

**KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
LIETUVOS SPORTO UNIVERSITETAS
VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS**

**RULES AND PROCEDURE FOR THE OPEN COMPETITION FOR THE THIRD CYCLE
OF STUDIES (DOCTORATE) IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE IN 2026**

Admission to study at Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), Lithuanian Sports University (LSU), Vilnius University (VU) third-cycle studies (doctorate) is carried out in accordance with the Joint Doctoral Regulation and the procedure for calculating the competitive score established in 2026.

1. Persons with a master's degree or equivalent higher education may participate in the open competition for admission to a doctorate in the field of educational science.
2. Admission is carried out to the places of the Joint Doctoral Institutions in accordance with the quotas allocated annually by the Ministry of Education and Science (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry) (for each higher education institution separately).
3. The competition is held for individual topics of the Joint Doctoral Institutions.
4. The applicant submits an application to the Rector of the General Doctoral Institution to be allowed to participate in the open doctoral competition. This application is submitted to the Joint Doctoral Institution for which the published topic is applied for and in which it is planned to prepare a dissertation – KTU, LSU Doctoral Administration Unit. Other documents must be submitted together with the application indicating the direction of the doctoral programme, the form and the order of priority of the desired dissertation topic (maximum two) (see paragraph 23).
5. Applicants who have a non-educational master's degree or equivalent higher education must additionally take the entrance exam in education. The exam is taken at the university where the application for admission to the doctoral open competition has been submitted. The examination programme is published on the university's website together with the rules and procedure for the open competition for the third cycle of studies (doctorate) in the field of educational science in 2025. Upon successful completion of this examination, they continue to participate in accordance with the procedure established in the competition.
6. The doctoral admission competition is organized by the Scientific Service of the coordinating university (Lithuanian Sports University) and is carried out by the Joint Doctoral Committee, which includes representatives of educational scientists from all institutions that make up the joint doctoral program – KTU, LSU, VU. According to the competition procedure, applicants are admitted to the General Doctorate in the field of educational science separately according to the topics proposed by the institutions. All applicants must attend the interview with the members of the Committee.
7. With persons who are separately admitted to full-time and part-time doctoral studies in the field of educational science, the Rectors of the Joint Doctoral Institutions or their authorised persons shall sign bilateral agreements of the established form (the agreement shall be signed with the rector of the university where the dissertation will be prepared).
8. The criteria for the selection of a doctoral candidate in 2026 are:
 - scientific publications (the evaluation takes into account their compliance with the field of educational science, the chosen research and dissertation topic);
 - scientific experience (the assessment takes into account the nature of the scientific activity);
 - the weighted average of the applicant's master's or bachelor's degree studies and final thesis;

- a foreign language certificate (English, French, German) indicated in the supplement to the diploma of first, second or single-level higher education (optionally) or in the certificate issued by a licensed foreign language centre;
 - motivational interview.
9. The selection criteria, their weighting coefficients and the calculation of the competitive score shall be approved each academic year by the order of the Rector of each institution of the Joint Doctorate on the proposal of the Committee. 2026 For the procedure for calculating the competitive score, see Annex 1.
 10. Following the selection criteria, the Committee evaluates the applicants with scores and forms separate priority queues for the topics of the specific institutions of joint doctoral studies (KTU, LSU) according to the highest competitive score. Applicants who have been evaluated with at least 8 (eight) competitive points are admitted to state-funded study places.
 11. On the basis of the Committee's protocol, candidates for doctoral studies are accepted by separate orders of the rectors of joint doctoral institutions (KTU, LSU) depending on which higher education institution the applicant chooses and in which he will prepare his dissertation, indicating the institution of joint doctoral studies, the field of science, the form of doctoral studies (permanent – up to 4 years, or part-time – up to 6 years), the nature of funding, and the topic of the dissertation.
 12. If there are vacancies after admission, the Scientific Service of the coordinating university may organise a second admission phase, which shall be carried out in the same manner.
 13. Applicants who have not been admitted to state-funded places may, upon the proposal of the Committee, choose paid doctoral studies by paying the doctoral study fee established by the joint doctoral institution with which they will sign an agreement.
 14. Citizens of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the EU) participate in the competition in a general manner.
 15. Applicants who have obtained a master's degree or a diploma of equivalent higher education abroad shall, together with the documents referred to in Item 23, additionally submit a document confirming the recognition of the qualification acquired abroad and pay the doctoral study fee established by the joint doctoral institution with which they will sign the agreement.
 16. Citizens of non-EU countries who have been admitted to doctoral studies must obtain a residence permit in the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts.
 17. Doctoral studies are conducted in Lithuanian or in the language approved by the Committee.
 18. The Committee shall organise the Committee's meeting(s) at the latest during the first two weeks of doctoral studies, in which newly admitted doctoral students and supervisors who have won the dissertation competition; A supervisor is appointed for newly admitted doctoral students.
 19. Upon the proposal of the committee, the rector of the doctoral student's institution shall approve the head of the doctoral student by order. Upon the proposal of the department administering doctoral studies of the institution, the rector approves the academic unit of the institution to which the doctoral student is assigned by order.
 20. The file of a person who has not been accepted for a doctorate is stored for a year in the Scientific Service of the coordinating university, and later in the archive of the coordinating university.
 21. A person who has submitted an application for admission to a doctoral competition and has not been accepted may, within two days of the publication of the minutes of the Committee:
 - 21.1. submit a reasoned request or appeal to the Committee;
 - 21.2. upon receipt of a negative response from the Committee, to submit an appeal to the rector of the coordinating university within two days.

22. Admission procedures.

Admission procedures	Date
<i>Acceptance and registration of documents</i>	2026-08-24 – 2026-09-01
<i>Entrance Examination in Education. <u>Applicants who have completed studies in Education or other study programmes</u></i>	2026-09-02

<i>recognized as equivalent to the field of Education are exempt from taking this examination.</i> The examination is required only for applicants whose field of study does not correspond to the field of Education.	
Publication of the results of the educational exam	2026-09-03
Possibility to submit appeals regarding the objectivity of the assessment of knowledge in education	2026-09-04
Handling of appeals	2026-09-07
Those invited to the motivational interview for admission to KTU, LSU, VU doctoral studies are informed by e-mails.	2026-09-08
Motivational entrance interview (the meeting of the doctoral committee in the field of educational science is <i>organized remotely</i>). <u>All applicants must participate.</u>	2026-09-11 10 val.
Committee meeting for adoption decisions (applicants do not participate).	2026-09-11
Publication of the final results of accession .	2026-09-14
Possibility to lodge appeals regarding compliance with the admission rules and regarding the objectivity of the evaluation of the motivational interview.	2026-09-15 – 2026-09-16
Examination of appeals.	2026-09-17
If there are no appeals, the institutions (depending on which the doctoral student belongs: KTU, LSU Rector (or his/her authorized person) concludes an agreement with the doctoral student.	2026-09-18
Possibility to submit appeals to the rector of the coordinating university.	2026-09-21 – 2026-09-22
Examination of appeals.	2026-09-23 – 2026-09-24
Signing of the agreement (depending on which institution the doctoral student belongs to: KTU, LSU) with the doctoral student	2026-09-25

23. Documents submitted for admission to doctoral studies.

Key documents
• an application on behalf of the Rector of KTU or LSU (depending on which institution the doctoral student chooses); • two recommendations for scientists in the field of educational sciences who have a habilitated doctorate or doctoral degree; • curriculum vitae (to be served signed); • the Master's degree diploma or the diploma certifying the corresponding qualification, its supplement/appendix (the originals will be returned immediately) and copies of these documents (copies to be served); • a supplement to the diploma of first, second or single-level higher education (optional) or a certificate issued by a licensed foreign language centre, indicating a foreign language certificate (English, French, German) (originals are returned immediately) and copies of these documents (copies are served); • a list of the research papers of the doctoral candidate (a full bibliographic description is provided) and their prints, if any are available (provided together with copies of the cover and content of the publication); the works accepted for the press are submitted with the certificate of the editor of the publication about the article accepted for the press (after the review procedure); for those who have just completed postgraduate studies – and a copy of the master's thesis (if any); • Certificates of reports read, work at scientific conferences, if any (copies are delivered; originals will be returned immediately);

- one photograph of 3 x 4 cm (to be served);
- a copy of the receipt of the entrance tuition fee paid to the KTU or LSU bank account or certified copies of documents proving the right not to pay the entrance tuition fee;
- documents confirming the change of surname, if not all the documents submitted are with the same surname (copies are served);
- A copy of the passport's personal data page or a copy of the identity card (a copy is served).

Additional documents

Documents at the discretion of the applicant, reflecting his/her scientific and pedagogical activities.

24. Entrance fee, account details.

24.1. When submitting documents *at Kaunas University of Technology*, the entrance fee (EUR 40 for citizens of Lithuania and other European Union countries and EUR 100 for citizens of non-European Union countries) is transferred to the account of Kaunas University of Technology:

Recipient – Kaunas University of Technology,

beneficiary's bank – AB Swedbank, account No. LT54 7300 0100 0251 0317, bank code – 73000, abbreviated name of the contribution – "Entrance fee for studies", code – 2881, the code of the applicant is written in the column of the payer's code,

or

Beneficiary – Kaunas University of Technology,

beneficiary's bank – AB SEB bankas, account No. LT75 7044 0600 0310 4494, bank code – 70440, abbreviated name of the fee – "Entrance fee for studies", code – 2881, the code of the applicant is written in the payer code section,

or

The beneficiary is Kaunas University of Technology,

the beneficiary's bank is AB DNB bankas, account No. LT70 0425 0240 0369, bank code – 40100, abbreviated fee name – "Entrance Study Fee", code – 2881, the identity code of the applicant is written in the payer's code section.

24.2. When submitting documents *at the Lithuanian Sports University*, the entrance fee (40 Eur) is transferred to the account of the Lithuanian Sports University with SEB bank No. LT047044060003325574, bank code 70440, payment fee code 005, payer code – personal identification number (subject to the payer's consent to submit).

24.3. The entrance tuition fee is non-refundable.

25. State-funded doctoral places.

Form of study	KTU	LSU	VU
Full-time studies (4 years)	1	1	-
Part-time studies (6 years)	Not	Not	Not

26. Annual tuition fee (EUR) for students enrolled in paid studies.

	KTU	LSU	VU
Full-time studies	12728 EUR	12728 EUR	–
Part-time studies	–	–	–

The tuition fee is paid according to the conditions provided for in the study agreement.

Send documents to the Lithuanian Sports University by e-mail: ieva.sereikaite@lsu.lt

Information on the submission of documents and the conduct of the competition shall be provided

Kaunas University of Technology

Doctoral School, tel.: +370 608 15 609, e-mail doktorantura@ktu.lt

Studentų g. 50, Kaunas, Student Info Centre

Kaunas University of Technology website address

<https://stojantiesiems.ktu.edu/doktorantura/>

Lietuvos sporto universitetas

In the Department of Science and Doctoral Studies, email kestutis.puzas@lsu.lt

Sporto g. 6, room 210. (central building), Tel. +370 69009866, Kaunas

LSU website address <https://www.lsu.lt/mokslas/doktorantura/edukologijos-mokslo-krypties-doktorantura/>

Calculation of the competition score (published)

$$KB = a_p \times P + a_m \times M + a_d \times D + a_u \times U + a_{mp} \times MP$$

KB – competition score;

a_i – significance factor;

The ten-point system gives the scores when evaluating:

1. P – publications,
2. M – scientific experience,
3. D – the weighted average of the grades specified in the supplement to the diploma of master's or single-level higher education studies (including the evaluation of the final thesis, if any),
4. U – a foreign language certificate (English, French, German) specified in the supplement to the diploma (optional) of a first, second or single-level higher education institution or in a certificate issued by a licensed foreign language centre,
5. MP – Evaluation of the motivational interview for admission to the doctoral program (Annex 3).

Significance factors

$$a_p = 0,25; a_m = 0,15; a_d = 0,25; a_u = 0,10; a_{mp} = 0,25$$

Evaluation criteria

Publications (in accordance with the Decree of the Minister of Education and Science No. V-747 of 04.10.2017)

Eil.Nr.	Type of scientific work
1.	Scientific monographs, scientific studies, theoretical, synthetic scientific works.
2.	Scientific articles, book chapters, published in peer-reviewed journals.
3.	Other articles, book chapters, academic reviews, etc. publications with a scientific apparatus in scientific, cultural and professional periodical, continuous and one-off publications.
4.	Publications of sources, scholarly annotated translations, scientific dictionaries, manuals, encyclopedias, (bio)bibliographies, textbooks of higher education institutions. A dictionary of terms in the field or field of science, a scientific manual, an encyclopedia.
5.	Social and cultural development works: - scientific research and science policy publications; - academic publications and academic reviews without a scientific apparatus; - specialized information, expertise, assessments and comments (historical, philological, art studies, sociological, legal acts and their projects) submitted to state and municipal institutions; - collections and chrestomaties prepared from Lithuanian and world cultural material (folklore, literature, philosophy, religious texts, art, linguistic examples, historical sources, etc.) for the needs of education and the general public; - Curation of samples of natural diversity, archaeological finds, tangible and intangible objects of traditional culture collected during field research, cultural monuments, literary and artistic works, museum and archival collections, demonstrations, exhibitions, expositions, cultural heritage events and material describing them;

	- educational projects prepared on the basis of scientific material; - preparation of new material for cultural heritage, linguistic and sociological databases; - Scientific papers have been compiled. <i>The same is true of the master's thesis, if not one year has passed since the completion of the master's studies.</i>
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P.S.

- (a) the assessment shall take into account whether a publication has been submitted:
- corresponds to the research and dissertation topic chosen when enrolling in the doctoral program in education;
 - whether it is in the direction of educational science;
 - whether it is not in the direction of education;
- b) in all cases, only a collection, cycle, set, publication, etc., consisting of at least 4 units or 2 author's arcs, and not a separate small-scale text, description, lecture, show, fragment, etc., shall be considered to be a unit of works of social and cultural development;
- (c) in the case of a work with co-authors, only the author's share shall be counted, taking into account the number of authors;
- (d) in the case of several categories of work, the scores shall be added up for the assessment until they do not exceed 10 points.

2. Scientific experience

Second. No.	Scientific activity
1.	Presentations were made at scientific conferences organized by higher education institutions and other scientific organizations.
2.	Presentations at scientific practical conferences.
3.	A scientific conference organized by a higher education institution, a scientific organization, an organizational or similar. Committee.
4.	Work was done in the organizational of a scientific practical conference or similar. Committee.

P.S.

- a) if there are several categories of works, the scores are added up to the evaluation until they do not exceed 10 points;
- b) The facts of the activity are proved by the submission of certificates.

3. D – the weighted average of the grades specified in the supplement to the diploma of master's or single-level higher education studies (including the evaluation of the final thesis, if any)

If the diploma supplement is submitted in a different system than the ten-point system, it is recalculated in accordance with the assessment logic provided for by the Ministry of Education and Science (Recommendations for the Improvement of Assessment of Study Results).

4. U is a foreign language certificate (English, French, German) specified in the supplement to the diploma (optional) of a first, second or single-level higher education institution or in a certificate issued by a licensed foreign language centre

If the assessment is submitted in a different system than the ten-point system, it is recalculated in accordance with the assessment logic provided for by the Ministry of Education and Science.

5. P – Evaluation of the interview for admission to the doctoral program

The assessment is carried out in a ten-point system, in accordance with the assessment logic provided for by the Ministry of Education.

Criteria:

- a) the applicant is able to justify the motivation to study in the chosen doctoral program;
- b) The applicant demonstrates knowledge of literature on the chosen topic.

Annex 2

Calculation of the competition score (detailed)

$$KB = ap \times P + am \times M + ad \times D + au \times U + amp \times MP$$

Where:

KB – competition score;

ai – significance factor;

points given in the ten-point system when assessing:

1. P – publications.
2. M – scientific experience.
3. D – the weighted average of the grades specified in the supplement to the diploma of completion of master's or single-level higher education studies (including the evaluation of the final thesis, if any).
4. U – a foreign language certificate (English, French, German) specified in the supplement to the diploma of the first, second or single-level higher education institution (optionally) or in the certificate issued by a licensed foreign language centre.
5. MP – evaluation of the motivational interview for admission to the doctoral program.

Significance factors:

$$ap=0,25; \text{ time} = 0,15; ad = 0,25; au= 0,10; amp=0.25$$

Evaluation criteria:

1. Publications (In accordance with the Decree No. V-747 of the Minister of Education and Science of 04.10.2017)

Second. No.	Type of scientific work	Unit (author's part)	Score, depending on the order. the unit value specified in the Reference Item No. V-1128
1.	Scientific monographs, scientific studies, theoretical, synthetic scientific works: a) according to the research and dissertation topic chosen for admission to the doctoral program; b) educational sciences;	At least 1 aut.l.	(a) 10 (b) 8 c) 5

	c) not in the direction of education.		
2.	Scientific articles, book chapters published in peer-reviewed journals: a) according to the research and dissertation topic chosen for admission to the doctoral program; b) educational sciences; c) not in the direction of education.	Two and more One	(a) 10 (b) 8 (c) 5 (a) 8 (b) 6 (c) 4
3.	Other articles, book chapters, academic reviews, etc. publications with a scientific apparatus in scientific, cultural and professional periodicals, continuous and one-off publications: a) according to the research and dissertation topic chosen for admission to the doctoral program; b) educational sciences; c) not in the direction of education.	Two and more One	(a) 5 b) 3,5 (c) 2,5 (a) 4 (b) 3 (c) 2
4.	Publications of sources, scientifically annotated translations, Mosaic dictionaries, manuals, encyclopedias, (bio)bibliographies, textbooks of higher education Dictionary of terms in the field or field of science, scientific manual, encyclopedia: a) according to the research and dissertation topic chosen for admission to the doctoral program; b) educational sciences; c) not in the direction of education.	Two or more aut.l.sk. One author. 1.	(a) 5 b) 3,5 (c) 2,5 (a) 4 (b) 3 (c) 2
5.	Social, cultural development works: - scientific research and scientific policy publications; -academic publications and academic reviews without a scientific apparatus; - specialized information, expertise, evaluations and comments (historical, philological, art studies, sociology, legal acts and their projects) submitted to state and municipal institutions; - Collections and chrestomaties prepared from Lithuanian and world cultural material (folklore, literature,	Two or more pcs. (in all cases, only a set, cycle, set, publication, etc., consisting of at least 4 units or 2 author's arcs, and not a separate small-scale text, description, lecture, show, fragment, etc., is considered to be a unit of works of social and cultural	a) 2,5 b) 1,75 c) 1,25

	philosophy, religious texts, art, language, historical sources, etc.) for the needs of education and the general public; - Curation of samples of natural diversity, archaeological finds, tangible and intangible objects of traditional culture collected during field research, cultural monuments, literary and artistic works, museum and archival collections, demonstrations, exhibitions, expositions and material describing them; - educational projects prepared on the basis of scientific material; - preparation of new material for cultural heritage, linguistic and sociological databases; - <i>as well as master's thesis, if one year has not passed since the completion of the master's studies).</i> The evaluation takes into account whether the work is delivered: a) according to the research and dissertation topic chosen for admission to the doctoral program; b) educational sciences; c) not in the direction of education.	development, and not a separate small-scale text, description, lecture, broadcast, fragment, etc.) One pc.	(a) 2 b) 1.5 c) 1,0
P.S. (a) in the case of several categories of work, the scores shall be added up for the assessment until they do not exceed 10 points; (b) if the work is produced with co-authors, only the author's share shall be counted in relation to the number of authors; c) the works accepted for the press are legible upon submission of a certificate from the editor of the publication.			

2. Scientific experience

Eil.Nr.	Scientific activity	Unit	Score
1.	Presentations were made at scientific conferences organized by higher education institutions and other scientific organizations.	2 and more 1	10 8
2.	Presentations were given at scientific-practical conferences.	2 and more 1	8 6
3.	A scientific conference organized by a higher education institution, a scientific organization, an organizational or similar. Committee.	2 and more 1	8 6

4.	Work was carried out in the organization of a scientific-practical conference or similar. Committee.	2 and more 1	5 3
P.S. (a) in the case of several categories of work, the scores shall be added up for the assessment until they do not exceed 10 points; (b) the facts of the operation shall be proved by means of certificates.			

3. D – the weighted average of the grades specified in the supplement to the diploma of master's or single-level higher education studies (including the evaluation of the final thesis, if any).

If the diploma supplement is submitted in a system other than the ten-point system, it is recalculated into it in accordance with the logic of the assessment provided by the Ministry of Education and Science (Recommendations for the Improvement of Assessment of Study Outcomes).

4. U – a foreign language certificate (English, French, German) indicated in the supplement to the diploma of the first, second or single-level higher education institution (optionally) or in the certificate issued by a licensed foreign language centre.

If the assessment is submitted in a system other than the ten-point system, it shall be recalculated in accordance with the assessment provided for by the Ministry of Education.

5. P – Evaluation of the interview for admission to the doctoral program.

The evaluation is carried out in a ten-point system, in accordance with the evaluation logic provided for by the Ministry of Education.

Criteria:

- a) the applicant is able to justify the motivation to study in this doctoral program;
- b) The applicant demonstrates accounting on the chosen topic.

Annex 3

PROCEDURE, AREAS AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEW

1. The assessment of the motivation of the applicant for doctoral studies is carried out by the members of the doctoral committee of the scientific field to which the applicant enrolls. Before the motivational interview, the members of the doctoral committee get acquainted with the admission documents submitted by each applicant.

2. Participation of the applicant in the meeting of the doctoral committee of the field of admission to the doctoral program is mandatory.

3. If the applicant has chosen two scientific fields in the application for admission, he/she must participate in the meetings of the doctoral committees of both scientific fields, where his/her motivation is evaluated separately.

4. The motivational interview with each applicant takes place individually. The head of the doctoral topic/topic chosen by the applicant may also participate in the motivational interview with the applicant, if it is approved by the doctoral committee of the scientific field.

5. The duration of the motivational interview with each applicant is determined by the doctoral committee of the field of science.

6. During the motivational interview, the applicant is asked questions according to the areas of motivation assessment (Table 1). Members of the doctoral committee in the field of science may ask additional questions to assess the applicant's motivation and foreign language (English) proficiency/knowledge.

7. The members of the doctoral committee of the field of science independently evaluate the motivational interview. The benchmark criteria for the assessment of motivation are presented in Table 2.

8. The arithmetic average of the evaluations of the members of the doctoral committee in the field of science who performed the motivation assessment is the final score of the applicant's motivation assessment, which is rounded to an integer. The highest possible rating is 10 points.

1 table. Areas of motivation assessment and their scoring

Areas of motivation assessment	Scoring
1. Justification for the choice of the field of education in the field of education	0–2,5
2. Justification for the choice of thesis/topic	0–2,5
3. Ability of the applicant to discuss in the context of scientific activity (justification of the scientific problem; research of the topic/topic in Lithuania and abroad)	0–2,5
4. Ability of the applicant to combine doctoral studies and work activities	0–2,5
Maximum Score:	10

2 table. Motivation Assessment Criteria and Assessment Scores

Criteria for evaluating motivation	Assessment Score
The applicant answers the questions presented in a clear, precise, reasoned manner, illustrates the answers with concrete examples, his or her own experience, presents his or her reasoned opinion, demonstrates a proper language culture.	2,5
The applicant's answers lack clarity, accuracy, reasoned arguments, lack specific examples, personal reasoned opinion, but the shortcomings are not substantial, the applicant demonstrates a proper language culture.	1,5
The applicant's answers are vague, inaccurate and poorly reasoned, have little relevance to the question(s) presented, the applicant is answered with general template phrases, and the applicant demonstrates a medium or low language	0,5
The applicant does not answer the question(s) submitted, the answers are not related to the question(s) submitted.	0