

ADMISSION RULES FOR 2025 ENTRY TO DOCTORAL STUDIES AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Admission Rules for 2025 entry to Doctoral Studies (hereinafter – the Rules) at Vilnius University (hereinafter – the University) establish the procedure under which applicants are admitted to full-time and part-time doctoral studies (third cycle) in the fields of science in which the University has been granted the right to conduct them.
2. In 2025, the University admits to doctoral studies in 29 fields of science. The list of dissertation topics for each field of science and the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in a specific field of science are approved by the order of the Rector and published on the University's website.
3. The persons with a Master's degree or an equivalent higher education qualification may apply to state-funded and / or non-state-funded doctoral positions. The applicants who have already studied for a full-time doctoral studies for more than half of the doctoral period are not eligible for a state-funded doctoral position.
4. Admission to doctoral studies is conducted through an open competition. The sequence of admission procedure shall be as follows:
 - 4.1. submission of admission documents online;
 - 4.2. participation in an interview with doctoral committee or admission commission members;
 - 4.3. concluding of the study contract.
5. Information on the procedure for admission to doctoral studies is published on the University website <https://www.vu.lt/en/studies/doctoral-studies/admission>. Consultations are provided by the Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies on working days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by phone (0 5) 268 7095, (0 5) 268 7093 or e-mail email drs@cr.vu.lt.

CHAPTER II PAYMENT OF THE ENTRANCE FEE AND SUBMISSION OF THE ADMISSION DOCUMENTS

6. Participation in the competition for admission to doctoral studies is allowed upon payment of the entrance fee, submission of an application and other mandatory documents in accordance with the procedure established in the Rules and within the terms specified in the Annex to this document. Only one application in one field of science can be submitted.
7. The entrance fee is 50 EUR for citizens of Lithuania and the European Union, 100 Eur for citizens of other countries. The details of the account to which this deposit is to be paid are indicated on the payment receipt. The receipt can be found on the University website <https://www.vu.lt/studijos/stojantiesiems/doktoranturos-studijos#stojamasis-mokestis>.

8. The entrance fee may be paid by another person on behalf of the applicant. In this case, the payment documents must indicate the name, surname, year of birth and purpose of the payment for the person for whom the payment is made.
9. Persons born in 1998 and later who do not have both parents or guardians, children in foster homes, foster families, as well as persons with a work capacity of up to 45 percent are exempt from paying the entrance fee.. These persons have to submit their application with the documents certifying entitlement to this exemption.
10. The entrance fee is non-refundable after the submission of the application to participate in competition to doctoral studies even in case the student is not accepted.
11. The application and the documents required for participation in the doctoral admission competition or scanned copies thereof, shall be submitted online by logging into the Vilnius University Admission Service System (ISAS) (address – <https://is.vu.lt/pls/dokt/isas.login>).
12. The information required for the calculation of the weighted average of grades shall be taken from the data of Master's diplomas and their supplements in the University database, if the person has obtained this qualification at the University. For other persons, it shall be taken from the graduation documents confirming the relevant qualification. If the documents confirming the acquired education were issued by foreign institutions, they must be recognized in accordance with the procedure provided for by the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania. Recognition of education documents is carried out by the University. If the necessary information is missing, the University consults with the Centre for Quality Assessment of Studies and a decision is made upon receipt of the Centre for Quality Assessment of Studies' response.
13. The applicants to doctoral studies are required to submit the following documents:
- 13.1. an application addressed to the Rector for permission to participate in the competition indicating the field of science, form of study (full-time or part-time) and the form of funding. The desired topic of the dissertation is selected in the ISAS system from the list of presented topics;
- 13.2. copies of the Master's degree or equivalent education qualification diploma(s) with diploma supplement(s) (if the weighted average of grades was not uploaded in ISAS);
- 13.3. a curriculum vitae;
- 13.4. a copy of an identity document (passport personal data page or identity card);
- 13.5. recommendations by two researchers of the chosen field of science (there are additional conditions, see the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in a specific field of science). When applying for a doctoral studies funded by the Lithuanian Research Council under the competitive call, one of the two recommendations must be prepared by the supervisor of the chosen topic;
- 13.6. a list of the research works (if any) and copies thereof. The list shall be provided by a full bibliographic description;
- 13.7. a copy of the entrance fee receipt;
- 13.8. a copy of the certificate of the recognition of higher education qualifications obtained abroad (if it was requested by the University);

13.9. a certificate proving the applicant's level of English (not lower than B2) (approval is required if the master's thesis was written in a language other than English);

13.10. any other documents that the applicant considers relevant, such as a certificate of completion of courses, examinations passed at the doctoral level, etc.;

13.11. a copy of the document certifying the change of surname;

13.12. consent to the processing of the applicant's personal data by the University (it is confirmed by submitting admission documents in the system).

14. An application is considered to be accepted (registered) if all the mandatory parts of the online admission system ISAS contains the required data, i.e. the correct data of the applicant, information on the acquired education are indicated, the topics of the chosen field of study are indicated and electronic copies of all required documents are provided.

15. The applicant may adjust the application. If the application is adjusted several times, the last adjustment of the application is valid.

16. The application must be submitted by the deadline specified in the Annex to this document. If all the required documents are not provided, the application will not be considered.

17. Documents issued in a language other than Lithuanian, Russian or English must be translated into one of these languages.

18. Recognition of qualifications obtained abroad is carried out by the University. Please send the required documents for the recognition of the qualification by e-mail drs@cr.vu.lt until June 1. The applicant may also apply to the Study Quality Assessment Center (www.skvc.lt) for recognition of the qualification obtained abroad.

19. If the University staff has doubts about the authenticity and / or accuracy of the submitted documents or data, the applicant may be asked to submit the original documents.

CHAPTER III

STRUCTURE AND CALCULATION OF THE COMPETITION SCORE

20. Applicants are admitted to the doctoral studies of a specific field of science under the procedure of competition according to the competitive score. When entering doctoral studies in a relevant field of study, a minimum score is set, which is specified in the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies for 2025, approved by the Rector's order.

21. The competitive score is calculated as a sum of its components multiplied by the relevant weight coefficient. The weight coefficients are indicated by the doctoral committee of the respective field of science, their values are provided in the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in 2025.

22. Components of the competitive score:

22.1. weighted grade point average of the Master's diploma (or the equivalent qualification) supplement. In some fields of science (see the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in 2025) the weighted average of the diploma supplement of the Master's degree may also include the

grade of the final Master's thesis and / or the weighted grade point average of the Bachelor's diploma supplement;

22.2. evaluation's grade of the selection procedure (research project, cover letter and / or interview);

22.3. evaluation's grade of scientific qualification, significance of scientific works and correspondence of scientific experience to the chosen topic and scientific works (if any).

23. The research project must be prepared by the applicant in the fields of science for which the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies include a research project (see the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in 2025).

24. Applicants shall be ranked and placed in the competition queue in descending order of the competition score in each field of science or subject of the field of science, if the subject priorities are provided by the doctoral committee of the field of science. Priority shall be given to applicants with a higher competitive score.

25. If the competition score is equal, the decision is made by the doctoral committee of the relevant field of study.

CHAPTER IV DOCTORAL ADMISSION COMPETITION

26. The admission to doctoral studies is conducted in several stages: the main admission, which is organized at the University in June and July and additional admission(s) if there are still vacancies. Persons who have not been admitted in the main admission may reapply for the additional admission. There is no need to pay entrance fee again.

27. The dates of additional admission procedures for doctoral studies are approved by order of the Rector, and the information is published on the University's website together with the list of dissertation topics in scientific fields after the deadline for signing contracts with those invited to doctoral studies during the main admission period.

28. The applicants have to attend the interview with the admission commission of the field of science.

29. Research projects, if they are a selection criterion for admission to doctoral studies in the relevant field of science (see the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in 2025), shall be submitted to the doctoral committees. Information on the form, date and method of submission of the research projects shall be published on the websites of the University's academic unit responsible for conducting doctoral studies in the relevant field of science.

30. Applicants may, if they agree, be offered to choose other topic than the one indicated at the submitting their application.

31. Appeals regarding incorrect assessment of submitted admission documents, procedural violations of admission to doctoral studies carried out at the University are submitted in writing to the Department of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies within the deadlines set in the Appendix to these Regulations. They must be reasoned and based on objective facts. The received appeals are examined and decisions are made by a commission formed by order of the Vice-Rector for Science. Responses, based on the commission's decision, are sent to applicants by e-mail by the Department of Doctoral

and Postdoctoral Studies within five working days from the date of the decision. Appeals regarding evaluations of expert scientific projects and motivational interviews are not submitted.

32. Those persons whose competition scores are the highest in the competition queue and who fall within the quota of study places set by the University shall be considered as invited to take a state-funded doctoral study place.

33. After the state-funded doctoral places in the relevant field of science have been filled, the rest applicants may, if they agree, be offered a non-state-funded doctoral study place.

34. The persons are considered admitted when they sign a study agreement with the University and are accepted to study by the order of the Rector.

35. In all cases not provided for in the admission rules, decisions shall be made by the doctoral committee of the field of science.

36. Persons invited to study at the University shall be required to conclude a study agreement with the University within the deadlines set by University.

37. If the persons invited to study at the University do not conclude an agreement within the specified deadlines, the invitation to study at the University shall no longer be valid, and the vacancies by the decision of the doctoral committee shall be filled by the persons who have the highest competitive scores, or the vacancies are transferred to the next stage.

38. The annual tuition fee of doctoral studies will be approved by the resolution of the University's Senate and published on the University website at <https://www.vu.lt/studijos/doktoranturos-studijos/priemimas-dokt>.

The deadlines of the additional admission to doctoral studies procedures::

	Doctoral Admission Procedure	Dates
1.	Submission of applications and admission documents	2025 August 27 – September 18 (until 23:59)
2.	Interviews with the Admissions Commission*	2025 September 19 – September 23
3.	Presentation of the information to the applicants regarding the preliminary results of the competition in the ISAS system	2025 September 24. (from 14:00) .
4.	Acceptance of appeals against the results of admission	Until 2025 September 25 (14:00)
5.	Information to the applicants regarding the final results of the competition in the ISAS system	2025 September 26 (13:00)
6.	Conclusions on the results of submitted appeals	2025 September 30 (16:00)
7.	Concluding of agreements with applicants invited to doctoral studies through the bank authentication	2025 September 29 (from 9:00 val.) – September 30 (until 16:00)
	Direct concluding of agreements with applicants (for persons unable to identify themselves through a bank)**	2025 September 29 (from 10:00) – September 30 d. (until 16:00)

* The place and date of interviews at the admissions commission are published on the websites of the University's academic units responsible for doctoral studies in the relevant field of science and on the University website <https://www.vu.lt/studijos/doktoranturos-studijos/priemimas-dokt>).

** Persons invited to study at the University and unable to identify themselves through the bank are provided with possibility to email signed study agreement within the deadlines set out in the Rules and send the original agreement to the University's Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies by registered mail or submit upon arrival. Upon arrival to study, the originals of the documents specified in the application shall be submitted (shown) to the Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies.