

**JOINT DOCTORAL STUDIES IN HISTORY AND THEORY OF ARTS OF THE
VILNIUS ACADEMY OF ARTS, THE LITHUANIAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURE
RESEARCH AND THE LITHUANIAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND THEATRE**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE STUDIES AND PREPARATION OF THE DISSERTATION
AND MINIMUM ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS**

In order to ensure the efficiency of the doctoral studies, the high quality of the dissertation preparation, and the smooth cooperation between doctoral students and supervisors, the Joint Committee of the Vilnius Academy of Arts, the Lithuanian Institute of Culture Research, the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre for the doctoral studies in history and theory of arts provides the following guidelines for the studies and the preparation of the dissertation, along with the assessment requirements:

Minimum requirements for the assessment of doctoral students

Semester I – the compulsory and elective subjects are studied; the concept of the dissertation is refined, the preliminary content of the dissertation, a review of the most relevant literature and the dissertation prospectus are prepared.

Semester II – the compulsory and elective subjects are studied, the dissertation prospectus is defended.

Semester III – a draft of the first part of the dissertation is prepared.

Semester IV – a draft of the second part of the dissertation is prepared, at least one scientific publication in a peer-reviewed publication is published/accepted for publication.

Semester V – all examinations of the study subjects are passed, an outline of the dissertation introduction and drafts of the individual parts of the dissertation are prepared (at least 60% of the dissertation is prepared).

Semester VI – at least one month of a targeted traineeship at a foreign research or study institution is completed, a draft of a second scientific publication is prepared and the Doctoral Student participates in at least one international scientific event.

Semester VII – a full draft of the dissertation is prepared, two publications (at least one

international) in peer-reviewed scientific publications are published.

Semester VII – the peer reviews are received, the second scientific publication in a peer-reviewed publication is published/accepted for publication, the dissertation manuscript and summary in English, that meet the requirements of a scientific article, are ready for publication.

The assessment takes place twice a academic year: in February (for the autumn semester) and at the end of May/beginning of June (for the spring semester).

Individual study programme and work plan

The Supervisor and the Doctoral Student prepare the doctoral student's individual study curriculum and **work plan** within one month of the Supervisor's approval at the latest, which must be discussed within the department/research division of the Doctoral Student's institution (to which he/she belongs) and approved by the Committee.

The volume of the doctoral studies is at least 30 credits, which are obtained by studying the compulsory and elective subjects of the doctoral studies. Dissertation Preparation Seminars, a module for History and Theory of Arts doctoral students, is compulsory. It includes the presentation and defence of the dissertation prospectus, analysis and discussion of the parts of the dissertation and the development of transferable skills (academic writing in English, communication skills).

Doctoral students choose elective subjects from modules in the fields of Art History, Theory and Criticism, History of Culture and General Competence Development, or from other doctoral studies subjects offered by the universities.

Doctoral Student's work plan means an individual work plan that provides for the stages and terms of doctoral studies, scientific research, parts of the dissertation, publications and presentations on the doctoral topic.

Dissertation prospectus

In addition to the **work plan**, the Doctoral Student, together with the Supervisor, prepares in the first semester of the studies and submits to the seminar in the second semester of the studies a dissertation prospectus – an extensive content of the dissertation, presenting the purpose, object, objectives, methodological approaches and resources of the research, and announcing the content of the future chapters at least in a few paragraphs. The prospectus is accompanied by a detailed bibliography covering the sources and literature with which the Doctoral Student is already familiar or which the Doctoral Student intends to use of in the dissertation.

The volume of the prospectus depends on the research and must be between 5,000 and 8,000 words (15–20 pages, 40,000–60,000 characters with spaces), not including a bibliography of 5–8 pages and a few illustrations or diagrams that are essential to the research.

A detailed and well-thought-out dissertation prospectus serves a researcher as a long-term research strategy and as a conceptual extensive (problematic and thematic) **plan for the dissertation**, revealing the research problem and the ways to solve it. The original prospectus of the dissertation can and must change during the course of the research. The prospectus prepared in the first year is presented at a Dissertation Preparation Seminar, which takes place as a defence of the dissertation concept, and is submitted to the Doctoral Committee prior to the assessment of Semester II.