APPROVED
by Decision No. 9
of the meeting of 14 th April 2023
of the Committee of Doctoral Studies in the Education Science Field

PROGRAMME OF DOCTORAL STUDIES IN THE EDUCATION SCIENCE FIELD

Study courses are provided by VMU Education Academy and the Educational Research Institute, in cooperation with researchers from foreign universities who work at VMU Education Academy and the Educational Research Institute. Doctoral students may study in face-to-face and distance study formats.

Code	S 007
Study area	Social sciences
Study field	Education
Study cycle	Third cycle
Mode and duration of studies (in years)	Full-time: 4 years; part-time: 6 years
Programme volume in credits	240 ECTS (the theoretical study programme consists of 30 ECTS)[i]
Academic degree awarded	Doctor's degree in Social Sciences (Education 07S).

Aim of the programme

To educate responsible, ethically acting, creative, qualified researchers, capable of competitively developing the Science of Education, based on high-quality scientific research on a national and international scale in a multidisciplinary area, through original, significant, well-grounded and reliable research and the creation of new knowledge, contributing to educational, scientific, social and cultural progress, enabling the development of a sustainable society. The programme of doctoral studies in Education is intended to train doctors of science in Education in the field of Social Sciences. Qualified researchers will be able to perform academic research, consulting and managerial work based on research at all levels of the education system and in specialised research companies; scientific, pedagogical work in academic institutions of higher education; to lead in education institutions of various levels and purpose.

Learning outcomes (acquired competences)

After completing the programme of doctoral studies, doctors of science will acquire academic professional and transferable competences and will be able to act on the strength of these competences.

Having acquired academic professional competences, doctors of science will be able

1) to know and develop their research topic area, main problems and research methods and social and cultural significance, to critically apply the acquired theoretical knowledge and research methodology skills when conducting research independently and / or in a research team, to contribute to the scientific development and evolution of their research field in an ethically sustainable manner (intellectual competence of knowledge / knowing will be enabled).

2) to apply and develop advanced conceptual approaches, principles and methodologies of education science and interdisciplinary research by ethically conducting original research, interpreting various perspectives, connecting them to new and complex situations and problems of the educational context and creating new significant, well-grounded and reliable research and

results-based educational science knowledge, contributing to the creation and management of educational innovations and the organisational culture of educational institutions based on learning co-creation in the age of rapid digitisation (intellectual competence of knowledge / knowing will be enabled).
3) to investigate and evaluate complex educational phenomena from monodisciplinary, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary perspectives relevant to the problems and challenges of pre-school, pre-primary, primary, lower secondary, secondary education, vocational training, higher education, adult learning, non-formal education, special pedagogy, and sports education by presenting research-based conclusions (functional / operational intellectual competence will be enabled).
4) to solve theoretical and practical problems in the field of education by basing them on conceptual and empirical research in education, by appropriately selecting research methodologies or transferring them from one research field / theme to another by creating new mono- and multi-disciplinary knowledge (functional / operational intellectual competence will be enabled).
5) to critically and constructively evaluate scientific projects and research results communicated in educational research and in a specific research field and / or topic, focusing on the harmony of applied theoretical knowledge and research methodologies, methodological reliability, research ethics and the contribution of results to education science, as a discipline based on the balance between science and practice (functional / operational intellectual competence will be enabled).
6) to design and conduct original educational research based on advanced quantitative, qualitative or mixed research methodologies, developing didactic, technological-digital, managerial knowledge and intellectual skills, aimed at the ability to manage and organise scientific projects and lead in initiating research, manage information by selecting and analysing it, use open sources, communicate research results in writing and orally (functional / operational intellectual competence will be enabled).
7) to create educational, organisational, technological and social innovations in the fields of pre-school, pre-primary, primary, lower secondary, secondary education, vocational training, higher education, adult learning, non-formal education, special pedagogy and sports education, taking responsibility for the long-term impact of these innovations on learners, society and the environment. (functional / operational intellectual competence will be enabled).

Having acquired transferable competences, doctors of science will be able
1) to take responsibility for organising and leading research, for its implementation by bringing together professional groups, research groups, institutions or other interested parties, forming targeted research networks or teams, and disseminating research results in educational and other communities, promoting changes and progress in educational, academic, professional, social and cultural life (researcher / scientist role competence will be enabled).
2) to demonstrate intellectual openness, leadership, creativity, social responsibility while successfully developing a career in academic-scientific, managerial, political, business contexts by making flexible, creative decisions based on the ability to present objective, unbiased arguments based on research and scientific critical thinking, contributing to an ethical, dignified, equal dialogue or polylogue (academic activity / research expansion / development competence will be enabled).

Content of the Programme

No.	Title of the module	Credits, ECTS
Research Methodology Block A – COMPULSORY MODULES (10 ECTS)		
1.	*Kiekybinio tyrimo dizainas ir statistiniai sprendimai edukologijos mokslo darbuose / Quantitative Research Design and Statistical Decisions in Educational Research Works (EDUD001)*	5
2.	*Kokybinio ir mišriojo tyrimo metodologijos dizainai edukologijos mokslo darbuose / Qualitative and Mixed Design Research Methodologies in Education (EDUD002)*	5

Conceptualisation of the Science of Education discipline Block B OPTIONAL MODULES (it is mandatory to take 10 ECTS)		
3.	*Įtraukties švietime teorinės ir metodologinės dimensijos / Theoretical and Methodological Dimensions of Inclusion in Education (EDUD003)*	5
4.	*Šiuolaikinės didaktikos konceptualiosios prieigos pradiniame / pagrindiniame / viduriniame ugdyme / Conceptual Approaches to Contemporary Didactics in Primary / Secondary Education (EDUD004)*	5
5.	*Švietimo vadyba ir kokybės valdymo teorijos / Management of Education and Quality Management Theories (EDUD005)*	5
6.	*Švietimo filosofija, socialinė ir politinė kritika / Education Philosophy, Social and Political Critique (EDUD006)*	5
7.	*Švietimo antropologijos tyrimų paradigmos / Research Paradigms in Anthropology of Education (EDUD007)*	5
8.	*Atvirasis mokslas: atvirieji duomenys, atviroji prieiga, atvirosios tyrėjų bendruomenės / Open Science: Open Data, Open Access, Open Research Communities (EDUD008)*	5
9.	*Personalizuoto mokymosi pedagogika ir pozityvioji psichologija / Pedagogy of Personalised Learning and Positive Psychology (EDUD009)*	5
10.	*Aukštojo mokslo ir profesinio rengimo filosofija ir didaktika / Philosophy and Didactics of the Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training (EDUD010)*	5
11.	*Lyderystės teorija, praktika ir plėtra švietime / Leadership Theory, Practice, and Development in Educational Setting (EDUD011)*	5
In-depth / Specialisation Block C One study course is chosen from the proposed list. It is possible to choose identical study courses related to the dissertation research topic, specific research problem or methodology at a foreign university. To be coordinated with the supervisor. A coordinated individual programme requires the approval of the Study Committee of Doctoral Studies in the Education Science Field.		
12.	*Etnografinio tyrimo metodologija / Ethnographic Research Methodology (EDUD012)*	5
13.	*Grindžiamosios teorijos metodologija / Grounded Theory Research Methodology (EDUD013)*	5
14.	*Fenomenologinės hermeneutikos tyrimo metodologija / Phenomenological Hermeneutic Research Methodology (EDUD014)*	5
15.	*Atvirieji švietimo ištekliai / Open Educational Resources (EDUD015)*	5
16.	*Sportinio ugdymo technologijos / Sports Education Technologies (EDUD016)*	5
17.	*Įgalinančioji sporto edukologija / Empowering Sports Education (EDUD017)*	5
18.	*Šiuolaikinės ankstyvojo ugdymo teorijos modeliai ir tyrimų kryptys / Contemporary Theories, Models and Research in Early Childhood Education (EDUD018)*	5
19.	*Suaugusiųjų mokymosi strategijos / Strategies of Adult Learning (EDUD019)*	5
20.	*Žmogaus teisių perspektyvos švietime / Human Rights Perspectives in Education (EDUD020)*	5
21.	*Skaitmeniškai kompetentinga visuomenė, organizacija, individas / Digitally Competent Society, Organisation, Individual (EDUD021)*	5

22.	*Laisvai pasirenkamas gilinamasis dalykas / A freely chosen in-depth study* course *(EDUD022)*[1]	5
23.	*Mokymosi perspektyvos / Perspectives on Learning (EDUD027)*	5
Science communication Block D One study course is chosen from the proposed list. It is possible to choose identical study courses to study at foreign universities where doctoral studies in the field of education are conducted. Doctoral students are encouraged to participate in doctoral summer camps or study part-time studies at a foreign university. The decision on the crediting of the courses studied at the doctoral level is taken by the Committee of Doctoral Studies in the Education Science Field.		
24.	*Akademinis diskursas ir komunikacijos modeliai / Academic Discourse and Models of Communication (EDUD023)*	5
25.	*Mokslo straipsnio, ataskaitų ir pranešimo rengimo metodologija / Methodology for Preparing a Scientific Article, Presentation and Reports (EDUD024)*	5
26.	*Specialusis mokslo komunikacijos dalykas/ Special study course of science communication* (EDUD025)	5
INDIVIDUAL STUDIES, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES		
1. **Preparation and implementation of the doctoral dissertation research project, based on an original idea in the science of education,** takes place through the following activities: forming the mandatory parameters of the dissertation research (scientific problem, research questions or research hypotheses, research object and aim), formulating the research topic of the dissertation, choosing the type of research, systematising and abstracting the analysed targeted scientific sources, conducting the research using the chosen methodology, applying it in accordance with the planned empirical research implementation plan, analysing and interpreting empirical (quantitative and / or qualitative) data, presenting the results and interpreting them, forming conclusions and recommendations. The completed dissertation is submitted to the Study Committee of Doctoral Studies in the Education Science Field according to the intended description of content and structure.		210
2. Doctoral student participation in **scientific projects carried out by groups of scientists** in the role of a researcher is mandatory, to develop skill in working with sources, data collection, analysis and summarisation, presentation of results, interpretation and summarisation of intellectual knowledge, intellectual and operational / functional competences, developing an academic / research work team, cooperation, verbal and written communication, and leadership competences.		
3. Participation in **national and international scientific conferences, forums and / or seminars** related to the topic and scientific problem of the ongoing dissertation research is mandatory, sharing with the academic communities of pedagogy and other scientific disciplines the results of the theoretical and empirical research of the dissertation by communicating in a reasoned manner in presentations in the national and / or foreign language. It is also necessary to participate in events-conferences organised by educational practitioners and experts, expressing an opinion based on empirical results in forums, sharing the results of conducted (theoretical and empirical) dissertation research and communicating research-based recommendations to communities of practitioners. These activities are directly related to the development of transferable academic communication competences of doctoral students.		

• [1] Taken at the university, other Lithuanian or foreign universities or specialised expert institutions.

4. **Preparation and publication of scientific publications** in peer-reviewed scientific journals, which are included in *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WOS)* and / or are classified at least in the Q3 quartile by SCOPUS, and are published in foreign countries and / or in Lithuania, are necessary. Preparation of publications is directly related to the development of transferable academic communication competences of doctoral students. Dissemination of research, including its scientific and practical contribution, is carried out in a certain scientific area and field, in the research topic. It allows researchers and practitioners with similar interests to realise new knowledge in their field, which helps in knowledge development and application.	
5. **Participation in a research internship** (in the third-fourth year of study, volume 5 credits (ECTS)) for at least 5 weeks at a foreign university, where expert experience in the research topic of the doctoral dissertation is gained, is also mandatory. The aim of the internship is to learn scientific communication, common research practices, participation in researcher discussions in international groups and / or networks of theoretical and empirical research on methodological issues, data analysis and transformation results, and dissertation text preparation.	

Career opportunities

After completing their doctoral studies, doctors of science will be able to work as researchers in teams of scientists / researchers in scientific institutes or research companies, educational policy makers / developers, educational project developers, implementers and managers, to perform scientific and / or pedagogical work in institutions of higher education and / or business or other activities, to assume leadership positions in educational and / or scientific institutions.

Final assessment

Final thesis – prepared and publicly defended doctoral dissertation.

Admission conditions

Candidates for doctoral studies in the Education Science Field are accepted through an open competition. Persons with a master's degree or equivalent higher education can participate in the open competition. Detailed admission conditions are listed in the Regulations of Doctoral Studies in the Education Science Field.

The procedure for evaluating the outcomes of doctoral studies

1. A student studied two compulsory study courses (5 credits each, 10 credits in total) selected from the Research Methodology block (Block A) and received positive final evaluations of the study achievements of each study course.
2. A student studied two study courses (5 credits each, 10 credits in total) selected from the conceptualization block of the Science of Education discipline (Block B) and received positive final evaluations of the study achievements of each study course.
3. A student studied one study course (5 credits each, 5 credits in total) selected from the In-depth / Specialisation block (Block C) and received a positive final assessment of study achievements in each study course.
4. A student studied one study course (5 credits each, 5 credits in total) from the Science Communication block (Block D).
5. A student prepared and published two articles in publications that are registered in the databases referenced by the Research Council of Lithuania when a dissertation in monograph format is prepared, and at least three scientific articles when a dissertation based on scientific articles is prepared.
6. A student participated in two international scientific conferences in foreign countries and one international scientific conference in Lithuania, where presentations were made on the

results of the dissertation research.

7. A student participated in at least one scientific and / or study internship abroad, where the total duration of the internship(s) is at least three months.
8. A student conducted at least one methodological seminar on dissertation preparation methodology and research issues at the doctoral institution for the academic community – researchers and doctoral students.
9. A student completed compulsory academic practice at a doctoral institution (based on the order of the VMU Vice-Rector for Research "*Regarding the approval of the description of the procedure for conducting academic practice and registration of doctoral students"* (20 October 2016, Order No. 389).
10. Doctoral dissertation was prepared and submitted to the Committee of Doctoral Studies in Education for consideration according to the intended content and structure description.

[i] All study courses of 30 ECTS must be taken within a period not longer than 2.5 years, i.e., 5 semesters.