**ORDER AND CONDITIONS OF OPEN COMPETITION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES
IN AGRONOMY SCIENCE FIELD IN 2021**

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of field of science	Field of Science
001 A	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. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

2.1. Master's degree or higher education degree equal to it.
2.2. Scientific research experience, participation in research work/activity.

3. 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
- Curriculum Vitae
- List of scientific publications (with full bibliographic description) and copies of them (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 its acceptance (after the review procedure) and its manuscript
- Copy of passport page with personal data or a copy of identity card
- 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

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. **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 may apply for studies in a doctoral programme.

4.3. **Motivational interview (MI).** During the motivational interview the applicant's motivation and readiness to study in the doctoral programme are assessed, as well as the accordance 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. Only those applicants, whose final score of the motivational interview is at last 7 points can apply for doctoral studies.

5. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIVE SCORE (CS)

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

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

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.

5.2. 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.

6. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

6.1. 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 must to be submitted. Only those who submit all required documents timely can take part in the competition.
6.2. All applicants must attend the 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. Within three days after the announcement of competition results, applicants can submit appeal to the Committee, and upon receiving a negative response, within three days, can appeal to the head of the doctoral institution, to which doctoral studies he has applied.
6.5. After the final list of invited candidates is announced, applicants who were not accepted into state-funded study places, but who are eligible the requirements for doctoral studies, can choose fee-paying doctoral study places by paying a tuition fee fixed by the doctoral institution.
6.6. Contracts of the prescribed form are signed with the persons invited to doctoral studies, on the basis of which the order of the head of the institution regarding admission to doctoral studies is prepared.
6.7. If, after the admission process is over and 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	2021 06 01 – 2021 08 27
Doctoral Committee Meeting with applicants (motivational interview)	2021 09 10
Doctoral Committee Meeting without applicants (calculation results of the competition)	2021 09 10
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2021 09 13
Submission of appeals to Doctoral Committee	2021 09 14 - 2021 09 16
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2021 09 17 - 2021 09 21
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2021 09 22
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2021 09 22 – 2021 09 29
Start of doctoral studies	2021 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, must submit all the documents specified in Section 3 and the following additional documents:

7.1.1. Notarised translation of the education documents and its supplement into the Lithuanian or English language.

7.1.2. A copy of the certificate on the recognition of a higher education qualification obtained 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, Curriculum vitae, a list of scientific publications and their copies must be submitted in 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. THE PRICE OF STATE UNFUNDED DOCTORAL STUDIES

Form of studies	The annual tuition fee*, EUR
Regular / Full-time studies	10758
Extended studies	7172

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 2021 January 29 by Order No V-157 may be reduced by the decision of a doctoral institution.

9. CONTACTS

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EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Type of scientific work	Measurement unit	Points
Scientific articles in publications, refereed in *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)* databases, with impact factor	Author's input*	8
Scientific articles in other publications, refereed *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)* 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 has the right to evaluation 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 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 must be taken by the Committee.

The total sum of points is converted into a 10-point grading system as follows:
- The sum of the points of the candidate with the highest number of points is equal to 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 obtained the applicant's number of points for scientific publications (points are rounded off to one decimal place).