

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

ORDER

APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMMES

No V-826 of 3 June 2010

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 57-2140):

1. I hereby approve the General Requirements for Master Degree Study Programmes (hereinafter referred to as ‘the General Requirements’) (appended).

2. I hereby decree that:

2.1. the General Requirements shall be applied to:

2.1.1. new master degree study programmes;

2.1.2. master degree study programmes which are offered to entrants of the academic year of 2010–11;

2.2. higher education institutions shall be ready to deliver study programmes referred to in Point 2.1.2 hereof according to the General Requirements by 1 August 2010;

2.3. higher education institutions shall amend the titles of the study programmes as stipulated in Point 6 by 1 April 2012. *As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-976)*

3. I hereby repeal:

3.1. Order No 1326 of 26 October 2000 of the Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania approving the Regulations of Consecutive Study Programmes (*Official Gazette*, 2000, No 91-2841);

3.2. Order No 1195 of 31 August 2001 of the Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania amending Order No 1326 of 26 October 2000 of the Minister for Education and Science (*Official Gazette*, 2001, No 72-2551);

3.3. Order No 1326 of 25 September 2001 of the Minister for Education and Science amending the Regulations of Consecutive Study Programmes approved by Order No 1326 of 26 October 2000 of the Minister for Education and Science (*Official Gazette*, 2001, No 85-2987);

3.4. Order No 357 of 21 March 2003 of the Minister for Education and Science amending Order No 1326 of 26 October 2000 regarding the approval of the Regulations of Consecutive Study Programmes (Official Gazette, 2003, No 33-1398).

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE GINTARAS STEPONAVIČIUS

APPROVED

By Order No V-826 of 3 June 2010 of
the Minister for Education and Science
of the Republic of Lithuania

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF MASTER DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMMES

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. These General Requirements shall govern the general principles of development and provision of master degree study programmes (hereinafter referred to as 'study programme(s)).

2. The terms used herein have the meanings given to them in the Law on Research and Higher Education of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 2009, No 54-2140) and in the General requirements of bachelor degree study programmes and degree awarding programmes of integrated studies approved by Order No V-501 of 9 April 2010 of the Minister for Education and Science (*Official Gazette*, 2010, No 44-2139).

3. Study programmes must meet the general and special requirements which are defined in the descriptions of fields of study (groups of fields of study, areas of study) approved by the Minister for Education and Science or, if no special requirements have been approved, only the general requirements. Such requirements shall be applicable to the programmes of Catholic studies in the field of theology in so far as they do not contradict the requirements defined by the Holy See.

4. Study programmes are designed to prepare students for independent research (art) work or any other work that requires scientific knowledge and analytical skills. Master studies are provided at universities which conduct research (art) activities corresponding to the study field. Persons who have completed master programmes are awarded a master's degree in the respective study field or a master's degree and qualification. Persons who have completed post-graduate theological study

programmes agreed with the authority of the Catholic Church may be awarded a licentiate's degree in theology. *As amended on 27.06.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 76-3958)*

5. Universities may offer various study programmes in so far as they fall within the scope of the core activities of the university, meet the demand in the labour market and are appropriate to individual academic (artistic) abilities of students. The nature of a study programme shall be defined and substantiated in the description of the study programme.

6. Study programmes may be of a different character, however, they must comply with the profile of the university, a person's individual academic (creative) abilities and the needs of the labour market. The character of a study programme shall be indicated and substantiated in the description of a study programme. The key word in the title of a study programme must describe the content of the main study field. *As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-976)*

7. The qualifications of the teaching and research staff as well as the teaching means and facilities shall be appropriate to the attainment of the study targets. If a master's degree study programme is of a practical nature, the teaching staff shall be required to have experience in practical work and the university shall cooperate with social partners to organise students' practice. Where the programme covers inter-field studies, it shall include subjects in both the major and minor fields and the university shall be required to have experience in both study fields. The university shall prove its experience in the study fields by its papers and articles published in scientific or professional journals, successfully implemented projects and the participation of social partners in the development and delivery of study programmes.

8. The scope of a study programme, modules and individual subjects shall be measured by credits; it shall be the same irrespective of the mode of study (full-time or part-time). The mode, duration and timetable of studies shall be determined in line with the approved safety and health requirements while the duration of part-time studies shall be determined by taking into account also the students' possibilities of combining studies with other engagements (employment, family responsibilities, etc.).

9. A study programme must be regularly updated following the procedure established by 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 24.11.2014 (Official Gazette, 2014, No 17875)*

10. Repealed from 24 November, 2014 (*Official Gazette, 2014, No 17875*).

II. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER DEGREE STUDIES

11. Entry requirements for master degree studies:

11.1. completion of a bachelor's degree studies and meeting the requirements established by the university;

11.2. completion of bachelor's degree studies and the qualifying studies in cases referred to in Point 12 hereof and meeting the requirements established by the university.

12. Qualifying studies shall be organised:

12.1. for applicants who have completed college studies except in cases where the university senate has decided that a year's practical experience at least of the specified nature is sufficient to be admitted to certain master degree studies;

12.2. if the applicant's chosen field of master degree studies does not coincide with the major or minor field of his/her bachelor degree except in cases where the university senate has decided that a year's practical experience at least of the specified nature is sufficient to be admitted to certain master degree studies.

13. The description of each master degree programme shall indicate the field(s) of bachelor degree studies that must be completed to qualify for admission to studies under the programme and the cases where qualifying studies are required.

14. The list of subjects of qualifying studies and their content shall be established by the university. After the completion of the qualifying studies, the student must possess competences necessary for the master degree studies to be successful, which he/she did not obtain during the first degree studies:

14.1. where the applicant's chosen field of master degree studies and his/her first degree study field fall in the same group of study fields, the scope of the qualifying studies shall not exceed 60 credits (until 1 September 2011, 40 credits);

14.2. where the applicant's chosen field of master degree studies belongs to a group of study fields different from that of his/her first degree, the scope of the qualifying studies shall not exceed 90 credits (until 1 September 2011, 60 credits);

14.3. in case the applicant for master degree studies lacks more knowledge or competences than he/she can obtain by completing the qualifying studies, the applicant must acquire the appropriate knowledge and competences by completing the first degree programme of university studies.

15. The university may set additional (permanent or temporary) requirements for admission to all or certain study programmes such as the minimum grade point average (GPA) in all or only certain first degree subjects, the obligatory research or professional experience and other academic or professional requirements. Admission shall be conducted in accordance with the pre-announced selection criteria and priorities.

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER DEGREE PROGRAMMES

16. Study programmes must ensure that the completion of the programme and the award of the master's degree shall guarantee significantly higher competences than those obtained by completing first degree studies, namely:

16.1. knowledge in the study area (artistic creative competences) necessary for the original and independent development and use of scientific (artistic) ideas and familiarity with the latest theories (artistic innovations), methods and technologies in the respective study area;

16.2. ability to use the acquired knowledge and modern methods, innovations and integration of knowledge in practical activities, including research (original artistic creation) demanding analytical skills, understanding of the application limits of analytical methods (creative techniques), ability to evaluate research results and their reliability;

16.3. ability to apply the acquired knowledge, understanding and problem solution competences in new, unknown and shifting environments and broad (inter-field, inter-subject) contexts related to the particular study area;

16.4. ability to pursue continuous independent studies, to understand and make critical evaluation of theoretical and practical innovations in one's field of studies, to act effectively in conditions of insufficient information and instructions, to substantiate one's conclusions and to present them appropriately to interested parties of different education levels, to be aware of the ethical and social consequences of decisions made on the basis of one's knowledge and responsibility for them.

17. The study programme shall comprise no less than 90 (until 1 September 2011, 60) and no more than 120 (until 1 September 2011, 80) credits, of which:

17.1. 60 credits at least (until 1 September 2011, 40) should be assigned to the core subjects of the study field, the content of which must be of a higher problematic and scientific level than the basic subjects taught as part of the first degree programme;

17.2. no more than 30 (until 1 September 2011, – 20) credits may be assigned to elective subjects undertaken by the student from among the university-prescribed alternatives the aim of which is to prepare a student for doctoral studies (research, artistic work) or practical activities (professional practice) or to subjects in another field of study in the case of an inter-field study programme, also to general subjects and free electives necessary to attain the learning outcomes of the programme. This paragraph shall not apply to study programmes made of 90 study credits; *As amended on 08.02.2012 (Official Gazette, 2012, No 21-976)*

17.3. no less than 30 (until 1 September 2011, 20) academic credits shall be assigned to the writing and presentation of the final project and the final examination (final examinations where they are required by Lithuanian or international legal acts).

18. No more than 5 subjects may be taught per semester. The syllabus of a course may not be a repetition of the first degree syllabus. A student's self-studies shall account for at least 30% of the scope of each subject. Each subject or module shall be completed with an examination or credit (grade) for the student's independent project (thesis). Under a cumulative assessment system, interim assessments may be used in deciding the final examination grade (mark).

19. No less than 80% (or 60% where the study programme is oriented towards practical activities) of the teaching staff shall have advanced degrees (be recognised artists) of which no less than 60% (or 40% where the study programme is oriented towards practical activities) shall engage in research in the same area as the subject they teach. If the study programme is oriented towards practical activities, up to 40% of the staff

teaching the main subjects may consist of persons with at least a three-year practical experience in the area of the applied subject they teach gained within the past 7 years. Professional experience referred to above is a must for the teaching staff of applied subjects (marked as applied subjects in the description of the programme). No less than 20% of the subjects in the main field of studies shall be taught by full professors.

20. The final thesis shall be based on the student's independent research or applied work; it shall demonstrate the student's ability to use knowledge and shall be presented as a project which reveals competencies in line with the learning objectives of the programme. By his/her final thesis a master's degree student shall demonstrate the required level of knowledge and understanding, ability to analyse the selected topic, to evaluate previous work and results achieved by other persons in the relevant field, to study independently and to do research in the relevant field, to describe his/her research and present clearly formulated conclusions according to the requirements approved by the university. By his/her final project, a master's degree student of art shall reveal the required level of creativity and the ability to use practical knowledge and technologies in his/her creative work.

21. The final work of a master's degree student shall consist of a creative project and a written thesis related to the project where the student describes the ideas, knowledge and technologies used in his/her project.

22. The examination board on the final thesis (project) shall consist of competent specialists – scientists, scholars (artists), practical professionals, representatives of social partners – in the relevant field. At least one member of the examination board (preferably the chairperson of the board) shall be an external examiner. The same applies to the final examination board where the examination is prescribed in the study programme. The final thesis (project) shall be subject to intellectual property protection and/or commercial secrets protection as any other publication of scientific (artistic) work.

IV. FINAL PROVISIONS

23. State-financed students shall receive financial support according to the established standard price for university studies covering 120 credits (until 1 September 2011, 80 credits). In case a university establishes the scope of a study programme smaller than 120 credits (until 1 September 2011, 80 credits), state-financed students shall have an opportunity to study subjects, the scope of which covers the difference, free of charge and choose such subjects according to the principles for selecting study subjects established herein. Such selected subjects shall be studied within the study programme period and shall be recorded in the supplement to the student's diploma.