

APPROVED  
by Order No. SEN-N-43 of 18  
June 2024 of the Senate of  
Vytautas Magnus University

**VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY**

**REGULATIONS OF DOCTORAL STUDIES  
IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL SCIENCES  
AT VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY  
IN COOPERATION WITH  
GENERAL JONAS ŽEMAITIS MILITARY ACADEMY OF LITHUANIA,  
KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND  
KLAIPĖDA UNIVERSITY,**

**SOCIOLOGY SCIENCE FIELD AT VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
LITHUANIAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND  
KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**I. General part**

1. Regulations of Doctoral Studies in the field of Political Sciences at Vytautas Magnus University in cooperation with General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, Kaunas University of Technology and Klaipėda University; in Sociology science field at Vytautas Magnus University in cooperation with the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences and Kaunas University of Technology (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) are prepared in accordance with the Regulations of Doctoral Studies approved by Order No. V-739 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 May 2020.

2. These Regulations establish the procedure for doctoral studies, doctoral research, thesis preparation, defence and awarding of the doctoral degree in the field of Political Sciences at Vytautas Magnus University in cooperation with General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, Kaunas University of Technology and Klaipėda University (hereinafter referred to as the Doctoral Institutions), in Sociology science field at Vytautas Magnus University in cooperation with the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences and Kaunas University of Technology, which have been jointly granted the right to conduct doctoral studies by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. The purpose of doctoral studies is to prepare scientists who are able to independently carry out work of scientific research and experimental development and solve scientific problems. Doctoral studies shall ensure sufficient competence for a person who has completed these studies and has been awarded a degree of the doctor of science: most advanced knowledge of research activity, fields of science and their interaction; special skills and methods to solve problems of scientific research and other areas, expand knowledge or professional practice; ability to work independently, knowledge and know-how of science

and profession required for the development of new ideas and processes and ability to use them in studies and other activities.

4. The Doctor of Science degree may be awarded to a person who has successfully completed full-time (up to 4 years) or part-time (up to 6 years) doctoral studies, prepared a dissertation and successfully defended it, or to a person who has successfully defended a dissertation prepared externally.

5. The following concepts shall be used in these Regulations:

**Doctoral Institutions** shall be scientific and/or study institutions that have been granted the right to conduct doctoral studies.

**Coordinating Institution/Coordinating University** shall be Vytautas Magnus University.

**A doctoral student** (hereinafter referred to as a doctoral student) shall be a student and a researcher of third-cycle studies.

**Scientific supervisor of a doctoral student** (hereinafter referred to as a supervisor) shall be a researcher who meets the requirements of the Regulations of Doctoral Studies and supervises studies and scientific research of a doctoral student.

**Work plan of the doctoral student** (hereinafter referred to as the work plan of the doctoral student) shall be an individual work plan of the doctoral student which provides stages and deadlines of doctoral studies, scientific research and dissertation preparation.

**The Committee of Doctoral Studies** (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) shall be a group of researchers who are carrying out high-level scientific research and are responsible for the content, quality, management and implementation of doctoral studies.

**A researcher carrying out high-level scientific research** shall be a researcher who meets the requirements no lower than those of a chief research worker and participates in the process of doctoral studies, international projects, research exchange programmes and other international scientific and expert activities.

**Defence Council** (hereinafter referred to as the Council) shall be a group of researchers composed by the Committee of Doctoral Studies which, after examining the dissertation presented for defence and evaluating its quality and compliance with the requirements for the dissertation, decides whether the candidate is to be granted the Doctor of Science degree.

**Doctoral Student Institution** shall be an institution in which a doctoral student is pursuing doctoral studies and scientific research and is preparing a dissertation.

**Doctoral School/Research Unit** is a division of the Doctoral Institution which supervises activities of doctoral studies.

**Finance Department/Unit** is the unit of a doctoral institution that maintains accounting records for economic decision-making and financial and tax reporting.

6. Doctoral Institutions shall ensure the exchange of individual data of doctoral students and external students required for the process of doctoral studies or for the management of external student dissertation defence in accordance with legislation.

7. The Committee of Doctoral Studies shall be composed of at least 9 scientists carrying out high-level research who are employed (either employed after winning a competition or with at least 0.5 FTE in the institution for the last three years). The requirement to take positions through a competitive process does not apply to researchers from foreign research and study institutions. When the right to doctoral studies is granted with the participation of a foreign research and studies institution(s), the Committee shall include more than half of the researchers from the Lithuanian institution(s). The members of Committee of Doctoral Studies shall include at least two-thirds of the members of the field of study in which the institution(s) have acquired the right to conduct doctoral studies. At least half of the members of the Committee of Doctoral Studies and its chairperson shall meet at least the qualification requirements set by

the Coordinating Institution for the position of a chief research worker, and the remaining members of the Committee of Doctoral Studies shall meet at least the qualification requirements set by the Coordinating Institution for the position of a senior research worker. Qualification requirements apply in all cases to the extent that they relate to scientific publications. The institution(s) shall review and update the composition of the Committee of Doctoral Studies at least every 5 years. A researcher may be a member of no more than two science (arts) doctoral committees.

8. In its first meeting, the Committee shall elect a chairperson, who can serve for a maximum of two consecutive 5-year terms. A chairperson can be elected for one year on rotating basis from each Doctoral Institution. The Committee of Doctoral Studies can also include scientists of high international level from foreign science and research institutions. The contract has to establish conditions for participation in the activities of the Committee of Doctoral Studies by the researcher from a foreign research and study institution and to ensure continuity in case a foreign member is replaced. The contract shall be signed for at least 5 years.

9. The composition of the Committee shall be agreed with the Research Council of Lithuania.

10. A doctoral dissertation shall be defended, and a scientific degree shall be conferred at the Defence Council of the science field, which shall be established for defence of a specific dissertation following completion of the dissertation and its submission for defence. The Committee shall compose the Defence Council which shall consist of at least five members.

## II. Coordination of doctoral studies

11. Doctoral studies and scientific research shall be coordinated and controlled by **the Committee of Doctoral Studies**.

12. The process of doctoral studies shall be organised by **Doctoral Institutions**.

13. The process of doctoral studies shall be administered by the university appointed by contract signed with the Doctoral Institution (hereinafter referred to as **the Coordinating University**).

14. **14. The Committee of Doctoral Studies** shall:

14.1. approve the conditions and procedures for the open competition for dissertation topics and supervisors of doctoral students and for admission to the doctoral studies;

14.2. administer the selection of dissertation topics and supervisors of doctoral students;

14.3. administer admission to doctoral studies;

14.4. consider and present for approval the candidacies of doctoral students' scientific supervisors and consultants; mediate in the appointment of consultants; consider applications for the replacement of scientific supervisors or consultants;

14.5. approve the doctoral study programme and amendments thereto; work plans of doctoral students; examination committees;

14.6. provide conclusions on the plans for and implementation of doctoral studies, research, publication of the results thereof, and the preparation of the doctoral dissertations; postponement of the deadlines for the doctoral student's work plan;

14.7. conduct certification of doctoral students; credit for modules taken at another institution;

14.8. ensure a successful process of doctoral studies and take care of its improvement;

14.9. evaluate doctoral dissertations;

14.10. establish a Defence Council and set the date of doctoral dissertation defence.

15. Documents of the Committee meetings shall be managed by the meeting secretary; the meeting minutes shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Committee and the meeting secretary. The Committee shall present its recommendations, proposals and the minutes of resolutions to the Doctoral

School of the Coordinating University, which in turn shall prepare and submit material to the Doctoral Institutions.

16. Decisions made by the Committee shall be valid if no less than 2/3 of all members of the Committee of Doctoral Studies vote in favour of them. The minutes of the meeting of the Committee shall be preserved at the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University for 6 years, later in the archive of the Coordinating University.

17. A survey for a discussion on the issue considered by the Committee may be prepared using electronic means of communication. Using electronic means of communication, the Committee members shall express their opinion regarding the considered issue and vote. Issues that require secret voting shall not be included into the agenda of online meeting.

18. At the end of the meeting, the chairperson of the Committee shall deliver the documents to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University.

19. **The Doctoral Institution** shall:

19.1. announce, in accordance with the conditions and procedures laid down by the Committee of Doctoral Studies, a competition for topics and doctoral students' supervisors;

19.2. announce, in accordance with the conditions and procedures laid down by the Committee of Doctoral Studies, an open competition for admission to the doctoral studies;

19.3. manage state budget funds dedicated to the implementation of doctoral studies at the Doctoral Institution;

19.4. accept documents of applicants for doctoral studies;

19.5. sign a contract with the Doctoral Student Institution when it is not the Doctoral Institution in the science field, which shall define commitments and conditions of studies.

19.6. if the Doctoral Institution is a university, manage the production, accounting and registration of doctoral diploma forms, issue doctoral diplomas and register them

20. **The Coordinating University** shall:

20.1. organise competition of topics and doctoral students' supervisors;

20.2. organise an open competition for admission to doctoral studies;

20.3. present reports on the implementation of doctoral studies to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, the Research Council of Lithuania and other institutions;

20.4. collect information about the process of doctoral studies;

20.5. preserve the minutes of the Committee meetings and other documents;

20.6. based on the Committee's documents, prepare material for the Doctoral Institutions;

20.7. collect documents from the Doctoral Institutions and give them to the Committee;

20.8. draft joint document projects;

20.9. manage the production, accounting and registration of doctoral diploma templates;

20.10. issue diplomas of research doctor and register them.

21. **A Doctoral Student Institution**

21.1. If the Doctoral Student Institution is the Doctoral Institution, it shall:

21.1.1. manage the submitted state budget funds allocated for the implementation of the study programme and scientific research of the doctoral student, preparation and defence of the doctoral dissertation, work of the supervisor or consultant and covering related costs;

21.1.2. award scholarships for doctoral students;

21.1.3. prepare resolutions regarding implementation of doctoral studies, appointment of doctoral students' supervisors and consultants, and establishment of the Defence Council;

21.1.4. organise the formulation of the plan for the study programme and scientific research of the doctoral student, the publication of doctoral dissertations, the defences of dissertations;

21.1.5. create suitable conditions for the doctoral student to prepare and implement the doctoral study programme and the individual plan for scientific research, and to prepare and successfully defend the doctoral dissertation;

21.1.6. formulate and preserve the doctoral student's file;

21.1.7. prepare and provide reports to the Coordinating University regarding the process of doctoral studies;

21.1.8. submit the required documents of doctoral students to the Coordinating University.

21.2. If the Doctoral Student Institution is another Lithuanian or foreign university or scientific research institute which does not possess the right to organise doctoral studies in the science field, then the doctoral student shall only conduct scientific research and prepare the dissertation at this institution. Studies of the doctoral student shall be organised, the doctoral student's applications shall be registered, resolutions on the implementation of doctoral studies, appointment of supervisor or consultant and defence of doctoral dissertation shall be prepared, and the doctoral student's file shall be formulated by one of the Doctoral Institutions with which this Lithuanian or foreign university or scientific research institute signs a separate contract.

22. Doctoral studies and scientific research shall be organised by the Departments/Research Units of Doctoral Institutions to which the doctoral students are appointed on the recommendation of the Committee and by Order of the Head of the Doctoral Institution. These Units shall:

22.1. participate in the preparation of the study programme of the doctoral student and create conditions for the doctoral student to successfully implement the plan of studies and scientific research;

22.2. monitor the process of the doctoral student's doctoral studies;

22.3. provide methodological support; promote mobility of the doctoral student;

22.4. for each certification of the doctoral student, present their conclusion to the Committee regarding the results of the doctoral student's studies and scientific research as well as the appropriateness of continuation of doctoral studies;

22.5. after the doctoral student has prepared a dissertation organise preliminary considerations of the doctoral dissertation and appoint reviewers of these considerations, submit conclusions to the Committee regarding compliance of the doctoral dissertation with appropriate requirements.

### **III. Admission to the doctoral studies**

23. Individuals shall be accepted to the doctoral studies in the science field on the basis of open competition. Persons who have a master's degree or its equivalent in higher education may participate in the open competition. Doctoral students who have voluntarily discontinued, have not returned after a study break, or have been excluded from doctoral studies by the Committee's decision cannot apply for state-funded doctoral places if they have already studied for more than half of the doctoral period in a doctoral place financed from the state budget.

24. State-funded doctoral study positions in the science field shall be allocated to Doctoral Institutions by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania.

25. No later than one month before the announcement of admission to the doctoral studies, the competition of dissertation topics and the competition of doctoral students' supervisors shall be announced. The topics shall comply with the areas of scientific research conducted by Doctoral Institutions. The procedure and conditions of the competition shall be approved by the Committee.

26. If the topic or supervisor is not proposed by the Doctoral Institution, the Doctoral Institution shall provide official confirmation of the funding of the doctoral studies.

27. The competition shall be organised by the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University and implemented by the Committee. Relying on the competition procedures of the Committee, a list of

selected doctoral dissertation topics of the Doctoral Institutions and doctoral supervisors shall be finalised by the minutes of the Committee, signed by the Chairperson of the Committee and the meeting secretary. The Committee shall present the minutes of the meeting concerning the dissertation topics and doctoral students' supervisors to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University, which shall be responsible for the announcement of the list of dissertation topics selected during the competition on the websites of the Doctoral Institutions.

28. On the recommendation of the Committee, Doctoral Institutions shall announce an open competition for admission to the doctoral studies and admission conditions.

29. An applicant may submit a request for permission to participate in the open competition for the doctoral studies to the Doctoral School/Research Unit at every Doctoral Institution. Along with the request, which specifies the doctoral studies' science field, study form and the desired dissertation topics by order of priority (no more than two), the following documents shall be provided:

29.1. a diploma which confirms master's degree or its equivalent qualification as well as diploma supplement (appendix); a certificate issued by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education or a university authorised to carry out academic recognition of education and qualifications, stating that the higher education qualification acquired abroad is recognised in Lithuania;

29.2. recommendations by two scientists of science field;

29.3. a curriculum vitae;

29.4. an approved list of references and copies of scientific articles;

29.5. other documents specified in the conditions of admission to the doctoral studies.

30. The admission competition shall be organised by the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University and implemented by the Committee. The competition procedure shall be approved separately in accordance with the topics of the Doctoral Institutions of appropriate science fields. All applicants shall come to the meeting with the members of the Committee.

31. The Heads of Doctoral Institutions or their authorised persons shall sign Doctoral Institution's bilateral contracts of a specific form with the individuals admitted to full-time or part-time doctoral studies of the science field.

32. Selection criteria for the applicants to the doctoral studies shall be as follows:

32.1. Scientific qualifications, significance of scientific publications and relevance of scientific experience to the topic;

32.2. the average of the applicant's assessments in the master's degree studies or equivalent cycle higher education studies and the assessment of the final thesis;

32.3. command of foreign languages;

32.4. compliance of the scientific qualification, scientific publications and scientific experience with each selected topic;

32.5. scientific research project;

32.6. motivation interview;

32.7. other criteria approved by the minutes of the Committee.

33. Selection criteria, their weight coefficients and calculation of the competition score shall be approved every academic year by the minutes of the Committee.

34. Based on the selection criteria, the Committee shall evaluate applicants by scores and form the priority queues for the topics of the Doctoral Institutions in accordance with the highest competition score. These competition lists of the applicants and the decision to accept or refuse to accept applicants to the doctoral studies shall be recorded by the minutes of the Committee. They shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Committee and the meeting secretary. The Committee shall present the minutes of the meeting to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University.

35. On the basis of the minutes of the Committee, the applicants shall be accepted to the doctoral studies by Orders of the Heads of Doctoral Institutions, specifying the science field, the type of funding,

the Doctoral Institution, the topic of the dissertation, the scientific supervisor and the form of doctoral studies.

36. If free study positions are left after the admission in accordance with the quotas of Doctoral Institutions or if some of the accepted persons do not arrive to study at the beginning of the academic year, the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University can organise the second stage of admission, which shall be conducted following the same procedure.

37. Upon proposal by the Committee, those who were not accepted to state-funded study positions in the competition can choose paid doctoral studies upon paying the doctoral study fee established by the Doctoral Institution with which they will sign a contract.

38. Citizens who are applying for the doctoral studies and have the qualification of a master's degree or its equivalent higher education diploma acquired abroad shall provide a certificate issued by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education regarding recognition of higher education qualification acquired abroad in addition to the documents specified in clause 29.

39. For state-funded doctoral studies, citizens of the EU shall participate in the competition in accordance with the general procedure; non-EU citizens shall participate in the competition in accordance with the legislation in force at the time.

40. No later than in a month's time after the beginning of the academic year, the Committee shall organise a meeting (meetings) of the Committee which (that) includes (include) participation of the newly accepted doctoral students and the supervisors who won the competition of dissertation topics. New doctoral students are assigned supervisors, dissertation topics, and the Department/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution. The Committee's recommendation shall be recorded by the minutes of the Committee. The records of these minutes shall be provided to each Doctoral Institution separately. The minutes and the records of the minutes shall be submitted to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Coordinating University, which shall submit the Committee's recommendation (records of the minutes) to the Doctoral Schools/Research Units of Doctoral Institutions.

41. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Heads of Doctoral Institutions or their authorised representatives shall approve the doctoral students' intended topics and supervisors and assign the doctoral students to the Departments/Research Units. The Order shall be prepared by the Doctoral School/Research Unit of Doctoral Institution.

42. The file of a person who is not accepted to the doctoral studies shall be preserved for a year in the Doctoral School/Research Unit at the institution to which he/she was applying; later it shall be preserved in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Doctoral Institution.

43. A person who has submitted an application for participation in the admission to doctoral studies and was not accepted or who disagrees with the dissertation topic assigned to him/her, within three days from the announcement of the minutes of the Committee, may:

43.1. submit a motivated request or appeal to the Committee;

43.2. after receiving a negative response by the Committee, within three days submit an appeal to the Head of Doctoral Institution to which the doctoral student was assigned or to which he/she was applying.

#### **IV. Scientific supervision of doctoral students**

44. Studies and scientific research of the doctoral student shall be supervised by the doctoral student's scientific supervisor (hereinafter referred to as the supervisor). The supervisor may supervise not more than five doctoral students at the same time. During doctoral studies with companies, institutions and organisations, the doctoral student shall be assigned two supervisors – one from the Institution, the other from the company, institution or organisation. A head from the company, institution or organisation shall

be in the same field of study as a doctoral student or researcher; the requirements set out in the Regulation shall not apply to him/her.

45. On the recommendation of the Committee, no later than one month after the admission of the doctoral student, the Head of Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised person shall approve the Supervisors by Order.

46. If required, doctoral student's consultants may be appointed (not more than two consultants can be appointed if they are needed in the opinion of the doctoral student, the supervisor and the Committee) who can be researchers of another science field. Doctoral student's consultants may be appointed no earlier than the 2nd year of the doctoral studies. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Head of the Doctoral Student Institution or his/her authorised representative shall approve the consultant by Order.

47. The supervisor and the doctoral student's consultants shall meet the requirements no lower than those of a senior research worker as established by the Coordinating University and participate in the process of doctoral studies and international scientific and expert activities. A researcher from a foreign institution of research and studies can be a supervisor or consultant of the doctoral student. In the cases when the doctoral student's supervisor is from a foreign research and study institution, the doctoral student's consultant shall be from the Doctoral Institution where the doctoral student is studying (the qualification requirements for the supervisor and the consultant apply to the extent that they relate to scientific publications).

48. Written agreements of the supervisors and the consultants as well as the lists of their main scientific publications and other research activities shall be submitted by the Committee to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University along with the recommendation to approve the supervisors and the consultants. The Doctoral School of the Coordinating University shall submit the Committee's recommendations and the documents of the consultants' research activities to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of Doctoral Institution.

49. The supervisor shall:

49.1. create draft plans of the doctoral study programme and research plan together with the doctoral student;

49.2. propose applicants for the positions of consultants, if they are required;

49.3. provide the doctoral student with methodological support, supervise the doctoral student's research activity and continuously monitor the process of the doctoral student's doctoral studies;

49.4. for each certification of the doctoral student, present his/her conclusion regarding the results of the doctoral student's studies and scientific research as well as the appropriateness of continuation of doctoral studies;

49.5. help the doctoral student solve organisational issues of studies and the preparation of the dissertation;

49.6. together with the doctoral student be responsible for the quality of the doctoral dissertation.

50. The doctoral student's consultant shall:

50.1. consult the doctoral student in any science field (area) of scientific research;

50.2. organise implementation of scientific research or experiments in other Units of Doctoral Institutions or other universities and/or scientific research institutes in Lithuania or abroad.

51. If, for important reasons, the supervisor has to be replaced, such replacement shall be coordinated and approved following the same procedure as appointment of the supervisor.

52. The doctoral student shall have the right to submit a motivated request addressed to the Head of the Doctoral Student Institution to replace his/her supervisor if not less than a year till completion of the doctoral studies is left. The Head of the Doctoral Student Institution or his/her authorised representative shall direct the request to the Committee, in whose meeting it shall be considered within 1 month ((except July, August). If the doctoral student's request is satisfied, the Committee shall appoint a researcher who



will now take up the position of doctoral student's supervisor, taking into account the topic of the doctoral student's dissertation. If the Committee does not satisfy the doctoral student's request, the supervisor shall continue to supervise. The replacement of the supervisor when less than a year till completion of the doctoral studies is left shall be possible only for important reasons and shall be made by the decision of the Committee.

## **V. Work plan of the doctoral student**

53. No later than within one month after the approval of the supervisor, the supervisor and the doctoral student shall draw up a doctoral study programme and a research plan. The plan shall include the deadlines for the fulfilment of all tasks. Focused scientific research shall be initiated in the beginning of doctoral studies.

54. Doctoral studies shall consist of no less than 30 ECTS credits; it is recommended for the studied courses to include not just the topic of the dissertation being prepared, but also the learning of key competences (i.e., preparation of project applications, issues of ethics and procedures as well as copyright, communication abilities, etc.) whose amount shall be no less than 5 credits. The credits shall be acquired by studying at least 3 study courses/modules. The credits can also be accumulated by participating in international schools for doctoral students and while the doctoral student attends part-time studies abroad. The decision regarding the acceptance of the credits shall be made by the Committee.

55. If the academic qualification of a master's degree or its equivalent in higher education acquired by the person accepted to the doctoral studies is not in the science field to which he/she has been admitted that person may be assigned additional studies of equalising courses as recommended by the Committee.

56. The doctoral study programme of the science field shall consist of compulsory study courses/modules assigned by the Committee and freely selected study courses/modules of the doctoral studies in the science field or branch and adjacent science fields. The doctoral study programme of the science field and its amendments shall be approved in the Committee meeting.

57. The doctoral student shall hear compulsory study courses/modules of this programme that are established by the Committee. The doctoral student may choose other study courses/modules from the list of elective study courses/modules created by the Committee of the science field after coordination with the supervisor and taking into account the individual needs of scientific research. Doctoral students may also take, as free-choice study courses/modules that are not included in the study programme of the field of study, but which are certified at doctoral level by the University or other higher education institutions, provided that they are relevant to the topic of the doctoral dissertation being prepared by the doctoral student, or that they are intended to develop general competences.

58. The doctoral study programme shall consist of only the study courses/modules that were approved by the Committee. It is the Doctoral Student Institutions' responsibility that only the study courses/modules that are approved and compatible with the doctoral study programme are included in the individual study programmes of doctoral students.

59. The doctoral student, in agreement with the supervisor and the Committee, shall include the courses to be studied in an individual study programme, which shall be an integral part of the doctoral student's work plan.

60. Individuals who have a science degree and meet at least the requirements for a senior research worker set by the Coordinating University (the qualification requirements apply to the extent that they relate to scientific publications) and whose research and publications in the last five years are relevant to the topic of the study courses taught can teach in the doctoral studies.

61. Lectures/seminars of the doctoral studies shall be organised by the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution and by the Department/Research Unit of Doctoral Institution those

employees have been approved by the committee for teaching the study courses/modules of doctoral studies. Lectures can be organised for those study courses/modules that are included in the individual study programmes of at least three doctoral students. In all other cases, the studying process shall take place independently and consultations shall be attended periodically.

62. The doctoral student's plan of scientific research, which is another component of the work plan of the doctoral student, shall consist of the following: analysis of scientific literature, scientific research a portion of which can be conducted at high-level foreign research centres, analysis of the obtained data, writing of scientific articles, reading of scientific papers at an international scientific conference, preparation of a dissertation, etc.

63. The Department/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution shall consider the work plan of the doctoral student and present its conclusions to the Committee. The work plan of the doctoral student and its amendments (if required) shall be approved by the Committee. No later than within a month after the approval of the supervisor, every doctoral student shall present this plan to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of Doctoral Student Institution, and it shall be stored in the doctoral student's file.

64. The doctoral student shall follow the study programme and conduct scientific research in accordance with the approved plan of scientific research. The content, quality, scope and deadlines of the conducted research shall be evaluated during the certification of the doctoral student.

65. Conditions shall be created for the doctoral students to use the equipment present at the Departments/Research Units of the Doctoral Institutions, needed for the scientific research included into their scientific research plan. If it is impossible to carry out some of the research at the Doctoral Institutions, doctoral students may be sent to carry out the research in some other state or foreign research institution.

## **VI. Examination and certification of the doctoral student**

66. Studies of every course/module shall be completed by taking an exam. At least two examiners shall be required. The composition of the Examination Commission shall be approved by the Committee along with the individual plans of the doctoral students' study programme and scientific research. Teachers who taught the study course/module, the Committee members, also other scientists, active specialists of that science field (may be from another institution of research and studies) including supervisors and consultants may be appointed members of the Examination Commission. Exams shall be held in writing or orally and the exam papers shall be stored in accordance with the procedure established by the Doctoral Student Institution.

67. After having passed the exam, an exam sheet shall be filled in and signed by all examiners. The examination sheets shall be stored in the doctoral student's file at the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution.

68. If the exam is failed, it can be re-taken once, but no sooner than after a month. If the exam is failed the second time, extraordinary certification shall be initiated for the doctoral student.

69. Full-time doctoral students shall pass all exams (except those planned at a foreign higher education institution) within the first two years of doctoral studies; part-time doctoral students shall pass them within the first three years of doctoral studies.

70. Taking into consideration the doctoral student's request and with the approval of the supervisor, the Committee may accept previously passed exams of courses studied as part of doctoral study programmes.

71. In accordance with the deadlines set by the Committee, the doctoral student shall report to the Department/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution twice a year. After evaluating the doctoral student's performance of the study programme and the plan of scientific research, the Department/Research

Unit, with participation of the doctoral student and his/her supervisor shall submit its conclusion to the Committee. The doctoral student's supervisor shall present the written evaluation of the doctoral student's performance to the Department/Research Unit. The Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution shall submit the documents of the doctoral student's certification that were considered in the Department or Research Unit to the Committee, which shall certify the doctoral student positively (thus agreeing with continuation of doctoral studies and correcting the programme for the next academic year) or negatively (thus proposing for the doctoral studies to be terminated) or propose postponement of certification for the period no longer than 3 months until the drawbacks in the implementation of the working plan are removed. The doctoral student and his/her supervisor may be invited to the meeting of the Committee.

72. If the doctoral student obviously fails to fulfil the tasks in the work plan, on recommendation of the doctoral student's supervisor or the Head of the Unit as well as the Committee, an extraordinary certification may be initiated.

73. A negatively certified doctoral student shall be removed from the doctoral studies by Order of the Head of the Doctoral Institution.

74. The Committee minutes regarding certification of doctoral students and the documents presented for the doctoral student's certification shall be submitted to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University, which shall submit these documents to be stored in the doctoral student's file at the Doctoral School/ Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution.

75. Upon receiving the doctoral student's request and the supervisor's agreement, the Head of the Doctoral Student Institution or his/her authorised person can grant academic leave of up to one year by his/her Order. During the academic leave, scholarship shall not be paid. During the academic leave, scholarship shall not be paid.

76. The Head of the Doctoral Student Institution or his/her authorised representative, after having received a doctoral student's request, the supervisor's approval and the Department/Research Unit's approval, for important reasons (illness, maternity leave, etc.) by Order may:

76.1. extend the unpaid academic leave;

76.2. postpone the deadline for the passing of exams and certification specified in the work plan of the doctoral student for the period no longer than 3 months.

77. The doctoral students' requests shall be registered, and Orders shall be drafted by the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution.

## **VII. Trips, grants (scholarships), appeals, other conditions**

78. Persons, who are accepted to full-time state-funded doctoral study positions, during the period of their studies shall be provided a grant (hereinafter referred to as a scholarship) fixed by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The scholarship shall be paid by the Doctoral Student Institution.

79. If, on the recommendation of the Committee, the certification of the doctoral student of full-time state-funded position is postponed, the payment of the grant (scholarship) shall be suspended during the period of the postponement of certification. After the doctoral student successfully passes the certification, the payment shall be resumed, including the payment of the grant (scholarship) for the period of suspension.

80. When studies are temporarily suspended and the return to continue the doctoral studies occurs not on the last or first day of the month, the calendar days of incomplete months shall be also included in the duration of doctoral studies; for them, the respective amount of the scholarship shall be paid to the doctoral student.

81. The doctoral student can conduct scientific research or spend a period of time studying at other institutions in the country or abroad. This time period shall be included in the overall duration of the doctoral studies and full scholarship shall be paid for it. The costs of the trip may be covered by projects or programmes administered by the Research Council of Lithuania, by the Doctoral Student Institution, by the host institution and by other sources. The trip costs shall be covered under the procedure established by the Doctoral Student Institution.

82. After receiving the supervisor's approval and agreement from the Department/Research Unit, doctoral students can be employed in full-time or part-time positions at the units of the Doctoral Student Institution. Doctoral students can be assigned no longer than 150 hours of pedagogical practice (scientific organisational practice at a research institute), the duration of which shall be determined by the Head of the Doctoral Student Institution or by Order of his/her authorised representative.

83. A motivated appeal or complaint related to the science degree that has not been awarded, rejection of an external student's or doctoral student's request to defend the dissertation and other issues related to the implementation of doctoral studies shall be submitted to the Head of the Doctoral Student Institution within 14 working days. The Head of the Doctoral Student Institution shall forward the appeal or complaint to be considered by the Committee, the respective Units of Doctoral Institutions, or the structures established for that purpose. The appeal or complaint shall be considered, and decision shall be made in two months from its receipt. The decision of the Doctoral Student Institution shall be sent to the appellant within 5 working days after it has been made. The decision of the Doctoral Student Institution shall be sent to the appellant within 5 working days after it has been made.

### **VIII. Preparing and examining the doctoral dissertation**

84. The dissertation of the Doctor of Science, as an integral publication, shall consist (except for the case specified in clause 86) of the following parts: text and abstract of the dissertation. The copies of or references to scientific publications on the dissertation topic by the person submitting the dissertation for defence (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation candidate) shall be added separately.

85. A scientific monograph written by the dissertation candidate without co-authors may also be submitted to be defended as a dissertation of the Doctor of Science. An abstract of the monograph shall be also provided. In this case, other scientific publications shall be provided if they are required to develop the dissertation topic.

86. A doctoral dissertation based on a collection of scientific articles may also be submitted to be defended as a dissertation of the Doctor of Science. In this case, the dissertation shall consist of a survey no shorter than 1 author's sheet, an abstract in Lithuanian or foreign language (not in the language in which the survey was prepared) and copies of the dissertation candidate's scientific publications on the dissertation topic, indicating the specific personal contribution made. The dissertation candidate must have published the most significant results of the research in at least four articles (of which at least two are the sole author or the main co-author (a doctoral candidate is considered to be the main co-author of a scientific article when he/she is the first author of the article, unless otherwise stated in the publication that published the article)). All authors of an article shall be considered primary co-authors if the article indicates that their contribution is equal. The Committee shall decide on the eligibility of the doctoral student's personal contribution to the requirements of a scientific dissertation that has been published or accepted for publication (with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI)) in international scientific journals with a citation index in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS) and/or the Elsevier Scopus (Scopus) database.

87. A scientific dissertation (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation) shall include a defined goal of the work, formulated tasks to be solved, identified scientific novelty of the work, survey of research

conducted in the world on the subject of the dissertation, presentation of the applied research methods, discussion of the research results, justification of their reliability and relationship to other researchers' data, formulated conclusions and other aspects that are important in the view of the dissertation candidate. The dissertation should indicate which scientific articles published on the topic of the dissertation are the main co-authored by the dissertation candidate. The dissertation shall also be accompanied by a list of scientific conferences in which the results of the dissertation research have been published, and *a curriculum vitae* – a description of the dissertation candidate's life, scientific and creative activities.

88. The text of the dissertation shall be written in Lithuanian or English, or, if approved by the Committee of Doctoral Studies, in a language other than Lithuanian or English. The dissertation abstract (the recommended length is no shorter than 0.5 and no longer than 1 author's sheet) shall be prepared in Lithuanian or English (not in the language in which the dissertation's text is written). If the dissertation is written neither in Lithuanian nor English, then two abstracts shall be prepared (in Lithuanian and English). The dissertation and the abstract have to be written in correct language.

89. The dissertation shall indicate the supervisor, consultants and the composition of the Defence Council. If the doctoral student's supervisor has been replaced, the previous supervisor and the time period of his/her work shall be also specified. The specific requirements for the dissertation and the examples of the first and second page of the dissertation in Lithuanian and English are provided in Annex 1.

90. The doctoral student can submit the dissertation for defence after he/she:

90.1. has passed all exams specified in the work plan of the doctoral student and completed other tasks included in the work plan of the doctoral student;

90.2. (In the case of a dissertation of the type referred to in point 84), the doctoral student must have published the most significant results of his/her research in at least two articles, being the sole author or main co-author of at least one of them. These articles must be published or have a DOI (or other evidence of acceptance for publication) in peer-reviewed scientific journals. One of the articles must be published in an international journal, where more than half of the editorial board consists of members from outside the country of publication, or in scientific journals indexed in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science or Elsevier Scopus databases. If this condition is not met, the doctoral student must have published a minimum of four articles (in accordance with the type of dissertation referred to in point 86).

90.3. has presented the research results in at least two international scientific events;

90.4. has done an internship at a foreign institution (institutions) of research and studies for at least three months (recommended). In accordance with the institution's procedure, the doctoral student can do an internship at a company, institution or organisation in Lithuania or abroad;

90.5. has prepared the dissertation in accordance with the requirements of Annex 1.

91. The doctoral student shall present the prepared dissertation at the meeting of the Department/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution, with participation by the supervisor and the consultants. The Department/Research Unit shall evaluate the dissertation, as well as the doctoral student's published scientific articles and achieved scientific qualification and submit its conclusion to the Committee. The Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution shall submit the documents on the consideration of the doctoral dissertation in the Department/Research Unit to the Committee.

92. The doctoral student of the Doctoral Institution or of another Lithuanian or foreign scientific institution shall prepare an application on behalf of the Head of the Doctoral Institution/Doctoral Supervisor for permission to defend his/her doctoral dissertation and shall submit it to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution, together with the following documents:

92.1. copies of the diploma of master's qualification degree (or its equivalent higher education) and its supplements (doctoral students of Doctoral Institutions do not have to submit them, they shall be prepared by the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution based on the documents

presented during admission); If the master's qualification is obtained abroad, a student must submit a certificate of recognition of the higher education qualification obtained abroad in Lithuania;

92.2. *a curriculum vitae* of the dissertation candidate, i.e., a description of the doctoral student's life and scientific and creative activities;

92.3. approved copies of the pages of exams passed in accordance with the doctoral study programme (doctoral students of the Doctoral Institutions do not have to submit them, they are prepared by the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution based on the documents accumulated in the doctoral student's file and database records);

92.4. an electronic copy of the dissertation;

92.5. the record from the minutes of the evaluation of the dissertation by the Department/Research Unit in which the dissertation has been prepared (if the record of the minutes has been submitted to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of Doctoral Student Institution during the period of doctoral studies, its copy does not have to be submitted, it shall be prepared by the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution); when the dissertation is submitted not by the doctoral students of Doctoral Institutions – the record of the minutes of the dissertation's assessment by the Institution at which the dissertation has been prepared and the recommendation to defend the dissertation signed by its Head;

92.6. comments by the supervisor and the consultants (if any) (if comments have already been submitted to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of Doctoral Institution, their copies do not have to be provided, they shall be prepared by the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution).

92.7 The author's guarantee regarding the originality of the defended dissertation;

92.8 a list of scientific articles published on the topic of the dissertation and their copies (if the scientific article has not yet been published, it is necessary to attach a certificate from the editorial office of the publication indicating that the article will be published);

92.9 written consents from the publishers of the articles to whom the copyright in the articles has been transferred and from the main co-authors and authors of the articles named as contact persons for the inclusion of copies of the articles in the dissertation (only if the dissertation has been prepared in accordance with point 85 of the Regulations).

93. After determining that the provided documents meet the established formal requirements and correspond to the request and other documents specified in clause 92, the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution/Doctoral Institution shall submit them to the Committee.

94. No later than within two weeks after receiving the documents, the Chairperson of the Committee shall summon a meeting in which two reviewers shall be appointed. Members of the Committee and researchers from the Doctoral Institutions, other research institutions and social partners can be reviewers. Reviewers shall meet the qualifications of a senior research worker at the Coordinating Institution (qualification requirements apply to the extent that they are related to scientific publications).

95. No later than a month after receiving the documents for the defence of the dissertation, the Chairperson of the Committee shall summon an open meeting of the Committee, which shall be attended by the doctoral student and his/her supervisor. The Committee shall listen to the doctoral student's presentation about the dissertation, which shall reveal the scientific work's goal, tasks, novelty, relevance and originality, present the main results, statements and conclusions of the work; the comments of the appointed reviewers (the reviewers' comments have to be presented in writing to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution/Doctoral Institution) about the presented dissertation and the doctoral student's (dissertation candidate's) responses to the comments of reviewers; the supervisor's review of the dissertation.

96. The committee evaluates, with objective justification, the goals and objectives of the dissertation, the scientific novelty, relevance and originality of the work; a review of research conducted in Lithuania and abroad in the field of the defended dissertation on that topic, the described research

methodology; the reliability and validity of the results obtained; the validity of the formulations of the defended conclusions and their correspondence to the essence of the scientific research; the correspondence of published scientific articles and the scientific research results set out in them to the main statements of the defended dissertation, and the doctoral student's contribution to scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation, the doctoral student's contribution to scientific publications on the dissertation topic.

97. The Committee can make the following decisions:

97.1. The dissertation has been prepared properly. It meets the requirements of the Regulations of Doctoral Studies<sup>1</sup>. The doctoral candidate has fulfilled the requirements of the Regulations of Doctoral Studies and the Regulations, and the dissertation may be submitted for defence without any modifications or with small modifications;

97.2. *The dissertation needs to be corrected.* The dissertation is returned to the doctoral student. The consideration of the corrected dissertation shall be initiated in accordance with the requirements of clause 84 and/or further clauses.

97.3. *The dissertation does not meet the requirements.*

98. After having decided that it is possible to submit the dissertation for defence, the Committee shall:

98.1. decide whether the meeting of the dissertation defence at the Defence Council will be public or closed;

98.2. draft the composition of the Defence Council;

98.3. together with the Department/Research Unit, the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution/Doctoral Institution organise the reception of documents on the agreement of the planned Defence Council members and on the substantiation of their compliance with the qualification requirements for participants in the doctoral study process (lists, certificates, etc.);

98.4. offer the date and place of the dissertation defence;

98.5. draft the recommendation for the Head of the Doctoral Student Institution/Doctoral Institution and submit it to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University;

98.6. the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University shall submit the documents of the doctoral dissertation's consideration in the Committee meeting and the Committee's recommendation to defend the doctoral dissertation to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution/Doctoral Institution.

99. The Committee shall establish the Defence Council which shall consist of at least five members and appoint one of its members as a chairperson. The Defence Council members shall meet the requirements that are no lower than those of a senior research worker set by the Coordinating Institution and participate in the process of doctoral studies and in international scientific and expert activities (the qualification requirements apply to the extent that they relate to scientific publications). A conflict of interests cannot emerge between the Defence Council members and the dissertation or between his/her supervisor and consultants. Members of the Defence Council cannot have co-authored publications with the dissertation candidate. More than half of the members of the Defence Council cannot have had co-authored publications with the dissertation candidate's supervisor or consultant for the last five years. The supervisor and the consultant of the doctoral student cannot be a member of the Defence Council. At least one member of the Defence Council shall be from a foreign institution of research and studies. When a dissertation is defended in Lithuanian, scientists from foreign institutions of research and studies shall be included in the Defence Council as needed. At least two members of the Defence Council shall be researchers from other than the Doctoral Institution. If the work has been done at the intersection of

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<sup>1</sup> Order No. 739 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 May 2020 on the Regulations of Doctoral Studies.

multiple science fields or if it is required for the defended work to be evaluated comprehensively, two members of the Defence Council can be researchers of other fields of science. On the recommendation of the Committee, the composition and the chairperson of the Defence Council shall be approved by order of the head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative.

100. Members of the Defence Council shall submit written comments on the dissertation to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution no later than five working days before the defence of the doctoral dissertation. The person defending the dissertation shall have the right to get acquainted with the submitted comments.

101. The Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution shall, after examining the documents, draft the Order of the Head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised person approving the Defence Council, the date and place for dissertation defence.

102. After the Head of the Doctoral Student Institution or his/her authorised representative signs the Order:

102.1. the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution shall organise publication of the dissertation in the required number of copies;

102.2. the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution shall send a copy of the dissertation to the members of the Council at least one month before the defence of the dissertation;

102.3. the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution shall announce the defence of the dissertation at least one month before the defence on the website administered by the Doctoral Institutions and the Research Council of Lithuania. The announcement of the dissertation defence can also additionally be announced in the press. The announcement shall specify the dissertation candidate's name and surname, the date and place of defence, the supervisor, members of the Defence Council, science fields and institutions they represent, the address of online website on which the dissertation is published;

102.4. the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution shall submit the dissertation to the libraries of the Doctoral Institutions.

103. Expenses for printing and sending of the dissertations submitted by the doctoral students of the Doctoral Institutions shall be covered from the funds of the Doctoral Student Institution that have been received for the implementation of doctoral studies.

104. The dissertation shall be defended in a public or closed meeting of the Defence Council in accordance with the Regulations of the Defence Council on the Defence of Doctoral Dissertations in the Science Field (Annex 2).

105. A dissertation which may contain information constituting a state, professional or commercial secret may be defended in a closed meeting.

106. The defence meeting can be organised both in Lithuanian and in another language. In the cases when another language is used in the meeting, the need for translation in the Lithuanian language shall be established by the Committee. The meeting shall be headed by the Chairperson of the Defence Council. The meeting shall be valid if it is attended by more than half of the Defence Council members (including those participating by videoconferencing). Comments on the dissertation received from non-participating Defence Council members and others shall be also read during the meeting. If a decision is made that the degree of the Doctor of Science is not granted, then the arguments for such a decision shall be specified in the minutes of the voting. If a decision is made that the degree of the Doctor of Science is not granted, then the arguments for such a decision shall be specified in the minutes of the voting. The Chairperson of the Defence Council shall read the decision of the Defence Council to the participants of the meeting and declare the end of the meeting.

107. After the dissertation defence, the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution shall be given all documents of the defence, including the minutes of the meeting and the decision of the Defence Council on whether the dissertation candidate is to be awarded the degree of the Doctor of Science. On its basis, the Doctoral School shall issue the doctor's diploma.



108. If the Defence Council rules that the degree of the Doctor of Science is not to be awarded, the corrected and/or amended dissertation may be submitted for defence no sooner than one year later. In such a case, the doctor's degree is obtained externally in accordance with the requirements of Chapter IX of these Regulations. If the fact of scientific dishonesty (plagiarism, etc.) is determined, the dissertation cannot be defended.

109. Within two weeks after the defence, the Doctoral Institution shall submit one paper copy of the defended dissertation (except for dissertations defended in a closed meeting) to the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania and the dissertation shall be published in the Lithuanian Database of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) or in the VMU Research Management System (VMU Cris).

110. No later than within 20 working days after the meeting of the dissertation defence, the Doctoral Student Institution shall notify the Research Council of Lithuania about the results of the doctoral dissertation defence. The notification to the Research Council of Lithuania shall also include information on the reasons why the dissertation was not successfully defended or was not defended at all. Data on the defended dissertation shall be made available in the dissertation database administered by the Research Council of Lithuania in accordance with the procedures established by the Research Council of Lithuania.

111. The registered doctor's diploma shall be awarded to the scientist in accordance with the procedure established by each Doctoral Student Institution, after the dissertation has been published in the Lithuanian Database of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) or in the VMU Research Management System (VMU Cris).

112. The file of the person who has defended the doctoral dissertation shall be stored for one year in the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution; later it shall be submitted to the archive of the Doctoral Student Institution. The file shall contain:

112.1. a request for permission to defend the dissertation along with the attached documents and the Committee's recommendation to defend the doctoral dissertation;

112.2. an agreement to publish the dissertation in the Lithuanian Database of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) or in the VMU Research Management System (VMU Cris) within two weeks after the meeting of the dissertation defence;

112.3. documents on the composition of the Defence Council;

112.4. documents that confirm that the dissertation has been submitted or sent to the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania;

112.5. an audio recording the public defence on electronic media;

112.6. the Defence Council's decision on the awarding of the degree of the Doctor of Science;

112.7. a copy of the diploma of the Doctor of Science.

113. If the doctoral student submits the dissertation before the end of the doctoral studies but does not defend it on time, the dissertation can be defended in accordance with standard procedure within 12 months after the end of doctoral studies. A dissertation which was not defended within this period shall be defended externally in accordance with the requirements of Chapter IX of these Regulations. A dissertation defended on time is a dissertation which has been defended no later than within one year after the end of doctoral studies.

## **IX. Degree of the Doctor of Science obtained externally**

114. A person who has a master's qualification degree or its equivalent higher education can seek to obtain a degree of the Doctor of Science externally. A person who studies externally must have published a scientific monograph or must have published the main results of the dissertation in at least two articles published in international scientific publications specified in clause 90.2 of these Regulations.

115. The request addressed to the Head of the Doctoral Institution for the permission to defend the doctoral dissertation externally shall be submitted to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of that Doctoral Institution. The following shall be enclosed to the request:

115.1. a digital copy of a dissertation manuscript or a published scientific monograph;

115.2. a list of scientific publications and electronic copies of publications;

115.3. copies of a diploma confirming the master's degree or its equivalent qualification, its supplement (appendix) (originals and copies; originals shall be immediately returned to the owner of the documents); a certificate issued by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education regarding recognition of higher education qualification acquired abroad;

115.4. copies of the minutes of doctoral study exams (if any) or their extracts;

115.5. *a curriculum vitae* – a description of life and scientific and creative activities;

115.6. a copy of identity document.

116. The Head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative shall direct the request with the supplements to the Committee, which shall appoint at least two experts and the corresponding Department/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution for the assessment of the preparedness of the dissertation. Experts may include researchers from Doctoral Institutions, other research institutions and social partners. The Department/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution shall organise a meeting and determine whether the presented material meets the requirements of clauses 30–34 of the Regulations of Doctoral Studies.<sup>2</sup> An expert shall present his/her conclusion within one month after the submission of the dissertation/scientific monograph.

117. After receiving the conclusions, no later than within three months from the submission of the request, the Committee shall hold a meeting in which the person who studies externally shall participate as well. After listening to the experts and the person who studies externally, in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations of Doctoral Studies, the Committee shall rule whether the dissertation of the person who studies externally meets the requirements of a doctoral dissertation. If a positive decision is made, in accordance with the procedure of this Regulation, the Committee shall:

117.1. assign the person who studies externally to the Department/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution; 1

117.2. present the recommendation for the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the request of the person who studies externally was addressed or his/her authorised representative to approve the consultant of the person who studies externally who shall perform the functions of the supervisor of the person who studies externally; if the acquisition of the doctoral degree is sought by the person who studies externally who had already studied in the doctoral studies but did not present a dissertation, the Committee can appoint the doctoral student's former supervisor or another person as his/her consultant;

117.3. decide on the issue of the accepting of the doctoral study exams that have already been passed by the person who studies externally; determine which other doctoral study exams the person who studies externally must pass and until when;

117.4. schedule the date of the dissertation defence, which shall be no later than one year after the day the Committee's decision was made.

118. The exams for the person who studies externally shall be organised in accordance with the requirements of Chapter VI, whereas the dissertation shall be examined and defended in accordance with the requirements of Chapter VIII of these Regulations.

119. If the Committee decides that the dissertation cannot be prepared for defence in one year from the submission of the request, the person who studies externally can submit an appeal, which shall be

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<sup>2</sup> Order No. 739 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 May 2020 on the Regulations of Doctoral Studies.

examined in accordance with the procedure established in clause 83 of these Regulations. If the negative decision of the Committee is approved, the person who studies externally may re-submit the request to defend the dissertation no earlier than after one year.

120. The person who studies externally shall cover only those expenses of the Doctoral Institution that are directly related to the acquisition of a degree of the Doctor of Science.

## **X. Awarding of a degree of the Doctor of Science**

121. A degree of the Doctor of Science shall be awarded and the diploma shall be issued by the university having the right to conduct doctoral studies.

122. The form of the diploma of a degree of the Doctor of Science and the procedure of the production, accounting, registration and issuing of the diploma forms shall be established by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania.

123. Appeals regarding a degree of science that has not been awarded shall be examined in accordance with the procedure set forth in these Regulations.

124. The Doctoral Student Institution can revoke the decision to award a degree of science (including the degrees of science awarded until the entry into force of these Regulations of Doctoral Studies) when:

124.1. the fact of scientific dishonesty is determined;

124.2. a degree of the Doctor of Science is awarded after violating these Regulations.

125. The university which has awarded a degree of science can revoke the decision to award a degree of science when the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures makes the decision which obligates it to do so. The Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures can also obligate the university to revoke the decision to award a degree of science made before the entry into force of these Regulations of Doctoral Studies.

126. If the institution which has awarded a degree of science has been liquidated, the decision regarding the invalidation of the degree awarded shall be made by the Research Council of Lithuania.

## **XI. Funding of doctoral studies**

127. Doctoral studies shall be funded from the appropriations allocated from the state budget, funds of state investment programmes and state investment projects, income received as the fees of studies, also income from economy and research-related activities and provided services, funds of programme and competition-based funding of scientific research, funds allocated by international and foreign foundations and organisations as well as other legally obtained funds.

128. Doctoral funds at the Doctoral Institution shall be allocated as follows:

128.1. for scholarships (study grant) for doctoral students. Persons admitted to state-funded places in a full-time doctoral programme shall be paid a scholarship (study grant) of the amount set by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the duration of their studies. When studies are temporarily interrupted and the return to continue the doctoral studies is not on the last or first day of the month, the calendar days of the month shall be included in the duration of the doctoral studies and the corresponding part of the scholarship (study grant) shall be paid;

128.2. for the payment of the teaching fees of supervisors, consultants and teachers of doctoral students;

128.3. for the conduct of the doctoral dissertation defence process (for doctoral candidates who publicly defend their doctoral dissertations before the end of their doctoral studies or after a period of up to

one year after the end of their studies, for the payment of the fees of the members of the Council, for the travel and accommodation expenses of foreign members of the Council, and for the financing of publication, post services, etc.);

128.4. to finance the costs of doctoral students taking courses at other higher education institutions;

128.5. for the establishment of a research fund to finance the acquisition of materials, goods and services (including open access services) to meet the research needs of doctoral students, the preparation of scientific publications and dissertations, and the international mobility of doctoral students (for study in foreign higher education institutions, participation in international scientific conferences, etc.);

128.6. for funding the development of doctoral students' general competences (organisation of doctoral students' summer schools, language courses, academic writing consultations, etc.);

128.7. for the acquisition and maintenance of the infrastructure necessary for the conduct of the research, the setting up of the work places for the doctoral students, access to various subscription databases, licensed software, library resources and publications;

128.8. for the implementation of the initiatives of committees to improve doctoral studies;

128.9. for the promotion of doctoral students (one-time incentive scholarships);

128.10. to cover the costs of units administering doctoral studies, etc.

## **XII. Quality assurance of doctoral studies and research**

129. Quality assurance of doctoral studies shall be governed by external documents: Provisions of Doctoral Studies approved by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, rulings of the Research Council of Lithuania and the internal documents of doctoral studies, i.e., Regulations of Doctoral Studies in the Science Field, Regulations of the Work of the Doctoral Study Committee as well as other internal documents and agreements of doctoral studies.

130. For the internal assurance of the quality of doctoral studies in the science field, the Committee shall conduct assessment of the quality of doctoral studies in the science field at least once every three years, taking into account the following indicators:

130.1. efficiency and effectiveness. Assessment shall include the proportion between the doctoral students and the prepared doctors of science in the science field; the scientific works published by the doctoral students over the period of doctoral studies; the doctoral students' participation in scientific internships and conferences; the doctoral students' participation in scientific research projects that correspond to the topic of their dissertation; employment and further career of doctoral students who have successfully defended the dissertation;

130.2. scientific resources. The qualification of scientists participating in the preparation of doctoral students in the science field shall meet the established qualification requirements;

130.3. organisational indicator. The preparation of doctoral students in the science field shall be organised as an orderly process, providing reasoned justification for all stages of this process;

130.4. infrastructure. The appropriate organisational and material prerequisites must be provided for high-quality studies of doctoral students in the science field and for the promotion of their scientific achievements.

131. The Committee shall carry out the evaluation in accordance with the following procedure:

131.1. gets acquainted with the self-analysis material in the science field provided by the Doctoral Institutions, analyse the surveys of doctoral students;

131.2. while visiting each Doctoral Institution:

- holds a discussion with the employees and scientists responsible for the doctoral study process (discussion steps: process of admission to the doctoral studies, process of studies, procedures of completion of the doctoral studies, typical problems and areas for improvement); -

- discusses with doctoral students (discussion steps: motives for joining the doctoral programme, progress of doctoral studies, scientific supervision, organisation and material support of studies, typical problems and areas for improvement).

- on the basis of the received qualitative and quantitative information, evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness; the scientific resources; the organisation of studies and infrastructure of the doctoral studies in the science field of the Doctoral Institutions.

131.3. presents summarised conclusions and recommendations on how the quality of the doctoral studies could be improved to the Heads of the Doctoral Institutions.

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For the period of doctoral studies and for one year after the completion of doctoral studies, the personal file of the doctoral student of the Doctoral Institutions (or a person wishing to obtain a doctoral degree externally) shall be stored in the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Student Institution, later it shall be submitted to the archive of the Doctoral Student Institution. The file shall contain:

- a request to be admitted to the doctoral studies with the supplements specified in the announcement of the admission to the doctoral studies;
- the contract of studies;
- the doctoral student's declaration of honesty;
- documents on the appointment of the doctoral student's supervisor and consultants;
- the doctoral student's programme (work plan) for the studies, scientific research, publication of its results and doctoral dissertation preparation;
- documents of the doctoral student's annual certifications;
- the Rector's orders (on scholarship payment, postponement of deadlines of doctoral student's programme, etc.);
- pages of study exams of the doctoral student;
- the ruling regarding termination of doctoral studies – if the doctoral student has been removed from doctoral studies because of the conclusions of certification or for other reasons or if he/she did not present the dissertation for defence before the end of doctoral studies;
- the doctoral student's application for permission to defend the dissertation and related documents (minutes from initial considerations, the doctoral student's supervisor's and the Committee's recommendations to permit the defence of the dissertation, the minutes of the final assessment of the dissertation, etc.);
- the Rector's order on the approval of the Defence Council and the setting of the date and place of the defence;
- defence documents: transcript of the dissertation defence meeting, minutes of the Defence Council's vote on the awarding of the scientific degree of the doctor, the received comments on the dissertation by the Defence Council members and others;
- a copy of the diploma of the Doctor of Science.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISSERTATION OF THE DOCTOR OF SCIENCE**

1. The dissertation of the Doctor of Science (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation) as an integral publication (except for the case specified in clause 86 of these Regulations) shall consist of the following parts: the dissertation text and abstract; the lists of publications in which the main research results are published and the scientific conferences in which the dissertation's research results were announced; a curriculum vitae of the dissertation candidate, i.e. a description of life and scientific and creative activities. The copies of or references to scientific publications on the dissertation topic by the person submitting the dissertation for defence (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation candidate) shall be added separately.

2. A scientific monograph written by the dissertation candidate without co-authors may also be presented for defence as a dissertation of the Doctor of Science. An abstract of the monograph shall be also provided. In this case, other scientific publications shall be provided if they are required to develop the dissertation topic.

3. A doctoral dissertation based on a collection of scientific articles may also be submitted to be defended as a dissertation of the Doctor of Science. In this case, the dissertation shall consist of a survey no shorter than 1 author's sheet, an abstract in Lithuanian or foreign language (not in the language in which the survey was prepared) and copies of the dissertation candidate's scientific publications on the dissertation topic. The dissertation candidate must have published the most significant results of the research in at least four articles (of which at least two are the sole author or the main co-author (a doctoral candidate is considered to be the main co-author of a scientific article when he/she is the first author of the article, unless otherwise stated in the publication that published the article)). All authors of an article shall be considered primary co-authors if the article indicates that their contribution is equal. The Committee of Doctoral Studies shall decide on the compliance of the doctoral student's personal contribution with the requirements of the scientific dissertation. The most important research results of the dissertation must be published in at least four articles that have been published or accepted for publication (with a digital object identifier (DOI)) in international scientific publications with a citation index in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS) and (or) Elsevier Scopus (Scopus) databases.

4. The text of the dissertation shall be written in Lithuanian or English, or, if approved by the Committee of Doctoral Studies, in a language other than Lithuanian or English. The dissertation abstract (the recommended length is no shorter than 0.5 and no longer than 1 author's sheet) shall be prepared in Lithuanian or English (not in the language in which the dissertation's text is written). If the dissertation is written neither in Lithuanian nor English, then two abstracts shall be prepared (in Lithuanian and English). The dissertation and the abstract have to be written in correct language.

5. The length of the dissertation's text is 8 author's sheets (one author's sheet is 40 000 characters).

6. The dissertation (based on the case specified in clause 1 of this Annex) shall contain the following main parts:

6.1. The dissertation text:

6.1.1. Introduction. It shall justify the research problem, define the relevance of the thesis, the aim, objectives, novelty and significance of the thesis, present the thesis' defence statements, and indicate the main co-authors of the scientific articles published on the topic of the thesis. The recommended length of the introduction is up to 5 pages.

- 6.1.2. Survey of research. It shall describe the research on the topic of the dissertation conducted in Lithuania and abroad and present the dissertation candidate's contribution into the examined issues.
- 6.1.3. Methodology of the work. The methodology and/or methods of the work shall be presented; the reliability and application limits of the employed methods shall be evaluated.
- 6.1.4. Research results. The obtained research results shall be presented, they shall be summarised, and their reliability and relationship with the results of other researchers shall be evaluated.
- 6.1.5. Conclusions. They shall reflect the dissertation defence statements and provide solutions to the tasks or problems formulated in the introduction of the dissertation.
- 6.1.6. A list of used (cited) literature.
- 6.2. A list of scientific publications on the dissertation topic by the person presenting the dissertation for defence and the scientific conferences in which the research results have been published;
- 6.3. copies of the scientific publications of the person submitting the dissertation for defence on the topic of the dissertation;
- 6.4. Abstract of the dissertation, which shall include the defined research problem examined in the dissertation, specify the goals and tasks of the work, scientific novelty, research methodology, the key results and the doctoral student's defended conclusions that are based on them;
- 6.5. Description of the doctoral student's life and scientific and creative activities;
- 6.6. Supplements (if needed);
- 6.7. Acknowledgements may be anticipated during the preparation of the scientific work.
- 7. The dissertation (based on the case specified in clause 3 of this Annex) shall contain the following main parts:
  - 7.1. survey (at least 1 author's sheet);
  - 7.2. abstract in Lithuanian or foreign language (not in the language in which the survey is written);
  - 7.3. copies of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation.
- 8. The template of the dissertation's title page is presented in Example 1 of Annex 1. The first page shall specify:
  - 8.1. the institution in which the doctoral dissertation is defended;
  - 8.2. the dissertation candidate's name and surname;
  - 8.3. the dissertation title;
  - 8.4. the text "Dissertation of the Doctor of Science";
  - 8.5. the area and field of science, the code of science field;
  - 8.6. location (city) and year.
- 9. The template of the second page of the dissertation is presented in Example 2 of Annex 1. The second page shall include:
  - 9.1. the duration and location of the dissertation preparation and the legal basis of the implementation of the right of doctoral studies;
  - 9.2. if the dissertation is defended externally, the phrase "The dissertation is defended externally" shall be included;
  - 9.3. the dissertation candidate's scientific supervisor and consultant(s) (if any). The information about the supervisor and consultant(s) shall be presented in the following order: pedagogical/scientific position currently held, scientific degree, name, surname,

the place of employment (full title), area of science, field of science and its code. If the dissertation candidate's supervisor has been replaced, the previous supervisor and his/her working period shall also be specified. If the scientific supervisor or consultant of the dissertation candidate is a foreign scientist, the country shall be specified alongside his/her place of employment;

9.4. The title of the dissertation's Defence Council;

9.5. The Chairperson and members of the dissertation's Defence Council. The information about the Council members shall be presented in the following order: pedagogical/scientific position currently held, scientific degree, name, surname, the place of employment (full title), area of science, field of science and its code. If the member of the Defence Council is a foreign scientist, the country shall be specified alongside his/her place of employment;

9.6. The date and place (including address) of the dissertation defence.

10. The third and fourth pages of the dissertation shall be the information of the dissertation's first and second page in the English language (Examples 3 and 4 of Annex 1).



Example 1

*Example of the first title page of the doctoral dissertation*

(DOKTORANTŪROS INSTITUCIJOS, KURIOJE GINAMA MOKSLO  
DAKTARO DISERTACIJA PAVADINIMAS)

Vardas Pavardė

MOKSLO DAKTARO DISERTACIJOS PAVADINIMAS

Mokslo daktaro disertacija

Mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis (krypties kodas)

Kaunas, 2024

*Example of the second page of the doctoral dissertation*

Mokslo daktaro disertacija rengta 20\_\_–20\_\_ metais (Doktorantūros institucijos pavadinimas) pagal suteiktą (doktorantūros institucijų pavadinimai) institucijoms (suteikimo data, dokumento Nr.) doktorantūros teisę.

*Mokslinis vadovas:*

*prof. habil. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, mokslo krypties kodas) (Jeigu buvo du doktoranto moksliniai vadovai, nurodomas vadovavimo laikotarpis)*

*Moksliniai konsultantai:*

*prof. habil. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, mokslo krypties kodas)*

*prof. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (Xxxx Yyyy universitetas (Švedija), mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis)*

*(Jei mokslo daktaro disertaciją gina eksternas)*

*Mokslo daktaro disertacija rengta 20\_\_–20\_\_ metais Xxxx Yyyy institucijoje ir 20\_\_–20\_\_ metais (Doktorantūros institucijos pavadinimas) pagal suteiktą (doktorantūros institucijų pavadinimai) institucijoms (suteikimo data, dokumento Nr.) doktorantūros teisę.*

*Disertacija ginama eksternu.*

*Moksliniai konsultantai:*

*prof. habil. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, mokslo krypties kodas)*

*prof. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (Xxxx Yyyy universitetas (Švedija), mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis)*

Mokslo daktaro disertacija ginama (doktorantūros institucijų pavadinimai) (mokslo kryptis) krypties taryboje:

*Pirmininkas*

*prof. habil. dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)*

*Nariai:*

*prof. habil. dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)*

*prof. habil. dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)*

*dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)*

*doc. dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)*

Mokslo daktaro disertacija bus ginama viešame / uždareme xxxxxxx krypties tarybos posėdyje 20\_\_ m. xxxx x d. x val. (Institucijos pavadinimas ir vieta).

Adresas: S. Daukanto g. 28, LT-44248 Kaunas, Lietuva

(DOCTORAL INSTITUTION)

Name Surname

DOCTORAL WORK TITLE

Doctoral Dissertation  
Social sciences, Area of science (code)

Kaunas, 2024

#### Example 4

The doctoral dissertation was prepared during the period of 20\_\_\_\_-20\_\_\_\_ at the Department of.....of the (Faculty) at institution (Vytautas Magnus University), under the doctoral programme right conferred to Vytautas Magnus University, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, Kaunas University of Technology, Klaipėda University on ..... by the Order No..... of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania.

*(In case the doctoral dissertation is prepared externally)*

The doctoral dissertation was prepared during the period 20\_\_\_\_-20\_\_\_\_ at ..... (name of the doctoral institution) and during the period 20\_\_-20\_\_ at .... (name of the doctoral institution) under the doctoral programme right conferred to Vytautas Magnus University, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, Kaunas University of Technology, Klaipėda University on .... by the Order No..... of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania.  
The doctoral dissertation is defended externally.

Scientific Supervisor:

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Scientific consultant:

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

The dissertation will be defended at the Committee of Political Sciences of Vytautas Magnus University, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, Kaunas University of Technology, Klaipėda University:

Chairperson

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Members:

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

The doctoral dissertation will be defended in the public meeting of the Committee of Political Sciences at .....(time).... on date, place.

Address: 28 S. Daukanto str., LT-44248 Kaunas, Lithuania

**REGULATIONS OF THE DEFENCE COUNCIL ON THE DEFENCE OF  
DOCTORAL DISSERTATION IN THE SCIENCE FIELD**

1. These Regulations define the procedure of defence of doctoral dissertations in the science field established by the Defence Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) composed in accordance with the Regulations of Doctoral Studies approved by Order No. V-739 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 May 2020.
2. The doctoral dissertation shall be defended, and a scientific degree shall be awarded in the Defence Council of the science field, which shall be composed for defence of the specific dissertation after the dissertation has been completed and presented for defence. The Committee shall establish the Defence Council which shall consist of at least five members and appoint one of its members as a chairperson.
3. The members of the Defence Council shall present written comments on the dissertation to the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution/Research Unit no later than 5 working days before the defence of the dissertation.
4. The Committee shall form the Defence Council from at least five members. The members of the Defence Council shall meet the requirements that are no lower than those of a senior research worker set by the Coordinating Institution and participate in the process of doctoral studies and in international scientific and expert activities (the qualification requirements apply to the extent that they relate to scientific publications). A conflict of interests cannot emerge between the Defence Council members and the dissertation or between his/her supervisor and consultants. Members of the Defence Council cannot have co-authored publications with the dissertation candidate. More than half of the members of the Defence Council cannot have had co-authored publications with the dissertation candidate's supervisor or consultant for the last five years. The supervisor and the consultant of the doctoral student cannot be a member of the Defence Council. At least one member of the Defence Council shall be from a foreign institution of research and studies. When a dissertation is defended in Lithuanian, scientists from foreign institutions of research and studies shall be included in the Defence Council as needed. At least two members of the Defence Council shall be researchers from other than the Doctoral Institution. If the work has been done at the intersection of multiple science fields or if it is required for the defended work to be evaluated comprehensively, two members of the Defence Council can be researchers of other fields of science. On the recommendation of the Committee, the composition and the chairperson of the Defence Council shall be approved by order of the head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative.
5. Documents of the Defence Council shall be managed and the meeting for the dissertation defence shall be organised by the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution.
6. Work of the Defence Council shall be organised by the chairperson of the Defence Council. He/she shall:
  - 6.1. examine the file of the person who will defend the dissertation (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation candidate) in advance and make sure that the file and all documents of the meeting (voting ballots, voting minutes' template, etc.) are prepared;

- 6.2. examine the received comments which shall be presented during the Defence Council meeting or delegate this task to the member of the Defence Council;
  - 6.3. make sure whether the appropriate preparations have been made for the meeting (for the meeting's audio recording or transcribing, demonstration of video material and, if required, translation of the meeting);
  - 6.4. chair the Defence Council's meeting;
  - 6.5. sign the documents of the Defence Council's meeting.
7. The member of the Defence Council shall:
    - 7.1. examine the dissertation presented for defence in advance and evaluate whether it is an original scientific work, which summarises the scientific research conducted by the doctoral student that explores the issue of the science field, whether its content corresponds with other requirements of a doctoral dissertation;
    - 7.2. evaluate whether the dissertation candidate's scientific publications have been published in accordance with the requirements specified in these Regulations and whether they include presentation of the key research results;
    - 7.3. evaluate whether the results of the research have been presented at least two international scientific events.
  8. The meeting can be held in Lithuanian or other language. In the cases when another language is used in the meeting, the need for translation in the Lithuanian language shall be established by the Committee.
  9. The meeting shall be valid if it is attended by more than half members of the Defence Council (including those participating by videoconferencing).
  10. The meeting of the Defence Council shall be public. A dissertation which may contain information constituting a state, professional or commercial secret may be defended in a closed meeting.
  11. The proceedings of the meeting shall be as follows:
    - 11.1. after making sure that more than half of the members of the Defence Council attend the meeting (including those participating by teleconferencing) and that the non-participating members have presented their comments about the dissertation in writing, inform participants of the meeting about the quorum and present the dissertation candidate's file;
    - 11.2. The dissertation candidate presents the problem, goals, objectives, research data obtained, conclusions of the dissertation, answers questions from the meeting participants; indicates his/her contribution to the publications presented in the dissertation;
    - 11.3. the opportunity is granted for the dissertation candidate's supervisor and his/her consultants to speak;
    - 11.4. the chairperson of the Defence Council announces a scientific discussion;
    - 11.5. the chairperson or the member of the Defence Council delegated by him/her reads publicly the comments about the dissertation received from the non-participating members of the Defence Council and other persons; present the comments and conclusions formulated in the comments, and the dissertation candidate may express his/her comments;

- 11.6. the opportunity is granted for the members of the Defence Council and guests to speak; after each speech, the dissertation candidate may request a word, which shall be granted to him/her;
- 11.7. at the end of the scientific discussion, the dissertation candidate shall speak;
- 11.8. after discussions with the dissertation candidate, the members of the Defence Council decide by voting whether he/she is to be awarded a degree of the Doctor of Science. The members of the Defence Council participating by teleconferencing shall also vote. A ruling is made if more than half of all members of the Defence Council vote in favour of it. The minutes of the voting shall be signed by all members of the Defence Council who participated directly in the meeting;
- 11.9. the chairperson of the Defence Council reads the ruling of the Defence Council to the participants of the meeting and declares the end of the meeting.
12. After the meeting, the chairperson of the Defence Council returns the dissertation defence documents to the Doctoral School/Research Unit of the Doctoral Institution.