

Aspects to take into account when choosing 2nd year university

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Comments in black: from programme management. Comments in purple: from 2nd year students and alumni.

Aspect	UU	UCBL	AAU	Comments
Workload and the difficulty level of studies compared to Tartu University	Highly competitive. 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.	Similar to Tartu, but somewhat less intense. However, all of the exams are in one week.	Similar to Tartu, perhaps more flexible	At UU some of the students who were top at Tartu do not feel top students at UU
Level of programme organization and guidance	Could be better	Could be better	OK	
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 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.	Tolerable 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.	Tolerable The student lunch is highly subsidized. The monthly bus ticket is expensive although it is reduced for students.	

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Possibility of getting financial support for those without EU scholarship	Unlikely Industrial internship will not necessarily be paid.	In spring semester the industry will pay. Industrial internships pay more than internships in labs. In autumn semester it <i>may be</i> possible to earn small money (e.g. 500 € per month) by helping professors (e.g. with translation).	Up to now some students at AAU were linked to companies, which paid some money. But then the thesis work is related to the interests of the company.	Internships in Estonia can be paid or not but are mostly not paid
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	Most probably possible	AAU study track has up to now been the least competitive
The tentative (not binding) maximum number of students	6	8	6	EU students can go to UU without limits
Necessity of local language for routine life	English is enough	Local language is recommended	English is enough	
Options with thesis project	Thesis topics: not everyone would get proteomics or metabolomics (other possibilities: environmental analysis, etc)	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. At the same time, you are strongly expected to be constructive in accepting the place in industry that is offered for you. Finding the places in companies is a lot of effort for Jérôme and colleagues.	Sensors and related or industrial (in the latter case industry usually pays)	

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Possibility of paper publication	If the thesis work goes well then you are encouraged by supervisor for publication.	Publishing on the basis of MSc thesis may be possible	Publishing on the basis of MSc thesis may be possible	
Prospects after degree	PhD admission in UU is highly competitive. Swedish language is required for job unless you have strong recommendation for a job.	Several people found jobs immediately at the same industries where they worked	Most people who have graduated have found either job or PhD position	I would not expect big employment problems with a degree from any of the 2 nd year universities
The City	Smaller city than Lyon and quite University-centric	Beautiful, international community very big and highly active, activities and contents for every taste	Smaller city than Lyon	