



**MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF LITHUANIA**

**ORDER
ON APPROVAL OF THE DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF CULTURAL
STUDIES**

20 January 2021 No. V-86
Vilnius

In accordance with Paragraph 11 of Article 53 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania:

1. I approve the Descriptor of the Study Field of Cultural Studies (enclosed).
2. I determine that the higher education institutions have to adjust their study programmes to the Descriptor of the Study Field of Cultural Studies approved by Clause 1 hereby until 01 September 2021.

Minister of Education, Science and Sport

Jurgita Šiugždiniėnė

APPROVED

by Order No. V-86 of the Minister of
Education, Science and Sport of the Republic
of Lithuania of 20 January 2021

DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF CULTURAL STUDIES

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Descriptor of the Study Field of Cultural Studies (hereinafter – Descriptor) regulates the special requirements for the study programmes in the study field of Cultural Studies (N14) that belongs to the group of study fields of humanities (N). The Descriptor regulates the study field of cultural studies (hereinafter – field of culture) in the scope not covered by the General Requirements for the Studies approved by Order No. V-1168 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 December 2016 “On approval of the General Requirements for the Studies.”

2. The Descriptor’s requirements shall be applied to the university studies of the first cycle and second cycle conducted as full-time or part-time studies.

3. The studies of the field of culture may also be provided as studies within the study programmes classified under two study fields and within interdisciplinary study programmes.

4. There are no special requirements established in the Descriptor for the persons, who want to be admitted to the study programme of the first cycle.

5. If the persons, who apply to the studies of the second cycle and who have the bachelor’s degree, but whose learning outcomes (of completed study programmes of the first cycle in another study field) do not satisfy the admission requirements, have to complete the bridging courses. It is recommended to admit the persons with the bachelor’s degree in humanities or social sciences to the studies of the second cycle.

6. The list of subjects for the bridging course in the field of cultural studies and the content of studies shall be established by the higher education institution.

7. The competences acquired by informal education or self-education may be recognised in accordance with the procedure established by the higher education institution.

8. The purpose of the study field of cultural sciences is to disclose and to help to understand cultural diversity of the human world, as well as different theoretical, methodological and practical approaches to that diversity.

9. Upon completion of the studies in the field of culture, the graduates will be able to research, compare, analyse and evaluate culture in various aspects in different societies or their groups, in different historical periods, in the synchronic and/or diachronic aspects, within the national and international contexts, and to work in various cultural areas.

10. Upon completion of the studies in the field of culture, the bachelor’s /master’s degree in humanities that is in conformity with the sixth/seventh level of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, and first/second cycles of the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area attested by the diploma of bachelor’s/ master’s degree and its supplement issued by the higher education institution are awarded.

CHAPTER II CONCEPT AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY FIELD

11. The object of the cultural studies is the life style of past and present society, systems of norms, values, symbols and meanings, memory, identities (ethnic, national, social, gender, etc.),

cultural phenomena, processes, structures, ideas, discourses, practices, their historical changes and modern manifestation. The cultural studies may include various political, social, objective and subjective, tangible and intangible cultural aspects. The cultural studies cover a wide scope of theoretical and practical skills, there are interdisciplinary, and their definition is always changing.

12. In the most general sense, the studies in the field of culture cover cultural history, cultural and social anthropology, ethnology and folkloristics, researches of modern culture, and memory studies (hereinafter referred to as the Constituents). The cultural studies are closely related to history, sociology, art criticism, philosophy, heritage studies, communication, regional studies, and religious studies.

13. The studies in the field of culture are based on the humanities and partially on the social sciences. They cover fundamental and applied cultural researches and take different theoretical and methodical contexts and approaches into consideration.

14. When the study programmes in the field of culture are prepared (with regard to particularity of each Constituent), it is necessary to apply the latest knowledge, principles, achievements, theory and practice of the related sciences, experience, recommendations, good practices and documents of the Lithuanian and international organisations (for example, UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the European Council's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, the European Cultural Convention, and ICOMOS Cultural Tourism Charter). The content of the study programmes has to be directed to relevant needs of the State and society, learning, nurturance and protection of cultural diversity.

15. The cultural studies have to link the theoretical knowledge and empirical tests. These studies should provide not only the knowledge about various cultural research methods, but also abilities to apply them. The following elements of the content have to be reflected in the study programmes in the field of culture:

15.1. main theories, methodology and historiography of the particular Constituent;

15.2. main source of the particular Constituent;

15.3. training of understanding of the cultural significance and recognition of cultural diversity.

16. The professional activities of the graduates of cultural studies cover the areas that need knowledge of culture and abilities to analyse it: theoretical and practical cultural researches (data collection, analysis, criticism, evaluation), organisation of cultural and educational activities (preparation and implementation of the educational cultural projects, programmes and initiatives, work in various cultural organisations, folklore ensembles, etc.), cultural criticism, administration of cultural area, evaluation, formation and implementation of cultural policy (its various areas), cultural diplomacy and communication, solution of culture-related political issues, application of cultural knowledge, understanding and analytical skills in the areas of preparation, dissemination, evaluation of public information (press, public relations), advertising, and other practical creative activities.

CHAPTER III GENERAL AND SPECIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

17. The study programmes in the field of culture provide the opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills of the particular Constituent of the field of culture – cultural history, cultural and social anthropology, ethnology and folkloristics, researches of modern culture, and memory studies, that enable to perceive the diversity and importance of culture, its phenomena, areas and activities, fundamental and applied researches and their approaches, links between theory and practice, integrity with other areas of social life, technologies and cultural phenomena.

18. The underlying learning outcomes in the field of culture are provided in this chapter; however, they do not serve as a specification of detailed content of the study programme or subjects (modules). The learning outcomes have to be applied for the programmes depending on the Constituent of the cultural studies that they represent.

19. The persons, who complete the university studies of the first cycle, should have achieved the following learning outcomes, depending on the Constituent of the cultural studies:

19.1. knowledge, its application. The person:

19.1.1. understands the links between the human state, environment, life style, experience, institutions, activities, ideas and values, their changes, continuity, historicity and expression in the present;

19.1.2. knows and is able to describe the European and Lithuanian cultural traditions and/or their modern forms, understands the links of cultural traditions with the modern social and cultural processes;

19.1.3. knows and is able to link the development of general European and Lithuanian cultural history with its phenomena, processes, the main periods, institutions, personalities, and texts, and understands the possibilities and conditions of application of such knowledge, as well as its significance for development of wider world outlook;

19.1.4. knows the main research sources of the selected period and/or cultural phenomenon (or phenomena), cultural habitat (or cultural habitats), their research methods and presentation modes of the research results; is able to use that knowledge to recognise different cultural phenomena, to analyse, interpret and present them;

19.1.5. knows and is able to define the scientific fundamentals and object of certain Constituent, its main research theories, terminology, is able to apply them for some particular research, and understands interdisciplinarity of the cultural studies;

19.1.6. knows and is able to apply main research methods of certain Constituent enabling to collect the data, to analyse the sources and/or empirical material according to the requirements of certain discipline, and understands the application possibilities of the methods used in the research fields of other cultural studies;

19.1.7. is able to describe and analyse different strategies of the use of past and present cultural images in the public space, academic discourse, and in the field of politics and politics of history;

19.2. research skills. The person:

19.2.1. is able to understand and form the research problems relevant for the field of cultural studies through consultations, to determine the investigatory degree of certain problem, to formulate the research goals and tasks, and to substantiate the research's topicality;

19.2.2. is able to find, identify, select, examine, summarise and present the sources of different forms and/or empirical material through consultations, to choose the appropriate research methods, and to apply them;

19.2.3. is able to carry out the research in compliance with the requirements set for the discipline of the Constituent of the cultural studies and academic written works through consultations, and to demonstrate the knowledge, evaluation and critical interpretation of traditions and the latest topicalities of cultural history, cultural and social anthropology, ethnology and folkloristics, researches of modern culture, memory studies in that research;

19.2.4. is able to apply the research results in practice and to carry out other empirical researches directed towards fulfilment and development of the practical activities;

19.2.5. understands the development of researches of cultural history and ratio of the research of main cultural studies and types of writing (schools) with the political, cultural and social realia of certain period and world outlook;

19.3. special abilities. The person:

19.3.1. is able to identify, understand and evaluate the cultural phenomena, their importance for cultural, social, political and economic processes, and to introduce them to the society;

19.3.2. is able to recognise the expressions of intangible cultural heritage, values of ethnical culture, to understand the need for their fostering, to collect and systemise the data; to actualise the phenomena of traditional culture, and to take part in preparation of the measures safeguarding their continuity;

19.3.3. is able to understand the particularity of memory as a social and cultural phenomenon of the 21st century, and the determining political, cultural, world outlook, social, historical and other processes;

19.3.4. understands and acknowledges the multi-perspective of cultural history, cultural and social anthropology, ethnology and folkloristics, researches and approaches of modern culture, and memory studies, as well as cultural diversity;

19.3.5. is able to participate in the national and international researches that need cultural knowledge, and cooperates with the institutions, organisations, and communities operating in that area;

19.3.6. is able to comply with professional ethics;

19.4. social abilities. The person:

19.4.1. is able to convey the knowledge of the field of cultural studies to the audience of specialists and non-specialists in writing and orally in the reasoned mode;

19.4.2. is able to develop historical and cultural consciousness of the society;

19.4.3. is able to recognise and understand the changing expectations of the society with regard to cultural studies;

19.4.4. respects cultural diversity in the professional activities, understands intercultural differences, especially related to the differences in values, understanding and behaviour with regard to ethnicity, religion, race, gender and age;

19.4.5. understands moral responsibility for own activities;

19.5. personal abilities. The person:

19.5.1. is able to learn and renew the knowledge, to formulate new ideas, and to endeavour at quality in the professional activities;

19.5.2. is able to work independently and in group;

19.5.3. is able to think creatively, to manage information, and to communicate;

19.5.4. is able to respond creatively to various situations arising in the course of professional activities and to make decisions.

20. The persons, who complete the university studies of the second cycle, should have achieved the following learning outcomes, depending on the Constituent of the cultural studies:

20.1. knowledge, its application. The person:

20.1.1. knows the evolution and particularity of the science of certain Constituent, is able to explain the relation with other closely related sciences, and is able to understand critically the significance of these sciences for researches;

20.1.2. understands analytically the development of general European and Lithuanian cultural history and their cultural diversity, knows thoroughly the phenomena and processes of each period and region, and assesses critically the application possibilities of this knowledge in scientific and practical activities;

20.1.3. knows the research literature (historiography) and main theories of some particular Constituent, the historical, political and cultural context of their origin, is able to link classical and new theories, recognises their interrelations, is able to analyse them systematically, to assess them critically, and to apply them in current research fields of humanities and social sciences;

20.1.4. assesses critically the research sources and/or empirical material of the selected period (or periods) and cultural phenomena, understands their appearance and/or creation context, methods, causes, and uses them to carry out the research;

20.1.5. knows the main research methods and approaches of the particular Constituent and integrally related sciences, modern methodological discussions, discussed problems, and tendencies of modern researches;

20.1.6. is able to describe the currently manifested cultural forms, their expression modes, tendencies, and arising challenges on the local and global level;

20.2. research skills. The person:

20.2.1. is able to carry out the researches of cultural studies independently in consideration to the national (or regional), international and intercultural context, and to reflect the research results from the national and international perspective of the cultural studies and integrally related sciences;

20.2.2. is able to formulate independently the research problems relevant for the field of cultural studies, to determine the investigatory degree and theoretical work on certain problem, and to organize the research appropriately;

20.2.3. is able to find independently and to assess critically the sources of different forms and/or empirical material, is able to analyse and interpret them, understands the potential, boundaries and problems of their application for some particular research;

20.2.4. is able to evaluate independently, to select and substantiate the used research methods, understands and takes the theoretical and methodological research problems into consideration;

20.2.5. is able to initiate and cooperate in performance of the researches and projects in the areas of culture, education and science;

20.3. special abilities. The person:

20.3.1. is able to formulate the suggestions based on scientific arguments or real practices, how to solve the theoretical and practical problems of different areas; is able to think critically, to write scientific articles, to get involved in the academic and public discussions on the cultural issues, and to express the reasoned opinion;

20.3.2. is able to analyse and assess the memory as a social and cultural phenomenon, a process of formation of tradition (or traditions) and their contemporary expression, and is able to view the present cultural topicalities from the historical perspective;

20.3.3. is able to participate in the interdisciplinary and intercultural work groups, to understand and appreciate different approaches on solution of theoretical and practical cultural problems;

20.3.4. is able to appreciate and foster the cultural diversity by reflecting it in various academic and practical activities, and acknowledges the versatile impact of culture on personality;

20.3.5. is able to analyse and compare the expressions of intangible cultural heritage within the national, regional and international contexts, to understand their development, to initiate the measures and forms safeguarding their preservation and continuity;

20.3.6. complies with professional ethics;

20.4. social abilities. The person:

20.4.1. is able to work independently and in team in pursuit of common performance goals, is able to initiate the projects and to supervise them;

20.4.2. is able to assume responsibility for quality of own activities, their evaluation, improvement, consequences of independently made decisions and social impact of own activities, to recognise and respond to the changing expectations of the society in the field of cultural studies;

20.4.3. is able to observe the principles of cultural diversity and interdisciplinarity in the course of professional activities;

20.4.4. is able to manage information, to communicate fluently orally and in writing with academic and other audiences;

20.5. personal abilities. The person:

20.5.1. is able to act independently in the changing environment of cultural diversity and to undertake an initiative;

20.5.2. is able to update systematically the professional knowledge and skills, to assess critically own skills with regard to the analysis of performance results;

20.5.3. is able to respond constructively and creatively to various situations arising in the course of professional activities, and to assume responsibility;

20.5.4. is able to assume moral responsibility for own activities and impact of its outcomes.

CHAPTER IV TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

21. The teaching, learning and assessment methods have to be applied in the study programmes that would help to endeavour at the learning outcomes provided in the Descriptor and certain study programmes, that would integrate theoretical and practical aspects, and that would match the latest didactic tendencies.

22. The system based on the learning outcomes and provisions of implementation of the studies oriented to the student that would include the teaching, learning and assessment methods has to be applied in the study programmes in the study fields of cultural sciences.

23. The applied teaching, learning and assessment methods have to be in conformity with the concept of lifelong learning; therefore, the students' abilities to think critically, to learn independently, to renew the knowledge, and to react flexibly to the environmental changes have to be trained. The students should be encouraged to assume responsibility for their learning outcomes, study proves and continuous development.

24. The teaching has to be substantiated by the latest scientific knowledge and achievements, and the students should be granted the possibility to acquire fundamental theoretical knowledge and practical skills through meaningful relation between such information.

25. Different learning and teaching methods may be applied and matched in the course of studies flexibly, in consideration to the aimed learning outcomes. The applied learning and teaching methods have to be diverse, effective, to promote the students' involvement into the studying process and their mutual cooperation, and to enable the students to reflect their own knowledge and skills, to assess own achievements and progress, to use the available resources rationally (libraries, equipment, scientific electronic databases, term banks, and other information sources).

26. All the applicable learning and teaching methods (for example, lectures, seminars, workshops, consultations, individual work, group work, practical training, etc.) and modes (for example, presentation of theoretical material, its explanation, illustration and commenting; presentation of practical examples, their analysis, discussion and generalisation; case studies; brainstorming; discussions; debates; independent analysis of the study material; independent performance and presentation of individual and group tasks; role plays; expert method; formation of thoughts, concepts, conceptions, maps; project-based teaching; problem-based teaching; reflective diaries; field trips; field researches, interview, studies *in situ*; virtual teaching, etc.) have to provide the opportunity for the students to train general and special abilities and to assure effective learning process. The higher education institutions may use various formats of teaching sessions; however, their choice should match the declared aims and learning outcomes of the particular programme. The higher education institutions may have the lists of trained underlying general skills that should be observed, without prejudice to the Descriptor's requirements.

27. The same teaching, learning and assessment methods may be applied in different cycles of study programmes; however, the volume and complexity of tasks, independent input of the student, etc. must differ.

28. The study programmes have to provide the research works that would train analytical and critical skills, as well as the practical training that would induce development and application of practical skills.

29. The assessment of the students' achievements has to be based on clear, objective and pre-set criteria, in consideration to the peculiarities of the particular Constituent of the cultural studies. The chosen assessment methods have to ensure the possibility to evaluate whether the abilities provided in the learning outcomes have been acquired at least on the minimal level, and to enable the students to demonstrate higher achievements, to create the conditions for them to evaluate own achievements and progress. The students should have the possibility to take part in the process of decision making on assessment methods and criteria of the learning outcomes, number and volume

of the task. The assessment of students has to be regulated in the assessment procedure of learning outcomes of the higher education institution.

30. Different assessment methods may be applied for the study programmes: written and oral examination, tests, written work, oral presentation, reports on practical task, practical training, projects, group and/or individual works, self-assessment, peer review, assessment of discussions, etc. It should be encouraged to search for new integrated assessment methods. All the knowledge and skills described in the learning outcomes have to be assessed formally in the mode that would prove that the students had acquired those skills and knowledge.

31. The students have to receive appropriate feedback on the performed works. The evaluation of studies has to be commented and discussed with the students in order to assure the quality of the teaching and learning process, continuous learning, and partnership relations.

CHAPTER V REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES

32. The foundation of the study programme is competent and qualified teachers. The persons, who have at least master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification that would conform to the field of study or science of the taught subject may teach in the study programmes. Depending on the Constituent of the cultural studies, the higher education institutions may invite the professional practitioners of certain area, who have been engaged in the practical activities that conform to the taught subject (module) for more than 5 years.

33. The teachers have to be selected in accordance with the terms and conditions defined by the higher education institution.

34. It is recommended that at least 50 percent of the volume of the study programme of the first cycle in credits and at least 80 percent of the volume of the study programme of the second cycle in credits should be taught by scientists. The majority of them should work in the institution conducting the study programme. The subjects (modules) of the field have to be taught by the teachers who have at least 3-year experience of the research activities related to the taught subject (module). At least 20 percent of the volume of the study field have to be taught by the teachers, who hold the professor's title. A part of the subjects in the field may be taught by the specialists with practical work experience.

35. The studies of the first and second cycles in the field of culture end in the publicly defended final work (project).

36. The final work (project) has to manifest the knowledge and skills acquired in the course of studies, research and independent work competences. The student should use the final work to show his or her level of knowledge and skills, ability to analyse the selected topic, to take the results of earlier researchers under the same topic in consideration, to carry out researches, to formulate clear and reasoned research results, and to submit them according to the requirements of the higher education institution. The final work has to be prepared as the project that manifests the competences in compliance with the learning outcomes of the study programme. The requirements for the final work (bachelor's or master's thesis) have to be stated in the procedure approved by the higher education institution.

37. At least 12 study credits should be awarded for the bachelor's final work (project) and at least 30 study credits should be awarded for preparation and defence of the master's final work (project).

38. The assessment and defence commissions of final works (projects) of the first or second cycle shall be formed according to the procedure established and approved by higher education institutions for formation of the assessment and defence commissions of final works (projects). The commission shall be formed from competent specialists of the field (with regard to particularity of the particular Constituent of the cultural studies) – teachers, scientists and stakeholders. The members of the assessment commissions of the final works, except for the stakeholders, must have a PhD degree. At least one member of the commission has to be from another institution.

39. The assessment procedure of final works (projects) has to be regulated clearly.

40. The practical training shall be an integral and compulsory part of the study programmes in the field of culture of the first cycle. The total volume of the practical training in the first cycle shall amount to at least 15 study credits. The practical training may be conducted in the second cycle of studies depending on the character of the study programme. The practical training may be performed in Lithuania and abroad.

41. The practical training shall be organised in accordance with the procedure prepared by the higher education institution. The content of the practical training of particular study programme has to be described in the form approved by the higher education institution. The independent practical trainings or other forms of practical activities, their inclusion possibility and regulation fall under the competence of the higher education institutions. Before the practical training, the students have to be familiarised with the organisation procedure of practical training, its goals, tasks, assessment system and criteria of achievements.

42. The higher education institution may offer a list of practical training places to the students. The student may find a place for practical training himself/herself. When the institution for practical training is chosen, a trilateral agreement shall be entered into by the student, the higher education institution and place of practical training.

43. The material and methodical facilities necessary for the process of teaching and learning have to satisfy the following minimal requirements and to be updated regularly:

43.1. the lecture halls and other premises of teaching and independent work have to satisfy the requirements of hygiene and work safety;

43.2. the lecture halls and other premises of teaching and independent work have to be arranged in accordance with the needs of particular study programme and to have the equipment necessary to organise the study process and to achieve the learning outcomes;

43.3. the libraries and reading rooms must have the funds of scientific and other specialised literature, teaching material, and access to international databases and digital catalogues, as well as virtual teaching (learning) environment.

44. It should be endeavoured at assuring suitable teaching and learning conditions for the students with special needs.

45. The students should be granted the possibility to study according to the study programmes of foreign higher education institutions in conformity with their study fields through the competition, and hence, to collect a part of the credits of the study programme. The mobility “windows” may be created in the study programmes.

46. The students should be granted the opportunities to get involved in the research, experimental or scientific dissemination activities conducted in the unit of the higher education institution, where the study programme is implemented.

47. The students may be consulted about their career possibilities.

48. The persons implementing the study programme should evaluate regularly the needs of the labour market, and to organise surveys of the students, alumni, employers, employees and stakeholders. The study programme and the taught subjects (modules) have to be created with regard to the received data.
