



## International Master in Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism

Vytautas Magnus University Kaunas  
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz  
Stockholm University  
University of Tartu





VYTAUTAS MAGNUS  
UNIVERSITY  
MCMXXII



JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ



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## What is SoMu?

■ SoMu is the acronym of the International Master's Programme in Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism. It is a new joint two-year degree programme offered by Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas (Lithuania) and Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz (Germany) in cooperation with the University of Stockholm (Sweden) and the University of Tartu (Estonia).

This new Master's Programme offers in-depth knowledge to students who are interested in the role of language in society. SoMu starts in the autumn semester. It is admission free, taught in English and provides students with an international degree.

## Why SoMu?

■ Throughout the last decade, multilingualism has become a key factor internationally. Public interest in multilingualism and how to deal with it is growing steadily and provides a great opportunity for societal change. Increasing immigration and globalization demand more sensitivity concerning mutual understanding, tolerance, mobility, flexibility and social structures. SoMu has apprehended these developments and social effects and made them the focus of the Master's Programme.

The interaction of different languages and cultures in everyday encounters and social areas is firmly established, be it in commerce, migration or tourism. Multilingualism is not a new phenomenon. Today's developments are situated between long-known and new phenomena, between straightforwardness and complexity, between the individual and society.

The International Master's Programme gives students insight into European multilingualism in the Baltic Sea Region; they will not only learn about but also experience multilingual situations. Students will obtain practical tools to analyze multilingualism while gaining interdisciplinary competence.

They will familiarize themselves with the general theories and methods of sociolinguistics such as traditional sociolinguistics, constructivist sociolinguistics, language variation and many other approaches. In addition, students will broaden their international experience in at least two semesters abroad, acquire language skills in the less common European languages of Lithuanian, Estonian and/or Swedish and deepen their command of English.

professional communication skills  
language diversity  
Sociolinguistics  
minority languages  
built-in mobility  
uniqueness  
Multilingualism  
interdisciplinarity  
cross-cultural communication  
language focus  
discourse linguistics

## What makes SoMu special?

### Multilingualism

A broad approach to multilingualism extends SoMu beyond language policy and planning issues concerning just one European minority population or country.

### Language Focus

Students acquire competences in two international vehicular languages as well as in at least two less commonly spoken and taught languages.

### Interdisciplinary Competences

Attention is paid to advancing students' interdisciplinary skills in use-based linguistic theories beyond sociolinguistics, as well as in the cultural and political sciences and constructivist theories of sociology.

### Unique Geographical Focus

The programme covers the entire Nordic and Baltic Sea region. No other linguistic MA programme covers such a wide range of languages spoken around the Baltic Sea.

### Cross-cultural Communication

The language courses and student mobility offer a rich live context for deepening cross-cultural awareness and developing cross-cultural communication skills; the programme's academic contents support the learning of cultural sensitivity and new patterns of communication.

### Built-in Mobility

Studying abroad is compulsory and equally long study periods in three universities in three different countries are required. Students accumulate international experiences, attain language skills in the less common European languages of Lithuanian, Estonian and/or Swedish and strengthen their command of English.

### Professional Communication Skills

Critical thinking and practical research skills are emphasized and systematically supported by developing student competence in academic communication in programme's languages, as well as in the co-operation, dissemination and management of (student) research projects.

### Knowledge Application in Practice

Graduates will be able to identify and formulate sociolinguistic research problems, plan and organize individual research-based contributions to sociolinguistic knowledge bearing on a significant problem concerned with multilingualism in Baltic Sea Europe, conduct empirical research projects, deal with existing research knowledge, and gain interdisciplinary methodological skills.

### Unique Study Programme

SoMu trains a new generation of sociolinguists who will possess a broad scholarly and practical understanding of the parallel use of multiple languages in Europe and a professional awareness of multilingualism's social dynamics and its cultural, political and socioeconomic impact in varying European contexts.

## SoMu Programme Curriculum

### Semester 1 at VMU Kaunas

- Minorities and Civil Society in the Baltic Region
- Multilingualism in Europe
- Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods in Sociolinguistics
- English Academic Writing (Elective)
- Cross-Cultural Communication (Elective)
- Lithuanian Language Course (for non-native speakers)
- Language Course in a Nordic or Baltic Language (for native speakers)

### Semester 2 at JGU Mainz

- Current Trends in Nordic and Baltic Socio- and Discourse Linguistics
- Areal- and Contact-Linguistic Perspectives on Baltic-Sea Languages
- Socio- and Discourse Linguistics
- Theoretical Approaches in Nordic and Baltic Linguistics
- Research Colloquium
- German Language Course (for non-native speakers)
- Language Course in a Nordic or Baltic Language (for native speakers)

### Semester 3 in Tartu or Stockholm

#### In Tartu

- Estonian in Europe
- History of Estonia
- Estonian Culture
- Estonian Language Course (for non-native speakers)
- Language Course in a Nordic or Baltic Language (for native speakers)

#### In Stockholm

- Language Contacts in the Baltic area: Baltic-Slavic, Baltic Finnic, Baltic-German
- Baltic History of Literature and Cultural History
- Swedish Language Course (for non-native speakers)
- Language Course in one of the Baltic Languages
- Language Course in another Nordic Language (for native speakers)

### Semester 4 at any partner university

- Master's Thesis

*"I joined SoMu because teaching international students and communicating with them is very inspiring. I would like to share my knowledge and experience via the programme."*

Prof. Birute Klaas-Lang

*"Studying in Kaunas is great because it is a different city and a different university. As it is a first step in SoMu, you begin to understand what the programme is really about, and this is when you know you made the right choice joining it."*

Vitalijus, SoMu student

*"After two years, every SoMu student is rich with vital international learning experiences and well-trained for a wide variety of tasks involving sociolinguistic and multilingual knowledge."*

Prof. Anneli Sarhimaa





*"I initiated SoMu because I saw it as the best way to transfer the results of a longstanding research cooperation for the greatest benefit of sociolinguistics students in the Nordic and Baltic countries and beyond."*

Prof. Anneli Sarhimaa

## How to Apply

■ Applications are handled by Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. Studies in this two-year MA programme begin every year in the autumn semester. The application form and the deadline for applying are available online at <http://somu.vdu.lt>

The entry qualification is a Bachelor Degree or equivalent in the Humanities or Social Sciences. The Bachelor Degree shall contain at least 30 ECTS in the field of linguistics or philology. Application documents are accepted in English, German and Lithuanian. Often you can get an appropriate transcript from your university. If this is not the case, you will need official translations along with verified copies of the original.

Good knowledge of English at the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is required. Students from non-partner universities may be asked to provide proof of English language proficiency. The following certificates in English will be accepted: Cambridge First Certificate in English, telc English B2, LCCI Level 2, TOEFL iBT 87 points or IELTS Grade 5-6.

University records may have to be authenticated by apostille or certified by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education in Lithuania [www.skvc.lt](http://www.skvc.lt) in special cases.



## Scholarship Opportunities

■ **Mobility scholarships:** Since SoMu is an international joint-degree programme, students must spend at least two semesters at foreign partner institutions. Enrolled students can apply for funding to cover part of the expenses connected to their mobility such as:

- mobility grants offered by partner institutions based on bilateral agreements or through other programmes such as LLP/Erasmus, on the basis of individual eligibility and acceptance by these programmes.
- financial support that will cover travel expenses from Kaunas to Mainz (and back), Kaunas or Mainz to Stockholm or Tartu (and back).

*"I like the international environment of SoMu. You meet people from different countries and become friends with them. You study at three different universities in different countries, and you learn at least three different languages. I don't know if you could find an M.A. programme that offers more internationality."*

Frederik, SoMu student

### Financial support by country

#### Germany

- DAAD: The German Academic Exchange Service offers scholarships for international students who want to study in Germany as well as for German students abroad ([www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)).
- PROMOS: Promos supports students who want to go abroad. Students do not apply for the programme personally: Scholarships will be allocated by the university on the basis of grades.
- Auslands-Bafög: German students can apply for state-funded financial aid to study abroad. One half of the funding is a grant and the other half is a loan. Funds partly cover travel, health care, tuition and living costs ([www.auslandsbafoeg.de](http://www.auslandsbafoeg.de)).
- Scholarship Foundations: Several German foundations fund promising students (Begabtenförderungswerk).

#### Lithuania

- Lithuanian state scholarships: Meant for Lithuanian language courses, short-term studies or full-time Master studies ([www.smpf.lt/en/statescholarships](http://www.smpf.lt/en/statescholarships)).

#### Sweden

- Swedish students can apply for "CSN", i.e., state-funded repayable study loans ([www.csn.se](http://www.csn.se)).
- Scholarship opportunities for Swedish students can also be searched for under the "Stipendier" on Stockholm University's website ([www.su.se](http://www.su.se)).

## Kaunas – Lithuania's Provisional Capital

■ Kaunas is one of the most important cities in Lithuania. It is the nation's second-largest city, located 100 km from the capital of Vilnius. This fast-growing modern city is an attractive centre of business and industry as well as of science, education and culture.

Reknowned music, dance, and visual art festivals and special projects are held in Kaunas, including the famous Kaunas Jazz Festival, the Pažaislis Classical Music Festival, the Songs Festival (listed by UNESCO), the International Modern Dance Festival and many more events.

In the early 20th century, Kaunas was the seat of Lithuanian government and the nation's capital; this period is considered by many to be the golden age of the city. Still regarded as provisional capital, Kaunas is famous for its colourful history, inviting parks, remarkable historic city centre and interwar spirit. The historic city centre contains many ancient architectural monuments: traces of the 14th century can be seen in the Kaunas Castle ruins, while other buildings feature Gothic and art deco styles.

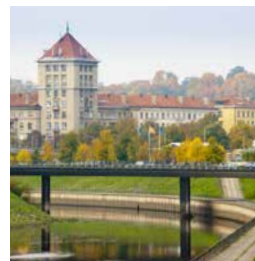
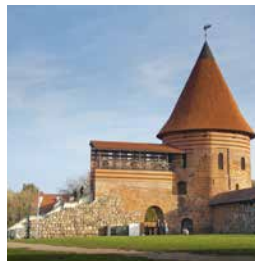
The Kaunas Devils Museum has a macabre collection of nearly 3,000 devils and exhibitions featuring the unique artistic styles of composer and painter M. K. Ciurlionis, as well as avant-garde Fluxus art movement founder J. Maciunas.

### Facts and Figures

Number of inhabitants in Lithuania:	2.981.275
Number of inhabitants in Kaunas:	354,000
Number of students at VMU:	10,000
Number of intern. students at VMU:	900

### Did you know that...

- ... Kaunas has the largest indoor arena in the Baltics?
- ... it is Easter Granny who brings the eggs in Lithuania?
- ... it is believed that on Christmas Eve animals can speak?
- ... Lithuania is the only country with a national perfume?
- ... you can hardly understand the dialect in Telsiai?
- ... the national colours represent sun, land and blood?





## The Faculty of Humanities

■ Vytautas Magnus University is one of the most liberal and modern academic institutions in Lithuania. Ranked as a world Top 700 university (QS World University Rankings), VMU is a member of the most important European associations and international organisations of higher education and research, such as the European University Association, the European Association for International Education, the Baltic Sea Region University Network and the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies.

The university boasts an exciting history: Established in 1922, it was shut down by the Soviet government in 1950 but re-established in 1989 – thanks to the collective efforts of Lithuanian and émigré scientists. Nurturing and continuing deep-rooted traditions, VMU plays a leading role in not only Lithuania but also the entire Baltic and European intellectual and cultural spheres.

The VMU Faculty of Humanities was established in 1989. Its key features are modernity, liberality and sociality. It offers the MA degree programmes Applied English Linguistics, Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism, and more than a hundred non-degree, semester-long courses in English, French, German, Latvian, Polish, and other languages at the Bachelor and Master level. Master and Doctoral studies are a priority, which demands that academic staff possess the highest qualifications.



VYTAUTAS MAGNUS  
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### Professor Ineta Dabašinskiė

**I joined SoMu because** of the great international opportunities, wonderful colleagues, and a promising future.

**Students can look forward to their semester in Kaunas** since it has the biggest student community in Lithuania.

**Our institute is special because** of liberal attitudes, tolerance, freedom and openness toward studies, research and work.

**After two years, every SoMu student** will be able to speak at least three or four languages.

**My favorite place in Kaunas** is Putvinskis Street with its interwar architecture influenced by art deco style and Bauhaus movement.



*"Kaunas has a cozy atmosphere and all the necessary facilities for a productive academic and social student life. In addition, VMU faculty members are always extremely helpful – they are as genuinely interested in our academic success as we are."*

Zarina, SoMu student

*"The best coffee in Kaunas is the one you share with your SoMu friends (the best espresso is at Buon Giorno)."*

Prof. Ineta Dabašinskienė

## Visa

Non-EU/EEA citizens require a multiple-entry national visa. Citizens from South Korea, USA, Mexico, Israel, Malaysia, Japan, Argentina and Croatia can apply for the visa after arriving in Kaunas (incl. a bank account statement).

For detailed information see <http://somu.vdu.lt>

## Health Insurance

Students from EU countries may use their Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for necessary medical care services. Non-EU students must have private health insurance before coming to Lithuania or must arrange it immediately after arrival.

For detailed information see <http://somu.vdu.lt>

## Studying in Kaunas

■ Kaunas is a constantly changing city with more than five universities and colleges. The biggest ones are Vytautas Magnus University and Kaunas University of Technology. Every September, more than five thousand new students from Lithuania and abroad arrive in Kaunas. That is why Kaunas is becoming an increasingly liberal and open-minded city.

If you come to Kaunas in September for your studies, you can take part in a student parade marking the National Science and Knowledge Feast. During the long evenings you are invited to the Kaunas National Drama Theatre, and Romuva, an old refurbished cinema that now plays non-commercial films. During the Christmas season, you shall be surprised by the most beautiful Christmas tree in Lithuania.

As January at VMU is exams month, you will probably spend every day in the university's comfortable and modern reading halls. And when you are tired of books and ideas, and if it is Saturday afternoon, you can listen to the impressive organ music composed and played outdoors by the world-wide famous Lithuanian composer Giedrius Kuprevičius. In spring, walks by the rivers Neris and Nemunas are unforgettable experiences as are visits to one of the most stunning buildings in Eastern Europe: Žalgiris Arena. Preparing to leave Kaunas in early summer, you will remember Kaunas as the place where you gathered lasting impressions, knowledge and life experience.



**Cost of living:**  
€350-600/month  
(incl. rent, food, etc.)

**Student housing:**  
dormitory €72/  
month

**Transportation:**  
single fare: €0.30  
/ 7-day ticket: €4  
/ monthly: €12 /  
3-month pass: €33

**Culture:** 7 theatres,  
26 museums, 10 art  
galleries, 6 antique  
shops

**Sights:** Kaunas Castle, Perkūnas House, Laisvės Avenue, Devils, Museum, the cathedral, Pažaislis Monastery

**Going out:** 15 clubs,  
18 bars, 5 casinos



**Festivals:** Kaunas Jazz Festival, Kaunas City Day Festival, Poetry Spring Festival, Atataria Lamzdžiai, Pažaislis Music Festival

**Nature:** Kauno Maršas, Great Nemunas Loops, Panemuniai Regional Park

**Average temperature:** 6.7 °C

**Airports:**  
Kaunas, Vilnius

**Student card:** International Student Identity Card (ISIC)/ Lithuanian Student Identity Card (LSIC)

**Activities:** hot air ballooning, horse riding, paint ball, climbing, parachuting, sailing, cruises, paragliding, bowling

**Sports:** 34 sport clubs, VMU Sports Centre, basketball, badminton, football, table tennis

**Destinations:** Trakai, Vilnius, Zapyškis, Karmėlava, Pažaislis, Rumšiškės, Birštonas, Prienai, Kėdainiai

**A beer at the pub:**  
€1.40-2.30

**VMU Arts Centre:** contemporary visual art, movement, theatre, musicals, folk and national dance, choir, capoeira



## Mainz – Germany's Wine Capital

■ Mainz was founded by the Romans over 2,000 years ago and is thus one of Germany's oldest cities. It is famous for its ancient Roman heritage, including the largest Roman theatre north of the Alps, and also for its university, its status as a media hub and as a regional capital of Rhineland Palatinate.

Johannes Gutenberg University is named after one of Mainz's most famous citizens: the inventor of the movable type printing press, who established the city's international reputation as a media centre as far back as the 15th century. Today, Mainz is home to two of Germany's major public broadcasters, Second German Television (ZDF) and Southwest Radio (SWR). Mainz is connected to the bustling Rhine-Main region with Frankfurt's international money markets at its centre and many other cities nearby.

Another defining feature of Mainz is its more than thousand-year-old Romanesque cathedral. Centrally located, it is surrounded by the mediaeval and early modern quarters of Mainz. The historic city centre is a lively place with narrow alleys, small shops, boutiques, bars and cafés. In the evenings you can experience Mainz as Germany's wine capital, nestled in the country's largest winegrowing region. The "Weinmarkt" is however only one of the city's major festivals. The population takes pride in being well-known for its carnival tradition where once a year everything shuts down for a whole week of crazy carnival celebrations.

### Facts and Figures

Number of inhabitants in Germany:	80,585,700
Number of inhabitants in Mainz:	201,000
Number of students at JGU:	36,500
Number of international students at JGU:	4,000

### Did you know that...

- ... as of 2013, Mainz is officially a Fair Trade City?
- ... most Germans are named Schmidt, Meier or Müller?
- ... Germans have more than 300 varieties of bread?
- ... Germans invented the coffee filter, mp3 and bulbs?
- ... Germany has Europe's longest motorway network?
- ... German Oktoberfest starts in September?



## The Institute of Northern European and Baltic Languages

■ With about 36,500 students from about 130 nations, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz (JGU) is one of the ten largest universities in Germany. It combines almost all academic disciplines under one roof, including the Mainz University Medical Centre, the School of Music, and the Mainz Academy of Arts.

With 84 fields of study and a total of 222 degree courses, including 98 Bachelor and 103 Master degree programmes, JGU offers an extraordinarily broad range of courses. JGU is the sole German university of this size to combine almost all institutes on one campus.

The Institute of Northern European and Baltic Languages (SNEB) belongs to the Department of English and Linguistics. It was founded in 1993 and is headed by Professor Anneli Sarhimaa. The research focus within SNEB lies on socio- and discourse linguistics. A wide variety of Nordic and Baltic languages is taught; SNEB participates in the BA and MA linguistic degree programmes at JGU and is one of the founding members of the International Master in Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism.

SNEB is a relatively small institute with a friendly atmosphere where everybody can find his or her field of interest and be supported in the best possible way.



JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

### Professor Anneli Sarhimaa

**Students can look forward to their semester in Mainz** as a chance to experience academic life in Germany with the bonus of a distinct Baltic European flavour.

**In Mainz, students learn,** for instance, how to create a European Language Vitality Barometer for identifying areas of language management in which a given (often a lesser used) language needs better institutional support.

**Our institute is special** because of its uniqueness in Europe and its conscious focus on the interplay between language and the society.

**My favorite place in Mainz** is the always beautiful Rhine riverside.

**The best coffee in Mainz** is served at Muffins'.





*"Studying in Mainz is great because you experience the advantages of a campus university. You are able to meet a lot of people from different backgrounds and study programmes. Also, it is nice to sit near the Rhine or in the botanical garden during summer and just enjoy being together with your friends from university."*

Maren, SoMu student

## Studying in Mainz

■ The city of Mainz is known for the easy-going attitude, charm and self-effacing humour of its residents. Students contribute greatly to the overall look and atmosphere of Mainz. Over 40,000 of them are enrolled at JGU and the University of Applied Sciences, with newcomers from around the world arriving every semester. Forming almost one fifth of Mainz's population, students add a lot of youthful energy to the city's vivid and lively appeal. In many shops and locations you will get a student discount or special offer.

Almost a city of its own, the university campus contains not only most of the departments but also many shops, a book store, restaurants and bars. During the evenings and weekends this is where festivals, parties and concerts take place, and they turn the campus into a student quarter. During the day you can stroll around and relax in the botanical garden or take part in the various sport activities at the sports centre.

There are no tuition fees at JGU, but all students have to pay a mandatory student services fee. The biggest benefit, besides cheap meals at several canteens, is the semester ticket. It entitles you to ride all busses, streetcars and local trains in Mainz as well as in the greater Rhine-Main area. Mainz is centrally located in this region and has excellent transport links to the neighbouring cities of Frankfurt and Wiesbaden.

## Visa

No visa is required for EU citizens or students with a valid passport from Australia, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Canada, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the US. Citizens of other countries need a student visa.

For detailed information see <http://somu.vdu.lt>

## Health Insurance

Students have to submit proof of their insurance on the day of enrolment. Students can be exempted from the insurance requirements if they have proof of their public or private insurance that is also valid in Germany.

For detailed information see <http://somu.vdu.lt>



**Cost of Living:**

€600-700/month  
(incl. rent, food, etc.)

**Transportation:**

(train, bus, tram)  
free for students in/  
around Mainz and to  
many other cities

**Student housing:**

rooms/apartments  
from €250-400/  
month

**Renting:** room/

apartment near cam-  
pus from €300-400/  
month

**Semester fee:**

€250 (includes free  
transportation,  
sports, theatre, other  
discounts)

**Culture:** 9 theatres,  
18 museums, 50 art  
galleries, 4 cinemas,  
11 libraries

**Sights:** Cathedral,  
Chagall stained glass  
windows, historic  
city centre, ancient  
Roman theatre,  
Citadel

**Going out:** 15 clubs,  
hundreds of bars and  
restaurants

**Festivals:** Fastnacht  
Carnival, Open Ohr,  
film festival, Johan-  
nismacht, Weinmarkt,  
Weihnachtsmarkt

**Average tempera-  
ture:** 10.1°C

**Nature:** Rhine  
Valley (UNESCO), Rhi-  
ne-Hesse, Palatinate,  
Hunsrück, Nahe,  
Taunus, Rheingau

**Activities:** hiking,  
biking, rock climbing,  
river cruises, castles,  
monasteries

**Sports:** free univer-  
sity sports, football,  
city marathon,  
climbing, swimming,  
canoeing

**Destinations** around  
Mainz: Frankfurt,  
Wiesbaden, Trier,  
Koblenz, Marburg,  
Heidelberg

**Airports:**  
Frankfurt am Main,  
Frankfurt Hahn

**A beer** at the pub:  
€1.90-2.50



## Stockholm – The Northern Venice

■ The city of Stockholm is located where Lake Mälaren flows out into the Baltic Sea, at the intersection of the mainland and fourteen islands that are continuous with the Stockholm archipelago. The city was founded in 1250 and has long been an important centre of culture, media, politics and economics.

Stockholm is the seat of the national government, and it is the official residence of the Swedish monarch as well as the Prime Minister. Since 1980, King Carl Gustaf XVI has had his actual residence at Drottningholm Palace outside of Stockholm and uses Stockholm Palace as his workplace and official residence. The historic city centre, with its mediaeval architecture, dark alleys and small streets, stands in stark contrast to the modern parts of Stockholm, built in steel and glass. Stretching from the northwest corner to Djurgården Island in the southeast, the Royal National City Park cuts through the city and forms a unique historic landscape. Stockholm University campus is part of this lovely recreational area, consisting of forests, meadows and inland waters.

The most popular museums are the Vasa Museum, holding the reconstructed Vasa Ship, the ABBA Museum, and the Junibacken Museum, where one can journey through the stories of Astrid Lindgren. No stay in Stockholm is complete without having taken a boat excursion out to the archipelago.

### Facts and Figures

Number of inhabitants in Sweden:	9,573,466
Number of inhabitants in Stockholm:	870,000
Number of students at SU	67,000
Number of exchange students at SU:	1,500

### Did you know that...

- ... the Swedish anthem is "Du gamla, du fria"?
- ... only Systembolaget has a licence to sell alcohol?
- ... Stockholm's subway is the world's longest art gallery?
- ... Queen Silvia was born in Germany?
- ... Sweden has special days for celebrating food?
- ... floorball is the most famous sport in Sweden?





## Institute for Baltic Languages, Finnish and German

■ The history of Baltic languages at Stockholm University dates back to 1939 when Lecturer Juozas Lingis started to teach Lithuanian there as well as at the University of Uppsala. Baltic Languages were launched as an independent subject area in 1970 with the creation of a professorship in the Department of Slavic Languages. This institute became the centre of Baltic studies in Sweden.

From 1970 till 1983 the professorship was filled by Velta Rūķe-Draviņa. She was succeeded by Norwegian linguist Helge Dagfin Rinholm. In 1994, Baiba Kangere was appointed Professor and remained in this position till 2008. She was followed by Pēteris Vanags, who is the current Professor of Baltic languages, and whose research interests lie in the early beginnings of the Latvian written language.

At the moment there are four other academics working in the field at Stockholm University: Associate Professor Jenny Larsson, Lecturer Lilita Zalkalns, and PhD students Yoko Yamazaki and Kristina Bukelskyte-Cepele.

At the Bachelor level, studies are devoted to Latvian and Lithuanian language proficiency. At the advanced and postgraduate levels, specialized subjects are taught, such as Old Prussian, Older Baltic texts, dialectology, accentology, and more.



# Stockholm University

### Professor Pēteris Vanags

**Students should spend their 3rd semester in Stockholm** because here you are plunged into in an exciting academic environment, with lots to do and great opportunities to study.

**In Stockholm, students learn** about Swedish-Baltic relationships at the cultural, historical and linguistic levels.

**Our institute is special because** it is practically the only higher education institution in Sweden where you can learn Latvian and Lithuanian at the graduate and postgraduate level.

**After two years, every SoMu student** knows a lot of and about languages.

**The best coffee in Stockholm** is served in the student cafés on campus.



*"What I like most about SoMu is the opportunity to study in different countries and everything that comes along with it: new people, new places, independent living – all those things constitute an unforgettable experience, which may happen only once in a lifetime."*

Vitalijus, SoMu student

*"I look forward to learning even more about multilingualism, especially in Sweden, and comparing my newly acquired knowledge with what I already know."*

Maren, SoMu student

## Visa

Non-EU/EEA citizens need a visa, and if they plan to stay more than three months they need a residence permit before arriving in Sweden. EU/EEA citizens have the right to reside in Sweden but need to register with the Migration Board.

For detailed information see [www.studyinsweden.se](http://www.studyinsweden.se)

## Health Insurance

SU strongly recommends students have complete insurance coverage to avoid extreme costs that might occur. Carefully consider which level of insurance you need and pay particular attention to the coverage's restrictions and exclusions.

For detailed information see <http://somu.vdu.it>

## Studying in Stockholm

■ Stockholm University (SU) is home to 67,000 students, 5,000 staff and over 1,800 researchers. The university campus is located only ten minutes by subway from the city centre. There are plenty of student activities on and around campus for all interests and leanings – from language choirs and student theatre ensembles to sports training groups, so there will be plenty for you to do in your spare time.

The Orientation Week for international students takes place during the first week of the new semester. It is designed to assist you – as a new student – to settle into university life at SU. The whole week is packed with student activities, such as a welcome party, a guided bus tour of Stockholm, guided tours on campus and so on.

All international and exchange students are given an interim personal identity number, which is very important, as this is what identifies you in the university administrative system. Through this, you have access to your university account, the wireless university network, and library services.

For new students, the most important source of information is the Infocentre, located on the ground floor of the brand-new Studenthuset. There you can get further help on whom to contact for whatever questions or problems you may have.





**Cost of living:** €800-850/month (incl. rent, food, etc.)

**Stockholm Card:** free transportation in Stockholm and free entry to 80 museums for 1-5 days (€55-120)

**Transportation:** student ticket for 30/90 days in/around Stockholm (€64/175), single trip: €2.30

**Student housing:** rooms/apartments from €310-490/month

**Culture:** 19 theatres, 78 museums, 18 cinemas, 33 concert halls, 83 art galleries

**Sights:** Gamla stan, the Royal Palace, Stockholm's cathedral, Vasa Museum, Skansen Open-Air Museum, city hall

**Average temperature:** 6.9°C

**A beer** at the pub: €4-8



**Events:** Winter Games, Midnight Run, Culture Night, Melodifestivalen, jazz festival, film festival

**Parks:** Kungsträdgården, Humlegården, Djurgården, Vitabergsparken, Hagaparken, Rålambshovsparken

**Festivals:** Midsommar, Walpurgis Night, Lucia, National Day Gallop, Christmas market, Nobel Day

**Airports:** Arlanda, Bromma, Skavsta, Västerås

**Destinations** around Stockholm: Uppsala, Sigtuna, Trosa, Gustavsberg, Värmdö, Mariefred, Drottningholm (UNESCO)

**Sports:** biking, swimming, fishing, hiking, Hellasgården recreation area, ice skating, skiing, kayaking, marathon

**Activities:** boat sightseeing, cruises, island hopping, roof top hiking, moose safaris, hot air ballooning, SkyView Globe

**Nature:** Lake Mälaren, Baltic Sea with 30,000 islands, Stockholm's archipelago, Birka (UNESCO), parks, castles

## Tartu – The Northern Athens

■ Tartu was first mentioned in the Russian chronicles of 1030 and is thus one of the oldest cities in Estonia. It prospered in the Late Middle Ages as a member of the Hanseatic League, which is celebrated in our yearly Hanseatic Days. Two mediaeval Gothic landmarks shape the city: the ruins of Dome Church and St. John's Church, which displays a wealth of unique, hand-made terracotta figures. The defining feature of Tartu is one of the largest rivers in Estonia, Emajõgi. Ten kilometers of the 100-km river flow inside the city borders, crossed by six bridges. In recognition of its importance, Tartu holds an annual river festival, and swimming and boat competitions are regular parts of many major events.

The University of Tartu was founded in 1632, and this event has shaped Tartu's fate ever since. At the time, it was the easternmost university in Europe and one of the first places where modern scientific theories like Newton's gravitation theory were taught. It also brought the town its nickname, Athens upon Emajõgi.

Today, about one fifth of Tartu's population consists of students, and each spring and autumn is marked by student festivals. Modern Tartu is a university town that has many innovative enterprises as well as a bohemian culture of cafés, pubs and theatres, lively music and art scenes, numerous parks and historical architecture.

### Facts and Figures

Number of inhabitants in Estonia:	1,339,662
Number of inhabitants in Tartu:	103,300
Number of students at UT:	17,000
Number of intern. students at UT:	670

### Did you know that...

- ... Skype was invented in Estonia?
- ... almost 50% of Estonia is covered by forest?
- ... Estonia has over 1,500 islands?
- ... Tartu is the oldest town in the Baltic countries?
- ... the University of Tartu is the oldest in Estonia?
- ... Estonia has two Independence Days?



## The Institute of Estonian and General Linguistics

■ The University of Tartu is a unique place where you can study Estonian and related specialities more thoroughly than anywhere else. The most important centre for researching and teaching the Estonian language is the Institute of Estonian and General Linguistics.

The purpose of the institute is to provide higher education in Estonian and Finno-Ugric languages, general linguistics and computational linguistics at the Bachelor, Master and doctoral level. One of the specialities taught is Estonian language in multilingual society, which enables the students to study linguistic and cultural “others”, Estonian culture, and expects that the students are open to intercultural dialogue.

The Institute of Estonian and General Linguistics combines the national and international. It has an obligation to promote the study and teaching of national subjects. At the same time, the institute has many international contacts: it has joint research projects with dozens of foreign universities and the number of international students is increasing. Most of the international students come from Finland, Russia and Latvia, but there are also students from the USA, Ukraine, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Romania, and Costa Rica. Students from other countries who are interested in Estonian and Finno-Ugric languages come through student exchange programmes to study for a term or a year.



### Professor Birute Klaas-Lang

**Students should spend their 3rd semester in Tartu because** Estonia is benchmarked as the best place to stay for international students (Erasmus Student Network Survey 2011), and Tartu is known as the university town of Estonia.

**Our institute is special because** it unites the national and international. Our mission is to develop national research and science with a strong focus on international programmes.

**After two years, every SoMu student will be an expert in sociolinguistics and Baltic Area studies.**

**My favorite place in Tartu** is Toome Hill Park, close to UT's Main Building.

**The best coffee in Tartu** is served at Café Werner.





*"Small city, big spirit: Tartu may be small in numbers, but it offers many study opportunities for international students and an exciting student life."*

Prof. Birute Klaas-Lang

## Studying in Tartu

■ Tartu is Estonia's modern, yet timeless, university town. It is known as the City of Good Thoughts and the intellectual capital of Estonia. Locals believe in the Spirit of Tartu and its way of living and thinking, which is often humorously portrayed as a real ghost. From Tartu, you can travel everywhere in Europe: There are flights to Helsinki and buses to Riga, Vilnius and even Berlin.

The University of Tartu campus covers the whole of Tartu – study buildings are located all over the city. The most important building, the Main Building, is located in the city centre, and the university has several museums, a botanical garden, a library, a sports hall and a bookstore. UT offers various international programmes for international students who can apply for tuition-waiver scholarships to cover tuition fees. Each semester begins with Orientation Days where new students meet their tutors and learn more about studying in Tartu.

Student life in Tartu is very active. The Tartu Erasmus Student Network organizes many events, including national evenings, pool parties, trips around Estonia and abroad! International students can also get an ESN card which gives them discounts everywhere in Tartu. The definite highlights of each semester are the Spring and Autumn Student Days, filled with dozens of entertaining events especially for students.



## Visa

Non-EU/EEA citizens need a temporary residence permit for study. EU citizens do not need a visa to obtain a temporary right of residence in Estonia. The temporary right of residence is granted for the period of five years.

For detailed information see [www.studyinestonia.ee](http://www.studyinestonia.ee)

## Health Insurance

International students are not covered by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund (Haigekassa) unless they are employed in Estonia, have permanent residency or have a long-term residence permit. Thus, you need to ensure that you have other health insurance.

For detailed information see <http://somu.vdu.lt>

**Cost of living:**

€200-250/month (not including rent)

**Student housing:**

shared twin / single room (€90-180/month)

**Renting:** private apartment (€160-380/month)

**Transportation:** single fare: €0.10 / monthly pass: €8.60

**Culture:** 4 theatres, 25 museums, many art galleries, 4 cinemas, 6 concert halls, 8 libraries

**Sights:** Dome Hill, Tartu Observatory, St John's Church, St. Anthony's Guild and Courtyard, town hall

**Going out:** 5 clubs, 6 pubs

**Festivals:** county dance festival, pop choir festival, Baltica folklore festival, Hanseatic days, IDeeJazz

**Nature:** Emajõe-Suursoo marshlands, Lake Võrtsjärv, Elva River, many nature protection areas, swamps

**Activities:** Ahhaa 4D cinema, hot air ballooning, paragliding, hiking, boat trips on the Jõmmu barge or the Viking ship Turm

**Sports:** water park, FunBowling, horse riding, shooting club, mountaineering, skating, skiing, squash, canoeing

**A beer at the pub:** €2

**Daily lunches at pubs in the city center:** €3-4

**Average temperature:** 4.6 °C

**Cultural centres:** Finnish, German, French, Nordic, Portuguese cultural centres, Tampere House, Granö Centre

**Eight public internet spots** all around the city





## WHAT THE STUDENTS SAY

"It is a completely new experience for me to study abroad. You learn a lot about yourself but also a lot about foreign cultures."

"SoMu is a new and unique programme in which I can acquire new insights into multilingualism and experience internationalism firsthand."



"I chose SoMu because of its uniqueness. It offers an interesting and useful variety of subjects in the field of sociolinguistics."



Vitalijus



Maren

"What I like most about SoMu is the multidisciplinary. It is not only about languages but also about cultures, politics and international issues."

"I look forward to the SoMu outcomes. I hope that after graduating I will be a competitive candidate on the job market with a clear focus and understanding of what I want to do next and how the knowledge that I acquired during my studies can be applied in one field or another."

"SoMu is a perfect opportunity to meet people of different backgrounds and cultures, learn new languages, live and study abroad."



Zarina

"What I like most about SoMu is the students. We come from different countries and backgrounds, but, despite all the differences, we formed strong bonds with each other during the first semester. I think the diversity factor enriches the programme even more, which has been very beneficial for all of us."

"SoMu gives me insights into other countries in the Baltic Sea Area and allows me to develop intercultural soft skills for the labour market."

"I look forward to a second semester with my SoMu friends in Mainz and to conducting more of my own research."

"SoMu is a one-of-a-kind programme. I chose it because of its novel approach, travel component and the international experience."

"I look forward to new opportunities, experiences and academic discoveries at other universities. I cannot wait to learn more languages!"



"Kaunas is a great city to study because most of the university buildings are located in the city centre so you may have lunch in cafés or restaurants."



Frederik

# THE SOME LANGUAGES IN FIVE MINUTES

lietuviešu valoda  
 Litaualisch litauiska  
**Lithuanian**  
**lietuvių kalba**  
 ЛИТОВСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Hello!	Labas!
How are you?	Kaip sekasi?
I am...	Aš esu...
I speak Swedish.	Aš kalbu švediškai.
I don't understand.	Aš nesuprantu.
Cheers!	Į sveikatą!

vokiečių kalba  
**German**  
**Deutsch**  
 vācu valoda  
 немейкий язык

Hello!	Hallo!
How are you?	Wie geht's?
My name is...	Mein Name ist...
I speak Lithuanian.	Ich spreche Litauisch.
I don't understand.	Ich verstehe nicht.
Cheers!	Prost!

шведский язык  
 zviedru valoda  
**Swedish**  
 svenska  
 Schwedisch ruotsi

Hello!	Hej!
How are you?	Hur är läget?
I am...	Jag heter...
I speak Estonian.	Jag talar estniska.
I don't understand.	Jag förstår inte.
Cheers!	Skål!

igaunu valoda  
**Estonian**  
**eesti keel**  
 Estnisch estu kalba  
 ЭСТОНСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Hello!	Tere!
How are you?	Kuidas läheb?
My name is...	Minu nimi on...
I speak German.	Ma räägin saksa keelt.
I don't understand.	Ma ei saa aru.
Cheers!	Terviseks!

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: A NORDIC/BALTIC AREA QUIZ

1. Who wrote *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* (Nils Holgersson)?

- a) Selma Lagerlöf
- b) Astrid Lindgren
- c) Sven Nordqvist

2. Nordic bands and singers have often won the Eurovision Song contest. But which of the following has never won?

- a) ABBA
- b) Lordi
- c) Roxette
- d) Alexander Rybak

3. Which of these languages has two standard forms?

- a) Finnish
- b) Norwegian
- c) Danish
- c) Faroese

4. Which language has still got runes in its alphabet?

- a) Swedish
- b) Danish
- c) Icelandic
- d) Norwegian

5. Which of the following Swedish authors has never won the Nobel Prize?

- a) Selma Lagerlöf
- b) Astrid Lindgren
- c) Tomas Tranströmer
- d) Pär Lagerkvist
- e) Nelly Sachs

6. In which country is Danish an official minority language?

- a) Faroe Islands
- b) Norway
- c) Germany

7. For more than 200 years, Lithuania was united with another East European country and formed one of the most powerful unions in Europe. Which other country?

- a) Belarus
- b) Poland
- c) Latvia

8. Which of the following does not belong to the Baltic languages?

- a) Lithuanian
- b) Latvian
- c) Estonian

9. In which country was Skype developed?

- a) Germany
- b) Sweden
- c) Estonia
- d) Norway

10. In which country is sign language an official minority language?

- a) Lithuania
- b) Denmark
- c) Sweden

11. Which country has two official languages?

- a) Finland
- b) Germany
- c) Latvia
- d) Poland

Answers  
1a - 2c - 3b - 4c - 5b - 6c - 7b - 8c - 9c - 10c - 11a

## Contact Information



<http://somu.vdu.lt>



[www.facebook.com/somu.vdu](http://www.facebook.com/somu.vdu)



[somu@hmf.vdu.lt](mailto:somu@hmf.vdu.lt)



## University Websites



[www.vdu.lt](http://www.vdu.lt)



[www.uni-mainz.de](http://www.uni-mainz.de)



[www.ut.ee](http://www.ut.ee)



[www.su.se](http://www.su.se)

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