

APPROVED BY  
PhD Committee in Philosophy of  
Vytautas Magnus University  
with the Lithuanian Cultural Research Institute,  
European Humanities University  
Decision No 3 of the meeting of 15 May 2026, appendix No 2

## CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURE OF OPEN COMPETITION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF PHILOSOPHY IN 2026

### 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of the field of science	Field of science
H 001	Philosophy

<b>1.1.</b>	Candidates shall be admitted to doctoral studies in the field of philosophy by open competition separately to doctoral studies of each partner institution which has acquired the right to doctoral studies according to the selected topic. The candidate can claim no more than two different topics.
<b>1.2.</b>	The competition is organised by the Doctoral School of the administrating Vytautas Magnus University, and the competition is conducted by the PhD Committee in Philosophy (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) in accordance with the procedure laid down in these terms of admission.

### 2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1. Master’s degree or higher education equivalent to it.
- 2.2. Scientific experience, participation in scientific activities.
- 2.3. Knowledge of foreign languages.

### 3. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Application to the rector
Master’s degree or equivalent diploma and supplement/appendum
Recommendations of two scholars of philosophy (current year)
Curriculum vitae (signed)
List of scientific publications (with a full bibliographic description) and copies thereof (presented together with copies of the cover and contents of a journal); if the article is not yet published, a certificate issued by the editorial board of the scientific journal about the published article (following the review procedure) and its manuscript shall be provided
Electronic copy of the scientific research project in .doc or .docx format; if the request covers two topics, 2 research projects must be submitted
Copy of the passport’s personal data page or a copy of the identity card
Documents evidencing the change of name if not all the documents submitted are under the same name
Other documents the candidate wishes to provide

<b>4. SELECTION CRITERIA</b>	
<b>4.1.</b>	<b>Scientific publications (SP).</b> Applicant's publications are evaluated with points. Points for scientific publications are awarded according to the attached table and converted into a ten-point grading system (Annex 1).
<b>4.2.</b>	<b>Research Project (RP).</b> The project shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements laid down by the Committee (Annex 2). The project is evaluated by two reviewers appointed by the Committee. The final score is the average of the evaluations of both reviewers in ten-point grading system.
<b>4.3.</b>	<b>Grade point average (GPA).</b> Arithmetic average of the grades of study courses and thesis in supplement/appendum to Master's diploma or other diploma confirming the awarding of corresponding qualification.
<b>4.4.</b>	<b>Motivational interview (MI).</b> During the interview, candidates' readiness and motivation to study in doctoral studies in an appropriate scientific field, compliance of scientific publications, scientific activities and scientific experience with the selected topics, scientists' recommendations, knowledge of foreign languages, etc. shall be evaluated. The final grade <sup>1</sup> of the motivational interview is generated by the average of Committee member marks in a ten-point grading system. The candidates to doctoral studies must collect no less than 7 points from the motivational interview.

#### **5. COMPOSITION OF THE COMPETITIVE SCORE**

<b>5.1.</b>	The competitive score (CS) shall be calculated according to the above mentioned selection criteria and according to the formula: $CS = 0.2SP + 0.3RP + 0.2GPA + 0.3MI$ where:
	SP – the scoring of scientific publications in the ten-point grading system, RP – final score of the research project, GPA – general average of the supplement/appendum to the master's diploma or to the corresponding qualification diploma, MI – the final score of the motivational interview.
<b>5.2.</b>	Having collected an equal number of points, a higher place in the competitive queue is occupied by the candidate whose research project evaluation is higher.

#### **6. ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

<b>6.1.</b>	Candidates are required to submit an application form to take part in the open competition addressed to the Rector of the doctorate institution to which they are applying. This application can be submitted to the Doctoral School of each doctorate institution having the right to organize such studies. The application shall be accompanied by other documents referred to in Section 3. Only those who submit all required documents in a timely manner can take part in the competition.
<b>6.2.</b>	All candidates shall be required to attend a motivational interview with members of the Committee.
<b>6.3.</b>	In accordance with the selection criteria, the Committee shall draw up individual priority queues for doctoral topics of partner institutions according to the highest competitive score.
<b>6.4.</b>	Within three days of calculating the results of the competition, the candidate may appeal to the Committee; within three days of receiving the Committee's negative reply, they may appeal to the Rector of the candidate's university.
<b>6.5.</b>	After the final list of invited candidates is announced, candidates who were not accepted into state-funded study places, but who meet the requirements for doctoral studies, may

<sup>1</sup> The points shall be rounded to the nearest hundredth of the number.

	choose paid doctoral study places and study paying a tuition fee set by a doctoral institution.
<b>6.6.</b>	The candidates who have been invited to doctoral studies shall sign a bilateral agreement of the established form on the basis whereof an order of the rector on admission to doctoral studies is drafted.
<b>6.7.</b>	If there are vacancies available after admission, an additional admission phase may be organised, which shall take place in accordance with the same procedure.

*Admission to doctoral studies:*

<b>Admission procedures</b>	<b>Dates and deadlines</b>
Submission of documents for the recognition of qualifications obtained outside of Lithuania (for applicants who have obtained their education at a foreign higher education institution and do not have a document confirming the recognition of their diploma in Lithuania)	2026 06 01– 2026 07 21
Submission of application to participate in the competition	2026 06 01– 2026 08 21
PhD Committee meeting with the candidates (motivational interview)	2026 09 03
Closed meeting of the PhD Committee (calculation of the results of the competition)	2026 09 03
Notification of candidates about the competition results	2026 09 07
Submission of motivated appeals to PhD Committee	2026 09 08 – 2026 09 10 (until 12:00 p.m.)
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2026 09 11 – 2026 09 15 (until 12:00 p.m.)
Publication of the list of persons invited to doctoral studies	2026 09 16
Signing of study agreements with a doctoral institution	2026 09 17 – 2026 09 18
Start of studies	2026 10 01

## **7. PROCEDURE FOR ADMITTING CITIZENS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO DOCTORAL STUDIES**

<b>7.1.</b>	Citizens of foreign countries who have obtained a master's degree or equivalent qualification outside the Republic of Lithuania must submit all the documents referred to in Section 3 and in addition the following documents:
	<b>7.1.1.</b> A notarised translation into Lithuanian or English of the education document and its supplement/appendum.
	<b>7.1.2.</b> A copy of the certificate for the recognition of higher education qualifications obtained abroad. A certificate of recognition of qualifications acquired abroad may be issued by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education and higher education institution upon submission of the required documents.
	<b>7.1.3.</b> An application for admission to doctoral studies shall be completed in English. Curriculum vitae, a list of scientific works and copies thereof, a research project may be presented in English.
<b>7.2.</b>	The persons participating in the competition shall take care of the travel and all the documents necessary for the travel: passport, temporary permit, insurance, etc., themselves
<b>7.3.</b>	Aliens who have entered doctoral studies must, in accordance with the procedure laid down by legal acts, obtain a temporary residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania or a national permit of a Member State of the European Communities to reside in the Republic of Lithuania or hold a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania respectively.

## 8. COST OF NON-FUNDED DOCTORAL STUDIES

Form of studies	Annual tuition fee*, EUR		
	VMU	LKTI	EHU
Full-time studies	12 680	-	12 680
Part-time studies	8 453	-	8 453

A tuition fee must be paid within 15 calendar days from the entry into force of the study agreement.

\* The standard tuition fee approved by order No. V-48 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 22 January 2026. It may be reduced by the decision of the institution of doctoral studies.

## 9. CONTACTS

<b>Vytautas Magnus University</b>	Universiteto g. 8A-203, Akademija, Kaunas district. Contact person: Rasa Andrišiūnaitė, tel. +370 37 209 815, + 370 619 21615, e-mail: <a href="mailto:doktorantura@vdu.lt">doktorantura@vdu.lt</a> Documents shall be submitted to: <a href="https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt">https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt</a>
<b>Lithuanian Culture Research Institute</b>	Saltoniškių 58-215, Vilnius. Contact person: Sandra Kuliešienė, Tel. 8 687 76 622, e-mail: <a href="mailto:lkti@lkti.lt">lkti@lkti.lt</a> Documents shall be submitted to: <a href="https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt">https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt</a>
<b>European Humanities University</b>	Savičiaus g. 17, Vilnius. Contact person: Oleg Vinichenko, tel.: + 375 29 7095275, e-mail: <a href="mailto:oleg.vinichenko@ehu.lt">oleg.vinichenko@ehu.lt</a> Time of receipt of documents: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

## EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Type of scientific work	Measuring units	Points
Scientific articles refereed in <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science</i> and/or <i>Scopus Databases</i>	Contribution of the author*	4
Scientific articles in scientific publications refereed in other international databases	Contribution of the author	3
Scientific articles in other peer-reviewed scientific publications	Contribution of the author	2
Scientific articles in peer-reviewed cultural, artistic and professional publications; conference proceedings	Contribution of the author	1
Other**	Contribution of the author	0-4

\* Contribution of the author (CA) is calculated according to the formula  $CA=1/N_A$ , where  $N_A$  is the number of authors of the article. E.g.: if the number of authors of the article is 4, the author's contribution will be equal to 0.25, i.e.  $CA=1/4=0,25$ .

\*\*The Committee shall also have the right to evaluate other scientific results of the candidate not included in this table and to allocate additional points from 0 to 4.

**Peer-reviewed scientific publications:** peer-reviewed periodical, peer-reviewed continuous or peer-reviewed one-time publications with an editorial board of scientists and ISSN or ISBN number.

**Scientific article** is an article published in scientific publications, written in compliance with requirements for a scientific article in a particular science field (footnotes, bibliography, formulas, drawings, description of methodology, statistic tables, and etc.), and corresponding to the scientific criteria, recognised in that field of science; the minimum scope valid is 0.25 of the quire. The decision to accept shorter than 0.25 (1 quire = 14 pages) of the quire scientific publications is made by the Committee.

**The total sum of points is translated into a ten-point grading system as follows:**

- The sum of the points of the candidate who has received the highest sum of points (Tmax) shall be equal to 10 points.
- Tmax divided by 10 produces a constant -k ( $k = Tmax/10$ ).
- By dividing the sum of the points collected by the other candidates by constant k, the number of points of the candidate for scientific publications is obtained (points are rounded to the nearest hundredth part of the number).

## **RECOMMENDATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT**

1. A scientific research project of a Ph.D. applicant (hereafter a Project) is an independent scientific work, which aims to reveal the author's scientific abilities, creativity, methodological preparation, motivation, theoretical preparation, practical experience, and particular scientific experience in the chosen topic.
2. The scientific Project shall describe the scientific problem to be examined; evaluate its relevance and perform the analysis of previous research on the topic; define the aim and objectives of the work; identify possible directions and research methods.
3. The Project shall consist of the following sections:
  - **INTRODUCTION.** This section deals with the relevance of the topic, its novelty, the necessity for further exploration, formulates the research problem, the object, purpose and objectives of the planned dissertation, sets hypotheses and/or defensive theses.
  - **LITERATURE REVIEW.** This section covers the exploration of the topic in Lithuania and in the world, how the dissertation thesis can contribute to the accomplished research.
  - **METHODOLOGY.** This section aims at discussing possible methods and process of the research and explaining how the data will be analysed, how reliability will be determined.
  - **BIBLIOGRAPHY.** In this section, reference sources and literature are provided, that were used when preparing the Project.
4. The scope of the Project is 8 000–12 000 characters (with spaces), i.e. approximately 4-5 pages.
5. The text should be printed in 1.5 spacing between lines, 12 pt., Times New Roman. Margins of the page are as follows: left – 3cm, right – 1.5, top and bottom – 2 cm.

## **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT**

1. The object of the research, scientific problem, purposes and objectives are formulated precisely and clearly.
2. The relevance of the chosen topic is determined in the context of scientific research and development.
3. The applicant can substantiate the prospective research theoretically, is familiar with the accomplished research on the chosen topic, can show links between different works, compare and generalise critically, formulate conclusions.
4. The chosen material for the research corresponds to the object of the research, is authentic and sufficient.
5. The chosen research methodology complies with the purposes and objectives of the research.
6. The project is written in correct Lithuanian language and meets the methodological requirements set for scientific research (it is a conscientious piece of work, new and original ideas are presented, thoughts are logical and coherent, references and bibliography are consistent, the style of the scientific language is accurate).