APPROVED

by Resolution No. S-2015-9-2 of 24 November 2015 of the Senate of Vilnius University (wording of Resolution No. SPN-36 of 21 May 2024 of the Senate of Vilnius University)

THE CRITERIA FOR AWARDING CUM LAUDE AND MAGNA CUM LAUDE DIPLOMAS AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1. The Criteria for Awarding *Cum Laude* and *Magna Cum Laude* Diplomas at Vilnius University (hereinafter the 'Criteria') establish the requirements for the award of *Cum Laude* and *Magna Cum Laude* diplomas of Vilnius University (hereinafter the 'University') to the graduates of first cycle (bachelor), second cycle (master) and integrated studies at the University.
- 2. Cum Laude and Magna Cum Laude diplomas, after assessing the highest study, scientific, or artistic achievements, are awarded to the most meritorious graduates to motivate them to continue research activity, thus strengthening the academic community.
- 3. The procedure for awarding *Cum Laude* and *Magna Cum Laude* diplomas of the University is established by the Description of the Procedure for Awarding *Cum Laude* and *Magna Cum Laude* Diplomas to Vilnius University Graduates (hereinafter the 'Description'), which is approved by the Rector of the University or a Pro-Rector authorised thereby.

CHAPTER II CRITERIA FOR AWARDING CUM LAUDE DIPLOMAS

- 4. *Cum Laude* diplomas are awarded to graduates of each first cycle (bachelor) study programme as well as to graduates of groups of related programmes of integrated studies or second cycle (master) studies who meet all of the following criteria:
 - 4.1. are in the top 10 per cent of the study programme graduates;
- 4.2. have earned a grade of 10 (excellent) for their theses and final examinations (if applicable).
- 5. If the weighted averages of several graduates in the same first cycle (bachelor) study programme are the same, the graduate whose weighted average in compulsory course units is higher shall be considered as ranking higher.
- 6. If the weighted averages of several graduates in the same group of related programmes of integrated studies or second cycle (master) studies are the same, the graduate whose weighted average in compulsory course units is higher shall be considered as ranking higher.
- 7. The groups of related second cycle (master) study programmes are formed by the decision of the councils of the University's core academic units (hereinafter the 'core units') carrying out these study programmes. Based on the decisions of the councils of the core units, the groups of related second-cycle (master) study programmes are approved by order of the Rector of the University or a Pro-Rector of the University authorised thereby.

CHAPTER III CRITERIA FOR AWARDING MAGNA CUM LAUDE DIPLOMAS

- 8. *Magna Cum Laude* diplomas are awarded to the highest-ranking graduates of first cycle (bachelor), second cycle (master), and integrated study programmes who meet all these criteria with the exceptions provided for in Item 12 of the Criteria:
- 8.1. are in the top 10 per cent of the study programme graduates or have the weighted average of at least 9.5;

- 8.2. have earned a grade of 10 (excellent) for their theses and final examinations (if applicable).
- 9. The highest achievements are considered to be research activity with results that meet at least one of the following criteria:
- 9.1. publications (articles, conference material, chapters of books) in peer-reviewed international and/or national scientific, professional, and cultural journals. Publications must be published or accepted for publishing (confirmation of acceptance for publishing must be submitted);
- 9.2. preparation of applied research papers (scientifically valuable catalogues, sources, translations, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, (bio)bibliographies, sets of publicly available scientific data). The graduate must be indicated as one of the main contributors or editors of the applied research paper. The applied research paper must be published, or a confirmation from contributors or editors must be received;
- 9.3. scientific presentations based on results of research activity of the graduate (oral presentations, the graduate must be the main and presenting author) delivered at an international and/or national conference. A link to publicly available information which would allow to assess the conference level must be provided;
- 9.4. presentation of the author's creative work and/or artistic research to society (various publicly available artistic and media forms). Assessment by a person with a doctoral degree in arts or a recognised artist must be provided;
- 9.5. other works of science dissemination relevant to the academic community and society, publicly available and/or personally presented by the graduate (the use of scientific outcomes for professional, social, cultural, and education needs). The graduate must be one of the authors, main contributors, or coordinators;
- 9.6. a significant contribution of a graduate in the implementation of scientific projects.
- 10. In order to assess the level of the graduate's scientific and artistic achievements in cases specified in Items 9(2)–9(6) of the Description, core units shall provide a brief justification of the value and importance of the graduate's activity as well as links to related publicly available information and/or other documents justifying that the criteria are met.
- 11. Graduates who are candidates for *Magna Cum Laude* diploma cannot receive them for the same scientific achievements for which they previously received *Magna Cum Laude* diploma.
- 12. The Senate of the University, taking into account the nominations submitted by the core units in accordance with the Description, has the right to decide to award *Magna Cum Laude* diploma to graduates with exceptional achievements in scientific and/or other activity not listed in the Criteria.
- 13. The Senate of the University may make a decision to award *Magna Cum Laude* diplomas without taking into account the requirements provided for in Item 8(1) of these Criteria.

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