

**ORDER AND CONDITIONS OF OPEN COMPETITION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES
IN POLITICAL SCIENCES FIELD
IN 2026**

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Code of field of science	Field of Science
S 002	Political Sciences

1.1. Applicants to doctoral studies in Political sciences 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.

1.2. The competition is organized by the Doctoral School of Vytautas Magnus University, the competition is conducted by the Doctoral Committee of Political Sciences 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. Knowledge of foreign languages.

3. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application for admission addressed to the Rector/Head of Institution• Diploma of Master's degree or qualification adequate to it, its annex/supplement• Recommendations from two researchers in the field of Political Sciences, working in this field of study, issued in the calendar year in which the candidate is applying for admission• Curriculum Vitae• 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 in 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• 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 |
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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. **Scientific research project (RP).** The scientific research project is prepared according to the requirements set by 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 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 point¹ 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.

Doctoral studies in the field of political sciences at the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania (LKA) are open for servicemen of professional military service as well as for civil servants and employees working under employment contracts in the national defence system. To be admitted to the doctoral studies, candidates require a conclusion of the LKA Doctoral studies College on correspondence of their scientific research proposal to the objectives of the doctoral programme, and a decision of the Chief of Defence (applicable for servicemen of professional military service) or the Minister of National Defence or his authorized person (applicable to civil servants and employees working under employment contracts in the National Defence system) allowing them to apply to doctoral studies at the Lithuanian Military Academy.

The decision of the Chief of Defence regarding servicemen of professional military service and the decision of the Minister of National Defence or his authorized person regarding civil servants and employees working under employment contracts in the national defence system to enter the doctoral programme in the field of political sciences shall be submitted by 30 June 2026 (see Order No. V-968 of 20 December 2021 of the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania).

5. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITIVE SCORE (CS)

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

CS = 0,2SP + 0,4RP + 0,2GPA + 0,2MI, 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 motivational interview shall be given a priority.

¹ 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 doctoral institution to which they are applying. This request can be submitted to the Doctoral School/Office of Science of each doctorate institution having the right to organize such studies. Together with the application, all documents specified in 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 lists of applicants for each partner institution's dissertation topics.
- 6.4. Within three days of notification of the results of the competition, 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 of documents for the recognition of qualification obtained abroad in Lithuania (for those applicants who have obtained their education at a foreign higher education institution and do not have a document confirming the recognition of their diploma in Lithuania).	2026 05 15 – 2026 07 14
Submission and registration of documents	2026 05 15 – 2026 08 14
Doctoral Committee Meeting (motivational interview with applicants)	2026 08 25 – 2026 09 04
Doctoral Committee Meeting (calculation of the competition results)	2026 08 25 – 2026 09 04
Notification of applicants about the competition results	2026 09 07
Submission of motivated appeals to Doctoral Committee	2026 09 08 – 2026 09 10 (iki 12 val.)
Submission of appeals to the Head of the Doctoral Institution to which the applicant applied	2026 09 11 – 2026 09 15 (iki 12 val.)
Announcement of a list of invited candidates	2026 09 16
Signing agreements with the Doctoral Institution	2026 09 17 – 2026 09 18
Start of doctoral studies	2026 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 or English 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. PRICE OF NON-FUNDED DOCTORAL STUDIES

Study form	Tuition fees per year, EUR			
	Vytautas Magnus University*	Kaunas University of Technology*	Klaipėda University*	The General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania*
Full-time studies	12 680	12 680	12 680	12 680
Part-time studies	8 453	-	8 453	-

Tuition fee is to be paid in 15 calendar days from the day the study contract comes into effect.

* A normative fee for tuition approved with the Order No. V-48 of 22 January of 2026 by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Lithuanian Republic, is subject to reduction upon the decision of doctoral institution.

9. CONTACTS

Vytautas Magnus University

Universiteto str. 8A-203, Akademija, Kauno distr.
 Contact person – Rasa Andrišiūnaitė, tel. +370 37 209 815,
 + 370 619 21615, email: doktorantura@vdu.lt
 Admission documents shall be submitted at
<https://epasirasymas.vdu.lt>

Kaunas University of Technology

Studentų str. 50, Kaunas, Student Information Centre
 Contact person – Rasa Šiugždinytė,
 tel. +370 608 15609, email: doktorantura@ktu.lt.
 Office hours: 9.00–15.00.

Klaipėda University

Herkaus Manto str. 84 – 301, Klaipėda.
 Contact person – Vita Jušienė,
 tel. +370 39 89 32, email: vita.jusiene@ku.lt
 Office hours: 9.00–15.00.

The General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania

Šilo str. 5A - 112, Vilnius.
 Contact person - Ramunė Budrienė,
 tel. +370 706 76 175, email: doktorantura@lka.lt
 Office hours: 8.00–16.00.

ASSESSMENT OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Code	Type of scientific work	Measurement	Points
01	Scientific monograph, science study, theoretical, synthetic scientific works	Number of quires	6
02	Other scientific monographs, scientific studies, theoretical, synthetic research works.	Number of quires	4
03	Scientific articles in journals with Impact Factor (<i>Clarivate Impact Factor, Scopus SNIP</i>)	unit	4
04	Scientific articles, book chapters published in reviewed publications.	unit	3
05	Other scientific articles, book chapters, academic reviews and alike, with scientific apparatus in science, culture and professional periodical, continuous and one-time publications.	unit	2
06	Source publications, translations with scientific comments, scientific dictionaries, manuals, encyclopedias, (bio)bibliographies, high school textbooks.	Number of quires	2

*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 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 ($k = Tmax/10$).
- 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).

RECOMMENDATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT

1. A scientific research project of a Ph.D. applicant (hereafter a Project) is an independent scientific work, which aims to reveal the author's scientific abilities, creativity, methodological preparation, motivation, theoretical preparation, practical experience, and particular scientific experience in the chosen topic. Applicants may submit only one research project.
2. The scientific Project shall describe the problem to be examined; evaluate its relevance and perform the analysis of previous research on the topic; define the aim and objectives of the work; identify possible directions and research methods.
3. 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.
 - **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND 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.
4. The scope of the Project is no less than 10 000 characters (with spaces, not counting bibliography).
5. 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 cm.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT

1. The object of the research, scientific problem, purposes and objectives are formulated precisely and clearly.
2. The relevance of the chosen topic is determined in the context of scientific research and development.
3. The applicant can substantiate the prospective research theoretically, is familiar with the accomplished research on the chosen topic, can show links between different works, compare and generalise critically, formulate conclusions.
4. The chosen research methodology complies with the purposes and objectives of the research.
5. The project is written in scientific language and meets the methodological requirements set for scientific research (it is a conscientious piece of work, without the use of generative artificial intelligence tools, new and original ideas are presented, thoughts are logical and coherent, references and bibliography are consistent, the style of the scientific language is accurate).