

ADMISSION RULES FOR 2026 INTAKE TO DOCTORAL STUDIES AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Admission Rules for 2026 intake to Doctoral Studies (hereinafter – the Rules) at Vilnius University (hereinafter – the University) establish the procedure by which applicants are admitted to full-time and part-time doctoral studies (third-cycle) in those fields of study in which the University is granted the right to conduct them.
2. In 2026, the University admits doctoral students in 29 fields of study. The list of dissertation topics for each field of study and the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in a specific field of study are approved by order of the Rector and published on the University's website.
3. Persons holding a qualifying master's degree or an equivalent higher education qualification can apply for state-funded and/or non-state-funded doctoral positions. Persons who have previously studied at a state-funded doctoral position for more than half of the duration of their doctoral studies cannot re-apply for a state-funded doctoral position.
4. Admission to doctoral studies is carried out through an open competition. Stages of the admission procedure:
 - 4.1. submission of admission documents online;
 - 4.2. participation in doctoral admission meetings;
 - 4.3. conclusion of the doctoral study agreement.
5. Information about the procedure of admission to doctoral studies is published on the University website: <https://www.vu.lt/en/admissions/doctoral-studies>. Consultations are provided by the Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by phone: +370 5 268 7095, +370 5 268 7093 or by email: drs@cr.vu.lt.

CHAPTER II

PAYMENT OF THE ENTRANCE FEE AND SUBMISSION OF ADMISSION DOCUMENTS

6. In order to participate in the competition for admission to doctoral studies, a person must pay the entrance fee, submit an application in the prescribed form and other mandatory documents in accordance with the procedure established in the Rules and within the deadlines specified in the Annex to the Rules. Only one application can be submitted for one selected topic in one field of study.
7. The entrance fee is 50 EUR for citizens of Lithuania and the European Union countries, 100 EUR for citizens of other countries. Details of the accounts to which the entrance fee must be paid can be found on the University website at: <https://www.vu.lt/en/admissions/doctoral-studies/application-for-doctoral-studies>.

8. The entrance fee may be paid by another person on behalf of the candidate. In this case, the payment receipt must indicate the purpose of payment, and the name, surname, year of birth of the person for whom the payment is being made.
9. Persons born in 2001 and later who do not have both parents or guardians, children in foster homes or foster families, as well as persons with a work capacity up to 45 percent are exempt from paying the entrance fee. These persons must submit documents proving their right to the exemption with their application.
10. In the event of submitting an application for participation in the doctoral admission competition and not being admitted, the entrance fee is not refundable.
11. The application and the required documents for participation in the doctoral admission competition are submitted online by logging into the Vilnius University Online Admission Service System (ISAS) for Third-Cycle Studies (at the address: <https://is.vu.lt/pls/dokt/isas.login>).
12. The information required to calculate the weighted average of grades is taken from the data of master's diplomas and their supplements in the University database, if the person acquired this degree at the University. For other persons this information is taken from 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 established by the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania. Recognition of qualifications obtained abroad is carried out by the University. If the necessary information is missing, the University consults with the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education and a decision is made upon receipt of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education response.
13. Applicant for doctoral studies must submit the following documents:
 - 13.1. a completed and signed application form for participation in the competition addressed to the Rector, indicating the field of science, field of study, form of studies (full-time or part-time) and type of financing. The topic/theme of the dissertation is selected from the lists provided in the ISAS;
 - 13.2. a copy of the master's or equivalent higher education qualification diploma with its supplement (if this data has not been automatically uploaded to ISAS);
 - 13.3. a curriculum vitae;
 - 13.4. a copy of personal document (passport or ID card);
 - 13.5. motivational letter;
 - 13.6. two recommendations from researchers in the field of study to which the candidate is applying (in some fields of study, one recommendation must be written by the potential supervisor of the chosen topic. See: Selection criteria for a specific field of study). When applying for doctoral positions funded by the Research Council of Lithuania, one of the two recommendations must be written by the supervisor of the chosen topic. The recommendations must be written in the current year;
 - 13.7. a list of scientific works (if any) and their copies. The list is provided with a full bibliographic description;
 - 13.8. a copy of the entrance fee receipt;
 - 13.9. a copy of the certificate of recognition of higher education qualifications obtained abroad (if requested by the University);
 - 13.10. a certificate proving the candidate's achieved (not lower than B2) English level (applies to foreign citizens whose master's thesis was not written in English);

- 13.11. other documents that the candidate considers important, such as certificates of completion of various courses, passed doctoral level exams, etc.;
- 13.12. a copy of the document certifying the change of surname;
- 13.13. consent to the processing of personal data at the University (confirmed in the ISAS when submitting admission documents).
- 14. The application is considered submitted (registered) when all mandatory fields in the ISAS are filled in, i.e., the correct personal data of the candidate is indicated, information about the education obtained is provided, the topic of the chosen field of study is selected and electronic copies of all mandatory documents are provided.
- 15. The candidate can update the application until the last date for submission of documents. If the application is updated several times, the latest version of the application will be considered.
- 16. The application must be submitted by the deadline specified in the Annex to these Rules. If all required documents are not submitted, 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. The candidate must send the necessary documents for the recognition of qualifications by email to drs@cr.vu.lt by May 18. For the recognition of qualifications acquired abroad, the candidate can also independently consult with the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (www.skvc.lt).
- 19. If the University has doubts about the authenticity and correctness of the submitted documents and/or provided data, the candidate may be asked to submit original documents and/or the University may request confirmation from the institution that issued the documents.

CHAPTER III

THE STRUCTURE AND CALCULATION OF THE COMPETITIVE SCORE

- 20. Candidates for doctoral studies are admitted through an open competition based on their competitive score. The minimum score required for admission to doctoral studies in a specific field of study is specified in the 2026 selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies approved by the Rector's order.
- 21. The competitive score is the sum of its components multiplied by the appropriate coefficient. The coefficients are determined by the doctoral committee of the specific field of study, and their values are set in the 2026 selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies.
- 22. Components of a competitive score:
 - 22.1. the weighted average of the master's diploma (or equivalent qualification) supplement. In some fields of study (see: Selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in 2026), the assessment of the final master's thesis and/or the weighted average of the bachelor's diploma supplement may also be included when calculating the weighted average of the master's diploma supplement;
 - 22.2. evaluation of the admission procedures (research project and/or motivational interview);

- 22.3. assessment of scientific qualifications, relevance of scientific works and scientific experience to the chosen topic (if candidate has any).
23. A research project must be prepared by candidates to doctoral studies in those field of study whose selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies include a research project (see: Selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in 2026).
24. Candidates are ranked in the competitive queue in descending order of their competitive score in each field of study. Candidates with a higher competitive score have priority.
25. If the competitive score is equal, the decision is made by the doctoral committee of the relevant field of study.

CHAPTER IV

COMPETITION FOR ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES

26. The competition for admission to doctoral studies is held in several stages: the main admission and additional admission(s), if there are any vacancies. Persons who have not been admitted during the main admission may participate in the additional admission by submitting a new application. In this case, the entrance fee is not paid again.
27. The deadlines 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 available dissertation topics after concluding doctoral study agreements with those persons who were admitted to doctoral studies during the main admission.
28. Candidates must participate in a motivational interview with the admissions committee in the relevant field of study.
29. Research projects (if they are one of the selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in the relevant field of science. See: Selection criteria for admission to doctoral studies in 2026) are submitted to the doctoral committees. Information on the form, deadlines and method of submission of research projects is published on the websites of the core academic unit of the University responsible for conducting doctoral studies in the relevant field of study (i.e., Faculties websites).
30. Candidates for doctoral studies may be offered a different topic than they selected when submitting their application.
31. Appeals regarding incorrect assessment of submitted documents, procedural violations of admission to doctoral studies carried out at the University are submitted in writing to the Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies within the deadlines set in the Appendix to these Rules. Appeals 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. Based on the commission's decision, the Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies sends answers to candidates by email within five working days from the date of the decision. Appeals regarding evaluations of research projects and motivational interviews cannot be submitted.
32. Persons with the highest competitive scores in the competitive queue and who fall within the quota of doctoral study positions set by the University are invited to study in a state-funded doctoral position.

33. Once the state-funded doctoral positions in the relevant field of study are filled, the candidate, if he/she agrees, may be offered a non-state-funded doctoral position.
34. Persons invited to study at the University must conclude a doctoral study agreement with the University within the deadlines specified in the Annex to these Rules.
35. If persons invited to study do not conclude a doctoral study agreement within the deadlines specified in the Annex to these Rules, the invitation to study at the University is no longer valid, and other persons are invited to fill the vacant positions according to the competitive queue, or the vacant positions are transferred to the additional admission.
36. Persons who concluded a doctoral study agreement with the University and are admitted to study by order of the Rector are considered to be admitted to doctoral studies.
37. In all cases not provided for in the Rules, decisions are made by the doctoral committee of the relevant field of study.
38. The annual cost of doctoral studies is approved by a resolution of the University Senate and published on the University website: <https://www.vu.lt/en/admissions/doctoral-studies>.

Deadlines for main admission procedures to doctoral studies:

No.	Doctoral Admission Procedure	Deadlines
1.	Submission of applications and admission documents for applicant who have obtained a master's degree from a Lithuanian higher education institution	March 3, 2026 – June 25, 2026 (until 12:00 p.m.)
	Submission of applications and admission documents for applicants who have obtained a master's degree from a foreign higher education institution and who do not have a document confirming the recognition of their diploma in Lithuania	March 3, 2026 – May 18, 2026 (until 12:00 p.m.)
2.	Motivational interviews with the admissions committees*	June 26 – July 2, 2026
3.	Information about the preliminary results (in the ISAS)	July 3, 2026 (from 2:00 p.m.)
4.	Submission of appeals regarding preliminary admission results	Until July 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
5.	Information about the final results (in the ISAS)	July 9, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
6.	Conclusion of doctoral study agreements by identifying through a bank	July 13 – 16, 2026 (until 2:00 p.m.)
	Direct conclusion of doctoral study agreements (applies to persons unable to identify themselves through a bank) **	July 13 – 17, 2026 (until 3:00 p.m.)

* The location and time of the motivational interviews with the admissions committees are announced on the websites of the core academic unit of the University responsible for conducting doctoral studies in the relevant field of study (i.e., Faculties websites).

** Persons invited to study at the University and who do not have the opportunity to identify themselves through a bank are given opportunity to send the signed doctoral study agreement by email within the deadlines set out in the Rules. The original version of the agreement is submitted, and the original master's diploma is shown to the Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies upon arrival.

Deadlines for additional admission procedures to doctoral studies:

No.	Doctoral Admission Procedure	Deadlines
1.	Submission of applications and admission documents	August 20, 2026 – September 20, 2026 (until 14:00 p.m.)
2.	Motivational interviews with the admissions committees*	September 21–23, 2026
3.	Information about the preliminary results (in the ISAS)	September 24, 2026 (from 14:00 p.m.)
4.	Submission of appeals regarding preliminary admission results	Until September 25, 2026 at 14:00 p.m.
5.	Information about the final results (in the ISAS)	September 28, 2026 (from 14:00 p.m.)
6.	Conclusion of doctoral studies agreements by identifying through a bank	From September 29, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. until September 30, 2026 at 15:00 p.m.
	Direct conclusion of doctoral studies agreements (applies to persons unable to identify themselves through a bank) **	From September 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. until September 30, 2026 at 16:00 p.m.

* The location and time of the motivational interviews with the admissions committees are announced on the websites of the core academic unit of the University responsible for conducting doctoral studies in the relevant field of study (i.e., Faculties websites).

** Persons invited to study at the University and who do not have the opportunity to identify themselves through a bank are given opportunity to send the signed doctoral study agreement by email within the deadlines set out in the Rules. The original version of the agreement is submitted, and the original master's diploma is shown to the Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies upon arrival.