



**RESOLUTION
OF THE SENATE
OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY**

**ON THE AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY
NO. S-2017-10-3 OF 24 OCTOBER 2017 “ON THE APPROVAL OF THE REGULATION OF
DOCTORAL STUDIES AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY”**

No. SPN-43 of 21 May 2024

In accordance with Article 33(1)(32) of the Statute of Vilnius University, for the purpose of implementing Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No. V-2003 of 23 December 2022 “On the Amendment to Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No. V-739 of 18 May 2020 “On the Approval of the Regulation of Doctoral Studies”” and Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No. V-426 of 22 April 2024 “On the Amendment to Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No. V-739 of 18 May 2020 “On the Approval of the Regulation of Doctoral Studies”” and taking into account Proposal from the Rector of Vilnius University No. RTK-50 of 17 May 2024 “On the Amendment to Resolution of the Senate of Vilnius University No. S-2017-10-3 of 24 October 2017 “On the Approval of the Regulation of Doctoral Studies at Vilnius University”” and Resolution of the Research Affairs Committee of the Senate of Vilnius University of 7 May 2024 (Minutes No. (1.9 E) 11500-KT-205), the Senate of Vilnius University hereby decides:

1. To amend the Regulation of Doctoral Studies at Vilnius University approved by Resolution of the Senate of Vilnius University No. S-2017-10-3 of 24 October 2017 “On the Approval of the Regulation of Doctoral Studies at Vilnius University” (as amended by Resolution of the Senate of Vilnius University No. SPN-53 of 6 October 2020 and SPN-44 of 17 October 2023):

1.1. To amend Item 3 and recast it as follows:

“3. The Regulation is in force at the University and at the Institutions of shared doctoral studies and shall be applied in those areas of doctoral, or third cycle, studies in respect of which the right to conduct doctoral studies is granted to the University or the Institutions, unless specified otherwise in the legal acts regulating the right to conduct doctoral studies. In the case of shared doctoral studies, the University shall be the coordinating institution. The terms used in the Regulation shall be understood as they are defined in the Regulations of Doctoral Studies, approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania No. V-739 of 18 May 2020 “On the Approval of the Regulations of Doctoral Studies” (as subsequently amended) (hereinafter the ‘Regulations of Doctoral Studies’).”

1.2. To supplement it with Item 3¹:

“3¹. Agreements shall be concluded with the Institutions of shared doctoral studies on the commitment to implement doctoral studies together. The agreements shall establish the following: the functions of the coordinating institution; the coordination between institutions of the qualification requirements for members of doctoral studies committees, academic supervisors of doctoral students,

and members of the Dissertation Defence Panel, and the procedure for the approval and amendment of the aforementioned requirements; the approval and revision procedures for the admission to doctoral studies; the funding of doctoral studies; the regulations of doctoral studies; the conditions for the organisation of doctoral studies; the usage of shared infrastructure; the termination of doctoral studies on the initiative of one or several institutions; the organisation of further doctoral studies, as well as other provisions.“

1.3. To amend Item 8 and recast it as follows:

“8. In science fields where the University has been granted the right to conduct doctoral studies individually or with other Institutions, shared doctoral studies in several science fields may be implemented, i.e. interdisciplinary scientific research may be carried out and interdisciplinary doctoral dissertations may be prepared (hereinafter the ‘interdisciplinary doctoral studies’). The procedure for organising interdisciplinary doctoral studies and the requirements for the defence of doctoral dissertations shall be established in Chapter XII of the Regulation.”

1.4. To amend Item 13 and recast it as follows:

“13. The Committee shall be comprised by at least nine researchers conducting high-level scientific research. The members of the Committee shall be researchers holding at least 0.5 full-time position at the Institution–(when they hold that position through a competition or they held at least 0.5 full-time position at the Institution for the last three years). Foreign researchers may also be members of the Committee; the requirement of holding or having held a position at the Institution through a competition shall not be applicable to them. The Committee shall consist of representatives of all Institutions, and if the right to conduct doctoral studies has been granted involving a foreign research and studies institution, more than half of the researchers in the Committee shall be from Lithuania and no less than two-thirds of the members shall be of the science field in which the right to conduct doctoral studies has been granted. A member of the Committee can be the Chairperson of the Committee for no longer than two consecutive five-year terms of office. A researcher may be a member of no more than two Committees at a time.

1.5. To supplement it with Item 24¹:

“24¹. In the event that there are such topics among the selected topics for dissertations the implementation of which shall require the infrastructure of a company implementing high-level scientific research and experimental development works in the field of doctoral studies to be used, a conclusion of a cooperation or joint venture agreement shall be initiated with the aforementioned company before the student who is admitted to implement the aforementioned topic starts their studies.”

1.6. To amend Item 67 and recast it as follows:

“67. The summary or the overview of the dissertation when it is submitted for defence on the basis of a set of research articles shall contain a description of the problem researched in the dissertation, the goal and objectives of the research paper, disclosure of the novelty of the research, a brief description of the research methodology, the key results and conclusions based thereon that the doctoral student defends, as well as concise information about the doctoral student. The recommended scope of the dissertation summary when the dissertation is submitted for defence not on the basis of a set of research articles shall be between 0.5 and 1 author’s sheet; the summary of the dissertation shall be written in the Lithuanian or the English language (other than the language of the dissertation). The summary of the dissertation must be written in a grammatically correct language in accordance with the writing standards and language norms.”

1.7. To supplement it with Chapter XII:

“CHAPTER XII INTERDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL STUDIES

113. In science fields where the University has been granted the right to conduct doctoral studies individually or with other Institutions, shared doctoral studies in several science fields may be

implemented, i.e. interdisciplinary scientific research may be carried out and interdisciplinary doctoral dissertations may be prepared (hereinafter the ‘interdisciplinary doctoral studies’). The interdisciplinary doctoral studies shall be organised and the doctoral dissertations shall be defended following the provisions of the Regulation and in accordance with additional requirements set out in this Chapter of the Regulation.

114. The decision on attributing the scientific research carried out on the topic of the dissertation and the dissertation under preparation to interdisciplinary doctoral studies shall be made by the Doctoral Studies Committee in the science field following the decision thereof the doctoral student is admitted to doctoral studies by approving their dissertation topic. This Committee shall be considered the main one (hereinafter the ‘main Committee’) and the science field it represents shall be considered the main science field of the interdisciplinary doctoral studies (hereinafter the ‘main science field’). In the event that the scientific research on the dissertation topic is carried out in the intersection of more than two scientific fields, the field that is most closely related to the topic of the prepared dissertation shall be considered the other science field under the main Committee’s decision.

115. The decision on granting the status of interdisciplinary doctoral studies may also be taken by the Committee during the course of ongoing doctoral studies of a doctoral student.

116. The doctoral student’s studies and scientific research shall be coordinated by the main Committee, it shall approve the work plan of the doctoral student, appoint the academic supervisor and/or consultant(s). The main Committee shall coordinate the issues of the implementation of interdisciplinary doctoral studies, the doctoral student’s certification, and the defence of doctoral dissertations together with the Committee of the other science field, establishing that one or two researchers representing the other science field shall take part in the Dissertation Defence Panel.

117. In the event of interdisciplinary doctoral studies, an academic supervisor shall be appointed for the doctoral student’s studies, as well as a consultant from the main science field when necessary and a mandatory consultant from the other science field (hereinafter the ‘non-main science field consultant’), the nomination of whom shall be agreed upon with the Committee of the other science field. The non-main science field consultant shall consult the doctoral student and provide their opinion on the scientific research carried out by the doctoral student on the topic of their dissertation during their certification. The academic supervisor and the non-main science field consultant shall be active researchers doing research in the relevant science fields of doctoral studies and meeting the qualification requirements set out in Annex 1 to the Regulation.

118. It shall be indicated in the dissertation that it is interdisciplinary, prepared in the intersection of two science fields.”

1.8. To amend Annex 1 and recast it (attached).

2. To determine that this Resolution comes into force on 1 July 2024.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE DISSERTATION DEFENCE PANELS, ACADEMIC SUPERVISORS AND CONSULTANTS OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

1. In the event that Vilnius University has been granted the right to conduct doctoral studies individually, active researchers meeting at least the minimum qualification requirements for senior researchers set out in the Vilnius University Regulations for the Organisation of Teaching Staff and Research/Art Staff Recruiting Competitions and Certification may be appointed as members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and academic supervisors of doctoral students (research consultants for external students).

2. In shared doctoral studies, active researchers meeting at least the minimum qualification requirements for senior researchers set out following the procedure laid down in agreements specified in Item 3¹ of the Regulation of Doctoral Studies at Vilnius University may be appointed as members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and academic supervisors of doctoral students (research consultants for external students).

3. Qualification requirements for members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and academic supervisors of doctoral students (research consultants for external students) shall in all cases apply in the scope that is related to research publications. The requirements that members of the Dissertation Defence Panel and academic supervisors of doctoral students (research consultants for external students) must have met in the last five years shall be established by the Doctoral Studies Committee in the relevant science field (hereinafter the 'Committee'), which shall also take decisions on whether researchers meet the requirements set out in Items 1 or 2 of this Annex. The academic supervisors of doctoral students must carry out research in the field of the dissertation.

4. The researchers to be appointed as consultants of doctoral students must be active researchers doing research on the topic of the dissertation or related areas.

5. The Doctoral Studies Committees in the science fields can establish more stringent requirements. The decision shall be passed at a meeting of the Committee attended by no less than two-thirds of all the members of the Committee.
