

# Sociolinguistics & Multilingualism

A Survival Kit For Your Studies

SoMu

# Johannes Gutenberg  
University



Vytautas Magnus  
University



Master of Arts

Minority Languages



[lɪŋ'ɡwɪstɪks]



Joint Degree

Language & Society



Discourse Analysis

Stockholm University



Language Focus

Professional Communication Skills



Mainz



Kaunas



University of Tartu



Multidisciplinary

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

# 1. General Outline of the Programme

The International Master "Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism" (SoMu) is a study programme which was jointly developed by four European universities to provide students with a solid grounding in the social and academic aspects of sociolinguistics and multilingualism at a local, national and international level. Considering the international nature of the programme, obtaining this joint degree will extend considerably the students' possibilities to find employment in the European labour market.

This master aims at exploring the breadth and the depth of sociolinguistics and multilingualism while focusing on the intrinsic relationship between language and society within the geographical region of the Nordic and the Baltic sea. Therefore, students will gain experience of excellence in understanding the synchronic usage of the different languages spoken European-wide and will specialise in the analysis of sociolinguistic dynamics and in the cultural, political and economic effects of multilingualism in Europe.

The course will build on students' expertise through subjects like: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods in Sociolinguistics, which will explore the methodological approaches and the central fields of research in sociolinguistics, Minorities and Civil Society in the Baltic Region, which will touch upon the socio-historical background of the Baltic area, Current Trends in Sociolinguistics, which will offer a closer look at what are the analytical tools used in sociolinguistic research, Professional Research Reporting, in which students will learn how to write a critical book review, just to mention a few.

Moreover, the design of the programme will give the opportunity to the students to experience in an authentic way the university life in three different European countries, namely Lithuania, Germany and Sweden or Estonia. By being chal-

lenged to adapt to three different academic systems, they will have the chance to learn the local languages and integrate more robustly within the culture of the host countries. Considering the diversified social structure of today's Europe, this trinational master programme envisages creating a new generation of sociolinguists capable of responding to wider international job demands, helped by the intercultural skills that they will acquire in this programme.

Students are expected to complete the master in Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism in four semesters. However, due to the built-in mobility that characterises the international joint degree, during the first three academic terms, they will attend courses together with other multinational fellow students in the stimulating and inspiring atmosphere of the partner universities. At the end of the studies, the participants will receive their diplomas from the two mother universities of the master programme: Vytautas Magnus University and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. This fosters the opportunity to pursue a future professional career within the academia or other institutional environments.

The university syllabus and the contents of the study programme are arranged in a harmonious and congruent way accordingly.

The philosophy of the study programme intends to motivate graduates who wish to investigate the interconnection between language and society through an interdisciplinary approach and increase their cross-cultural awareness through the creation of new patterns of communication. This is a distinctive feature of SoMu as there is no other programme in sociolinguistics and multilingualism in Europe which offers an opportunity of professional and academic growth in such an intercultural environment.

## Teaching Methods

The teaching methods are different according to each country of the Master. But generally, the teaching consists of lecture courses, seminars, language courses and colloquiums. In the lecture courses and seminars, students learn to acquire methodological and scientific knowledge in the field of Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism. Language courses offer practical language skills to settle in the country and give a possibility to learn the cultures of the countries in the Baltic Sea region. In colloquiums, students actively practice teamwork to acquire critical and self-reflecting abilities.

## Internationalisation

The aim of the master is to create a new generation of sociolinguists, who have a scientific and practical understanding of the parallel use of different languages in Europe, as well as a specialized knowledge about social dynamics and cultural, political and socioeconomic influences of Multilingualism in Europe. The programme focuses on conveying a new understanding of Multilingualism especially in the European Multilingualism with the examples of countries in the Baltic Sea region. Students widen their competence of languages in international languages like English and German, but also in less widely used languages such as Lithuanian and Estonian.

## Career Orientation of the Programme

After finishing the joint-degree master, there are many different possibilities for getting a job in the home country or abroad. One opportunity is in the field of science and research, for instance, elaborating research projects or enrolling for doctoral studies in Sociolinguistics, Intercultural Communication, Identity, Multilingualism and so on. Another field can be in consultation and training in questions about Multilingualism in political and cultural institutions, including the agency of the EU, educational establishments of every stripe and in economic and financial institutions. Occupations in different international, national and regional, public and private institutions and projects in the field of Multilingualism are possible workplaces for people who finished this joint degree master. SoMu graduates can also find employment in the field of language planning and mass media (with additional qualifications), e.g. in fields such as political journalism.

# Your European Journey



## 2. Programme Structure

The master in Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism has a two-year duration (four academic semesters), in which students should be able to collect a total of 120 ECTS credits, that is 30 ECTS each semester. The academic study programme starts annually with the fall semester and has to be completed within the first three semesters. The fourth semester is devoted entirely to the master thesis and to the preparation for the final examination.

The study programme consists of modules with compulsory and elective courses dealing with different facets of sociolinguistics and multilingualism in the Nordic and Baltic area. Each set of modules should be completed in an academic semester. Together with the subjects related specifically to sociolinguistics and multilingualism, students will have the possibility to study Lithuanian, German and Swedish or Estonian.

The first semester starts at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU). Students will spend the second semester at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz (JGU) in Germany.

Already during the first semester, students will decide whether to spend their third semester at Stockholm University (Stockholm, Sweden) or Tartu University (Tartu, Estonia), and they will finalise their enrolment during the second semester in Germany.

In the fourth semester, students will be occupied with writing their master thesis and preparing for the final examination. They can research and write their final dissertation in any of the four partner universities, but they need to register for master thesis at VMU or JGU. More information about the MA thesis is available in Section 5.

### Overview of Modules and Courses

| First semester: Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas (Lithuania)   |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Module 1: Multilingual Baltic-Sea Europe I: Language-Sociological Perspectives</b><br>a) Mediatization of Language, Culture and Everyday Life<br>b) Multilingualism in Europe   | <b>ECTS</b><br>6<br>6 |
| <b>Module 2: Language and Communication Skills I</b><br>a) English Academic Writing or Cross-Cultural Communication<br>b) Lithuanian Language Course (for non-native Lithuanian speakers)<br>b) Language Course in a Nordic/Baltic Language (for native Lithuanian speakers) | <b>ECTS</b><br>6<br>6 |
| <b>Module 3: Methods of Sociolinguistics I</b><br>a) Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods   | <b>ECTS</b><br>6<br>6 |

| Second semester: Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz (Germany)   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Module 4: Multilingual Baltic-Sea Europe II: Sociolinguistic Perspectives</b><br>a) Regional and Minority Languages<br>b) Current Trends in Sociolinguistics   | <b>ECTS</b><br>4<br>6 |
| <b>Module 5: Language and Communication Skills II</b><br>a) German Language Course (for non-native German speakers)<br>a) Language Course in a Nordic/Baltic Language (for native German speakers)<br>b) Research Reporting | <b>ECTS</b><br>4<br>6 |
| <b>Module 6: Methods in Sociolinguistics II</b><br>a) Qualitative Data Analysis<br>b) Professional Project Planning   | <b>ECTS</b><br>4<br>6 |

| <b>Third semester: University of Tartu (Estonia)</b>   |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Module 7a: Multilingual Baltic-Sea Europe III.a: Language Contacts</b><br>a) Estonian in Europe   | <b>ECTS</b><br>6      |
| <b>Module 8a: Language and Communication Skills III.a</b><br>a) Estonian Language Course (for non-native Estonian speakers)<br>a) Language Course in another Nordic/Baltic Language (for native Estonian speakers) | <b>ECTS</b><br>12     |
| <b>Module 9a: Historical and Cultural Background III.a</b><br>a) History of Estonia<br>b) Estonian Culture   | <b>ECTS</b><br>4<br>6 |

| <b>Third semester: Stockholm University (Sweden)</b>  |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Module 7b: Multilingual Baltic-Sea Europe III.b: Language Contacts</b><br>a) Language Contacts in the Baltic Area<br>b) Research and Argumentation Skills  | <b>ECTS</b><br>1.5<br>6          |
| <b>Module 8b: Language and Communication Skills III.b</b><br>a) Swedish Language Course (for non-native Swedish speakers)<br>a) Language Course in another Nordic Language (for native Swedish speakers)<br>b) Language Course in a Baltic Language | <b>ECTS</b><br>7.5<br>7.5<br>7.5 |
| <b>Module 9b: Historical and Cultural Background III.b</b><br>a) Language Situation and Language Policy in the Baltic Countries   | <b>ECTS</b><br>7.5               |

| <b>Fourth semester: Johannes Gutenberg University or Vytautas Magnus University</b> |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Module 10: Master's Thesis</b><br>a) Thesis<br>b) Defence                        | <b>ECTS</b><br><br>30 |

### 3. How to Get Enrolled

In order to become applicants, students should submit their application online, to which the student will be directed from the main website (<http://somu.vdu.lt/>). The application form can also be accessed at:

[www.vdu.lt/en/studies/degree-studies/master-ma/sociolinguistics-and-multilingualism](http://www.vdu.lt/en/studies/degree-studies/master-ma/sociolinguistics-and-multilingualism)

#### What document should the student submit?

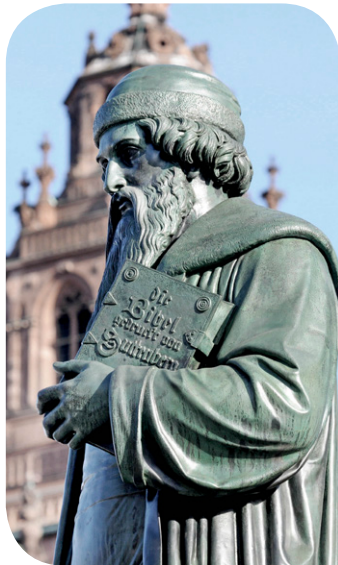
Before applying, students should pay the application fee and make sure that they have the required documents:

- Bachelor degree diploma or equivalent degree in Humanities or Social Sciences which shall contain at least 30 ECTS in the field of linguistics or philology
- Students from non-partner universities are asked to provide the proof of English language proficiency: FCE or CAE, IELTS 5.5+ or TOEFL 69+ or a document that equates a B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
- Students from outside the European Union need to provide proof of their health insurance that is valid for the entire period of their studies (two years) and covers at least EUR 30,000 each year.

The entry qualification documents are accepted in the following languages: English / German / Lithuanian.

The deadline for submitting the online application form is the 20th of June until 23:59 (GMT).







## 4. Practical Information

### 4.1 The First Semester in Kaunas

Kaunas is one of the most significant cities in Lithuania. It is the second largest city in the country, located 100 km away from the capital Vilnius. This fast-growing modern city is an attractive centre of business and industry as well as science, studies and culture.

#### 4.1.1 Studying in Kaunas

This chapter gives you an overview of the most important information regarding studying at Vytautas Magnus University.

#### Contact Details



**Prof. Dr. Jūratė Ruzaitė** (programme coordinator at VMU)



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#### How to Get to the University Area

From the train station:

- Take trolleybus number 5 from Geležinkelio stotis and get off at S. Daukanto gatvė (0.40 € with student card);
- Take bus number 37 from Geležinkelio stotis and get off at S. Daukanto gatvė (0.40 € with student card);
- Take minibus number 57 from Geležinkelio stotis and get off at S. Daukanto gatvė (1€)
- Walk for around 15 minutes along Vytauto prospektas, then turn left in Donelaičio gatvė and walk another 10 minutes until you reach Studentų skveras.

Kaunas is served by two airports: Kaunas Airport (Oro uosto g. 4, Karmėlava 54460) and Vilnius International Airport (Rodūnios kl. 10A, Vilnius 02189)

From Kaunas Airport:

- Take bus number 29 and get off at Studentų skveras.

From Vilnius Airport:

- Take the city bus number 88 to get to the main station (it takes about 25 minutes) and from there take a train to Kaunas.
- Take a bus (companies: Kautra or Toks), which takes you straightaway to Kaunas station.

Via highway:

- Kaunas is served by European route E67, which runs from Prague in the Czech Republic to Helsinki in Finland by way of Poland, Lithuania, Riga (Latvia), and Tallinn (Estonia). Kaunas is also linked to Vilnius via motorway A1 and via highway A6.

#### Lithuanian Language and Culture Summer Course

Each summer, the University offers a Lithuanian Language and Culture Summer Course that lasts four weeks. During this summer course, students are offered an intensive programme consisting of lectures, workshops and discussions, sightseeing tours and excursions to learn the Lithuanian language and deepen their knowledge of the Lithuanian lifestyle. The programme is carried out by qualified teachers and professors.

The summer course fee, including tuition and social programme, is EUR 650. The registration fee is EUR 30.

Accommodation in a student dormitory will cost EUR 3 per night, or students can arrange their own accommodation.

### SoMu Venues

The main university buildings are located in the city centre of Kaunas. Lectures usually take place in the university buildings at K. Donelaičio g. 52 and V. Putvinskio g. 23, where the VMU International Cooperation Department and the Dean's Office

are located. These buildings are all in the vicinity of Baltija dormitory (Vytauto pr. 71), the VMU Student Centre and the Office of Student Affairs (S. Daukanto g. 27).

### Orientation Days

Around the third week of August, the International Office at VMU offers Orientation Days for all incoming international students. During these orientation days, international students will get acquainted with the most important aspects of studying at VMU (e.g. where to find the classrooms, VMU library and reading rooms, how to get the Student ID, etc.).

In the same week, there is usually an introductory meeting for all SoMu students. During the meeting, you will meet the SoMu instructors and administrative staff, you will be able to fill out and sign some documents, will receive some practical information about your studies and will have a chance to ask any question regarding the program.

### Language Courses

The Lithuanian language course is obligatory for non-Lithuanian students; Lithuanian students need to sign up for a foreign language of the Nordic/Baltic Region: Latvian, Estonian, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, or German). Language courses usually start by the second week of September.

If you would like to attend another language course which is not given in your study programme, you will have to pay an additional enrolment fee. The registration process is usually completed within the first two weeks of the semester, and no changes can be made afterwards.

### Library

Students benefit from several faculty libraries which can also be used as reading rooms. For the humanities, the main one is Vaclovas Biržiška Library, located in K. Donelaičio g. 52–218. The library card (i.e. the ISIC CARD or Lithuanian Student Identity Card (LSIC)) is needed in order to use the library facilities.

The ISIC card can be issued at the VMU Student Affairs Department: (S. Daukanto g. 27–210) at the price of EUR 10. It is highly recommended to get it as it serves several functions and can be used in several contexts to obtain discounts (e.g. library, public transportation, restaurants, and coffee shops).

## Start Preparing Your Second and Third Semester

### Enrolment

For your first semester, we will take care of your enrolment at JGU Mainz. In the following semesters, you need to review your status yourselves.

Just like in Lithuania, enrolments in Germany are always valid for one semester only; therefore, you always have to renew it every semester at both universities. In Mainz, the procedure for students in a joint degree programme is different: As soon as you are enrolled in Mainz, we will receive your student

number and will forward it to you. When you have the number, you can fully fill in the enrolment form, scan it and send it to [studsek@uni-mainz.de](mailto:studsek@uni-mainz.de). We will also provide you with a digital version of the JGU enrolment form, because you have to fill it in and send it back to JGU every semester. You do not only need to send back the filled-in form, but also an up-to-date certificate from VMU that confirms your enrolment at VMU.

### Accommodation in Mainz

Student accommodation in Mainz is guaranteed for international students below the age of 30 if they apply on time. So make sure you apply for your semester in Mainz by January 31st. A variety of different facilities is offered. You need to

apply online: <https://www.studierendenwerk-mainz.de/internationales/living-international/?L=3>

Please be aware that the contracts are always valid for a whole semester (April 1st till September 30th).

### Erasmus funding for Mainz

VMU can provide you with an Erasmus scholarship for the semester in Mainz. Please get in touch with the International

Office at VMU and apply according to their guidelines. If your application is successful, you will receive a Letter of Acceptance.

### Erasmus funding for Stockholm/Tartu

For your semester in Stockholm/ Tartu JGU offers Erasmus scholarships. You need to apply already during the first semester. You will receive all necessary information during

the introductory meeting. The Erasmus coordinator is Aurelija Tamošiūnaitė: [atamosiu@uni-mainz.de](mailto:atamosiu@uni-mainz.de)

### German classes

German classes are mandatory for international students in Mainz. You need to apply by January 8th. The application form

will be handed out to you during the introductory meeting in Kaunas.

## 4.1.2 Living in Kaunas

### Student Accommodation

All foreign students are usually accommodated in VMU dormitory No. 2 named BALTIJA, which is located in the city centre (Vytauto pr. 71, Kaunas), very close to the university buildings.

In the dormitory, students can live in different types of rooms: single-bed room with a bathroom, two-bed room with a shared bathroom, three-bed room with a shared bathroom, single-bed room in a block of rooms, two-bed room in a block of rooms and three-bed room in a block of rooms. In each room, there is a free broadband or Wi-Fi internet access. The rooms are equipped with a table, bed, fridge, wardrobe and chairs.

The dormitory fee is paid according to the room type on a monthly basis, usually before the 10th of each month.

In the dormitory there are common areas that the students need to share. There are two kitchens per floor with cooking facilities. However, kitchen utensils (cookware, i.e. pots, pans, etc.) are not provided. Reading rooms are located on the seventh and the first floor of the dormitory. The self-service laundry-drying room is located in the basement of the dormitory. These services are charged. The leisure area with a TV, pool table and foosball is in the lobby. Smoking facilities are located on the fourth and seventh floor.

Additional services:

- If needed, beddings and towels can be provided during the check-in procedure. There is an additional charge for it.
- During your residence period, beddings and towels can be changed to new ones. There is a charge for it.

Permanent accommodation, for at least one semester (five months) is usually guaranteed to incoming students by participating in an online competition. Detailed information will be published in the official website of the university [www.vdu.lt/en](http://www.vdu.lt/en).

More information about accommodation is available at: [www.vdu.lt/en/studies/international-student-handbook/accommodation/application-for-accommodation](http://www.vdu.lt/en/studies/international-student-handbook/accommodation/application-for-accommodation)

You can get to the dormitory taking bus number 29 if you are coming from Kaunas Airport. The name of the bus stop is "Kęstučio g.". Once you get off, you have to walk ahead for about 50 m along the same street. The dormitory is located just on the left-hand side of the street.

If you have arrived at Kaunas train station, you can take any trolleybus at the stop "Geležinkelio stotis" and get off at the stop "Kęstučio g.". The VMU Dormitory is in front of the trolleybus stop, on the other side of the street.

Students, coming from the EU countries, can get discounts on public transport if they have an ISIC card or a student card ([www.isic.lt/en](http://www.isic.lt/en)).

To reach the VMU Dormitory from Kaunas bus station, walk for approximately 50 m along the street Griunvaldo g. until you reach Vytauto prospektas; then turn to the left and continue walking for another 300 m. The dormitory is located just on the left-hand side of the street.

### Local Public Transport

Kaunas has a well-functioning transport network, which includes buses, trolleybuses and minibuses. For more information, you can also visit the website:

<http://en.kaunas.lt/tourism/public-transport>

If you want to have a look at the available routes, timetables and tariffs, check the website:

[www.kaunas.lt/transportas/viesasis-transportas](http://www.kaunas.lt/transportas/viesasis-transportas)

You can also download an app at: <https://www.trafi.lt>

### Mentor's Programme

VMU University provides students with the possibility of being tutored by a local student, who supports and assists incoming students during the adaptation process. The mentor helps incoming students to get familiar with the university system and with the everyday life in Kaunas. They will also be welcoming

incoming students when they arrive and will accompany them to their new home.

For further information, contact Orinta Movsesjan:

[orinta.movsesjan@vdu.lt](mailto:orinta.movsesjan@vdu.lt)

### Student Life

Students are encouraged to take an active part in the events organized by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) VMU Kaunas and to subscribe to the dormitory Facebook group. They can also keep an eye on the official website of Kaunas City,

<http://visit.kaunas.lt/en/to-do/events>.

By doing this, students will stay updated regarding Kaunas' cultural and entertaining life and will have the chance to get to know better the Lithuanian culture and the university environment.

### Sports

The VMU Sport Centre offers a wide range of sport activities for the students (e.g. yoga, basketball, fitness, table tennis, aerobics, badminton, and capoeira) and occasionally organises sport competitions and events. Moreover, there is a Training

hall which is available for every VMU student and is free to use (Technikos g. 18R).



Kaunas





## 4.2 The Second Semester 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 the city. Over 40,000 of them are enrolled at JGU and the University of Applied Science, with newcomers from around the world arriving every semester.


### 4.2.1 Studying in Mainz


This chapter gives you an overview of the most important information regarding studying at Johannes Gutenberg University.


#### Contact Details



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Germany

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#### How to Get to the University Area

From Mainz main railway station (Mainz Hauptbahnhof):

- By bus or tram: take one of the following lines: 6 (direction Münchfeld/Gonsenheim), 51 and 53 (direction Lerchenberg), 54 (direction Klein-Winternheim), 55 and 56 (direction Finthen), 57 (direction Bretzenheim), 59 (direction Hochschule Mainz), 64 and 65 (direction Hartenberg), 68 (direction Budenheim), 75 (direction Schwabenheim/Ingelheim), 90 (direction Finthen), 91 (direction Lerchenberg) and 650 (direction Sprendlingen).
- All these lines arrive at the bus stop "Universität".
- Bus line 78 drives through the campus and has the following bus stops: "Johannes-von-Müller-Weg", "Colonel-Kleinmann-Weg", "Hanns-Dieter-Hübsch-Weg", "Staudingerweg" and "Duesbergweg".
- The bus stop "Friedrich-von-Pfeiffer-Weg" is close to the Philosophicum, the building of humanities and therefore also the building of "Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism".

From the airport:

There are two airports: Frankfurt Main (about 30 km distance to Mainz) and Frankfurt-Hahn (about 85 km distance to Mainz)

- From Frankfurt-Main, take the suburban railway S8 to Mainz (direction Wiesbaden Hbf) or any regional train ("Regionalbahn" or "Regionalexpress") heading to Mainz. A ticket costs about EUR 4, and the ride takes 25 minutes.
- From Frankfurt-Hahn, take the airport shuttle bus to Mainz, which will cost 13 Euro and will take about 1h 10 min, or take the public ORN-Bus, which leaves every three hours to Mainz main train station. The ride takes 1.5 hours and costs EUR 10.
- By taxi (Taxis are rather expensive in Germany)
  - From Frankfurt Main: it will cost about EUR 70
  - From Frankfurt-Hahn: it will cost about EUR 130

### German Language Courses

German classes are mandatory for non-German students. Although the courses are part of the SoMu curriculum, you have to register for them separately. You will receive the registration form for the course from during the introductory meeting in Kaunas or by email. You have to fill it in and send a scanned copy to Nora Kruse, [kruse@uni-mainz.de](mailto:kruse@uni-mainz.de).

The Centre for Foreign Languages (Fremdsprachenzentrum) offers German language courses on five different levels. Students usually have to apply for the language course before the lectures have started in early April. For further information, see the website of The Foreign Language Centre (Fremdsprachenzentrum): <http://www.fsz.uni-mainz.de/>

### Info Days

The summer semester starts in April. One week before the official semester begins, there is an orientation week (Einführungswoche) with "InfoDays", where students can get help about a number of practical issues, e.g. how to use the student card and how to understand the library system.

Lectures and seminars end in July, and the seminar session starts. Research papers have to be submitted in August right before the semester in Stockholm or Tartu starts. The exact dates of the exams will be announced by the teachers at the beginning of the semester

### The Data Processing Centre (ZDV)

The ZDV is a central academic facility at JGU. It provides all members of the university — students or staff — with information and communication technology services.

To find an overview of the services available, see: [www.zdv.uni-mainz.de](http://www.zdv.uni-mainz.de)

### Semester Fee

In Mainz, similarly to Kaunas, there are no tuition fees, but a semester fee. It covers amongst other things the semester ticket, which means free public transportation in Mainz and its

neighbouring cities (e.g. Frankfurt). For the spring term, you have to pay the semester fee (approx. 300 EUR), but not for other semester that you do not spend at JGU.

### Library

The central library for every faculty (Zentralbibliothek) is in the Georg-Forster building, next to the Philosophicum. The library of the Institute of Linguistics is in the Philosophicum building on the first floor. There are also many other libraries of different institutes of the Faculty of Philosophy and Philology.

For more information about the University Library, see: [www.ub.uni-mainz.de](http://www.ub.uni-mainz.de)

### The "Studicard"

The library card also functions as your "Studicard", which is a combined library card and student card. You will need your Studicard to pay for meals in the central student canteen. Your Studicard can also be used for other purposes:

- Making payments in the Student Union cafeterias on campus, in the Kulturcafé, and in the campus restaurant;
- Making cash-free payments for copies using the campus photocopying machines
- Replenishing your Centre of Data Processing printing account;
- Making payments for work materials in the German Institute, in the Centre of Data Processing, and in the Institutes of Chemistry and Pharmacy, as well as for services provided by the Central Library;
- In all the Student Union halls of residence (except Valenciahaus), the washing and drying machines can only be operated by means of a Studicard.

### Where to obtain a Studicard?

You can obtain a Studicard for EUR 5 in the foyer of the central student canteen during opening hours. You can charge the card with an amount of up to EUR 200 at various payment stations located throughout the campus.

### More info on the Studicard can be found online:

<https://www.studierendenwerk-mainz.de/essentrinken/studicard/?L=3>



## 4.2.2 Living in Mainz

### Registration of Residence at the Municipality

You have to register your residence at Mainz in the "Bürgeramt" (Kaiserstraße 3-5, close to the main train station). You need a valid ID-card and a copy of your rental agreement. For more information and opening hours, see: <https://www.mainz.de/vv/oe/buergeramt.php>.

Citizens from the following countries do not need to apply for a visa:

- EU member states;

- EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland);
  - Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, New Zealand and USA.
- Nationals from these states will obtain a residence permit upon registration with the Aliens Department ("Ausländerbehörde").

Foreign students who need to apply for a visa should contact the German Embassy either in their home country or in Lithuania (during the first semester) in order to learn about the requirements.

### Accommodation

There are two main possibilities for living in Mainz as a student. A very common way is applying for one of the dormitories such as Inter II, K3, Kisselberg, Münchfeld, Oberstadt, Binger Schlag, all of which are on the campus or very close to the campus, or the dormitory Hechtsheim, which is about 15 minutes away from the campus. A room in a student dorm will cost around EUR 200-400. Applications for dorms should be submitted well in advance (and no later than January 31st). By far the biggest provider of dorms is the "Studierendenwerk": [www.studentenwerk-mainz.de/Welcome\\_statistisch\\_engl.html](http://www.studentenwerk-mainz.de/Welcome_statistisch_engl.html)

Another popular accommodation possibility in Mainz is living in shared flats, or so-called "Wohngemeinschaften" (WGs). Finding a room is not always easy, but you can check very useful housing websites such as: [www.wg-gesucht.de](http://www.wg-gesucht.de)

If you first arrive in Mainz without a place to stay, you can stay in the youth hostel for a couple of days. It is highly recommended to book a room in advance: [www.diejugendherbergen.de/die-jugendherbergen-auf-einen-blick/mainz/portrait](http://www.diejugendherbergen.de/die-jugendherbergen-auf-einen-blick/mainz/portrait)

### Local Public Transport

For general information on public transport in Mainz, see: [www.mvg-mainz.de](http://www.mvg-mainz.de)

Students have the possibility to cycle to university with the bike-sharing system in Mainz ([www.mvg-mainz.de/mvgmeinrad](http://www.mvg-mainz.de/mvgmeinrad))

### Student Life

A great variety of leisure activities is offered by the university, ranging from the choir, orchestra and theatre groups to the general university sports courses (with about 70 types of sports). More information on the sports programme and training hours is available online: [www.hochschulsport.uni-mainz.de](http://www.hochschulsport.uni-mainz.de).

[de](#). The programme is updated every semester and is published on this website.

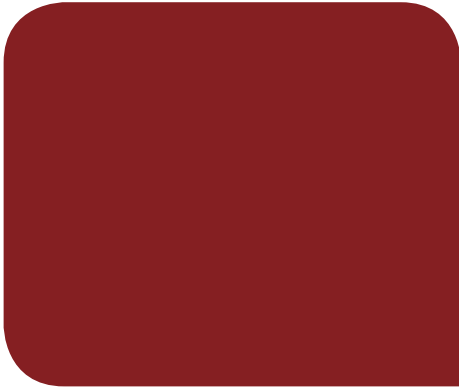
JGU offers a wide array of excursions and field trips for international students and scholars on a regular basis.

### Mentor's Programme

The university offers a buddy programme, which is an initiative by the Studierendenwerk Mainz. The programme offers a possibility for local and international students to get together. One Mainz student is connected with one international student for a semester. This way, Mainz students have the opportunity

to meet international students, and international students have the opportunity to find a friend at the very beginning of their studies. For more information, see the following link: [www.studierendenwerk-mainz.de/internationales/making-friends/buddy/?L=3](http://www.studierendenwerk-mainz.de/internationales/making-friends/buddy/?L=3)







## 4.3 The Third Semester in Tartu

Stockholm University in the capital of Sweden is characterized by its openness, innovation, and collaboration. With a global perspective and through partnerships with others, Stockholm University contributes to the development of knowledge. Education and research within humanities and science in the international frontline, as well as interdisciplinary work, make this possible.

### 4.3.1 Studying in Tartu

This chapter gives you an overview of the most important information regarding studying at the University of Tartu.

#### Contact Details



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

#### Orientation

The Campus of the University of Tartu spreads out over the whole city area. The main university building, however, is located right in the city centre. The university itself offers several

museums, a botanical garden, a university library, a sport hall, and a bookstore.

#### How to Get to Tartu

Tartu is located in Southern Estonia and is served by Tartu Airport, Lennart Meri Tallinn Airport and Riga Airport in Latvia. Tartu is 186 kilometres away from Tallinn, Estonia's capital, or roughly 2.5 hours using an express coach. The distance between Tartu and Riga Airport is 245 kilometres. The students arriving from Stockholm or Helsinki can also take a ferry to Tallinn.

At the beginning of each semester, there are Orientation Days, during which incoming students can get to know their tutor and familiarize with the university system in Tartu.

There is an airport Shuttle Bus, which connects well Tartu Airport to the city centre and other places in the city. The ticket costs 5 EUR and can be bought directly from the driver in cash

or by a debit/credit card. If booked in advance, the shuttle could pick the students up from any place in Tartu and take them to the airport for the same price. Students can also take a taxi to reach the city centre. The prices vary, but it costs approximately around 10 EUR.

Tartu bus terminal is located near the city centre and is nearby the student dormitories and the University Main Building.

The train station is not very close to the city centre, so it is advisable that the students take a taxi at their arrival until they get familiar with the public transportation system.

For more detailed information, see: [www.ut.ee/en/welcome/arrival-estonia](http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/arrival-estonia)

#### 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. For further 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 Esto-

nia, have permanent residency, or have a long-term residence permit.

### Register at UT

In order to enrol at the University of Tartu, students have to fill in an online application form on the following website: [www.ut.ee/en/prospective-students/exchange-students](http://www.ut.ee/en/prospective-students/exchange-students). Deadlines are announced well in advance to give the students enough time to collect the necessary documents, which should accompany the application.

What documents should the student submit?

- Transcript of Records in English issued by the home university, which must contain the original seal and the signature of an authorized official;
- Copy of a valid identification document (for non-EU applicants, a copy of the passport page stating the applicant's personal particulars);
- Learning Agreement (if required by the home university)

There are several steps that incoming students should follow in order to enrol at the University of Tartu.

### Getting Ready for the Third Semester

The Academic Calendar can slightly vary from year to year, but it can be checked here:

[www.ut.ee/en/academic-calendar](http://www.ut.ee/en/academic-calendar)

However, at the end of August/beginning of September, the Orientation Course takes place, where students meet the representative members of the university and the Study

- Students should first sign up to the Dream Apply system (<http://www.ut.ee/en/admissions/how-fill-online-applicationdreamapply>) where they will receive an applicant code. With this code, they can monitor the admission process online.
- Secondly, students are supposed to fill in an application form online and upload the required documents onto the application system of Dream Apply.

The students will be informed about the outcome of their application within five weeks after the application deadline has been submitted. Students will be notified through the application system Dream Apply.

They will also receive an admission package to their electronic address, which will include an admission letter, a signed Learning Agreement, and an information sheet regarding the housing, visa/residence permit, and other necessary documents.

Abroad Centre. They are also introduced to the university and the library system; they are also informed about safety issues and several other matters. It is recommended that students arrive one or two days before the Orientation Course starts. For further information, check the link here:

[www.ut.ee/en/welcome/orientation-courseinternational-students](http://www.ut.ee/en/welcome/orientation-courseinternational-students)

## 4.3.2 Living in Tartu

### Accommodation

SoMu students can apply for accommodation in the student hostel. The homepage of the Student Hostel can be found here: [www.studenthostel.ee](http://www.studenthostel.ee)

Students should be reminded that the application period may vary, so they are encouraged to check the web-page. There are several steps that the students should follow in order to apply for housing.

- Students should apply by submitting an online application on the following webpage: [www.studenthostel.ee](http://www.studenthostel.ee). Once they have completed the online application, they will receive an email notifying its reception.
- If the application is successful, students will receive an email with the description of the assigned accommodation.
- Students will then have to pay a deposit within 10 days after they have received the accommodation offer. If the room deposit is not paid by the deadline, the hostel will cancel the student's room reservation.

Information for bank transfer:

Swedbank IBAN CODE: EE112200221019557381,

SWIFT CODE: HABAE2X

Beneficiary: MTU Tartu Uliopilaskula

Reference number: 311001100119

The contract needs to be signed within three days after the arrival date. The students will sign a fixed-term contract according to their official study period at the University of Tartu, as it is indicated in the university's admission notification.

The monthly rent for a double room is 210 EUR. There are no additional costs to the rent (e.g. electricity, heating, etc.) apart from the laundry service. The common rooms in the apartments (bathroom, corridors, and kitchen) are cleaned once a week. The bed linens (including bed sheets and pillow cases) are provided upon tenant's request and changed maximum once a week.

### Student Life

The student life in Tartu is very active as the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) organizes different enjoyable events, including national evenings, pool parties, and excursions around Estonia as well as abroad. International students are advised to sign up

for the ESN card, with which they can get discounts in many different places in the city. Something not to miss are the Autumn Student Days, during which many entertaining activities and events are offered to the students.

## 4.4 The Third Semester in Stockholm

Stockholm University in the capital of Sweden is characterized by its openness, innovation, and collaboration. With a global perspective and through partnerships with others, Stockholm University contributes to the development of knowledge. Education and research within humanities and science in the international frontline, as well as interdisciplinary work, make this possible.

The university is situated in the northern part of the National City Park, which spans over three municipalities (Solna, Stockholm, and Lidingö) and forms a historic landscape interwoven with forests, open fields, parks, beaches and buildings. There are three arboreta in Frescati: in the Bergius Botanic Garden; around the Arrhenius Laboratories, Geoscience building and Södra huset; and in Frescati Hage. There are over thirty such areas in Sweden: at botanical gardens, universities, city parks and private collections, and often around castles and mansions.

### 4.4.1 Studying in Stockholm

This chapter gives you an overview of the most important information regarding studying at Stockholm University.

#### Contact Details



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#### How to Get to the University Area

Stockholm University is situated in the middle of Sweden's first national city park and is characterised by natural beauty, unique architecture, and contemporary art. The University is located only ten minutes away from the urban buzz of Stockholm city centre, with easy access to shopping, music, fashion, architecture, and culture.

The University is easily reached by public transport within the Stockholm region. Air, road, and rail connections are also excellent. Full details are available on the page [www.su.se/english/about/campus/getting-to-stockholm-university](http://www.su.se/english/about/campus/getting-to-stockholm-university). On this page, a simple journey planner is available, which allows you to search for journeys on public transport within the Stockholm region.

- Visiting address: Universitetsvägen 10A
- Underground station: Universitetet
- Buses: You can take buses 50, 540, 608 or 670 to the University

#### Arrival in Stockholm

An Arrival Service at Arlanda Airport helps students to find their way after landing. International student guides will be at Arlanda airport in Terminal 2 and at the information desk in Terminal 5 to help arriving international students. The international student guides will be available one week before the semester starts (approximately around the August 20) and will help to find your way to your university, accommodation, or to central Stockholm. At the airport, you will also be given SIM cards, maps, and information from universities. More information about Arrival Service at Arlanda Airport can be found here: <https://www.studyinstockholm.se/arrival-service/>.

A free bus shuttle to Stockholm University will be also offered approximately around August 20 to all international students. There is no need to register for the buses. Buses depart every hour between 09:00 to 21:00.

The Orientation Day is shortly before the semester starts. This is an information packed day during the Orientation Week, where newly arrived international students will receive information about practical matters such as banking, health care, computer accounts, student life, and Swedish language courses. The Orientation Day will be held in Aula Magna, Campus Frescati; the map can be found here: <http://www.su.se/english/about/campus/maps>

## 4.4.2 Living in Stockholm

### Student Accommodation

All exchange students and master students who receive a scholarship via Stockholm University Scholarship Scheme are eligible to apply for accommodation through the Housing Office. These students will receive an e-mail from the office with information on how to apply. This email is sent out in the middle of May for the students who will start their studies in the autumn semester.

- Stockholm University does not have a housing guarantee and exchange students that do not receive accommodation from the Housing Office will have to find housing on their own. Here is the application procedure:
- Before the end of July (for the autumn semester) you will be informed by the Housing Office via e-mail if you have been offered accommodation or not.
- If you are successful, you will receive a housing offer by email including information on the accommodation area, information about how to make the first rent payment,

information about picking up keys, and information about the rent contract.

- The housing offer will include detailed instructions, and before accepting the offer, please read all the information carefully. If you do not want the accommodation you can decline the offer. Please observe that you will only get one offer of accommodation. If you choose to decline the accommodation, you will not be able to receive housing from the Housing Office again.
- To accept the offer, you must first upload a copy of your passport or any other valid identification card with a photo online. You must then make the first payment according to the instructions you receive and also upload a copy of the receipt of the payment online. Please observe that this payment is non-refundable even if you might later decide to decline the accommodation offer. If you do not make payment on time, your room booking will automatically be cancelled. Please also note that the Housing Office does not cover any bank fees, so you must pay these yourself.

### Student Life: Costs

Living costs in Sweden largely depend on your individual lifestyle. A sample monthly budget is as follows:

Food: SEK 2,000

Accommodation: SEK 3,750

Local travel: SEK 560

Telephone/internet: SEK 300

Insurance, medical care and hygiene: SEK 300

Hobby/leisure, miscellaneous: SEK 1,100

Total: SEK 8,010

Lunch at a student restaurant on or around campus usually costs between SEK 55-70; at an average café or restaurant, it costs about SEK 65-95. Dinner starts at around SEK 100-150, drinks not included. In most restaurants and bars, an inexpensive beer or glass of wine will cost about SEK 60; prices can be

significantly lower at student unions or nations. Some students will need to apply for a residence permit before arriving in Sweden. For more information about visas, see:

<https://studyinsweden.se/plan-your-studies/how-to-apply/residence-permits-and-visas/>

When applying for a residence permit, you must prove to the Swedish Migration Board that you will have a guaranteed sum of money at your disposal throughout the entire period of your studies. The amount, SEK 8,010 per month for ten months of the year, is set by the Migration Board. If you wish to bring your family, you must show that you have at your disposal an additional SEK 3,500 per month for your spouse and SEK 2,100 per month per child.

### Study Fees

There is no fee at Stockholm University. However, students must be members of the student union in order to get student housing and to get student prices on the public transportation

system. The fee to the student union is minimal. At present it is 100 Swedish kronor (about 10 euro) per semester.



## 5. The MA Thesis

### 5.1 Supervision

It is required that there are two readers of the MA thesis. One of the readers has to come from the full partner institution (i.e. JGU or VMU).

Note 1: At JGU, the two supervisors have to come from different universities, but they have to teach in the programme. At VMU, the supervisor and the reviewer can be from the same institution.

Note 2: At JGU, the 1st supervisor has to be a full professor. At VMU, the supervisor and the 2nd reader can be anyone with PhD.

Note 3: Formally, supervisors from Stockholm and Tartu can be only 2nd readers, BUT exceptions are possible: a written request then is necessary.

### 5.2 Evaluation

At JGU, the evaluation is provided by the two supervisors; the thesis and the oral exam (=defense) are evaluated separately.

For the thesis evaluation at VMU, a committee is formed and approved of by the Faculty. It usually (but not obligatorily) consists of five members: the chairperson, a social partner, the programme coordinator, the head of the department, and one more teacher involved in the programme. The chairperson or one of the members should be from a different institution (e.g. a social partner, an alumni representative, or a teacher/researcher from another research institution/university). The presence of the readers is not obligatory, but strongly recommended.

### 5.3 The procedure of thesis preparation

Students can choose which university of the two full partners they will submit their thesis to. The thesis is written following SoMu requirements. The SoMu stylesheet is available online: [http://somu.vdu.lt/sites/default/files/files/somu-stylesheet\\_13-08-15.pdf](http://somu.vdu.lt/sites/default/files/files/somu-stylesheet_13-08-15.pdf).

### 5.4 Public defense

The defense will be held as a joint event either at JGU or VMU.

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