

APPROVED
by Resolution No 136-03 of
the Senate of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
of 25 June 2020

REVISED
by Resolution No 153-04
of the Senate of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
of 25 November 2021

REGULATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES OF BIOLOGY IN THE FIELD OF NATURAL SCIENCES AT THE LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Regulation on Doctoral Studies of biology in the Field of Natural Sciences of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (hereinafter – the Regulation) establishes the following issues related to the third cycle of studies:

- 1.1. the acquisition of the right to pursue a doctorate (Chapter II of the Regulation);
- 1.2. the establishment, functions and organisation of work of the Doctoral Committee (Chapter III of the Regulation);
- 1.3. the procedure for admission to the doctoral programme (Chapter IV of the Regulation);
- 1.4. the procedure for the appointment of a doctoral supervisor and advisor (Chapter V of the Regulation);
- 1.5. the procedure for the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies (Chapter VI of the Regulation);
- 1.6. the procedure for obtaining a doctoral degree externally (Chapter VII of the Regulation);
- 1.7. the procedure for handling appeals and complaints regarding non-award of a doctoral degree, the denial of an application of an external or a doctoral student to defend his/ her dissertation, and any other matters relating to the pursuit of a doctoral programme at the University (Chapter VIII of the Regulation);
- 1.8. the procedure for the award of the degree of Doctor of Science (Chapter IX of the Regulation);
- 1.9. the procedure for the storage of doctoral documents (Chapter X of the Regulation);
- 1.10. the funding of doctoral studies (Chapter XI of the Regulation).

2. The Regulation has been adopted in accordance with the following legislation:

- 2.1. the Law on Research and Higher Education of the Republic of Lithuania;
- 2.2. the Statute of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (hereinafter – the Statute of the University);
- 2.3. Order No V-739 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 May 2020 “On the Approval of Regulations of Doctoral PhD in Science” (hereafter – the Regulations).

3. Terms used in the Regulation:

- 3.1. **Academic unit of the University** means a particular unit of the University whose main activity is the pursuit of studies and/or scientific research and experimental development;
- 3.2. **Doctoral student** means a third cycle student and researcher;
- 3.3. **Doctoral student’s work plan** means an individual work plan of a doctoral student, which includes stages and deadlines for doctoral studies, research, and the preparation of a dissertation;
- 3.4. **Doctoral Committee** means a group of high-level researchers responsible for the content, quality, organisation and conduct of a doctoral research programme;

3.5. **Doctoral supervisor** means an active researcher who meets qualification requirements of the Regulation, carries out research in the field of doctoral studies and supervises the doctoral student's studies and research;

3.6. **Examination log** means a log signed by all examiners and approved by the Vice-Rector for Education of the University (hereinafter – Vice-Rector for Education), which is handed over to the University's Research Centre (hereinafter – the Research Centre) together with the description of the subject. The originals of logs are kept in the doctoral student's file in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Document Management and Control Procedure approved by the Rector of the University (hereinafter – the Document Management and Control Procedure);

3.7. The Defence Council means a group of scientists appointed by the Doctoral Committee, which examines the dissertation submitted for defence, assesses its quality, compliance with the requirements for dissertations, and the doctoral candidate's scientific competence, and decides whether or not to award a doctoral degree.

4. The purpose of the PhD is to train researchers who are able to carry out research and experimental development independently and to solve scientific problems. The doctoral programme must provide graduates with sufficient competence in the following areas: knowledge of cutting-edge research, scientific fields and their interactions; specialised skills and methodologies for solving problems in research and other fields and for expanding the existing knowledge or professional practice; the ability to work independently; and an understanding of science and the profession to develop and apply new ideas or processes in education and other activities.

5. The University has a full-time (up to 4 years) and part-time (up to 6 years) PhD programme. The degree of Doctor of Science may be awarded to a person having successfully completed a full-time (up to 4 years) or part-time (up to 6 years) doctoral programme, who has prepared a dissertation and defended it, or to a person who has defended a dissertation prepared externally. A person pursuing a doctoral degree chooses the mode of obtaining the doctoral degree.

6. The total duration of the doctoral studies must be 30 ECTS credits at the least.

7. A PhD involves doctoral studies, focused research and the preparation of a dissertation.

8. The Vice-Rector for Education coordinates the process of organisation of doctoral studies at the University. His/ her competence is determined by the official regulations approved by the Rector's order. The process of organising doctoral studies is implemented by Doctoral Committees and academic units where doctoral students study.

9. Heads of the University's academic units ensure the implementation of the functions assigned to the University's academic units in the Regulation. The regulations for the assurance of quality of the study process are published on the LSMU's website.

CHAPTER II OBTAINING THE RIGHT TO PURSUE A DOCTORAL DEGREE

10. Councils of the Faculties or research institutes of the University initiate an application for the right to pursue a doctoral degree in a particular field of science for the University or for the University with other Lithuanian universities and/or research institutes.

11. The Chairperson of the Faculty Council of the University or the Council of a Research Institute submit a draft application for the award of the doctoral degree to the Senate of the University (hereinafter – the Senate) together with documents referred to in the Regulations.

12. The Senate must examine the draft application for the award of a doctoral degree no later than 2 months (excluding July and August) after the submission of the proposal.

13. The Senate must adopt one of the following resolutions on the draft application for a doctoral degree:

13.1. approve the application for the award of the doctoral degree;

13.2. not to approve the application for the award of the doctoral degree;

13.3. propose to the Council of the Faculty or Research Institute of the University to make respective corrections, clarifications or additional information within the time limit set by the Senate.

14. After the Senate makes a decision to approve the application for awarding a doctoral degree, the application is submitted to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – the ESSM) in accordance with the procedure laid down by legal acts.

15. If the Senate makes a decision not to approve the award of a doctoral degree, the Senate may re-initiate such an application no later than after one year.

16. If the Senate makes a decision to propose to the Faculty Council of the University or the to the Research Institute Council to make the respective corrections, clarifications or additional information within the time limit set by the Senate, the application for the award of the doctoral degree, after being corrected or clarified accordingly, is resubmitted to the Senate in accordance with the general procedure.

17. After the ESSM decides to award a doctoral degree to the University, the composition of the doctoral committee and the regulations for doctoral studies are published on the University's website.

18. All changes in the composition of the Doctoral Committee and the Regulation of Doctoral Studies must be agreed with the Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter – LMT) in accordance with the procedure laid down in the legislation.

CHAPTER III DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

19. Pursuant to the doctoral rights granted by the ESSM, there is Biology Doctoral Committee in the field of Natural science.

20. The Senate establishes a Doctoral Committee consisting of at least 9 scientists of high international standing working at the University (holding positions filled by competition or having had at least 0.5 FTE at the institution in the last three years) for a period of four years, and approves the Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee. A member of the Doctoral Committee may serve as chairperson of the Committee for a maximum of two consecutive 4-year terms. A single researcher may be a member of no more than two Doctoral Committees. The Doctoral Committee may also include scientists of high international standing from foreign research and education institutions with which an international cooperation agreement has been signed for participation in the doctoral process. The agreement must lay down the conditions for the participation of a researcher from a foreign research and education institution in the activities of the Doctoral Committee and ensure continuity in the event of a change of foreign member. The agreement is concluded for a period of 5 years at the least.

21. If a doctoral right has been obtained jointly with other universities and/or research institutes, the Doctoral Committee also includes representatives of the other universities and/or research institutes.

22. The Doctoral Committee follows in its work the Rules of Procedure and the applicable legislation of the Republic of Lithuania.

23. The functions of the Doctoral Committee include:

23.1. to consider and assess, by 15 May of each year, whether the new doctoral study programmes submitted by academic units of the University are in accordance with the requirements:

(a) programme title, research area, research field, scope (hours, credits);

(b) lectures (specify lecture content, number of hours, teachers) and/or seminars or trainings (specify content, number of hours, teachers);

(c) independent work (at least 50% of the entire time);

(d) recommended literature.

The head of the unit having developed the programme and the responsible subject coordinator signs each doctoral programme description. It also indicates the programme teachers (teaching title and/or academic degree, name) who must hold a doctoral degree. When considering whether a new doctoral subject programme meets the requirements, the Doctoral Committee carries out an expert review of the subject programme on the basis of the conclusions of peer reviewers and the evaluations of the designated Doctoral Committee member. Once the decision has been taken that the subject programme meets the requirements, it shall be submitted to the Senate's Research and Education Commission for consideration, which shall submit its conclusions to the Senate.

23.2. evaluate the submitted applications for preparing doctoral students;

23.3. submit to the University's Doctoral Admissions Commission (hereinafter – the Admissions Commission) proposals on the allocation of doctoral places according to research topics;

23.4. decide by 1 June, if necessary, which compulsory subjects will be taken by doctoral students in particular fields;

23.5. consider the application for credit for a doctoral course of study of a doctoral student and take a decision on the credit for a doctoral course of study;

23.6. consider the application for transfer of a doctoral student to another academic unit of the University and take a decision on this matter;

23.7. evaluate and approve the doctoral student's individual work plan;

23.8. approve, change the nominations of the doctoral student's supervisor, advisor and the dissertation topic, taking into account the research topic;

23.9. carry out the annual attestation of doctoral students;

23.10. consider a request for the doctoral student's supervisor to withdraw from supervising the doctoral student and take a decision on the replacement of the doctoral student's supervisor;

23.11. assess the compliance of the submitted dissertation, the doctoral student's published scientific articles or scientific monograph and the draft abstract with the requirements and decide whether to propose the defence of the dissertation or scientific monograph and consider the issues related to its defence;

23.12. consider the application of a person for defending his/ her dissertation or a scientific monograph externally, and consider matters relating to the defence of the dissertation or the scientific monograph;

23.13. assess the quality of doctoral studies and provide conclusions on monitoring and ensuring the quality of the University's studies;

23.14. make proposals for improving the training of researchers;

23.15. consider and submit to the Rector for approval the composition of the Defence Council and the date of the defence of the dissertation, indicating the title, field and direction of the dissertation;

23.16. deal with other matters related to doctoral studies and research of doctoral candidates as provided for in the Regulations and other legal acts.

24. The Chair chairs the Doctoral Committee and:

24.1. represents the Doctoral Committee and organises the work of the Doctoral Committee;

24.2. organises and chairs meetings of the Doctoral Committee;

24.3. ensures that all necessary documents and other materials are prepared for meetings;

24.4. gives instructions to members of the Doctoral Committee;

24.5. invites appropriate persons to meetings of the Doctoral Committee;

24.6. announces the results of the voting at the meeting of the Doctoral Committee;

24.7. signs minutes of the meetings of the Doctoral Committee, ensuring that they accurately reflect the decisions taken at the meeting;

24.8. performs such other duties as may be prescribed by the Regulations.

25. If necessary, the Vice-Rector for Education and the Research Centre organise meetings of the Chairpersons of the Doctoral Committees to discuss, inter alia, the performance of the Doctoral Committees.

26. The Senate's Committee on Research and Education or, on the recommendation of the latter, the Senate examine matters which are not assigned to the Doctoral Committee in accordance with the Regulation.

SECTION II PROCEDURES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

27. A meeting is a form of activities of the Doctoral Committee. The Research Centre, which also prepares the material for meetings, is responsible for technical support for the work of the Doctoral Committee.

28. All members of the Doctoral Committee are notified of a convened meeting of the Doctoral Committee at least 6 days before the meeting by sending the agenda by e-mail. Meeting materials are forwarded to members of the Doctoral Committee at least 2 working days before the meeting of the Doctoral Committee.

29. The Chair of the Doctoral Committee chairs meetings of the Doctoral Committee. If the Chair of the Doctoral Committee is unable to attend a meeting of the Doctoral Committee, he/ she is replaced by a member of the Doctoral Committee authorised by the Chair. If the Chair of the Doctoral Committee has not authorised any member of the Doctoral Committee, he/ she is replaced by the most senior member of the Doctoral Committee during the meeting.

30. A meeting of the Doctoral Committee is deemed to have taken place if 2/3 of members of the Doctoral Committee are present. A decision of the Doctoral Committee is adopted if at least 2/3 of members of the Doctoral Committee vote in favour of it. Decisions of the Doctoral Committee are recorded in minutes of the meeting of the Doctoral Committee.

31. Matters relating to activities of the Doctoral Committee may be analysed by organising a meeting of the Doctoral Committee by electronic means. In such a case, members of the Doctoral Committee shall, at least 1 business day before the date of the meeting, submit their written opinion on the matter to be discussed to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee.

32. Minutes of meetings of the Doctoral Committee are taken. A member of staff appointed by the Research Centre takes minutes of a meeting. The Chair of the meeting signs the minutes.

33. The minutes of the meeting of the Doctoral Committee indicate: the number of the minutes of the meeting, the date and place of the meeting, the members of the Doctoral Committee and other persons present at the meeting, the presence of a quorum, the agenda items, the results of the vote, the decisions taken, the reasons for the decisions, and the opinion (if any) of each Doctoral Committee member.

34. Minutes are at the Research Centre in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Document Management and Control Procedure.

CHAPTER IV ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES

35. The structural units of the Faculties and Research Institutes of the University submit applications for the training of doctoral candidates for the following academic year to the Council of their academic unit by 1 February each year. Applications are collected and approved by the institutions holding the joint doctoral degree in accordance with the procedures laid down by their institution.

36. The application for doctoral studies must specify:

36.1. the preferred form of the doctoral programme and the nature of the funding;

36.2. the field and area of study, and the place of doctoral study;

36.3. the topic of the planned scientific work accompanied by an abstract;

36.4. a researcher of high competence who is applying to supervise the doctoral student, and a supervisor (if any);

- 36.5. the subject matter of the research activities of the unit applying for the doctoral degree;
- 36.6 description of the material and technical resources available to the unit for conducting the studies, infrastructure, equipment, methodologies, etc;
- 36.7 the expected sources of funding and ongoing projects related to the doctoral topic;
- 36.8. the possibility of employing the doctoral student (as a lecturer or other position) in an academic unit of the University (for full-time doctoral students);
- 36.9. the number of doctoral students currently studying in the unit and their dates of entry in the requested field of study.
37. The Councils of the Faculties or Research Institutes assess and issue opinions on the relevance of doctoral training applications to the development objectives of the Faculties or Research Institutes in accordance with the criteria approved by the Councils. The application, together with the assessment and conclusion of the Faculty or Research Institute Council, is to be submitted to the Research Centre.
38. The Doctoral Committees evaluate the applications for doctoral studies using the evaluation forms approved by the Committees, taking into account the novelty and innovativeness of the scientific idea described in the application, the relevance and importance of the results of the planned scientific work, the soundness of the methodology of the scientific work, the competence of prospective supervisors and advisors of doctoral students, and the challenges to be addressed by the field of study.
39. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport allocates state-funded doctoral places for each field of study. Applicants who do not qualify for state-funded places through a competition may choose to apply for a state-unfunded (paid) doctoral programme if they have obtained at least 9 points in the competition and there is an unfilled doctoral study place in the unit indicated in the application form where the person wants to enrol, paying the doctoral study fee set by the University Council.
40. Admission to the doctoral programme is held by way of an open competition. Persons holding a Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification may take part in the competition.
41. The Rector publishes competition conditions and other conditions of admission to the Doctoral Programme in the University newspaper and on the websites of the University and the institution having acquired a joint right for the doctoral degree on 5-15 of June of each year. This publication also specifies the form of doctoral studies and the field of study. The Research Centre prepares the publication.
42. The competition is held in August each year. The competition is organised by the Research Centre.
43. Within two months of the date of the call for applications, the applicant submits the following documents to the Research Centre:
- 43.1. an application to the Rector to participate in the competition;
- 43.2. a curriculum vitae;
- 43.3. a copy of the Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification and its supplements;
- 43.4. recommendations from two scientists (the head of the unit where the applicant wishes to study and the prospective supervisor of the doctoral programme); recommendations from other scientists from foreign and Lithuanian research and study institutions where the applicant has been and participated in research may also be submitted;
- 43.5. for admission to part-time doctoral programme, a recommendation from the doctoral candidate's employer;
- 43.6. an approved bibliography and copies of scientific articles;
- 43.7. if there are no published scientific articles, a scientific paper reflecting the focus of the research and work activities (the topic of the paper shall be proposed by the academic unit of the University that has requested a doctoral placement). The paper will be evaluated by the prospective doctoral student's supervisor in the recommendation;
- 43.8. a copy of the specialised medical practice licence (for applicants to clinical units).

44. The following are assessed for admission to the doctoral programme:

44.1. the relevance of the doctoral application to the development objectives of the Faculty or the Research Institute;

44.2. the scientific merit of the doctoral application;

44.3. results of the completion of the master's degree or an equivalent higher education qualification;

44.4. published research articles or papers, if there are no peer-reviewed research articles published;

44.5. an understanding of and motivation for scientific problems of the field of study where they are applying;

44.6. the correspondence of research to the strategic directions of the University's development.

45. Admission to the doctoral programme is carried out by the Admissions Commission, which consists of the Rector, the Vice-Rector for Research, the Vice-Rector for Education, the Vice-Rector for Clinical Medicine, the Chancellor of the Academy of Medicine, the Chancellor of the Academy of Veterinary Medicine, Chairpersons of Doctoral Committees, the Head of the Research Centre, and the doctoral candidate delegated by the Doctoral Students' Council.

46. A meeting is a form of activities of the Admissions Commission. A meeting of the Admissions Commission is valid if 2/3 of the members of the Admissions Committee are present. Decisions of the Admissions Commission are taken by open ballot. If there are several applicants, the person who gets votes of more than a half of the members of the Admissions Commission will be admitted to the doctoral programme.

47. Minutes of meetings of the Admissions Commission are taken. The decisions taken by the Admissions Commission are recorded in meeting minutes. A member of staff appointed by the Research Centre draws up meeting minutes. The Chair of the meeting and the person having drafted meeting minutes signs the minutes.

48. When proposing to admit a person to a doctoral programme, the Admissions Commission indicates the form of the doctoral student's studies, the nature of the funding of the studies and the academic unit of the University where the doctoral student is admitted.

49. A person is admitted to doctoral studies by an order of the Rector, which indicates: the unit where the doctoral student is admitted, the field of study, the form of doctoral studies, the nature of funding of studies, and the duration of the doctoral studies. The Research Centre prepares a draft order of the Rector.

50. If there are doctoral vacancies remaining after the admission, a second round of admissions may be organised according to the University's quotas, following the same procedure as the first round.

51. Persons who have submitted to the Rector an application for admission and have been admitted to a non-state-funded doctoral place pay the tuition fee set by the Council of the University (hereinafter – the Council).

52. European Union citizens take part in an open competition for doctoral admission in general procedure. Citizens of foreign countries (non-European Union Member States) applying for admission to a doctoral programme, who hold a master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification submit, together with the documents referred to in point 43 of the Regulation, a document confirming the recognition of the qualification obtained abroad and participate in the competition in accordance with the legislation in force at that time.

53. Persons enrolled in a doctoral programme are issued student certificates in accordance with the procedure laid down in the legislation. Persons enrolled in a doctoral programme conclude a study agreement with the University in accordance with the standard agreement form approved by the Rector.

54. Doctoral studies start on 1 September of each year.

CHAPTER V

SUPERVISOR AND/OR ADVISOR OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

55. The Doctoral Committee shall, within one month of the person's admission to the doctoral programme, after receiving information from the Research Centre, consider the nomination of each doctoral student's supervisor or advisor and take a decision on the submission of the doctoral student's supervisor's and advisor's approval to the Rector. On the recommendation of the doctoral supervisor, the Doctoral Committee may propose the appointment of a doctoral advisor. The doctoral supervisor or advisor may be a researcher from a foreign research and education institution. In cases where the supervisor of the doctoral student is from a foreign research and education institution, the doctoral student's advisor must be from the University.

56. When making a decision on whether or not to present a doctoral student's supervisor or advisor for Rector's approval, the Doctoral Committee evaluates:

56.1. the candidate's compliance with the qualification requirements referred to in clause 157 of the Regulation;

56.2. an extract from the minutes of considerations of the academic unit proposing the appointment of a supervisor or adviser;

56.3. a written consent of the doctoral student's supervisor or advisor;

56.4. a description of research activities of the doctoral student's supervisor and advisor and a list of bibliographies drawn up in accordance with the applicable qualification requirements.

57. The advisor assigned to a doctoral student may be a researcher in another field. Advisors are subject to the same qualification requirements as doctoral supervisors.

58. A doctoral supervisor may supervise no more than five doctoral students at any one time.

59. A doctoral student's supervisor and advisor are appointed by an order of the Rector prepared by the Research Centre.

60. A doctoral supervisor:

60.1. supervises doctoral studies and research;

60.2. provides scientific and methodological support to doctoral students;

60.3. makes comments and proposals on the doctoral student's work plan;

60.4. may take part in examinations of doctoral students;

60.5. assists doctoral students in the organisational aspects of their studies, the preparation and defence of their dissertation;

60.6. together with the head of the academic unit, takes care of the doctoral student's studies and research, and ensures that doctoral students have appropriate conditions and facilities for their studies;

60.7. each year initiates a meeting of the research and teaching staff of the academic unit in which the doctoral student studies to discuss the doctoral student's activities and submits conclusions to the Doctoral Committee on whether or not to certify the doctoral student for the following academic year;

60.8. after a dissertation has been prepared, holds a meeting to discuss the dissertation and decide whether the dissertation should be submitted for defence;

60.9. mediates with the doctoral student in the case of postponement of the deadlines for examinations and dissertation preparation for justified reasons;

60.10. acts as an intermediary in the doctoral student's departure for internships and conferences or other scientific events.

61. Doctoral advisors advise doctoral students on research topics.

62. A doctoral student has the right to submit a reasoned request to the Doctoral Committee to replace the doctoral student's supervisor or advisor. The doctoral student must submit the following with his/ her request:

62.1. an extract from minutes of the academic unit's deliberations proposing a replacement of the doctoral student's supervisor or advisor;

62.2. a written consent of the proposed doctoral student's supervisor or adviser;

62.3. a description of the proposed doctoral supervisor's or advisor's research activities and a bibliography, drawn up in accordance with the applicable qualification requirements.

63. The Doctoral Committee shall, upon receipt of a request from a doctoral student to replace the doctoral student's supervisor or advisor, consider the request at a meeting within one month. If necessary, the doctoral student, the supervisor of the doctoral student to be replaced or the advisor may be invited to attend the meeting of the Doctoral Committee.

64. The head of the unit in which the doctoral student studies, together with the doctoral student and his/her supervisor, takes care of the doctoral student's studies and research, ensures that the doctoral student has appropriate working conditions and facilities, and that the doctoral student's performance is discussed annually at a meeting of the staff of the unit. If possible, the doctoral student may undertake an internship or further studies abroad. This period counts towards the total duration of the doctoral studies.

65. The supervisor of a doctoral student has the right to refuse to supervise the doctoral student for important reasons. The Doctoral Committee considers a refusal of doctoral supervisors to supervise doctoral students. If the Doctoral Committee accepts the doctoral supervisor's refusal, the Doctoral Committee submits a proposal to the Rector to replace the doctoral supervisor. If the Doctoral Committee does not accept the doctoral supervisor's refusal, the doctoral supervisor continues to supervise the doctoral student.

CHAPTER VI PROCEDURES FOR THE ORGANISATION AND CONDUCT OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

SECTION ONE GENERAL PROVISIONS

66. The Doctoral Committee organises the preparation of doctoral study programmes, assesses their quality and submits them to the Senate for approval.

67. The Doctoral Committee determines the study subjects that are compulsory for all doctoral students in a given field of study. Doctoral students' supervisors propose other subjects.

68. If a group of students who have chosen a doctoral study subject is not formed (less than 5 doctoral students), doctoral students studying independently are advised by teaching staff of the subject who have prepared the subject programme and who accept knowledge check in the form of an examination.

69. Studies of each subject end in an examination, which takes place at a time specified in the doctoral work plan.

70. The Subject Examination Commission (hereinafter – the Examination Commission) consists of at least 3 persons and may also include a doctoral student's supervisor.

71. An examination consists of at least 3 questions. Each examination is graded on a 10-point system. An examination is considered passed if a student gets at least 6 points for it. The Secretary of the Examination Commission draws up an examination log, all examiners sign it and the Vice-Rector for Education approves it.

72. The Doctoral Committee may give credit to a doctoral student for examinations previously passed in subjects that have been studied as part of the doctoral programme. When adopting a decision on the crediting of an examination in a subject, the Doctoral Committee indicates the exact title of the doctoral subject, the number of credits, the grade, and the institution where the examination in the doctoral subject was taken.

73. Doctoral students carry out their research in accordance with the approved doctoral work plan. The content, quality, scope and timing of the studies and research are evaluated during the doctoral student's annual attestation conducted by the Doctoral Committee, taking into account the conclusion submitted by the academic unit.

74. Doctoral students are provided with access to the equipment available at the academic units of the University which is necessary for carrying out the scientific research provided for in the doctoral student's work plan.

75. The University Studies Regulation approved by the Senate lays down the rights and obligations of doctoral students and the system of penalties and incentives that they are subject to, unless the Regulation establishes otherwise.

76. The Regulation of Quality of the University's Activities governs quality assurance of the doctoral process.

SECTION TWO PROCEDURES FOR THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A DOCTORAL WORK PLAN

77. No later than one month after admission to the doctoral programme, a doctoral student and his/her supervisor draw up a doctoral work plan, which includes:

77.1. the topic of the thesis, the research methodology and the objects of research;

77.2. the subjects to be studied, their volume in credits, and the tentative deadlines of knowledge checks of each subject; the recommendation is to design the doctoral student's work plan in such a way that the subjects to be studied cover not only the topic of the doctoral dissertation being prepared, but also the development of general competences;

77.3. the stages and timeframes for conducting research;

77.4. the stages and timelines for preparing publications;

77.5. the stages and timelines for writing a dissertation;

77.6. participation in international scientific events.

78. The work plan must provide for targeted research to start at the beginning of doctoral studies.

79. Doctoral students present the doctoral work plan at a meeting of the research and teaching staff of the unit in which they study. An extract from meeting minutes signed by the head of the unit where the doctoral student studies are submitted to the Research Centre. The Doctoral Committee discusses and approves work plans of doctoral students.

80. Having approved a doctoral student's work, the supervisor and the doctoral student shall, if necessary, apply to the Lithuanian Bioethics Committee or the Regional Ethics Committee for Biomedical Research for a permit to carry out a biomedical research study, and/or to the State Food and Veterinary Service for a permit to conduct a draft animal testing procedure.

81. Having received a doctoral student's request approved with the doctoral student's supervisor and the head of the unit where the doctoral student studies, the Rector may, by his /her order, grant academic leave to postpone the deadlines for studies, research, publication of results and the defence of a doctoral dissertation provided for in the doctoral student's work plan for important reasons (due to sickness, pregnancy and childbirth, parental care etc.).

SECTION THREE DOCTORAL STUDENT ATTESTATION

82. Doctoral students are reviewed by the academic unit in which they study and attested by the Doctoral Committee by 1 October of each year.

83. The Doctoral Committee notifies the Research Centre of the date of the attestation at least two weeks before the start of the attestation.

84. After evaluating the implementation of the doctoral student's work plan in presence of the doctoral student and his/her supervisor, researchers of the academic unit submit a conclusion on the implementation of the doctoral student's work plan to the Doctoral Committee, which attests the doctoral student.

85. The Research Centre submits the doctoral student's attestation documents to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee at least 1 week before the meeting of the Doctoral Committee, together with a review report submitted by researchers of the unit in which the doctoral student studies.

86. In the attestation of a doctoral student, the Doctoral Committee may:

86.1. make a decision to attest the doctoral student;

86.2. postpone the attestation for a period not exceeding three months;

86.3. decide not to attest the doctoral student.

87. When deciding on whether or not to attest a doctoral candidate, the Doctoral Committee approves the continuation of the doctoral programme and revises (if necessary) the plan for the following academic year.

88. If the Doctoral Committee decides not to test the doctoral candidate, the doctoral student is removed from the doctoral programme.

89. The doctoral student and his/her supervisor or advisor may be invited to a meeting of the Doctoral Committee where the attestation of the doctoral student is discussed.

90. The Doctoral Committee forwards the conclusion of the minutes of the doctoral student's attestation meeting and the documents submitted by the doctoral student after the doctoral student's attestation meeting to the Research Centre.

91. Each year, the doctoral student submits to the Research Centre an annual report on the implementation of the doctoral student's plan in the prescribed form.

SECTION FOUR PREPARING AND EXAMINING DISSERTATIONS

92. A doctoral dissertation (hereinafter – a dissertation) as a single publication (except for the case provided for in Clause 94 hereof) consists of: the text and abstract of the dissertation, the lists of publications containing the most important results of the research and of scientific conferences where research results of the dissertation have been published, the description of life scientific and creative activities of a student having prepared the dissertation, and a curriculum *vitae*. Copies of, or links to, scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation by the person submitting the dissertation for defence (hereinafter – the candidate) are attached separately. Publications containing the most important research results that have not been included in a dissertation already defended are to be submitted.

93. A scientific monograph written by a doctoral candidate without co-authors may also be submitted for defence as a doctoral dissertation. An abstract of the monograph must be submitted along. In this case, other scientific publications shall be submitted if they are needed to illustrate the topic of the dissertation.

94. A dissertation based on a collection of scientific articles may also be submitted for defence as a doctoral dissertation. In this case, the dissertation must consist of a review of at least 1 author's sheet, an abstract in Lithuanian or in a foreign language (an abstract shall be prepared in a language other than the language of the review), and copies of the candidate's publications on the subject of the dissertation. The dissertation candidate must have published the main results of his/her research in at least four articles that have been published or accepted for publication (with a digital object identifier (DOI)) in international scientific journals with a citation index in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)* database. Once a dissertation has been defended on the basis of a collection of scientific articles, these articles may not be used in the defence of other dissertations.

95. A dissertation must define the aim of the work, formulate the tasks to be solved, indicate the scientific novelty of the work, review the research carried out in the world on the topic of the dissertation, present the methods applied, discuss the results of the research, justify their reliability and their relationship with the data of other researchers, formulate the conclusions, and any other aspects which the candidate considers important.

96. The text of the dissertation shall be written in either Lithuanian or English, or, with the approval of the Doctoral Committee, in a language other than Lithuanian or English. The abstract of

the dissertation (recommended length is at least 0.5 and no more than 1 author's sheet) shall be written in either Lithuanian or English (other than the language of the dissertation text). If the dissertation is written in a language other than Lithuanian and English, two abstracts (in Lithuanian and English) are required. A dissertation must be written in correct language.

97. The title page and the second page of the dissertation must be drawn up in accordance with the models approved by the Senate (Annex 1 to the Regulation).

98. At least 10 copies of the dissertation must be submitted for defence, it must be at least 5 printed pages long, and its format must comply with the requirements for the form of a doctoral dissertation laid down in the Regulation.

SECTION FIVE DEFENDING DISSERTATIONS

99. Dissertations must be defended within the time designated for doctoral studies.

100. If a doctoral student submits a dissertation before the end of his/her doctoral studies but fails to defend it, the dissertation may be defended in a usual procedure within 12 months after the end of the doctoral studies. A dissertation not defended within this period of time will be defended externally in accordance with the procedure laid down in Chapter VII of the Regulation.

101. A doctoral student may submit his/ her thesis for defence:

101.1. after having passed all examinations and other subjects provided for in the doctoral student's work plan;

101.2. publishes the main results of his/her research in at least two articles published or with a DOI in international scientific journals with a citation index in the *CA WoS* database, or in a scientific monograph, which have not been submitted in the dissertation that has already been defended. Publications containing key research results that have not been submitted in a dissertation that has already been defended are eligible;

101.3. having presented research results in at least two international scientific events;

101.4. having completed an internship of at least three months in a foreign research and education institution(s) (recommended); having completed (if necessary) an internship in a Lithuanian or foreign company, institution or organisation;

101.5. meeting other requirements set out in the Regulations and the doctoral student's work plan.

102. Having received a doctoral student's application for the defence of his/her dissertation and the manuscript thereof approved by the Rector, the Doctoral Committee, shall, within 2 months, evaluate the contribution of the doctoral student to scientific publications on the subject of the dissertation, and shall assess whether the dissertation complies with the requirements for dissertations under this Chapter, according to the procedure laid down in the fourth section of this Chapter.

103. The Chair of the Doctoral Committee appoints one or more members of the Doctoral Committee to review the submitted thesis before the scheduled date of the Committee meeting. If the Doctoral Committee so decides, a reviewer from outside the Doctoral Committee (a researcher from a Lithuanian or foreign research and education institution) may be appointed. During the review, the doctoral candidate may revise his/ her dissertation in the light of the reviewer's comments. A dissertation may be reconsidered once.

104. If a dissertation meets all the requirements, has been completed and has been recommended for defence, the Doctoral Committee sets up a Defence Council of five researchers (hereinafter – the Defence Council) for the defence of the dissertation in question and appoints one of its members as the Chair.

105. Having examined the dissertation submitted for defence and assessed its quality, compliance with the requirements for the dissertation and the scientific competence of a doctoral student, the Defence Council decides whether the student is to be awarded a degree of Doctor of Science.

106. There shall be no conflict of interest between members of the Defence Council and the dissertation candidate or his/her supervisor (or, when defending a dissertation externally – the scientific advisor). Members of the Defence Council may not have joint publications with the dissertation candidate. More than half of the members of the Defence Council must not have had any joint publications with the supervisor or advisor of the dissertation (or, when defending a dissertation externally, –with the scientific advisor) in the last five years.

107. The recommendation is to have at least one member of the Defence Council from a foreign research and education institution.

108. If necessary for a comprehensive evaluation of the dissertation being defended, three members of the Defence Council may be representatives of other scientific disciplines.

109. Members of the Defence Council must meet the qualification requirements set out in clause 157 of the Regulation.

110. The doctoral student forwards to the Research Centre written consents of the approved members of the Defence Committee to be members of the Defence Committee, the characteristics of their scientific activity and the lists of their most important scientific publications drawn up in accordance with the applicable qualification requirements no later than 1 week after the meeting of the Doctoral Committee.

111. A decision of the Doctoral Committee on the composition of the Defence Council and the appointment of the date of defence are formalised by an order of the Rector prepared by the Research Centre.

112. The Research Centre shall, at least 30 calendar days before the dissertation defence:

112.1. submit the dissertation to the Chairperson of the Defence Council and members of the Defence Council;

112.2. provide data on the dissertation to be defended in the dissertation database administered by the LMT in accordance with the procedure laid down by the LMT; it shall also publish a link to the website where the prepared dissertation is published.

112.3. submit the dissertation to the University's library;

112.4. publish in the University's newspaper and on the University's website: the name of the doctoral student, the institution where the dissertation was prepared, the doctoral student's supervisor (or, when defending a dissertation externally, – the scientific advisor), the advisor and members of the Defence Council (degree, name, surname, field(s) of research, institution), the title of the dissertation, the place and time of defence.

113. Members of the Defence Council submit their written feedback on the dissertation to the Research Centre at least 5 working days before the defence of the dissertation.

114. The Research Centre prepares a form of the minutes of the vote of members of the Defence Council and the decision on the award of the doctoral degree in accordance with the requirements established by LMT and hands it over to the Chair of the Defence Council at least 5 days prior to the defence of the dissertation, together with the doctoral student's file.

115. Before the start of a meeting of the Defence Council for the defence of a dissertation, the Chair of the Defence Council:

115.1. makes sure that the doctoral student's file and all documents are ready for the meeting. If the necessary documents are missing from the doctoral student's file, the Chair of the Defence Council contacts the Research Centre and obliges it to provide the missing documents within 3 days;

115.2. examines the feedback received which is to be presented at the meeting of the Defence Council, or delegate this to a member of the Defence Council.

116. Dissertations are defended at a public meeting of the Defence Council. Dissertations may be defended in either Lithuanian or another language. In cases where another language is used at the meeting, the Defence Council determines the need for a translation into Lithuanian. The Chair of the Defence Council chairs the meeting.

117. A meeting of the Defence Council is valid if more than half of the members of the Defence Council (including those participating by teleconference) are present. During the meeting, feedback on the dissertation received from the absent members of the Defence Council and others is read out.

118. The Chair of the Defence Council opens a meeting of the Defence Council. He/she introduces the members of the Defence Council, the doctoral student, his/her supervisor (or, if a dissertation is defended externally, – the scientific advisor), the advisors, and the results of the doctoral studies. The Chair of the Defence Council presents conclusions of the Doctoral Committee on the suitability of the dissertation for defence.

119. The dissertation candidate presents (maximum 20 minutes) the main results and conclusions of his/her work and indicates his/her contribution to the publications in the dissertation. The members of the Defence Council give a reasoned assessment of the scientific level of the dissertation, the novelty and originality of the results, the reliability and validity of the conclusions, the shortcomings and inadequacies of the work, and, during the defence, the scientific competence of the dissertation. The candidate must answer the questions raised and comment on the observations made.

120. The dissertation candidate speaks at the end of the scientific debate. The dissertation candidate is allowed to speak after each speech (upon request).

121. After the discussion of the dissertation with members of the Defence Council and other persons participating in the defence, the doctoral supervisor (or, if a dissertation is defended externally, – the scientific advisor) and the advisors speak out.

122. After discussions with the candidate, members of the Defence Council decide by open vote whether a doctoral degree should be awarded.

123. Members of the Defence Council present by teleconference also vote. The decision to award a degree of Doctor of Science is made if more than a half of the members of the Defence Council vote in favour. In the event of a decision not to award a doctoral degree, the reasons for the decision are stated in the minutes of the vote. All members of the Defence Council who were directly present at the meeting sign the minutes of the vote and the decision.

124. The Chair of the Defence Council reads the decision of the Defence Council to the participants of the meeting and declare the end of the meeting.

125. At the end of the meeting, the Chair of the Defence Council returns the dissertation defence documents to the Research Centre within 1 working day at the latest.

126. No later than 10 working days after the defence of the dissertation, an audio recording of the minutes of the meeting of the Research Council is presented to the Research Centre in electronic format.

127. No later than 20 working days after the dissertation defence meeting, the Research Centre notifies the LMT of the outcome of the defence. The notification to the LMT shall include information on the reasons why the dissertation was not defended or why the defence did not take place. The Research Centre will provide data on the defended dissertation in the dissertation database administered by the LMT in accordance with its established procedure.

128. Having received the voting record of the Defence Council and the decision on the award of the doctoral degree, the Research Centre prepares a diploma of the doctoral degree in accordance with the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The Rector and the Chair of the Defence Council sign the doctoral diploma. The University issues a diploma registered in accordance with the established procedure. Copies of diplomas are stored at the Research Centre.

129. Within 2 weeks, the Research Centre submits one copy of the defended dissertation to the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, and publish the thesis in the Database of Electronic Theses and Dissertations of Lithuania.

130. If the Defence Council decides that the doctoral degree is not to be awarded, the revised and/or supplemented dissertation may be submitted for defence after one year at the earliest. In this case, a doctoral degree shall be awarded externally in accordance with the requirements of Chapter VII of the Regulation. Having established scientific dishonesty (plagiarism and other breaches of academic ethics and procedures), the dissertation cannot be defended.

131. A dissertation defended on time is a dissertation defended no later than one year after the end of the doctoral programme.

CHAPTER VII OBTAINING A DOCTORATE EXTERNALLY

132. A person who holds a Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification (hereinafter – an external student) may apply for acquiring a doctoral degree externally. An external student must have prepared a manuscript of his/ her dissertation, published the main results of the dissertation in at least two articles in international scientific journals with a citation index in the *CA WoS* database, and presented the results of his/her research in at least two international scientific events. A published scientific monograph written by an external student without co-authors may also be submitted as a doctoral dissertation. An abstract of the monograph shall be submitted along. In this case, other scientific publications are submitted if they are needed to illustrate the topic of the dissertation. A dissertation based on a collection of scientific articles may also be submitted for defence as a doctoral dissertation. In this case, the dissertation must consist of a review of at least 1 author's sheet, an abstract in Lithuanian or in a foreign language (the abstract must be prepared in a language other than the language of the review), and copies of the candidate's publications on the subject of the dissertation. The dissertation candidate must have published the main results of his/her research in at least four articles that have been published or accepted for publication (with a digital object identifier (DOI)) in international scientific journals with a citation index in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)* database. Once a dissertation has been defended on the basis of a collection of scientific articles, these articles may not be used in the defence of other dissertations.

133. An external student must submit an application for defending a doctoral dissertation to the Rector. The application shall be accompanied by:

133.1. a dissertation manuscript or a published scientific monograph;

133.2. a list of scientific publications and copies thereof;

133.3. a copy of the Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification and its supplement (appendix);

133.4. logs or transcripts of the doctoral examinations (if any) and descriptions of doctoral study subject programmes;

133.5. a *curriculum vitae* – a description of life, scientific and creative activities;

133.6. a copy of the identity document.

134. Having determined that the documents submitted by the external student meet the requirements set out in clause 133 of the Regulation, the Research Centre shall submit the external student's application and its annexes to the Rector.

135. The Vice-Rector for Education appoints reviewers and designates the units which shall consider and report, in a meeting of scientific and teaching staff, whether the manuscript of the dissertation or the published scientific monograph meets the requirements for a doctoral dissertation.

136. The Doctoral Committee examines the submitted material, the opinion of the meeting of the scientific teaching staff of the units whose scientific fields are closest to the submitted thesis, and the report of the meeting of the scientific teaching staff within a maximum of 3 months from the date of receipt of the application, and decides whether or not the manuscript of the thesis, or the published monograph, meets the requirements for a doctoral dissertation. If a positive decision has been taken, the Doctoral Committee follows the procedure laid down in the Regulation:

136.1. appoints a scientific advisor;

136.2. determines the subjects to be studied in the doctoral programme and the timeframes for their examinations;

136.3. determines examinations already taken externally that can be credited.

137. Dissertations must be defended no later than one year after the decision date.

138. The external student whom the Doctoral Committee appointed a scientific advisor pays to the University the doctoral thesis defence fee set by the Council. The external student only bears the costs directly related to the award of a doctoral degree. Having received an external student's request, the Doctoral Committee assesses the external student's contribution to the University's research and

experimental development and to the scientific production attributed to the University, and may propose to the Rector to reduce the fee for the defence of the doctoral thesis.

139. A scientific advisor is appointed for an external student by order of the Rector drawn up by the Research Centre.

140. Having obtained a permission of the Doctoral Committee, an external student takes examinations in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of Chapter VI of the Regulation and defends his/ her dissertation in accordance with provisions of Section 5 of Chapter VI of the Regulation.

141. If the Doctoral Committee rejects the external student's application for the defence of his/her dissertation, he/she may resubmit his/her application for the defence of his/her dissertation after one year at the earliest.

CHAPTER VIII

PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE DENIAL OF A DOCTORAL DEGREE, THE REJECTION OF AN APPLICATION OF AN EXTERNAL OR A DOCTORAL STUDENT FOR DEFENDING A DOCTORAL DISSERTATION, AND ANY OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE PURSUIT OF A DOCTORAL DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY

142. An appeal against non-award of the degree of Doctor of Science may be lodged with the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures, appointed by the LMT, within 10 days of the adoption of the respective decision.

143. If the Doctoral Committee decides that a dissertation or monograph cannot be prepared for defence within one year of the date of submission of the application, an external student may appeal against this decision to the Senate within 5 working days of the date of the decision of the Doctoral Committee. The Senate must hear the external student's appeal in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Senate. If the Senate decides to reject the external student's appeal, the student may reapply for defending his/her dissertation not earlier than after one year.

144. All other disputes arising in the process of doctoral studies are dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Dispute Hearing Rules of the University.

CHAPTER IX

PROCEDURE FOR AWARDING A DOCTORAL DEGREE

145. A person having defended his/ her dissertation is awarded the degree of Doctor of Science. A diploma is issued, recorded and registered in accordance with the Procedure for recording, storing and issuing diplomas for general, integrated and second cycle studies, their supplements, appendices, doctoral diplomas, certificates of internship and residency, their blanks, duplicates, and duplicate blanks approved by the Rector of the University.

146. The Doctoral Committee may revoke a decision to award a degree (including degrees awarded before the entry into force of the Regulation):

146.1. where the fact of scientific dishonesty is established;

146.2. where a doctoral degree has been awarded in breach of the Regulations, the Regulation or other legislation governing the award of doctoral degrees;

146.3. when the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures has taken a binding decision to do so.

147. Having received information on the circumstances referred to in clause 146 of the Regulation, the Doctoral Committee sets up a commission of seven members, which will assess all the circumstances and submit to the Doctoral Committee a conclusion on the revocation of the decision to award a degree.

148. The decision of the Doctoral Committee on the revocation of the decision to award a degree is formalised by an order of the Rector.

CHAPTER X PROCEDURE OF STORING DOCTORAL DOCUMENTS

149. Personal files of persons who have completed doctoral studies but have not defended dissertations are kept at the Research Centre for one year and then transferred to University's archives.

150. Personal files of persons who have not completed doctoral studies are kept in the Research Centre for one year, and then – in University's archives, in accordance with the Document Management and Control Procedure.

151. Personal files of persons who have not been admitted to a doctoral programme are stored at the Research Centre for one year and then destroyed.

152. Personal files of persons who have defended a doctoral dissertation or who want to obtain a doctoral degree externally are kept at the Research Centre for two years after the defence of the dissertation, and then – at University's archives.

153. A file must contain:

153.1. admission documents;

153.2. the Rector's order on admission to the doctoral programme;

153.3. the Rector's order for the approval of the supervisor or scientific advisor of the doctoral student and amendments to the order, if any;

153.4. consents of the doctoral student's supervisor or scientific advisor, and a description of the student's research activities;

153.5. the doctoral student's work plan;

153.6. the doctoral examination logs and descriptions of subject programmes;

153.7. orders of the Rector concerning the doctoral student's research trips and doctoral student's withdrawal from doctoral studies;

153.8. annual reports of the doctoral student and the conclusions of their evaluation by the Doctoral Committee;

153.9. permission from the Lithuanian Bioethics Committee or the Regional Ethics Committee for Biomedical Research to conduct biomedical research and/or authorisation from the State Food and Veterinary Service to conduct a project for animal testing procedures (if any);

153.10. documents for deferrals of doctoral programme timeframes (if any);

153.11. an application to the Rector for a permission to defend a dissertation;

153.12. a copy of the minutes of the meeting of researchers of the academic unit of the University where the dissertation was prepared regarding the eligibility of the dissertation for defence at the meeting of the Defence Council;

153.13. a written consent of each member of the research field council to be a member of the Council, a description of their scientific activities, and written feedback on the dissertation;

153.14. Order of the Rector on the appointment of the Defence Council and the date of the defence;

153.15. a copy of the announcement of the dissertation defence;

153.16. a list of the scientific articles published by the doctoral student;

153.17. an audio recording of minutes of the meeting of the Research Council in an electronic medium, together with the minutes of the vote and the decision on the award of the degree of a Doctor of Science;

153.18. a document confirming that the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania or the University's library received the dissertation;

153.19. a copy of the doctoral diploma.

CHAPTER XI

FUNDING OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

154. Doctoral scholarships are paid in accordance with the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Doctoral studies are funded from appropriations of the state budget, funds from State investment programmes and State investment projects, income from tuition fees, and other legally obtained funds. Funds for doctoral studies are allocated in accordance with provisions of clause 3 the Description of the Procedure for Calculating the Price of Studies for a Standard Study Field or a Group of Study Programmes and the Allocation of the State Budget of the Republic of Lithuania to Pay the Price of Studies in State-funded Study Places of Resolution No 149 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On Implementation of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania of the, taking into account the price of studies approved by the University’s Council.

155. The University’s Open Fund supports the mobility of doctoral students, the University’s Research Foundation provides research support for doctoral students, awards prizes to the best doctoral students, and covers publication costs of accepted articles.

156. Researchers participating in the University’s doctoral dissertation Defence Council and working in other institutions who do not hold a position of teaching staff and a researcher at the University, as well as researchers participating in the Defence Council of Dissertations Prepared Externally, the scientific advisor and dissertation reviewers are paid remuneration in accordance with the procedure established by the University Council.

CHAPTER XII FINAL PROVISIONS

157. Scientists in the fields of natural sciences, medicine and health, technology and agriculture – participants in the doctoral process: a doctoral student’s supervisor, consultant, scientific consultant, member of the Defence Council – must meet the requirements for persons applying for the position of a senior researcher, as set out in clause 8.2 of the Description approved by Order No V-340 of the Chairman of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences of 28 June 2018 “On the Approval of the Description of the Qualification Requirements for Researchers of the State Research and Education Institutions”, and must have had at least 3 research articles published in international scientific journals within the last 5 years. Researchers in the fields of humanities and social sciences must meet the requirements set out in clause 5.2 of the Description approved by Order No V-340 of the Chairman of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences of 28 June 2018 “On the Approval of the Description of the Qualification Requirements for Researchers of the State Research and Education Institutions”.

158. Researchers working at the University and holding a position taken by way of competition or having held at least 0.5 FTE at the institution for the last three years may be members of the Doctoral Committee. At least half of the members of the Doctoral Committee and its Chairperson must meet the requirements set out in clause 8.1 of the Description approved by Order No V-340 of the Chairman of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences of 28 June 2018 “On the Approval of the Description of the Qualification Requirements for Researchers of the State Research and Education Institutions” for persons applying for the position of a chief researcher and having published at least 5 scientific articles in international scientific journals over the past 5 years, while other members of the Committee must meet the requirements no less than those set out in clause 8.2 of the Description approved by Order No V-340 of the Chairman of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences of 28 June 2018 “On the Approval of the Description of the Qualification Requirements for Researchers of the State Research and Education Institutions” for persons applying for the position of a senior researcher and shall have published at least 3 scientific articles in international scientific journals in the last 5 years.

159. Doctoral students’ files and other doctoral documents are stored in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Document Management and Control Procedure.

160. Doctoral students admitted to a doctoral programme before the entry into force of this Regulation shall be allowed to complete their doctoral studies in accordance with the procedures laid down in legislation in force at the time of their admission to the doctoral programme.