

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

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of field of science	Field of Science
S 006	Psychology

1.1. Applicants to doctoral studies in Psychology 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 Political Sciences Field (hereinafter – Committee).

2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

2.1. Master's degree or higher education degree equal to it. If the person applying for doctoral studies has a master's degree or equivalent higher education that is not in the field of Psychology, before submitting the documents, they must have studied equalising subjects and collected 125 ECTS credits in the field of Psychology from the bachelor's degree and 60 ECTS from the master's degree (with supporting documents).

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
- Letter of recommendation by scholar from psychology 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 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; documents proving participation at science conferences (a conference programme or a certificate)
- 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 that an applicant wishes to submit (certificates proving the knowledge of foreign languages (IELTS, TOEFL, CAE, CPE, ALTE, etc) or other documents certifying applicant's abilities and qualifications)

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 4.1. **Scientific publications and conference presentations (SP).** Applicant's scientific publications are evaluated by points. Points for scientific publications and conference presentations 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 project is prepared in compliance with the requirements set by the Committee (*Appendix 2*). A completed project and its presentation are evaluated by all members of the Committee. The final mark¹ is the average of the evaluations written by all members of the Committee for the scientific research project in a ten-point grading system.
Only those applicants whose final score for the research project is not less than 6 points can apply for doctoral studies.
- 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 readiness and 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 and etc. The final score of the motivational interview is the average of the Committee members' assessments on a ten-point grading system.
Only those applicants whose final score in the motivational interview is not less than 6 points can apply for doctoral studies.

5. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIVE SCORE (CS)

- 5.1. Competitive score (CS) is estimated according to the formula:
 $CS = 0,3*SP + 0,2*RP + 0,2*GPA + 0,3*MI$, where:
SP – is the point calculated in a ten-point grading system for scientific publications,
SRPP – is the final point of assessment for scientific research project and its presentation,
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 SP 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 entrants must come to the Committee interviews.
During the interview the candidate to the Psychology science field doctoral programme presents his/her scientific research project and answers questions asked by 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 and registration of documents	2026 07 08 – 2026 08 28
Submission of documents for the recognition of qualification obtained abroad in Lithuania (for those applicants who have obtained their education at a foreign higher education institution and do not have a document confirming the recognition of their diploma in Lithuania)	2026 07 08 – 2026 08 14
Doctoral Committee Meeting (motivational interview with applicants)	2026 09 10
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculation of the competition results)	2026 09 10
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2026 09 14
Submission of motivated appeals to Doctoral Committee	2026 09 15 – 2026 09 17 (till 12:00 P.M)
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2026 09 18 – 2026 09 22 (till 12:00 P.M)
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2026 09 25
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2026 09 28 – 2026 09 29
Start of doctoral studies	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

- 8.1. Students admitted to fee-paying study places have to pay a normative fee for tuition approved by the Order No. V-48 of 22 January of 2026 by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Lithuanian Republic:
 - 8.1.1. 12 680 EUR per year for full-time studies;
 - 8.1.2. 8 453 EUR per year for part-time studies.
- 8.2. Tuition fee can be reduced upon the decision of doctoral institution.
- 8.3. Tuition fee should be paid in 15 calendar days from the day the study contract comes into effect.

9. CONTACTS

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

Mykolas Romeris University Didlaukio g. 55-404, Vilnius.
Contact person - Laura Lukošienė,
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Admission documents shall be submitted at
phd@mruni.eu

ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Kinds of scientific publication		Measurement unit	Points
Monographs or chapters in books		Quires* x author's input**	10
Scientific articles in publications refereed in <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science</i> and (or) <i>Scopus</i> databases		Author's input*	25
Scientific articles in one-time, continuous or periodical reviewed publications published in internationally recognised publishing houses / in foreign reviewed scientific publications refereed in other databases (apart from <i>Scopus</i> or <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science</i>)		Author's input	20
Scientific articles in foreign reviewed scientific publications		Author's input	15
Scientific articles published in Lithuanian reviewed scientific publications refereed in other databases (apart from <i>Scopus</i> or <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science</i>)		Author's input	15
Scientific articles published in Lithuanian reviewed scientific publications		Author's input	8
Scientific articles published in reviewed culture, art and professional publications; conference proceedings		Author's input	4
Conference presentations (oral / poster) ***	International	Author's input	2
	National		0,5

* One quire = 40 000 characters (with spaces), ~ 14 pages.

** 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. $AI = 1/4 = 0.25$.

*** Presentations with identical titles (even presented in different conferences) are calculated as one presentation

Monograph's or book chapter – original scientific work corresponding to a scientific review article, published in a non-periodical publication, except conference proceedings.

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.), or a document issued by the editorial board of a scientific journal certifying the acceptance of an article for publication 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 (Tmax) 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).

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 AND ITS PRESENTATION

1. The object of the research, scientific problem, purposes and objectives are formulated precisely and clearly.
2. The relevance and novelty 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 (Lithuanian and English) 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).
7. A research presentation during motivation interview. A candidate has 7-10 minutes for presentation. It is advisable to use *Microsoft Power Point* for a presentation. The relevance of the chosen topic and reasons of its investigation have to be clearly presented and Committee members' questions to be answered.