

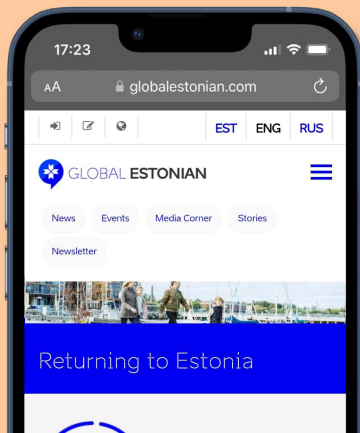


Find your OWN Estonia

A guide for the children
and young people
with Estonian roots
who live abroad,
and their parents

globalestonian.com

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Globalestonian.com is an information gateway for Estonians abroad and for the globally thinking Estonians in Estonia. From the portal, you will find a network of Estonians and friends of Estonia, information about the Estonian culture and economy, and articles about what Estonians are up to abroad. You will receive the newest information about what is being done by the Estonian government to support being Estonian abroad and to help maintain the connection of global Estonians with Estonia.

Read more

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Hello, dear friend!

My name is Marika Sulg and I am the **Compatriots Service Consultant at the Integration Foundation**. We have put together this publication to give you information on how to preserve the Estonian culture, learn Estonian, and visit or return to your home country.

I lived in Saint Petersburg in Russia for the majority of my life. My family always kept in touch with Estonia, though. My mother was the leader of the St. Petersburg Society of Estonian Culture and taught me Estonian at home. I repeatedly took part in language camps in Estonia, where I gained friends for life and a reason to speak more Estonian. This also inspired me to come to study at an Estonian university with the support of a scholarship programme at the age of seventeen. This was a real ordeal, but also a good foundation for my future.

Now, years later, I live and work in Estonia, in a beautiful welfare state where people always support their compatriots.

I wish to encourage you to do some research as well to find opportunities and projects that suit you best. We will always support you. Let us stick together!

Marika Sulg

Compatriots Service Consultant
at the Integration Foundation



Johanna Kaasik

New York, United States of America



*"Even though I have lived my whole life in America, I am Estonian. My mother was born in Tartu and my father is a foreign Estonian. My family also lives in Estonia. I really want to communicate with them, which is why this is my fourth year of studying the **Estonian language and culture at the Global School**. I travelled almost 7,000 km to take part in a **language and culture camp for foreign Estonian youths**. I met other young people from different countries there, we practised Estonian together, visited different places in Estonia, and it was a really cool summer!"*

Global School – an online school for children and young people living abroad i

At the Global School, you can study Estonian language and literature, as well as other subjects in Estonian language.

yleilmakool.ee/global-school-in-english

Estonian language and culture camps for the Estonian youths living abroad (aged 13–18) i

At the camp, you get to practise Estonian, discover different places in Estonia, and find Estonian friends from all over the world.

integratsioon.ee/en/language-camps-2023-young-estonians-living-abroad

Anna-Liisa Ševeljova

Málaga, Spain



*"I have lived a third of my life abroad and I really missed Estonia. I had an **internship** at the International House Tartu with a **scholarship** of the National Foundation of Civil Society and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two-month internship period was spent with an exciting and multicultural group of people. I gained a lot of new knowledge, skills, and experiences. I am very grateful that I got the opportunity to take part in this great informal language learning project. My skills were put to test in the new environment and the fresh ideas and useful feedback that I received in the course of the internship were also beneficial. I spent a nice time in Tartu and got to know the locals as well. The internship programme also increased my confidence and the desire to work in my field in the future."*

Scholarship programme for Estonian young people living abroad for a professional internship in Estonia



Applying for the scholarship of up to 3,000 euros, you will be able to get acquainted with Estonia and try out a professional and social life in Estonia.

kysk.ee/taotlejale/toetused-vabauhendustele/taotlusvoorud/rks23

Jaan Erik Branno

Göteborg, Sweden



*"I returned to Estonia as I felt that I had the best chance to contribute to the society here and develop myself further – students with international backgrounds are valued highly in Estonia thanks to their broad perspectives. I moved to Sweden when I was six years old. At the age of fourteen, I commenced my **studies at the Global School** to brush up on my Estonian language skills. After graduating upper secondary school in Sweden, I joined the **Estonian Defence Forces**. During military service, my Estonian language skills improved further and I was admitted to an Estonian university with the help of a **scholarship programme for compatriots**. There are cool ideas and even cooler people around at TalTech. It is a highly inspiring environment."*

Joining the military service from abroad i

If you have been living abroad for at least seven years before becoming subject to the national defence obligation, you must submit an application to the Defence Resources Agency to serve in the Defence Forces within five years after becoming subject to the national defence obligation.

kra.ee/en/conscript-service/living-abroad

Scholarship programme to support the studies of foreign Estonians at Estonian higher education institutions and vocational schools i

You can apply for the scholarship if you have secondary or higher education, you have been living permanently away from Estonia for at least the past ten years and you are commencing full-time studies in a programme taught in Estonian language.

harno.ee/en/scholarships-and-grants/scholarships-studying-and-working-estonia/scholarship-program-aimed

Cristofer Rybner

Tres Arroyos, Argentina



*"I was born and grew up in Argentina. I was twenty-four when I first saw my grandfather. This happened thanks to the **"Back to our roots" programme**, which opened an opportunity for me to visit my beloved home country and grandfather. I found some great friends from Estonia and decided that I would certainly return here. Two years later, I found a **job in Estonia** and moved to Tallinn. I have my own business in Estonia now, I am married, and my sister and cousin have also moved here. Estonia has been our home for almost four years and I feel that I am in the right place."*

Youth exchange programme (for the people aged 18–30) i

The **"Back to our roots"** project of Seiklejate Vennaskond (the Brotherhood of Adventurers) involves twenty young people who live abroad and ten young people from Estonia. The project is organised to practise Estonian, share information about the life in Estonia, and get to know exciting places and people in Estonia.

seiklejad.org/in-english.html

Finding a job in Estonia i

If you are looking for a professional job in Estonia and wish to know more about the career opportunities or the labour market situation, you will find advice, information, and exciting job offers from the Work in Estonia portal, the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund, and from job websites.

workinestonia.com / tootukassa.ee / minukarjaar.ee / cv.ee

Ronald Pelin

Moscow, Russia



*"I **returned to Estonia** after twelve years abroad. In work in the field of film and theatre and would have certainly studied something film-related at the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School, had I returned sooner. I am glad that I found the **services of the Integration Foundation**. I am getting useful advice and taking part in events where we spend a good time together with other returners and exchange our experiences. I would have returned to Estonia sooner, had I known how easy it would be."*

The services of the Integration Foundation for those returning to Estonia i

If you are planning to move to live in Estonia, get in touch with an adviser of the Integration Foundation, who will help you get settled in here and apply for aid, if necessary. Meetings are also organised with other returnees and you can take part in language courses if you wish to.

integratsioon.ee/en/information-those-returning-estonia

Information on getting adjusted to living in Estonia for people from a different culture i

Estonia also offers support to your partner who has foreign roots, sharing information about daily life, work, studying, and family and by supporting their Estonian language studies

settleinestonia.ee



Tuuli-Emily Liivat

Tampere, Finland



*"I have lived in Finland almost half of my life. During this period, I realised how important it is to preserve one's own language and culture. I took Estonian language classes as a child, danced in a folk dance group, and took part in the activities of the Tampere Estonian Club. I also took online classes at the Global School, took part in the Estonian language and culture camp, organised the ESTO2019 youth programme, and participated in the foundation of the NGOs Estonian Youth in Finland and **Estonian Worldwide Youth Network**. Meetings with other Estonian youths have always been very enriching. We are connected by being global Estonians and we are able to share our experiences. The connection with Estonia is different for each of us, but it is important to **find your own Estonia**."*

Estonian Worldwide Youth Network



If you are interested in preserving and invigorating the Estonian nationality abroad, join the Estonian Worldwide Youth Network, which brings together young Estonians from all over the world and offers a sense of community, protection of interests, and opportunities for development.

globalestonian.com/et/uenv

The Globalestonian.com portal for global Estonians



If you wish to keep informed about the news, contacts, events, and opportunities of Estonians living abroad, you can find all the information from the "Global Estonian" portal. Globalestonian.com is an information gateway for Estonians abroad and for globally thinking Estonians.

globalestonian.com/en

Additional information

You can also order a monthly newsletter of global Estonians directly to your mailbox:

globalestonian.com/en/newsletter



Information for language learners and teaching materials for learning Estonian:

globalestonian.com/en/learn-estonian

Information about the Estonian educational system in English:

educationestonia.org/about-education-system

Studying in a programme taught in English in Estonia:

educationestonia.org/studying-in-estonia

studyinestonia.ee

A list of Estonian educational institutions:

haridusportaal.edu.ee/kool

An overview of the Estonian higher education system:

haridusportaal.edu.ee/artiklid/kõrgharidus

Career advice in Estonia:

minukarjaar.ee/et

Mental health information and support:

peaasi.ee

Free studying advice:

rajaleidja.ee

An overview of the Estonian society, laws, and services:

eesti.ee/en

The official website introducing Estonia:

estonia.ee

Explore, discover,
and find your OWN
Estonia!



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the references in the leaflet
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the digital version



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