

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

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of field of science	Field of Science
S004	ECONOMICS

1.1. Applicants to doctoral studies in Economics 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. Applicants can apply to no more than two different dissertation topics.

1.2. The competition is organized by the Doctoral School of Vytautas Magnus University, the competition is conducted by the Doctoral Committee of Economics Science Field (hereinafter – Committee).

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
- Two letters of recommendation by scholars from Economics 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. 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. Only those applicants whose scientific research project is evaluated by a mark not lower than 7 are eligible for studies in a doctoral programme.
- 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 7 points from the motivational interview.

5. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIVE SCORE (CS)

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

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

- 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 Committee members.
- 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. In three days after the announcement of competition results, applicants can submit a motivated appeal to the Committee, and upon receiving a negative response, in three days, can appeal to the head of the doctoral institution, to which doctoral studies they applied.

- 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 procedures	Dates and deadlines
Submission of documents for the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications in Lithuania (for applicants who obtained their education at a foreign higher education institution and do not possess a document confirming the recognition of their diploma in Lithuania).	2026 05 01 – 2026 07 19
Submission and registration of documents	2026 05 01 – 2026 08 19 (by 4:00 PM.)
Doctoral Committee Meeting (motivational interview with applicants)	2026 08 26
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculation of the competition results)	2026 08 20 - 2026 08 26
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2026 08 27
Submission of motivated appeals to Doctoral Committee	2026 08 28 – 2026 09 01 (by 12.00 PM.)
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2026 09 02 – 2026 09 04 (by 12.00 PM.)
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2026 09 07
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2026 09 07
Study start date	2026 10 01

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. Notarised 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 centre 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 programme 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. TUITION FEES PER YEAR

Study form	Tuition fees per year, EUR		
	Vytautas Magnus University*	Mykolas Romeris University*	ISM University of Management and Economics*
Full-time studies	12 680	12 680	12 680
Part-time studies	8 453	8 453	8 453

Tuition fee is to be paid in 15 calendar days from the day the study contract comes into effect.

* A normative fee for tuition approved with the Order No. V-48 of 22 January of 2026 by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Lithuanian Republic, is subject to reduction upon the decision of doctoral institution.

9. CONTACTS

Vytautas Magnus University

Universiteto str. 8A-203, Akademija, Kaunas distr.
Contact person – Rasa Andrišiūnaitė, tel. (0 37) 209 815,
+ 370 619 21615, email: doktorantura@vdu.lt
Admission documents shall be submitted at
<https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt>

Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy

Universiteto str. 8A-203, Akademija, Kaunas distr.
Contact person – Monika Brimaitė-Kemėšė
tel. +370 37 75 22 54, e-mail: monika.brimaite_kemese@vdu.lt.
Admission documents shall be submitted at
<https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt>

Mykolas Romeris University

Didlaukio str. 55-404 (MRU MIA), Vilnius.
Contact person – Radvilė Lapinskaitė, tel. +370 5 271 4459
e-mail: radvile.lapinskaite@mruni.eu,
Admission documents shall be submitted at phd@mruni.eu

ISM University of Management and Economics

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ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Type of scientific work	Measurement units	Points
Scientific articles in publications, refereed in <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science, Scopus</i> 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 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 the 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.

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

- The maximum number of points of the applicant (T_{max}) equals 10 points.
- T_{max} divided by 10 equals the constant -k ($k = T_{max}/10$).
- 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).

METHODOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED UPON ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES IN ECONOMICS

A scientific research project is an expanded summary of a preliminary doctoral dissertation. The following parts shall be included:

- **Introduction.**
- **Statement of the problem.**
- **The object of the research.**
- **Research purpose(s).**
- **Research objectives.**
- **Research methodology.**
- **Presentation of investigation within the boundaries of the chosen topic.**
- **Research conclusions.**
- **List of references.**

The title has to indicate briefly and precisely the essence and the scope of the intended scientific research. It has to contain three or four key phenomena (concepts) which can show dependent and independent variables and their interrelation as well as the investigation process and a certain context. The title indicates a brief representation of the research topic.

The introduction has to present the relevance and importance of the topic in modern scientific research. While describing the relevance of the topic, fundamental aspects which make the scientific problem important for the present day economics and its practice are described. The description of the relevance of the topic aims at the substantiation of the chosen subject-matter and relation between the existing scientific results (the problems identified and discovered by other researchers in the field) and the personally formulated scientific problem, object, purposes and objectives of the research.

Statement of the problem. With reference to the problems identified by other researchers, i.e. incomplete knowledge of the chosen topic in Economics, an insufficiently investigated research problem is stated. A statement of the problem is an unresolved issue which lacks a response/solution in the defined research topic. The research problem statement is the raising of a specific question in a problematic field under research. It should clearly state doubts in the field of economics or obstacles which occur in real economic life and call for theoretical solutions. Usually no theoretical or practical analogue (algorithm, programme, etc.) exists as the solution to the scientific problem stated, since the problem presented by the author of the scientific research project has not been raised and solved by anybody.

The object of the research is a concrete research topic. The object provides a brief description of scientific relation among 1-2 key phenomena (concepts), which are presented in the title.

The purpose of the research states why it is important to address the problem; what scientific or practical interests are there to answer the question. The purpose describes the researcher's intentions. It will be easier for the reader to understand a subject-specific text, if the author writes what is intended to be performed, why and how. The purpose is briefly stated in one sentence, it has to be closely related to the title and indicate the main results which are planned to be attained.

The objectives of the research show the sequence and the main stages of the work which lead to achieving the purpose. The appropriately formulated objectives enable the author of the research project to perform purposeful research and empirical investigation without any deviation from

the research purpose. Usually objectives are formulated using the infinitive forms of verbs. 5-7 objectives are enough to reveal the essence of the research, its logics and contents.

The title, the statement of the problem, the object of the research, the purpose and the objectives have to be closely interconnected (but they should not repeat each other); the key phenomena (concepts) should be recognisable.

Research methodology. This part provides information about the theory, model and the conceptual background referring to which the scientific problem will be investigated. It is necessary to substantiate the logics of the research, to indicate the type of the research and the intended methods for data collection and analysis.

Presentation of investigation within the boundaries of the chosen topic. This part should be based on a complex analysis of scientific literature and previous scientific research. The aim of this part is to show the level of knowledge in the chosen field, the previous research and its results together with the unresolved issues in the research. It has to prove the insufficiency of the performed research identified in the research literature analysis pertinent to the chosen topic and the necessity to further research the problem to fill the discovered gaps.

The author of the scientific research project has to show being well-read on the topic in the chosen field and that his/her intended scientific research is based on the research which has already been carried out. It is necessary to provide an overview of the main bibliography sources, scientific schools and theories in the field, to indicate the statements, theses, definitions, tendencies, hypotheses or versions that deserve further attention and discussion. The author should present a summary on the present situation of the investigations in the chosen field, i.e. to identify the problems and issues solved, the results obtained; to outline the main contradictions and gaps, the interpretation of data that deserve further discussion, theoretical and practical problems which have not been investigated empirically.

The analysis of literature has to be logical, coherent, concentrated and based on the principles of general literary analysis. The analysis of the present situation of investigations within the boundaries of the chosen topic should convince the reader that the problem intended to be researched by the author is worth investigating. While performing literature analysis, the author has to refer to the sources of scientific literature, i.e. scientific articles (that appear in scientific data bases), monographs, books, scientific reports and studies. The analysis of (or citation from) textbooks, dictionaries, encyclopedias, non-scientific periodicals or publicist writing is not acceptable in scientific research.

In the **conclusions**, generalised results of the scientific research project as a whole are concisely (by enumerating the main points) presented. In this part, the reader needs to find the answers to the questions if and how the scientific problem will be solved, the purpose achieved, the objectives attained. The conclusions need to be clear and simple; they have to contain the information which is declared as new and practical. Therefore, the conclusions should present scientific novelty and practical importance of the research carried out.

The scientific novelty shows the author's fundamental contribution to the level of the present scientific research and knowledge in the problematic area in the world. The scientific novelty can be: 1) a contribution to the development of theory, 2) a new or improved research methodology, 3) an argumentative evaluation of other authors' theoretical statements, 4) new or improved methods for the analysis of research results.

Practical importance of the research emphasizes its significance to the functioning of economy (on micro and/or macro levels), further research and education.

List of references. It should include only these sources of information which are cited in the scientific research project.

Format requirements. The scientific research project may be written in Lithuanian or English. It should be 15-20 pages long (Times New Roman, 12pt, Single Line spacing, After Paragraph 6 pt.)

The prospective students have to submit both electronic (stored on electronic media) and printed versions of the scientific research project.

Methodological literature recommended for writing a scientific research project:

1. Babbie, E. (2001). *The Practice of Social Research*. 9th ed. Belmont: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
2. Baker, M.J. (2000). Writing a Research proposal. *The Marketing Review*, 1. P. 61-75.
3. Berg, B. (2001). *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. 4th ed. Allyn and Bacon Ed. Comp.
4. Davis, G.B., Parker, C.A. (1997). *Writing the doctoral dissertation: a systematic approach*. 2nd ed. Barron's Educational series. P. 155.
5. Heath, T.P., Tynan, C. (2010). Crafting a research proposal. *The Marketing Review*, Vol. 10, No. 2, P.147-168.
6. Iqbal, J. (2007). Learning from a Doctoral Research Project: Structure and Content of a Research Proposal. *The Electronic Journal of Business Research Methods*. Vol. 5 Issue 1. P. 11 – 20.
7. Kardelis, K. (2002). *Mokslinių tyrimų metodologija ir metodika*. Kaunas: JUDEX leidykla.
8. Rienecker, L., Jorgensen, P. (2003). *Kaip rašyti mokslinį darbą*. Vilnius: Aidai.
9. Tidikis, R. (2003). *Socialinių mokslų tyrimų metodologija*. Vilnius: LTU.

Typical methodological mistakes in scientific research:

1. Research topic is too abstract and broad, covering too many phenomena (concepts).
2. The object of the research is not defined, since the identified research variables are least characteristic to the phenomena under research.
3. Inappropriate research problem statement, usually oriented towards descriptive approach (what? where? when? which? and similar questions are raised).
4. The solution to the research problem, the attainment of the purpose and objectives are not related with the conclusions.
5. In the conclusions, the issues that were analysed are presented rather than the issues that have been analysed and the results that have been obtained. The results which are presented are interim rather than generalising the whole work.
6. Unreliability of the research (inability to highlight the conceptual theoretical knowledge; attention is focused only on the contents of the work while the form and structure are ignored; unclear necessity for the scientific research – why was it necessary to carry it out? why is it relevant to Economics?).
7. Too general evaluation of the research carried out by other authors. Sometimes the scientific literature which is analysed in the work is not related to the scientific problem statement.
8. The scientific research repeats the results of the previous research or presents information which is already known.
9. The data is collected prior to the development of a plan of data procession.
10. There is no logical coherence between the paragraphs, statements and conclusions.
11. The analysis of scientific literature prevails over the empirical research (if the research has been carried out and presented in the scientific research project).
12. The conclusions are based only on logical reasoning.
13. Long and complex sentences and paragraphs.
14. Colloquial, publicist, non-scientific language and spelling mistakes.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT

1. The research object, scientific problem, purposes and objectives are stated explicitly and clearly.
2. The relevance of the chosen topic is defined within the context of scientific research and development.
3. The entrant is able to theoretically substantiate the planned research; is familiar with the previous research performed in his/her chosen field; is able to show relations between different works, to compare and generalize, to formulate conclusions.
4. The chosen scientific material corresponds with the object of the research, is authentic and sufficient.
5. The identified methodology corresponds with the purposes and objectives.
6. The work is written in formal English in compliance with the requirements for scientific research (it is a conscientious piece of work, the ideas are new and original, the thoughts are developed coherently, in a logical order, coherent references and bibliography, correct scientific language)

The joint committee of doctoral studies in Economics at VMU, MRU, VU ŠA and ISM