



UNIVERSITY OF TARTU
International Student
Ambassadors

How to Survive in Tartu?

By Temma Suzuki



Temma Suzuki

- From Japan
- Science and Technology, 2nd year Bsc
- International Student Ambassadors (ISA)



Culture shocks

- Cashiers usually don't smile but it doesn't mean they are angry at you. Don't be scared!
- Estonians say "noh" for "hmmm/well", "oi" and "oppa" for "no way/okay..."
-

Where is Tartu?

- With a population of over 98,000, Tartu is the **second largest city in Estonia**
- One in five residents is either studies or works for the University of Tartu (UT)
- Also known as the **Capital of Southern Estonia**, the **Intellectual Capital of Estonia** and the **City of Youth**
- A cozy and compact town with a safe living and study environment and active cultural life

visittartu.com



University of Tartu (*Tartu Ülikool*)

- UT ranks amongst the **350 world's best universities**
- The **largest** University in Estonia
- Est. **1632** by Swedish King Gustav II Adolf
- **15 100** students
- **10%** international students from 100+ countries
- **Highest ranked** university and leading research centre in Estonia
- **4 Faculties:** Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Science and Technology, Medicine
- **29 International degree programmes**
- **International** environment
- **160 locations in 40 buildings across 5 cities**





Virtual Tour

<https://virtualtour.ut.ee/>

Features 360-degree photos & interactive "Street View" format

Arts of Survival

- Learn as much as possible about Estonia, the Estonian people, the Estonian language, and Tartu (Check out our ISA blog post: [8 Words to Better Understand Estonia](#))
- Balance studying with socialising and meeting new people, both local and international!
- There's always an event hosted by the [Erasmus Student Network \(ESN\)](#) or check out the [Tartu City Window of Culture](#) for upcoming events!
- Join the Facebook group [Foreigners in Tartu](#) for English-language resources and an active community
- [Be prepared for winter and purchase your winter clothes here!](#) Winter temperatures can get as low as -20C in February



Health

**Call 112 for Emergencies (Ambulance, Fires, Police)
Call 1247 for the State Helpline & Govt. Information**

- Search for a *Perearst* (GP/Family Doctor) on the [Estonian Government Health Board](#) and register
- **For a doctor's visit:** European Health Insurance Card or private insurance (for example, Ergo, Swiss care, AS Inges Kindlustus, AON)
- **Emergency room in Tartu** - 5 EUR for a visit
- **Counselling** at the [UT Counselling Centre](#)

Check out past ISA blog posts:

- [Estonian Emergency Health Care From the Perspective of a Foreign Student](#)
- [Health Insurance For Students in Estonia](#)
- [Dental Care in Tartu: Handling a Dental Emergency](#)
- [Managing Exam Stress and Mental Health With the UT Counselling Centre](#)



Medication & Pharmacies (*apteek*)

- Pharmacies (aka chemists, drug stores) sell both non-prescription and prescription medicinal products
- You can always ask for advice from the pharmacist to help you choose the best medication
- It is recommended to take **Vitamin D** supplements from September until March, particularly for people arriving from sunny countries
- Not all medications are available in Estonia, but they might be available in other countries. Check the medications available in Estonia and compare the prices of different drug stores via raviminfo.ee (NB: website is only available in Estonian)
- Find the closest pharmacy to you on cybo.com

Top tip: Tartu Raekoja Apotheeka is open 24/7!



Finance* & Phone

- **Banks**
 - LHV
 - SEB
 - Swedbank
 - Coop
- **Digital Intermediary Banks**
 - Wise (formerly Transferwise)
 - Revolut
- **Mobile Operators**
 - Telia (includes Super.ee)
 - Tele2
 - Elisa

*Your faculty's dean's office can provide you with confirmation of studies to open a free bank account



Cost of Living

A student needs ~ 600-800 EUR per month to live comfortably in Tartu, however this depends on your lifestyle and preferred accommodation (such as having a single room in a dorm)

- **Food:** 250-400 EUR
- **Daily lunch specials:** 6-8 EUR
- **Transportation for Tartu residents:** 12,95 EUR (youth) / 18,50 EUR (regular)
- **Mobile phone:** 10+ EUR
- **Sport:** 40-80 EUR
- **Entertainment:** 50+ EUR



Renting

- 350€ (budget) -> 500€+ for a decent 1-bed studio
- Arrive with a dormitory room reserved and start your rental search in-person
- Consider distance from the city centre, typically suburbs on the “ east” side of the Emajõgi (Mother River) are more affordable but may be less desirable
- Filter by EUR/m², a comfortable 1-bed apartment is 40-55m², 65m² for 2-bed
- Approach contracts with caution and be mindful of hidden fees or lease duration
- NB: Some landlords prefer Estonian-speaking tenants

Rental Websites

- <https://www.kv.ee>
- <https://www.city24.ee>
- <https://rendin.ee/>
- <https://re.ee/en/>
- <https://uusmaa.ee/>

Facebook Groups (Direct from Owner) NB: in Estonian

- Üürikorterid OTSE OMANIKULT Tartus/Tartumaal
- Tartu kinnisvara - korterid, majad, müük, üür
- Korterite üürimine Tartus (Otse Omanikult)



Homeware & Miscellaneous

Homewares:

- JYSK
- Koduekstra
- Pepco
- Coop Eeden
- Decora
- Flying Tiger
- IKEA

Facebook:

- [Facebook Marketplace](#)
- [Flea Market Tartu](#)
- [Tartu: Kuulutaja!](#)

Thrifting/Second Hand:

- Humana Vintage
- Uuskasutuskeskus
- Sõbralt Sõbrale
- Aparaaditehas

Electronics:

- Photo Point
- Euronics
- Expert
- KCLICK
- iDeal
- ONOFF



Groceries

Grocery stores: Rimi, Coop, Prisma 24/7, Lidl, Maxima, Selver

Shopping centres: Tasku, Kvartal, Kaubamaja, Lõunakeskus

Markets: Tartu Market Hall, Avaturg, Lõunakeskus Farmers Market

Foodsharing: Aparaaditehas, Barlova, Turuhoone, Meeste Koja

Grocery stores close to the dormitories:

- Selver (Raatuse 20)
- Kivi Coop Konsum (Narva mnt 25A)
- Ujula Coop Konsum (Ujula 2)
- Herne pood (Herne 6, Supilinn)

Food and Grocery Delivery services:

- Wolt
- Bolt Food
- Tellitoit
- e-Selver

Top tip: Sign up for Client Cards for Discounts and Bonus Points



Lunches & Meals

- Download the mobile app **Päevapakkumised** for daily local Tartu lunch specials across the city
- Download the **ResQ Club** App to save food waste and find offers for half-priced restaurant meals around Tartu
- **Cook for yourself or bring your food box with you** to warm it up in the University student rooms and common kitchens
- Check out our **ISA blog posts**:
 - [Food in Estonia: A Taste of Tartu for International Students](#)
 - [Wholesale Markets in Tartu: Food, Friends, and Fun](#)
 - [Quick Estonian Recipes on a Student Budget](#)
 - [Five Easy Estonian Recipes for Busy Weeknights](#)
 - [Too Good to Waste! – Tartu Foodsharing](#)



Sport Facilities & Gyms

- University of Tartu Academy Sport Club (TÜASK)
- Tähtvere Spordipark
- University of Tartu Sports Building
- Tartu Academy Tennis Club
- Lemon Gym
- My Fitness
- Gym!
- FitLife Tartu
- Rowing & Paddling Club Tartu (SAK Tartu)
- Aura Centre & Waterpark
- Ülejõe Outdoor Gym

Check out the ISA Blog: [Sporting in Tartu](#)



Transport

Bus

- Purchase a Bus card (R-Kiosk - 2 EUR, install the **Pilet.ee app**), and personalise your card at the Tartu Welcome Centre
- Download the **Tartu bussiajad** app for bus schedules
- Alternative is tapping on with your bank card (1.5 euro)
- Purchase monthly tickets at the **Tartu Information Centre**:
 - **Youth (under 26)** - 12,95 EUR,
 - **Regular** - 18,5 EUR

Taxi - Download the **Bolt** app

Electric scooters - within the Bolt app, select scooters and follow the instructions to unlock a nearby electric scooter

Tartu Rattaringlus (Tartu City bikes)

- Install the "Tartu Smart Bike" application and follow the instructions
- NB: Helmets are not mandatory but recommended as roads are slippery, and only manual bikes are available during the icy winter

Check out the ISA Blog: [Tartu Transportation Essentials](#)



University of Tartu Museums

- [UT Museum](#) - Learn the academic history of Estonia's oldest university and scientific achievements amongst the ruins of the iconic Tartu cathedral
- [UT Art Museum](#) - The oldest art museum in Estonia, home to a renown collection of antique art including an array of plaster sculptures
- [Tartu Old Observatory](#) - Estonia's first observatory, displaying the history of astronomical research and innovation in the Baltics
- [UT Natural History Museum](#) - The oldest museum in Estonia, with over 220 years of operation featuring a diverse collection of zoological, geological, botanical and mycological specimens
- [UT Botanical Gardens](#) - A lush greenhouse and park oasis of greenery located in the heart of the city

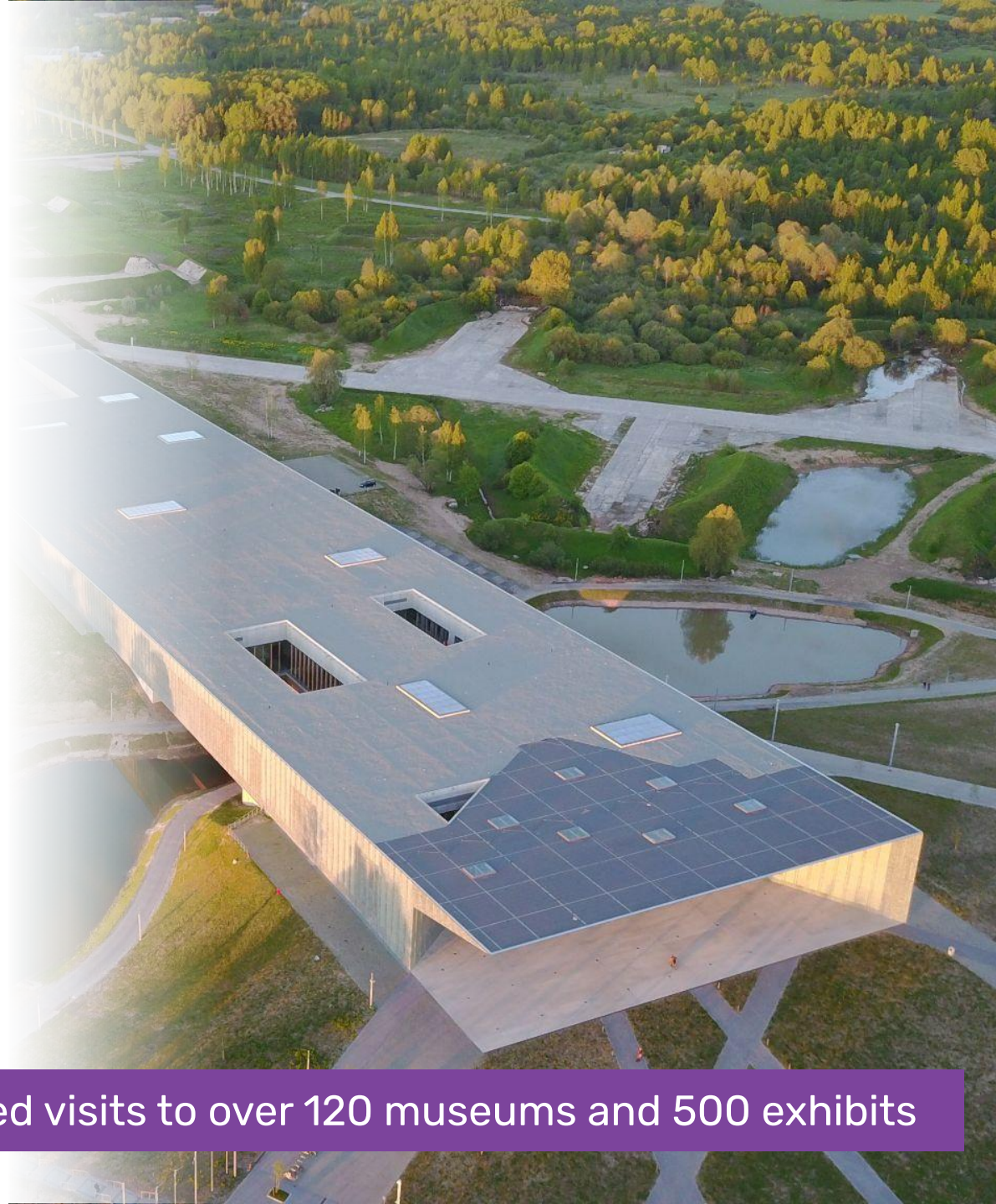
Pro tip: Admission is free for UT students!



Other Activities

- [Estonian National Museum \(ERM\)](#)
- [AHHAA Science Center](#)
- [TYPA - Printing Museum](#)
- [Tartu Art Museum](#)
- [Tartu City Museum](#)
- [Tartu Toy Museum](#)
- [Elektriteater](#)
- [Estonian Literature Museum](#)
- [Aparaaditehas Precinct](#)
- [Barlova & Möku](#) (iconic Tartu bars!)

Pro Tip: Purchase a [Muuseumikaart](#) pass for unlimited visits to over 120 museums and 500 exhibits





Tallinn
and North
Estonia



**Viljandi and West
Estonia** (Pärnu,
Haapsalu)



**The Islands (Hiiumaa,
Saaremaa, Kihnu etc.)**



South Estonia (Elva,
Valga, Setomaa, Lake
Peipsi)

... and travel
as much as you can!

International Student Ambassadors (ISA)

Founded in 2012, the ISA programme at the University of Tartu is a volunteer-led initiative that helps prospective and current students navigate university life in Estonia and are your first point of contact for any practical questions about studying or living in Estonia.

We're here to help you get a real sense of student life at the University and support you as you plan your studies with us!

Email: studentambassadors@ut.ee

Website: <http://ut.ee/isa>

Blog: <https://isablog.ut.ee>

Facebook: [@utambassadors](https://www.facebook.com/utambassadors)

Instagram: [@unitartu](https://www.instagram.com/unitartu)



Ambassador Blog

- Bachelor's and master's programme insights
- Adjusting to life in Estonia
- Studying at UT
- Daily life and exploring Tartu, Estonia
- Career and work in Estonia (Personal stories)
- Useful life hacks for students
- Cultural Insights of international students and culture shock
- Personal experiences in different situations

isablog.ut.ee



LGBTQ + Estonia: An alumni's thoughts on queer-friendliness, community and societal developments – Patrik (Sweden)

• May 24, 2024

Dear Reader, Summer is just around the corner – and so is Pride Season! As we prepare to...



Dental Care in Tartu: Handling a Dental Emergency – Elfi (Azerbaijan)

• April 29, 2024

A portion of healthcare which we often take for granted is dentistry. While proactive prevention is often the...



What the University of Tartu Offers in terms of Science – The Faculty of Science and Technology – Baheli (Sci)



An Eventful Inside look at the Institute of Computer Science at the University of Tartu – Viktoriia (Ukraine)

• May 14, 2024

Whether you are a current student, a student who has received a long-awaited letter of admission, or someone...



You will never believe it's Estonia! 7 things you would never expect to find in Estonia – Polina

• April 23, 2024

A Scottish castle, lavender fields, alpacas, Dutch tulips and even the Eiffel Tower... Did you know that there...



Journey to a Dream Job in Estonia: UT Alumni Experiences – Azhar (Kommunika)

We are International Student Ambassadors of the University of Tartu. Through our experience, you can start planning your studies at the University of Tartu. We hope you enjoy our blog.

Recent Posts



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Join our events



Social Media



ISA Facebook

- Frequent posts with useful tips, work or study opportunities, events, news about UT and Estonia, celebrations
- Updates on new blog posts
- Message us via the Facebook chat if you have questions!

Instagram @unitartu

- [Meet the new ISA team](#)
- [What our students are looking forward to](#)
- [Winter is coming](#)
- [Virtual Open Day](#)
- [Tiksu explores Tartu observatory](#)

facebook.com/utambassadors

instagram.com/unitartu/



Podcast Series: “Tiksu to UniTartu”

Topics include travelling to and within Estonia, accommodation, student organisations, health care, working in Estonia, study abroad opportunities and many more.

Find it on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#)

ut.ee/tiksutounitartu



ISA Events

- **Tartu Guided City Tours**
(8, 9 & 15 February from 12:00 and 13:00)
- **Open Doors Day** (27 February)
- **Tartu Tudengipäevad / Student Days**
(25 April - 3 May)
More events will be scheduled throughout the year including workshops, online panels, guided tours, and more!
- Check out other current Tartu events via the City of Tartu **'Window of Culture' of Tartu and South Estonia**

facebook.com/utambassadors



Useful Contacts and Support

- **Visa support at UT:** studentvisasupport@ut.ee
- **UT Admissions Office:** admissions@ut.ee
- **UT Study Abroad Centre:**
<https://ut.ee/en/study-abroad-centre-1>
- **Estonian Police and Border Guard Board:**
<https://www.politsei.ee/en/migration-consultants>
- **Tartu Student Residency / Tartu Üliõpilasküla:**
info@campus.ee
- **Tartu Welcome Centre:**
info@tartuwelcomecentre.ee
- **International House of Estonia:**
hello@workinestonia.com



**Thank you (*aitäh*)
and enjoy your
time in Tartu!**



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