



VYTAUTAS
MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY
Vytautas Kavolis
Transdisciplinary Research Institute

VYTAUTAS KAVOLIS TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY

KAUNAS, LITHUANIA

Call for Applications for Junior Postdoctoral Fellow Position at the Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute

2024

Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute at Vytautas Magnus University (hereinafter V. Kavolis Institute), Lithuania, invites to submit applications for the Junior postdoctoral fellow position 2024 – 2025 (21 months).

The aim of the Junior postdoctoral fellowship is to enhance the scientific qualifications and method competencies of the early career researchers of social sciences and humanities, and to give them the opportunity to develop an independent academic career.

The call also aims to promote the participation and involvement of early career researchers in international infrastructures, international academic associations, platforms, and research programmes (Horizon Europe, JPICH, COST Action, etc.). It also gives them access to large-scale databases (e.g., LiData Dataverse repository, SAGE, JSTOR), which allows them to broaden the range of topics to be developed and to increase relevance.

Important information about the position

- The duration of the postdoctoral fellowship is 21 months. The start date is 1 April 2024, end date – 31 December 2025.
- The location of the postdoctoral fellowship is Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute, Vytautas Magnus University, Jovanos str. 66, Kaunas, Lithuania.
- The postdoctoral fellowship is financed from the funds of the project “Strengthening the R&D activities of the Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities – SOCMTEP”, 2023-2027 under the programme “University Excellence Initiative” (order of the Minister of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport 03-07-2023, No. 940). The project contract No S-A-UEI-23-13 (2023-12-27).



- The trainee will be employed full time at the Vytautas Magnus University. The start date of the employment is 1 April 2024, end date – 31 December 2025. Full-time employment contract, work guarantees included accordingly to Lithuanian employment legislation.
- Gross monthly salary: approx. 2267 EUR (before taxes).
- The application should be prepared in English.
- Applications will be evaluated by a dedicated Submissions Committee of senior researchers from the V. Kavolis Institute and international experts (hereinafter Submissions Committee).
- In this call Junior postdoctoral fellow is defined as a researcher who holds a PhD degree awarded by a Lithuanian or foreign research and study institution, and who has completed no more than 7 years from the date of award of the PhD degree to the date of the deadline for submission of applications specified in the call (not including maternity, paternity or parental leave until the child reaches the age of 3 years), and who is carrying out the research activities.
- The supervisor of this fellowship is understood to be a scientist working in the executing institution who supervises the fellow's scientific/artistic research work during the fellowship implementation. A postdoctoral fellowship must not be supervised by the fellow's doctoral supervisor.
- The applicant applies for a specific proposed postdoctoral fellowship topic, for which a supervisor from the V. Kavolis Institute is assigned.

The topics of the Junior postdoctoral fellowships

The topics of the Junior postdoctoral fellowships must include a combination of both competencies from A (any topic from the cross-cutting topic list) and B categories (methodological competencies):

(A) Vertical thematic focus:

1. **Topic. Sociocultural identities and transformations** (more specifically, demographic processes and population research; cultural and religion studies; ethnicity and identity politics).
2. **Topic. Resilient societies and inclusive politics** (more specifically, studies on society resilience and welfare; communication processes, governance and politics).
3. **Topic. Regional and urban transformations** (more specifically, cities and regions: history, self-governance, and politics; communities and critical heritage, urban ecology and sustainability).
4. **Topic. Datafication and digital transformations** (more specifically, datafication in social processes, digital resilience and new technologies).



(B) Horizontal SSH (social sciences and humanities) data-driven competencies including quantitative, qualitative, and/or mixed methods data:

1. **Research design and methodology:** Ability to design research studies, including formulating research questions, choosing appropriate methodologies, and understanding ethical considerations in research.
2. **Data collection techniques:** Knowledge of various data collection methods, for example, surveys, interviews, focus groups, ethnography, and/or archival research.
3. **Qualitative data analysis:** skills in analysing non-numerical data, such as text, images, or audio. This includes coding, thematic analysis, discourse analysis, and/or other interpretive methodologies.
4. **Statistical analysis:** Proficiency in statistical methods and tools for analysing quantitative data and application of appropriate statistical tests.
5. **Data visualization and presentation skills:** Skills in presenting data findings through visualizations (like graphs, charts, and maps) and written reports.
6. **Digital and computational tools proficiency:** Familiarity with software and digital tools for data analysis (e.g., SPSS, R, Stata, Python, NVivo, or Atlas.ti), as well as emerging technologies such as AI and machine learning.
7. **Interdisciplinary approach:** Ability to collaborate across various disciplines, integrating methods and perspectives from different areas within social sciences and humanities, and even beyond (e.g., collaboration with data scientists).
8. **Data management and ethics:** Understanding how to manage data responsibly, including issues of privacy, consent, data storage, and sharing. Familiarity with ethical guidelines and regulations governing data in social sciences and/or humanities research.

Requirements for applicants

- The applicant must not have been employed by Vytautas Magnus University within the last 12 months.
- Applicants must have obtained their doctorate in social sciences or humanities no more than 7 years ago (excluding maternity, paternity, or parental leave).

Applicants shall provide the following documents and information:

- A copy of the document certifying that the applicant holds a doctorate in social sciences or humanities. If the document is in a language other than Lithuanian or English, a notarised English translation of the education document should also be provided.
- A curriculum vitae, indicating education, competences and other information relevant to assessing the candidate's past research performance.



- A filled application form in PDF format that includes information on applicants' motivation, achievements and research plan for the fellowship, indicating the main methodological and other information describing the research, including references to the five most relevant scientific publications related to the research topic (template provided below).
- Recommendations and contact details of two persons (including the thesis supervisor or adviser).
- Copies of documentation concerning the granting of the trainee's maternity leave, paternity leave or parental leave, or birth certificate(s) for the child(ren) (if applicable).

Submission of application and documents

- Applicants shall submit their documents to the V. Kavolis Institute administration by e-mail at vki@vdu.lt.
- In case of any questions, please send your inquiry to vki@vdu.lt.

Important dates

- 12 December 2023: call opens;
- 6 March 2024 at 5 PM (CET): call closes (last application date);
- 8 March 2024: applicants are invited to interviews;
- 12 March – 14 March 2024: online interviews;
- 20 March 2024: announcement of results;
- 1 April 2024: start of the fellowship.

Application, evaluation, and selection procedure

1. Applicants need to submit their application (in PDF format) via email at vki@vdu.lt. They should get an email confirmation that your application is successfully submitted. If applicants have not received the confirmation email within two working days, they should resubmit their application.
2. Once the call closes applicants will be invited to the second round – online interviews. During the interview max. 10 minutes will be given to the applicant's presentation. About 20 minutes will be given for interactive discussion with the Submissions Committee.
3. Once the board makes the final decision after the interviews the results will be announced via email.