APPROVED by
Vytautas Magnus University
Klaipėda University
Vilnius University
Lithuanian Language Institute

Doctoral Committee of Philology Science Field
27 February 2026 Meeting, Decision No. 1.1

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

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of field of science	Field of Science
H 004	Philology

1.1. Applicants to doctoral studies in Philology 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 by the Doctoral School of Vytautas Magnus University, the competition is conducted by the Doctoral Committee of Philology 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 Philology science field (except for the scholar for whose research topic an application is submitted)
- Curriculum Vitae (signed by applicant)
- List of applicant's scientific publications (submitted in full biobliographic 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.

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 = 0,2*SP + 0,3*RP + 0,2*GPA + 0,3*MI, 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 / motivational interview / scientific publications / grade point average 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 or the Head 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 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 05 22 – 2026 06 30
Submission and registration of documents	2026 05 22 – 2026 08 20
Doctoral Committee Meeting (motivational interview with applicants) The meeting will take place remotely.	2026 08 28 – 2026 09 04
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculation of the competition results)	2026 08 28 – 2026 09 04
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2026 09 07
Submission of motivated appeals to Doctoral Committee	2026 09 08 – 2026 09 10 (no later than 12:00 PM)
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2026 09 11 – 2026 09 15 (no later than 12:00 PM)
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2026 09 16
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2026 09 16 – 2026 09 17
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
Klaipėda University	Herkaus Manto str. 84 – 301, Klaipėda Contact person – Vita Jušienė, tel. +370 46 39 89 32, email: vita.jusiene@ku.lt Office hours: 9.00–15.00.
Lithuanian Language Institute	P. Vileišio str. 5 – 155, Vilnius. Contact person – Aurelija Tamulionienė, tel. +370 5 234 71 94, email: lki@lki.lt. Office hours: 9.00–15.00.

Annex 1

ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Type of scientific work	Measurement unit	Points
Scientific articles in publications, refereed in *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science and (or) Scopus* 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	0–3

* 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 3.

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 (Tmax) equals10 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 equals the applicant's number of points for scientific publications (points are rounded off to one decimal place).

Annex 2

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.

ASSESMENT CRITERIA OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT

1. The object of the research, scientific problem, purposes and objectives are formulated precisely and clearly.
2. The relevance 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 research methodology complies with the purposes and objectives of the research.
5. The project is written in scientific language 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).