

## APPROVED

Chancellor of the VMU Agriculture Academy

Decree No. ŽŪA-2022-03 of 10 February 2022

Decree No. ŽŪA-2023-09 of the Chancellor of the VMU Agriculture Academy of 31 January 2023 (version)

Decree No. ŽŪA-2024-05 of the Chancellor of the VMU Agriculture Academy of 26 January 2024 (version)

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# **RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION REGULATIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE ACADEMY OF VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY**

## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. These Regulations govern the procedure for the organisation of the Research Paper (hereinafter – RP) Competition at the Agriculture Academy of Vytautas Magnus University (hereinafter – VMU Agriculture Academy), the procedure for their assessment, and the awarding of prizes to the competition winners.
2. The objectives of the RP competition:
  - 2.1. To encourage the teachers, researchers, and PhD students at the VMU Agriculture Academy to conduct research and disseminate the results thereof in the scientific journals of the international level or other publications, to contribute to a higher international competitiveness, enhancement of the scientific, social and economic environment of Vytautas Magnus University and of the whole country.
  - 2.2. To select, promote, and reward the best researchers and research groups at the VMU Agriculture Academy.

## **II. PROCEDURE FOR ORGANISING THE COMPETITION**

3. The RP competition is organised annually by the Administrative Group of the VMU Agriculture Academy, and the entries submitted to the competition are assessed by the RP Competition Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission), established by order of the Chancellor of VMU Agriculture Academy.
4. The Commission consists of 7 members: A representative of the VMU Research and Innovation Department, representative of the Scientific Activity Coordinator at the VMU Agriculture Academy, and representatives of the academic units of VMU Agriculture Academy (one per unit). The meetings of the Commission shall be chaired by the Scientific Activity Coordinator at the VMU Agriculture Academy.
5. The competition is open to teachers, researchers, and PhD students of the VMU Agriculture Academy.
6. Entries can be submitted under the following headings:
  - 6.1. research group category (the number of authors of a submitted research paper shall be between 2 to 4, and each publication shall be authored by at least two authors from the research group participating in the competition);
  - 6.2. international researcher's category (a researcher working on a research project in collaboration with researchers from other countries);

- 6.3. category of the young researcher (researchers with a doctoral degree, no older than 40 years old by the application deadline), doctoral student or their team.
7. The RP competition is open to the scientific production for the last 2 calendar years, which may include:
  - 7.1. scientific monographs, parts of scientific monographs, scientific studies;
  - 7.2. patented scientific production, registered plant and animal varieties;
  - 7.3. scientific articles;
  - 7.4. oral presentations at plenary sessions of international scientific conferences (the conference program shall be presented).
8. The RP shall be submitted to the competition together with the following:
  - 8.1. Extract from the minutes of the Council of the academic unit or a committee authorised by it, with a recommendation, which shall include the title of the submitted RP, the author(s) and the creative contribution that shall be assessed in proportion to the number of authors or on the basis of a joint declaration signed by the authors.
  - 8.2. A brief description (up to 1 page) of the research paper or collection of the scientific production, indicating the title of the RP, the components of the submitted scientific paper or parts of the collection of the scientific output, the coefficient of contribution, and highlighting the most important aspects of the RP that are relevant to the competition.
  - 8.3. Information about the author(s) of the RP (name, surname, position, scientific degree, scientific achievements).
9. The competition is not open to winners of the previous year's RP competition.
10. Candidates' documents for the competition shall be submitted to the Scientific Activity Coordinator at the VMU Agriculture Academy by 15 February.

### III. ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH PAPERS

11. The Commission assesses the submitted RPs in closed meetings. Meetings of the Commission shall be valid if at least 2/3 of its members are present. The Commission member whose RP is being presented to the competition shall withdraw from the deliberations.
12. The Commission shall assess the submitted RPs using the comparative method, according to the following criteria:
  - 12.1. Originality and novelty of the RP, relevance for further development of scientific research, internationality, leadership in the international researcher team.
  - 12.2. The practical value of RP. An assessment or feedback from a business/public sector organisation enclosed to the RP shall be considered an advantage;
  - 12.3. RP scientific output. The scientific output shall be calculated by scores according to the type of research work (Annex 1) and the author's contribution, which shall be deemed to be equivalent to all authors in the absence of a signed declaration by all the authors on their contribution to the declared work.
  - 12.4. Promotion and dissemination of the research results on the media;
  - 12.5. Quality (correctness of language, presentation, formatting, etc.) and the consistent focus of the author(s)' research.
13. The Commission may call on experts to assess the entries.
14. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by open voting on the basis of the majority vote. The results of the vote shall be recorded in the minutes.
15. The Scientific Activity Coordinator of the administrative team of the VMU Agriculture Academy shall prepare a draft decree of the Chancellor on the awarding of prizes to the winners of the competition.

16. The list of the winning RPs submitted to the competition is published by the VMU Agriculture Academy on its website.

#### IV. PRIZES

17. A maximum of 5 prizes will be awarded to the winners of the RP competition: a maximum of 3 prizes shall be awarded in the category under clause 6.1, and 1 prize in the categories under clauses 6.2 and 6.3 each.
18. The prize fund shall be allocated by the Chancellor of the VMU Agriculture Academy.
19. The Chancellor of the VMU Agriculture Academy presents the prizes to the winners of the RP competition at the celebration of the Lithuanian Independence Restoration Day.

#### V. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA OF CANDIDATES AND COMPETITION WINNERS

20. Each candidate and competition winner's personal data (name, surname, email address, telephone number) shall be processed for the sole purpose of assignment, awarding of the prizes and publication of the information about the awards. The candidates and competition winners' personal data are processed by the VMU.
21. Pursuant to the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ("General Data Protection Regulation") (hereinafter – the Regulation), the candidates and competition winners shall be entitled to have access to personal data concerning him or her, to request the rectification of their personal data that is inaccurate and/or incomplete, and to request to erase their personal data or to limit the processing thereof. The candidate may withdraw his/her consent to the processing of his/her personal data at any time, without prejudice to the lawfulness of processing based on consent carried out before the withdrawal of consent.
22. The candidates and competition winners' personal data will be kept for as long as is necessary for the purposes of assignment, awarding of the prizes and promotion of the awards, but no longer than 3 years.
23. Candidates and competition winners may contact the VMU Data Protection Officer to exercise their rights or to find out more about the processing of their personal data on [dap@vdu.lt](mailto:dap@vdu.lt).
24. Candidates and competition winners shall be entitled to lodge a complaint with the State Data Protection Inspectorate if they consider that their personal data are being processed in breach of the Regulation or of the legislation on the protection of personal data.

#### VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

25. The number of prizes may be changed on the Commission's reasoned proposal to the Chancellor of the VMU Agriculture Academy to add new prizes or remove the existing ones.
26. The incentive prize fund is approved each year by a decree of the Chancellor of the VMU Agriculture Academy.
27. These Regulations shall be amended or repealed by a decree of the Chancellor of the VMU Agriculture Academy.

## Criteria and scores for the assessment of research papers

Works of scientific activity	Unit	Scores
A scientific monograph <sup>2</sup> or a part(s) thereof, a scientific study <sup>3</sup> published by an internationally recognized scientific publisher <sup>1</sup>	author's sheet <sup>4</sup>	10
Scientific study, synthesis research paper (less than 8 author's sheets <sup>3</sup> )	author's sheet	2
Patent registered with the European Patent Office (EPO) or the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) or Japan Patent Office (JPO)	pcs.	15
Varieties of ornamental plants which have undergone international examination at the European specialised centres ( <i>Reports on Technical Examination of the DUS Testing</i> shall be submitted)	pcs.	3
Research article in a journal with a <i>JIF/AIF</i> greater than 0.25 or, if the journal covers more than one scientific field category, with a <i>JIF/AIF</i> averaged across all categories, calculated according to the size of the categories, greater than 0.25	author's sheet	Calculated according to formula <sup>5</sup>
Research article in the top 10% of the world's most cited articles	pcs.	2
Dictionary of terms of a science area or field, scientific reference book, encyclopaedia	author's sheet	1
Science promotion publication/article (at least 2 pages)	pcs.	0.2
Oral presentation at the plenary session of an international scientific conference abroad	pcs.	2
Oral presentation at the plenary session of an international scientific conference in Lithuania	pcs.	0.5

<sup>1</sup> **Internationally recognized scientific publisher** – a publishing house included in the list of internationally recognized publishers approved by the Research Council of Lithuania, which have published monographs or parts of monographs of Lithuanian researchers.

<sup>2</sup> **Scientific monograph** – a peer-reviewed publication that systematically and comprehensively examines a single topic (subject), with clear and significant elements of novelty and scientific approach specific to each scientific area or field; when published, it shall have an ISBN number, and if published in Lithuanian or a less commonly used language, it shall also have an abstract in English, French or German. The minimum length of a scientific monograph is 8 author sheets. In the humanities and social sciences, at least 20% of the monograph shall consist of unpublished and qualitatively new materials.

<sup>3</sup> **Scientific study** – a scientific study is a publication in the humanities or social sciences that meets the requirements for a scientific monograph (with the exception of length). The minimum length of a scientific study is 2 author sheets;

<sup>4</sup> **Author's sheet** an author's sheet is equivalent to 40,000 characters (including spaces) of text, or 3,000 cm<sup>2</sup> of printed area of illustrations; if the amount of cannot be determined in characters, the equivalent of an author's sheet shall be considered as 14 pages.

<sup>5</sup> **Authors' contribution to the submitted scientific article in AIV points** is calculated according to the following formula (adapted from the formula in clause 26 of the Description of the Formal Assessment of Research and Experimental Development and Artistic Activities of Universities and Research Institutes):

$AIV = N_{IA} \times (1 + N_{IP})^{1/2} \times (2 + 7 \times JIF/AIF^I) / N_A$ , where:

$N_{IA}$  – number of RP authors. If an author of an institution also mentions other the affiliation to institutions in the article, the contribution of that author to  $N_{IA}$  is divided by the number of all the mentioned institutions;

$N_{IP}$  – total number of affiliations to different business establishments (companies) in the country and foreign institutions mentioned in the work. If  $N_{IP}$  is greater than  $N_A$ , it is considered that  $N_{IP} = N_A$ ;

<sup>1</sup> For the journals referred to in the *Elsevier Scopus* database, but not referred to in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* database, points are calculated by equating JIF/AIF to SNIP (Source Normalised Index per Paper), when evaluating works in the field of social sciences.

$N_A$  – total number of authors of the publication unit (work);

***JIF*** – the Journal Impact Factor of the journal referred to in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* (CA WoS) database which belongs to the SCIE and/or SSCI journal collections ;

***AIF*** – journals, referred to in the (CA WoS) database, the aggregate impact factor of the field category .