

MY FIRST RESEARCH TEAM

Call for Early-Career PIs at LSMU



About LSMU

- Public University providing education since **1922**
- **Largest** University of biomedical sciences in Lithuania
- Integrated strengths in **human & veterinary medicine, public health and life sciences**
- Access to **national biobanks, clinical cohorts and modern research infrastructure**
- **WHO** Collaborating Centre for Education and Practice
- Strong engagement in **European R&I programmes**
- Supportive environment for **early research independence, international collaboration and long-term academic careers**



ABOUT LSMU



Ranked 2nd among the top Lithuanian universities according to the Times Higher Education rankings (2025)



**Times
Higher
Education**



Ranked 601–650 by subject in the 2025 QS World University Rankings



**WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS**

LSMU TODAY

LSMU, Kaunas clinics, LSMU
Kaunas hospital currently
unites ~ **31 500 community
members:**

1 646
Ph.D.'s

243
professors

255
scientists
258
lecturers

256
assoc.
professors

~ 2 000
medical
doctors

1 of 4
students
from foreign
countries

~ 8 000
students

12
Lithuanian
Academy of
Science members

2
LMA Young
academy
members

MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND WORLD-CLASS EXPERTISE



World Health Organization

eua EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION



AMSE
THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN EUROPE



AAHC

AAHCI
AAHCI is a wholly owned subsidiary of the AAMC

- WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Studies and Practice
- WHO Collaborating Centre for the Prevention and Control of Chronic and Noncommunicable Diseases

Programme Overview

"My First Research Team"

Programme Aim

- Supports **early-career researchers** in establishing independent research teams.
- Attracts **international talent** while supporting **local researchers**.
- Eligibility requirements defined by participating institutions in line with strategic priorities.

Funding & Administration

- Financed by the **Ministry of Education, Science and Sports** (*Progress Measure No. 12-001-01-01 "Improving the Science and Study Environment"*).
- Administered by the **Research Council of Lithuania** and the **Central Project Management Agency**.

Call Information

"My first research team"

No of positions at LMSU	8
Project funding	up to EUR 350,000 (direct costs)
Project duration	up to 36 months
Group Leader (PI)	Ph.D. obtained within the past 7 years (till application deadline) <i>after 30/01/2019</i>
Deadline for applications	30 January 2026, 16:00 CET
Selection results	March 2026
Start of project activities	September 2026

Requirements for Group Leader (PI)

Ph.D. obtained within the past 7 years (till application deadline)

No previous experience as PI in the **grants** funded by **Lithuanian Research Council**:

- ✓ the 2014–2020 EU Structural Funds Investment Action Programme Measure No. 01.2.2-LMT-K-718 “Targeted Research in Smart Specialisation Areas”;
- ✓ the 2014–2020 EU Structural Funds Investment Action Programme Measure No. 09.3.3-LMT-K-712 “Development of the Scientific Competence of Scientists, Other Researchers, and Students through Practical Scientific Activities”, excluding measures for promoting students’ scientific activities and for postdoctoral fellowships;
- ✓ researcher groups projects;
- ✓ the State Programme for Lithuanian Studies 2016–2024;
- ✓ short-term research in the fields of health, education, and training;
- ✓ national research programmes: Welfare Society, Healthy Ageing, Sustainability of Agro-, Forest and Water Ecosystems, Towards Future Technologies, Modernity in Lithuania;
- ✓ competitive priority research programmes: Welfare Society, Strengthening Societal Resilience and Crisis Management in the Context of Contemporary Geopolitical Events;
- ✓ the dedicated programme “Information Technologies for the Development of Science and the Knowledge Society”;
- ✓ projects carried out under bilateral and multilateral international agreements: Lithuania–Taiwan projects, the Baltic Research Programme, Lithuania–Poland projects.

Only one project per PI per Lithuania.

Requirements for Research Team

(minimum requirements)

Principal Investigator (PI):

- Up to 7 years after PhD
- Position: Researcher or Senior Researcher
- Full-time appointment

Research Team Composition:

1) Postdoctoral Researcher (at least 1)

- Up to 5 years after PhD
- PhD degree obtained at an institution other than LSMU
- Must be employed (no specific workload requirement)

2) Student (at least 1)

- Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD level
- Must be employed (no specific workload requirement)

3) Foreign Researchers (at least 3)

- Based and working outside Lithuania
- Employment is not required
- Research visits will be funded from the project budget

Project Eligibility Requirements (1)

Applicants are invited to propose an **original and independent research project** that **must be aligned with at least one** of the following **thematic research areas**:

- ☐ Advanced biological models and personalised medicine
- ☐ Metabolomics and metabolic biomarkers in health and disease
- ☐ Cancer immunology and personalised T cell-based therapies
- ☐ Systems medicine, multi-omics data integration and artificial intelligence
- ☐ Vascular biology and mechanisms of pathological remodelling
- ☐ Personalised theranostics and multimodal imaging technologies
- ☐ Neuroinflammation and mechanisms of neurodegeneration
- ☐ AI-driven diagnostic and monitoring solutions integrating biomarkers and sensor technologies in veterinary and animal health research

Projects **may span multiple thematic areas**.

Research topics should be aligned with **national Smart Specialisation priorities**: <https://eimin.lrv.lt/en/sector-activities/innovation/smart-specialization/>

Project Eligibility Requirements (2)

Proposed projects **must meet the following requirements:**

- Scientific coherence with the selected thematic research area(s);
- Feasible implementation within the host institution's existing research infrastructure;
- Clear involvement and defined roles of all research group members;
- Realistic potential to achieve the minimum required KPIs within the project duration;
- Compliance with research ethics, integrity standards, and applicable national and EU regulations.

Expected Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

1) Project implemented

Successful implementation of the approved research project.

2) Publications

*At least 2 **peer-reviewed publications**, monograph or a part of monograph (accepted or published).*

3) Foreign researchers

*Involvement of **at least 3 foreign researchers**. Persons living and/or working abroad may be employed within the project or invited to the host institution for project-related activities. Research visits, including travel and living costs, will be funded from the project budget.*

4) Secondments & Conferences

*At least 4 **secondments and/or conferences participation of ≥ 5 days**. These visits may include conducting research, participating in conferences, seminars, training activities, or other project-related professional activities.*

Application Form

Main Sections

- General information
- Candidate's experience
- Research project description

Mandatory Annexes

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- List of publications
- PhD diploma/certificate
- Names and contact details of 2 referees

Additional Annexes *(only if applicable)*

Documents proving eligibility extensions,
such as:

- Maternity or childbirth leave
- Paternity or parental leave
- Periods of long-term sick leave

Supplementary project materials, e.g.:

- Gantt charts
- Schemes, figures, or other supporting documents

Evaluation Criteria for Application

Area	Criteria	Max Points	Threshold
STEP 1			
Eligibility	Administrative check (PI eligibility (career stage, formal requirements); thematic research area(s); feasibility within available institutional infrastructure)	Pass/Fail	-
STEP2			
Group leader	Research & experience	20	10
Project	Quality & feasibility	20	10

Evaluation Criteria for Application

Evaluation of the Group leader

Maximum score: 20 points | Threshold: 10/20

Criterion	Description	Points
Research achievements & scientific excellence	Quality, originality and impact of research results; applicant's personal contribution	7
Experience in organising & leading R&D activities	Preparation and coordination of projects, team coordination, attracting external funding	7
Leadership & mentoring experience / potential	Readiness to lead an independent research group; supervision, mentoring, team management and vision	4
Expert activities	Participation in research networks, peer review, expert panels	1
Other relevant experience	Awards, teaching, supervision, other relevant activities	1

Evaluation Criteria for Application

Research Project Description

Maximum score: 20 points | Threshold: 10/20

Criterion	Description	Points
Problem Definition, Novelty and Relevance	Clarity of the research problem; originality and novelty in relation to the state of the art; scientific and societal relevance; alignment with the selected thematic research area	5
Objectives, Tasks and Work Plan	Clarity and coherence of objectives; logical structure of tasks; adequacy of the work plan and timeline	5
Methodology and feasibility	Appropriateness of methods and tools; feasibility of implementation; availability and adequacy of relevant infrastructure	5
Expected results and impact	Clarity and quality of expected scientific results; potential scientific, clinical, technological or societal impact; relevance to programme KPIs	3
International context and collaboration	Quality and relevance of international collaboration; involvement of foreign researchers; planned secondments or research visits	2
Ethical considerations	Identification of ethical issues; adequacy of proposed mitigation measures; required approvals	Yes/No

