



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

**ORDER
ON APPROVAL OF THE DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF HISTORY AND
THEORY OF ART**

27 October 2022 No V-1710
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 History and Theory of Art (enclosed).
2. I determine that the higher education institutions have to adjust their study programmes to the Descriptor of the Study Field of History and Theory of Art approved by Clause 1 hereby until 1 September 2023.
3. I recognise Order No V-926 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of July 23 2015 “On Approval of the Descriptor of the Study Field of History and Theory of Art” as invalid.

Minister of Education, Science and Sport

Jurgita Šiugždiniene

APPROVED BY
Order No V-1710 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport
of the Republic of Lithuania of 27 October 2022

DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF HISTORY AND THEORY OF ART

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Descriptor of the study field of History and Theory of Art (hereinafter referred to as the “Descriptor”) regulates the special requirements for the study programmes in the study field of History and Theory of Art (N15) that belongs to the group of study fields of Humanities (N). The Descriptor regulates the study field of History and Theory of Art (hereinafter referred to as the “field of History and Theory of Art”) in the scope not covered by the General Requirements for the Provision of Studies approved by Order No V-1168 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 December 2016 “On Approval of Descriptor of General Requirements for the Provision of Studies”.

2. The requirements of the Descriptor shall apply to first and second cycle university study programmes, both full-time and part-time.

3. First cycle studies of History and Theory of Art can be carried out as two-field and interdisciplinary study programmes, while second cycle studies of History and Theory of Art can be carried out as interdisciplinary study programmes.

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

5. It is recommended to enrol the following individuals in the second cycle studies by way of a competition:

5.1. those who have completed first cycle university studies in the field of History and Theory of Art and meet the specific requirements of the higher education institution relating to the competences required for conducting art related research, which must be specified in the rules for the admission of students adopted by the higher education institution;

5.2. those who have completed first cycle university or college studies in another study field and bridging courses of not more than 60 study credits, the content and scope of which are determined by the higher education institution. Applicants must meet the specific requirements of the higher education institution relating to the competences required for conducting art related research, which must be specified in the rules for the admission of students adopted by the higher education institution.

6. Graduates are awarded a Bachelor’s/Master’s degree in humanities corresponding to the sixth/seventh level of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning, and the first/second level of the European Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area, as attested by the Bachelor’s/Master’s diploma and the diploma supplement issued by the higher education institution.

7. The aim of studies in the field of History and Theory of Art is to train highly qualified and knowledgeable, creative and critical thinkers, responsible specialists engaging in art related research, who are able to independently carry out research in one or more fields of art (fine art, architecture, design, music, theatre, dance, film, etc.), evaluation of works of art, organisation of artistic processes, and to contribute to the improvement of these activities at the national and international level.

CHAPTER II CONCEPT AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY FIELD

8. History and Theory of Art encompasses the study of the various branches of art (fine art, architecture, design, music, theatre, dance, film, etc.). Studies of History and Theory of Art cover a broad spectrum of interdisciplinary theoretical and practical knowledge; therefore, the preparation of study programmes of the field of History and Theory of Art should be based on national experience in the discipline of History and Theory of Art, foreign examples of good practice, and the view of social partners. The curriculum of study programmes should be modelled on trends in the development of the various arts, taking into account the latest scientific developments and established academic practice.

9. The scope of the field will enable graduates of History and Theory of Art studies to apply the knowledge they have acquired to deal with issues relevant to modern society. They will be able to carry out independent research on a chosen subject, draw on historical sources, apply basic theories and methods, interpret and evaluate works of art, work in an interdisciplinary team, convey knowledge of artistic phenomena orally and in writing to a specialist and non-specialist audience, argue one's own point of view, learn independently and use modern methods of collecting and organising information, be guided by the principles of professional ethics in their work, assume social responsibility, take an active part in cultural processes and conceptually evaluate the changes taking place in the community, the state and the world.

10. Professional activities of historian and theoretician of art shall be perceived as research of art and cultural heritage (analysis, criticism, history, assessment, interpretation) as well as influence on cultural and artistic processes and management thereof (initiation, curating, administration of art projects, etc.)

11. The object of research of History and Theory of Art is works of art, processes, and the personalities in the field of art from various eras. As a field, History and Theory of Art is concerned with the conceptual, aesthetic, communicative, educational, social, political, economic and institutional aspects of culture and art.

12. The studies of History and Theory of Art include:

12.1. history of art, which analyses historical art objects, phenomena, processes and their relationships in historical and socio-cultural contexts;

12.2. theory of art, which analyses art objects, phenomena, processes and their interrelationships in different periods of time, using theoretical and methodological approaches from the humanities and other sciences;

12.3. art criticism, which analyses, critically evaluates and presents contemporary art objects, phenomena and processes to the public;

12.4. a wide range of practical activities: initiating, organising, curating, coordinating artistic projects and events, as well as other activities relevant to art related research and dissemination of its results.

13. The study programmes in the field of History and Theory of Art are designed to train researchers into fine art, architecture, theatre, and film, musicologists, choreologists and other specialists. Graduates of study programmes in the field of History and Theory of Art can hold various positions in the areas of science, culture, art, education, business, mass media, cultural and art policy, cultural heritage and tourism, cultural and creative industries, and other areas within public, non-governmental, or private sectors, as well as pursue doctoral studies.

CHAPTER III GENERAL AND SPECIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

14. The following learning outcomes must be achieved upon completion of first cycle studies:

14.1. knowledge and its application. The person:

14.1.1. is able to identify and explain global patterns in the development of cultural and artistic phenomena;

14.1.2. is able to relate cultural and artistic phenomena and processes to historical and contemporary contexts;

14.1.3. is able to define the most relevant scientific theories, concepts and methods of the branch of History and Theory of Art being studied and apply them to the study of artistic and cultural phenomena;

14.1.4. is able to explain the most general principles of the activities related to History and Theory of Art and apply them in practice;

14.1.5. is able to apply knowledge of social sciences, humanities and other disciplines in History and Theory of Art;

14.2. research skills. The person:

14.2.1. is able to independently define a relevant problem of History and Theory of Art, formulate research aims, objectives and hypotheses;

14.2.2. is able to draw on the results of research, collect and analyse data on the art object or artistic phenomena under study, and assess the reliability of the data using modern methods of collecting and organising information;

14.2.3. is able to select and consistently apply research methods to the analysis of cultural and artistic phenomena and objects;

14.2.4. is able to summarise and interpret the results of the research when formulating its conclusions;

14.3. special abilities. The person:

14.3.1. is able to analyse, interpret and evaluate cultural and artistic objects and phenomena by carrying out simple research in History and Theory of Art;

14.3.2. is able to independently select and apply scientific theories and methods of History and Theory of Art when conducting research in History and Theory of Art;

14.3.3. is able to evaluate a specific cultural and artistic object, process or phenomenon taking into account the historical and cultural context;

14.3.4. is able to solve professional and organisational problems arising when working in public, non-governmental or private sector cultural and art institutions;

14.4. social abilities. The person:

14.4.1. is able to promote and spread knowledge related to culture and art, and to present their ideas, their pattern of development and value in relation to culture and art to professionals and the public in the national language or at least one foreign language;

14.4.2. is able to express, in writing and orally, a reasoned opinion on the cultural and artistic object or phenomenon being analysed;

14.4.3. is able to adjust the quality of their own performance in the light of performance analysis and professional advice;

14.4.4. is able to communicate and collaborate in an interdisciplinary team engaged in the preparation and implementation of activities relevant to art related research, management and communication;

14.4.5. is able to work in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment;

14.5. personal abilities. The person:

14.5.1. is able to develop their professional skills and cognitive competences in a planned manner;

14.5.2. is able to make decisions in the light of relevant social and scientific issues and academic ethics.

15. The following learning outcomes must be achieved upon completion of second cycle studies:

15.1. knowledge, its application. The person:

15.1.1. is able to identify and critically evaluate the patterns of a particular cultural and artistic phenomenon, period or problem while at the same time relating them to the latest research findings and theoretical assumptions;

15.1.2. is able to generalise and interpret the global contexts of the cultural phenomena under study, their causal relationships, and apply this knowledge in an original way when analysing and evaluating cultural and artistic phenomena;

15.1.3. is able to relate the latest theories, concepts and methods of History and Theory of Art and other sciences and apply them in original research;

15.1.4. is able to demonstrate an understanding of the principles of a specific field of activities as historian and theoretician of art when solving practical problems of professional activities;

15.1.5. is able to relate historiographical discourses in the social sciences, the humanities and other disciplines to the problems of History and Theory of Art;

15.2. research skills. The person:

15.2.1. is able to identify a scientific or applied problem and formulate an original hypothesis in History and Theory of Art;

15.2.2. is able to analyse, synthesise and critically evaluate scientific and art research data, and interpret them in an original and methodologically sound manner;

15.2.3. is able to defend a scientific or applied hypothesis of research in History and Theory of Art by applying contemporary scientific methods and theories;

15.2.4. is able to formulate original conclusions and recommendations of scientific or applied research, as well as integrate contemporary scientific knowledge and the results of research;

15.3. special abilities. The person:

15.3.1. is able to formulate original interpretations of cultural and artistic objects and phenomena, to justify them by carrying out complex research in History and Theory of Art;

15.3.2. is able to examine independently identified problems in art theory and/or practice using theories and methods of contemporary sciences;

15.3.3. is able to evaluate works of art and cultural heritage in accordance with the principles of professional ethics;

15.3.4. is able to initiate, develop and implement original and innovative art research activities in cultural and art institutions in order to influence cultural development;

15.4. social abilities. The person:

15.4.1. is able to communicate knowledge of the phenomena of the chosen branch and period of art, the related global context, the theoretical foundations and their own original findings to professionals and the public, in the national or at least one foreign language;

15.4.2. is able to work in and lead an interdisciplinary team, to improve its activities, and to initiate, prepare and carry out projects related to contemporary culture or cultural heritage;

15.4.3. is able to integrate themselves into the international discourse of History and Theory of Art;

15.5. personal abilities. The person:

15.5.1. is able to systematically and independently deepen empirical and theoretical knowledge and improve professional skills in the chosen direction of development;

15.5.2. is able to carry out activities related to History and Theory of Art in accordance with the principles of professional ethics;

15.5.3. is able to solve professional problems independently and creatively in unfamiliar, changing, interdisciplinary and intercultural environments.

16. The core learning outcomes for the study field of History and Theory of Art, as set out in this section, are not a specification of the detailed curriculum of the study programme or subjects.

CHAPTER IV TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

17. Diverse and efficient teaching, learning, and student assessment methods, which help to achieve the intended outcomes of a study programme corresponding to various styles and needs of teaching/learning, should be used in the study programmes in the study field of History and Theory of Art. Teachers should provide for such study methods, which would best match the aims and outcomes of a specific study programme, as well as the latest didactic trends based on the methodology of active, student-centred studies.

18. Teachers should organise teaching activities by taking into account the needs of a specific study programme, learning aims and outcomes, refer to the latest findings of research, and interconnect theoretical aspects of subject/module taught with practical examples of local, international and intercultural practice.

19. The study methods applied in study programmes (active, traditional, distance and combined studies, methods specific for the study field of History and Theory of Art) should be in line with the concept of lifelong learning, and therefore must develop the student's ability to work, learn and improve independently.

20. The same methods can be applied in studies of different cycles; however, the content and complexity of assignments and the expression of student's independence should vary.

21. The subject taught shall be described according to the subject descriptor form approved by the higher education institution, which shall cover the aims of the subject, intended learning outcomes, teaching and assessment methods, procedure and criteria of assessment, topics of assignments, compulsory and supplementary literature, as well as the scope and assignments of student's independent work. In the course of teaching the subject, students shall be introduced to the procedure, requirements, and assessment of the study subject, and after the examination session the study achievements shall be analysed and discussed.

22. The teaching/learning process shall include research projects in History and Theory of Art that contribute to the development of skills necessary to carry out analysis in History and Theory of Art.

23. Different ways and methods of assessing learning achievements may be used (e.g., written and oral examinations, written assignments, oral presentations, reports on practice, projects and individual assignments, evaluation of the Learning Achievement Portfolio, self-assessment, peer assessment, public debates, computer-based testing, etc.).

24. The assessment of student achievement must be based on defined criteria: validity, fairness, clarity, usefulness, ensuring equal applicability, comprehensibility, and achievement of learning aims and learning outcomes.

25. The organisation of the study process must be based on student-centred methods of study, which develop creativity and analytical skills (setting the goals for one's activities/work, selection of the appropriate strategy for achieving them, monitoring one's progress and controlling the completion of the task) as well as generic abilities (communication, cooperation, effective information gathering and transfer, etc.), thus guaranteeing an effective learning process:

25.1. the following methods may be used to develop generic competences: lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, independent work, field trips, debates, inclusive lectures, group work, oral presentation of reports, preparation, delivery, analysis, discussion and summarisation of presentations; case studies, field research; virtual teaching methods, etc.;

25.2. specific study methods may also be applied (such as study of sources, commenting on text/audio and video recordings, independent preparation of analytical written assignments, term papers).

26. The assessment of an individual subject/module of the study programme shall be specified in the descriptor of the subject/module, be based on the outcomes of the subject/module, and be related to the study methods.

27. Students must be given the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process regarding the number and scope of assignments and the assessment criteria for the subject/module.

28. The system of student performance assessment should help to assess the level of achievement of the learning outcomes of the study programme, to provide feedback to students, to enable the improvement of the study programme, individual study subjects/modules and the development of new study and assessment methods.

CHAPTER V

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES

29. Study subjects in the field of History and Theory of Art and general study subjects may be taught by teachers holding at least a Master's degree (or equivalent higher education qualification) corresponding to the study field of the subject taught.

30. The formal requirements for the composition and qualifications of the teaching staff of first and second cycle study programmes must comply with the general requirements in force for the delivery of study programmes and with other legal acts regulating studies and their delivery. At least 60 per cent of second cycle study field subject teachers' scientific activities shall comply with their taught subjects.

31. The scope of contact work in the first and second cycle studies shall be determined by the higher education institution pursuant to the descriptor of the study programme.

32. The student's independent work shall comprise at least 30 per cent of the scope of each subject. Studies of each subject or module shall be completed with the examination and/or the assessment of thesis/project prepared independently by a student.

33. First and second cycle studies of the study field of History and Theory of Art shall be completed with a publicly defended final thesis/project.

34. The final thesis/project shall be subject to the same intellectual property and/or commercial secret protection as a publicly available academic (art) work.

35. The first cycle final thesis/project shall reveal the student's ability to search for the information in various sources, as well as process, analyse, systemise, and interpret it; it has to be based on knowledge and abilities acquired in the course of studies as well as independently applied/carried out research.

36. The first cycle study programme shall be completed with the assessment of the graduate's knowledge, abilities and ethical attitudes through the defence of a final thesis/project.

37. The defence/assessment board of the first cycle final thesis/project shall consist of competent specialists in the study field of History and Theory of Art – scholars (recognised artists) and the representatives of social partners. At least 50 per cent of the defence/assessment board shall hold a doctoral degree in science or arts.

38. The second cycle study programme shall be completed with a final thesis/project that is based on the independent theoretical or applied research, application of knowledge, or prepared as a project revealing the abilities conforming to programme aims. By means of the final thesis/project, a second cycle student shall demonstrate the level of knowledge and understanding, as well as the ability to analyse the selected topic, to assess the previous work carried out by others in the respective study field, to conduct research, and to formulate research conclusions in a clear and substantiated manner in accordance with the requirements approved by the higher education institution.

39. The defence/assessment board of the second cycle final thesis/project shall consist of competent specialists in the study field of History and Theory of Art – scholars (recognised artists) and the representatives of social partners. At least one member of the final thesis defence/assessment board (preferably the chairperson of the board) must be from another scientific institution. At least 70 per cent of the members of the commission must hold a doctoral degree in science or arts.

40. The procedure for the assessment of Bachelor's and Master's theses/projects must be regulated and the defence procedure must be documented.

41. Units, which organise the delivery of the study programme, shall have sufficient facilities, learning and information resources for its quality delivery. Successful delivery of the study programme requires the following facilities and learning resources:

41.1. a virtual learning environment, i.e., an electronic platform on which each teacher can remotely organise various study activities with students;

41.2. classrooms for theoretical lectures and individual practice that meet hygiene and occupational safety requirements;

41.3. classrooms adapted to the needs of a study programme in the study field of History and Theory of Art and equipped with modern audio and video equipment, computers and software, suitable for the remote delivery of studies or study-related activities, whenever required;

41.4. a sufficient number of computers with software and training programmes for student self-study;

41.5. libraries and reading rooms which offer dedicated collections of scientific and other specialised literature in the field of History and Theory of Art, as well as access to international databases, digital catalogues, and full-text specialised databases. The aim is to digitise the study literature and make the collections available to students at home;

41.6. a media library with collections of audio and video recordings, and a digital catalogue to meet the needs of delivered study programmes;

41.7. in order to increase the accessibility and quality of studies for students with special needs, it is necessary to provide an information and physical environment in the classrooms, libraries, reading rooms and media libraries that is conducive to their needs;

41.8. the facilities and learning resources shall be updated on a regular basis; students shall be informed about the updating of the information in the media library;

41.9. study related information (study plans, subject descriptors, timetables, etc.) shall be publicly available on the higher education institution's website.

42. Academic support for students shall be provided in accordance with the procedure established by the higher education institution. An introduction to the study programme is recommended in the first year of study, which will provide knowledge about the specific nature of the programme, its aims, objectives, intended learning outcomes and assessment of achievements.

43. The practical placement is an integral and compulsory part of the first cycle studies of History and Theory of Art:

43.1. the practical placement shall be organised in accordance with the procedure for the organisation of practical placements prepared by the higher education institution, which defines the requirements for the practical placement, tasks of the practical placement, learning outcomes and the system for assessing achievements, as well as the criteria for recognising and assessing the respective level of skills acquired by the student during the practical placement;

43.2. the tasks of the practical placement shall be selected on the basis of the direction of professional development and shall relate the student's academic preparation to the competence of practical activities in History and Theory of Art;

43.3. the practical placement in the first cycle study programmes shall be organised in such a way that the student becomes familiar with various fields of activity in History and Theory of Art and is able to develop professional competences from observation to independent performance of functions, under the supervision of a practical placement supervisor in the institution;

43.4. cultural and/or art, cultural heritage, media institutions, organisations and social partners shall be involved in the process of practical placement; the site of the practical placement must be in accordance with the requirements of the specific study programme;

43.5. the organisation of the practical placement must provide opportunities for hands-on experience by linking professional activity, education and personal growth;

43.6. practical placement supervisors in institutions, organisations and social partner institutions shall be involved in the development of the content and organisation of practical placement tasks;

43.7. the higher education institution may offer students a list of practical placements. The student may choose or find their own placement. Upon choosing an institution for practical placement, a tripartite agreement is concluded between the student, the higher education institution and the practice institution.

44. In second cycle studies, the practical placement may be carried out according to the nature of the study programme and the requirements of the higher education institution. If a practical placement is organised, it should be applied and/or scientific.

45. Students should be given an opportunity to engage in the higher education institution's research and art activities and in shaping wider cultural processes promoting the links between the humanities and artistic practice.

46. Students must be given an opportunity to participate in competitions to study in equivalent study programmes at higher education institutions in other countries and to accumulate part of the study credits of the study programme there.

47. Information on the study programme (e.g., modes of study, specialisations, funding, study aims, intended learning outcomes, assessment of learning outcomes, electives, timetables, mobility opportunities, etc.) and any changes thereto must be publicly available. Subject-related and educational-methodological information from the teacher shall be made available to students.

48. Study programme deliverers, in cooperation with social partners, shall study market needs and periodically advise students on career opportunities.

49. Study programme deliverers shall organise surveys of students, alumni, social partners and staff, and shall evaluate and adjust the study programme, including the subjects taught therein, on the basis of survey results.

50. Taking into account the nature of studies and in cooperation with social partners, the developers of the study programme are recommended to facilitate access for students to museums, galleries, archives, theatres, concert halls, cinemas and other cultural and art institutions and/or events.

51. Effective feedback, achieved through various forms of feedback, is essential to ensure the quality and continuity of studies and students' sustainable and regular learning.
