

Nominal scholarship of S. Banaitis

Saliamonas Banaitis (1866.07.15 – 1933.05.04) – a member of the Independent Lithuanian Society and state figure, member of the Council of Lithuania, signatory of the Lithuanian Independence Act, a former student of Vytautas Magnus University.

Saliamonas Banaitis scholarship was established at the University in 2016 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian statehood by his grandchildren living in Canada. The aim of the scholarship is to support and encourage the most talented students at the University to conduct research related to personalities, organizations, events, or processes of the First Independent Republic of Lithuania (1918-1940), which in one way or another relate to the activities and environment of the signatory of the Act, S. Banaitis.

In this context, a thematic competition is being launched for students at all levels who are writing a thesis or carrying out research on one or more of the **themes** indicated by the founder of the scholarship:

- **History of Lithuania** relating to the activities, professional interests, or achievements of Saliamonas Banaitis, his family or relatives.
- **Lithuanian culture (art)** related to the activities, professional interests, or achievements of Saliamonas Banaitis, his family or relatives.
- **transportation of goods or people by land and water** (priority is given if there is any connection with S. Banaitis, his family or relatives);
- **communication, publishing and dissemination** (priority will be given if there is any connection with Mr Banaitis, his family or relatives);
- **the family economy and its development** (priority is given if there is any link to S. Banaitis, his family or relatives);
- **amateur, village (barn) theatre or folk music** (priority is given if there is any connection with S. Banaitis, his family or relatives).

The scholarship in the name of S. Banaitis, signatory of the Act of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania, with a preliminary amount of ~ 2,200 EUR (up to half of the amount of the scholarship, i.e. ~ 1,100 EUR if the scholarship is awarded to two persons), will be given to the student(s) who is/are most relevant to the field of study, and who is/are intending to have his/her/their research published.

The decision to award the scholarship is made by the Lithuanian Canadian Foundation (LCF), with which VMU has concluded a cooperation agreement, according to which the nominal S. Banaitis Scholarship is awarded to the best students at the University whose studies and/or research interest is related to the history, culture, and achievements of Lithuania. Priority is given to students who are interested in the activities, professional interests, or achievements of Saliamonas Banaitis, his family, or relatives, thus encouraging students to achieve professional and academic excellence.

To apply for the S. Banaitis nominal scholarship, students must fill in the application form electronically on the VMU Student Portal between February 17th and March 11th of the current year. Information about the competition is published on the VMU website.

The candidate(s) selected by the founder of the scholarship will be personally informed of the conditions and deadlines for the award of the scholarship between March and April of the current year.