

Aspects to take into account when choosing 2nd year university

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Aspect	UU	UCBL	AAU	Comments
Workload and the difficulty level of studies compared to Tartu University	Highly competitive. <u>Courses are intense with lectures followed by lab works and report writing. Exams are of 6 hours and 6 hours feels like a blink when you solve the paper.</u>	Similar to Tartu, but somewhat less intense. <u>However, all of the exams are in one week.</u>	Similar to Tartu, <u>perhaps more flexible</u>	At UU some of the students who were top at Tartu do not feel top students at UU
<u>Level of programme organization and guidance</u>	<u>Could be better</u>	<u>Could be better</u>	<u>OK</u>	
Knowledge of English needed	Above average	Average (can be compensated in part by knowledge of French)	Average	Some of the students are having difficulties with keeping track of the lectures at UU
Cost of living, including accommodation	High <u>(even some of the EU scholarship holders were almost shocked when they learned about the cost of e.g. accommodation. bus per ride 3.4 €; monthly pass 60 €; students prefer biking than bus in UU)</u>	Tolerable <u>If you rent an apartment, the government gives you small money, but you have to apply for it and the application process is long and tedious.</u>	Tolerable <u>The student lunch is highly subsidized. The monthly bus ticket is expensive although it is reduced for students.</u>	
Possibility of getting financial support for those without EU scholarship	Unlikely <u>Industrial internship will not necessarily be paid.</u>	In spring semester the industry will pay. <u>Industrial internships pay more than internships in labs. In autumn semester it may be possible to earn small money (e.g. 500 € per month) by helping professors (e.g. with translation).</u>	Up to now the students who are at AAU were linked to companies, which pay some money. <u>But then the thesis work is related to the interests of the company.</u>	<u>Internships in Estonia can be paid or not but are mostly not paid</u>

Climate	As in Estonia	Warmer than in Estonia	As in Estonia	
Possibility to plan ahead that you go to this university	Impossible at present	Impossible at present	Probably possible	AAU study track has up to now been the least competitive
The tentative (not binding) maximum number of students	5	8	8	EU students can go to UU without limits
<u>Necessity of local language for routine life</u>	<u>English is enough</u>	<u>Local language is recommended</u>	<u>English is enough</u>	
<u>Options with thesis project</u>	<u>Thesis topics: not everyone would get proteomics (other possibilities: environmental analysis, etc)</u>	<u>Usually very practical, related to the needs of industry. Work at industry is very interesting, highly educational, providing networking opportunities and learning in a different environment</u>	<u>Sensors or industrial (in the latter case industry usually pays)</u>	
<u>Possibility of paper publication</u>	<u>If the thesis works goes well then you are encouraged by supervisor for publication.</u>			
<u>Prospects after degree</u>	<u>PhD admission in UU is highly competitive. Swedish language is required for job unless you have strong recommendation for a job.</u>	<u>Several people found jobs immediately at the same industries where they worked</u>	<u>All who have graduated have found either job or PhD position</u>	<u>I would not expect big employment problems with a degree from any of the 2nd year universities</u>
<u>The City</u>	<u>Smaller city than Lyon and quite University-centric</u>	<u>Beautiful, international community very big and highly active, activities and contents for every taste</u>	<u>Smaller city than Lyon</u>	