

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



LSMU TODAY

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

12
Lithuanian Academy of Science members

2
LMA Young academy members

~ 2 000
medical doctors

1 646
Ph.D's

255
scientists
258
lecturers

243
professors
256
assoc. professors

1 of 4
students from foreign countries

~ 8 000
students

MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND WORLD-CLASS EXPERTISE



eua EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION



AMSE
THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN EUROPE

ASPHER
The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region



AAHCI
AAHCI is a wholly owned subsidiary of the AAMC



World Health Organization

- 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. 12-001-01-01-01 "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

