no need to find a hotel if you arrive late at night. If the life in dormitories does not seem to be your style, you can rent an apartment. The prices range from approximately 200 EUR in the farther parts of the town to 450 EUR or more in the centre (1-2 rooms). The rents are the highest in August and September. For alternative housing options, please see [http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/housing](http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/housing)

Orientation course

Before the beginning of the spring semester, 8 - 9 February 2018, the Study Abroad Centre offers an orientation course for newly admitted international students. The course includes:

- meeting the representatives of the university;
- introduction to the university's study system;
- tour of the university, the library and the town;
- meeting the tutors.

For more information about the orientation course, check [https://sisu.ut.ee/gettingstarted/getting-started](https://sisu.ut.ee/gettingstarted/getting-started)

The detailed schedule of the orientation course will be available on the same website about 2 weeks before the course. Attending the course is not mandatory, especially if one has been in Tartu for quite some time before the course.

NB! Applying for a place in the UT's dormitory is student's responsibility. Application period is not fixed, thus the system is currently open for application submission. Please see detailed information here: [http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/housing](http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/housing)
Courses
You can register to courses in the online Study Information System during the first two weeks of the semester. The students enrolled in the middle of a semester need to consult their dean’s office for course registration. You will receive your username and password for the UT Study Information System by email. Information on how to register for courses will be given during the orientation course. Guidelines are also available on www.ut.ee/en/studies/study-regulations/examinations-and-passfail-evaluations.

Right of Residence for EU citizens
EU citizens have the right to stay in Estonia based on a valid travel document or identity card for the period of up to three months. As you are staying longer, you must register yourself as citizen of Tartu within three months from the date of entering Estonia in order to obtain the right of temporary residence. The registration process and the documents required for registration are listed here: www.ut.ee/en/welcome/eu-citizens-right-residence

After the registration, the right of permanent residence is granted for a period of five years. All EU citizens also need to have an Estonian ID code, which will be given upon registering residency in Estonia.

Residence permits for non-EU students
All the students without EU/EEA or Swiss citizenship need a temporary residence permit for study (TRP) for their studies in Estonia. There are a limited number of Estonian embassies handling visa or residence permit applications across the world. All the students applying for the visa/residence permit need to consider that they must visit an Estonian embassy either in their home country or abroad. Those who need to go abroad, please consider that travelling requires additional time and financial resources. The countries with Estonian embassy handing visa/residence permit applications are China, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Australia, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, USA, Georgia, Israel, Canada, India, Japan and some EU countries – Ireland, Finland, Great Britain, France, Latvia and Sweden.

Information regarding the application process and the documents to be submitted for TRP or long-term visa (D-type visa) is explained on http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/non-eu-citizens-residence-permits-and-visas. Please make sure you read the information targeted to degree-seeking students. Pay attention to the fact that TRP application processing takes months. Once you read the guidelines given on the website, please think of the following aspects:

- Where, in which country, can I apply for TRP or long term (D-type visa)? Please consider time and costs needed for travelling and staying in another country!
- Can I submit all documents needed for TRP/visa application, do I have them all? Please pay attention that one of the required documents needed for TRP application is the university's invitation. This is a document provided by the university directly to the Police and Border Guard Board in Estonia, so the students do not need to worry about that document. Additionally, the PhD students have the medical insurance covered by the state, still please have some kind of health insurance for the first months of your stay in Estonia.
Considering the time I have until the beginning of studies, can I apply only for TRP or I should also apply for D-visa at the same time?

As you receive, in most cases, an admission letter in July, we suggest applying for D-visa and TRP at the same time. Please remember that the application process can start once you have received the scanned admission letter from UT. There is no need to submit an original admission’s letter for TRP/D-visa application.

Do I have sufficient funds to support my studies in Estonia?

All PhD students are granted PhD study allowance, 422 EUR per month. The admission’s notification includes reference to PhD study allowance, thus there is no need to provide additional proof (document) of having regular legal income. Still, please consider that the given amount, 422 EUR, may not be sufficient to cover all living expenses, and the grant will be paid once TRP is granted (non-EU students) of the right of residence is registered (EU students). Please pay attention to the fact that TRP application process takes months. Thus having sufficient funds before one gets TRP is needed.

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When preparing TRP application documents, please check the guidelines given here: www.politsei.ee/en/teenused/residence-permit/tahtajaline-elamisluba/applications.dot

Do not forget to sign the application documents properly! All questions linked to this topic, please send directly to studentvisasupport@ut.ee

Health insurance

All PhD students, who have a valid TRP or right of residence (depending on their country of origin) and for whom the university has assigned PhD study allowance in its Study Information System, receive health insurance (haigekassa) from the Estonian Health Insurance Fund (EHIF).

Since TRP application process takes time (up to three months), please obtain an insurance policy (required upon applying both for a visa and residence permit) which is valid for your travelling period and for the first months of your studies. To check whether the national health insurance (haigekassa) has been activated, please visit the state portal Eesti.ee

PhD study allowance

In order to be eligible for PhD study allowance/stipend (422 euros per month, as of January 2018 - 660 euros per month), the students must have either valid TRP or right of residence (depending on their country of origin). That is one of the reasons, why we have emphasized the need to apply for the residence permit abroad, not after arriving to Estonia! The university can assign PhD study allowance only after the student has TRP or right of residence. Payment of PhD study allowance takes place once the student is equipped with the required rights to stay in Estonia, and most probably not from the first, or even second month of studies. The PhD study allowance will not be paid for the months the student did not have a residence permit/right of residence – no retrospective stipend payments will be made.

Paper work to be taken care of at the beginning of PhD studies

General information on academic matters related to PhD studies is described here http://www.ut.ee/en/studies/doctoral-studies/for-current-phd-students

Please see that one of the first academic duties is to compile a PhD Student Individual Study Plan and a Study Agreement. We recommend that PhD students contact their supervisors and consult the content and objectives of the plan and agreement.
After arriving to Tartu
Upon arrival to the university, all international students must bring the original documents of their previous education levels to the Admissions office (the same set of documents you submitted with your application). This is not required in the case, the same set of documents was sent directly by the higher education institution you graduated from. Documents must reach the Student Admissions within the first 2 weeks from the beginning of one's studies at UT.

Useful links
Welcome web for international students – www.ut.ee/en/welcome
Study Information – www.ut.ee/en/prospective-students/study-related-information
About the city of Tartu – www.tartu.ee
Learning some Estonian before coming to Estonia may make your arrival and first days in Estonia more enjoyable. One way to learn the basics of the Estonian language is to take the free online course on www.keeleklikk.ee/index.php.

Small checklist with some important dates and deadlines

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Confirming or cancelling my study offer</td>
<td>within 7 days from receiving UT’s admission notification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applying for TRP and/or visa</td>
<td>approximately 10 days after receiving UT’s scanned admission letter. Admission letters (or conditional admission letters if not yet graduated) will be sent by UT within one or two weeks after confirming the study offer</td>
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Looking forward to seeing you in Tartu!

Yours sincerely,
Study Abroad Centre
Office of Academic Affairs
University of Tartu