

Annex 1

to the Regulations for the Doctoral Studies in the Fields of Arts and Design of the Vilnius Academy of Arts

ART PROJECT DEFENSE REGULATIONS

1. These Regulations establish the rules of procedure of the art/design project Defence Council (hereinafter referred to as the Defence Council), established in accordance with the Regulations for Doctoral Studies in Art.
2. The art project is defended and the doctor of art degree is granted by the art/ design project Defence Council of Vilnius Academy of Arts, which is formed when a specific art project is defended, after it is completed and submitted for defence. The Doctoral Committee forms the Defence Council of at least five members and appoints one of its members (an artist or a doctor of art) as its chairperson. His/ her participation during the meeting of the Defence Council is mandatory.
3. The members of the Council submit their written feedback on the art project to the Doctoral Department of the Doctoral Student's institution¹ no later than 5 working days before the defence of the art project. The Doctoral Student receives these reviews no later than 3 business days before the defence of the project.
4. More than half of the members of the Defence Council must be artists and/or doctors of art, and at least two members of the Defence Council must be researchers. At least one member of the Defence Council must be from a foreign institution or an internationally recognised foreign artist. One of the members of the Defence Council may be an internationally recognised artist who is not working at the university conducting the doctoral studies. The members of the Defence Council must meet the qualification requirements for persons seeking to hold the position of a professor and one member of the Defence Council may meet the requirements for the position of an associate professor. The composition of the Defence Council is approved by the Rector of VAA.
5. There must be no conflict of interest between the members of the Defence Council and the Doctoral Student, his/her Supervisor(s) and reviewers. If it arises, the conflict must first be examined by the Doctoral Committee. If the conflict cannot be resolved by the Doctoral Committee, it is resolved in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation. The Doctoral Student's Supervisor and scientific Adviser may not be members of the Council.
6. The documents of the Council are handled and the meeting for the defence of the art project is organized by the Doctoral Department of the Doctoral Institution.
7. The work of the Defence Council is organized by the chairperson of the Defence Council. He or she:
 - 7.1. performs an advance examination of the file of the person defending the art project (hereinafter referred to as the Dissertation Candidate) and makes sure that the file and all meeting documents (ballot papers, voting protocol form, etc.) meet the requirements;

¹ **Doctoral Student's institution** – if the Doctoral Student's Institution is not a Doctoral Institution, the Council's documents are handled and the meeting for the defence of the Dissertation is organized by the Doctoral Institution with which the Doctoral Student's Institution has concluded a doctoral study agreement.

- 7.2. examines the received feedback, which must be submitted during the meeting of the Board of Defence or instructs a member of the Board of Defence to do so;
 - 7.3. makes sure that proper preparations are made for the meeting (means for audio recording of the meeting, presentation of visual material and, if required, translation during the meeting);
 - 7.4. chairs the meeting of the Defence Council;
 - 7.5. signs the documents of the meeting of the Defence Council.
8. Each member of the Defence Council performs an advance examination of the art project submitted for defence and assesses whether it is an original creative work and artistic research summarizing the research carried out by the Doctoral Student, examining the problem of the field of art, and whether its content meets the other requirements for a doctoral art project;
 9. The meeting can be held in either Lithuanian or another language. In cases where another language is used at the meeting, the need for a translation into Lithuanian is determined by the Doctoral Committee after assessing the content and nature of the prepared art project. If the art project is defended at a non-Lithuanian institution, the meeting is held in the foreign language acceptable to the Defence Council.
 10. The meeting is considered legitimate if at least 2/3 of the members of the Defence Council are present.
 11. The meeting of the Council is public. The Doctoral Department announces the date and place of the public meeting no later than 30 calendar days before the defence of the art project. In exceptional cases, art projects that may contain information constituting a state, professional or commercial secret, may be defended in a closed meeting. In such cases, the chairperson and the members of the Defence Council are informed in advance that the meeting will be closed; they sign a declaration of confidentiality.
 12. An audio or video recording of the meeting of the Defence Council is made.
 13. The course of the meeting is as follows:
 - 13.1. the Chairperson of the Defence Council, after checking that at least 2/3 of the members of the Defence Council are present at the meeting and the non-participating members have submitted their written feedback on the art project, informs the participants of the meeting about the quorum and presents the file of the Doctoral Student;
 - 13.2. the Doctoral Student presents the art project: demonstrates the integrity of the creative and research work, shows the professional skills matching the degree of a doctor of art in the fields of arts or design, the individuality of the artistic position and then new approach and knowledge in the field of research. The time allowed for the Doctoral Student's presentation is 20 minutes. After the presentation or during the defence, he/she answers the questions of the members of the Defence Council.
 - 13.3. the Supervisor and the Advisers of the Doctoral Student are provided with a speaking opportunity;
 - 13.4. the chairperson of the Board announces the start of a discussion.
 - 13.5. The chairperson or the member of the Defence Council appointed by him/ her publicly reads the feedback on the art project received from the non-participating members of the Defence Council and other comments; presents the remarks and conclusions formulated in the feedback, and the Doctoral Student replies to the comments received;
 - 13.6. all members of the Defence Council are provided with a speaking opportunity; they provide the Doctoral Student with their comments, raise questions for discussion. The Doctoral Student answers the comments and questions.

- 13.7. Other participants in the meeting are provided with a speaking opportunity; after any speech, the Doctoral Student may request to speak and be given the opportunity to answer the questions or comments;
- 13.8. at the end of the discussion, the Doctoral Student is given the final word.
- 13.9. After discussing with the Doctoral Student, the members of the Defence Council vote whether he/ she should be granted the doctor of art degree.
 - 13.9.1. the chairperson of the Defence Council distributes the ballot papers. Members of the Defence Council present by teleconference means also vote by sending a scanned copy of the completed ballot paper;
 - 13.9.2. after the vote, the chairperson completes the voting protocol; the members of the Defence Council have the right to check the results of the vote. The decision to award the doctor of art degree is made if at least 2/3 of the members of the Defence Council vote in favour of it.
 - 13.9.3. All members of the Defence Council present at the meeting sign the voting protocol of the Defence Council and the decision on granting or not granting the doctor of art degree;
- 13.10. The chairperson of the Defence Council reads the decision to the participants of the meeting and announces the end of the meeting.
14. After the meeting, the chairperson of the Defence Council returns the art project defence documents to the Doctoral Department of the Doctoral Student's institution.