In Estonia several scholarship programmes have been launched to support both Estonian students pursuing their studies abroad and foreign students coming to study in Estonia. Students also have an opportunity to participate in the European Union programmes and the Nordic and Baltic programme Nordplus. The European Union programmes and funding from the Structural Funds are of huge relevance in supporting mobility and internationalisation.

Several national scholarship schemes have been developed, supporting the studies and research of foreign students, researchers and teaching staff in Estonia. Students are offered scholarships for pursuing formal education, partial studies or participating in summer schools; scholarships for researchers and teaching staff cover the costs of short or long visits and post-doctoral studies. Some of the measures are targeted specifically at the ones interested in the studies of the Estonian language and culture, expatriate Estonians or kindred peoples.

**Student Mobility**

**Scholarships for the students of Estonian higher education institutions for studying abroad:**

**Kristjan Jaak scholarship programme**
A national scholarship programme initiated in cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Research and Archimedes Foundation with a view to supporting the studies abroad of Master’s and Doctoral students enrolled in Estonian institutions of higher education and academic and research related secondments abroad of the Master’s and Doctoral students (and teaching staff).

**Young scholar grant programme**
A scholarship programme founded in cooperation between private companies, the Ministry of Education and Research and Archimedes Foundation, aimed at supporting talented upper secondary school graduates towards acquiring a Bachelor’s degree in acknowledged foreign universities.

**DoRa Plus**
The programme supports short-time study mobility of young researchers and Master’s students (participation in professional conferences, seminars, courses or other professional activities).

**Nordplus higher education programme**
Under the programme studies or work practice with a duration of 1 to 12 months for Bachelor or Master’s students, as well as short-time study mobility projects of 5 days to 1 month are funded.

**European University Institute scholarships**
In 2005, Estonia joined the Convention Setting up a European University Institute. The institute is an academic institution located in Florence, Italy and oriented toward Doctoral and post-Doctoral studies, focusing on European studies in law, economics, political and social sciences and history. Estonia has been allocated up to 4 doctorate student places. Additional information: Archimedes Foundation.
Scholarships for supporting the studies of expatriate Estonians and foreigners in Estonia

DoRa Plus
The programme supports foreign Master’s and Doctoral students pursuing studies at Estonian institutions of higher education in the form of full-time study and visiting Doctoral students staying in Estonia for a shorter period, and the organisation of professional short and intensive courses at Estonian institutions of higher education primarily targeted at foreign students.

Compatriots programme 2014-2020
Supporting the studies of expatriate Estonian youth at Estonian public universities, state institutions of professional higher education and vocational educational institutions.

Kindred peoples programme IV
A programme launched to support the languages and cultures of the indigenous Uralic peoples (Finno-Ugric and Samoyed) under which Doctoral or Master’s studies in Estonian state universities of people of Finno-Ugric origin living in Russia are funded.

National Scholarship Programme for International Students, Researchers and Teaching Staff
A scholarship schema, which is partially based on the foreign agreements of the Ministry of Education and Research and offers students scholarships for formal education, exchange programmes and participation in summer schools.

Scholarships for the academic study of the Estonian language and culture by foreign students
The programme awards the scholarship Estophilus, under which funding is provided for Estonia-related studies and research carried out in Estonia by Master’s and Doctoral students or researchers holding a Doctoral degree who are enrolled in foreign institutions of higher education. In addition, the participation in intermediate and advanced summer or winter courses of the Estonian language and culture is supported.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs scholarships
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers Master’s and Doctoral scholarships under the instruments of development cooperation to the citizens of the development cooperation states of relevance for Estonia. Scholarship applications must be submitted by universities on a project basis, i.e., students cannot apply for the scholarship directly. Additional information: Archimedes Foundation [2].

Academic Staff Mobility

Scholarships for Estonian teaching staff and researchers:

Kristjan Jaak scholarship programme
The programme supports study-related secondments abroad of teaching staff and researchers of up to 35 years of age (for 3 to 30 days).

DoRa Plus
The programme supports short-time study mobility of young researchers and Master’s students (participation in professional conferences, seminars, courses or other professional activities).

State scholarship programme for the students, researchers and teaching staff of foreign universities
A scholarship schema under foreign agreements, which offers researchers and teaching staff scholarships for education and research in Estonia.

Nordplus higher education programme
The programme supports teacher mobility for the purpose of teaching, instructing students and developing teaching materials, or promoting cooperation with traineeship organisations and the labour market. The
duration of a secondment shall be at least 8 hours.

**Mobilitas Plus**
The programme provides a returning researcher grant to the researchers who have completed their post-Doctoral studies (or comparable research) abroad for the conduct of a research project in Estonia. Funding is provided also to the researchers employed in Estonian research and development institutions for the participation in professional trainings and continuing education abroad.

**EEA/Norway grant programme**
Study mobility projects support the bilateral mobility of the employees of higher education institutions of Estonia and other EEA states. The general purpose of the study mobility is to support professional development of the employees of higher education institutions, which shall be in line with the internationalisation strategy and development plan of the higher education institution. The programme provides the teaching staff of higher education institutions with an opportunity of secondment to a partner higher education institution to teach and study.

**Further measures**
Additionally, teaching staff has the opportunity to participate in the study mobility under Erasmus+ and Nordplus higher education programme and the Estonian-Norwegian Research Cooperation Programme. In addition, through the programme of academic studies of Estonian language and culture abroad, the Ministry of Education and Research supports the studies of the Estonian language and culture in foreign universities and general education schools by sending there lecturers and teachers of the Estonian language and culture. Lecturers of the Estonian language and culture are also sent to foreign universities as visiting lecturers. Additional information: [Archimedes Foundation](#)[2].

**Scholarships for international teaching staff and researchers:**

**Mobilitas Plus**
The programme offers a returning researcher grant to the researchers who have completed their post-Doctoral studies (or comparable research) abroad for the conduct of a research project in Estonia. Support is granted also for the post-doctoral studies of the researchers coming to Estonia from abroad, and a separate grant has been developed for the implementation of a research project by a renowned researcher coming to Estonia from abroad.

**DoRa Plus**
The programme supports short-time study mobility of young scientists and Master's students of Estonian higher education institutions relating to studies or research abroad (participation in conferences, seminars, courses or other professional activities).

**EEA/Norway grant programme**
The study mobility projects support the bilateral mobility of the employees of higher education institutions of Estonia and other EEA states. The programme provides the teaching staff of both Estonian and EEA/Norwegian higher education institutions with an opportunity of secondment to a partner higher education institution to teach.

**National Scholarship Programme for International Students, Researchers and Teaching Staff**
A scholarship schema, which partially relies on the foreign agreements of the Ministry of Education and Research and offers scientists and teaching staff scholarships for the participation in formal education, exchange programmes and summer schools.

Additional information: [www.archimedes.ee](http://www.archimedes.ee) [3]
Recognition

Estonia has joined the Lisbon Convention (the ratification act [4] entered into force on 27 February 1998) and it organises higher education based on the principles of the Bologna Process. The Professions Act [5] adopted in 2008 establishes the eight-level qualification framework [6], which is in line the European Qualification framework and consists of general, professional, higher education and professional qualifications or professions. The framework brings together the competence-based professional qualifications and formal education qualifications in an integral system.

Academic recognition falls in the responsibility of the Estonian ENIC/NARIC Centre [7] that belongs to the Council of Europe and UNESCO cooperation network ENIC (European Network of National Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility) and to the NARIC cooperation network (National Academic Recognition Information Centre). The main activities of the Estonian ENIC/NARIC Centre include assessment of foreign education certificates [8] for the purposes of recognition and offering of information related to higher education.

In addition to academic recognition, it is also important to recognise a person’s professional qualifications and skills in a broader sense, in order to ensure free movement of labour. Recognition of professional qualifications is regulated in Estonia by the Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications Act [9] and coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Research [1]. The latter is responsible for offering information on regulated positions [10] and vocations as well as on institutions operating in the field of recognition of professional qualifications. Information related to the recognition of professional qualifications is also accumulated and distributed by the ENIC/NARIC Centre.

Estonia has also signed three bilateral international agreements on mutual recognition of educational certificates and diplomas, which also facilitates and supports bilateral exchange:

- an agreement between the governments of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania on mutual academic recognition of educational certificates in the common Baltic educational space (8 June 2018, the ministers of education of all Baltic States signed an agreement on automatic recognition of higher education qualifications (the Agreement on automatic recognition of academic qualifications concerning higher education entered into by the Governments of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania). The agreement shall enter into force soon and terminate the aforementioned agreement);
- an agreement between the governments of the Republic of Estonia and of Ukraine on mutual recognition of educational certificates and academic degrees;

Legislative References

Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications Act [11]

Regulated professions and regulated professional activities in case of which taking aptitude test or completion of adaptation period may be required for working and in case of which the prior verifying of the foreign qualification may be conducted for temporary working [12]

Conditions and procedure for assessment and academic recognition of documents certifying education completed in foreign state and for use of title of qualification granted in education system of foreign state [13]

Correspondence of qualifications issued in Republic of Estonia and qualifications issued in former Union of