

## Aspects to take into account when choosing 2<sup>nd</sup> year university

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Comments in black: from programme management. Comments in purple: from 2<sup>nd</sup> year students and alumni.

Aspect	UU	UCBL	AAU	Comments
Workload and the difficulty level of studies compared to Tartu University	<p>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.</p> <p>Typically lower grades are obtained than in Tartu.</p>	<p>Highly varied: periods of high intensity alternate with periods of low intensity. However, all of the exams are in one week.</p> <p>Typically lower grades are obtained than in Tartu.</p>	<p>Similar to Tartu, perhaps more flexible.</p> <p>Similar grades to Tartu.</p>	<p>At UU some of the students who were top at Tartu do not feel top students at UU</p>
Level of programme organization and guidance	OK	Could be better	OK	
Knowledge of English needed	Above average	Average (can be compensated in part by knowledge of French)	Average	
Cost of living, including accommodation	<p>High</p> <p>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 to bus in UU.</p>	<p>Tolerable</p> <p>If you rent an apartment, the government gives you small money, but you have to apply for it. The application process is long and tedious.</p>	<p>Tolerable</p> <p>The student lunch is highly subsidized. The monthly bus ticket is expensive although it is reduced for students. Student organisation fee in autumn semester.</p>	

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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	Probably possible	Probably possible	
The tentative (not binding) maximum number of students	5	8	8	EU students can go to UU without limits
Necessity of local language for routine life	English is enough	Local language is <b>very strongly</b> recommended	English is in principle enough, but 2 <sup>nd</sup> year students recommend learning Swedish for two semesters in Year 1	

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Options with thesis project	Thesis topics: many are of high-level science. However, not everyone would get proteomics or metabolomics (other possibilities: environmental analysis, novel analytical tools, 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. This is not “shopping”. Finding the places in companies is a lot of effort for Jérôme and colleagues.	Most are related to sensors or industrial (in the latter case industry usually pays money)	
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 <sup>nd</sup> 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	