



# VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

HINC ITUR AD ASTRA





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## Vilnius University: open to new ideas, dedicated to nurturing talent, faithful to traditions

The largest and oldest Lithuanian scientific institution, Vilnius University has tremendous intellectual potential and is engaged in promoting and developing ties with major centres of research both in Europe and in the rest of the world.

A broad spectrum of research in different areas of science, highly acclaimed research work, and close cooperation with research centres throughout the world have deservedly earned the University the status of a leader in science and research. The studies that are offered by the University are based on international-level research. European university traditions, academic freedom and diversity of opinions, the ability to deal with new challenges in the constantly changing world, and social responsibility are the fundamental values of the University.

The University comprises twelve faculties, seven institutes, two university hospitals, four interfaculty centres of study and research, the oldest library in Lithuania (founded in 1570) with a modern Science Communication and Information Center, the Astronomical Observatory, the Botanical Garden, and the Church of St. Johns.

The student body of the University includes 21,000 students. Year after year listed by QS World University Rankings among the top four per cent of the best universities in the world, Vilnius University attracts the best and most talented secondary school graduates of the country.

A foundation for the development of new directions and branches in academics is provided by research schools that have formed at Vilnius University in such areas of research as Baltic languages, laser physics, semiconductors, the physics of ferroelectrics and disordered solids, transformation of biomolecules, probabilistic number theory and probability theory, heart and vascular surgery, and the synthesis and analysis of functional chemical components.

Vilnius University is much more than just a modern institution of science and studies. It takes pride in its rich historic and cultural heritage, its library with historical collections, its museums, and its preserved or newly restored traditions. The University embodies Lithuanian science and culture in which a remarkable academic spirit that encourages research and discovery and that fosters tolerance and creativity prevails.



## Research and innovations

Advanced level research is pursued at Vilnius University in such academic fields as the humanities (history, literature, languages); Lithuanian studies; structure and development of society; biological and sociopsychological cognition and human development; health care, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases; genomics, biomolecules and biotechnologies; changes and protection of ecosystems and natural resources; new functional materials and derivatives; theoretical and condensed matter physics; laser physics and light technologies; fundamental and applied mathematics; and informatics and information technologies.

Vilnius University participates in different national and international research projects such as the EU Seventh Framework Programme, Horizon 2020, COST, EUREKA, CERN, etc. To enhance the interrelation between science and business, Vilnius University has established four open access centres aimed at providing access to available research and laboratory equipment not only to students and researchers but also to representatives of business or to personnel of other institutions of science and research. There currently operate the Information Technology Open Access Centre, Vilnius University Open Access Centre for Physical Sciences and Technologies, Joint Life Sciences Centre, and Naglis, a facility at the Vilnius University Laser Research Centre.

Lecturers at the University are highly esteemed researchers and have been bestowed the most prestigious Lithuanian science and Lithuanian Academy of Science awards. They are also members of international scientific organisations and honorary doctors of foreign universities.



Vilnius University — the initiator of Saulėtekis and Santara, integrated science, study and business centres (Valleys) — implements nationally significant projects aimed at creating internationally recognised nuclei of science, education and knowledge economy. The most substantial projects are being implemented in the Saulėtekis academic village. The Saulėtekis Valley concentrates the intellectual potential of researchers working in life sciences and high technologies. Two unique research centres, the Joint Centre for Life Sciences and the National Centre of Physical and Technological Sciences, are currently being created. The National Centre of Physical and Technological Sciences will concentrate national research potential in materials science, nanotechnologies, semi-conductor physics, and electronics, as well as in the fields of higher education and science-intensive business. The Joint Centre for Life Sciences will focus on research, technological development, and study in biotechnologies and molecular medicine.

In February 2013, the National Open Access Scholarly Communication and Information Centre (SCIC), which aims at providing University students and lecturers with wide access to information, opened its doors in Saulėtekis.

#### INTERESTING FACTS:

Due to the Lithuanian laser research school that has developed at Vilnius University, lasers for research produced in Lithuania account today for 10 per cent of the global market share.

Vilnius University researchers are among the top ten research teams in the world that have contributed most to the development of CRISPR technologies.

Since the restoration of the independence of Lithuania, 139 Vilnius University researchers have won 73 Lithuanian science awards.





# Studies

Vilnius University is proud of the variety of research and study fields available there. The University implements study programmes in all study cycles: bachelor's, master's and doctoral. Its faculties and other academic units offer a choice from over 70 bachelor's and more than 100 master's study programmes. Students can choose programmes in all fields of study, including biomedicine, physical science, the humanities, and social and technological science programmes. Those interested in the arts may study certain subjects at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre or Vilnius Academy of Arts, with whom Vilnius University, together with the Lithuanian Sports University, have formed the UNIKON Consortium. Graduates of the study programmes in medicine or odontology are able to obtain the professional qualification of a doctor in one of the residency studies offered by 57 programmes in medicine or 6 programmes in odontology. Doctoral students are able to undertake their PhD studies in as many as 26 academic areas out of the total of 39 offered in Lithuania.

In addition to their academic major studies, students in the first study cycle may also take up academic minor studies and, having successfully completed them, get a double qualification degree. The choice of academic minor studies offered by the University is quite extensive: students can choose from about 50 study programmes. The University promotes

activities designed to provide life-long learning aimed at supplementing, modifying or upgrading a qualification already acquired.

Year after year, achievements in education and research have enabled the University to maintain its position as the most prominent University in the country. To ensure the quality of education, admittance of students to the University is based on a competitive score. More than a half of secondary school graduates with the highest grades received on their school finishing examinations choose to study at Vilnius University. The majority of them are prizewinners in national and international olympiads.

Vilnius University has a well developed infrastructure for research and study: there are modern laboratories and the biggest scientific library in the Baltic States. The University applies innovative technologies that enable high quality studies and research to be pursued.

The University teaching staff includes highly qualified lecturers who have extensive research and academic expertise and who are renowned specialists in their academic areas both in Lithuania and abroad. It is namely the competence of lecturers that is considered one of the University's major strengths by those who are interested in studying there.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject, which identify the best universities in the world according to separate study areas, has listed Vilnius University 251–300 in two fields of study: modern languages and physics and astronomy.

In addition to studies, our students are provided with the widest range of possibilities to actively join the academic community of the University, where they can reveal their talents and creative potential and promote the name of Lithuania. Students are invited to join any of the more than 50 student organisations, research associations, artistic collectives, and sports teams that function at the University.





## International relations

Vilnius University is an active participant in national and international projects and working groups aimed at developing science and education policy. As the leader in national ratings, the University faces the challenge of enhancing its internationality, maintaining its position as leader, and attracting gifted foreign students by ensuring that they get high quality studies.

Vilnius University has signed more than 130 bilateral cooperation agreements with universities in 41 countries. Thirty-three per cent of the University's bilateral cooperation partners are European universities; effort is being made to further promote academic cooperation with universities in Asia, Australia, and the Middle East. In addition, over 800 agreements have been signed with 430 universities in Europe and 55 agreements with universities in partner countries concerning academic mobility within the framework of the ERASMUS+ programme.

In 2010, the active and effective participation of the University in the ERASMUS programme was evaluated by the European Commission as an "ERASMUS success story". The mobility scheme that was developed by the University for this programme has also been extended to other exchange initiatives. University students actively participate in such exchange programmes as ERASMUS+, ERASMUS MUNDUS, ISEP, AEN-MAUI and CREPUQ. Vilnius University is the only Lithuanian institution of higher education among the top hundred European Universities in terms of the number of students sent to participate in the ERASMUS programme.

Every year, about 900 foreign students from more than 70 countries come to study at Vilnius University. Such academic mobility provides an incentive for structural changes at the institution and facilitates the development of a high quality academic offer. Today, the University offers over 500 courses taught in a foreign language. When studying together, Lithuanian and foreign students can also enjoy an opportunity to develop their intercultural skills.

Foreign students may choose from the 17 study programmes offered by the University in English and Russian in such fields as medicine, odontology, business and management, economics, mathematics and informatics, philology, law, and communications.

The University is a signatory of the Magna Charta of European universities and a member of the International Association of Universities, European University Association, the Conference of Baltic University Rectors, the Utrecht Network, UNICA Network, and the Baltic Sea Region University Network. In addition, Vilnius University has been invited to join the Coimbra Group, a network of prestigious European universities, from 1 January 2016.



## University and society

Dynamic changes in society and the increasing role of higher education continue to further enhance the mission of the University to serve the needs of society.

In order to share the fruits of its research activity with society and foster a closer relationship with professional organisations, businesses, gymnasiums, public organisations, and the media, the University employs a variety of initiatives. Much effort is given to promoting the popularity of science and culture among young people. Such undertakings as the activities of the Children's University, the popular science journal SPECTRUM, projects like the Mobile Laboratory and Mobile Bio-classroom (which presents the most recent achievements in biosciences to secondary school students), cooperation with gymnasiums all over Lithuania, the organisation of the FameLab competition, and the activities of the School for Young Physicists, the School for Young Mathematicians, and the School for Young Chemists all encourage many young people to study, discover, and to use their talents in one branch of science or another. The experimental pursuits of University researchers, their public addresses to society on the most relevant issues, and their contribution to resolving important economic, social and cultural problems have a huge impact on the life of the entire country.

Public lectures delivered by prominent University researchers and participation in such events as Researchers' Night, Museum Night, and the science festival Spaceship Earth are but a few examples of various projects and undertakings designed for the public in general, and for young people in particular. The Open Access Scholarly Communication and Information Centre of Vilnius University Library offers an excellent venue for meeting, communication, study, and promotion of interaction between science, business and society. Every year the buildings and courtyards of the University campus and the University Church of St. Johns turn into spaces for exhibitions, concerts, conferences and festivals. Lovers of performing arts are invited to attend such traditional events as Poetry Spring and the international folklore festival Skamba Skamba Kankliai held in the courtyards of the Old Campus. The ten University artistic ensembles perform not only for the University community, but also for the residents of Vilnius and guests visiting the city. The University Botanical Garden is famous for its collections of plants, exhibitions and musical performances held there, and it has turned into a favourite spot among Vilnius citizens for recreation and leisure. The University planetarium, museum, and observatory are much-visited places of interest for secondary school students and other guests.



## Community and traditions

The fundamental values of the University are freedom of thought, diversity of opinions, openness to new ideas, mutual respect and trust, academic ethics, and tolerance.

The University community is guided by such ideals as respect for and promotion of academic freedom and the atmosphere of discussions, openness, and initiative.

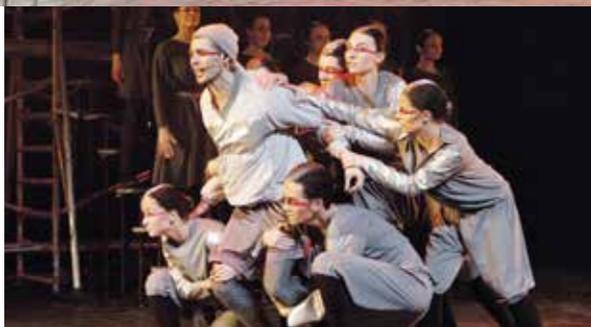
The University is famous for its academic traditions that unite the entire community: festivities to celebrate the beginning and the end of academic year, student initiation rituals, the impressive commencement ceremony held at the Church of St. Johns, and a whole range of different traditional student festivals organised by each of the faculties. On 1 September each year, the city of Vilnius is rocked with the boisterous enthusiasm of University students and lecturers marching along Gediminas Avenue to the Old University Campus. And on the first Saturday of April, it is not only students of the Faculties of Physics and Philology who are invited to join the festivities of the Day of Physicists (FIDI) and meet its main hero, the legendary dinosaur Dinas Zaurus. Another unifying event for all members of the community is Vivat Academia, the annual festival of the University performing arts ensembles, where both the participants and spectators are University students and other personnel.

Members of the University community have access to various facilities for active participation in sports: the Centre for Health and Sports provides the opportunity to join different kinds of sport; students take part in the traditional competition for the Rector's Cup; and summer camps are available for the children of University personnel.

Those who enjoy active leisure may join the Hikers' Club and take walking or cycling trips or go canoeing, skiing or mountain climbing.

The University is constantly expanding its alumni network, which currently includes 11 alumni associations of academic units. During its more than 10 years of activity, this network has always assembled many famous leaders of society and public figures, graduates of the University, who use this forum to share experiences and professional knowledge, hold lectures and seminars, engage in informal discussions, award grants to motivate students, and implement joint cultural, research and business projects.

Vilnius University has always been and will continue to be open to new ideas, challenges, and creative pursuits and dedicated to spreading knowledge and educating active and responsible citizens and leaders of society.





# Heritage

The University can take pride not only in its achievements in research and education, the international acclaim it has earned, and the personalities it has nurtured. It is also distinguished for its unique architectural, artistic, cultural, and scientific heritage, including its rich collections and museums, and the Old Library. The value of the majority of those cultural monuments is priceless to the culture of Lithuania, Europe, and the world in general. The Lithuanian National Register composed within the framework of the UNESCO's global Memory of the World programme lists ten objects protected by the University, including such valuables as the only surviving copy in the country of the first Lithuanian book, Catechism by Martynas Mažvydas, and the Herbarium of Vilnius University.

Vilnius University is one of just a few European universities to have preserved the original use of the buildings where it was originally established. Thus, it is of no accident that namely this University campus, as a most valuable monument of architecture, arts, culture and history, was selected to represent Lithuania in the Mini-Europe Park in Brussels.

The University campus is included on the List of Building Ensembles of the Register of Immovable Cultural Property of the Republic of Lithuania: it is an open-air architectural monument from the 16th to 19th centuries that invites students and guests of the city to wander around its thirteen courtyards, to visit the Baroque Church of St. Johns, to go up the Bell Tower for a enchanting view of the Old City of Vilnius, to explore the historical halls of the University Library with its priceless collections and the University Museum, and to discover traces of the nation in the common history of Europe.

## History as inspiration for seeking further improvement and higher achievement

From the very inception of the University, the significant role it always had in the development of science and culture in Lithuania extended to neighbouring countries as well: it educated creators, scientists, clergymen and statesmen.

In 1579, King Stephen Bathory issued a note of privileges for the opening of Vilnius Academy, and a bull of Pope Gregory XIII confirmed transformation of Vilnius Jesuit College founded in 1570 into the University. Though seemingly quite remote from major European cultural centres of that time, the University provided sufficient intellectual sustenance for the most progressive scholarly thought to flourish. The poet Mathias Casimir Sarbievius, an alumnus and professor of Vilnius Academy, was famous throughout Europe: Pope Urban VIII crowned him with a laurel wreath, his book of poetry was issued 50 times, and the title page of the issue printed at the renowned publishing house of Plantin-Moretus was designed by the celebrated painter Peter Paul Rubens. Marcin Śmiglecki, professor of polemic theology, gained fame for his textbook *Logica*, which was used as long as until the 19th century. The famous British writer Daniel Defoe was examined according to that textbook.

With the establishment of the Astronomical Observatory in 1753, there came a period of prosperity for the science of astronomy in the State of Lithuania and Poland, where one of the most famous representatives was Marcin Poczobutt, a corresponding member of the French Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the Royal Society in London, and rector of Vilnius University.





After the abolishment of the Jesuit Order in 1773, the University was taken over by the Commission for National Education, a state institution for education and culture. In the early 19th century, many world-famous scientists worked at the University, such as the Frenchman Jean Emmanuell Gilibert, who earned the name of father of Lithuanian botanical science; Johann Georg Forster, a member of Captain James Cook's second voyage round the world; and medical men Johann Peter Frank and his son Josef Frank, who established the Vilnius Medical Society and the Institutes of Medicine, Vaccination and Maternity, some of the first institutions of this kind in Europe.

A true credit to Vilnius University were its alumni such as the writers and romantic poets Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Slowacki, Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, and Antoni Edward Odyniec; historians Joachim Lelewel, Michał Baliński, and Teodoras Narbutas; orientalists Józef Kowalewski and Józef Senkowski; and geologist Ignacy Domeyko, a reformer of the Chilean system of higher education and rector of the University of Chile in Santiago. The town of Puerto Domeyko in Chile and the mineral domeykite are named after him, and there is a 450-kilometre-long mountain range in the Andes that bears his name.

In 1832, as a result of the active participation of University professors and students in the 1831 uprising, the University was closed by the order of Tsar Nicholas I. Between 1919 and 1939, when Vilnius and surrounding areas were annexed by Poland, Stephen Bathory University functioned. Among its students was the future Nobel prize-winner Czesław Miłosz. In 1939, the Faculties of Humanities and Law were relocated from Kaunas and Vilnius University resumed its activity, but with the incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union in 1940, the University was reorganised according to the Soviet model. Closed again by German occupying authorities in 1943, the University resumed its activities in the autumn of 1944. Though restrained by the Soviet system, Vilnius University grew and gained strength, internationally acknowledged research schools formed, and the University nurtured many outstanding personalities.

The restoration of Lithuanian independence in 1990 made it possible for Vilnius University to adopt its own statute and regain its autonomy.

With their substantial works, ideas, and unique projects, the researchers and students of today's University continue to further contribute to the glorious history of Vilnius University.

"Being a bit of a mystic, I can feel the spirits of great men inhabiting this University" (Vincas Mykolaitis-Putinas, a poet and professor at Vilnius University).

# Statistics

(as of 1 January 2015)

## Personnel

Total*:	3769
Academic staff*	1329
Professors*	243
Docents*	453
Research Fellows*	524

## Students

Undergraduate	14256
Graduate	3495
Doctoral students	806
MD's in residency	799
Non-degree students	1287
Total:	20643

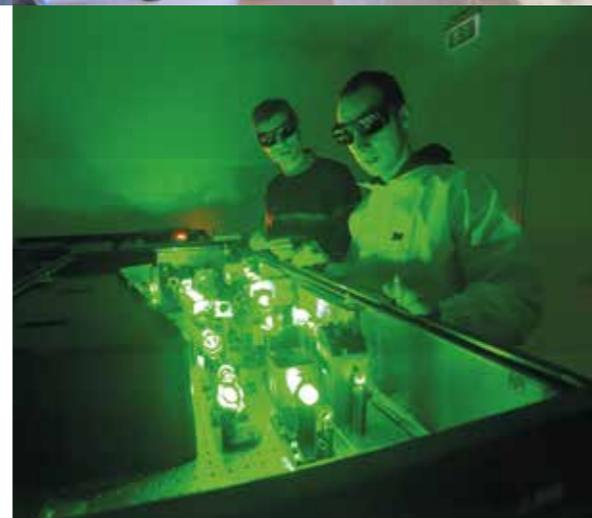
## International students

Total:	886
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## Graduates in 2015

Total:	4460
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\* - Full-time equivalent





## Contacts

### **Rector**

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**Institute of International Relations and Political Science**, Vokiečių g. 10, LT-01130 Vilnius, Lithuania, [www.tspmi.vu.lt](http://www.tspmi.vu.lt)

#### INSTITUTES

- Institute of Applied Research**, Saulėtekio al. 9, LT-10222 Vilnius, Lithuania, [www.tmi.vu.lt](http://www.tmi.vu.lt)  
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**Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astronomy**, Goštauto g. 12, LT-01108 Vilnius, Lithuania, [www.tfai.vu.lt](http://www.tfai.vu.lt)

#### OTHER DIVISIONS

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