



## MA in Semiotics

University of Tartu is home to a unique centre of semiotics: **the Department of Semiotics established by Juri Lotman is one of the oldest in the world**. It has long traditions in research and teaching semiotics at BA, MA, and PhD levels.

In the 2009/2010 academic year, we launched an international English MA programme in Semiotics. Since then, several of our alumni continue their studies at PhD level in our department or abroad.

We have students from all over the world (USA, Brazil, Mexico, China, India, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Latvia, to name a few) creating a vibrant international setting for fruitful semiotic discussions. In addition to the various specialists in semiotics in our own department, lecturers from other semiotic centres visit us on a regular basis.

The MA programme offers a series of courses that cover the historical, theoretical, and applied aspects of semiotic knowledge. The programme provides an insight into the methodology and contemporary applications of semiotic analysis and includes three main fields of semiotics:

- **Semiotics of Culture** - the module deepens the students' knowledge of cooperation of cultural semiotics with other disciplines and focuses on understanding the key concepts of cultural research. The other two courses in this module are more practical, discussing translation and transfer processes in culture, and teaching students to analyse various performative and artistic events with semiotic tools.
- **Sociosemiotics** – the module adds another layer to the interdisciplinary education, focusing on various social processes, relations between society and culture, semiotic competence, development of subcultures, the influence of ideology in communication processes, and the central problems of political semiotics and discourse analysis.
- **Biosemiotics** – the module is dedicated to a thorough understanding of relations between nature and culture, environmental studies, the works of several predecessors of biosemiotics and human-animal communication, and communication of various species.

The various courses from the general module give an overview of the historical and current theoretical problems, basic concepts, and tendencies in semiotics. The module also focuses on the history and theoretical texts of the **Tartu–Moscow School and works by J. Lotman and J. von Uexküll** to stress the traditions, importance, and position of Estonia in the history of semiotic thought. Students will learn the main (qualitative) methods of semiotic analysis and their possibilities of application in the interpretation of modern cultural phenomena.

**The programme does not require previous studies in semiotics.** Students from different fields of study are welcome to apply.

The online application form can be accessed at [DreamApply](#).  
The application period is from **January 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

More information and admission requirements can be found at our [website](#).

Please feel free to contact us for questions and comments at [tartusemiotics@ut.ee](mailto:tartusemiotics@ut.ee).