

O R D E R
OF THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

**APPROVING THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE FIRST DEGREE AND
INTEGRATED STUDY PROGRAMMES**

9 April 2010 No V-501
Vilnius

Pursuant to Articles 47.8, 48.3 and 48.7 of the Law on Research and Higher Education of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 2009, No [54-2140](#)),

1. I hereby approve the General Requirements of the first degree and integrated study programmes (hereinafter referred to as 'the General Requirements') (appended).

2. I hereby establish that:

2.1. the General Requirements shall be applied to:

2.1.1. new programmes of the first degree studies and integrated studies;

2.1.2. programmes of the first degree studies and integrated studies starting in 2010–2011;

2.2. higher education institutions shall be ready for the provision of the programmes referred to in Item 2.1.2 by 1 July 2010;

2.3. from 1 September 2011, at the earliest, higher education institutions may provide studies in minor studies according to the procedure established by the Minister for Education and Science even if they do not provide accredited bachelor degree or integrated study programmes as a major in that field;

2.4. Paragraphs 14, 16, 23 and 24 of the General Requirements do not apply to teacher training study programmes, other paragraphs of the General Requirements shall be applicable in so far as they do not contradict the Teacher Training Regulation approved by Order No. V-54 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 8 January 2010 (*Official Gazette*, 2010, No. [9-425](#)). *As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-977)*

2.5. Provisions of regulations of study fields (areas) concerning the structure and implementation of the requirements of study programmes shall not apply to degree-awarding first cycle and integrated study programmes, other provisions of regulations of study fields (areas) and vocational training standards approved by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania prior to the entry into force of the General Requirements shall be applicable in so far as they do not contradict the General Requirements. *As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-977)*

2.6. Until 1 April 2012, higher education institutions shall specify titles of study programmes in accordance with the requirements laid down in paragraph 6 of the General Requirements.

As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-977)

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

GINTARAS STEPONAVIČIUS

APPROVED

By Order No V-501 of 9 April 2010 of the
Minister for Education and Science

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF FIRST DEGREE AND INTEGRATED STUDY PROGRAMMES

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The General Requirements shall govern the principles of the development and provision of first degree (university and college) study programmes and programmes of integrated studies (hereinafter referred to as 'study programme(s)').

2. For the purposes of the General Requirements,

Academic credit (hereinafter referred to as 'credit') shall mean a unit of measurement of the value of a subject based on the approximate number of hours a typical student is expected to spend learning to achieve the learning outcomes for that subject. One year of studies consisting of 1600 learning hours shall carry 60 academic credit points (before 1 September 2011, an academic credit was defined as „a unit of measurement of studies equal to 40 notional hours of student work (including contact hours, laboratory hours, independent work, etc.), i.e. to one week of student work”).

Module shall mean a small section of a programme consisting of associated subjects combined for specific purposes and oriented towards certain skills of the students; the smallest scope of a module shall be 10 credits (until 1 September 2011, it was 8 credits).

As amended on 25 July 2010) (Official Gazette, 2010, No 88-4676)

3. Study programmes must meet the general and special requirements set in the description of the study field (group of study fields, or study area) approved by the Minister for Education and Science or the general requirements if there are no approved special requirements. These requirements shall be applicable to Catholic study programmes in so far as they do not contradict the requirements set by the Holy See.

4. A study programme may cover:

4.1. studies in the major field leading to a degree in the field (area) and elective studies chosen by the student from among the alternatives determined by the higher education institution intended for specialisation or practice in the same field (area);

4.2. studies in the major field leading to a degree in the field (area) and the elective module(s), subject(s) or practice in another study field (area) chosen by the student from among the alternatives determined by the higher education institution;

4.3. studies in the major field leading to a degree in the field (area) and elective studies of general subjects of a wider scope than the obligatory scope defined herein for general university (college) subjects (subjects of general erudition which are not associated with the content of the major) chosen by the student from among the alternatives determined by the higher education institution;

4.4. studies in the major and minor fields chosen by the student from among the minors determined by the higher education institution leading to two degrees – in the major field and the minor field.

5. It is recommended that the study programme provide an opportunity and define the procedure for a free choice of subjects in the same institution (preferably in another department) or in another higher institution.

6. The key word in a title of the study programme must describe the curriculum of the major study field. The title of the part of a study programme (specialization, additional general university (college) study subjects, subjects of the minor study field, additional practice, subjects freely elected by a student and other subjects) selected by a student in accordance with the procedure set by the higher education institution and their scope in credits are recorded in the diploma supplement (supplement).”

As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-977)

7. Programme descriptions must contain a clear formulation of the aims of each study programme and relate them to the learning outcomes (knowledge, skills). In case a study programme leads to qualifications the requirements of which are defined in Lithuanian or international legal acts, the aims of the study programme must be consistent with those requirements. The aims and content of each subject, the methods of teaching and requirements for admission must be based on the aims of the study programme. The scope of a study programme, the qualifications of the teaching and research staff and the material resources must be adequate for the attainment of the study programme aims.

8. The scope of study programmes, modules and individual subjects shall be defined in credits and must be uniform irrespective of the study mode (full or part time studies). Teaching and learning methods, duration of studies and timetables shall be set with due regard to health and safety requirements; the duration of part-time studies shall be defined by taking into consideration also the possibilities of combining studies with other engagements (in employment, family, etc.).

9. The number of subjects taught per semester shall not be more than seven. Studies of each subject or module shall end in an examination or an assessment of the student's independent work (project). Process evaluations may be taken into consideration in determining the examination mark.

As amended on 25.07.2010 (Official Gazette, 2010, No 88-4676)

10. Practice shall be considered one of the seven separate study subjects if it is not associated with any of the subjects studied or, in case it is associated with one of the subjects, the programme providers have reason to consider it separable from the subject studied. In case practice is a constituent part of the subject, it should not be included in the list of the subjects studied.

11. A study programme must be regularly updated following the procedure established by the university. Changes to a study programme are announced on the website of the university. If two or more study programmes are joined or a study programme is assigned to another field of study, the study programme is evaluated and accredited following the Description of the Procedure for the External Evaluation and Accreditation of Study Programs, approved by Order No ISAK-1652 of 24 July 2009 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "On the approval of the description of the procedure for the external evaluation and accreditation of study programs".

As amended on 2014 November 24

12. No longer in force, as amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-977)

II. REQUIREMENTS OF FIRST DEGREE UNIVERSITY STUDY PROGRAMMES

13. The scope of a first degree university study programme shall be no less than 210 (until 1 September 2011, 140) credits and no more than 240 (until 1 September 2011, 160) credits, of which:

13.1. no less than 165 (until 1 September 2011, 110) credits should be for special subjects in the study field;

13.2. no less than 15 (until 1 September 2011, 10) credits should be for the general university study subjects;

13.3. no more than 60 (until 1 September 2011, 40) credits may be for subjects elected by the student from among the established alternatives for specialisation in the same study field (area) or a module(s) or subject(s) in another field (area) or general university study subjects, practice or free electives.

14. The scope of a study programme leading to two bachelor degrees – in major and minor study fields (areas) (hereinafter referred to as 'double bachelor degree') should be 240 (until 1 September 2011, 160) credits of which:

14.1. 165 (until 1 September 2011, 110) credits must be for subjects in the major;

14.2. 60 (until 1 September 2011, 40) credits must be for subjects in the minor;

14.3. 15 (until 1 September 2011, 10) credits must be for general university study subjects.

15. The description of a study programme under which a double bachelor's degree can be awarded sets forth a student's possibilities of university-prescribed selection: procedure and principles for selecting studies of the minor field (area) or a precise list of minor fields (areas) that may be freely selected. Requirements for the implementation of studies of the minor study field (area) shall be approved by the university senate. *As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-977)*

16. When the university implements an accredited study programme of a certain field or any of the areas of that field, it may implement minor studies both of that field and of any of the areas of that field. If the

university does not implement an accredited study programme of a respective field, studies of the minor field shall be implemented under the description of the procedure approved by Order No V-528 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 29 March 2011 (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 42-2016) for the implementation of studies of the minor field and awarding of the double qualification degree of those study fields in which accredited study programmes are not implemented. When a study programme provides for a possibility to obtain a double bachelor's degree, this shall be marked in the Register of Studies, Training Programmes and Qualifications at the study programme of the respective major field (area).

As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-977)

17. The total scope of practices must be at least 15 (until 1 September 2011, 10) credits.

18. The study programme shall be completed by the assessment of the student's achievements at the examination on the final thesis (projects) or final examinations (where they are required by legal acts), which carry at least 12 (until 1 September 2011, 8) credits. If the study programme leads to a double bachelor's degree, the requirements shall include final theses in the major and minor study fields (areas) and final examinations (where they are required by legal acts), which should carry at least 15 (until 1 September 2011, 10) credits.

19. At least half of the subjects in the study field must be taught by scientists or scholars and recognised artists (art subjects).

20. The university may organise the study process in a way that would enable students to obtain a double major degree (joint honours degree) in two different study fields (areas) by studying under two study programmes. In such cases the subjects of the first study programme should carry at least 165 (until 1 September 2011, 110) credit points, while the value of the subjects, which do not coincide with those of the first study programme, should carry at least 135 (until 1 September 2011, 90) credit points, if the other subjects of both study fields coincide. All the other requirements hereof shall be applicable *mutatis mutandis* to each of the study programmes.

III. REQUIREMENTS OF COLLEGE STUDY PROGRAMMES

21. The scope of college study programmes leading to a professional bachelor's degree in a study field shall be no less than 180 (until 1 September 2011, 120) and no more than 210 (until 1 September 2011, 140) credit points, of which:

21.1. 135 (until 1 September 2011, 90) credits shall be carried by the subjects in the study field;

21.2. at least 15 (until 1 September 2011, 10) credits shall be carried by general college study subjects;

21.3. from 30 (until 1 September 2011, 20) to 60 (until 1 September 2011, 40) credit points may be for elective subjects chosen by the student from among the alternatives determined by the college intended for specialisation in the same field (area) or for a module(s) or a subject(s) in another study field (area) or for general college study subjects, practice, also for the student's free electives.

22. Where this is stipulated in legislation, the scope of a study programme may be 240 (until 1 September 2011, 160) credit points.

23. The scope of a college study programme leading to a professional bachelor's degree in major and minor study fields (areas) must be 210 (until 1 September 2011, 140) credit points, of which:

23.1. 135 (until 1 September 2011, 90) credits must be for the subjects in the major study field;

23.2. 60 (until 1 September 2011, 40) credits must be for the subjects in the minor study field;

23.3. 15 (until 1 September 2011, 10) credits must be for the general college study subjects.

24. Minor field (area) of the college study programme under which a double degree of professional bachelor may be awarded may be: another area belonging to the same major study field as a studied study programme or management field or any area of the management field if the college implements an accredited programme of the management field or any of its area. If the college does not implement an accredited study

programme of a respective field (area), studies of the minor field shall be implemented under the description of the procedure approved by Order No V-528 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 29 March 2011 for the implementation of studies of the minor field and awarding of the double qualification degree of those study fields in which accredited study programmes are not implemented. When a study programme provides for a possibility to obtain a double professional bachelor's degree, this shall be marked in the Register of Studies, Training Programmes and Qualifications at the study programme of the respective major field (area).

As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-977)

25. The description of a study programme under which a double professional bachelor's degree can be awarded shall set forth a student's college-prescribed possibilities of selection: procedure and principles for selecting studies of the minor field (area) or a precise list of minor fields (areas) that may be freely selected. Requirements for the implementation of studies of the minor study field (area) shall be approved by the academic council of the college. *As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-977)*

26. Practices and any other kind of practical training must account for at least a third of the study programme's scope. The value of practices (training practice, induction practice, practice placement, etc.) should be no less than 30 (until 1 September 2011, 20) credit points. The total scope of professional practices for artistic studies should be no less than 18 (until 1 September 2011, 12) credits, for other studies – no less than 24 (until 1 September 2011, 16) credits. The final practice placement should be in line with the subject of the final thesis and similar to jobs the students is trained for.

27. The study programme shall be completed by the assessment of the student's achievements at the examination on the final thesis (projects) or final examinations (where they are required by legal acts), which carry at least 9 (until 1 September 2011, 6) credits. If the study programme leads to a double professional bachelor's degree, the requirements shall include final theses in the major and minor study fields (areas) and final examinations (where they are required by legal acts), which should carry at least 12 (until 1 September 2011, 8) credits.

28. No less than 10 per cent of the subjects in the study field should be taught by scientists or scholars and recognised artists (art subjects). Over half of the teaching staff of the study programme should have at least 3 years of practical experience in the subject field they teach.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR INTEGRATED STUDY PROGRAMMES

29. Integrated studies may be provided only in cases where they are required by legislation.

30. The scope of integrated studies should be no less than 300 and no more than 360 credit points (until 1 September 2011, 200 and 240 credits respectively).

31. The total scope of practices should be no less than 18 (until 1 September 2011, 12) credits.

32. A study programme shall be completed by the assessment of the student's achievements at the examination on the final thesis (projects) or final examinations (where they are required by legal acts), which carry at least 15 (until 1 September 2011, 10) credits.

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

33. State financing according to the standard study price shall be granted for first degree university studies up to a value of 240 (until 1 September 2011, 160) credits, state financing for university integrated and college studies shall be granted according to the scope of the study programme specified in the Register of Academic Studies, Study Programmes and Qualifications. In case a higher education institution determines a smaller scale for the study programme, State-financed students should have an opportunity to complete study courses covering the difference free of charge according to the study course selection

principles defined herein. Study courses must be completed within the study programme provision period and must be recorded in the student's diploma supplement. If a State-financed student uses study opportunities which exceed the value of financed study credits, the student shall cover the difference in the price for the scope of his selected study programme and the price for the state-financed study programme from his own resources.

As amended: Official Gazette, 2011, No 9-399 (23.02.2011)
