Why University of Tartu?

• UT is ranked among the TOP 2% of universities in the world (QS World University Rankings 2016/2017);

• One of the key semiotic centres in the academic world, building on the legacy of Juri Lotman (founder of the Tartu-Moscow School of Semiotics) and Jakob von Uexküll (forefather of biosemiotics);

• One of the few institutions in the world to teach full master's and PhD programmes in Semiotics;

• Great community of both international and Estonian students and lecturers, including widely renowned visiting scholars;

• Rich intellectual life - summer schools, conferences, seminars, pop-up semiotic events;

• Excellent collection of semiotic materials in the library, including the memorial collection of Thomas Sebeok, the archive of Jakob von Uexküll and the epistolary archive of Juri Lotman;

• Tuition-waiver scholarships available.

NB! This publication is meant for informational purposes only. Please refer to the university website for the latest official information.

Send us your question: ut.ee/ask

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Master of Arts in Humanities

Semiotics

We live in a world filled with meanings. Semiotics is the science of studying meaning-generating processes and sign systems. The 2-year master’s programme in semiotics provides an interdisciplinary background and gives a theoretical basis for the application of semiotic ideas, methods and models to a wide variety of disciplines and scientific study. Graduates are able to use their expertise in professions that require complex knowledge of cultural analysis, e.g., consulting companies, marketing or media. Practical applications of semiotics include translation and editing, design and architecture, advertising and communication strategies. Programme graduates can also pursue PhD studies and research.

Curriculum structure

Total 120 ECTS

- General module 30 ECT
  - History of Semiotics: Basic Concepts and Classical Works
  - Master’s Seminar
  - Methodology of Semiotic Analysis
  - Readings of J. von Uexküll and J. Lotman
  - Tartu–Moscow Semiotic School

- Specialisation module 54 ECTs
  - Semiotics of Culture (18 ECTS)
    - Semiotics of Culture and Theories of Culture
    - Semiotic Analysis of Art and Multimedia
    - Semiotics of Translation
  - Biosemiotics (18 ECTS)
    - Biosemiotics
    - Zoosemiotics: Umwelt and Animal Communication
    - Ecosemiotics: Cultural Interpretations of Environment
  - Sociosemiotics (18 ECTS)
    - Communication and Power
    - Sociosemiotics and Societal Theories
    - Semiotic Analysis of Subcultures

- Optional courses 6 ECTs
- Master’s thesis 30 ECTs

General admission requirements

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent in humanities, social sciences or natural sciences.

Tuition fee & scholarships

€3400/year

Top-ranked applicants receive tuition-waiver scholarships

ut.ee/scholarships

Language of instruction

English

Duration of the programme

2 years

Location

Tartu, Estonia

Application process

1) Submit an online application with required documents (link available on the programme’s website);
2) Mail the documents after being admitted or when requested by the university.

Documents to be submitted

- Online application;
- Motivation letter;
- Official copy of the Bachelor’s diploma or its equivalent and Diploma Supplement (transcript/mark sheet) in the original language;*
- Official translation of the Bachelor’s diploma and Diploma Supplement (transcript/mark sheet) into English, translation certified;
- Proof of English language proficiency (ut.ee/requirements, e.g. TOEFL iBT 75, IELTS 5.5);
- Copy of the passport page stating the applicant’s personal details.

*All copies of educational documents (diplomas and diploma supplements/academic transcripts) must be officially certified. Certified copies should bear an original signature and seal of the authority certifying that these are true copies of the original. The documents can be certified: 1) by an authorized official of the issuing institution; 2) by a notary; 3) with an Apostille attached. The University does not accept simple copies of already certified copies.

Application deadline

March 15

NB! Applicants graduating and having their diplomas issued later than the application deadline, should electronically submit their most recent official Transcript of Records by the required deadline along with the rest of the required documents.

Programme contact:

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Department of Semiotics

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