Estonian Language and Culture

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Admission requirements

Estonian Language and Culture as a subsidiary subject is open to all students presently enrolled and registered at the University. Courses offered in the programme can also be used as elective courses in some Intermediate and Advanced Level study modules in the Finnish Language degree programme. In addition, the Introduction to Estonian course, held every autumn, is a required for students majoring in Finnish. A portion of Estonian Language and Culture studies may be completed at the Estonian universities of Tartu or Tallinn while on student exchange. Students should contact the lecturer of Estonian Language and Culture for information on accreditation of courses taken at Estonian universities.

Study guidance

Study guidance is provided by University Lecturer Heli Laanekask (tel. +358-8-553 3479, office HU135), head of the programme.

Estonian Language and Culture

The culture, history, and present-day geopolitical situation of Finland and its southern neighbour Estonia share both surprising similarities and interesting differences. As a closely related language, Estonian offers a unique point of reference for students wishing to become more knowledgeable about the history and present-day status of the Finnish language. Contact between Finland and Estonia is constantly close and diverse. Estonia is also a rapidly modernizing country, and experts on its language and culture are in demand in Finland, Estonia, and the EU. The University of Oulu offers Basic Studies (25 ECTS credits) and Intermediate Studies (35 ECTS credits) in the subject. Additionally, Introduction to Estonian (4 ECTS credits) is a prerequisite. The emphasis of the study programme is a contrastive study of the languages and cultures of Finland and Estonia, and the study of Finnish and Estonian as second or foreign languages. The languages of instruction are both Finnish and Estonian in Basic Studies, and exclusively Estonian in Intermediate Studies. The objective is to create educated speakers of practical Estonian and diversified professionals knowledgeable about the language and culture of Estonia, particularly in the context of the working-life and cultural needs of Northern Finland.

Studies and learning objectives

After completing the Basic Studies package, students are capable of using Estonian in a variety of tasks that require both oral and literary skills, and can read different types of texts in Estonian. During Basic Studies, students achieve a fluency level in both spoken and written Estonian and obtain the ability to follow lectures in Estonian and read literature in Estonian, as well as acquiring topical knowledge regarding Estonian culture.

After completing the Intermediate Studies package, students are capable of using their knowledge to solve problems regarding language usage. They can define the main characteristics of Estonian vocabulary, and use dictionaries as well as digital materials. Students can also evaluate and comment on works by Estonian writers and discuss and analyse Estonian folklore. When translating demanding texts, they can solve problems related to language and culture.
Courses
Prerequisite course
695200Y Introduction to Estonian (4 ECTS credits)

Basic Studies 25 credits
695202P Intermediate Estonian (5 ECTS credits)
695203P Conversational and Writing Skills in Estonian (4 ECTS credits)
695204P Variations of Estonian (4 ECTS credits)
695205P Estonian Literature (4 ECTS credits)
695206P Aspects of Estonian Culture (4 ECTS credits)
695213P Aspects of Estonian Language (4 ECTS credits)

Intermediate Studies 35 credits
695207A Grammar of Contemporary Estonian (5 ECTS credits)
695208A Estonian Lexicology (5 ECTS credits)
695209A Estonian Writers (5 ECTS credits)
695210A Translation of Estonian (5 ECTS credits)
695211A Estonian Heritage (5 ECTS credits)
695212A Further Studies in Estonian Language and Culture (10 ECTS credits)

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomat opintokokonaisuudet ja -jaksot

695206P: Aspects of Estonian Culture, 4 op
695213P: Aspects of Estonian Language, 4 op
695203P: Conversational and Writing Skills in Estonian, 4 op
695211A: Estonian Heritage, 5 op
695208A: Estonian Lexicology, 5 op
695205P: Estonian Literature, 4 op
695210A: Estonian Translation, 5 op
695209A: Estonian Writers, 5 op
695212A: Further Studies in Estonian Language and Culture, 10 op
695207A: Grammar of Contemporary Estonian, 5 op
695202P: Intermediate Estonian, 5 op
695200Y: Introduction to Estonian, 4 op
695204P: Variation in Estonian, 4 op

Opintojaksojen kuvaukset
695206P: Aspects of Estonian Culture, 4 op

**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2005 -
**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies
**Laji:** Course
**Vastuuysikkö:** Faculty of Humanities
**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail
**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish

**ECTS Credits:**
4

**Language of instruction:**
Estonian and Finnish

**Timing:**
Autumn or spring semester

**Learning outcomes:**
Upon completing the course, students can discuss the central periods of Estonian cultural (folk culture, fine arts, architecture, design, music, theatrical and film art) history and the Estonian people and acquire topical knowledge on Estonian culture.

**Contents:**
History of Estonia, cultural history, a specific art form

**Mode of delivery:**
Contact teaching or self study

**Learning activities and teaching methods:**
Lectures and/or seminars and/or independent study

**Target group:**
Open to all students enrolled at the university

**Prerequisites and co-requisites:**
Successful completion of Introduction to Estonian required

**Recommended optional programme components:**
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Degree programme

**Recommended or required reading:**
Lauri Vahtre, Eesti kultuuri ajalugu (2000);
Availability can be checked via Weboodi

**Assessment methods and criteria:**
Formal lecture exam, book exam, learning diary, or home essay

**Grading:**
0-5

**Person responsible:**
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

**Working life cooperation:**
No

695213P: Aspects of Estonian language, 4 op

**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2007 -
**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies
**Laji:** Course
**Vastuuysikkö:** Faculty of Humanities
**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail
**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish

**ECTS Credits:**
**Language of instruction:**
Estonian and Finnish

**Timing:**
Autumn or spring semester

**Learning outcomes:**
Upon completing the course, students are capable of assessing and commenting on a specific aspect of Estonian language or culture in detail.

**Contents:**
A specific aspect of Estonian language or culture and related study

**Mode of delivery:**
Contact teaching or self-study

Learning activities and teaching methods:
Lectures and/or seminars and/or independent study

**Target group:**
Open to all students enrolled at the university

Prerequisites and co-requisites:
Successful completion of Introduction to Estonian required

Recommended optional programme components:
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

Recommended or required reading:
Individually agreed upon by the lecturer and the student

Assessment methods and criteria:
Formal lecture exam, book exam, learning diary, or home essay

Grading:
0-5

Person responsible:
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

Working life cooperation:
No

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**695203P: Conversational and Writing Skills in Estonian, 4 op**

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

**ECTS Credits:**
4

**Language of instruction:**
Estonian

**Timing:**
Spring semester

**Learning outcomes:**
Upon completing the course, students can fluently converse and adequately write about everyday life- and work-related matters in Estonian.

**Contents:**
Estonian conversational and writing exercises related to central aspects of everyday life and work

**Mode of delivery:**
Contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:
Exercises

**Target group:**
Open to all students enrolled at the university

Prerequisites and co-requisites:
Successful completion of Introduction to Estonian required

Recommended optional programme components:
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme
Recommended or required reading:
Mare Kitsnik & Leelo Kingisepp, Naljaga pooleks (2006)
Availability can be checked via Weboodi

Assessment methods and criteria:
Reading materials. Participation in contact teaching and periods of independent study. Examination
Grading:
0-5

Person responsible:
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

Working life cooperation:
No

695211A: Estonian Heritage, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Intermediate Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Estonian

ECTS Credits:
5

Language of instruction:
Estonian

Timing:
Autumn or spring semester

Learning outcomes:
Upon completing the course, students can discuss and analyse the main characteristics of the different aspects of Estonian heritage.

Contents:
Different areas of Estonian heritage (folklore, folk culture, folk art, traditional religion) and related study literature

Mode of delivery:
Contact teaching or self study

Learning activities and teaching methods:
Lectures and/or seminars and/or independent study

Target group:
Open to all students enrolled at the university

Prerequisites and co-requisites:
Successful completion of Intermediate Estonian required

Recommended optional programme components:
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

Recommended or required reading:
Eduard Laugaste, Eesti rahvaluule (1975);
Ants Viires (ed.), Eesti rahvakultuur (2008);
Ilmar Talve, Eesti kultuurilugu keskaja algusest Eesti iseseisvuseni (2004)
Availability can be checked via Weboodi

Assessment methods and criteria:
Formal lecture exam, book exam, learning diary, or home essay
Grading:
0-5

Person responsible:
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

Working life cooperation:
No

695208A: Estonian Lexicology, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Intermediate Studies  
Laji: Course  
Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities  
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail  
Opintokohteen kielet: Estonian

**ECTS Credits:**  
5  

**Language of instruction:**  
Estonian  

**Timing:**  
Autumn or spring semester  

**Learning outcomes:**  
Upon completing the course, students can define the main historical, semantic, grammatical, and stylistic characteristics of Estonian vocabulary, and are capable of using the most essential Estonian dictionaries and digital materials.

**Contents:**  
Estonian vocabulary and central aspects of its study  

**Mode of delivery:**  
Contact teaching or self study  

**Learning activities and teaching methods:**  
Lectures and/or seminars and/or independent study  

**Target group:**  
Open to all students enrolled at the university  

**Prerequisites and co-requisites:**  
Successful completion of Intermediate Estonian required  

**Recommended optional programme components:**  
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

**Recommended or required reading:**  
Huno Rätsep, Sõnaloo raamat (2002);  
Mati Erelt ym., Eesti keele käsiraamat (2007);  
Essential Estonian dictionaries

**Availability can be checked via Weboodi**

**Assessment methods and criteria:**  
Formal lecture exam, book exam, learning diary, or home essay  

**Grading:**  
0-5  

**Person responsible:**  
Lecturer Heli Laanekask  

**Working life cooperation:**  
No

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695205P: Estonian Literature, 4 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -  
Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies  
Laji: Course  
Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities  
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail  
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

**ECTS Credits:**  
4  

**Language of instruction:**  
Estonian and Finnish  

**Timing:**  
Autumn or spring semester  

**Learning outcomes:**
Upon completing the course, students can define the main periods of Estonian literature and are capable of evaluating works of central Estonian writers.

**Contents:**
History of Estonian literature and central areas of its study

**Mode of delivery:**
Contact teaching or self study

**Learning activities and teaching methods:**
Lectures and/or seminars and/or independent study, including reading four Estonian works of prose and two works of poetry (Finnish translations or in Estonian) and evaluation of them

**Target group:**
Open to all students enrolled at the university

**Prerequisites and co-requisites:**
Successful completion of Introduction to Estonian required

**Recommended optional programme components:**
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

**Recommended or required reading:**
Epp Annus ym., Eesti kirjanduslugu (2001);
Availability can be checked from Weboodi

**Assessment methods and criteria:**
Formal lecture exam, book exam, learning diary, or home essay

**Grading:**
0-5

**Person responsible:**
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

**Working life cooperation:**
No

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695210A: Estonian Translation, 5 op

**Voiomassaolo:** 01.08.2005 -

**Opiskelumuoto:** Intermediate Studies

**Laji:** Course

**Vastuuysikkö:** Faculty of Humanities

**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail

**Opintokohteen kielet:** Estonian

**ECTS Credits:**
5

**Language of instruction:**
Estonian

**Timing:**
Autumn or spring semester

**Learning outcomes:**
Upon completing the course, students can solve the central problems regarding language and culture when translating from Finnish into Estonian or from Estonian into Finnish.

**Contents:**
Translation of different types of demanding texts (literature, newspapers, scientific texts, official documents) from Estonian into Finnish and translation of simple texts from Finnish into Estonian

**Mode of delivery:**
Contact teaching

**Learning activities and teaching methods:**
Seminars

**Target group:**
Open to all students enrolled at the university

**Prerequisites and co-requisites:**
Successful completion of Intermediate Estonian required

**Recommended optional programme components:**
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

**Recommended or required reading:**
Individually agreed upon by the lecturer and the student
Assessment methods and criteria:
30 pages of translation of demanding texts from Estonian into Finnish and 5 pages of translation of simple texts from Finnish into Estonian

Grading:
0-5

Person responsible:
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

Working life cooperation:
No

695209A: Estonian Writers, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Intermediate Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Estonian

ECTS Credits:
5

Language of instruction:
Estonian

Timing:
Autumn or spring semester

Learning outcomes:
Upon completing the course, students evaluate and comment on a specific Estonian writer, a group of writers, a literary direction, or a period of literature.

Contents:
Estonian literature and its study

Mode of delivery:
Contact teaching or self study

Learning activities and teaching methods:
Lectures and/or seminars and/or independent study

Target group:
Open to all students enrolled at the university

Prerequisites and co-requisites:
Successful completion of Intermediate Estonian required

Recommended optional programme components:
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

Recommended or required reading:
Individually agreed upon by the lecturer and the student

Assessment methods and criteria:
Formal lecture exam, book exam, learning diary, or home essay

Grading:
0-5

Person responsible:
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

Working life cooperation:
No

695212A: Further Studies in Estonian Language and Culture, 10 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Intermediate Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Estonian

ECTS Credits:
10

Language of instruction:
Estonian

Timing:
Autumn or spring semester

Learning outcomes:
Upon completing the course, students can evaluate and thoroughly comment on certain aspects of Estonian language and culture and acquire topical information on them.

Contents:
Additional familiarization with Estonian language and culture

Mode of delivery:
Contact teaching or self study

Learning activities and teaching methods:
Lectures and/or seminars and/or independent study

Target group:
Open to all students enrolled at the university

Prerequisites and co-requisites:
Successful completion of Intermediate Estonian required

Recommended optional programme components:
Some constituents of this course can accredited as elective courses, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

Recommended or required reading:
Individually agreed upon by the lecturer and the student

Assessment methods and criteria:
Formal lecture exam, book exam, learning diary, or home essay

Grading:
0-5

Person responsible:
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

Working life cooperation:
No

695207A: Grammar of Contemporary Estonian, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Intermediate Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Estonian

ECTS Credits:
5

Language of instruction:
Estonian

Timing:
Autumn or spring semester

Learning outcomes:
Upon completing the course, students can summarize the structures of contemporary Estonian and apply their knowledge of the subject in solving problems related to language usage.

Contents:
Ortography, morphology, syntax, and word formation in Estonian

Mode of delivery:
Contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:
Lectures, exercises

Target group:
Open to all students enrolled at the university

**Prerequisites and co-requisites:**
Successful completion of Intermediate Estonian required

**Recommended optional programme components:**
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

**Recommended or required reading:**
Mati Erelt ym., Eesti keele käsiraamat (2007);
Jaak Peelo, Eesti keele muutukonnad (1997);
Reet Kasik, Eesti keele sõnatuletus (2004)
Availability can be checked from Weboodi

**Assessment methods and criteria:**
Formal lecture exam or learning diary

**Grading:**
0-5

**Person responsible:**
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

**Working life cooperation:**
No

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**695202P: Intermediate Estonian, 5 op**

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 - 
Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

**ECTS Credits:**
5

**Language of instruction:**
Estonian and Finnish

**Timing:**
Spring semester

**Learning outcomes:**
Upon completing the course, students can recognise and analyse central aspects of Estonian grammar and culture from a perspective of contrast with Finnish. Students can adequately read, converse and write in Estonian and use the Estonian language properly in various social settings. Students can also use fundamental Estonian vocabulary (approx. 1000 words) fluently.

**Contents:**
Estonian grammar, familiarization with Estonia and Estonian culture, contrast of Estonian and Finnish grammar.

**Mode of delivery:**
Contact teaching

**Learning activities and teaching methods:**
Lectures and exercises

**Target group:**
Open to all students enrolled at the university

**Prerequisites and co-requisites:**
Successful completion of Introduction to Estonian required

**Recommended optional programme components:**
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

**Recommended or required reading:**
Renate Pajusalu et al., Keelesild (2006);
Hannu Remes, Viron kieliloppi (1983)
Availability can be checked via Weboodi

**Assessment methods and criteria:**
Oral exam, for which 20 pages of Estonian literature is read, and a formal lecture exam. The exam can be substituted with a learning diary

**Grading:**
0-5

**Person responsible:**
695200Y: Introduction to Estonian, 4 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits: 4
Language of instruction: Finnish and Estonian
Timing: Second year, autumn or spring term
Learning outcomes: Upon completing the course, students can define the basics of Estonian grammar from a perspective of contrast with Finnish, and can use and apply their basic knowledge of Estonian and the culture of Estonia. Students can use the central vocabulary of Estonian (approx. 500 words) fluently.
Contents: Basics of Estonian grammar, basics of Estonian culture and familiarization with the country, main differences between Finnish and Estonian grammar.
Mode of delivery: Contact teaching
Learning activities and teaching methods: Lectures, exercises, online exercises
Target group: Open to all students enrolled at the university
Prerequisites and co-requisites: None
Recommended optional programme components: This course is the basis for other courses in Estonian Language and Culture.
Recommended or required reading: Renate Pajusalu et al., Keelesild (2006)
Availability can be checked via Weboodi
Assessment methods and criteria: Formal lecture exam or learning diary
Grading: 0-5
Person responsible: Lecturer Heli Laanekask
Working life cooperation: No

695204P: Variation in Estonian, 4 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:
Language of instruction:
Estonian and Finnish

Timing:
Autumn or spring semester

Learning outcomes:
Upon completing the course, students can name the main aspects of the historical development of the Estonian language and the different stages of Estonian as a literary language. Students can define local Estonian dialects and recognize and interpret variation in contemporary Estonian.

Contents:
Historical, local, and social variation of Estonian.

Mode of delivery:
Contact teaching or self study

Learning activities and teaching methods:
Lectures, seminars, and/or independent study

Target group:
Open to all students enrolled at the university

Prerequisites and co-requisites:
Intermediate Estonian required

Recommended optional programme components:
Can be taken as an elective course, e.g., in Basic or Intermediate Studies in the Finnish Language programme

Recommended or required reading:
Karl Pajusalu et al., Eesti murded ja kohanimed (2009);
Heli Laanekask, Eesti kirjakeele kujunemine ja kujundamine 16.-19. sajandil (2004);
Raimo Raag, Talurahva keelest riigikeeleks (2008)
Availability can be checked via Weboodi

Assessment methods and criteria:
Formal lecture exam, book exam, learning diary or home essay

Grading:
0-5

Person responsible:
Lecturer Heli Laanekask

Working life cooperation:
No