



UNIVERSITY OF TARTU  
viljandi culture academy

# The University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy







The University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy is one of the five colleges of the University of Tartu. **The University of Tartu** (UT) was founded in **1632**. The UT is a public university with nationally recognised study programmes offering Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD degrees. The UT also offers various study programmes for international students of all levels, including degree, semester and summer studies with instruction in English. UT has approximately 17,500 students, including more than 650 international students.

For further information about University of Tartu, please visit: <http://www.ut.ee>



# The University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy

The UT Viljandi Culture Academy (UT VCA) merged with the University of Tartu in 2005. The UT VCA has been teaching **professional higher education** and performing **applied research** within information science, culture education and creative arts since 1952. The academy has just over **800 students**, half of whom are Open University students. The teaching and instruction are based on the **continuity** and **sustainability** of Estonian native culture enriched by new impulses which widen the notion of **traditional culture**. Through this process of continuous interaction, the ancient traditions gain new meaning.

The Viljandi Culture Academy is open for **international cooperation** and **cross-cultural communication**. It is a school with a special atmosphere, a school with a **unique student community and curricula**, as well as an environment that provides good possibilities to obtain knowledge and skills in different fields of culture by **combining academic knowledge from different fields with a creative and new approach**.

We value **close interaction** in both our study and working environment. Therefore, there is a lot of interaction and **cooperation** between students from different fields, teachers and administrative staff.

## **Facilities**

Studies at the academy take place in two buildings – the main building and the Music House. The advantages of the Music House are its soundproof classrooms, chamber music hall and recording studio and organ room. The main building consists of small lecture halls, dance classrooms, a black-box-type theatre hall, a painting room, a room equipped with looms, a multimedia room, a computer room, a library and a café.

The student dormitories „Oma Kodu” and „Tareke” are also located nearby.



# Traditions and main events

***The Viljandi Guitar Festival*** – this international guitar festival has taken place in the third week of September since 2008. The aim of the festival is to promote improvisation and playing methods. The first four days are dedicated to master courses given by the performers. All musicians also play together in a guitar orchestra and many high level concerts are given.

***The Student Theatre Festival TTP*** – this three-day festival was first held in 2001. It is now held every year in February, and welcomes amateur student theatre groups from all over Estonia who come together, perform their shows, learn new skills and have fun. The festival is strongly connected to the Culture Academy, as the organisers are or have been students here.

***The Music Triad*** – every spring the academy organises a three-day session competition for young musicians, many concerts also take place all over Viljandi County.

***School Jazz = Jazz School*** – a three-day workshop seminar for young students of jazz music from all over Estonia. Young people are instructed by the best professional jazz musicians and there is a joint open concert for all participants every evening.

***Dance Week*** – every year the world celebrates the International Dance Day on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April and we are no exception. Since 2010 the celebration is organised as a week full of dance performances, workshops, films and open courses in Viljandi's secondary schools and in the academy led by our students, teachers and alumni.

***Weekly jazz nights*** – the Jazz Club gatherings see performances by both aspiring and famous jazz musicians.

***Culture Wednesdays*** are performance events organised monthly by students, alumni and guests of the Performing Arts Department.

***The Estonian Heritage Culture Academy*** – annually organised lecture series on Estonian heritage culture for the local community.





# Research and Creative Studies Continuing Education

## Research and Creative Studies

In the last decades, the UT VCA's main area of research has been the humanities, but there is an increasing amount of cooperation with social, economic, technological and material sciences. The contemporary teaching methods within creative arts, non-formal education and education in arts and music are among the most covered applied research areas. The most remarkable development has taken place in the field of applied inherited crafts. In 2009 the Academy began publishing a series of academic publications, *Studia Vernacula*.

The future direction of the applied research will focus on the contemporary teaching methods within creative arts, information science and cultural education as well as applied inherited crafts. As an applied research institution, the VCA has a leading role in the development of a regional competence centre of this capacious creative knowledge base.

## Continuing Education

The Department for Continuing Education offers courses of different volumes based on the degree studies curricula at Viljandi Culture Academy or according to the topics suggested by the ordering party. In recent years, our continuing education has grown and developed significantly, and the academy places great emphasis on the life-long learning principle. During the academic year of 2009/2010 we offered 69 courses for more than 1000 people from all over Estonia.

Our courses are on different study levels and aimed at various age and interest groups. The main target groups are culture, educational and library staff. However, if there is interest and need, courses for a variety of other target groups can be organised. The courses have proven to be highly popular and attractive. One of the reasons for this is the creative approach in programme design.



# Regional Development and Cooperation

In addition to being a higher educational institution, the academy also aims at becoming an educational, creative, spiritual and development centre within Viljandi County, Estonia and for the whole Baltic region by being the main engine for development of creative industries.

## ***Regional Competence Center***

Together with the leadership of the academy, a collaboration agreement between 23 different partners was signed for the creation of a Regional Competence Centre in 2009. The areas of competence are R&D in creative industries in a synthesis of cooperation between different partners. Brokerage services are also offered. The activity areas of the competence centre is inherited technology (wood, metal, textile) and its linking with contemporary use.

## ***An Incubator of Creative Industries in Viljandi County***

The academy also heads a project with the aim of developing an Incubator of Creative Industries which will offer incubation services, product development environments and services of experimental laboratories. This creative incubator will increase entrepreneurial awareness among students, academic staff and local creative entrepreneurs and help to develop sectors of local creative industry. The incubator will establish five product development and production centres: metal, textile, wood, a multimedia centre of visual technology and virtual environment design.



# International Cooperation

The international cooperation of the UT VCA follows the objectives of the Lisbon treaty and supports the aims of the European Union to promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue (the European Agenda for Culture). All activities support sustainable development and have positive effects on the environment.

Participation in the EU educational programme Life Long Learning/Erasmus constitutes a great section of the UT VCA foreign relations, supporting the study and training exchange of students, lecturers and university staff. The number of bilateral agreements is growing with each year.

There are also various international projects in which different departments from the academy are taking part. In addition, the academy also participates in the activities of several European university networks:

**CUMULUS** the International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media

**EUCLID** the European Association for Library and Information Education and Research

**AEC** the European Association of Conservatoires

**IASJ** the International Association of Schools of Jazz

**NORDTRAD** a Nordplus network of academies and universities in the Nordic and Baltic countries offering third level education in folk music.

**NORTEAS** a Nordplus network for Nordic and Baltic Theatre and Dance Institutions of Higher Education.

**DAMA** a Nordplus network of Dance and Media Art Schools.



# International Studies

- Are you friendly and interested in culture and innovative ideas?
- Do you enjoy thinking and acting creatively and outside of the box?
- Do you enjoy looking at things from different angles and finding new solutions by combining different perspectives?
- Do you enjoy personal and inspiring study communities in a green living environment?

If yes, then Viljandi is the place for your personal growth!

Come and enrich our friendly school with your vibrant ideas and personality!

There are multiple opportunities to come to study for a semester or two through exchange programmes. The major and most widely used options are ERASMUS, NORDPLUS, ISEP , inter-university agreements and inter-governmental agreements.

## **Teaching**

The UT Viljandi Culture Academy offers 11 professional higher education (applied BA) programmes with four study years, 240 ECTS and one Bachelor (BA) programme with three study years and 180 ECTS. Master (MA) studies last two years with 120 ECTS. Please read further information on the offered curricula below. All study programmes are currently taught in Estonian, but personal instruction in English or another language (depending on the lecturer) is offered for exchange students. Every year there is a list of courses available for exchange and visiting students.

## **Academic Calendar**

Autumn semester: The 1<sup>st</sup> week of September – the 4<sup>th</sup> week of January with a two-week Christmas break.

Spring semester: The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February – the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June.

## **Application deadlines**

### **Autumn Semester**

The **1<sup>st</sup> of May** – non-EU applicants  
The **1<sup>st</sup> of June** – EU applicants

### **Spring Semester**

The **1<sup>st</sup> of November** – all applicants

For further information, please see:

<http://www.ut.ee/en/studies>





# Student life in Viljandi

Social life in Viljandi is as diverse as the people studying here. Multiple events held at the school are organised by the students or the student council with a wide array of parties, sport nights, concerts, performances, contests, exhibitions and much more. A local culture venue called Pure Gold is the centre of student attention and after-study activities since the summer of 2009 with its cosy environment and many fun events.

**The Students' Union** is the representative organisation of the academy's students. The main goal of the Students' Union is to express students' interests and bring issues such as students' problems regarding the academy, studies and even social matters before the academy administration.

**The Culture Academy's Student Theatre TUDER** – established in September 2009. A group of students fascinated with theatre learn drama skills once a week. They have participated at the 8<sup>th</sup> Student Theatre Festival TTP with a show called „Cyborgia“ and at Forum Theatre Festival in May 2010. The group recruits new members each autumn.

**The Student Choir** – the mixed choir is composed of students from the different departments. The main aim of the choir is to perform compositions of Estonian as well as the academy's own composers and musicians. The choir often cooperates with musicians from the Music Department and with professional groups from Viljandi.



# Music Department

## ***Traditional Music (applied BA)***

The aim of the curriculum is to provide versatile traditional music education based on a strong knowledge of tradition, and to enhance the opportunities of the students to obtain work as instrument teachers or as music technicians.

## ***Jazz Music (applied BA)***

The aim of the studies is to provide the students with a multi-faceted education based on knowledge of jazz music with a unique synthesis of Estonian traditional music, so that they can further specialise as music technicians or as instrument teachers.

## ***School Music (BA)***

The curriculum provides a first preparation for general education school music teachers or music school instrument teachers of versatile knowledge and professional skills. Different courses with instrument lessons from a variety of fields of music are offered.

## ***Music Teacher (MA)***

The general aim of the curriculum is to prepare music teachers of proficient professional skills and broad general educational background for general education as well as for hobby schools. Students can choose between three different specialisations: Teacher of a Musical Instrument, School Music, and Teacher of Theoretical Music Subjects.



# Performing Arts Department

## ***Dance Arts (applied BA)***

Specialties: dance teacher, choreographer.

The aim of the curriculum is to educate professionals of the field who are in control of their bodies and are capable of communicating their acquired experience to others. By specialty, the curriculum of dance arts breaks down into three parts: firstly, a general training and basis in the dance arts; secondly, different dance styles and their interpretation and thirdly, the development of the art, dance composition and the creation of dance performances. Through their pedagogical studies, students acquire knowledge for work as dance teachers for different age groups.

## ***Theatre Arts (applied BA)***

Specialties: actor, director, amateur theatre director.

During the studies, students acquire knowledge and practical skills within the various fields related to acting and directing. Those studying to become directors of amateur theatres will also take a module of pedagogical subjects. The department cooperates with different Estonian theatres which form the basis for our diploma performances. Our graduates are also prepared for work with project theatres and free theatre troupes.

## ***Performing Arts Visual Technology (applied BA)***

Specialties: props and stage designer, lighting designer, stage manager, theatre multimedia specialist.

The curriculum involves the larger part of the trades involved in visual creation, in the technological as well as in the artistic sense. Because the main focus is on technology beginning with glue and paint and ending with lighting and video artistic subjects related to theatre occupy an important part of the curriculum. During the course of studies, there is continual practice at all Estonian theatres and performance institutions.



# Culture Education Department

*„We all want to test our abilities and our imagination and develop our different means of expression. When the ideas and contributions of different people converge, a fruitful and creative chaos is born. The real challenge is to learn how to direct it, to make it create something new and inspiring!“*

Küllli Salumäe, lector, school youth work manager/teacher.

## **School Youth Work Manager/Teacher (applied BA)**

This subject suits active young people with a will and need to help children and young people find and realise their potential. We welcome everyone with a pedagogical intuition and interest in adventure education or different creative activities be it dance, theatre, music or games.

The graduates find work within general or special education, at youth centres and as specialists working with the local authorities. Working as school youth work managers/teachers, organising extra-curricular activities or as youth workers or circle leaders, the graduates of this subject field have opportunities to organise cultural activities and speak for the development of creative activities.

## **Culture Management (applied BA)**

This is a field of study suited to those of an active and entrepreneurial spirit whose field of interest is directed towards the understanding of culture and entrepreneurship and their dealings in society. The subject facilitates the acquisition of basic managerial skills and cognition and competence to carry viable cultural projects to term in today's society.

As the director of the academy Dr. Anzori Barkalaja says: „Money is the manure, which makes the rose bush of fine culture grow“. In this sense, the culture manager is a gardener, whose sacred duty it is to find this monetary manure, bring it together and distribute it wisely.

## **Educational Science (MA)**

The programme is offered under the University of Tartu's Faculty of Education. The specialisation module on Social Pedagogy is taught at the UT Viljandi Culture Academy.

**Under development:** International MA in **Comparative European Perspectives on Youth Work and Social Disadvantage** in cooperation with HUMAK and the University of Bedfordshire.





# Estonian Native Crafts Department

## ***Estonian Native Textile (applied BA)***

The peculiarity of the curriculum lies in our use of the Estonian ethnographical textile heritage as a source material for our studies. The aim of the speciality of Native Textile is to educate professional and creative master craftsmen with a thorough knowledge of Estonian native textile heritage, its history, compositional techniques and technology and the ability to keep, continue and re-use the traditions of Estonian native handicraft in the field of textile. In this sense, we are one of only a few similar curricula in Europe. The graduates are able to run small enterprises, work as artists, textile designers, museum workers, handicraft teachers, leaders of handicraft circles or manufacturers of folk costumes.

## ***Estonian Native Construction (applied BA)***

The mission of the Estonian Native Construction specialty is to carry on the tradition of native building heritage. It is important to us that the magnanimous simplicity we believe exists in the heritage of our forefathers can live on in our consumerist society. The students get to know and use ancient as well as modern building techniques and equipment. Particular attention is paid to log building in theory and in practice: the graduates will have knowledge of the building process from design and budgeting to completion. It is possible to independently shape the studies corresponding to students' particular interests and inclinations. The possibilities for specialisation are those of log building supervisors (major), log building instructors, museum builders, log building constructors or log building material suppliers.

### **Under development:**

***Estonian Native Metal Work*** on applied BA level  
(opening 2011)

MA in ***Inherited Technology*** (opening 2011)



# Information Studies Department

## **Librarianship and Information Environments (applied BA)**

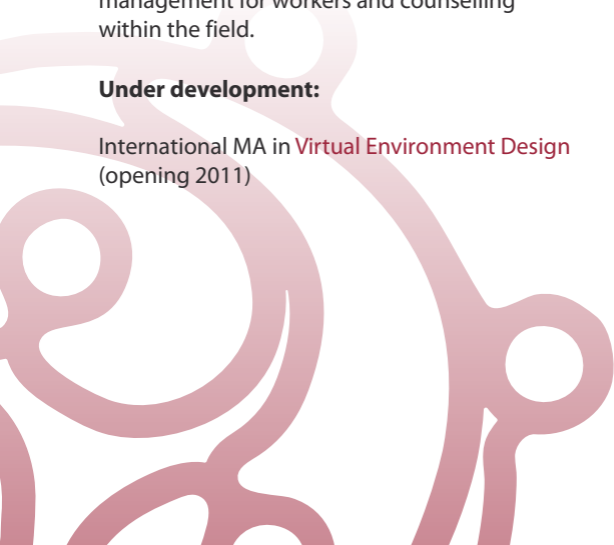
The aim of the Librarianship and Information Environments specialty is to prepare library workers and information providers with extensive knowledge in order to enable them to work in a variety of different libraries or information-providing institutions, to manage consumer resources and be competent in information processing. The specialisation modules offer possibilities to deepen knowledge on information management in the web environment, information work with children and youth or in book trading.

## **Information and Records Management (applied BA)**

The Information and Records Management programme aims at educating experts in records and information management whose tasks would include organising records management, risk management, organising archive management, training on records management for workers and counselling within the field.

### **Under development:**

International MA in **Virtual Environment Design**  
(opening 2011)






# VILJANDI

The academy is located in Viljandi in Southern Estonia, one of the most picturesque and historically rich towns in the country, known for its beautiful nature. The seemingly small town has a vibrant and very active cultural life, and is most famous for its large 4-day international folk music festival held at the end of July. There are also many concerts and other festivals such as the Winter Dance Festival, the Young Dance Festival, Rock Ramp and the Hanseatic Days. You can find many interesting cultural events every week throughout the year. The Estonian Traditional Music Centre is located in Viljandi, as is the large national theatre Ugala.

On the edge of the town, the Castle Hill with its magnificent view slopes down towards the deep lake in the valley. There is a well-known legend that tells about a boatman who rows on the lake and longs for a girl with beautiful eyes.



A photograph of a weathered wooden door. A key is inserted into a keyhole on the left side of the door. A chisel with a wooden handle and a metal head is resting on the door handle on the right side. The background shows the texture of the wood and a glimpse of a window with a decorative frame.

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