

FACTSHEET

Higher Education

Estonia

Access and admission

The access requirements are approved by the Ministry of Education and Research and are binding on all higher education institutions and study programmes.

General conditions for access to higher education are stipulated by the following legal instruments:

Laws and Regulations:

- Higher Education Act / *Kõrgharidusseadus* (RT I, 19.03.2019, 12)
- Standard of Higher Education / *Kõrgharidusstandard* (RT I, 12.07.2019, 17)

Conventions and Agreements:

- Estonia has ratified the Lisbon Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (1998)
- Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Estonia on Mutual Recognition of Documents in the field of Education and Scientific Degrees (1996)
- Agreement between the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China on Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications (2015)
- Agreement among the Government of the Republic of Estonia, the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the automatic recognition of qualifications concerning higher education (2019)

Access qualifications

The requirement for access to higher education is secondary education, certified by *Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus* (Certificate of General Secondary Education), *Kutsekeskhariduse lõputunnistus* (Certificate of Vocational Secondary Education), the corresponding qualifications of the former systems, and foreign qualifications giving access to higher education.

Admission requirements

The admission requirements are set by higher education institutions and depend on the chosen field of study. The conditions and procedures for admission are established by the council of the higher education institution and approved by the Minister of Education and Research.

There is a selection procedure for most higher education institutions and programmes. General knowledge test, an interview or a professional aptitude test may be required for admission. It may also include a number of entrance examinations. The results of state examinations (*riigieksamid*) passed in a general secondary school (*gümnaasium*) can be accepted as part of admission.

Entrance examinations are most commonly set by departments and approved by the boards of higher education institutions. Prevalent subjects are usually those relevant to the course of study. The basis for the admission decision is usually a combination of state examination

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results of general subjects and entrance examination results in the subject relevant to the course of study.

In certain cases, the Certificate of General Secondary Education and/or the state examinations average grade, or the gold or silver graduation award from the secondary school are accepted as special conditions for admission.

For admission to study programmes in art and music, aptitude is tested through the presentation of a creative work or through a creative competition.