

LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

VETERINARY ACADEMY



BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

STUDY FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

PROGRAMME OF FIRST CIRCLE STUDIES

ANIMAL SCIENCES

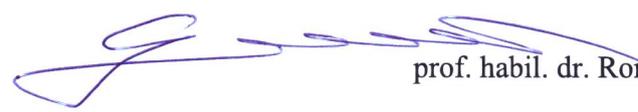
THE SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

2017

Rector of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences


prof. Remigijus Žaliūnas

Head of the self-evaluation group


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Kaunas
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KEY INFORMATION ON STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	Animal Sciences
National code	612D91001
Higher education type	University
Circle (type) of study	First circle studies
Mode of study and duration in years	Full-time 3.5 years, Continuous study 5 years
Scope of the programme in credits	210
Qualification awarded	Bachelor of Animal Science
The Registration date of study programme	16-05-2013

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The start of the programme provision	2013
The language of instruction	Lithuanian

Table 1. Self-evaluation group

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ABBREVIATIONS

ac. yr	–academic year
ARM	–Animal Resources Management
AS	–Animal Sciences
CAM	– complementary and alternative medicine
CQAHE	– Centre for quality assessment in higher education
FAHT	– Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology
FPH	– Faculty of Public Health
FV	– Faculty of Veterinary
h	–hour
LIC	–Library information center
LR	–Lithuania Republic
LSMUSIS	–study information system
LUHS	– Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
MA	–Medicine Academy
SPC	–study program committee
SSS	–students scientific society
VA	–Veterinary Academy
yr	–year

INTRODUCTION

1. Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (hereinafter referred to as LUHS) is a state university – the subject of legal rights - acting as a public institution, which is established on the 30 of June in 2010 by the resolution of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, according to which Kaunas University of Medicine and Lithuanian Veterinary Academy were merged. LUHS is the largest university of biomedicine sciences that continues the best traditions of both schools.

2. The University has two collegial management bodies – the Council and the Senate and a sole management body – the Rector, who is elected by the Council. Chancellors and Vice-Rectors provide help for Rector. Medical Academy and Veterinary Academy are the main units of the University, which also includes Faculties, Research Institutes, University Hospital, Veterinary Clinics, Centre of Practical Training and Experiments, Theoretical and Clinical Departments, Faculty Institutes, Research Laboratories; other structural and functional units, which provide the needs for studies, research, health care and social and cultural life.

3. The University offers more than 40 study programmes. More than 7800 students including 761 foreign students are studying from 55 countries.

4. Teaching staff of LUHS consists of 168 professors, 243 associate professors, 327 lecturers and 448 assistant professors (by December 31, 2016). This entire staff provides qualitative studies of the first, second and third circle in biomedical sciences. At LUHS study quality assessment is consistently conducted, monitoring of study process implementation is carried out by study quality assessment commission.

5. Veterinary Academy has two faculties: the Faculty of Veterinary and the Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology. The most important VA divisions participating in the study programme and research are: 4 departments, 2 institute, 2 open access centres, 11 research laboratories, Large Animals clinic, Dr. L. Kriaučeliūnas Small Animal clinic, 3 Training centres (Practical Training and Experiments, Veterinary Continuous Education and Consulting, J. Tacas for Milking Training). MA divisions participating in the study programme and research are: Faculty of Public Health and Faculty of Nursing.

6. The Programme of Management of Animal Resources is carried out in the Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology. Currently the faculty comprises of Institute of Animal Rearing Technologies and Institute of Biological Systems and Genetic Research and department of Animal Breeding and Nutrition.

7. Self-evaluation of the Programme was carried out by a group established by the Dean's of FAHT Order No V9F1-58, 17-10-2016 (Table 1). The group consists of 10 members (8 the university teachers, a master study student, and a representative of employers). The personal input volume of each member of self-evaluation's group depended on member's competence. The self-evaluation report on the Bachelor study programme Animal Sciences covers the period from 30-09-2013 to 30-01-2017 year. The self-evaluation was performed following the time-table (Table 2). The final version of self-evaluation was approved by all members of the group and by the Board of Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology.

Table 2. Work Schedule of the group of self-evaluation

No	Activities	Date
1.	Setup and approval of the group of self-evaluation	17-10-2016
2.	Discussion of self-evaluation course and distribution of activities	26-10-2016
3.	Data collection and analysis	26-10-2016 – 30-11-2016
4.	Discussion of initial self-evaluation results, discussion of programmes advantages and disadvantages, and means to ensure the quality of the programme	07-12-2016
5.	Discussion of self-evaluation summary project	27-12-2016
6.	Self-evaluation summary presentment for faculty community and social partners	17-01-2017
7.	Final presentment of self-evaluation summary	30-01-2017

8. Evaluation of the programme was carried out according to the methodology of programme self-evaluation of Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education and following legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania:

- Republic of Lithuania. Law on higher education and research. 20-Apr-2009, No XI-242 (Official Gazette, 2009, No 54-2140)
- Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania “On the approval of the description of general requirements for degree awarding first cycle and integrated study Programmes of 9 April, 2010 No V-501, Vilnius.
- Director of Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. Order No 1-01-162 „Methodology of self-evaluation of study programmes” (Official Gazette, 2010, No 156-7954; relevant edition since 01-09-2016).
- Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. Order No ISAK-1652 „Regarding the approval of Description of external evaluation of study programmes and accreditation” (Official Gazette, 2009, No 96-4083, No 134-5862 and No 152-6860).

ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME

THE PROGRAMME AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The first cycle of Animal Science study programme (further Programme) comprises stewardship of animal human interaction¹ and welfare management. The Programme is oriented to purposeful, planned, not accidental breeding, and guarantee of nutrition, keeping, handling and welfare for animals kept to meet esthetical and communicative demands; for animals kept in recreating activity, to enhance human health and welfare and in other activities (excluding producing of animal origin products).

The main goal of Animal science study Programme – is to train highly qualified, socially responsible specialists of animal science, having fundamental knowledge in the areas of agriculture and veterinary studies and capable to choose animal breeding methods, technologies for animal keeping and nutrition, to assess animal behaviour, to ensure animal welfare and healthiness, to use animals effectively as resources for recreation² and health improvement of humans and to be able to solve problems of other specialised professional activity, to develop competitive business.

The goal of the Programme is compatible with LUHS mission defined in the University Statute: ”To train and educate creative, honest, initiative, educated, independent, enterprising personality” and to strategic activity plan (2015-2017)³. The Programme contributes to the implementation of strategic activity objective in the area of studies, defined by strategic activity plan of the University – to lead studies of high quality, providing university higher education and qualification that is based on research, reflecting the ultimate in knowledge and technology level, to educate comprehensively educated, morally responsible, creative and enterprising personality. The studies are based on the research performed by researchers of the University and Faculty. To reach the main goal of the Programme three partial study objectives (revealing the anticipated study results) are raised:

First partial objective – to develop world outlook, to train personality with critical and creative thinking, having defined system of values.

Second partial objective – to provide fundamental and special knowledge in agriculture and veterinary area and in related study areas and to develop capabilities required for the professional activity

Third partial objective – to deepen special knowledge and abilities in a specialisation of animal science: cynology, equine farming or aquaculture

¹ In this programme animal human interaction is defined as mutually useful and dynamic human animal ratio, comprising behaviour required for health and welfare of both subjects

² In this programme recreation is comprehended not only as regaining strength, restoring of physical condition, but positive emotional cultural and psychoemotional condition as well

³ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/8100/lsmu2015-2017mstrateginisveiklosplanas.pdf>

The correlations between partial objectives, intended outcomes and subjects of the study Programme are presented in the Annex 1.

Exclusiveness of the Programme. The authenticity and exclusiveness of the programme for animal science study is predetermined by the fact that LUHS is the only university training animal science specialists for agriculture and veterinary field. The study programme is unique having three specializations: cytology, equine breeding, aquaculture. The programme is created to provide knowledge and develop skills regarding animals kept for esthetical and communicative purposes, their usage for recreation, business and other needs.

The objectives of the programme are compatible with the requirements for the Bachelor first cycle university studies (Annex 1). The first partial objective presupposes outcomes of the study programme for developing general erudition of students. The second partial objective presupposes study outcomes required to acquire basic and special knowledge in agriculture and veterinary field and related to the knowledge of other study areas and develop skills for the application of the obtained knowledge. The third objective presupposes more profound knowledge in specialisation and capabilities in the areas of cynology, equine farming and aquaculture.

The comprehensiveness, accessibility of the study programme and its correlation with the outcomes of study subjects. The study outcomes are detailed on the basis of partial study objectives and reached through study subjects. The complexity level of the Programme study outcomes corresponds to the VI level of study outcomes described in European qualification framework. The outcomes of the Programme evidence the graduates to be prepared 1) to independently and professionally solve problems in animal science; 2) to acquire updated specialised knowledge required to perform applied research or continuing studies in the programmes of the second cycle.

The outcomes of the study programme are detailed through study subjects. The coherence of programme study outcomes and outcomes of study subjects is presented in the subject descriptors (Annex 1). Programme objectives and anticipated study outcomes distinctly and thoroughly describe graduate's preparation for the second cycle studies and professional activity. The study programme outcomes complement one another, do not double and form completeness of the acquired knowledge.

Programme objectives, intended study outcomes and summary of description are presented on the internet website⁴⁵, in the open system for information consultation orientation (AIKOS)⁶, on the website for general admission organised by association of Lithuanian higher education schools⁷. Information regarding study programme is given on the publications released every year (the university newspaper "Ave Vita", booklets, leaflets etc.). Useful information is available in the descriptions of the subjects and modules on LSMUSIS website⁸.

The study information is distributed during open days events, career events, study fairs ("A fair of higher education schools"), shows (exhibition "Studies" in the Lithuanian centre of exhibitions and congresses LITEXPO), during visits to schools and also on social networking website Facebook⁹.

Additional information about studies is given in the dean's office at the period of individual consultations in case a prospective student needs it.

The university has old and developed traditions of collaboration with academic, social and business partners. One social partner is consistently participating in the activity of the Committee. The Committee has tight collaboration with social partners.

To improve the study programme open table discussion "The demand of knowledge and capabilities in the work of animal science" was organised in 2015. Partners from business enterprises Lithuanian Cynology Society, Lithuanian organisations for protection of animal rights VšĮ, Magnum Veterinary UAB, Shilavotas subdivision of inside waters and aqua department of fishery service under Agricultural Ministry of

⁴ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/lsmu-studiju-programos/bakalauro-studijos/>

⁵ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/8532/studijprogramosgyvnmokslasapraas.pdf>

⁶ https://www.aikos.smm.lt/studijuoti/_layouts/15/Asw.Aikos.RegisterSearch/ObjectFormResult.aspx?o=LO&f=MokGal&key=5688_2016&pt=of&ctx_sr=8Gzz1EUgIeKfy0cWNVrrVdABKo0%3d

⁷ <http://www.lamabpo.lt/>

⁸ <https://lsmusis.lsmuni.lt>

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/zootechnologijos.lsmu/about>

Lithuanian Republic, Lithuanian Equine farming and others participated in it. It is reasonable to further involve new partners to the process, who would be interested in and would contribute to the Programme improvement, updating of study process on the basis of their professional, managerial and other experience. Representatives of business and academic partners are invited to deliver relevant lectures to students on cynology, animal nutrition, animal training and other issues.

Considering the newest scientific achievements, changes in labour market and juridical documents, the programme is revised annually. The revision of intended learning outcomes, list of subjects, subject descriptions, detailed content and plan is organised by the Committee for study programmes of Animal science bachelor and Management of animal resources master studies.

During the annual event “Career days” (arranged at the university) employers disclose their expectations and requests which are taken under consideration updating descriptions of study subjects and intended outcomes of the programme. Alumni club is active at the university, thus contributes to relationship with graduates and social partners. Together with social partners integrated science study and business valley “Nemunas”, which forms favourable conditions for collaboration and feedback, is established and being activated.

In the period of 2015-2016 objectives, intended outcomes and content corrections of the Programme were performed making the Programme pursuant to the academic requirements. The Animal Science study Programme had 4 specialisations: cynology equine farming, aquaculture and manufacturing of animal products. From the academic year of 2017-2018 the programme is intended to be performed excluding specialisation of manufacturing of animal products; hence the objectives of the Programme have been corrected. Part of the corrections was made regarding students’ proposals to include new subjects to the Programme or to eliminate subjects from the Programme.

The Programme is new, thus the graduates or employers’ comments and employment results are not available. Improving the study programme, similar (foreign) animal science programmes are compared seeking to learn from the best experience

The compatibility of study Programme objectives and intended outcomes with the study type, cycle, and qualifications level. To ensure implementation quality of the Programme and its consistent improvement, juridical provisions and other documents regulating academic and professional requirements or recommendations for specialists qualifications are being analysed. The intended content and logics of the study outcomes are pursuant to:

- The VI level of Lithuanian qualification framework or the 1st level of European qualifications framework for higher education¹⁰;
- Provisions of Science and studies law of Lithuanian Republic¹¹;
- Descriptor of general requirements for the first cycle and continuous study programmes conferring a degree¹²;
- Provisions of study cycles descriptor¹³;
- Objectives foreseen in Bologna declaration (to implement systems for higher education based on two cycles studies, to implement system of credits, encourage mobility and other);
- Goals foreseen in Bologna process 2020 – The European Higher Education Area in the new decade¹⁴ (to improve quality and availability of higher education, graduators’ employment opportunities, mobility and internationality of students and teachers, to aim at the updating of study content and methods);

¹⁰ European Qualifications Framework (EQF), 2008 http://ec.europa.eu/education/pub/pdf/general/eqf/broch_lt.pdf

¹¹ The law of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 April, 2010 Nr X-242, Vilnius (http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=343430&p_query=&p_tr2=)

¹² Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania “On the approval of the description of general requirements for degree awarding first cycle and integrated study Programmes of 9 April, 2010 No V-501, Vilnius (http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=369937&p_query=&p_tr2=).

¹³ Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania “On the approval of the description of study cycles, 21 Nov, 2011, No V-2212, Vilnius

¹⁴ The Bologna Process 2020 - The European Higher Education Area in the new decade (http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/conference/documents/leuven_louvain-la-neuve_communicu%C3%A9_april_2009.pdf)

- Knowledge and its application, capabilities, skills and other study achievements defined on the basis of Bloom's taxonomy and Dublin descriptors;
- Tuning project attempt – to correlate learning objectives, competences and ECTS credits based upon learning load, principles of learning, teaching and evaluation¹⁵;
- Objectives and strategic plans of LUHS;

Compatibility of the Programme title, intended study outcomes, content and conferred qualification.

Following the order of Lithuanian Ministry of education and science “On approval of the list of branches within study fields” No. V-222, of 19 February 2010, animal science study programme is assigned to the Animal science branch (D910) of agricultural and veterinary (D900) sciences field. The compatibility of objectives, intended study outcomes and awarded qualifications of Animal Science Programmes manifests itself through aims of study subjects, content and outcomes (Annex 1). After graduating the Programme, graduates are awarded bachelor degree. It shows that the name, intended learning outcomes, content of the Programme and awarded qualifications are compatible.

The analysis results of labour market and other investigation founding relevancy of intended learning results. The need, objectives and content of Animal Science study programme are correlating with:

- Increasing society's interest in animal assisted rehabilitation services, in which animals (dogs, horses, dolphins and others) are used. More frequently animals are involved in the process of social care¹⁶.

- In Lithuania services of animal assisted therapy are provided by dolphin therapy centre of Lithuanian sea museum, sport centre of healthcare, hippotherapy and sport in the centre of Shiauliai university, cynology science and education centre at LUHS, association of canistherapy. Examples: In Lithuanian dolphinarium therapy services were provided for 400 children in the period of 8 years, great need for the service is consistent¹⁷. According to the data of training centre at Lithuanian cynology society, over 3 thousand of canistherapy services were provided in 2013. For implementation of the quality guarantee in the services, process specialists having knowledge in animals (dogs in particular) psychology, behaviour, target groups of clients, capable to select animals for animal assisted therapy are required. The specialists are to be qualified to train and test animals for a certain therapeutic activity, to evaluate animals aptitude for therapy, to guarantee conditions for animals' welfare and to be capable to communicate and work in interdisciplinary team with specialists of other areas (social workers, ergotherapeutists, physiotherapists and others).

Safeguarding of society. Customs and other people's safety institutions require specialists capable to apply innovative methods for animal selection, to plan acquiring and breeding of animals, to test service dogs and determine their working level, to prepare programmes for service animals training regarding the animals species and services to be performed, to organise and coordinate cynology activity. According to the data of The State Border Guard Service under the Ministry of the Interior over 160 dogs were used to guard the border in 2016. The report of Police department under the Lithuanian Interior ministry states that in 2014 yr, 74 police cynology specialists worked there and 82 dogs were used for police needs. Service dogs were used 2 161 times (in 2013 yr – 1 969 times): for detection of narcotics, psychotropic substances and explosives, for investigation of odorologic objects, to detect missing or suspected persons, in preventive and representation and other events. Cynology is a part of Military police activity to guarantee prevention of crimes and law violation on military territories. Apart these functions, movement of military forces is guaranteed, support for safety is provided (e.g. guarding of people and objects), explosives detection and other functions are performed

- *The policy to ensure protection of animals health and welfare in EU and Lithuania.* Considering the priorities of World organisations for protection of animals, efforts are made to further protect health and welfare of animals, thus maintaining economic, social welfare of society, which is grounded upon the initiative “Protected animals, saved future”. Therefore, animal science specialists require knowledge and capabilities enabling them to guarantee animal welfare and protection, to define activity which is considered as cruelty towards animals, to organise provisional fostering for homeless and abandoned animals, to define

¹⁵ TuninStudg projektas (http://www.unideusto.org/tuningeu/images/stories/documents/Lithuanian_version.pdf).

¹⁶ http://vddb.library.lt/fedora/get/LT-eLABa-0001:J.04~2011~ISSN_2029-0470.N_7_1.PG_175-192/DS.002.0.01.ARTIC

¹⁷ sm-hs.eu/index.php/smhs/article/download/sm-hs.2014.066/1016

measures for decreasing their population, to perform educational activity of the society in the area of animal welfare and protection.

- *Worldwide development of recreational and tourism sector, variation of people's leisure activities.* Animals are used for relaxation and entertainment, for sport and leisure activities. Recently equine sport as recreational activity and attractive tourist area has gained increasing interest. According to the data in report for Lithuanian hippodrome development study (2009 yr) there are approximately 75 judicial persons engaged in equine farming: Lithuanian state equine farms (2), horse breeding farms (54), equine sport clubs, centres, schools (19)¹⁸. Riding as recreation can be developed in business of village tourism and offered as an additional service in agricultural recreation adjacent to mini zoos, hunting and fishing. Nearly 60 per cent of rural tourism settlements are specializing to provide equine riding recreational services¹⁹. The number of specialists having knowledge of animal business, capable to identify new market opportunities, to react to market changes, to determine market changes, to define consumers demands and be prepared to satisfy them, to analyse and systemise information and needs.

- Development of private breeding grounds, the owners of which lack knowledge in animals and resources of their usage.

Areas of professional activity for which specialists are being trained pursuant to the programme under analysis and their correlation with objectives and intended study outcomes of the programme. The name of the Programme defines distinctly the areas of professional activity, for which specialists are trained – animal science. The intended outcomes of the programme – knowledge and capabilities required at: the enterprises for selling animals' goods and services, at the enterprises producing and trading feeds, business institutions providing recreational services (rural tourism settlements), institutions for public security (in the cynology centres of state border guard, customs, police, national defence, institutions of liberty deprivation), in a variety of non-governmental organisations, centres for health recreational services (kanitherapy, hippotherapy), in animal shelters, organisations providing temporary rehabilitation for animals, also to establish and develop business.

The rank of the Programme among other programmes of the same study area at the university. The Animal Science Bachelor Study Programme, offered at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences is the only programme of animal science field in Lithuania.

In conclusion – the study programme is unique, conforms to the mission of the university, modern trends in science. The objectives and intended outcomes of the programme are defined, declared publicly, correspond to study kind, cycle I and qualification level VI. Since the first graduates will appear only in the year of 2017, detailed description and evaluation of objectives, outcomes are not possible. To pursue the expectations of social partners, further periodic monitoring of the study programme and updating of study outcomes is going to be performed. To react expeditiously correcting study outcomes, consistent monitoring of study programmes and tendencies, research, labour market in relation to the Programme themes are required.

¹⁸ <https://ukmin.lrv.lt/uploads/ukmin/documents/files/imported/lt/strategija/doc08/Hipodromu-pletra-080123.pdf>

¹⁹ Brown, D. M., Reeder, R. J. (2007). Farm-Based Recreation: A Statistical Profile. Economic Research Report, Nr. 56445.

Composing the programme structure for Animal Science full-time and continuous bachelor studies, “The description of general requirements for degree awarding first cycle and integrated study Programme” was taken into account²⁰ (09, April 2010, NoV-501, (amendments 15 July 2010, Nr. V-1190; 14, Jan. 2011, No V-108; 08, Feb.2012, No V-232; 24 Nov. 2014, No V-1102)) (Table 3).

Table 3. The compliance of the programme to the requirements of legal acts²⁰

Analysis area	Requirements for university first cycle study programmes	In programme
Scope of the programme	Not less than 210 and not more than 240 ECTS credits	210
Study area subjects	Not less than 165 ECTS credits	In each full-time and continuous studies 177 ECTS credits (including nt 23 ECTS credits)
General university subjects	Not less than 15 ECTS credits	In each full-time and continuous studies 15 ECTS credits
Electives	Not less than 60 ECTS credits	In each of the both programmes 18 ECTS credits
Total scope of practice	Not less than 15 ECTS credits	In each of the both programmes 15 ECTS credits
Preparation and defence of final work	Not less than 12 ECTS credits	In each of the both programmes 15 ECTS credits

The study plan was renewed in 2014 (SPC meeting 2014-09-12 No 1 (FAHT Council meeting 2014-10-21 No 27 (76) and SPC meeting 2016-01-07 Nr. 13 (FAHT Council meeting 2016-01-12 No 6(89)). Several study subjects/modules were merged; content of a few subjects/modules was corrected and new subjects/modules were created not exceeding the limit of 20% subject/module alteration in the main study field, declared by programme description.

The subject themes foreseen in study programme are thoroughly presented, aims of study subjects, content annotation, outcomes, content, volume of academic hours for students, types of learning activity (lectures, practicals, seminars, independent work, etc.), literature to be used and recommended, knowledge evaluation (accumulative score formula) are given in subject’ descriptions (Annex 2).

The study methods that are used in full-time and continuous studies of Animal Science are: conventional lecture, written work, analysis of mistakes, demonstration, practical classes, individual and team work, presentations, case analysis, problems solution, consultations. The study methodics provides adequate conditions to achieve study goals.

The AS study programme duration – 3.5 years (full-time study type) and 5 years (continuous study type).

Full-time study programme comprises 7 semesters, whereas continuous – 10 semesters. Semester scope of full-time study is 30 credits (study year – 60 credits), continuous – 21 credit (study year volume – 42 credits). General university subjects comprise 7.1%, study field subjects 84.3% (including 13% chosen specialisation), free choice subject – 8.6%. Commencing semester IV, students have to choose one of the specialisations: manufacturing of animal production, cynology, equine farming and aquaculture. In compliance to LUHS study regulation (approved by Senate 20 June, 2014, the act No 47-05, amendment 23 Sept. 2016, the act Nr 78-08²¹), the ratio between subject/module credits contact and independent work hours regarding intended learning outcomes of the subject/module. The period of contact time comprises at least 20% of the whole study Programme volume; lectures – do not exceed 30% of contact hours. At least 30% of the whole Programme study volume is assigned for independent work.

²⁰ Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania “On the approval of the description of general requirements for degree awarding first cycle and integrated study Programmes of 9 April, 2010 No V-501, Vilnius(http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=369937&p_query=&p_tr2=)

²¹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10413/lsmustudijureglamentas_aktualiredakcija_2016.pdf

During AS full-time study, students learn between 2 and 14 subject/modules per year (2-7 subject/modules per semester, practise including), the scope of which is between 3 and 15 ECTS credits and 2864 contact hours per year (Table 4). For students' independent work, on average 42% of a subjects volume (practise and final work including) is given.

During AS continuous studies, students learn between 3 and 10 subject/modules per year (between 1 and 6 subject/modules per semester, practise including), the volume of which is between 3 and 15 ECTS credits and 956 contact hours per year (Table 5). For students independent work, on average 82% of a subjects volume (practise and final work including) is given. The Programme learning outcomes are compatible with the objective of the AS Programme. During the studies of individual subjects, knowledge and competences forming students' comprehensive capabilities are acquired. The main goal of specialisation is to develop and deepen professional competence, to widen and enhance knowledge based on the studies and to provide specialised knowledge and skills required for qualification of higher education and for further professional activity. The complexity level of the Programme is appropriate to its area, field, kind cycle and duration.

Subjects/modules of Animal Science bachelor full-time studies are arranged considering consistency, sequence, complexity and their relation.

The first year studies are based on university general subjects (Introduction to University studies, Professional language, Philosophy, Mathematics and informatics) and subjects of study field (Animal biology, Basic Genetics, Biochemistry, Cell biology, Morphology and physiology of animals, Agriculture). The second year is composed of study field subjects: Biostatistics, Ecology and environmental protection, Forage sciences, Animal nutrition, Animal breeding and other subjects. In semester IV, the second year students choose specialisation and start to deepen their knowledge in it. In the specialisation "Manufacturing of animal products", students learn: Animal feeding (semester IV), Animal production (semester V), Organic production (semester VI). In the specialisation "Cynology" students study: Dogs nutrition (semester IV), Dogs breeds, their cultivation and use (semester V), Canine disease (semester VI). In the specialisation "Equine farming" students study: Horse feeding and diseases (semester IV), Horse raising and training (semester V), equine reproduction (semester VI). In the specialisation "Aquaculture" students study: Trade and recreation fishery (semester IV), Growing technology of fish, crustaceans and zooplankton (semester V), Fish disease (semester VI). Subjects of the study field for the semester V of the third study year are: Marketing, Animal raising; in the semester VI – Animal therapy in rehabilitation of patients, Applied health psychology, Wellness of animal. According to this sequence of study subjects, students gradually acquire knowledge and skills starting from universally applied subjects in the first study year and graduating with specific knowledge gained in chosen specialisations. The subject content corresponds to the kind and cycle of the study. The study descriptions are accessible on LUHS SIS intranet²². Themes in different subjects are not repeating, but some subjects are closely linked: Cell biology with Basic genetics, Morphology and physiology of animals with Animal biology, Forage sciences with Animal nutrition, Biostatistics with Economics and management, Wellness of animal with Applied ethology and animal welfare, animal, Animal therapy in rehabilitation of patients with Applied health psychology. The subjects consistently complement each other, providing students with systemic understanding and profound professional competences. Sequence of specialisation subjects is composed to gradually deepen students' knowledge in animal feeding, raising, training, reproduction, diseases and production quality of farm animals. The Programme plan and content are constructed appropriately, considering juridical acts (presented in the first passage). The Programme plans are presented in Annex 3.

During the Animal Science bachelor continuous study, the same University general subjects, study field subjects and elective subjects are studied as in full-time study – only the number of hours for independent work is higher in continuous study.

Considering the programme's attractiveness, market demands, seeking for higher achievements in study process, internationality of study and research, cooperation with other universities, – the subdivisions were determined to be reorganised (FAHT Council meeting, No 23 (2)):

- Department of Animal Nutrition and Animal Breeding to reorganise into Department of Animal Breeding and Nutrition;

²² <https://ismusis.ismuni.lt>

- Animal Husbandry Department into – Institute of Animal Rearing Technologies;
- Laboratory of Poultry Compound Feeds and Poultry Farming into – Laboratory of Animal Productivity
- K. Janušauskas Scientific Laboratory of Animal Genetics into – K. Janušauskas Scientific Laboratory of Genetics;
- To establish Aquaculture Laboratory in the Institute of Animal Raising Technologies.

The Animal Science programme (full-time and continuous) students' requests and expectations were taken into account and the name of the subject and content were changed from "Manufacturing of animal production" into "Raising of farm animals II" (SPC meeting, No 1, 12 Sept. 2014; at the FAHT Council, on 21 Oct. 2014, No 27 (76)).

The committee of Animal Science and Animal Resources Management study programmes (meeting of 06 Oct. 2015 No 12 (FAHT Council meeting on 10 Nov. 2015 No 4 (87)), considering the consistency of subjects, moved the subject of Mathematics and informatics (3 ECTS credits) from the second to the first year of study and the subject Forage science (3 ECTS credits) from the first to the second year of study. To improve quality of the study programme and considering students' requests, SPC (07 Jan. 2016 No 13 (FAHT Council meeting of 12 Jan. 2016, No 16 (89)) corrected the content of subjects: two modules, i.e. Raising of farm animals I (15 ECTS credits) and Raising of farm animals II (15 ECTS credits) were removed and a new module Animal raising (10 ECTS credits) was offered. After offering a new module of fewer credits, the rest 20 ECTS were distributed: 5 ECTS credits were added to specialisation (from 18 credits specialisation was changed into 23 ECTS credits). The subject Applied ethology and animal welfare was increased by 3 ECTS credits (from 6 ECTS credits to 9 ECTS credits) and two new subjects were included – Animal therapy in rehabilitation of patients (6 ECTS credits) and Applied health psychology (6 ECTS credits).

Study programme committee, considering students' proposals given at the meetings of Animal Science committee, included more electives (SPC meeting 08 April 2015 No 4 (FAHT Council meeting 09 April 2015 No 31 (80)), elective subjects: Equine breeding technology and Animals and health (SPC meeting 02 June 2015 No 11 (FAHT Council meeting 03 Sept. 2015 No 1(84)), elective subject The World Biodiversity. Students have a possibility to choose free chosen subjects, the main goal of which is to develop social and personal capabilities and competences. The elective subjects are announced in the study plans discussed at the Animal Science committee and FAHT Council and then approved by the Senate. The order for choosing elective subjects is approved by LUHS rector on 21 Jan. 2014, order No V-100²³.

Students knowledge and capabilities are evaluated by an examination after completing every subject of bachelor's study (pursuant to the descriptor of examination order approved by FAHT Council at the meeting of 25 June, 2015 order No 34 (83), presented on LUHS *FirstClass* system²⁴); whereas that of practice – by project defence. In full-time and continuous studies, students' practical skills are constructed and developed during practice, consisting of 10 hours (15 ECTS credits). The goal of practice is to improve professionalism, providing opportunity to apply the acquired theoretical knowledge in practice. During practice it is attempted to develop students' critical thinking, ability to work in team and individually.

Students have a possibility to choose a department/institution responsible for performance of practice: Department of Animal Breeding and Nutrition, Institute of Animal Raising Technologies, Institute of Biologic Systems and Genetic Research. Considering students' proposals, i.e. not to limit Animal Science study programme with fishery, cynology, equine farming, additional assignments providing possibilities to perform practice with other animals, were proposed to be included into a part of practice. Taking under consideration students requests AS and ARM study programmes committee presented a new description of order for performing AS bachelor study practice, approved on 31 Oct. 2016, by rector's order No V-934, pursuant to:

1. The law of Science and Study of Lithuanian Republic²⁵;
2. The order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania²⁶;

²³ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4038/pasirenkamujudalykupasirinkimotvarka.pdf>

²⁴ <https://fcws.lsmuni.lt/>

²⁵ The law of the *Minister of Education and Science* of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 April, 2010 Nr X-242, Vilnius (http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=343430&p_query=&p_tr2=)

3. LUHS study Regulation²⁷;

4. The law on approval, bringing to effect and implementation of Labour Code of Lithuania²⁸.

LUHS Career Centre and Committee of AS and ARM study programmes have contracts with enterprises able to give students opportunities to gain practical skills after choosing a certain specialisation: UAB Lithuanian Equine Farm, Lithuanian Zoo, Canine Training School Charisma, Cynology Group of Kaunas county chief headquarters, AB Equines of Pajiesis. On the initiative of Animal Science Committee members and LUHS International Relations and study Centre contracts were signed with foreign universities owing to which students of the AS study programme have opportunities to go for practical experience (according to Erasmus exchange programme) to foreign universities and enterprises: Kaposvá University – Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (Hungary); SGGW – Warsaw University of Life Sciences – Faculty of Animal Sciences (Poland); University of Agriculture in Krakow (Poland); The University of Szeged, Faculty of Agriculture (Hungary); Elmtree dog training and education centre (England).

The study Programme is completed with preparation of bachelor's final work (regarding the specialisation field) and its defence in open meeting of defence commission. The preparation of final work of Animal Science bachelor full-time study commences in term IV, whereas that of continuous study – in term VI; the final work (full-time study) is submitted in term VII (15 ECTS credits) and that of continuous study – in term X (15 ECTS credits). The regulation for preparation and defence of final work is accessible for students on LUHS FirstClass system, The themes for final work are proposed by teachers of the programme subjects and students themselves. The supervisor is appointed for preparation of the final work; a student may choose the supervisor herself/himself.

The supervisor is assigned for every student preparing the final work. The assignment of a supervisor, work theme, individual plan and reports are approved at the departments/institutions meetings. The bachelor's final work is student's independent, original, analytic, surveying work or research based on independent investigation or scientific, economical or manufacturing testing. The volume of the final work comprises 30-40 pages (annexes excluding) and should not be of just descriptive type. Students prepare and defend the final works pursuant to the regulation of Animal Science bachelor study Programme, approved by FAHT Council meeting on 09 Nov. 2016 protocol No3 (100), in accordance with:

1. The law of Science and Study of Lithuanian Republic²⁹;
2. LUHS study Regulation³⁰;
3. Regulation for evaluation of students' achievements³¹.

Representatives of the programme students participate in the activity of the Faculty Council and Programme Committee. In the Faculty, great attention is paid to improvement of students' examination, quality of final work preparation and practice performing. Representatives of other institutions, social partners are invited to chair the Commission of final work.

Information about the system and process of study, academic mobility, achievements evaluation and all other information regarding study is accessible for students in the Study regulation of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences³². Intranet is used for communication within the University (between teachers and students) and for study material delivering.

The Committee for study Programme monitors the quality and implementation of the programmes (LUHS rector's order "On forming of Study Programme Committee", 02 March 2013, No V-1187, amendment of 12 March, 2014, No V-295).

²⁶ Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, 19 April, 2011, No V-637 Vilnius (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.BDD28E342C31>)

²⁷ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10413/lsmustudijureglamentas_aktualiredakcija_2016.pdf

²⁸ The law of the Republic of Lithuania on approval of Labour Code implementation and accomplishment, 04 June 2002, No IX-926 Vilnius (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.31185A622C9F>)

²⁹ The law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania

30 April 2009 No XI-242, Vilnius

(http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=343430&p_query=&p_tr2=)

³⁰ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10413/lsmustudijureglamentas_aktualiredakcija_2016.pdf

³¹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/1583/studentu_pasiekimu_vertinimo_reglamentas.pdf

³² http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10413/lsmustudijureglamentas_aktualiredakcija_2016.pdf

Strengths:

1. To increase authenticity and distribution of the programme, consistent quality improvement of the programme subjects/modules was performed; the programme was updated incorporating new interrelated subjects/modules. The quality issues of AS study programme are under consistent analysis at the meetings of SPC of AS and ARM study programmes, FAHT Council meetings involving students and social partners.
2. The study subjects/modules and themes are not repeating, are set out coherently and concisely. The Programme content corresponds to the study area, field, cycle, and duration, and the programme structure permits the students to reach and obtain intended study outcomes. New study methods are being implemented and used.
3. Considering expectations of students and social partners, specialisation subjects volumes are changed; they are updated applying the newest achievements in science and practice.

Weaknesses:

1. The use of innovative study methods in the study subjects/modules is scarce.
2. Specialisations *Manufacturing of Animal Production* and *Aquaculture* are not popular, since are chosen by a low number of students.

Ways for solution:

1. To present deeper theoretical and practical knowledge of a specialisation, capabilities and skills, the polemic study method (the aim of which is students' independent learning, organisation of exploratory activity) should be more integrated and applied more frequently.
2. Specialisation *Manufacturing of Animal Production* is not to be executed from the academic year 2017-2018.

Table 4. Plan for Animal Sciences full time study programme 2016-2017

Study programme:Animal science, state code 612D91001																	
Study area: Biomedicine sciences				Education area:agriculture, forestry, fishing								Group of study area: agriculture and veterinary					
I year				II year				III year				IV year					
Study scope per semester																	
I		II		III		IV		V		VI		VII					
h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.		
I. Part of general university education																	
Elective subjects		146	9	93	6												
II. Speciality part of study field																	
Compulsory subjects, specialisations		309	18	348	21	443	27	459	27	298	27	388	27				
Elective subjects		60	3	60	3	60	3	60	3	60	3	60	3				
Practice														10	15		
Final work														10	15		
Total number of contact hours		1016				1022				806				20			
Total number of credits		60				60				60				30			

Table 5. Plan for Animal Sciences continuous study programme 2016-2017

Study programme:Animal science, state code 612D91001																					
Study area: Biomedicine sciences						Education area:agriculture, forestry, fishing										Group of study area: agriculture and veterinary					
I year				II year				III year				IV year				V year					
Study scope per semester																					
I		II		III		IV		V		VI		VII		VIII		IX		X			
h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.	h	cr.		
I Part of general university education																					
Elective subjects		32	6	48	9																
II Speciality part of study field																					
Compulsory subjects, specialisations		46	12	72	18	40	9	90	18	118	21	98	18	120	21	110	18	66	12		
Elective subjects		16	3	16	3	16	3	16	3	16	3	16	3	16	3						
Practice																		10	15		
Final work																		10	15		
Total number of contact hours		182				210				232				246				86			
Total number of credits		42				42				42				42				42			

The academic staff conforms to the requirements of the juridical acts:

the competitions and attestations are executed pursuant to the legislation: LUHS Statute (resolution of LR Parliament on 3 June, 2010 No XI-973, amended LR 28 June, 2012 resolution No XI-2147) Law of science and study, regulation for election of the chief of a department, institute or (by resolution of Senate on 30 June, 2014 No 48-02, amendment 21 Oct. 2016, resolution No 80-9; the order for attestation and recruitment competitions for the positions of teachers and research staff (LUHS Senate 22 May, 2015 resolution No 59-04; amended by the LUHS Senate 23 Jan, 2015 resolution No 54-04); The competitions for teachers positions and attestation are arranged and executed conforming to LUHS Senate resolution of 30 May 2012, No 21-08; European commission recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (2005/251/EC). Teaching staff has to follow Code of Ethics (LUHS Senate, 20 June 2014, resolution No 47-17).

To ensure the recruitment of the best teachers, majority of teachers are admitted (on competition basis) for the period of 5 years. The arrangement of competitions is consistent with the order determined by University legislation; the competitors from Lithuania and abroad are legitimate to the competition if they meet the defined requirements. It stimulates the admitted employees to work effectively and to improve capabilities. Candidates' attestation and selection for positions of teachers and researchers are executed by LUHS, VA commission for attestation and admittance of teachers and staff. The selection and attestation of professors are performed by the commission for university professors and senior research staff recruitment, headed by Rector of the university.

To ensure accomplishment of the programme goals and tasks, the team of highly qualified teachers, undergoing consistent improving is collected. In 2016/2017 academic years 59 teachers are employed in the programme: 15 professors, 23 associate professors, 16 lecturers and 5 assistants. Out of the total number of teachers engaged in the programme, professors comprise 25.4%, associate professors –39%, lecturers – 27.1% assistants –8.5%. Out of 59 teachers engaged in the programme, habilitated doctors comprise 1.7%, professors – 23.7%, teachers holding doctor's degree – 59.3% and teachers without sc. degree -15.3%.

Qualification structure of the teachers engaged in the programme conforms to the minimal requirements for qualification structure of teachers employed in bachelor study programme, determined by the order of Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "On the approval of the description of general requirements for degree awarding first cycle and integrated study Programme" (09 April, 2010, NoV-501, Vilnius).

Integrated team of VA and MA of LUHS teachers are employed in Animal Science full-time and continuous study programme (meeting of SPC study programme committee, 07 Jan. 2016, protocol No 13). The teachers are competent in animal biology, morphology and physiology, animal breeding and nutrition, animal raising, business and management of animal husbandry, psychology and rehabilitation areas. Teachers pursue activity in areas of cynology, canistherapy, hipotherapy pet raising and others. Adjacent to scientific activity, professors, associate professors and lecturers propagate science in Lithuania and foreign countries, make reports, provide consultations for animal raisers, beginners in business, feed producers and other specialists of this area and attend international conferences and seminars.

The average work experience of the programme employees comprises 14.9 yr; out of them: professors – 26.5 yr, associate professors – 15.0 yr, lecturers – 12.8 yr assistants – 5.2 yr.

The greatest teaching work experience is 39 years, the lowest – 1 year. It manifests that majority of programme teachers are experienced specialists of their area.

The average age of the programme teachers is 46.7 years, out of them that of: professors – 51.4 yr, assoc. prof. – 48 yr, lecturers – 43.4 yr and assistants – 37 yr (Table 6). The youngest teacher doctor of sciences' is – 30 years old; the oldest teacher dr sc is – 66 years old.

Table 6. The age distribution of teachers engaged in Animal Science study programme

Position taken	Total	Out of them in age groups								Average age, years	
		25-29 yr	30-34 yr	35-39 yr	40-44 yr	45-49 yr	50-54 yr	55-59 yr	60-64 yr		Over 65 yr
Professors	15			1	-	2	3	4	4	1	51.4
Assoc.Prof.	23			2	8	4	4	3	2	-	48.0
Lecturers	16	1	3	3	1	4	-	3	1	-	43.4
Assistents	5	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	37.0

Teachers' work load and distribution is determined by LUHS regulation for the calculation of divisions teaching load and salary foundation (approved by Senate resolution on 30 June 2014, No 48-1). A full-time teacher's working week consists of 30 hours per week. The structure of the teacher's position encompasses: 1) organisation and realisation of study, 2) applying of research outcomes in study, 3) accumulation of science knowledge, 4) health care related to the study process, 5) development of creative activity, 6) culture cherishing, 7) participation in another activity relevant to the University and its subdivisions.

The proportions of staff structure are allocated by the head of a subdivision, ensuring the execution of study process and activity linked to them and ensuring the conditions for teachers to fulfill minimal requirements of LUHS order of competition and attestation arrangement for teachers and research staff positions. The list of teaching staff, curriculum vitae of the teaching staff and descriptions of Teachers activity are given in Annex 4.

Table 7. Teachers pedagogic work load in AS study programme (full-time and continuous) in 2016-2017 academic year

Teachers	Number	Load hours	
		AS programme	Other programme
Professors	15	574	4439
Associate professors	23	1457	7013
Lecturers	16	1482	3904
Assistents	5	307	2405
Total:	59	3820	17761

Teachers engaged in the programme participate in research applying for research projects, participating in the projects as leaders and executers, giving consultations and making experiments, publicising results of their research in science publications and scientific conferences in Lithuania and abroad (Table 8).

Table 8. Scientific publications and reports of teachers employed in the 2012 – 2016 years

Code	Name	Quantity
K1a	Monograph,	2
K2a	Textbook,	1
K2b	Teaching book	28
K2c	Teaching methodical material	55
K2d	Other study material	6
K3a	Dictionary	2
K3f	Other reference publications	2
K4c	MTD, projects and other reports	2
K4d	Other books	10

K5	Compiled and/or reviewed research work	1
N5	Patents registered in Lithuania	4
P1a	Article in conference ISI proceedings	2
P1b	Article in conference publication LSC approved DB	5
P1d	Article in reviewed foreign international conference publication	161
P1e	Article in reviewed Lithuanian international conference publication	81
P1c	Article in conference publication in other DB	8
P1f	Article in reviewed Lithuanian conference publication	2
P2a	Article in not reviewed foreign international conference publication	4
P2b	Article in not reviewed Lithuanian international conference publication	3
S1	Article on ISI Web of Science	156
S2	Article in ISI Master Journal List	5
S3	Article in reviewed science publications referred on other DB	94
S4	Articles on other DB	136
S5	Articles in other reviewed publications	12
S6	Article in a popular science publication	196
T	Conference theses	60
T1a	Theses on TR Web of Science and TR Proceedings	8
T1b	Theses on ISI Master Journal List	12
T1c	Theses on other DB	1
T1e	Theses on other reviewed publications	258
T2	Conference theses in non reviewed publications	235
Y	Chapters of books	1
Total publications		1153

Programme teachers are members of international editorial boards, organisers and members of international scientific conferences; they execute international projects. The programme teachers maintain coherent relations and exchange experience with foreign universities; Hohenheim University (Germany), Veterinary medicine University in Viena (Austria), Agricultural University in Vienna (Boku, Austria), Swedish agricultural University, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, the University of Warmia and Mazury, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Belorussian agricultural academy, the University of Kaposvár Hungary and others.

All teachers employed in the programme have equal opportunities for improving pedagogic, research qualifications in formal and not formal way. Consistent monitoring and improvement of educational qualification of LUHS teachers are executed by LUHS centre for teachers educational competence (TCEC).

The Programme teachers are active members of various commissions and projects (project chiefs or executors) organising activities, seminars and conferences, the themes of which correspond to the study field (Table 9).

Table 9. Qualification improvement of the programme teachers 2013-2016 yr

Years	Number of cases, units			Total
	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	
Qualification improvement	1	-	1	2
Exchange programmes	2	-	3	5
Training	24	32	47	103
Courses	18	28	34	76
Conferences	16	14	27	57
Seminars	26	29	28	83
Teachers fom foreign universities	1	1	7	9
Participations in projects	16	13	12	41

Strengths:

- The LUHS order for organising competitions and attestations for teachers and research staff positions motivates teachers and research staff to be competitive and improve qualification.
- Research and study subjects, performed by teachers employed in the programme, conform to the study field.
- LUHS teachers are provided with conditions for qualification improvement: teachers are active in scientific activity and educational seminars organised by LUHS study centre.

Weaknesses:

- Low mobility of study programme teachers, insufficient collaboration with University teachers from EU and other countries.
- The number of teachers' publications related to specialisations is insufficient.

Ways for solution:

- To invite foreign teachers to engage in the study process.
- To stimulate teachers to participate in research projects, to prepare scientific publications in the areas of equine raising and cynology.

FACILITIES AND LEARNING RESOURCES

The study programme is being executed in compliance with the general order of LUHS for organising studies, coordinating study venue and time with other programmes of the University. The LUHS possesses all main resources (lecture halls, laboratories, laboratory equipment, information technology, library) for successful execution of the programme. For the organisation of the studies lecture halls of different size (Table 10), a classroom for distance teaching, 48 training laboratories, and 32 classrooms are available. Groups of students for bachelor study programme are small, therefore smaller classrooms adjusted for team work are used. The conditions for the programme students are adequate for independent work – reading room, 6 computer classrooms are installed. Study rooms meet the requirements for safety and hygiene standards. The premises are in good condition. In 2011–2012 implementing integrated science, study, and business centre (valley) “Nemunas” project in VA, the premises were renovated and facilities updated. For the project, the sum of 30.3 mln. Lt (8.8 mln. euros) was allocated.

Table 10. Auditoriums and the number of places in them

Auditorium	Number of places
I. Dr. Stasio Jankauskas	210
II. Prof. Konradas Juozas Aleksa	280
III Prof. Rimantas Karazija	275
IV	275
V Assoc.Prof. dr. Jonas Čygas	105
VI	50
VII. Prof. dr. Juozas Žemaitis	108
Žalčio hall	40

Teachers are provided with offices (2-4 work places each) equipped with computers, printers, and other facilities for work. Lecture halls are provided with computerised studio visualisation equipment (multimedia, smart boards). Legal, modern software is used for the study: Microsoft Office, Hybrimin Futter 2008, PEST, VCE, Windows“, „Internet Explorer“, „IBM SPSS Statistics“, „AMOS“, „Sample Power“, „EpiInfo“.

In the study process students of the programme have a possibility to use LUHS scientific laboratories, centres, vivarium and the equipment in them (Annex 5).

Library funds

The University's methodical resources are coordinated by LUHS Library and information centre (LIC). In the library and IC, 6 reading rooms containing 544 workplaces (143 computerized), 3 rooms for group learning, multimedia room containing 8 workplaces, computer training classroom (12 workplaces), 2 seminar/conference halls are available for the users.

The library is opened on weekdays from 7.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., and on weekends - from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The checkout and reading rooms of VA are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., thus the readers have good possibilities to use the service of the library.

Majority of the programme's students take advantage of LIC VA funds. In VA division, readers get service at the checkout, general and science reading rooms containing 71 workplaces (20 computerised; wireless internet is installed).

LIC contain 227 thousand titles and 819 thousand units of printed documents. Electronic printed publications (29175 titles) and electronic books (206 101 titles) are booked. The funds in VA subdivision contain printed documents of over 28 thousand and 125 thousand units.

The University subscribes to 53 databases³³. Databases are subscribed through national project eMoDB.Lt. In 2015, the library subscribed to 53 databases, providing access to el. full text journals of 29175 titles and 206 101 el. books. The majority of subscribed databases were financed by Eu SF project eMoDB.LT: Opening of electronic databases for Lithuania.

In 2015, the University subscribes independently 14 databases (Acland's Video Atlas of Human Anatomy, JoVE, European Pharmacopeia, British National Formulary, Neofax&Pediatrics, Adis Insight, RoshReview, Hippo EM, USMLE-easy, RADPrimer, Access Medicine, UpToDate, Micromedex, Natural Medicines Comprehensive). In 2015, 22 databases were tested: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Society of Nephrology, MRU eBooks, European Pharmacopoeia, Taylor and Francis 2 kolekcijos (Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing&Allied Health ir Taylor& Francis ExpertCollection), Veterinary Education in Video, Vitae Litera, RADPrimer, In Cites, USMLE Easy, HippoEM, RoshReview, Adis Insight, BMJ Best Practice, Clinical Key, CAB Direct, Britannica Academic, Animal Health and Production Compendium, Animal Science, VetMedResource, Key Dentistry E-books. Not a few data bases even in medical field are suitable for students of animal husbandry and veterinary fields students, however the databases, more suitable for students of agricultural studies are to be distinguished: CABI, Cambridge Journals Online, Ebrary, RefWorks, InCites, ScienceDirect, EBSCO Publishing, eBooksonEBSCOhost, Springer Links, Taylor&Francis, Wiley Online Library and etc., and Biomedical direction - SAGE Journals; Ovid Books; JoVE; Henry Stewart Talks.

Books and copies of scientific articles (in case they are not available at the University library) can be borrowed from Lithuanian National library, Lithuanian Technical Library and other libraries through the interlibrary loan directory (TBA).

The library is consistently enriched with new publications. In 2015, BIC VA division acquired new scientific publications of 888 titles (5713 units). The number of publications acquired by VA subdivision comprises 262 titles (1189 items) – majority of them are publications and textbooks of veterinary and agricultural area. All the mentioned publications are available for the teachers and students directly through databases or using integrated virtual library (LUHS virtual library³⁴; Lithuanian virtual library³⁵).

All databases are available for community members on the University computers (library, computer classrooms, dormitories, teachers' rooms, and elsewhere). To use subscribed databases not at the University premises, teachers and researchers can get connected through the University VPN (Virtual Private Network) arba EZproxy.

³³ <http://lsmuni.lt/lt/biblioteka/informacijos-istekliai/prenumeruojamos-duomenu-bazes/>

³⁴ http://www.lvb.lt/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?dscent=1&dstmp=1386274425301&prefLang=lt_LT&vid=LSMU&fromLogin=true

³⁵ www.lvb.lt

Faculties, interior structural resources, teachers of subjects, and LIC department of publications' compiling and preserving cooperate ordering literature for research and studies. Information and advice concerning information search and resources are available on LIC website. The academic community of LUHS has possibility to order books for study and research. The fund of library and information centre is compiled on the account of books needed for research and study. Electronic application form for ordering books is created.

Information and advice concerning information search and resources are available on LIC website; there is also information regarding services provided by the library, final work uploading online, order for use of plagiarism checker, teaching material, data bases, etc. Library users have a possibility to use electronic catalogue, to book publications, to extend the loan period of the book, to use service of electronic readers' information. Short period courses for LUHS students and employees are arranged by staff of information centre. Annual seminars on information search for teachers and students are held in the library; courses for teachers, researchers, and students on information search and distribution are arranged consistently. Guidelines for final work's uploading (for authors) and the use of plagiarism checker (for advisors), training films are accessible.

The information about received publications and documents is available periodically: book fairs are arranged; lists of new books and their annotations are sent to the whole community by LUHS forum; the information is on a library website. All methodical material is consistently on display in the stand of LIC VA division.

At LUHS LIC, students with special needs (hearing, mobility, vision and other impairments) can use equipment designated for their learning (adjustable tables, view magnifier (TOPAZ XL HD), sound equipment (BellmanAudio Domino Pro) software JAWS 14 for Windows – software, analysing information on the screen and transmitting it to speech synthesiser, which transforms text into sound. WinTalkerVoice 1.6 – software (speech synthesiser), transforming information on computer screen to user in voice in Lithuanian.

Strengths:

- The number of rooms (auditoriums, lecture halls, laboratories, offices is sufficient for implementation of Animal Science programme; departments/institutes and laboratories are sufficiently provided with the equipment required for ensuring study process of high quality.
- Library is provided with books, study and methodical aids and databases required for study.

Weaknesses:

Insufficient material base for experiments and final work preparing.

Ways of solution:

To motivate teachers to be more active in preparing and performing projects; this would enhance their qualification and strengthen material base.

Persons having education not lower than secondary school are eligible to participate in the competition for admission to the Animal Science study programme. Students' admission to the studies is carried out pursuant to LUHS rules for students' admission annually approved by the Senate. The information on admission to AS full time study programme is accessible on internet³⁶.

Cycles and dates of general admission are set on (<http://www.lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/lsmu-studiju-programos>).

Table 11. Average of enrolled applicants' competitive score

Study programme	Year			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
Animal Science basic study	16.98	4.90	5.37	4.14
Animal Science continuous study	14.98	3.90	4.06	3.48

In 2013 yr 0–20³⁷ scale of a competitive score¹ was applied, and from 2014 yr – the scale 0-10³⁸ was applied.

Table 12. The number of applicants

Programme	2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Programme was chosen by (the number of applicant)	The number of entrants	Programme was chosen by (the number of applicants)	The number of entrants	Programme was chosen by (the number of applicants)	The number of entrants	Programme was chosen by (the number of applicants)	The number of entrants
Animal Science basic study	364	18	320	15	248	15	172	9
Animal Science continuous study	364	5	94	8	72	3	70	3

Quite a number of students choose AS study programme, whereas the reduction of applicants in recent years may be linked to a worsening demographic situation and increased emigration.

Table 13. The number of admitted students

Year	State financed	Not state financed	Total number
<i>Animal science basic study programme</i>			
2013	2	16	18
2014	–	15	15
2015	2	13	15
2016	–	8	8

³⁶ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/lsmu-studiju-programos>

³⁷ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/2106/lsmu_priemimotaisykles_2013_senatui_20130215.pdf

http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/9513/taisyklsbekain_20161.2-10.pdf

³⁸ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/9513/taisyklsbekain_20161.2-10.pdf

<i>Animal science continuous study programme</i>			
2013	–	5	5
2014	1	7	8
2015	–	3	3
2016	–	4	4

The attractiveness of the programme is evidenced by the fact that majority of the students finance their studies themselves.

Table 14. The highest and lowest score of the entrants

Year	2013 year		2014 year		2015 year		2016 year	
	<i>max</i>	<i>min</i>	<i>max</i>	<i>min</i>	<i>max</i>	<i>min</i>	<i>max</i>	<i>min</i>
Animal Science basic study	18.92	9.48	7.10	3.86	8.18	2.78	6.53	2.62
Animal Science continous study	16.24	14.06	8.40	3.38	4.32	3.89	4.60	2.51

In 2013 the competitive score scale 0-20 was applied, whereas since 2014 the scale 0-10³⁹ was used. The highest and lowest scores of school leavers enrolled into AS study programme in 2014 yr, 2015 yr, 2016 yr were similar.

Students have a possibility to take part in *Animal husbandry technology* group activity at the Students Scientific Society. The aim of which is to consolidate students scientific and organisational activity, to provide more possibilities for performing research of higher quality, to work in team, to better shape perspectives of professional career.

Activity for esthetical and cultural education is intensive at the University – there is Centre of Culture, which comprises a folk dance group "AVE VITA", mixed choir Neris, a folk dance group „Džigūnas“. LUHS Sport institute leads activity propagating health enhancement in which teachers and students are welcomed to participate. At LUHS, Academic group *Sielovada* is established. It is an area for collaboration between the University and church, mutual support and communication in the environment of belief and science.

Financial support for students is provided from a national study foundation: loans maintained by the state are provided for covering living expenses; loans maintained by the state for partial study on the basis of international (interinstitutional) agreements, national loans to cover study expenses (for students enrolled until 2009). Support for disabled students is provided in compliance with description of order (article 3) for providing financial support to the disabled, studying in institutions of higher education, financial support is provided to citizens of Lithuanian Republic or citizens of other countries and persons without citizenship, who had declared residence place in Lithuania. Merit stipends are awarded to the best students (financed and not financed by the state) for their best admission or study results. Furthermore, the University awards personal single grants and single monitor's grants. Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren of Lithuanian emigrants may be awarded support of two types: stipend or/and social allowance. One personal grant of *Vilkijos Ukis* was awarded to a first year AS study student in autumn semester of 2016-17 yr. The concept for the assessment of students' achievements is coordinated with the content of national and international documents. The assessment of students' achievements is pursuant to the recommendations of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, therefore, two main goals are sought to be achieved: to assess students' advancement; to assess final study outcomes (in the study programme named as anticipated outcomes). The assessment of students' achievements is directly associated with the study results. The principles of the assessment are determined in the LUHS study regulation⁴⁰ and described in the description of every subject. The system of assessment by a cumulative score is used at the University. The study subjects' outcomes are assessed by an examination; results of practice – by defence of practice, whereas the completion of the study

³⁹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/9513/taisyklsbekain_20161.2-10.pdf

programme – by the final Bachelor's work, which students start to prepare at the beginning of the studies and present publicly at the commission for defence of final works.

Requirements for preparation of final work, methodical recommendations and assessment order are presented in the regulation for preparation and defence of final works approved by FAHT Council on 9 Nov. 2016, protocol No 3(100). The list of Bachelor's thesis are presented in Annex 6. Teachers, choosing assessment methods, are provided with methodical help by the Centre of University Teachers Educational Competence.

Ways to ensure students' honest studying are defined in LUHS Study Regulation⁴⁰. Students complaints regarding execution and quality of AS programme in 4 previous years were not received.

Considering students' remarks regarding the content of AS study programme, the changes in the content were performed at the Committee for *Animal Science* bachelor's and *Management of Animal Resources* master's study programmes (07 Jan. 2016).

At the extended meeting of the Committee for *Animal Science* bachelor's and *Management of Animal Resources* Master's study programmes an updated programme structure of study was presented (attended by 31 students of *Animal Science* bachelor's study programme, 12 Jan. 2016, No 14), which was approved by AHT Council 12 Jan. 2016 No 6 (89); study plans were approved by LUHS Senate⁴¹.

Students of AS study programme have possibilities to take part in mobility programmes. Students of AS study programme went abroad for practice: on the basis of Erasmus+ programme – 3 students, 1 student – to a dog training centre in London, UK ("Elmtree dog training and education centre"), 2 students – to equine farm of University of Warmia and Mozury (Olsztyn, Poland) and at present, 2 students are at the Agricultural University of Athens (Greece).

Students' accomplishment results are improving annually. It is associated with students' attempts to acquire more professional knowledge and consistently increasing quality and management of the study programme.

Students examination results in AS full-time study programme (study year 1) in the period of 2013-15 academic yr tended to increase. In 2013 the average of examinations was 6.80; in 2014 – 6.91; in 2015 – 7.35. The highest number of students dropped out in 2014 (5 students); in 2013 – 2 and in 2015 – 3 students. Taking under consideration results of admission – in the 2014 advancement of students study was 1.43 point higher, whereas in 2015 – 1.87 point higher. The examination average of second year students was 7.88 in 2014, 8.31 – in 2015: the average increased by 0.43 points. The examination average of third year students was 8.46 in 2015. The examination average of animal science continuous study programme (study year 1) was 7.29 in 2013 yr, in the year 2014 the average decreased by 0.42 point and was 6.87, the average was higher in the year 2015 compared to that of the year 2014 – 7 points. The examination average of the second year students was 8.29 in 2014, and 7.89 point in 2015 yr. The examination average of the third year students was 8.16 in year 2015.

In the year 2013, 1 student of AS full-time study dropped out, because did not accomplish the study plan; 1 student – for personal reasons. In the year 2014, 5 students dropped out because: did not accomplish the study plan – 1 student; for personal reasons – 1 student; due to other reasons – 3 students. In the year 2015 – 1 student terminated study for personal reasons and 2 students transferred to other study programmes. In AS continuous study, 2 students dropped out in 2014 yr, and 1 student – in 2015 for personal reasons.

Time ratio allotted for lectures, practical classes, independent work is determined in LUHS Study regulation⁴². In the first study cycle, contact work should comprise at least 20% of all scope of the programme. At the University, lectures comprise not more than 30% of contact work time.

Dean's office informs the enrolled students about study programme, the school of higher education; 1-2 days camps, with teachers and elder students are organised. The students-moderators take students around the campus, show facilities, auditoriums, laboratories, library. Furthermore, the information is provided by LUHS VA Students' representatives. Study subject "Introduction into studies" is offered in autumn semester of the first study year: students get acquainted with *Firstclass* system, used at the University, with data bases of the library, SSS activity, possibilities to go abroad for partial studies or practice and other. Via LUHS SIS

⁴⁰ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10290/lsmu_studiju_reglamentas.pdf

⁴¹ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10675/81-15.pdf>

⁴² http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10290/lsmu_studiju_reglamentas.pdf

students have a possibility to choose electives considering their own needs, on the basis of “Order for choosing elective subjects”, approved by the rector⁴³.

The first 15 students of Animal Science programme performed practice in 2016 year: 12 – in organisations of Lithuania, 3 students – in foreign organisations (*Elmtree dog training and education centre*, London, UK and equine farm of University of Warmia and Mazury, Olsztyn, Poland). During their practice, students worked as training assistants and improved their knowledge and skills acquired in the study. The implementation of the study programme was commenced in 2013 – there are no graduates so far. Improving the quality of the practice implementation, meetings of AS and ARM programmes’ students were organised, and practice supervisors at the institutions, where students performed practice, were questioned. The results of questionnaires showed the students’ theoretical and practical preparation to correspond to the expectations of the prospective employers (meeting of AS and ARM study programmes Committee 26 Nov. 2016, No 30).

Strengths:

1. The number of AS students is stable, in spite of current demographic situation. The stability is preconditioned by consistent attention to the improvement of study quality and positive attitude of the society to pet animals and their welfare.
2. In LUHS conditions for students’ research, cultural, spiritual, physical and sport activities are favourable.
3. Students are provided with conditions to continue studies of adequate profile in universities abroad.

Weaknesses:

1. Not sufficient AS study programme students’ activity in Students’ Scientific Society (SSS) and in mobility programmes (Erasmus+).

Ways for solution:

1. To encourage students to participate in SSS activity, to thoroughly present SSS activity in the study subject *Introduction to the Study*, in meetings with students. To prepare joint conception for intensifying SSS activity.
2. It is reasonable to more efficiently develop contracting agreements with foreign universities encouraging students study and practice performing abroad.

⁴³ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4038/pasirenkamujudalykupasirinkimotvarka.pdf>

The programme for Animal Science study is structured pursuant to the description of general requirements for degree awarding first cycle and integrated study Programmes⁴⁴, provision of LUHS Senate on approval of study programme⁴⁵.

The dean of FAHT organises and controls AS study process at the faculty, is responsible for accomplishment of Senate's or rector's provisions and orders, submits proposals to the Committee of AS and ARM study programmes, FAHT council, Rector, and Senate regarding execution of the study and quality improvement⁴⁶.

Vise rector for studies monitors the organisation of study at the University; Study Centre organises and coordinates the study process; the Faculty of Animal Husbandry organises, and divisions (heads of which are responsible for composing plans of study subjects and programme's submitting for approval to the faculty Council and accomplishment) implement the study programmes. Heads of departments, leaders of institutes organise all study process – distribution of pedagogic work load and control of the study process. The Study Centre monitors structuring of the time table coordinating with the Heads of divisions and teachers.

University seeking for sufficient knowledge and skills of the teachers to accomplish strategy of the University, the need for human resources (regarding quantity and quality) constructs plans conforming with the LUHS Statute⁴⁷, strategic plan for activity in 2015-17 yr⁴⁸, guides for strategic development in 2011-16 yr⁴⁹, guides for strategic development in 2017-21⁵⁰, and implements them pursuant to: Labour Code⁵¹, Law for Science and Study⁵², the description of minimal qualification requirements for science staff positions in national science and study institutions, approved by Science Council of Lithuania⁵³, EC recommendation on European scientists charter and on the behaviour code for scientists employment (2005/251/EC)⁵⁴, assessment methodics for real resources of higher education institutions⁵⁵, principles of choosing and evaluation of LUHS employees⁵⁶, determining of qualification and attestation requirements for LUHS teachers and science staff, announcing competition for positions of teachers and science staff, order for organisation and implementation and for attestation of teachers and science staff⁵⁷ and other judicial acts.

The decisions on the programme management are taken by FAHT Council. For strategic decisions - meeting of the faculty's academic community is organised.

The programme is being implemented in academic division of LUHS – Faculty of Animal Husbandry. The study is administered by the dean's office of the faculty, governed by the dean. The staff of the dean's office are responsible for study organisation, administration of students work and achievements. The staff of dean's office execute students registration to studies, accumulation and analysis of study outcomes data, documentation of students' mobility, records of study results, formalizing completion of studies. The responsibilities are distributed to the employees and defined in provisions for their positions.

The supervision and coordination of the programme by the dean's proposal are performed by the Committee for Animal Science bachelor and Management of Animal Recourses master's study programmes (order "On composing the Committee for Animal Science bachelor and Management of Animal Recourses master's study programmes, 13 Oct. 2015, No SC-1-875) The committee consists of at least 3 teachers engaged in the programme teaching and performing research (in the area of zootechnics, animal husbandry,

⁴⁴ <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.38D8B16062C2>

⁴⁵ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/1799/2013-03-15.2.pdf>

⁴⁶ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/5983/lsmustudijureglamentas.pdf>

⁴⁷ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/74/lsmu_statutas.pdf

⁴⁸ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/8100/lsmu2015-2017mstrateginisveiklosplanas.pdf>

⁴⁹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/20/lsmu_strategines_pletros_gaires_2011-2016_m_ir_ju_igyvendinimo_planas.pdf

⁵⁰ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/11107/2tarybossprendimas1priedaslsmpretrosgaires.pdf>

⁵¹ Žin., 2002, Nr. 64-2569; ²Žin., 2009, Nr. 54-2140

⁵² <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.343430>

⁵³ <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.A51D87D465CB>

⁵⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/LT/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32005H0251>

⁵⁵ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.422267>

⁵⁶ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/733/lsmu_darbuotoju_parinkimo_ir_vertinimo_principai.pdf

⁵⁷ [http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/lsmukonkursuataestavimotvarka_2015-09-01%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/lsmukonkursuataestavimotvarka_2015-09-01%20(1).pdf)

animal genetics and breeding, animal nutrition), representatives of students and social partners. The committee composition is presented in Annex 7. The committee chairman organises members' activity and makes decisions collegially. The committee collaborates with members of the academic community, faculty Council, its commission of study and science, Study Centre and Commission for assuring study quality and monitoring, Career Centre, students representatives. The Committee approves study plans, organises the review of study programmes achievements, surveillance of study subjects required to form competences, their descriptions and content⁵⁸. The Faculty Council discusses proposals regarding restructuring the programme plan, implementation of the programme, reports of the commission for final work evaluation, arising problems, results of admissions to the programme, approves documents on study organisation, makes proposals to improve the activity of the Committee. Committee's presentations, proposals for study process improvement are discussed in divisions, at the Faculty Council and after its approval the proposals are approved according to the defined order at the Rectorate and Senate.

The University cherishes culture of study quality, – employees' training is consistent, the code of LUHS ethics is approved⁵⁹. The procedures for assurance of internal study quality, ways and measures grounded on the provisions and guides of the Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European higher education area (ESG), are based on the principles of the EFQM Excellence Model and on the activity improvement strategy approved by the university itself, and on projected ways and tools facilitating to ensure the quality of the higher education provided by the institution are regulated by provisions of the University "Provisions on assurance of study quality in Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (approved by the University Senate, 20 Jan. 2012, No 17-01).

In recent years, A lot has been done to enhance management of study quality: in the year 2012, the commission for study monitoring and assurance was established. The provisions for assurance of study quality at LUHS, the order for creation, improvement and management of LUHS study programmes, order for analysis of students', teachers', and social partners' (employers'), in 2013 – the order for organising LUHS graduates and social partners' questionnaires were approved by the Senate. The order for administration of study programmes' implementation and qualitative assessment are discussed in the documents. Furthermore, the documents help teachers' engaged in the programme to immediately detect programme aspects to be updated and improved, encourage collaboration. Since the study programme registration teachers employed in the AS study programme and employers have been consistently interviewed.

The study programmes can be improved and updated considering students and social partners' opinion. The procedures are regulated by the LUHS order to analyse students, teachers and social partners (employers) opinion⁶⁰ and by the provisions of LUHS study programmes committees⁶¹.

Information on the full-time programme of AS and quality assessment is accessible: in discussions with students, meetings of departments/institutions, faculty council, at the programme committee and at the meetings of academic community. Information on study quality and applied means to improve it is on LUHS website, annual Rector's reports on website and in publications such as *Admissions to Lithuanian Schools of Higher Education*, *Career Guide*, University newspaper *Ave Vita*, special booklets. Studies at LUHS are presented at annual study fairs, open days are arranged at the University. There is active communication with perspective students from various regions (14 gymnasiums were visited in 2014-2015; 23 – in 2015-2016) AS study programme is presented; invitations to visit LUHS VA are disseminated. AS study programme is also advertised on a social website *Facebook*, where information on the study programme is given, and communications with those who are interested in studies are led. Educational programme quiz is successfully applied for pupils to introduce them to animals importance in the life of people. The community of animal husbandry faculty successfully participates in *Fairs of higher education institutions* and in international learning, knowledge fairs and in career planning fair *Studies* at the Lithuanian exhibition and congresses Centre LITEXPO.

⁵⁸ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/1506/12.12.14_d9.pdf

⁵⁹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4986/lsmu_etikoskodeksas1.pdf

⁶⁰ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/798/studentu_destytoju_darbdaviu_nuomones_tyrimo_tvarka.pdf

⁶¹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/1506/12.12.14_d9.pdf

The responsibility for study programme implementation is defined in LUHS regulation⁶², provisions of Study Centre⁶³ and positional responsibilities of LUHS vice rector for study, head of Study Centre, faculty dean, head of a department/institute and teachers'. The Study Centre organises and coordinates first cycle study at LUHS.

Quality culture and its nurturance is one of the foundation stones of the University's activity. At the institution of higher education quality is perceived first of all as study quality, which is integral ratio of study organising, teachers' professional qualification and teaching and study means essential for teaching of study subjects/modules, organising study process, teachers and students interrelationship. However, the conception of quality comprises much larger activity performed by the University community – research, taking decisions and administration of the University.

Quality culture of the University

The University has internal system for quality assurance. Quality culture cherishing– strategic goal of the University. The quality culture of the University, as a culture of constant improvement and positive change, is nurtured on the basis of values implemented in the mission of the University, University statute⁶⁴, provisions of quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area, LUHS provisions for assurance of study quality⁶⁵, principles of social responsibility and partnership. The University foresees ways, means and tools facilitating quality assurance of provided higher education.

Seeking quality of its activity, University not only structures internal quality assurance mechanisms, but participates in external systems for assurance of national quality. Study programmes, executed at the University, and University itself are regularly under assessment and accreditation pursuant to the order of Lithuanian judicial acts. Depending on the period of accreditation, every 6 or 3 yr, detailed evaluation of the programme is performed. At the moment of the current evaluation, methodics approved by CSQA are followed. The animal science programme has been executed since 2013yr, thus this year a thorough external evaluation of the programme is performed for the first time. The University consistently presents concrete quantitative and qualitative information on study programmes, provided qualifications of higher education, scientific activity, assessment results, students, graduates and others opinion concerning study quality, evaluation of the University activity conducted by recognised institutions, graduates' career results; other data, needed for the society also can be publicised. Assurance of study quality, assessment, and monitoring is determined by study regulation approved by the Senate⁶⁶.

Extended meetings of AS bachelor and MARs master's study Committee with students of the programmes (in which students tell their opinion regarding the study course, quality of lectures, practical classes, etc.) are organised (12 Jan. 2016, protocol No 14; 02 March, 2016 protocol No 19; 20 Dec. 2016 protocol No 35).

No discrimination or lack of tolerance cases were recorded among AS study programme students and staff. Prevention of not tolerating and discrimination are regulated by LUHS Statute⁶⁷, LUHS code of ethics⁶⁸. The Commission of law and ethics conducts its activity at the University.

Students take part at the activity of LUHS VA Students Representatives office. Students representatives are members of LUHS Senate, FAHT Council, commissions for teachers' attestation and allocation of grants, Programme Committee. At the end of every semester students have the opportunity to speak out their opinion concerning subjects in the questionnaires via electronic system for recording study results (LUHS SIS). Summarized data of the questionnaires are presented in this system. A questionnaire was arranged after the practice of 2016 yr – all students gave positive responses concerning the organising of the practice, during the meeting there were remarks regarding methodics for preparation of the practice report. The remarks were taken into account by the Committee of AS and MARs study programmes and recommendations concerning corrections of practice report preparation will be submitted to AH Council.

⁶² <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/5983/lsmustudijureglamentas.pdf>

⁶³ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/6595/studiju_centro_nuostatai_20150320.pdf

⁶⁴ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/74/lsmu_statutas.pdf

⁶⁵ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/281/studiju_kokybes_uztikrinimo_lsmu_nuostatos.pdf

⁶⁶ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/5983/lsmustudijureglamentas.pdf>

⁶⁷ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/74/lsmu_statutas.pdf

⁶⁸ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4986/lsmu_etikoskodeksas1.pdf

Moreover, students may speak out their problems at the dean's office; they can also apply to the University Study Centre and at the joint meetings with members of AS and ARM study programmes' Committee and directly to the teachers during lectures. During the implementation period of AS programme, students' appellations regarding examinations or complaints were not submitted.

Assurance of graduates feedback. Since summer of 2015, University and some other schools of higher education have united into information system for career management (Karjera.lt), which permits to conduct graduates' career monitoring, 6, 12, and 36 months after completion of the study. In this system, data concerning graduates employment are provided (according to specialty including), salaries and other. Currently data of AS study programme graduates are not provided as there are no graduates yet.

Assurance of teachers feedback. Teachers of AS study programme can speak out their comments and proposals in the meetings of their divisions, meetings Committee of AS and ARM study programme and faculty Council.

Teachers get acquainted with the report and proposals of the chairman of Evaluation Commission for final works.

Assurance of employers feedback. Employers' representatives are involved into the activity of FAHT Council, Committee of AS and ARM study programmes, Commissions for evaluation of students' final works. After practice completion, the employers were interviewed and their opinion evidence students of AS study programme to have sufficiently theoretical knowledge, are capable to apply it in practice, and are active and receptive to innovation.

Strengths:

1. At LUHS the system, facilitating assurance of internal study quality is created; distribution of the study programme administration and teachers' responsibilities is formed. The publicity of the programme has immensely increased.
2. There have been no intolerance or discrimination cases recorded, as the programmes for prevention of intolerance and discrimination are created.

Weaknesses:

Since the program is new (it released the first Bachelor students), it is necessary improve the collaboration with the social partners in various areas for study quality.

Ways of solution:

1. To create more efficient system assessing teachers, students, graduates and social partners' opinion on implementation of the programme and quality of the study.