

**ORDER AND CONDITIONS OF OPEN COMPETITION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES
IN EDUCATION SCIENCE FIELD IN 2025
(Additional admission to state non-funded places)**

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of field of science	Field of Science
S 007	EDUCATION SCIENCE

1.1. Applicants to doctoral studies in Education Science field are admitted through an open competition in the announced dissertation topics. 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 Education Science Field (hereinafter – Committee).

2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1. Master's degree or higher education degree equal to it.
- 2.2. Scientific research experience, participation in research.
- 2.3. Command of foreign languages (English at least at B2 level).

3. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Application for admission addressed to the Rector
- Diploma of Master's degree or qualification adequate to it, its annex/supplement
- Recommendations from two scholars (in the field of social sciences, including one who is a doctor of education (preferably, one of the recommendations should be a supervisor of the topic being addressed))
- Curriculum Vitae (signed by applicant)
- List of applicant's scientific publications (submitted in full bibliographic description) and their copies (submitted together with a copy of journal's cover and contents page); or, if a scientific article is not yet published – a document issued by the editorial board of a scientific journal certifying the acceptance of an article for publication (after the reviewing procedure) and its manuscript
- Electronic copy of the scientific research project in .doc or .docx format, if two topics are indicated in the application, then 2 scientific research projects need to be submitted
- Personal identification document
- Documents notifying the change of surname if not all documents are submitted under the same surname
- Other documents which an applicant wishes to submit

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 4.1. **Scientific publications (SP).** The applicant's scientific publications are evaluated by points. Points for scientific publications are awarded according to the table attached in Annex 1 and converted into a ten-point evaluation system.
- 4.2. **Scientific research project (RP).** The project shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements for the evaluation of a research project set by the Committee (Annex 2). The project is marked by two evaluators appointed by Committee. Its final mark consists of the average of marks given by the two evaluators in a ten-point grading system.
- 4.3. **Grade point average (GPA)** of the marks of study courses and thesis in annex/supplement to Master's diploma or other diploma confirming the reward of corresponding qualification.
- 4.4. **Motivational interview (MI).** During the interview, applicants shall be assessed on their readiness and motivation to pursue doctoral studies in the Education Science field, as well as on the correspondence between their scientific and practical experience and the chosen thematic area. The evaluation criteria are listed in Annex 3.
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 8 points from the motivational interview.

5. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIVE SCORE (CS)

- 5.1. Competitive score (CS) is estimated according to the formula:
 $CS = 0,3SP + 0,3RP + 0,1GPA + 0,3MI$, where:
SP – is the point calculated in a ten-point grading system for scientific publications,
RP – is the final point of assessment for scientific research project,
GPA – is the grade point 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 research project shall be given a priority.

* Points are rounded to the nearest hundredths.

6. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

- 6.1. The applicant shall submit an application to the Rector to be admitted to the open competition for doctoral studies. The application shall be accompanied by the other documents referred to in Paragraph No. 3. Only applicants who have submitted all the necessary documents on time are considered for 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 lists 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 Rector's order 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 09 08 – 2025 09 10
Doctoral Committee Meeting (motivational interview with applicants)	2025 09 12 – 2025 09 18
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculations of the competition results)	2025 09 12 – 2025 09 18
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2025 09 22
Submission of motivated appeals to Doctoral Committee	2025 09 23 – 2025 09 24
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2025 09 25 – 2025 09 26
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2025 09 29
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2025 09 30
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 can 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. TUITION FEES PER YEAR

- 8.1. Students admitted to fee-paying study places have to pay a normative fee for tuition approved by the Order No. V-1455 of 30 December of 2024 by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Lithuanian Republic:
 - 8.1.1. 12 449 EUR per year for full-time studies;
 - 8.1.2. 8 299 EUR per year for part-time studies.

- 8.2. Tuition fee can be reduced upon the decision of doctoral institution.
- 8.3. Tuition fee should be paid in 15 calendar days from the day the study contract comes into effect.

9. CONTACTS

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Contact person – Rasa Andrišiūnaitė, tel. +370 37 209

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Admission documents shall be submitted at

<https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt>

ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Type of scientific work	Measurement unit	Points
Scientific articles in publications, refereed in <i>Clarivate Analytics Web of Science</i> or / and <i>Scopus</i> databases	Author's input*	4
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. For example, if the number of authors is 4, one author's input is worth 0.25, i.e. $AI = 1/4 = 0.25$.

** 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 submitted scientific publications and scientific activities must correspond to the chosen topic and/or the field of science to which the application is made.

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).

GUIDELINE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT

1. A doctoral candidate's research Project (hereinafter referred to as "Project") is an independent scientific work, the aim of which is to reveal the author's scientific abilities, creativity, methodological preparation, motivation, theoretical preparation and practical experience, as well as specific scientific work on the chosen topic.
2. The Project shall include all mandatory parameters: relevance of the topic, research problem, research questions, research object, research aim, the novelty of the problem to be solved, research design, research methodology, and the expected contribution to the field of education science and pedagogical practice.
3. The Project shall be based on scientific sources that are no more than ten years old, of which about half must be no more than five years old.
4. The Project shall propose an original theme related to a specific topic chosen from the list of topics proposed.
5. The Project shall consist of the following sections:
 - INTRODUCTION. This section deals with the relevance of the topic, its novelty, the necessity for further exploration, formulates the research problem, plans the object, purpose and objectives of the dissertation, sets hypotheses and/or defensive theses.
 - LITERATURE REVIEW. This section covers the exploration of the topic in Lithuania and the world, how the dissertation thesis can contribute to the accomplished research.
 - METHODOLOGY. This section aims at discussing possible methods and process of the research and explaining how the data will be analysed, how reliability will be determined.
 - BIBLIOGRAPHY. In this section, reference sources and literature are provided, used when preparing the Project.
6. The scope of the Project is 8 000–12 000 characters (with spaces), i.e. approximately 4-5 pages.
7. The text should be printed in 1.5 spacing between lines, 12 pt., Times New Roman. Margins of the page are as follows: left – 3cm, right – 1.5, top and bottom – 2

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT

1. The object of the research, scientific problem, purposes and objectives are formulated precisely and clearly.
2. The international and national relevance of the chosen topic in the context of research and development is defined.
3. The research aim and the research questions and/or hypotheses are formulated.
4. The intended methodology and theoretical approach are in line with the research object and problem.
5. The scientific sources used are at least ten years old; about half of them are at least five years old.
6. The potential impact of the planned research on the science of Education and educational practice is justified.
7. The project is written in scientific language and meets the methodological requirements set for scientific research (it is a conscientious piece of work, new and original ideas are presented, thoughts are logical and coherent, references and bibliography are consistent, the style of the scientific language is accurate).

CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEW

1. Justification of the research problem at national and international level. **3 point.**
2. Scientific argumentation of the project from the perspective of the science of Education. **3 points.**
3. Experience in research and practice in the field of Education (e.g., experience in projects, participation in conferences, participation in dissemination events, organisation of educational events). **2 points.**
4. Ability to discuss the research project and express motivation for studying in Lithuanian and English. (English (at least B2 level) is mandatory during the motivational interview). **2 points.**