



Institute of International Relations and Political Science



The year 2024 was full of significant achievements for the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University, which not only strengthened our academic community but also contributed to the welfare of the general public.

The Institute has once again demonstrated its leadership in scientific research, with two infrastructures coordinated by the Institute included in the Lithuanian Roadmap for Research Infrastructures: Monitoring Electoral Democracy (MEDem LT) and Lithuanian Longitudinal Social Survey (LIST).

To ensure the highest standards of scientific ethics, the Institute established the Research Ethics Compliance Committee, headed by Dr Ieva Petronytė-Urbonavičienė. International cooperation continued – the first ‘ERA Fellowship’ project to research the development of FinTech regulation in Europe was launched, and work on the international projects ‘Invigorating Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy for a Resilient Europe’ and ‘Non-Western Migration Regimes in a Global Perspective’ was ongoing. These projects strengthen international relations, allowing the Institute to contribute to overcoming global challenges.

The Institute’s researchers published over 70 publications, including three significant monographs. These publications both enrich academic discourse and contribute to a deeper understanding of Lithuanian political processes.

The Institute is actively involved in public education. We are particularly proud of the new civic education module for teachers, which promotes the professional development of teachers and strengthens civic education in schools. This year, many members of the Institute’s community were awarded for their outstanding contribution to strengthening the State and public education. Prof. Dr Dovilė Jakniūnaitė and Prof. Dr Natalija Arlauskaitė were given the Rector’s Award for organising the National Emancipation Day. Dr Tatsiana Chulitskaya contributed to the research network of the neighbourhood policy in Belarus, and Dr Jogilė Ulinskaitė became the chair of the Research Centers Network of the Memory Studies Association. The ‘Facing the Past. Public History for a Stronger Europe’ project served to strengthen the Institute’s relations with Vilnius City Museum and the National Museum of Lithuania.

In 2024, the renovation of the historical building of the Institute at Vokiečių g. 10 was completed. During the restoration, the original 15th-century look of the building was restored, Renaissance details were preserved, and the authentic beige-khaki façade colours were recreated, complemented by pale relief elements. This project has strengthened the historic value of the building and created an inspiring academic environment.

Members of the Institute community received important awards. Dr Simas Čelutka was awarded the Scholarship for Young Scientists by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Dr Rosita Garškaitė-Antonowicz won the Best Dissertation Competition, and doctoral student Valda Budreckaitė was awarded for the best qualitative thesis in Lithuania. It was particularly pleasing that the Director of the Institute, Prof. Dr Margarita Šešelgytė, was awarded the prestigious Constance Council Prize.

These achievements and events show that the Institute remains one of the leading centres of political science not only in Lithuania but internationally as well. The commitment of the Institute’s community to research, innovation, and public welfare provides a solid foundation for future challenges and opportunities.

Prof. Dr Margarita Šešelgytė, Director

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Areas of research interest

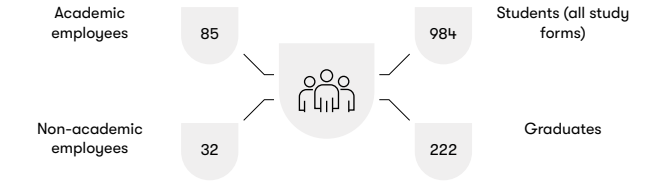


Study portfolio in 2024

	Bachelor studies	Master studies
Total number of programmes implemented	2	7
Joint programmes	-	1
Programmes implemented in a foreign language	1	2
	Doctoral studies	
Number of science fields	1 (Political Sciences)	

The figures for the study programmes are based on the data of 1 October.

Number of employees, students, and graduates in 2024

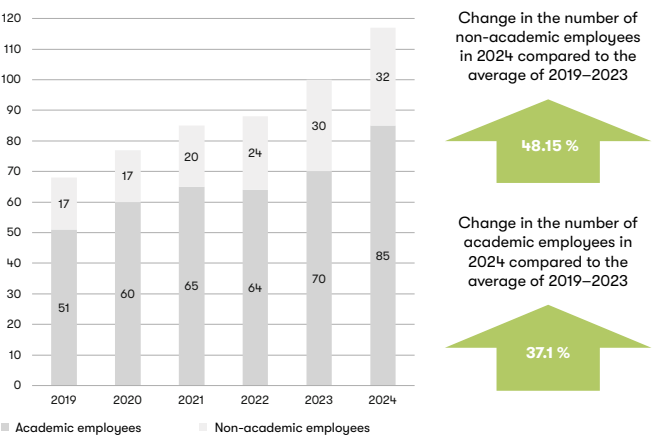


Number of foreign nationals employed in 2023–2024

	Academic employees	Non-academic employees	Total
2024	9	1	10
2023	5	2	7

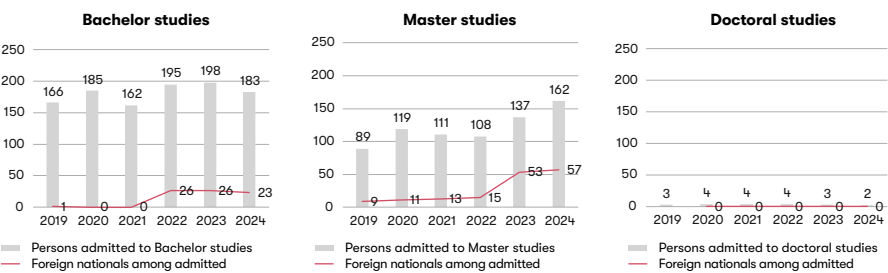
Based on the data of 31 December.

Changes in the number of employees, 2019–2024



Based on the data of 31 December.

Admissions to studies, 2019–2024

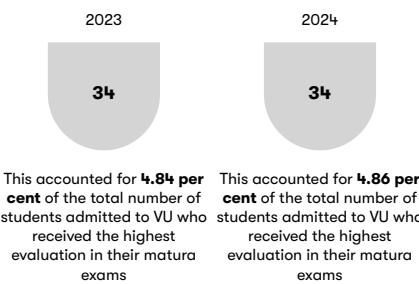


Change in the number of admitted persons by study cycle in 2024 compared to the average of 2019–2023



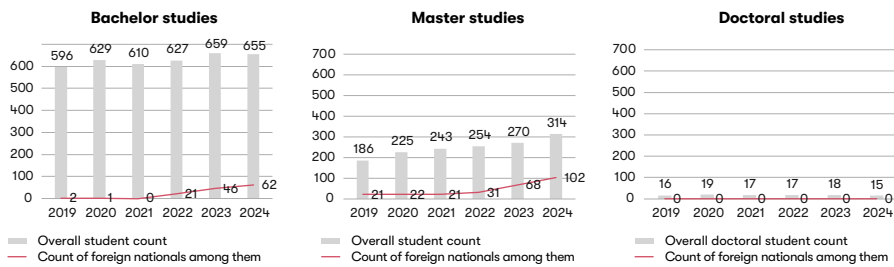
The first cycle and the second cycle indicators were calculated on the basis of the data of 1 October, and the third cycle indicators were calculated on the basis of the data of 31 December.

Number of admitted students who received the highest evaluation in their matura exams in 2023–2024



Based on the data of 1 October.

Number of students, 2019–2024

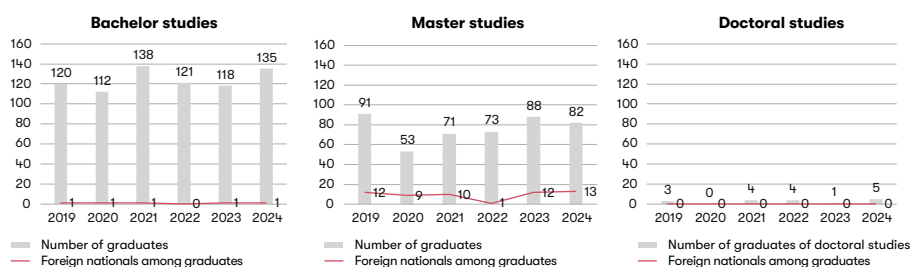


Change in the number of students by study cycle in 2024 compared to the average of 2019–2023



The first cycle and the second cycle indicators were calculated on the basis of the data of 1 October, and the third cycle indicators were calculated on the basis of the data of 31 December.

Number of graduates, 2019–2024

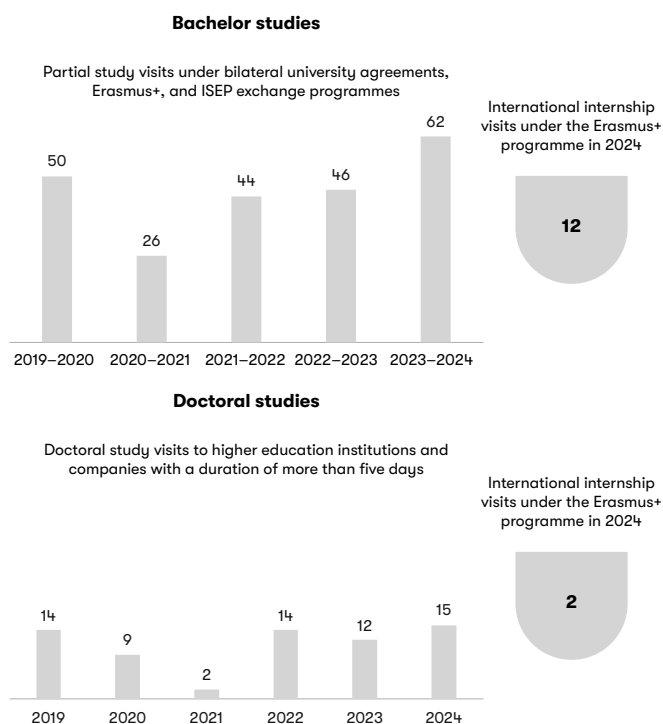


Change in the number of graduates by cycle in 2024 compared to the average of 2019–2023



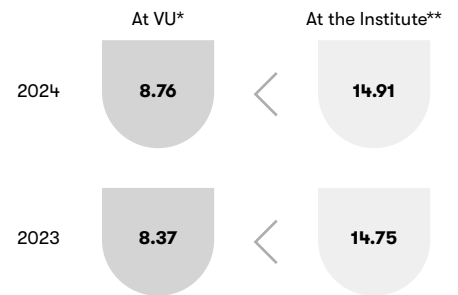
The first cycle and the second cycle indicators were calculated on the basis of the data of 1 September, and the third cycle indicators were calculated on the basis of the data of 31 December.

Mobility of students, doctoral students and employees, 2019–2024



Based on the data of 31 December.

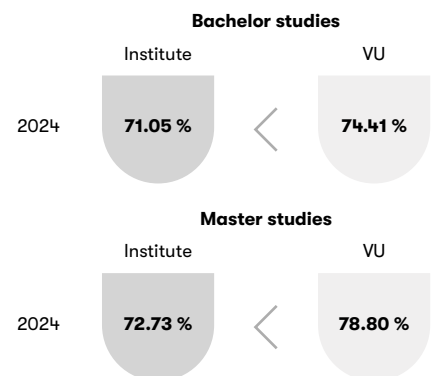
Student–faculty ratio, 2023–2024



* Calculated by dividing the total number of VU students in the first cycle, second cycle, integrated, and professional (pedagogy) studies on 1 October by the total number of VU teaching staff on 31 December.

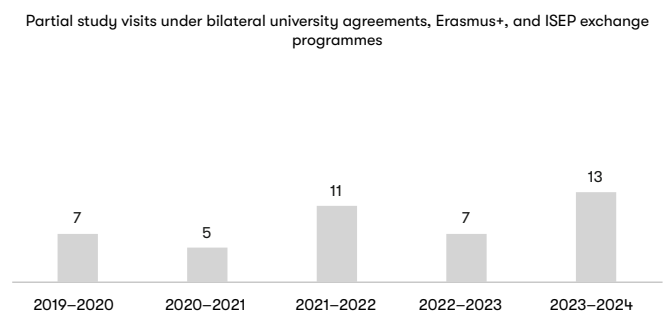
** Calculated by dividing the total number of Institute students in the first cycle and second cycle on 1 October by the number of Institute teaching staff on 31 December.

Graduate career success in 2024

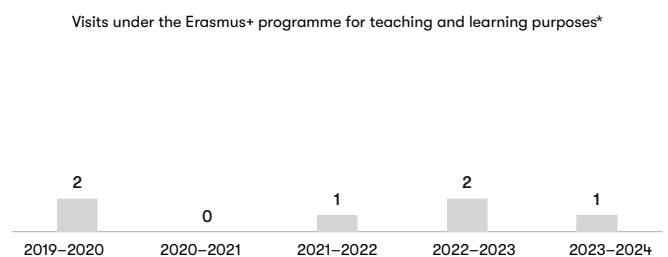


Target outcome → the level of highly qualified graduates and/or graduates continuing their studies in a higher cycle growing at least 1 per cent annually, but no lower than 60 per cent. Based on the data of 1 October.

Master studies

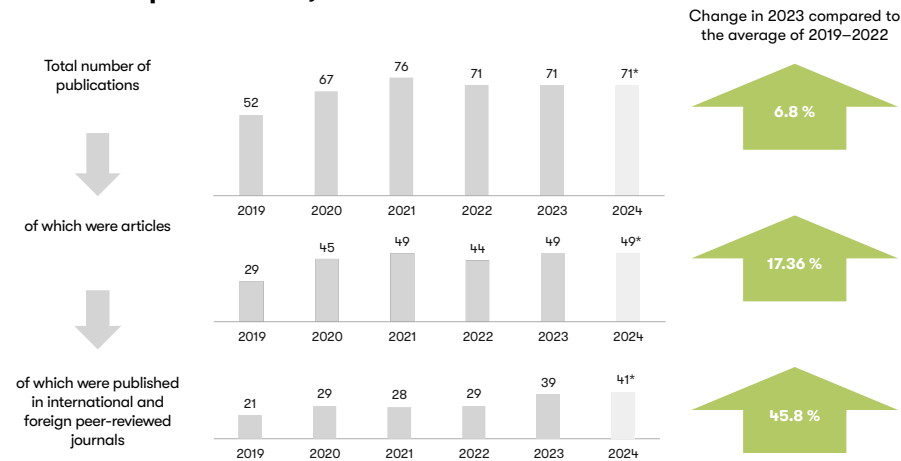


Academic and non-academic employees



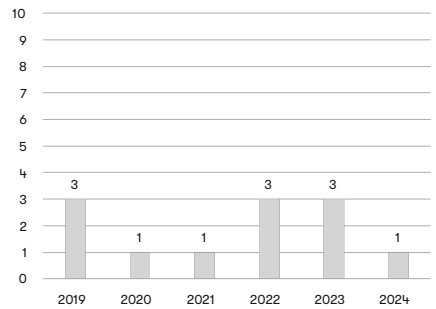
*The statistics on employee mobility do not include secondments and work placements carried out under mobility forms and programmes other than Erasmus+.

Number of publications, 2019–2024



* The publication figures for 2024 are based on the data of 10 February 2024 and are not exhaustive, as the registration of publications was still ongoing at that time. The publication figures for 2024 are not included in the calculations.

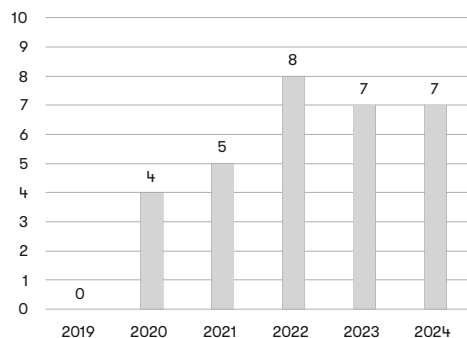
Successfully defended dissertations, 2019–2024



The total number of successfully defended dissertations during the period of 2019–2024 is 12

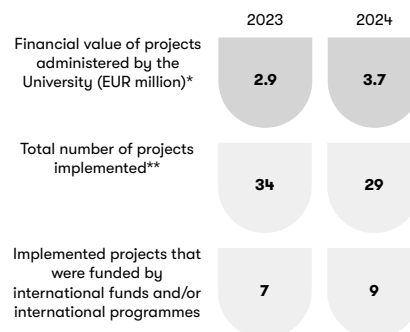
Based on the data of 31 December.

Number of postdoctoral trainees at the University, 2019–2024



Average number of postdoctoral trainees per year is 5.16
Based on the data of 31 December.

Projects, 2023–2024



* The value of projects implemented in a given year is presented.

** The total number of projects include projects whose activities were in the implementation phase during the given year. In the case of internal partnership at VU, i.e. when several faculties participated in one project, the project was accounted only once and assigned only to the unit that owned the project.

Key projects in 2024

Invigorating Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy for a Resilient Europe (InvigoratEU)

The value of the project administered by the University is EUR 130,125. The project is funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe programme (Project No. 101132124). Project manager – Prof. Dr Ramūnas Vilpišauskas.

Understanding FinTech Regulatory Sandbox Development in Europe (FIRSA)

The value of the project administered by the University is EUR 142,757.76. The project is funded by the European Union under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme (Project No. 101180601). The project is implemented by postdoctoral trainee Researcher Dr Alfredo Hernandez Sanchez, postdoctoral fellowship supervisor – Assoc. Prof. Dr Vytautas Kuokštis.

Non-Western Migration Regimes in a Global Perspective (MARS)

The value of the project administered by the University is EUR 207,000. The project is funded by the European Union under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme (Project No. 101130177). Project manager – Assoc. Prof. Dr Irma Budginaitė-Mačkinė.

Investigating Good Governance in the Context of Authoritarian Consolidation: The Case of Belarus (InGAC)

The value of the project administered by the University is EUR 94,697.15. The project is partly funded by the European Union under the instrument EU4Belarus – Support to Advanced Learning and Training (SALT II) administered by the Central Project Management Agency (Funding Agreement No. NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/434-092-0063). Project manager – Senior Researcher Dr Tatsiana Chulitskaya.

Beieškant pripažinimo: Lietuvos užsienio politika 2015–2024 m. (In Search for Recognition: Lithuanian Foreign Policy 2015–2024)

The total value of the project amounts to EUR 197,307 (Project No. S-MIP-24-109). The project is funded by the Research Council of Lithuania under the research group projects instrument. Project manager – Prof. Dr Dovilė Jakniūnaitė.