

## APPROVED

by Resolution No. S-2015-9-4 of 24 November 2015  
of the Senate of Vilnius University

## ACADEMIC CEREMONY PROTOCOL OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

### I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Academic Ceremony Protocol of Vilnius University (hereinafter the 'Protocol') establishes the procedure for the ceremonies of the inauguration of the Rector (hereinafter the 'Rector') of Vilnius University (hereinafter the 'University'), the Pledge of Commitment to the University of a member of the Council of Vilnius University (hereinafter the 'Council'), the granting of the title of an honorary doctor of Vilnius University, the opening of the academic year (*Renovatio Studiorum*), and the closing of the academic year (*Finis anni academici*), the content of the texts used during these ceremonies, and the persons responsible for the organisation of ceremonies, as well as regulates the wearing of academic clothing and the use of insignias.
2. The ceremonies shall take place in the Church of St John the Baptist and St John the Apostle and Evangelist in Vilnius (hereinafter the 'St Johns' Church'), unless otherwise specified in the chapter of this Protocol governing a specific ceremony. Information about the location and time of the ceremony shall be sent to the participants and guests of the ceremony and shall be announced to the University community.
3. The ceremonies shall be attended by the Rector, the members of the Senate of the University (hereinafter the 'Senate') and the Council, Pro-Rectors, the heads of core academic units, the master of ceremonies, the secretary, members of the University community, and guests. Additional participants may be specified in the chapter of this Protocol governing a specific ceremony.
4. During the ceremonies governed by the Protocol, their participants shall wear the following academic clothing and insignias:
  - 4.1. the Rector – a black toga, a black pelerine with red lining, a dark red velvet biretta with black leather decorations and a black tassel, a silver chain, a sceptre;
  - 4.2. a Pro-Rector – a black toga, a black pelerine with a double black velvet hem, a white double necktie, a gold-thread embroidered University coat of arms, a black velvet biretta;
  - 4.3. the Chairperson of the Senate – a black toga, a black velvet pelerine with a burgundy velvet hem, a white necktie, a gold-thread embroidered University coat of arms, a black velvet biretta;
  - 4.4. a member of the Senate – a black toga, a black pelerine with burgundy velvet hem, a white necktie, a gold-thread embroidered University coat of arms, a black velvet biretta;
  - 4.5. a student member of the Senate – a black underknee cloak, a burgundy velvet collar, a gold-thread embroidered University coat of arms, a student cap.
  - 4.6. the head of a core academic unit – a black toga, black pelerine with a black velvet hem, a white necktie, a gold-thread embroidered University coat of arms, a black velvet biretta.
5. Prior to each ceremony, *ad hoc* protocols shall be drawn up for invited guests, seating arrangements, and other matters specified in the Chapters of this Protocol governing the specific ceremony.
6. The organisation and proper conduct of the ceremonies shall be the responsibility of the unit of the Central Administration which has been entrusted with such functions by the Chancellor, as well as the master of ceremonies and secretary appointed by the Chancellor.

7. The Protocol was prepared in accordance with the Statute of Vilnius University (hereinafter the 'Statute') and following the traditions of organising events at the University.
8. The terms used in the Protocol shall correspond to the terms used in the Statute.

## II. THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE RECTOR

9. This Chapter establishes the inauguration ceremony of the Rector of the University (hereinafter in this Chapter the 'Ceremony') provided for in Article 44(18) of the Statute.
10. The place and time of the ceremony shall be announced by the Chairperson of the Council in agreement with the Chairperson of the Senate. Lectures and other activities shall not take place at the University during the Ceremony.
11. In addition to the persons specified in Article 3 of the Protocol, the Ceremony shall be attended by the outgoing Rector of the University, other former Rectors of the University, guests (the President of the Republic of Lithuania, representatives of the Seimas and the Government, the chairperson of the Rectors' Conference, representatives of the Church and religious communities, rectors of other universities, and other persons invited).
12. The rectors of other universities attending the Ceremony shall wear the ceremonial clothing of their universities, and other participants of the Ceremony not indicated in Article 4 of the Protocol shall wear formal clothing.
13. The seating of the Ceremony participants shall be arranged in the following order:
  - 13.1. A table and four chairs are placed in the middle of an elevated stage: the Rector's chair and three regular chairs on its sides. The Chairperson of the Council sits to the right of the rector-elect and the Chairperson of the Senate sits to the left. The fourth chair that is situated next to the Rector's chair is for the rector-elect to sit before their oath;
  - 13.2. To the right of the rector-elect, seven chairs are placed for the deans carrying insignias (toga, pelerine, chain, biretta, sceptre, and seal) and a student carrying a flag;
  - 13.3. To the right of the rector-elect – a small table and two chairs for the master of ceremonies and the secretary;
  - 13.4. To the left of the rector-elect – a pulpit with a flag stand next to it.
14. The seating of the guests of the Ceremony at St Johns' Church shall be arranged in the following order:
  - 14.1. Designated seating on the right side (when facing the altar) – for members of the Council and the Senate, the Pro-Rectors, heads of the core academic units (except for those carrying insignias), the prefect of St Johns' Church and the chaplain of the University, the outgoing Rector and other former Rectors of the University, and members of the University community.
  - 14.2. Designated seating on the left side – for the President of the Republic of Lithuania, members of the Seimas and the Government, representatives of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the Church and religious communities, rectors of the universities, and other persons invited.
15. In addition to those indicated in Article 6 of the Protocol, *ad hoc* protocols shall also be drawn up before the ceremony for insignia carriers and for persons extending congratulations:
  - 15.1. The protocol for insignia carriers is made up of the heads of core academic units, following the data provided by the University administration about who have been carrying out these duties the longest. The flag of the University is carried by a student appointed by the

Students' Representation of the University.

15.2. Following the protocol for persons extending congratulations, the congratulatory speeches are delivered by the Chairperson of the Senate, the outgoing Rector, the top government officials in attendance and the Chairperson of the Rectors' Conference. The remaining guests congratulate the rector-elect during the solemn reception after the Ceremony.

15.3. The protocol for invited guests is set up before the Ceremony based on the suggestions of the rector-elect, the Chairperson of the Senate, and the Chairperson of the Council.

16. The Ceremony shall take place in the following order:

16.1. Everybody except for the rector-elect, the Chairperson of the Council, the Chairperson of the Senate, the heads of core academic units responsible for carrying the Rector's insignias, the student responsible for carrying the flag, and the rectors of other universities, gather in St Johns' Church and take their places.

16.2. The church bell tolls. A procession from the Central Campus through the Grand Courtyard is situated in the following order: the student carrying the University's flag, in pairs – the rectors of other universities (their order is determined by the year of establishment of the universities: from newest to oldest), the heads of core academic units carrying the Rector's insignias (toga, pelerine, chain, biretta, sceptre, and seal), the Chairperson of the Council carrying the Statute of the University, the Chairperson of the Senate carrying the Oath of Office text (Annex 1 to the Protocol), and the rector-elect.

16.3. As the procession approaches the doors of St Johns' Church:

The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Silentium. Silentium. Inchoamus celeberrimam inaugurationem* ..... (insert a specific ordinal number in Latin) *Rectoris Universitatis Vilnensis. Vexillum Universitatis Vilnensis introfertur.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *We hereby begin the solemn inauguration of the* ..... (insert a specific ordinal number in Lithuanian) *Rector of Vilnius University.*

16.4. As the procession enters the church, the organ starts playing. Each procession participant stands next to their seating place. The Chairperson of the Council and the Chairperson of the Senate place the Statute and the Oath of Office text on the table. The flag is placed into the flag stand and the student stands next to their seating place. The music dies down. Everyone takes their places.

16.5. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Orationem habebit* ..... (full name), *Praeses Consilii Universitatis Vilnensis, quod novum Rectorem elegit.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *Now, the floor will be taken by* (full name), *the Chairperson of the Council of Vilnius University that elected the new Rector.*

16.6. The Chairperson of the Council announces from the pulpit that on (day) (month) (year) (insert the specific date), the Council elected a new Rector of Vilnius University. A short introduction is made.

16.7. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Rector dat jus jurandum.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The Rector takes an oath.*

16.8. The rector-elect, the Chairperson of the Council, and the Chairperson of the Senate stand up. The Chairperson of the Senate hands the rector-elect the Oath of Office text. The Rector places their right hand on the Statute and, holding the Oath of Office text in their left hand, reads the text. If the Oath of Office text is read incorrectly, the Chairperson of the Senate asks the rector-elect to repeat it. The rector-elect sits down in the Rector's chair, signs the Oath of Office and hands it to the Chairperson of the Senate. After the signing of the Oath of Office, the fourth chair is removed and three chairs remain at the table (the Rector's chair and two chairs on its sides – for the Chairpersons of the Council and the Senate).

16.9. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Rogamus ab utroque Praeside, tum Consilii, tum Senatus, ut tradant Rectori electo insignia auctoritatis.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *We ask the Chairpersons of the Council and the Senate to present the Rector with their insignias.*

16.10. The rector-elect and the Chairpersons of the Council and the Senate stand in front of the table. The head of a core academic unit carrying the toga comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Council.

16.11. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We dress you in a toga so that you continue the honourable traditions of your predecessors appropriately.*

The head of a core academic unit and the Chairperson of the Council help the rector-elect to put on the toga. The head of a core academic unit returns to their place.

16.12. The head of a core academic unit carrying the pelerine comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Senate.

16.13. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We cloak you with this pelerine so that you genuinely care for the entire Vilnius University community.*

The Chairperson of the Senate takes the pelerine and puts it over the rector-elect's toga. The head of a core academic unit returns to their place.

16.14. The head of a core academic unit carrying the chain comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Council.

16.15. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We put this chain on you so that you link and unite all members of our University.*

The Chairperson of the Council puts the chain on the rector-elect's neck. The head of a core academic unit returns to their place.

16.16. The head of a core academic unit carrying the biretta comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Senate.

16.17. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We put this biretta on you so that you can represent the University community with honour.*

The Chairperson of the Senate puts the biretta on the rector-elect's head. The head of a core academic unit returns to their place.

16.18. The head of a core academic unit carrying the sceptre comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Council.

16.19. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We present you with this sceptre so that you can head the University appropriately.*

The Chairperson of the Council presents the rector-elect with the sceptre. The head of a core academic unit places the sceptre's pillow on the table, on the right side of the Rector's chair, and returns to their place.

16.20. The head of a core academic unit carrying the seal comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Senate.

16.21. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We present you with this seal so that you protect the rights and freedoms of the University.*

The Chairperson of the Senate presents the rector-elect with the seal. The head of a core academic unit places the seal's box on the table, on the left side of the Rector's chair, and returns to their place.

16.22. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Rector accepit mandata auctoritatis. Proclamamus: Universitas habet novum.....* (insert an ordinal number in Latin) *Rectorem.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The Rector has accepted the powers of authority. We hereby announce that the University has a new* <sup>th/nd/rd</sup> (insert an ordinal number) *Rector.*

16.23. The Chairperson of the Council and the Chairperson of the Senate accompany the Rector to their place.

16.24. Everybody stands up. The choir and organ perform *Gaudeamus igitur*. When the music stops – ovations.

16.25. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Oratio inauguralis Magnificentiae Rectoris* \_\_\_\_\_ (full name). The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The inaugural speech of Their Magnificence the Rector* \_\_\_\_\_ (full name).

16.26. The Rector delivers their speech from the pulpit. They then return to their place and sit down.

16.27. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Quod bonum faustum felix fortunatumque sit!*

16.28. The secretary (in Lithuanian): *May wellness, luck, happiness, and fortune follow.*

16.29. The organ plays.

16.30. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Nunc gratulationes pronuntiabuntur.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *Congratulations will now be offered.*

16.31. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian):..... (full name) congratulates *Their Magnificence the Rector.*

16.32. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Inauguratio sollemnis Rectoris Universitatis Vilnensis ..... (full name) finita est. Vexillum Universitatis Vilnensis effertur. Rector Universitatis Vilnensis exit.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The solemn inauguration of the Rector of Vilnius University ..... (full name) is now completed. The flag of the University is carried out. The Rector is leaving.*

16.33. Organ music is playing. The exit from St Johns' Church is made in the following order: the student carrying the University's flag, in pairs – the heads of core academic units who carried the Rector's insignias (the head of a core academic unit who carried the sceptre now carries the sceptre's pillow and the head of a core academic unit who carried the seal now carries the seal's box), the Chairperson of the Council carrying the Statute of the University, the Chairperson of the Senate carrying the Oath of Office document, and the Rector carrying the sceptre in their right hand and the seal in their left hand.

### **III. THE CEREMONY OF THE PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO THE UNIVERSITY**

17. This Chapter establishes the ceremony of the Pledge of Commitment of members of the Council to Vilnius University (hereinafter the 'Pledge of Commitment') (hereinafter in this Chapter the 'Ceremony') provided for in Article 39(15) of the Statute of the University and in the Description of the Procedure for the Election and Termination of the Powers of the Members of the Council approved by the Senate.
18. The Ceremony shall take place during a solemn meeting of the Senate, convened by the Chairperson of the Senate, in the Small Hall, Theatre Hall, or other place specified by the Chairperson of the Senate. The solemn meeting of the Senate during which the Ceremony is held shall be convened after the announcement of the composition of the new Council. When a new member of the Council is elected during the term of office of the Council, they shall read the text of the Pledge of Commitment and sign it during an ordinary meeting of the Senate that takes place after their election.
19. The seating of the Ceremony participants shall be arranged in the following order:
  - 19.1. A table and two chairs are placed on an elevated stage. The Rector sits on the right side of the Chairperson of the Senate;
  - 19.2. The first row of the hall is occupied by elected Council members, with Pro-Rectors and Senate members in designated places behind them. The remaining seats are allocated to other participants.
20. During the Ceremony, each elected member of the Council must read and sign the text of the Pledge of Commitment (Annex 2 to the Protocol) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 21 of the Protocol. The text of the Pledge of Commitment of a member of the Council shall be written on a separate sheet for each member of the Council. The document must contain: the coat of arms of the University, the title, the text of the Pledge of Commitment of the Council member containing their name, a place for the signature and date (date of the meeting). All the Pledge of Commitment documents shall be placed in a folder (in alphabetical order) and put on the table in front of the Chairperson of the Senate before the Ceremony by the master of ceremonies.

21. The Ceremony shall take place in the following order:
  - 21.1. Pro-Rectors, heads of core academic units, members of the Senate, members of the Council, and other participants meet at the venue of the solemn meeting.
  - 21.2. The master of ceremonies announces: *“Please stand up. The Rector of Vilnius University is entering.”* The Rector and the Chairperson of the Senate enter and take their designated seats.
  - 21.3. The Chairperson of the Senate congratulates the assembly and invites them to sit down.
  - 21.4. The Chairperson of the Senate announces the beginning of the Ceremony of the Pledge of Commitment of members of the Council to Vilnius University.
  - 21.5. The master of ceremonies invites everyone to stand up and sing *Gaudeamus igitur* (three main verses). Everyone takes their places.
  - 21.6. The Chairperson of the Senate begins the solemn procedure by sitting down and calling the members of the Council in alphabetical order. After reading the name of the member of the Council, the Chairperson of the Senate passes the Pledge of Commitment document to the master of ceremonies.
  - 21.7. The member who was called comes to the master of ceremonies, takes the Pledge of Commitment document, reads it solemnly from the pulpit and signs it (if the member of the Council has read the text of the Pledge of Commitment incorrectly, the Chairperson of the Senate asks for it to be repeated). The member of the Council gives the signed document to the Chairperson of the Senate. The Chairperson of the Senate stands up and accepts the document. The member of the Council returns to their place. The same procedure is carried out by all members of the Council.
  - 21.8. After the Chairperson of the Senate has accepted the Pledges of Commitment of all members of the Council, the master of ceremonies invites the Chairperson of the Senate to give a congratulatory speech.
  - 21.9. The Chairperson of the Senate congratulates the members of the Council.
  - 21.10. The master of ceremonies invites the Rector to give a congratulatory speech.
  - 21.11. The members of the Council are congratulated by the Rector.
  - 21.12. The master of ceremonies invites everyone to stand up and sing the Lithuanian anthem.
  - 21.13. The Chairperson of the Senate announces while standing: *“The solemn meeting of the Senate to accept the Pledges of Commitments of the members of the Council to Vilnius University has been completed.”*
  - 21.14. The master of ceremonies announces: *“Please stand up. The Rector of Vilnius University is leaving.”*

#### **IV. HONORARY DOCTOR TITLE GRANTING CEREMONY**

22. This Chapter establishes the ceremony of granting the title of an honorary doctor of Vilnius University (hereinafter the ‘Honorary Doctor’) (hereinafter in this Chapter the ‘Ceremony’).
23. The time of the Ceremony shall be announced by the Chairperson of the Senate.
24. The seating of the Ceremony participants and guests shall be arranged in the following order:
  - 24.1. Two tables, chairs, a pulpit, and a flag stand are placed on an elevated stage;
  - 24.2. A table and two chairs for the Rector and the Chairperson of the Senate are placed in the centre. The Chairperson of the Senate is seated to the left of the Rector. To the right of the Rector, chairs dedicated to the Honorary Doctor and the head of the core academic unit carrying the insignias of the Honorary Doctor (a toga and a biretta) are placed. (If the title of an Honorary Doctor is granted to several persons, the corresponding number of chairs is to be placed);
  - 24.3. To the right of the Rector, a table and two chairs for the master of ceremonies of the

University and the secretary are placed;

24.4. To the left of the Rector – a stand for the University flag and a pulpit;

24.5. On the right side (looking at the elevated stage) – friends and family of the Honorary Doctor, a representative of the core academic unit presenting the Honorary Doctor, heads of core academic units carrying a sceptre and seal, a student carrying the University flag, the Chairperson of the Council, members of the Council and the Senate, Pro-Rectors, the rector of St Johns' Church, members of the University community;

24.6. On the left side – seniors, alumni, patrons, and other invited guests of the University.

25. Before the ceremony, the protocol for the carriers of the Honorary Doctor insignias and diploma and other *ad hoc* protocols referred to in Article 5 of the Protocol shall be drawn up. The protocol for invited guests shall be drawn up taking into account the suggestions from the Rector, the Chairperson of the Senate, and the Honorary Doctor.

26. The Ceremony shall take place in the following order:

26.1. Everyone, except the Rector, the Chairperson of the Senate, the Pro-Rectors, the heads of core academic units carrying the sceptre and seal of the Rector as well as the Honorary Doctor's insignias and diploma, the student carrying the University flag, and the future Honorary Doctor, gather in St Johns' Church and take their places.

26.2. The church bell tolls. A procession from the Central Campus through the Grand Courtyard is situated in the following order: the student carrying the University flag, the heads of core academic units carrying the Honorary Doctor's insignias and diploma, the future Honorary Doctor, the Pro-Rectors, the Chairperson of the Senate, the heads of core academic units carrying the Rector's sceptre and seal, and the Rector.

26.3. As the procession approaches St Johns' Church, organ music is playing.

26.4. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Silentium! Silentium! Surgite, quaeso. Rector Universitatis Vilnensis intrat.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *Silence. Please stand up, the Rector of Vilnius University is entering.*

26.5. The student carrying the University flag, the heads of core academic units carrying the Honorary Doctor's insignias and diploma, the future Honorary Doctor, the Chairperson of the Senate, the heads of core academic units carrying the Rector's sceptre and seal, and the Rector go up on the elevated stage.

26.6. The flag is placed into the flag stand. The student goes to their dedicated seat which is not on the elevated stage.

26.7. The future Honorary Doctor and the head of a core academic unit carrying the Honorary Doctor's insignias stand next to the chairs assigned to them. The Rector's sceptre and seal are placed on the central (Rector's) table. The sceptre is placed to the right, and the seal to the left of the Rector. The diploma is placed on the master of ceremonies' table. The heads of core academic units who carried the Rector's insignias and diploma go to their designated seats which are not on the elevated stage. The Rector and the Chairperson of the Senate stand next to their table. The Pro-Rectors take their designated seats which are not on the elevated stage.

26.8. The music dies down.

26.9. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Magnificentissime Domine Rector, Reverendissimi participes huius celeberrimi eventus! Liceat Senatus consilium incipi, in quo meriti honores excelsis scientiarum cultoribus atque nostrae civitatis benefactoribus perhibebuntur.* The secretary (in Lithuanian): *Your Magnificence Rector, honoured participants of this solemn event. Allow me to begin the meeting of the Senate of Vilnius University to give the deserved respect to the prominent figures of science and society. Now, I invite everyone to sing Gaudeamus igitur.*

26.10. *Gaudeamus igitur* is sung.

26.11. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Orationem habebit Praeses Senatus Universitatis*

*Vilnensis ....*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The Chairperson of the Senate of Vilnius University ... will speak.*

26.12. Speech by the Chairperson of the Senate.

26.13. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Dominus ..... , Professor Universitatis , Doctor Honoris Causa Universitatis Vilnensis nominatur. Orationem habebit Decanus Facultatis ..... Universitatis Vilnensis, ..... .*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The title of an honorary doctor of Vilnius University is granted to Professor ... of ... University. ...., the dean of the Faculty of ... of Vilnius University will speak.*

26.14. The head of a core academic unit introduces the Honorary Doctor and returns to their place.

26.15. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): Stands up and reads the Honorary Doctor's diploma. *Nunc Rector manu propria subscribet et sigillo roborabit diploma Doctoris honoris causa.* The secretary stands up, repeats the text of the Honorary Doctor's diploma in Lithuanian, and declares:

*Now, the Rector will sign the diploma of the Honorary Doctor and stamp it with their seal. The diploma is brought to the Chairperson of the Senate.*

26.16. The Chairperson of the Senate takes the diploma out of its case and places it in front of the Rector. The Rector signs the diploma. The Chairperson of the Senate gives the Rector the seal with which they stamp the diploma. After the diploma is signed and stamped, the Chairperson of the Senate places it in the case and hands it to the Rector.

26.17. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Nunc Doctor Honoris Causa investietur toga et bireto tamquam signis sapientiae et dignitatis humanae.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *Now, the Honorary Doctor will be dressed in a toga and adorned with a biretta as symbols of wisdom and human value.*

26.18. The Rector and the Chairperson of the Senate stand up. The Honorary Doctor and the head of a core academic unit with the insignias approach the Rector's table.

26.19. The secretary assists the head of a core academic unit in dressing the Honorary Doctor. The head of a core academic unit puts on a toga and a biretta on the Honorary Doctor. The Rector gives the Honorary Doctor the diploma. The Rector, the Chairperson of the Senate, and the head of a core academic unit shake the Honorary Doctor's hand.

26.20. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Nunc orationem habebit Doctor Honoris Causa Universitatis Vilnensis Professor ..... .*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *Now, the Honorary Doctor of Vilnius University, Professor ....., will speak.*

26.21. Everyone takes their places. The speech of the Honorary Doctor. Ovations. After the speech, the Honorary Doctor returns to their place.

26.22. When the title of an honorary doctor is granted to more than one person, the ceremony is repeated from Article 26(7). Before repeating the Ceremony, a short musical composition is played.

26.23. A short musical composition is played.

26.24. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Magnificentissimus Dominus Rector.. gratulatur novis Doctoribus Honoris Causa Universitatis Vilnensis.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *Their Magnificence Rector congratulates the new Honorary Doctor of Vilnius University.*

26.25. The Honorary Doctor is congratulated by the Rector.

26.26. A short musical composition is played.

26.27. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Nunc Doctor Honoris Causa salutabitur (plural – Nunc Doctores Honoris Causa salutabuntur)*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The Honorary Doctor will now be congratulated.*

26.28. A bouquet of flowers is given to the Honorary Doctor.

26.29. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Consilium sollemne Senatus Universitatis*



*Vilnensis finitum est. Tempora pereunt, acta manent. Exinde promineat lux ad nova opera monens.* The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The solemn meeting of the Senate of Vilnius University is over. Time passes, deeds remain. Let the light of new deeds shine forth therefrom.*

26.30. A musical composition is played.

26.31. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *Please stand up. The Rector of Vilnius University is leaving.*

26.32. The student goes to the flag and raises it from the stand, the heads of core academic units who carried the Rector's sceptre and seal go to the Rector's table on the elevated stage and take insignias. Organ music is playing and the exit is made in the following order: the student carrying the University flag, the heads of core academic units who carried the Honorary Doctor's insignias and diploma, the Honorary Doctor, the Pro-Rectors, the Chairperson of the Senate, the heads of core academic units carrying the Rector's sceptre and seal, and the Rector.

## **V. RENOVATIO STUDIORUM CEREMONY**

27. This Chapter establishes the ceremony of the opening of the academic year of Vilnius University, *Renovatio studiorum* (hereinafter in this Chapter the 'Ceremony').
28. The ceremony shall take place on the first day of the academic year in the Library Courtyard and the Grand Courtyard of the University. Information about the event shall be sent to its participants, guests, announced to the University community, and the city.
29. The seating of the Ceremony participants and guests shall be arranged in the following order:
  - 29.1. A table, a chair on its right side for the master of ceremonies, and a stand for the University flag on its left side are placed on an elevated stage.
  - 29.2. In the Grand Courtyard, participants and guests are seated in their designated places.
30. During the ceremony, the President of Vilnius University Students' Representation (hereinafter the 'VU SA') shall read the oath text of the first-year students in accordance with the procedure laid down in this Chapter. This text shall be written on a separate sheet, which shall contain the full name of the President of the Students' Representation, a place for their signature, a place for the grand seal of the University, and the date.
31. The *ad hoc* protocol for invited guests shall be drawn up taking into account the suggestions from the Rector, the Chairperson of the Senate, and the Chairperson of the Council.
32. The Ceremony in the Library Courtyard shall take place in the following order:
  - 32.1. Music is playing.
  - 32.2. The Rector, the Chairperson of the Council and members of the Council, the Chairperson of the Senate and members of the Senate, Pro-Rectors, heads of core academic units of the University, President of the Students' Representation of the University, and the master of ceremonies stand next to the University flag which is prepared for the lifting, and the rest of the participants of the Ceremony stand in the Library Courtyard. The music dies down.
  - 32.3. The master of ceremonies: *Good afternoon. Greetings to everyone attending the solemn Renovatio studiorum ceremony. The University community and guests will be welcomed by the Rector of Vilnius University, Their Magnificence... .*
  - 32.4. Welcome speech by the Rector.
  - 32.5. The master of ceremonies: *The flag of Vilnius University will now be raised. We invite .... [head of a core academic unit] to raise the flag of Vilnius University.*

- 32.6. Welcome speech by the Dean. The flag is being raised and music is playing.
- 32.7. The master of ceremonies informs the attendees about the procession of the Vilnius University community and the ceremony in the Grand Courtyard.
33. The Ceremony in the Grand Courtyard shall take place in the following order:
- 33.1. Everyone, except the Rector, the Chairperson of the Council, the Chairperson of the Senate, Pro-Rectors, the heads of core academic units, the President of the VU SA, and the student member of the Senate carrying the University flag, meet in the Grand Courtyard of the University.
- 33.2. The master of ceremonies: *Please stand up. The flag of Vilnius University is carried in. The Rector of Vilnius University is entering.*
- 33.3. The bell of St Johns' Church tolls. The procession from the Observatory Courtyard through the Grand Courtyard is situated in pairs in the following order: the student carrying the University flag and the President of the VU SA, the heads of core academic units (the last two head of core academic units carry the sceptre's pillow and the grand seal of the University), Pro-Rectors, the Chairperson of the Council, the Chairperson of the Senate, and the Rector.
- 33.4. The flag is carried on the elevated stage and placed in the stand. The Rector places the sceptre on the pillow. The heads of core academic units carrying the seal and sceptre go up on the elevated stage and place them on the table. The sceptre is placed on the right side of the table and the seal on the left. The President of the VU SA places the students' oath text on the table between the sceptre and the seal. Everyone takes their designated seats.
- 33.5. The master of ceremonies: *we invite Their Magnificence Rector of Vilnius University ... to give the welcome speech.*
- 33.6. Welcome speech of the Rector.
- 33.7. The master of ceremonies: *we invite the Chairperson of the Senate of Vilnius University to congratulate the participants.*
- 33.8. Speech by the Chairperson of the Senate.
- 33.9. The master of ceremonies: *Now, the oath of first-year Vilnius University students to the University will be read. We are calling for Their Magnificence Rector .... , [heads of core academic units carrying the seal and sceptre], President of Vilnius University Students' Representation ... .*
- 33.10. All the guests go up on the elevated stage. The head of a core academic union takes the pillow with the sceptre from the table and hands it to the Rector. The Rector takes the sceptre, the Dean remains standing on the right side of the Rector, and the head of a core academic unit holding the seal stands on the left side of the Rector. The President of the VU SA takes the oath text from the table and stands by the microphone.
- 33.11. The master of ceremonies: *The President of the Students' Representation will read the oath of first-year Vilnius University students to the University.*
- 33.12. A brief welcome speech by the President of the VU SA. The President explains to first-year students how to take an oath and reads the text of the oath. The gathered first-year students repeat the words of the oath.
- 33.13. The master of ceremonies: *The oath will be signed by the President of the Students' Representation on behalf of the students.*
- 33.14. The master of ceremonies: *Now, Their Magnificence Rector will confirm the oath of first-year students by stamping the grand seal of the University.*
- 33.15. The Rector places the sceptre on the pillow, takes the seal, solemnly stamps the oath, gives the seal back, and gives the oath to the President of the Students' Representation of the University.
- 33.16. The master of ceremonies: *The oath of the first-year students of Vilnius University has been approved. Now, we invite everyone to sing Gaudeamus igitur.*
- 33.17. *Gaudeamus igitur* is sung.
- 33.18. The master of ceremonies: *Students' greetings.*

33.19. The master of ceremonies: *The solemn Renovatio studiorum ceremony is over. Please stand up. The flag of Vilnius University is carried in. The Rector of Vilnius University is leaving.*

33.20. Music is playing. The procession is situated in pairs in the following order: the President of the VU SA carrying the oath of students, the student member of the Senate carrying the University flag, the heads of core academic units of the University (the last two of them carry the pillow and seal), Pro-Rectors, Chairpersons of the Council and the Senate, and the Rector carrying the sceptre.

## **VI. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURE OF THE *FINIS ANNI ACADEMICI* CEREMONY**

34. This Chapter establishes the ceremony of the closing of the academic year of Vilnius University, *Finis anni academici* (hereinafter in this Chapter the ‘Ceremony’).
35. The Ceremony shall take place on the last day of awarding Vilnius University diplomas.
36. The seating of the Ceremony participants and guests shall be arranged in the following order:
  - 36.1. A table and three chairs are situated in the centre of an elevated stage. The Chairperson of the Council sits to the right of the Rector and the Chairperson of the Senate sits to the left.
  - 36.2. To the right of the Rector, a table and two chairs for the master of ceremonies and the secretary are placed.
  - 36.3. To the left of the Rector, a pulpit and a stand for the University flag.
  - 36.4. On the right side (when facing the altar) – members of the Council and the Senate, the Pro-Rectors, the heads of core academic units, the rector of St Johns’ Church, the President of the Students’ Representation of the University, the student member of the Senate carrying the flag, and the University staff.
  - 36.5. On the left side – alumni, patrons, and other invited guests of the University.
37. An *ad hoc* protocol for award recipients, the content of which is coordinated with the Rector, and other *ad hoc* protocols referred to in Article 6 of the Protocol, shall be drawn up before the Ceremony. The protocol for invited guests shall be drawn up taking into account the suggestions from the Rector, the Chairperson of the Senate, and the Chairperson of the Council.
38. The Ceremony shall take place in the following order:
  - 38.1. Everyone, except the Rector, the Chairperson of the Council, the Chairperson of the Senate, Pro-Rectors, the heads of core academic units, the President of the Students’ Representation of the University, and the student member of the Senate carrying the flag, gather in St Johns’ Church and take their places.
  - 38.2. The bell of St Johns’ Church tolls. The procession from the Observatory Courtyard through the Grand Courtyard is situated in pairs in the following order: the student member of the Senate carrying the University flag, the President of the VU SA, the heads of core academic units, the Pro-Rectors, the Chairperson of the Senate, the Chairperson of the Council, and the Rector carrying the sceptre.
  - 38.3. When the procession approaches the church doors, the organ begins to play. Each procession participant comes in and stands next to their seating place. The flag is placed into the flag stand and the student goes to their seating place.
  - 38.4. The master of ceremonies (in Latin and Lithuanian): *Silentium! Silentium! Please stand up, the Rector of the University is entering.* When the Rector comes up on the elevated stage – *Iucundi acti labores. Completed labours are pleasing. Let the Finis anni academici ceremony begin. I invite everyone to sing Gaudeamus igitur.*
  - 38.5. The choir and organ perform *Gaudeamus igitur*.
  - 38.6. Everyone takes their places. The Rector puts the sceptre on the pillow.

- 38.7. The master of ceremonies: *The Chairperson of the Senate of Vilnius University will now speak.*
- 38.8. The Chairperson of the Senate announces a minute's silence to honour all members of the University community who passed away during the academic year and reads the names of the deceased. Speech by the Chairperson of the Senate.
- 38.9. The master of ceremonies: *The Chairperson of the Council of Vilnius University will now speak.*
- 38.10. Speech by the Chairperson of the Council.
- 38.11. The master of ceremonies: *The Rector of Vilnius University will now speak.*
- 38.12. Speech by the Rector.
- 38.13. The master of ceremonies: *The President of Vilnius University Students' Representation will now speak.*
- 38.14. Speech by the President of the VU SA.
- 38.15. The master of ceremonies: *Let us begin the University community awards. Their Magnificence Rector will award letters of appreciation to members of the University community for long-term management work.*
- 38.16. The Rector stands in front of the table. The secretary stands between the master of ceremonies and the Rector.
- 38.17. The master of ceremonies, standing up, announces the full name of the member of the University community who is being awarded. The secretary passes the diploma and a gift to the Rector, and they present them.
- 38.18. The master of ceremonies: *Their Magnificence Rector will award letters of appreciation to members of the University community for long-term sincere work.*
- 38.19. The actions referred to in Article 38(17) are repeated.
- 38.20. The master of ceremonies: *Their Magnificence Rector will award the best researchers of the University.*
- 38.21. The actions referred to in Article 38(17) are repeated.
- 38.22. The master of ceremonies: *Their Magnificence Rector will honour the Master's degree graduates whose studies and scientific activities have been awarded the Magna cum laude diploma.*
- 38.23. The actions referred to in Article 38(17) are repeated.
- 38.24. Other awards, if any, are presented. The actions referred to in Article 38(17) are repeated.
- 38.25. The master of ceremonies: *The awards ceremony is completed. Now, .. music will be played.*
- 38.26. The Rector and the secretary return to their seats. Music is playing.
- 38.27. The master of ceremonies (in Latin and Lithuanian): *Finis coronat opus atque admonet nos ad nova opera. The end crowns the work and encourages us to start new work. The first part of the Finis anni academici ceremony is over. The organ was played for us by ... . Everyone is now invited to the Library Courtyard, where the University flag will be lowered.*
- 38.28. The student member of the Senate carrying the University flag goes to the flag. The exit is made in pairs in the following order while organ music is playing: the student member of the Senate carrying the University flag, the President of the VU SA, the heads of core academic units, the Pro-Rectors, the Chairperson of the Senate, the Chairperson of the Council, and the Rector. The procession goes to the Central Campus. The rest of the Ceremony participants pass through M. K. Sarbievijus Courtyard.
- 38.29. The Rector, the Chairperson and members of the Council, the Chairperson and members of the Senate, the Pro-Rectors, the heads of core academic units, and the master of ceremonies come to the Library Courtyard, next to the raised University flag. Other participants and guests of the Ceremony stand in the courtyard.
- 38.30. The master of ceremonies: *I invite ..., Dean of the Faculty of ..., to lower the University flag.*

- 38.31. A short speech by the Dean. The flag is lowered.
- 38.32. The master of ceremonies: *The Dean of the Faculty of ... passes the University flag to the Dean of the Faculty of ..., who will raise it during the opening ceremony of the academic year.*
- 38.33. The flag is transferred.
- 38.34. The master of ceremonies: *The Finis anni academici ceremony is completed.*
- 38.35. Ouations, music is playing.

## **VII. FINAL PROVISIONS**

- 39. The ceremonies not regulated by the Protocol shall be conducted in accordance with the traditions of the University, the core academic units, and student organisations. The academic clothing referred to in Article 5 of this Protocol shall be mandatory at such events if the Rector or Pro-Rector present at the ceremony is wearing academic clothing.
- 40. The Protocol shall be prepared by the Academic Ceremony Protocol Commission of Vilnius University. The Protocol and its amendments and addenda shall be approved by the Senate upon proposal from of the Chairperson of the Senate.

Annex 1 to  
the Academic Ceremony  
Protocol of Vilnius University

**THE TEXT OF THE OATH OF OFFICE OF THE RECTOR OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY**

The Oath of Office of  
..... (full name)

Rector of Vilnius University

I, ..... (full name), elected in the (insert a specific ordinal number in English) year from the establishment of Vilnius University as the Rector of our *Alma Mater*, take a solemn oath to the University:

to be faithful to the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the Statute of Vilnius University always and everywhere;

to spare no effort or ability in ensuring the prosperity of Vilnius University and the welfare of the community;

to consistently advocate for the autonomy of Vilnius University that is based on the principle of self-governance and academic freedom;

to properly represent Vilnius University as well as foster and promote it in Lithuania and abroad.

(So help me God.)

Signature  
(full name)

Annex 2 to  
the Academic Ceremony  
Protocol of Vilnius University

**THE PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF VILNIUS  
UNIVERSITY**

I,..... ,

in the performance of my duties as a member of the Council of Vilnius University, hereby promise to:

act fairly and reasonably,

be loyal to the University,

respect the principle of confidentiality,

avoid conflict of interest situations,

observe academic ethics and moral standards,

follow the Statute of Vilnius University, other legal acts of the University and the Republic of Lithuania,

strengthen the autonomy of the University and self-governance of the University community,

contribute to the implementation of the University's mission and the promotion of its values,

work to ensure the quality of the University's activities, publicity, responsibility to the academic community and the State of Lithuania.