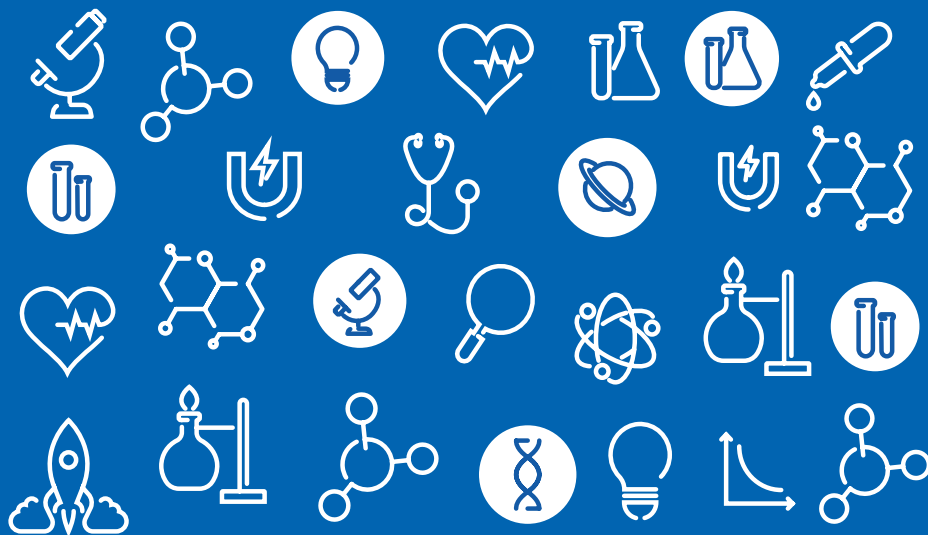


Research funding in Estonia





Useful links

Research news and information researchinestonia.eu

Research funding etag.ee/en

Estonian Ministry of Education and Research hm.ee/en

Enterprise Estonia eas.ee

Estonian Research Information System etis.ee

Information for incoming researchers euraxess.ee

Archimedes Foundation archimedes.ee/en

Higher education opportunities studyinestonia.ee

Find a suitable degree programme estonia.dreamapply.com

About this brochure

Estonia has a great infrastructure and well-developed facilities for top-notch research. Local researchers are collaborative, innovative and active international partners working towards a knowledge-based society. Estonia is the perfect place for independent minds to do research.

An innovative environment combined with great value for money have made Estonia a desirable destination for both students and researchers. This brochure includes an overview of the research system and funding in Estonia, information about grants and funding programmes, as well as useful links to give a deeper insight into the research system and funding in Estonia.

Overview of the research system and funding in Estonia

The legal basis for the organization and functioning of the Estonian research system is the Research and Development Organization Act. The Estonian parliament approves the overall research strategy based on this act, and once a year it also reflects on the prime minister's report on the execution of the strategy, as well as the state budget for research. The government draws up the actual research policy, prepares sectoral development plans and coordinates cooperation between the ministries. The Research and Development Council provides technical advice to the government as needed.¹

The policymakers are the parliament and the government, who are advised by the Research and Development Council. The policies themselves are prepared and implemented by the ministries. The Ministry of Education and Research is advised by the Research Policy Committee, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications is advised by the Innovation Policy Committee.²

The organization of and support for research is funded through the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication. Under their supervision, the Estonian Research Council funds research and Enterprise Estonia funds innovation. Research and development work is carried out by universities and other R&D institutions in the public and private sector. The Estonian Academy of Sciences has a separate legal basis, and as an independent and high-level association of researchers, it contributes to solving issues related to Estonian research as well as social and economic development.³

In Estonia, research is mainly financed from the state budget (baseline funding, research funding (grants)), by companies (large enterprises) and from foreign funds (EU structural funds, Horizon 2020 etc.).

National funding is mostly organized by the Estonian Research Council, but also by sectoral ministries. National funding instruments are:

- Baseline funding
- Personal research funding
- National R&D programmes
- Applied research funding
- Financing of centres of excellence and doctoral schools
- Funding of R&D infrastructures
- Mobility programmes

¹ Estonian Research 2016, http://www.etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/TA_teaduskogumik_ENG_veeb.pdf, p 7, accessed 12 January 2018,

² *Ibid*

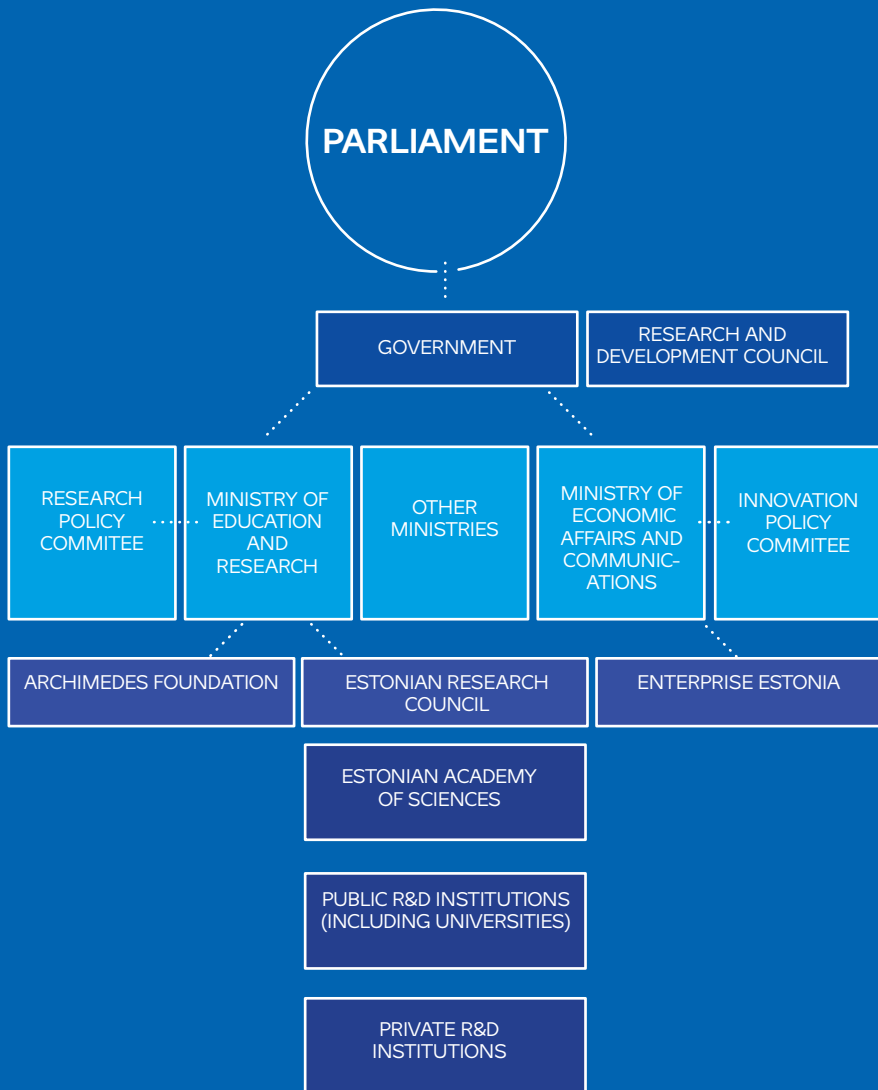
³ *Ibid*

Baseline funding

Baseline funding means financing of R&D institutions for the purpose of attaining their strategic development objectives, including co-financing national and foreign projects and opening up new research routes, and investing in infrastructure. Baseline funding is provided from the state budget via the Ministry of Education and Research to R&D institutions who have received a positive evaluation. Baseline funding encourages initiative-taking and increases the accountability of R&D institutions in planning their activities. It also gives R&D institutions a better chance to focus on their core activities and achieve improved results. Baseline funding maintains financial stability and boosts confidence among research institutions.

More information: etag.ee/baseline

Estonian research and development organization structure



Source: Estonian Research Council

Personal research funding⁵

Personal research funding is intended for the high-level research and development projects of persons or research groups working in research and development institutions. Personal research grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

Personal research funding comprises three categories of grants that correspond to different levels of research careers:

A postdoctoral research grant supports the launch of the career of a researcher with a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification at R&D institutions or high-level research groups.

There are two types of postdoctoral research grants:

- grant for a postdoctoral researcher coming to Estonia (incoming) and
- grant for a postdoctoral researcher going abroad (outgoing).

A start-up research grant launches the independent career of a researcher at an Estonian R&D institution.

A team grant supports researchers in continuing their career at an Estonian R&D institution.

Personal research funding is organized by the Estonian Research Council and comes from the state budget. Grant applications are evaluated by expert committees and approved by the Estonian Research Council. Funding applications are submitted via the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS).

More information: etag.ee/personalfunding

⁵ <http://www.etag.ee/en/funding/research-funding/personal-research-funding>, accessed 12 January 2018

National R&D programmes⁶

National R&D programmes are supported by the government and funded from the state budget. These programmes support R&D in limited but important domains such as the Estonian language, culture, history, folklore and language technology.

- Estonian language and cultural memory II (2014-2018)
- The national programme "Estonian language technology" (2018-2027)

More information: etag.ee/nationalprogrammes

Applied research funding

Applied research funding aims to find solutions to practical problems within a relatively short period of time. Such projects are funded from the EU Regional Development Fund through the following measures.

NUTIKAS

applied research in the areas of smart specialization, based on the needs of private companies.

RITA

a programme supported by the European Regional Development Fund that aims to increase the state's role in the strategic managing of research and the capabilities of R&D institutions in carrying out socially relevant research.

More information: etag.ee/appliedresearchfunding

⁶ <https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/research-and-development/research-programmes>, accessed 12 January 2018

Financing of centres of excellence and doctoral schools

Centres of excellence are supported by baseline funding and the European Regional Development Fund. Centres of excellence are formed on the basis of research teams from one or several R&D institutions with the aim of supporting high-level research, thus creating suitable conditions for the improved cooperation and competitiveness of Estonian research in the European Research Area, and increasing the participation and success of Estonia in the EU research framework programme Horizon 2020.⁷

Doctoral schools are funded by the EU Regional Development Fund. Their general purpose is to enhance the efficiency and quality of doctoral studies and to ensure accordance with the needs of the labour market. Doctoral schools support various events and research projects, as well as the mobility of PhD students and mobility across sectors.⁸

More information: etag.ee/baseline

⁷ <https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/research-and-development/base-funding-and-centres-excellence>, accessed 12 January 2018

⁸ <https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/research-and-development/doctoral-schools>, accessed 12 January 2018

Funding of R&D infrastructures

The infrastructure costs of a public R&D institution not covered from other funding instruments can be covered from the state budget through the ministry to whose area of government the institution belongs. Investments are planned based on a long-term planning tool, the national research infrastructure roadmap. The infrastructure roadmap contains a list of new nationally important research infrastructure units or units in need of modernization. The roadmap acts as input for the investment decisions regarding research infrastructures.

More information: etag.ee/infra

Mobility programmes

Mobility programmes are intended to support the mobility of researchers and/or PhD students when moving to and from Estonia. Funding for the programmes comes from the state budget and/or the EU Regional Development Fund.

Kristjan Jaak Scholarships⁹

The Kristjan Jaak Scholarship programme is a governmental programme initiated in cooperation with the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. The main objective of the programme is to strengthen the internationalization of Estonian higher education institutions and the employability of their graduates. The Kristjan Jaak Programme awards mobility scholarships to MA and PhD students and young faculty members.

The programme has
three categories:

1. Degree studies abroad
2. Period of study abroad
3. Short study visits

More information:
etag.ee/kristjanjaak

⁹ <http://haridus.archimedes.ee/en/kristjan-jaak-scholarships>, accessed 11 January 2018

Dora Plus Programme¹⁰

Dora Plus is an Estonian government programme that was launched with the aim to improve Estonia's visibility and attractiveness as a destination for studies and research. The programme will be implemented in 2015-2023 with support from the EU Regional Development Fund.

Dora Plus encompasses four actions:

Action 1: study and research-related outgoing mobility

Scholarships to young researchers and MA students from Estonian institutions of higher education for participating in research conferences, seminars, courses or other relevant activities abroad.

Action 2: study and research-related incoming mobility

Scholarships to international MA and PhD students for study visits and full-time studies in higher education institutions in Estonia.

Action 3: summer and winter schools

Supporting institutions of higher education in Estonia in organizing intensive short-term courses for international study groups.

Action 4: marketing study and employment opportunities available in Estonia

The international marketing of the study and employment opportunities available in Estonia and the endorsement of Estonian employment opportunities to international graduates.

More information: etag.ee/doraplus

¹⁰ <http://haridus.archimedes.ee/en/dora-plus-programme>, accessed 11 January 2018

Mobilitas Pluss Programme¹¹

The objective of the Mobilitas Pluss Programme is to internationalize research and mobility and encourage the next generation.

It supports
the mobility of
researchers with:

1. Postdoctoral grants
2. Returning researcher grants
3. Top researcher grants
4. Support for study visits and training abroad

More information:
etag.ee/mobility

¹¹ <http://www.etag.ee/en/funding/programmes/mobilitas-pluss>, accessed 12 January 2018

PhD studies in Estonia

Doctoral studies are tuition free at public universities with the possibility of fee waiver available at the private institutions. Every faculty and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme has a set number of study places financed by the state. In 2018, the monthly scholarship for all doctoral students who are accepted is 660€, this is granted to all state financed doctoral students. This monthly scholarship also covers the doctoral student's national health insurance. Many additional scholarships are also available for international PhD students!

More information:
studyinestonia.ee/scholarships
and see university websites.

research
estonia



Eesti Teadusagentuur
Estonian Research Council



Europa Liit
European
Regional Development Fund



Eesti
Haridus- ja
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