

## Sector briefing

# Education and R&D Opportunities in Estonia

## Why Estonia?

The aim of the **Estonian Higher Education Strategy 2006-2015** is to ensure the internationally competitive quality of the higher education (HE) offered in Estonia, a volume of HE that corresponds to the needs of Estonia and the development of education and culture in the Estonian language.

The strategy addresses three main challenges for the sector in the coming years. First, the number of students entering HE is expected to decline in the coming years due to demographic situation. Second, there is a clear need to strengthen the international dimension of HE institutions. Third, additional funding – both for infrastructure and human resources – is of vital importance for the sustainability of the system.

Find general information on Estonian market conditions on [UKTI's website](#). The Doing Business Guide for Estonia gives an overview of Estonia's economy, business culture, potential opportunities and an introduction to other relevant issues.

## Opportunities

### The nationally prioritized academic fields of study that present increasing employment opportunities include:

- Engineering
- Manufacturing and processing
- Computer sciences
- Biosciences and environmental protection (environmental technology)
- Natural sciences related to physics
- Healthcare

### Prioritized fields of study in professional higher education include:

- Engineering
- Computer sciences
- Manufacturing and processing
- Healthcare
- Personal service provision

According to the **Estonian Research and Development and Innovation Strategy „Knowledge based Estonia“ 2007-2013** there are priority fields which need special attention from the side of the state. Human as well as material resources have to be focused on technologies and key areas, where success can be achieved in world level frontier research and which are important in establishing sustainable economic growth. For achieving this, priority areas and technologies of national R&D programmes have been given a preferred status also in other horizontal support measures financed either from structural funds or state budget. Most appropriate financing measures should be agreed in all R&D programmes. **National research and development programmes** are launched on the basis of the strategy and with the funding from the ERDF:

- 1) for developing key technologies:
- information and communication technology ( 9,9 mln €)
  - biotechnology (7,5 mln €)
  - material technology (9,9 mln €)

- 2) socio-economical sectors which are important to every resident of Estonia:
- energy technology (7,5 mln €)
  - national defence and security;
  - health care and welfare services (9,9 mln €)
  - environmental protection (9,9 mln €)
  - information society;

3) Fields related to Estonian national culture, language, history, nature and the Estonian state.

There are **34 educational institutions offering higher education** in Estonia and can be divided as follows according to their form of ownership:

- 6 universities in public law
- 4 privately owned universities
- 10 public professional higher education institutions
- 11 private professional higher education institutions
- 2 public vocational educational institutions
- 1 private vocational educational institution

According to the allocation of R&D base-line funding, **there are 16 R&D institutions** in Estonia and 6 of them are public universities that were mentioned before. The largest public research university is the University of Tartu, followed by the Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn University and the Estonian University of Life Sciences. The science reform implemented in the 1990s led to the integration of research institutes (former institutes of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, also institutes subordinated to various ministries) into universities. There are, however, also several independent research institutes that perform research at a high level. Nearly two thirds of Estonian undergraduate students study at public universities and large share of research and development work is done at these universities.

*Source: Estonian Ministry of Education (www.hm.ee)*

You can be alerted to Estonia opportunities on a regular basis by registering on the UKTI website. [More on UKTI's business opportunities service](#)

## Major events and activities

### Youth Information and Education Fair TEEVIIT.

The aim of annual fair is to offer youngsters as much information about studying, free time, employment etc. possibilities, which is necessary in life. Additionally to offer people who work with and for youngsters information about trainings, methods, literature etc to enrich their daily work.

The web site of the fair

<http://www.teeviit.ee>

**Days of International Education** takes place every year in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Organised in the workshop style, the fair provides a cosy and relaxed atmosphere of the Radisson Blu Hotels' conference centres for the representatives of language schools and executive centres , boarding schools and colleges, universities and business schools.

It is the most efficient and cost-effective way to meet face-to-face and to recruit new international students, and it is a unique event: unique for its participants, unique for its visitors of different target groups, unique for its promotion campaign and social events, unique for its professional organisation.

The web site of the fair

<http://www.balticcouncil.org>

**Find full details of all Estonia education events on the UKTI website.** New export events are added daily to the site and [you can register to be alerted to them](#) on a daily, weekly or monthly basis

UKTI's Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP) provides grant support for eligible Small & Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's) to attend trade shows overseas. Find out more about [UKTI support](#) for attendance at overseas events

## UKTI contacts

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## Next steps - How UKTI can help

British companies wishing to develop their business in the Estonian market are advised to undertake as much market research and planning as possible in the UK. UKTI's team in Estonia, with its wide local knowledge and experience, can provide a range of services to British-based companies wishing to grow their business in the Estonian market.

This can include:

- Provision of market information
- Validated lists of agents/distributors
- Key market players or potential customers in the Estonian market
- Establishment of interest of such contacts in working with you

- Arranging appointments
- Organise seminars or other events for you to meet contacts and promote your company in the Estonian market

This work is available via our [Overseas Market Introduction Service \(OMIS\)](#) a chargeable service which assists British-based companies wishing to enter or expand their business in overseas markets.

To find out more about commissioning this work, or accessing other UKTI services and specialist advice, please visit the UKTI website to find [contact details for your local UKTI office](#).

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