

## **MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY AND VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY ADMISSION RULES FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES IN LAW IN 2026**

### **1. General provisions.**

1.1. Doctoral studies in the field of Law Science (S 001) are carried out according to the [Regulations of the Doctoral Studies](#) in the field of Law Science of Mykolas Romeris University and Vytautas Magnus University.

1.2. Duration of studies: full-time – 4 years, part-time – 6 years.

1.3. Persons, who hold a bachelor's degree in Law and a master's degree in Law or a single cycle master's degree in Law, are eligible to enter the competition for admission to the doctoral studies. A person holding a bachelor's degree in Law and an LL.M. degree in Law is eligible to enter the competition if he/she has published at least two scientific articles in peer-reviewed law scientific journals, and is the sole author of at least one of which.

1.4. The competition, studies and dissertation preparation are implemented in Lithuanian or English.

### **2. Admission procedure.**

2.1. Applicants willing to study in Lithuanian have to pass a test in a foreign language (English, German or French). Only successful applicants can defend a research project. Applicants, who provide a valid certificate indicating having knowledge in foreign language level C1 (international test evaluation not less than: English – TOEFL 80 + 15 for essay – computer version; IELTS – 7; German – TestDaf – Level IV; French – DALF) are not obliged to take the test. Applicants from 2024 or 2025 who successfully passed the test in a foreign language during the admission to Mykolas Romeris University and Vytautas Magnus University (hereinafter Doctoral institutions) doctoral studies in Law and provided a certificate proving that, are also exempt from foreign language test. If an applicant has a bachelor's or master's or LL.M master's or single cycle master's degree in Law in one of languages mentioned above, he/she doesn't have to pass the test.

2.2. Applicants willing to study not in Lithuanian but in English have to pass a test in English language. It is not required to take the test in the cases mentioned in the article 2.1.

2.3. Admission to doctoral studies is organised by order of an open competition, forming one common priority list for both institutions according to the highest competitive scores. An applicant can apply for up to two dissertation topics by providing different research projects for each of them.

2.4. The competition is conducted by the Mykolas Romeris University and Vytautas Magnus University Doctoral Committee of Law Science Field (hereinafter Committee).

2.5. Competitive score (CS) is estimated according to this formula:

$$\mathbf{CS = 0,40*DC+0,30*RP+0,15*GPA+0,15*SP}$$

where:

DC – average of scores given for a scientific research project defence (see clause 2.11);  
RP – average of reviewers' evaluations for a scientific research project (see clauses 2.9 and 2.11);

GPA – grade point average of the marks in annexes / supplements to bachelor's and master's or LL.M master's or single cycle master's diplomas;

SP – points for scientific publications in Law (converted to a ten-point system: the maximum sum of points is equal to 10, other applicants are ranked proportionally).

2.6. Points for each scientific publication in Law are allocated according to the attached table and converted to a ten-point system (Annex 1).

2.7. In the case applicants receive equal scores an applicant with higher scientific publications (in law) score shall be given a priority. In the case applicants receive equal number of scientific publications scores an applicant with higher diploma score shall be given a priority. If in both cases scores are equal an applicant having scientific publications in the chosen topic of research project shall be given a priority.

2.7.1. The average of diploma's supplement is rounded to nearest hundredth part of number.

2.8. Only applicants who submitted the documents specified in the article 3 according to the admission timetable shall be admitted to the competition.

2.9. All applicants must attend a meeting of the Committee (defence of the research project). Applicants whose average score from the reviewers' evaluations of the research project is 5 points or lower are not invited to the meeting. If, for important objective reasons, the applicant is unable to attend the meeting of the Committee, the Committee may decide to interview the applicant remotely. The applicant must inform the Committee in advance of the existence of important objective reasons why the applicant cannot attend the meeting of the Committee.,

2.10. Under important objective circumstances, a meeting of the Committee may also be organized remotely.

2.11. Only applicants whose scientific research project (the overall average of the evaluations of the research project and the doctoral candidate) is not less than 7 points and whose average score from the research project reviewers' evaluations is higher than 5 points may be admitted to doctoral studies.

2.12. 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 the institution.

2.13. Candidates invited to doctoral studies sign a bilateral agreement with the doctoral institution. Doctoral institutions may request the submission of the original admission documents specified in clause 3.

2.14. 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.

### 3. Required documents.

<b>Documents *</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application (submitted to MRU or VMU);</li><li>• One letter of recommendation of a researcher in Law;</li><li>• Curriculum vitae (<a href="#">Europass</a> form);</li><li>• Motivation letter (up to 2 pages);</li><li>• Copies of diplomas of bachelor's and master's or LL.M master's or single cycle master's degrees in Law, supplements;</li><li>• Research project (10-20 pages) (electronic version);</li><li>• List of applicant's scientific publications (<b>no more than 5 most important publications</b>, 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 is 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 (the list is provided as a mandatory document only if the applicant has printed or accepted publications);</li><li>• Copy of the passport page containing personal information or copy of the ID card;</li><li>• One photo 3x4 cm;</li><li>• Copy of the check proving that admission fee paid to MRU or VMU bank account or copies of documents proving that the applicant is exempt from payment of admission fee;</li><li>• Copy of documents, proving the change of surname, if not all documents are under the same surname;</li><li>• Other documents which an applicant wishes to submit (a certificate indicating having knowledge in foreign language (TOEFL, IELTS) or other documents showing candidate's qualifications).</li></ul>

\* Documents (scanned from the original documents or electronic versions) shall be submitted during the dates listed in the admission timetable:

MRU – by email at [phd@mruni.eu](mailto:phd@mruni.eu);

VMU – <https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt>.

### 4. Additional admission rules for foreign applicants and applicants who obtained their degrees abroad.

4.1. Applicants who obtained bachelor's and master's or LL.M master's or single cycle master's degrees not in the Republic of Lithuania should present all documents, indicated in clause 3, and additionally a notarised translation of diplomas and their supplements into the Lithuanian or English language.

4.2. Recognition of qualification acquired abroad is assessed by the Universities when all the required documents are submitted.

4.3. Application form, curriculum vitae, the letter of recommendation, the research project are submitted in Lithuanian or English.

4.4. If scientific publications are not in Lithuanian or English, in the list the titles shall be provided in original language with translation to Lithuanian or English. Copies of the publications can be submitted in other languages if the category of the journal can be assigned on the basis of the copies submitted.

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

4.6. Applicants who have been admitted to doctoral 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.

## **5. Procedures for submitting an appeal and its review process.**

5.1. A written appeal must be submitted according to the order described in the Regulations of the Doctoral Studies in the field of Law Science of Mykolas Romeris University and Vytautas Magnus University.

5.2. Appeals regarding violation of admission rules must be submitted within 2 working days after announcement of the competition results. The appeals will be reviewed according to the procedures established by the doctoral institutions.

5.3. No later than 1 working day after the appeal has been reviewed, the appellant is informed about the decision over personal e-mail (provided in the admission documents).

## **6. Application fee.**

6.1. The applicants pay the application fee set by the doctoral institution to which the application is submitted.

6.2. The application fee shall not be reimbursed.

## **7. Annual tuition fee.**

7.1. Each university establishes its annual tuition fee.

7.2. Tuition fee shall be paid within 15 days since the signing of the agreement between a student and the University.

## **8. Contact information.**

### **Mykolas Romeris University**

Social Innovations Doctoral School

Didlaukio 55, Room 404 (MRU Research and Innovation Hive), Vilnius, Lithuania

Tel. +370 5 271 4469, email: [phd@mruni.eu](mailto:phd@mruni.eu).

MRU website: <https://bit.ly/lawphd>.

Admission documents shall be submitted by email at [phd@mruni.eu](mailto:phd@mruni.eu).

## **Vytautas Magnus University**

Doctoral School

Universiteto 8A, Room 203, Akademija, Kaunas district

Tel. +370 37 209 815, email: [doktorantura@vdu.lt](mailto:doktorantura@vdu.lt).

VMU website: <https://goo.gl/XtkWfC>.

Admission documents shall be submitted at <https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt>.

### **9. Consultations.**

The following departments can be consulted regarding the topic of the dissertation and the preparation of the scientific research project:

#### **Mykolas Romeris University**

Institute of Criminal Law and Procedure, e-mail: [btpi@mruni.eu](mailto:btpi@mruni.eu)

Institute of Private Law, e-mail: [pti@mruni.eu](mailto:pti@mruni.eu)

Institute of International and European Union Law, e-mail: [testi@mruni.eu](mailto:testi@mruni.eu)

Institute of Public Law, e-mail: [vti@mruni.eu](mailto:vti@mruni.eu)

#### **Vytautas Magnus University**

Law Faculty, e-mail: [tf@vdu.lt](mailto:tf@vdu.lt)

### **10. Further information.**

10.1. In any case, which have not been discussed in the Admission Rules, decisions shall be passed by the Committee.

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## ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Type of scientific work	Measurement unit	Points
Scientific monographs, studies or their chapters	Quires* x author's input**	2
Scientific articles in publications <b>in the field of Law Science</b> , referred in <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science</i> and (or) <i>Scopus</i> databases	Author's input	10
Scientific articles in publications, referred in <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science</i> and (or) <i>Scopus</i> databases	Author's input	7
Scientific articles in publications, referred in other international databases	Author's input	3
Scientific articles in other peer-reviewed scientific publications	Author's input	2
Scientific articles in cultural, art and professional publications; in conference proceedings	Author's input	1

\* One quire = 40 000 characters (including spaces) of the text; if it impossible to establish the volume in characters, 14 pages shall be considered as an equivalent of a quire.

\*\* Author's input (AI) is calculated according to the formula:  $AI=1/NA$ , where NA 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.  $AI = 1/4 = 0.25$ .

**Peer-reviewed publication** is a periodic, serial, or one-time publication having an ISSN or ISBN number where research papers are published based on written conclusions of peer-reviews that can be proved.

**Scientific article** is an article published or submitted for publication (with the certificate from the editorial board) in a peer-reviewed scientific publication, 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.