

APPROVED by Rector of the University of Tartu
Decree no. 20 of 30 November 2021
(effective as of 30.11.2021)

AMENDED by Rector of the University of Tartu
Decree no. 12 of 27 June 2025
(effective as of 27.06.2025)

STATUTE OF ANNUAL AWARDS

Based on clause 3 of the Regulations for Giving Recognition, adopted by the Senate of the University of Tartu Regulation no. 8 of 20 December 2019 and amended by Regulation no. 12 of 25 September 2020, I approve the Statute of Annual Awards.

1. The University of Tartu ('university') gives out annual awards to recognise its members' outstanding achievements in giving higher education, doing research and serving society to enhance their visibility at the university and in society. In giving out the annual awards, the university proceeds from its strategic plan and good practices. [effective as of 27.06.2025]
2. Each year, the following annual awards are given out at the university for activities of the previous calendar year:
 - 2.1. the University of Tartu contribution to society award;
 - 2.2. the University of Tartu research award;
 - 2.3. the University of Tartu language award;
 - 2.4. the University of Tartu teaching staff of the year award.
3. The University of Tartu contribution to society award ('contribution to society award') is given to recognise a university member or working group who has had a significant impact on the development of society in the previous year. The award has been given since 2021.
4. The University of Tartu research award ('research award') is given to recognise a university's academic staff member or working group who has stood out by an extraordinary achievement in basic or applied research in the previous year. The award has been given since 2021.
5. The University of Tartu language award ('language award') is given to recognise a university member or working group who has stood out in the previous year by valuing the Estonian language in fulfilling the university's goals either in giving higher education, doing research or serving society. The award has been given since 2021.
6. The University of Tartu teaching staff of the year award ('teaching staff of the year award') is given to recognise one academic staff member in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Science and Technology who has stood out by excellent teaching skills in the previous year. The award has been given since 2006.
7. The recipients of the contribution to society award, the research award, the language award and the teaching staff of the year award are chosen by committees formed by the rector. The committee choosing the recipients of the teaching staff of the year award consists of students.

8. The decisions of giving the awards are formalised by the rector's directive. If the award is given to a working group, the directive lists its members based on the proposal of the head of the working group.
9. All members of the university may propose the nominees for the contribution to society award, research award and language award to the committee. The proposal must describe the achievement for which the award should be given and justify its significance. [effective as of 27.06.2025]
10. Nominees for the teaching staff of the year award can be submitted by all students via the corresponding form on the university's web page. In the form, students must indicate their connection to the academic staff member they are nominating and explain why this particular employee deserves the recognition. From among the submitted nominees, the faculties' student councils choose the five best candidates of their faculty. From among the five best candidates of each faculty, the committee formed by the rector according to clause 7 chooses the recipients of the teaching staff of the year award in each faculty. [effective as of 27.06.2025]
11. The deadline of submitting the nominees for all annual awards is 20 December.
12. The contribution to society award, the research award and the language award is not given several times for the same activity. The teaching staff of the year award is not given to the same academic staff member in the same faculty in two consecutive years or in several faculties in one year.
13. The rector presents the annual awards in February at the ceremony marking the anniversary of the Republic of Estonia. As an exception, the rector may present the language award in March at a festive event organised to celebrate the Mother Tongue Day. [effective as of 27.06.2025]
14. The names of all recipients of the annual awards are written in the book of honour kept by the academic secretary.
15. The recipients are given a certificate and a bonus. The amount of the bonus is established by the rector's directive for each year. If the award is given to a working group, the bonus is divided between its members based on the proposal of the head of the working group. In addition to the certificate and bonus, recipients of the teaching staff of the year award get a silver badge.
16. Teaching staff of the year awards for 2021 are chosen according to clauses 4–8 of the Statute of the University of Tartu teaching staff of the year award approved by Rector's Decree no. 26 of 22 October 2018 and amended by Decree no. 9 of 11 May 2020 and Decree no. 13 of 4 June 2021.
17. Clauses 6 and 10 of the decree take effect on 1 March 2022.
18. The deadline for nominating candidates for the contribution to society award, the research award and the language award for 2021 is 20 January 2022.
19. The Statute of the University of Tartu teaching staff of the year award approved by Rector's Decree no. 26 of 22 October 2018 and amended by Decree no. 9 of 11 May 2020 and Decree no. 13 of 4 June 2021 is repealed from 1 March 2022.
20. The Statute of the University of Tartu programme director of the year award approved by Rector's Decree no. 15 of 7 May 2012 and amended by Decree no. 21 of 11 October 2013, Decree no. 39 of 27 November 2014 and Decree no. 53 of 14 October 2016 is repealed.