

APPROVED by  
Resolution of the Senate of Vilnius University  
No. S-2017-10-3 of 24 October 2017

## **REGULATIONS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY**

### **CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Vilnius University (hereinafter – Regulations) establish the procedure for the organisation, admission to doctoral studies, academic supervision of doctoral students, drawing up their work plans, doctoral studies, research by doctoral students, the appraisal of the knowledge and abilities of doctoral students, preparation, review and defence of doctoral dissertations (hereinafter – the dissertation), award of academic doctoral degrees, examination of appeals and complaints, financing of doctoral studies and document retention procedures conducted at Vilnius University (hereinafter – the University) or carried out by Vilnius University in cooperation with other universities and/or research institutes (hereinafter jointly – Institutions, and individually – the Institution).

2. The purpose of doctoral studies is to train researchers to be able to carry out research and development assignments independently and address problems in the areas of science or scholarship. A person who has successfully completed doctoral studies and has been awarded a doctoral degree is expected to have mastered the state of the art in research, specific areas of science or scholarship and their interfaces, as well as acquired specialised skills and methodologies of addressing problems within and outside the realm of academic research, enhancing his/her knowledge and developing his/her practical professional activities. He/she is also expected to have developed the ability to perform independently, and acquired academic competence and professional aptitude for the generation and application of new ideas and processes in studies and elsewhere.

3. These Regulations are effective at the University and at the Institutions of shared doctoral studies and shall be applied in those areas of doctoral, or third cycle studies, in respect of which the right to conduct doctoral studies is granted to the University or the Institutions, unless specified otherwise in the legal acts regulating the right to conduct doctoral studies. The concepts used in these Regulations shall have the meaning defined in Order No. V-49 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 8 March 2017 *On the approval of the regulations for doctoral studies*.

4. An academic doctoral degree shall be conferred upon a person who has successfully completed full-time (up to four years) or part-time (up to six years) doctoral studies, has completed and defended a doctoral dissertation, or to a person who has defended a dissertation completed externally.

5. A doctoral student is a third cycle student and researcher. Subject to approval of his/her academic supervisor, a doctoral student may be employed in a full-time or part-time position at the divisions of the University or the Institutions, all the while ensuring his/her participation in research and/or studies. The doctoral student shall be paid for the work performed in the manner set forth by the Institution concerned. Subject to approval by the Committee of Doctoral Studies in the field of research (hereinafter – the Committee), a teaching internship of 128 academic hours may be envisaged for a student throughout the entire period of doctoral studies.

6. With a view to promoting and developing international exchanges joint doctoral studies may be conducted in cooperation with foreign universities (hereinafter – joint doctoral studies). In that case an agreement on joint doctoral studies shall be signed between the University and the cooperating

foreign university. In case the joint doctoral studies are pursued in the field in which the University conducts shared doctoral studies, the agreement on joint doctoral studies must be also reached with the Institution of the shared doctoral studies. When joint doctoral studies are conducted by implementing an individual work plan of the doctoral student, an agreement on joint doctoral studies shall be concluded between the University and the foreign university and shall be also signed by the doctoral student. The agreement shall cover issues of the execution of the joint doctoral studies, defence of the dissertation, and issues of financial obligations of the cooperating universities.

## **CHAPTER II ORGANISATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES**

7. Doctoral studies and research are organised by the Committee and/or the Doctoral School, if such a school has been established at the University (hereinafter the concept of Doctoral School is used assuming such a school is present).

8. The functions of the Doctoral School, and its relations with the Committees are defined in the Regulations for Doctoral Schools at Vilnius University.

9. The Committee is a group of prominent researchers responsible for the doctoral studies in a specific field(-s). The Committee shall be set up at the initiative of the University, or, in the case of shared doctoral studies, at the initiative of all Institutions seeking the right to conduct shared doctoral studies; one member of the Committee shall be elected Chairman of the Committee. The composition of the Committee and any changes in it shall be agreed with the Research Council of Lithuania. The composition of the Committee shall be approved by the Order of the Rector of the University.

10. The Committee shall consist of at least nine researchers. The members of the Committee shall be researchers working (holding a position through competition) at the University or at an Institution of shared doctoral studies, as well as foreign researchers cooperating in the doctoral studies implemented jointly with foreign research and studies institutions on the basis of agreements of joint doctoral studies. The Committee shall consist of representatives of all Institutions, and no less than two thirds of the Committee's members shall be from the research field in which the Institution has acquired the right to conduct doctoral studies. A member of the Committee can be Chairman of the Committee for no longer than two terms of office of four years each. A researcher may be a member of no more than two committees at a time.

11. No less than one third, and as of 1 January 2019 – no less than half of the members of the Committee and its Chairman shall meet at least the minimum qualification requirements for positions of research staff at public higher education and research institutions (hereinafter – minimum qualification requirements) seeking the position of a chief researcher and set forth in Resolution No. VII-71 *On the specification of the description of the minimum qualification requirements for positions of research staff at public higher education and research institutions* of 16 May 2011 of the Research Council of Lithuania; the other members of the Committee shall meet at least the requirements prescribed for persons seeking the position of a senior researcher.

12. The Committee shall seek to ensure an appropriate research level of doctoral studies and the dissertations submitted for defence, and shall be responsible for the selection of topics for the dissertations and the admission of doctoral students; the Committee shall select the candidates for academic supervisors of doctoral students, appoint consultants, approve work plans, review the progress of doctoral students, pass decisions regarding the language in which the dissertation (under an express wish to prepare the dissertation in another language than Lithuanian or English) will be completed. The Committee may set forth higher requirements for the dissertation than those set forth in Item 67 of these Regulations, review the submitted dissertations, and set up the Dissertation Defence

Panels. In cooperation with the Doctoral School, the Committee plans and coordinates the implementation of doctoral studies and research, draws up conclusions regarding modules of doctoral studies, compliance with the requirements of academic supervisors of doctoral studies, consultants, members of the Dissertation Defence Panels and other researchers involved in the process of doctoral studies.

13. With a view to improving the quality of doctoral studies, every year the Committee, in cooperation with the Doctoral School, shall appraise and analyse the experience acquired in the course of doctoral studies, the quality of the completed dissertations, and submit summarised conclusions and recommendations to the division, and/or the person responsible for doctoral studies at the Institution.

14. The activities of the Committee are based on the principles of collegial consideration of issues, transparency, tolerance, legality, as well as personal responsibility of members of the Committee for their activities.

15. The Committee passes decisions at its meetings. The meetings of the Committee shall be convened by the Chairman of the Committee, or, in his absence, by a member of the Committee appointed by the Chairman. A meeting may be also conducted by means of telecommunication. The Committee's resolution is passed provided that at least 2/3 of all members of the Committee vote in favour. All the proposals of the Committee and the Doctoral School as well as the Minutes of the Resolutions shall be communicated by electronic means to the division responsible for doctoral studies at the University and/or the Institution (hereinafter – Doctoral Studies Division), which manages and administers documents related to doctoral studies, drafts Orders of the Rector of the University or the Head of the Institution, collects and summarises information, draws up reports, administers documents related to the defence of the dissertations, etc. In its activities the Doctoral Studies Division follows the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania, the Statute (Articles of Association) of the Institution with which the doctoral student is affiliated, the *Guidelines for Doctoral Studies* approved by Order No. V-49 of the Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 8 March 2017 (hereinafter – Guidelines) and these Regulations.

16. The Pro-Rector for Research authorised by the Rector of the University (hereinafter – Pro-Rector) is responsible for doctoral studies at the University, and at the Institutions this responsibility lies with the person appointed by the Heads of these Institutions.

### **CHAPTER III ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES**

17. Persons holding a Master's qualification degree or an equivalent postgraduate qualification are eligible to participate in an open competition for doctoral studies. The admission to doctoral studies shall be conducted on the basis of the Rules on the Admission to Doctoral Studies (hereinafter – the Rules) that are approved by the Heads of the Institutions; the Rules are published on the websites of the Institutions.

18. In case the right to conduct doctoral studies has been granted to the University together with other Institutions, these Institutions can announce admission to doctoral studies independently.

19. State-funded positions for doctoral studies for each area (field) of research shall be allocated to individual Institutions in the procedure set forth by the Ministry of Education and Science on the basis of the results of research and doctoral studies.

20. The Doctoral Studies Division shall initiate a competition of topics for dissertations and of academic supervisors of doctoral students at least two months before the announcement of an open competition to doctoral studies; the competition shall be organised and the decisions passed by the Committee with the Doctoral School present at the consideration of the topics for dissertations. The list of selected topics for dissertations and of the academic supervisors shall be recorded in the Minutes and

approved by the Order of the Head of the Institution (-s). The selected topics shall be published on the website (-s) of the Institution(-s).

21. The selection of the candidates to doctoral studies shall be organised by publishing a notice about an open competition on the website(-s) of the Institution(-s). The notice shall specify the document submission form, and the requirements specific for each research field.

22. The candidates to the doctoral studies shall submit an application to participate in the open competition of a respective research field; the application shall be addressed to the Head of the Institution and shall specify the study form (full-time or part-time), the preferred topic for the dissertation, and the type of financing. The application shall be supported with the following documents:

22.1. a copy of the Master's diploma or of a higher education diploma equivalent to it, and the copies of the supplements to the diploma;

22.2. Curriculum Vitae;

22.3. references by two researchers from the research field concerned;

22.4. a list of research papers and their copies if so required by the Rules;

22.5. a copy of the personal identification document, and, if relevant, a document certifying the change of the surname;

22.6. a certificate on the recognition of the higher education qualification acquired abroad, if so required by the Rules.

23. The competition on the admission to doctoral studies shall be organised by the Doctoral Studies Division and shall be executed by the Committee. The Doctoral School may be engaged in the admission to doctoral studies in individual fields of research. The admission commissions are set up on the motion of the Committee and on the Order of the Head of the Institution; the admission commissions shall review and assess the research project completed by the candidate and his/her research papers, and appraise his/her preparedness for doctoral studies during an interview with the candidate.

24. The criteria for the selection of the candidate to doctoral studies are the following:

24.1. the average scores of the Master's degree studies or of the integrated studies of the candidate;

24.2. the examination or a research project and/or during an interview with the candidate that are evaluated in points;

24.3. research qualifications, the significance of research papers, and the research expertise within the selected topic.

25. The requirements for each research field, such as additional selection criteria, their weight coefficients (if applicable), and the competitive score computation principles shall be set up by the Committee every year. The requirements set forth by the Committees shall be approved by the Order of the Head of the Institution.

26. The Committees shall, on the basis of the selection criteria and the score of the appraisal by the Admission Commission, place candidates to doctoral studies in rank order from the highest competitive score and shall pass a decision regarding the proposal to admit or not to admit to doctoral studies. The decision of the Committee shall be recorded in the Minutes and signed by the Chairman of the Committee.

27. The Head of the Institution shall issue the order to admit the candidates selected for doctoral studies on the basis of the Minutes of the Committee; the Institution shall conclude a study agreement with the admitted doctoral students.

28. In case some vacancies remain after the signature of the study agreements, additional admission may be organised according to the quotas assigned to the Institution and carried out following the same procedure.

29. The candidates that were not admitted to the state-funded positions may participate in a competition for self-funded positions in doctoral studies; these may be financed by own funds or those of sponsors by paying a doctoral studies tuition fee determined by the Institution.

30. Doctoral students who have voluntarily or by the decision of the Committee terminated their doctoral studies may not repeatedly apply for state-funded positions for doctoral studies if they had studied for more than half of their doctoral studies in a state-funded place.

31. Citizens of other than the EU Member States admitted to doctoral studies must acquire residence permits under the procedure established by the laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

#### **CHAPTER IV SUPERVISION OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS**

32. An admitted doctoral student shall be assigned to a specific division within the Institution (hereinafter – the Division). Doctoral studies and research of the doctoral student are supervised by the academic supervisor. The academic supervisor must be an active researcher engaged in the research in the field of the doctoral studies. The academic supervisor may supervise no more than five doctoral students at a time.

33. The Committee shall appoint the academic supervisor and submit for approval to the Head of the Institution within one month from the beginning of doctoral studies. The academic supervisor shall be approved within two months from the beginning of doctoral studies.

34. In the process of doctoral studies, the academic supervisor may propose that the Committee appoint a consultant to the doctoral student; the consultant shall be approved by the Order of the Head of the Institution.

35. The academic supervisor of the doctoral student shall meet the qualification requirements set forth in Annex 1 to these Regulations.

36. The academic supervisor of the doctoral student shall:

36.1. together with the doctoral student, draw up his/her work plan;

36.2. provide methodological assistance to the doctoral student, supervise his/her studies and research, consult the doctoral student, monitor progress of his/her doctoral studies, review the doctoral student's papers and, if necessary, submit conclusions regarding their publication;

36.3. assist the doctoral student in organisational matters of studies, his/her research, mobility or preparation of the dissertation;

36.4. during the annual review of the doctoral student submit a report on the progress of the doctoral studies and research of the doctoral student, and proposals for a further course of doctoral studies;

36.5. be responsible for ensuring that the doctoral student prepares and submits for defence the dissertation completed to the required quality standards.

37. The division to which the doctoral student is assigned shall:

37.1. submit proposals to the Committee and/or the Doctoral School regarding courses to be followed during doctoral studies, the descriptions of the course units and the number of credits;

37.2. ensure appropriate conditions for the doctoral student to carry out the research detailed in his/her work plan;

37.3. promote the mobility of the doctoral student, provide methodological assistance and support to him/her in pursuing excellence in the research conducted;

37.4. in cooperation with the Doctoral School organise the review of the doctoral student, submit proposals and conclusions to the Committee regarding the doctoral student's performance, and facilitate the doctoral student in carrying out teaching internship and acquiring pedagogical experience;

37.5. organise, in the manner set forth by the Division concerned, a preliminary review of the completed dissertation, and shall submit to the Committee the conclusion regarding compliance of the dissertation with established dissertation requirements.

38. If for acceptable reasons it is necessary to change the academic supervisor and/or a consultant, the change shall be approved in the same manner as set forth in Item 33–35 of these Regulations.

39. A doctoral student shall have the right to file a motivated request to the Chairman of the Committee to change the academic supervisor no later than one year before the completion of the doctoral studies. The academic supervisor may be changed no later than one year before the completion of the doctoral studies only in exceptional circumstances and for duly substantiated reasons. The request shall be considered and a decision shall be taken within one month of receipt of the request. In case the request of the doctoral student is approved, a new academic supervisor is appointed taking into account the topic of the dissertation and submitted to the Head of the Institution for approval. In case the request of the doctoral student is rejected by the Committee, the academic supervisor shall continue supervising the doctoral student.

## **CHAPTER V PROCESS OF DOCTORAL STUDIES**

40. Within two months from the beginning of the doctoral studies, a doctoral student, assisted by his/her supervisor, shall draw up a work plan of the doctoral studies that details the courses to be followed and the timeline of examinations, the projected research programme and the stages of its implementation, publication of the results and planned internships. Individual doctoral study plans are approved and, where necessary, amended at a meeting of the Committee.

41. The scope of doctoral studies amounts to at least 33 credits. A doctoral student studies at least three courses. A doctoral student shall obtain three credits for the participation in general competence skills development activities and/or international summer/winter schools, for their internship or partial studies abroad. The decision concerning endorsement of additional credits shall be taken by the Committee.

42. Lectures and seminars within the framework of doctoral studies shall be organised by the Doctoral School or the division whose teachers are responsible for the courses in the doctoral studies.

43. A doctoral programme shall include only the courses approved by the Committee or by the Committee together with the Doctoral School. The doctoral student may elect the courses to study from among the courses offered in all fields of research. Doctoral students study by attending lectures, seminars and doing independent work, during which they can seek advice from subject specialists. Each course is completed with an examination. The examinations passed by the doctoral student shall be recorded in the examination report.

44. A doctoral student shall take the examinations envisaged in the work plan before the examination panel set up by the Order of the Head of the Division responsible for the course. The commission shall consist of the Chairman and two members. All three members of the commission shall be holders of academic degrees. The subject consultant may be included in the examination panel. In case a doctoral student fails an examination, he can resit it, but not earlier than two months from the date of the examination. In case the doctoral student fails the examination for the second time, an extraordinary review of the doctoral student's performance shall be held within one month from the date of the examination. After the review the doctoral student shall be allowed to sit the examination one more time, with the examination costs covered by the doctoral student. In case the doctoral student fails the examination for the third time, the student is not assessed and shall be expelled from the doctoral studies.

45. After the doctoral student has passed all the examinations, the orders regarding the setting up of the examination panels and the examination dates, also the examination reports shall be submitted to the Doctoral Studies Division.

46. The examinations previously taken by the doctoral student in the courses studied within the framework of the doctoral programme may be accepted as passed. Such examinations are accepted as passed on the decision of the Committee based on the records of the examinations taken or other documents that attest to the passing of the examinations presented by the doctoral student. All the above documents shall be submitted to the Doctoral Studies Division.

47. The Committee may postpone the dates of the examinations or other types of academic review envisaged in the work plan due to acceptable reasons (illness, academic trips abroad, etc.)

48. Doctoral students may be sent for partial doctoral studies, also conferences, seminars, etc. to universities abroad on the Order of the Head of the Institution by submitting to the Doctoral Studies Division an application approved by the academic supervisor of the doctoral student and the Chairman of the Committee (Head of the Doctoral School). Doctoral students may be sent on short-term academic trips (to conferences, seminars, etc.) on the Order of the Head of the Institution by submitting to the Doctoral Studies Division an application approved by the academic supervisor. The duration of such a trip is included in the overall duration of the doctoral studies.

49. The research programme of a doctoral student shall consist of the following: study of research literature, doing individual research, analysis of the collected data, publication of results, completion of the dissertation, etc. The progress of the doctoral student's research activities is appraised during the annual review.

50. A doctoral student shall be granted access to the facilities and equipment available at the divisions of the Institution in the manner set forth thereby. A doctoral student may conduct his/her research in other Lithuanian and foreign research centres authorised to carry out research in his/her field of doctoral studies.

51. At the end of each year of doctoral studies progress of the doctoral student is reviewed in accordance with the doctoral student's work plan in the manner set forth by the Committee. It is recommended that such a review be arranged at the divisions concerned or at the Doctoral School in the presence of the doctoral student and his/her academic supervisor. In case, for any acceptable reasons, the academic supervisor of the doctoral student is not able to attend the meeting in which progress report of the doctoral student is reviewed, the academic supervisor shall report on the student's progress in writing. The division shall submit its conclusion to the Committee that may decide to approve the doctoral student's report (thus authorising the continuation of the doctoral studies and approving the work plan of the doctoral student for the next year), to postpone the approval of the report for a period set forth by the Committee; or to reject the doctoral student's report. A doctoral student whose progress report has been rejected shall be expelled from the doctoral studies by the Order of the Head of the Institution. The doctoral student's review documents shall be submitted to the Doctoral Studies Division. Under the decision of the Committee, or if relevant legal acts so provide (in case of doctoral studies financed from the EU budget), progress of the doctoral student may be reviewed twice per year.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **ANNUAL LEAVE, ACADEMIC TRIPS AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF DOCTORAL STUDIES**

52. In July and/or August each year doctoral students are granted an uninterrupted annual leave of at least one month. An annual leave may be granted at a different time if it is approved by the academic supervisor of the doctoral student, or unless detailed otherwise in the work plan of the doctoral student.

53. A doctoral student is entitled to take an academic leave of absence due to acceptable reasons (e.g. childbirth, parental leave, illness, etc.). Once in the study period, but for no longer than one year, and subject to the approval of the academic supervisor and the Chairman of the Committee, the doctoral student may take an academic leave of absence for personal reasons, on the Order of the Head of the Institution concerned. A doctoral student, willing to take an academic leave of absence, shall submit an application to the Doctoral Studies Division signed by the academic supervisor and the Chairman of the Committee. The time of a doctoral student's leave of absence is not included in the duration of the overall doctoral studies. No scholarship is paid during the academic leave of absence.

54. A doctoral student who, for no valid reason, fails to start his/her studies as scheduled, or present the work plan or return from academic leave of absence, a study trip, etc. within 15 days to continue his doctoral studies without any acceptable reason, is expelled from doctoral studies.

55. A doctoral student may be also expelled from doctoral studies due to the behaviour not compatible with the ethical norms of academic community, or due to a failure to fulfil his/her financial obligations.

56. A doctoral student may spend part of his/her study time studying or doing research at other Lithuanian and foreign institutions. The period of studies or research at other institutions shall be included in the overall duration of the doctoral studies, and the doctoral student shall be paid a scholarship for the period concerned. A doctoral student is sent on such trips on the Order of the Head of the Institution, based on the application in an established form and approved by the academic supervisor of the doctoral student and the Chairman of the Committee (Head of the Doctoral School).

57. The expenses of the trip shall be covered from the resources allocated for the doctoral studies, or from other sources. The expenses of the trip may be covered from the projects or programmes managed by the Research Council of Lithuania, the Division of the doctoral student, the student foundations at the Institution of the doctoral student, the hosting institution or other sources. In case an academic trip of a doctoral student was financed with the funds of the Institution, the doctoral student shall, upon returning from the trip and within five working days, submit to the Accounting department of the Institution documents of proof of the expenses incurred during the trip.

## **CHAPTER VII DISSERTATION AND ITS DEFENCE**

58. The dissertation, as an integral research paper (except in the case referred to in Item 59 of these Regulations), shall contain the text of the dissertation, its summary (in a language different from that of the dissertation), a list and copies of the research papers of the person submitting the dissertation for defence (hereinafter – the author of the dissertation). The dissertation may be published as an integrated single publication, or it may be published in parts.

59. A research monograph written without co-authors may be also presented for defence as a doctoral dissertation. A summary of the monograph shall be attached to the monograph. Other research publications are submitted if they are necessary for a comprehensive presentation of the topic of the dissertation.

60. At the proposal of the academic supervisor of the doctoral student, and subject to the approval of the Committee, the dissertation completed as a set of research articles may be submitted for defence in the areas of social, biomedical, physical and technical sciences. In that case the dissertation shall consist of an overview of at least one author's sheet in length, a summary in the Lithuanian and a foreign language (in a language different from that of the overview), copies of the research publications of the author on the subject matter of the dissertation. The most important findings of the research carried out by the author must be published in at least four articles (of which in at least one article the author of the dissertation must be included as the first co-author, or is the only author) published in



international research journals assigned a citation index in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)* database.

61. The dissertation must be an original research paper, whose author substantiates the problem researched, defines the relevance of the research topic, formulates the goal and tasks of the paper, specifies the novelty of the research paper and presents the statements set out for defence, as well as an overview of the research and studies on the topic of the dissertation (in Lithuania and globally); presents the study methodology (methods), substantiating the reliability of such methods and their relation to the findings and the data obtained by other researchers, draws up conclusions, and describes other aspects relevant for the task in the opinion of the author of the dissertation. Besides, information on approbation and dissemination of the research results shall be included, by listing the events at which the doctoral student gave talks on the topic of his/her research, and a description of the author's research and creative activities (CV).

62. The dissertation must be written in correct and appropriate language in accordance with the register and the culture of language requirements. The text of the dissertation shall be written in the Lithuanian or the English language, or other than the Lithuanian or the English language, subject to the approval of the Committee. The recommended scope of a dissertation (except a dissertation submitted on the basis of a set of research articles) is from 4 to 10 author's sheets (1 author's sheet equals 40 000 characters).

63. The summary or the overview of the dissertation submitted for defence on the basis of a set of research articles shall contain a description of the problem dealt with in the dissertation, the goal and tasks of the research paper, disclosure of the novelty of the research, a brief description of the methodology used for the purpose of the research, the key findings, and the statements set out for defence, as well as concise information about the doctoral student. The scope of the dissertation summary shall be between 0.5 and 1 author's sheet; the summary of the dissertation shall be written in the Lithuanian or the English language (other than the language of the dissertation). The summary of the dissertation must be written in correct and appropriate language in accordance with the register and the culture of language requirements.

64. The summary of the monograph that is defended as a dissertation shall be one author's sheet in scope and prepared in the Lithuanian or the English language (other than the language of the monograph).

65. The dissertation and its summary shall indicate the academic supervisor of the doctoral student and his/her consultant (if appointed), the summary shall also detail the composition of the Defence Panel (if the dissertation is printed as an integrated publication, the composition of the Defence Panel is specified at the very beginning of the publication). In case the academic supervisor was changed, the dissertation and its summary shall name the previous academic supervisor, and the period of his/her supervision. Examples of the title and the second pages of the dissertation and the summary are presented in Annexes 3 and 4 of these Regulations.

66. The doctoral student shall defend his/her dissertation during the period of doctoral studies. If a doctoral student completes the dissertation before the end of the doctoral studies but fails to defend it in due time, the dissertation can be defended within 12 months after the end of the doctoral studies under the regular procedure. The dissertation that was not defended within the envisaged period shall be defended on an external basis according to the requirements of Chapter VIII of these Regulations. The dissertation defended within one year of the end of the doctoral studies is deemed defended in time.

67. A doctoral student may submit his/her dissertation for defence provided the student:

67.1. has passed all the examinations envisaged in the work plan of doctoral studies;

67.2. has prepared at least two articles on the main research findings published (or accepted for publishing) in peer reviewed research journals or in a research monograph. A doctoral student shall publish the findings of his/her research:

67.2.1. in humanities and social sciences – in at least two articles in peer reviewed research journals, of which one is published in an international journal with more than half members of the editorial board from outside the country of the journal, or in a research monograph;

67.2.2. in biomedical, physical and technical sciences – in at least two articles in international research journals with a citation index in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)* database;

67.3. has presented the findings of his/her research in at least two international academic events;

67.4. has completed an internship of at least three months in duration (total duration) at foreign research and studies institutions (recommended);

67.5. has completed the dissertation.

68. The doctoral student shall present the dissertation at a meeting of the doctoral student's division in the presence of the academic supervisor and the consultant of the doctoral student. Following the procedure set forth at the Institution, the division shall review the dissertation and the research articles published by the doctoral student, the competence of the doctoral student, his/her skills as a researcher, and shall submit its conclusions to the Committee.

69. Having received the manuscript of the dissertation and the doctoral student's application to defend the dissertation, the Chairman of the Committee shall, within two weeks (except in July and August), convene a meeting of the Committee at which the reviewers of the dissertation shall be appointed (it is recommended that one reviewer be from a foreign research and studies institution). The reviewers shall give a detailed examination of the paper, and shall submit their reviews in writing, and, if possible, present their reviews at the meeting of the Committee.

70. Following the discussions at the meeting, and having reviewed the dissertation, the articles published on the topic of the dissertations, the passed examinations, the doctoral student's participation at scientific events and internships, the Committee shall pass one of the following decisions:

70.1. the dissertation has been properly completed and meets the requirements prescribed, the doctoral student has fulfilled the work plan of doctoral studies, and the dissertation, in the opinion of the reviewers and the members of the Committee, may be submitted for defence;

70.2. the dissertation needs revision. The dissertation shall be returned to the author of the dissertation, and the revised dissertation shall be repeatedly discussed at the meeting of the Committee within one month after the reviewers submit their conclusions on the revised dissertation to the Committee;

70.3. the dissertation does not meet the requirements prescribed, and shall be returned to the author of the dissertation for its further elaboration.

71. In case the dissertation meets the requirements prescribed, the Committee sets the date and place for the defence of the dissertation, determines the language of the defence, and, in exceptional cases, gives reasons for the decision to pursue the defence of the dissertation in a closed meeting of the Defence Panel, appoints one of its members Chairman of the Panel and submits their decision for approval of the Rector of the University. Members of the Defence Panel must be engaged in research close to the topic of the dissertation submitted for defence. The Order of the Rector of the University shall specify the date and place of the defence of the dissertation.

72. The Dissertation Defence Panel is a panel of researchers who, having reviewed the dissertation submitted for defence and assessed its quality, its compliance with the requirements for dissertations and the competence of the doctoral student, decide whether the candidate meets the requirements for being awarded the doctor's degree.

73. The members of the Dissertation Defence Panel must meet the qualification requirements set forth in Annex 1 to these Regulations. There shall be no conflicts of interest between the members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and the author of the dissertation or his/her academic supervisor, and the consultant (a research consultant when the dissertation is defended on an external basis). A member of the Dissertation Defence Panel may not have co-authored publications with the author of the

dissertation, and more than half of the members of the Dissertation Defence Panel may not have co-authored publications with the academic supervisor of the author of the dissertation (a research consultant when defending the dissertation on an external basis). It is recommended that at least one member of the Dissertation Defence Panel be from a foreign research and education institution.

74. Within eight weeks (or another term set forth by the Institutions) before the scheduled defence of the dissertation, the Committee or the Doctoral School shall submit to the Doctoral Studies Division of the University the manuscript of the dissertation (sent by e-mail) and the application of the author of the dissertation to defend the dissertation, addressed to the Rector of the University. The following documents shall be attached:

74.1. copies of the Master's qualification diploma or of a higher education diploma equivalent to it, and copies of their supplements;

74.2. records of the passed examinations of doctoral studies (if the records are not kept at the University);

74.3. a list of research papers published on the topic of the dissertation and their copies (in case a paper is not yet published, attach a copy of the confirmation of the editorial board confirming acceptance of the article for publication);

74.4. the Curriculum Vitae and a description of the research and creative activities of the author of the dissertation;

74.5. minutes of the discussion of the dissertation at the division of the Institution and the Committee;

74.6. consents of the researchers to act as members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and its Chairman;

74.7. lists of research papers of members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and its Chairman as proof that they meet the established qualification requirements (if this information is required by the Doctoral Studies Division).

75. The Doctoral Studies Division shall, no later than 30 days before the defence of the dissertation:

75.1. in cooperation with the author of the dissertation ensure that the dissertation is submitted to the members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and the Library of the University (except the dissertations that will be defended in a closed meeting);

75.2. upload a notice on the forthcoming defence of the dissertation on the website of the University. The notice shall specify the following: name and surname of the author of the dissertation, the place where the dissertation was completed, the academic supervisor (or consultant, if the dissertation is defended on an external basis) and the members of the Dissertation Defence Panel (academic degree, name, surname, field (branch) of research represented), the title of the dissertation, the place and date of the defence and the address of the University website where the dissertation can be accessed;

75.3. send a notice of the forthcoming defence of the dissertation to the Research Council of Lithuania in the manner set forth thereby.

76. The members of the Dissertation Defence Panel shall review the dissertation, indicate its advantages and inadequacies, assess the novelty, relevance and originality of the dissertation, and express an opinion whether the paper meets the requirements for dissertations; the Dissertation Defence Panel shall submit their written comments on the dissertation at least five days before the defence of the dissertation (also possibly by e-mail) to the Doctoral Studies Division which shall forward the same to the doctoral student without delay. The comments shall be submitted in a printed form before the defence of the dissertation.

77. The defence of the dissertation shall be held at an open meeting of the Dissertation Defence Panel (except when a closed meeting is scheduled) according to the Regulations for the Defence of Doctoral Research Dissertations (Annex 2 to these Regulations), and shall be audio recorded. The

defence of the dissertation may be conducted in Lithuanian, or another language, and interpreting shall be provided if necessary. The language for the dissertation defence procedure shall be determined by the Committee. The meeting shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Dissertation Defence Panel. The meeting shall be considered legitimate if attended by more than half of the members of the Dissertation Defence Panel (including those participating by means of teleconference). The comments of the members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and of other specialists not attending the meeting shall be read at the meeting. The members of the Dissertation Defence Panel shall pass their decisions in accordance with the principles of objectivity, impartiality, transparency and legality, as well as personal responsibility for one's deeds and decisions.

78. In case a dissertation is scheduled for defence in a closed meeting of the Dissertation Defence Panel, the decision as to who may attend the meeting, apart from the author of the dissertation, his/her academic supervisor, the consultant, the Chairman of the Dissertation Defence Panel and its members, shall be taken by the Committee.

79. The author of the dissertation shall present the key findings and the conclusions of his/her paper and indicate his contribution to the publications presented in the dissertation. The members of the Dissertation Defence Panel present a well-reasoned review of the scientific level, the novelty and originality of the findings, the reliability and validity of conclusions and note the inadequacies and/or inaccuracies of the paper, and the research competence of the author of the dissertation during its defence. The author of the dissertation answers the questions asked and comments on the feedback from the participants of the meeting of the defence. During the discussion the author of the dissertation shall substantiate the conclusions of his/her dissertation and reveal his/her competence as a researcher.

80. Following the discussions with the author of the dissertation, the members of the Dissertation Defence Panel shall, with the author of the dissertation and the other participants of the meeting not present, and each individually having voiced the arguments for his/her decision, decide in an open vote, whether the author of the dissertation can be awarded the doctoral degree. The members of the Dissertation Defence Panel participating in the meeting of the dissertation defence by means of teleconference shall also vote. The decision to award the doctor's degree shall be passed if more than half of all the members of the Dissertation Defence Panel vote in favour of the decision. The voting report shall be signed by all participating members of the Dissertation Defence Panel.

81. Within two weeks from the defence of the dissertation, the doctoral student shall present a copy of the defended dissertation (except the dissertations defended in a closed meeting) to the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania and publishes it in the Lithuanian Academic Electronic Library (eLABa).

82. Within one month from the defence of the dissertation, the Doctoral Studies Division shall submit the results of the defence to the Research Council of Lithuania by uploading the relevant data on the dissertation database managed by the Research Council in the manner set forth thereby.

83. In case the Dissertation Defence Panel decides that the doctoral student does not qualify for the doctoral degree a revised and/or supplemented dissertation may be submitted for defence not earlier than after one year. In that case the doctoral degree shall be acquired on an external basis in accordance with the requirements of Chapter VIII of these Regulations.

84. Where instances of scientific dishonesty/ research misconduct are established, the dissertation cannot be defended.

## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **OBTAINING A DOCTORAL DEGREE ON AN EXTERNAL BASIS**

85. A person (hereinafter – external candidate) who has a Master’s qualification degree or a post-graduate degree equivalent to it is eligible to seek a doctoral degree on an external basis. An external candidate must have completed a dissertation summarising the research published in at least two peer-reviewed research journals referred to in Sub-Item 67.2 of these Regulations or must have published a monograph without any co-authors. Furthermore, the external candidate must have presented the findings of his/her research at academic events.

86. Alongside with an application to defend the dissertation addressed to the Rector of the University an external candidate shall submit the following documents:

- 86.1. the manuscript of the dissertation or a published research monograph;
- 86.2. a list of research publications and their copies;
- 86.3. a copy of the Master’s diploma or of a higher education diploma equivalent to it, and copies of its supplements;
- 86.4. records of the passed doctoral examinations (if any);
- 86.5. the Curriculum Vitae and a description of the research and creative activities.

87. The Doctoral Studies Division shall register the external candidate’s application and the supporting documents and, having concluded that the documents meet the requirements of the Guidelines, shall submit the documents to the Rector of the University (or his authorised Pro-Rector) who shall assign the application with the supporting documents to the Committee of Doctoral Studies in the respective field of research.

88. The Committee shall appoint at least two reviewers to appraise the level of completion of the submitted dissertation, and, within three months from receipt of the external candidate’s application, organise a meeting of the Committee at which the Committee members examine the conclusions of the reviewers, and the supporting documents, and establish whether the paper meets the requirements for a dissertation.

89. In case the Committee decides that within the period of one year the dissertation may not be properly prepared for the defence, a repeat application to defend the dissertation may be submitted not earlier than after one year.

90. Having decided that the submitted or revised dissertation of an external candidate may be recommended for defence, the Committee shall:

- 90.1. appoint and submit to the Rector of the University for approval an academic consultant of the external candidate (the academic consultant shall be a researcher in the same field of research);
- 90.2. detail the courses to be followed in doctoral studies and the timeline of examinations, and, provided the examinations were successfully passed, pass the decision regarding their crediting;
- 90.3. if necessary, set up an examination commission(-s);
- 90.4. set the final date for the defence of the dissertation that cannot be later than within one year from the date of the decision of the Committee.

91. The examinations of the external candidate shall be organised under Chapter V of these Regulations, and the dissertation shall be examined and defended under the requirements of Items 70–84 of Chapter VII of these Regulations.

92. The expenses of the University and/or the Institution that are directly related to obtaining the doctor’s degree, shall be covered by the external candidate, unless the regulations of the University or of the Institution sharing the right to conduct doctoral studies with the University provide otherwise.

## **CHAPTER IX**

### **AWARD OF THE DOCTORAL DEGREE, APPEALS AND ISSUES OF ACADEMIC ETHICS**

93. After the dissertation has been published on the eLABa repository, the University shall award the doctoral degree and issue the doctoral degree diploma registered in the manner set forth thereby to the person who has defended his/her dissertation.

94. A substantiated appeal or a complaint regarding refusal to award the doctoral degree, or the rejection of an application of an external or a full-time doctoral student shall be submitted to the Rector of the University within 15 calendar days. The Rector of the University shall, within five calendar days, set up an expert panel to discuss the appeal or the complaint; the expert panel shall submit its conclusion to the Rector within 15 calendar days. The Rector shall pass a final decision regarding the appeal or the complaint within 10 working days; the final decision shall be communicated to the applicant.

95. An appeal regarding refusal to award a doctoral degree may be filed with the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania in the manner set forth by law.

96. The decision to rescind the doctoral degree (including awarded prior to the effective date of these Regulations) shall be passed by the Rector of the University subject to the approval of the Senate, where:

96.1. a fact of scientific dishonesty is established;

96.2. the doctoral degree has been granted in breach of the legal acts governing the award of doctoral degrees;

96.3. the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures has passed a decision obligating to rescind the doctoral degree.

97. The form of a doctoral diploma and the procedure for printing, accounting and registration of diploma forms are determined by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania.

98. Upon the loss of a doctoral diploma, a duplicate of the diploma is issued in accordance with the rules of Vilnius University.

## **CHAPTER X**

### **FINANCING OF DOCTORAL STUDIES**

99. A doctoral student studying in a state-funded position shall be paid a scholarship in the amount set forth by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – scholarship) during the period of his/her doctoral studies. In case a doctoral student fails to fulfil his work plan, payment of the scholarship may be suspended by the decision of the Committee and on the order of the Head of the Institution. The payment of the scholarship shall be resumed once the Committee concludes that the doctoral student fulfils the requirements of the doctoral student's work plan.

100. Funds for doctoral research, publication of the dissertation and its summary, the administration of the operations of the Doctoral School and of the Committee, the compensation of the academic supervisors of the doctoral students (except the consultants of external students), consultants on individual subjects, the Chairman and the members of the examination panels, reviewers, and other expenses directly related to the doctoral studies shall be covered from the funds allocated for doctoral studies and budgeted by the Institutions.

101. The budget of the doctoral studies shall contain a separate line for the mobility of doctoral students.

102. The expenses of the doctoral students defending the dissertation before the end of the doctoral studies, or within less than one year from the end of the doctoral studies, and the expenses related to the dissertation (including the expenses of the first-time printing and mailing of the dissertation) shall be covered from the funds of the Institution.

103. The academic supervisor of the doctoral student, and the consultant or the academic consultant of an external student, the Chairman and the members of the examination panels, consultants and reviewers shall be compensated for their work as prescribed in the regulations of the Institution at which the doctoral student studies.

104. The members of the Dissertation Defence Panel shall be compensated for their work in relation to the defence of the dissertation for 10 hours at hourly rates.

105. The doctoral students from other research and studies institutions (not sharing the right of doctoral studies with the University) and who prefer to take his/her doctoral studies examinations shall pay a fee set by the Council of the University.

106. The expenses of the consultants of the external candidates, the remunerations of the Chairman and the members of the panels of the external candidates, as well as other expenses related to the acquisition of the doctoral degree on an external basis shall be covered at the rates set by the Council of the University.

## **CHAPTER XI RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS OF DOCTORAL STUDIES**

107. The personal file and the documents submitted upon application to doctoral studies of an applicant who was not admitted to doctoral studies shall be retained at the Doctoral Studies Division for half a year from the date of document submission and subsequently destroyed.

108. During the doctoral studies the personal file of the doctoral student shall be retained at the Doctoral Studies Division of the Institution at which the doctoral student is studying and shall be transferred to the archive of the Institution of the doctoral student upon the expiry of the doctoral studies period. The file shall contain:

108.1 documents on the admission to doctoral studies;

108.2. documents on the appointment of the academic supervisor and the consultant of the doctoral student;

108.3. programme for doctoral studies and research, publication of the results, and the programme for the preparation of the dissertation (the doctoral student's work plan);

108.4. documents related to the doctoral students' progress assessment;

108.5. documents of any postponements in the timeline specified in the doctoral programme;

108.6. records of doctoral examinations;

108.7. decision on the termination of doctoral studies (in case the doctoral student was expelled from doctoral studies on the basis of negative result of the annual review or other reasons, or the doctoral student failed to submit the dissertation for defence before the end of the doctoral studies.

109. The personal file of the author of the dissertation shall be held at the archive of the University. The file shall contain:

109.1. the application to defend the dissertation and the supporting documents (records on the examination of the dissertation, other documents of the Committee);

109.2. the Order of the Rector of the University on the approval of the Dissertation Defence Panel, and setting the date for the defence;

109.3. an audio recording of the meeting of the Dissertation Defence Panel at which the dissertation was defended, and copies of all documents related to the examination of the dissertation at that meeting;

109.4. the resolution of the Dissertation Defence Panel (the voting record) regarding the award or refusal to award of the doctoral degree;

109.5. a copy of the PhD diploma;

109.6. copies and the list of the research articles published or accepted for publication;

109.7. other documents related to the defence the dissertation.

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**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE DISSERTATION DEFENCE  
PANEL, ACADEMIC SUPERVISORS AND THE CONSULTANTS OF DOCTORAL  
STUDENTS**

1. The researchers to be appointed as members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and academic supervisors of doctoral students (academic consultants for external candidates) shall meet the requirements of the level not lower than prescribed for senior researchers in the currently (on the date of adoption of these Regulations) effective *Description of the minimum qualification requirements for positions of research staff at public higher education and research institutions* approved by Resolution No. VII-71 of 16 May 2011 of the Research Council of Lithuania “On the specification of the Description of the Minimum Qualification Requirements for Positions of Research Staff at Public Higher Education and Research Institutions”, or the requirements for persons seeking the position of a senior researcher that may be prescribed by any subsequent Resolutions of the Research Council of Lithuania.

2. The researchers to be appointed as consultants of doctoral students must be active researchers doing research on the topic of the dissertation or related areas.

3. The Committee of Doctoral Studies in the field of research (hereinafter – Committees) can make these requirements stricter. The decision shall be passed at a meeting of the Committee attended by no less than 2/3 of all members of the Committee.

## **REGULATIONS FOR DOCTORAL DISSERTATION DEFENCE PANEL**

1. The present Regulations establish the procedures for the Doctoral Dissertation Defence Panel (hereinafter – the Panel) set up on the basis of the Guidelines for Doctoral Studies, approved by Order No. 149 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 8 March 2017 (hereinafter –Guidelines).

2. A meeting of the Dissertation Defence Panel at which a dissertation will be defended shall be organised by the Doctoral Studies Committee of a respective field of research (hereinafter – the Committee) or the Doctoral School, while the dissertation defence documents shall be processed by the division at the University responsible for the coordination and organisation of doctoral studies.

3. The responsibility for a proper preparation for the meeting (audio recording, demonstration of the visual material, and, if necessary, the interpretation of the meeting) shall lie with the core academic division to which the author of the dissertation was assigned, or with the Committee (the Doctoral School).

4. The Chairman and the members of the Panel shall review in advance and provide, in the comments, their evaluation of the scientific level of the dissertation, the novelty and reliability of the results, the reasonableness of the conclusions, indicate the inadequacies and/or inaccuracies of the paper, and conclude whether the dissertation meets other requirements set for dissertations. Furthermore, the Chairman and the members of the Panel shall assess whether the research papers of the author of the dissertation were published in research journals compliant with the requirements of the Guidelines, and whether the publications are sufficient and contain the significant results of the dissertation paper.

5. The members of the Panel shall submit their comments about the dissertation no later than five days before the dissertation defence meeting, so that the author of the dissertation and the other members of the Panel have sufficient time to examine the comments.

6. The work of the Panel shall be organised and the meeting at which the dissertation is defended shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Panel who shall:

6.1. examine in advance the personal file of the person who intends to defend the dissertation (hereinafter – the author of the dissertation) and ascertain that all the required documents have been provided (information on the author of the dissertation, the comments, a blank form of the voting report, etc.);

6.2. examine the comments that must be presented at the meeting of the Panel, or assign the task to another member of the Panel;

6.3. ascertain whether all the preparatory arrangements for the meeting have been made (for audio recording, and, if necessary, interpreting of the meeting);

6.4. chair the meeting of the Panel and sign documents of the Panel meeting, as well as the diploma of the granted doctoral degree.

7. Meetings of the Panel are public (except in the cases of dissertations defended in closed meetings). The meeting shall be considered legitimate if attended by more than half of the members of the Panel (including those participating by means of teleconference). The course of the meeting shall be the following:

7.1. Having determined that the meeting is attended by more than half of the members of the Panel, including those participating by means of video conference, the Chair of the Panel presents the members of the Panel and introduces the documents of the author of the dissertation;

7.2. the author of the dissertation presents the dissertation – its objectives, tasks, problems, the methodology used for the purpose of the study, the obtained data, the findings of the study, indicates his/her contribution to the research, and the publications referred to in the dissertation;

7.3. the author of the dissertation answers the questions or comments of the members of the Panel or other participants of the meeting;

7.4. the Chairman or the member of the Panel appointed thereby publicly introduces the comments on the dissertation of a member (s) of the Panel not attending the meeting;

7.5. the author of the dissertation answers the questions or comments of the non-attending member (s) of the Panel;

7.6. each member of the Panel attending the meeting comments and evaluates the dissertation by providing a well-grounded assessment of the scientific level of the dissertation, the novelty and the originality of its findings, reliability and reasonableness of the conclusions, indicates the inadequacies and/or inaccuracies of the paper, and asks questions to the author of the dissertation;

7.7. the author of the dissertation answers the questions or comments of the member (s) of the Panel attending the meeting;

7.8. a scientific discussion is opened at which other participants of the dissertation defence meeting are invited to share opinions;

7.9. the floor is given to the academic supervisor and the consultant of the author of the dissertation.

8. Following the discussions with the author of the dissertation, having assessed his/her research competence, ability to validate and explain the findings presented in the dissertation and the research publications, the members of the Panel shall, in the absence of the author of the dissertation and the other participants of the meeting, having individually commented the arguments for their decisions, in an open vote decide whether the author of the dissertation should be granted the doctoral degree. The members of the Panel participating in the dissertation defence by means of teleconference shall also vote.

9. The members of the Panel attending the meeting shall sign the voting report and the Resolution concerning the award of the doctor's degree to the author of the dissertation.

10. The resolution of the Panel shall be publicly announced to the participants of the meeting.

11. The documents related to the defence of the dissertation, and the audio recording of the meeting shall be presented to the division responsible for the coordination and organisation of doctoral studies at the University within one week from the date of defence of the dissertation

**(A sample form of the first and second pages of the doctoral dissertation)**

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The name (-s) of the institution (-s) authorised to conduct doctoral studies has been granted.

---

(name, surname of the author of dissertation)

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(title of doctoral dissertation)

Doctoral dissertation

Research area, research field (field code)

Vilnius, \_\_\_\_ 2018

This dissertation was written between 20\_\_ and 20 \_\_ (the name of the institution at which the dissertation was completed). The research was supported by (e.g. Research Council of Lithuania, if the doctoral studies were financed from the EU structural funds, or a scholarship was granted for academic accomplishments).

(In case the doctoral dissertation is defended on an external basis, include the statement ‘The dissertation is defended on an external basis’).

**Academic supervisor:**

**Prof., Habil., Dr.** Name, surname (name of institution, area of research, research field, field code). (In case the doctoral student had two academic supervisors, indicate the time frame(s) of their supervision)

**Academic consultant:**

**Prof., Habil., Dr.** Name, surname (name of institution, research area, research field, field code).

Regulations for Doctoral  
Studies at Vilnius University  
Annex 4

**(A sample form of the first and second pages of the summary of the doctoral dissertation)**

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The name (-s) of the institution (-s) authorised to conduct doctoral studies has been granted.

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(name, surname of the author of dissertation)

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Title of doctoral dissertation

Summary of doctoral dissertation

Research area, research field (field code)

Vilnius, \_\_\_\_ 2018

This dissertation was written between 20\_\_ and 20 \_\_ (the name of the institution at which the dissertation was completed). The research was supported by (e.g. Research Council of Lithuania, if the doctoral studies were financed from the EU structural funds, or a scholarship was granted for academic accomplishments).

(In case the doctoral dissertation is defended on an external basis, include the statement ‘The dissertation is defended on an external basis’).

**Academic supervisor:**

(If the dissertation is defended on an external basis, write ‘**Academic consultant**’)

**Prof., Habil., Dr. Name, surname** (name of institution, research area, research field, field code). (In case the doctoral student had two academic supervisors, indicate the time frame(s) of their supervision)

**Academic consultant:**

**Prof., Habil., Dr. Name, surname** (name of institution, research area, research field, field code).

This doctoral dissertation will be defended in a public/closed meeting of the Dissertation Defence Panel:

**Chairman – Prof., Habil., Dr. Name, surname** (name of institution, research area, research field, field code).

**Members:** (members listed in alphabetical order of surnames)

**Prof., Habil., Dr. Name, surname** (name of institution, research area, research field, field code).

**Assoc. Prof., Dr. Name, surname** (name of institution, research area, research field, field code).

**Dr. Name, surname** (name of institution, research area, research field, field code).

**Prof., Dr. Name, surname** (name of institution, research area, research field, field code).

The dissertation shall be defended at a public/closed meeting of the Dissertation Defence Panel at \_\_\_ (hour)/ on \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ in Room/meeting room \_\_\_ of the Faculty/Institute (name of institution).

Address: street, house No., Room No., city, Lithuania

Tel. +370 \_\_\_\_\_ ; e-mail:

The text of this dissertation can be accessed at the libraries of (name of the institutions granted the right to conduct doctoral studies in alphabetical order), as well as on the website of Vilnius University: [www.vu.lt/lt/naujienos/ivykiu-kalendorius](http://www.vu.lt/lt/naujienos/ivykiu-kalendorius)