

Partner country of the month

August: Estonia

Lush forests, countless lakes, the “freedom to roam” – we’ve heard of that, but what does it have to do with **Estonia**? Our **partner country of the month August** has some surprises in store! Beautiful landscapes, an exciting history, lively university cities and a unique geographical location make Estonia the perfect destination for your semester abroad. Here we introduce you to the versatile country and the two cities Tallinn and Tartu with our partner universities.

Facts and figures

Capital: Tallinn

Population: 1.3 million (as of 2019)

Establishment: 24 February 1918: Declaration of Independence from the Russian Empire (regained in 1991)

Official language: Estonian

Currency: Euro (€)

Time zone: UTC+2 OEZ (March-October UTC+3OESZ)

National Day: 24 February (Independence Day)

Brief language excursion

German	Estonian
Hello	Tere
Bye	Tšau
Thank you	Aitäh
You're welcome	Palun
Yes	Jah
No	Egg

Estonia

Estonia is geographically unique and is therefore also historically and culturally influenced by many different factors. Strictly speaking, Estonia is a Baltic country that connects Scandinavia, Central and Eastern Europe. This special location makes Estonia the perfect starting point to explore other parts of Europe – as they say: "All roads (in Europe) lead to Estonia." Estonia also owes its different influences to this location, which can be seen for example in the architecture or in the language. Estonians speak at least two other languages besides Estonian, such as Russian, English, Finnish or even German. By the way, Estonian is a Finno-Ugric language and has especially many vowels, fourteen grammatical cases and a gender-neutral pronoun for all!

Estonia is a large country with only 1.3 million inhabitants, which makes it one of the most sparsely populated countries in Europe. The mainland of Estonia consists of a lot of water and marshland. There are over 20,000 islands, many of which are uninhabited and can be explored during outdoor activities. Half of Estonia is covered with forest, where lynxes, brown bears and wolves make their home. The climate in Estonia is rather temperate, with cold winters and bright summers. Most Estonians live in the cities of the country, but in summer they are attracted to nature and summer cottages. In Estonia, similar to Scandinavia, people have the "freedom to roam", which allows you to be in nature and spend the night there, as long as you are respectful towards nature.

Estonia has been independent since 1918 and was very progressive even then: With independence and thus the actual "establishment" of Estonia as it is today, the right to vote was introduced for women and men at the same time. After achieving independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Estonia joined the EU since 2004. It is considered a traditional, nature-loving and at the same time very modern country. Especially the public sector is very digital compared to other European countries, there is WLAN almost everywhere and life in the cities is becoming more and more sustainable.

Tallinn

Tallinn is the capital of Estonia and the largest city in the country with 430,000 inhabitants. Located in the north of Estonia on the sea, it is the central point of connection with other European countries, also by water.

Estonia's contrasts can all be found at a glance in Tallinn. The country's culturally diverse history is reflected in Tallinn's Old Town, where the Russian-influenced Alexander Nevsky Cathedral stands alongside classic medieval architecture. The Old Town is very well preserved, with lots of cobblestone streets and beautiful buildings. The city is even a UNESCO cultural heritage site.

Besides, Tallinn is also a modern city and known for colorful street art and chic neighborhoods with trendy pubs and restaurants. Many start-ups are attracted to the capital, and thanks to the good internet connection, one's office work can be carried out in a café. When it comes to sustainability, Tallinn is also ahead of the game: in the city, all residents ride the bus and train for free!

If city life ever gets too much for you, you can easily and quickly explore the coast and the surrounding islands. Helsinki is also only two and a half hours away by express ferry.

Tallinna Ülikool

Tallinna Ülikool is one of the universities in the Estonian capital. About 7,000 students study here with an international share of 10%. Tallinna Ülikool is still very young in its current form: it was only established in 2005 from a merger of various universities and faculties. Today there are seven academic units, i.e. faculty-like units. As a result, it is a modern university that is academically oriented towards contemporary developments. Due to the high number of international students, many courses are offered in English.

The campus is located in the middle of Tallinn with proximity to the water in Tallinn Bay. The Latin names of the buildings always say something about them. For example, the modern film and media faculty is called "Nova", meaning "new". With the [virtual campus tour](#), you can take a look around the campus before your exchange.

Tallinna Ülikool is proud to be considered the most student-friendly university in Estonia. There is a wide range of sports and recreational activities for students, where you can try Estonian folk dance, for example, or visit the gym right on campus.

For more information about our cooperation and testimonials from former exchange students with Tallinna Ülikool, click [here](#).

Tartu

With 98,000 inhabitants, Tartu is the second largest city in Estonia and a real university city with its many students. In the south of Estonia, Tartu is located on the Emajõgi River, whose banks are a popular meeting place, especially in summer.

Tartu is the oldest Baltic city and is a small town with a beautiful old town. Here you can admire sights such as the city hall, an old ruined cathedral and the historic university building. In Tartu everything is within easy reach and there are many cafes, restaurants and a colourful nightlife. Besides this historical side, Tartu is also a modern and progressive city that puts a lot of emphasis on sustainability. With eco-buses and bike sharing, you can get from point A to point B quickly, and car traffic will be reduced over the next few years.

Tartu also has a lot to offer culturally: You will find many exciting museums here, for example the Estonian National Museum, and there is a creative atmosphere. In 2024, Tartu will also be one of the European Capitals of Culture.

Tartu Ülikool

As one of the oldest universities in Northern and Eastern Europe, Tartu Ülikool, founded in 1632, is a traditional and renowned university. In international comparison, it is one of the best universities in the world. Approximately 13,000 students study at the four faculties, of which about 1,600 are international.

As Estonia's national university, Tartu Ülikool promotes academic education and culture in Estonian. You can discover exactly what that sounds like in advance in [this independent study course](#). However, there are also plenty of English-taught programmes and courses at the university, so you don't necessarily need to know Estonian.

The old, beautiful main building and most other university buildings are located in the middle of Tartu's city centre. University life thus shapes the atmosphere of the city and makes Tartu a real

student city. By the way, the university recently got its own mascot, Tiksu, which was designed through a competition. Soon you can get Tiksu as a souvenir, so keep your eyes peeled.

You can find all important information about your exchange in Tartu on the [information page for internationals](#).

More information about our cooperation and testimonials of former exchange students with Tartu Ülikool can be found [here](#).

By the way, Estonia is one of the most popular Erasmus countries chosen by ESN, making it the perfect place for your exchange. The cost of living is comparable to Western European standards and is in Erasmus country group 3 with a €330 grant. Through Erasmus+, all tuition fees at the foreign university are waived.

You can find more information about funding [here](#).

The [application deadline](#) for stays abroad in the following academic year is **1 December** for students enrolled in the bachelor's and master's programmes.