

ORDER AND CONDITIONS OF OPEN COMPETITION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES IN EDUCATION SCIENCE FIELD IN 2026

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of field of science	Field of Science
S 007	EDUCATION SCIENCE

1.1. Applicants to doctoral studies in Education Science field are admitted through an open competition according to the chosen dissertation topic separately to each doctoral institution that has been granted the joint right of doctoral studies.

1.2. The competition is organized by the Doctoral Committee of Education Science Field (hereinafter – Committee).

1.3. Applicants shall be evaluated by an admissions board approved by the Committee of the institution to which the person is applying (hereinafter – Admissions board).

2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1. Master's degree or higher education degree equal to it.
- 2.2. Scientific research experience, participation in research.
- 2.3. Knowledge of foreign languages.

3. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Application for admission addressed to the Rector
- Diploma of Master's degree or qualification adequate to it, its annex/supplement
- Letters of recommendation by two scholars from Education science field
- Curriculum Vitae (signed by applicant)
- List of applicant's scientific publications (submitted in full bibliographic description) and their copies (submitted together with a copy of journal's cover and contents page); or, if a scientific article in not yet published – a document issued by the editorial board of a scientific journal certifying the acceptance of an article for publication (after the reviewing procedure) and its manuscript
- Electronic copy of the scientific research project in .doc or .docx format, if two topics are indicated in the application, then 2 scientific research projects need to be submitted
- Personal identification document
- Documents notifying the change of surname if not all documents are submitted under the same surname
- Other documents which an applicant wishes to submit

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 4.1. **Scientific publications (SP).** Applicant's scientific publications are evaluated by points according to the methodology approved by the order of Minister of Science and Education. Points for scientific publications are allocated and the sum of points is converted to a ten point system in the way described in Annex 1.
- 4.2. **Scientific research project (RP).** The scientific research project is prepared according to the requirements set by Committee (Annex 2). The project is marked by two evaluators appointed by Committee. Its final mark consists of the average of marks given by the two evaluators in a ten-point grading system.
- 4.3. **Grade point average (GPA)** of the marks of study courses and thesis in annex/supplement to Master's diploma or other diploma confirming the reward of corresponding qualification.
- 4.4. **Motivational interview (MI).** During the motivational interview the applicant's motivation to study in the doctoral programme is assessed as well as the adequacy of scientific publications, scientific research and other activity to the chosen topic, recommendations of scientists, knowledge of foreign languages, etc. The final point* of the motivational interview is generated by the average of Committee member marks in a ten-point grading system. The candidates to doctoral studies must collect no less than 8 points from the motivational interview.

5. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIVE SCORE (CS)

- 5.1. Competitive score (CS) is estimated according to the formula:

$$CS = 0,3SP + 0,2RP + 0,1GPA + 0,4MI, \text{ where:}$$

- SP – is the point calculated in a ten-point grading system for scientific publications,
- RP – is the final point of assessment for scientific research project,
- GPA – is the grade point average of the marks in the annex/supplement to Master's degree or other diploma certifying the reward of the corresponding qualification,
- MI – is the final score obtained for the motivational interview.

- 5.2. In case of equal scores, an applicant with a higher evaluation of scientific research project shall be given a priority.

* Points are rounded to the nearest hundredths.

6. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

- 6.1. Applicants are required to submit an application form to take part in the competition addressed to the Rector of the institution to which they are applying. This request can be submitted to the Doctoral School/Office of Science of each doctorate institution having the right to organize such studies. Together with the application, all document specified in Section 3 need to be submitted. Only those who submit all required documents can take part in the competition.
- 6.2. All applicants are required to take part in a motivational interview with the Admissions board. If the applicant cannot attend the interview due to important objective reasons, the interview with the applicant may be conducted remotely by decision of the Commission. The applicant must inform the Commission in advance that there are important objective reasons for which the applicant cannot attend the interview.
- 6.3. The Committee generates a competitive score according to the selection criteria and makes priority lists of applicants for each partner institution's dissertation topics.
- 6.4. After the announcement of competition results, applicants can submit a motivated appeal to with the head of the doctoral institution to which he/she has applied, within the time limits

specified.

- 6.5. After the final list of invited candidates is announced, applicants who were not accepted into state-funded study places, but who meet the requirements for doctoral studies, can choose fee-paying doctoral study places and study paying a tuition fee set by a doctoral institution.
- 6.6. Candidates invited to doctoral studies sign a bilateral contract with the doctoral institution, and the Rector's order is issued on their acceptance to doctoral studies.
- 6.7. If, after the admission process is over, there are free study places left, a second round of admission can be organized, which is carried out following the same procedure.

Admission to Vilnius University:

Admission procedures	Dates and deadlines
Submission and registration of documents	2026 03 03 – 2026 06 25 (until 12 p.m.)
Submission and registration of documents for applicants who have received their education at a foreign higher education institution and who do not have a document confirming the recognition of their diploma in Lithuania	2026 03 03 – 2026 06 18 (until 12 p.m.)
Acceptance of scientific projects	until 2026 06 18
Doctoral Admissions Board meeting (motivational interview with applicants)	2026 06 26 – 2026 07 02 (The exact date will be specified later)
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculations of the results of the competition)	2026 06 26 – 2026 07 02 (The exact date will be specified later)
Presentation of the information to the applicants regarding the preliminary results of the competition in the ISAS system	2026 07 03 from 14 p.m.
Acceptance of appeals against the results of admission	until 2026 07 07 10 a.m.
Information to the applicants regarding the final results of the competition in the ISAS system	2026 07 09 from 15 p.m.
Concluding of agreements with applicants invited to doctoral studies through the bank authentication	2026 07 13 – 2026 07 16 until 14 p.m.
Direct concluding of agreements with applicants (for persons unable to identify themselves through a bank)**	2026 07 13 – 2026 07 17 until 15 p.m.

*** Persons invited to study at the University and unable to identify themselves through the bank are provided with possibility to email signed study agreement within the deadlines set out in the Rules and send the original agreement to the University's Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies by registered mail or submit upon arrival. Upon arrival to study, the originals of the documents specified in the application shall be submitted (shown) to the Office of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies.*

Admission to Klaipėda University:

Admission procedures	Dates and deadlines
Submission and registration of documents	Until 2026 06 19
Doctoral Admissions Board meeting (motivational interview with applicants)	2026 06 26 11 am.
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculations of the competition results)	2026 06 26
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2026 06 26 3 p.m.
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	Until 2026 07 01 3 p.m.

Handling appeals	
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2026 07 03 3 p.m.
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2026 07 06 – 2026 07 07

Admission to Mykolas Romeris University:

Admission procedures	Dates and deadlines
Submission and registration of documents	2026 05 04 – 2026 06 12
Acceptance of applications to participate in the competition from applicants who obtained their education at a foreign higher education institution and do not have a document certifying academic recognition in Lithuania.	2026 05 04 – 2026 05 29
Doctoral Admissions Board meeting (motivational interview with applicants)	2026 06 19
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculations of the competition results)	2026 06 19
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2026 06 22
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2026 06 23
Handling appeals	According to the procedure established by the doctoral
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2026 06 30
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2026 07 01 – 2026 07 03

7. ADMISSION OF CITIZENS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMME STUDIES

7.1. Applicants from foreign countries, having acquired a Master's degree or corresponding qualification outside the Lithuanian Republic, have to submit all the documents indicated in Section 3 and the following additional documents:

7.1.1. Notarized translation of the Master's degree diploma and its supplement into the Lithuanian language.

7.1.2. The Certificate of recognition of higher education qualification acquired abroad. The document about the acquired qualification may be issued by The Study Quality Assessment Center and also high schools upon submission of the required documents.

7.1.3. Application form for admission is filled in English. Curriculum vitae, a list of scientific publications and their copies can be presented in the English language.

7.2. Applicants taking part in the competition take their responsibility for all travel expenses and documents: passport, visa, temporary residence permit, health insurance etc.

7.3 Applicants who have been admitted to doctoral program studies, need to obtain a permission for temporary residence in the Republic of Lithuania or a permission to live in the Lithuanian Republic as a citizen of the country member of the European Community or have a permission to live in the Lithuanian Republic permanently.

8. CONTACTS

Vilnius University

Universiteto str. 9 – 106, Vilnius Contact person – Jūratė Rapalavičiūtė email: jurate.rapalaviciute@fsf.vu.lt Documents provided: apply.phd@cr.vu.lt

Klaipėda University

Herkaus Manto str. 84 – 301, Klaipėda
Contact person – Vita Jušienė, email: vita.jusiene@ku.lt
tel. +370 46 39 89 32
Time of receiving documents: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mykolas Romeris University

Didlaukio str. 55 (MRU Research and Innovation Hive),
room 404, Vilnius. Contact person – Laura Lukošienė,
e-mail: laura.lukosiene@mruni.eu,
tel. +370 5 271 4459
Documents provided: phd@mruni.eu

ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Type of scientific work	Measurement unit	Points
Scientific articles in publications, refereed in <i>Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge</i> (ISI) databases	Author's input*	4
Scientific articles in scientific publications, refereed in other international databases	Author's input	3
Scientific articles in other reviewed scientific publications	Author's input	2
Scientific articles in reviewed cultural, art and professional publications; in conference proceedings	Author's input	1
Other **	Author's input	0–4

* Author's input (AI) is calculated according to the formula: $AI=1/N_A$, where N_A is the total number of authors of the article. For example, if the number of authors is 4, one author's input is worth 0.25, i.e. $AI = 1/4 = 0.25$.

** The Committee shall also have a right to assess other applicant's scientific output that is not included in this table, and assign additional points from 0 to 4.

Reviewed scientific articles: reviewed periodical publications, reviewed series or one-time publications, having editorial board of scholars and ISSN or ISBN number.

Scientific article is an article published in scientific publications, written in compliance with requirements for a scientific article in a particular science field (footnotes, bibliography, formulas, drawings, description of methodology, statistic tables, and etc.), and corresponding to the scientific criteria, recognised in that science field; the minimum scope valid is 0.25 of the quire. The decision to accept shorter than 0.25 (1 quire = 14 pages) of the quire scientific publications is made by the Committee. Scientific publications and scientific activities must correspond to the chosen topic and / or field of science.

The total sum of points is converted into a 10-point grading system as follows:

- The maximum number of points of the applicant (Tmax) equals 10 points.
- Tmax divided by 10 equals the constant -k ($k = Tmax/10$).
- The total scored sum of other competition participants' points is divided by constant -k, and equals the applicant's number of points for scientific publications (points are rounded off to one decimal place).

RECOMMENDATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT

1. A scientific research project of a Ph.D. applicant (hereafter a Project) is an independent scientific work, which aims to reveal the author's scientific abilities, creativity, methodological preparation, motivation, theoretical preparation, practical experience, and particular scientific experience in the chosen topic.
2. The scientific Project shall describe the problem to be examined; evaluate its relevance and perform the analysis of previous research on the topic; define the aim and objectives of the work; identify possible directions and research methods.
3. The Project shall consist of the following sections:
 - **INTRODUCTION.** This section deals with the relevance of the topic, its novelty, the necessity for further exploration, formulates the research problem, plans the object, purpose and objectives of the dissertation, sets hypotheses and/or defensive theses.
 - **LITERATURE REVIEW.** This section covers the exploration of the topic in Lithuania and the world, how the dissertation thesis can contribute to the accomplished research.
 - **METHODOLOGY.** This section aims at discussing possible methods and process of the research and explaining how the data will be analysed, how reliability will be determined.
 - **BIBLIOGRAPHY.** In this section, reference sources and literature are provided, used when preparing the Project.
4. The scope of the Project is 8 000–12 000 characters (with spaces), i.e. approximately 4-5 pages.
5. The text should be printed in 1.5 spacing between lines, 12 pt., Times New Roman. Margins of the page are as follows: left – 3cm, right – 1.5, top and bottom – 2 cm.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT

1. The object of the research, scientific problem, purposes and objectives are formulated precisely and clearly.
2. The relevance of the chosen topic is determined in the context of scientific research and development.
3. The applicant can substantiate the prospective research theoretically, is familiar with the accomplished research on the chosen topic, can show links between different works, compare and generalise critically, formulate conclusions.
4. The chosen material for the research corresponds to the object of the research, is authentic and sufficient.
5. The chosen research methodology complies with the purposes and objectives of the research.
6. The project is written in scientific language and meets the methodological requirements set for scientific research (it is a conscientious piece of work, new and original ideas are presented, thoughts are logical and coherent, references and bibliography are consistent, the style of the scientific language is accurate).