

DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER'S STUDY PROGRAMS

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This description governs general principles for designing and implementing master's study programs (hereinafter – study program, study programs).

2. Terms used in this Description correspond to the terms defined in the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2009, No [54-2140](#)) and in the Description of general requirements of the degree-awarding first cycle and integrated study programs approved by Order No V-501 adopted by the Minister of Education and Science on 9 April 2010 (Official Gazette, 2010, No [44-2139](#)).

3. Study programs must conform to general and special requirements set out in descriptions of study fields (group of fields, area) approved by the Minister of Science and Education if there are no special requirements approved. These requirements for the catholic study programs of the field of theological studies are applied in so far as they do not contradict to the requirements set by the Holy See.

4. Study programs are designed to prepare for independent work of science (art) or any other work which requires knowledge of science and analytical abilities. Master's studies take place at the universities which implement scientific (artistic) activity complying with the field of studies. Persons who complete master's study programmes are awarded a master's degree or qualification of a respective study field or a master's degree and a qualification. Persons who complete second-cycle theological study programmes approved by the management of the Catholic church may be awarded a degree of the theological licentiate.

Amendment

*Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania,
Order 27 June, 2012, No. V-1045.*

5. Study programs can be of a different character, but they must conform to the profile of the university, individual academic (creative) abilities and needs of the labour market. Character of the study programs must be indicated and substantiated in the description of the study programs.

6. Study programmes may be of a different character, however, they must comply with the profile of the university, individual academic (creative) abilities of the person and needs of the labour market. The character of the study programme shall be indicated and substantiated in the list of the study programme. The key word in the title of the study programme must describe the curriculum of the studies of the major study field.

Amendments:

*Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania,
Order 8 February, 2012, No. V-231.*

7. Qualification of pedagogical and scientific staff of the study program and material base of studies must be sufficient to achieve the aims of the study program. If a master's study program orientates to practical activity, teachers' experience of practical work and university's co-operation with social partners are necessary in organizing student practice. When a study program subject to the aims relating to inter-field studies is implemented and subjects of another field are studied together with subjects of the main field, university's experience in both fields of studies is necessary. This experience must be proved by articles prepared in that university and publicized in scientific or professional literature, fulfilled and successfully implemented projects and involvement of social partners while developing and implementing study programs.

8. Scope of the study program, modules and separate subjects are established by credits and must be identical irrespective of the form of studies (full-time, part-time). Methods of teaching (learning), duration and schedule of the studies are set taking into account requirements for safety and health of students, and the duration of the part-time studies is set considering possibilities to coordinate studies with other activities of students (at the workplace and while carrying out family duties etc).

9. The study program must be regularly updated. During the program's accreditation period the university at the request of the senate can change study subjects in the program field whose total scope would not exceed 30 per cent of the scope of all study subjects in the study program. Changes are announced in the website of the university.

10. If, during the program accreditation period, the scope of study subjects in the field changes by more than 30 per cent, or two or more study programs are joined, the study program is evaluated and accredited following the Description of the Procedure for External Evaluation and Accrediting of Study programs approved by Order No ISAK-1652 adopted by the Minister of Education and Science on July 24, 2009 (Official Gazette, 2009, No. [96-4083](#)).

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS ADMITTED TO MASTER'S STUDIES

11. The following persons are admitted to master's studies:

11.1. who have completed first cycle university studies and conform to the requirements set by the university;

11.2. who have completed first cycle studies and bridge courses in cases referred to in paragraph 12 and conform to the requirements set by the university.

12. Bridge courses are organized in the following cases:

12.1. when a person has completed college studies, except cases where the university senate has taken a decision regarding sufficiency of practical activity experience of the character and length (but not shorter than one year) specified by the university for entrants to specific study programs;

12.2. when a selected field of master's studies does not coincide with the main and minor field of the first cycle university studies, except cases where the university senate has taken a decision regarding sufficiency of practical activity experience of the character and length (but not shorter than one year) specified by the university for entrants to specific study programs.

13. Description of the master's program specifies the field or fields (branch or branches) of the first cycle studies to be completed by the person admitted for studies under that study program and in each case it is indicated in which cases bridge courses are required before entering master's studies.

14. The list of bridge courses and content of studies is set by the university. During these studies a student must obtain competence necessary for successful master's studies but not provided during the first cycle studies:

14.1. when the field of master's studies selected by the entrant and the field of the first cycle studies completed by him belong to the same group of study fields, the scope of bridge courses may not exceed 60 (by September 1, 2011– 40) study credits;

14.2. when the field of master's studies selected by the entrant belongs to another group of study field than the first cycle study field completed by him, the scope of bridge courses may not exceed 90 (by September 1, 2011– 60)study credits;

14.3. if the person intending to undertake master's studies needs more knowledge and skills than bridge course can provide, he must acquire such knowledge and skills while studying under the first cycle university study program.

15. The university can set out additional requirements (both permanent and temporary) for persons admitted to all or some study programs: minimal first cycle study completion level (minimal average of all or some

grades), necessary scientific or occupational experience and other academic, competence or profession requirements. Admittance is carried pursuant to selection criteria and priorities announced in advance.

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER'S STUDY PROGRAMS

16. The study program must ensure that the person who has completed it and acquired master's qualification degree, will have significantly higher competences than those achieved during first cycle studies:

16.1. he will have acquired knowledge in the studied scientific branch (creative skills in art branch) sufficient for the original and independent development and application of scientific (artistic) ideas, acknowledged to the latest scientific theories (art innovations), methods and technologies in that branch;

16.2. will be skilled to apply acquired knowledge, understanding and contemporary methods in practical activity that requires analytical skills, innovation and integrated knowledge, including scientific research (original creation), will be versed in the application of the limits of the methods of analysis (creative techniques), will be able to assess the results of the research and establish their reliability;

16.3. will be able to apply the acquired knowledge understanding and skills to address problems (find artistic solutions) in a new, unknown or constantly changing environment and wide (inter-field, inter-area) contexts related to his study area;

16.4. will be able to learn permanently and independently, to know and critically assess theoretical and practical novelties of the domain of studied knowledge or creation, effectively act in circumstances when exhaustive information and instructions are lacking, to substantiate conclusions that are being made and to properly present them to interested persons of different educational background, to perceive ethical and social consequences of one's own knowledge and solutions taken based on that knowledge and responsibility for them.

17. Scope of the study program is not less than 90 (by September 1, 2011 – 60) and not more than 120 (by September 1, 2011– 80) study credits. Of them:

17.1. not less than 60 study credits (by September 1, 2011– 40) must be made of the subjects of the field which, from the point of view of the content, must be of a qualitatively higher problematical or innovative scientific level than subjects of first cycle studies of a respective area of knowledge which substantiate them;

17.2. not more than 30 (until 1 September 2011 – 20) study credits may be made of university-prescribed and student-elected subjects intended, depending on the character of the study programme, to prepare for doctoral studies (research work (creation of art)), practical activity (practice of professional activity) or for subjects of another field, when a study programme subject to the aims related with cross studies is implemented, also for general university study subjects and subjects that are freely selected by a student and necessary to achieve the aims of the study programme. This paragraph shall not apply to study programmes made of 90 study credits.

Amendments:

*Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania,
Order 8 February, 2012, No. V-231.*

17.3. not less than 30 (by September 1, 2011– 20) study credits are allocated for the preparation and defense of the final work of for the final work or final examination (final examinations if they are prescribed by the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania or international legal acts).

18. Not more 5 subjects can be studied each term. First cycle study subjects of a respective field may not be repeated. Student independent work must comprise not less than 30 per cent of the scope of each study subject. Studies of each subject or module are completed with the examination or assessment of the independent student work (project). If the accumulative assessment system is used, intermediary assessments can make part of the examination grade.

19. Not less than 80 per cent (or 60 per cent when study programs are centered to practical activity) of university teachers of all study subjects must hold a scientific degree (be established artists), of them there must be not less than 60 per cent (or 40 per cent when study programs are centered to practical activity) of subject teachers whose field of scientific activity must match the subjects taught by them. If study programs are centered to practical activity, up to 40 per cent of subject field teachers may be practitioners who have acquired during the last 7 years occupational experience not shorter than 3 years that matches applied subjects taught by them. Occupational experience referred to in this paragraph is necessary for the university teachers of applied subjects specified in the program. Not less than 20 per cent of the volume of the field subjects must be taught by teachers acting as professors.

20. The final work must be substantiated by independent scientific or applied research, application of knowledge or it must be prepared as a project revealing abilities conforming to the aims of the program. Postgraduate's work (project) must demonstrate his level of knowledge and understanding, ability to analyze the selected topic, assess the works of respective field (branch) previously carried out by other persons, independently study and carry out research in that field (branch), describe his research work, clearly and reasonably formulate findings of the research following the requirements approved by the university. The graduation project of the postgraduate of art study fields must reveal his level of creativity, capability to apply independently latest practical knowledge and technologies in creative work.

21. The graduation paper of the master of art study area must be a creative project and a research work related to this project describing new ideas, knowledge and technologies used in the project.

22. The commission assessing the final work (project) and its defense must be comprised of specialists competent in the study field (branch) – scientists (artists), practitioners-professionals and representatives of social partners. At least one member of the commission (best – chairman of the commission) must come from the other institution of science and studies than that in which master's studies took place. Composition of the final examination commission must be the same where such an examination is set in the study program. The final work (project) is subject to the same protection of intellectual property or (and) commercial secrets as for the publicly publicized work of science (art).

IV. FINAL PROVISIONS

23. State funded students, following the prescribed regulatory study fee, are allocated funds for university studies comprised of 120 (by September 1, 2011 – 80) credits. If the university sets the amount of the study credits of the study program which is less than 120 (by September 1, 2011– 80) credits, state funded students, following the procedure laid down by the university, will have a free access to the amount of study subjects covering this difference in accordance with principles of possible selection of study subjects laid down in said requirements. Study subjects must be undertaken within the study program implementation period and they must be included in the student's diploma supplement.
