WELCOME TO NARVA COLLEGE!

Since its inauguration in 1999, the University of Tartu Narva College has developed into a solid educational establishment full of youthful enthusiasm and desire to evolve. The results of our work are best shown by the increasing number of graduates who have been awarded diplomas of the University of Tartu in the city of Narva. Nearly 700 students study here today and more than 5000 people come here annually for in-service training.

Graduates of Narva College are specialists with all the qualities required for success. Almost 90 percent of our graduates are working within their field of study. They are employed all over Estonia but most of them have chosen to be engaged in community development here in Ida-Virumaa.

Narva College specialises in preparing teachers for multilingual schools in Estonia. We also provide courses of study in youth work, entrepreneurship and, as our newest course, information technology. Our students can learn a number of languages and pursue a minor in addition to their chosen major. We strive to supply our students with knowledge and skills of public speaking, private enterprise or different pedagogical approaches.

Narva College is situated near the eastern gates of Europe. Therefore we have partners in both the West and the East. In cooperation with European universities, we are improving our multilingual model of education. Students from the United States learn Russian here as a foreign language. In Russia and other Russian-speaking countries, our college introduces European traditions of higher education.

The college serves as an agent for development in the county and the city. We contribute to the promotion of tourism, and a centre for expertise in EU–Russian cross-border cooperation is under way.

We support the personal and professional development of wide range of local people, offering them diverse opportunities for self-improvement. Besides in-service training, the college organises lectures and conferences, our own Management School, Academy of Parents and Senior Citizens’ University. Our activities for youth include the Children’s University, college preparatory courses and School of Sciences. Moreover, one can visit concerts, theatrical performances and exhibitions here as another important part of our college life. Our building always provides a pleasant experience for visitors and students!

Everyone is welcome!
Narva is the third largest city in Estonia. It is also a border town, Russia being just across the river. The population here is almost entirely russophone and only a small percentage of the residents consider Estonian or another language their mother tongue. Nonetheless, Narva has always been a multilingual meeting place for cultures.

An important aspect of Narva is its history. The city flourished in the 1600s, when it played a prominent role in trade between the West and the East. That era was marked by the construction of the stately baroque old town, for which Narva was later dubbed the ‘Northern European pearl of baroque architecture’. At the same time, the city’s fortifications, zone of bastions and fortress were reinforced. The Battle of Narva, well known from European history books, was fought in 1700 as part of the Great Northern War between the Swedish and Russian armies, commanded, respectively, by King Charles XII and Tsar Peter I.

After a period of stagnation, the development of Narva was remarkably boosted in the mid-1800s by the establishment of the Kreenholm textile factory on an island in the Narva River. The machines were powered by the river’s mighty waterfalls. Later, Narva took pride in Kreenholm’s textile industry even in the Soviet times. The majestic factory buildings are still there to be admired, as are the bastions and the fortress. The baroque old town was largely destroyed in World War II.

Locals in Narva first and foremost identify as residents of Narva, rather than by their ethnicity or language spoken, noting the unique quality of present-day Narva’s cityscape and contemporary culture.
Narva College has engaged in a mission to enhance awareness about the history of the city among locals as well as guests. The inauguration of the new college building was also vital in reviving the city’s history.

The college is situated in the heart of Narva’s old town, next to the surviving baroque Town Hall. The modern building combines an innovative study environment featuring present-day conveniences, while paying homage to the former old town. The oddly protruding roof commemorates the once stately stock-exchange building, which, before its destruction in the war, used to partly screen the Town Hall from public view. The present college building begins directly behind the location of the former stock exchange so as to leave the Town Hall fully visible this time. All that remains of the stock-exchange building are the underground walls and the basements, which were restored at the time of the college’s construction and are now used for exhibitions, concerts and theatrical events.

Allusions to the city’s history are also noticeable inside the college building. Walls of lecture rooms, for example, are coloured according to fashions that were followed in baroque Narva, and it is no coincidence that the college’s window-pane patterns resemble those of the neighbouring Town Hall. On a rainy day, one can see our version of the famous Narva waterfalls in the courtyard of the college. Those who have some time to spare can take the lift to Floor 4 and look down at the street from the high protruding roof “beak” — this is intended for guests’ enjoyment, just like the entire building, which has developed into a tourist attraction of Narva.
Studies

The students of Narva College are future teachers, youth workers, business operators, project managers and IT specialists with multilingual and multicultural competences. The available forms of study include professional higher education, Bachelor’s and Master’s degree courses.

Up to 95 percent of our students come from Ida-Virumaa; they speak Russian at home and have finished a russophone secondary school. The languages of instruction in the college are Estonian, Russian and English.

The studies can take the form of regular full-time attendance or ‘open university’; everyone can choose a suitable mode of study for himself. We have students who have just finished secondary school as well as older students who wish to receive a quality higher education or continue their studies while having a daytime job. 90 percent of our graduates are working in their area of study.

Research

In line with the specifics of the college, our main area of expertise is teaching in second language and multilingual education. The college is Estonia's leading developer of methods for Content and Language Integrated Learning and Tandem Language Learning. Besides the principal topic of providing instruction in second language, the research here also concentrates on various linguistic matters and studies of Narva.

The Erasmus Programme

Erasmus exchange students from our numerous partner colleges and universities are always welcome to join our students in lectures delivered in English or Russian as part of all our curricula. We invite lecturers and administrative staff from our partner universities to acquaint themselves with our multilingual mode of life and to exchange experience.
FULL-TIME STUDIES

Bachelor’s courses

• Humanities in Multilingual School
• Early Years Teacher in Multilingual Learning Environment

Professional Higher Education

• Youth Work
• Information Technology Systems Development

Integrated Bachelor’s/Master’s courses

• Primary School Teacher in Multilingual School

OPEN UNIVERSITY

Bachelor’s course

• Early Years Teacher in Multilingual Learning Environment

Professional Higher Education

• Entrepreneurship and Project Management

Master’s course

• Teacher of Humanities in Multilingual School
Although Narva is now known in particular for being russophone, its location on the border between the East and the West connects people from Russia, Europe and America. Because of its special location, Narva is a good meeting place where new international initiatives are born.

Projects

The college is an active and experienced partner, and often the leading party, in international projects. With funding from various EU programmes and together with our European partners, we develop models of learning in second language and contribute to social integration through multilingual education. Our colleagues from Russian universities — Pskov, St. Petersburg or even Yakutia — come here to acquaint themselves with European higher education and can do it in their native language. Interest in implementing our multilingual model of teacher training has been expressed by universities in Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Centre for Expertise in EU–Russian Cross-Border Cooperation

The Centre for Expertise in EU–Russian Cross-Border Cooperation (CEEURCC) is being developed at the college in order to concentrate efforts together with local, European and Russian partners for encouraging cross-border business operations.

Learning of the Russian Language

There is a growing interest in bringing students, in particular from America, to Narva College for learning the Russian language. Intensive language courses are run for groups of different levels. The benefit of Narva’s environment is that what was learned in the lecture can be practised right away in a shop or street conversation. In this manner, the international aspect is available here on the spot.
The unique location of Narva on the eastern border of the EU and western border of Russia offers potential for organising large and productive conferences here.

Narva College has developed its own traditional series of international conferences for researchers of border areas, foreign language teachers, teachers of russophone schools and students.

When the college moved to its new building, it also became the most modern conference centre in the region. The first years of activity show that conference organisers from Estonia and abroad have been making active use of Narva College Conference Centre, as various events held there are attended by several hundred people every month. Narva has hosted forums of doctors, geneticists, business people, tourism developers, military servicemen and even ministers and heads of government of Baltic Sea countries.
Narva College is for everyone, from preschoolers to grandparents. After moving to the old town, the college became the centre of Narva’s educational and cultural life. Residents of Narva know that the college is well worth a visit, as there is always something interesting going on here. We place special emphasis on activities for youth, who are invited to the Children’s University, the School of Sciences, the college-preparatory courses and the Teachers’ Club in order to establish a habit of going to the university.

The college is among Estonia’s leading continuing education centres for teachers, particularly as regards multilingual education. For teachers of russophone schools in Estonia, the college is a firm partner, presenter of innovative approaches and adviser in matters of school life.

Ongoing activities at Narva College include:

- Children’s University
- School of Sciences for young people
- College-preparatory courses and Teachers’ Club for secondary school pupils
- Senior Citizens’ University
- Academy of Parents
- Management School for entrepreneurs of Ida-Virumaa
- Refresher training and consultation for teachers
- Didactics School for teachers
- Courses for adults
- Jazz club and theatrical evenings
- Exhibitions
Narva College of the University of Tartu
Raekoja plats 2, Narva 20307, Estonia
Telephone: +372 740 1900
Fax: +372 740 1999
Email: college@narva.ut.ee
Web: www.narva.ut.ee