

Annex 3: Awards and Achievements of the Vilnius University Community

Lithuanian State Awards

- Assoc. Prof. Dr Robertas Badaras from the Faculty of Medicine was awarded the **Cross of the Knight of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas** for disseminating information on the science of toxicology and for his active educational work with various societal groups, significantly advancing addiction prevention in Lithuania.
- Prof. Dr Almira Ramanavičienė from the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences was awarded the **Cross of the Knight of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas** for effective and productive scientific work, her role in educating a new generation of researchers in Lithuania, and efforts in disseminating scientific achievements both nationally and internationally.
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Dalia Švambarytė from the Faculty of Philosophy was awarded the **Cross of the Knight of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas** for her work in promoting East Asian literary and cultural heritage, which significantly contributes to Lithuanian-Japanese cultural relations, and for raising Lithuania's profile in Japan.
- Three members of the Vilnius University community were awarded the **Cross of the Knight of the Order for Merits to Lithuania**: Prof. Dr Marija Drėmaitė from the Faculty of History (for research on modern Lithuanian architecture, culture, and heritage, as well as her educational activities, and for initiating and implementing international projects that have contributed significantly to Lithuania's visibility worldwide); Prof. Dr Jurgita Verbickienė from the Faculty of History (for long-standing and consistent scientific and expert work in researching, highlighting, and presenting Jewish history, culture, and heritage in Lithuania, as well as for developing and implementing approaches to integrating Jewish history into public and academic discourse); and Prof. Dr Boguslavas Gruževskis from the Faculty of Philosophy (for long-standing scientific, expert, and educational contributions in the fields of employment and labour market policy, demographic change, social security, social dialogue, and the issues of poverty and social exclusion).
- Prof. Dr Ieva Plikusienė from the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences was awarded the **Medal of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas** for the highest international-level research in biotechnology, which significantly contributes to scientific progress across multiple fields, and for promoting Lithuania's name worldwide.
- Prof. Dr Valentinas Mikelėnas from the Faculty of Law was awarded the **Cross of Commander of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas** for his work in developing the Lithuanian private law system and advancing the science of private and civil procedure law.

Lithuanian Science Prizes

Three 2024 Lithuanian Science Prizes were granted to Vilnius University researchers:

- ***In the field of the natural sciences***: Senior Researcher Dr Justas Dapkūnas, Senior Researcher Dr Darius Kazlauskas, Senior Researcher Dr Klimentas Olechnovičius, and Research Professor Dr Česlovas Venclovas for their comprehensive body of research papers 'Baltymų struktūrinės bioinformatikos metodų kūrimas ir taikymas (2010–2023)' ('Development and Application of Structural Bioinformatics Methods for Proteins (2010–2023)')
- ***In the fields of medicine, the health sciences, and agriculture***: Research Professor Dr (HP) Rūta Navakauskienė and Senior Researcher Dr Veronika Viktorija Borutinskaitė, along with their co-authors, for their body of research papers 'Epigenetiniai ir genetiniai biožymenys ligų diagnostikai ir individualizuotai terapijai: mechanizmų tyrimas, metodų kūrimas ir pritaikymo sritys (2009–2023)' ('Epigenetic and Genetic Biomarkers for Disease Diagnostics and Personalized Therapy: Mechanism Studies, Method Development, and Applications (2009–2023)')
- ***In the field of the technological sciences***: Researcher Dr Rimantas Budriūnas and Research Professor Dr Arūnas Varanavičius, along with their co-authors, for their comprehensive experimental development paper series 'Didelės galios kelių optinių ciklų impulsų šaltiniai ekstremalios šviesos technologijoms (2009–2023)' ('High-Power Multi-Optical Cycle Pulse Sources for Extreme Light Technologies (2009–2023)')

Prizes and Competitions of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

- **Scholarships for Young Scientists were awarded to:**
 - ***In the field of the humanities and social sciences***: Dr Simas Čelutka, a researcher at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, for his research project 'Filosofinė pasiaukojimo samprata karo grėsmės akivaizdoje' ('The Philosophical Concept of Self-Sacrifice in the Face of War')
 - ***In the field of the physical sciences***: Dr Julija Grigorjevaitė, a researcher at the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences, for her research project 'Chemijos didaktikos vertinimas, naujų metodų kūrimas ir išbandymas' ('Assessment of Chemistry Didactics, Development and Testing of New Methods')

- ***In the field of the biomedical sciences:*** Dr Jūratė Skerniškytė, a researcher at the Life Sciences Center, for her research project 'Oportunistinių bakterijų produkuojamų išorinių struktūrų imunogeniškumo tyrimai ir jų taikymas vystant naujas hospitalinių infekcijų gydymo strategijas' ('Studies on the Immunogenicity of External Structures Produced by Opportunistic Bacteria and Their Application in the Development of New Strategies for the Treatment of Hospital-Acquired Infections')
- ***In the field of the technological sciences:*** Dr Linas Stripinis, a researcher at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, for his research project 'Mašininiu mokymusi paremtų globalaus optimizavimo hiperalgoritmų, skirtų automatiniam algoritmų sudarymui, derinimui ir hibridizacijai, kūrimas' ('Development of Machine Learning-Based Global Optimisation Hyperalgorithms for the Automatic Construction, Tuning, and Hybridisation of Algorithms')
- **The Juozas Dalinkevičius Prize by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (in geosciences)** was granted to Robertas Mokrikas, Professor from the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences.
- **The prize in the Young Scientists' and Doctoral Students' Research Competition by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences** was granted to Dr Julija Grigorjevaitė for her research paper 'Liuminescencinių medžiagų sintezė ir optiniai tyrimai' ('Synthesis and Optical Investigation of Luminescent Materials').
- **The prizes to students in higher education for the best research work by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences** were awarded to:
 - ***In the field of the humanities and social sciences:*** Master's student Kostas Gružas for his research paper 'Nusikalstamumo rajonavimo metodų taikymo tyrimas (2015–2020 m. Lietuvos policijos registruotų įvykių duomenų pavyzdžiu)' ('Study on the Application of Crime Regionalisation Methods (Based on a Sample of Event Data Recorded by the Lithuanian Police in 2015–2022)') (Supervisor: Prof. Dr Giedrė Beconytė); doctoral student Deimantė Aidukaitė-Mikelionienė for her research paper 'Istoriniai Zanavykijos oikonimai: kaita ir daryba' ('Historical Oeconyms in the Zanavykai Region: Evolution and Formation') (Supervisor: Assoc Prof. Dr Ilona Mickienė); doctoral student Dovilė Gervytė for her research paper 'Literatūrinio teksto genezės konceptualizavimas' ('Conceptualizing the Genesis of Literary Texts') (Supervisor: Prof. Dr Paulius Vaidotas Subačius); and doctoral student Simonas Baliukonis for his research paper 'Monada ir Diada Ksenokrato filosofijoje' ('The Monad and the Dyad in Xenocrates' Philosophy') (Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr Vilius Bartninkas)
 - ***In the field of mathematics, physics, and chemistry:*** Master's student Diana Vištorskaja for her research paper 'Naujos cheminės sudėties liuminescencinių medžiagų sintezė zolių-gelių metodu ir jų savybių tyrimas' ('Synthesis of Luminescent Materials of New Chemical Composition via Sol-Gel Method and Investigation of Their Properties') (Supervisor: Prof. Dr (HP) Aivaras Kareiva); and Master's student Domantas Burba for his research paper 'Topologinė krūvio pernaša trumpesnėse negu bangos ilgio Ramano gardelėse' ('Topological Charge Pumping with Subwavelength Raman Lattices') (Supervisor: Prof. Dr (HP) Gediminas Juzeliūnas)
 - ***In the field of biology, medicine, and the geosciences:*** Master's student Kristina Marcinkevičiūtė for her research paper 'Lazerinė abliacija skydliaukės papilinės karcinomos gydyme: nuo eksperimentinio tyrimo iki klinikinės studijos' ('Laser Ablation in the Treatment of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma: From Experimental Research to Clinical Study') (Supervisor: Prof. Dr Tomas Poškus)
 - ***In the field of the technical sciences:*** Master's student Lukas Kuzma for his research paper 'Mandelbroto apvalkų, susietų su Rymano dzeta funkcija, vizualizavimo efektyvieji algoritmai' ('Efficient Algorithms for the Visualization of Mandelbulbs Associated With the Riemann Zeta Function') (Supervisor: Prof. Dr Igoris Belovas); and Master's student Domantas Vizbaras for his research paper 'Grafeno lauko tranzistorių fotomaišytuvų ir terahercų detektorių litografija' ('Lithography of Graphene Field-Effect Transistor Photomixers and Terahertz Detectors') (Supervisor: Dr Kęstutis Ikamas)

Three VU researchers became **members of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences**: Dr Akvilė Naudžiūnienė, Dr Justina Gaidukevič, and Dr Augustinas Baušys.

Five researchers won the **2023 Best Dissertation Competition**:

- Justina Garbauskaitė-Jakimovska, dissertation topic – 'Tapti neformaliojo ugdymu. Poststruktūralistinė neformaliojo (jaunimo) ugdymo analizė' ('Becoming Non-Formal Education. Post-Structural Analysis of (Youth) Nonformal Education') (education; Research Consultant: Prof. Dr Lilija Duoblienė)
- Antanas Terleckas, dissertation topic – 'Kolchozų visuomenės sukūrimas: Lietuvos kaimo sovietizacija 1940–1965 m.' ('Creating a Kolkhoz Society: the Sovietization of the Lithuanian Countryside (1940–1965)') (history and archaeology; Academic Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr Nerijus Šepetyš)

- Rosita Garškaitė-Antonowicz, dissertation topic – ‘Katalikybės vaidmuo kasdieniame mąstyme apie Europos Sąjungą: Lietuvos atvejis’ (‘The Role of Catholicism in Everyday Thinking about the European Union: Lithuanian Case’) (political science; Academic Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr Inga Vinogradnaitė)
- Agnė Jakubauskaitė, dissertation topic – ‘Individualią veiklą vykdančių mokesčių mokėtojų mokesstinės elgsenos vertinimas’ (‘The Assessment of the Tax Behaviour of Self-employed Taxpayers’) (economics; Academic Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr Egidijus Bikas)
- Milda Narmontė, dissertation topic – ‘Didelės skiriamosios gebos genominio 5-hidroksimetilcitozino nustatymo metodas ir jo pritaikymas epigenetiniams žmogaus ligų tyrimams’ (‘A High-Resolution Method for the Detection of Genomic 5-Hydroxymethylcytosine and Its Application in Epigenetic Studies of Human Diseases’) (biochemistry; Academic Supervisor: Dr Edita Kriukienė)

Presidential Nominal Scholarships

- **The President Antanas Smetona Scholarship** (in the fields of the humanities and arts) was awarded to Elijus Bačiauskas, a fourth-year Bachelor’s student of Asian Studies (Sinology) at the Faculty of Philosophy; Linas Daugėla, a fourth-year Bachelor’s student of Lithuanian Philology at the Faculty of Philology; and Benediktas Vachninas, a second-year Master’s student of Semiotics at the Faculty of Philology.
- **The President Aleksandras Stulginskis Scholarship** (in the fields of mathematics, informatics, and the physical sciences) was awarded to Eivydą Trioška, a third-year Bachelor’s student of Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences; Justinas Turčak, a fourth-year Bachelor’s student of Physics at the Faculty of Physics; and Simona Armalytė, a second-year Master’s student of Laser Physics and Optical Technologies at the Faculty of Physics.
- **The President Kazys Grinius Scholarship** (in the fields of life, health, veterinary, agricultural, and sports sciences) was awarded to Aida Kuznecovaitė and Artur Airapetian, both fourth-year students of the integrated study programme in Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine.
- **The President Jonas Žemaitis Scholarship** (in the fields of engineering and technological sciences) was awarded to Monika Jokubauskaitė and Manvydas Dapkevičius, both second-year students of the Photonics and Nanotechnology Master’s programme at the Faculty of Physics.
- **The President Algirdas Brazauskas Scholarship** (in the fields of the social sciences, and educational, law, business, and public administration studies) was awarded to Marius Danilevičius, a fourth-year Bachelor’s student of Political Science at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, and Elžbieta Kriaučiūnaitė, a second-year Master’s student of International Relations and Diplomacy at the same Institute.

Other achievements in Lithuania and worldwide

- The prestigious **Constance Council Prize** was awarded to Prof. Dr Margarita Šešelgytė, Director of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science.
- The **international Birnstiel Award** for exceptional research achievements in molecular biology was presented to Irmantas Mogila, a research biologist at the Life Sciences Center.
- Assist. Prof. Dr Viltė Janušauskaitė, a researcher at the Faculty of History, won the **‘Women in Science’ competition, organised by the three Academies of Science in each Baltic State and the National Commissions for UNESCO**.
- Dr Kristina Jonutytė received the **Caroline von Humboldt Prize** for her research on Buryatia.
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Raminta Pučėlaitė and Prof. Dr Anna-Maija Lämsä received the **Emerald Literati Award** for their article ‘Appearance-Based Discrimination Against Young Women in the Workplace’.
- The State Awards of the Republic of Poland for **contributions to the development of scientific and academic cooperation between Poland and Lithuania** were awarded to Pro-Rector for Partnerships, Dr Artūras Vasiliauskas (Silver Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland) and Assoc. Prof. Dr Ilona Michailovič (Bronze Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland).
- The monograph ‘Traditional and Cosmic Gods in Later Plato and the Early Academy’ by Assoc. Prof. Dr Vilius Bartninkas from the Faculty of Philology received international acclaim and was awarded the **2025 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise**.
- At the **General Assembly of the European Association for Astronomy Education (EAAE)**, Senior Researcher Dr Carlos Viscasillas Vázquez from the Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astronomy at the Faculty of Physics was appointed a member of the EAAE Executive Council; Assoc. Prof. Dr Šarūnas Mikolaitis was appointed Lithuania’s national representative for the 2024–2027 term.
- Prof. Dr Evaldas Kazlauskas, Vice-Dean for Science at the Faculty of Philosophy, was elected to the **Board of Directors of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS)**.
- Prof. Dr Gražina Tautvaišienė from the Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astronomy was elected **Vice-President of the International Astronomical Union**.

- Researchers from the Life Sciences Center were elected as members of the Advisory Commission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the activities of the Research Council of Lithuania. Dr Inga Matijošytė will serve as Chair of the Commission, and Research Professor Dr Urtė Neniškytė became a member of the Commission.
- The **Life Sciences Progress Award** was presented to Dr Stephen Knox Jones Jr. and his laboratory at the Life Sciences Center.
- The award of the **Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania** for the promotion and preservation of ethnic culture and intangible cultural heritage was presented to Milda Ričkutė, Artistic Director of the folklore ensemble 'Ratilio'.
- The 'Star of Kindness' award from the **Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania** was presented to Dr Ieva Adomaitytė-Subačienė from the Institute of Sociology and Social Work.
- The Honorary Badge of Meritorious Lithuanian Doctor, awarded by the **Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania**, was presented to Assoc. Prof. Dr Audrius Dulskas, Prof. Dr Eugenijus Lesinskas, Assoc. Prof. Dr Vitalijus Sokolovas, and Assoc. Prof. Dr Lina Zabulienė. The Honorary Badge of Meritorious Lithuanian Nurse was awarded to Prof. Dr Natalja Istomina; the Honorary Badge of Meritorious Lithuanian Health Worker was awarded to Vaiva Bražinskienė and Vaiva Klimaitė.
- The **Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania** presented the award 'For Merits in the Field of Human Rights – 2024' to Assoc. Prof. Dr Indrė Isokaitytė-Valužė and Assoc. Prof. Dr Donatas Murauskas.
- Prof. Dr (HP) Egidijus Kūris received the **first-degree distinction badge 'For Merits to the State' from the General Meeting of Judges** and the Honorary Badge of the Lithuanian Bar Association.
- The **'Golden Heart of a Doctor' awards** were granted to Lecturer Laurynas Bukelskis, Lecturer Nijolė Dzygalienė, and Dr Giedrius Bernotavičius.
- The **main INFOBALT Scholarship** was awarded to Research Assistant Gediminas Usevičius for his research 'MetilamONIO švino chlorido struktūrinių savybių ir dinamikos tyrimai naudojant elektronų paramagnetinio rezonanso spektroskopiją' ('Probing Structural and Dynamic Properties of MAPBCL3 Hybrid Perovskite Using MN2+ EPR'). An **additional scholarship** was awarded to Justinas Turčak for his work 'EPR Spectrometer with Arbitrary Waveform Generation'. **Incentive scholarships** were awarded to Oskaras Klimašauskas for his work 'Dirbtinių intelektu grindžiamas vairavimo maršruto skaičiavimas' ('AI-Based Route Planning for Driving'), Rokas Lemežis for his research 'Hibridinių kalcio fosfatų kietojo kūno BMR tyrimas' ('Solid-State NMR Study of Hybrid Calcium Phosphates'), and Justina Ramonaitė for her study 'Giliojo mokymosi metodu grindžiamas triukšmo paveikto kalbos signalo kokybės ir suprantamumo gerinimas' ('Improving Speech Signal Quality and Intelligibility Affected by Noise Using Deep Learning Methods').
- The **St Christopher's Award** was granted to Research Professor Dr Česlovas Venclovas for academic excellence and outstanding achievements in science and studies in the field of structural bioinformatics of proteins.
- Winners of the 17th Lithuanian Young Scientists' Conference 'BIOFUTURE: Perspectives in Natural and Life Sciences' included Dalia Smalakytė ('Reguliuojama CRISPR-Cas proteazė' ('Regulated CRISPR-Cas Protease')) and Dalia Jurkėnaitė ('Epigenetinių biožymenų inkstų navikų diagnozavimui ir prognozavimui tyrimas' ('Epigenetic Biomarkers for Kidney Cancer Diagnosis and Prognosis')). The following researchers were awarded second place: Gintarė Urbonaitė ('Motinos riebios dietos įtaka palikuonių neurovystymuisi' ('The Impact of Maternal High-Fat Diet on Offspring Neurodevelopment')), Eimina Dirvelytė ('Genų redagavimo įrankių pristatymas į žinduolinių ląsteles' ('Delivery of Gene Editing Tools into Mammalian Cells')), and Kajus Merkevičius ('Su PDHA1 mutacijomis susijusio piruvato dehidrogenazės trūkumas: genotipas ir fenotipas' ('Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Deficiency Associated with PDHA1 Mutations: Genotype and Phenotype'))).
- The 2024 **State Independence Scholarship** was awarded to Assist. Prof. Dr Laurynas Peluritis, a researcher at the Faculty of Philosophy and lecturer at the Faculty of History.
- Researchers from the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration – Prof. Dr Linda Hollebeek and Prof. Dr Tomas Baležentis – were listed among the **'Highly Cited Researchers 2024'**.
- The **Felicija Bortkevičienė Language Award** was presented to Assoc. Prof. Dr Audronė Kučinskienė.
- The **Petras Vileišis Award**, granted by the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, went to doctoral student Robertas Skliaustas from the VU Business School.
- Viktorija Daujotytė received the **Lithuanian Writers Union Award** for her autobiographical book 'Kai rašai, nebijai' ('When You Write, You're Not Afraid'), published by the Lithuanian Writers Union Publishing House.
- The wind orchestra 'Oktava' was awarded first place by the Lithuanian Brass Band Association in the D category of the Lithuanian Wind Orchestra Championship and recognised as the best concert orchestra. Maestro Albinas Kučinskas was recognised as the best Conductor.

- The **title of Honorary Citizen of Šiauliai** was granted to lawyer, traveller, Šiauliai Academy lecturer, author, and photographer Jonas Nekrašius. Darius Daknys, Artistic Director of the Šiauliai Academy folk music ensemble 'Saulė', composer, conductor, member of the creative team behind the ensemble evening 'Tree of Life' at the Centenary Lithuanian Song Celebration, and educator, was honoured with the **Golden Archer Badge of Appreciation** – a prestigious honour awarded by the Mayor of Šiauliai.

The title of Honorary Doctor

- Prof. Gediminas Gaigalas from the Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astronomy at the Faculty of Physics was awarded the title of Honorary Doctor from the Faculty of Technology and Social Sciences at Malmö University.
- At a solemn meeting of the Senate, Vilnius University conferred the title of Honorary Doctor upon three scholars: Professor Anna Pikulska-Radomska from the University of Łódź (Poland), Professor Hans Kjeldsen from Aarhus University (Denmark), and Professor Daniel Petit from École Normale Supérieure in Paris (France).

Vilnius University Rector's Awards for Significant Scientific Achievements were granted to:

- Dr (HP) Gediminas Juzeliūnas, Research Professor from the Faculty of Physics
- Dr (HP) Saulius Klimašauskas, Research Professor from the Life Sciences Center
- Dr Giedrė Tamulaitienė, Senior Researcher from the Life Sciences Center
- Prof. Dr Olga Kurasova, Research Professor from the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics
- Prof. Dr Kristupas Sabolius from the Faculty of Philosophy
- Prof. Dr Audrius Beinorius from the Faculty of Philosophy
- Prof. Dr Daiva Skučienė from the Faculty of Philosophy
- Prof. Dr Ramūnas Birštonas from the Faculty of Law
- Dr Tetiana Boriak, Researcher from the Faculty of History
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Vaidas Klimkevičius from the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences
- Prof. Dr Mantas Šimėnas, Research Professor from the Faculty of Physics
- Dr Mantas Žiaunys, Senior Researcher from the Life Sciences Center

Vilnius University Rector's Awards

Awards for the best publications were granted to:

- ***In the fields of the natural, technological, medical and health sciences:*** researchers at the Institute of Biotechnology of the Life Sciences Center: Research Assistant Irmantas Mogila, Senior Researcher Giedrė Tamulaitienė, doctoral Student Konstanty Keda, Researcher Albertas Timinskas, Senior Research Chemist Audronė Rukšėnaitė, Research Professor Dr Giedrius Sasnauskas, Research Professor Česlovas Venclovas, Research Professor (with the title of Distinguished Professor) Virginijus Šikšnys, and Research Professor Gintautas Tamulaitis
- ***In the field of mathematics and informatics:*** Assoc. Prof. Dr Vytautas Čyras from the Institute of Computer Science at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, and research team members: Assoc. Prof. Dr Saulius Masteika from the Institute of Social Sciences and Applied Informatics of Kaunas Faculty, lecturer Eimantas Rebždys, Researcher Kęstutis Driaunys, and Professors Alfreda Šapkauskienė and Aida Mačerinskienė from the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
- ***In the fields of the social sciences and humanities:*** Assoc. Prof. Dr Miguel Karl Villanueva Svensson from the Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic at the Faculty of Philology; Research Professor Assoc. Prof. Dr Nerijus Šepetys from the Faculty of History; Researcher Austėja Dumarkaitė, Assoc. Prof. Dr Inga Truskauskaitė, Research Assistant Augustė Nomeikaitė, and Research Professors Prof. Evaldas Kazlauskas and Dr Lina Jovarauskaitė from the Institute of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy; and Assoc. Prof. Dr Ieva Jovaišienė from the Clinic of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care at the Institute of Clinical Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine

Awards for the best applied work were granted to:

- Research Professor Mindaugas Zaremba, Researcher Paulius Toliušis, Research Professor Giedrius Sasnauskas, Senior Researcher Tomas Šinkūnas, Research Assistant Algirdas Grybauskas, Researcher Evelina Zagorskaitė, and Senior Researcher Arūnas Šilanskas from the Institute of Biotechnology of the Life Sciences Center; Assoc. Prof. Dr Jekaterina Navickė, Prof. Romas Lazutka, Research Professor Assoc. Prof. Dr Antanas Kairys, Research Professor Assoc. Prof. Dr Eugenijus Dunajevs, Assoc. Prof. Dr Irma Bugdinaitė-Mačkinė, and Žeimantė Straševičiūtė from the Institute of Sociology and Social Work at the Faculty of Philosophy; and Senior Researcher Assoc. Prof. Dr Olga Zamalijeva from the Institute of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy

Awards for the best international project were granted to:

- Stephen Knox Jones Jr., Research Professor at the EMBL Partnership Institute of the Life Sciences Center, and Prof. Giedrė Keen, Research Professor at the Faculty of History
- In 2024, the VU **Open Science Awards** were presented for the first time, recognising Prof. Dr Saulius Gražulis from the Life Sciences Center, Prof. Dr Giedrė Beconytė from the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences, Prof. Dr Saulė Mačiukaitė-Žvinienė from the VU Business School, and a research group from the Faculty of History, consisting of Dr Norbertas Černiauskas, Assoc. Prof. Dr Salvijus Kulevičius, and Vakarė Gotautaitė.

The Best Lecturers of the Year (2024):

- Assoc. Prof. Dr Andrius Balčiūnas from the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Rasa Paulienė from the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
- Assistant Professor Dr Tomas Riklius from the Faculty of Philology
- Lecturer Aiden Wojciechowicz from the Faculty of Philosophy
- Assistant Professor Dr Dovydas Banevičius from the Faculty of Physics
- Assistant professor Dr Irena Nedveckytė from the Life Sciences Center
- Assistant Professor Dr Ryšard Gaidis from the Faculty of History
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Skirmantė Biržietienė from Kaunas Faculty
- Assistant Professor Dr Rūta Kupetytė from the Faculty of Communication
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Gintautas Bareikis from the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Asta Mažeikienė from the Faculty of Medicine
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Laima Tomėnienė from Šiauliai Academy
- Assistant Professor Dr Ieva Giedraitytė from the Institute of International Relations and Political Science
- Assistant Professor Dr Elena Masnevaite from the Faculty of Law
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Danguolė Oželienė from the Business School
- The **Rector's Award** for academic leadership in developing international joint study programmes and partnerships was granted to Prof. Dr Ramūnas Aleksiejūnas from the Faculty of Physics.
- Two VU Library staff members received the **Rector's Letters of Appreciation**: Dr Inga Liepaitė, Head of the Manuscripts Division, for her long-term leadership and cultural heritage research and dissemination; and Snieguolė Misiūnienė, exhibition curator at the Communication and Information Office, for her long-standing involvement in the VU community and public activities, active cooperation with cultural and memory institutions, and work with the Library's community of seniors who use the library services.

Sports achievements of Vilnius University community members:

At the SELL Games in Kaunas, VU had the largest team in the competition's history – 160 students – winning 43 medals (13 gold, 19 silver, and 11 bronze). VU chess players became champions at the European Universities Games. In the World Inter-Universities Championship in Rome, VU volleyball players won gold, with other medals also earned in athletics, swimming, and table tennis. VU chess players successfully competed in the international student tournament in Antwerp. VU students Airinė Palšytė (Faculty of Economics and Business Administration) and Diana Zagainova (Faculty of Philosophy) participated in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. In the academic year 2023/2024, 250 students and alumni represented VU in the Lithuanian Student Championships, winning 13 gold, 16 silver, and 23 bronze medals. Notable achievements include the championship titles received by the beach volleyball and football teams. The women's basketball team won the B Division Championship, and the men's team won the Capital Basketball League A Group. The Best University Athlete of the Year became Elžbieta Guoda Adomaitytė from the Faculty of Philosophy (modern pentathlon).

2024 was exceptional for the VU Botanical Garden, which gained international recognition.

Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) awarded the VU Botanical Garden a certificate confirming its activities meet the highest international standards for botanical gardens.

VU Press

At the 'Book Awards 2025' organised by the Lithuanian Publishers Association, the design and layout of Thomas Daniel Wilson's book 'Informacijos elgsenos tyrimas. Įvadas' ('Information Behaviour Research. An Introduction') were nominated in the 'New Perspective' category (design: Jurga Tėvelienė; layout: Vida Vaidakavičienė).

Other awards and significant events

- The Latvijas Banka Award was granted to Business School student Ieva Vitaitytė for her paper 'Determination of Indicators Influencing Investment Yields in the Baltic Commercial Real Estate Market', submitted for the 22nd Competition of Student Scientific Research Papers.
- Prof. Dr Deimantė Vasiliauskaitė received the Award for Best Presentation at the international conference 'Computational Social Sciences and Sustainability'.
- VU received a prestigious EGI Federation certificate for active involvement in activities related to the VU HPC supercomputer. These activities involve the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics and the Faculty of Physics.
- Lecturer Vytenis Šumskas was named Youth Influencer of the Year by the Lithuanian Youth Council.
- The INFOBALT Association Scholarship was awarded to Oskaras Klimašauskas, a third-year student of Information Systems Engineering.
- Fourth-year Informatics student Dominykas Marma won the Lithuanian Student Programming Olympiad.
- Doctoral student Valda Budreckaitė was awarded for the best qualitative research paper in Lithuania.
- At the 'QL Future Health & Safety Hackathon' organised by the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center (PSNC), the VU team – Gabrielius Keibas, Pijus Petkevičius, and Dr Marco Marcozzi – won second place in the technical implementation category.
- Researchers Assoc. Prof. Dr Rūta Šermukšnytė, Dr Akvilė Naudžiūnienė, Dr Norbertas Černiauskas, and alumnus Dr Vytautas Volungevičius contributed to the development of new general education history textbooks aligned with the updated national curriculum. This year, eight textbooks were prepared for Years 5, 6, 9, and 10, including one specifically designed for Lithuanian schools in North America.
- Vilnius University received special recognition from the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN); by unanimous decision of the LHCb Council, the University was accepted as a new institute for the prestigious Large Hadron Collider beauty experiment.