

ORDER AND CONDITIONS OF OPEN COMPETITION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES IN FORESTRY SCIENCE FIELD IN 2025

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of field of science	Field of Science
004 A	Forestry Science

1.1. Applicants to doctoral studies in Forestry Science Field are admitted through an open competition according to the chosen dissertation topic separately to each doctoral institution that has been granted the joint right of doctoral studies. Applicants can apply to no more than two different dissertation topics.

1.2. The competition is organized by the Doctoral School of Vytautas Magnus University, the competition is conducted by the Doctoral Committee of Forestry Science Field (hereinafter – Committee).

2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1. Master's degree or higher education degree equal to it.
- 2.2. Scientific research experience.

3. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT

- Application to participate in the competition on behalf of the head of the institution
- Diploma certifying a master's degree or equivalent classification and its Supplement / Appendix
- Curriculum vitae
- List of scientific publications (with full bibliographic description) and copies; if the article is not yet published – a certificate issued by the editorial board of the scientific journal about the press release (after the review procedure) and its manuscript
- Copy of passport page with personal data or a copy of identity card
- Documents confirming the change of surname, if not all the documents submitted are of the same surname
- Other documents that the applicant wishes to submit

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

4.1. Scientific publications (SP). Applicant's scientific publications are evaluated by points. Points for scientific publications are allocated and the sum of points is converted to a ten point system in the way described in Annex 1.

4.2. Grade point weighted average (GPWA) of the marks of study courses and thesis in annex/supplement to Master's diploma or other diploma confirming the reward of corresponding qualification. Only those applicants whose grade point weighted average is not lower than 7 points are eligible for studies in a doctoral programme.

4.3. Document review and submission of possible supervisor recommendations. No later than 1 month from the deadline for submitting documents, the receiving institutions carry out an administrative check. If inaccuracies are identified, the applicant can submit the missing documents no later than 5 working days from the receipt of the notification.

Only applicants who have submitted all the required documents on time participate in the competition. No later than 10 days after the deadline for receiving the revised documents, doctoral institutions provide systematized information to the heads of the topics to which the candidates apply.

The possible supervisor of the topic, having received the information, organizes the assessment of the applicants (remote meetings, communication by e-mail, live meetings, assignment of tasks and other measures that would help assess the applicant's suitability for the selected topic). The possible supervisor of the topic, having assessed the applicants, formulates a conclusion for the Committee on the applicant's preparation for doctoral studies in the selected topic, and prepares motivated recommendations for the candidates most suitable for the topics (no more than 3 persons).

4.4. Motivational interview (MI). During the motivational interview the applicant's motivation to study in the doctoral programme is assessed as well as the adequacy of scientific publications, scientific research and other activity to the chosen topic, recommendations of scientists, knowledge of foreign languages, etc. The final point* of the motivational interview is generated by the average of Committee member marks in a ten-point grading system. The candidates to doctoral studies must collect no less than 7 points from the motivational interview.

5. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIVE SCORE (CS)

5.1. Competitive score (CS) is estimated according to the formula:

$CS = 0.3*SP + 0.4*GPWA + 0.3*MI$, where:

SP – is the point calculated in a ten-point grading system for scientific publications,
GPWA – is the grade point weighted average of the marks in the annex/supplement to Master's degree or other diploma certifying the reward of the corresponding qualification,

MI – is the final score obtained for the motivational interview.

5.2. In case of equal scores, an applicant with a higher evaluation of scientific publications shall be given a priority.

* Points are rounded to the nearest hundredths.

6. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

6.1. Applicants are required to submit an application form to take part in the competition addressed to the Head of the institution to which they are applying. Together with the application, all documents specified in the Section 3 need to be submitted. Only those who submit all required documents can take part in the competition.

6.2. All applicants are required to take part in a motivational interview with the Committee members.

6.3. The Committee generates a competitive score according to the selection criteria and makes priority list of applicants for each partner institution's dissertation topics.

6.4. In three days after the announcement of competition results, applicants can submit a motivated appeal to the Committee, and upon receiving a negative response, in three days, can appeal to the head of the doctoral institution, to which doctoral studies they applied.

6.5. After the final list of invited candidates is announced, applicants who were not accepted into state-funded study places, but who meet the requirements for doctoral studies, can choose fee-paying doctoral study places and study paying a tuition fee set by a doctoral institution.

6.6. Candidates invited to doctoral studies sign a bilateral contract with the doctoral institution, and the Order of the Head of the institution is issued on their acceptance to doctoral studies.

6.7. If, after the admission process is over, there are free study places left, a second round of

admission can be organized, which is carried out following the same procedure.

Admission procedures	Dates and deadlines
Submission and registration of documents	2025 06 05 – 2025 07 31
Document review and supervisor recommendations	2025-08-01 – 2025-09-01
Doctoral Committee Meeting (motivational interview with applicants)	2025 09 05
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculation of the competition results)	2025 09 05
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2025 09 08
Submission of motivated appeals to Doctoral Committee	2025 09 09 - 2025 09 12
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2025 09 13 – 2025 09 17
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2025 09 20
Evaluation of diplomas of invited foreign students	2025 09 20 – 2025 09 25
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2025 09 23 – 2025 09 26
Start of doctoral studies	2025 10 01

7. ADMISSION OF CITIZENS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMME STUDIES

7.1. Applicants from foreign countries, having acquired a Master's degree or corresponding qualification outside the Lithuanian Republic, have to submit all the documents indicated in Section 3 and the following additional documents:

7.1.1. Notarised translation of the Master's degree diploma and its supplement into the Lithuanian language.

7.1.2. The Certificate of recognition of higher education qualification acquired abroad. The document about the acquired qualification may be issued by the study quality assessment centre and also high schools upon submission of the required documents.

7.1.3. Application form for admission is filled in English. Curriculum vitae, a list of scientific publications and their copies should be presented in the English language.

7.2. Applicants taking part in the competition take their responsibility for all travel expenses and documents: passport, visa, temporary residence permit, health insurance etc.

7.3 Applicants, who have been admitted to doctoral programme studies, need to obtain a permission for temporary residence in the Republic of Lithuania or a permission to live in the Lithuanian Republic as a citizen of the country member of the European Community or have a permission to live in the Lithuanian Republic permanently.

8. THE PRICE OF STATE UNFUNDED DOCTORAL STUDIES

Form of studies	The annual tuition fee*, EUR
Regular studies	12 449
Extended studies	8 299

The tuition fee must be paid within 15 calendar days from the date of entry into force of the study contract.

* The standard tuition fee approved by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania in 30 December 2024 by Order No V-1455 may be reduced by the decision of a doctoral institution.

9. CONTACTS

Vytautas Magnus University

Universiteto str. 8A – 203, Akademija, Kauno distr.

Contact person – Monika Brimaitė-Kemėšė,

tel. (8 37) 75 22 54,

e-mail: monika.brimaitė-kemese@vdu.lt

Admission documents shall be submitted:

<https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt/>

Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry

Instituto alėja 1, Kedainiai district

Contact person – dr. Urtė Mečionė,

tel. +370 63620394, e-mail: phd.studies@lammc.lt

Office hours: 9.00–15.00.

ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Type of scientific work	Measurement unit	Points
Scientific articles in publications, refereed in <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)</i> and (or) <i>Scopus</i> databases, which impact factor is more than zero	Author's input*	10
Scientific articles in other publications, refereed <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS)</i> and (or) <i>Scopus</i> databases	Author's input	7
Scientific articles in scientific publications, refereed in other international databases	Author's input	3
Scientific articles in other reviewed scientific publications	Author's input	2
Scientific articles in reviewed cultural, art and professional publications; in conference proceedings	Author's input	1
Other **	Author's input	0-4

* Author's input (AI) is calculated according to the formula: $AI=1/N_A$, where N_A is the total number of authors of the article.

** The Committee shall also have a right to assess other applicant's scientific output that is not included in this table, and assign additional points from 0 to 4.

Reviewed scientific articles: reviewed periodical publications, reviewed series or one-time publications, having editorial board of scholars and ISSN or ISBN number.

Scientific article is an article published in scientific publications, written in compliance with requirements for a scientific article in a particular science field (footnotes, bibliography, formulas, drawings, description of methodology, statistic tables, and etc.), and corresponding to the scientific criteria, recognised in that science field; the minimum scope valid is 0.25 of the quire. The decision to accept shorter than 0.25 (1 quire = 14 pages) of the quire scientific publications is made by the Committee.

The total sum of points is converted into a 10-point grading system as follows:

- The maximum number of points of the applicant (Tmax) equals 10 points.
- Tmax divided by 10 equals the constant -k ($k = T_{max}/10$).
- The total scored sum of other competition participants' points is divided by constant -k, and equals the applicant's number of points for scientific publications (points are rounded off to one decimal place).