

APPROVED

by Resolution No. S-2015-2-2 of 17 February 2015
of the Senate of Vilnius University

Description of the Inauguration Ceremony of the Rector of Vilnius University

Description of the Inauguration Ceremony (hereinafter the ‘Ceremony’) of the Rector of Vilnius University (hereinafter the ‘Ceremony Description’) is prepared in accordance with Articles 33(1)(19) and 44(18) of the Statute of Vilnius University (hereinafter the ‘Statute’) and is an integral part of the Protocol of Academic Rituals of Vilnius University. The terms used in the Ceremony Description correspond to the terms defined in the Statute.

Time and place of the Ceremony: the Church of St John the Baptist and St John the Apostle and Evangelist in Vilnius (hereinafter ‘St Johns’ Church’). The time and place of the Ceremony is announced by the Chairperson of the Council in agreement with the Chairperson of the Senate. The information is sent to the participants and guests and announced to the community. Lectures and other activities shall not take place at the University during the Ceremony.

Participants and guests of the Ceremony: the rector-elect, the Chairperson and members of the Council, the Chairperson and members of the Senate, the pro-rectors, heads of the core academic units, the prefect of the St Johns’ Church and the chaplain of the University, the outgoing rector, other former rectors of the University, guests (the President of the Republic of Lithuania, representatives of the Seimas and the Government, the chairperson of the Rectors’ Conference, representatives of the Church and religious communities, rectors of other universities, and other persons invited), the master of ceremonies of the University and the secretary, and members of the University community.

Apparel: the Chairperson of the Senate and heads of the core academic units wear togas, the rectors of other universities wear the ceremonial clothing of their universities, and other participants of the Ceremony wear formal clothing.

Seating of the participants:

A table and four chairs are placed in the middle of an elevated stage: the rector’s chair and three regular chairs on its sides. The Chairperson of the Council sits to the right of the rector-elect and the Chairperson of the Senate sits to the left. The fourth chair that is situated next to the rector’s chair is for the rector-elect to sit before their oath.

To the right of the rector-elect, seven chairs are placed for the deans carrying insignias (toga, pelerine, chain, biretta, sceptre, and seal) and a student carrying a flag.

To the right of the rector-elect – a small table and two chairs for the master of ceremonies and the secretary.

To the left of the rector-elect – a pulpit with a flag stand next to it.

Seating of the guests:

Designated seating **on the right side** (when facing the altar) – for members of the Council and the Senate, the pro-rectors, heads of the core academic units (except for deans carrying insignias), the prefect of the St Johns' Church and the chaplain of the University, the outgoing rector and other former rectors of the University, and members of the University community.

Designated seating **on the left side** – for the President of the Republic of Lithuania, members of the Seimas and the Government, representatives of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the Church and religious communities, rectors of the universities, and other persons invited.

Persons responsible for the Ceremony: Information and Public Relations Division and the master of ceremonies.

The following ad hoc protocols are set up before the Ceremony:

1. The protocol for insignia carriers. This protocol is set up by the Information and Public Relations Division from the heads of the core academic units who have held their positions the longest, according to the data provided by the Personnel Directorate. The flag is carried by a student appointed by the Students' Representation of the University.

2. The protocol for invited guests. The protocol is set up by the Information and Public Relations Division based on the suggestions of the rector-elect, the Chairperson of the Senate, and the Chairperson of the Council.

3. The seating protocol. The protocol is set up by the Information and Public Relations Division in regards to the participating persons.

4. The protocol for persons extending congratulations. The Chairperson of the Senate, the outgoing rector, the top government officials in attendance and the Chairperson of the Rectors' Conference extend congratulations. The Information and Public Relations Division is responsible for setting up the protocol. The remaining guests congratulate the rector-elect during the solemn reception.

The process of the Ceremony:

1. Everybody except for the rector-elect, the Chairperson of the Council, the Chairperson of the Senate, the deans responsible for carrying the rector's insignias, the student responsible for carrying the flag, and the rectors of other universities, gather in the St Johns' Church and take their places.

2. The church bell tolls. A procession from the central campus through the Grand Courtyard is situated in the following order: the student carrying the University's flag, in pairs – the rectors of other universities (their order is determined by the year of establishment of the universities: from newest to oldest), the deans carrying the rector's insignias (toga, pelerine, chain, biretta, sceptre,

and seal), the Chairperson of the Council carrying the Statute of the University, the Chairperson of the Senate carrying the Oath of Office text set out in Annex 1 to this Description of the Ceremony, and the rector-elect.

3. As the procession approaches the doors of the St Johns' Church:

The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Silentium. Silentium. Inchoamus celeberrimam inaugurationem* (insert a specific ordinal number in Latin) *Rectoris Universitatis Vilnensis. Vexillum Universitatis Vilnensis introfertur.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *We hereby begin the solemn inauguration of the* (insert a specific ordinal number in Lithuanian) *rector of Vilnius University.*

4. As the procession enters the church, the organ starts playing. Each procession participant stands next to their seating place. The Chairperson of the Council and the Chairperson of the Senate place the Statute of the University and the Oath of Office text on the table. The flag is placed into the flag stand and the student stands next to their seating place. The music dies down. Everyone takes their places.

5. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Orationem habebit* (full name), *Praeses Consilii Universitatis Vilnensis, quod novum Rectorem elegit.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *Now, the floor will be taken by* (full name), *the Chairperson of the Council of Vilnius University that elected the new rector.*

6. The Chairperson of the Council announces from the pulpit that on (day) (month) 20 (year) (insert the specific date), the Council elected a new rector of Vilnius University. A short introduction is made.

7. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Rector dat jus jurandum.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The rector takes an oath.*

8. The rector-elect, the Chairperson of the Council, and the Chairperson of the Senate stand up. The Chairperson of the Senate hands the rector the Oath of Office text. The rector places their right hand on the Statute of the University and, holding the oath text in their right hand, reads the text. If the Oath of Office text is read incorrectly, the Chairperson of the Senate asks the rector-elect to repeat it. The rector-elect sits down in the rector's chair, signs the Oath of Office and hands it to the Chairperson of the Senate. After the signing, the fourth chair is removed and three chairs remain at the table (the rector's chair and two chairs on its sides – for the Chairpersons of the Council and the Senate).

9. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Rogamus ab utroque Praeside, tum Consilii, tum Senatus, ut tradant Rectori electo insignia auctoritatis.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *We ask the Chairpersons of the Council and the Senate to present the rector with their insignias.*

10. The rector-elect and the Chairpersons of the Council and the Senate stand in front of the table.

11. The dean carrying the toga comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Council.

12. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We dress you in a toga so that you continue the honourable traditions of your predecessors appropriately.*

The dean and the Chairperson of the Council help the rector-elect to put on the toga. The dean returns to their place.

13. The dean carrying the pelerine comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Senate.

14. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We cloak you with this pelerine so that you genuinely care for the entire Vilnius University community.*

The Chairperson of the Senate takes the pelerine and puts it over the rector-elect's toga. The dean returns to their place.

15. The dean carrying the chain comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Council.

16. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We put this chain on you so that you link and unite all members of our university.*

The Chairperson of the Council puts the chain on the rector-elect's neck. The dean returns to their place.

17. The dean carrying the biretta comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Senate.

18. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We put this biretta on you so that you can represent the university community with honour.*

The Chairperson of the Senate puts the biretta on the rector-elect's head. The dean returns to their place.

19. The dean carrying the sceptre comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Council.

20. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We present you with this sceptre so that you can head the university appropriately.*

The Chairperson of the Council presents the rector-elect with the sceptre. The dean places the sceptre's pillow on the table, on the right side of the rector's chair, and returns to their place.

21. The dean carrying the seal comes up and stands in front of the Chairperson of the Senate.

22. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): *We present you with this seal so that you protect the rights and freedoms of the university.*

The Chairperson of the Senate presents the rector-elect with the seal. The dean places

the seal's box on the table, on the left side of the rector's chair, and returns to their place.

23. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Rector accepit mandata auctoritatis. Proclamamus: Universitas habet novum* – (insert an ordinal number in Latin) *Rectorem.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *the rector has accepted the powers of authority.*
.....*We hereby announce that the University has a new*
.....*th*/*rd* (insert an ordinal number) *rector.*

The Chairperson of the Council and the chairperson of the Senate accompany the rector to their place.

24. Everybody stands up. The choir and organ perform *Gaudeamus igitur*. When the music stops – ovations.

25. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Oratio inauguralis Magnificentiae Rectoris*
..... (full name).

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The inaugural speech of Their Magnificence the Rector*
..... (full name).

26. The rector delivers their speech from the pulpit. They then return to their place and sit down.

27. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Quod bonum faustum felix fortunatumque sit!*
The secretary (in Lithuanian): *May wellness, luck, happiness, and fortune follow.*

28. The organ plays.

29. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Nunc gratulationes pronuntiabuntur.*
The secretary (in Lithuanian): *Congratulations will now be offered.*

30. The master of ceremonies (in Lithuanian): (full name)
congratulates Their Magnificence the Rector.

31. The master of ceremonies (in Latin): *Inauguratio sollemnis Rectoris Universitatis Vilnensis* (full name) *finita est. Vexillum Universitatis Vilnensis effertur. Rector Universitatis Vilnensis exit.*

The secretary (in Lithuanian): *The solemn inauguration of the rector of Vilnius University*
(full name) *is now completed. The flag of the University is now carried out. The rector is now leaving.*

32. Organ music is playing. The exit is made in the following order:

The student carrying the University's flag, in pairs – the deans who carried the rector's insignias (the dean who carried the sceptre now carries the sceptre's pillow and the dean who carried the seal now carries the seal's box), the Chairperson of the Council carrying the Statute of the University, the Chairperson of the Senate carrying the Oath of Office document, and the rector carrying the sceptre in

their right hand and the seal in their left hand.

Annex 1 to
the Description of the Inauguration Ceremony of the Rector of Vilnius University

Oath of Office

of the Rector of Vilnius University
..... (full name)

I, (full name), elected in the (insert a specific ordinal number in Lithuanian) year from the establishment of Vilnius University as the rector of our Alma Mater, take a solemn oath to the University:

to be faithful to the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the Statute of Vilnius University always and everywhere;

to spare no effort or ability in ensuring the prosperity of Vilnius University and the welfare of the community;

to consistently advocate for the autonomy of Vilnius University that is based on the principle of self-governance and academic freedom;

to properly represent Vilnius University as well as foster and promote it in Lithuania and abroad.

(So help me God.)

Signature
(full name)

Vilnius,
..... (day) (month) (year)