

ORDER AND CONDITIONS OF OPEN COMPETITION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES IN AGRONOMY SCIENCE FIELD IN 2019

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of field of science	Field of Science
A 001	Agronomy Science

1.1. Applicants to doctoral studies in Agronomy 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 Agronomy Science Field (hereinafter – Committee).

2. PROCEDURE FOR THE COMPETITION OF DOCTORAL THESIS THEMES AND DOCTORAL SUPERVISORS

In accordance with the Doctoral Regulation in the field of Agronomy approved by the University Senate, the competition for doctoral thesis topics and doctoral supervisors is announced no later than one month before the announcement of the admission procedure. Topics must conform to the fields of research carried out by Doctoral institutions.

The competition is organized by the Doctoral School (Lith. Doktorantūros mokykla), carried out by the Doctoral Committee.

The competition for the doctoral thesis topics and doctoral supervisors in the field of Agronomy is announced on **April 8**. Requests to participate in the competition can be submitted from **April 8 to April 26**.

Scientists who meet the requirements of doctoral studies and meet the qualification requirements of the PhD students in the field of doctoral studies and are planning to participate in the competition must submit the following documents to the Doctoral School on behalf of the Chair of the Doctoral Studies Committee:

- application;
- substantiation of doctoral thesis topic (Annex 1);
- curriculum vitae (*preferably in a form of Europass*);
- list of scientific publications in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* journals with the citation index for life, others – for the last 5 years, approved by a member of the University Library.

Candidacies of doctoral supervisors and themes of doctoral theses, taking into account the substantiation of the topics of the doctoral theses, the work done, the scientific projects carried out, the effectiveness of the preparation of previous and current doctoral students are approved by the Committee. The list of doctoral thesis themes and doctoral supervisors selected by the competition procedures is formalized in the protocol of the Doctoral Committee. The Committee's decision will be taken by **May 8**.

The Committee shall submit to the Doctoral School the protocol of the competition meeting for doctoral thesis topics and doctoral supervisors. The Doctoral School publishes the list of themes selected during the competition on the University's website.

3. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1. Master's degree or higher education degree equal to it.
- 3.2. Scientific research experience, participation in research.

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT

- Application to participate in the competition on behalf of the head of the institution
- Diploma certifying a master's degree or equivalent classification and its Supplement / Appendix
- Recommendations of two scientists in the field of Agronomy
- Curriculum vitae
- List of scientific publications (with full bibliographic description) and copies thereof (provided with copies of the journal cover and content); if the article is not yet published – a certificate issued by the editorial board of the scientific journal about the press release (after the review procedure) and its manuscript
- Copy of passport page with personal data or a copy of identity card
- Entry form for doctoral studies
- Documents confirming the change of surname, if not all the documents submitted are of the same surname
- Other documents that the applicant wishes to submit

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1. 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.

5.2. 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. Only those applicants whose grade point average is not lower than 7 points are eligible for studies in a doctoral programme.

5.3. 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.

6. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIVE SCORE (CS)

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

$$CS = 0,2*SP + 0,25*GPA + 0,3*MI, \text{ where:}$$

- SP – is the point calculated in a ten-point grading system for scientific publications,
- 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.

6.2. In case of equal scores, an applicant with a higher evaluation of scientific publications shall be given a priority.

* Points are rounded to the nearest hundredths.

7. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

7.1. Applicants are required to submit an application form to take part in the competition addressed to the Head of the institution to which they are applying. 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.

7.2. All applicants are required to take part in a motivational interview with the Committee members. A motivational interview can be recorded.

7.3. The Committee generates a competitive score according to the selection criteria and makes priority lists of applicants for each partner institution's dissertation topics.

7.4. 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.

7.5. 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.

7.6. Candidates invited to doctoral studies sign a bilateral contract with the doctoral institution, and the Order of the Head of the institution is issued on their acceptance to doctoral studies.

7.7. 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	2019 06 03 – 2019 08 30
Doctoral Committee Meeting (motivational interview with applicants)	2019 09 06
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculation of the competition results)	2019 09 06
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2019 09 09
Submission of motivated appeals to Doctoral Committee	2019 09 10 - 2019 09 12
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2019 09 13 - 2019 09 17
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2019 09 18
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2019 09 19
Start of doctoral studies	2019 10 01

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

8.1. 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:

8.1.1. Notarised translation of the Master's degree diploma and its supplement into the Lithuanian language.

8.1.2. 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.

8.1.3. 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.

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

8.3 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.

9. THE PRICE OF STATE UNFUNDED DOCTORAL STUDIES

Form of studies	The annual tuition fee*, EUR
Regular studies	9 449
Extended studies	6 299

The tuition fee must be paid within 15 calendar days from the date of entry into force of the study contract.

* The standard tuition fee approved by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania in 2019 February 27 by Order No V-175 may be reduced by the decision of a doctoral institution.

10. CONTACTS

Vytautas Magnus University

K. Donelaičio str. 52–303, Kaunas
Contact person – Rasa Andrišiūnaitė, tel. +370 37 209 815,
+ 370 619 21615, email: doktorantura@vdu.lt
Office hours: 9.00–15.00.

Agriculture academy of Vytautas Magnus University

Studentų str. 11 – 227, Akademija, Kauno distr.
Contact person – dr. Indrė Bagdonienė,
tel. +370 37 75 22 54, e-mail: indre.bagdoniene@vdu.lt
Office hours: 9.00–15.00.

Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry

Instituto alėja 1, Kedainiai district
Contact person – dr. Vita Tilvikienė,
tel. +370 620 84643, e-mail: vita.tilvikiene@lammc.lt
Office hours: 9.00–15.00.

SUBSTANTIATION FOR THE DOCTORAL THESIS AND DOCTORAL STUDENT SUPERVISOR CANDIDENCY TO ADMISSION FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES IN 2019

I. INFORMATION ON DOCTORAL TOPIC (THEME)

- 1. The title of Doctoral studies thesis theme or topic suggested by the Doctoral supervisor (in Lithuanian and English)**

--

- 2. Area of research, field of research and branch of research**

Area of research (code, name)	
Field of research (code, name)	

- 3. Short description of doctoral thesis topics and research (with aims and objectives indicated)**

From 250 to 1 500 characters

- 4. Relevance of the research problem, novelty at national and international levels**

From 250 to 1 500 characters

- 5. Research methods and possibilities for research to be carried out**

From 250 to 1 500 characters

II. INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOCTORAL SUPERVISOR

- 1. Scientific supervisor of doctoral student**

No	Position and scientific degree	Name and surname	Workplace (all positions in research and study units, institutions)
1.			

** Note: The doctoral student's scientific supervisor can be only a scholar who meets the qualification requirements for PhD students in the field of doctoral studies.*

- 2. List of international scientific projects (coordinated or managed)**

No more than 2 000 characters

3. List of national scientific projects (coordinated or managed)

No more than 2 000 characters
1.
2.

1. Doctoral theses, the preparation of which is currently managed and / or previously managed

No	Name and surname of the doctoral student	Title of the doctoral thesis	Research area, field of research	Date of defence	Notes (If the doctoral thesis is not defensible, give a brief explanation of why it is not)
1.					
2.					

2. Supervision of post-doctoral internships

No	Name and surname of the intern	Name of the internship	Research area, field of research	Deadlines of the internship
1.				
2.				

3. Subjects prepared and taught for doctoral studies

4. Other information relevant to the PhD student's scientific supervisor, revealing the supervisor's scientific competence

PhD student's scientific supervisor:

(name, surname)

(signature)

Head of Science / Studies Unit

(name, surname)

(signature)

ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Type of scientific work	Measurement unit	Points
Scientific articles in publications, refereed in <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)</i> and (or) <i>Scopus</i> databases, which impact factor is more than zero	Author's input*	8
Scientific articles in other publications, refereed <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)</i> and (or) <i>Scopus</i> databases	Author's input	6
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 = 40 thousand stamps) 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.
- Tmax 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).