

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

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REGULATION ON DOCTORAL STUDIES IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES AREA, THE FIELD OF BIOPHYSICS, AT THE LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Regulation on Doctoral Studies in the Natural Sciences Area, the Field of Biophysics of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (hereinafter – the LSMU) and Vytautas Magnus University (hereinafter – the VDU) (hereinafter referred to as the Regulation) provides for the following study issues of the third study cycle:

1.1. the establishment, functions and the procedure of organisation of work of the Doctoral Committee (Chapter II of the Regulation);

1.2. the procedure for admission to the doctoral programme (Chapter III of the Regulation);

1.3. the procedure for the appointment of a doctoral supervisor and consultant (Chapter IV of the Regulation);

1.4. the procedure for the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies (Chapter V of the Regulation);

1.5. the procedure for obtaining a doctoral degree extramurally (Chapter VI of the Regulation);

1.6. the procedure for handling appeals and complaints regarding non-award of a doctoral degree, the denial of an application of an external candidate or a doctoral student to defend his/ her dissertation, and other matters related to the pursuit of doctoral studies at the University (Chapter VII of the Regulation);

1.7. the procedure for the award of the Doctoral degree (Chapter VIII of the Regulation);

1.8. the procedure for the storage of doctoral documents (Chapter IX of the Regulations);

1.9. the funding of doctoral studies (Chapter X of the Regulations).

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;

2.3. the Statute of Vytautas Magnus University;

2.4 Order No V-739 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – the ESSM) 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 **Doctoral institution** means the institution where doctoral students study, conduct research and prepare dissertations;

3.2 **Academic unit** means a particular unit of LSMU or VDU whose main activity is the pursuit of studies and/or research and experimental development;

3.3 **Doctoral student** means a third cycle student and researcher;

3.4 **Doctoral student’s work plan** means an individual work plan of a doctoral student, which includes the stages and deadlines for doctoral studies, research, and the preparation of a dissertation;

3.5 **Doctoral Committee** means a group of high-level researchers responsible for the content, quality, organisation and conduct of doctoral studies;

3.6. **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;

3.7. **Examination report** means a sheet signed by all examiners and approved by the Vice-Rector for Research of the Doctoral Student's Institution, which is handed over to the Research Affairs Department of LSMU (hereinafter – the Research Department) or to the Doctoral School of VDU (hereinafter –the Doctoral School) together with the description of the subject. The originals of these reports 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 Doctoral Institution (hereinafter – the Document Management and Control Procedure);

3.8. The **Defence Council** means a group of researchers appointed together 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 research competence, and decides whether or not to award a doctoral degree.

4. The purpose of the PhD is to train researchers to be able to carry out research and experimental development independently and to solve scientific problems. The doctoral studies 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. LSMU / VDU has full-time (up to 4 years) and part-time (up to 6 years) PhD doctoral studies. A academic doctoral degree may be awarded to a person having successfully completed a full-time (up to 4 years) or part-time (up to 6 years) doctoral studies, who has prepared a dissertation and defended it, or to a person who has defended a dissertation prepared extramurally. 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 Research of the Doctoral Institution coordinates the process of organisation of doctoral studies. His/ her competence is determined by the Statutes approved by Order of the Rector of the Doctoral Institution. 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 academic units in the Regulation. The regulations for the assurance of quality of the study process are published on the website of the LSMU and the VDU.

CHAPTER II DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

SECTION 1 COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

10. Pursuant to the doctoral right in the field of Biophysics in the Natural Sciences granted by the ESSM, the LSMU and VDU have a Doctoral Degree Committee in the field of Biophysics.

11. The Biophysics Doctoral Committee consists of at least 9 scientists of high international standing working at LSMU/VDU (holding positions filled by competition or having had at least 0.5 FTE at the institution for the last three years). The LSMU Senate approves the composition of the Committee for a period of four years, also approving one of the members of the Committee as the Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee. A member of the Doctoral Committee may serve as the

Chairperson of the Committee for a maximum of two 4-year terms. A researcher may be a member of no more than two Doctoral Committees at a time. The Doctoral Committee may also include researchers 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.

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

13. The functions of the Doctoral Committee include:

13.1. to consider and assess, by 15 May of each year, whether the new doctoral study programmes submitted by academic units have been drawn up 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 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 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 based on 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 LSMU/VDU Senate for consideration.

13.2. evaluate the submitted applications for preparing doctoral students;

13.3. submit to the LSMU Doctoral Admissions Commission (hereinafter – the Admissions Commission) proposals on the allocation of doctoral study places according to the research topics;

13.4. if necessary, decide by 1 June, which compulsory subjects to be taken by doctoral students in Biophysics;

13.5. 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;

13.6. consider and decide on a request for the transfer of a doctoral student to another academic unit of the Doctoral student's institution;

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

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

13.9. carry out the annual attestation of doctoral students;

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

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

13.12. consider the application of a person for defending his/ her dissertation or a scientific monograph extramurally, and consider issues related to its defence;

13.13. assess the quality of doctoral studies and provide conclusions on monitoring and ensuring the quality of studies;

13.14. make proposals for improving the training of researchers;

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

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

14. The Chairperson chairs the Doctoral Committee and:

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

14.2. organises and chairs meetings of the Doctoral Committee;

14.3. ensures that all necessary documents and other material are prepared for meetings;

14.4. gives instructions to members of the Doctoral Committee;

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

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

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

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

15. If necessary, the Vice-Rector for Research of LSMU and VDU, the Research Department and the Doctoral School organise meetings with the Chair of the Doctoral Committee to discuss, inter alia, the results of the Doctoral Committee.

16. The Senate of LSMU/ VDU deals with the matters that are not assigned to the Doctoral Committee in accordance with the Regulation.

SECTION II

PROCEDURES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

17. 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.

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

19. The Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee chairs meetings of the Doctoral Committee. If the Chairperson 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 Chairperson. If the Chairperson 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.

20. 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 the members of the Doctoral Committee vote in favour of it. The decisions of the Doctoral Committee are recorded in minutes of the meeting of the Doctoral Committee.

21. 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 working day before the date of the meeting, submit their written opinion on the matter to be discussed to the Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee.

22. Minutes of meetings of the Doctoral Committee are taken. A member of staff appointed by the Research Department takes minutes of a meeting. The Chairperson of the meeting signs the minutes.

23. The minutes of the meeting of the Doctoral Committee indicate: the number of the minutes, the date, the 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.

24. Minutes are kept at the Research Department in accordance with the procedures laid out in the Document Management and Control Procedure.

CHAPTER III

ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES

25. The structural units of the Faculties and Research Institutes of LSMU and VDU 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 in accordance with the procedures laid down by LSMU and VDU.

26. The application for doctoral studies must specify:

26.1. the preferred form of the doctoral studies and the nature of funding;

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

26.3. the topic of the planned research work, accompanied by an abstract;

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

26.5. the subject matter of the research activities of the unit applying for the doctoral degree;

26.6 the description of the material and technical resources available to the unit for conducting the studies, infrastructure, equipment, methodologies, etc;

26.7 the expected sources of funding and ongoing projects related to the doctoral topic;

26.8. 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);

26.9. the number of doctoral students currently enrolled in the unit and their dates of enrolment in the requested field of study.

27. The Councils of the Faculties or Research Institutes assess 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 and submit their conclusions on them. The application, together with the assessment and conclusion of the Faculty or the Research Institute Council, is to be submitted to the Research Department.

28. 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 validity of the methodology of the scientific work, the competence of prospective supervisors and consultant of doctoral students, and the challenges to be addressed by the field of study.

29. 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 studies if they have obtained at least 9 points in the competition and there is a vacancy in the doctoral study place at the unit indicated in the application form where the person wants to enrol, paying the doctoral programme fee set by the University Council.

30. 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.

31. The Rector of LSMU publishes competition conditions and other conditions of admission to the Doctoral Studies in the LSMU newspaper, as well as on the websites of LSMU and VDU on 5-15 June of each year. This publication also specifies the form of doctoral studies and the field of study. The Research Department prepares the publication.

32. The competition is held in August each year. The competition is organised by the Research Department.

33. Within two months of the date of the call for applications, the applicant submits the following documents to the Research Department:

33.1. an application to the Rector to participate in the competition;

33.2. a curriculum vitae;

33.3. a copy of the Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification and its supplements;

33.4. recommendations from two researchers (the head of the unit where the applicant wishes to study and the prospective supervisor); recommendations from other researchers from foreign and Lithuanian research and study institutions where the applicant has been and participated in research may also be submitted;

33.5. for admission to a part-time doctoral studies, a recommendation from the doctoral candidate's employer;

33.6. an approved bibliography and copies of scientific articles;

33.7. 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;

33.8. a copy of the specialised medical practice licence (for applicants to clinical units).

34. The following are assessed for admission to the doctoral studies:

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

34.2. the scientific merit of the doctoral application;

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

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

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

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

35. 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 Studies, the Vice-Rector for Clinical Medicine, the Chancellor of the Medical Academy, the Chancellor of the Veterinary Academy, Chairpersons of Doctoral Committees, the Head of the Research Department, and the doctoral candidate delegated by the Doctoral Students' Council.

36. 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. In there are several applicants, the person for who gets votes of more than a half of the members of the Admissions Commission will be admitted to the doctoral studies.

37. 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 Department draws up meeting minutes. The Chairperson of the meeting and the person having drafted meeting minutes signs the minutes.

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

39. A person is admitted to doctoral studies by an order of the Rector of the Doctoral Institution, which indicates: the unit where the doctoral student is admitted, the field of study, the form of doctoral studies, the nature of the financing of studies, and the duration of the doctoral studies. The Research Department /Doctoral School prepares a draft order of the Rector.

40. If there are doctoral vacancies remaining after the admission, a second admission round may be organised according to the quotas available at LSMU and VDU, following the same procedure as the first one.

41. Persons who have been admitted to a non-state-funded doctoral place pay the tuition fee set by the Council of the Doctoral Student's Institution.

42. European Union citizens take part in an open competition for doctoral admission in general procedure. Citizens of foreign countries (non-Member States of the European Union) applying for admission to doctoral studies who hold a master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification submit, together with the documents referred to in point 33 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 the time.

43. Students enrolled in doctoral studies are issued student certificates in accordance with the procedure laid down in the legislation. Students enrolled in doctoral studies sign study agreements with the Doctoral Institution in accordance with the standard form of agreement approved by the Rector of the Doctoral Institution.

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

CHAPTER IV SUPERVISOR AND/OR CONSULTANT OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

45. The Doctoral Committee shall, within one month of the person's admission to the doctoral studies, after receiving information from the Research Department, consider the nomination of a supervisor or consultant for each doctoral student and take a decision on the submission of the approval of the doctoral supervisor or consultant to the Rector of the Doctoral Institute. On the recommendation of the doctoral supervisor, the doctoral committee may propose the appointment of a doctoral consultant. The doctoral supervisor or consultant 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 consultant must be from the University.

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

46.1. the candidate's compliance with the qualification requirements referred to in clause 146 of the Regulation;

46.2. an extract from the minutes of considerations of the academic unit proposing the appointment of a doctoral student's supervisor or consultant;

46.3. a written agreement of the doctoral student's supervisor or consultant;

46.4. a description of research activities of the doctoral student's supervisor and consultant and lists of bibliography drawn up in accordance with the applicable qualification requirements.

47. The consultant assigned to a doctoral student may be a researcher in another field. Consultants meet the same qualification requirements as doctoral supervisors.

48. A doctoral supervisor may supervise no more than five doctoral students at a time.

49. A doctoral supervisor and consultant are appointed by order of the Rector of the Doctoral Institution, prepared by the Research Department/Doctoral School.

50. A doctoral supervisor:

50.1. supervises doctoral studies and research;

50.2. provides scientific and methodological support to doctoral students;

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

50.4. may take part in examinations of doctoral students;

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

50.6. 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;

50.7. 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;

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

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

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

51. Doctoral consultants advise doctoral students on research topics.

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

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

52.2. a written consent of the proposed doctoral student's supervisor or consultant;

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

53. The Doctoral Committee shall, upon receipt of a request from a doctoral student to replace of the doctoral student's supervisor or consultant, 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 consultant may be invited to attend the meeting of the Doctoral Committee.

54. 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.

55. 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 V

PROCEDURES FOR THE ORGANISATION AND CONDUCT OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

SECTION ONE

GENERAL PROVISIONS

56. The Doctoral Committee organises the preparation of doctoral study subjects, assesses their quality and submits them to the LSMU/VDU Senate for approval.

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

58. 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.

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

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

61. 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 report, all examiners sign it and the Vice-Rector for Research of the Doctoral Student's institution approves it.

62. 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.

63. 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.

64. Doctoral students are provided with access to the equipment available in the academic units of the Doctoral Institution for carrying out the research provided for in the doctoral student's work plan.

65. 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.

66. The Regulation of Quality of Activities of LSMU governs quality assurance of the doctoral process.

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

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

67.1. the topic of the dissertation, the research methodology and the objects of research;

67.2. 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;

67.3. the stages and timeframes for conducting research;

67.4. the stages and timelines for preparing publications;

67.5. the stages and timelines for writing a dissertation;

67.6. participation in international scientific events.

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

69. 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 Department. The Doctoral Committee discusses and approves work plans of doctoral students.

70. Having approved a doctoral student's work plan, 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.

71. Having received a request from the doctoral student 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, childcare, etc.).

SECTION THREE DOCTORAL STUDENT ATTESTATION

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

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

74. 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.

75. The Research Department 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.

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

76.1. make a decision to attest the doctoral student;

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

76.3. decide not to attest the doctoral student.

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

78. If the Doctoral Committee decides not to test the doctoral student, the doctoral student is removed from the doctoral studies.

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

80. 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 Department.

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

SECTION FOUR PREPARING AND EXAMINING DISSERTATIONS

82. A doctoral dissertation (hereinafter – a dissertation) as a single publication (except for the case provided for in clause 84 hereof) consists of: the text and summary of the dissertation, lists of publications containing the most important results of the research and 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.

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

84. 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, a summary in Lithuanian or in a foreign language (a summary 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 (and at least two of them are the sole author or lead author) 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 based on a collection of scientific articles, these articles may not be used in the defence of other dissertations.

85. 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 research methods used, 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.

86. The text of the dissertation shall be written in Lithuanian or English, or in a other language than Lithuanian or English if approved by the Doctoral Committee. The summary 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 summaries (in Lithuanian and English) are required. A dissertation must be written in the correct language.

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

88. At least 10 copies of the dissertation must be submitted for defence, it must be at least 5 author's sheets, and its format must comply with the requirements for the form of a doctoral dissertation laid down in the Regulation.

SECTION FIVE DEFENDING DISSERTATIONS

89. Dissertations must be defended during the period of doctoral studies.

90. If a doctoral student submits a dissertation before the end of the 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 will be defended extramurally in accordance with the procedure laid down in Chapter VI of the Regulation.

91. A doctoral student may submit his/ her dissertation for defence:

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

91.2. publishes the main results of his/her research in at least two articles published (and is the sole author or lead author of at least one of them) 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 dissertations that have already been defended.

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

91.4. 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;

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

92. 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 of this Chapter.

93. The Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee appoints one or more members of the Doctoral Committee to review the submitted dissertation 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.

94. 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 Chairperson.

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

96. There shall be no conflict of interest between members of the Defence Council and the dissertation candidate or his/her supervisor or consultant (or, when defending a dissertation extramurally, – the scientific consultant). 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 consultant of the dissertation (or, when defending a dissertation extramurally, – with the scientific consultant) in the last five years.

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

98. If necessary for a comprehensive evaluation of the dissertation being defended, three members of the Defence Council may be representatives of other research fields.

99. Members of the Defence Council must meet the qualification requirements set out in clause 146 of the Regulation;

100. The doctoral student forwards to the Research Department/ Doctoral School written agreements of the approved members of the Defence Committee to be members of the Defence Committee, the scientific description of their 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.

101. A decision of the Doctoral Committee on the composition of the Doctoral Defence Council and the appointment of the date of the defence are formalised by an order of the Rector of the Doctoral Institution drawn up by the Research Department / Doctoral School.

102. The Research Department / Doctoral School shall, at least 30 calendar days before the dissertation defence:

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

102.2. submit the data on the dissertation to be defended to the dissertation database administered by the Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter – LMT) in accordance with the procedure established by the LMT; it shall also publish a link to the website where the prepared dissertation is published.

102.3. submit the dissertation to the library of the Doctoral institution;

102.4. publish in the LSMU newspaper (if LSMU is the institution of the doctoral student) and on the website of the doctoral student's institution: the name of the doctoral student, the institution where the dissertation was prepared, the doctoral student's supervisor (or, when defending a dissertation extramurally, – the scientific consultant), the consultant and members of the Defence Council (degree, name, surname, field(s) of research, institution), the title of the dissertation, the venue and the time of defence.

103. Members of the Defence Council submit their written reviews on the dissertation to the Research Department/Doctoral School at least 5 working days before the dissertation defence.

104. The Research Department / Doctoral School prepares a form of the minutes and decision of the vote of members of the Defence Council on the award of the doctoral degree in accordance with the requirements set by the LMT and submits to the Chairperson of the Defence Council at least 5 days before the defence of the dissertation, together with the doctoral student's file.

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

105.1. 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 Chairperson of the Defence Council contacts the Research Department / Doctoral School and obliges it to provide the missing documents within 3 days;

105.2. examines the received reviews which must be presented at the meeting of the Defence Council, or delegate this task to a member of the Defence Council.

106. Dissertations are defended at an open 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 Chairperson of the Defence Council chairs the meeting.

107. 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, reviews on the dissertation received from the absent members of the Defence Council and others are read.

108. 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 extramurally, – the scientific consultant), the consultant, 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.

109. 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 inaccuracies of the work, and, during the defence, the author's scientific competence. The candidate must answer the questions raised and comment on the observations made.

110. The dissertation candidate speaks at the end of the scientific debate. The dissertation candidate is allowed to speak (if requested) after each speech.

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

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

113. Members of the Defence Council present by teleconference also vote. The decision to award the Doctor's degree is made if more than a half of the members of the Defence Council vote in favour. The minutes of the vote and the decision are signed by all members of the Defence Council present at the meeting. If a decision is taken not to award a doctoral degree, the reasons for the decision are indicated in the voting minutes. The Chairperson of the Defence Council reads the decision of the Defence Council to the participants of the meeting and declares the end of the meeting.

114. 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.

115. At the end of the meeting, the Chairperson of the Defence Council returns the dissertation defence documents to the Research Department/Doctoral School within 1 working day.

116. No later than 10 working days after the defence of the dissertation, an audio recording of the meeting of the Defence Council is presented to the Research Department /Doctoral School in electronic format.

117. No later than 20 working days after the dissertation defence meeting, the Research Department/ Doctoral School 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 Department/ Doctoral School will provide data on the defended dissertation in the dissertation database administered by the LMT in accordance with the established procedure.

118. Having received the minutes of the voting and the decision on the award of the doctoral degree of the Defence Council, the Research Department/ Doctoral School prepares a diploma of the doctoral degree in accordance with the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The Rector of the Doctoral Institution and the Chairperson 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 Department / Doctoral School.

119. Within 2 weeks, the Research Department/Doctoral School submits one copy of the defended dissertation to the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania and publish the dissertation in the Database of Electronic Theses and Dissertations of Lithuania.

120. 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 extramurally in accordance with the requirements of Chapter VI of the Regulation. Having established scientific dishonesty (plagiarism and other breaches of academic ethics and procedures), the dissertation cannot be defended.

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

CHAPTER VI OBTAINING A DOCTORATE EXTRAMURALLY

122. A person who holds a Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification may apply for acquiring a doctoral degree extramurally (hereinafter – an external candidate). An external candidate 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 candidate 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, a summary in Lithuanian or in a foreign language (the summary 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 CA WoS database. Once a dissertation has been defended based on a collection of scientific articles, these articles may not be used in the defence of other dissertations.

123. An external candidate must submit an application for defending a doctoral dissertation to the Rector of LSMU / VDU. The application shall be accompanied by:

123.1. a dissertation manuscript or a published scientific monograph;

123.2. a list of scientific publications and copies thereof;

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

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

123.5. a *curriculum vitae* - a description of life, scientific and creative activities;

123.6. a copy of the identity document (show).

124. Having determined that the documents submitted by the external candidate meet the requirements set out in clause 123 of the Regulation, the Research Department/ Doctoral School shall submit the external candidate's application with its annexes to the Rector of LSMU/ VDU.

125. The Vice-Rector for Research of LSMU/ VDU appoints reviewers and designates the units which shall consider and evaluate in a meeting of research and teaching staff, whether the manuscript of the dissertation or the published scientific monograph meets the requirements for a doctoral dissertation.

126. The Doctoral Committee examines the submitted material, the opinion of the meeting of the research and teaching staff of the units whose research fields are closest to the submitted dissertation, within a maximum of 3 months from the date of receipt of the application, and decides

whether or not the manuscript of the dissertation, 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:

126.1. appoints a scientific consultant;

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

126.3. determines examinations already taken extramurally that can be credited.

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

128. The external candidate whom the Doctoral Committee appointed a scientific consultant pays the defence fee set by the LSMU/VDU Council to the institution to which he/she has applied for defence. The external candidate shall only cover the costs directly related to the award of the doctoral degree.

129. A scientific consultant is appointed for an external candidate by order of the Rector of LSMU/VDU, prepared by the Research Department/ Doctoral School.

130. Having obtained a permission of the Doctoral Committee, an external candidate takes examinations in accordance with provisions of Section 5 of Chapter V of the Regulation.

131. If the Doctoral Committee rejects the external candidate'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 VII

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

132. An appeal against non-award of a doctoral degree 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.

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

134. All other disputes arising in the process of doctoral studies are dealt with in accordance with the procedure set out in the Dispute Hearing Rules of LSMU/ VDU.

CHAPTER VIII

PROCEDURE FOR AWARDING A DOCTORAL DEGREE

135. A person having defended his/ her dissertation is awarded the Doctor's degree. 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 Rector of the Doctoral Institution.

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

- 136.1. where the fact of scientific dishonesty is established;
- 136.2. where a doctoral degree has been awarded in breach of the Regulations, the Regulation or other legislation governing the award of doctoral degrees;
- 136.3. when the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures has taken a binding decision to do so.
137. Having received information on the circumstances referred to in clause 136 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.
138. The decision of the Doctoral Committee on the revocation of the decision to award a degree is formalised by an order of the Rector of the Doctoral Institution.

CHAPTER IX

PROCEDURES OF STORING DOCTORAL DOCUMENTS

139. Personal files of persons who have completed doctoral studies but have not defended their dissertation are kept for one year at the Research Department/ Doctoral School and then transferred to the archives of the Doctoral Institution.
140. Files of persons who have not completed their doctoral studies are kept for one year at the Research Department/ Doctoral School, and thereafter in the archives of the Doctoral Institution in accordance with the Document Management and Control Procedure.
141. Files of persons who have not been admitted to the doctoral studies are kept at the Research Department/ Doctoral School for one year and then destroyed.
142. Files of persons who have defended their doctoral dissertations or who want to obtain a doctoral degree extramurally are kept at the Research Department/Doctoral School for two years after the defence of the dissertation, and then – at the archives of the LSMU / VDU.
143. A file must contain:
- 143.1. admission documents;
- 143.2. order from the Rector of the doctoral institution concerning admission to the doctoral studies;
- 143.3. order of the Rector of the doctoral institution concerning the approval of the doctoral supervisor, consultant of the doctoral student or scientific consultant and amendments to the order, if any;
- 143.4. the agreements of the doctoral student's supervisor or scientific advisor, advisors and a description of the student's research activities;
- 143.5. the doctoral student's work plan;
- 143.6. the doctoral examination reports and descriptions of subject programmes;
- 143.7. orders of the Rector of the doctoral institution concerning the doctoral student's research trips and the doctoral student's withdrawal from doctoral studies;
- 143.8. annual reports of the doctoral student and the conclusions of their evaluation by the Biophysics Doctoral Committee;
- 143.9. 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);
- 143.10. documents for deferral of doctoral studies timeframes (if any);
- 143.11. applications to the Rector of the Doctoral Institution for permission to defend a dissertation;
- 143.12. a copy of the minutes of the meeting of researchers of the academic unit of the doctoral institution where the dissertation was prepared, regarding the eligibility of the dissertation for defence at the Defence Council meeting;
- 143.13. a written agreement of each member of the Defence Council to be a member of the Council, a description of their scientific activities, and written reviews on the dissertation;

- 143.14. Order of the Rector on the appointment of the Defence Council and the date of the defence;
- 143.15. a copy of the announcement of the dissertation defence (if any);
- 143.16. a list of the scientific articles published by the doctoral student;
- 143.17. an audio recording of the meeting of the Defence Council in an electronic medium, together with the minutes of the vote and the decision on the award of the Doctor's degree;
- 143.18. a copy of the doctoral diploma.

CHAPTER X FUNDING OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

144. 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 received as fees for studies, 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.

145. The LSMU Open Fund supports the mobility of LSMU doctoral students, the LSMU Research Foundation provides support for LSMU doctoral students' research, awards prizes to the best doctoral students, and supports the publication costs of accepted papers. The VDU Research Foundation supports the mobility of VDU doctoral students, provides support for the research of VDU doctoral students, and awards prizes to the most active doctoral students.

146. Researchers participating in the LSMU 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 extramurally, the scientific consultant and dissertation reviewers are paid remuneration in accordance with the procedure established by the Council of LSMU.

CHAPTER XI FINAL PROVISIONS

147. Researchers in the areas of Natural Sciences, Medical and Health Sciences, Technology Sciences and Agricultural Sciences – 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 areas of Humanities Sciences 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".

148. 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.

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

150. 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 studies.