

Vytautas Magnus
University
in 2022



**Vytautas Magnus
University
in 2022**



MCMXXII

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY



Table of Contents

4	66	106
Rector's foreword	Integrity of Self-Governance and Responsibility	Faculty of Social Sciences
6	74	110
VMU: Cohesive, Creative, Community-Minded	Faculty of Economics and Management	Education Academy
8	78	114
Structure of Academic Subdivisions of VMU	Faculty of Natural Sciences	Faculty of Law
10	82	118
Structure of Non-Academic Subdivisions of VMU	Faculty of Humanities	Agriculture Academy
12	86	126
Main Indicators of VMU Strategic Plan for 2021–2027	Faculty of Informatics	Business and Social Partnership Centre
14	90	130
The University's Role in the Development of Society	Faculty of Catholic Theology	Entrepreneurship Academy
32	94	134
University Community in Harmony & Consolidation	Faculty of Arts	Botanical Garden
40	98	138
International Research University	Music Academy	Institute of Innovative Studies
50	102	142
Studies "360"	Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy	Institute of Foreign Languages

Rector's foreword

The year 2022 was a special year for Lithuania and the community of Vytautas Magnus University (VMU): we celebrated the centenary of the University of Lithuania, which gave birth to higher education institutions in the country. We celebrated one hundred years of academic thought, science, and culture. We paid a special tribute to culture by significantly contributing to the implementation of the programme “Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022”.

We can be happy that the University has managed to stabilise the number of students enrolled, and salaries for all staff have risen. VMU has grown into one of the most wide-ranging universities in the Baltic region, conducting research and studies in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, Sports, Physical Sciences, Technological Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Sciences and other fields in Kaunas and Vilnius. The principles of *artes liberales* fostered at the University open up various paths of studies and self-discovery, mobilise the community to create the future of Lithuania and Europe, and combine the deep traditions of a classical university with innovative studies and research. The University has a growing number of important national and international research projects.

In commemoration of the centenary of the founding of the University of Lithuania, we opened the Teacher Training Centre, marking a new chapter in the history of education in Lithuania. A hundred years ago, the long-cherished idea of Lithuanian higher education was realised, and in 2022, we finally realised our long-held dream of training the next generation of teachers.

For many years, Vytautas Magnus University has shown leadership in the field of educational studies; VMU pedagogical studies have been appreciated by national and international experts; and from now on, we will be able to raise the prestige of pedagogy, which is unimaginable without high quality studies and modern infrastructure.

The identity of Vytautas Magnus University is also closely associated with the world, global Lithuania, where the scientific, creative and intellectual discussion of the world Lithuanians is nurtured. VMU cooperates with more than 500 partner universities in different countries of the world, running more than 30 joint double degree programmes and three international joint programmes. Approximately 20% of VMU teachers are foreign teachers, and 15% of students studying at VMU are from foreign countries. These numbers are increasing every year. Students can learn as many as 30 foreign languages.

We are particularly proud to be part of the European University Alliance “Transform4Europe”. This alliance and its activities have shown that the University is not just a place of knowledge. First of all, it is not a specific location. In the alliance “Transform4Europe”, both students and teachers freely exchange not only good practices, but also research and workplaces. Moreover, the university is not just a source of knowledge. It is a space for questions, research, opinion and creativity. As part of the alliance “Transform4Europe”, we have much more potential than if we were on our own to create a vision for the future of higher education and make it a reality.

It is ironic that a hundred years ago, the newly-formed state of Lithuania had to prove that it could participate in a common European conversation. It has had to prove that with its educated elite, who can write books and draft laws, it can become an equal partner in Europe.

The last century has shown the difficulties countries can face if they want to join the European family. We have a unique experience and a painful memory, but now we feel like full-fledged Europeans, who can invite top politicians, scientists and public figures to our country.

In 2022, Europe and the rest of the world were forced to take a test of democracy, unity, and security. Russia's brutal invasion of independent Ukraine has put everyone in immediate danger. It is heartening that the community of Vytautas Magnus University, having realised the danger posed by Russia and its real aims, has mobilised and taken many different initiatives to protect Europe's common democratic values and to stop the killing of people and genocide in Ukraine.

VMU supports the Ukrainian academic community in various ways: it provides accommodation, scholarships, organise free Lithuanian language courses and free visits to VMU Botanical Garden, and provides psychological support for members of Ukrainian academic community.

One of the most important initiatives has been the opening of the Centre of Ukraine at VMU Education Academy, which not only brings together the Ukrainian community in Lithuania, but also takes care of their needs by offering an open space for culture, education and community services.

All the works and initiatives of Vytautas Magnus University are exceptionally significant in the context of today's European events. It has been a long, winding and very difficult path to get to where we are today. It commits us to continuity and becomes a starting point for future aspirations. Therefore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire VMU community and wish them success, perseverance and enthusiasm as they continue the scientific, educational, cultural and other works that were started a hundred years ago, which make Lithuania famous in the world, and, most importantly, as they courageously fight for FREEDOM!

VMU Rector

prof. Juozas Augustis

Vytautas Magnus University: Cohesive, Creative, Community-Minded

Vytautas Magnus University's Annual Report for 2022 has been prepared in accordance with VMU Strategic Plan for 2021–2027.

Vision

We are one of the strongest, wide-ranging universities in the Baltic region, fostering the principles of *artes liberales*, bringing together a community to build the future of Lithuania and Europe.

Mission

To be the community institution of science, arts, and study which continues the mission of the University of Lithuania, established in Kaunas in 1922, creating liberal learning conditions for an individual, developing partnerships and taking an active part in the life of Lithuania to advance its future and contribute to the global cultural and academic development.

Values

Personal and Academic Freedom, Democracy, Openness, Responsibility, Creativity, Sense of Community, Harmony, Academic Excellence.

Strategic objectives are objectives that ensure the implementation of the University's vision and express the prerequisites for the implementation of strategic goals:

- community in harmony and consolidation;
- international research University;
- studies “360”;
- integrity of self-governance and responsibility;
- University impact on societal development.

Founder

The founder of the University is the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania. Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of the Resolution No. 1832 of 22 December 2010 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the investment of State assets, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania has been entrusted with the implementation of the property and non-property rights and obligations of the State as the owner (shareholder) of the public institution Vytautas Magnus University. The equity value of the shareholders as of 31 December 2022 was EUR 24,277,900 (EUR 24,277,900 as of 31 December 2021).

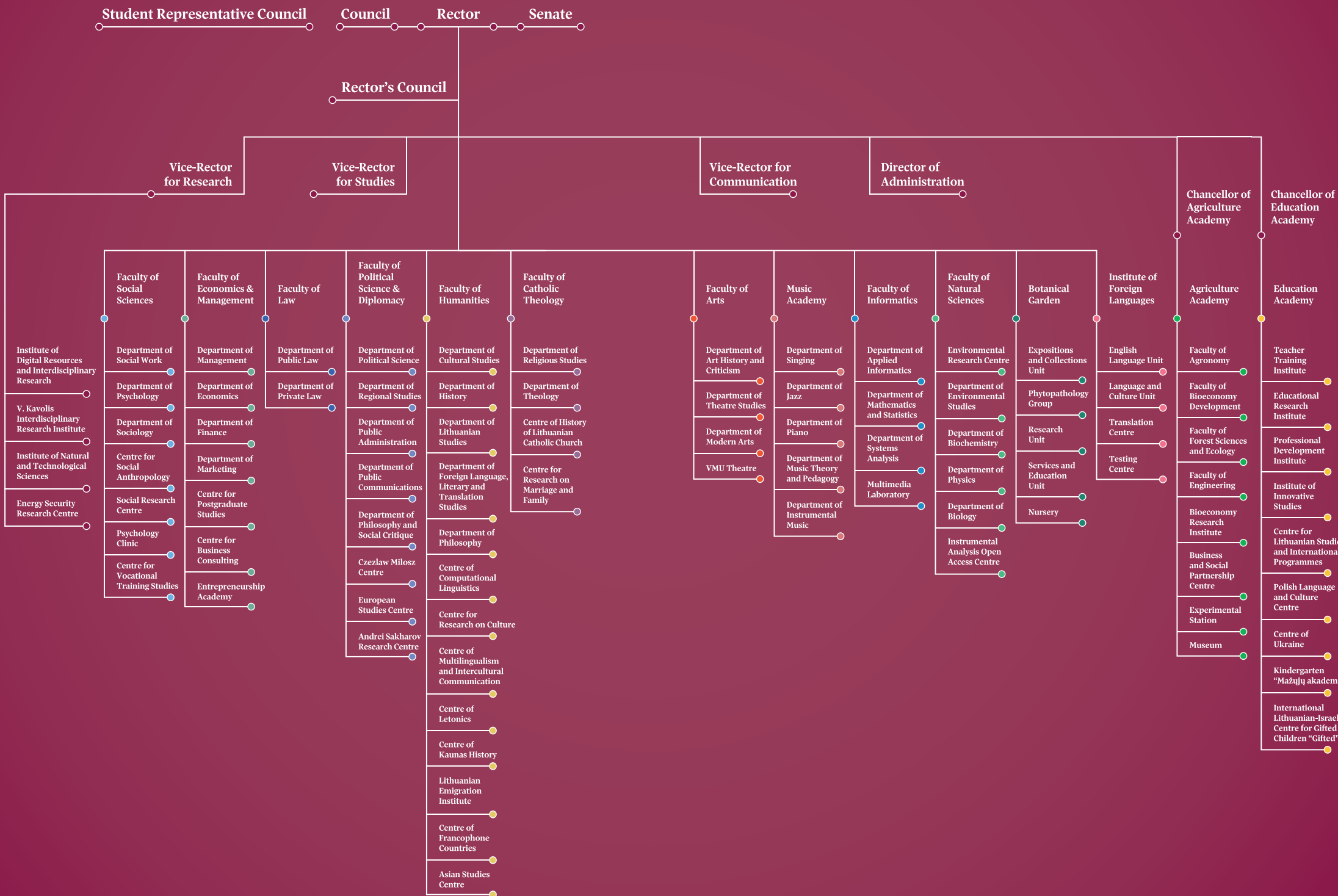
Most Important Changes in University Management in 2022.

The following persons were approved by VMU Senate for the positions of directors of the institutes:

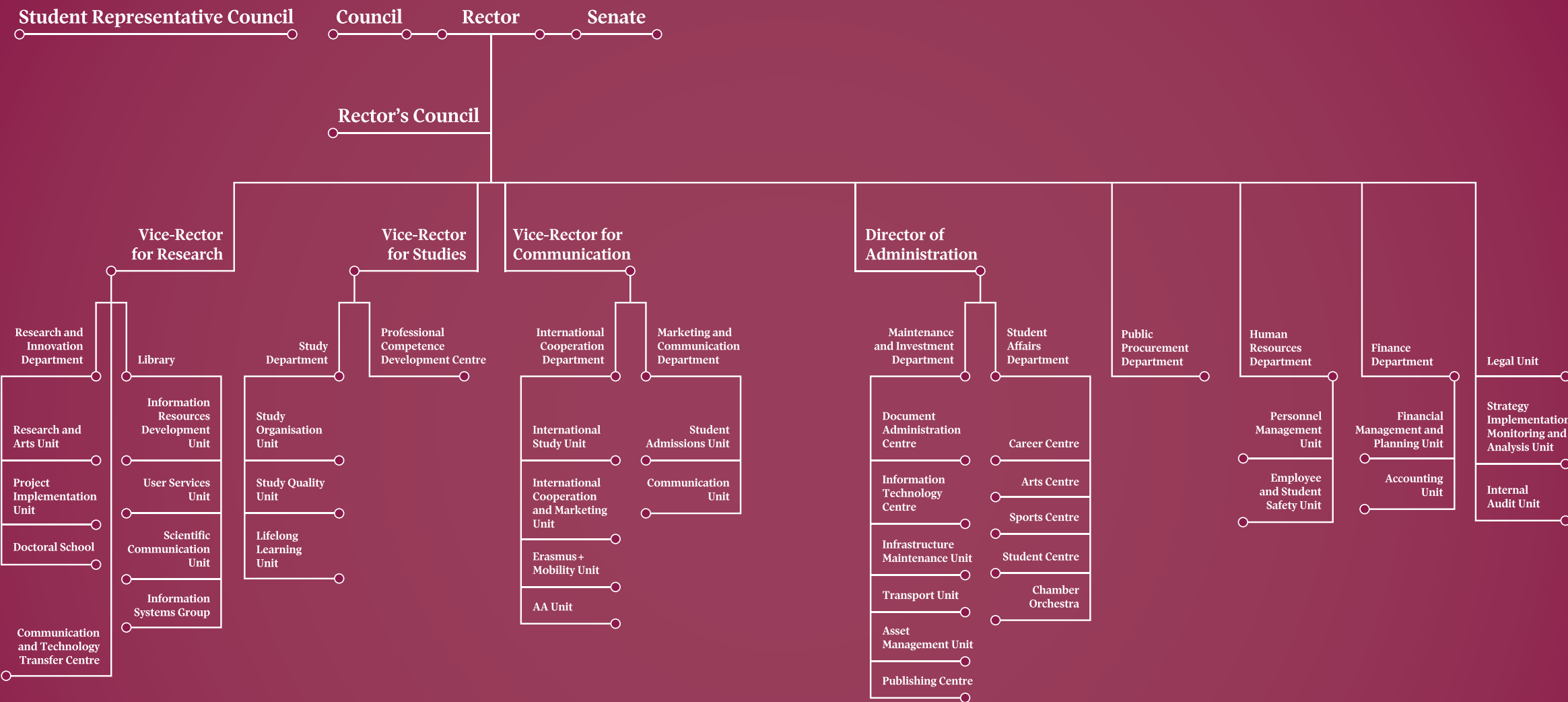
- Rūta Petrauskaitė – Director of the Institute of Digital Resources and Interdisciplinary Research.
- Rytis Skominas – Director of the AA Bioeconomy Research Institute.
- Jurga Bučaitė-Vilkė – Director of V. Kavolis Interdisciplinary Research Institute.
- Algimantas Paulauskas – Director of the Institute of Natural and Technological Sciences.



Structure of Academic Subdivisions of Vytautas Magnus University



Structure of Non-Academic Units of Vytautas Magnus University



Main Indicators of VMU Strategic Plan for 2021–2027

Main Indicators of VMU Strategic Plan for 2021–2027. Key Indicators*	Baseline value of the indicator (or 2020 value)	In 2021		In 2022	
		Actual value of the indicator	Achievement of the target value of the indicator	Actual value of the indicator	Achievement of the target value of the indicator
I. COMMUNITY IN HARMONY AND CONSOLIDATION					
1. EMPLOYEE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (%) A positive change in the employee diversity and inclusion indicator, as measured by the surveys, is 4% within 2 years.	N/A**	N/A	N/A	69.55%	-
2. At least 5% annual increase in the salaries for the academic staff.	EUR 2,028	EUR 2,137	100%	EUR 2,353	105%
3. The annual growth of the fund of financial support provided by patrons and sponsors is not less than 3%.	EUR 32,860	EUR 69,786	206%	EUR 92,651	266%
II. INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY					
4. The five-year average annual growth in the number of articles per researcher (researcher FTE) is 5 percent.	0.77	0.92	114%	1.02	120%
5. The growth of the budget for applications in funded projects is on average 3% annually.	EUR 35,741,300	EUR 56,457,500	153%	EUR 46,842,100	124%
6. The annual share of state budget funds in R&D in the University budget per researcher grows on average by 3%.	EUR 9,900.84	EUR 10,407.6	102%	EUR 11,015	105%
7. The annual increase of the research fund is not less than 5%.	EUR 1,727.59	EUR 2,008.56	111%	EUR 2,167.7	114%
III. STUDIES “360”					
8. The total number of students each year is at least 7,000.	7,000	8,210	117%	8,218	117%
9. The percentage of students’ satisfaction with study resources is 85% annually.	85%	90%	106%	90	106%
10. The total employability of graduates per year, after 1 year after graduation is not less than 90%. (According to the Employment Service).	90%	97%	108%	98%	109%
11. Student dropout number does not exceed 15% per year.	15%	12.4%	121%	11.5%	130%
12. The share of admitted foreign students is at least 10% each year.	10%	13.1%	131%	14.5%	145%
13. The number of outgoing teachers is 15% each year.	15%	4.7%	31%	19.9%	133%
14. The number of teachers participating in in-service training activities is at least 25% each year.	25%	17.9%	72%	33.06%	132%
IV. INTEGRITY OF SELF-GOVERNANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY					
15. EMPLOYEE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (%) A positive change in the employee diversity and inclusion indicator, as measured by the surveys, is 4% within 2 years.	N/A**	N/A	N/A	69.55%	-
16. Infrastructure efficiency index is not less than 80%.	80%	82%	103%	81%	101%
V. UNIVERSITY IMPACT ON SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT					
17. The number of international and national projects for the public is at least 5 each year.	5	10	200%	15	300%

*approved by Decision No. 4 of 27 May 2021 of VMU Council; revised by Decision No. TA-N-5.1 of 12 January 2023 of VMU Council.

**The University's Employee Well-being Survey was launched in 2022 using the innovative, validated science platform “UNLOCK tests”, making 2022 the baseline year for employee well-being indicators.

***The share of implemented project budgets allocated to VMU.

The University's Role in the Development of Society

Various activities of Vytautas Magnus University focus on the person, his/her personal dignity, merits and self-recognition, and every person is encouraged to look for opportunities to realise himself/herself through various activities, to uncover their creative potential.

Events, networking, cooperation and strengthening socially responsible activities

- The Teacher Training Centre was opened at Vytautas Magnus University, located in the premises that were built as part of the renovation and modernisation of the University's infrastructure: over 100 workplaces for teachers and researchers of educational study programmes were created, the number of classrooms and seminar rooms was increased. In 31 classrooms, which can accommodate more than 850 students at a time, smart technologies were installed, enabling full and comprehensive use of blended (face-to-face and online) learning opportunities, and creating greater opportunities for interactivity.
- Based on the methodology developed by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), VMU was one of the first universities in Lithuania to develop and implement Gender Equality Plan.
- The 12th Rectors and Deans Forum of the Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA) "Bending the Curve for Biodiversity: Challenges and Opportunities for Life Science Universities & Life Science Universities Addressing Knowledge Security" took place at VMU Agriculture Academy.
- The Centre of Ukraine, the first of such kind in the world, was established at VMU Education Academy in Vilnius as a community service space for the Ukrainian community, bringing together various cultural and educational activities. The Centre of Ukraine was established in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Lithuania and Vytautas Magnus University.
- King Philip and Queen Matilda of Belgium, who came to Lithuania on a state visit, visited Vytautas Magnus University. Queen Matilda accompanied by the first lady Diana Nausėdienė, VMU Rector Prof. Juozas Augutis and the Ambassador of Ukraine to Lithuania Petro Beshta visited the Centre of Ukraine established at VMU Education Academy and met with the Ukrainian community in Lithuania. King Philip and Queen Mathilde of Belgium visited the exhibition "5X5®" – "Stories of Design Innovation: From Kortrijk to Kaunas" at the renovated VMU Teacher Training Centre and got acquainted with five Belgian and five Lithuanian design stories.
- First Lady Diana Nausėdienė visited the Centre of Ukraine at VMU Education Academy to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor together with the Ukrainian community in Lithuania and to pay tribute to the victims of the Soviet totalitarian regime.
- The Lithuanian Social Innovation Cluster in cooperation with its members. i.e., Vytautas Magnus University, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilniaus kolegija Higher Education Institution and Marijampolės kolegija Higher Education Institution, has established an informal competence development network – the Social Innovators Academy (SIA). The Academy's activities include generation, creation and implementation of social innovation ideas, development of responsible leadership and entrepreneurship, experimentation with innovative solutions, and ensuring that the idea does not remain at the level of just an idea, but rather creates prototypes.
- For the first time, the University hosted the European Festival of Cultures, organised by VMU together with all Transform4Europe alliance partners. The participants took part in a wide range of events that introduced them to a wide range of topics in the creative field and how they can be put into practice, including creative writing, photography, animation, as well as theatre and dance workshops and master classes.
- The first four-day international conference-hackathon "Transform4Europe for the Innovative Teaching and Learning Methods in Higher Education" took place at Vytautas Magnus University, with the aim of promoting the exchange of ideas on innovative teaching and learning methods in higher education by uniting the capacities of all the partners of the Transform4Europe alliance. Researchers from more than 10 world universities participated in the conference.
- The first major hackathon took place at Vytautas Magnus University. One hundred participants from three higher education institutions (Vytautas Magnus University, Kauno kolegija Higher Education Institution and Kaunas University of Technology) gathered 15 teams and searched for solutions to climate change challenges during the hackathon "KTPC INNOHACK'22".
- "Artes liberales korporacijų diena" (Artes Liberales Corporation Day) was held at Vytautas Magnus University. The event was intended to bring together corporations, societies and clubs from VMU and other universities. The main objective of the event is to foster *Artes liberales* values and discussions among students, teachers and graduates, to engage alumni in mentoring and other activities, and to promote inter-university alumni-student collaboration with corporations.
- In commemoration of fifty years since Romas Kalanta set himself on fire while protesting against the Soviet government in Kaunas, the exhibition "Opozicijos komunistinei valdžiai kaleidoskopas"

(Kaleidoscope of Opposition to the Communist Government) was opened at the Vytautas the Great War Museum in Kaunas to commemorate this event and other ways of resisting the Soviets. Organised by the Andrei Sakharov Research Centre for Democratic Development at VMU, the exhibition tells the story of the activities of the opposition movements and the means they used in their struggle for freedom and demonstrates their conviction that the communist government can be overcome.

- The Agricultural Science and Innovation Development Fund of VMU Agriculture Academy was established. Financial support to the Fund was provided by the patrons of VMU Agriculture Academy: AB "Lytagra", UAB "Rovaltra", AB "East West Agro", UAB "Agrokoncerno technika", UAB "DOJUS agro", UAB "Ivabaltė", UAB "Baltic Agro Machinery", UAB "Dotnuva Baltic", UAB "Žemtiekimas".
- Vytautas Magnus University was the first university in Lithuania to join the EOSC association. Launched by the European Commission five years ago, the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) brought together researchers committed to open science, i.e., a digital space where research results are freely accessible to all members of society.
- Vytautas Magnus University joined the Artificial Intelligence Association of Lithuania.
- Vytautas Magnus University hosted the networking event "VDU NetWork'22". During the event, VMU partners, representatives of business, public and non-governmental sectors were presented with the opportunities for cooperation with the University in the study process, in the creation of scientific and business innovations, as well as were introduced with the ways in which each individual and the organisation as a whole can learn and develop throughout life.
- A meeting of the Management Committee and Working Groups of COREnet networking project took place at Vytautas Magnus University. Over three days, COREnet members who are researchers of religion and migration from different European countries and the Republic of South Africa presented the work carried out in the first year of the project and discussed the next steps.
- The VI Spanish Language Forum (in Spanish, "Foro de español en Kaunas") took place at VMU, which not only brought together more than fifty Spanish language specialists from Spain and neighbouring countries, but also honoured the memory of one of the world's most prominent Spaniards, Lithuanian expatriate Prof. Birutė Ciplijauskaitė.
- Darius Pratašius and Dr. Kristina Pratašienė, graduates from VMU Agriculture Academy, in cooperation with their colleagues, have developed an innovative autonomous smart-technology device that helps to avoid wildlife-vehicle collisions. This innovation is a part of smart roads of the future and can directly contribute to safer roads for people and animals.
- The International Academic Journalism Forum of Romas Sakadolskis, which is becoming a tradition, was held. For the second year, this forum brings together Lithuanian and foreign journalism professionals and the university community to discuss the challenges of journalism, in order to draw attention to the genres of journalism, the quality of a journalist's work and quality perspective.
- The annual conference "Culture and Nature – Partners in Dialogue" of the University Network of the European Capitals of Culture (UNeCC) took place at VMU Agriculture Academy. The conference was organised by VMU Agriculture Academy in cooperation with the University Network of the European Capitals of Culture.
- The photo-video exhibition "Sugriauti blogio imperiją" (To Destroy the Empire of Evil) by photographer Romualdas Požerskis, Professor of the Department of Contemporary Arts at VMU, and Director Sergey Loznitsa, opened at the House of Signatories, Vilnius. Two famous creators invite us to look back at an important year for Lithuania and recall the events that led to the liberation of our country and laid the foundations for the collapse of the Soviet Empire.
- The Kaunas County Public Library's travelling exhibition "Žvelgiant praeitin regėti ateitį" (Looking into the Past to See the Future), dedicated to the Lithuanian archaeologist, anthropologist, researcher of Baltic and Indo-European culture and honorary doctor of Vytautas Magnus University Marija Alseikaitė-Gimbutienė, was presented at the Valdas Adamkus Presidential Library-Museum.
- The Lithuanian Language Learning Forum was held on the topic "Causes of Lithuanian Language (Non) Transmission – From Science to Practice".
- Gallery "Putolovac" (Zagreb, Croatia) hosted a personal photography exhibition "Nepapasakotos istorijos 22" (Untold Stories 22) of Rimantas Plungė, Professor at the Department of Contemporary Arts, Faculty of Arts, Vytautas Magnus University.
- The Disability Inclusion Forum 2022, as part of the University's Disability Inclusion policy, was organised in order to increase accessibility of higher education for students with disabilities.
- The 5th National Human Rights Forum took place, during which the public was invited to discuss the current situation and what we can do to ensure that Lithuania is a good place to live for everyone, i.e., for people of all nationalities, races, religions, genders, social statuses, beliefs and opinions. This year's event focused on human rights in the face of crises and military conflicts. The forum was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania.

- The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania hosted a scientific conference "Cultural Diplomacy Prospects in Building a Sustainable New Post-War Europe", organised by Vytautas Magnus University in cooperation with the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Academy for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin. The conference brought together researchers, diplomats, politicians and cultural representatives to discuss how cultural diplomacy can promote sustainable democracy across Europe, including post-war Ukraine and Russia. The patron of the conference was the Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen.
- VMU Institute of Foreign Languages celebrated its 20th anniversary.
- A forum for the teachers of mathematics "International and National Experiences of Improving School Learners' Achievement in Mathematics" was held at VMU Education Academy in Kaunas. The forum focused on the issue of reducing the difference in school learners' achievement in mathematics in Lithuanian and foreign schools.
- VMU hosted an international mobile week, bringing together 70 teachers and non-academic staff from 31 countries under the Erasmus+ mobility programme.
- After a four-year break, the "V2" University Community Awards took place, honouring the most dedicated teachers, proactive and active members of the academic community for their activities and the best recognition of their work and achievements in 2021.

Recognition and awards

- On the occasion of the 16th of February, the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Gitanas Nausėda, presented state awards for merits to Lithuania and for promoting its name in the world. Among the awarded persons is Juozas Augutis, full member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Rector of VMU, Professor, mathematician, pioneer and promoter of the analysis of the data on the active cases of the coronavirus infection COVID-19 in Lithuania, who was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of the Grand Duke Gediminas of Lithuania.
- During the Congress of the Lithuanian Business Confederation, traditional awards were presented to public figures, entrepreneurs and public officials who have made outstanding contributions to the business community and Lithuania. Among the laureates was Prof. Julija Kiršienė, Vice-Rector for Research of Vytautas Magnus University, who was awarded with the Mark of Honour for her identification of the problems of education and innovation policy, provision of solutions, and active participation in the activities of the Lithuanian Business Confederation.
- One of the highest awards of the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, i.e., the Silver Star for Work Merits, was awarded to VMU Rector Prof. Juozas Augutis.
- Dainius Žalimas, Dean of the Faculty of Law of Vytautas Magnus University, has been appointed a member of the European Commission "Democracy through Law" (Venice Commission) as an independent expert for four years. The relevant decree was signed by Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė on the proposal of the Ministers of Justice and Foreign Affairs.
- Dr. Jolita Butkevičienė, Head of the Department of Art History at VMU Faculty of Arts, architect, cultural heritage specialist, has been elected the Chair of the Commission of Experts for the Protection of the Real Cultural Heritage.
- Prof. Tomas Krilavičius, Dean of VMU Faculty of Informatics, has been elected a member of Board of "Infobalt". "Infobalt" is an association of the digital technology sector (DigiTech), which aims to create the best conditions for technology application, market development and export. The newly elected Board also includes Mantas Urbonas, a graduate of VMU and Director of UAB "Visma Lietuva".
- Prof. Jurgita Staniškytė and Prof. Rimantas Vingras have been elected to the European Parliament's Committee on Culture.
- Rytis Zemkauskas, a teacher at the Department of Public Communication of Vytautas Magnus University, was awarded the 2nd degree Santaka Badge of Honour by the Mayor of Kaunas Visvaldas Matijošaitis. This award is given for special merits to the city, fostering the activities of "Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022".
- The main prize of the annual startup festival "Latitude59" at the Estonian Academy of Arts in the business idea development programme "STARTER" went to the team "Dokas" led by Gytis Dovydaitis, new media artist, third cycle student of the Faculty of Arts of Vytautas Magnus University. The prize was given for the online programme "Kultūros dokas" (Culture Dock). The idea was included in the programme "Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022".
- Ona Ragažinskienė, Senior Researcher at the Botanical Garden and Professor at the Department of Biology, has been elected President of the Lithuanian Pharmaceutical Union, and has become the editor-in-chief of the journal "Lietuvos farmacijos žinios".
- The International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISORECEA) has

elected Milda Ališauskienė, Professor at the Department of Sociology of VMU Faculty of Social Sciences and the Department of Political Science of VMU Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy, as Vice-President for a four-year term of office (until 2026). Prof. Milda Ališauskienė has been a member of ISORECEA since 2001 and served as its Secretary General from 2014 to 2018.

- The regalia of Honorary Professor of VMU was awarded to Prof. Zigmantas Kiaupa for his achievements and contribution to the education of young scientists, for initiating and expanding important research, including research important for the city of Kaunas, and for his representation of the community of historians.
- The regalia of Honorary Professor of VMU was awarded to Romualdas Požerskis for his merits to Lithuania, promotion of humanistic cultural and democratic values.
- The regalia of Honorary Professor of VMU was awarded to Prof. Margarita Teresevičienė for her significant contribution to the Lithuanian education science and promotion of the name of VMU.
- The Honorary Doctorate of VMU was awarded to the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck, for his services in the fields of international cooperation, peacekeeping and democracy building.
- The Honorary Doctorate of VMU was awarded to Ambassador Karl-Erik Norrman, Founder and Secretary General of the European Cultural Parliament (ECP).
- The Honorary Doctorate of VMU was awarded to Svetlana Alexievich for her significant contribution to documentary fiction, democracy and human rights.
- Professor Jonas Čaplikas was awarded the title of Honorary Professor of VMU for his lifelong professional contribution to the sustainable future of Lithuania and the world.
- The following VMU representatives have been elected to the Commission for Lithuanian Sciences Prizes for a 3-year term of office: Prof. Vilma Žydzūnaitė, Director of the Institute of Educational Research at the Education Academy; Dalius Jonkus, Professor at the Department of Philosophy; Aušra Maslauskaitė, Professor at the Department of Sociology; Arvydas Vytautas Povilaitis, Professor at the Department of Water Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering of Agriculture Academy.
- The Pardes Humanitarian Prize was awarded to Prof. Robert van Voren, Director of the Andrei Sakharov Centre for the Development of Democracy Research at VMU and Head of the Federation's "Global Initiative in Psychiatry", at an award ceremony in New York.
- On the International Mother Earth Day, Giedrius Bučas, founder of the social initiative "Kūrybos kampas 360°", a leader of change, public figure, social entrepreneur, and founder of the "2020 Sustainability Walk Around Our Country" project "Už švarią Lietuvą!" (For a Clean Lithuania!), was chosen as the winner of the Nature Conservation Award (EUR 5,000) of the Valdas Adamkus Presidential Library-Museum and the Dana Gedvilienė Foundation.
- During the 5th European University Games, which took place in Lodz (Poland) on 17–31 July 2022, with more than 4,500 participants representing 37 European countries, Vytautas Magnus University took the 9th place (won 3 gold, 2 silver, 3 bronze medals) among 422 participating universities in the ranking of European universities.
- The Lithuanian Student Sports Association published a summary of the medals won by universities in 2022 season, showing that Vytautas Magnus University achieved the most significant results in the Lithuanian student championships in the last academic year, winning 37 gold, 16 silver and 9 bronze medals. For the first time, VMU became the sole leader among universities in this field.
- In the final event of the "Biobased Innovation Student Challenge Europe – BISC-E", a joint team of students from VMU Agriculture Academy and the Music Academy proposed an innovation called "Smart Biofermenter Network", which was selected by an international jury as one of the five best presented solutions.
- Vytautas Magnus University received two awards at the Research Excellence Awards, which are intended to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Lithuanian Research Libraries Consortium and to recognise the achievements of its members. VMU was awarded the Research Growth Award for its research development and growth, with the highest annual growth rate of scientific output in the last twenty years (2002–2022). The Research Library Impact Award was also presented to VMU Library Director Lina Blovesčiūnienė. This award is given to libraries and library staff whose work has made a significant contribution to the significance/research impact.
- Among the winners of the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers' annual competition "Geriausios disertacijos" (Best Dissertations) in the field of humanities and social sciences, Dr. Aistė Čapienė, a teacher at VMU Agriculture Academy, was awarded for her dissertation "Pro-Environmental and Pro-consumer Consumer Engagement in Sustainable Consumption" (management). The scientific advisor: Assoc. Prof. Aušra Rūteliūnė.
- At the Art Creators award ceremony held at the National Philharmonic Hall in Vilnius, the Lithuanian Photographers' Union awarded the prize for the presentation of the art of photography to a wide and diverse audience, for the endeavour to document and classify the processes of today's photography

to the creative group of TV series "Perspektyva" (Perspective), which also includes a teacher of the Faculty of Arts, Head of the Department of Contemporary Arts, Assoc. Prof. Tomas Pabedinskas. The University teacher is one of the TV series' scriptwriters and presenters. The TV series is also produced by scriptwriter and editor Raminta Jonykaitė, director Aleksas Matvejevas and cameraman Haroldas Klevinskas.

- The most advanced startups and research teams were evaluated at the Kaunas Startup Awards organised by the Kaunas Science and Technology Park. The winners include representatives of Vytautas Magnus University. The first electric pulse generation system capable of selective electroporation, developed by the team of VMU researchers "Amber Charge" (headed by Prof. Saulius Šatkauskas) was recognised as the biotechnological solution of the year. Such properties allow the effectiveness of medicines to be increased tens or even hundreds of times.
- At the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, the Minister of Justice Ewelina Dobrowolska awarded 13 representatives of justice institutions who made the greatest contribution to the protection, strengthening and promotion of human rights in 2022. Initiated by the Ministry of Justice, the Awards for Merits in the Field of Human Rights 2022 were dedicated to the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day. Prof. Dainius Žalimas, Dean of VMU Faculty of Law, was among the winners. He was awarded for his personal, professional and social leadership in the field of human rights protection.

Agreements, cooperation

- An agreement was signed providing for close cooperation in the fields of research, studies and practice among four higher education institutions: Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuanian Sports University and Vytautas Magnus University. The aim of this step is to accelerate the dissemination of research and new technologies in society, strengthen the city's academic community and the image of Kaunas as an international student city.
- In order to strengthen and expand the network of VMU schools, cooperation agreements were signed with the following gymnasiums: President Valdas Adamkus Gymnasium, Kaunas Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas Gymnasium, and Kaunas Jonas Jablonskis Gymnasium. These agreements strengthen mutual cooperation. In addition, VMU classrooms were established in the said gymnasiums as part of these agreements: President Valdas Adamkus Gymnasium has a VMU University Classroom from 1 September 2022; VMU Artes Liberales Classroom, VMU Bilingual Education (German) and Entrepreneurship Classroom, VMU Natural Sciences (STEAM) Classroom were established at Kaunas Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas Gymnasium; and VMU Creative Industries Classroom was established at Kaunas Jonas Jablonskis Gymnasium.
- Vytautas Magnus University and the State Forest Enterprise signed a cooperation agreement, which will promote the process of training highly qualified foresters, improve the qualifications of the existing representatives of this profession, and initiate research projects relevant to business.
- In cooperation with Folk Music Branch of the Kaunas City Museum and the Faculty of Arts of VMU, an ethno-musical animated film "TI TA TO" was created for hearing-impaired children.
- In cooperation with the Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis National Museum of Art and the Faculty of Arts, the project "Banga: žmonių balsų kanalas" (Wave: The Channel for Human Voice) was implemented, for which Prof. Titas Petrikis and a student Salomėja Paleckytė of the study programme Music Production prepared stories that were broadcasted on the radio station "Tau".
- VMU signed a cooperation agreement with the international performing arts festival "ConTempo" to strengthen collegial ties and plan new joint activities in the future. In the agreement, the parties undertake to share intellectual resources, cooperate in educational and creative activities involving students, and communicate their activities together.
- Cooperation agreements were signed with local governments (municipalities) of Alytus, Marijampolė, Kalvarija, Kazlų Rūda, Šakiai and Lazdijai districts. The agreements stipulate that the University and the municipality will cooperate to achieve mutually beneficial goals in the field of training qualified teachers, ensuring a sufficient demand for teachers in municipal educational institutions. By these agreements, VMU undertakes to share information about the study programmes, study opportunities and conditions, research and educational activities at the University.
- An agreement was signed with the Special Investigation Service, committing the parties to cooperate in anti-corruption education and information exchange, as well as in organising joint projects and events.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with the Kaunas kindergarten "Vilnelė" in order to promote mutual cooperation in the preparation and development of study programmes, lectures, organising student internships, and preparing and carrying out joint projects.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with the pharmaceutical company UAB "Escolit". The aim of this agreement will be to foster mutual cooperation in the development and improvement of study programmes, lectures, student internships and joint projects.

- A cooperation agreement was signed with the Vilnius Office of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM Lithuania). VMU and IOM Lithuania are jointly conducting a study on the inclusion of Ukrainian families in Lithuania, their expectations and social-emotional state. In addition, joint seminars, workshops and conferences for teachers working with children and young people from Ukraine are planned.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with the Lithuanian Probation Service. The aim of this agreement is to promote mutual cooperation in the development and improvement of study programmes, lectures, student internships, and joint projects, also to cooperate in social partnership activities.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with the Mobilisation and Civil Resistance Department under the Ministry of National Defence. The agreement aims to educate and inform the public on issues related to Lithuania's security and defence policy, inform the public about the Lithuanian Armed Forces and role of the Lithuanian Armed Forces in ensuring the country's security.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with the Lithuanian Federation of Sport Climbing. The cooperation between VMU and the Lithuanian Federation of Sport Climbing will provide a wide range of opportunities in the training of Vytautas Magnus University sports coaches and teachers. It is a great opportunity for students not only to practice coaching and teaching, but it will also provide them with excellent conditions to enter the labour market.
- VMU joined the social campaign "Dirbk pas mus. Jokio skirtumo, su ar be negalios" (Work with us. No Difference, with or without a Disability), thereby contributing to changes in the way society and the open labour market value people with disabilities.

International cooperation

- The consistent development of strategic directions strengthens the University's identity, especially its visibility in a global world. VMU is increasingly recognised at the international level, which allows it to establish strong cooperative relationships with partners in various countries and fields. VMU has signed cooperation agreements with partners in 80 countries (in 32 EU/EEA countries and 48 non-EU/EEA countries; in 2021, agreements were signed with partners in 81 countries).
- VMU has 2019 (in 2021, 234) bilateral cooperation agreements, i.e., a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with institutions of higher education in 41 countries around the world. Twenty-two new agreements were signed with the universities in Israel, Japan, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, South Korea, Uzbekistan, India and Belgium.
- VMU updated its network of Erasmus+ higher education partners; the inter-institutional cooperation of prior years has been analysed, non-performing relationships have been abandoned, and in their place new relationships have been initiated and agreements have been signed. The total number of new partner institutions has changed over the last three years from 471 agreements in 2020, to 484 in 2021, and to 417 in 2022.
- The University successfully continued the cooperation that started in 2021 with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia in its International Indonesian Student Mobility Award (IISMA) programme, in which VMU participates as the only higher education institution from Lithuania. Five students arrived under the programme in 2021 and eight students in 2022.
- There was active communication with Taiwanese universities: 4 new cooperation agreements were signed last year (VMU cooperates with 9 Taiwanese universities). "Europe-Taiwan connectivity" exchange programme was developed, under which 8 VMU students went to Taiwan in 2022.
- The Institute of Foreign Languages started to coordinate the Erasmus+ project "APATCHE: Adding Plurilingual Approaches to Language Teacher Competences in Higher Education". The aim of this project is to complement the competences of language teachers in higher education institutions with methods that enable and develop multilingualism. The project is implemented in partnership with the European Council of Languages.
- Vytautas Magnus University signed a cooperation agreement with the Taiwan Academy for the Judiciary. The parties agreed to cooperate in the field of education and research. The Faculty of Law of Vytautas Magnus University agreed to host Taiwanese judges for research visits, during which they will conduct research and listen to lectures in English at the Faculty of Law.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Prof. Mykola Trofymenko, Rector of Mariupol State University (Ukraine). With this Memorandum, universities undertake to carry out joint study programmes, including double degree programmes, to develop international projects, to share scientific material and good academic practice, and to conduct bilateral exchanges between academic staff and students.
- VMU signed a cooperation agreement with the Grigol Robakidze University (Tbilisi). The university is named after Grigol Robakidze, a prominent Kartvelian writer, publicist and public figure. The agreement was signed by Mamuka Tavkhelidz, Rector of the Grigol Robakidze University.

- Lithuanian universities are taking part in a new initiative, supported by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation, to attract foreign talents to Lithuania to complete international double degree studies and enter the Lithuanian labour market, thus strengthening the country's sectors of information technology and life sciences. Vytautas Magnus University, in cooperation with "Cormack Consultancy Group", has established successful partnerships with higher education institutions in the United Kingdom and the United States: cooperation agreements were signed with three high-level universities, i.e., the University of Kiel and the University of Lincoln in the UK and the University of Missouri in the USA. Cooperation possibilities were also discussed with four other universities in the UK: Edge Hill University, Glasgow Caledonian University, Lancaster University and Nottingham Trent University. Under agreements, VMU and the above-mentioned universities will cooperate in research and educational activities, such as exchanges of students, teacher and researchers, the development of double-diploma first cycle and second cycle programmes, joint research, training, exchange of scientific material, etc.

Scholarships and student achievements

- Four nominal scholarships were awarded to the following students of the Faculty of Arts: Tomas Genevičius, a first cycle student of the study programme Art History, Criticism and Media was awarded VMU Honorary Scholarship for creative and artistic achievements; Kamilė Jakimavičiūtė, a second cycle student of the study programme Theatre Studies and Performing Arts Management, and Ernestas Zubavičius were awarded Bronius Vaškelis Scholarship; Tautvydas Nagorskis, a student of the study programme New Media Art, was awarded the Kaišiadorys District Municipality Young Artist Scholarship.
- The Presidential Scholarships were awarded to Kristina Jeganian, a first-year second cycle student of the study programme Performing Arts (piano), and Alma Petrauskaitė, a first-year second cycle student of the study programme Performing Arts (accordion), both full-time students at VMU Music Academy.
- Eight scholarships named after Lithuanians in the Diaspora were awarded to the students of VMU Faculty of Humanities: Prof. Bronius Vaškelis Scholarship was awarded to Gabija Barišauskaitė, Eimantė Korytė, Gintarė Navakauskaitė, Viktorija Šaulytė and Greta Ščeliokaitė, second-year second cycle students of the study programme Literary Arts, Criticism and Communication for the development of the platform "Humanitarų meka" (<https://www.humanitarumeka.com/>) about Kaunas, its past, art, people, signs and memories; the nominal Liūtas and Francoise Mockūnas' Scholarship was awarded to Gerda Pilipaitytė, a third cycle student of the study programme Philology; Vanda Daugirdaitė-Sruogienė's Scholarship was awarded to Andrius Stasys Veršinskas, a second cycle student of the study programme History of Central Eastern Europe and Lithuania. Bronius Bieliukas Scholarship was awarded to Povilas Mikalauskas, a fourth-year student of the study programme History.
- Greta Dirsė, a second cycle student of History of Central Eastern Europe and Lithuania programme at VMU Faculty of Humanities, was awarded the fifth scholarship named for a signer of the Act of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania, Solomon Banaitis. The scholarship was awarded for her research on the activities of the disseminators of Eastern culture in inter-war Lithuania.
- At the solemn meeting of VMU Senate, the Jonas Smilgevičius Scholarships were awarded to 7 students of the Faculty of Economics and Management.
- One-time nominal scholarships of UAB "Nando" in the amount of EUR 500 were awarded at the Faculty of Agronomy of VMU Agriculture Academy to Vilius Juodzevičius, a third-year student of the study programme Agronomy; Paulina Družaitė, Gabrielė Černiauskaitė, Dovydas Bartkus, fourth-year students. One-time nominal scholarship of Ieva and Arnas Radzevičiai in the amount of EUR 2,500 was awarded to Ugnius Ginelevičius, a fourth-year student of the study programme Agronomy, for good study results. One-time nominal scholarship of Ieva and Arnas Radzevičiai in the amount of EUR 2,500 was awarded to Inesa Sinkevičiūtė, a fourth-year student of the study programme Agronomy, for the best thesis. Monthly scholarship of the agronomist Jonas Tallat-Kelpša in the amount of EUR 100 was awarded to Modesta Bielskytė, a fourth-year student of the study programme Agronomy. One-time nominal scholarships of EUR 290 by AB "East West Agro" were awarded to Vilius Juodzevičius, a third-year student of the study programme Agronomy, Paulina Družaitė and Evelina Šeršniovaitė, the fourth-year students of the study programme Agronomy. One-time scholarship of the Vydūnas Youth Fund Stasė Cukuraitė and Vaclovas Tallat-Kelpša in the amount of EUR 1,000 was awarded to Alfredas Stanevičius, a fourth-year student of the study programme Agronomy. Nominal Scholarship of Jurgis Sirusas in the amount of EUR 1,000 was awarded to Meda Mačiulytė, a first-year second cycle student of the study programme Agronomy, and to Erika Navickaitė, a second-year student of the study programme Quality and Safety of Food Plant Raw Materials. The Scholarship of the President of the Republic of Lithuania Kazys Grinius in the amount of EUR 1,150 was awarded to Ugnius Ginelevičius, a fourth-year student of the study programme Agronomy. The Ministry of Agriculture awarded 12 scholarships of EUR 200 each for the students of the study programme Agronomy, and 3 scholarships of EUR 200 each for the students of the study programme Food Quality and Safety. VMU Agriculture

Academy Alumni Club “ŽŪA Alumni”, which runs the Support and Charity Fund “Support for Regional Youth Studies” partially covered the tuition fees of 7 students from the Faculty of Agronomy.

- The Bronius Bialukas Scholarship Fund administered by the Lithuanian Foundation in the USA and VMU Lithuanian Emigration Institute at VMU Faculty of Law awarded the Bronius Bieliukas Scholarship to Ieva Sinevičiūtė, a third-year student of integrated studies of Law.
- Students of the first cycle study programme Agricultural Mechanical Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering of VMU were awarded scholarships of UAB “DOJUS agro”, AB “Lytagra”, UAB “Agrokonzernas”, AB “East West Agro” and Memorial Scholarship of Assoc. Prof. Kazimieras Giedra.
- The Alumni Club awarded one-time scholarships of EUR 300 to the following students of VMU Faculty of Informatics: Vilija Martinaitytė (study programme Informatics Systems), Miliša Songailaitė (study programme Mathematics and its Applications) and Arnas Tranza (study programme Multimedia and Internet Technologies) for their outstanding Bachelor's theses.
- The company “Teltonika” awarded annual scholarships of EUR 3,000 to the following first-year students of the study programme Informatics Systems at VMU Faculty of Informatics: Titas Balvočius, Rokas Naujokaitis and Martynas Pugauskas.

“Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022” events

In 2022, when Kaunas became the European Capital of Culture, Vytautas Magnus University was an official partner and together they implemented projects of various scales. Major University projects in the programme “Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022”:

- The international writers and books festival “Kauno literatūros savaitė” (Kaunas Literature Week) was organised. The aim of the festival was to introduce Kaunas residents and visitors to contemporary national and international writers, foster a mutual relationship between authors and readers, and promote intercultural and intercommunity dialogues. Ukrainian writer Yuriy Andrukhovych and Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Aleksievich took part in the festival.
- The first international congress “CoHappiness/Permaštant laimę” (CoHappiness/Rethinking Happiness) was held, inviting people to rethink and re-evaluate meanings, to assess the shift from excessive concern for our personal happiness to a search for deeper and broader meanings in communion with others and with their environment. The event brought together the fields of culture and research. Internationally acknowledged artists took part in the event. There were not only presentations and discussions, but also artistic events, such as the interdisciplinary art-science and sensory experience experiment “Baby Aleksa” by Nomedas and Gediminas Urbonai, which was developed in collaboration with artificial intelligence scientists Dr. Jonas Kubilius (threehirds.ai) and Prof. Tomas Krilavičius (VMU), and which proposed a new, creative, and empathic approach towards the biotope with the help of artificial intelligence. Vaiva Grainytė's new bilingual collage novel “Rožės ir bulvės” (Roses and Potatoes) was presented, as well as a performative and unexpected excursion with contemporary dance professional Mantas Stabačinskas took place at the Kaunas waterworks company. The organisers have implemented the idea of one of the longest open-air art galleries in the Baltic States, with the aim of communicating freedom and the brutality of war. On 1 June, when commemorating the International Children's Day, VMU Botanical Garden hosted a solidarity picnic for Ukrainians and Lithuanians, organised in cooperation with the support foundation “Vienas K” founded by Oleg Shuraev.
- The international Litvak Culture Forum was held at VMU under the patronage of Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė. Honorary Patrons of the event are member of the European Parliament Prof. Liudas Mažylis and President of the Lithuanian Jewish Community Faina Kukliansky. Partners: Vytautas Magnus University and the Lithuanian Jewish Community. A large number of researchers from all over the world researching the history and identity of Litvaks took part in the event, including Professor Emeritus at Brandeis University, author of numerous monographs, Prof. Antony Polonsky (Republic of South Africa/UK), Professor of social psychology, President of Yale University, Honorary Doctor of VMU Peter Salovey (USA), psycholinguist Prof. Tsvia Walden and other academicians, historians, museum experts, education experts, representatives of the art world, community members. Many of the guests of Lithuanian origin were visiting the land of their parents for the first time in their lives. The Forum's discussions focused on what it means to be a Litvak, culture and art as a key to history, and the perpetuation of memory as a way to build a better future, to promote openness and dialogue.
- A session of the European Cultural Parliament was held at Vytautas Magnus University, where cultural representatives, members of the city and the country's community discussed various topical issues related to Europe and its culture, including, but not limited to, the role of universities in the European Capitals of Culture and the culture of Europe as a whole, and the issues of cultural diplomacy and the role of culture in the context of war.
- A joint exhibition of Lithuanian and Belgian companies “Stories of Design Innovation: from Kortrijk to Kaunas” was held at VMU, presenting 10 innovative products and services, which signify the special

cooperation between the two Design Cities – Kaunas and Kortrijk – during the period from 2021 to 2022. The exhibition was visited by the Belgian royal family and the President of the Republic of Lithuania and the First Lady.

- An international symposium “Idea of Europe” was organised. There was a special presidential debate during the event, in which the leaders of five European countries discussed the future of Europe and what it means to be and remain a European. The President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda, the President of the Republic of Latvia Egils Levits, the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda and the President of Romania Klaus Iohannis took part in the discussion. The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskij and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen addressed the participants of the symposium remotely. The international symposium was a part of the closing events of the programme “Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022”.

Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the University of Lithuania

Vytautas Magnus University, commemorating the centenary of the founding of the University of Lithuania a century ago, invited to events dedicated to this occasion: concerts, exhibitions, conferences, cultural events and various initiatives. The events were free of charge and open to the University community and the general public.

- To commemorate this occasion, the Lithuanian Parliament Seimas declared 2022 the Year of Lithuanian Universities.
- On 16 February, Žalgiris Arena hosted a solemn event during which Kaunas higher education institutions that grew out of the University of Lithuania, i.e., Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, and Vytautas Magnus University, held a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the University of Lithuania, as well as of the Year of Lithuanian Universities. The event featured the history of the University of Lithuania told through various stage and film productions.
- At the beginning of the year, the cycle of “Open Lectures” was launched. Every month, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas University of Technology and Lithuanian University of Health Sciences hosted meetings with researchers, political scientists, historians, artists and other personalities who inspire with their work and insights.
- The documentary film “Ateities istorija. Lietuva” (The History of the Future. Lithuania) was broadcasted on the Lithuanian National Radio and Television. The film presents all state universities of Lithuania and 16 scientific inventions/projects. These inventions/projects include Vytautas Magnus University's innovative STEAM education, “Semantika” and “Be Hate Free” projects.
- Lithuanian Post issued a postage stamp “Vytauto Didžiojo universitetui – 100 metų” (100 Years to Vytautas Magnus University) designed by Giedrė Jaronytė. The stamp was accompanied by a First-Day Cover. One of the first printed copies of the postage stamp “Vytauto Didžiojo universitetui – 100 metų” was presented to the University by the Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania Marius Skuodis.
- In commemoration of the centenary of the University of Lithuania, the student conference “Laisvė kurti 2022” (Freedom to Create 2022) was organised. At the conference, VMU students presented their scientific, artistic, and creative achievements to the university and the city, thus leaving an imprint in the century-long history of the University. More than 40 presentations from students from different study fields were delivered at the conference: from a presentation on academic Kaunas and an attempt to map the University of Lithuania to the impact of climate change on Lithuania's coastal architectural heritage; from digital fashion and three-dimensional clothing design technologies to a board game designed specifically for the visually impaired persons, and solutions for combating disinformation.
- VMU Sports Centre hosted a sports and health week dedicated to International Health Day and the 100th anniversary of the University of Lithuania. The event aimed to encourage the University community to be physically active and socially responsible.
- To commemorate the centenary of the founding of the University of Lithuania, VMU Sports Centre organised a symbolic run/walk dedicated to this anniversary. The event called for a symbolic 1,922-meter route from the yard of the Historical Presidential Palace of the Republic of Lithuania to the square next to VMU Great Hall.
- On April 28, 33 years have passed since the day when Vytautas Magnus University was restored in Kaunas, which also marked the centenary of its founding in 2022: 100 years ago, the University of Lithuania was founded, and was later given the name of Vytautas Magnus University. On this occasion, an exhibition “Vivat Universitas Vytauti Magni!” dedicated to the 100th anniversary was opened at the Rector's Council of VMU, with photographs reminding about the life of the University from its foundation, inter-war activities up to the restoration of the University in 1989, and the works of the present day. A solemn meeting of the Senate of Vytautas Magnus University, and a concert in Kaunas State Philharmonic Hall for the University's community, partners and guests were held.

- The “100 min. kelionė” (100-Minute Journey) of VMU alumni and other members of the University community took place, with participants hiking from Panemunė šilas (Panemunė Pinewood) to Pažaislis Monastery. It was a symbolic journey to commemorate the centenary of the University, and to celebrate the “journey” that started from the times of studying at the University to the present.
- In celebration of the centenary of the University of Lithuania, the University's silver and commemorative centenary medals were awarded to community members and social partners.
- Three Kaunas higher education institutions welcomed the new academic year together: Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences and Vytautas Magnus University, celebrating the centenary of the University of Lithuania, celebrated 1 September together. University communities organised a joint procession along Laisvės alėja (Liberty Avenue) and took part in the opening of the reconstructed Studentų skveras (Student Square). Singer Jessica Shy performed at Vienybės aikštė (Unity Square), and in the evening Kaunas residents were delighted by a music and light show.
- To commemorate the centenary of the University of Lithuania, Vytautas Magnus University, together with “Kaunas IN”, published the latest edition of “It's Kaunastic” series of illustrated itineraries, “Tarpukario studentas” (Interwar Student). The “Interwar Student” itinerary was developed in collaboration with VMU Academia cum laude students Karina Korsakova and Povilas Mikalauskas and their curator Domas Boguševičius. The itinerary devised for this occasion takes you through the buildings of the first university of Lithuania, the houses of the professors who taught there, the cafés, cinemas and other places that students love, which are full of interesting stories.
- On the occasion of the centenary of the University of Lithuania, the Faculty of Arts of Vytautas Magnus University opened the exhibition “Menų fakultetas 100-metyje: kūryba kuria kultūrą” (The Faculty of Arts in the 100th Anniversary of the University of Lithuania: Creativity Creates Culture). The exhibition tells the story of the Faculty of Arts as part of the University's centenary in various forms of expression and highlights the work of the Faculty, alumni and students.
- An international conference “Europos konstitucionalizmas: būklė ir perspektyvos” (Constitutionalism in Europe: Current Challenges and Prospects for the Future), organised by VMU Faculty of Law, marked three occasions: the 100th anniversary of the 1922 Constitution of the State of Lithuania, the 30th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, adopted on the 25th of October 1992, as well as the 100th anniversary of the modern Lithuanian School of Law (Vytautas Magnus University and its Faculty of Law, founded in 1922).
- VMU hosted the World Lithuanian University (WLU) Symposium, inspired by the tradition of Symposiums on Arts and Sciences born in the Lithuanian American community in 1969, and seeking to give meaning to the University of Lithuania.
- VMU invited representatives of Lithuanian and Lithuanian scientific and creative communities from abroad to discuss the significance of the tradition of the University of Lithuania for Lithuania and Lithuanian diaspora. The Symposium also discussed about the global events of recent years and their impact on studies at the University and on research, art and creativity of Lithuanians worldwide.
- Virtual exhibition “Lietuvos universiteto kūrėjų palikimo pėdsakai” (Following the Footsteps of the Heritage of the Founders of the University of Lithuania) was prepared by VMU Library. One hundred personalities of the old University and their creative heritage – such a symbolic choice was related to the anniversary of the University of Lithuania. The exhibition showcased the main founders of the University and the nurturers of its tradition. The aim of the exhibition was to introduce the public to the heritage of the old University, which is now preserved at VMU Library, and to reveal its extent, diversity and richness. More than 800 covers of publications were displayed on the pages of the virtual exhibition. The exhibition is available at <https://uni100.vdu.lt/>
- On 1 April, VMU Botanical Garden opened a photography exhibition “Lietuvos universitetui – 100 metų: Kauno įvaizdį kuriantys vietoženkliai” (100 Years to the University of Lithuania: Landmarks that Create the Image of Kaunas) and symbolically recreated the historical photo of the first Birds' Day celebrated in Lithuania: as it was a hundred years ago, so it is today.
- The film “Vivat Universitas Vytauti Magni” directed by Arvydas Barys was presented.
- The exhibition “100 metų – 100 veidų” (100 Years – 100 Faces) by Jonas Petronis was opened.
- The video clip “VDU 100s” (VMU 100s) by Titas Petrikis was presented. “VDU100s” is a musical piece dedicated to the centenary of the University of Lithuania with a video clip featuring VMU community as main performers.
- The 10th VMU Kaunas History Olympiad, dedicated to the centenary of the University of Lithuania, was organised, attracting over 300 participants from Kaunas region schools.
- *The following anniversary publications were published:*
 - “Pirmoji lietuviška alma mater: trumpa klasikinio universiteto Kaune istorija” (The First Lithuanian Alma Mater: a Brief History of the Classical University in Kaunas), (historical monograph, author Prof. Antanas Kulakauskas). The author's main aim is to tell the history of the University of Lithuania (Vytautas Magnus University) from the genesis of the idea to the “fate of the afterlife”

and the history of its restoration in a concise but analytical way, from the perspective of a historian and a political scientist, as well as to disclose the links between the University of Lithuania and the development of society and the state.

- “Liudas Vailionis” (monograph, author Danutė Vailionytė). This is a monograph about Liudas Vailionis, one of the founders and promoters of the idea of a Lithuanian higher education institution, a researcher, a pioneer of botanical science in independent Lithuania, and a prominent public figure.
- “Lietuvos universiteto tapsmas (1916–1922 m.): Dokumentų rinkinys” (The Development of the University of Lithuania (1916–1922). Documentation), (collected by Dr. Kęstutis Raškauskas). The aim of the documentation is to present the continuous process of becoming the University of Lithuania, regardless of the city in which this process took place.
- “Akademiko Tado Ivanausko fenomenas” (The Phenomenon of Academician Tadas Ivanauskas), (author academician Mečislovas Žalakevičius). There is a lot of material, articles and books about Prof. Tadas Ivanauskas in many languages, but some aspects of his life have not been explored or properly assessed. Therefore, using fragments of documents and iconographic material in the archives, people's recollections, the genealogical material of the Ivanauskas, and stories and photographs of the family members, the aim was to fill in the gaps.
- “Lietuvos valstybės atkūrimo procesas 1918 m. vasaris–kovas: Dokumentų rinkinys” (The Process of the Restoration of the Lithuanian State February–March 1918: Documentation (collected by Liudas Mažylis, Rasa Zozaitė). The publication of historical sources extends the analysis of the previous two publications. At the same time, it summarises and concludes the series of publications of three sources dedicated to the restoration and recognition of the Lithuanian state in the period from 1917 to 1918.
- “Tarp pasaulių. Kauno filosofų tekstų antologija Vytauto Didžiojo universiteto įkūrimo šimtmečiui paminėti” (Between Worlds. An Anthology of Texts by Kaunas Philosophers to Commemorate the Centenary of the Foundation of Vytautas Magnus University) (collected by Kamil Pecela, Paweł Plichta, Bogdan Szlachta). The book consists of translations into Polish of the most important texts of philosophers associated with Vytautas Magnus University in the first period of its existence: from Stasys Šalkauskis to Antanas Maceina and Levas Karsavinas. This is the first publication of its kind in Poland, presenting the canon of Lithuanian philosophy. It is also the first volume of the “Bibliotheca Lituanica” series published by the Centre for Lithuanian Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.
- On the occasion of the centenary of the University, a magazine in English “Broader Perspectives” was published. It features interviews with VMU researchers who discuss the University's key achievements in addressing global problems and contributing to the promotion of human values.

Support for Ukraine

The Centre of Ukraine for Ukrainians fleeing war was established at VMU Education Academy in Vilnius in June 2022 under the patronage of Diana Nausėdienė, First Lady of Lithuania, and Olena Zelenska, First Lady of Ukraine. Both children and adults attend the activities of the Centre of Ukraine. The space is actively used by Ukrainian artists who prepare art and art therapy courses, a Ukrainian Saturday school is held where the native Ukrainian language is taught, and creative activities are organised for children. The Centre has a Ukrainian amateur choir, provide vocal and piano lessons for adults and children, Lithuanian language and culture courses, also English and Ukrainian language courses. Ukrainian folk dances, exhibitions, presentations of artistic and social projects, commemorations of historical events, and many other creative activities are organised in the Centre. The Centre receives up to 2,000 visitors every month. A total of 12,162 visits were recorded in the first six months of 2022. The Centre hosted more than 700 activities, including psychological, therapeutic and educational sessions. Here, Ukrainians celebrate holidays, socialise and gather in art groups.

The Centre of Ukraine will continue to strive to create a cosy environment for Ukrainians, create conditions for language learning, provide psychological support, and try to involve in the activities of the Centre not only Ukrainians living in Vilnius, but also Ukrainians living in other cities and towns of Lithuania. Volunteers and sponsors are expected to increase. The aim will be to give the Centre of Ukraine a role in cultural diplomacy and academic activities.

In the spring semester of 2021–2022, VMU admitted 74 Ukrainian citizens to the first cycle study programmes taught in English, granted scholarships to cover the tuition fees and provided free accommodation in dormitories. Before the outbreak of the war, 80 Ukrainians were studying at VMU. Tuition fees as well as fees for the dormitory were reduced for them. One-time social scholarships were also granted. As the war continued, in the autumn semester of 2022–2023, another 179 Ukrainian citizens were admitted to first cycle and second cycle study programmes taught in English. 156 of these students were granted a 100% scholarship by VMU to cover their tuition fees, while the rest received a partial tuition fee advantage, i.e., exemption from tuition fees. All students were provided with free accommodation at VMU dormitory.

In 2022, VMU intensified its cooperation with Ukrainian research and study institutions, as well as student and staff exchanges, in order to provide assistance to the academic community of Ukraine affected by the war. VMU awarded internships and Erasmus+ funding to 16 students from Ukraine. Five teachers were accepted for teaching visits and 15 employees for learning visits. They were allocated funding for visits lasting 7–10 days.

VMU not only took care of admission and mobility processes, but also organised various campaigns throughout the year, promoting the involvement of students in the life of the city and the University. It also initiated support campaigns with material items and a financial support campaign “I am donating my lunch money to support Ukrainian students at VMU”. During the campaign, VMU community donated more than EUR 3,500. The money collected was used to grant one-time scholarships for 44 Ukrainian students admitted to VMU before the war. At the initiative of the Centre of Ukraine, colleagues from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of VMU donated an electricity generator to a kindergarten in Tulchyn.

University external communication

A campaign to attract applicants, “VDU | platesnės perspektyvos” (VMU | Broader Perspectives), founded in 2021, was further developed and implemented in 2022. The campaign was supplemented with new visual illustrations and associative slogans. The campaign aims to strengthen the University's identity: VMU is the University with the widest coverage in Lithuania, conducting research and studies in the humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, arts, biomedical sciences, technology and agriculture in Kaunas and Vilnius. The University has a recognised competence as the University providing comprehensive education for the creators of the future, with a global orientation, a free spirit and a liberal mind, where research and studies are carried out at the intersection of several disciplines, and where identity is purposefully shaped in the dimensions of civic awareness and active public and cultural life.

According to a quantitative and qualitative analysis performed by “Mediaskopas”, VMU maintains a strong second position in the media among the major universities of the country. Although the market share of universities in the general media declined (3.6% in 2021 and 3.3% in 2022), VMU, as a player in the university market, strengthened its position and became more visible (23.63% in 2021 and 27.85% in 2022).

In 2022, as in previous years, the University was presented mainly in the media through commentary made by experts, increasing by almost five hundred such comments (2021: 2,931; 2022: 3,095). A significant leap forward was made in terms of the topics of culture and events (1,223 in 2021; 1,746 in 2022) and sports (598 in 2021; 1,002 in 2022) in which VMU was mentioned. Special attention was paid by the media to the topics of popularisation of research proposed by VMU as well as topics on higher education policy and funding, and comments from the University experts on the political situation. The status and visibility of the project “Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022”, of which Vytautas Magnus University became an official partner and jointly implemented various events (the events were covered not only by the Lithuanian, but also by the foreign news portals, such as the BBC, the CNN, the Times, Rai, Deutsche Welle, the Financial Times and Euronews), as well as the substantial improvement of the city's infrastructure significantly increased the attractiveness and visibility of the University. The University's support activities for the people of Ukrainian (support for students and researchers, free intensive Lithuanian language courses, psychological support platform, library and other services, employment opportunities offered by VMU's partners, etc.) received a lot of attention. Such events and initiatives as the centenary commemoration events of the University of Lithuania, joint initiatives and events carried out by VMU and “Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022”, the opening of VMU Teacher Training Centre, the National Human Rights Forum, etc., also received media attention.

In 2022, first and second cycle study programmes taught in English were advertised to foreign markets on 7 international study portals: studyin.lt, masterstudies.com, bachelorstudies.com, educations.com, study.eu, findamasters.com and univero.cci. Each portal has its own publicity strategies and target market, so publishing information about the University on these portals provides more opportunities to attract students from various countries. Each year, the continuity and profitability of the dissemination of information on each study portal is decided on the basis of the portal's visit statistics, the number of incoming enquiries and the “Dreamapply” log-in register. Since 2020, a lot of attention has been paid to digital advertising and its channels: the extensive possibilities of “Google ads” have been used, and advertising has been ordered on the social networks “Facebook” and “Instagram”.

Since 2022, a new, successful peer-to-peer tool, the “Unibuddy” platform, has been integrated into the University's website (<https://www.vdu.lt/en/studies/meet-our-students>). The platform is used for international programmes and helps to raise the visibility of the University around the world. The platform helps incoming foreign students to communicate directly with VMU's current international students. Current students create content through the blog category, share success stories or important information about student life in Kaunas, Lithuania and the University. The platform has 66 student and alumni ambassadors from 24 countries in Europe, Africa and Asia. In 2022, VMU study programmes were also presented at international fairs: VMU International Cooperation Department virtually participated in 13 virtual fairs (Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Morocco, Mexico, Chile,

Uruguay, Moldova, India, Kyrgyzstan) and in 3 physical fairs in Egypt, Germany and Ireland. Regular work is also carried out with international agencies that help to attract new students. Currently, VMU has 16 contracts with the agencies in countries such as Azerbaijan, Egypt, Ghana, India, Kazakhstan, Sakartvelo, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. Remote meetings with agency staff are held at least several times during the application period. Study programmes, admission procedures and requirements are presented during these meetings.

Developing the potential of “Transform4Europe – T4E”

“Transform4Europe” (hereinafter referred to as the T4EU), an initiative bringing together an alliance of European universities, launched at the end of 2020 and accelerated in 2021–2022 to become one of the University's priority areas of activity. Due to the wide range of activities of this initiative, many academic and non-academic units of the University are now involved in the implementation of international activities.

The T4EU aims to transform and progressively integrate all universities in the T4EU network into one sustainable European alliance: with a common governance structure, supporting systems and centralised services. The T4EU's key objectives include joint study programmes, entrepreneurship, multilingualism, student and staff mobility as a norm, development of regional partnerships, and the empowered European knowledge and innovation ecosystem, etc.

A key event in 2022 in the field of strengthening the T4EU cooperation is the expanded partnership of this European alliance. Three other European universities will work together with universities in Germany, Poland, Spain, Italy, Estonia, Bulgaria and Lithuania: The Portuguese Catholic University (Portugal), the University of Primorska (Slovenia) and the Jean Monnet University of Saint-Etienne (France). The Mariupol State University in Ukraine was invited to join the alliance as an associate member, through the mediation of Vytautas Magnus University, in order to express support for Ukraine.

In Lithuania, strategic national support from the Republic of Lithuania was also planned for the European universities in 2022. VMU prepared the project “VDU tarptautinio konkurencingumo stiprinimas Europos universitetų Transform4Europe aljanso tinkla” (Strengthening International Competitiveness of VMU in the Transform4Europe alliance Network of European Universities). The project received funding of EUR 1,844,768.31. Duration: 15 months (from 1 January 2023 until 31 March 2024). Another project “Horizon Europe 2020”, which is closely linked to the T4EU is “Transform4European Research and Innovation”, which aims to develop a common long-term research and innovation agenda for the T4EU universities. The alliance partners are looking for sustainable and long-term cooperation opportunities, and thus have started to expand and complement the ongoing activities by initiating new EC or national projects. In particular, the Erasmus+ KA2 projects “Activating Students in Online Classes”, “Cross-Disciplinary Academic Offer”, “Stronger Together”, etc. At the moment, several new applications are also being prepared; therefore, the range of the T4EU activities and opportunities will only get wider and stronger in the near future.

Most of the activities of T4EU European University are included in the Strategic Plan for 2021–2027 of Vytautas Magnus University and were actively implemented in 2022.

VMU experts prepared and presented the T4EU Mobility for All Strategy to the T4EU University communities. This document defines all the most innovative forms of short-term and long-term, virtual, mixed and physical mobility that have been and will be implemented under the T4EU initiative, and sets out the alliance's vision for 2030, when mobility becomes the main tool for regional and intercontinental internationality. Virtual T4EU mobility and joint entrepreneurship centres have been established, uniting experts in the aforementioned fields from all participating universities.

The T4EU Language Strategy was developed and presented thanks to the efforts of language experts from the T4EU network. This document emphasizes the importance of multilingualism policy, languages, their diversity, communication and intercourse. The document also outlines the linguistic transformation of the T4EU alliance, with the following as outcomes of this transformation: compulsory foreign language learning modules for all T4EU students, free foreign language courses for academic and non-academic units of universities, the promotion of multilingualism, various linguistic and cultural campaigns, conferences, etc.

T4EU partners were actively involved in the development of three international challenge-based third cycle study programmes. In addition, joint T4EU third cycle studies in the alliance's main fields of activity, i.e., digital, sustainability and societal transformations, are discussed. An agreement was signed defining the rules for the automatic recognition of study courses and diplomas.

This year, the offer of first cycle study courses adapted to the main T4EU operational guidelines for the T4EU European University students (T4EU BA Tracks) was developed. VMU students could register for free study courses at Saarland University (Germany), University of Trieste (Italy), University of Alicante (Spain), Sofia University (Bulgaria), etc. The study courses offered by VMU attracted exceptional attention from the students of the partner universities, who have actively registered and participated in them. All cycle students had the opportunity to join various other learning initiatives offered by T4EU partners, such as: a course on data analytics, a seminar on the war between Russia and Ukraine, a student school on intercultural communication, a free French language course and many others.

In 2022, three T4EU transformation laboratories were established in the areas of digital, sustainability and societal transformations. The researchers of the T4EU universities together with social partners from various European countries actively work there.

The concept of the T4EU Professional Development Academy has been put into practice through international distance learning/seminars. Twenty of the first T4EU European university professional development distance learning courses for academic and/or non-academic staff were organised in 2022. VMU also organised the first T4EU Transform4Europe Innovative Teaching Award, in which 14 teachers from the T4EU partner universities submitted applications and took part in the competition. Four winners were announced and awarded cash prizes at the T4EU conference in Kaunas. The same competition will be organised again next year.

Key events and meetings of the T4EU European alliance:

- The festival “T4EU Europos kultūros festivalis. Europa mieste: Kaunas” (T4EU Festival of European Culture “Europe in the City: Kaunas) brought together not only the T4EU academic community from seven different universities, but also representatives of business, schools, Kaunas citizens and city guests. The event featured workshops on creative writing, photography, film-making, art, dance, etc., led by art and culture professionals.
- Lectures, courses for students of all study cycles, joint research projects, professional development trainings, seminars, excursions and art events, other meetings were organised during the “T4EU mobilumo savaitė” (T4EU Mobility Week).
- At the T4EU Strategic Assembly, the representatives of the universities analysed how higher education institutions could contribute to the future development of the EU. Participants watched a roundtable discussion, took part in workshops and shared their insights from different European regions.
- The first T4EU Conference on Innovative Teaching and Learning Methods stimulated the exchange of ideas on innovative teaching and learning methods in higher education, bringing together the capacities of all T4EU alliance partners.
- The T4EU Entrepreneurship School for students focused on innovative environments (incubators, accelerators, the most innovative cities) that can help an entrepreneur to find the right partner for each stage of his/her project.

WLU (World Lithuanian University): activities for the diaspora

In line with the strategic objective of VMU, i.e., to strengthen and develop the idea and activities of VMU World Lithuanian University (WLU), and in accordance with the strategic guidelines of the Lithuanian diaspora policy “Global Lithuania”, the WLU aims to gather an active academic Lithuanian diaspora, to foster the self-awareness of the Lithuanians as a diasporic nation, and to foster the ability of Lithuanians to think about the future of the diasporic nation.

With these goals in mind, the WLU, together with its partners, organised the Lithuanian Education Forum and VMU World Lithuanian University Symposium in 2022.

The forum, which will be held for the third time in 2023, aims to draw the attention of the Lithuanian society and Lithuanians living abroad to the importance of Lithuanian language education in foreign countries. The symposium, in turn, aimed to continue the tradition of World Lithuanian Symposium on Arts and Sciences born in the Lithuanian American community in 1969 and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the University of Lithuania. On this occasion, representatives of Lithuanian and Lithuanian scientific and creative communities from abroad discussed the significance of the tradition of the University of Lithuania for Lithuania and Lithuanian diaspora. The symposium also discussed about the global events of recent years and their impact on studies at the University and on research, art and creativity of Lithuanians worldwide.

October was declared Lithuanian Diaspora Month at Vytautas Magnus University. The events focused on the history of the Lithuanian diaspora, South American Lithuanians, and the activities of Lithuanian language schools.

As part of the Vytautas Kavolis Interdisciplinary Visiting Professorship Programme, supported by the Dana Gedvilienė Foundation, the University hosted a visit by Saulius Geniušas, Professor of Philosophy at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Dr. Violetta Parutis, a Migrationologist at the University of Essex (the United Kingdom).

As part of the WLU diaspora education programme, the aim of which is to strengthen Lithuanian identity and to cultivate the understanding of Lithuanians as a diaspora nation, for the fourth year in a row the non-formal course of the challenges of Lithuanian identity and family stories has been offered for study. Since 2019, more than 20 Lithuanian and foreign Lithuanian language school teachers have studied the course.

An important step in WLU's activities is to strengthen cooperation between the diaspora and Lithuanian organisations and public figures: the Educational Council of the World Lithuanian Community, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Association of Lithuanian Language Schools, Ministry of

Education, Science and Sport, Dalia Asanavičienė, Member of the Seimas, the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to Ireland, the “Gintarėlis” Lithuanian-language school in Cavan (Ireland), the Club of Lithuanian Students from Abroad, the Valdas Adamkus Presidential Library-Museum.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, VMU Vice-Rector for Communication participated in the activities of the Coordination Commission for Lithuanian Diaspora Affairs organised by the Ministry. The WLU coordinator took part in the Ministry's working group on the implementation of the Lithuanian diaspora policy.

Support from Lithuanians living abroad to Vytautas Magnus University amounted to EUR 26,760 in 2022. 48% of this support was allocated to the WLU activities and 52% to other VMU activities. Support from Lithuanians living aboard to VMU during the year increased by 220%.

Total support received for the activities of the World Lithuanian University amounted to EUR 28,600 in 2022.

Strengthening the reputation of the University

VMU leads in student mobility and regional publications in the “U-Multirank” ranking. Vytautas Magnus University received the highest scores (“very good” and “good”) in the following three categories in the “U-Multirank”, the world's largest ranking of universities: student mobility, regional co-publications, and the number of students completing their second cycle studies in the expected duration of studies. In terms of student mobility and regional co-publications, VMU received the highest score in Lithuania and ranked first in the country.

The “U-Multirank” is a unique, multidimensional international ranking of higher education institutions. The ranking compares universities' performance in five categories: teaching and learning, research, knowledge transfer, international orientation and regional engagement. It is the largest and most inclusive ranking that reveals the diversity of higher education in the world. According to the authors of the ranking, there is no single best university in the “U-Multirank”, and achievements are measured individually, giving scores from “A” (best) to “E” (worst) in different areas.

VMU's student mobility was rated the best in Lithuania (rated “A” or “very good”). This ratio includes foreign students admitted by the University under international exchange programmes, students leaving the University under exchange programmes, and students studying on international joint study programmes. The highest score in the country (“B” or “good”) was also awarded to VMU's for regional co-publications. This ratio measures the percentage of the University's scientific publications that include at least one author from surrounding institutions (within 50 kilometres of the University).

In total, the ranking compares more than 2,200 universities and colleges in 96 countries. Thanks to its multidimensionality, the “U-Multirank” ranking is the first in the world to offer a comprehensive picture of a university's achievements, providing the user with more data than just research.

The “QS World University Rankings”: VMU is the most international university in Lithuania. The “QS World University Rankings” are considered one of the most authoritative rankings of higher education institutions. It differs from other ranking systems in that it tries to show the totality of the university, i.e., not only research results and output, but also the scale of organisational culture, innovation, the openness and accessibility of the university, and the assessment of the relationship between students and teachers. When evaluating the world's higher education institutions, the proportionality of international staff and foreign students is also considered an important criterion in this ranking: this allows universities to open up to international experts and evaluations.

It is not enough for a higher education institution to provide data about itself to be included in the “QS World University Rankings” database. A university is only included in the ranking if a certain percentage of the academic and employer community gives it a positive rating. The survey of employers and the academic community is conducted by the “QS World University Rankings”.

In the latest “QS World University Rankings”, Vytautas Magnus University is recognised as one of the most international universities and the absolute leader among Lithuanian universities.

In 2022, the growth of the foreign student ratio surpassed the results of the 2021 ranking: the number of foreign students studying at VMU increased by 53%. VMU was ranked 389th among all universities in the world, which is the best result ever achieved by the University. The rate of foreign academic staff at VMU is also improving every year.

When comparing Lithuanian universities, the “QS World University Rankings” provides data that the amount of attention per student was growing fast at Vytautas Magnus University, i.e., the ratio of academic staff per student increased by 17%.

Feedback from employers about the University and its graduates has improved the University's reputation ratios for three years in a row. According to the results of the survey, the image of VMU among current and potential employers of the University graduates rose by 38%.

In 2022, as the total number of ranked universities increased to 1,422 (with 124 new universities) in the “QS World University Rankings”, VMU ranking position improved. Overall, VMU's position in the ranking has been rising steadily from 2018 to the present day, with a 25.4% increase over the last 5 years.

According to the “QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022”, VMU is among the best 100 universities in the performing arts. The new “QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022” was published in 2022 and ranked the world's top universities by individual subject field. For the second year in a row, Vytautas Magnus University was also included in this ranking, and it was given extremely high scores: VMU was ranked 50–100th in the world in the field of performing arts, and 300–350th in agriculture and forestry, the same as last year.

In total, the “QS World University Rankings” evaluated 29 subject areas in which VMU carries out research and study activities. Most of the evaluated areas with offerings by the University were evaluated with a score of more than 40 scores. VMU's activities in performing arts (62.8 scores), agriculture and forestry (53.1 scores), environmental sciences (58.7 scores), social sciences and management (55.7 scores), art and humanities (55 scores), law (53.8 scores), geography (51.7 scores), education (51.2 scores), and other fields were also given high ratings.

This year, the “QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022” ranked universities in 51 individual subject areas. For each area, the ranking was based on five criteria: academic reputation, research citations per paper, employer reputation, H-index and International Research Network (IRN) index.

Academic reputation was calculated based on a survey in which 130,000 academics from around the world expressed their opinion about the work of universities in a specific field. Employer reputation was also based on a survey of more than 75 000 employers from different sectors. The citations per paper mean the average number of citations for publications published by the university. The H index is based on the set of the academic's most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other publications. The last ratio, the IRN index, assessed the effectiveness of scientific cooperation.

In the latest ranking of the magazine “Reitingai”, VMU was evaluated for its education and academic staff. On 11 May, the magazine “Reitingai” published the 2022 ranking of all Lithuanian state universities, where Vytautas Magnus University received 60.45 scores and took the fourth place. Among the University's top-ranked achievements were the criteria assessing current and future academic staff (7.2 scores), scientific, artistic or sports activities and staff achievements (8.11 scores). In these categories, the University was ranked second and third in Lithuania, respectively. VMU received 8.3 scores for competing in the international study area – just one score less than the university which took the first place. In the university rankings by study fields published by the magazine “Reitingai”, Vytautas Magnus University ranked first in Lithuania in 20 study fields (three more than last year). VDU ranked third or higher in a total of 65 study fields.

In total, universities were assessed on 39 different parameters under five broad criteria: scientific, artistic or sports activities and staff achievements, the added value by graduates and employers' evaluations, students and studies, competitiveness in the international study area, and current and future academic staff.

The latest publication of “Reitingai” also focused on the readiness of higher education institutions to accept students fleeing the war in Ukraine. VMU, the second largest and most comprehensive university in Lithuania, hosted 74 Ukrainian students from the beginning of the war until the end of April. Before the war, 87 Ukrainians pursued a Bachelor's or Master's degree at VMU.

The ranking of universities prepared by the magazine “Reitingai” was based on the data of the Lithuanian Higher Education Association for the Organisation of General Enrolment, Research Council of Lithuania, the National Agency for Education, the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, Education Exchanges Support Foundation, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, the Employment Service, UAB “Prime consulting” and the research presented by the magazine “Reitingai”.

Global university rankings of the magazine “Times Higher Education” (THE).

The latest ranking of universities in emerging economies, published by the magazine “Times Higher Education” (THE), included VMU, placing the University in the 401–500 range. Among the four Lithuanian universities in the ranking, VMU ranked first in terms of internationality, with 76.0 scores in this rating category (68.5 scores in 2021). In the overall global rating of the THE, VMU received higher scores in all categories than it did last year. The University was ranked 311th in the international perspective category. VMU earned high rankings in the THE in particular fields of study: pedagogy, life sciences, social sciences, humanities and arts.

The University's role/leadership in shaping and implementing the bioeconomy, the European Green Deal, and policies on climate change and rural development

As part of the mission of VMU Agriculture Academy, to develop and to disseminate knowledge of agrobiotechnology, ecosystems, engineering, and social sciences for the sustainable development of the

bioeconomy (land, food, forestry, and water) and of rural areas, for a fully-satisfying living environment in harmony with nature, scientific research is carried out at the Academy in priority areas: Bioeconomy; Biosystem Engineering; Sustainability of Agro-, Forest and Aquatic Ecosystems; Climate Change. The volume of scientific research in these directions grows every year. In 2022, more than 150 articles were published in publications referenced and having a citation index in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS) database; of these, 87 publications were in indexed scientific publications which ranked at the time of publication in the first quartile of their respective journal group. There were also 50 research and experimental development (R&D) projects in 2022 related to the development of the bio-economy, the implementation of the European Green Deal and rural development policy. The topics of these projects were related to all elements of the Green Course, but were mostly related to a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly (“from farm to table”) food system (9 projects), the circular economy and zero pollution (8 projects), the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity (7 projects), climate change (5 projects), and clean energy supply (4 projects). Four projects were related to rural development policy. Most of the projects are related to the justification of innovative solutions in agriculture and the application of precision technologies in agriculture.

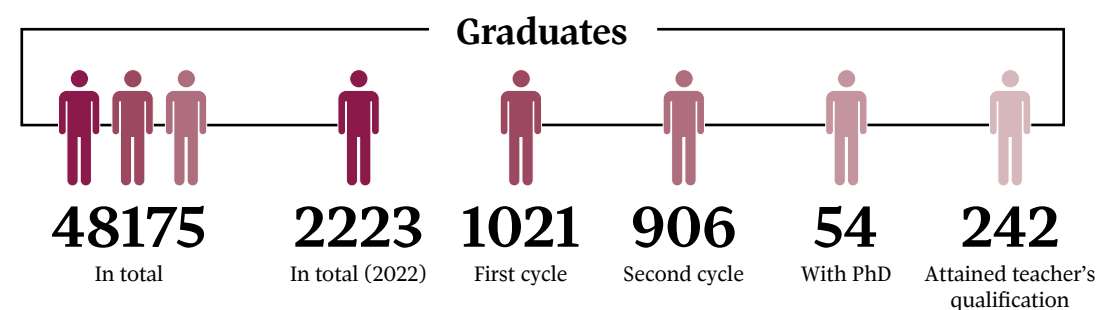
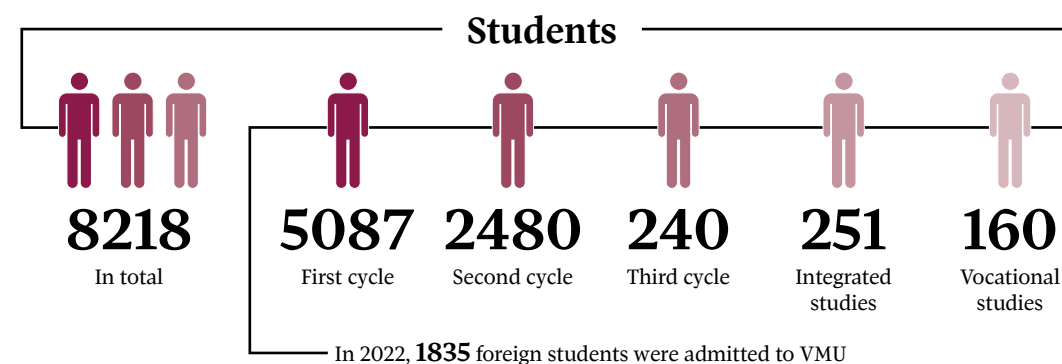
VMU researchers are actively involved in shaping policy on the bioeconomy, the European Green Deal, climate change, and rural development. They are members of Analysis and Experimentation on Ecosystems (AnaEE), Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC), European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), European Renewable Energies Federation (EREF), Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases Alliance (GRA), World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC) and other international organisations. In Lithuania, they participate in the National Forest Agreement process, the development of a shared vision for Lithuania's forests, the development of green freight shipping in Lithuania's inland waters, the coordination of the development and implementation of a national policy on climate change management, and other activities.

Taking into account the priority areas for Lithuania and the European Union in the bioeconomy, the European Green Deal, climate change and rural development policies, a new first cycle study programme Sustainable Engineering was developed and registered at VMU Agriculture Academy in 2022, reflecting the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which emphasises the EU's green course, the need for sustainable economic growth, the promotion of innovation, the need for professionals; the projections of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for the development of renewable biological resources and bio-economy; and the results of field research on professional activities in Lithuania.

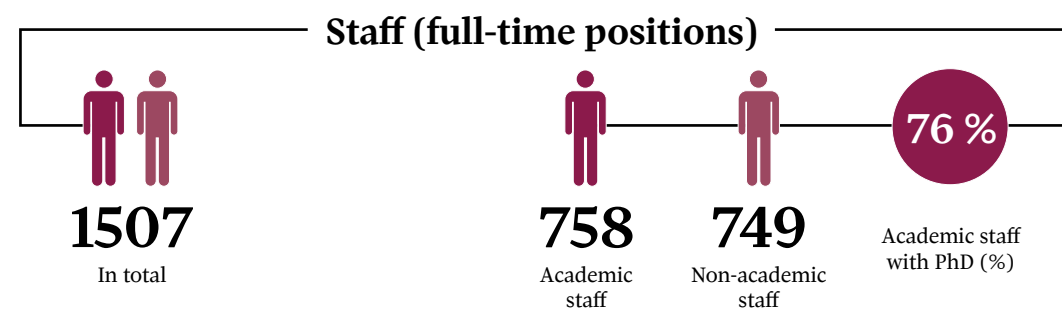
Further developing activities include:

- Cultivating the University's historical memory, revitalising and creating traditions when organising national and international events that embody the University's identity.
- Creating added value for the University by publicising ongoing research, projects, and studies, and discussing current and future events, phenomena, and environments in the country and in the world, thereby consolidating VMU identity.
- Developing joint VMU and diaspora projects, publicising WLU activities involving diaspora youth and encouraging them to choose studies at VMU, establishing international partnerships embodying the University's identity, strengthening leadership in Lithuanian-language educational activities.
- Strengthening the University's international recognition in order to achieve high-quality, sustainable, and productive international cooperation.
- Developing digital and social progress, implementing sustainable environmental and societal transformations and T4E activities.
- Increasing the visibility and recognition of the University's experts in the public, national, and international media, improving cooperation with information partners.
- Actively cooperating with research organisations and enterprises on climate change, sustainable energy, smart, environmentally-friendly transport by establishing start-ups and promoting the use and development of the Green Deal innovations.
- Promoting cooperation with business organisations to increase the use of scientific potential and innovations and of innovative business creation, and the dissemination of scientific information.
- Seeking clear feedback, monitoring and evaluating the impact and results of marketing and communication projects, and anticipating the possibilities for further development.
- Strengthening cooperation among universities in Kaunas in order to increase the study options for students.
- Consolidating VMU's leadership in the context of the Eastern partnership by continuing to support the Ukrainian academic community and developing the activities of the Centre of Ukraine.

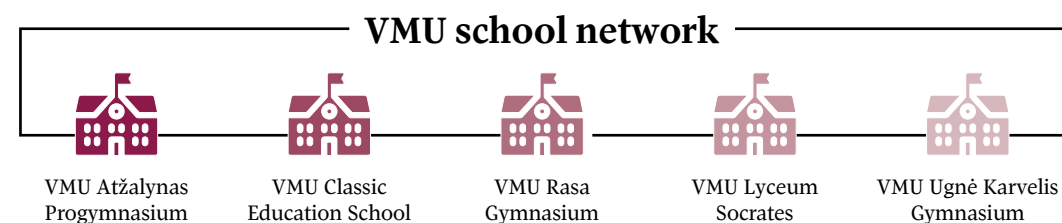
University Community in Harmony and Consolidation



Academia cum laude students	12
Members of the Lithuanian World Community who are involved in WLU activities	65
Diaspora students	23



In 2022, **292** foreign teachers visited VMU.



University Community in Harmony and Consolidation

Vytautas Magnus University aims to create a safe, healthy and inclusive environment based on respect, attention and tolerance. This higher education institution aims to ensure equal opportunities for all members of the community and to improve not only the quality and results of research and studies, but also working and study conditions. The University aims to foster a high organisational culture, to promote tolerance and fellowship, to foster closer cooperation and trust between staff and students, and to create a cohesive and focused community.

Community coherence and synergy

Development of equal opportunities and diversity. In 2022, the implementation of the measures for diversity, equal opportunities and gender equality included in VMU Strategic Plan for 2021–2027 continued. In accordance with the objective of community cohesion and synergy provided for in the Strategic Plan, two new coordinator positions were established in May 2022: Community Welfare Coordinator and Equal Opportunities Coordinator. The new positions were created to reflect the changing attitudes and values of the employees, and to ensure the University's ambition for coherence and mutual understanding. The Community Well-Being Coordinator is responsible not only for fostering existing well-being and inclusion initiatives, but also for generating and coordinating new ideas to ensure the well-being of the employees and to build community. The Equal Opportunities Coordinator carries out activities related to equal opportunities and the implementation of anti-discrimination policy. The SPEAR gender equality project was a major contributor to the creation of new positions and its team has been working on gender equality and equal opportunities at the University for several years.

The diversity of the University community in cultural, linguistic, religious, ethnic, and racial terms is associated with a high level of internationality. One hundred eighty-six (186) foreigners worked at VMU, and 1,835 foreign students studied at VMU in 2022 (952 in degree-awarding studies, 883 in exchange, or those with visit status). High number of people from other cultures in VMU community helps to continue to maintain institutional sensitivity to otherness, to foster openness and intercultural understanding among community members, and to create an inclusive organisational culture.

In 2022, a strong focus was placed on community training and raising competencies in the field of equal opportunities in higher education, prevention of sexual harassment, minority perceptions and issues, diversity and inclusion, and balance between personal life and career. Vytautas Magnus University is proud to be an organisation where a small salary gap in terms of genre favours women (the average salary in 2022 was EUR 1,838.72, for women it was EUR 1,896.30, for men it was EUR 1,745.97), and strategic objectives and institutional decisions seek to ensure gender equality and the prevention of discrimination on any grounds. Protecting human rights, the University continued its cooperation with national and international human rights organisations. Members of VMU community actively provide their expertise, participating in the activities of prominent organisations. Prof. Dalia Leinartė is a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Social work Professor Jonas Ruškus is a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Prof. Milda Ališauskienė (Vice-President of the International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISORECEA) coordinated the work of the Organising Committee of the National Human Rights Forum from 2018 to 2022.

Employee Wellbeing Survey. In line with VMU Strategy for 2021–2027, VMU Employee Well-Being Survey was made at the University in 2022 using the innovative, validated platform “UNLOCK tests”. In order to ensure the participation of as many VMU employees as possible, the coordinators of the Community Well-Being and Equal Opportunities conducted remote and face-to-face meetings with the individual units, introducing the objectives and the tool of the survey to the employees, listening to their needs and expectations. Thanks to the attention shown to the community, 37% of VMU employees took part in the survey in 2022 (710 in total, including 389 employees of academic units and 321 employees of non-academic units), which far exceeded the ratio of staff activity in 2018 (451 employees) and 2020 (246 employees). The survey tool was also available in English, and foreign employees (15 in total) participated in the survey.

A major part of the survey consisted of the evaluation of the employees' experience – the subjective attitude of the employees and their feelings about the employees' job satisfaction, the meaning of work, tasks, internal motivation, salary, evaluation, the possibility of combining work and personal life, the sufficiency and need for additional motivational measures. The results of the study highlighted high rates of **employee job satisfaction** (72.67%) and **employee empowerment** (72.13%). The **meaning of work** (80.96%) and **internal motivation** (80.21%), **knowledge of objectives** (77.71%), **teamwork** (77.58%) and

development opportunities (71.28%), **innovativeness of the University** (72.87%) are the highest rated areas of employee job satisfaction and employee empowerment. However, the survey showed that, while having high internal motivation, some employees feel undervalued: 69.67% of employees reported receiving sufficient feedback and 54.22% reported receiving adequate salary. Lower ratings of employee empowerment factors were evident in **collaboration** and **communication** (67.63%), **leadership** (66.5%) and **career** (65.74%). In the future, staff expect a transparent, motivating reward and incentive system, a reduced workload, smooth communication and collaboration. An initial assessment of psychosocial occupational risk factors helped to identify factors that cause stress at work. On a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 is insufficient, 5 is achievable), the lowest rated groups of factors are work requirements (rating 3.42) and changes (3.46); moderately rated – **control** (3.72), **manager's support** (3.68) and **co-workers' support** (3.83); highly rated – **relationships** (4.15) and **role** (4.12). The summary of the assessment of psychosocial risk factors reveals a relatively healthy psychosocial climate in the organisation and the monitoring of stress-related risks for the planning of specific preventive measures.

Internal communication. In 2022, the University's internal communication was strengthened as part of VMU's strategic objective to achieve community cohesion and mobilisation. 47 regular newsletters were sent to the University staff and 23 to students (in Lithuanian and English). News and events of particular importance were sent as separate special newsletters. Dissemination of information in English was increased (there were 185 news in English in 2021, and 258 news in English in 2022). However, the 2022 VMU Employee Well-Being Survey revealed the need for more effective internal communication. The search for more diverse forms of internal communication, community mobilisation and the creation of a supportive psychosocial environment were implemented: regular meetings (“Vadovų pusryčiai”/ Business Breakfast) with academic and non-academic heads of VMU units; the creation of a new sub-page on VMU website for the community, concentrating all relevant information and important links for the University staff; the establishment of a helpline (pasitikėjimo.linija@vdu.lt) to report harassment, psychological violence or other disturbing circumstances in the work environment; meetings with the international community working at the University. The effectiveness and quality of internal communication remains an important area for improvement.

Disability, the policy of inclusive opportunities, and its implementation. In 2022, 133 students with disabilities (individual needs) studied at Vytautas Magnus University (148 in 2021, 114 in 2020), accounting for 1.6% (1.8% in 2021, 1.3% in 2020) of all students studying at the University. The biggest number of students with disabilities study at the Faculty of Social Sciences (27), the smallest number of students at the Music Academy (3), and the largest number of students (48) are with moderate disabilities (with a level of working capacity between 30 and 45%).

In 2022, the Department for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour allocated EUR 58,516 to support students with disabilities (individual needs): special needs allowances for 68 students (99 in 2020, 86 in 2021) in the amount of EUR 54,881; partial allowances for compensation of study-related expenses for 25 students (42 in 2020, 35 in 2021) in the amount of EUR 3,635. The State Studies Foundation, implementing measure VP1-2.3-ŠMM-07-V (“Ensuring accessibility of studies to students with special needs”) of Priority 2 (“Lifelong Learning”) of the Human Resources Development Action Programme of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, enabled 6 VMU employees to raise their level of qualification in the training “Ensuring accessibility of studies to students with special needs”. O total of 94 VMU students with disabilities (individual needs) (124 in 2021; 187 in 2019) received targeted benefits from the European Social Fund and the Lithuanian national budget (EUR 89,000).

In 2022, 15 (fifteen) different activities were organised for students with disabilities (individual needs), the whole VMU community and society. Main activities carried out to meet the needs of students with disabilities (individual needs):

- In order to meet the needs and safety of people with visual impairments, an adjustment of the sound level of the traffic lights was initiated at the intersection near VMU Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Law (intersection of Jonavos and P. Kalpoko streets);
- In order to meet the needs of a student with reduced mobility, a workplace in the chemistry laboratory was adapted to allow her to participate in the study sessions with everyone else;
- In order to assess the current situation and the necessary adaptations, an analysis of the accessibility of VMU Education Academy building in Vilnius and its approaches for persons with disabilities was made.

The guidelines of the University's “Inclusion Opportunities” policy were actively implemented: “Neigaliųjų įtraukties forumas 2022” (Disability Inclusion Forum 2022) was organised for the first time, and a training course was held for VMU staff on the topic of “Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in the Study Process:

The Challenges and What is Worth Knowing” was organised in cooperation with VMU’s Professional Competence Development Centre. VMU joined the event organised by the Public Institution “Skirtingos spalvos” to educate the public about visual impairment and joined the social campaign “Igalink” (Empower) to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The University also took part in the ongoing campaign “Dirbk pas mus. Jokio Skirtumo, su ar be negalios” (Work with us. No Difference, with or without a Disability), initiated by the Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, which was joined by major Lithuanian employers.

In June 2022, VMU students of first, second, third cycle, integrated and professional studies took part in the Exit Survey (EXIT), in which 62% of respondents say that the conditions for students with disabilities at VMU are either good or more good.

Volunteer activity. In 2022, 192 student volunteers participated in the University’s Volunteer Programme (206 in 2021; 184 in 2020), having signed voluntary activity agreements. In 2022, student volunteers contributed to making 33 different events or activities happen at the University. On average, 1 volunteer volunteered 57 hours per year (total volunteering hours in 2022: 16,697).

In 2022, 33 student volunteers were appointed as mentors for first cycle students (37 in 2021, 36 in 2020), helping VMU first cycle students to successfully integrate into the University and the academic city.

In 2022, for the fourth year in a row, the volunteer-mentorship project “Kelrodė žvaigždė” (Lodestar) took place, involving two schools: VMU Atžalynas Progymnasium and VMU Ugnė Karvelis Gymnasium. Six students and six school learners participated in the project, and their pairs were formed as well (6 pairs in 2021, 12 pairs in 2020).

In 2022, VMU Career Centre continued its cooperation with the “Idialogue” career mentoring platform, which unites the University community: teachers, non-academic staff, alumni and students, who are invited to register in the system and become mentors or mentees, thus creating conditions for individual acquisition of knowledge in a specific professional field. In 2022, 8 students and 6 mentors registered on the “Idialogue” mentoring platform. In 2022, 28 pairs with a VMU mentor, 8 pairs with a VMU mentee and 1 pair between a VMU mentor and a VMU mentee were formed.

Fostering multilingualism. VMU Institute of Foreign Languages is the most effective university unit in Lithuania which has been implementing multilingual competence development since 2002. It is also a leader in the field of foreign language teaching, assessment of linguistic competence and research on the development of linguistic competence, offering a wide range of 30 languages: English, Arabic, Danish, Estonian, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Georgian, Chinese, Kyrgyz, Korean, Latvian, Polish, Lithuanian Sign Language, Latin, New Testament Greek, Norwegian, Portuguese, French, Russian, Old Greek, Old Hebrew, Serbian, Finnish, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian and German.

As part of its mission to encourage internationality, VMU Institute of Foreign Languages contributes to putting into practice VMU’s fundamental *artes liberales* principles: fosters humanitarian values, develops students’ intercultural-dialogue competencies, conveys the distinctiveness of Lithuanian culture through foreign languages, taking into account global educational trends, applies the latest active methods of language teaching and learning as well as a flexible, technology-based language teaching system, provides opportunities for students from all VMU faculties and cycles, for the academic and the non-academic community, for the general public to learn languages, and ensures opportunities for language learning throughout life.

In 2022, a competent, multilingual, and multicultural team of 56 teachers, 29 in English and 27 in other languages, of whom 10 taught their native language, ensured the quality of language teaching. Students chose to study a total of 23 foreign languages.

As part of VMU’s language policy and in response to the University’s mission of fostering a tradition of multilingualism, in 2022 the Institute of Foreign Languages sought to help students to successfully integrate into the contemporary global labour market and the international world of science, where especially high English-language competence is required, while competence in other languages provides a great competitive advantage. The high percentage of students studying languages that was achieved in the 2020–2022 period was maintained (24% in the spring semester of 2022; 29% in the autumn semester of 2022), reflecting the high motivation of VMU students to learn languages.

In order to achieve its multilingualism objectives, the Institute of Foreign Languages contributes to the multilingualism activities of the T4E University alliance. Alliance students were invited to join the distance language lectures. The most popular languages were specialised English C1, German, French, Czech, Japanese and Hebrew. The Institute of Foreign Languages also contributed to the European Festival of Culture in May 2022, organised by VMU, with the event “Vėlyvieji pusryčiai ir kalbos” (Brunch and Languages). Perhaps nothing brings people together like shared experiences and food, and guests and participants had the opportunity to enjoy both the new knowledge gained from learning Bulgarian,

Estonian, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Lithuanian, German and Ukrainian, as well as enjoy late breakfast (brunch). This non-traditional language learning format attracted a lot of attention from the guests, VMU community and the residents of Akademija settlement.

Emotional and physical well-being of the community

Strengthening psychological well-being. In line with the objectives of VMU Strategic Plan for 2021–2027, a strong focus was put on enhancing the emotional and physical well-being of the University community in 2022. At VMU Psychology Clinic, 858 individual consultations with a psychologist (173 remotely, 685 face-to-face with a psychologist) were provided, 7 seminars were conducted to strengthen psychological well-being, a psychological support group for students experiencing difficult emotions was organised. The University monitored the psychological well-being of the University’s students as well as factors significant to such well-being. Psychological help is provided in Lithuanian and English. In the spring semester, special attention was paid to students from Ukraine, support groups and individual counsellings were organised.

Health promotion and physical activity. Since 2017, VMU has been a member of the Health Promotion Universities Network (in Lithuanian, SSU). This organisation fosters ideas propagated by the World Health Organisation (WHO), to promote people’s health through the SSU network, which consists of three universities in Lithuania: Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuanian Sports University, and Klaipėda University. On 1 March 2022, the new VMU Health Promoting University Programme 2022–2026 was approved, with the main goal of fostering a holistic health promotion system that develops positive personal health attitudes and behaviours. The implementation of the SSU action programme in 2002–2026 is coordinated by the physical-education trainer at the Sports Centre, Assoc. Prof. Asta Mockienė, an expert on healthy lifestyles. During the reporting period, the following activities were offered by the Sports Centre to improve the health of the University community

- Physical health screening, assessment, consultations;
- A wide choice of forms of physical activity (variety of workouts);
- Theoretical lectures on health and physical activity.

The physical workouts carried out in 2022 were divided into the following two groups according to specifics: physical training for strength development and physical training for fitness. Two new sports activities were organised, i.e., e-sports and sports yoga training. A total of 13 different training activities (11 in the spring semester and 13 in the autumn semester) were carried out in 2022 for different leisure sports activities (sport branches). The ration of student enrolment in sports activities and training was 32% higher than in 2021.

University alumni community

From 1993 to 2022, 49,056 graduates received a degree at VMU. In 2022, 2,223 new graduates successfully graduated from the University and joined the alumni community.

To achieve the strategic objectives of the University’s alumni community for 2021–2027, the position of coordinator of VMU graduates was established, which in 2022 was taken by Monika Terzytė, Senior Coordinator of the Career Centre, a graduate of Creative Industries at the Faculty of Arts of VMU.

The University’s activities for alumni were organised and carried out directly or through VMU Alumni Club, with which the Department of Student Affairs cooperates closely.

Activities and events organised by the University for alumni:

- In 2022, newsletters were periodically sent to all VMU graduates and especially to VMU Alumni Club members. Twenty-five newsletters in total were sent in 2022.
- In order to bring together the alumni community of the University, the interactive VMU Alumni ID platform was launched in 2022 with the aim of maintaining and strengthening the relationship with the University’s alumni scattered all over the world.
- The year 2022 was declared as the 100th anniversary year of Lithuanian universities (Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU)), so in order to contribute to the 100th anniversary, 4 events were organised for VMU alumni, which involved the alumni community in the virtual flash mod “#100vduprisiminimų” (100 memories about VMU) campaign to share photos about VMU on social media; joining together in a “100 minučių kelionė” (100-minute journey) and walking from Panemunė šilas (Panemunė Pinewood) to Pažaislis Monastery (6.4 km); celebrating the “VMU Alumni Centenary Day’22” and participating in the blood donation campaign “Mes visi vieno kraujo” (We are all of one blood).

- In 2022, activities for VMU alumni linked to the “Flagbearer” programme were carried out: in cooperation with VMU Art Gallery 101, an exhibition of the flagbearer Rima Norvilienė was presented in the community of the flagbearer Rima Norvilienė, in the region of Šilalė.
- Ignas Bielevičius, a graduate of the Faculty of Informatics of Vytautas Magnus University, continued to offer two one-time scholarships in his name to VMU students, one of them amounting to EUR 500.
- VMU’s “Flagbearer” initiative continued in 2022. The fourth flag in the series was awarded to Kęstutis Vaišnora, a graduate of VMU Faculty of Social Sciences, the President of Lithuania’s Deaf Union (LKD).

Community participation in organisations

In 2022, 36 registered student organisations were active at Vytautas Magnus University. The last to join the organisations at the University was the national Lithuanian student corporation “Neo-Lithuania”, which is an independent public organisation that was active in independent Lithuania from 1922 to 1940, was closed during the Soviet occupation and restored on 18 April 1990 at Vytautas Magnus University. In addition to VMU students, it also unites students and graduates from other Kaunas higher education institutions. In 2022, an additional horizontal funding priority was foreseen for the student organisations that submit projects for the activities that unite all areas, related to the celebration of the centenary of the University of Lithuania. Five projects were funded at VMU in 2022 (11 in 2021 and 14 in 2020).

Vytautas Magnus University has provided targeted support to student organisations (EUR 15,000) aimed at promoting and fostering student initiatives and activities that expand cooperation and the potential of human resources, and that create or develop scientific, artistic, study organisation, cultural, social, sports, civic, and other initiatives promoting the University.

Activities of VMU Student Representative Council. VMU Student Representative Council is the only non-profit, non-governmental organisation representing the University’s students. Its activities are based on transparency, self-governance, equality, and other democratic values. Last year, the Student Representative Council actively contributed to the well-being of the University’s students in the following ways:

- As part of the Scholarship Working Group, contributed to increasing the funding of scholarships and reducing the minimum threshold of scores necessary for newly-accepted students to receive scholarships, with the decision coming into force in September 2021.
- The Enlightenment project was carried out, producing videos that educated students about the importance of academic integrity.
- Regulations governing the activities of student-coordinators were approved, in an effort to improve the academic and social well-being of students.
- Regulations governing the functioning of the Study Programme Committees were approved, to regulate the procedure for election of student representatives and to define their rights and obligations.
- In cooperation with VMU disability affairs coordinator, a survey of students with individual needs was carried out, in an effort to learn more about the level of accessibility of the University to those with disabilities, in the academic, infrastructure, and psychosocial areas.
- Contributed to the editing of the Code of Academic Ethics.
- Involved in preparing VMU Gender Equality and Disability Policy documents and Health Promotion University guidelines.
- The educational discussion cycle “Dinamiški dialogai” (Dynamic Dialogues) continued.

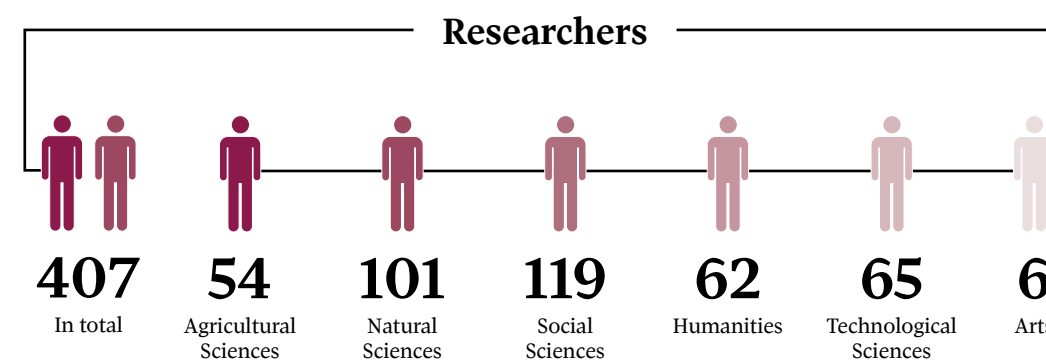
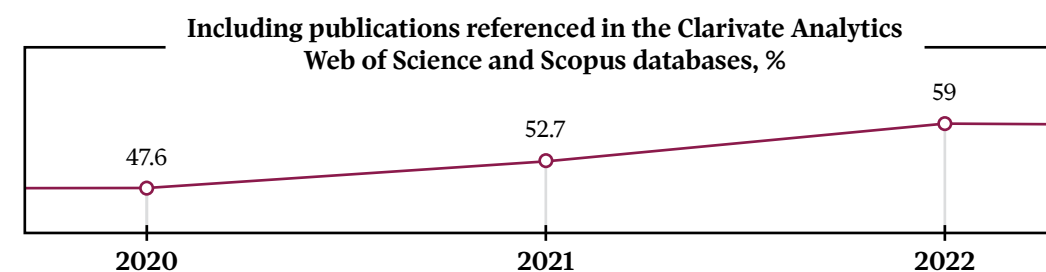
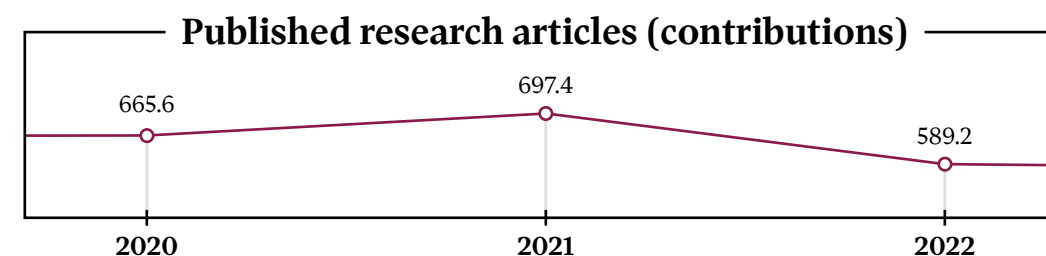
Concert activities of VMU Chamber Orchestra. In 2022, VMU Chamber Orchestra, in cooperation with Lithuanian professional music festivals, “Kaunas 2022 – European Capital of Culture”, Kaunas State Philharmonic Orchestra and other institutions, performed 22 concerts in Lithuania (in Kaunas, Vilnius, Kretinga, Palanga, Vilnius, Vilnius, Varėna, Kražiai, Višakio Rūda), professionally recorded the works of Balys Dvarionas concert for French horn and strings. The String Quartet together with Merūnas Vitulskis embarked on a concert tour “Atvira širdimi” (With an Open Heart) in 10 Lithuanian cities, the video recording of the concert was broadcasted on the national channel of Lithuanian Radio and Television (LRT). VMU Chamber Orchestra not only took part in the events, but also organised the XI International Chamber Music Festival AVANTI, the Christmas concert for VMU community, etc.

Further developing activities include:

- Striving for harmonious diversity and synergies in the community, ensuring the principles of equal opportunity, gender equality, non-discrimination, dignity, self-realisation and autonomy, maintaining and fostering the unique VMU value-based organisational culture.
- Supporting the emotional well-being of staff and students, monitoring and researching the factors relevant to the community’s well-being, addressing the needs of the community through educational activities and advice.
- Encouraging community volunteering, initiating and implementing volunteering projects, developing favourable conditions for expressing individuality and talents, providing an opportunity for any member of the University community to offer their ideas, express their views, and create the University of the future.
- Developing relationships with business and non-governmental organisations, creating joint social projects, organising events relevant to the whole of Lithuania, thus seeking recognition of VMU as a reliable social partner.
- Promoting more efficient internal communication and the exchange of information between various units of the University.
- Implementing the University’s programme of activities to promote health, establishing leadership in the network of health-promoting universities, expanding physical activity and health promotion opportunities for members of the community.
- Developing measures to support VMU-based organisations and creating favourable operating conditions by encouraging greater community involvement.
- Implementing VMU disability policy, responding to the needs of people with disabilities, improving the environment for study and work, and improving educational activities.
- Mobilising and strengthening the alumni community in Lithuania and abroad, promoting the involvement of alumni in the activities of VMU Alumni Club or other VMU alumni communities, increasing participation in the community and academic life of the University, improving the offer of benefits and opportunities.

International Research University

Published monographs	19
Science and art prizes, other major awards	26
Number of priority science and arts research clusters	58
The University's Research Fund was allocated EUR	374,220
Number of ongoing scientific projects	282
The value of contracts for ongoing scientific projects EUR	212 million/ VMU share – 47 million
Number of fields of doctoral studies	24
Number of doctoral students on 1 October 2022	241
Number of doctoral students who defended their dissertations	55
Dissertations defended since the start of the doctoral programme	882
Registration of plant varieties that have passed the international examination (pcs)	1



International Research University

In 2022, the University's teachers, artists and researchers achieved a high scientific and artistic performance.

More than 280 international and national research projects, not including business, are ongoing. The overall dynamics of projects at the University reflect the cyclical nature of project activities linked to the financial periods of international and national programmes.

In 2022, project activities focused on international science and education projects. VMU researchers actively participate in the EU's "Horizon 2020" and "Horizon Europe" calls for research and innovation and are successfully involved in research project consortia. In 2022, 39 applications were submitted, and funding was awarded to 8 projects (4 were launched in 2022, and 4 will be launched in 2023). A total of 15 "Horizon 2020" and "Horizon Europe" projects were implemented in 2022. The University's involvement and integration in European university alliances are considered a success. The project "Strengthening VMU's international competitiveness in the Transform4Europe alliance network of European universities" (10-005-P) was awarded in 2022 with a budget of EUR 1,844,000.

Researchers and academic staff were encouraged to strive for scientific excellence, particularly to prepare and publish papers in recognised international journals. In 2022, science-business-industry partnerships and closer cooperation with international organisations were pursued. It promotes scientific and experimental development, innovation orders and contracts with legal entities and publicises scientific work, emphasising the leadership of VMU competences. In 2022, the value of R&D projects and contracts signed with economic entities amounted to EUR 2,196,000. The University is becoming an increasingly important business partner or service provider in R&D projects, and its researchers' expertise and experience help create innovations for Lithuanian and foreign markets. In 2022, more than 50 R&D research projects and contracts were requested and more than 35 public procurement tenders were launched. The vast majority of public procurement and commercial offers were successful, with 44 contracts signed for EUR 1,197,000 and projects for EUR 999,000.

Priority research areas, participation in international and national research programmes, scientific projects and commissioned research, monographs, articles and citations registered in Clarivate Analytics Web of Science and Scopus databases, patents registered with the State and International Patent Office, presentations at conferences, conferences and seminars organised and their relevance to the University's mission and strategic objectives, concerts and exhibitions, cultural awards received are essential indicators of scientific and artistic activity. In 2022, the aim was to have a more significant international, social, economic and cultural impact on the country's development in a global context and to focus more on unique projects with a higher scientific and artistic added value. Particular attention has also been paid to finding synergies between research teams working in different units, both existing and initiating new project activities.

Research and artistic results

In 2022, University researchers, taking into account the authors' contribution to the University's affiliation, have published over 589.2 (697.4 in 2021) research articles, including 347.6 (367.9 in 2021) in journals referenced in Clarivate Analytics Web of Science and/or Scopus databases, 156.2 – in scientific journals referenced in other international databases, and more than 80 – in other peer-reviewed research publications. There have been 19 monographs published, as well as more than 900 other scientific publications (articles and abstracts, conference proceedings, translations of scientific texts, publications of scientific sources, compilations, etc.).

235.8 scientific articles have been published in the fields of natural sciences, technology and agricultural sciences, of which 153.5 are published in publications referenced in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science and/or Scopus databases, including 149.0 articles in scientific publications with a citation index.

Researchers in the humanities and social sciences have published 17 scientific monographs (4 of them with international publishers), 7 scientific studies, 4 textbooks for university students, more than 50 book chapters, other compiled scientific works, and 353.4 scientific articles (including contributions from authors). 194.2 (168.0 in 2021) scientific articles have been published in scientific journals referenced in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science and/or Scopus databases, of which 161.4 have been published in scientific journals with a citation index (Figure 3.2). 98.3 (176.9 in 2021) articles were published in publications referenced in other international databases and/or published by international publishers, and over 60.9 articles in other peer-reviewed scientific periodicals or one-off publications in Lithuania and abroad.

The increase in the quality of scientific output is reflected in the growth in the number of articles published by the University's researchers in high-level international journals. For instance, the number of articles published in CA WoS and/or Scopus-referenced journals with a citation rate has increased by 1.6 times (about 34%), from 281 (2018) to 461 (2022). The upward trend in the number of articles in the Q1-Q2 quartiles of scientific publications confirms the effectiveness of the incentive system for the most significant scientific results. The number of articles in scientific publications at this level has increased by 2.8 times (from 119 articles in 2018 to

334 articles in 2022). The Natural Sciences, Technology and Agricultural Sciences group is distinguished by a higher proportion of highly international research papers published in collaboration with authors from foreign institutions: around 50% of papers in scientific journals with a citation index are published in collaboration with researchers from foreign institutions.

In 2022, 868 works of artistic production were registered at the University (388 in 2021): 776 concerts and musical performances (710 in Lithuania, 66 in foreign countries: in Latvia, Estonia, Moldova, Georgia, Poland, Italy, Portugal, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, England, the USA, Japan), 49 art exhibitions (35 in Lithuania, 14 in foreign countries): 37 photo exhibitions (30 in Lithuania, 7 in foreign countries: Latvia, Georgia, Czech Republic, Spain, USA), music for 4 films and 1 play was created, 1 CD was released.

Artistic activities

In 2022, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. J. Staniškytė, was awarded a certificate of appreciation by the Kaunas City Municipality "For the promotion of the name of Kaunas and for her sincere work in the implementation of the project "Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022" and she is the Chairperson of the Council of "Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022".

Teachers of the Faculty of Arts organised and curated projects in the Kaunas 2022 programme. The exhibition "1972. Pramušti sieną" is curated by R. Žukienė, the team includes E. Klivis, G. Jankauskas, K. Budrytė-Genevičė, M. Rutkauskaitė. R. Požerskis exhibited his works at the event. M. Maziliauskas, a student of the Creative Industries programme, and other students of the Faculty helped to organise the exhibition; D. Price organised the international event "Litvak Culture Forum"; J. Tutlytė one of the main organisers and curators of the international congress "CoHappiness. Rewilding & Rethinking", a curator of the Lithuanian-Belgian design innovation exhibition "Stories of Design Innovation: from Kortrijk to Kaunas"; I. Pukelytė directed the event "Kaunas Cantata", J. Pukelytė, D. Price directed the event of the "Festival of Stories" – the musical performance "Dibukas"; M. Gineikaitė's exhibition "Miestovaizdžio balsai".

Teachers from the University's Faculty of Arts held exhibitions of their artworks abroad. Professor Romualdas Požerskis opened the photography exhibition "Atlaidai" in Valencia, Spain, at the first international photography festival "Valencia Photo", and Prof. Dr. Rimantas Plungė presented his photographs in a solo exhibition "Nepapasakotos istorijos 22" at the "Putolovac" Gallery in Zagreb, Croatia.

Not only from the artistic point of view but also from the point of view of historical memory, significant exhibitions of the Faculty of Arts faculty teachers have been held in Lithuania: Prof. R. Požerskis opened the exhibition of photographs devoted to the Day of Freedom Defenders at the National Opera and Ballet Theatre of Lithuania, and organised an exhibition devoted to the 90th anniversary of the Chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet and the Seimas-in-Reconstruction Vytautas Landsbergis at the Lithuanian National Martynas Mažvydas Library; Assoc. Prof. Tomas Pabedinskas exhibited for the first time photographs from the series "Spektaklio vienišiai" in a solo exhibition at the Vilnius Photography Gallery.

Gabrielė Bukinė, an assistant at the Music Academy, was awarded the "Fortūna" statuette for the role of Violeta Valeri in "La Traviata", and Prof. Artūras Dambrauskas was awarded the Honorary Badge of the National Philharmonic Society of Lithuania "Tarnauju muzikai".

The musical Elizabeth (premiere on 25 February 2022) by M. Kunze and A. Levay at Kaunas State Musical Theatre is under the musical direction and conducting of Jonas Janulevičius, professor at the Music Academy. The roles in this musical are performed by professors Egidijus Bavikinas ("Death"), Gediminas Maciulevičius ("Max"), Giedrius Prunskus ("Cardinal Archbishop Rauscher").

Jonas Janulevičius, a professor at the Music Academy, is also the musical director and conductor of Verdi's opera "Nabucco" (premiere on 16 July 2022) at Kaunas State Music Theatre. The roles in this musical are performed by teachers Egidijus Bavikinas (Ishmael), Tomas Ladiga (The Priest of Baal), Gabrielė Kuzmickaitė (Fenena), Gabrielė Bukinė (Anna).

Alexander Paley was an artistic director of the "Alexander Paley Music Festival" on 16–18 September 2022 in Richmond (USA).

Rimantas Vingras, a lecturer at the Music Academy, continues his membership of the European Parliament of Culture.

In 2022, VMU Art Gallery "101" collaborated with cultural and educational institutions in Kaunas, provided space for student initiatives and young artists, hosted guided tours, devoted a section of its content to Ukrainians, and began to forge links with Lithuanian regions. The gallery had about 15 student volunteers and 4 trainees. The gallery hosted 14 exhibitions, 6 of which were student exhibitions and the rest were by emerging and professional artists: the exhibition of photographs "Žiovilys" and a performance by the graduates of the Faculty of Arts Greta Dirmauskaitė and Titas Jurjonas (which was also part of the Programme of the Theatre Week); the photography exhibition "Neskestanti Venecija" by photographer Žilvinas Glušinskas; the photography exhibition "Žingsniai visomis kryptimis" by the photographer Milda Kiaušaitė; the exhibition "Aš – Ukraina" by Ukrainian artists Elvira Drozdova and Olga Sayenko; Arnis Aleinikovas' audiovisual installation and performance "Atramos"; Ukrainian photographer Alex Zakletsky's photographic project "Karo geometrija" (part of the 20th Session of the European Parliament for Culture and the Programme of "Kaunas -

European Capital of Culture 2022”); the exhibition of paintings by Timotiejus Norvila (Morfa), “PNG drobės”; the exhibition of new media art by Agnes Gintalaitė, “Nepa(si)slėpti”.

8 exhibitions were held in other spaces, 5 of which were transferred from the gallery: student exhibition “Natūra” (Kaunas Antanas Martinaitis Art School), experimental photography exhibition “Būtis promočiutės kambaryje” (Kaunas City Museum), Milda Gineikaitė’s photography exhibition “Miestovaizdžio balsai” (“Culture to the Courtyards” project in Eguliai and Dainava), the exhibition of photographs by graduates of the Faculty of Arts “Žiovalys” (Šilalė Public Library), the exhibition of Alex Zakletsky’s photo project “Karo geometrija” (Plungė Photo Biennial). Other exhibitions were held in Bijotai, at the D. Poška “Baubliai” Museum, “Raštų ramybė”; at the Music Academy, Asta Bieliauskienė’s “Taip gimsta muzika”; and at VMU Faculty of Arts, the exposition “The Faculty of Arts in the 100th Anniversary of the University of Lithuania: Creativity Creates Culture” (curated by Milda Gineikaitė and Rimgaudas Barauskis), which is devoted to the centenary of the Lithuanian University.

Austėja Raščiuotė, Ieva Lekavičiūtė, Gintarė Armonavičiūtė, students of the Art History, Criticism and Media Programme, curated the exhibition “Le Reve” at VMU Art Gallery “101”, with the participation of students and graduates of the New Media Art Programme – Urtė Serapinaitė, Rimgaudas Barauskis, Arnas Šinkevičius, Arnas Alekna and Gabrielius Laurinaitis.

VMU Theatre in Kaunas is an alternative to classical theatre, a venue for educational events, an innovative, bold and exceptional environment for young people to create. In 2022, the theatre presented the work of students and graduates of the Faculty of Arts (FA) and the Education Academy (EA):

- Acting graduates and EA students created and participated in the play/performance “Our Theatre World” at the international T4EU conference held at Vytautas Magnus University on 26 October 2022, with a pre-presentation at VMU Theatre;
- Graduates of the Acting Programme prepared and presented the play “Baime” (conceived and directed by R. Lažaunykas) and the play “Čia niekada niekas nevyksta” (conceived and directed by G. Dirmauskaitė) at VMU Theatre;
- The students of the Education Academy presented the performance “The Noise of the Silence”, directed by the graduate of the Acting Programme R. Lažaunykas, for the international project “European Youth Engagement Network – EYE.net”. On 18–21 May 2022, the play toured Athens, Greece, and from 2–5 June, it was successfully presented in Clermont-Ferrand, France;
- EA students and graduates of the Acting Programme prepared and presented educational programmes for the event “Drama LAB” (Kaunas City Chamber Theatre/VMU Theatre), educational programmes for the youth festival “Problem (NOT) FEAR” (Kaunas City Chamber Theatre/VMU Theatre), and took part in the international interactive theatre festival “Nerk į teatrą” (National Kaunas Drama Theater/VMU Theatre);
- Every year, VMU Theatre hosts the closed evening “Persona Grata”, which has become VMU’s trademark event and is well established in the repertoire and attracts large audiences. On 11 March 2022, the event was attended by actor, dancer, director G. Ivanauskas, and on 13 May 2022, by songwriter, singer, actor, public figure A. Mamontovas;
- The play “Atsitiktinis žmogus” (directed by J. Vaitkus, actors G. Piktytė and A. Dapšys), which is a favourite of the audience and visitors of VMU Theatre, was performed several times at the request of the audience in 2022 (on 19 March, 6 May, 30 September and 2 December).

Recording, compiling and disseminating the results of research and artistic activities

Since 2019, the University has been developing an open science infrastructure – the University Research Management Information System (VMU CRIS; <https://www.vdu.lt/cris>). It is an infrastructure for the collection, management, long-term storage and online dissemination of research (artistic) (hereafter referred to as “Research”) output and information on research activities. Its objectives are to improve the visibility, dissemination and integration of research output and activities and the achievements of researchers both nationally and internationally, to increase the availability of research output in open access, to accumulate and ensure the long-term preservation of the University’s research output and activities, and to optimise the administration of research activities. Cross-interactive links between the system’s research entities (researchers, departments, research/art output, research data, theses, ongoing projects, and University events) make it possible to link the entities together and reveal the totality of research activities at the University.

In 2022, VMU CRIS users accessed over 116,000 (109,000 in 2021) metadata records of the University’s publications, journal articles, theses, dissertations, doctoral theses and other publications. The Publications Database (PDB) contains almost 72,000 (69,000 in 2021) scientific publications, peer-reviewed journal articles, almost 16,000 (13,000 in 2021) books, and more than 23,000 (21,000 in 2021) theses and doctoral dissertations (ETD). The growth rate of content published in CRIS is one of the University’s quality indicators. Compared to 2021, the CRIS content development achieved a value of 6.4% (target value 5%).

VMU CRIS repository is enriched annually with full-text documents. In total, the repository already holds almost 39,000 (35,000 in 2021) full-text documents (657 e-books, 51 e-journal archives, almost 15,000

articles, over 23,000 ETDs, and 35 datasets). 83% of the full-text documents stored in this repository are freely accessible on the Internet, and 7% are available on the institution’s intranet. In the reporting year, the repository was enriched with over 4,000 full-text documents (36 eBooks, 2,300 eArticles, 1,900 ETDs, 35 research data).

More than 7,000 researcher profiles have been created in VMU CRIS, of which 1,700 are currently active employees or students of the University. 42% of the researchers’ profiles are filled with detailed information about their professional and research teaching qualifications, recognition, awards, participation in organisations, guest lectures, subjects taught and other activities. In 2022, the profiles of the researchers were also supplemented with scientometric data (number of citations, h-index) from the Scopus database. The Web of Science scientometric information has been available to VMU CRIS users in their researcher profiles since 2021.

In the reporting year, the CRIS system provided access to information on 837 projects carried out by the University, as well as descriptions of 169 units and 44 research clusters. Information on research activities/events held at VMU has also started to be collected. Nearly 500 events, conferences, exhibitions, debates and other activities were made available during the reporting year.

In 2022, VMU CRIS portal was visited by 273,400 users who performed over 1,400,000 actions (921,500 record views, 483,000 full-text document downloads). The number of views by Lithuanian users – 761,000, foreign users – 106,000, downloads – 335,000 from Lithuania, 132,000 from foreign countries.

Funding and promotion of research and artistic activities

Salaries for academic staff rose by between 10% and 30% in 2019, 10% from autumn 2020 and a further 10% from February 2021 and 2022.

Under the current flexible bonus methodology, teachers and researchers are rewarded for high levels of research output, research and didactic performance with monthly research (for research output) and academic (for other academic and didactic activities) bonus on top of the teacher’s or researcher’s salary, ranging from 0.9 BMS up to a maximum of 13.8 BMS per full-time equivalent.

The University’s competitive research promotion fund for 2022 was EUR 374,220. The Research Fund has been used for the development of the University’s cluster activities, the cluster project competition, the doctoral students’ trips competition, the promotion of top-level production, the dissemination of science and the publicity of priority areas, and the promotion of doctoral students’ research activities.

377 teachers, academic staff, researchers and doctoral students were awarded almost EUR 249,000 for producing top-class research outputs, carrying out R&D orders from businesses and carrying out major research projects. Funds for staff and doctoral students are transferred to research clusters and institutes. These funds can be used in a variety of ways: for research trips and other study-related needs, for bonuses and scholarships.

A single one-off promotion of 1.5–2 BMS per month was awarded for 35 original popular science articles.

A financial contribution of EUR 100,000 has been made available for the development of science cluster activities. The clusters used these funds to reimburse the costs of organising and participating in scientific conferences, publishing scientific journals, publishing research papers in recognised scientific journals referenced in the Scopus and CA WoS databases, and conducting scientific research.

EUR 35,000 in financial support from the University’s Research Fund was granted to first- and second-year full-time doctoral students and first-, second- and third-year part-time doctoral students enrolled in state- and EU-funded doctoral programmes. This financial support is aimed at improving the scientific qualifications of doctoral students, disseminating research results and increasing regional and international mobility. In 2022, the update of the Regulations on the Promotion of Research Activities of Doctoral Students has increased the amount of promotion funds available to doctoral students over the entire duration of their doctoral studies, from EUR 600 to EUR 1,000 in the humanities and social sciences, and from EUR 1,500 to EUR 2,100 in the life sciences, agriculture and technology. EUR 20,000 has been allocated from the University’s Research Fund for the Doctoral Research Visit competition.

National and international projects

The total number of projects in 2022 remains similar to that of each year. More than 280 international and national research projects, not including business projects, are ongoing. The overall dynamics of projects at the University reflect the cyclical nature of project activities linked to the financial periods of international and national programmes.

Project activities have been focused on international science and education projects. VMU researchers actively participate in the EU’s “Horizon 2020” and “Horizon Europe” calls for research and innovation and are successfully involved in research project consortia. In 2022, 39 applications were submitted, and funding was awarded to 8 projects (4 were launched in 2022 and 4 will be launched in 2023). A new challenge for the University’s academic and non-academic staff in 2023 will be related to the 2 major “Horizon Europe” projects “Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area” and “Culture, Creativity

and Inclusive Society” cluster, which will be coordinated by VMU. A total of 15 “Horizon 2020” and “Horizon Europe” projects were implemented in 2022.

The University’s involvement and integration in European university alliances are highly valued. One of the “Horizon” projects in which the University was successfully integrated and in 2021 started to implement activities under the Alliance of European Universities – “Transform 4 European Research and Innovation” (T4ERI); in this partnership of European alliances, the Erasmus+ project Transform4Europe (T4E) has already started in 2020. The project “Strengthening VMU’s International Competitiveness in the Transform4Europe Alliance of European Universities” (10-005-P) was won in 2022 with a budget of EUR 1,844 000.

In 2022, researchers started 5 new COST programme activities. For this European Intergovernmental Cooperation Programme in Science and Technology, researchers represented VMU in 25 thematic activities in 2022.

A total of 20 new “Erasmus+” projects were launched. 77 “Erasmus+” projects were running in 2022.

The University has carried out more than 100 projects administered by the Research Council of Lithuania (LRC). Researchers have actively participated in calls for proposals launched by the Research Council of Lithuania. Active participation in traditional instruments was complemented by the results of a new call for proposals – the war against Ukraine caused by the Russian Federation has influenced the emergence of a new LRC instrument (State Orders) – support to Lithuanian research and study institutions employing researchers from Ukraine. 4 researchers from Ukrainian universities have started working at VMU under this instrument, funded by LRC.

As every year, VMU researchers actively participated in the LRC call for proposals. 23 applications were submitted for project funding and 4 projects were successful (3,366 applications in total were received by the LRC).

The researchers actively participate in the State Programme for Lithuanian Studies and Dissemination 2016–2024. In 2022, 9 projects received funding.

9 doctoral students have started their independent research activities under the call for applications for funding postdoctoral internship projects launched by the Research Council of Lithuania. With this Programme, LRC promotes the development of a system of postdoctoral traineeships for young researchers and improves the scientific qualifications of trainees. The total value of these projects is EUR 672,128.

VMU AA was active in submitting applications to the National Paying Agency’s calls for proposals, with 4 projects launched in 2022.

Five projects were awarded funding under the “Support for applied research” measure of the Programme for the Promotion of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. One project received State support for international R&D projects.

Commercialisation of R&D

The Communication and Technology Transfer Centre (hereinafter referred to as the “CTTC”) implements the University’s strategic objectives for the commercialisation of research activities. The CTTC team develops R&D services and fosters synergies between science and business in developing innovative solutions. In order to achieve one of the priorities of the University – the commercialisation of research production and the development of R&D activities with business, the initiatives implemented at the University and the support to the scientist are producing positive results. Despite the challenging economic and uncertain political situation in 2019–2020, a 12.9% growth in the value of R&D contracts was observed in the intermediate year 2022, the start of the new EU Structural Funds funding period (2021–2027), which resulted in the absence (or low availability) of funding instruments to foster collaborative activities with business. This year, the value of signed R&D projects and contracts with legal entities amounted to EUR 2,196,000 (the growth of R&D contracts with economic operators through the EU Structural Funds grew by 30%).

R&D activities with legal entities at the University include applications for support, participation in public procurement procedures and service contracts with economic operators: more than 50 R&D research projects/contracts requested support in 2022, more than 35 tenders participated in for more than EUR 1 million, and more than 50 meetings were organised with legal entities and commercial offers were submitted. The vast majority of public procurement and commercial offers were successful, with 44 contracts signed for EUR 1,197,000 and projects for EUR 999,000. The results of the evaluation of some projects and procurements are still pending.

In 2022, there was an increased focus on networking, working with research teams and strengthening entrepreneurial competences at the University. In addition, other activities of the CTTC team continue, such as training events, working group meetings building innovation potential, ongoing IP advice, exploring funding sources, marketing and communication, and, most notably, advice on technology transfer and commercialisation of innovations. For more successful business-science collaboration and the development of new R&D products and services, there is a particular lack of government incentives for the most complex R&D projects, which require large investments (“Eksperimentas” measure was not announced in 2022, which accounted for EUR 1–1.3 million in the University’s R&D income structure in 2019–2020). The CTTC team has

been actively working with businesses to develop new products, but many of them do not have sufficient funds of their own, which is why the calls for Science-Business Collaboration planned for 2023 will help to realise the projects that have already started to develop. In preparation for the upcoming calls, the CTTC team has already prepared 4 commercialisation strategies and will prepare 4 more strategies in early 2023 to help to be more successful and accelerate your participation in the 2023 R&D Commercialisation measures, such as “Eksperimentas”, “Inoėkiai”, Technological Development, R&D Commercialisation and others.

It is important to note that three patent applications by University researchers (in Physics, Life Sciences) were also approved for 2022, which will enable future commercialisation of these products and exclusive rights. It is expected that the development and patenting of new products will be stimulated by the implementation of joint projects between researchers from the research and study institutions of “Santakos slėnis” Association and Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU), Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) and the Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI). In total, 16 applications for collaborative projects were received at VMU, of which 3 were funded.

An “Inovatorių akademijos” programme has been set up, as well as expert advice through knowledge and experience transfer events. The visualisation of the first prototype demonstration space in the history of the University will encourage entrepreneurship among scientists and the wider dissemination of research and experimental development results. The CTTC team has become an active organiser of events promoting R&D. Together with scientists, research results, patents, prototypes and other innovations to the public, private and community sectors have been actively presented. Although the still complex situation regarding COVID-19 has changed the plans for visits, meetings and events, most of the events have been organised remotely, with hybrid and contact methods also being used. It was successfully exhibited at “Ką pasėsi 2022”, “Biofit” and “Hannover Messe”. The biggest event of the year was VMU Network’22, when for the first-time representatives of various organisations and academia were brought together around one table. Partnerships for future projects and research were established during the event. At the end of the year, the first major VMU hackathon “CTTC InnoHack’22” took place with more than 100 participants and 15 teams. The winners for the most innovative solutions to mitigate the challenges of climate change were the ones with the highest number of jury points: first prize – “Naturaleza” (microplastics degraded by bacteria), second prize – “Hakatonikiai” (Museum of the Effects of Climate Change based on the Escape Room principle), and third prize – “Believers” (DNA-based data storage solution). The winners of the Kaunas Startup Awards 2022 were “Amber Charge”, a VMU spin-off company – the first to develop an electric pulse generation system capable of selective electroporation. A team of scientists from Vytautas Magnus University came together to make electroporation the standard method of treatment in medicine. Electroporation is a technique that can significantly increase the permeability of biological cell membranes without any side effects, making it possible to increase the effectiveness of medicines by tens or even hundreds of times.

CTTC continues its activities in the Lithuanian Social Innovation Cluster, the University Industry Innovation Network and Europe’s premier association of Knowledge Transfer Professionals (ASTP). CTTC has also become a member of “TTO Lithuania” and “TTO Baltic”. “TTO Baltic” is the first network of its kind in the Baltic region and its aim is to bring together knowledge and technology transfer practitioners working in research and higher education institutions, to provide them with opportunities to exchange their professional practices and to enhance their competences in the field of intellectual property management. Two international applications were won: one for the development of entrepreneurial competences of the University community (Entrepreneur project) and the other for the promotion of the development and transfer of digital technologies (EDIH4IAE.LT project).

Doctoral studies

The University has the right to doctoral studies in 24 science fields and cooperates with 17 Lithuanian higher education and research institutions. VMU’s membership in the “Transform4Europe” consortium allows to increase the internationalisation and quality of doctoral studies. The consortium partners plan to develop joint doctoral study programmes, promote doctoral students’ internships, organise an annual conference for doctoral students from the partner universities, to organise summer and winter schools, seminars, and refresher courses for doctoral students and their scientific advisors. The details of the inter-institutional cooperation on doctoral studies with the consortium partners are currently being finalised and a cooperation agreement is being drafted. VMU is an active participant in this debate.

In 2022, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport granted Vytautas Magnus University an autonomous doctoral degree in the field of education science.

In 2022, the University was awarded 45 doctoral study places funded by the state budget – 8 of them were won by researchers for the University, their themes won in competitions announced by the Research Council of Lithuania, and 1 doctoral place was won together with a business company. Three first-year doctoral students from Lithuania and abroad finance their doctoral studies at their own expense.

In 2022, 6 foreign doctoral students started their doctoral studies: an Iranian and a Ukrainian in Environmental Engineering, a Ukrainian citizen in Biology, an Azerbaijani citizen in Political Science, a Ukrainian citizen in Communication and Information Science, and a Georgian citizen in Sociology. The share of foreigners in the total number of doctoral students enrolled was 11%.

The total number of doctoral students in the autumn semester was 241.

67 doctoral students participated in internships, remote seminars, conferences and other scientific events at universities and research institutions abroad. The University hosted 3 doctoral students as visiting doctoral students, while the “Erasmus+” student exchange programme took 13 doctoral students to nine foreign countries.

55 doctoral dissertations were defended at the University: 8 in the natural sciences, 8 in the humanities, 27 in the social sciences, 7 in technology and 5 in agriculture. Doctoral programmes in philology, ethnology, art history, theology, and law (100% of those who have defended their doctoral dissertations) are highly rated in terms of efficiency and effectiveness.

Since the launch of the doctoral programme, the University has trained 882 researchers.

Since 2012, when the Visiting Professorship procedure was established and approved, 25 foreign researchers have already been awarded this honorary status.

Partnerships

The University is constantly strengthening its partnerships. Vytautas Magnus University has gathered strong partners and participates in various international research infrastructures, science business cooperation and other associations. Key partnerships and initiatives for 2022:

- The Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, Vytautas Magnus University, the Lithuanian Innovation Centre, the Science and Technology Park of the Institute of Physics, the Lithuanian Energy Institute, the agri-food technology company “ART21”, and the “SMART IT” cluster, which is coordinating the digital innovation centre “AgriFood Lithuania”, have signed an agreement and set up a consortium that will join forces in the implementation of the initiative “Digital Transformation of the Industry, Agriculture, and Energy Sectors in Lithuania” (also known as EDIH4IAE.LT). It is the first consortium bringing together the largest centres in these fields in Lithuania to create a digital innovation hub of European level and recognition. The centre was awarded an EU project to support the dissemination of digital technologies and innovation in 2022.
- VMU is a member of the open platform CrowdHelix: <https://www.crowdhelix.com/>. CrowdHelix is an Open Innovation Platform that builds international networks between researchers and innovating companies to initiate pioneering projects, notably in the EU’s “Horizon Europe” programme.
- VMU is a member of the Lithuanian Social Innovation Cluster. The Cluster creates an open and constructive dialogue between state institutions, non-governmental organisations, research and study institutions, social and socially responsible businesses and society.
- VMU is a member of the University Industry Innovation Network. The UIIN is an international university industry leader in the fields of engagement, entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer of university members, always ready to support the global community of university industry professionals. The main activities are focused on conducting research, organising events, and providing training and advisory services to a community of more than 80 organisations and more than 500 individual members.
- VMU is a member of Europe’s premier association of Knowledge Transfer professionals (ASTP). It is a European leader in knowledge and technology transfer professionals with more than 20 years of experience in training, consulting and innovation commercialisation.
- VMU became an EIT member as part of the EIT HEI project with partners from Sweden, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, Spain and Ukraine.
- The University cooperates with Lithuanian and foreign higher education and other institutions by publishing scientific journals. There is cooperation with the following institutions: Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuanian Energy Institute, Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics, Lithuanian Centre of Agrarian and Forestry Sciences, Lithuanian Emigration Institute, Klaipėda University, Lithuanian Language Institute, Lithuanian Institute of History, Šiauliai University, Vilnius University, Lithuanian Olympic Academy, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Latvian State Forest Research Institute “Silva”, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Universidad de los Andes, Dublin City University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Riga Technical University.
- VMU AA scientists participate in the International Research Infrastructure – Infrastructure for Analysis and Experimentation on Ecosystems (AnaEE). Prof. Dr. Vaclovas Bogužas and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zita Kriaučiūnienė of the Department of Agroecosystems and Soil Sciences are members of the Board, representing Lithuania. Researchers of the Faculty of Agronomy have successfully participated in AnaEE research infrastructure activities, submitted applications for international research projects, and won and implemented 2 international projects (“Horizon Europe” (“AgroServ”), “Horizon 2020” (“Smartforsoil”)).
- VMU participates in the CLARIN-LT Research Infrastructure Network, a research infrastructure for researchers, teachers, and students in the social sciences and humanities for a wide range of digital language resources and technologies. CLARIN-LT activities include conducting applied and

interdisciplinary research, promoting the international mobility of researchers, providing information about the language data and tools stored in CLARIN repositories; organising high-level national and international scientific events, providing advice to researchers; and collecting Lithuanian language resources and language research tools.

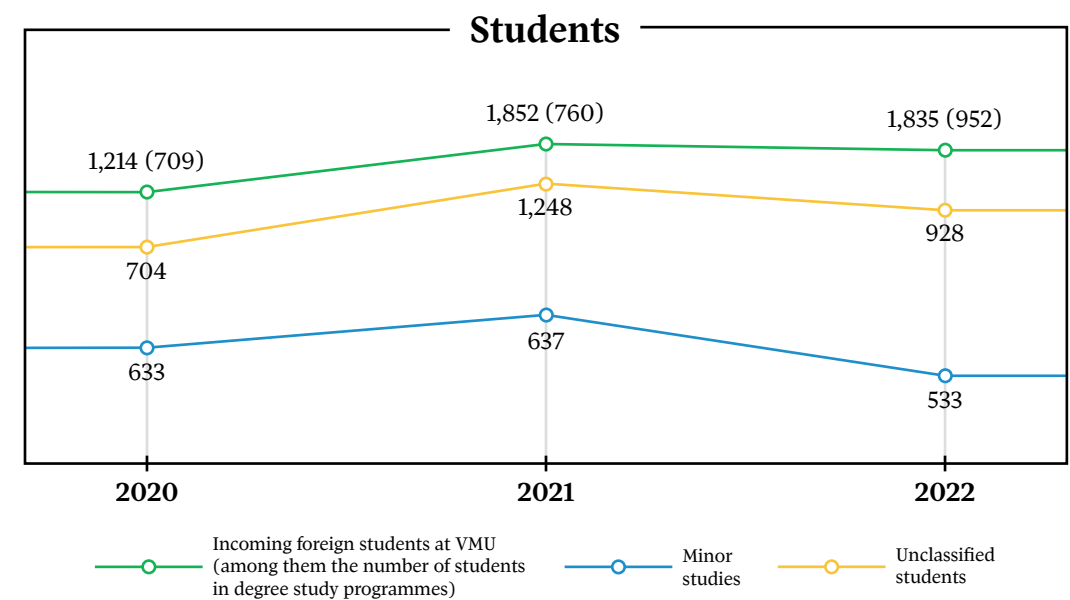
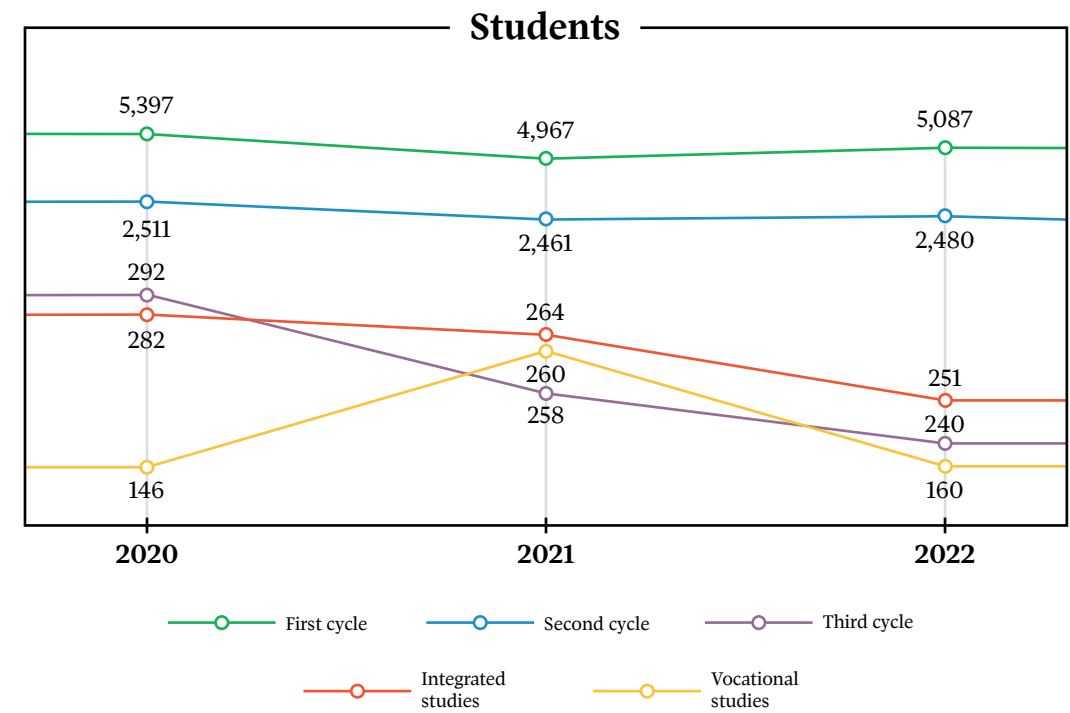
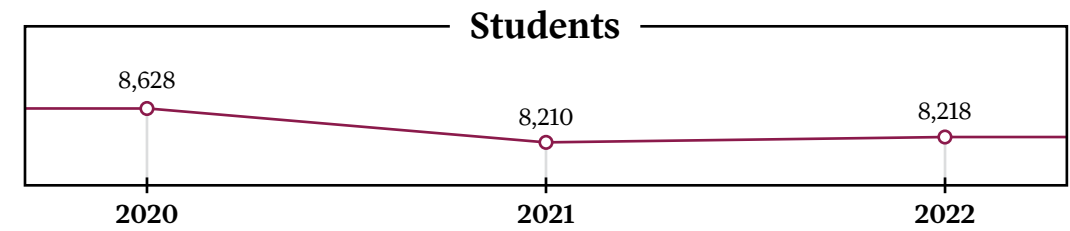
- VMU researchers also participate in the European Innovation, Partnership, Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) innovation network, which was set up by the European Commission to foster innovation in the agriculture and forestry sectors and to bring research and practice closer together. EIP-AGRI was created as a new way to help the agriculture and forestry sectors become more productive, more sustainable and more able to deal with existing challenges such as tougher competition, volatile market prices, climate change and stricter environmental rules. Within the EIP-AGRI network, VMU is running a project funded by the European Commission.
- VMU participates in the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) and is implementing the project “Implementation of the Plan for Lithuania’s Membership in the European Research Infrastructure Consortium for European Social Research” (No. VS-3).
- VMU researchers are experts in the committees of “Horizont Europe”: Prof. Dr. Audrius Sigitas Maruška, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jūratė Žaltauskaitė, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zita Kriaučiūnienė.

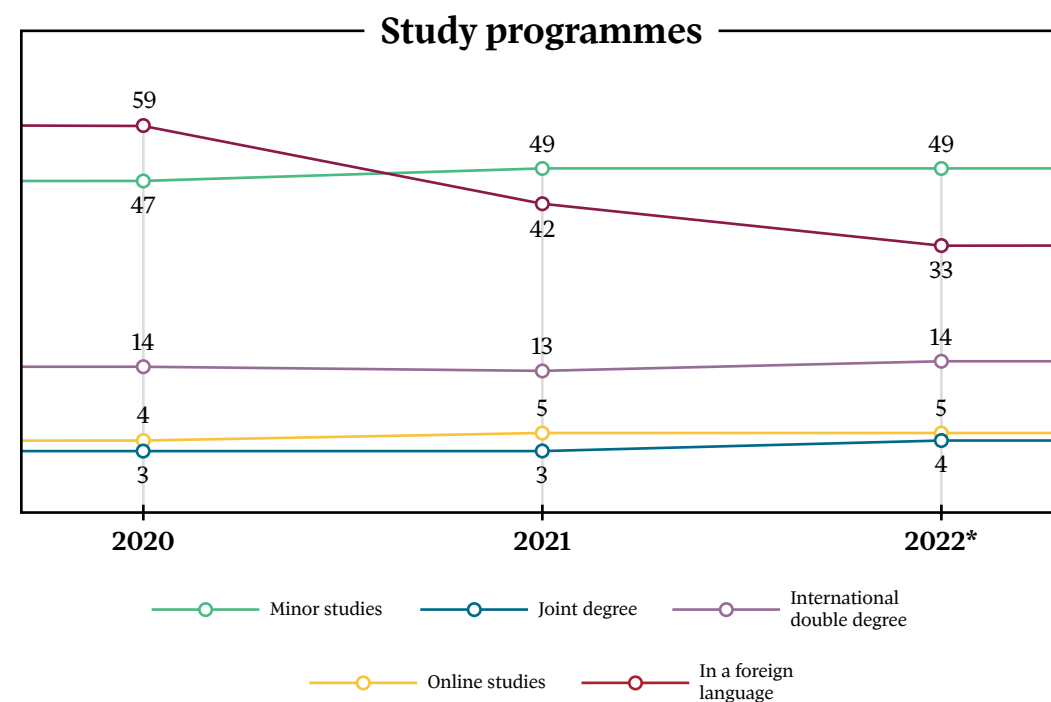
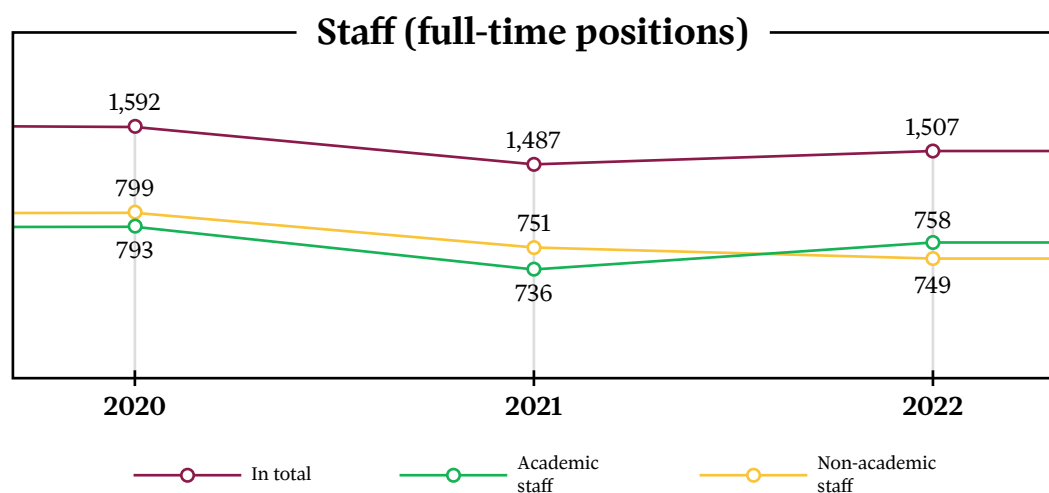
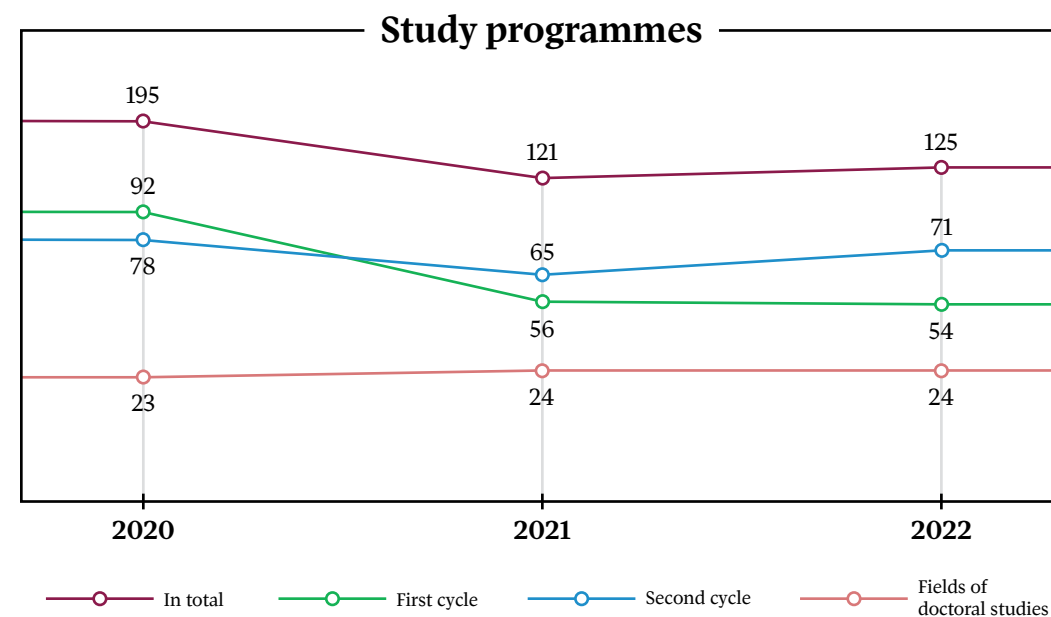
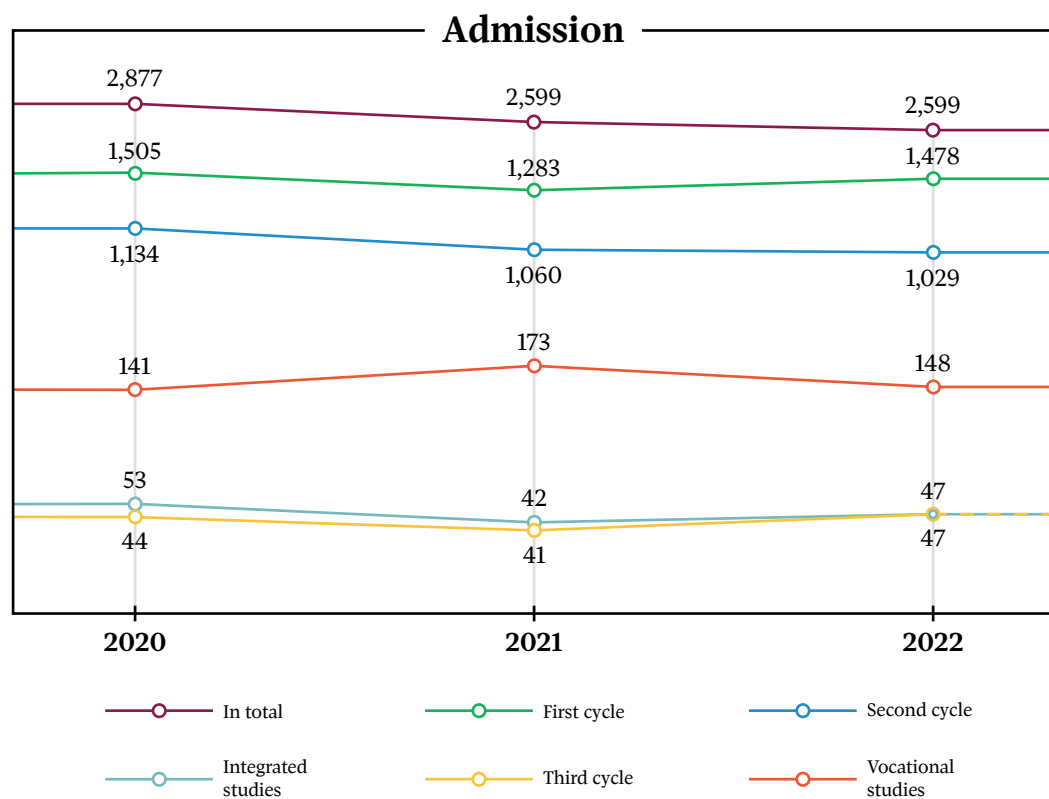
There is also active participation in crucial Lithuanian business cooperation organisations: the Lithuanian Responsible Business Association, the Kaunas Chamber of Commerce and Crafts, the Confederation of Lithuanian Industrialists, the “Infobalt” Association, the Energy Digital Innovation Centre, the Lithuanian Biotechnology Association, the Lithuanian Food Exporters Association, etc. Another vital part of research partnerships is participation in research infrastructures, which are growing in number every year, currently, the most important ones are: “Slėnis Nemunas”, “Santakos slėnis”, Kaunas Science Technology Park, Transform for Europe, Clarin, EIT HEI, etc.

Further developing activities include:

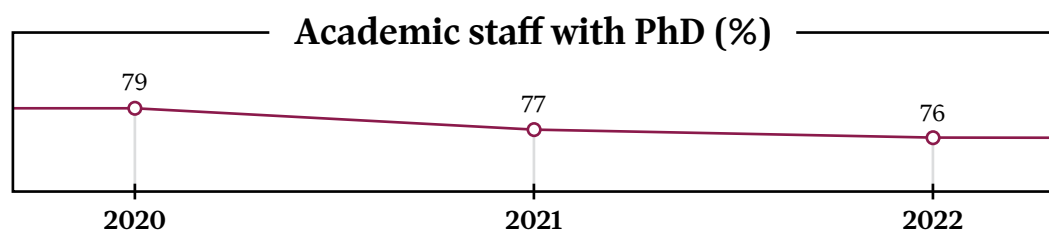
- Exploiting the opportunities offered by the “Transform4Europe – T4E” partnership of the European University Alliance to foster the training of joint doctoral students with universities in Europe and beyond, developing entrepreneurial, open science knowledge and innovation with and for the regions in collaboration with a wide range of non-university stakeholders, and strengthening inter-institutional and interdisciplinary cooperation and networking and links with business associations and companies, NGOs, public sector institutions, schools.
- Encouraging the development of research projects and the joining of VMU researchers in consortia being formed in “Horizon Europe” programme. In 2023, special attention will be paid to the coordination and execution of the successful large “Horizon Europe” projects.
- Developing potentially patentable research based on the concept of open innovation by encouraging active participation in international open innovation platforms such as CrowdHelix, thus engaging in research and development of new technologies or products in collaboration with international companies and academic partners.
- Promoting commissioning and contracting of R&D and innovation with Lithuanian businesses and closer cooperation with NGOs and other organisations.
- Actively pursuing the commercialisation of products developed at the University, either through the creation of new companies or the licensing of developed products to young startups. In these activities, active collaboration with innovative spaces such as the Manufacturing Innovation Valley is envisaged.
- Actively participating with partners in the European Digital Innovation Hub EDIH4IAE.LT to drive digital transformation in the industrial, food and energy sectors.
- Optimising resources by identifying key representative events and focusing on unique projects with greater added artistic value and significance.
- Promoting the internationalisation of doctoral studies through the mobility of doctoral students in long-term internships and the awarding of European Doctoral Certificates.
- Fostering the internationalisation of doctoral studies through active participation in “Horizon Europe” Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) projects for doctoral studies and postdoctoral research.
- Supporting young researchers and doctoral students to actively participate in the joint research project competitions of the Association “Santakos slėnis” by submitting interdisciplinary project proposals together with their colleagues from KTU, LSMU, LEI.
- Encouraging researchers, teachers and students to strive for research excellence, in particular by preparing and publishing articles in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS) and Scopus databases.
- Optimising the activities of artistic groups, taking into account their purpose and representativeness, without duplication of activities, creating appropriate conditions for the expression of amateur artistic activities of the University community.

Studies “360”

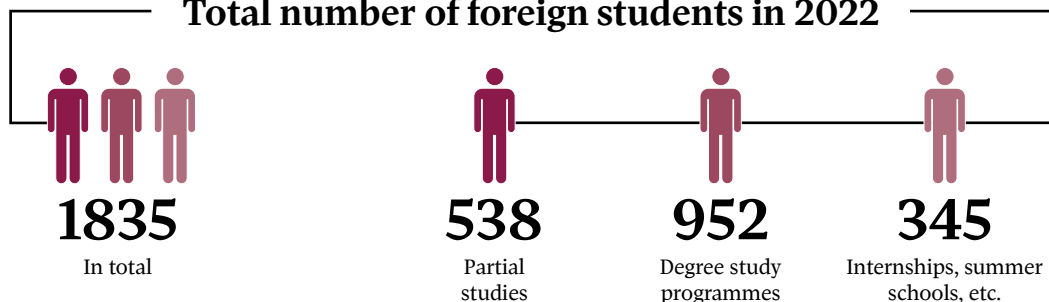




*In 2022, 1 integrated study programme and 1 vocational study programme were carried out.



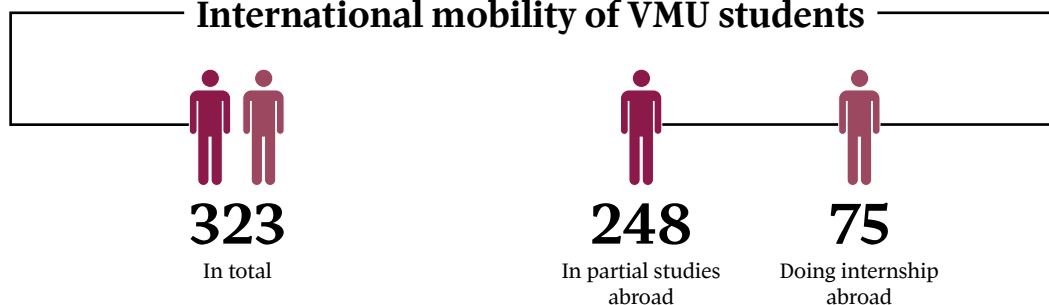
Total number of foreign students in 2022



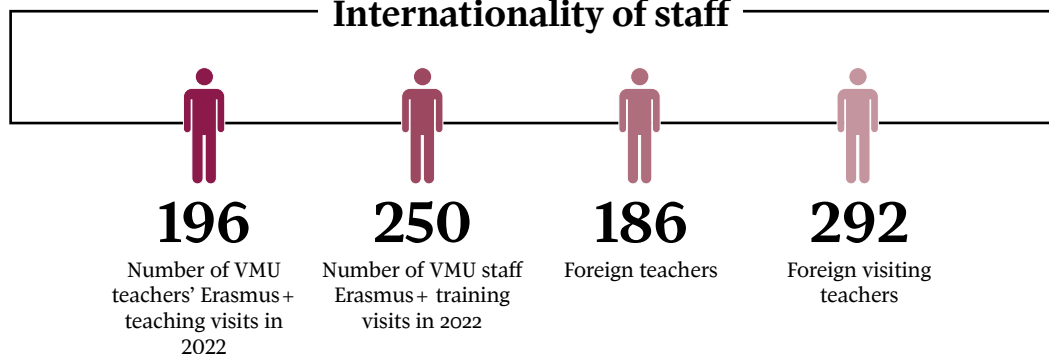
Degree study programmes in English that carry out admissions



International mobility of VMU students



Internationality of staff



Studies “360”

The University's strategic goal for 2022 was to develop a sustainable 360-degree education system that ensures comprehensive education as well as personal growth and meets the needs of today's society and builds the society of the future. The student-oriented studies based on the principles of *Artes Liberales* have always been a distinctive feature of the University not only at the Lithuanian but also at the international level. While implementing the goals and objectives set out in the Strategic Plan for 2021–2027 to achieve this goal, unforeseen challenges were encountered in 2022, namely the war in Ukraine, the impact of COVID-19 on the education system and financial difficulties.

The war in Ukraine affected Lithuania and the University in all aspects: there was an urgent need to take care of Ukrainian students and their families by providing material, psychological and social assistance and to deal with the issues of integration into the studies; due to the sudden change in the geopolitical situation, some foreign students refused to come to the University for their studies; and due to the possible threat of war to Lithuania, some students needed psychological and social assistance.

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic were also encountered. Problems in the national school education sector led to as many as 35% of secondary school graduates failing the mathematics state exam, which is compulsory for admission to higher education institutions, causing problems for those intending to study at the University. The effects of the pandemic have also been identified among students and their socio-psychological well-being has become one of the key factors in the success of studies.

The unity of the University community and the competence of the staff to find the most appropriate solutions in difficult situations have ensured the success of the University's activities and the implementation of its strategic goals, which have exceeded expectations.

Innovativeness, flexibility and accessibility of studies

Admission to studies. 2022 was a challenging year for Lithuanian higher education, because after 35% of graduates failed the mathematics state exam, the number of candidates meeting the admission requirements decreased by as much as 2 thousand and the rate of admissions in the majority of higher education institutions decreased in comparison with the previous year (with an overall decrease of 0.65%): at Kaunas University of Technology by 2.31%, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences by 10%, Lithuanian Sports University by 10.37%, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University by 3.7%, and General Jonas Žemaitis Lithuanian Military Academy by 30.28%. At other higher education institutions, admission rates remained the same or slightly increased: at Vilnius University, the increase was 0.34%, while at Mykolas Romeris University – 0.50%. Vytautas Magnus University's strategic actions to become the most comprehensive university and to secure the public's evaluation as a reliable university providing high-quality, interdisciplinary studies based on the principles of *artes liberales* have been successful, despite the challenges Lithuania has faced, and not only did the admission rate to first cycle and integrated studies not decrease, but it even increased by 6.49%. The number of people placing University studies as their first priority has also increased (by 3.03%). As a result of securing its status as a reliable partner at the international level and actively supporting the people of Ukraine, the number of foreign students admitted to the University's first cycle studies has increased by 75%. Vytautas Magnus University was the second largest university in the country in terms of the number of admitted students.

Admission was carried out to 45 first cycle and integrated study programmes; 1,478 students were admitted, 1,280 of which were Lithuanian citizens and 198 foreign citizens (in 2021, 1,325 were Lithuanian and 113 foreign citizens). The most popular programmes at the University with the largest number of state-funded students admitted included Psychology (111), Subject Pedagogy (65), Special Educational Support (58), Public Communication (40), Creative Industries (38), Pedagogy of Primary Education and Early Foreign Language Teaching (36), Law (32), Agronomy (32), Multimedia and Internet Technologies (26), and Law and Finance (26). New interdisciplinary programmes, namely Bioeconomy Business Management (11), Creative Business and Innovation Design (25), Sports Studies (46) as well as Regional Studies (35), which has been reorganised into an interdisciplinary programme, have been successfully launched.

In 2022, admission to 64 second cycle programmes were carried out and admission to new study programmes, namely the joint study programme Speech and Language Therapy carried out with Klaipėda University, Physical Education and Sports and Subject Pedagogy, which has been reorganised into an interdisciplinary programme, has been launched. 1023 students in total were admitted to second cycle studies (3% less than in 2021), 688 of which were admitted to full-time studies (420 to state-funded studies and 268 to non-state-funded studies). The largest number of students were admitted to Performing Arts (39), Educational Management (37), Marketing and International Commerce (32), Health Psychology (30), Applied Informatics (30) and Social Work (25) study programmes. 141 foreign citizens were admitted to full-time second cycle studies (16.5% more than in 2021). The majority were admitted to the Faculty of Economics and Management (36), the Faculty of Humanities (22) and the Faculty of Informatics (19). 103 state-funded places were allocated for part-time second cycle studies at the Education Academy and Agriculture Academy. The majority of students were admitted to Marketing and Sales (27), Health

Psychology (23) and Business Logistics (22) study programmes.

In 2022, 148 students were admitted to full-time vocational Pedagogy Studies (14.4% less than in 2021): 114 were admitted to state-funded studies and 34 to non-state-funded studies. The number of students admitted to state-funded Pedagogy Studies increased by 75.4%. In 2022, 262 applications for admission to vocational studies were submitted.

Internationality of studies. 2022 was a challenging year due to the protracted COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine; however, the University's long-term efforts as a reliable international partner have proved effective results, with a 75% increase in admissions to first cycle studies and a 16.5% rise in admissions to second cycle studies. 952 foreign citizens from 78 countries studied in full-time study programmes at all levels (compared to 760 students from 72 countries in 2021 and 709 students from 69 countries in 2020).

The most popular first cycle study programmes that attracted the largest number of applicants in 2022 were Business Administration (Faculty of Economics and Management), Information Systems (Faculty of Informatics), Biology and Genetics (Faculty of Natural Sciences) and Accounting and Finance (AA Faculty of Bioeconomy Development), and the most popular second cycle study programmes were Applied Informatics (Faculty of Informatics), Marketing and International Commerce (Faculty of Economics and Management), Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism (Faculty of Humanities), Educational Management (Education Academy) and Business Logistics (AA Faculty of Bioeconomy Development).

In 2022, when the Russian war broke out in Ukraine, the University was one of the first Lithuanian universities to offer assistance to Ukrainian students to continue their studies at the University by providing scholarships and accommodation. In the spring semester of 2021–2022, 74 Ukrainian citizens were admitted to first cycle study programmes taught in English. As the war continued, 179 Ukrainian citizens were admitted to first and second cycle study programmes in the autumn semester of 2022–2023.

A special channel on the Telegram platform has been created to inform and coordinate the students admitted in spring of 2022 who have fled the war. The channel currently has 227 registered students and is used to disseminate important information about studies, work, leisure and other issues. Particular attention is paid to underage students. In order to improve the integration of students, the University has taken the initiative to offer Lithuanian language courses for Ukrainians and Ukrainian language courses for Lithuanian students and volunteers assisting war refugees. All kinds of assistance were provided to students and their families: financial, psychological, social, job and internship assistance, a fund was set up, social activities were carried out and the Centre of Ukraine was established in cooperation with the Lithuanian Presidency.

The war in Ukraine has also led to the development of individual studies, the reorganisation of the study process and the search for solutions to ensure the studies of students living in the war zone and to adjust the study process. Before the war in Ukraine, the University had no experience of assessing the qualifications of war refugees who are unable to provide any documentation. Intensive consultations with foreign partners took place, employees improved their qualifications and, based on the experience of foreign countries and the University's values and principles in the recognition of qualifications, an additional process and an updated procedure description were developed to enable successful and high-quality assessment and recognition of the qualifications of war refugees. During 2022, 774 qualifications obtained abroad were assessed.

In 2022, the total number of all incoming foreign students (for exchange and full-time studies) remained stable at 1835 (1852 in 2021), but due to the war in Ukraine and the potential threat to Lithuania, the number of students coming from European countries on partial exchange decreased. In 2022, 267 students from 17 different programme countries came to study at VMU under the Erasmus+ programme (EU/EEA), which is 15.7% less than in 2021 (317 students). In 2022, the largest number of Erasmus+ students coming to study at VMU came from Turkey (56 students), Spain (55 students), Italy (42 students) and France (39 students). In the spring and autumn semesters of 2022, 26 students came to VMU for Erasmus+ studies (non-EU/EEA), compared to 42 in 2021.

The objectives of increasing the internationality of studies for students already studying at the University have been systematically implemented. In 2022, the number of outgoing students under the Erasmus+ programme (EU/EEA) was 138, i.e., 16 students more than in 2021. The number of outgoing students per year has increased by around 13.1%, and compared to 2020, the number has increased by around 11.29%. In 2022, 30 students left to study under the Erasmus+ programme (non-EU/EEA). Compared to 2021 and 2020, this number has increased. In 2021, the number of outgoing students was 18 and in 2020 it was 12. In 2022, the number of exchange students with a VMU mobility scholarship increased to 17 (compared to 12 in 2021).

2022 In 2022, VMU students were offered a new Erasmus+ programme opportunity – a short-term (from 5 to 30 days) study and traineeship mobility. 14 VMU students made use of this opportunity. VMU students have the opportunity to go on short-term courses at foreign universities with VMU Mobility Scholarship. 10 VMU students made use of this opportunity.

In 2022, 65 VMU students went on Erasmus+ student traineeships to companies and organisations in EU/

EEA countries, which is 13 students more than in 2021 and 26 students more than in 2020. 57 graduates made use of Erasmus+ graduate traineeships in 2022, which is 8 graduates more than in 2021.

In 2022, the Transform4Europe European University Alliance's Competence Development Model was developed and launched. University students, together with students of the universities within the Transform4Europe Alliance, studied Bachelor Tracks created for the development of competences of European challenges related to digital transformation and smart regions, environmental transformation and sustainability, societal transformation, and community building and Inclusion. The modules consist of 15–24 ECTS and upon successful completion a certificate, which is automatically recognised by all partner universities, is awarded.

Stability of student numbers. In terms of the total number of students admitted during the general admission to first cycle and integral studies in Lithuanian higher education institutions, Vytautas Magnus University is ranked 2nd among all Lithuanian universities (compared to the 4th place in 2021). When comparing the number of students admitted to state-funded study places at all universities, VMU maintains its position and ranks 4th. Vytautas Magnus University attracted 10.48% of all students admitted to state-funded places in Lithuanian universities (10.67% in 2021).

According to the data obtained on 1 October 2022, there were 8218 students studying at the University. Compared to 2021, the number of students has remained stable (8210 students studied last year). The University remained the second University in the country in terms of the total number of students. In 2022, 5,086 students studied in first cycle studies, which compared to 2021 is an increase of 2.2%. The number of students enrolled in full-time first cycle studies increased by 7%. The number of students enrolled in integrated Law studies in 2022 was 251, which is a decrease of 5.2% compared to the number of students in 2021. In terms of the distribution of first cycle and integrated studies students across faculties/academies, there is a significant increase at the Faculty of Informatics (25.10%) and the Faculty of Economics and Management (15.34%). The number of students in other faculties and academies also increased by an average of 5.38%. A decrease in the number of students is observed in the Faculty of Humanities (8.47%) and the Agriculture Academy (7.33%).

In 2022, 2480 students were enrolled in second cycle studies. Compared to 2021, the number of students remained stable. Agriculture Academy has the largest number of second cycle students, with a total of 629 students. The largest increase in the number of second cycle students at the University in 2022 was observed in the Faculty of Informatics (137.84%) and the Faculty of Arts (21.82%). Decreasing trends are observed in the Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy (15.63%), Music Academy (13.95%), and the Faculty of Natural Sciences (9.43%).

Vytautas Magnus University ranks second in Lithuania in terms of the number of students studying in vocational Pedagogy Studies, with a total of 160 students.

In 2022, 533 students were enrolled in minor studies, whereas in 2021 the number of students was 637. Pedagogy (95), Entrepreneurship (85), Marketing (65), Business Administration (36), Psychology (31) and Public Communication (23) remain the most popular minor study programmes carried out at the University. 13 students studied in the Academia cum laude individual studies, which are designed for motivated first cycle students, whereas in 2021, there were 10 students enrolled in these studies.

The University has 928 unclassified students enrolled in individual subjects. A significant part of students is made up of 343 unclassified students enrolled in the retraining modules of the Education Academy, 152 pupils who, due to the intensive expansion of VMU school network, are preparing for studies at the University and are already enrolled in introductory courses, and 205 unclassified students enrolled in supplementary studies in preparation for second cycle studies.

The community of Vytautas Magnus University is made up of 49,056 graduates who have been awarded degrees since the re-establishment of the University. The 50,000th diploma will be awarded in 2023. In 2022, 1021 Bachelor's degree, 906 Master's degree and 54 Doctoral degree diplomas were awarded. 242 study certificates conferring teacher qualification were also awarded.

Development of online studies at the University. In 2022, 4,326 study courses were taught remotely, 909 of which are certified for blended and online studies. 5 online study programmes, namely Business Administration, Marketing Management, Modern Linguistics, Comparative Cultural Studies, and Sports Business Management, and 3 blended study programmes, namely Theatre Research and Stage Art Management, Creative Industries, and Applied Sociology are carried out at the University. In 2022, the Open Study portal openstudies.vdu.lt offered 91 non-formal online study courses to the public, and a total of 1051 people were enrolled in these courses. Much attention was given to modernising the virtual learning environment: conditions for completing activities are made clearer and more user-friendly for students and teachers can check whether the content they provide is suitable and accessible for people with disabilities. There is also an option to preview or playback files at a suitable speed. The metadata fields of the digital badge have been expanded and the possibilities for the assessment of study achievements and the provision of feedback have been improved. The H5P tool, which is used to create interactive content, was introduced in the environment.

The development and implementation of *virtual laboratories*, a study innovation, has enabled students and teachers to access laboratories and computer labs remotely and use their software from home.

Lifelong learning activities. By sharing knowledge, research results and experience with the public, the University carries out further upskilling, retraining, informative and other activities. For the past four years, professional development activities have been partially centralised in order to ensure the monitoring of the activities, to increase the quality of the services provided, the efficiency of their organisation and their accessibility in the University's academic units. In 2022, the Description of Procedure for Organisation of Non-formal Education (Training Services) at Vytautas Magnus University, which regulates the coordination of non-formal education activities, preparation and approval of non-formal education programmes, financing, division of responsibilities and functions at the University, and quality assurance, was updated. The established VMU Professional Competence Development Centre (hereinafter referred to as PCDC) has been tasked with the function of ensuring the accessibility and systematicity of lifelong learning activities at the University level, as well as ensuring the active communication of lifelong learning opportunities and recognition of competences at the University, and the function of monitoring of the quality of lifelong learning activities.

Over the past year, a qualitative change has been observed – activities that meet the needs of the target groups and that receive positive evaluations are provided using quality assessment standards. In 2022, the lifelong learning system was developed and a user-friendly, interactive lifelong learning platform mokymosiakademija.vdu.lt was offered to the general public, with user-friendly access to information on the available activities, needs analyses, personalised accounts for creating personal portfolios, self-learning opportunities and digital certificates. The lifelong learning service system consists of 3 modules based on target groups: Teachers' Academy, Academy of Professional Development and Lifelong Learning Academy.

In 2022, 344 non-formal adult education activities were carried out at the University, which is a 40% increase compared to 2021 (240 activities). In 2022, a wide range of non-formal study programmes were carried out, inviting the public and the target audience to discussions, seminars, courses, educational camps, masterclasses, trainings and public lectures, organised by various University units. All non-formal activities amounted to 10422 academic hours. The largest number of activities was organised by the Education Academy (105), the Institute of Foreign Languages (79), the Faculty of Natural Sciences (32) and the Faculty of Humanities (32). As many as 1268 persons participated in non-formal adult education activities.

In 2022, 21 persons participated in the procedure for the assessment and recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal education (34 in 2021). Of the 21 persons who applied and took part in the assessment, 19 were successfully credited with competences acquired through non-formal and informal education. The most credited competences cover entrepreneurship education, business administration practices and language competences.

In order to ensure quality and improve processes, Vytautas Magnus University took part in an external quality evaluation carried out by foreign experts and carried out activities in the areas identified for improvement. Based on the results of the evaluation, great attention and a comprehensive review and analysis of academic recognition processes was paid, and a Policy on the Recognition of Competences and Qualifications in Academic Recognition was prepared, discussed in the community, and adopted, outlining the principles, responsibilities, tools and quality assurance for the recognition of competences acquired through formal and non-formal education. In addition, training sessions were organised for the University community, publicly available information in Lithuanian and English was updated and information systems were updated.

As part of the strategic objective to “Develop a framework for the recognition of prior learning experiences and competences” and in order to increase the accessibility of this service, work aimed at digitising the tools for assessing competences and making them more suitable for the labour market has been launched, making use of the opportunities offered by the European University Alliance “Transform4Europe”.

Internal and external evaluation of study quality. In 2022, following the external evaluation of the study fields, 14 decisions regarding the accreditation of study fields and levels at VMU were adopted: 11 decisions (79%) led to the accreditation of the following study fields for a maximum period of 7 years: environmental engineering, environmental science, food studies and marketing studies (first and second cycle), ecology (first cycle), ecology (Bachelor's degree), linguistics and journalism (second cycle). 3 decisions (21%) for 3-year accreditation were adopted for biology (first cycle), ecology and civil engineering (second cycle) study fields. This shows that the results of the 2022 external evaluation are in line with the set strategic target, with more than 75% of accreditation decisions covering a period of 7 years. The average score for all the study fields at VMU participating in the 2022 external evaluation is 25 out of 35 possible points (71%).

International experts gave the highest scores to the material resources of studies, while the lowest scores were given to the goals, outcomes and content of studies. Many study-related aspects were evaluated fairly well: the interaction between science/arts and study activities; student admission and support; studying, study outcomes and graduate employment; teaching staff; and management and publicity of study quality.

In 2022, the development of the system of internal study quality assurance focused on reviewing the documents regulating the quality of studies, updating the assessment and improvement tools and improving the methods of publicising information and the accessibility of content to internal and external stakeholders.

To ensure a reasonable assessment, an internal information system was developed to collect and analyse data on studies. The internal study quality assessment was based on the feedback from stakeholders. Teachers consider the quality of studies at the University to be adequate (88% of respondents) and students' attitudes reveal similar results: in a survey of graduating students, 86% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of the study programme. This shows that the assessment of the quality of studies from the teachers' point of view and the students' satisfaction with the quality of studies are slightly above the set strategic target of 85%. Student satisfaction with the material resources for studies has reached a very high rate of 90%, demonstrating a very favourable student opinion of the study infrastructure.

In the survey of graduates, students noted that the University has competent teachers, that communication and collaboration between students and teachers is effective, that favourable conditions are created for studying study courses of interest, choosing minor or individual studies and going on exchange programmes for part-time studies at universities in other countries, and that additional activities are immersive and useful. Students also identified areas for improvement, such as the lack of a more detailed presentation of assignment requirements and assessment criteria, as well as lack of feedback and discussion of completed practical assignments.

The results of the survey of first-year students once again confirmed the tendencies observed over the years of the most significant reasons for choosing studies at the University. The main reason students choose to study at the University is interest in a particular study programme. More than 30% of first-year students identified this as the most important reason when choosing studies. Another reason for choosing to study at VMU is the *artes liberales* study model, which enables students to design a study schedule themselves. This shows that the studies are chosen by students who are already familiar with the uniqueness of the study programme and the University.

The results of the survey on the quality of teaching and learning show that students rate the quality of teaching particularly well. The average teaching score has been increasing since 2019, reaching 9.2 on a ten-point scale in 2022, with students identifying the following strengths: informative, structured and engaging study content, relevant practical examples, useful assignments, kind and respectful communication and an improved provision of feedback.

As part of the University's consistent study quality improvement activities and their monitoring, study programme improvement plans are developed, implemented and analysed. In the academic year of 2021–2022, 69% of the planned study programme improvement actions have been fully implemented, 25% partially implemented and 6% were not implemented. The most common reasons that prevented the full implementation of the planned actions were the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the turnover of human resources and lack of time. Unimplemented actions are planned to be implemented in the academic year of 2022–2023 and most of the planned actions are aimed at updating the curriculum design, professional development activities for teachers and improving the study process and outcomes.

Student support

Student career planning and monitoring of graduates. In 2022, great attention was paid to reviewing and ensuring the quality of graduate monitoring and career planning activities. Following the analysis of the ongoing activities and needs, a model of career monitoring of students and graduates was developed, the provisions of which are regulated in the Description of Procedure for Career Monitoring of Students and Graduates of Vytautas Magnus University. The procedures of student and graduate career monitoring system have been clearly defined. They cover the organisation and execution of data collection, data analysis and the summarisation, evaluation, publicity and use of the results to help students and graduates plan their careers and improve studies.

According to the Employment Service, almost 98% of graduates were employed one year after graduation and only 2.11% (46) were looking for a job.

A survey of graduating first cycle, second cycle, integrated and vocational study students conducted in June 2022 showed that 51% of graduating students have a job related to the completed study programme; the area of work of final year vocational study students is related to the study programme the most – 79%, of second cycle students – 54%, and of integrated study students – 50%. Evaluating VMU's conditions for students with disabilities, 62% of respondents indicated that the conditions for studying are good or more good than bad.

The Career Centre provided counselling for students to help them define their career goals, plan their careers (jobs, internships, minor studies and further (second cycle) studies) and change their study programme; it assisted them in preparing their CVs and motivation letters when looking for internships and jobs and applying for nominal scholarships. The Career Centre provided 100 individual career consultations (25 of which were for international students, 8 for graduates and 3 for pupils).

On the initiative of the Career Centre, 3 virtual bilingual (English and Lithuanian) Catalogues of Internship and Volunteering Offers have been published, which provide a standardised brief information about the company, institution or organisation offering internship or volunteering position, the title of the position and the conditions for performing the activity, which the prospective intern or volunteer has to fulfil.

In 2022, the Career Centre staff delivered a variety of career-related seminars: 11 seminars for VMU community (students, staff and graduates), which were attended by 230 participants; an open seminar for career specialists, which was attended by 74 participants; and 14 (online and face-to-face) seminars, which were attended by 1,461 pupils.

The Career Centre organised 12 events aimed at students' career planning, namely informal lecture series "Saves Link 2022" (Towards Yourself 2022), consisting of 9 seminars and an online event "Vasaros Sezono Galimybių Mugė 2022" (Summer Season Opportunities Fair 2022), consisting of 3 seminars. One of the biggest events organised by the Career Centre in 2022 was VMU Career Day "Mano Karjera 2022: Ko Tikisi Darbdavys?" (My Career 2022: What Does the Employer Expect?). 30 companies and organisations participated in the fair and 2 seminars were organised.

Financial and social support. The University has the most developed student encouragement system that meets the needs of all target groups and the mission of a socially responsible University. The following encouragement funds have been set up at the University: Study Scholarship Fund for Talent Development; Study Scholarship Fund for Increasing Access to Higher Education; Scholarship Fund for Foreign Students, Mobility Fund, Patron Support Fund, University Honorary Fund, and other initiatives. In order to implement the strategic objective to "Develop a more effective model of student engagement in research and art activities", in 2022, the Research Promotion Fund was established and a digitised tool for monitoring and promoting student research activities was developed.

In 2022, 9 students (5 in 2021 and 7 in 2020) were awarded nominal honorary scholarships for their scientific, educational, artistic or social activities.

President Kazys Grinius Nominal Scholarship was awarded to a student of Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy. In 2022, Scholarships of the Signatories of the Lithuanian Act of Independence were awarded to 7 students of the Education Academy (7 in 2021 and 2 in 2020).

In 2022, 692 (474 in 2020, 505 in 2021) one-time scholarships were awarded to 479 University students for their active participation in scientific, sports, cultural and student social activities.

The University has a well-developed system of scholarships awarded by patrons, which is joined each year by alumni and social partners. In 2022, 13 individual natural or legal persons provided support to 58 University students for a total amount of more than EUR 36,000: UAB "Ekoagros" – 1; UAB "Teltonika Networks" – 3; Ieva and Arnas Radzevičiai Nominal Scholarship – 3; Norfa Charity and Support Fund – 25; V. Kuprevičius Nominal Scholarship – 1; UAB "Nando" Nominal Scholarship – 4; UAB "Thermo Fisher Scientific Baltics" Scholarship – 3; UAB "DOJUS Agro" Nominal Scholarship – 2; Saliamonas Banaitis Nominal Scholarship – 1; AB "East West Agro" Scholarship – 4; Liūtas and Francoise Marie Puzyna Mockūnai Nominal Scholarship – 2; B. Vaškelis Nominal Scholarship – 8; and Jonas Tallat-Kelpša Scholarship – 1. There are also nominal scholarships awarded to VMU students through the University by patrons, namely Kaunas Tauro LEONS Club (3 scholarships) and VMU graduate I. Belevičius EUR 500 scholarships (2 scholarships).

In order to provide opportunities for the most talented students to study at the University, to develop study fields that are important for the society and the University, to develop internationality and to contribute to the accessibility of higher education to the socially excluded, in 2022, 1098 scholarships were awarded to 792 students to cover the cost of studies (546 scholarships for first cycle students, 538 for second cycle students and 13 for integrated study students).

Students who participated in various projects in 2022 were encouraged for their active participation, research or other scientific activities with scholarships (113) from project funds (EUR 133,263).

The State Studies Foundation awarded scholarships of 3.25 BSB to 12 Lithuanian diaspora students and 2 persons who have completed their compulsory initial military service or basic military training were partially compensated for part of the tuition fees.

The State Studies Foundation provided support and social scholarships to 421 students. They were granted to students from socially disadvantaged families (186), students who have a working capacity of 45% or less (97) and students who have been placed under guardianship until the age of majority or their parents are deceased (138).

To reduce social exclusion, the University has granted tax incentives to the most talented students facing financial difficulties. In 2022, 104 students were granted tax incentives by means of a competition for a total amount of more than EUR 34,000, of which EUR 16,412 were granted for compensation of accommodation fees (granted to 64 students) and EUR 18,365 were granted for compensation of tuition fees (granted to 40 students).

In 2022, targeted support (EUR 15,000) was provided to student organisations in order to promote and foster student initiatives and activities that expand cooperation and the potential of human resources and that create or develop scientific, artistic, study organisation, cultural, social, sports, civic and other initiatives that promote the University.

Support for Ukrainians fleeing the war was mobilised by solidarising the entire University community as well as other state, private and legal persons. VMU Support Fund for Ukrainian Students was set up, raising more than 20 thousand euros (EUR 23,468.410), and around EUR 1,500 were allocated from the 1.2% personal income tax previously collected by the University. The University paid out scholarships worth EUR 16,972 from the Scholarship Fund.

Academic and psychological support. After the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been observed that the social and emotional well-being of the student is crucial for the study outcomes and the successful progress of studies, which until now has not been a key factor in the monitoring of study progress and the provision of support.

Taking this into account, the system for monitoring study progress and providing support to students has been fundamentally revised and updated in 2022. The aim of this system is to ensure equal opportunities for all University students to actively participate in the study process, to create favourable conditions for successful studies by developing a student-centred study culture and increasing students' academic and social engagement, and to provide financial, psychological, social, spiritual and academic support. An additional tool – *Studentpulse* – has been introduced to monitor these factors.

Systematic monitoring of student study progress and timely provision of all kinds of support have helped to reduce the drop-out rate in recent years, with 11.5% of students terminating their studies in 2022 (compared to 15.6% in 2020 and 12.4% in 2021).

Improving infrastructure for studies and student well-being. In order to implement the strategic objective to "Ensure the most favourable conditions for students to achieve their study outcomes by improving the infrastructure and learning facilities and resources", in 2022, all modernisation and construction works of the premises necessary for studies were completed: VMU Teacher Training Centre (Donelaičio g. 52) was opened with 20 modern rooms and laboratories and 10 rooms adapted for hybrid learning and equipped with automated cameras, additional screens, a projector, a computer for the teacher and "Smart Podium" interactive displays. The construction project for the extension of the Putvinskio g. 23 building was completed with 4 new innovative Movement and Experimental Activity Laboratories and rooms and a modernised computer classroom with 19 new computers. To meet the needs of students, a student café has been opened.

Construction of an extension of the President Adamkus Sports Centre (Universiteto g. 9a, Akademija, Kaunas District) adapted for 3x3 basketball and other activities has been started, along with the construction of beach volleyball, baseball and futsal courts.

On the initiative of Student Affairs Department, International Cooperation Department and Student Representative Council, a Meditation Room was opened in Dormitory No. 5 (Universiteto g. 8, Akademija, Kaunas District). This is the first room of its kind in Lithuanian dormitories, where students can have their own personal space for meditation, concentration, spiritual or psychological needs.

In 2022, great attention was paid to improving living conditions in the dormitories: outdoor bicycle racks were installed in all dormitories; a self-service laundry programme was introduced, allowing payment by bank card; and exterior stairs in part of the dormitories in Akademija were renovated. The administrative block on the 1st floor of VMU Dormitory No. 8 (Studentų g. 5, Akademija, Kaunas District) was repaired and entered into service, changing its purpose to accommodate students, while the rooms in Dormitory No. 6 (A. Vivulskio g. 36, Vilnius) were partially refurbished.

In 2022, 1,545 places in VMU dormitories were provided for student accommodation and 96 for guest accommodation, with a total of 1,641 accommodation places operated.

In order to assist war refugees, the University also provided accommodation for other persons, such as student and University guests and war refugees (5%). 90% of all available accommodation was reserved for students. The occupancy rate in 2022 was 18% higher than in 2021, with the most occupied dormitories being VMU Dormitories No. 5, 6 and 7. The total annual occupancy rate of student rooms in 2022 was 85.5%.

In order to meet the needs and safety of persons with visual impairments, a process to adjust (increase) the sound of the traffic lights at the intersection near VMU Faculty of Social Sciences and Faculty of Law (intersection of Jonavos g. and P. Kalpoko g.) was initiated. To meet the needs of a student with reduced mobility, a workplace in the chemistry laboratory has been adapted so that she could participate in the study sessions together with everyone else. An analysis of VMU Education Academy building and its accessibility for persons with disabilities was carried out.

Development of teachers' competences and cooperation

In 2022, the system of professional development of teachers, which meets the needs of teachers, was substantially updated and established in the Description of Procedure for Professional Development of Academic and Non-Academic Staff at Vytautas Magnus University, which sets out the main principles of the system. A digitised learning platform mokymosiakademija.vdu.lt has been created, where the "Teachers' Academy" section provides teachers with training and self-learning materials, digital certificates and a personal account where the entire qualification development process and documents can be conveniently

accessed. On this platform, every registered user has the opportunity to learn independently. More than 12 training recordings have been produced during 2022. Any registered user can view them, take a test and receive a certificate confirming completion of the training.

In 2022, the Professional Competence Development Centre offered more than 100 training opportunities to VMU community. Professional development opportunities were wide-ranging, aimed at developing general, professional and specific competences. Training in digital competences was organised in cooperation with the Institute of Innovative Studies and language competences were developed in cooperation with the Institute of Foreign Languages. Networking events for new partnerships with other organisations and other activities were also carried out.

International teacher networking and the development of innovations through the sharing of experiences is promoted by VMU's participation in the “Transform4Europe” alliance. The first “Transform4Europe” Alliance's international conference-hackathon “Transform4Europe International Conference-Hackathon for the Innovative Teaching and Learning Methods in Higher Education” was held at Vytautas Magnus University in 2022. The aim of the conference-hackathon is to foster the exchange of ideas on innovative teaching and learning methods in higher education by bringing together all experts of the “Transform4Europe” Alliance partners. During the first hackathon in Lithuania for developing learning innovations, some innovations were developed. The best ideas were proposed by three teams: “Kaunas Monsters”, who came from Sofia University, Bulgaria, “Dreamers” from Taiwan and “Underwater” from VMU Faculty of Economics and Management. Experience-sharing activities are also very important for the development of teachers' competences, and the Transform4Europe Alliance established the “Transform4Europe Innovative Teaching Award” for innovations in studying and teaching, whose winners – teachers from Poland, Germany and Spain – presented their innovations.

As part of the “Transform4Europe” Alliance activities, in 2022 professional development training was provided by high-level lecturers from partner institutions. Each teacher had the opportunity not only to get acquainted with the culture and work specifics of other universities, but also to adopt best practices and improve their competences in the 20 training sessions that were carried out.

During VMU Network'22 event in 2022, cooperation between teachers and the public, private and non-governmental sectors took place, with the focus on broader opportunities for students and innovative study methods involving practitioners.

VMU teacher community has the opportunity to actively participate in the trainings organised by VMU Professional Competence Development Centre which invites teachers from all higher education institutions to participate in them. Teachers also take part in professional development activities in other higher education institutions.

In 2022, 2331 participants took part in training activities. Training activities were delivered via contact, online and hybrid modes. 30 open trainings were offered, which were attended by academic and non-academic VMU staff as well as staff, doctoral students and students from other higher education institutions.

The university also carried out activities targeted at specific groups, for example, Education Academy carried out professional development activities for teachers through the International Baccalaureate Programme for Teachers, and trainings were conducted by IBEC PYP expert Susanne Tomlinson, UK.

Taking into account the needs of staff and the experience of foreign countries, VMU has set up a Professional Development Fund, which enables each staff member to receive partial funding for selected paid seminars, trainings and courses organised by other institutions.

Mobility of teachers and staff. After the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for teachers to develop competences in foreign countries increased significantly. The number of Erasmus+ teaching visits (EU/EEA) in 2022, during which teachers gave lectures at partner universities, increased more than 3 times compared to 2021: teachers went on 157 visits to higher education institutions abroad (compared to 47 in 2021). The number of Erasmus+ teaching visits (non-EU/EEA) in 2022 increased almost 10 times, with 39 (4 in 2021) teachers travelling to partner institutions.

As many as 227 Erasmus+ training visits (EU/EEA) took place in 2022, which is almost 3 times more than in 2021. This significant increase was caused by the lifting of travel restrictions due to COVID-19, the implementation of visits that were postponed during the pandemic in 2022, and the increased funding and visibility of the programme.

In 2022, 78 staff members and teachers from partner institutions came to VMU for Erasmus+ training visits (non-EU/EEA). Most of the staff came to the “Erasmus Staff Training Week” organised by VMU International Cooperation Department. In 2022, a total of 317 (239 from EU/EEA countries and 78 from non-EU/EEA countries) staff members and teachers came to VMU for teaching and training visits.

VMU academic units are provided with an opportunity to invite employees (professionals) of foreign companies and organisations to teach. During this type of visit, guests share their experiences and students are introduced to the practical applications of the theoretical knowledge they acquire. In 2022, 24 employees of foreign companies and organisations came to VMU (compared to only 4 in 2021). In 2022, staff members from 11 countries visited VMU (compared to 4 in 2021).

An ecosystem for personalities and talents to develop

Academia cum laude activities. The Academy gathers highly motivated, broad-minded and outstanding students. In 2022, 12 students had enrolled in individual studies. The small number of students allows Academia cum laude to remain a close-knit community that focuses on students' individual needs. The students' individual studies included areas such as IT and artificial intelligence, civil society, human rights, literary canon, sociolinguistics, cultural metaphorisation, European Union law, diplomacy, cultural management, etc.

Students implemented their individual study projects not only at the University, but also during Erasmus study exchange and individual traineeships at partner institutions abroad. Academy students gave presentations at the new VMU initiative – Student Research Conference “Laisvė kurti 2022” (Freedom to Create 2022). Together with the curator, the students took part in the preparation of the Kaunas IN historical map “Interwar Student” dedicated to the centennial of the University of Lithuania. The interactive route prepared by the Academy graduate Martynas Butkus for his study project “Atminties ratas” (Memory Circle) in cooperation with the Sugihara House Museum was presented to the public. In the summer of 2022, the fifth class of Academia cum laude students were awarded graduation certificates.

The Academy continued cooperation with partners in Lithuania and abroad and lecturers from the World Health Organisation, National Kaunas Drama Theatre and Conservatorio Statale di Musica Giuseppe Verdi in Turin (Italy) took part in open lectures and cultural events.

VMU school network. In order to strengthen and expand VMU school network in 2022, cooperation agreements have been signed with the following gymnasiums: President Valdas Adamkus Gymnasium, Kaunas Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas Gymnasium, Kaunas Jonas Jablonskis Gymnasium, Raseiniai District Ariogala Gymnasium, Pakruojis Atžalynas Gymnasium, Šiauliai University Gymnasium and Radviliškis Lizdeika Gymnasium. With these agreements, VMU cooperation was strengthened, and university classes named after VMU were established. Since 1 September 2022, VMU University class has been established at President Valdas Adamkus Gymnasium; VMU *Artes Liberales*, VMU Bilingual Education (German) and Entrepreneurship and VMU Natural Sciences (STEAM) classes have been established at Kaunas Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas Gymnasium; VMU Creative Industries class has been established at Kaunas Jonas Jablonskis Gymnasium; and VMU University Class has been established at Raseiniai District Ariogala Gymnasium. VMU philosophy classes have been established in Pakruojis Atžalynas Gymnasium, Šiauliai University Gymnasium and Radviliškis Lizdeika Gymnasium.

VMU school network currently consists of 12 schools and gymnasiums. Intensive activities were carried out throughout the year with each school, including more than 100 lectures for students, more than 50 teacher training events, continuous development of foreign language competencies and various project activities.

Activities of the Academy for Gifted Children. In 2022, the Education Academy's education centre for gifted children “Gifted” was in its second year of operation and continued to create an ecosystem for talented and gifted children aged 4–18 years to develop. The content of the education programmes was updated and expanded, new teachers were employed in Kaunas and Vilnius, upskilling trainings were organised, a traineeship in Israel took place and the team of psychologists was expanded.

Together with the team of Kaunas Simonas Daukantas Progymnasium, a pilot education model for gifted children has started to be developed and applied in a general education school, the goals and structural model of the Centre were clarified and the sharing of the experience of the Israeli partners continued.

In 2022, the number of children increased to 300 (243 in 2021), 26 different age groups were formed and a team of 37 teachers and 7 psychologists was established.

Activities of the Entrepreneurship Academy. In the Spring Semester of 2022, the Entrepreneurship Academy, a 33 ECTS credit minor study programme, based on active and experiential methods and aimed at developing entrepreneurial qualities and competences, was offered to the community. A new first cycle study programme Creative Business and Innovation Design, based on the activities of the Entrepreneurship Academy, was accredited and a total of 25 students enrolled in it.

During the minor studies, students developed their emotional intelligence and teamwork skills, learnt how to apply Design Thinking and, during the smart internship, created and implemented ideas for their chosen community and the company MB OFFLINE Games that presented a challenge. In the spring semester, projects were implemented in the towns of Ežerėlis and Kulautuva. In the autumn semester, students chose the towns of Vilkija, Kybartai and Išlaužas for their social projects. Workshops for young people were organised in different districts of Lithuania. They were attended by around 500 pupils.

Academic Kaunas. In order to implement the strategic objective to “Improve conditions for students to acquire additional competencies needed to meet the challenges of future society and to establish themselves in the labour market” and to increase the opportunities for students not only to study interdisciplinary study courses, but also to study them in interdisciplinary teams, VMU has proposed to create a phenomenon of Kaunas city studies and has united Kaunas universities for joint studies, research and internationalisation

projects. Since autumn 2022, students have the opportunity to study a study course of any Kaunas university from more than 40 offered each year. In 2022, nearly 200 students took part in the Academic Kaunas initiative and the courses offered by VMU were the most popular among foreign students from other higher education institutions. Starting in the autumn semester of 2023, a study course dedicated to the sustainable development of Kaunas and prepared by a joint team of teachers from all Kaunas universities will be offered.

Arts, sports and other activities for students and pupils

Activities of the Arts Centre. In 2022, all art groups of VMU Arts Centre represented the University in 112 University-organised events, national or international concerts, festivals, and other events for the general public.

The volunteer community of VMU Art Gallery “101” unites students interested in culture and art. By volunteering at VMU Art Gallery “101”, students get a closer look at the art world, meet professional artists, art critics and curators and contribute to the organisation and implementation of artistic events. In 2022, gallery volunteers not only organised an exhibition of their works titled “Symbiosis”, but also distributed a set of postcards inviting people to donate to the organization “Blue and Yellow” supporting Ukraine (the initiators of the campaign are Jūra Lazauskaitė, Svetlana Pukė and Gabrielius Laurinaitis).

In 2022, after the resumption of the activity of the Solo Latino Dance Group, the Arts Centre had a total of 10 art groups. Two informal groups were set up in VMU Dormitory No.2 (Vytauto pr. 71, Kaunas), where students had the opportunity to dance K-pop style dances or attend an English-speaking theatre group.

Students, graduates and staff members registered for the Arts Centre groups’ activities using the online registration system. There is a noticeable tendency that those who want to participate in art groups join them during the first month of the semester. On 1 October, 146 students, 7 staff members and 22 graduates registered for the art groups. In 2022, the largest VMU Arts Centre’s art groups in terms of number of members were the academic mixed choir “Vivere Cantus” (33 members) and the mixed choir of students of the Agriculture Academy “Daina” (29 members).

Activities of the Sports Centre. Vytautas Magnus University was represented by individual and team sports athletes. They successfully competed in Lithuanian Student Individual Sports Championships, Baltic Student Sports Games (SELL) in Riga, European University Games in Lodz (Poland) and University World Cup 3×3 Basketball in Istanbul (Turkey). In the 2022 sports season, Vytautas Magnus University Sports Centre formed 18 men’s and women’s team sports teams.

The 5th European University Games took place in Łódź, Poland on 17–31 July 2022, with 20 sports competitions organised and more than 4500 participants representing 37 European countries and 422 universities. In terms of medals won (3 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze) at the EUSA Games in Łódź 2022, Vytautas Magnus University took the 9th place among all participating universities in the European University Ranking. The medals won by VMU athletes significantly contributed to the high results of the Lithuanian university sports delegation. Lithuania was ranked 10th out of 37 participating countries in this top-level European student sports event.

Vytautas Magnus University was ranked 1st in the final ranking of Lithuanian universities in terms of medals won (18 gold, 7 silver and 6 bronze medals) at the 2022 SELL Games in Riga.

In terms of medals won in 2022 in individual sports championships organised by the Lithuanian Students’ Sports Association (LSSA), Vytautas Magnus University took the 1st place (37 gold, 16 silver and 9 bronze medals).

The most important team achievements of male players in 2022: champions of the Lithuanian Student Basketball League (LSBL); champions of LSBL 3×3 basketball; and winners of the 3rd place of the Lithuanian 3×3 basketball league; achievements of female players: champions of the Lithuanian Women’s Volleyball League and vice-champions of LSBL 3x3 basketball.

Highly skilled athletes who have achieved significant results not only for the University but also for Lithuania in 2022 are studying at the University and developing their professional careers as athletes:

- Rūta Meilutytė, second year student at the Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy, winner of the gold and bronze medals at World and European Aquatics Championships, recognised as the best Lithuanian student athlete of 2022 in the LSSA elections and the best Lithuanian athlete of 2022;
- Sergej Maslobojev, third year student at the Education Academy who became the Kickboxing World Champion in 2022;
- Arūnas Gelažninkas, third year student at the Education Academy and winner of the Dakar Rally in the single-seater motorcycle class;
- Kotryna Teterėkova, third year student at the Education Academy and winner of the bronze medal at the European Aquatics Championship;
- Kristupas Šleiva, third year student at the Education Academy and winner of the second place in the World Greco-Roman Wrestling 72 kg category;

- Marijus Užupis, third year second cycle student at the Faculty of Economics and Management and second place winner of the World 3×3 Basketball Championship;
- Armandas Kelmelis, third year student at the Faculty of Economics and Management and winner of the bronze medal at the European Rowing Championships;
- Dovydas Nemeravičius, third year student at the Faculty of Economics and Management and winner of the bronze medal at the European Rowing Championships;
- Martyna Petrėnaitė, first year student at the Education Academy and fourth place winner of the World 3×3 Basketball Championship.

Lithuanian Student Basketball League together with the Lithuanian 3×3 Basketball Association and Vytautas Magnus University Sports Centre organised the Lithuanian Student 3×3 Basketball Championship in VMU Botanical Garden. Two University’s men’s teams and one girls’ team participated in the championship.

Leadership in teacher training

Admission to pedagogical studies. VMU is the leading Lithuanian higher education institution in terms of the number of students admitted to state-funded places. This year, 170 applicants were admitted to VMU for state-funded studies in the field of educational sciences: 47 were admitted to the field of Early Childhood and Pre-primary Pedagogy, 19 – to the field of Language Pedagogy, 4 – to the field of Physical Education, 10 – to the field of Arts, 58 – to the field of Social and Special Pedagogy, 18 – to the field of Social Sciences (History and Geography) and 14 – to the field of STEAM.

In 2022, Education Academy admitted 281 first cycle students. In 2022, the number of students enrolled in VMU Pedagogy studies increased by 8 compared to the 2021 admission (273 in 2021). This year, there are 25 fewer students receiving state-funded places compared to last year (195 in 2021 and 170 in 2022). Compared to 2021, there are 32 more students enrolled in non-state-funded studies (78 in 2021 and 110 in 2022).

The following new study programmes were launched in 2022: a joint second cycle study programme Speech and Language Therapy, second cycle study programme Physical Education and Sport and first cycle study programme Sports Studies. The University has been granted the right to independently carry out doctoral studies in the field of education.

Admission to training and retraining activities. In 2022, 4,474 participants took part in vocational training and retraining programmes. The most popular programme areas are programmes for heads of educational institutions and educational managers; programmes for school teams; programmes for primary school teachers; short programmes for beginner teachers; programmes for pre-school teams; programmes for educational support specialists; and programmes for staff in other fields.

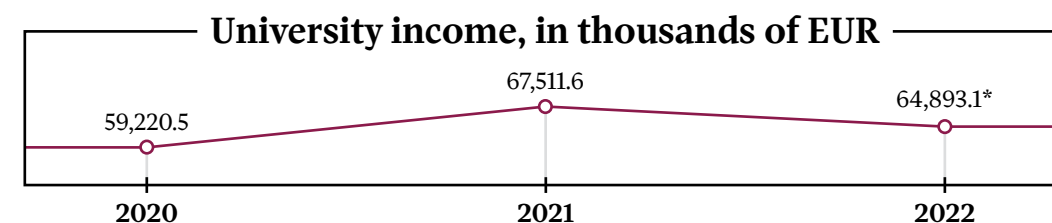
812 unclassified students took part in pedagogical specialisation (module) programmes and obtained a second pedagogical qualification or its specialisation. Teachers from all regions of Lithuania participated in the activities: 286 teachers from Vilnius city; 102 from Kaunas city; 64 from Kaunas district; 59 from Vilnius district; 54 from Klaipėda city; 13 from Šilutė district; 10 from Elektrėnai district; 11 from Klaipėda district; 9 from Kaišiadorys district; 9 from Šalčininkai district; 7 from Alytus; 6 from Šiauliai; 8 from Druskininkai; and 2–5 teachers each from other municipalities.

Further developing activities include:

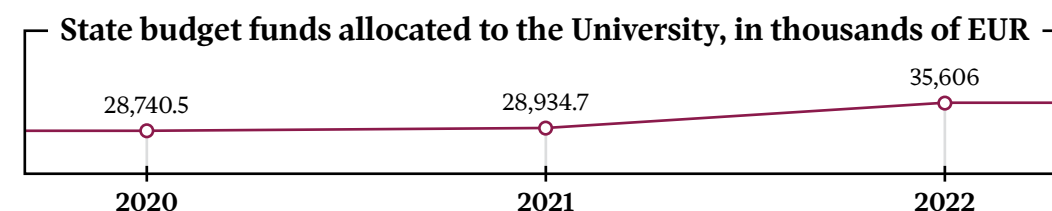
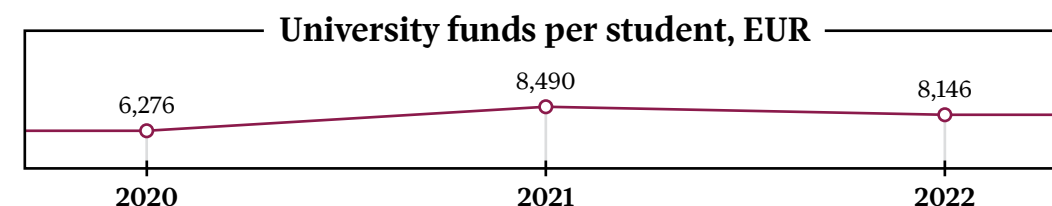
- Developing interdisciplinary joint study programmes with universities in the “Transform4Europe” Alliance and accrediting them using the European Quality Model.
- Improving processes for the recognition of competences acquired through non-formal education by digitising them and using innovative assessment methods, with a view to increasing participation and value of labour market representatives.
- Developing study innovations and preparing innovative and attractive study modules of high digitalisation level and in line with European challenges for the pupils and students of the University and the “Tranform4Europe” alliance.
- Developing the use of innovative teaching methods in studies through high-level professional development activities and by encouraging teachers to use innovative and inclusive teaching methods.
- Strengthening the Teacher Training Centre by increasing internationalisation and developing joint study programmes.
- Developing a model for early involvement of students in research and artistic activities by increasing access to research/artistic activities and developing a financial incentive system;
- Improving the model for promoting student mobility in order to increase the international mobility of the University’s students.

Integrity of Self-Governance and Responsibility

Library's collection	1,692,438
Number of printed and electronic documents acquired	676,185
Number of printed documents acquired	9,568
Number of electronic documents acquired	666,617
Number of publications published	109
Number of databases subscribed	58
Number of searches made	2 million*
*upon the change in the COUNTER standard, only some databases account for search indicators	
One student downloaded and read	193 documents
Number of printed documents issued per student	6
University library	8
Total area of the University premises per student (m ²)	19.68



*The decrease in income in 2022 was influenced by a decrease in the University's targeted funds related to the completion of the implementation of the project "Plačios aprėpties universiteto plėtotė universitetų tinklo pertvarkos kontekste" (Comprehensive University Development in the Context of Universities Network Restructurisation).



Stakeholders of VMU and the value of their contributions (in thousands of EUR)

The State of the Republic of Lithuania (the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania is the institution exercising the stakeholder's property and non-property rights and obligations)

Contribution value	31 12 2021	24,277.90
	31 12 2022	24,277.90

Average salary of the University staff in EUR			
	2020	2021	2022
Academic staff	2,028	2,100	2,353
Other employees	990	1,087	1,217
Total of all employees	1,526	1,623	1,828

Integrity of Self-Governance and Responsibility

The self-governance, cooperation and synergy of the University's various units encourage the University's community to achieve society-changing results, knowledge and ideas. The balanced structure of the University ensures fair and equivalent representation in the governing bodies of the University and its academic units. Effective use of the University's infrastructure, improvement of the environment for learning and research, study, recreation and leisure by renewing existing spaces and opening new ones to meet the comprehensive needs of the community, targeted development of resources essential to study, learning and research, and cultivation of unhindered academic freedom together promote creative processes and new projects, achieving tangible benefits for the learning society of the future and creating technological and social progress that transcends the borders of the country.

Creation of a balanced structure of units of studies and research

Changes in the structure of the University. In cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, the Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania and Vytautas Magnus University, the Centre of Ukraine was established at VMU Education Academy in Vilnius.

An inter-faculty STEAM Didactics Centre was established, the aim of which is to bring together STEAM researchers and practitioners to develop innovative methodologies for organising the content and process of STEAM education and to improve the special and didactic competences of teachers and students of STEAM study courses.

The University Senate approved the Regulations of the Vytautas Kavolis Interdisciplinary Research Institute and the Research Institute of Natural and Technological Sciences (RINTS). Vytautas Kavolis Interdisciplinary Research Institute conducts interdisciplinary research. The Institute's mission is to initiate and carry out national and international fundamental and applied research in the humanities and social sciences, transdisciplinary research that responds to the needs of science, Lithuanian society and the state; to strengthen the role of the humanities and social sciences in society, and to create an open academic culture. RINTS performs interdisciplinary research on sustainable energy, climate change and anthropogenic impact on biodiversity and human health, data analysis, modelling and forecasting of systems and processes, cell and tissue biotechnology, genetic engineering, as well as scientific research on functional biomaterials, environmental/biodiversity protection and applied biology. The institutes provide a scientific base and research infrastructure for University students' studies, training of scientists and conducting scientific research.

The name of the Training Farm "Aleksandras Stulginskis University Training Farm" has been changed to "VMU Agriculture Academy Training Farm" (Decision No. TA-N-6 of 5 May 2022 of VMU Council). On 25 May 2022, Vilius Venskutonis was appointed as the new Director of the Farm by order of the Rector of VMU, replacing the long-standing Director of the Farm Vladas Kurutis.

Ensuring the effective use of infrastructure

Development of resources for learning, study and research. VMU library sought to ensure maximum provision of information for learning and study and a supply of information resources meeting the academic needs of the University, to strengthen the academic community's information and scientific communication competencies, to develop, create and improve a modern and high-quality library infrastructure and to implement Open Science initiatives at the University.

In 2022, the measure of the University's strategic goal to ensure full support and help to the student in achieving the highest study outcomes was implemented by introducing a next-generation library services platform and expanding open access to digital and electronic information resources and printed publications of the library collections. The next-generation cloud-based library services platform Alma (ExLibris) has been launched. This platform replaced the library's former information system Aleph (ExLibris), which had been in use for over 20 years. During the reporting year, the main functions of the Library Services Platform (LSP) were mastered. The library can now manage both electronic and digital resources and databases, from ordering and acquisition to organising access for users, without the need to worry about the technical software infrastructure and the installation of new versions, and the staff and users are guaranteed the functionality of the latest version of LSP via the web browser. Other features of the cloud-based platform include a modern user interface, service-oriented architecture, analytical tools and visualisation, the ability to integrate through Open APIs and other data exchange protocols with various supplier, publisher, University and external systems and the ability for staff to work from anywhere with Internet access.

As part of the implementation of the goals and objectives of the University's strategic plan related to the accumulation and dissemination of the results of scientific and artistic activities and the implementation of the Open Science Policy, in 2022 the technologically updated platform of the University's research management system (VDU CRIS), CRIS 7, was launched. CRIS has been extended with new entities, namely scientific data and scientific events. A new CRIS object has been uploaded, namely the e-standards of the Lithuanian Standards Board.

The Library's collection in 2022 consisted of almost 1.7 million (1692438) printed (1025821) and electronic (666617) documents. In the reporting year, 3.2 million actions with information resources (searches, views and downloads) were performed. The loaning of printed documents decreased by over 30% compared to the previous year. This is a tendency common to academic libraries around the world. The more information resources are available to users in electronic format, the lower the use of printed information resources. The number of loans of printed resources decreased as the library offered users more and more e-resource collections and databases, the content of which was constantly supplemented and updated, so the user had access to the latest and most relevant content. The number of visitors to the library's units increased by 65% and the virtual user visits to the library's website and other sites managed by the library increased by 8.5% compared to 2021.

The number of trainings organised by the library (72 academic hours) for the community has almost doubled. Library staff actively participated in the activities organised by the Professional Competence Centre and delivered 3 training sessions to the community on Open Science, Research Data Management and Predatory Journals. For the development of information and research communication competencies, 29 library-produced video trainings, help materials or instructions in Lithuanian and English (20 of which were new and updated due to the changes in the version of LSP and VMU CRIS) were available to the community.

After the renovation, in October, the Central Repository of the Library was put into operation. Around 200,000 publications were returned to the renovated and expanded premises. After the renovation of the building, Vaclovas Biržiška Library was opened to users, with 62 new computers installed, and 33 computerised workstations were refurbished for users in the Leonidas Donskis Library. Two Agriculture Academy (AA) libraries have been merged into one – the Agriculture Academy Library – as the demand for the nearby AA library of educational literature was decreasing every year. In December, the Education Academy Library in Vilnius was named after teacher Prof. Meilė Lukšienė.

The library started to participate as a partner in the Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships project "University Libraries Strengthening the Academia-Society Connection Through Citizen Science in the Baltics – LibOCS", 2021-1-EE01-KA220-HED-000031125. The project is led by the University of Tartu. The primary goal of the project is to increase public awareness and involvement in Citizen science activities in the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), to integrate Citizen science and Open Science activities in Baltic universities, and to increase knowledge exchange and cooperation between university librarians. Citizen science is one of the activities of the Open Science movement, where scientific projects are initiated or carried out with the help of amateur scientists (citizens).

In the reporting year, the Regulations of the Protection of the Library Collection of Vytautas Magnus University were prepared and approved by Rector's Order No. 400. They regulate the accounting of the library collection, the reception of documents, their marking and inclusion in the accounting, the review, transfer and write-off of the collection and other collection protection measures.

Students from the study programmes Cultures and Languages of Scandinavian Countries and East Asian Cultures and Languages did their internships in the library, applying their language skills in cataloguing, filing and systematising publications.

Building and improving infrastructure. The total area of real estate owned by Vytautas Magnus University (hereinafter referred to as the "University") as of 31 December 2022 was **185,512.20** m². The total area of the

University's premises per student was **19.68** m².

The area of the premises leased under long-term lease contracts as of 31 December 2022 was **5444** m². **17** new long-term leases have been concluded in 2022. The number of long-term lease contracts in force on 31 December 2022 was **66**. In 2022, income from long-term leases amounted to EUR **259,449**, which is about 25% more than in 2021. In 2022, the income from organising events amounted to EUR **101,480**, which is 3.5 times more than in 2021. The number of Loan for Use Contracts in force on 31 December 2022 was **5**. Area of premises transferred under Loan for Use – **4,696** m².

In 2023, it is planned to actively look for opportunities to optimise the real estate disposed and managed by VMU and to propose concrete solutions to the University Council to ensure the efficiency of the University's property management. With the opening of the Teacher Training Centre in 2022, there was no longer a need for the lease of the premises at Gedimino g. 44, Kaunas; therefore, the lease contract was terminated. In order to dispose of some of the University's unnecessary assets, equipment and machinery that is no longer in use was sold through public electronic auctions held in 2022.

In accordance with the Energy Saving Measures Plan proposed by the Ministry of Energy and the recommendations approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 7 September 2022, Vytautas Magnus University approved the Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving Measures Plan for the period 2022–2023, took steps to achieve the goals set out in the Energy Saving Plan and saved more than EUR 260,000 in the period from October to December.

The implementation of the asset management tool started in 2022 and is expected to be completed in 2023. The asset management system will enable quick and multidimensional analysis of asset management information and utility costs, which will allow for timely decision-making to optimise assets, save utility costs, facilitate reporting to institutions and make asset management easier for asset managers.

In order to help Ukrainian citizens who have fled their country due to hostilities, in 2022, 300 war refugees from Ukraine were temporarily accommodated in the University's dormitories and rest houses in Palanga.

To ensure a favourable environment for study, academic and artistic activity, the following maintenance works on existing infrastructure were carried out in 2022 and new, **attractive and modern University infrastructure was created:**

Major repairs of the Teacher Training Centre (administrative building at K. Donelaičio g. 52 in Kaunas, 6,000 sq m) were completed, changing the purpose of the building from administrative to academic. Over 180 workplaces for the staff of the Education Academy, Institute of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Economics and Management, Study Department, Student Affairs Department and Marketing and Communication Department have been installed at the Teacher Training Centre. The 31 rooms, which can accommodate more than 850 students at the same time, are equipped with smart technologies that enable a full and comprehensive application of blended (face-to-face and distance) learning and create greater opportunities for interactivity. The building has 7 lounge areas for employees. The Library's Central Repository has been reconstructed and book storage systems have been installed (the total length of shelving is 4 km). The car park outside the building was also reconstructed, 41 new parking spaces, pedestrian walkways and a modern inner courtyard were renovated and site and building lighting was installed.

Infrastructure development works for the Modern Didactics Centre (the third part of the construction works of the multifunctional study and research centre building at V. Putvinskio g. 23, Kaunas, Lithuania (560 sq m)) were completed. The Modern Didactics Centre will house Eye Tracking Laboratory, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory, Inclusive Education Laboratory of Educational Support Resource Centre, Multisensory Room and Biofeedback Laboratory. 3 rooms that can accommodate more than 100 students at the same time and a student canteen were installed. The inner courtyard with a terrace and landscaping (200 sq m) was landscaped in a modern way and modern traffic calming bollards with an integrated hydraulic mechanism were installed. The green roof with terrace (170 sq m) is planted with 8 species of plants and more than 720 plants.

As part of the project "Modernisation of the Agroinnovation Research Base", major renovation works of Building 6 of the Agriculture Academy (changing the purpose of the building from catering to academic, Studentų g. 9 Akademija, Kaunas District (2,400 sq m)) were completed. It is planned that the renovated building will house laboratories for Hunting Research, Biodiversity Resources, Pasteurisation of Plant Raw Materials, Biofermentation of Secondary Nutrients, Agro Biomaterial Quality Testing, Genetics and Plant Stress Research.

As part of the project "Relocation of the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Informatics, Integration of the Faculties of Economics and Management: Renewal of the Research and Study Infrastructure", the indoor infrastructure is being adapted for research and study activities, with a total area of 2,733.42 sq m being renovated.

Maintenance works (restoration, conservation and repair) of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Lithuania building at K. Donelaičio g. 58, Kaunas (750 sq m) are being carried out.

Construction work on the car park for visitors has started at the Botanical Garden (Vilties g. 6, Kaunas (98 parking spaces are planned in the new car park with a total area of 5,500 sq m)).

Reconstruction of the Botanical Garden's Greenhouse (Ž. E. Žilibero g. 9, Kaunas) is being carried out, with the construction of an extension (part of the Greenhouse with a total area of more than 100 sq m is being reconstructed).

Preparation of the project for interior maintenance (conservation, restoration, repair and elimination of the threat of accident (1,060 sq m)) of Aukštoji Freda Manor House, located at Ž. E. Žilibero g. 6, Kaunas, has been started.

The Botanical Garden's grounds have been renovated with a new aquatic plant display, resurfacing (600 sq m) and 32 parking spaces (1,100 sq m). On the campus of Agriculture Academy, the asphalt surface of the access road to Building 7 (Studentų g. 5A) was renewed (400 sq m) and lighting was installed.

In the Botanical Garden, the G-shaped pond's reinforced concrete arch bridge with concrete railings has been renovated.

Following the completion of the development work of the sports complex (Studentų g. 9A, Akademija, Kaunas District), the construction of a gymnasium (740 sq m), the installation of 4 beach volleyball courts and the adaptation of the general infrastructure for the needs of the community has started.

Activities of the Information Technology Centre. As part of the long-term strategic goals of the University, the aim was to make the most of IT resources and infrastructure in 2022. The growth in the digitalisation of activities has been influenced by the introduction of new and improved IT solutions for the management of the main institutional administration activities:

The newly introduced Teacher Workload System allows planning the future workload of current and candidate teachers. The teaching hours and the number of hours of participation in other activities are used to calculate the FTE for teaching and the total FTE for all the activities of teacher, indicating whether the workload can be increased or whether it should be reduced.

The student and administrator section of the dormitory room reservation subsystem has been updated. The student has the option to view the available rooms in the dormitory of his/her choice with photos and descriptions of the room and to reserve the room he/she wants to stay in for a specific period of time. The update of the administrators' section allows them to restrict room bookings on the basis of the selected dormitories, study levels, courses and student nationality.

A new system allowing staff and students to register for classes and to edit and review their registrations has been developed. The system administrator section allows to create and edit new and existing classes for which users register. It also allows to see reports that show the availability of classes, the list of students and staff in each class and their attendance.

A system that allows VMU staff and students as well as external people to register for online and face-to-face trainings has been developed. Users can choose from several modes of learning, such as online, distance, face-to-face and independent learning. The system allows to take various tests to assess the level of knowledge before or after the training, to download the learning materials and to receive a certificate of completion after the training has been completed and the learner has been evaluated. Users can choose between paid or free training, and if they choose paid training, they can pay for it directly in the system. The system also displays various statistics on how many, whose and which training sessions have been completed.

A system that enables student applications to be transferred to the electronic space, thus simplifying and speeding up the application process for students, has been developed. The system has been integrated with other internal VMU systems and automatically selects specific approvers and executors based on the student's data and the type of application selected.

Students can study not only via online, but also hybrid mode, which allows them to join live lectures remotely as well as participate in face-to-face sessions. Students can log in to the classroom computers with their personal account, using the same username and password as in all VMU systems. Teachers can manage student access to classes and have the ability to manage active login sessions in case a student forgets to log out.

In 2022, the list of documents managed in the Document Management System was further expanded by digitising more and more of the University's documents and processes. Initiation, endorsement, e-signature and automatic registration of amendments, additions, extensions and terminations of contracts (AAET) was introduced in the Contracts module. All AAETs are linked to the main contract. This functionality has simplified the contract administration process. The Procurement module has been implemented: submission of the annual procurement plan, procurement needs, purchase requests and purchase orders, approval according to the standardised approval sequences provided, management of sources of funding, management of other procurement documents. Values and balances of purchases are accounted for and purchasing methods and procedures are established. With this functionality, the administration and accounting of procurement documents will be carried out electronically.

Integration of the new library system ALMA into the study processes, allowing students and administrators to see students' settlement with the library, has been completed.

The Parking System has been updated by introducing functionality that allows viewing occupied and vacant parking spaces and generating reports. The reports provide information on the number of parking spaces reserved by students each month.

In 2022, special attention was paid to the modernisation of workplaces in two of the University's buildings – building in Putvinskio g. 23 and building in Donelaičio g. 52. They are equipped with 34 new rooms, 10 of which are adapted for hybrid learning. As part of the modernisation of the rooms, 25 smart boards were installed for high-quality visualisation of teaching content. At Donelaičio g. 52, 292 new workplaces have been set up, and at Putvinskio g. 23, all the building's staff had their computers replaced with new-generation All-In-One PCs.

62 new workplaces have been set up in the reading room of the Donelaičio g. 52 building. They are available to students and other library users. In addition, 93 workstations in computer classes were upgraded with new

computers. In total, the University upgraded 532 workplaces with new computers and modernised more than 200 workplaces by upgrading the components of current computers. Upgrading older computers is aimed at ensuring efficient computer operation and preserving the environment and other University resources.

Development of network infrastructure, maintenance of IT systems. The expansion of the fibreoptic and wireless network, an increase in the reliability and security of IT systems and the control and security of access to the University's facilities remain important parts of IT infrastructure development and operations:

The development of the Eduroam wireless network in the University-managed infrastructure is being carried out in a systematic manner. 147 additional wireless network access points have been installed in the University's buildings and dormitories. The wireless network is also being upgraded, replacing old wireless network equipment with a new one, which significantly improves Eduroam's speed to 300–500Mbps.

The administrators of the IT centre ensured consistent updating and maintenance of the “Zabbix”, “Cacti”, “Munin” and “Aruba Airwave” software used to monitor network equipment and servers. The number of monitored devices is increased, allowing faster response to incidents on the computer network.

Efforts are being made to reduce the number of insecure University websites that do not have SSL certificates. There are currently 108 SSL certificates in use (98 Single-domain and 14 Wildcard SSL certificates). As the number of SCAM, Phishing and malicious emails sent to the University community has increased, it is important to increase staff knowledge in the field of cyber security and to build resilience to cyber threats. Information alerts informing about scam or phishing attacks were sent, with copies of the scam emails and IT security advice on how to deal with these types of emails.

Security of VMU buildings is improved by expanding the video surveillance system – 26 new video surveillance points have been installed in the University premises. The total number of CCTV cameras has been increased from 457 to 483.

Management of financial resources

In 2022, the University's funding and revenue amounted to EUR 64, 893,300; compared to 2021, the amount decreased by EUR 2,618,3 000 (3.9%).

The structure of the University's revenue:

- **State budget appropriations and investments:** EUR 35,606,000; compared to 2021, the amount increased by EUR 6,671,300 (23.1%). In 2021, state budget appropriations amounted to 54.9% of the University's revenue. An additional EUR 2,276,000 were allocated for salary increases for teachers, researchers and non-academic staff; EUR 1,766,800 were allocated for studies, research, administration and property maintenance; EUR 2,244,900 were allocated for the cost of tuition fees for students enrolled in state-funded study places in 2022 and for costs related to the improvement of quality of science and studies; EUR 104,700 were used to compensate for temporary accommodation of foreigners who had fled Ukraine; EUR 228,000 were allocated for scholarships for citizens of Ukraine admitted to study programmes; EUR 50,900 were allocated for the improvement of teachers' English language. The increase in the state budget appropriations was due to improved research performance, systematic work on the promotion of study programmes and increased state funding for higher education.
- **targeted funds** – EUR 18,882,800; compared to 2021, the amount decreased by EUR 4,346,900 (18.7%). Targeted funds in 2022 accounted for 29.2% of the University's total revenue. Of this amount, the University received EUR 13,469,400 from the European Union funds and other international support funds, which made 20.8% of the University's total revenue; the state budget targeted funds for various projects amounted to EUR 4,712,100, which accounted for 7.3% of the University's total revenue and, in comparison with 2021, increased by EUR 1,075,500; EUR 370,000 (including EUR 114,000 support for Ukrainian citizens studying at the University and for the activities of the Centre of Ukraine) were received from natural and legal persons, which is an increase of EUR 300,800 in comparison with 2021; and the University received EUR 330,700 from other, municipal budget targeted funds, i.e., EUR 153,400 more than in 2021. The targeted funds received by the University in 2022 from the targeted funds of the state budget for the implementation of various research projects increased compared to 2021, but the overall decrease in targeted funds by 18.7% (compared to 2021) was due to the decrease in funding from the European Union funds by EUR 5,870,500.
- **own funds** – EUR 10,404,500; compared to 2021, decreased by EUR 4,942,700 (32.2%). The main sources of the University's income for own funds consisted of tuition fees for full-time and part-time studies – EUR 4, 637,600; revenue generated by other studies, courses and trainings, and study organisation services – EUR 1,762,600; revenue from outsourcing and service contracts – EUR 758,300; revenue generated by economic activity services – EUR 2, 403,600; revenue from property

rental – EUR 814,500; and revenue from the sale of property – EUR 27,900. The University's own funds accounted for 15.9% of the University's total revenue. The decrease in own funds in 2022 compared to 2021 was due to the amount of proceeds from the sale of unneeded and unusable immovable property of the University at public auctions in 2021. In 2021, the proceeds received by the University from the sale of assets amounted to EUR 5,471,000, and in 2022, the revenue generated by the University's unneeded and unusable assets amounted to EUR 27,900.

In 2022, the University's expenditure amounted to EUR 71,493,000. Of this amount, remuneration and social insurance accounted for EUR 41,572,100 (58.1%); scholarships accounted for EUR 6,050,500 (8.5%); acquisition of long-term tangible and intangible assets, acquisition of short-term assets, repairs and rental of assets accounted for EUR 6,618,400 (9.3); property maintenance costs accounted for EUR 3, 186,100 (4.5%); construction and renovation of buildings accounted for EUR 4,381,500 (6.1%); costs related to work trips, goods and services accounted for EUR 9,684,400 (13.5%). Compared to 2021, expenditure increased by EUR 10,421,600 (17.1%).

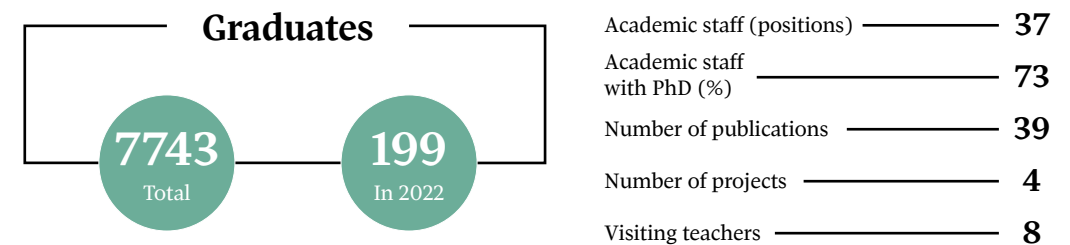
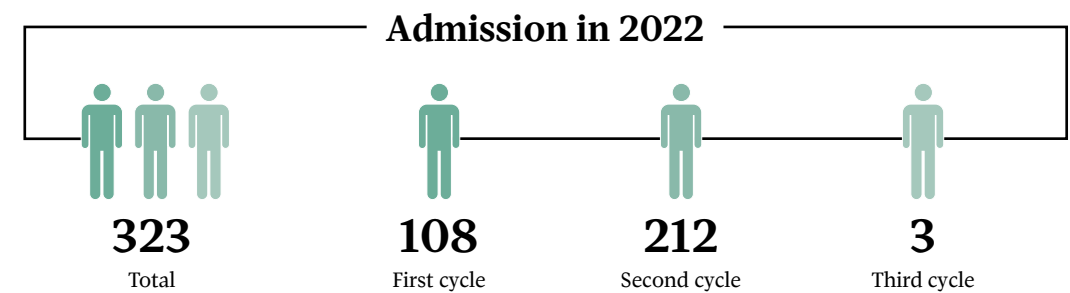
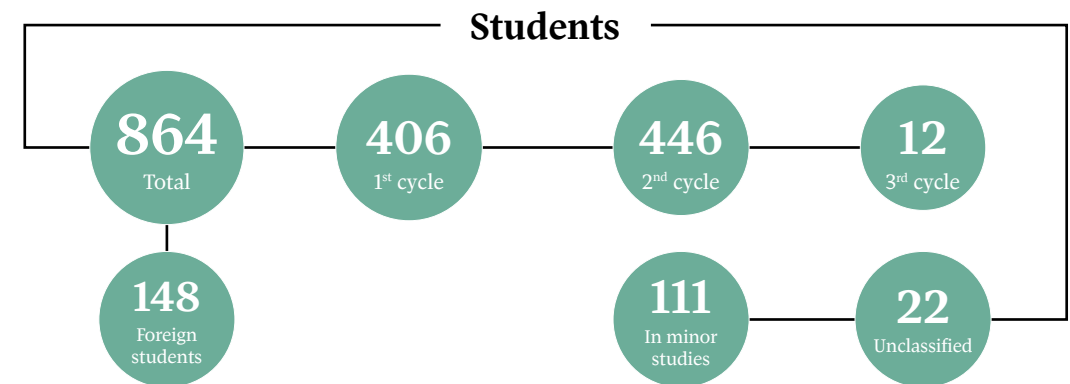
The increase of EUR 4,021,900 (11.0%) in salaries was due to an increase in the basic monthly salary coefficient in 2022. Due to the increase in the cost of heat and electricity, the University's operating costs increased by EUR 1,393,300 (77.7%) compared to 2021. Compared to 2021, the costs of long-term tangible, intangible assets, short-term assets and repairs of assets increased by EUR 4,210,700. A major part of these expenses consisted of the acquisition of assets for the implementation of the EU-funded projects “Establishment of the Modern Didactics Centre”, “Establishment of the Teacher Training Centre”, “Modernisation of the Agroinnovation Research Base”.

The average salary of the University staff increased by EUR 205.00 (12.6%), that of academic staff by EUR 253.00 (12%) and that of other staff by EUR 130.00 (11.9%).

Further developing activities include:

- Increasing community involvement in decision-making by ensuring equal representation of units and empowering staff independence and autonomy, which would foster accountability and performance excellence.
- Increasing the efficiency of the University's activities by promoting a systemic approach to organisational development that brings together the strengths, resources, activities, functions, structures and processes of the units, and reduces the internal competition of the units.
- Optimising the administration of the University's activities through the efficient use of installed information systems.
- Ensuring the quality of open, user-friendly services provided by the Library to all users and increasing their popularity by exploiting the opportunities offered by the virtual environment, responding to the demand for information resources for teaching and learning.
- Analysing the size, productivity and infrastructure efficiency of research clusters and other research groups.
- Developing activities for the effective management of the University's assets by analysing the efficiency of the use of physical infrastructure and implementing asset management tools.
- Developing ongoing and new projects related to the upgrading of the University's infrastructure and adapting it to a modern and high-quality study process and scientific research.

Faculty of Economics and Management



Study programmes

First cycle	Second cycle	Fields of third cycle studies
Economics	Finance (LT/EN)	Economics
Economics and Finance	Marketing and International Commerce (LT/EN)	Management
Creative Business and Innovation Design	Advertising Management	
Marketing	Corporate Strategic Management	
Business Administration	International Economics (LT/EN)	
Business Finance	Marketing and Sales	
	Business and Entrepreneurship	
	*Executive Master's degree programmes:	
	BMI Executive Master's Degree Programme	
	Sports Business Management (EN)	

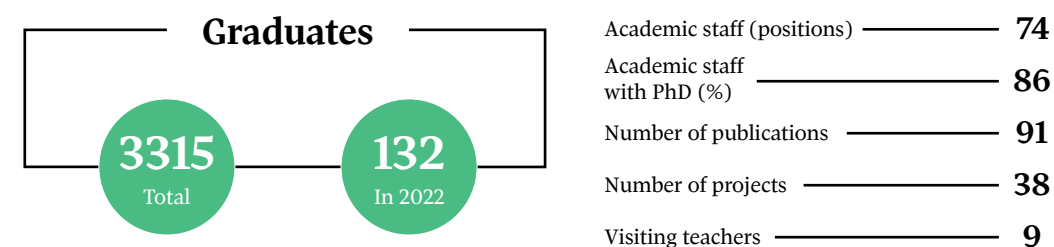
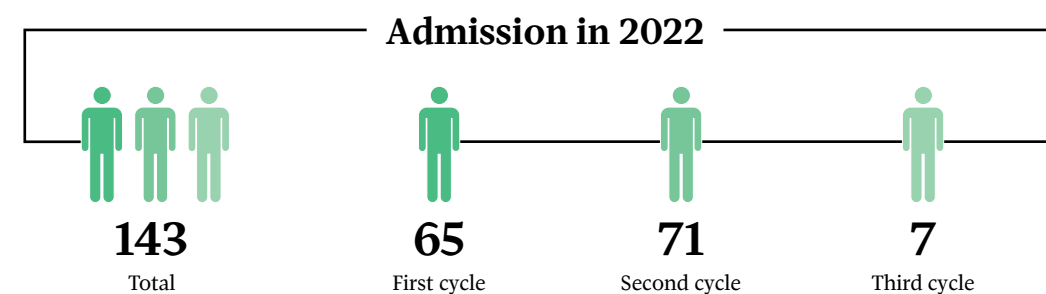
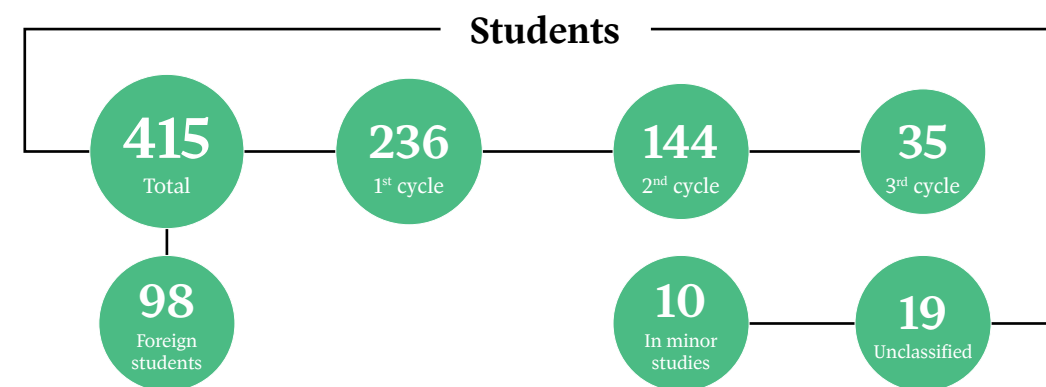
Dean Assoc. Prof. Rita Bendaravičienė
Address K. Donelaičio g. 52, 44244 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- At the 15th Eduniversal World Convention of Business Schools, held on 30 October–2 November 2022 in Cairo, VMU Faculty of Economics and Management was awarded, for the eighth consecutive year, three Palms of Excellence as an Excellent Business School with Reinforcing International Influence.
- On 19 May 2022, for the twenty-fifth time, the Faculty of Economics and Management held a scientific conference for young researchers (doctoral and second cycle students) “EU Economic, Financial and Business Processes and Trends”. More than 70 speakers attended the conference.
- In 2022, the following 6 doctoral students of VMU Faculty of Economics and Management successfully defended their dissertations: Rūta Repovienė, Laima Barkauskė, Khalil Israfilzade, Edgaras Abromavičius, Gintarė Leckė and Vitalija Vanagienė.
- On 14 March, VMU Faculty of Economics and Management signed a cooperation agreement with IMA (Institute of Management Accountants), which provides an opportunity to obtain a scholarship for the international CMA (Certified Management Accountant) certificate as well as a free 3-year IMA membership. In May, five second cycle and three first cycle students were nominated for the scholarship.
- On 12 December 2022, VMU Faculty of Economics and Management became a full member of the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD). Founded in 1972, the EFMD is a global, not-for-profit, membership-based organisation dedicated to the development of management theories and practices.
- In 2022, four second cycle students from the Faculty of Economics and Management, i.e., Goda Gricė, Lian Kanj, Vladyslav Mykyteichuk (the Catholic University of Leuven, study programme “Marketing and International Commerce”) and Neda Juronytė (the University of Trento, study programme “International Economics”) successfully defended their double degree diplomas.
- In September 2022, a new first cycle study programme “Creative Business and Innovation Design” was launched, with 25 students admitted to the programme. The concept of the programme was born in the Centre for Enterprise Practices “Minded VDU”, which has been operating at the University for 6 years.
- In the fall of 2022, the Faculty of Economics and Management successfully conducted admission to the study programme “Sports Business MBA” by EB Institute. 19 students were admitted to this programme.
- On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the University of Lithuania, by the decision of the Rector's Little Council, the following staff members of VMU Faculty of Economics and Management were awarded the commemorative medals LU-100: Prof. Dr. Zigmas Lydeka, Assoc. Prof. Rita Bendaravičienė, Prof. Dr. Violeta Pukelienė, Prof. Dr. Kristina Levišauskaitė, Prof. Dr. Nijolė Petkevičiūtė, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nina Klebanskaja, administrator Vidonija Šontienė, social partners Marius Horbauskas, Paulius Motiejūnas and Andrius Būda. Prof. Irena Bakanauskienė was awarded a silver medal for her services to the University.
- In 2022, the following professors from foreign countries taught at VMU Faculty of Economics and Management: Prof. Dr. Pierre Semal (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium), who gave an online lecture “The Value Creation Chain in International Business” to students of the second cycle study programme “Marketing and International Commerce”; Prof. Dr. Marco Failo (University of Trento, Italy), who gave an online lecture “Behavioural Economics” to students of the second cycle study programme “International Economics”.



Faculty of Natural Sciences



Study programmes

First cycle	Second cycle	Fields of third cycle studies
Environmental Science	Environmental Management	Biomedical Sciences
Biochemistry	Biochemical Analysis	Biology
Biology	Molecular Biology and Biotechnology	Biophysics
Biotechnology	Applied Biotechnology	Ecology and Environmental Science
	Industrial Ecology	Physical Sciences
	Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Analysis	Biochemistry

Dean Prof. Saulius Mickevičius

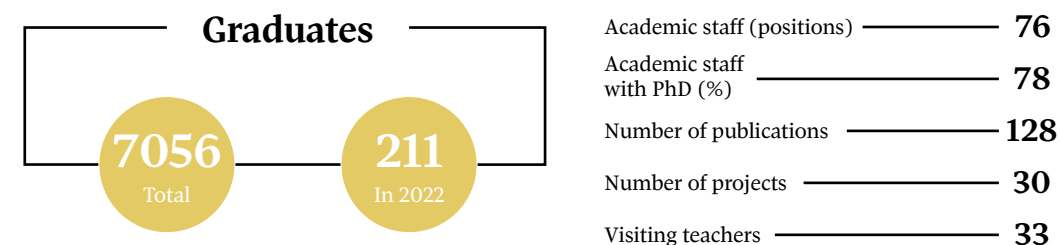
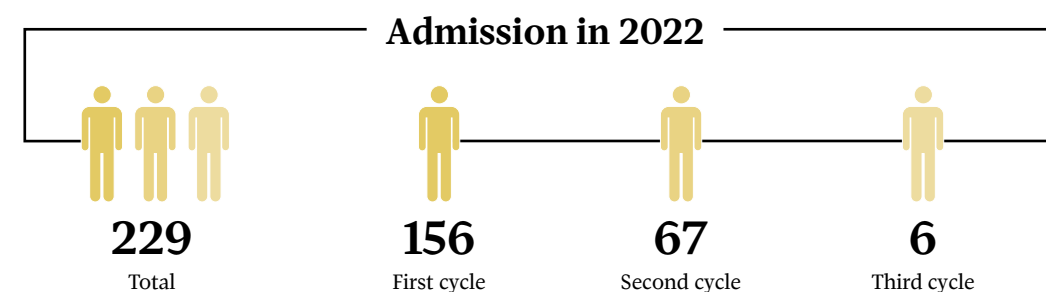
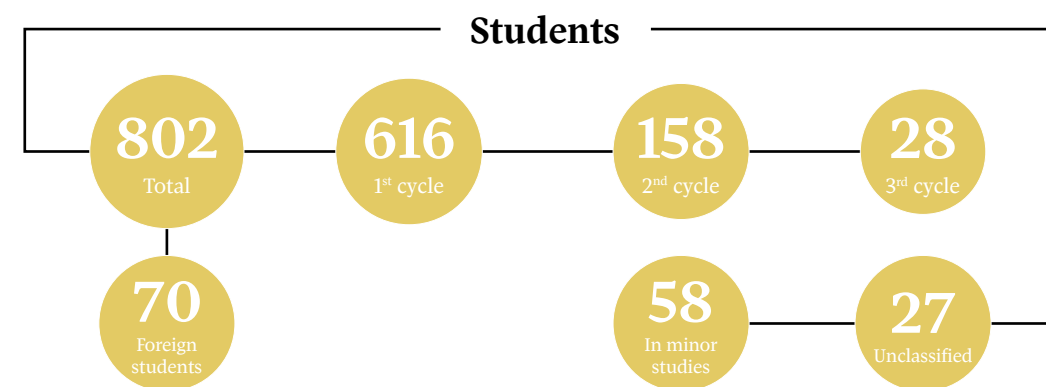
Address Universiteto g. 10, Akademija, 53361 Kauno r.

Key events of 2022

- Algimantas Paulauskas, Professor at the Department of Biology, became the Chairperson of the Lithuanian National Committee of the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.
- Algimantas Paulauskas, Professor at the Department of Biology, became a member of the Committee for the Supervision of Genetically Modified Organisms of the Ministry of the Environment.
- Ona Ragažinskienė, Professor at the Department of Biology, became a member of the Council of Kauno kolegija Higher Education Institution.
- Professor Saulius Mickevičius, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, became a member of the Priority Working Group of *Health Technologies and Biotechnologies* of Smart Specialization of MTEPI, established by the Innovation Agency.
- Professor Audrius Dėdėlė, the Head of the Department of Environmental Studies, is a member of the working group for the preparation of Kaunas City Municipality Strategic Development Plan for 2030.
- Professor Saulius Šatkauskas, the Head of the Department of Biochemistry, become the President of the Lithuanian Biophysical Society.
- On 12–13 May 2022, the sixteenth international scientific conference “Gyvasis gamtos ženklas 2022” (The Vital Nature Sign 2022) was held, the organiser of which was Audrius Sigitas Maruška, Professor at the Department of Biology.
- The research group project “Veterinarinių antibiotikų sklaida ir ekotoksiškumas (TOXVET)” (Dispersal and Ecotoxicity of Veterinary Antibiotics (TOXVET)) of the Research Council of Lithuania was won. The project is led by Jūratė Žaltauskaitė, Associate Professor at the Department of Environmental Studies.
- Two post-doctoral internship projects were won: “Kintančio klimato poveikis antimikrobinių medžiagų ekotoksiškumui vandens ir sausumos augalams” (Effects of a Changing Climate on the Ecotoxicity of Antimicrobial Substances in Aquatic and Terrestrial Plants) (intern Dr. Diana Miškelytė, supervisor Associate Professor of the Department of Environmental Sciences Jūratė Žaltauskaitė) and “Selektyvi gramteigiamų ir gramneigiamų bakterijų augimo greičio kontrolė, siekiant pagerinti bioprodukcijos efektyvumą naudojant elektrinius laukus” (Selective Control of Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacterial Growth Rates to Improve Bioproduction Efficiency Using Electric Fields) (intern dr. Mindaugas Visockis, supervisor Prof. Saulius Šatkauskas, the Head of the Department of Biochemistry).
- The Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (KA2) Cooperation Partnerships project “YUPAD – YoUth Participatory Budgets Empowering Young People Using Big Data” was won. VMU part of the project is led by Prof. Saulius Mickevičius, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.
- The Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (KA2) Cooperation Partnerships project “EVI-DEMS Enhancing Volunteer Impact – Developing European Management Standards” was won. VMU part of the project is led by Prof. Saulius Mickevičius, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.
- The Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (KA2) Cooperation Partnerships project “G-STEAM: Green STEAM Ecosystems” was won. VMU part of the project is led by Assoc. Prof. Vykintas Baublys, the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.
- Miglė Jakučionytė-Skodienė, a doctoral student at the Department of Environmental Studies, received support from the Research Council of Lithuania for her academic achievements.
- The scholarships founded by “Thermo Fisher Scientific” were awarded to Thrinethra Shankar, the fourth-year student of the first cycle study programme “Biotechnology”, Giedrius Galvanauskas, Deimantė Narbutaitytė, and Armantas Ramoška, the first-year students of the second cycle study programme “Applied Biotechnology”, and Aušrinė Šimkienė, the second-year student of the second cycle study programme “Molecular Biology and Biotechnology”.
- Researchers at the Faculty of Natural Sciences carry out 8 commissioned research projects, as well as joint research and innovation projects with business enterprises.



Faculty of Humanities



Study programmes

First cycle	Second cycle	Fields of third cycle studies
English Philology	Literature Creation, Criticism and Communication	Ethnology
Philosophy	Comparative Cultural Studies (online)	Philology
Language and Culture of Francophone Countries	Modern Linguistics (online)	Philosophy
History	Practical Philosophy	History and Archaeology
Italian Studies & Romance Languages	East Asia Region Studies (EN)	
Lithuanian Philology & Publishing	Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism (joint study programme) (EN)	
Cultures and Languages of East Asian Countries	Applied English Linguistics	
Cultures and Languages of Scandinavian Countries	East-Central European and Lithuanian Historical Studies	
German Language and Communication		

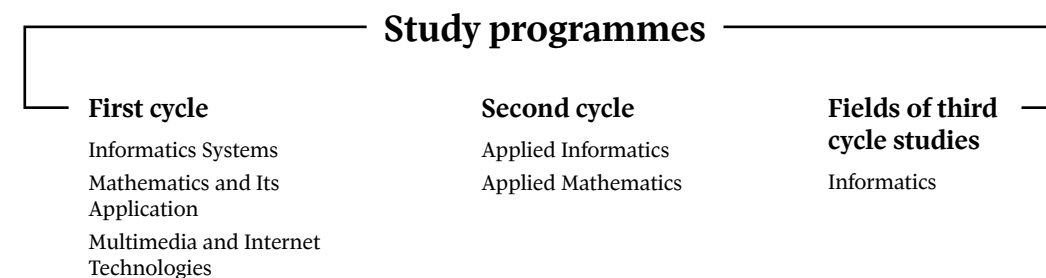
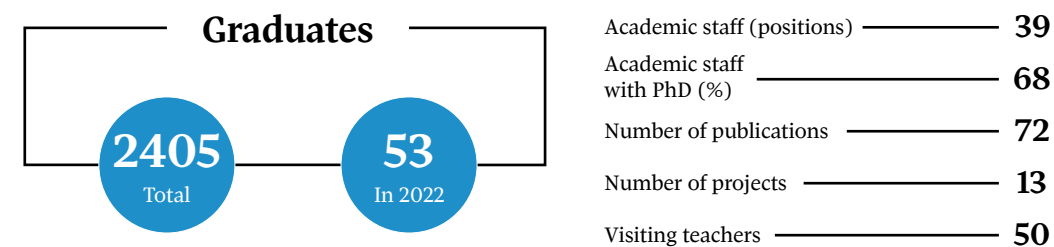
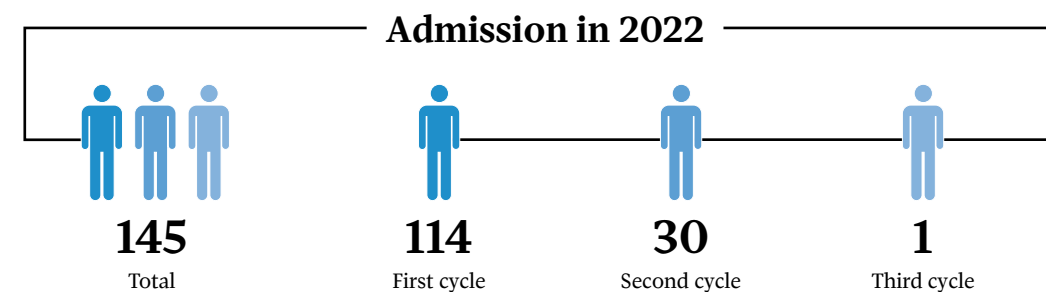
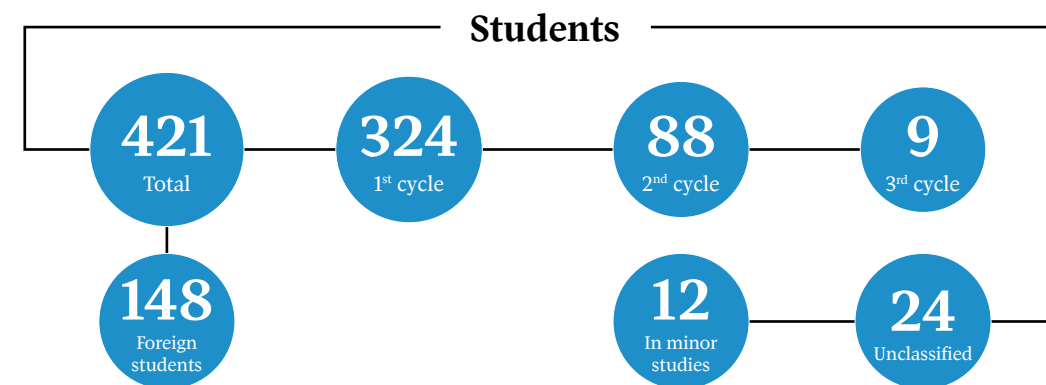
Dean Assoc. Prof. Rūta Eidukevičienė
Address V. Putvinskio g. 23, 44243 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- The community of the Faculty of Humanities was extremely actively involved in the activities of the implementation of “Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022” programme and even proposed several significant cultural and research projects. The International Symposium “The Idea of Europe” was attended by the Presidents of Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Romania, and the participants were welcomed remotely by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen (led by Assoc. Prof. Viktoras Bachmetjevas). The session of the European Cultural Parliament (led by Prof. Dr. Gintautas Mažeikis) was held in Kaunas for the first time.
- Historians of the Faculty of Humanities contributed greatly to commemorating the centenary of the University of Lithuania. Dr. Kęstutis Raškauskas published a collection of documents “Lietuvos universiteto tapimas (1916–1922 m.): dokumentų rinkinys” (The Development of the University of Lithuania (1916–1922): Documentation”; Prof. Dr. Antanas Kulakauskas prepared a significant study “Pirmoji lietuviška Alma Mater: trumpa klasikinio universiteto Kaune istorija” (The First Lithuanian Alma Mater: a Brief History of the Classical University in Kaunas). A conference dedicated to the centenary of the University of Lithuania “Pasaulio lietuvių akademinė parama atgimstančiai Lietuvai” (World Lithuanian Academic Support for the Reborn Lithuania) was held (the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee Prof. Habil. Dr. Egidijus Aleksandravičius).
- The historians of the Faculty were involved in the organisation of VMU World Lithuanian University Symposium “Freedom and Its Forms”.
- Teachers of the Department of Lithuanian Studies Prof. Dr. Žydrone Kolevinskienė and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laura Kamandulytė Merfeldienė became members of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language.
- The coordinator of the national consortium CLARIN-LT Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jurgita Vaičenonienė, who works at the Department of Lithuanian Studies, received the “Teaching with CLARIN Award” for the application of CLARIN resources and tools in the teaching process.
- Aurelijus Zykas, an Assistant Professor at the Department of Cultural Studies, became the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan.
- Dr. Tomas Kavaliauskas, an Assistant Professor at the Department of Philosophy, won the first prize in the one-sheet competition “Novelės ruduo” (Autumn of the Novel) for his novel “Jūros vaikas” (The Child of the Sea), dedicated to the philosopher Leonidas Donskis.
- Eglė Petrauskaitė, a Lecturer at the Department of Cultural Studies, was chosen as the best teacher of the Faculty in 2021–2022.
- Thirteen international conferences were organised: the International Congress of Belarusian Studies, the International Congress of Lithuanian Studies (in cooperation with the University of Wrocław), “A Century of Connections: Historical Ties Between the Baltic and East Asia Regions”, “Cultural Diplomacy Prospects in Building a Sustainable New Post-War Europe”, “Culture and Politics of the Francophone World” and others.
- The researchers of the Faculty successfully completed five and launched eight new international and national projects: the Erasmus+ KA2 project “Developing a New Curriculum in Global Migration, Diaspora and Border Studies in East-Central Europe” (led by Prof. Habil. Dr. Egidijus Aleksandravičius); two new LMT projects “Lietuvos Didžiosios Kunigaikštystės diplomatinis aktyvumas ir valstybės interesų reprezentacija 1605–1635 m.” (Diplomatic Activity of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Representation of the State’s Interests in 1605–1635) (led by Dr. Marius Sirutavičius) and “Norma ir galia sakytiniuose gyvenimo pasakojimuose: silpnosios tapatumo analizė” (Norm and Power in Spoken Life Narratives: an Analysis of the Weak Identity) (led by Dr. Jurga Jonutytė); a project of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language “Pasakojimo struktūros ir gramatikos įsisavinimas” (Mastering Narrative Structure and Grammar) (led by Prof. Dr. Ineta Dabašinskienė), as well as four postdoctoral internship projects.
- The teachers and researchers of the Faculty organised more than ten practical seminars and trainings for Lithuanian and diaspora school teachers, more than ten different language and culture events (competitions, olympiads, tournaments, camps, discussions) for Lithuanian pupils, traditional summer courses of Lithuanian language and culture, designed an online course on the history of Ukraine (Dr. Ruslana Martseniuk ir Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jurgita Vaičenonienė), organised an educational camp for students of the Baltic studies centres, and international winter and summer schools for students from Kanda and Saga Universities (Japan).



Faculty of Informatics



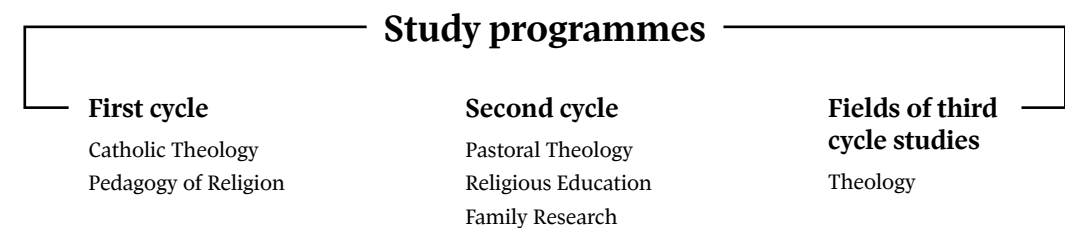
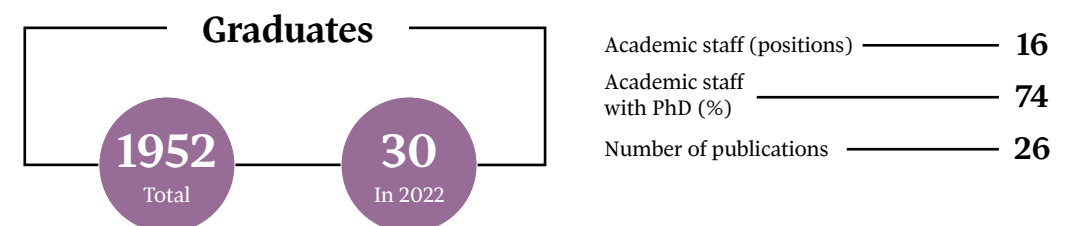
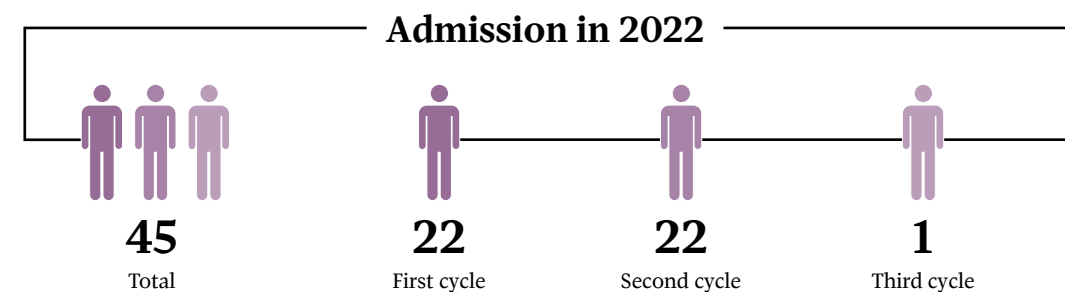
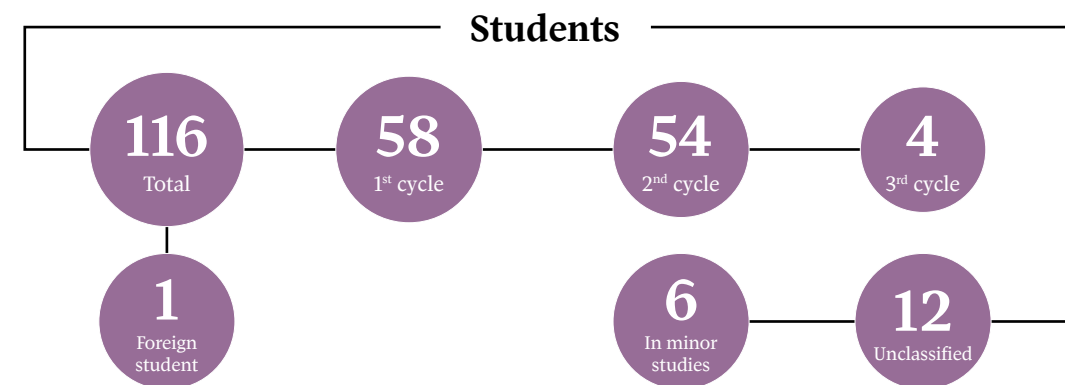
Dean Prof. Tomas Krilavičius
Address Vileikos g. 8, 44404 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- In 2022, the project “Digital Competences Framework for Ukrainian Teachers and Other Citizens”, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Artūras Mickus, was completed, which resulted in the establishment of the Ukrainian National Digital Coalition (UNDC) and 7 digital literacy centres in Ukrainian universities.
- In 2022, the project “Lietuvos Seimo politinė darbotvarkė ir jos įreminimas: 1990–2020 m. Seimo stenogramų analizė (PoLAfra)” (Policy Agenda of the Lithuanian Seimas and its Framing: The Analysis of the Seimas Debates in 1990–2020), led by Monika Briedienė, was completed. The project examined the content of the agenda and the factors of its development, as well as the main practices of framing the political agenda.
- In 2022, the project “Pažangios IT stebėjimo ir informacijos analizės platformos kūrimas” (Development of an Advanced IT Monitoring and Information Analysis Platform), led by Prof. Dr. Ričardas Krikštolaitis, was completed, and three modules were implemented in the developed platform: software logs and metrics analysis, attention prioritisation for anomaly detection and visualisation of log data and identified sites.
- Since 2022, the Faculty of Informatics has participated in the project “Stronger Together – Strategic Partnerships of the University of Silesia in Katowice with the Transform4Europe Network”, with the plan to develop a joint “Data Science” study module.
- In 2022, the project “Administracinių tekstų lietuvių kalba automatinis adaptavimas nespecialistų poreikiams” (Automatic Adaptation of Administrative Texts in Lithuanian for the Needs of Non-specialists), led by Dr. Justina Mandravickaitė, was launched to develop a methodology for the automatic adaptation of administrative (office) style texts in Lithuanian, transforming them into simplified language texts.
- In 2022, the project “Unlock Big Data Storytelling Skills in European University Students / DATASTORYTELLER” was launched with the aim of building a Big Data repository and collecting the first Open Educational Source (OES).
- On 25 October 2022, the international conference “Digital Competences Framework for Ukrainian Teachers and Other Citizens / dComFra” was organised, presenting the main results of the project.
- On 1 May 2022, the 27th International Conference “Information Technologies” (IVUS 2022) took place, which was attended by 37 foreign and 32 Lithuanian university teachers, doctoral students and second cycle students.
- On 15–16 June 2022, on the occasion of the centenary of the University, VMU together with KTU and LEI organised the 63rd Conference of the Lithuanian Mathematical Society.
- On 29 January 2022, the 16th informatics and mathematics quiz “IFtorina-22” was organised by VMU Faculty of Informatics for students in 11-12 grades and 3-4 gymnasium grades. It was attended by 90 students (25 teams) and 17 teachers from different Lithuanian schools (the event was held remotely).
- Prof. Tomas Krilavičius, Prof. Ričardas Krikštolaitis and other staff members and students of the Faculty started a joint project with the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences “Skaitmeninio fenotipavimo panaudojimas vėžiu sergančių pacientų stebėsenai COVID-19 pandemijos metu” (Use of Digital Phenotyping to Monitor Cancer Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic).
- Prof. Tomas Krilavičius, Dr. Justina Mandravickaitė, Dr. Danguolė Kalinauskaitė and the students of the Faculty worked on the “Horizon” project “Be Hate-Free: Building Hate-Free Communities in Lithuania” to develop methods to detect hate speech.
- Dr. Edgaras Ščiglinskas, Prof. Tomas Krilavičius, Rimantė Kunickaitė, Prof. Daiva Vitkutė-Adžgauskienė, Assoc. Prof. Artūras Mickus and the students of the study programme “Multimedia and Internet Technologies” continued their activities in a joint project with UAB “Gluk Media” entitled “Ore liečiama holografinė atvaizdavimo sąsaja” (A Touchable Holographic Imaging Interface), which aims to develop a smart adaptive interface for holographic displays.
- The research team led by Prof. Daiva Vitkutė-Adžgauskienė successfully completed the second phase of the General Jonas Žemaitis Lithuanian Military Academy’s project “Nacionalinės informacinio poveikio atpažinimo ir analizės ekosistemos (NAAS) sukūrimas” (Establishment of the National Information Impact Identification and Analysis Ecosystem (NAAS)), which included the development of an innovative methodology for the identification, analysis and monitoring of threats in the information space, a prototype of the software system, and has led to the third phase of the project, where the existing prototype will be further developed and the final version of the system will be prepared.
- On 9 September 2022, VMU FI team took part in the events of the Science Festival “Spaceship Earth”, where virtual reality and other multimedia technology solutions and robotics applications were demonstrated (the events were held remotely).
- In 2022, EdTech IT Teacher Qualification and IT second cycle studies for teachers were launched as part of the Education Development Programme Progress Measure No. 12-003-03-01-02 “Implementing EdTech Digital Transformation of Education” of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania. In 2022, 24 second cycle students and 34 module students started their studies.
- In 2022, 25 mathematics teachers from all over Lithuania studied the Mathematics modules of the Teacher Retraining Course offered by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.
- A new interdisciplinary double degree programme “Digital Transformation Technologies and Management” is being developed with the University of Saarland, Germany.
- In 2022, the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language awarded Dr. Edgaras Ščiglinskas with the prize for the most fluent Lithuanian-language paper submitted to the LAS Higher Education Students’ Research Paper Competition.



Faculty of Catholic Theology



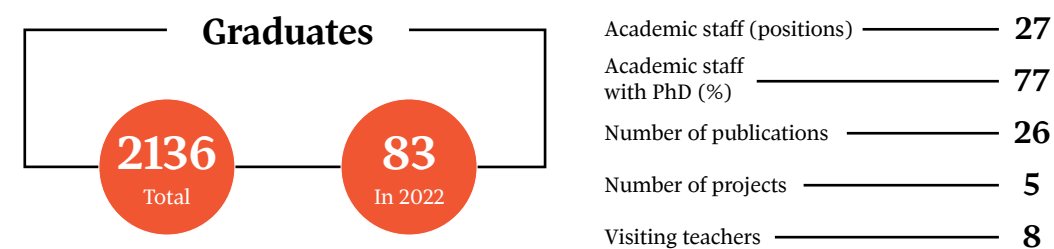
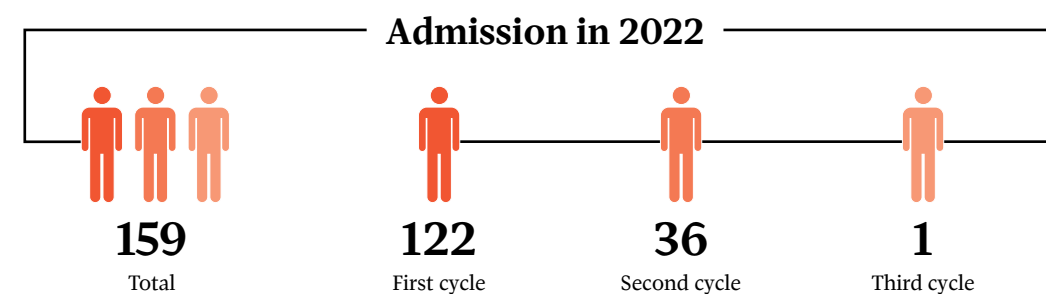
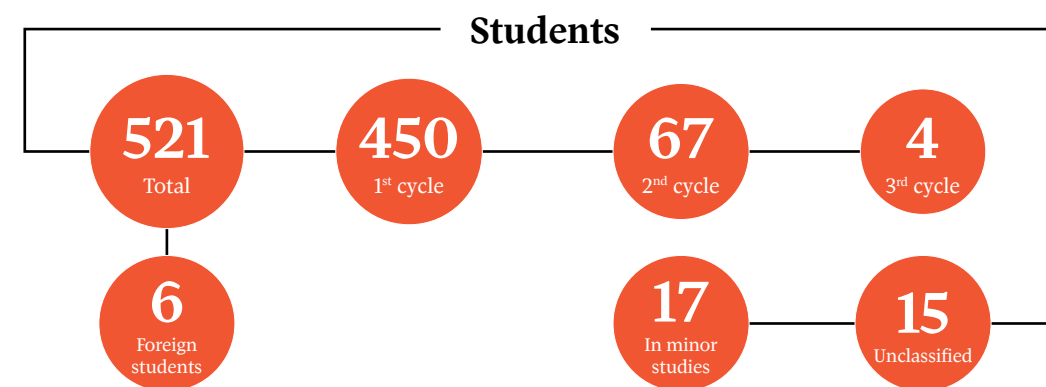
Dean Assoc. Prof. Benas Ulevičius
Address Gimnazijos g. 7, 44260 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- In 2022, the Faculty developed relations with foreign universities and partners. The Faculty teachers and students went to teach, study and do internships at various universities and organisations in Europe and around the world. Particularly close cooperation took place with the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (Poland), the Pontifical John Paul II University in Krakow (Poland), the University of Malta (Malta), Riga Higher Institute of Religious Sciences affiliated to the Pontifical Lateran University (Latvia), and Congregation for Catholic Education of the Holy See (Vatican).
- In 2022, the Faculty of Catholic Theology continued to strengthen its relations with social partners and society. The teachers of the Faculty gave lectures, conducted radio programmes and seminars, consulted and participated in many Catholic organisations and community events, and carried out pastoral and educational activities in parishes, hospitals and prisons in contact and remote ways. Students-volunteers of the Faculty form an important part of the volunteers of the Catholic organisations of Kaunas Archdiocese. The Faculty maintains a particularly close contact with the Catholic centres and social institutions of Kaunas Archdiocese. The relations of the Faculty of Catholic Theology with the social partners are very strong, as many of the leaders and staff of Catholic organisations are alumni of the Faculty.
- In 2022, The Faculty of Catholic Theology strengthened its cooperation with schools. The teachers went to schools, gave lectures to school teachers and students; groups of students visited the Faculty. It should be mentioned that there was close cooperation with VMU “Rasa” Gymnasium and Catholic schools throughout Lithuania. A notable event in 2022 was the now traditional Republican essay contest for students in grades 10–12 “Religion and Science: Are They Compatible?”. The contestants were offered the help of researchers-mentors from various fields. In the final, 16 students competed for the main prize – an educational trip to Oxford University.
- The Faculty has an active student association “Logos”. In 2022, the association organised six public broadcast discussions on topical theological, interdisciplinary and societal issues. The discussions brought together researchers, prominent politicians and public figures from various fields.



Faculty of Arts



Study programmes

First cycle	Second cycle	Fields of third cycle studies
Art History, Criticism and Media	Cultural Heritage and Tourism	History and Theory of Art
New Media Art	Art Curating	
Creative Industries	Creative Industries	
Music Production	Theatre Research and Stage Art Management	

Dean Prof. Jurgita Staniškytė
Address Muitinės g. 7, 44280 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

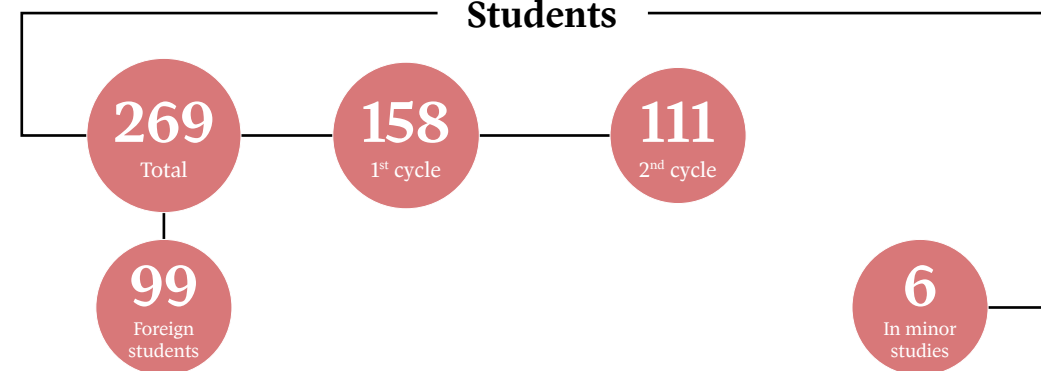
- J. Staniškytė was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by Kaunas City Municipality “For promoting the name of Kaunas and for her sincere work in the implementation of the project “Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022”.
- K. Ove Arntzen, a Professor at the Faculty of Arts, (Norway) was awarded the Centenary Silver Medal of the University of Lithuania.
- The book “Pāžeme” by G. Dirmauskaitė, a graduate of the study programmes “Creative Industries” and “Performance” programmes, won the Book of the Year award in the Adult Prose category.
- J. Butkevičienė was elected Vytautas Magnus University “Teacher of the Year” 2021–2022.
- The scientific journal “Art History & Criticism / Meno istorija ir Kritika” was granted the SJR citation index in the Scopus database.
- An exhibition of teachers, students and graduates “The Faculty of Arts at the 100th Anniversary: Creativity Creates Culture” (VMU Art Gallery 101, curated by graduates Milda Gineikaitė and Rimgaudas Barauskis) was organised.
- The traditional art and culture festival “VMU Culture Days” was organised, featuring open lectures, discussions, art events, student projects and the traditional “Open Day for Pupils”.
- *Scholarly achievements:* a monograph by R. Žukienė “Nepalenkiamasis. Dailininkas Zenonas Varnauskas (1923–2010)” (Uncompromising. Artist Zenonas Varnauskas (Vilnius: VDA leidykla, 2022); a monograph by V. Levandauskas “Lietuvos Didžiosios kunigaikštystės architektūra: stilių raida” (Architecture of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: Development of Styles) (Kaunas: VDU leidykla, 2022); R. Simanaitienė is the author of the main text of the publication “Piešiamė Pelėdų kalnė” (Drawing on Owl Hill) (Kaunas: KK, 2022).
- *The following projects of the programme “KAUNAS 2022” were organised and curated:* exhibition “1972. Pramušti siena” (1972. Breaking Through the Wall), the curator R. Žukienė, the team members E. Klivis, G. Jankauskas, K. Budrytė-Genevičė, and M. Rutkauskaitė. At the exhibition, R. Požerskis’s works were on display. M. Maziliauskas, a student of the study programme “Creative Industries”, and other students of the Faculty helped to organise the exhibition; D. Price organised the international event “Litvak Culture Forum”; J. Tutlytė was one of the main participants and curators of the International Congress “CoHappiness. Rewilding & Rethinking” as well as the curator the Lithuanian-Belgian Design Innovation Exhibition “Stories of Design Innovation: from Kortrijk to Kaunas”; I. Pukelytė produced the event “Kaunas Cantata”, J. Pukelytė and D. Price produced the “Festival of Stories” event – the musical performance “Dibukas”; M. Gineikaitė’s exhibition “Miestovaizdžio balsai” (Voices of the Cityscape) was organised.
- *Creative achievements:* the exhibition “Atlaidai” (Church Festival) at the international festival “Valencia Photo” (Valencia, Spain), the exhibition on the occasion of the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of Vytautas Landsbergis (LNMMB); R. Plungė’s photography exhibition “Nepapasakotos istorijos 22” (Untold Stories 22) at “Putolovac” Gallery (Zagreb, Croatia); T. Pabedinskas’ exhibition “Spektaklio vienišiai” (The Loners of the Play)(Vilnius photography gallery); R. Žukienė curated the exhibition “Lygtis su nežinomaisiais. Lietuvos dailė Vokietijoje nuo 1945 m. iki dabar” (Equation with the Unknown. Lithuanian Art in Germany from 1945 to the Present) (LNMA, V. Kasiulis Art Museum); A. Vasiliauskienė curated the exhibition “Moters atvaizdas Kauno meno mokyklos grafikoje” (The Image of a Woman in the Graphics of Kaunas Art School) (M. K. Čiurlionis National Art Museum); M. Gineikaitė curated the exhibition “Būtis promočiutės kambaryje” (Being in Great-grandma’s Room) (Kaunas City Museum).
- *Creative achievements of students and graduates:* E. Kazlauskaitė, a student of the study programme “New Media Art”, organised an exhibition “Paskuipaskuipaskui” (Laterlaterlater) at KCPL “Vasaros galerija” in the café “Kultūra”, student A. Taranda participated in the evening of photographic projections “Kintančios sistemos” (Changing Systems); graduates Lina Pranaitytė and Urtė Pakers (“Bionics”) organised an audiovisual installation “uni.grid” in Kaunas Evangelical Reformed Church; S. Larbi a student of the study programme “Music Production”, participated in the TV project “Lietuvos Balsas. Kartos” (The Voice of Lithuania. Generations); V. Mačianskaitė, a graduate of the study programme “Art Curating”, curated the exhibition of contemporary Lithuanian textiles “Duende” in Madrid (Spain); D. Čepaitė-Mikučionienė, a graduate of the study programme “History and Theory of Art”, opened the gallery “Meno ministerija” (Ministry of Art) (Kaunas).



Music Academy



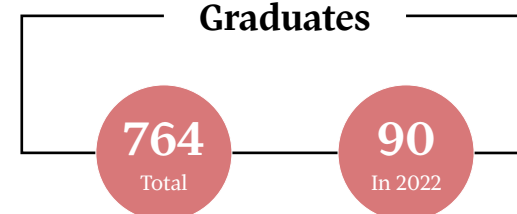
Students



Admission in 2022



Graduates



Academic staff (positions)	61
Academic staff with PhD (%)	62
Number of concerts	776
Visiting teachers	40
Number of publications	1

Study programmes

First cycle	Second cycle
Performing Arts	Performing Arts

Dean Assoc. Prof. Saulius Gerulis

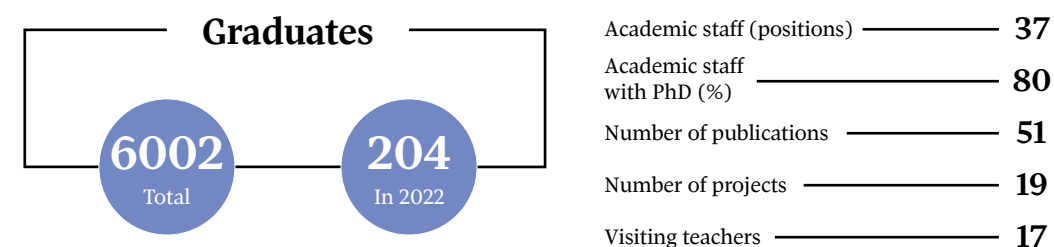
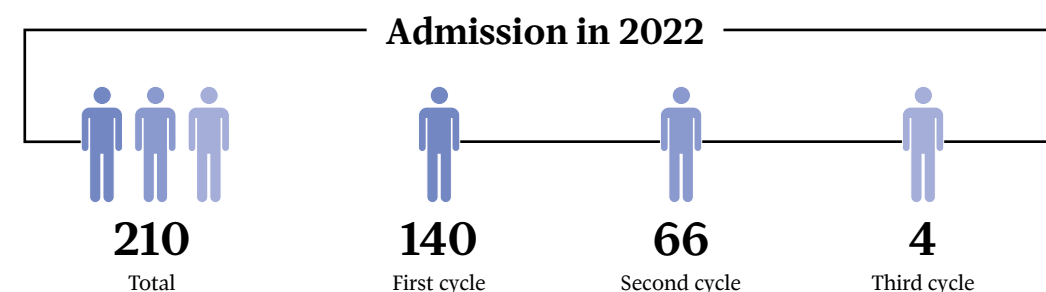
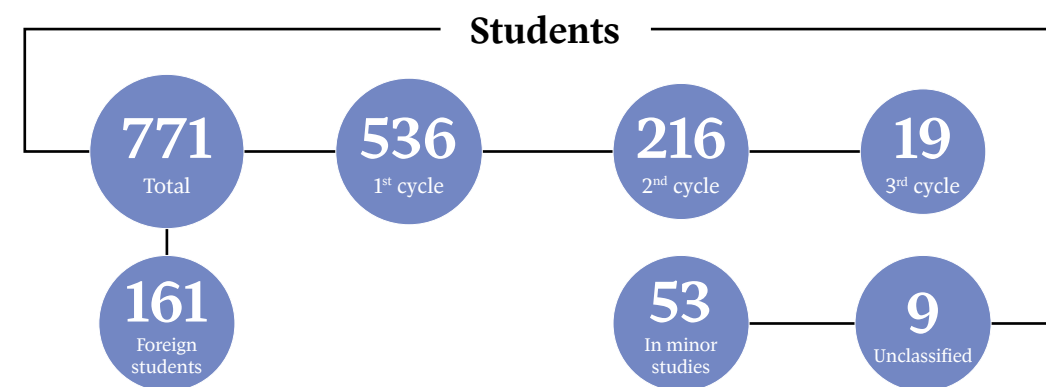
Address V. Čepinskio g. 5, 46257 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- Lect. Rimantas Vingras continues his membership in the European Cultural Parliament.
- The premiere Gabrielė Bukinė was awarded the “Fortuna” statue for the role of Violeta Valeri in the opera “Traviata”.
- Prof. Artūras Dambrasuskas was awarded the Lithuanian National Philharmonic’s Badge of Honour “Tarnauju muzikai” (I Serve Music).
- Commemorative medals of the 100th anniversary of the University of Lithuania were awarded to the following long-time teachers of the Faculty of Arts: Prof. Jurgita Staniškytė, Lect. Vitalija Truskauskaitė, Prof. Raimonda Simanaitienė, Prof. Vytautas Levandauskas, the chief administrator Asta Šlapikienė and the following social partners: Birutė Letukaitė, the head of the dance theatre “Aura”; the patron, composer Prof. Giedrius Kuprevičius; and the artist Arvydas Žalpys, the head of the gallery “Meno parkas”.
- The Artistic Director of the Alexander Paley Music Festival in Richmond (USA) was teacher Alexander Paley. In 2022, the Festival took place on 16–18 September.
- The musical “Elizabeth” by M. Kunze and A. Levay at Kaunas State Musical Theatre (the premiere took place on 25 February 2022) is under the musical direction and conducting of Jonas Janulevičius; the roles are performed by teachers Egidijus Bavikinas (Death), Gediminas Maciulevičius (Max), and Giedrius Prunskus (Archbishop Cardinal Rauscher).
- Vladimiras Prudnikovas plays the role of the Professor in B. Kutavičius’s opera “Lokys” (The Bear) (the premiere took place on 7 October 2022) at Klaipėda State Music Theatre.
- The 2-part opera “1972” by K. Mašanauskas (the premiere took place on 14 May 2022) at Kaunas State Music Theatre is under the musical direction and conducting of Jonas Janulevičius; the roles are performed by teachers Gabrielė Bukinė (Laisvė-Freedom), Gediminas Maciulevičius (Šeimininkas-Master), Giedrius Prunskus (Žydas Traubas-Jew Traubas).
- The role of the prince in the opera “Undinė” (Mermaid) (the premiere took place on 25 February 2022) by A. Dvorak at Klaipėda State Music Theatre is performed by Lect. Mindaugas Zimkus; the role of the witch is performed by Assist. Gabrielė Kuzmickaitė-Žukauskienė.
- The premiere of the role of Assist. Gabrielė Kuzmickaitė-Žukauskienė as Fleur-de-Lys in the opera “Paryžiaus katedra” (Notre-Dame de Paris) by the composer Z. Liepinis took place at Klaipėda State Musical Theatre on 4 November 2022.
- Verdi’s opera “Nabucco” (the premiere took place on 16 July 2022) at Kaunas State Music Theatre is under the musical direction and conducting of Jonas Janulevičius; the roles are performed by teachers Egidijus Bavikinas (Ishmael), Tomas Ladiga (The Baal’s Priest), Gabrielė Kuzmickaitė (Fenena), and Gabrielė Bukinė (Anna).
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vytautas Liesionis continued his position as the Chairperson of the Sectoral Professional Committee.
- Assoc. Prof. Justas Dvarionas was re-elected Vice-President of the European Association of Music Competitions for Young People.
- Teacher Kostas Smoriginas successfully continued his career at London’s Royal Opera House, Zurich Opera House, Amsterdam’s Het Concertgebouw, Malaga’s Opera de Tours.



Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy



Study programmes

First cycle World Politics and Economics Political Science International Politics and Development Studies Public Administration Public Communication	Second cycle Future Media and Journalism Diplomacy and International Relations Integrated Communication Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe Contemporary European Politics State Institutions Administration	Fields of third cycle studies Political Science Communication and Information Sciences
--	--	---

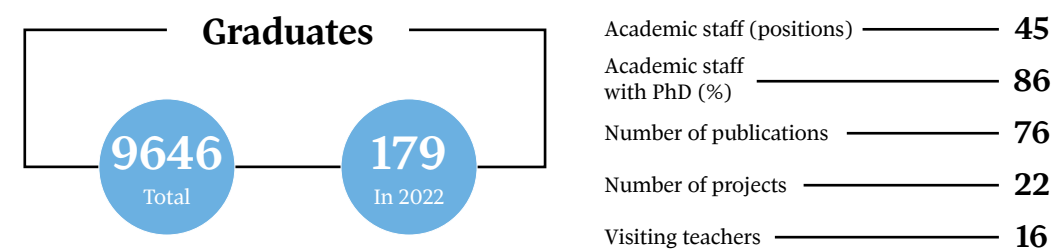
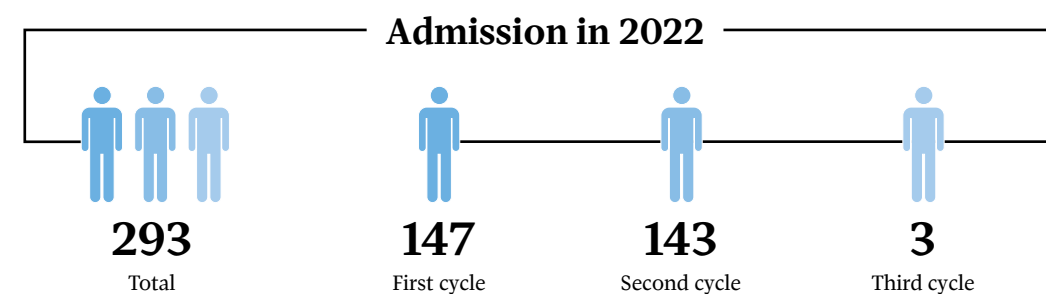
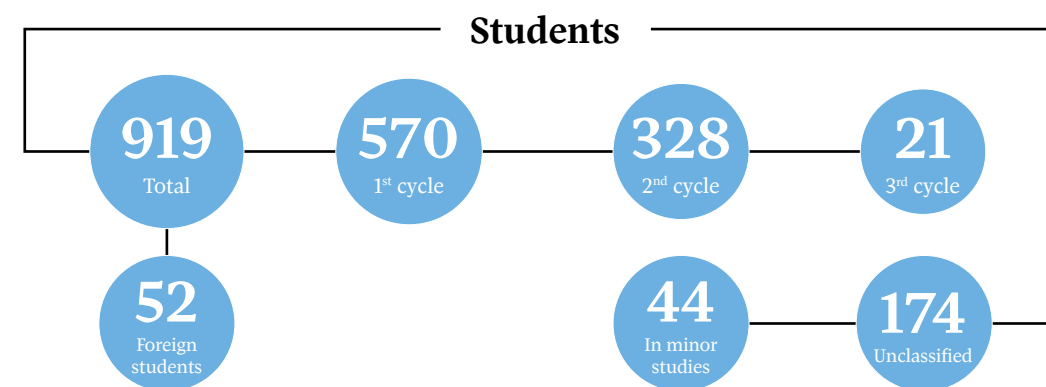
Dean Prof. Šarūnas Liekis
Address V. Putvinskio g. 23, 44243 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- Robert van Voren was awarded the Pardes Humanitarian Prize (New York). A researcher and Sovietologist who has lived in Lithuania for more than 20 years, he was awarded the prize for his many years of dedicated work in the field of mental health.
- Auksė Balčytienė was elected as an honorary foreign correspondent member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.
- Ignas Kalpokas was elected a member of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.
- Egdūnas Račius became a visiting researcher at the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge (UK), one of the world's most prestigious universities, for three years. Prof. E. Račius's project at the University of Cambridge will involve research into the training of imams and Muslim ecclesiastical structures in Southeast Europe and Central Asia.
- Mindaugas Jurkynas was elected the Chairperson of the LRT Council's Procurement and Investment Policy Committee.
- Tomasz Blaszcak received the prize of the International Congress of Belarusian Studies for the best monograph on Belarus in Polish published in 2016–2021 ("Białorusini w Republice Litewskiej 1918–1940". Białystok, 2017).
- A public lecture by Andrius Kalindras, a graduate of the Faculty, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania in Georgia, "The Role of the Lithuanian Embassy in the Region. Georgia". A. Kalindra is a career diplomat, who has worked at the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Lithuania in the Russian Federation, at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna, at the United Nations in New York, and as a foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis.
- At the initiative of the Faculty, groups of students took part in LRT programmes "Istorijos detektyvai" (History Detectives) and "Lietuva kalba" (Lithuania is Speaking).
- The Department of Public Communication in cooperation with Kaunas County Public Library organised public lecture-meeting series "Išdrįsk žinoti – medijų raštingumo galia" (Dare to Know: the Power of Media Literacy) (A. Balčytienė).
- International Conference "News Media, Platform Politics, and Changing Information Order in Europe". 12–13 May 2022 (A. Balčytienė).
- Annual event of the project and the association DIGIRES (Baltic Research Foundation for Digital Resilience) "We Know How Disinformation Works: What is Next?", 6 December 2022 (A. Balčytienė).
- Training course "How to Recognise the Truth and Resist Disinformation: Fact-checker's Recipes" was organised by the project and the association DIGIRES (Baltic Research Foundation for Digital Resilience) together with VMU UNESCO-UniTwin Research Centre for Media Literacy (UNESCO Chair on MIL for Inclusive Knowledge Societies), for the students of VMU first cycle study programme "Public Communication" (September– November 2022, A. Balčytienė).
- VMU Andrei Sakharov Research Centre for Democratic Development organised the fifth Leonidas Donskis Conference "Overcoming Collective Trauma – Lessons Learned and the Way Forward" at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania in Vilnius on 20–21 September 2022 (R. Van Voren, D. Genys).
- The twelfth International Andrei Sakharov Conference "Forgiving or Forgetting – Dealing with a Painful Past" was organised at Vytautas the Great War Museum (K. Donelaičio g. 64, Kaunas) on 13–14 May 2022 (R. Van Voren, D. Genys).
- Tenth National Conference organised by the Department of Public Administration "Evaluation of Public Policies and Services: Towards the Promotion of Public Interest and Public Goods" was organised in Kaunas on 24 November 2022 (I. Tamutienė).
- The tenth International Congress of Belarusian Studies was organised (R. Kamuntavičius, T. Blaszcak).
- On 22 March 2022, Aistė Žemaitytė organised an online public discussion "The Role of Universities in Wartime. What Are the Practices and How is This Happening in Ukraine Now" with researchers from Ukrainian universities. The meeting was attended by the Rector of Mariupol State University Prof. M. Trofymenko, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sergei Pakhomenko, Maxim Lepskiy, a Professor of Zaporozhye State University, Dr. Denys Kuzmyn, a researcher at I. I. Mechnikov State University of Odessa, Dr. Marianna Hladysh, an Associate Professor at I. Frank National University of Lviv, and Dr. Bohdan Cherkas, an Associate Professor at T. Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.
- On 4 May 2022, at the initiative of Aistė Žemaitytė, during the meeting of the Rector's Council of Vytautas Magnus University, the Rector of Vytautas Magnus University Prof. Juozas Augutis signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rector of Mariupol State University (Ukraine) Prof. Mykola Trofymenko. By signing this Memorandum, the universities undertook to carry out joint study programmes, including double degree study programmes, to develop international projects, to share research materials and good academic practices and to carry out bilateral exchanges of academic staff and students.



Faculty of Social Sciences



Study programmes

First cycle	Second cycle	Fields of third cycle studies
Psychology	School Psychology	Sociology
Social Work	Organisational Psychology	Psychology
Sociology and Anthropology	Social Anthropology	
Society, Culture and Communication (EN)	Social Demography	
	Social Work	
	Health Psychology	
	Applied Sociology	

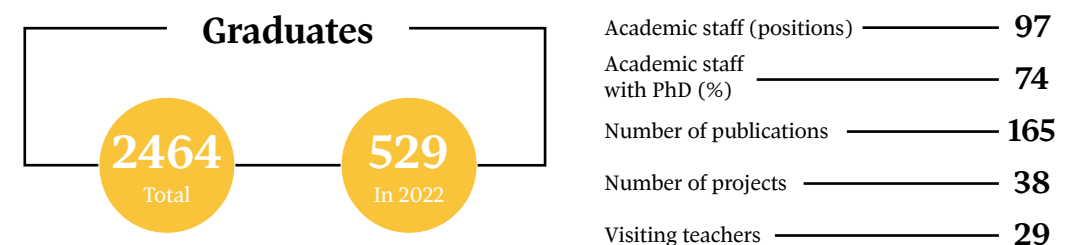
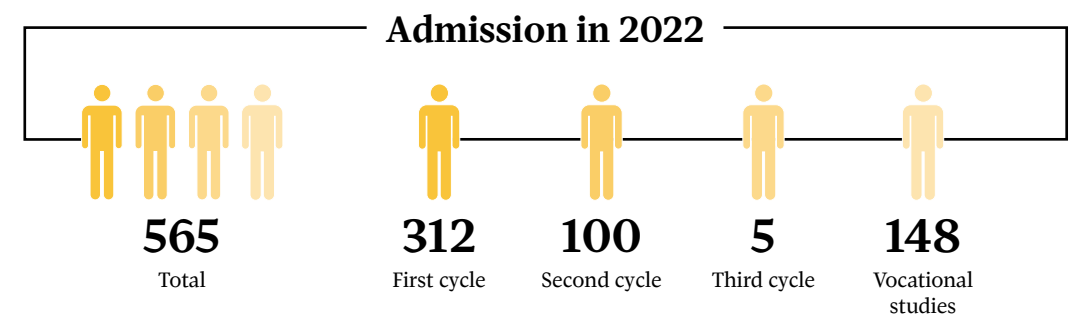
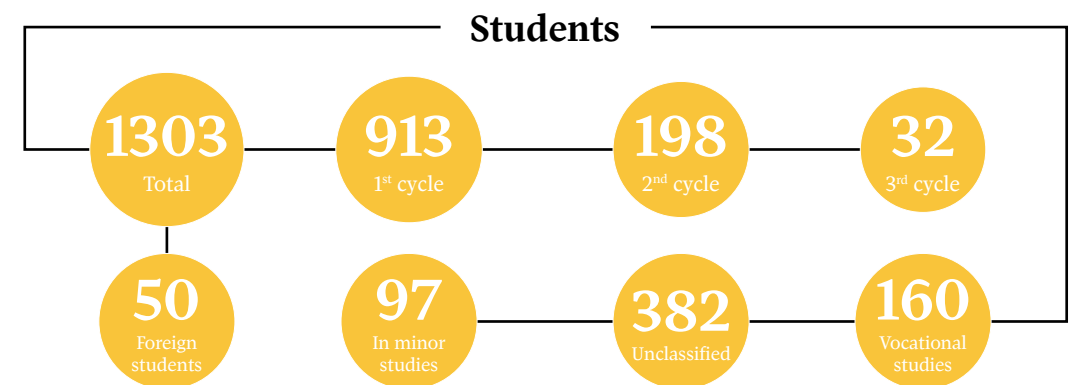
Dean Assoc. Prof. Aurelija Stelmokienė
Address Jonavos g. 66, 44191 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- Dr. M. Ališauskienė, Professor at the Department of Sociology, was elected Vice-President of the International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISORECEA); Dr. G. Jarašiūnaitė-Fedosejeva, a researcher at the Department of Psychology, became a new member of the COST (Ethics in Dementia (EDEM)) Steering Committee; Dr. J. Slavinskienė, a postdoctoral intern at the Department of Psychology, and doctoral student T. Vadvilavičius are members of the newly elected Board of the Lithuanian Psychological Association; Dr. K. Jonutytė, a lecturer at the Department of Sociology, was appointed a host of the #LRT Classics programme on anthropology; Dr. Roberta Motiečienė, a teacher at the Department of Social Work, was appointed as a new member of the Lithuanian Social Work Council.
- I. Muraškaitė, a graduate of the first cycle study programme “Psychology”, became the winner of the 2021 LAS Higher Education Students’ Research Paper Competition in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division; L. Jankauskaitė-Jurevičienė, a graduate of the second cycle study programme “Applied Sociology”, was announced as the winner of the Competition of the Best Lithuanian Master’s Thesis in Sociology 2022; at the LiPSA General Meeting, E. Laurynaitė, a student of the first cycle study programme “Psychology”, was elected the President of the organisation for a second term of office; K. Vaišnora, a graduate of the study programme “Social Work”, became VMU flag bearer.
- VMU Silver Medal was awarded to Dr. V. V. Čiubrinskas, an anthropologist and professor at the Department of Sociology; the Centenary Medals were awarded to Prof. Dr. N. P. Večkienė, Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Ivanauskienė, Assoc. Prof. Dr. B. Grigaitė and Prof. Dr. A. Z. Goštautas from the Department of Psychology, Dr. V. Leonavičius, a professor at the Department of Sociology, and the administrative assistant of the Faculty R. Aukštakalnytė; the Centenary Medals were also awarded to the social partners of the Faculty of Social Sciences: Kaunas Social Services Centre, Equal Opportunities Ombudsman’s Office, the Department of Counselling and School Psychology, the College of Education, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.
- “The Generations and Gender Programme Preparatory Phase Project” (GGP-5D) was launched as part of the H2020 programme, the head of VMU partner part was A. Maslauskaitė; competitive funding was won under the call for support for scientific infrastructure renewal announced by the RCL for the purchase of equipment for the Psychology Laboratory under construction, coordinator Dr. G. Jarašiūnaitė-Fedosejeva; the RCL funded the monograph publishing project “RETURNING – REMITTING – RECEIVING: Social Remittances of Transnational (Re)migrants to Lithuania, Croatia and Poland”, which was coordinated by Dr. I. Gečienė; “Erasmus+” project “YoungCare – Relief for Younger People in Need of Care and their Informal Caregivers” was launched. VMU partner part coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. R. Naujanienė.
- The RCL-funded student projects carried out during their free time: R. Katinaitė, supervisor Prof. Dr. K. Žardeckaitė-Matulaitienė; L. Zarevičiūtė, supervisor Dr. G. Jarašiūnaitė-Fedosejeva; the RCL-funded student summer internships: R. Katinaitė, supervisor Prof. Dr. K. Žardeckaitė-Matulaitienė; G. Jęgorovaitė, supervisor Dr. J. Misiūnienė.
- 3 monographs were prepared and published: Naujanienė R., Ruškus J., Laitinen M., Motiečienė R., Eidukevičiūtė J., Vyšniauskytė-Rimkienė J. (2022) “Vaiko ir šeimos gerovė: problemos apibrėžtys, intervencijos ir valstybės vaidmuo” (Child and Family Well-being: Definitions of the Problem, Interventions and the Role of the State) // VMU; Bučaitė-Vilkė, J. (ed) (2022) “Social Investment and Territorial Inequalities: Mapping Policies and Services in the Baltic States” // Peter Lang; Stelmokienė A., Genevičiūtė-Janonė G., Kovalčikienė K., Gustainienė L. (2022) “Universiteto darbuotojų psichologinė gerovė” (Psychological Well-being of University Staff) // VMU.
- By organising conferences, symposia, trainings, seminars, discussions and other activities (more than 100 different forms of activities were implemented), members of the FSS community actively shared their experience with various target groups: students, teachers, parents, the professional community, VMU community, alumni and the general public. Cooperation agreements with 5 organisations were initiated and signed. More than 20 foreign teachers and researchers visited the Faculty under various funding programmes.



Education Academy



Study programmes

First cycle	Second cycle	Vocational studies	Fields of third cycle studies
Pre-school and Pre-primary Pedagogy	Physical Education and Sports	Pedagogy	Education
Subject Pedagogy	Inclusive Education:		
Pedagogy of Primary Education and Early Foreign Language Teaching	Socio-educational Industries		
Special Educational Support	Music Education		
Sports Studies	Professional Education		
	Educational Management (EN/LT)		
	Speech and Language Therapy		

Chancellor Prof. Lina Kaminskienė

Address T. Ševčenkos g. 31, 03111 Vilnius | K. Donelaičio g. 52, 44244 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- The second cycle study programme “Speech and Language Therapy” and the first cycle study programme “Sports Studies” were launched.
- The autonomous right to conduct doctoral studies in the field of Education was approved.
- The Centre of Ukraine was established at the Education Academy in Vilnius. The Centre was established in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Lithuania and Vytautas Magnus University.
- Professor Margarita Teresevičienė was awarded the title of Honorary Professor of VMU.
- A group for Ukrainian children was opened in the kindergarten “Mažųjų akademija”.
- On International Children’s Day, the Education Progress Assembly took place at the Presidential Palace of the Republic of Lithuania, showcasing innovative education projects and training initiatives from schools and education organisations across the country. One of the partners of the initiative was VMU Education Academy. VMU’s programme for gifted children “Gifted” was among the selected educational projects.
- Ažuolas Jašinskas, a graduate of the vocational study programme “Pedagogy” of VMU Education Academy and a primary school teacher, won Meilė Lukšienė prize.
- VMU Academy of Education, together with the Faculty of Humanities and the Baltic Summer University, organised Lithuanian Language and Culture Summer and Winter Courses and Lithuanian Studies. The online and face-to-face courses were held at VMU Education Academy in Vilnius and were attended by more than 250 foreigners from 40 countries from all over the world, as well as by 12 teachers from foreign Lithuanian language schools.
- On the occasion of Teachers’ Day, a meeting of representatives of the field of Educational Sciences was held at the Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania. VMU Education Academy, Vilnius University and Vilnius University of Applied Sciences were partners of the event. The discussion was attended by Rokas Bandžiukas, the second-year student of the study programme “Subject Pedagogy: STEAM” at VMU Education Academy, who is a mathematics teacher, and by Fausta Bagdonaitė, a graduate of the study programme “Primary Education Pedagogy”, who is a primary school teacher.
- The Minister of Education, Science and Sports Jurgita Šiugždinienė presented the Ministry’s Badges of Honour to two VMU Education Academy professors. Alvyra Galkienė was awarded the Badge of Honour for her significant contribution to the development of the conceptual foundations of inclusive education and the consolidation of the ideas of inclusion in the Lithuanian education system. Ona Monkevičienė was awarded the Badge of Honour for her significant contribution to the development of conceptual scientific ideas of pre-school and pre-primary education and their consolidation in the Lithuanian education system.
- In the Constitution Hall of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, VMU Education Academy together with the British Council, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports organised the “Multilingual Education Forum”.
- The Lithuanian Educational Research Association (LETA) and VMU Education Academy organised the 6th LETA Conference “Educational Practice and Research in a Turbulent World”.
- A forum “International and National Experiences of Improving Students’ Mathematics Achievement” for mathematics teachers was held at VMU Education Academy in Kaunas.
- VMU Education Academy, together with the NITZAN Association (Israel), which works in the field of children and adults with learning disabilities, organised an international conference at the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, entitled “Social Emotional Learning to Empower Students with Learning Disabilities and ADHD”.
- In the LRT documentary “History of the Future. Lithuania” VMU Education Academy was presented as a place where creators of the future and broadly educated teachers are trained.
- A reconstructed Teacher Training Centre was opened at 52 K. Donelaičio g., Kaunas.
- A new education class was opened at Kaunas Maironis University Gymnasium.
- VMU Education Academy in cooperation with Irytas.lt presented the podcast “From the Teacher’s Notes”. For 10 weeks, students, teachers, heads of educational institutions, educators and well-known people talked about the teaching profession, the challenges of everyday school life, leadership in education and the school of the future.

Educational Research Institute Key events of 2022

- As a member of the Doctoral Education Research Network, the Educational Research Institute participated in the organisation and implementation of the International Doctoral Summer School “Being Strong in Research Methodology in Sustainable World”.
- The Educational Research Institute is a member of and serves on the IAFOR (International Asian Forum for Research) Research Assessment Board.
- The International Summer School on Qualitative Research was organised.
- The research policy event “National Dialogue” was organised.
- Seminars on qualitative research methodology for scientists, researchers and doctoral students were organised by the Educational Research Institute in cooperation with the School of Social Researcher (SSR).

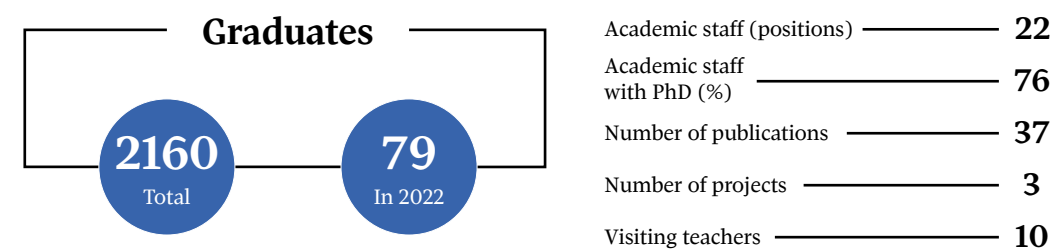
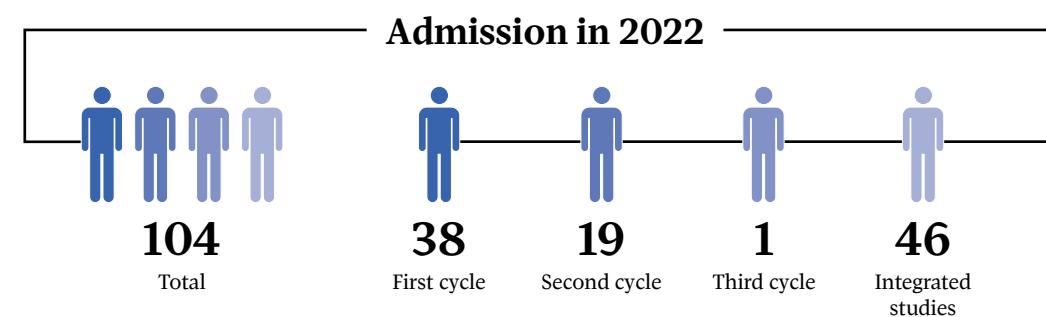
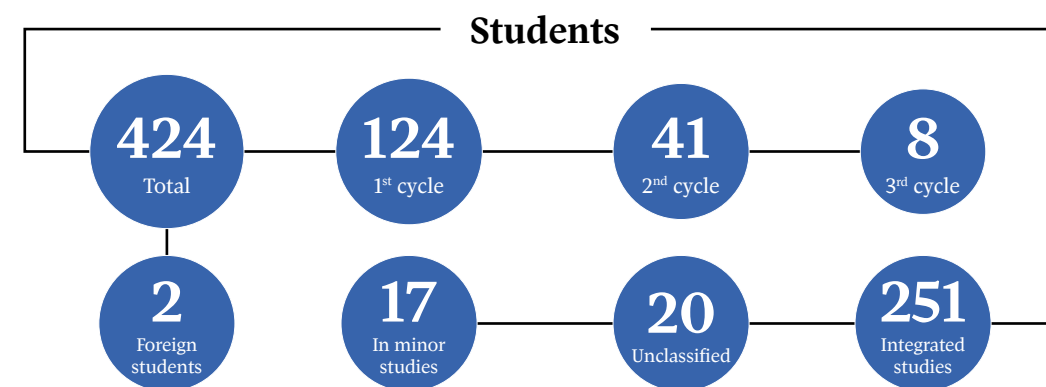
Research output (publications, events, supervision of doctoral students, research presentations):

- monographs in Lithuanian – 2
- scientific monographs in a foreign language published by a publishing house abroad – 5
- research articles (Q1/Q2 Web of Science) – 27
- research articles (Q3/Q4 Web of Science) – 12
- research articles (Q1/Q2 Scopus) – 21
- research articles (Q3/Q4 Scopus) – 10
- papers at international scientific conferences abroad – 35
- papers at international scientific conferences in Lithuania – 35
- research projects – 11
- contracts with the research network/research institute/research association – 2
- work in the editorial board of a scientific journal (Q1-Q4) Web of Science and/or Scopus – 17
- peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals (Q1-Q4) Web of Science and/or Scopus – 70
- supervision of doctoral students – 11
- supervision of doctoral students who defended their doctoral dissertations – 4
- the role of a formal consultant to the doctoral student – 3
- the role of a formal consultant to the doctoral student who defended his/her doctoral dissertation – 1
- chapter in a foreign language in a book published by a foreign publisher – 13
- review of a research work (monograph, research study) – 14
- research dissemination seminars for doctoral students – 12
- research dissemination seminars for scientists and researchers – 17
- organisation and implementation of a summer school – 5
- organisation and implementation of an international scientific conference – 5
- organisation and implementation of an international scientific forum – 5.

Director of the Institute Prof. Vilma Žydzūnaitė

Address K. Donelaičio g. 52, 44244 Kaunas

Faculty of Law



Dean Prof. Dainius Žalimas
Address Jonavos g. 66, 44191 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- To commemorate the centenary of the University of Lithuania, the Faculty of Law organised a wide range of events, including international scientific conferences and public lectures/discussions, including a public lecture by Professor Vytautas Sinkevičius on 9 March 2022 titled “How Was the Act of March 11th Prepared?”.
- On 4 March, by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the teachers of the Faculty of Law Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paulius Čerka and Dr. Tomas Veršinskas were appointed to the list of Conciliators and Arbitrators of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.
- On 30 August, Benas Pečetauskas, a graduate of the integrated study programme “Law”, was awarded the prize for the most original presentation of his Master’s thesis in the competition “The Best Master’s Thesis of 2022” organised by the Supreme Court of Lithuania.
- On 4 November, by the Order of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, the lecturer of the Faculty of Law Dr. Jurgita Spaičienė was appointed a member of the Mediation Coordination Council.
- On 24 November, Professor of Constitutional Law Yen-Tu Su from Taiwan gave a public lecture in English on “Liberal Democracy and Constitutional Order in Taiwan”. The lecture brought together more than 80 members of the academic community (students and teachers) of VMU Faculty of Law and the European Humanities University.
- On 28 November, Živilė Radavičiūtė, a graduate of the integrated study programme “Law”, was awarded 3rd place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for her Master’s thesis “Does the Regulation of Mobile Trading Apps Ensure the Protection of Investors Rights?” (scientific supervisor Dr. Tomas Veršinskas) in the competition “The Best Master’s Theses on European Union Policy Formulation and Implementation”.
- On 13–15 December, the Dean of the Faculty of Law Prof. Dr. Dainius Žalimas and Associate Professor Dr. Ingrida Danėlienė visited Taipei (Republic of China (Taiwan)), where they participated in a number of events, gave public lectures at the Constitutional Court and National Taiwan University and spoke at the International Colloquium “Constitutional Dialogue between Lithuania and Taiwan: a Round Table Discussion with Professors Žalimas and Danėlienė”, etc.
- On 15 December, Evelina Gintautaitė, a second-year student of the integrated study programme “Law”, became the winner of the video clip in the project “A Day with a Judge” organised by the National Judicial Administration.
- The researchers of the Faculty of Law prepared scientific expert opinions on the compliance of draft Laws on Assembly prepared by the Seimas and the draft law amending Article 52 of the Constitution with the constitutional requirements.
- The Legal Clinic continued its activities. During the year, the Legal Clinic received a total of 105 (one hundred and five) requests for legal advice.
- The Faculty of Law continued to organise training on mediation. During the year, 4 online training cycles on “Fundamentals of Mediation: Theory and Practice” were organised. What is more, on 7 March 2022, the Council of the Faculty of Law approved a new non-formal adult education programme “Mediation Practice Day for the Advanced”.



Agriculture Academy



Students

1392

Total

695

1st cycle

629

2nd cycle

68

3rd cycle

117

Foreign students

7

In minor studies

124

Unclassified

Admission in 2022



410

Total



171

First cycle



224

Second cycle



15

Third cycle

Graduates

2532

Total

380

In 2022

Academic staff (positions) 117

Academic staff with PhD (%) 82

Number of publications 465

Number of projects 74

Visiting teachers 69

Study programmes

First cycle

Agronomy
Accounting and Finance
Bioeconomy Business Management
Landscape Design
Logistics and Commerce
Food Quality and Safety
Forestry
Applied Ecology
Tourism Industries
Water and Land Engineering
Agricultural Mechanical Engineering

Second cycle

Agroecosystems
Agronomy
Agri-food Business Management (EN)
Accounting and Finance
Quality and Safety of Plant Food Raw Materials
Hydraulic Engineering
Rural Development Administration
Wildlife Resources and Management
Forestry
Ecology and Climate Change
Transport Machinery Engineering
Sustainable Energy
Business Logistics
Agricultural Economics
Agricultural Engineering and Management
Agricultural Mechanical Engineering
Agricultural Business Management
Land Management

Fields of third cycle studies

Agronomy
Environmental Engineering
Economics
Forestry
Mechanical Engineering
Transport Engineering Management

Chancellor Prof. Astrida Miceikienė

Address Studentų g. 11, Akademija, 53361 Kauno r.

Faculty of Agronomy

Key events of 2022

- Graduates of the Agriculture Academy Ieva and Arnas Radzevičiai awarded two one-time scholarships of EUR 2,500 each to students of the Faculty; UAB “Nando” established four one-time incentive scholarships of EUR 500 each; and UAB “Nando” provided EUR 2,000 support for researchers to carry out scientific research.
- Prof. Dr. A. Marcinkevičienė, Prof. Dr. V. Bogužas, Assoc. Prof. Dr. E. Klimas, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. J. Aleinikovienė were awarded the Future Village Developers Award; A. J. Motuzas, Prof. Habil. Dr. R. Velička, Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. Adamavičienė, and senior laboratory assistant A. Jacinaitė were awarded commemorative medals of the 100th anniversary of the University of Lithuania; Prof. (HP) Dr. K. Romanekas, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Z. Kriauciūnienė and others won the 1st prize in the Research Paper Competition of VMU AA for the collection of research production “Agricultural Machinery and Machines for Healthy Soil and Sustainable Environment”; Prof. Dr. E. Jarienė, Assoc. Prof. Dr. J. Kulaitienė, Assoc. Prof. Dr. N. Vaitkevičienė, Lect. Dr. D. won the 3rd prize in the Research Paper Competition of VMU AA for the collection of research production “Influence of Biotic and Abiotic Factors on the Quality of Sustainable Food Raw Materials”; Dr. M. Lasinskas received VMU AA nomination “Researcher of the Year”; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Z. Kriauciūnienė received VMU AA nomination “Ambassador of the Year”; Assoc. Prof. A. Žickys and lect. A. Lozuraitienė received a certificate of appreciation from the Minister of Culture Simonas Kairys for their promotion of creative activity, fostering culture that is inclusive for the creation of public welfare, and active participation in the project “Smart City 8”.
- The 4th International Scientific Conference “Agroecosystem Sustainability: Links between Carbon Sequestration in Soils, Food Security and Climate Change” and the Annual Scientific and Practical Conference “Herbology: Weed Ecology and Control 2022” were organised.
- Two students of the Faculty’s study programme “Agronomy” went to Aarhus University and Agrolab A/S, Denmark under the Erasmus+ exchange programme; two female graduates of the study programme “Agronomy” went on a postgraduate internship; and two female graduates of the study programme “Agronomy” went to the Erasmus+ KA2 project workshop in Portugal.
- Six teachers of the Faculty went on Erasmus teaching and learning visits to Latvia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Italy, France; 56 foreign researchers from Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Spain, Ireland, Brazil, Germany, Turkey and Switzerland gave lectures and presentations to students of the Faculty; representatives of agribusiness companies gave lectures and conducted practical classes for students; teachers improved their qualification in field days, seminars and trainings organised by 42 agribusiness companies, and cooperated on research issues, consulted with representatives of companies; 16 researchers of the Faculty gave lectures and conducted theoretical, creative, practical, and experimental activities for 46 gymnasium students.
- In 2022, 4 doctoral dissertations were defended in the field of Agronomy, the area of Agricultural Sciences.
- 22 researchers of the Faculty were actively engaged in expert activities in the European Commission, other Central and Eastern European institutions, agencies and alliances. 12 researchers were members of editorial boards, experts, editors-in-chief, guest editors, deputy editors of 5 scientific journals published abroad or jointly with foreign research and/or study institutions. More than 20 teachers and researchers actively participated in the activities of international organisations.
- Dr. Diana Miškelytė was an intern at the Faculty, working on the postdoctoral project titled “The Impact of a Changing Climate on the Ecotoxicity of Antimicrobials in Aquatic and Terrestrial Plants”, No. P-PD-22-088.
- The Faculty researchers published 198 articles, including 38 articles in publications referenced and with a citation index in the CA WoS database, 19 articles referenced in other databases, 37 articles in other peer-reviewed journals and 110 popular science articles. The Faculty researchers carried out 20 project activities (including: 3 international programmes); the varieties “Empress Masako”, “Princess Charlotte”, “Queen Rania”, “Queen Saleha” and “Queen Sonja”, developed by Prof. Dr. S. Gližeris, were included in the National List of Plant Varieties 2022. Dissemination of research was carried out at international scientific events in South Korea, Germany, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Turkey, the Czech Republic, the Republic of the Philippines, Latvia, Poland, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Bulgaria, etc., at national conferences, expeditions, field days, workshops, seminars, scientific discussions, public lectures, and in television and radio programmes.

Dean Assoc. Prof. Aida Adamavičienė

Address Studentų g. 11, Akademija, 53361 Kauno r.

Faculty of Bioeconomy Development

Key events of 2022

- On the initiative of the Faculty, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between six universities in Central and Eastern Europe to establish the BIOEAST UniNet alliance.
- The most important international research projects in 2022 are “Horizon Europe” project “Accelerating the Integration of Circular Biosolutions in European Rural Areas”, 2022-2025 (coordinator of VMU activities – Prof. Dr. V. Vitunskienė), H2020 project “Promoting a Sustainable Circular Bio-economy in Central and Eastern European Countries”, 2019-2022 (VMU activities coordinator – Prof. Dr. V. Vitunskienė), the project “Nordic-Baltic Cooperation for the Development of Bio- and Circular Economy”, 2021-2023 funded by Nordic Council of Ministers (VMU project leader – V. Kargytė), European Commission project “Networking of support for the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy. Part 2 - Support for Innovation and Knowledge Exchange – EIP-AGRI”, 2021-2029 (leader – Prof. Dr. A. Maziliauskas, principal investigator – Assoc. Prof. Dr. R. Pakelienė).
- The most significant national research projects carried out are the European Innovation Partnership project “Improving the management of production and commercialisation of high added value (HAV) berry products in Lithuanian berry farms”, 2021-2023 (leader – Assoc. Prof. Dr. J. Greblikaitė), studies commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture for 2021-2022: “Determination of criteria for sustainable production in the agricultural, food and fishery sectors, development of a system of evaluation and control of compliance with these criteria” (leader – Prof. Dr. V. Vitunskienė), “Models of global vertical cooperation (clusters) and the possibility of their application in Lithuania” (leader – Prof. Dr. J. Žukovskis).
- Two international scientific conferences in the field of bioeconomy and rural development research have been organised: “Sustainable Development of the Bioeconomy: Theory and Practice” and “Accounting and Finance for Business 2022: towards Sustainability”. The 10th anniversary scientific and practical conference “Strengthening the Competitiveness of Lithuania’s Rural Areas: Best Practices” was also organised.
- Researchers of the Faculty and their co-authors have published 33 research articles in publications with citation index in Claritive Analytics Web of Science / Scopus databases.
- 21 articles were published in refereed databases or recognised publishing houses, 25 – in other peer-reviewed scientific publications. There were also 37 dissemination publications and
- 1 international monograph. 6 plenary presentations at international scientific conferences were given. Presentations were given by Prof. Dr. A. Miceikienė, Prof. Dr. V. Vitunskienė, Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. Kustienė, PhD candidate V. Kargytė.
- Associate Professor R. Pakelienė became Secretary General of the European Association of Life Sciences Universities (ICA). V. Kargytė became a member of the Advisory Board of the newly established Innovation Agency in Lithuania.
- Four doctoral dissertations have been defended: “Modelling the Sustainable Development of the Food Distribution System” (M. Samuolaitis, scientific advisor – Prof. Dr. R. Drejeris), “The Critical Factor of Thematic Villages Development for the Sustainable Development of the Rural Areas” (I. Kazlauskienė, scientific advisor – Prof. Dr. V. Atkočiūnienė), “Assessment of Financial Independence of Rural Municipalities and the Factors Determining It” (L. Skauronė, scientific advisor – Prof. Dr. A. Miceikienė), “Assessment of Environmentally Sustainable Growth in Agriculture in European Union Countries” (L. Lauraitienė, scientific advisor – Prof. Dr. V. Vitunskienė). Dr. A. Čapienė became a laureate of the Lithuanian Union of Young Researchers’ competition “Best Dissertation” in the fields of humanities and social sciences.
- Expert evaluation of the business and public administration fields of study was carried out and both fields of study were accredited for 7 years. Summaries of self-evaluations for the finance and management fields have been prepared for expert evaluation. A description of the Customs Process Management MBA postgraduate business studies programme is prepared. The newly registered first-cycle study programme Bioeconomy Business Management is launched for international students. The first international students are admitted to the double-diploma first-cycle programmes in Logistics and Commerce and Accounting and Finance.
- 67 visiting teachers from foreign universities gave lectures at the Faculty of Bioeconomy Development. Two foreign professors gave lectures as part of the Educational Exchange Support Foundation programme. Under the “Erasmus+” exchange programme, the Faculty’s teachers and staff travelled to foreign higher education institutions 20 times to teach and 30 times to study. A total of 14 visits (8 study visits and 6 trips to conferences and other scientific events) took place under the project “Developing a Broad-Based University in the context of the University Network Transformation”.
- The Faculty provided training for business and public sector employees (employees of the State Tax Inspectorate, courses for persons wishing to provide customs representation services), and 5 refresher courses for farmers. More than 800 people benefited from professional development courses run by Faculty staff during the year.
- Cooperation agreements have been signed with UAB “Tomegris”, UAB “HGFS” and UAB “Hegelmann transportė”, the association “Kauno vežėjų klubas”, UAB “PricewaterhouseCoopers”.

Dean Assoc. Prof. Bernardas Vaznonis

Address Universiteto g. 10, Akademija, 53361 Kauno r.

Faculty of Engineering

Key events of 2022

- The experimental engineering classes of VMU AA “Sumanaus moksleivio akademija” in Pasvalys, Joniškis, Biržai, Plungė districts have been established, and the activities of the Rokiškis Regional Engineering Experimental Class, which will be established in 2021, is continued. “Išmaniosios inžinerijos” classes are set up in Rumšiškės Antanas Baranauskas and Žiežmariai Gymnasiums in Kaišiadorys district. An event for schoolchildren to celebrate the International GIS Day “GIS Day” was organised.
- Prof. Dr. Egidijus Šarauskis was elected Chairman of the Agricultural and Environmental Engineering Section of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences’ Division of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences and a member of the Bureau of the Section of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and lect. Dr. Giedrius Pašakarnis was elected a member of the Preparatory Group of the Guidelines for the Preparation of Training for the Training of Specialists in the Land Consolidation, which are being drafted by the United Nations FAO.
- A new first-cycle study programme, “Sustainable Engineering” is registered. A double-diploma second cycle agreement in “Land Management” is signed with the State University of Biotechnology (Ukraine).
- 7 doctoral students defended their doctoral theses: Mantas Rubežius (scientific advisor Prof. Dr. Rolandas Bleizgys), Aleksandra Minajeva (scientific advisor Prof. Dr. Algirdas Jasinskas), Dainius Savickas (scientific advisor Prof. Dr. Dainius Steponavičius), Darius Juknevičius (scientific advisor Prof. Dr. Egidijus Šarauskis), Darius Jovarauskas (scientific advisor Prof. Dr. Dainius Steponavičius), Deividas Kazlauskas (scientific advisor Prof. Dr. Vytenis Jankauskas), Agnė Nausėdaitė (scientific advisor Prof. Dr. Danutė Vaičiukynienė). 7 doctoral students have been admitted to doctoral studies (2 foreigners and 1 student placed in a place won in a competition by the Research Council of Lithuania).
- Prof. Algirdas Jasinskas has been awarded the Letter of Honour of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague and the Medal of the Faculty of Engineering, and he has also been awarded the Memorial Silver Medal of the Lithuanian Institute of Energy, Prof. Dr. (HP) Arvydas Povilaitis was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by Valéry Gaucherand, Director General of the UNESCO and L’OREAL Science Foundation Programme “Women in Science”, Prof. Dr. Eglė Jotautienė and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Antanas Juostas were awarded the commemorative statuettes of the Brunel University of London, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Virginija Gurskienė and lect. Virginija Atkocevičienė were awarded the Mykolas Krupavičius commemorative medals by the National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania.
- International Scientific Conference “BALTRIB 2022”, International Scientific and Practical Conference “Human and Natural Safety 2022”, International Scientific and Methodological Conference “Baltic Surveying 22” were organised.
- 3 international projects were won and launched, the European Commission’s international consultancy project “Supporting the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) through networking” – Strand 2 “Supporting innovation and knowledge exchange-EIP-AGRI” has been implemented, with a total of more than 40 different projects and more than 10 proposals submitted.
- Teachers and researchers of the Faculty have participated as experts in more than 10 different international review panels, more than 10 international societies, more than 20 editorial boards and scientific committees of scientific journals.
- 18 visits of foreign scientists were organised, 20 teachers and researchers of the Faculty were trained and interned abroad, researchers from the Faculty have organised and delivered more than 10 non-project workshops.

Dean Assoc. Prof. Rolandas Domeika

Address Studentų g. 15, Akademija, 53362 Kauno r.

Faculty of Forestry and Ecology

Key events of 2022

- The Study Quality Evaluation Centre (CQES) has carried out an external evaluation of the Ecology and Forestry fields. The first cycle of studies in Ecology were accredited for 7 years, the second cycle – for 3 years. The first and second cycle of studies in Forestry were accredited for 7 years.
- Agirdas Gavenauskas, associate professor at the Faculty of Forestry and Ecology, was elected the best teacher of the academic year 2021-2022.
- Commemorative 100th anniversary medals were awarded to Prof. Edmundas Bartkevičius, Prof. Romualdas Deltuvas, Prof. Vitas Marozas, Juozas Girinas.
- Professors Romualdas Deltuvas and Gintautas Mozgeris are recognised as Distinguished Lithuanian Forest Managers.
- Dr. Darius Kavaliauskas was elected as a member of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (LASYS), Division of Agricultural and Forest Sciences.
- The Faculty was visited by teachers from Southern Illinois University (USA), Technical University of Dresden (Germany), Beja Polytechnic Institute (Portugal), Tallinn Technical University (Estonia), Kazakh Agrarian University (Kazakhstan), and the Dean of the Faculty of Forestry and Ornamental Horticulture of the Tashkent State Agrarian University (Uzbekistan), Yakubjon Yuldashov.
- Prof. Dr. Laima Česonienė gave lectures at the University of Palermo (Italy), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anželika Dautartė – at the Beja Polytechnic Institute (Portugal), Prof. Dr. Valdas Paulauskas – at the Technical University of Georgia in Tbilisi. Dr. Ekaterina Makrickienė and Dr. Michael Manton lectured at the course “Multiple Use of Forests” at the University of Applied Sciences of South Karelia under the BIP programme.
- The Faculty’s staff have publicised the results of their research in more than 90 events (TV and radio broadcasts, media interviews, lectures, discussions, etc.) on forestry, hunting and nature conservation.
- In 2022, to celebrate the centenary of Forestry Science, the campaign “1000 Oak Trees in Lithuanian Schools” visited 34 schools and planted ~300 oak trees grown in the Faculty of Forestry and Ecology nursery from noble acorns. Almost 200 more trees were handed over to Kaunas District Municipality communities and partners interested in forestry.
- On 24 March 2022, the 10th anniversary national competition “Mano pasaulis – darniai Lietuvai” was organised.
- On 29 September 2022, a scientific conference “Quo vaditis, silvae?” was organised to commemorate the centenary of university forestry studies and the origins of forestry science in Lithuania, as well as to discuss the perspectives of forestry and the forest sector.
- In 2022, the Faculty’s researchers carried out 39 project activities, including 1 HORIZON, 1 LIFE, 5 COST and 2 “Erasmus+” international projects. The following commissioned projects were carried out: 3 projects by the Research Council of Lithuania, 5 legal entities, 8 Ministry of the Environment, 2 Environmental Protection Agency, 2 State Service for Protected Territories, 10 municipalities.
- Funding was received for the establishment and development of the Centre of Excellence “FOREST 4.0” together with VMU Faculty of Informatics and partners – Linneaus University (Sweden), Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) and other companies to create a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for forest-related Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies in order to foster innovative, data-driven solutions for forest monitoring, data collection and analysis, and management of forest management along the entire value chain, from the management of forest resources to the end product on the market.
- Researchers of the Faculty published 152 articles, including: 40 articles in journals referenced and with citation index in CA WoS database, 14 articles referenced in other databases, 70 articles in other peer-reviewed journals, 28 articles for popularisation of science.

Dean Prof. Vitas Marozas

Address Studentų g. 11, Akademija, 53361 Kauno r.

Bioeconomy Research Institute

Key events of 2022

- A major “Horizon Europe” project, “Forest 4.0: Building a Centre of Excellence for Smart Forestry” was won together with VMU Faculties of Informatics, Forestry and Ecology and other departments.
- In 2022, Bioeconomy Research Institute staff prepared or contributed to 11 applications to international research programmes and three applications to national research programmes. Two projects were won in international and national research programmes.
- Rytis Skominas, Director of the Institute, became a member of the international organisation EIP-AGRI Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange.
- Virginija Kargytė, Deputy Director of the Institute, becomes a member of the Advisory Board of PI “Inovacijų agentūra”.
- On 12 April 2022, a scientific-practical conference on “Agricultural Sciences for Business: challenges and opportunities for the Green Deal” was organised.
- The Centre for Animal Production Research and Innovation won and launched the project “Improving the competences of people involved in agricultural activities”.
- In June 2022, a series of meetings was organised in Lithuanian municipalities to discuss circular economy development opportunities with local agri-food sector representatives. Meetings were held in Panevėžys, Tauragė, Telšiai and Marijampolė.
- On 3 July 2022, the Animal Production Research and Innovation Centre successfully completed the demonstration project “Improving farmers’ competences in the areas of breeding and welfare of farm animals, milk production, genetic value improvement and organic farming”.
- From 30 August to 2 September 2022, Arvydas Povilaitis, Chief Scientist of the Institute, took part in the International Drainage Symposium in Iowa, USA, and gave a presentation “The Effect of Three Types of Amendments on Nutrient Removal from Tile Drainage Water Using Denitrifying Woodchip Bioreactors”.
- Kristina Lekavičienė, Senior Research Scientist of the Institute, participated in the international congress AGRIBALKAN 2022, Turkey, from 31 August to 3 September 2022 and together with her co-authors presented a paper “Assessment of Spreading of different types of Granulated Organic Fertilizers”.
- On 12-13 September 2022, Eglė Sendžikienė, the Institute’s Chief Scientist, participated in the 3rd World Summit of Top Scientists “Catalysis & Chemical Engineering” and, together with her co-author, gave a presentation on “Low quality rapeseed to produce biodiesel-to-diesel fuel mixtures by applying lipase-catalysed in situ process”.
- The international scientific conference “Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection SEEP2022” was co-organised with Brunel University in London on 12-15 September 2022.
- The Institute’s chief researcher Arvydas Povilaitis was awarded the Rector’s Commemorative Medal for his contribution to the development of Vytautas Magnus University.
- On 19-24 September 2022, Kristina Lekavičienė, senior researcher at the Institute, completed a traineeship at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague.
- On 6-7 October 2022, Jolita Greblkaitė, senior researcher of the Institute, took part in the international conference “University Network of the European Capitals of Culture UNeECC” and together with her co-author gave a presentation on “Sustainable biobusiness: what are the key issues?”.
- Arvydas Povilaitis, chief scientist of the Institute, received a certificate of appreciation from UNESCO and the L’OREAL Foundation for his participation in the jury of the “Women in Science” Programme.
- Darius Kavaliauskas, a senior researcher at the Institute, became a member of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

Director of the Institute Rytis Skominas

Address Studentų g. 11, Akademija, 53361 Kauno r.



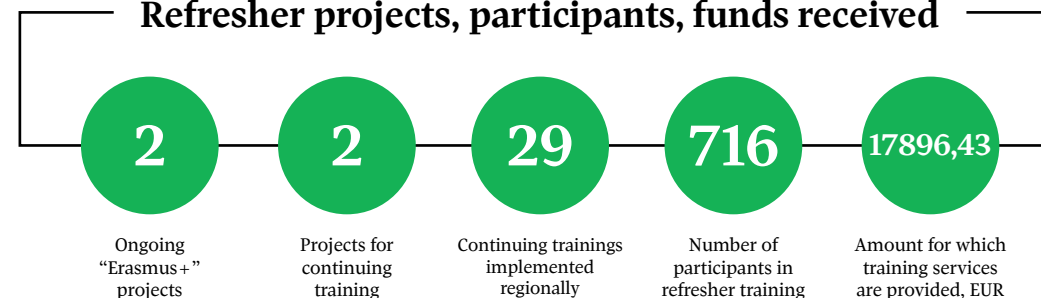
Business and Social Partnership Centre

Information on major exhibitions in 2022

	International agricultural exhibition "Ką pasėsi... 2022"	Exhibition "Inno panorama 2022" and livestock exhibition	Conference, exhibition and contact fair "Cannabis Hub.LT 2022"
Number of participants	300	68	18
Number of visitors	55000	7000	400
Number of educational programme events (seminars / conferences)	42	24	26
Number of listeners of educational programme events	535	350	220
Number of companies sponsoring the exhibition	5	1	-

19 events were organised in the University's exhibition pavilions in cooperation with partners (UAB "Austana", Lithuanian Cynological Amateur Union, UAB "Bigudy", Kaunas Cynology Methodology Centre, Kaunas Cynology Methodology Centre, KTU Students' Representative Office, International Felinologists' Association "Alpha Catum", UAB "Auto arsenalas", MB "MKuzmarskio projektai", Lithuanian Poultry Breeders Association, International Association of Motorsport Veterans, Lithuanian Association of Carp Growers, AB "East West Agro").

Refresher projects, participants, funds received



Other projects and their value

Number of projects financed under the Operational Area "Lithuanian Rural Network" of the measure "Technical Assistance" of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 — **4**

Projects financed under the Operational Area "Lithuanian Rural Network" of the measure "Technical Assistance" of the Lithuanian Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, value EUR — **98 846,48**

Other ongoing projects, number — **4**

Other ongoing projects, value EUR — **241 753,98**

Organisations with which the Centre for Business and Social Partnership has regional cooperation links:

Pasvalys district LAG, Panevėžys district LAG, Vilnius district LAG, Alytus district LAG, Druskininkai LAG, Dzūkija Rural Development Partners Association (Dzūkija RAG), Varėna region LAG, Sūduva LAG, Vilkaviškis region LAG, Tauragė district LAG, "Nemunas" LAG, Pagėgiai region LAG, Farmers' Union of Rokiškis, Ukmergė LAG, Zarasai-Visaginas LAG, Švenčionys LAG, Molėtai LAG, Eičiai community, Akademija community, Lithuanian Union of Local Community Organisations, Union of Lithuanian Rural Communities, Lithuanian Union of Rural Communities, Lithuanian Social Business Association, Kaunas district municipality, Plungė municipality, Alytus municipality, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ukmergė district municipality.

Director Rita Petlickaitė

Address Universiteto g. 8A-209, Akademija, 53341 Kauno r.

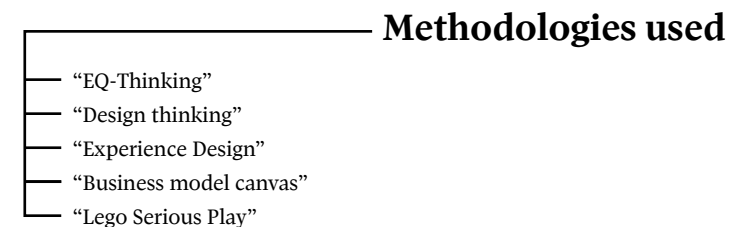
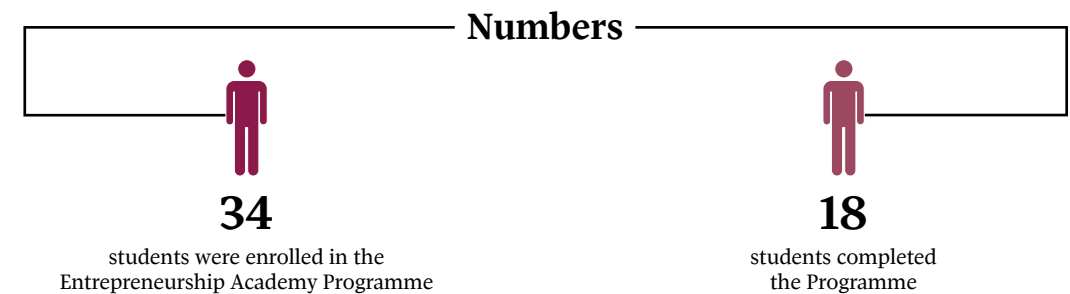
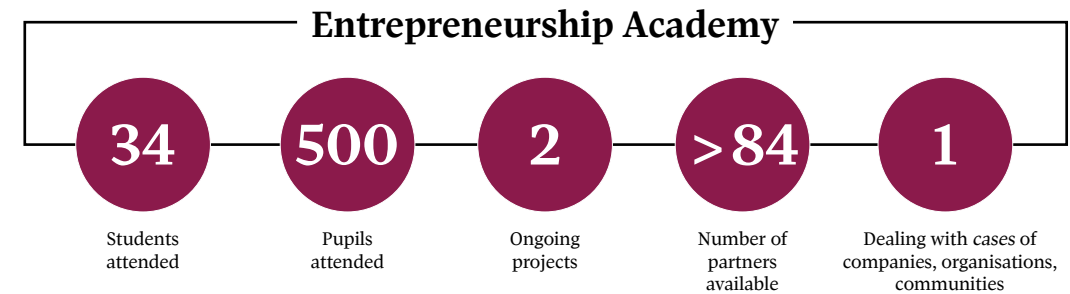
Key events of 2022

- From 31 March to 2 April, one of the largest international agricultural exhibitions in the Baltic States – the International Agricultural Exhibition “Ką pasėsi... 2022” was organised. More than 300 companies, organisations and small traders took part in the exhibition. The main sponsor of the exhibition is UAB “Žemtiekimas”.
- On 28 April, the event “Future of Regions Forum 2022” was organised. 677 people attended the event via both online and face-to-face means.
- On 21 June, the scientific and practical conference “Žemdirbio vasara 2022” and the event “Atviras ūkis” were organised together with the partners of the cluster “Žaliasis intelektas”. The number of participants – 120 from the agricultural sector.
- A joint cooperation agreement was initiated between VMU AA, Lithuanian Agricultural Advisory Service, LSMU VA, the Lithuanian Agriculture Council and VMU Agriculture Academy Teaching Farm for the establishment of the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKI) cluster. The Cluster was established on 13 July 2022.
- A field day was organised on 12 September in cooperation with VMU Academy of Agriculture Teaching Farm, the Faculty of Agronomy and UAB “DOJUS agro”. The number of participants – 150.
- On 22-23 September, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania and the PI “Ekoagros”, the international conference “EKOLINK 2022. Organic production. On the way to 2030” was organised. The number of participants – 350.
- “Inno Panorama 2022”, an innovation dissemination exhibition, took place from 22 to 24 September and focused on ecology, environment and sustainability. Five outstanding exhibits were awarded medals and diplomas at “Inno Panorama 2022”. The main sponsor of the exhibition is AB “East West Agro”.
- A livestock exhibition showcasing the achievements of breeding livestock producers was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania on 22-24 September. The exhibition’s partner is the Lithuanian Beef Cattle Breeders and Improvers Association with which a long-term cooperation agreement was signed.
- On 24 September, the event “EIP Operational Groups Contact and Experience Fair 2022” was organised. The number of participants – 80.
- The international conference, exhibition and contact fair “Cannabis Hub.LT 2023” took place on 11-12 November. The event was organised in cooperation with the Association of Cannabis Growers, Processors and Business Innovators.
- On 30 November, the “LEADER Good Practices in the RDP” competition was organised, and 16 projects were evaluated, not only at the national but also at the international level.
- VMU AA Agricultural Science and Innovation Development Fund was established.
- The signing of support agreements with the patrons of VMU Agriculture Academy was initiated: UAB “Agrokoncerno technika”, UAB “Baltic Agro Machinery”, UAB “DOJUS agro”, UAB “Dotnuva Baltic”, UAB “East West Agro”, AB “East West Agro”, UAB “Ivabaltė”, AB “Lytagra”, AB “Rovaltra”, UAB “Žemtiekimas”.



Entrepreneurship Academy

33 ECTS credit minor study programme Minded Entrepreneurship Academy
Programme for students – Minded Experience Academy



Activity

- “Social impact” changes initiated in 5 towns.
- “Design Thinking” principles were used to solve the challenge of MB OFFLINE Games.
- Personal development programme.
- A new first cycle study programme in Creative Business and Innovation Design was accredited. There were 25 students enrolled in the Programme.
- Community event “Cooking Slam”.
- Project of the Academy of mentors.

Projects:

- INTERREG Europe project: “Actions for inducing SME growth and innovation via the ECoC event and legacy” (No. ECoC-SME, Nr. PGI06047) (partner VMU Business Practice Centre).
- “Active Citizenship Development of Youth in Lithuanian Regions” K1-O1-PK-D-o88 (partner VMU Business Practice Centre).

Head Assoc. Prof. Osvaldas Stripeikis

Address S. Daukanto g. 28-206, 44246 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

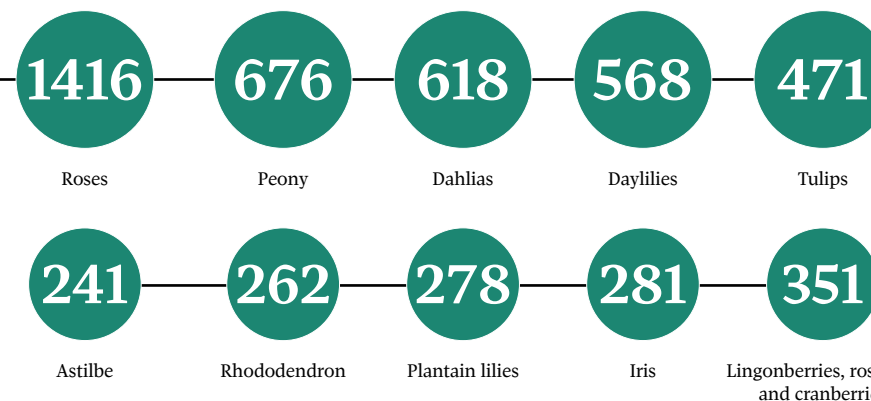
- In 2022, a new first cycle study programme in Creative Business and Innovation Design was accredited on the basis of Minded VMU Entrepreneurship Academy activities. There were 25 students enrolled in the degree programme.
- In the spring semester of 2022, 16 students from the University chose the Entrepreneurship Academy's minor studies. 18 students received certificates of completion from the Entrepreneurship Academy.
- In the spring semester, the challenge was given by MB OFFLINE Games - how to popularise the Offline Game Club's fun board game events in Lithuanian companies.
- Entrepreneurship Academy students developed and implemented ideas in town communities. The Smart Practice course focuses on the creation of a unique social or business idea and its real implementation in a selected Lithuanian town: the "Hej – Hamakai" project for the community of the town of Ežerelis, the "Tepk ir Kepk" project in Kulautuva, the project "Misija – Vilkija" in Vilkija, a social project for the sports hall "Svajonė" in Kybartai, and the youth space in the town of Išlaužas.
- The Mentor Academy programme was launched to train and organise a team of mentors to work with and accompany students during the development and implementation of their ideas and projects.
- The community event "Cooking Slam" – a creative team-building workshop through cooking – was organised. It is a very creative challenge where participants are divided into teams to create two unique recipes in a limited time.
- Visits to gymnasiums, workshops for schoolchildren at the University and in schools. About 500 students from all over Lithuania participated in the activities.



Botanical Garden

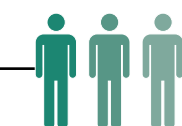


Largest collections (number of collectible issues)



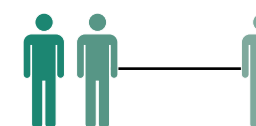
Collectible numbers (total)	16,094
Number of publications	12
Rare plant species	104
Plant collection numbers assigned to ANGI	265
Number of projects	5
Volunteers	94

Visitors



98,138

Visitors per year



680

Excursion groups

7480

Participants in educational activities

Activity

Conferences and seminars

Scientific-practical workshop
“Search for medicinal plants and their application in the prevention and treatment of SARS-CoV-2”.

Events for the public

The fascination of Plants Day
Weeks of flowering of plants
Night of Scents
The fairs “Pakalnutės žiedas” and “Pakalnutės uoga”
Presentation of the President Valdas Adamkus Prize
Photo exhibition “100 Years of the University of Lithuania: Landmarks that create the image of Kaunas”
Music festivals “Vasara Kaune 2022” and “Muzika botanikoje”
Jungle Book light festival

Director Dr. Nerijus Jurkonis

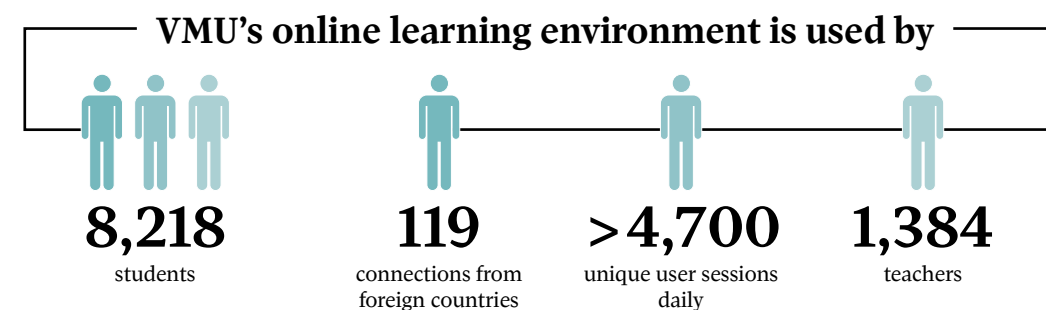
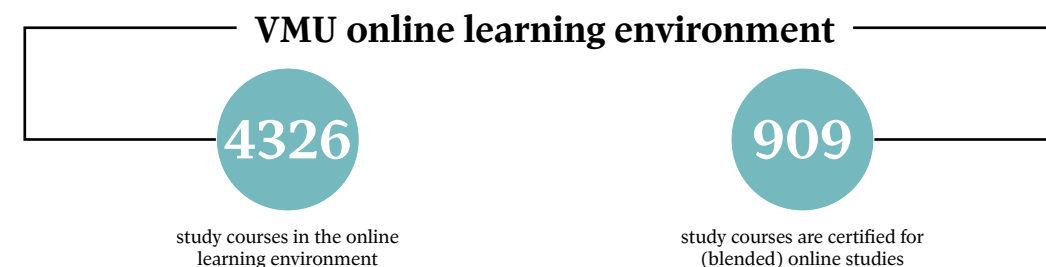
Address Ž. E. Žilibero g. 6, 46324 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- In 2022, 3 projects “Renaturalisation of exhausted peatlands and development of plant community recovery technologies” (led by Prof. Remigijus Daubaras), “Development of technology for decontamination of used wooden sleepers by biological methods” (REMTECH) (led by Prof. Audrius Maruška) and “The development of herbalism in the ethnographic region of Suvalkija: from the 19th century ethnopalladian manors to the application of modern innovative technologies for the cultivation of medicinal plants and the preparation of herbal raw materials in the community of Kiduliai” (led by Prof. Ona Ragažinskienė). The projects “Development of Innovative Growing Media Using Alternative Ingredients” (led by Dr. Laima Česonienė) and “Nanoarchitectural Methodology and Empirical Investigation for Microanalysis of Fast Environmental Samples Using Highly Sustainable π -electron Materials” (led by Prof. Audrius Maruška) are continued.
- In Poland, samples of a variety of marginsweet actinidia, developed in the Botanical Garden, were tested at the Central Research Centre for Usable Plant Varieties. In 2022, the cultivar ‘Milema’ of the marigold actinidia was officially authorised (by Prof. Remigijus Daubaras and Dr. Laima Česonienė). Six varieties of dahlias (‘Anelė Albina’, ‘Freda Kristina Pink’, ‘Orija’, ‘Vytautas Magnus University’, ‘Wigry’ and ‘Žuvinto Lūgė’), developed in VMU Botanical Garden, were handed over to the State Forest Service to be included in the Lithuanian National Plant Genetic Resources.
- International scientific conferences “Man and Nature Safety” with a scientific workshop “Search for medicinal plants and their application in the prevention and treatment of SARS-CoV-2” and a scientific conference “Living Nature Sign 2022” were organised. Together with the Lithuanian Society of Dendrologists, a seminar-discussion on “Urban greenspace development practices and trends: regulation, implementation, environmental protection” was organised.
- The Botanical Garden staff published 18 scientific publications in Lithuanian and foreign scientific journals.
- Two employees of the Botanical Garden defended their dissertations: Sandra Saunoriūtė “Introduction of *Artemisia abrotanum* (L.), *Artemisia vulgaris* (L.), *Artemisia absinthium* (L.), *Artemisia pontica* (L.) plants morphological properties and dynamics of volatile and non-volatile compounds of their medicinal raw materials during vegetation in Lithuania” (supervised by Prof. Ona Ragažinskienė) and Paulina Martusevičė “Enzymatic hydrolysis of buckwheat and oats for the development and functionality of new products” (supervised by Dr. Jonas Viškelis).
- Prof. Ona Ragažinskienė and Valdas Sasnauskas published the encyclopaedic book “The Big Book of Medicinal Plants”.
- In 2022, 15 Botanical Garden staff members took part in “Erasmus+” teaching and learning visits to botanical gardens, arboretums and other scientific institutions across Europe.
- Prof. Remigijus Daubaras participated in the World Congress of Botanic Gardens in Melbourne (Australia), Dr. Nerijus Jurkonis, Prof. Remigijus Daubaras, Dr. Laima Česonienė, Dr. Arūnas Balsevičius and Ričardas Narijauskas – in the European Congress of Botanic Gardens in Budapest (Hungary), Prof. Ona Ragažinskienė and doctoral candidate Sandra Saunoriūtė – at the Congress of Medicinal Plants and Natural Products Research in Thessaloniki (Greece), Dr. Arūnas Balsevičius – at the International Dahlia Competition at the Parc de Floral Garden in Paris (France).
- In 2022, the Botanical Garden was visited by colleagues from the Botanical Garden of Wroclaw University (Poland), the National Botanical Garden of Latvia, the European Rosarium in Zangerhausen (Germany), the renowned Estonian florist Marika Vartla, a delegation from Mariupol State University (Ukraine), the Pomeranian Academy in Slupsk (Poland), the Universities of Haifa (Israel), and Trieste (Italy), as well as by Turkish pharmaceutical, molecular biology, and biotechnology scientists.
- In 2022, VMU Botanic Garden participated in a plant seed exchange with 360 botanic gardens, arboretums and other scientific institutions from around the world.
- VMU Botanical Garden provides a base for internships for various study programmes. In 2022, 355 students, including 239 students from universities, 78 from universities of applied sciences and 38 from vocational training centres, took part in internships in the BG.
- In 2022, 376 educational activities were carried out with the participation of 7,479 pupils. 3 summer camps were organised during the summer holidays, attended by 69 pupils. 96 Cultural Passport educational lessons were attended by 2184 pupils.
- In 2022, 38 students volunteered at VMU BG, 4 students took part in the social-civic activity classes in the Botanical Garden, 48 people took part in clean-up activities of companies and organisations. There was a total of 94 volunteers.
- To support Ukraine, a solidarity picnic was held (Ukrainians for Lithuanians, Lithuanians for Ukrainians), Ukrainians were able to visit the Botanical Gardens free of charge, and funds were raised to preserve the collections of the conservatory of the Ukrainian M.M. Hryshko National Botanical Gardens in Kyiv.
- In 2022, 8 new plant displays were installed, and 7 displays were reconstructed and renovated. Most of the displays and collections were moved to raised beds to simplify and facilitate plant care. The aquatic plant exhibition cover was renewed (600 sq m), an irrigation system was installed in the actinidia and grape collections, drainage was installed in the new exhibitions, the glasshouse in the pomology collections was renewed, the greenhouse ventilation window opening mechanisms and axial fans were replaced in the orangery, and cost-effective, hermetically sealed LED lights were installed. The resurfacing of the Botanical Garden’s entrance area (1,100 square metres) was paved for 32 car parking spaces. Major repairs to the bridge to the island were done.



Institute of Innovative Studies



Open distance studies for the public and organisations

- <http://openstudies.vdu.lt> – for members of the public and organisations
- 91 non-formal distance learning courses for society
- 761 learners were studying non-formal education courses at a distance in 2022

Developing digital competences in 2022

VMU teachers	514
Employees of other Lithuanian education, study and training organisations	104
Employees of other international education, training and study organisations	82

Cooperation

- 26 organisations' distance learning environments are monitored
- 26 organisations are given access to videoconferencing tools

Membership in (international) organisations

- EDEN Digital Learning Europe
- European Digital Education Hub
- LieDM asociacija
- UniFuture

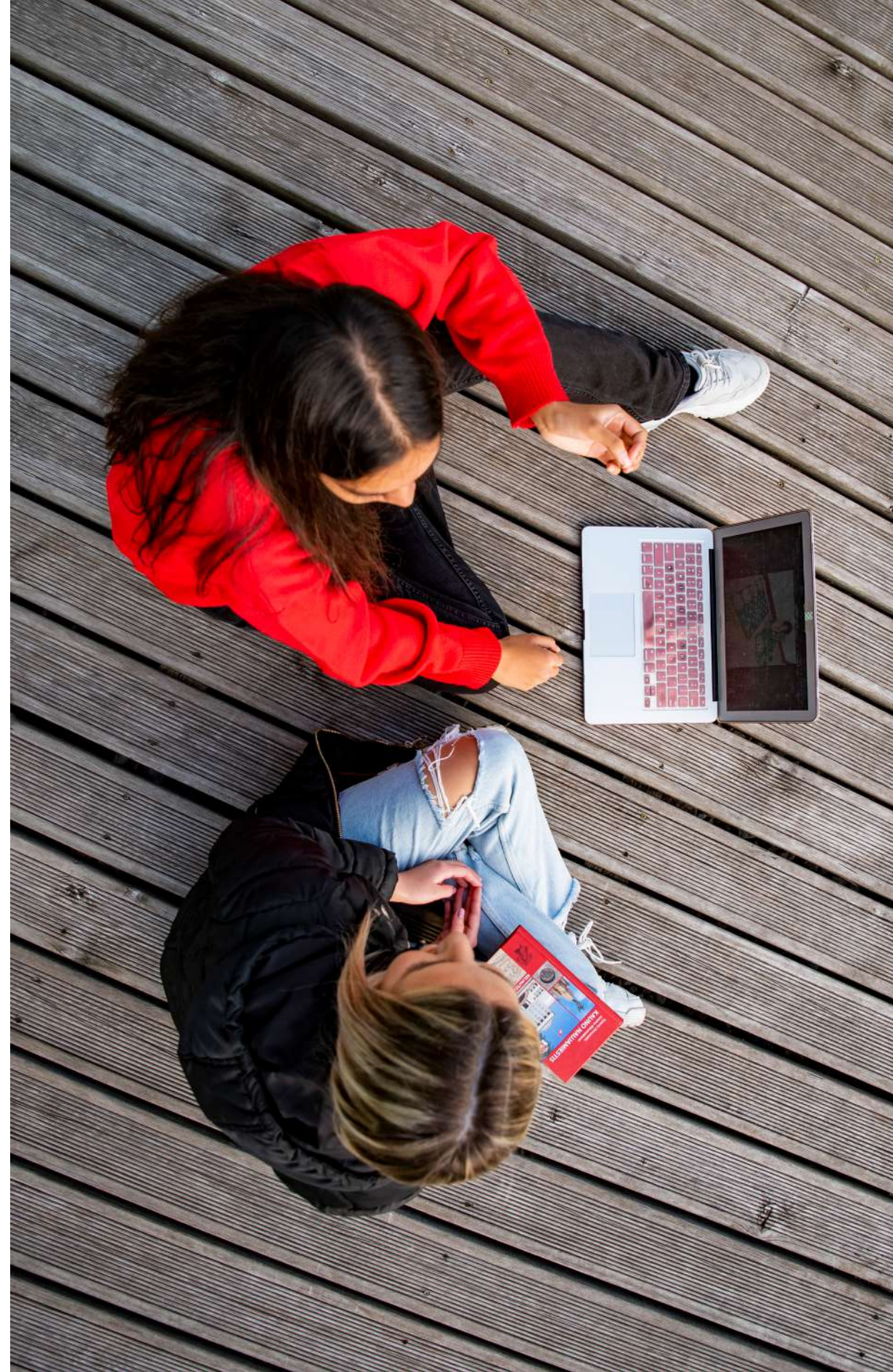
Number of projects — 8

Director Prof. Airina Volungevičienė

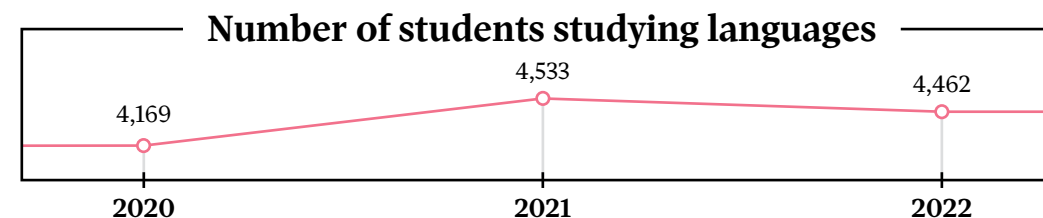
Address V. Putvinskio g. 23, 44243 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- As part of the European University Association (EUA) project “DIGI – HE – A Strategic Tool for the Digitalisation of European Higher Education Institutions”, the Institute of Innovative Studies (IIS) presented the University’s readiness for distance and blended distance learning to EUA members, HEIs, and collaborating countries at three EUA international events (<https://eua.eu/101-projects/772-digi-he.html>).
- Researchers from the Institute for Innovative Studies participated in the EUA thematic group on “Digitally Competent Teachers” and jointly developed recommendations for EUA members and collaborating countries and organisations on how HEIs should revise their teacher training models to reflect the specificities of the digitisation process. Prof. Dr. Airina Volungevičienė, Dr. Estela Daukšienė, Dr. Daiva Urmonienė, Prof. Dr. Lina Kaminskienė took part in the working group on the recommendations.
- Experts from the Institute of Innovative Studies are actively involved in the European Commission’s Digital Education Hub Knowledge Building Activities, coordinated by the Institute’s Director, Prof. Dr. Airina Volungevičienė, on behalf of EDEN Digital Learning Europe. The recommendations are available on the EUA website <https://eua.eu/u/101-projects/540-learning-teaching-thematic-peer-groups.html>
- In 2022, the Institute of Innovative Studies continued the activities of the working group of Experts on the Digitisation Strategy of the University’s Academic Activities (headed by Prof. Airina Volungevičienė), which was set up on the order of the Rector of the University by assessing the challenges and best practices in the digitisation of studies in the academic units. The activities and results of this group are presented in EUA’s methodological material on the FutureLearn platform as a case study of good practice at VMU in the format of an open massive distance learning course <https://www.futurelearn.com/>
- In 2022, IIS carried out 5 EU international cooperation projects, coordinated 1 project, carried out the LMT SMART project on microcredentials research, and participated in EDEN Digital Learning Europe, DAAD, HPI Institute (Germany), the EUA and other important international conferences and research workshops to share best practices in the implementation of technology in the classroom.



Institute of Foreign Languages



A total number of students, pupils, etc. — **4,961**
number of unclassified students

Unclassified students from the public
learned in language groups with students — **80**

Pupils studied languages
through non-formal education — **42**

VMU staff learned in language
groups with students — **22**

VMU staff attended
English language courses for staff — **355**

Pages translated — **2135**

Hours of interpretation — **68.5**

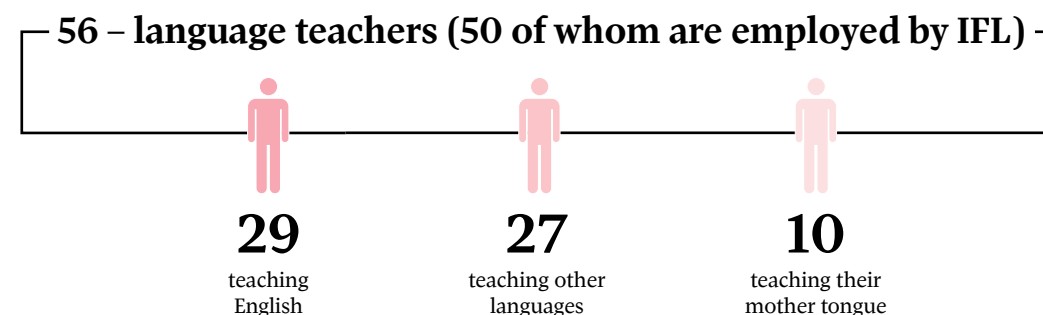
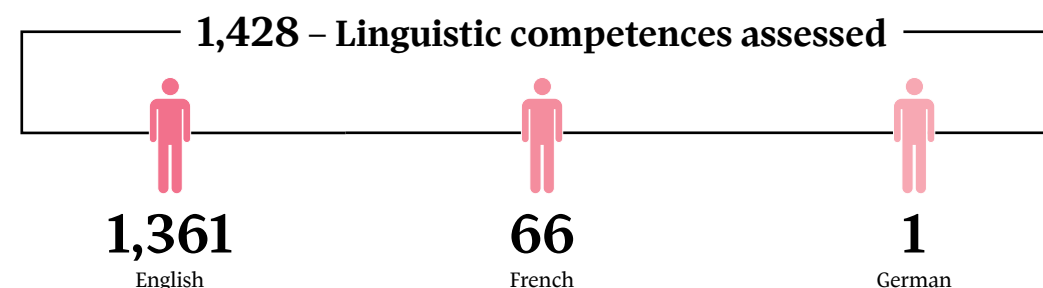
Pages edited — **633**

Researchers — **3**

Number of publications — **12**

Number of projects — **5**

1 course in other languages at **Level III** and 1 course in English at **Level II** were certified



Director Dr. Teresė Ringailienė

Address K. Donelaičio g. 52, 44244 Kaunas

Key events of 2022

- The periodical journal “Darnioji daugiakalbystė / Sustainable Multilingualism”, published by the Institute of Foreign Languages (UKI), celebrates its 10th anniversary. Issues 20 and 21 of the journal were published in 2022, with 20 articles published.
- On 26 April, the second Student Language Conference “Tobulėkime kartu”, organised by VMU Institute of Foreign Languages, took place in honour of the 100th anniversary of the University of Lithuania. A video competition “100 Words” was also organised for VMU students to promote multilingualism and language learning.
- In February-April and November-December, the “Tasting the Language” distance events featured less commonly taught languages such as Farsi, Portuguese, Georgian, Czech, Estonian, Irish.
- From 25 April to 5 May, the “Primavera en español” festival, the “iBUEN CAMINO!” exhibition, cultural activities, language exchanges and a school competition were organised.
- On 6 May, an international event on “Brunch and Languages” was organised with the participation of the Transform4Europe Alliance. Participants had a playful learning experience in the languages of the Alliance’s partners – Bulgarian, Estonian, German, Italian, Polish, Lithuanian, Italian, Spanish, Polish, German and Ukrainian.
- On 26 September, the 21st European Day of Languages was celebrated, and students and pupils had the opportunity to test their knowledge in an interactive game of languages and cultures called “The Challenge – Multilingualism!”.
- Language training for teachers of Ugnė Karvelis Gymnasium (English), UAB “CV Group” (English), Kaunas Steponas Darius and Girėnas Gymnasium (German).
- Close cooperation with general education schools: lessons in Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, German, “Kalbų kavinės” events with Darius and Girėnas Gymnasium students, 7 seminars for teachers, meetings with students from Ariogala, Darius and Girėnas, Domeikava, Raudondvaris Gymnasiums. A European Day of Languages celebration was organised for pupils from “Rasa” and Ariogala gymnasiums. IFL representatives and international students participated in the European Day of Languages celebrations at the “Karalienė Morta” School, Kaunas “Varpas” and “KTU Vaižgantas” progymnasium. IFL contributed to the organisation of an orienteering game for students, organised activities at VMU Festival of Studies for students, and invited students to language lectures at the “Moksleivi, pabūk studentu” event, the “Lessons at VMU” event, and VMU Summer School.
- The IFL celebrated its 20th anniversary. To celebrate the birthday, the IFL team shared languages and invited everyone, especially schoolchildren, to get a “taste” of languages by participating in remote events and learning fascinating facts about Italian, Spanish, French, Swedish and Turkish languages, cultures, words and phrases.
- The IFL teachers and international students taught Ukrainian and Lithuanian at the Courtyard Festival organised by Kaunas 2022, and Spanish, German, French, Japanese, Arabic, German, French, Japanese, Arabic, Portuguese and Danish at the Festival “Culture Garden 2022”.
- The IFL provided intensive language assistance to Ukrainians affected by the war: free Lithuanian language courses (attended by more than 400 Ukrainians) and free Ukrainian language courses (attended by about 160 Lithuanians). Tandem Lithuanian and Ukrainian language learning was organised (35 pairs). An exhibition of paintings by Ukrainian artist Olha Saienko was opened, and integrated art and Lithuanian language lessons were held at VMU Art Gallery “101”. Since March, camouflage nets have been woven while learning Ukrainian with students from Vileišiai Progymnasium, LSMU, Raudondvaris, “Rasa”, Darius and Girėnas Gymnasiums.





MCMXXII

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY



VYTAUTAS
MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY
MCMXXII