The University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy is one of the four colleges of the University of Tartu. The University of Tartu (UT) was founded in 1632. The UT is a public university with nationally recognised study programmes offering Bachelor’s, Master’s, and PhD degrees. The UT also offers various study programmes for international students of all levels, including degree, semester and summer studies with instruction in English. UT has approximately 18,000 students, including about 700 international students.

For further information about University of Tartu, please visit: http://www.ut.ee
The UT Viljandi Culture Academy (UT VCA) merged with the University of Tartu in 2005. The UT VCA has been teaching professional higher education and performing applied research within information science, culture education and creative arts since 1952. The academy has about 1000 students, half of whom are distance learners. The teaching and instruction are based on the continuity and sustainability of Estonian native culture enriched by new impulses which widen the notion of traditional culture. Through this process of continuous interaction, the ancient traditions gain new meaning.

The UT Viljandi Culture Academy is open for international cooperation and cross-cultural communication. It is a school with a special atmosphere, a school with a unique student community and curricula, as well as an environment that provides good possibilities to obtain knowledge and skills in different fields of culture by combining academic knowledge from different fields with a creative and new approach.

We value close interaction in both our study and working environment. Therefore, there is a lot of interaction and cooperation between students from different fields, teachers and administrative staff.

**Facilities**

Studies at the academy take place in different buildings – main building, Vilma house and Music House. The advantages of the Music House are its soundproof classrooms, chamber music hall and recording studio and organ room. The main building consists of small lecture halls, dance classrooms, a black-box-type theatre hall, a painting room, a room equipped with looms, a multimedia room, computer rooms, a library and a café.

The student dormitories „Oma Kodu” and „Tareke” are also located nearby.
Traditions and main events

**The Viljandi Guitar Festival** – this international guitar festival has taken place in the third week of September since 2008. The aim of the festival is to promote improvisation and playing methods. The first four days are dedicated to master courses given by the performers. All musicians also play together in a guitar orchestra and many high level concerts are given.

**The Student Theatre Festival TTP** – this three-day festival started in 2003. It is now held every year in February, and welcomes amateur student theatre groups who come together, perform their shows, learn new skills and have fun. The festival is strongly connected to the Culture Academy, as the organisers are or have been students here.

**The Music Triad** – every spring the academy organises a three-day session competition for young musicians, many concerts also take place all over Viljandi County.

**School Jazz = Jazz School** – a three-day workshop seminar for young students of jazz music from all over Estonia. Young people are instructed by the best professional jazz musicians and there is a joint open concert for all participants every evening.

**Dance Week** – every year the world celebrates the International Dance Day on the 29th of April and the academy is no exception. Since 2010 the celebration is organised as a week full of dance performances, workshops, films and open courses in Viljandi’s secondary schools and in the academy led by students, teachers and alumni.

**Weekly jazz nights** – the Jazz Club gatherings see performances by both aspiring and famous jazz musicians.

**Culture Wednesdays** – performance events organised monthly by students, alumni and guests of the Performing Arts Department.

**Public Lecture Series „Own Culture“** – annually organised lecture series on Estonian heritage culture for the local community.
Research and Creative Studies

In the last decades, the UT VCA’s main area of research has been the humanities, but there is an increasing amount of cooperation with social, economic, technological and material sciences. The contemporary teaching methods within creative arts, non-formal education and education in arts and music are among the most covered applied research areas. The most remarkable development has taken place in the field of applied inherited crafts. In 2009 the Academy began publishing a series of academic publications *Studia Vernacula*.

The future direction of the applied research will focus on the contemporary teaching methods within creative arts, information science and cultural education as well on skills in inherited crafts.

Continuing Education

The Department for Continuing Education offers courses of different volumes based on the degree studies curricula at the academy or according to the topics suggested by the ordering party. In recent years, our continuing education has grown and developed significantly, and the academy places great emphasis on the life-long learning principle. During the year of 2011 we offered 110 courses for more than 1500 people from all over Estonia.

Our courses are on different study levels and aimed at various age and interest groups. The main target groups are culture, educational and library staff. However, if there is interest and need, courses for a variety of other target groups can be organised. The courses have proven to be highly popular and attractive. One of the reasons for this is the creative approach in programme design.
In addition to being a higher educational institution, the academy also aims at becoming an educational, creative, spiritual and development centre within Viljandi County, Estonia and for the whole Baltic region by being the main engine for development of creative industries.

**Incubator of Creative Industries in Viljandi County**

The Viljandi Creative Incubators Foundation helps creative people, groups and organizations get their business project off the ground. This is achieved through a two-year residency or virtual program that helps qualified applicants, providing them workspace with guidance, knowledge about resources and networking towards successful launching.

Workspaces furnished with all necessary equipment (textile and metal) in the city of Viljandi near to UT Viljandi Culture Academy are offered by the Foundation.

**Viljandi Creative Incubators Foundation**
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Email info@loomeinkubaator.ee
www.loomeinkubaator.ee
The international cooperation of the UT VCA follows the objectives of the Lisbon treaty and supports the aims of the European Union to promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue (the European Agenda for Culture). All activities support sustainable development and have positive effects on the environment.

Participation in the EU educational programme Life Long Learning/Erasmus constitutes a great section of the UT VCA foreign relations, supporting the study and training exchange of students, lecturers and university staff.

There are also various international projects in which different departments from the academy are taking part. In addition, the academy also participates in the activities of several international university networks:

- **CUMULUS** – the International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design and Media
- **EUCLID** – the European Association for Library and Information Education and Research
- **AEC** – the European Association of Conservatoires
- **IASJ** – the International Association of Schools of Jazz
- **NORDPULS** – a Nordplus network of academies and universities in the Nordic and Baltic countries providing high-level professional music training in the area of pop, jazz and rhythmical music.
- **NORDTRAD** – a Nordplus network of academies and universities in the Nordic and Baltic countries offering third level education in traditional music.
- **NORTEAS** – a Nordplus network for Nordic and Baltic Theatre and Dance Institutions of Higher Education.
- **DAMA** – a Nordplus network of Dance and Media Art Schools.
- **NNME** – a Nordic Network for Music Education.
Are you friendly and interested in culture and innovative ideas?
Do you enjoy thinking and acting creatively and outside of the box?
Do you enjoy looking at things from different angles and finding new solutions by combining different perspectives?
Do you enjoy personal and inspiring study communities in a green living environment?
If yes, then Viljandi is the place for your personal growth.
Come and enrich our friendly school with your vibrant ideas and personality!

There are multiple opportunities to come to study for a semester or two through exchange programmes. The major and most widely used options are ERASMUS, NORDPLUS, ISEP, inter-university and inter-governmental agreements.

Teaching

The UT Viljandi Culture Academy offers 13 undergraduate study programmes, 12 of them are professional higher education programmes with four study years, 240 ECTS and one Bachelor (BA) programme with three study years and 180 ECTS. Master (MA) studies last two years with 120 ECTS and two out of six are internal programmes offered in English. All undergraduate study programmes are currently taught in Estonian, but personal instruction in English or another language (depending on the lecturer) is offered for exchange students. Every year there is a list of courses available for exchange and visiting students.

Academic Calendar

Autumn semester: The 1st week of September – the 4th week of January with a two-week Christmas break.
Spring semester: The 2nd week of February – the 3rd week of June.

Application deadlines

**Autumn Semester**
- The 1st of May – non-EU applicants
- The 1st of June – EU applicants

**Spring Semester**
- The 1st of November – all applicants

For further information, please see:
http://www.ut.ee/en/admissions
Social life in Viljandi is as diverse as the people studying here. Multiple events held at the academy are organised by the students or the student council with a wide array of parties, sport nights, concerts, performances, contests, exhibitions and much more.

_The Students Union_ is the representative organisation of the academy’s students. The main goal of the Students’ Union is to express students’ interests and bring issues such as students’ problems regarding the academy, studies and even social matters before the academy administration.

_The Student Choir_ is composed of students from the different departments. The main aim of this mixed choir is to perform compositions of Estonian as well as the academy’s own composers and musicians. The choir often cooperates with musicians from the Music Department and with professional groups from Viljandi.
Undergraduate Studies

Traditional Music
Educate professional traditional musicians who can work, according to their chosen further specialization, as traditional music teachers at hobby education institutions and as instructors for adult hobby activities or as musician technicians at concerts and in recording studios.

Jazz Music
Educate professional jazz musicians who can work as instrumental musicians, ensemble members and, according to their chosen further specialization, instrument teachers at hobby education institutions or as musician technicians at concerts and in recording studios.

School Music
Provide musical higher education with the focus on music pedagogy either in the field of school music, instrument teaching, vocal-pedagogical or in church music.

Graduate Studies

MA in Education (Music Teacher)
The general aim of the curriculum is to prepare music teachers of proficient professional skills and broad general educational background for general education as well as hobby schools. Provide readiness for continuing studies to pursue a PhD degree.

MA in Traditional Music
Provide the students with further traditional music education of internationally high quality, which takes into consideration the contemporary requirements in the field of music and is directed to the development of creativity, thus providing the prerequisites for work in the area of specialization or for pursuing the PhD degree.

MA in Sound Engineering Arts (in English)
Joint MA programme in cooperation with the Tallinn University Baltic Film and Media School. Admission takes place in alternate years to respective universities. The programme prepares high level specialists on an international level in music recording and sound engineering, and film sound engineering.
Performing Arts Department

**Undergraduate Studies**

**Dance Art**
Specialties: dance pedagogy, choreography.

The aim of the curriculum is to educate professionals of the field who are in control of their bodies and are capable of communicating their acquired experience to others. By specialty, the curriculum of dance arts breaks down into three parts: firstly, a general training and basis in the dance arts; secondly, different dance styles and their interpretation and thirdly, the development of the art, dance composition and the creation of dance performances. Through their pedagogical studies, students acquire knowledge for work as dance teachers for different age groups.

**Theatrical Studies**
Specialties: actor, director, amateur theatre director.

During the studies, students acquire knowledge and practical skills within the various fields related to acting and directing. Those studying to become directors of amateur theatres will also take a module of pedagogical subjects. The department cooperates with different Estonian theatres which form the basis for our diploma performances. Our graduates are also prepared for work with project theatres and free theatre troupes.

**Theatre Technical Arts**
Specialties: prop and stage designer, lighting designer, stage manager, performing arts multimedia specialist.

The curriculum involves the larger part of the trades involved in visual creation, in the technological as well as in the artistic sense. As the main focus is on technology – beginning with glue and paint and ending with the lighting and video – artistic subjects related to theatre occupy an important part of the curriculum. Artistic collaboration with dance and theatre arts students as well as professional artists is promoted. During the course of studies there are continual practice sessions at Estonian professional theatres and performance institutions.
“We all want to test our abilities and our imagination and develop our different means of expression. When the ideas and contributions of different people converge, a fruitful and creative chaos is born. The real challenge is to learn how to direct it, to make it create something new and inspiring!”

Külli Salumäe, lector, school youth work manager/teacher.

Undergraduate Studies

Leisure Time Manager-Teacher

This subject suits active people with a will and need to help children and young people find and realise their potential. We welcome everyone with a pedagogical intuition and interest in adventure education or different creative activities.

The graduates find work within general or special education, at youth centres and as specialists working with the local authorities. Working as school youth work manager teachers, organising extra-curricular activities or as youth workers or circle leaders, the graduates of this subject field have opportunities to organise cultural activities and speak for the development of creative activities. During the studies it is possible to specialise on creativity or activity education methods.

Culture Management

This is a field of study suited to those of an active and entrepreneurial spirit whose field of interest is directed towards the understanding of culture and entrepreneurship and their dealings in society. The subject facilitates the acquisition of basic managerial skills and cognition and competence to carry viable cultural projects to term in today’s society. During the studies it is possible to specialise on music, stage arts or performing arts management.

Graduate study module

MA in Educational Science

The programme is offered under the University of Tartu’s Faculty of Social Sciences and Education. The specialisation module on Social Pedagogy is taught at the UT Viljandi Culture Academy.
**Estonian Native Crafts Department**

**Undergraduate Studies**

**Estonian Native Textile**
The peculiarity of the curriculum lies in our use of the Estonian ethnographical textile heritage as a source material for our studies. The aim of the speciality of Native Textile is to educate professional and creative master craftsmen with a thorough knowledge of Estonian native textile heritage, its history, compositional techniques and technology and the ability to keep, continue and re-use the traditions of Estonian native handicraft in the field of textile. In this sense, we are one of only a few similar curricula in Europe. The graduates will be able, depending on their personal characteristics and specialisation filed, to run small enterprises, work as artists, textile designers, museum workers or manufacturers of leather items or folk costumes.

**Estonian Native Construction**
The mission of the Estonian Native Construction curriculum is to carry on the tradition of native building heritage. The students get to know and use ancient as well as modern building techniques and equipment. Particular attention is paid to log building in theory and in practice: the graduates will have knowledge of the building process from design and budgeting to completion. The possibilities for specialisation are those of log building supervisors (major), log building instructors, museum builders, log building constructors or log building material suppliers.

**Estonian Native Metal Work**
To aim of the curricula is to create professional and creative craftspeople knowledgeable in the history, designs and technology of Estonian native metalwork. One can study and use techniques used in traditional jewellery-making, shaping and smithery and help breathe life into this cultural heritage again. Depending on their selected specialty field they can work in handicraft museums, culture or private enterprises.

**Graduate Studies**

**MA in Inherited Technology**
Master’s studies in inherited crafts provides development opportunities for professional craftsmen, researchers and specialists of creative arts who share the ability to design innovative solutions drawing on cultural heritage, and are able to analyse and reflect on crafts as professional activity. The curriculum offers many different opportunities for practice-based and experimental research and development of craft skills.
Undergraduate Studies

Librarianship and Information Environments
The aim of the Librarianship and Information Environments specialty is to prepare librarians and information professionals with extensive knowledge to enable them to work in a variety of different libraries or information-providing institutions, to manage consumer resources and be competent in information processing. The specialisation modules offer possibilities to deepen knowledge on information management in a web environment, information work with children and youth or museum work.

Information and Records Management
The Information and Records Management programme aims at educating experts in records and information management whose tasks would include organising records management, risk management, organising archive management, training on records management for workers and counselling within the field.

Graduate Studies

MA in Knowledge and Information Management
The aim of the master’s programme is to give systematic knowledge how to manage organisation's information, knowledge base, documents, records, archives or other collections and work processes. Courses also cover subjects on how to develop and implement records and content management application and basics in information technology. To fulfil this aim wide range of skills and knowledge about information management theory and information society is taught. Graduated students are able to work as specialists and team managers within the field of information (knowledge, records, library, archives and museums) management.

MA in Design and Development of Virtual Environments (in English)
The curriculum aims to provide students with advanced skills of entrepreneurship in the field of creating innovative digital products and services. The emphasis of the programme is placed upon teaching and practicing entrepreneurship by employing Agile and Lean Start-up methodologies. Hands-on teamwork activities are supported by theoretical studies of culture, social sciences, business and software product development.
The academy is located in Viljandi in Southern Estonia, one of the most picturesque and historically rich towns in the country, known for its beautiful nature. The seemingly small town has a vibrant and very active cultural life, and is most famous for its large 4-day international folk music festival held at the end of July. There are also many concerts and other festivals such as Winter Dance Festival, Young Dance Festival, Rock Ramp and Hanseatic Days. You can find many interesting cultural events every week throughout the year. The Estonian Traditional Music Centre is located in Viljandi, as is the large national theatre Ugala.

On the edge of the town, the Castle Hill with its magnificent view slopes down towards the deep lake in the valley. There is a well-known legend that tells about a boatman who rows on the lake and longs for a girl with beautiful eyes.