

APPROVED

by Resolution No. S-2017-7-14 of 13 June 2017  
of the Senate of Vilnius University

## **TEMPORARY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ROTATION AND RANKING OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BASED ON THEIR LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The Temporary Description of the Procedure for the Rotation and Ranking of Vilnius University (hereinafter the 'University') Students Based on Their Learning Outcomes (hereinafter the 'Description') establishes the principles for formation and rules for applying the formed rank of students who completed the academic year, study semester, study programme, or part thereof with the best learning outcomes.
2. Main terms used in this Description:
  - 2.1. **Final assessment of course unit (module) study achievements** – assessment of the course unit (module) learning outcomes achieved after the completion of the course unit (module) studies.
  - 2.2. **Minor study programme** – part of the first-cycle study programme comprised of course units (modules) of another field – compulsory ones provided for by the developers of the study programme and/or optional ones selected by the student, which comply with the minimum requirements of this field (branch) of studies for a double degree. The scope of the minor study programme is 60 credits;
  - 2.3. **Available state-funded place** – a student place that becomes available after a person who was studying in a state-funded place was expelled from the University or terminated their studies (excluding the case when a person whose studies are funded according to the procedures established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter the 'Government') changes the study programme in the study group of the same field of studies (applicable to students who were admitted to the University after 1 January 2017) or in the same area of study (applicable to students who were admitted to the University before 1 January 2017)), and when a student studying in a state-funded place loses the state funding for their studies in cases provided in Chapter III of this Description;
  - 2.4. **Assessed course unit (module)** – course unit (module) for which a final assessment was received;
  - 2.5. **Failed course unit (module)** – course unit (module) for which a negative final assessment was received (1–4 points, not passed, and other non-assessment system marks) and/or failure to attend the final assessment of course unit (module) study achievements or to the re-take of the assessment; failure to fulfil the partial study requirements until they are fulfilled. An exception is applied in the case when the date of the final assessment of the student's study achievements is postponed, but for no longer than until the end of the postponement period;
  - 2.6. **Major study programme** – part of the first-cycle study programme comprised of course units (modules) of the main field of studies which comply with the requirements for a qualification degree in this field of studies, and course units (modules) of general university studies;
  - 2.7. **Rank of performance (hereinafter the 'Rank')** – rank of students with the highest final course unit (module) grades, formed in descending order of the weighted average of learning outcomes by using the algorithm established in this Description;

- 2.8. **Weighted average of learning outcomes** – the average of learning outcomes depending on the number of the studied course unit (module) credits and received grades; the grades of freely chosen course units are not considered when calculating the weighted average of learning outcomes;
- 2.9. **State-funded place** – student place whose cost of tuition is covered at the expense of the state budget;
- 2.10. **Non-state-funded place** – student place whose cost of tuition is not covered at the expense of the state budget, and a student place whose cost of tuition is covered by targeted study funding or by granting a study scholarship;
- 2.11. **Assessed period** – one academic year beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August;
- 2.12. Other concepts, including the concept of academic debt, are used in the Description as they are defined in the Statute of Vilnius University, the Study Regulations of Vilnius University, and other legal acts of the University.
3. A Rank is formed after each study semester according to the weighted average of the student's learning outcomes of the last semester at the University. The exact ranking date is determined and specified in Vilnius University Study Information System by a responsible employee of the Student Academic Affairs Division of the Central Administration of the University. A Rank is formed separately for each study form and each year of the study programme (or specialisation, if the study programme is divided into specialisations). Depending on what the Rank is applied for, it may be formed from the student's assessments received during one, two, or more study semesters.
4. A separate Rank shall not be formed for students who have chosen a minor study programme. They continue to be included in the Rank along with the major study programme students of their year.
5. When forming a study semester Rank, the learning outcomes of students studying in the minor study programme, general university studies or modules of other fields of study are calculated according to the number of course units (modules) actually selected by the student and the number of credits collected.
6. The following persons are not eligible for an available state-funded place or compensation for the cost of tuition or part thereof from the state budget:
- 6.1. persons who are re-enrolled in the programme of the same or lower study cycle, if more than half of the study programme credits were acquired at the expense of the state budget;
- 6.2. persons who are enrolled in two or more degree-awarding study programmes of the same cycle at the same time, if they are granted state funding for the other such study programme;
- 6.3. foreign nationals, excluding persons specified in Articles 82(7) and 82(8) of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Higher Education and Research, as well as citizens of the European Union Member States and other European Economic Area countries and their family members, citizens of other countries and stateless persons who have a certificate of permanent residence in the Republic of Lithuania, if the international treaties of the Republic of Lithuania or other legal acts do not provide otherwise.

## CHAPTER II

### FORMATION AND RANKING OF THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

7. The Rank is formed and student progress is assessed based on the results of the final assessment of studied course units (modules) learning outcomes.
8. Calculation of the weighted average of learning outcomes includes course units (modules), the assessment of which is graded from 1 to 10. If the student fails to pass a course unit (module), its grade shall be zero. The weighted average of learning outcomes is calculated by dividing the sum of the products of the number of credits of each assessed course unit (module) and the received grades from the sum of assessed course units (modules) credits based on a formula (where:  $k_i$  – number of course unit (module) credits,  $p_i$  – course unit (module) assessment in grades,  $n$  – number of assessed course units (modules)); the number of assessed course units  $n$  is equal to the number of all the course units assessed with grades during that semester, regardless of the assessment of their study achievements):

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n k_i P_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n k_i}$$

9. After calculating the weighted averages of learning outcomes of students, a Rank is formed in a descending order of the weighted average of learning outcomes and arranged in the following sequence:
  - 9.1. students who passed all the studied course units (modules) during the final assessment of study achievements, including cases when the final assessment of the study achievements of one or several course units (modules) was postponed;
  - 9.2. students who passed all the course units (modules) after the final deadline of re-assessment of the course unit (module) study achievements;
  - 9.3. other well-performing students;
  - 9.4. students with academic debts, depending on the number of credits of course units (modules) for which the student has academic debts.
10. If, during the study semester, a student went away for partial studies abroad, the weighted average of the learning outcomes of the last study semester assessed at the University shall be used when forming the Rank. If the student went away for partial studies during the first semester, the weighted average of the learning outcomes shall not be calculated and the student shall not be ranked.
11. If the weighted average of learning outcomes is equal among several students, a student whose weighted averages of learning outcomes were higher in previous study semesters shall be ranked higher. If this indicator is also equal, a student whose admission score is higher shall be ranked higher.
12. Students returning after an academic leave or after suspension of studies are included in the Rank according to the weighted average of learning outcomes of their last study semester assessed at the University.
- 12<sub>1</sub>. If a student was on academic leave, had suspended their studies, or was away for partial studies abroad for the entirety of the assessed period, the weighted average of learning outcomes of their last study semester assessed at the University shall be used when forming a Rank for the loss of state funding, transfer to state-funded places, and the compensation of the paid cost of tuition; if a student was away for partial studies abroad during a part of the assessed period, the weighted average of learning outcomes of the course units (modules) they studied at the University during the assessed period shall be used.

***Amendments to the Item:***

*by Resolution of the Senate of Vilnius University No. S-2018-10-8 of 25 September 2018.*

### **CHAPTER III LOSS OF STATE FUNDING**

13. The provisions of this Chapter define the procedures for calculating the weighted average of learning outcomes of University students whose first-cycle or integrated studies are funded by the state (hereinafter the 'state-funded students'), and the procedures for the loss of state funding.
14. Learning outcomes achieved by the student after the completion of a course unit (module) are assessed by assigning them to the study achievement level according to the ten-point grading system used at the University. It is considered that a student has achieved:
  - 14.1. an excellent level of study achievement if their grade in the ten-point grading system is equal to or higher than 8;
  - 14.2. a typical level of study achievement if their grade in the ten-point grading system is higher

- than 5, but lower than 8;
- 14.3. a threshold level of study achievement if their grade in the ten-point grading system is equal to or lower than 5, but higher than 4.
15. The level of study achievements of the assessed period is determined based on the value of the weighted average of learning outcomes of the assessed period:
- 15.1. it is considered that a student has achieved an excellent level of study achievement if they have no academic debts and their weighted average of learning outcomes of the assessed period is equal to or higher than 8;
- 15.2. it is considered that a student has achieved a typical level of study achievement if they have no academic debts and their weighted average of learning outcomes of the assessed period is higher than 5 but does not reach an excellent level of study achievement;
- 15.3. it is considered that a student has achieved a threshold level of study achievement if they have no academic debts and their weighted average of learning outcomes of the assessed period is higher than 4 but does not reach a typical level of learning outcomes.
16. The state-funded student's level of study achievements of the assessed period is determined by 30 September of the current year.
17. A student is considered to be well-performing if they have no academic debts, have fulfilled all the requirements of the study programme during the assessed period, and have achieved an excellent or typical level of study achievement.
18. State funding after the assessed period shall remain provided for state-funded first-cycle or integrated study programme students if they meet the criteria of good performance specified in Item 17 of the Description. If a student does not meet the criteria of good performance, they shall lose state funding, excluding the case specified in Item 27 of this Description.
19. If the weighted average of the student's learning outcomes was calculated incorrectly (if a technical error occurred, if the final assessment of the student's course unit (module) learning outcomes was postponed due to justifiable reasons, etc.), the decision regarding the loss of state funding shall be made by the head of a core academic unit of the University (hereinafter – 'core academic unit') in accordance with the provisions established in the Description.
20. A student who loses state funding shall be provided with the opportunity to study in a non-state-funded place by amending the study agreement and paying the cost of tuition set for the study programme in the year of admission. If the student refuses to amend the study agreement, it shall be considered that the student terminated their studies voluntarily.
21. When a student is transferred from a non-state-funded place to a state-funded place, the study agreement shall also be amended accordingly.
22. For students who were admitted to the University before 2009, the study, funding, crediting and other conditions that were valid during the time of their admission shall be applied during their study period.

#### **CHAPTER IV TRANSFER TO STATE-FUNDED PLACES**

23. The provisions of this Chapter shall define the transfer of University students from a non-state-funded place to a state-funded place.
24. A state-funded place becomes available after a state-funded student studying in the same field of studies, the same form, and the same year is expelled from the University, terminates their studies or loses state funding in accordance with the procedures established in Chapter III of this Description, excluding cases when a state-funded student changes the study programme in the study group of the same field of studies (applicable to students who were admitted to the University after 1 January 2017) or in the same field of studies (applicable to students who were admitted before 1 January 2017).

25. The administration of a core academic unit must publish information on available state-funded places on the unit website no later than within five working days after such a place becomes available, as well as via Vilnius University Study Information System by sending notifications to non-state-funded students.
26. Available state-funded places are proposed to the best (based on the Rank) non-state-funded students studying in the same study form, the same field of studies, and the same year, who meet the criteria of good performance.
27. If there are no non-state-funded students studying in the first-cycle and integrated study programme in the year of appropriate field of studies and study form who meet the criteria of well performance, state funding shall continue to be granted for state-funded students who have no academic debts, even though their learning outcomes during the assessed period are of the threshold level.
28. Students who have academic debts are not eligible for an available state-funded place.
29. A student who wishes to claim an available state-funded place submits a request to the head of a core academic unit no later than three working days until the date of a respective study semester established in Item 30 of the Description.
30. Available state-funded places are filled no later than:
  - 30.1. by 1 March – by transferring students after the autumn semester of the preceding academic year to state-funded places that became available by 25 February of the current year;
  - 30.2. by 1 September – by transferring students after the spring semester of the preceding academic year to state-funded places that became available by 31 August of the current year;
  - 30.3. by 15 October – by transferring students to state-funded places that became available after the assessed period, when certain students lost state funding in cases provided in Chapter III of this Description.
31. Available state-funded places are filled according to the Rank formed from the data available at that time. When the final assessment of a student's study achievements is postponed for longer than until the deadlines established in Item 30 of the Description, available state-funded places shall be filled according to the data available at that time.
32. If a student who was transferred to an available state-funded place has already paid the tuition for a respective semester, they may submit an application to the head of the core academic unit regarding a refund. The application, approved by the head of the core academic unit, is transferred to the Finance Department of the University for refunding the paid amount without any deductions.

## **CHAPTER V COMPENSATION FOR THE COST OF TUITION PAID**

33. The cost of tuition actually paid during one year of studies or part of it, not exceeding the standard tuition of studies, may, in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Government, be compensated from the state budget for the best students who finished the academic year concerned and were studying in non-state-funded first-cycle, second-cycle, or integrated student places throughout the whole period or part of it.

***Amendments to the Item:***

*by Resolution of the Senate of Vilnius University No. S-2018-10-8 of 25 September 2018.*

34. The paid cost of tuition or part of it shall be compensated according to the procedure established by the Government based on the ranking sequence indicated in Chapter II of this Description, by forming a Rank for each field of studies. Only students who have no academic debts, have fulfilled all the requirements of the study programme during the academic year concerned, have achieved an excellent or typical level of learning outcomes, and have paid for their studies or part of them during the concerned academic year while studying in a non-state-funded place of that study programme shall be included in the Rank.

*Amendments to the Item:*

*by Resolution of the Senate of Vilnius University No. S-2018-10-8 of 25 September 2018.*

## **CHAPTER VI GRANTING OF INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIPS**

35. Granting of incentive scholarships for students is regulated by Vilnius University Scholarship Regulations.
36. An incentive scholarship Rank is formed after each study semester according to the weighted average of the student's learning outcomes of the last semester studied at the University. A Rank is formed separately for each study form and each year of each study programme (or specialisation, if the study programme is divided into specialisations). Only well-performing students are included in the Rank.
37. The Rank specified in Item 36 of the Description is formed according to the ranking sequence indicated in Chapter II of the Description.

## **CHAPTER VII FINAL PROVISIONS**

38. This Description comes into force upon its approval according to the procedures established by the legal acts of the University.
39. The first rotation of students following Chapter III of this Description is carried out for the assessed period of the academic year 2017–2018.