

## **REGULATIONS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES IN ART IN THE FIELD OF DESIGN AND GRANTING OF DOCTORAL DEGREES IN ART OF VILNIUS ACADEMY OF ARTS**

### **I. GENERAL**

1. Doctoral studies in design at Vilnius Academy of Arts (hereinafter referred to as VAA) are organized, art projects are prepared, defended and doctor of art degrees are granted on the basis of Regulations for Doctoral Studies in Art approved by order No. V-69 of 8 March 2017 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. This regulation establishes the procedure for doctoral studies in the field of design, preparation and defence of art projects at VAA. Definitions used in these Regulations:

- Doctoral studies in the field of design (hereinafter referred to as the Doctoral Studies) mean 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle university-level design studies in the field of arts, designed to train designers-researchers who would be able to create, interpret and develop research based on the design practice, as well as preparation and defence of art projects. Those who defend their art projects are awarded a doctoral degree in art.

- Doctoral student in design (hereinafter referred to as the Doctoral Student) means a third-cycle student and researcher.

- Committee for doctoral studies in art in the field of design (hereinafter referred to as the Doctoral Committee) means a group of internationally recognized artists, high-level researchers and doctors of art responsible for the content, quality, organization and execution of the doctoral studies.

- Doctoral Department means an administrative structure that organizes the doctoral studies and the implementation of decisions of the Doctoral Committee.

- Doctoral Student's Supervisor means a recognized artist, researcher or doctor of art who meets the requirements set by the Regulations for Doctoral Studies and supervises the creative and/ or research part of the art project and the Doctoral Student's studies.

- Doctoral Student's Research Supervisor means a researcher or doctor of art who meets the requirements set by the Regulations for Doctoral Studies and supervises the research part of the art project.

- Doctoral Student's work plan means an individual Doctoral Student's work plan that provides for the stages and terms of doctoral studies and preparation of the art project (creative and research work), participation in international mobility and/ or art (scientific) event programs.

- Defence Council means a group of artists, researchers and/ or doctors of art formed by the Doctoral Committee that assesses the defended art project and decides whether the Doctoral Student should be awarded a doctoral degree in art.

- Adviser means the person who consults the Doctoral Student preparing the creative and/ or research work of the art project.

- Postgraduate studies in art mean third-cycle university studies in the field of art studies, designed to train teachers of higher education subjects in the field of art studies and to provide specialization for artists, as well as preparation and defence of art projects.

- Art Licentiate means a qualification degree awarded to a person who completed a postgraduate study program, prepared and publicly presented and defended an art project, and also a person who has a qualification degree of an art licentiate.

- Art project is a set of works prepared and submitted for defence during doctoral studies, consisting of two equivalent parts: artistic-creative (hereinafter referred to as creative) and research.

- Doctor of Arts means a degree awarded to a person who completed a doctoral study program, prepared and publicly presented and defended an art project, and also a person who has a qualification degree of doctor in art.

- Internationally recognized artist means a recognized artist whose particularly significant works have been realized in Lithuania and abroad, in prestigious art spaces or/ and who has developed internationally renowned artists.

- Recognized artist means a creator or performer of works of art whose creative activity is characterized by works of special significance for art and culture, implemented in Lithuania and/ or abroad, who has earned wide recognition of public and art professionals, won prestigious international or national awards and other high-level awards, or/and who has developed renowned artists and meets the requirements set out by the higher education institution in which it seeks to obtain or holds a position.

- Other definitions used in these Regulations are defined in the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. The right of VAA to organize the doctoral studies in the field of design is granted (and, if necessary, revoked) by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania.

4. Doctoral studies include studies, preparation and defence of an art project. The Doctor of Arts degree is awarded to a person if he/ she has fulfilled the doctoral requirements set out in these Regulations, demonstrated the ability to apply creative methods, solve and theoretically formulate creative problems that are characteristic of the field of design independently and critically by preparing an art project and presenting it publicly (at exhibitions, creative competitions and other events), submitted and defended the art project.

5. The Doctoral Student has all the rights and obligations established in the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania and the VAA Statute.

6. Matters related to doctoral studies, defence of the art project and granting of doctoral degrees in art are solved by the Doctoral Committee.

7. The Doctoral Committee is approved by the Senate upon the recommendation of the Rector of VAA. The Doctoral Committee consists of 9 internationally recognized artists, high-level researchers and/ or doctors of art working at VAA. The Doctoral Committee must include at least 3 internationally recognized artists and 2 recognized artists and/ or doctors of art and 4 researchers. An artist or a doctor of art is appointed as the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee. The same person may sit on no more than two Doctoral Committees.

8. The Doctoral Committee:

8.1. decides on matters related to admission to and expulsion of Doctoral Students;

8.2. coordinates and approves doctoral study programs and art projects, approves examination and assessment deadlines;

8.3. Submits the Supervisors and Advisers of Doctoral Students for the Rector's approval;

8.4. provides conclusions on the quality of doctoral studies, creative and research work, its presentation in exhibitions, creative competitions, joint creative projects, cultural and artistic or scientific publications and the implementation of the doctoral art project, assesses the Doctoral Students;

8.5. Submits the doctoral art project Defence Councils and the dates of public defence of these projects for the Rector's approval.

9. Funds for doctoral scholarships, remuneration for the work and social insurance of Supervisors, scientific and artistic Advisers, art project reviewers, doctoral students' creative work, as well as other expenses related to the granting of a doctoral degree in art are provided for in the cost estimates of VAA.

10. The Doctoral Department of VAA is responsible for managing the doctoral documentation and coordinating the activities of members participating in the process of doctoral studies.

## II. ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF DESIGN

11. Individuals are admitted to doctoral studies through an open competition. The competition is open to individuals with a master's degree or an equivalent higher education degree who have achieved high artistic results, express an original creative position, critical thinking, artistic knowledge, possess a broad outlook and an ability to reasonably articulate ideas both verbally and in writing.

12. The duration of doctoral studies is up to 4 years.

13. The competition for admission to doctoral studies is announced by the Doctoral Department of VAA.

14. The competition for doctoral studies is conducted by the admissions commission, which is formed by the Doctoral Committee's own and, if required, invited members. The composition of the admissions commission is approved by the Rector of VAA.

15. The doctoral candidate must submit the following:

15.1. An application addressed for the Rector of VAA;

15.2. a description of personal, scientific and creative activities;

15.3. copies of the qualification degree or equivalent higher education diploma and its annexes;

15.4. reference letters from two recognized artists (prepared in the calendar year when the competition for admission is taking place);

15.5. a list of his/ her creative works and their reproductions (portfolio), copies of diplomas from competitions, exhibitions, reviews, etc., press reviews, publications (if any);

15.6. a description of the art project in 3000 to 5000 words;

15.7. two photographs (3x4).

16. The admission competition is conducted in two stages:

16.1. assessment-review of creative activities and professional preparation. The admissions commission reviews the documents of the candidates, reference letters from recognized artists and their portfolios. If the admissions commission decides that the artistic level of the candidate's creative work is insufficient, he/ she no longer participates in the competition. The review is graded on a 10-point scale;

16.2. presentation and discussion of the description of the planned art project. During this stage, the candidates give a verbal presentation of the planned art projects to the admissions commission – both their creative and research parts. The interview is graded on a 10-point scale. It can also take place by electronic means.

The admissions commission selects individuals for doctoral studies after the review and the interview.

17. After receiving the conclusion of the admissions commission, the Doctoral Committee discusses the results of the competition and submits a proposal to the Rector of VAA regarding the admission of individuals to doctoral studies.

18. The list of admitted Doctoral Students is approved by the Rector.

### III. IMPLEMENTATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

19. The Doctoral Committee, taking into account the requests of the Doctoral Student, submits the Supervisors of the creative and research parts of the Doctoral Student's art project for the Rector's approval. The Doctoral Student's Supervisors must be approved no later than within 1 month from the date of commencement of the studies. If the Supervisor of the creative part of the Doctoral Student's art project has a doctoral degree in science or art, he/she may also be appointed as the Research Supervisor of the Doctoral Student's art project.

20. The Supervisor of the creative part of the Doctoral Student's art project – professor or associate professor – must be a recognized artist teaching the subjects of the studied area, who has worked at VAA for at least 128 classroom hours annually during the last 3 years and during that time implemented artistic activities the results of which were included in the annual report on artistic activities of VAA. The Supervisor can supervise up to 4 doctoral students at a time.

21. The Research Supervisor of the art project must be an active researcher or a doctor of art conducting scientific/ artistic research and meeting the qualification requirements for a senior researcher. He/ she can supervise up to 4 doctoral students at a time.

22. During the implementation of the art project, if required, the Doctoral Student may be assigned an Adviser. The Adviser may be a creating recognized artist or researcher whose creative work or research is related to the art project being prepared by the Doctoral Student. The Adviser may be appointed for a period of at least two semesters. One Doctoral Student may have no more than one Adviser at a time.

23. The Doctoral Student has the right to submit a motivated appeal to the Doctoral Committee, requesting the replacement of the Supervisor or Adviser. The appeal of the Doctoral Student must be examined and the decision made within one month of receiving it.

24. The Creative Supervisor of the art project:

24.1. Prepares the curriculum of the Doctoral Student's, creative and scientific activities, assists the Doctoral Student in preparing his/ her work plan and shaping the contents of the art project;

24.2. provides artistic and methodological assistance to the Doctoral Student;

24.3. consults the Doctoral Student regularly during the implementation of the art project and preparation for public presentation and defence;

24.4. after assessing the readiness of the Doctoral Student in art, submits the proposal to the Doctoral Committee to determine the date of public defence of the art project and together with the Doctoral Department of VAA organizes its defence.

25. The Research Supervisor of the art project helps the Doctoral Student to prepare the research part of the art project.

26. By order of the Rector, the Doctoral Student is assigned to the VAA division the field of study and artistic activities of which correspond to the Doctoral Student's field of study. The head of this division, together with the Supervisor of the Doctoral Student, takes care of the Doctoral Student's studies and artistic activities, provides methodological assistance, and ensures that the Doctoral Student has proper working conditions and tools.

27. An individual work plan is drawn up for each Doctoral Student. The work plan includes the subjects to be studied, the forms and terms of accounting for them, the components of the art project – both the creative and research activities, the stages of their preparation, the terms of accounting for them and the manner of defending of the art project. Every six months the Doctoral Committee assesses the Doctoral Student and decides whether

the work plan is being implemented. At the end of each academic year, during the assessment, the Committee reviews the Doctoral Student's work plan and, if necessary, approves its modifications. The Doctoral Student and his/ her Supervisor participate in the meeting of the Doctoral Committee discussing the Doctoral Student's work plan. If the Doctoral Student does not pass the assessment, he/ she is expelled from doctoral studies by the order of the Rector.

28. The VAA Rector may, upon receipt of the Doctoral Student's request and the Supervisor's consent, grant an academic leave for up to one year. No scholarship is paid during the leave.

29. The VAA Rector, upon receipt of the Doctoral Student's request and the Supervisor's consent, for important reasons (illness, maternity leave, etc.), may:

29.1. extend unpaid academic leave;

29.2. postpone the deadlines for taking examinations, performing creative activities and attending assessment provided for in the doctoral student's individual work plan for no longer than 3 months.

30. The Doctoral Student may also study the subjects corresponding to the direction of his/ her art project in other higher education institutions, if the programs of those subjects are created in accordance with the requirements of the doctoral studies.

31. According to the examination reports submitted by the Doctoral Student, examinations of previously passed subjects taken during doctoral studies in art or science may also be accepted.

32. The curriculum of the doctoral studies consists of the following: art studies in the field of design (the volume of subjects of the studies is not less than 40 credits); artistic-creative practice (volume not less than 80 credits ) and research (volume not less than 80 credits ). The total volume of the doctoral studies must amount to 240 credits.

33. The doctoral studies must consist of at least 4 subjects. The Doctoral Student studies at least 2 compulsory subjects of the field of studies and at least 2 elective subjects. The studies of each subject are completed by an examination.

34. After two years of doctoral studies, the Doctoral Student must account for the study subjects provided for in the work plan in an examination or another form. One semester may be assigned for the elimination of the debts of the Doctoral Student who has not passed the assessment or accounted for the study subjects. If the debts are not eliminated, the Doctoral Student is expelled from the doctoral studies. If the Doctoral Student does not submit an art project for defence by the end of the doctoral studies, he/ she is expelled from the doctoral studies.

35. The Doctoral Committee approves the general part of the doctoral curriculum prepared by the Council of the Faculty of Higher Education. The general part of the doctoral studies provides for the doctoral subjects, the specified number of which must be studied by each Doctoral Student in art studies in the field of arts. The Doctoral Committee also approves the special subject curricula prepared by the lecturers. The general and degree subjects are included in the Doctoral Student's individual work plan. The Doctoral Student's individual work plan includes deadlines for passing each examination.

36. The Doctoral Student may be given lectures and supervised practical training (except for foreign languages) by individuals with an educational academic title and/ or scientific degree, whose artistic or scientific activities of the last five years correspond to the subject being taught. Examination is conducted by at least three lecturers, one of them being the lecturer who gave lectures or supervised the practical training. One of the examiners may be the Doctoral Student's Supervisor or Adviser. The schedule of examinations is drawn up by the Doctoral Department. The examiners recommended by the Doctoral Committee are

approved by the Rector of VAA.

37. A minimum of 50 hours and a maximum of 150 hours of pedagogical practice may be planned for the Doctoral Students.

38. The Doctoral Student's personal file is created at the Doctoral Department of VAA, in which the following documents must be stored:

38.1. application for admission to the doctoral studies with the annexes specified in Paragraph 16 of these Regulations;

38.2. documents related to the admission to doctoral studies;

38.3. documents related to the appointment of Supervisors and Advisers;

38.4. Doctoral Student's individual work plan;

38.5. Doctoral Student's assessment documents;

38.6. documents related to the implementation of the Doctoral Student's individual work plan and documents related to the postponement of other deadlines set for accounting for the study subjects;

38.7. reports of doctoral examinations;

38.8. description of the prepared art project or other material describing the art project;

38.9. list of creative works performed during the doctoral studies, copies of documents related to participation in exhibitions, reviews, conferences, competitions, festivals, joint art projects, etc., press reviews related to the creative activities;

38.10. documents used during defence of the art project:

38.10.1. feedback from the members of the art project Defence Council;

38.10.2. medium used for recording of the art project defence meeting;

38.10.3. voting protocol of the art project Defence Council and the decision to grant of the doctor of art degree;

38.11. decision on termination of the doctoral studies in case of negative assessment results or due to other reasons specified in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies;

38.12. documents related to appeals and examination of requests;

38.13. Reasoned decision of the Rector of VAA to revoke the decision on granting the doctor of art degree (if such granting was made);

38.14. copy of the doctor of arts diploma.

### III. ART PROJECT

39. While pursuing a doctoral degree in arts, students must prepare and defend an art project consisting of a creative part and a research part of equal importance.

40. The creative part of the art project consists of works of art created, performed and presented to the public during the doctoral studies. Together, they must reveal the Doctoral Student's professional development, diverse artistic individuality, and creative maturity. The creative part of the art project is presented for defence together with the material presenting and/ or testifying to the work (exhibition catalogues, photos, critic reviews, other material available from the official sources).

41. The doctoral research paper is prepared within 4 academic years (8 semesters) by studying the selected research topic and writing and defending the prepared research paper at the end of the studies.

42. The research part of the art project summarizes the research carried out by the Doctoral Student. It must reveal the skills of methodical research, the ability to independently interpret and reasonably examine the relevant problems related to the artistic and cultural processes. Various types of research can be conducted: detailed multifaceted research and substantiation of one's creative work and/ or its interpretation; examination of specific art

practice-related problems, theoretical and methodological research. During the preparation of the research work, sources, scientific literature and other information (in Lithuanian and in foreign languages) are studied in the selected aspect. Interactions between practical and theoretical activities, interdisciplinary insights are encouraged.

43. The research part of the art project requires the following: justification of relevance of the problem, defined object of research, purpose, tasks, novelty, review of research on the topic in Lithuania and abroad, explanation of the research concept, description of methodology of the doctoral research, results obtained by the Doctoral Student, their reliability and relationship with the data of other researchers, examination of the object of research/ components of the problem, conclusions of the research.

44. The research part of the art project is prepared in Lithuanian or foreign language, if approved by the Doctoral Committee. Its volume must be 30000–40000 words plus a summary of approximately 5000 words. The summary is prepared in the language different from that of the text of the research paper. In cases when the text of the research paper is prepared in a language other than Lithuanian, a summary in Lithuanian must be included.

45. The research part of the art project must be prepared in the correct language, its bibliographic selection (references, lists of literature and illustrations), list of publications published by the Doctoral Student on the topic of the doctoral studies, other additional information required for the topic analysed must be in order, The description of the research part of the art project must include the Doctoral Student's Supervisor, science and art Advisers and members of the Defence Council.

46. The participation of the Doctoral Student in local and especially international scientific conferences, art (science) event programs is desirable.

47. The Doctoral Student may submit the art project for defence when he/ she passes all the examinations provided for in the doctoral curriculum and completes the creative activities provided for in the individual work plan, announces the main ideas of the research in cultural and artistic and/ or scientific publications.

#### IV. DEFENSE OF THE ART PROJECT

48. The Doctoral Student submits the art project agreed with the Supervisor (s) to the Doctoral Department together with the application for defence. The Doctoral Department, after checking whether the Doctoral Student has implemented the individual work plan and other requirements established in the Regulations submits the art project to the Doctoral Committee.

49. During the course of the doctoral studies, the Doctoral Committee appoints individual reviewers to evaluate the creative and research parts of the art project. The reviewers must evaluate the Doctoral Student's research within one month and present their written conclusions and suggestions.

50. After receiving the conclusions of the reviewers, the Doctoral Committee decides whether the art project could be defended, whether it needs to be corrected and by when the project should be corrected in accordance with the comments of the reviewers.

51. If the Doctoral Committee decides that the prepared art project should be defended, it is defended in its entirety (both the creative and the research parts are defended at the same time).

52. For the defence of the art project, the Doctoral Committee forms a Defence Council consisting of 5 members and appoints one of its members (artist or doctor of art) as the chairperson, whose participation during the meeting of the Defence Council is mandatory. The Defence Council must include three artists and/ or doctors of art and two scientists. At

least one member of the Defence Council must be from a foreign institution conducting related doctoral studies. One of the members of the Defence Council may be an internationally recognized artist who is not working at the university conducting the doctoral studies. The members of the Defence Council must meet the qualification requirements for individuals seeking to hold the position of a professor. The composition of the Defence Council is approved by the Rector of VAA.

53. 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.

54. No later than 30 calendar days before the defence of the art project, the Doctoral Department:

54.1. submits the publication of the art project to the members of the Defence Council and the library of the institution where the work was prepared and publishes it to Lithuanian Academic Electronic Library's (eLABa) electronic thesis and dissertation database (ETD) subsystem;

54.2. sends a notification about the art project to be defended to the Research Council of Lithuania.

55. The art project is defended at a public meeting of the Defence Council. The meeting is held in Lithuanian. In cases where another language is used at the meeting, the Doctoral Department ensures it is translated into Lithuanian. If the art project is defended at a non-Lithuanian institution, the meeting is held in the foreign language acceptable to the Defence Council. The meeting is chaired by the chairperson of the Defence Council. The meeting is considered legitimate if at least 4 members of the Defence Council are present. During the meeting, the feedback on the art project received from the non-participating members of the Defence Council and other comments are presented.

56. When defending the art project at the meeting of the Defence Council, the integrity of the creative and research parts must be clearly demonstrated, the professional skills matching the degree of a doctor of art in the field of arts, the individuality of the artistic position and then new approach and knowledge in the field of research must be displayed.

57. When presenting the creative part of the project during the public defence of the art project, the Doctoral Student comments on creative ideas and (or) technological solutions, substantiates his/ her artistic position and relevance of the work, describes its place in the development of art, answers the questions and comments. The Defence Council evaluates the originality of the submitted creative project, as well as the the Doctoral Student' professionalism, artistic maturity, knowledge, overall competence and/ or ability to discuss cultural and artistic issues.

58. When presenting the research part of the art project, the Doctoral Student presents the most important results and conclusions of his/ her work, indicates his/ her contribution to the researched topics. The Doctoral Student answers the questions and comments on the observations received. The members of the Defence Council evaluate the quality of the research, the novelty and originality of the results, the validity of the conclusions, indicate the shortcomings and inaccuracies of the work. During the defence, the members of the Defence Council assess the doctoral student's general abilities, overall competence, and readiness to work as an independent researcher.

59. After discussing with the Dissertation Candidate, the members of the Defence Council vote whether he/ she should be granted the doctor of arts degree. The decision to award the doctor of arts degree is made if at least 4 members of the Defence Council vote in

favour of it. If one of the parts of the art project (creative or research) is not defended, the doctor of arts degree is not granted. The voting protocol and the decision to award the doctor of art degree is signed by all members of the Defence Council present at the meeting.

60. The Doctoral Department notifies the Research Council of Lithuania about the results of the defence no later than within 10 business days after the meeting of the art project Defence Council. Within 2 weeks from the decision of the Defence Council to award the doctor of art degree, one copy of the publication of the defended art project is submitted to Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

61. If the Defence Council decides that the doctor of art degree should not be granted, the individual has the right to resubmit the revised and/ or supplemented art project once, but not earlier than after one and not later than after two years. In this case, the costs related to the organization of the second art project defence meeting shall be borne by the applicant. If the fact of scientific misconduct (plagiarism, etc.) is established, the art project may not be defended and the already granted doctor of art degree is revoked by the decision of the Doctoral Committee of the university that granted it.

62. If a doctoral student submits an art project for defence before the end of the doctoral program, but fails to defend it for important reasons, the Doctoral Committee may decide to allow the art project to be defended in the usual order 12 months after the end of the doctoral studies. An art project that has not been defended during that period may be defended externally, in accordance with the procedure set out in Chapter V of these Regulations.

## V. ACQUIRING A DOCTOR OF ART DEGREE EXTERNALLY

63. An individual with a master's degree or an equivalent higher education degree who is actively involved in the creative activities, has achieved significant creative results and is able to prepare an art project that meets the requirements of these Regulations may pursue a doctor of arts degree externally.

64. The External Student must present a detailed report of the last 5 years of artistic activity, presenting his/ her creative achievements on the national and international levels. The External Student must have independently prepared a research paper that is suitable for obtaining the doctor of art degree and corresponds to the requirements of the Regulations for Doctoral Studies.

65. The report of artistic-creative activities, an independent research work (a monograph may be published) and its summary together with the application for permission to defend an art project externally are addressed to the Rector of VAA. The application must be accompanied by:

65.1. reviews of professional art critics and other information from official sources;

65.2. a list and copies of publications in cultural and artistic and/ or scientific publications (if any);

65.3. copies of the master's diploma (or equivalent higher education degree) and its supplements;

65.4. certified copies of doctoral examination reports (if any) or extracts thereof;

65.5. a description of personal and creative activities (*Curriculum Vitae*).

66. The Committee, no later than three months after the submission of the application, convenes a meeting which is also attended by the External Student. It examines the material submitted and appoints individual reviewers to evaluate the creative and research parts of the art project. They provide their written conclusions and suggestions. After receiving the conclusions of the reviewers, the Doctoral Committee decides whether the art project meets the requirements of the doctoral program and could be defended, whether it needs to be

corrected and by when the project should be corrected in accordance with the comments of the reviewers.

67. Having decided that the submitted or slightly modified External Student's art project can be recommended for defence, the Doctoral Committee:

67.1. submits the Advisers of the External Student who will perform the functions of the External Student's art project Supervisors for the Rector's approval; if the person seeking to obtain a doctor of art degree externally is someone who has already studied for a doctoral degree but has not submitted an art project, the Committee may appoint the former doctoral Supervisor or another person as his/ her Adviser;

decides on accepting the doctoral study examinations already passed by the External Student, determines which other doctoral examinations and by when must be passed by the External Student;

67.3. sets the deadline for the defence of the art project, which may not be later than 18 months after the decision.

68. The External Student can submit his/ her art project for defence after publishing the main ideas of the research part in cultural and art publications.

69. The examinations of the External Student is organized, the art project examined and defended in accordance with Chapters III and IV of these Regulations. The External Student covers only the costs of the Academy that are directly related to the acquisition of the doctor of art degree.

70. If the Doctoral Committee decides that the art project cannot be prepared for defence within 18 months of the decision, or the Defence Council decides that the External Student should not be granted the doctor of art degree, the External Student may appeal to the VAA Senate. If the Senate approves the negative decision of the Committee or the Defence Council, the External Student may re-apply for the defence of the art project not earlier than after 2 years.

## VI. GRANTING OF THE DOCTOR OF ART DEGREE

71. The Defence Council having adopted a positive decision on granting the doctor of arts degree, submits a document confirming this fact to the Rector.

72. Based on the decision submitted by the Defence Council, The VAA Rector signs the doctor of arts diploma together with the chairperson of the Defence Council.

73. If the Defence Council adopts a negative decision on granting the doctor of arts degree, the degree is not awarded.

74. If the Defence Council decides on the negative evaluation of the project prepared by the Doctoral Student, the Doctoral Student may submit an appeal to the Rector of VAA. The appeal must be examined and a decision must be taken within one month of receipt. An appeals commission is formed by the order of the Rector to examine the appeal and re-evaluate the art project. More than half of the members of the appeals commission must be members of the Defence Council who did not evaluate the art project in question. If the art project is evaluated negatively for the second time, the project is no longer evaluated and the doctoral studies are terminated. In this case, the individual expelled from doctoral studies may apply for an external doctoral of art degree no earlier than after one year. Complaints regarding the non-awarded doctoral degrees may be submitted to the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures.

75. The decision to grant the doctor of art degree may be revoked if:

75.1. the fact of scientific misconduct is established;

75.2. the doctor of art degree is granted in breach of the Regulations.

76. VAA revokes the decision to grant the doctor of art degree when the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures makes a binding decision to do so.

77. The form of the doctor or art diploma and the procedure for the production, records and registration and issuing of diploma forms is established by the Minister of Education and Science.

## VI. DOCTORAL STUDIES FOR ART LICENTIATES

78. Only Art Licentiates with experience in research and creative practical work are admitted to doctoral studies.

79. An Art Licentiate, who has carried out intensive research and creative activities in the field of art studied for at least 2 years after graduating from postgraduate studies in art (has publicly presented works of high artistic level) and published publications in cultural, artistic and/ or scientific publications (at least 2 publications) is recognized as an individual with experience in research and creative practical work. The recognition is granted by the admissions commission.

80. The Art Licentiate has the right to obtain a doctor of art degree by studying in a state-funded or non-funded doctoral positions in accordance with the procedure established by the Regulations for Doctoral Studies in Art, preparing and defending an art project meeting the requirements of paragraphs 31–34 of the Regulations and paragraphs 38–44 of these Regulations.

### Procedure for Admission of Art Licentiates to Doctoral Studies

81. The Rector announces a competition for doctoral studies for Art Licentiates. The information about the competition is published on the Academy's website.

82. When applying for the doctoral studies, the Art Licentiate must submit the following:

82.1. An application addressed for the Rector;

82.2. a description of personal, scientific and creative activities;

82.3. the master's or equivalent higher university education degree diploma and its supplement;

82.4. the Art Licentiate's diploma;

82.5. the art project defended during postgraduate studies in art (portfolio and description of the creative part of the final work and the text of the research work);

82.6. a detailed report on the artistic and creative activities carried out after the completion of postgraduate studies in art (copies of diplomas of competitions, exhibitions, reviews, etc., press reviews, publications, etc.);

82.7. reference letters from two recognized artists (prepared in the calendar year when the competition for admission is taking place);

82.8. copies of publications in cultural, artistic and/ or scientific publications (at least 2 publications);

82.9. a description of the planned art project (creative part and artistic research) (from 3000 to 5000 words; printed and electronic versions of the text);

82.10. two photographs.

83. When applying for doctoral studies, the Art Licentiate participates in a competition which consists of two parts:

83.1. assessment-review of creative activities and professional preparation. The admissions commission reviews the documents of the candidates, reference letters from recognized artists and their portfolios. If the admissions commission decides that the artistic

level of the candidate's creative work is insufficient, he/ she no longer participates in the competition. The review is graded on a 10-point scale;

83.2. presentation and discussion of the description of the planned art project. During this stage, the candidates give a verbal presentation of the planned art project to the admissions commission – both its creative and research parts. The interview is graded on a 10-point scale;

83.3. after the interview, the doctoral admissions commission selects the individuals for the doctoral studies. The list of admitted Doctoral Students is approved by the Rector.

#### Procedure and Scope of Doctoral Studies for Art Licentiates

84. Doctoral studies of art Art Licentiates at VAA are implemented in accordance with the Regulations for Doctoral Studies in Art and the requirements of paragraphs 19–37 of these Regulations.

85. Postgraduate studies in art are equated to the part of the third-cycle doctoral studies in art: 120 credits (Official Gazette, 2012, No. 793-4057).

86. For Art Licentiates who meet the requirements of paragraph 80 of these Regulations, the experience of research and creative work is equated to 60 credits of doctoral studies in art.

87. The volume of doctoral studies for Art Licentiates is 60 credits:

87.1. artistic-creative practice (volume not less than 25 credits);

87.2. artistic research (volume not less than 25 credits);

87.3. foundation courses (volume not less than 10 credits).

88. The maximum number of state-funded doctoral positions in art to which the Art Licentiates can be admitted each year is allocated by the Minister of Education and Science.