Tamil University (TU), Thanjavur was established in 1981. This university came into being with Tamil University Act, passed unanimously by the Tamil Nadu state assembly. Then the chief minister of Tamil Nadu Mr. M.G. Ramachandran, is credited for the establishment of the Tamil University at Thanjavur. It was founded for providing higher educational facilities in Tamil language and its allied branches. The aim of the university is to preserve the Tamil language, which is known for its antiquity, richness of vocabulary and great classical literature. The university is housed at Thanjavur, the ancient capital of the Chola Dynasty of India.

The University provides higher education and research facilities for the study of Tamil language and other allied branches by offering courses in diploma, certificate and post graduate courses. It is a unitary type of university that aims to provide higher research in Tamilology and advanced study in several disciplines such as linguistics, translation, lexicography, music, drama and Manuscriptology. The university has recently collaborated with the Kundrakudi Thiruvannamalai Adheenam trust, offering more educational facilities to the students.

The University is situated in a very large of about 800 acres, generously granted by the State government of Tamil Nadu. Huge buildings and blocks meant for the administrative departments are located in the campus.

The administrative block with its imposing structure and a gopuram motif is a sight to see even from the National Highway connecting Thanjavur with Trichinopoly.

The Tamil University, Thanjavur, in Tamil Nadu, India, was established to provide higher research in the Tamil language and advanced study in allied branches such as linguistics, translation, lexicography, music, drama and manuscriptology. M.Phil and Ph.D programmes were introduced in 1992 for disciplines such as Language, Literature, Translation, and Sculpture. The university has six science departments namely Industries and Earth Sciences, Computer Science, Environmental and Herbal Science, Siddha Medicine, Ancient Sciences and Architecture.

The Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences and Technology Cell, an autonomous body supported by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, New Delhi is under the Department of Industries and Earth Sciences.