



Vilnius
University

Performance Report 2024



Vilnius

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Foreword by the Rector

The complex security situation in the region, geopolitical instability, and rapid development of technology that demands swift readjustment – these are the circumstances to which we must not only adapt but also actively seek solutions, assume leadership, and take on responsibility. Vilnius University maintains strong positions in response to challenges by strengthening interdisciplinary and international cooperation, being open to change, and expanding the University's mission.

In 2024, the research activities of Vilnius University were distinguished by the abundance of international projects. A number of Horizon Europe programme grants have been won. Currently, 46 projects of this programme are being implemented at the University, with a combined value of approximately EUR 15 million. The year 2024 was also exceptional in that funding for three European Research Council grants was approved. In addition, funds were allocated to eight postdoctoral trainees under the prestigious Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme.

Researchers from Vilnius University published two dozen publications in the journal 'Nature' and other journals within the 'Nature Publishing Group', as well as a number of monographs for international publishing houses ('CRC Press', 'Springer Nature', 'De Gruyter', etc.), and were awarded three Lithuanian Science Prizes.

2024 was also a significant milestone in the development of the University's research and innovation infrastructure. We opened the Medical Science Centre, enabling breakthroughs in the health sciences and providing new opportunities for interdisciplinary cooperation.

We have maintained moderate yet consistently steady growth in the area of studies. We admitted more than four thousand undergraduate students to the first – Bachelor's – cycle, including 850 international students, which is more than ever before. The increasing interest of students from other countries prompts the expansion of our international study programme portfolio, which is why we offer new high-quality study programmes in English every year.

One such programme is the recently launched joint Master's degree in 'International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence' conducted by the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics together with our partners from the ARQUS European University Alliance – the Universities of Padua, Granada, and Minho.

The establishment of the Didactics Centre of the Faculty of Physics completed the process of creating STEM units at faculties. Once the Methodological STEAM Education Centre opens its doors, we will have the most extensive networked infrastructure for updating educational practices in Lithuania, which will help implement the University's ambition to strengthen the research-based teaching of course units.

To improve the quality of teaching, within the last year, more than 500 staff members participated in courses and programmes to strengthen teaching competencies, and more than 200 of them took part in the EdTech project to update or create digital learning content for the course units they teach. The Teaching Innovation Day, which took place for the second year in a row at the beginning of December, once again confirmed the need for and the significance of sharing good teaching practices.

International cooperation is also becoming stronger. Together with Sorbonne University, we organised the conference 'Lithuania and France: a Distant Neighbourhood – a Shared Experience,' which marked the opening of the Lithuanian Season in France; we also signed an institutional cooperation agreement to pave the way to establishing a long-term partnership. We strengthen and encourage engagement in the activities of large academic consortia and networks such as CERN, EMBL, ELI, SHARE, etc.

Remuneration increased significantly in 2024. In autumn, we became the first academic institution in Lithuania to offer supplementary health insurance. We also conducted an employee survey; the feedback and responses received are guiding improvements to the work and study environment.

In addition to the aforementioned Medical Science Centre, further progress has been made in infrastructural development. We acquired a building on Islandijos Street to support the development of research and studies in educational sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences. We signed a construction contract for the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences, and building work has already commenced. An international tender was announced for constructing a new building for the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics and updating the Sauletekis complex. We opened a fully renovated Teacher Training Centre at Šiauliai Academy.

The University was visited by the Prime Minister of the Netherlands and current Secretary General of NATO – Mark Rutte; the President of Malta – George Vella; Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland – Szymon Hołownia; the former President of the Republic of Poland – Aleksander Kwaśniewski; and Director Emeritus of the Max Planck Institute and Nobel Laureate – Robert Huber.

An exceptional event in the activities of the Vilnius University Foundation was a bequest of EUR 4.7 million by the Lithuanian-Canadians Angelė and Sigitas Kazlauskas. This doubled the value of the fund and, more importantly, established new traditions of philanthropy in Lithuania.

At the end of September, we organised the Vilnius University Alumni Festival, which was attended by more than 2,000 participants. This helps us expand our community, and the University is becoming more visible as a place to return for cooperation or to deepen one's knowledge. Ties with the Alma Mater are also strengthened through the Merchandise Shop of Vilnius University that was opened on Pilies Street for the community, alumni, and everyone interested.

To mark Vilnius University's birthday, a charity auction was organised for the first time. Members of the community established valuable prizes, and the accumulated sum is being used to finance the VU450 scholarship, i.e. social support for first-year students.

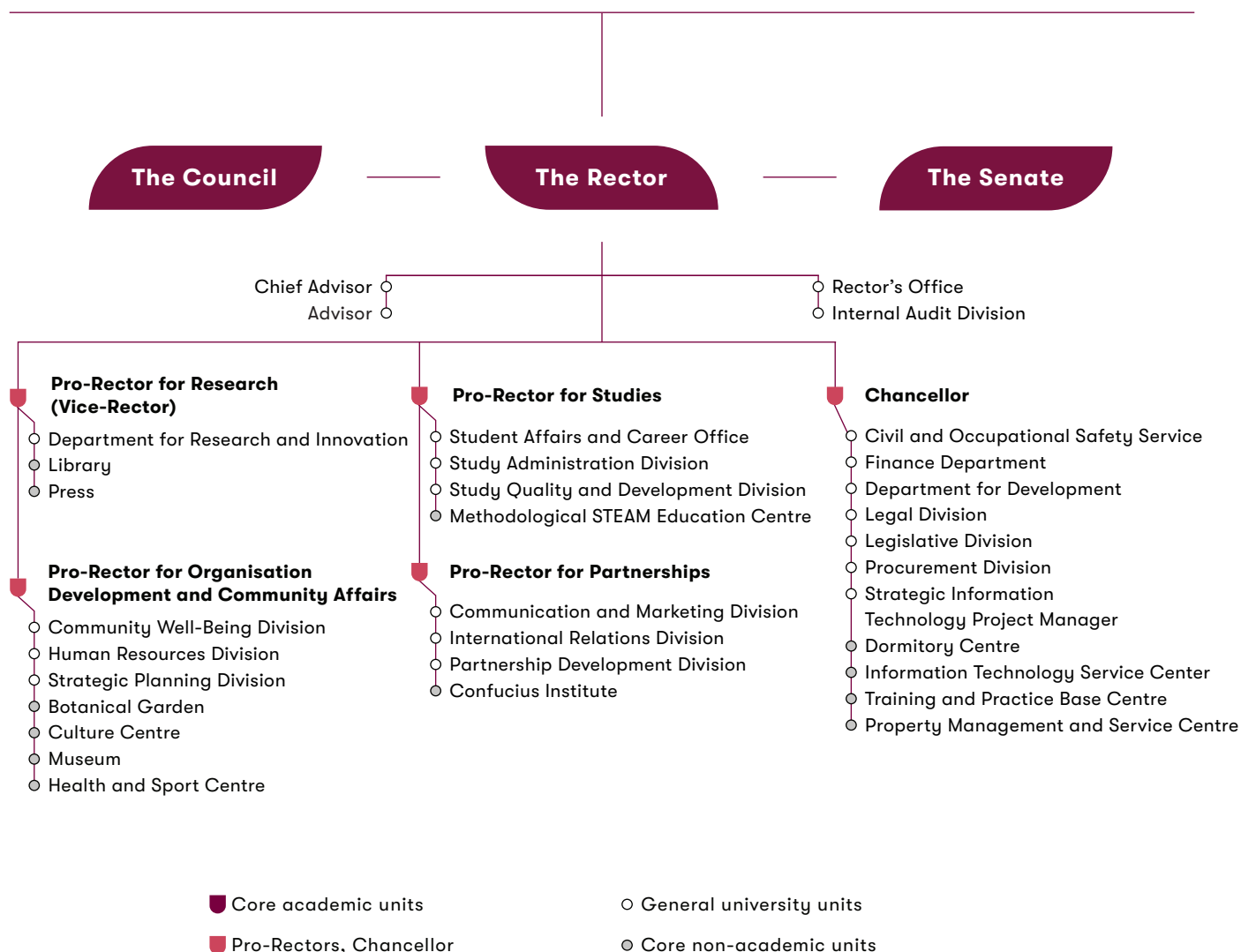
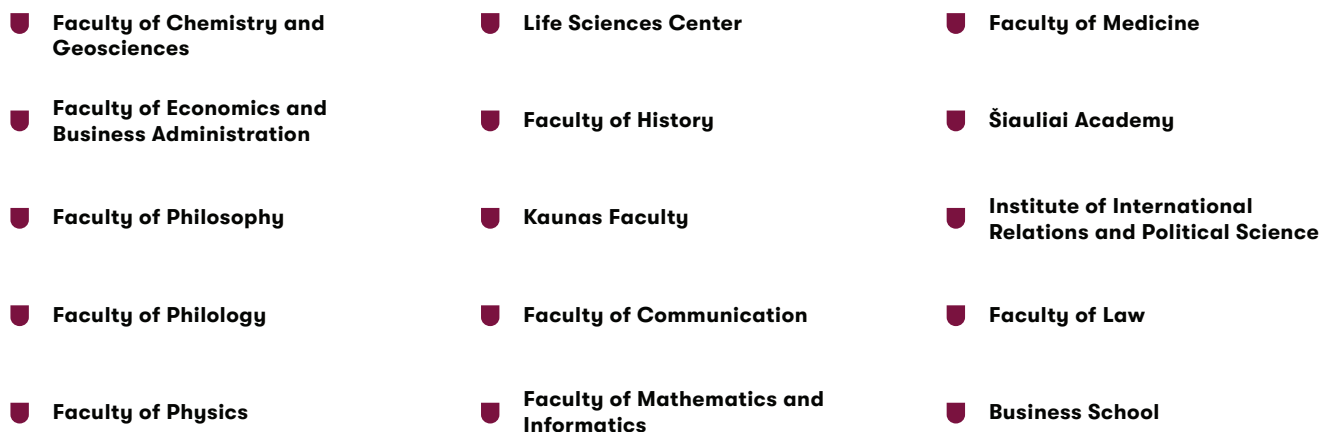
Successful new Lifelong Learning programme options were offered on the 'Kursuok' platform, while 200 pupils graduated from the updated Children's University. A pilot project, VU Academy, was implemented in Vilnius District in partnership with the municipality.

None of these activities and achievements would have been possible without the unified intellectual focus, common goals, and ambitions of the University. Together, we can not only successfully adapt to change but also manage it, predict its progress, and create conducive political, social, and cultural conditions that are more favourable to science.

We live in a time of political change and challenges. It is essential that the new Seimas and Government meet the commitments undertaken in the agreement of the parties on education regarding a consistent increase of funding for science and the remuneration of lecturers and researchers. Our job is to monitor and make a sustained effort to ensure that education retains its priority on the political agenda. For our part, we have expressed and repeatedly implemented on multiple occasions our determination to contribute to the well-being and resilience of the State and society through the activities of the University.

We are now looking forward to working together to shape the new Vilnius University Strategy. As part of this process, we invited the University community to share their ideas on what kind of institution we aspire to work and study at. The stages of strategic alignment are a good opportunity for a broad discussion, during which we will define the key priorities for our activities for the next five years and answer questions about the direction the University is headed in, the way it is growing, the way it is changing in the international research and study environment, and how it is helping to strengthen the foundations of the State and society.

Structure



On 17 December 2024, the **newly elected Council of Vilnius University** began its term of office.



Mission

The undeniable duty and the inalienable right of the University, arising from the past, encouraged by present challenges, and passed on to future generations – to strengthen the cognitive and creative powers of Lithuania and the world, to foster academic and other spiritual and social values, to educate active and responsible leaders of society and citizens of the Lithuanian state.

Vision

We are a University of a living tradition, committed to truth and society. We work together to be a centre of scientific knowledge and critical thinking, recognised in the world and a force of change in Lithuania.

Values

Openness

to the diversity of ideas and views, the distinctiveness of people and identities.



Integrity

of the University's goals, activities and resources, based on personal dignity and respectful collaboration.

Improvement

by creating an enabling environment with a commitment to excellence, growth and acceptance of those wanting to improve in order to achieve exceptional value.



A long-term purpose

stemming from a prospective foresight seen as a responsibility to the state and society, culture and the environment.

Key facts about the University



3,400+ academic employees



24,000+ students



800+ doctoral students



3,200+ foreign students from 120+ countries



Doctoral studies in **29 science fields**



278 study programmes



73 study programmes offered in a foreign language of instruction



530+ research projects



170+ patents and patent applications



28 start-ups



5 ERC grants



The highest position in the ranking of Lithuanian universities



439th in the QS World University Rankings



15 academic units



University campuses in **3** Lithuanian cities



3 university hospitals



Member of the **ARQUS** European University Alliance



Academic library of **national significance**



3 botanical gardens



2 museums



30+ arts groups and sports teams

Key activities in implementing the Vilnius University Strategic Plan for 2021–2025

Table 1. Key activities in implementing the Vilnius University Strategic Plan for 2021–2025*

1. Creating society and the State

1.1. Capable of solving societal problems

1.1.1. The study impact assessment on careers (a graduate survey)

- The model of the structure and organisation of the first cycle and integrated study programmes was updated, ensuring an individualised choice of studies (approved by Resolution No. SPN-37 of 21 May 2024). The content of the pilot study programmes was started to be updated by introducing elements of internationalisation and digitisation of studies.
- The Vilnius University Study Quality Guide (available in Lithuanian) was approved.
- A graduate survey (available in Lithuanian) was prepared and is periodically carried out, analysing the impact of studies on careers.
- An analysis of the implementation of internships was performed and the Regulation on Study Internship at Vilnius University was updated based on its results.
- An annual analysis of graduate career monitoring was conducted and recommendations were made to core academic units on the development of graduates' careers.

1.2. Research of a high international level

1.2.1. An increase in the comparative assessment of the quality evaluation of scientific fields (strengthening the capacity of researchers)

- The development of doctoral schools: the Doctoral School of Medicine and Health Sciences is in operation, and the Doctoral School in the Field of Education was established.
- The portfolio for training doctoral students' transferable skills is being expanded. Summer schools are organised to develop doctoral students' general competencies.
- The development strategies of ten research fields were developed and launched. Taking into account the results of the comparative assessment of research activities in 2018–2022, research development plans are being prepared at the units (plans are already prepared and/or updated in two-thirds of core academic units).

1.2.2. International recognition of research: an increase in the number of top-level international research grants (ERC/ MSCA IF/Coordinated Horizon Europe projects)

- The support system was reformed for the development of international project applications (consultations, targeted training of international application preparation, new ways of finding partners, enabled Crowdhelix platform, optimised application development and submission process).
- The development of interdisciplinary research: one annual call for interdisciplinary research projects (available in Lithuanian), at least two interdisciplinary seminars to promote scientific cooperation ideas and activities are held.

1.2.3. The growth of the share of foreign researchers working at VU for at least a year from the total number of academic staff (50% more than the baseline)

- The description of the procedure for competitions of visiting researchers (doctoral students, post-doctoral trainees, and visiting scientists) (approved by Resolution No. SPN-63 of 23 November 2021) was prepared and is being implemented.
- Attracting visiting researchers: international competitions are being announced and the selection of researchers, recruitment, and monitoring of activities and their results are being carried out.

1.3. Growing influence in society and the State

1.3.1. Expert impact on the State policy-making:

- Participation of the University's experts in the development of the 'LT 2050' Strategy.
- Discussions were initiated on the most important issues of the State and society. A conference on the topic of higher education was organised together with the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.
- Expert involvement of VU employees in the governance of the State: creation of a register of representation of Vilnius University, expert participation of employees in government, ministries, and municipal working groups.

1.3.2 A significant growth of scientific communication

- The Open Science Policy Guidelines ([approved by Resolution No. SPN-12 of 22 February 2022](#)) and implementation plan (Order No. R-221 of 6 June 2023) were approved and are being implemented.
- The [Priority Guidelines for Science Communication](#) (available in Lithuanian) and their implementation plan were approved.
- A one-stop [portal](#) for community consultation and training on open science was created.

1.3.3. Attracting motivated students to all study cycles

- An [implementation plan of measures for attracting international students to VU in 2023–2026](#) (available in Lithuanian) was developed and approved by Order of the Rector (R-256) of 26 June 2023.
- An international marketing plan was prepared and coordinated with the core academic units (approved by Order No. R-256 of 28 June 2023).
- In accordance with the International [Marketing Plan](#) (available in Lithuanian) (R-402), regular monthly meetings of CA and CAU representatives are organised to discuss specific performance plans and results.

1.3.4. Involvement with the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

- The priority Sustainable Development Goals were identified and draft Sustainable Development Guidelines were prepared.
- The development of partnerships with business, public sector, and non-governmental organisations and planning of the VU partnership policy: the Description of the Procedure for the Monitoring, Development and Improvement of Social Partnership at Vilnius University was approved by Order No. R-511 of 10 December 2024.

1.4. The pedagogy of the 21st century

1.4.1. The areas under evaluation of the pedagogy field valued at least 4 points out of 5 in the external evaluation of 2024

- [The Concept of Teacher Training at Vilnius University](#) was developed and approved by Resolution No. SPN-30 of 21 June 2022.
- By Order No. R-394 of 24 October 2023, the [Regulations](#) (available in Lithuanian) of the Methodological STEAM Education Centre of Vilnius University as a non-academic core unit were approved and its head was appointed.
- A model for the joint operation of the STEAM Centre and the didactic centres of the respective faculties is being developed.

2. Collaborative

2.1. Interdisciplinary and international research and studies

2.1.1. Opportunities for all students to gain international study experience

- The requirements for admission to international study programmes were updated.
- The methodology for the internationalisation of study programmes was developed.
- Supplemental [descriptions](#) of methodologies for the conformity of the entry requirements with the general education and higher education systems of foreign countries were developed.
- An analysis of the indicators of the internationality of studies is being carried out and recommendations are being prepared.

2.1.2. The impact of the ARQUS Alliance partnership on VU studies and research

- Three joint study programme implementation agreements were signed, two joint programmes were developed with ARQUS partners, and the development of four more joint interdisciplinary study programmes began.
- The expansion of horizontal cooperative relations was developed: all the CAUs became involved in the activities of the ARQUS Alliance.

3. Sustainable

3.1. Motivated employees and engaged students

3.1.1. Improved evaluation of engagement with work and studies as well as satisfaction with the organisation, work, and units compared to the evaluation of 2020

- A package of individual support services for students was created.
- The analysis of the causes of the employee turnover rate is being carried out, and a system of interviewing the outgoing employees was created.
- A draft of the Model of Expert Teaching Qualification Assessment Procedure (Career Path of Teaching) was prepared.

3.2. Infrastructure that meets future needs

3.2.1. Development of the Saulėtekis and Santara VU campuses, HSS infrastructure

- The needs of the HSS infrastructure were identified; the plan for meeting those needs was prepared and is being implemented.
- The construction of the Medical Science Centre of the Faculty of Medicine was finished.
- The reconstruction of the building of Šiauliai Academy was completed.

3.2.2. Improvement of the effectiveness of operational support

- The internal FAST project (available in Lithuanian) is being implemented, which aims to improve the University's administrative processes by bringing together teams of process participants and providing them with management tools, knowledge, and skills.
- During the implementation of the FAST project, the first community satisfaction with operational support survey was carried out, which surveyed the users of the TVPC support register; a survey of the procurement process participants was also carried out.
- The development and improvement of e-systems (e-University): an agreement on the design and development of the VUSIS III system was signed.

3.2.3. Green University

- Photovoltaic solar power panels were installed on buildings.
- A remote solar power park was purchased.

3.3. Financial growth through income diversification

3.3.1. A change in the revenue from SR&ED solutions and services and Lifelong Learning activities

- The Lifelong Learning (LL) Centre (available in Lithuanian) was established, its regulations were approved by Order No. R-71 of 23 February 2023, and the plan for the development of LL activities was approved and is being implemented.
- The development of the system of science commercialisation: an analysis of the portfolio of patents and patent applications is being prepared, assessing the possibilities of patent support and/or commercialisation; an analysis of the situation of science-business cooperation is carried out and the plan of measures is being finalised.

* Drawn up on the basis of the [Vilnius University Strategic Plan for 2021–2025](#), summarising the measures implemented during the **strategic period** and their implementation status in accordance with the Strategy Implementation Plan for 2024 (**R-291**), as well as the results of the [annual strategy implementation plans](#) (available in Lithuanian) for the previous periods and the ongoing activities.



Trends in higher education in Lithuania

Over the past few years, Lithuania has had to function under great geopolitical, economic, and social uncertainty. Despite the difficulties, the Lithuanian higher education sector remained stable, and funding has increased, thanks to the community's efforts and constructive dialogue with the government.



Lithuanian Education Policy: vision and strategic commitments relevant to higher education

■ The objective in the education section of the **‘Lithuania 2050’** vision is to educate future-ready, resilient, critical thinkers who are versatile and adaptable, confident, empathetic, free, responsible and creative, and who understand the value of democracy. Lithuanian science has an important role to play in creating added value for Lithuania and the world to ensure economic breakthroughs.

■ **The Agreement of Political Parties Represented in the Seimas on the National Education Policy** not only establishes the main objectives for 2030 but also agrees to increase the funding of both education and SR&ED.



Higher education trends in the European Higher Education Area and Lithuania

The strategic activity fields of higher education institutions are influenced and shaped by the changing political, economic, social, and technological environment. The European University Association (EUA) report ‘Trends 2024’¹ examines the importance of emerging trends and their impact on higher education institutions in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

■ Demographic challenges and migration.

Since 2010, the number of students in Lithuania has been decreasing due to demographic factors such as a decline in birth rates and the emigration of young people. The total birth rate in Lithuania is decreasing every year, and fewer pupils are graduating from Lithuanian general education institutions. Compared to 2010, the number of university and college students in Lithuania has decreased by more than 40 per cent.² The 2024 Bologna Process Implementation Report³ shows that the trend of student decline is also observed in institutions in Eastern and Central European countries.

■ Promotion of internationality.

The promotion of international cooperation remains a current and future priority for EHEA member institutions; 64 per cent of the EHEA institutions plan to strengthen international cooperation through international exchanges of students and academic staff, joint or double-degree programmes, and virtual partnerships.⁴ Furthermore, 65 per cent of the EHEA institutions surveyed indicated that the number of students from abroad was increasing. The number of students from abroad has also been growing in Lithuania. From 2023 to 2024, around ten thousand students from abroad studied in Lithuania. Approximately 20 per cent of those studying at Lithuanian higher education institutions are from EU countries, while approximately 36 per cent are from other countries of the European continent, 34 per cent are from Asia, and 8 per cent are from Africa.⁵

■ Support to participants in Ukrainian higher education.

Two-thirds of EHEA institutions say they accept students from Ukraine – half of them under special conditions (reduced tuition costs, support scholarships, etc.), and 41 per cent accept academic staff. Higher education institutions have strengthened existing cooperation and established new partnerships with Ukrainian institutions. As a result of the war, most institutions cut off or reduced cooperation with Russian and Belarusian institutions.⁶

■ Digital transformation and technology integration.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the digitalisation of higher education. More than half of the institutions that participated in the EUA survey reported having expanded their offer of flexible studies, including blended and hybrid learning.⁷ In addition, advances in artificial intelligence and other technologies are transforming teaching, learning, and scientific research methodologies, opening new opportunities yet also posing new risks that higher education institutions need to focus on managing. Most institutions have policies related to ethics, academic integrity, data protection, and plagiarism detection but recognise the growing need for investment in both the development and protection of digital infrastructure.⁸ According to ‘Trends 2024’, only 14 per cent of higher education institutions indicate they are fully prepared to apply AI policies, while 31 per cent say they are partially prepared.⁹

■ More diverse student population.

The EHEA institutions point out that the student population has become more diverse. The numbers of older and international students are increasing (or remaining stable).¹⁰ In Lithuania, the share of students over the age of 40 who are undertaking their Bachelor’s degrees is increasing.¹¹ Approximately 10 per cent of students at higher education institutions in Lithuania are from abroad. According to ‘Eurostudent’¹² data, 82 per cent of Lithuanian Master’s degree students work (EU average – 70 per cent) in positions constituting more than 0.5 of full-time workload. During their Bachelor’s cycle, 56 per cent of students work while studying, and the greater part of those work part-time. To meet the diverse needs of students and the labour market, institutions offer individualised training opportunities and expand the range of programmes, including non-degree and Lifelong Learning programmes.

■ Open access and open science

Higher education institutions in Europe aim to implement the principles of open access to scientific data and publications. Although most institutions recognise this as an important initiative, the extent to which it is implemented varies in practice. Vilnius University has approved and is implementing the Plan for Implementation of the Open Science Policy Guidelines.

¹European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition.

²Data from the State Data Agency. Online access [\[university data\]](#) [\[college data\]](#).

³European Education and Culture Executive Agency: Eurydice. (2024). The European higher education area in 2024: Bologna Process implementation report.

Publications Office of the European Union. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2797/483185>

⁴European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition.

⁵Data from the State Data Agency. Online access [\[university data\]](#) [\[college data\]](#).

⁶European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition (p. 10).

⁷European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition (p. 29).

⁸European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition (p. 29).

⁹European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition (p. 30).

¹⁰European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition (p. 11).

¹¹Data from the State Data Agency. Online access [\[university data\]](#) [\[college data\]](#).

¹²Hauschildt, K., Gwosć, C., Schirmer, H., & Cras, F. (2024). EUROSTUDENT 8: Synopsis of indicators 2021–2024. Online access [\[here\]](#).

■ Sustainable development and climate change.

The Sustainable Development Goals, together with the green transition, are listed among the key factors influencing the strategies of the European Higher Education Area institutions. As many as 74 per cent of the surveyed institutions indicated that sustainability is a strategic priority, and 72 per cent already have a strategy on greening in place or are currently developing one for environmental sustainability, including energy-saving initiatives and integrating sustainable practices into scientific research and study programmes.¹³

■ National reforms.

The vast majority of EHEA institutions indicated that in the last five years, their countries have been subject to national reforms in the areas of quality assurance, digitalisation, internationality, institutional funding, scientific research policy, and/or teaching and learning.¹⁴ Since 2017, the Lithuanian Government has been conducting higher education reforms to improve the quality of studies, strengthen scientific research, and increase

competitiveness. The reform of the network of colleges is underway, and new requirements for admission to higher education institutions have been introduced.

■ National funding.

About 44 per cent of the surveyed EHEA institutions reported facing insufficient funding or budget cuts, while 70 per cent of institutions identified the lack of funding as one of the biggest obstacles to improving the quality of studies.¹⁵ In Lithuania, since 2017, the State and municipal budget expenditure for higher education studies has almost doubled, but the size of this expenditure differs only by 0.1 per cent compared to GDP. Public funding for scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) also doubled over the same period; however, compared to GDP, it accounted for 0.38 per cent, which is almost two times less than set out in the Agreement of Political Parties Represented in the Seimas on the National Education Policy, where a commitment was taken to reach 0.75 per cent of GDP in 2024. An additional EUR 158 million has been reallocated annually over five years (2019–2023) through the State budget from the EU and other international financial support funds for SR&ED activities.¹⁶

Table 2. Public expenditure and funding for higher education studies and SR&ED

State and municipal budget expenditure for higher education studies			Public funding for scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED)		
	2017	2023		2017	2023
Compared to GDP, %	240	470.4	EUR million	132.2	278.5
Compared to GDP, %	0.6	0.7	Compared to GDP, %	0.35	0.38

Data source: State Data Agency.

According to a survey conducted by the European University Association in 2023, the most recent trends affecting the institutional strategy are digitalisation, the COVID-19 pandemic, inter-institutional cooperation, ecology, and

Sustainable Development Goals. Lithuanian higher education institutions also distinguished demographic challenges and competition with other similar institutions (see Figure 1).

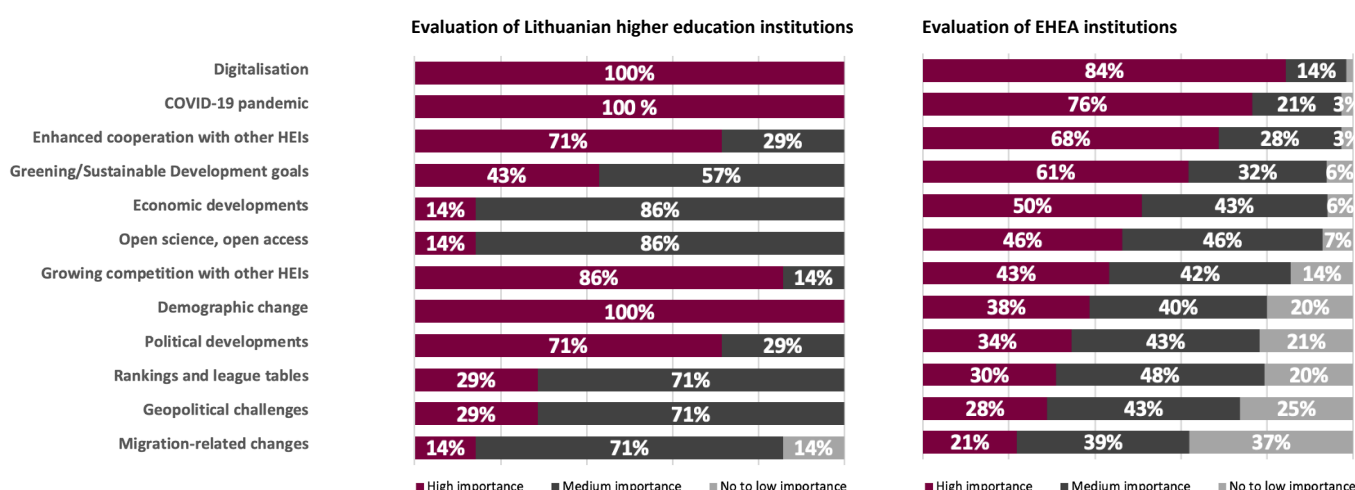


Figure 1. Developments impacting the overall strategy of institutions during the past five years

Data from the 'Trends 2024' survey carried out between April and July 2023. The survey involved 489 higher education institutions belonging to the European Higher Education Area, and the findings were published in the European University Association's publication 'Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition', 25 July 2024.

¹³European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition (p. 30).

¹⁴European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition (p. 18).

¹⁵European University Association. (2024). Trends 2024: European higher education institutions in times of transition (p. 9).

¹⁶Data from the State Data Agency, 'Eurostat'. Online access [expenditure of State and municipal budgets on education compared to GDP]; [State funding for scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) ('Eurostat')]; [State Data Agency].



Research activities

In 2024, Vilnius University focused on discussions on assessing research activities and open science. The results of the international comparative research activity assessment were discussed with the core academic units, the [Action Plan for the Implementation of the Commitments of the Research Assessment Reform Agreement of Vilnius University \(CoARA\)](#) was approved, and awards for significant contributions to open science were presented for the first time.

The number of ongoing research projects continues to grow, with more than 530 research projects carried out in 2024, including 199 research projects implemented under international, bilateral, and/or trilateral cooperation programmes. The year 2024 was particularly successful for those participating in **Horizon Europe** calls. In 2024, 37 projects of this programme were carried out. The European Research Council's (ERC) financial support was approved for three top-level projects: JUPITER (Supervisor – Dr P. Pausch),

Strong-ESPRESSO (Supervisor – Prof. Dr M. Šimėnas), and CoMBi (Supervisor – Dr (HP) S. Klimašauskas), as well as nine postdoctoral fellowship projects for young researchers under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and ERA Fellowships sub-programmes.

The updated **Lithuanian Research Infrastructure** Roadmap includes 12 research infrastructures, in which researchers from Vilnius University participate.

Facts and figures



Over **3,800** publications, of which **2,300** are articles



Share of articles by the University's researchers among all research articles of Lithuanian research and studies institutions published by 'Web of Science', indexed publications – **32.1 per cent**



Share of international-level research publications with foreign partners – **53.0 per cent**



Share of international-level research publications with business partners – **2.7 per cent**



Funds dedicated for research funding - **EUR 78.9 million**



Over 65 per cent of the funds were attracted through the implementation of tendering projects, the execution of commissioned works, the development of the University's research infrastructure, and the provision of research-related services



535 projects, of which **199** were international



Projects being implemented:

- 37 Horizon Europe projects
- 164 projects of research groups funded by the Research Council of Lithuania
- 99 postdoctoral fellowship projects funded by various sources
- 4 Centres of Excellence projects



Value of attracted Horizon Europe programme projects – **over EUR 15 million**



7 patent applications have been filed



178 invention patents and patent applications in the University's patent portfolio



28 companies held the status of University start-up

Research policy updates of the University

The University's focus in 2024 was on discussions on assessing research activities and open science. In May, the Vilnius University Senate approved the [Action Plan for implementing the Commitments of the Research Assessment Reform Agreement of Vilnius University \(CoARA\)](#). The Plan establishes activities related to: the assessment of the activities of lecturers and researchers, familiarisation with narrative CVs and the inclusion of their elements in the assessment activities carried out at the University, the preparation of explanatory material, the development of a platform for questions and answers, and the exchange of expert experience with other universities that have signed the CoARA agreement. Participants in the event 'Experience and Challenges of Assessing Research(ers) in the Light of CoARA Agreement' were introduced to the activities of the Portuguese National Chapter of the CoARA Implementation (Prof. E. Campos Ferreira), discussed narrative CVs (Prof. Jolanta Šinkūnienė), and the problem of predatory publishing houses (Dr Artūras Ratkus). The University also participates in the ARQUS Working Group 'Alternative Research Assessment' activities, where all members of the Alliance exchange the practice and experience of implementing the CoARA Agreement.

In 2024, while implementing the Plan for Implementation of the Vilnius University Open Science Policy Guidelines, a digital platform for sharing open learning resources and an open science consulting portal, which operates on a one-stop-shop basis, were established. The University's institutional membership in the European Citizen Science Association (ECS) has been approved. For the first time in the history of the University, the Month of Citizen Science was celebrated in April by holding a competition for the Promotion of a Significant Contribution to Open Science, where four initiatives were awarded. 39 open science courses were held (839 participants), 'Kūrybinių bendrijų (Creative Commons) licencijos' (Creative Commons Licences) (156 participants), 'Grobuoniškų žurnalų detektyvai' ('Detectives of Predatory Journals') (146 participants), 'Įvadas į mokslometriją' ('Introduction to Scientometrics') (52 participants), 'Kaip piliečių mokslas gali prisidėti prie sėkmingos tyrėjo karjeros?' ('How Can Citizen Science Contribute to a Successful Career as a Researcher?') (for doctoral students) (26 participants), 'Akademiniis raštingumas ir plagijato prevencija moksliniame darbe' ('Academic Literacy and Plagiarism Prevention in Research') (for doctoral students) (64 participants).

Research staff

Main facts about research staff in 2024



Distribution of the research staff by age

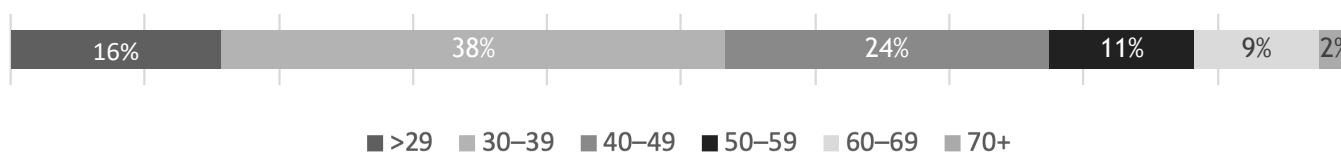


Figure 2. Number of research staff members* by age category in 2024

* The number of research staff members working under employment contracts.

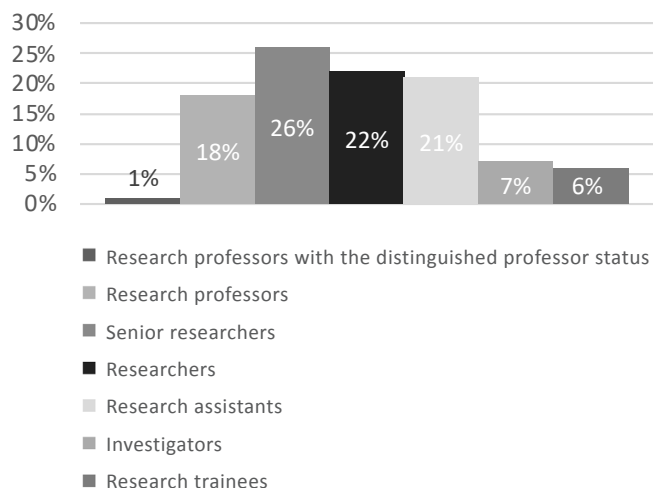


Figure 3. Distribution of positions of research staff by the posts occupied in 2024

■ In 2024, the research staff accounted for 19 per cent of the total University staff. A total of 891 research staff members were employed under employment contracts, and the total number of research staff according to Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) workload of posts occupied was 915.72 (see Figure 4).¹⁷

■ More than half of the University's research staff are under 40 (see Figure 2). Among all research staff, 54 per cent are men, and 46 per cent are women.

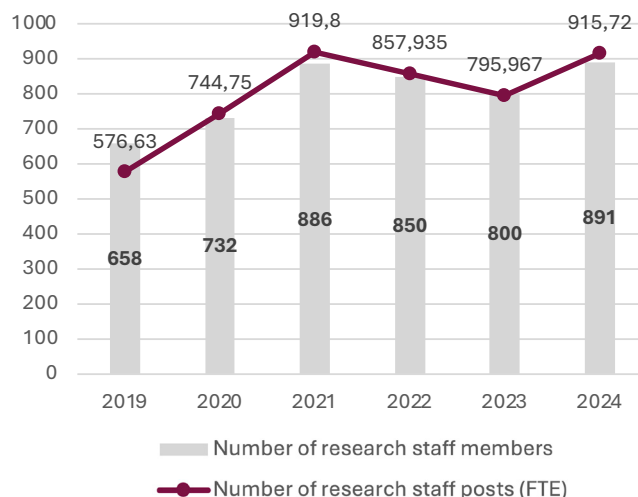


Figure 4. Dynamics of the number of research staff members and the full-time equivalent (FTE) of posts in 2019–2024

■ A little over a quarter of the research staff are senior researchers. Approximately 24 per cent of the research staff do not have a degree in science and are either research assistants or investigators (see Figure 3).

■ In 2024, international researchers accounted for 12.6 per cent of VU staff.

Research staff training

Opportunities for doctoral studies at the University

The University carries out doctoral studies in five areas of science, including 29 fields of science (see Figure 5).

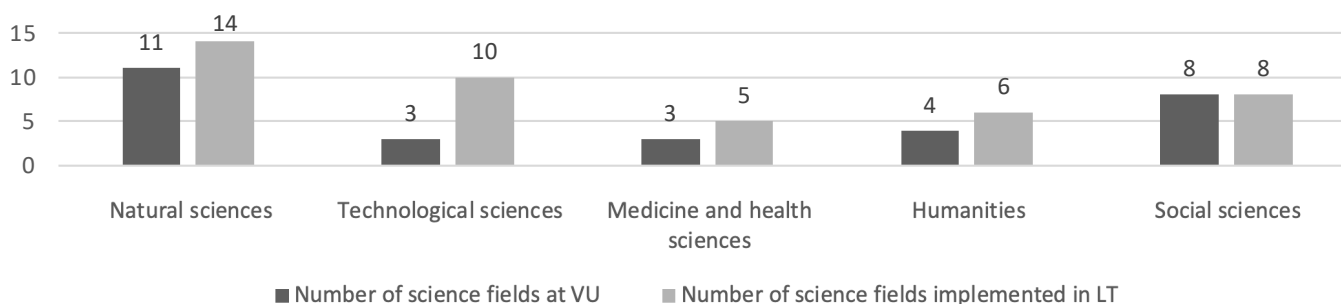


Figure 5. Number of science fields where doctoral studies are conducted at Vilnius University and in Lithuania

¹⁷The number of the research staff is indicated by the number of employees working under employment contracts. Meanwhile, FTE of posts is indicated by taking into account the employees employed under employment contracts and the agreements for additional job functions.

Doctoral students at the University in 2024. Distribution by the area of science

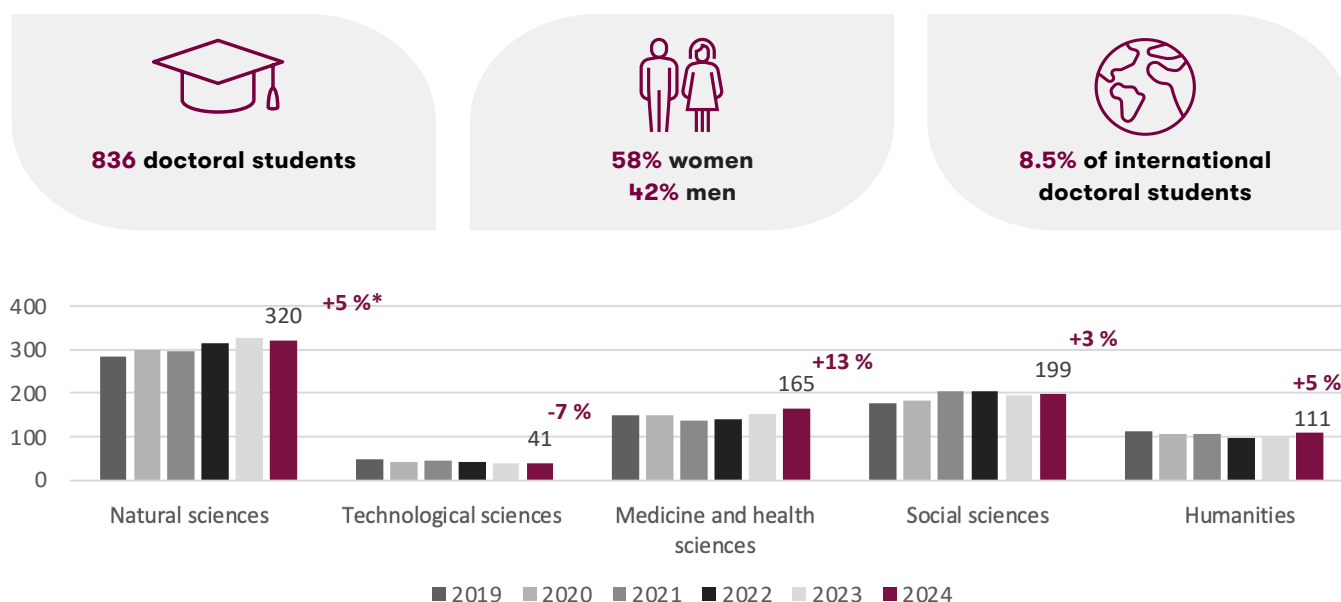


Figure 6. Number of doctoral students by the area of science in 2019–2024

* The change in 2024 compared to the average for 2019–2023 is indicated.

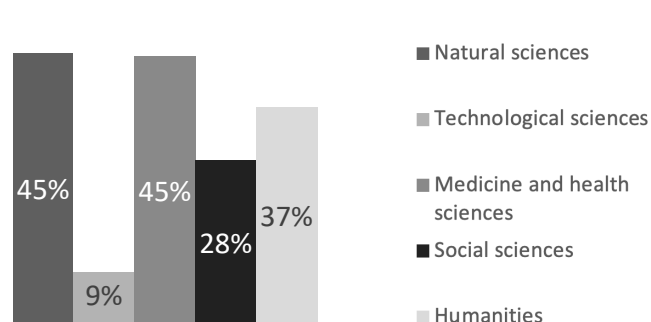


Figure 7. Average proportion of doctoral students at the University among all Lithuanian doctoral students in the area of science in 2019–2023¹⁸

■ In 2024, there were 836 doctoral students at the University. Compared to 2019, the number of doctoral students has increased by 8 per cent. The proportion of female and male students remained similar throughout the period, with 58 per cent of women and 42 per cent of men in 2024. Since 2019, the proportion of international students studying for doctoral degrees has increased by 4.9 per cent. According to the data of 1 October 2024, doctoral students from 32 foreign countries studied at the University. 57 per cent of students undertaking their doctorates came from Asia, with 19 per cent from European countries, 11 per cent from Africa, and 2 per cent from South or North America.

■ In 2024, the number of doctoral students increased in the areas of the natural sciences (by 5 per cent), medicine and health (by 13 per cent), the social sciences (by 3 per cent), and the humanities (by 5 per cent), compared to the average for 2019–2023 (see Figure 6). In

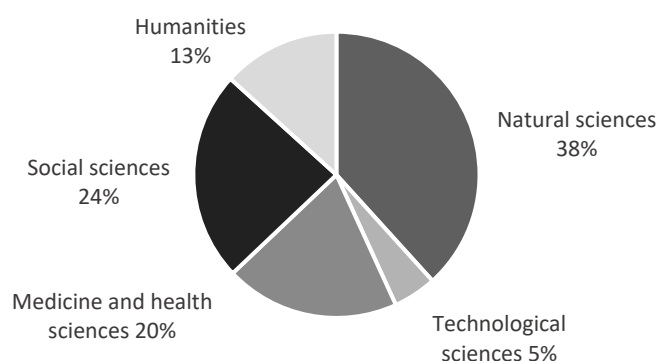


Figure 8. Distribution of doctoral students by the area of science in 2024

2024, the number of doctoral students in the humanities increased significantly, driven by the number of entrants admitted to doctoral studies in the area of philology increasing in 2022–2024. Simultaneously, the number of doctoral students in medicine and the health sciences increased due to the growth in the number of doctoral students enrolled in medicine in 2022–2024. In the area of technological sciences, the number of students in the science fields of informatics engineering and materials engineering has decreased compared to 2019.

■ The University significantly contributes to educating the next generation of scientists across Lithuania. 45 per cent of all doctoral students in the natural sciences in the country choose Vilnius University – the same percentage as in medicine and the health sciences, while in the humanities and the social sciences, the proportions are 37 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively (see Figure 7).

¹⁸The latest figures of Lithuanian doctoral study programmes at Lithuanian universities and research institutes, according to the data of the State Data Agency.

Admission of doctoral students and completion of doctoral studies in 2019–2024

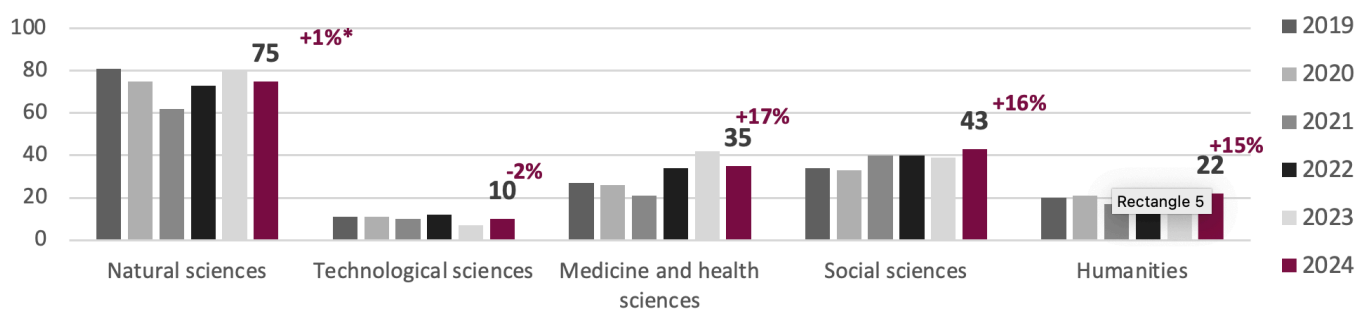


Figure 9. Number of students enrolled in doctoral studies at the University according to the area of science in 2019–2024

* The change in 2024 compared to the average for 2019–2023 is indicated.

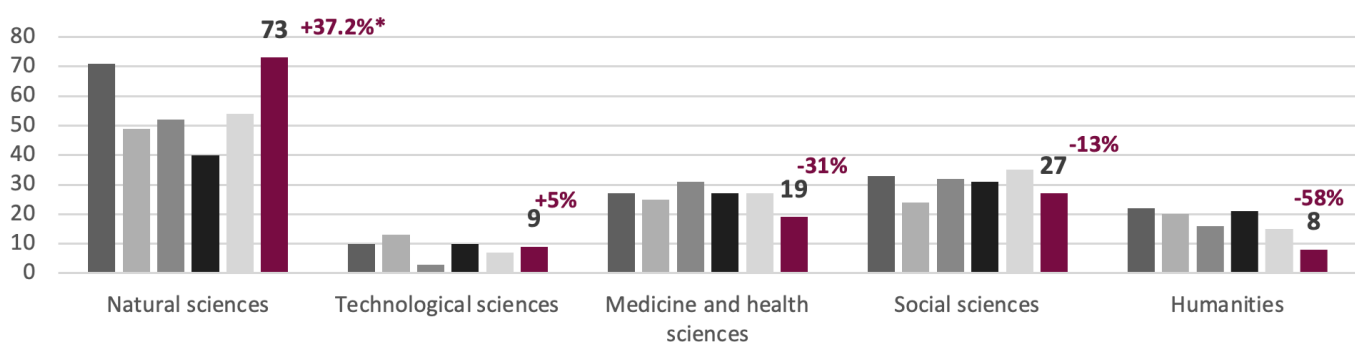


Figure 10. Graduates from doctoral studies according to the area of science in 2019–2024

* The change in 2024, compared to the average for 2019–2023, is indicated.

■ In 2024, 185 doctoral students were enrolled. Compared to the average for 2019–2023, the number of enrolled doctoral students increased by 8 per cent.

■ In 2024, admission to doctoral studies remained similar to that in 2023. However, the competition for doctoral studies increased – on average, more than two candidates for one place (in 2023, 1.7 candidates). The most significant competition was in the area of social sciences, where an average of 3.6 candidates applied for one place. The largest competitions were in the following science fields: Management (seven candidates), Political Science (almost six candidates), and Economics (nearly four candidates).

■ Compared to the average for 2019–2023, admission grew

in medicine and the health sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities (see Figure 9).

■ Twenty-seven international students chose doctoral studies, of whom forty per cent are studying at the Life Sciences Center, accounting for 27 per cent of the total number of enrolled doctoral students there. At the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, international students comprised 36 per cent of all enrolled doctoral students. 30 per cent of doctoral students at the Faculty of Philology came from abroad.

■ In 2024, 136 doctoral students completed their doctoral studies (see Figure 10).

Successfully defended dissertations, 2019–2024

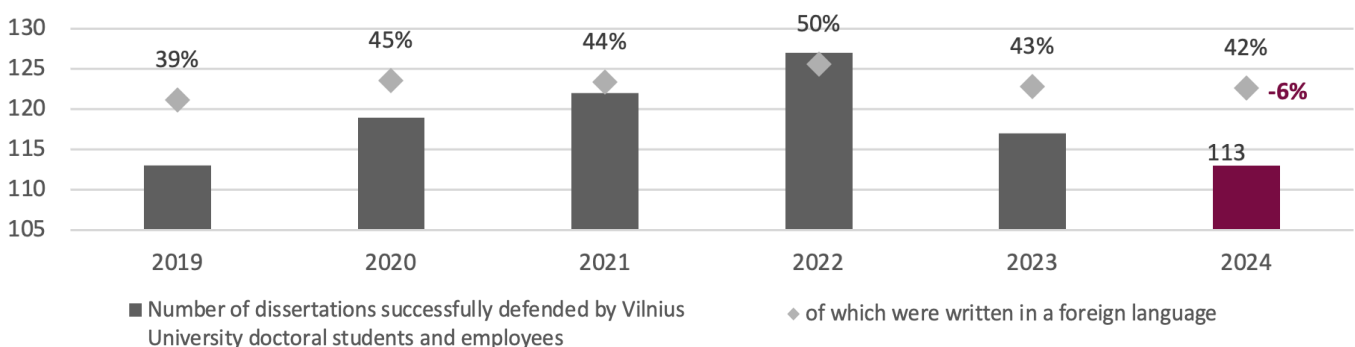


Figure 11. Number of successfully defended dissertations and their proportion written in a foreign language

* The change in 2024 compared to the average for 2019–2023 is indicated.

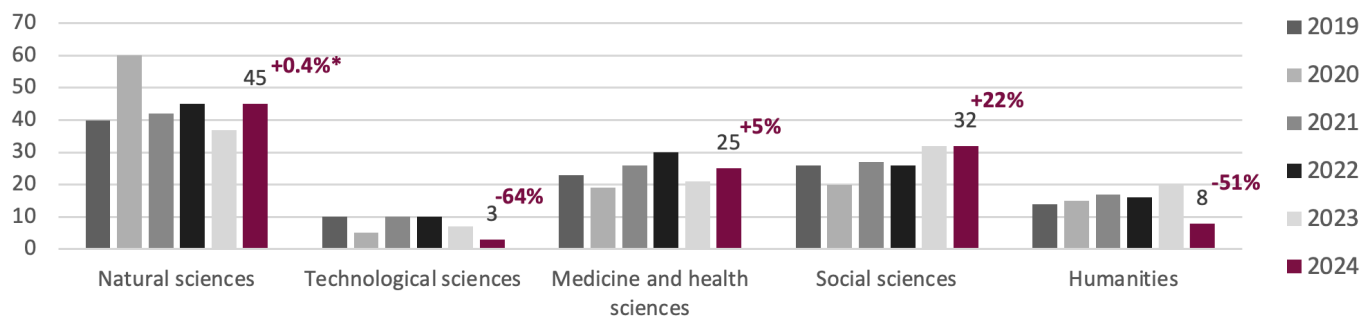


Figure 12. Distribution of the number of doctoral dissertations successfully defended according to the area of science

* The change in 2024 compared to the average for 2019–2023 is indicated.

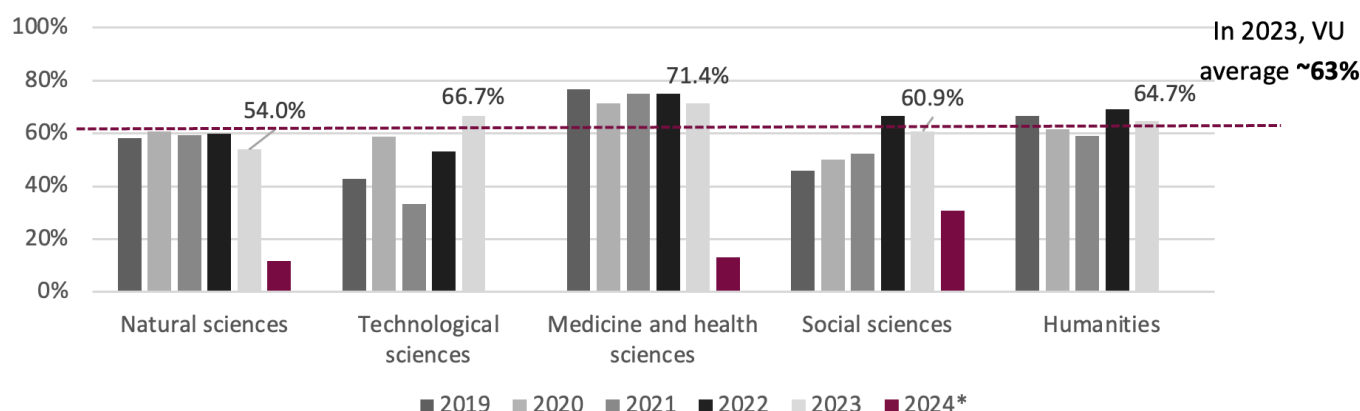


Figure 13. Proportion of graduates who have successfully defended their dissertation within five years by the area of science

* 2024 – graduates who have successfully defended their dissertations within four years.

■ In 2024, 113 dissertations were successfully defended, mainly in the fields of chemistry, mathematics, and physics in the area of natural sciences. Compared to the average for 2019–2023, the number of successfully defended dissertations in technological sciences and the humanities was lower by 6 per cent (see Figure 11 and Figure 12).

■ On average, approximately 63 per cent of dissertations are successfully defended within five years (see Figure 13).

■ In 2024, 42 per cent of all successfully defended dissertations were prepared in a foreign language. On average, from 2019 to 2024, approximately 44 per cent of dissertations were written in a foreign language (see Figure 11).

Winners of the Best Dissertation Competition

In December 2024, the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers, which annually organises the Best Dissertation Competition, announced the winners for the year 2023. One hundred dissertations were submitted for the Competition: thirty-eight papers were prepared in natural sciences, technological sciences, medicine and health sciences, and agricultural sciences, and 62 – in the humanities, social sciences, and arts. The papers were assessed by 271 experts.

Eleven of the best dissertations defended at Lithuanian higher education and research institutions were announced as winners. Five of them were prepared and defended by young researchers from Vilnius University. In 2018–2023, twenty-one doctors in science who successfully defended their dissertations at the University won the Best Dissertation Competition.

Table 3. Winners of the Best Dissertation Competition held by the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers

		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Humanities	Philosophy			Ž. Pabijūtaite			
	History and Archaeology						A. Terleckas
Social sciences	Political science						R. Garškaitė-Antonowicz
	Economics						A. Jakubauskaitė
	Sociology				S. Balčaitė		
	Education						J. Garbauskaitė-Jakimovska
Natural sciences	Biochemistry	J. Kazokaitė M. Kazlauskienė		T. Šneideris	M. Mickutė	E. Žalytė	M. Narmontė
	Biology			K. Šnipaitienė	Ž. Kapustina		
	Chemistry		D. Baziulytė-Paulavičienė				
	Physics	M. Šimėnas	M. Tutkus I. Žičkienė	S. Balčiūnas		D. Banevičius	
	Physical Geography				J. Kilpys		

Postdoctoral studies

Postdoctoral fellowships aim to promote innovative scientific research and allow young researchers to develop their academic careers and engage in the University's academic community.

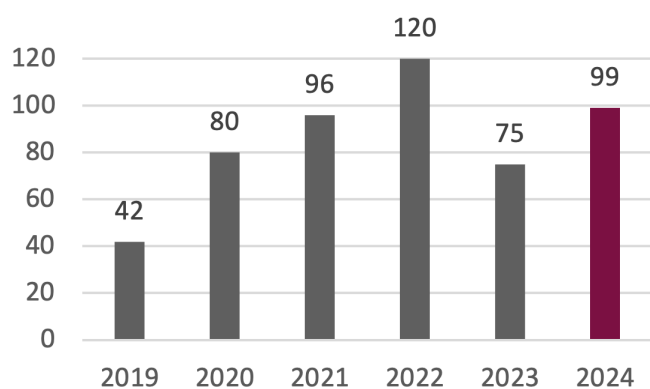


Figure 14. Number of postdoctoral trainees at the University in 2019–2024

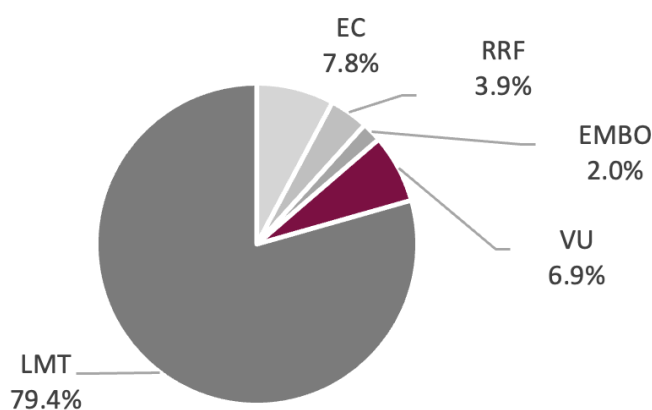


Figure 15. Sources of funding for postdoctoral fellowships

■ In 2024, 99 postdoctoral trainees (see Figure 14) conducted scientific activities at Vilnius University, of whom one-third were international trainees – from Latvia, Poland, Ukraine, Italy, etc.

■ In 2024, the majority of postdoctoral trainees carried out their research at the Life Sciences Center (21), the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences (14), the Faculty of Philosophy (10), the Faculty of Physics (9), the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (8), and seven in each of the Faculties of Philology, History, and at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science.

■ The activities of trainees are funded from various sources (see Figure 15). Approximately 80 per cent of trainees are

supported through the targeted postdoctoral fellowship calls funded by the Research Council of Lithuania (LMT) or the 'University Excellence Initiative' project funds. Six postdoctoral research fellowships were funded by sub-programmes of the European Commission's Horizon Europe programme – Marie Skłodowska-Curie, ERA Fellowships, or MSCA4Ukraine. Two researchers have won calls announced by the EMBO, and another four have been funded by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Plan 'Naujos kartos Lietuva' ('New Generation Lithuania'). In 2024, seven postdoctoral trainees funded by the University started activities or continued those started in previous years, three of whom also attracted external funding from the Research Council of Lithuania (LMT) or the European Commission.

Research funding

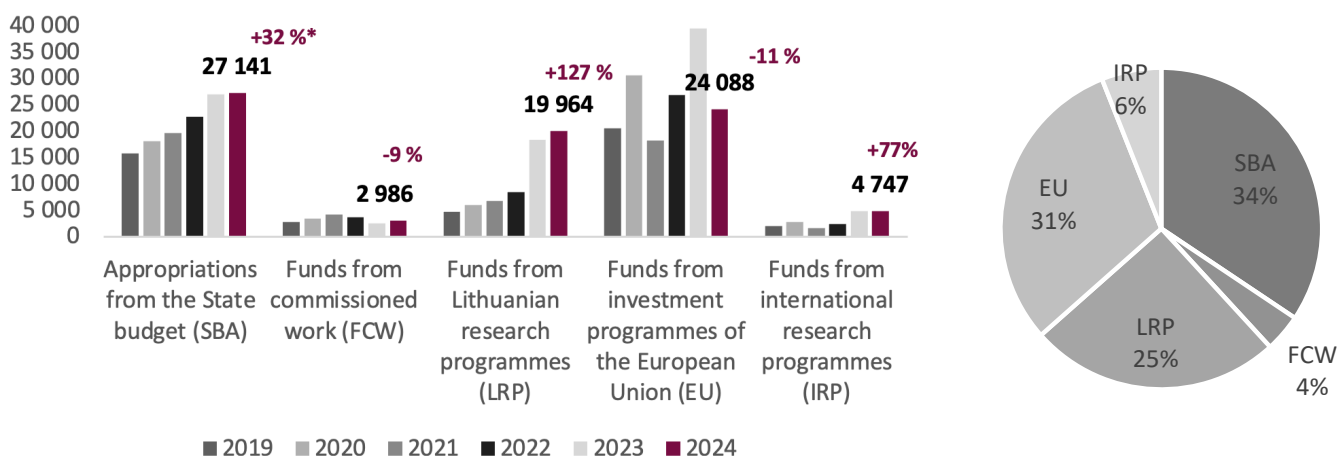


Figure 16. Funds for the research activities of the University (in EUR thousand) in 2019–2024

* The change in 2024 compared to the average amount for 2019–2023 is indicated.

Figure 17. Funding structure of the University's research activities in 2024 by funding source

■ In 2024, the total funding from all sources for research activities amounted to almost EUR 78.9 million (see Figure 16). The funding for research activities increased by 21 per cent compared to the average amount for 2019–2023.

■ Appropriations from the State budget are a stable and constantly growing funding source for research activities. The allocation of appropriations from the State budget to the University depends on the assessment results of its research activities. The University accounts for over a third of the total appropriations from the State budget allocated to universities for research activities. In 2024, the appropriations from the State budget amounted to 34 per cent of the funds for the research activities of Vilnius University (see Figure 17).

■ The European Union (EU) funds are a significant source of financial support for the University's research activities. The total amount of this source of funding

for research activities during 2019–2024 amounted to EUR 159.7 million. Compared to 2023, the EU funding received by the University decreased by 39 per cent, and compared to the average for 2019–2023, it fell by 10 per cent. This decline was caused by the completion of the previous funding period and the beginning of the new one, which had not yet gained momentum.

■ The funding of Lithuanian research programmes demonstrates a consistent growth trend. Compared to the average for 2019–2023, the change in 2024 was as high as 87 per cent. This was due to the success of the research projects submitted by the University and the overall increase in the competitive funding of the country's research programmes. In 2024, the amount attracted by the University from national and international competition programmes reached 31 per cent of the total funds of the University's research activities (see Figure 17).



Project activities: international cooperation in research projects

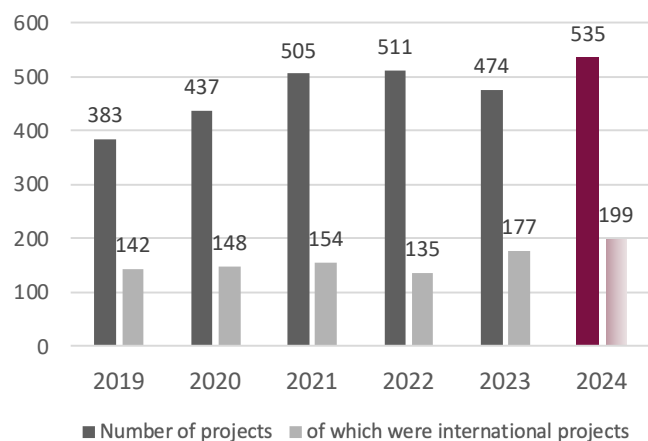


Figure 18. Number of research projects at the University in 2019–2024

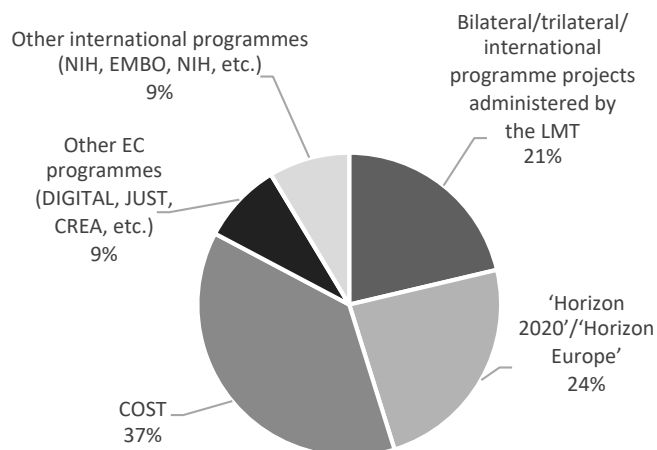
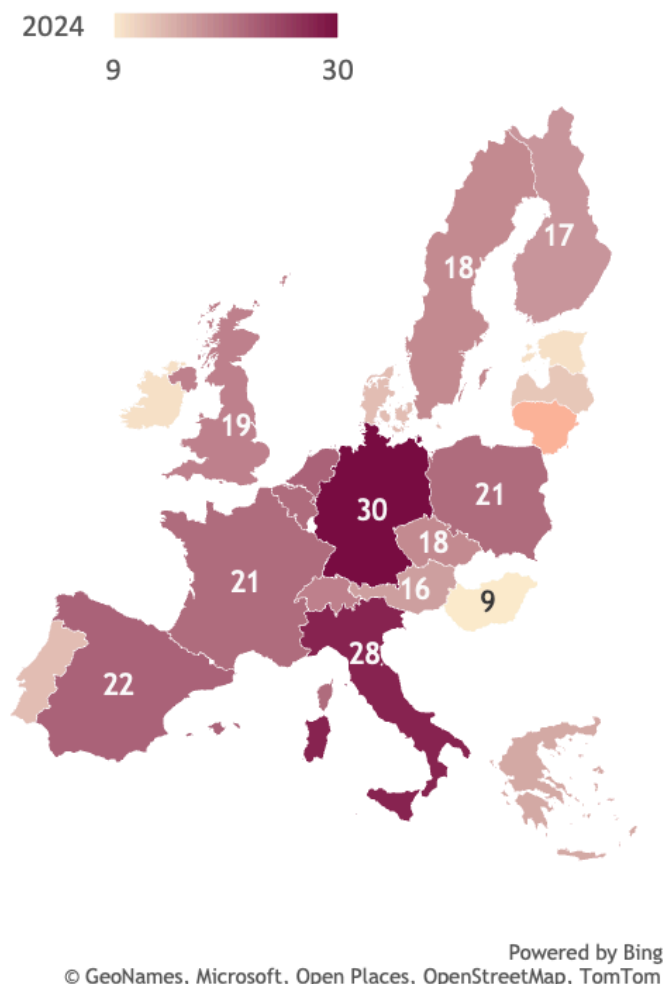


Figure 19. Distribution of international projects by programme in 2024



The number of projects: DE – 30; IT – 28; ES – 22; NL – 22; FR – 21; PL – 21; BE – 21; UK – 19; CH – 19; SE – 18; CZ – 18; FI – 17; AT – 16; EL – 15; DK – 13; PT – 13; LV – 12; EE – 10; IE – 10; HU – 9.

Figure 20. Top twenty countries with at least one institution that participated in international Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe projects together with VU in 2024

■ In 2024, the University implemented 535 research projects (see Figure 18). Compared to the average number of projects in 2019–2023, the growth rate was 16 per cent. Moreover, 2024 saw the highest number of international projects within the last six years. Most international projects were funded by programmes COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology), Horizon 2020, or Horizon Europe (see Figure 19).

Implementation of the University projects of the ‘University Excellence Initiative’ programme

The implementation of the activities of the four [Centres of Excellence](#) (available in Lithuanian) established in 2023 under the ‘University Excellence Initiative’ programme is gaining momentum. The Centres of Excellence programme

Institution	Country	Number of projects
Centre national de la recherche scientifique CNRS	FR	7
Latvijas Universitate	LV	7
Lunds Universitet	SE	6
Stichting VU	NL	5
Kobenhavns Universitet	DK	5
Tartu Ülikool	EE	5
Commissariat à l’Énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives	FR	5
Aarhus Universitet	DK	5
Eidgenoessische Technische Hochschule Zuerich	CH	5
Uppsala Universitet	SE	4
Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas	ES	4
Univerzita Karlova	CZ	4
University College London	UK	4
Universidade de Coimbra	PT	4
United Kingdom Research and Innovation	UK	4
Fyzikální ústav AV ČR V.V.I	CZ	3
Universität Zurich	CH	3
Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V	DE	3
University of Edinburgh	UK	3
Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu	PL	3

Table 4. Top twenty institutions that participated in international Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe projects together with VU in 2024

■ The majority of the joint international projects under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programmes were carried out with German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, French, Polish, and Belgian institutions (see Figure 20).

will be implemented until 2027. This programme’s funds are intended to strengthen the Lithuanian research and study environment, attract foreign researchers, and increase the attractiveness of the Lithuanian research area.

Table 5. Implementation indicators for the Centres of Excellence

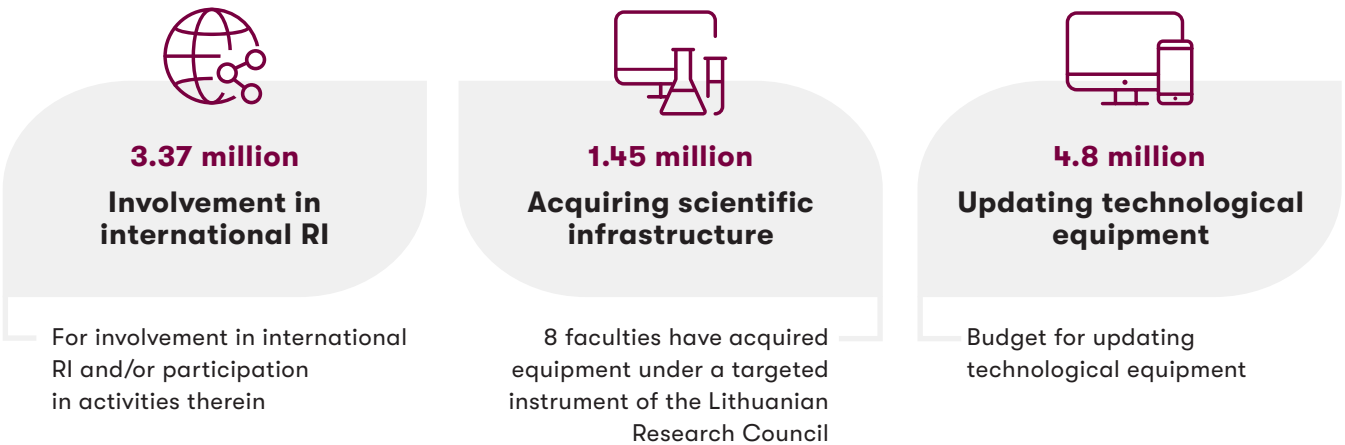
	New researchers attracted	Doctoral students and postdoctoral trainees attracted	High-level scientific publications	External SR&ED funding (in EUR thousand)
Data Centre for Machine Learning and Quantum Calculations	9	6	4	298
Centre of Advanced Light Technologies	5	15	23	2,500
Centre of (Post)Authoritarian Landscapes Research	1	6	3	-
Programme of Excellence of the Life Sciences Center	4	2	6	250
Total:	19	29	36	3,048

Forty-eight new researchers were attracted in 2023–2024; over half were doctoral students and postdoctoral trainees. The project promoters of the Centres have already published 36 scientific publications and attracted more

than EUR 3 million in external funding, including a European Research Council (ERC) grant, an EMBO Installation Grant, and a project funded by the Joint Baltic-Nordic Energy Research Programme.

Scientific research infrastructures

Funding of scientific research infrastructures



Lithuanian Roadmap for Research Infrastructures: Vilnius University’s involvement

In December 2024, the Research Council of Lithuania published the Lithuanian Roadmap for Research Infrastructures (RI) (available in Lithuanian), a strategic document updated at least every four years, which presents the current state of these infrastructures, reviews international trends in RI development and development

prospects, and outlines the development of the Lithuanian RI Roadmap. In 2024, 24 RI were included in the Roadmap, 12 involving Vilnius University. The University represents Lithuania in nine RI, with two of them – RILAD and LIST – being included in the Roadmap for the first time in 2024.

Table 6. Research infrastructures included in the RI Roadmap that the University is involved in

Infrastructure		Readiness for participation in international RI*	International RI membership	By location and organisation of activities	Participating institutions
Lithuanian Grid Infrastructure for High-Performance Computing	LitGrid-HPC	Established	EGI (full member)	Institutional	-
Experimental Animal RI for Disease Modelling	RILAD	Potential	INFRAFRONTIER (planned membership)	Joint	LSMU, VMTI IMC
Centre for Computational, Structural and Systems Biology	CossyBio	Established	EMBL, EMBC/EMBO (full member) INSTRUCT-ERIC (full member)	Joint	LSMU, NVI
Human Biological Resource Centre	HBRC	Established	BBMRI-ERIC (full member)	Institutional	<u>NVI</u> , VUL SK, VMTI IMC, LSMU, LSMU Hospital Kaunas Clinics
Center for Innovative Chemistry	INNOCHEM	Mature	Planned membership: CERIC ERIC, IAM4EU, EMMC, ELLIS	Joint	<u>FTMC</u>
Lithuanian Consortium for Particle Physics	LDFK	Established	CERN (associated member)	Joint	KTU, LSMU, LEI
High-Intensity and Broad Spectral Range Ultrashort Pulse Laser Research Infrastructure of National and International Access	Laser RI	Established	ELI ERIC (full member)	Joint	FTMC
Molėtai Astronomical Observatory of Vilnius University	VU MAO	Mature	ETN WEAVE WET	Institutional	
Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe RI	SHARE Lithuania	Mature	SHARE-ERIC	Joint	KTU, LSMC, VDU
Lithuanian Long-Term Social Research RI	LIST	Mature	-	Joint	KTU, VDU, Center for Strategic Analysis of the Government, State Data Agency
Monitoring Electoral Democracy RI	MEDem LT	Mature	MEDem	Joint	KTU, VDU
Common Language Resources and Technology RI	CLARIN-LT	Established	CLARIN ERIC (full member)	Joint	<u>VDU</u> , KTU, MRU, KU, BPTI

■ denotes scientific research infrastructures in which the institution representing Lithuania is Vilnius University. In the last column, the institutions that represent Lithuania in other infrastructures are underlined.

* The position of Lithuanian RI in the Roadmap based on the readiness for participation in the activities of the international RI may be:

- potential – the RI is in the preparatory stage and is included in the Roadmap to highlight its potential to participate in the activities of the international RI
- mature – a strategic plan has already been formed, outlining the guidelines and measures for participation in the activities of the specific international RI, and steps are actively being taken to achieve this aim
- established – a mature RI already participating in the activities of the international RI

Scientific publications

Table 7. Number of scientific publications by Vilnius University researchers by type, 2019–2024

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Monographs, studies, fundamental and original theoretical research works	46	40	34	42	40	25
Articles (total)	2,264	2,536	2,442	2,351	2,367	2,367
■ articles published in peer-reviewed scientific journals in Lithuania	586	600	621	475	475	539
■ articles published in international and foreign peer-reviewed journals	1,678	1,936	1,821	1,876	1,892	1,828
Study literature (textbooks/ volumes, educational tools/volumes, methodical literature, etc.)	50	58	60	33	111	30
Other books (dictionaries, manuals, atlases, etc.)	75	82	69	64	99	66
Other publications	286	267	307	324	355	276
Conference proceedings	301	223	196	179	168	121
Conference abstracts	1,426	721	960	1,020	1,274	927
Data sets	1	5	92	137	19	26
Total:	4,449	3,932	4,160	4,150	4,433	3,838

* Data of 10 February 2025; the registration of the publications of 2024 is still ongoing.
Data source: eLaba.

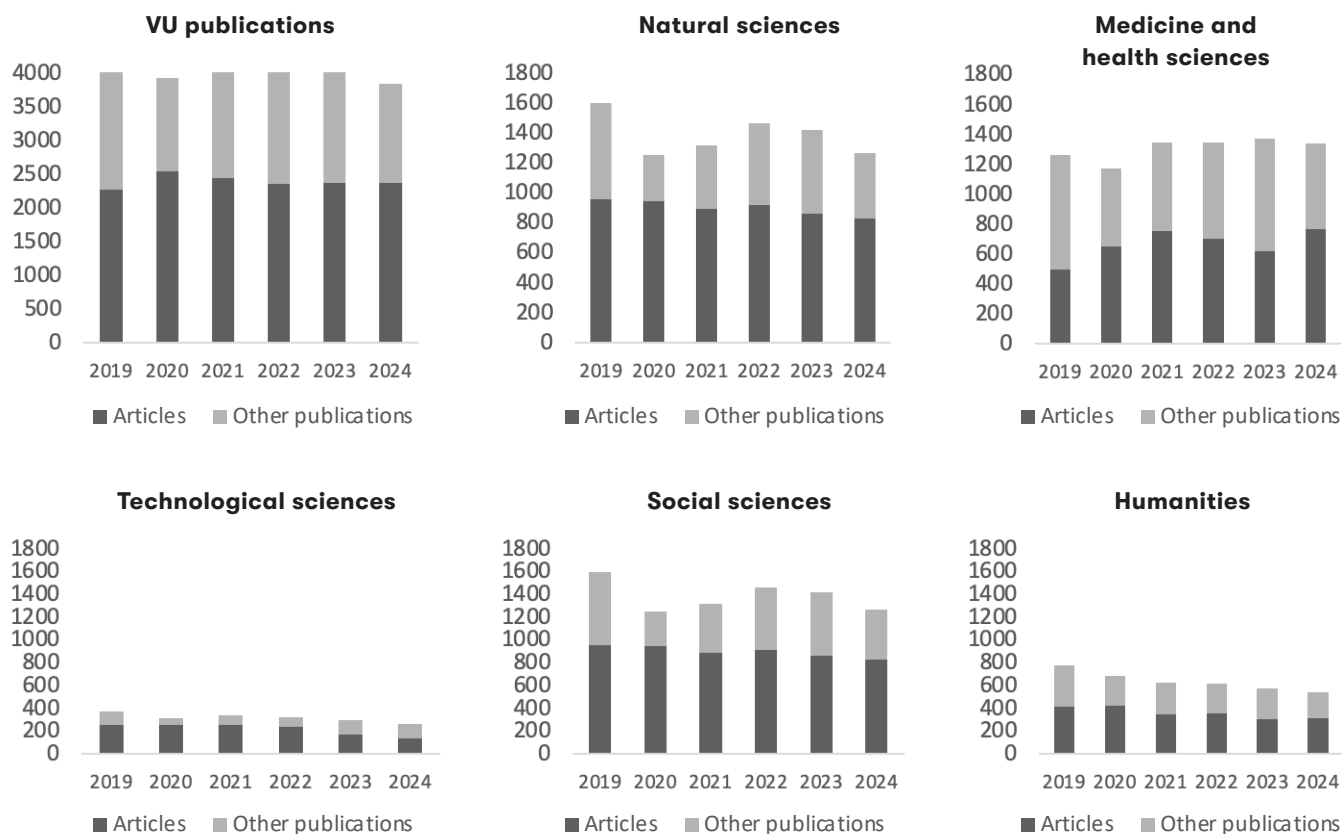


Figure 21. Scholarly articles and other scientific publications of Vilnius University by area of science, 2019–2024

* Data of 24 February 2025; the registration of the publications of 2024 is still ongoing. Data source: eLaba.

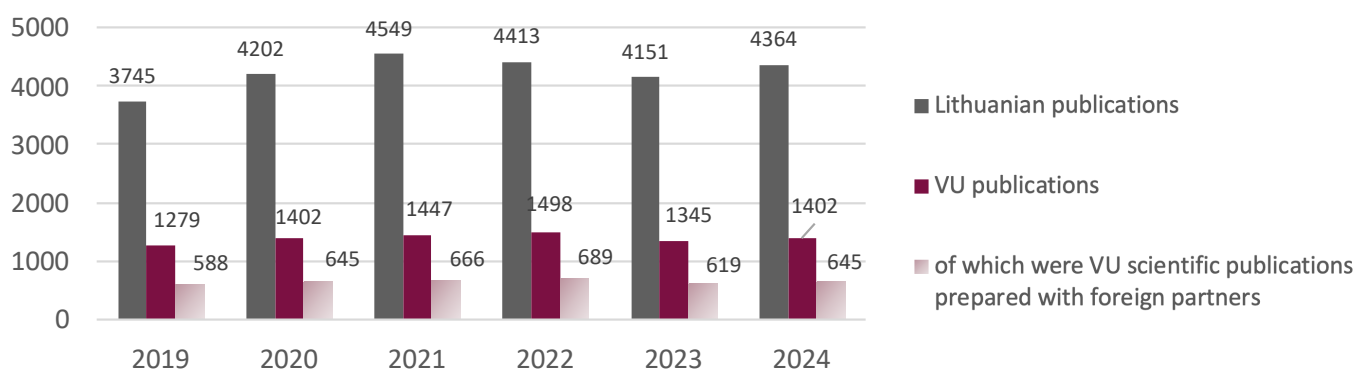


Figure 22. Lithuanian and VU scientific articles in the 'Web of Science Core Collection' database

Data source: 'Web of Science Core Collection' (WoSCC).

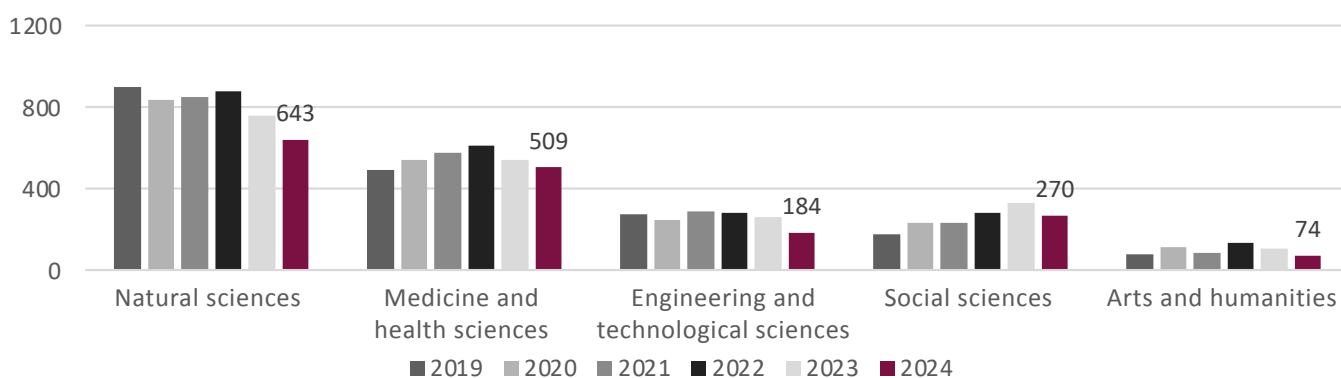


Figure 23. Dynamics of distribution of publications in the 'Web of Science' database by area of science

Data source: 'Web of Science Core Collection' (WoSCC), 'InCites' analytics platform, data updated on 31 January 2025.

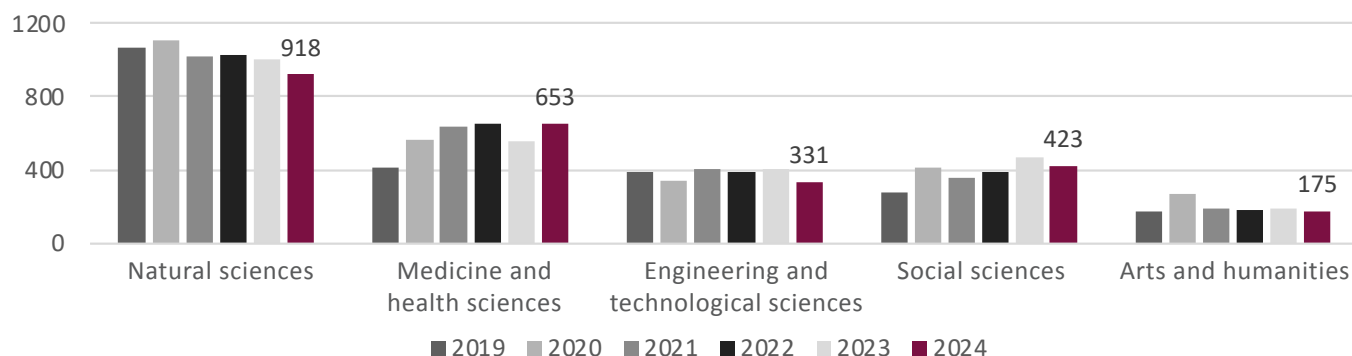


Figure 24. Dynamics of distribution of publications in the 'Scopus' database by area of science

Data source: 'Scopus', 'SciVal' analytics platform, data of 18 February 2025.

■ The dissemination of the University's research results is primarily carried out via peer-reviewed scientific articles and conference proceedings – presentations and abstracts (see Table 7).

■ In 2024, 77 per cent of all scientific articles by the University's researchers were published in international and foreign peer-reviewed publications, while the remainder were published in Lithuanian scientific publications (see Table 7). In the areas of the natural and social sciences, articles accounted for two-thirds of all publications (see Figure 21).

■ The University's scientific publications that are included in the 'Web of Science Core Collection' database account

for one-third of all Lithuanian publications (32.4 per cent in 2024) (see Figure 22).

■ More than half of these scientific publications are prepared with foreign partners (53 per cent in 2024) (see Figure 22).

■ Most of the publications in both the 'Scopus' and 'Web of Science Core Collection' databases are prepared in the areas of the natural sciences and medicine and health sciences (see Figures 23 and 24).

Scientific events



Table 8. Scientific events at Vilnius University in 2019–2024

Year	International scientific events	National scientific events	Total
2019	91	141	232
2020	51	117	168
2021	103	175	278
2022	98	175	273
2023	104	118	222
2024	106	165	271

In 2024, 271 scientific events (conferences, congresses, symposiums) were held, including 106 international and 165 national scientific events. The full list can be found [here](#).

Highlights:

- ‘Ateities įsivaizdavimas: Socialinio darbo tyrimai ir diskursas Pramonės 4.0 amžiuje’ (‘Envisioning the Future: Social Work Research and Discourse in the Age of Industry 4.0’) (FsF and the European Social Work Research Association)
- ‘Lietuvos Respublika Europos Sąjungoje: dvidešimt patirties, iššūkių ir augimo metų’ (‘The Republic of Lithuania in the European Union: Twenty Years of Experience, Challenges, and Growth’) (TF)
- ‘20-asis Europos skaitmeninės patologijos kongresas’ (‘The 20th European Congress on Digital Pathology’) (FsF)
- ‘World Aerobiology 2024: The 8th European Symposium on Aerobiology’ (ŠA)
- ‘Electroceramics XIX’ (ChGF)
- ‘Translational Research: Bridging Gaps, Improving Lives’ (MF)
- ‘Mokytojų ugdymas XXI amžiuje: pokyčiai ir perspektyvos’ (‘Teacher Training in the 21st Century: Changes and Perspectives’) (ŠA)

Development of scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) and business partnerships

In 2024, Vilnius University actively developed commissioned research works, strengthened cooperation with business, organised and participated in scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) and innovation-related

events, and promoted the commercialisation of innovations, ensuring the protection of intellectual property via new patent applications.

Income earned by the University from commissioned research


Table 9. Funds earned from commissioned research in 2024 (EUR thousand)

Units that earned over EUR 150 thousand	Funds earned from commissioned research in 2024 (EUR thousand)
GMC	749.81
MF	376.93
FIF	371.24
FF	341.17
VM	232.42
CHGF	204.04
FsF	174.39

The applied nature of the research carried out by the University’s researchers is reflected in the context of cooperation with business entities. For the implementation of commissioned research outsourced to the University and the provision of research-related services to business entities, other institutions and/or natural persons, EUR 3 million were received in 2024, i.e. EUR 0.5 million over the amount received in 2023.


In 2024, the Life Sciences Center attracted the most funds from commissioned research.

Patents and patent applications



In 2024, the following patent **applications** for the protection of intellectual property created at the University were filed:

- 4 international applications (under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT))
- 1 European application (EPO)
- 2 applications in other jurisdictions (South Korea and Latvia)



Patents received in 2024:

- 4 US patents (in the area of biotechnology and medicine)
- 1 EPO patent (in the area of physics)
- 1 Canadian patent (in the area of biotechnology)
- 1 Chinese patent (in the area of biotechnology)
- 4 Lithuanian patents (in the areas of biotechnology and chemistry)

Last year, a record number of patent applications were submitted due to the end of the projects financed by the EU Structural Funds and the achievement of their results.

In 2024, the number of patents obtained exceeded that of 2023 by three, with a total of 11 patents, of which almost two-thirds were international.

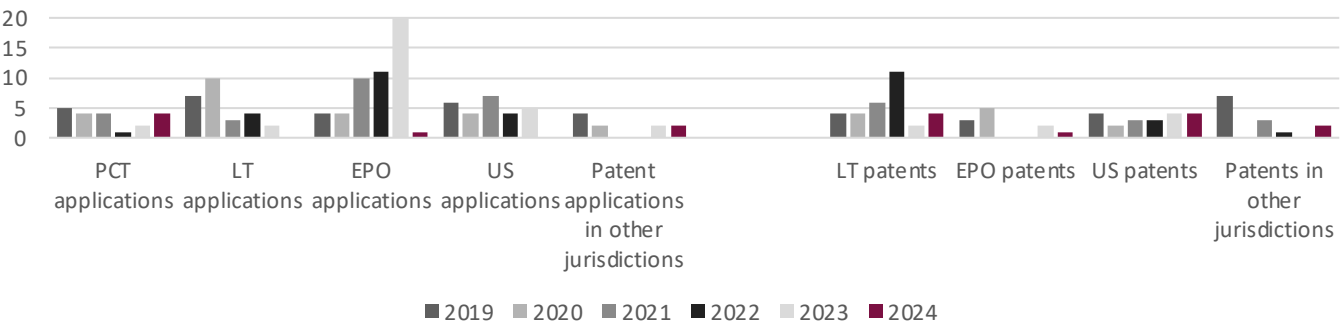


Figure 25. Dynamics of patents and patent applications of Vilnius University in 2019–2024

Currently, the patent portfolio of Vilnius University consists of 178 patents and patent applications (see Figure 26):

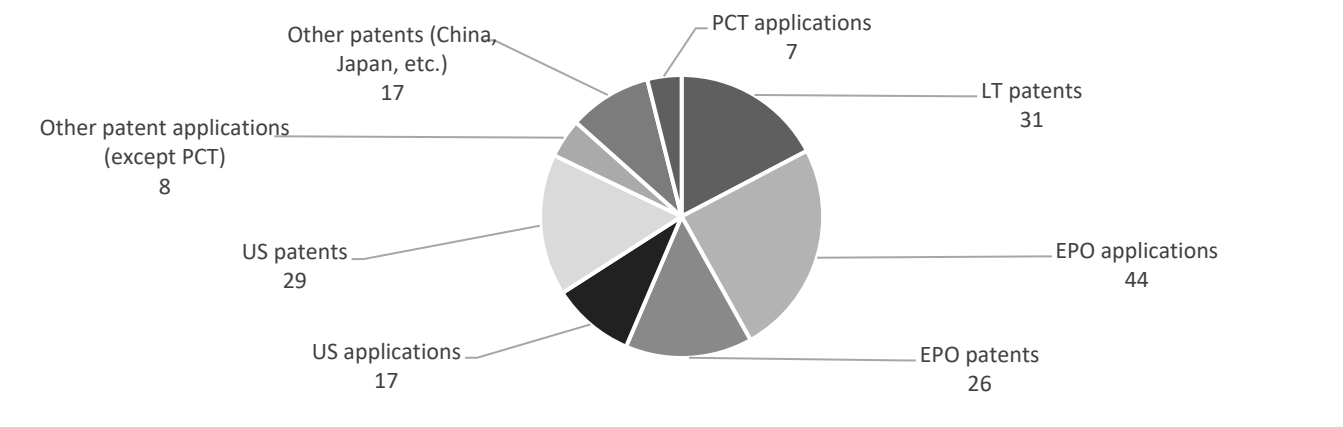


Figure 26. Composition of the University's patent portfolio according to the jurisdiction of patent issuance or application submittal

There are 24 inventions developed in conjunction with partners for which joint patent applications have been filed or patents have already been granted together

with third parties (other legal persons). The largest number of valid international patents is in the life sciences (~65 per cent) and physics (~22 per cent).

Start-ups

As the University has become increasingly involved in promoting entrepreneurship and creating a start-up ecosystem, we have witnessed – for several years now – the specific impact on the high-tech industry determined by the commercialisation of the research output performed by the University's start-ups.

In 2024, as in 2023, the status of Vilnius University start-up¹⁹ was held by 28 companies commercialising the scientific research results created at the University. The title of the

most prominent start-up of the University in 2024 should be given to 'Biomatter Designs' UAB, which attracted EUR 6.5 million in investment. This synthetic biology and artificial intelligence start-up creates innovative enzymes in the areas of medicine, the chemical industry, and sustainable food production. The number of jobs created by University start-ups at the end of 2024 was 368, and the remuneration paid amounted to approximately EUR 15.6 million (average salary – approximately EUR 2,914 per month).



¹⁹University start-up means a legal entity established by members of the University community, which aims to commercialise scientific or study results, technologies or experience, or intellectual property developed at the University or owned by those studying at the University, and of which the University is not a shareholder or member, but which holds a license and/or cooperation agreement with the University for the further development and commercialisation of the solution created at the University, which grants it the status of University start-up.

Table 10. Dynamics of the annual turnover and jobs of companies with the ‘University Start-up’ status in 2019–2024

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sales revenue, EUR thousand	up to 4,945	up to 6,023	19,743	27,675	27,608*	N/A
Jobs	172	222	263	353	388	368

Dynamics of jobs created by the companies (data of www.rekvizitai.lt).

*Sales revenue for 2023 was calculated by including the average sales revenue of ‘Kongsberg NanoAvionics’ UAB for two years, since the company had not yet provided data for 2023 on 12 February 2025.

Presentations on the commercialisation of the University’s SR&ED results at events

In order to expand the international commercialisation potential of the SR&ED results developed at the University, the potential of the University’s SR&ED and innovations was presented at ‘Hannover Messe 2024’ and ‘BioFIT | MedFIT |

MEDigIT 2024’ – international partnership events. During the ‘Vilnius Space Days 2024’ and ‘DigiGreen 2024’ events that took place in Vilnius in 2024, the SR&ED solutions offered by the University’s researchers were also presented.

Examples of innovation and entrepreneurship promotion: events, discussions, and creative initiatives

Table 11. Innovation and entrepreneurship events, discussions, and creative initiatives in 2024

Type	Name	Number of participants	Target audience	Partners
Conference	<u>INNODAY 2024</u> (available in Lithuanian)	100	Researchers and business representatives	
Three debates	<u>Science Solutions 360°</u>	50 per debate	Researchers and business and public sector representatives	
Debate	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools and Intellectual Property: Who Owns the Generated Content?	70	Lawyers, researchers, and business representatives	AAA Law
Hackathon	<u>Hack4Vilnius</u> (available in Lithuanian)	100	Students, business representatives, and technology specialists	Sunrise Tech Park, Vilnius Tech, ‘Cognizant’, Vilnius City Municipality
Workshops	<u>Entrepreneurship workshops</u> (available in Lithuanian)	242	Students from different universities	

Activities financed by the Research Promotion Fund

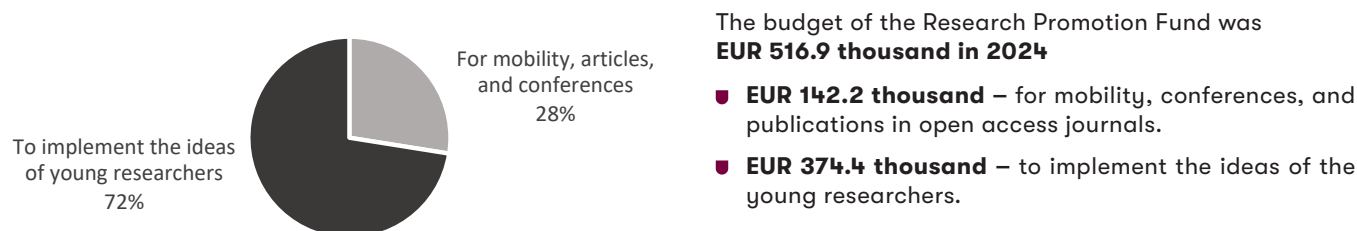


Figure 27. Allocation of the Research Promotion Fund resources in 2024

■ In 2024, the University's Research Promotion Fund financed the mobility of researchers, the travel and/or accommodation expenses of guest speakers at international scientific conferences organised by the University, the publications of scientific articles in high-profile open access scientific journals, and the implementation of the ideas of young researchers in no less than two fields or units (see Figure 27).

■ In 2024, 90 applications were submitted to the competition to implement the scientific ideas of young researchers and other researchers (25 more applications

than in 2023). Twenty-one projects were funded (application success rate – 23.3 per cent). The most active were the young researchers from the Life Sciences Center, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences, the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, the Faculty of Philosophy, and the Faculty of Physics. The cooperation between young researchers ensured the implementation of interdisciplinary scientific research not only in one area of science, but also between several areas: the natural sciences and medicine and the health sciences; the social and natural sciences; and the humanities and the natural sciences (see Figure 28).

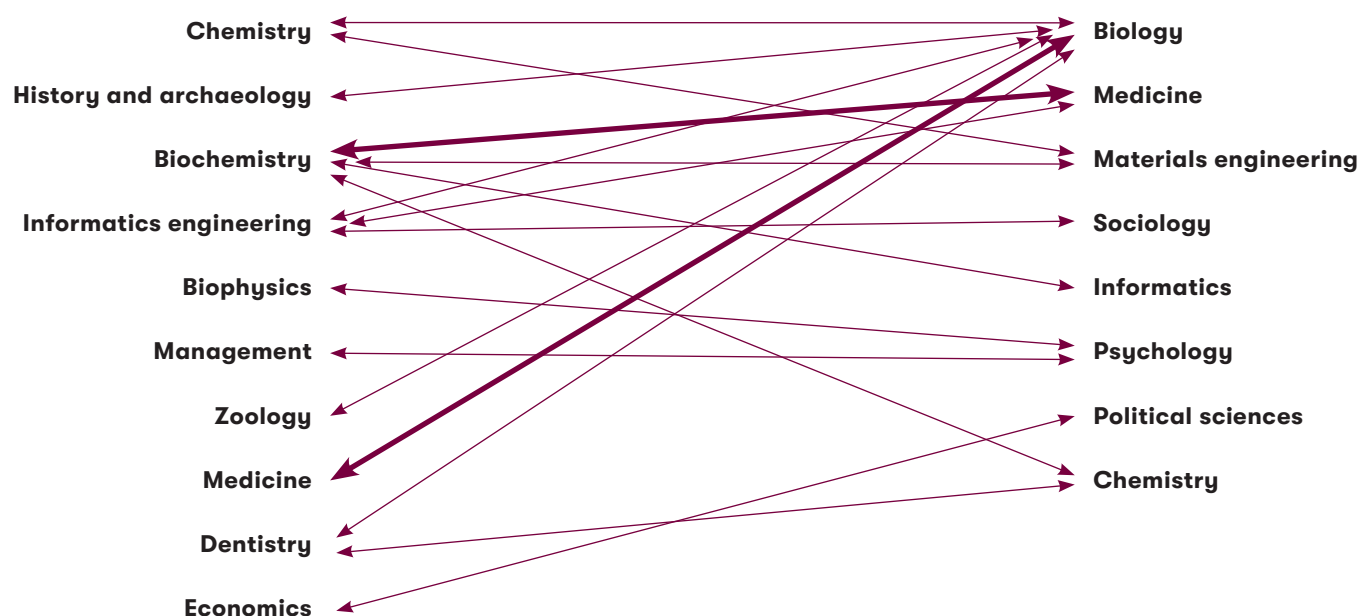


Figure 28. Interdisciplinarity of projects funded by the Research Promotion Fund in 2024

The thickness of the arrow between the fields of science indicates the frequency of their interaction in the projects funded by the Research Promotion Fund.



Studies

In 2024, admissions to the first cycle, integrated, and second cycle studies increased by 5.7 per cent, ensuring stable growth in study-related income necessary for the **sustainable development of the organisation**. Student admissions increased by 11 per cent compared to the average of 2019–2023, while international student admissions grew by 66 per cent over the same period. This year, the number of studying persons enrolled in all types of study programmes at the University exceeded 24,000.

Investment in support for teaching staff and professional development training to improve their competencies has been systematically increased to achieve **the goal of promoting the motivation of teaching staff**. In a year, more than 500 teaching staff members participated in courses and programmes that enhance their teaching competencies, with more than 200 of them participating in the EdTech project to strengthen digital competencies, resulting in them successfully updating or creating digital content for the course units they teach. Dozens of teaching staff

members used the financial support provided by the Fund for Educational Initiatives to introduce innovations in the course units they teach and improve their English language skills.

During the reporting year, a new Vilnius University Study Quality Guide and the Plan of Measures to Prevent the Drop-Out of Students were approved. They will ensure the systematic monitoring and assessment of the quality of studies, continuous analysis of the effectiveness of studies and graduate career success, as well as the coordinated academic and social integration of national and international students in order to educate **graduates capable of addressing societal challenges**.

Facts and figures



2,596 teaching staff members, **98** of whom were foreign nationals employed under full-time contracts, and **237** of them – visiting lecturers



8.6 students per teaching staff member (excluding residency and doctoral students)



215 first and second cycle study programmes, **29** per cent of which are implemented in a foreign language



63 residency study programmes



29 research fields in which doctoral studies are conducted



2,596 teaching staff members, of whom **345** are professors



23,000+ applications to study at VU as the 1st or 2nd priority; **5,000+** applications from foreign nationals



699 high-school graduates with at least one 100% score in their matura exams chose Vilnius University for their studies



7,561 freshers, of whom **1,024** were foreign nationals (13.5 per cent) from more than 100 countries



24,372 students, of whom 2,575 were foreign nationals (10.6 per cent)

- 60 per cent of Bachelor's students
- 14 per cent of students in integrated studies
- 19 per cent of Master's students
- 1 per cent of professional (pedagogy) students
- 3 per cent of residency students
- 3 per cent of doctoral students



4,844 graduates, of whom 345 were foreign nationals (7.1 per cent)



30 per cent of all graduates from Lithuanian universities come from Vilnius University



three out of four graduates study or work in a position that requires higher education



78 countries covered by the network of partners



964 Erasmus+ and bilateral university partnership agreements



4.1 out of 5 – average student rating of study quality at VU



29,000+ academic consultations provided

Teaching staff

Main facts about the teaching staff of 2024

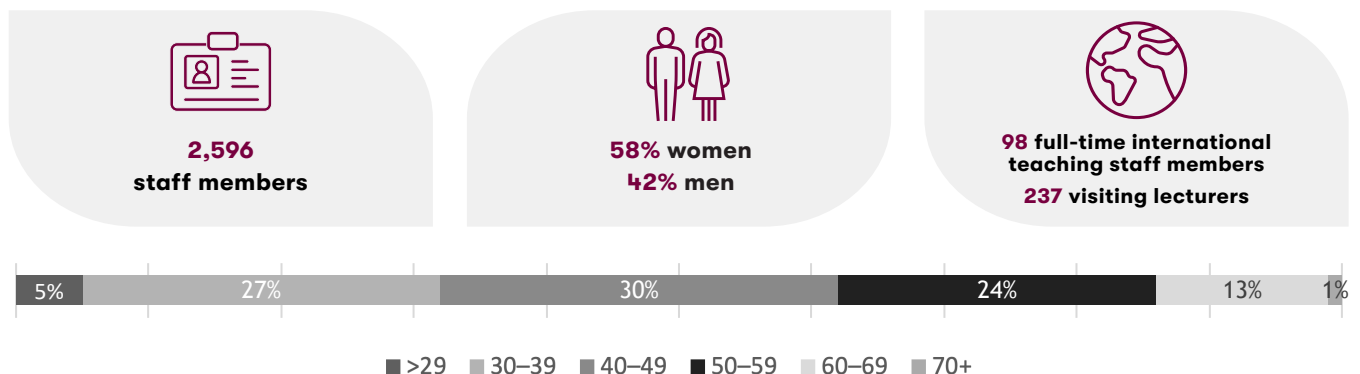


Figure 29. Number of teaching staff members* by age category in 2024

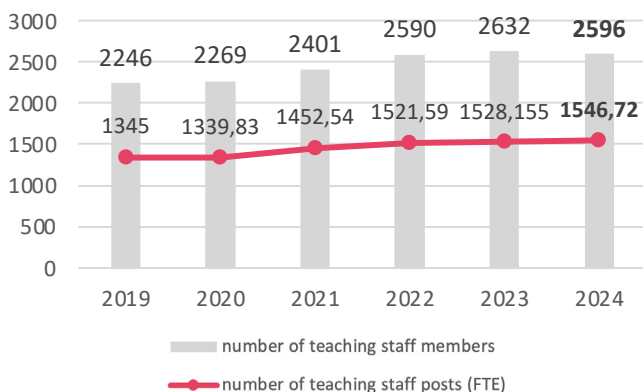


Figure 30. Staff dynamics: number of teaching staff* and full-time equivalent (FTE) posts** in 2020–2024

* The number of teaching staff members is indicated by those working under employment contracts.

** The full-time equivalent (FTE) of teaching staff posts for those working under employment contracts and agreements on additional work functions.

■ In 2024, 17 Lithuanian universities employed 8,099 teaching staff members (according to the National Agency for Education), **2,596** of whom – **32 per cent** – (36 persons fewer than in 2023) **worked at Vilnius University**. In 2024, the FTE of posts of teaching staff at Vilnius University, counting all their posts, was equal to **1,546.72**, which is 18.5 FTE of posts higher than in 2023 (see Figure 30).

■ In 2024, teaching staff accounted for 33 per cent of the total University staff.

■ The demographic breakdown shows that 81 per cent of teaching staff are in the age groups of 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, while the proportion of teaching staff under 30 and over 70 years is 5 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively. There are no significant changes in age groups compared to the previous year (see Figure 29).

■ In 2024, **62 per cent of teaching staff (1,601 people) held a PhD**.

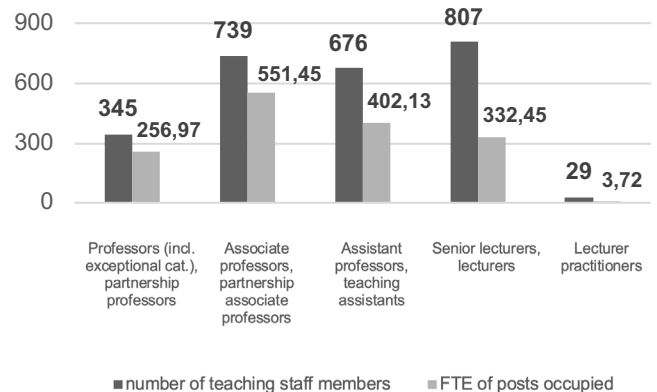


Figure 31. Distribution of teaching staff* and FTE posts** by position in 2024

* The number of teaching staff members is indicated by those working under employment contracts.

** The full-time equivalent (FTE) of teaching staff posts for those working under employment contracts and agreements on additional work functions.

■ **345 people** (257 FTE of posts) served as professors or partnership professors, including 20 foreign nationals (see Figure 31).

■ There is a significant increase in the number of teaching staff in certain position categories. Between 2019 and 2024, the number of associate professors and partnership associate professors increased by 34 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively (in 2024 compared to 2020).

■ To promote academic mobility and internationalisation, **98 international staff members** were employed full-time in 2024 (compared to 83 in 2023); most of them worked at the Faculty of Philology (40) and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (12).

■ The number of international teaching visits increased: in 2024, **164 academic staff members** (compared to 153 in 2023) **travelled abroad** under the Erasmus+ programme, and **237 academics arrived from abroad to teach as visiting lecturers** (compared to 181 in 2023).

In 2024, following the amendments to the Law on Higher Education and Research, **new teaching staff** positions were established and regulated at the University.

■ The **lecturer practitioner** position enables the University to attract external professionals with at least three years of practical experience in the relevant field. In 2024, 29 people were employed (see Figure 31).

■ **Visiting lecturers** are staff members from other higher education and research institutions who meet the qualification requirements for associate professors and professors and are provided with the opportunity to teach for a maximum of one year. In 2024, nine people took advantage of this opportunity.

University students and graduates

Student admissions

In 2024, Vilnius University started the academic year **with the highest number of freshers – 7,561 first-year students – in the 2019–2024 period**. Compared to the average for 2019–2023, the admissions increased by **10.9 per cent** (see Figure 32).

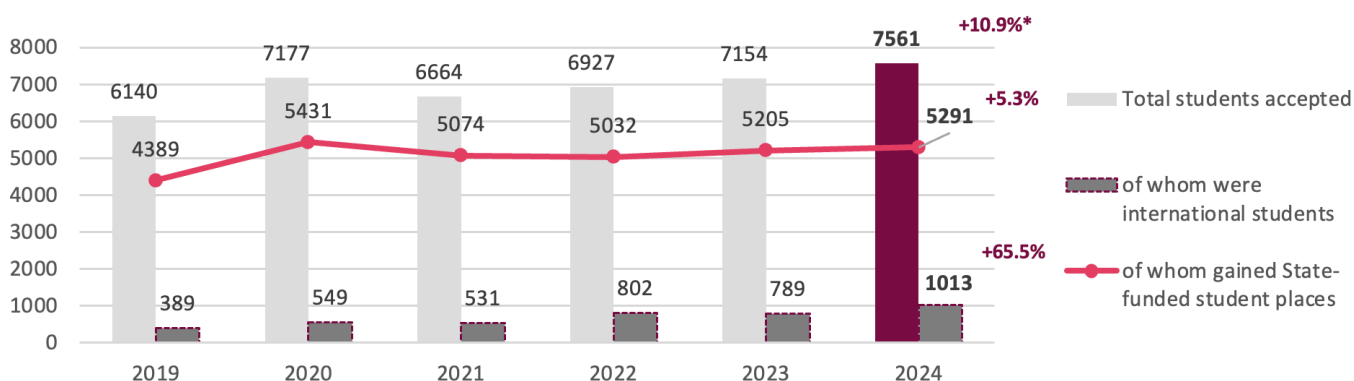


Figure 32. Dynamics of those admitted to all study cycles in 2019–2024

* The comparison between 2024 and the average for 2019–2023 is provided.

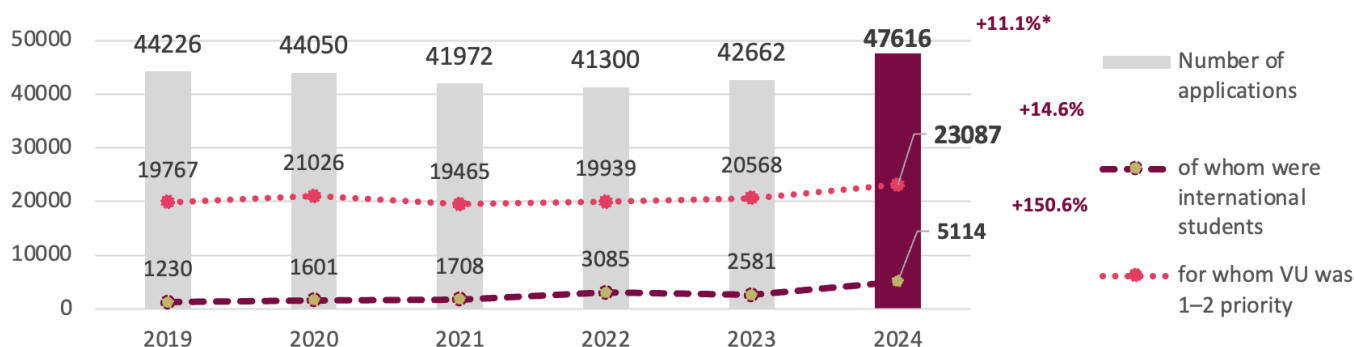


Figure 33. Dynamics of the received applications to study at all study cycles except doctoral studies in 2019–2024

* The comparison between 2024 and the average for 2019–2023 is provided.

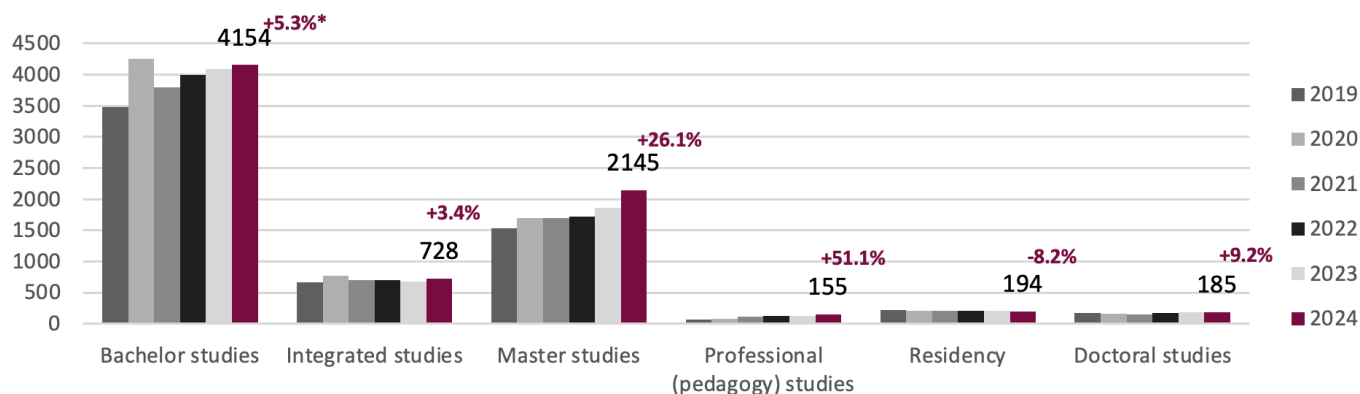


Figure 34. Number of students enrolled in studies at the University according to the study cycle in 2019–2024

* The comparison between 2024 and the average for 2019–2023 is provided.

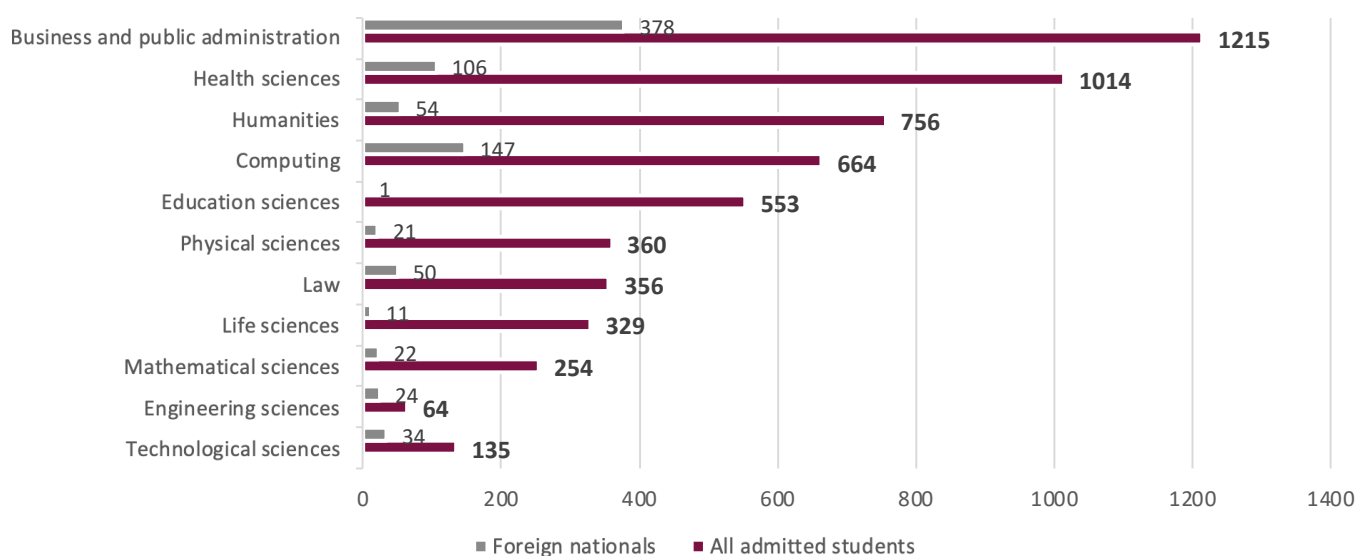


Figure 35. Number of admitted students (excluding doctoral students) by study field groups in 2024

The number of students admitted to doctoral studies according to the area of science is presented in Figure 9.

Admission trends in 2024

■ In 2024, **7,561 students enrolled in all study cycles**, with **approximately 70 per cent of them gaining State-funded places** (see Figure 32). According to the study cycle, the largest share of State-funded places went to doctoral studies (98 per cent), residency (88 per cent), and professional (pedagogy) studies (80 per cent). Meanwhile, the largest share of those who enrolled in non-State-funded studies was at Master's degree level – about 41 per cent.

■ According to LAMA BPO data, **11,489 students** entered into Bachelor's and integrated studies agreements at Lithuanian universities, **4,882** of whom chose Vilnius University (see Figure 34), accounting for almost **42 per cent** of all entrants at Lithuanian universities (compared to 43 per cent in 2023).

■ The increase in the number of those admitted to study at the University also shows the rise in the number of applications received for study programmes. Compared

to the average number of applications for 2019–2023, the total number increased by 11.1 per cent. In total, **47.6 thousand applications** were received in all cycles (excluding doctoral studies) (see Figure 33). Competitions for doctoral studies are presented in the Chapter on the 'Admission of doctoral students and completion of doctoral studies in 2019–2024'.

■ As for academic units, the total number of applications, compared to 2023, increased the most at the Business School (35 per cent), Kaunas Faculty (23 per cent), and the Faculty of Physics (21 per cent).

■ **Out of all the applications received by the University, 48.5 per cent were submitted as the students' 1st or 2nd priority**, which is an increase of 14.6 per cent compared to the average of 2019–2023 (see Figure 33). This shows a growing interest in the studies offered. Almost 68 per cent of applicants applied for State-funded places.

■ The University remains attractive to students who demonstrated the highest achievements in their matura exams – it was chosen by **57 per cent** (compared to 53 per cent in 2023) of Lithuanian school graduates who have received at least one 100-point assessment. In 2024, **699** high school graduates with at least one 100-point assessment in their matura exams ranked the Bachelor and integrated study programmes at the University as their first choice of studies. The majority of those chose **the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (136) and the Faculty of Medicine (118)**.

■ The analysis of the admission trends according to the study fields shows that most students (except for doctoral studies) in 2024 were admitted to study programmes in the **social sciences (22 per cent), business and public management (17 per cent), and health sciences (16 per cent)**. Comparing graduate data with admission data, it can be seen that admissions to the business and public management science field are increasing by 3 per cent, while admissions to the education science and informatics science fields are increasing by 2 per cent each (see Figure 35).

Admission of international students

■ In 2024, **1,013 first-year international students** enrolled at the University, accounting for **13.5 per cent** of the total enrolment. Compared to the average for 2019–2023, the number of international students increased by **65.5 per cent** (see Figure 32).

■ The increase in the admission of international students was also influenced by the growing interest of international students in studying in Lithuania in 2024 – more than five thousand applications of foreign nationals from almost 100 countries were received in 2024 (compared to more than 2,500 in 2023). Since 2019, the number of applications received by foreign nationals has increased fourfold, accounting for about 10 per cent of all applications received. The highest number of applications came from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, India, and Ukraine; as a result, about 55 per cent of all international students admitted were from these countries and Germany.

■ In 2024, the number of international students admitted to Bachelor studies was almost **3.5 times higher** than in 2019, and the number of international students admitted to Master studies was more than three times higher. It is

likely that this growth was due to the development of the offer of study programmes – since 2019, their number has increased from 51 to 73, and the number of Bachelor's degree programmes has more than doubled – from 11 to 24.

■ The most popular study programmes among international students in 2024 were **International Business, Medicine, Information Systems and Cyber Security, and Software Engineering**, reflecting the labour market demand.

■ Last year, doctoral studies were selected by the largest number of international students in the past six years (27 students compared to 16 students in 2023).

■ The largest number of international students was accepted by the Business School (40 per cent), Kaunas Faculty (29 per cent), and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (18 per cent). These indicators show that the University is becoming increasingly attractive to international audiences, and the highest number of foreign nationals is recorded in the areas of business and economics.

University students

In 2024, **24,372 students studied** at the University, accounting for **one-third of all students at Lithuanian universities**.

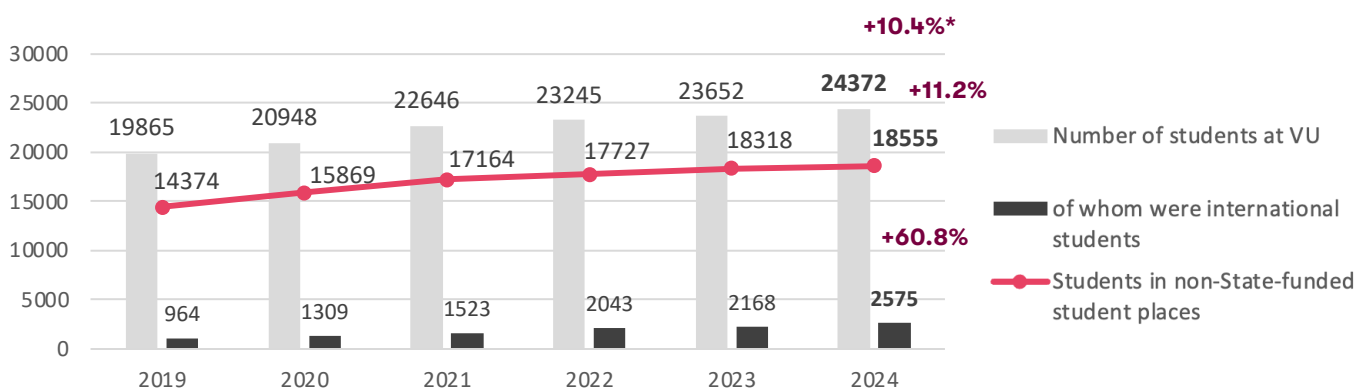


Figure 36. Dynamics of the number of University students in 2019–2024

* The comparison between 2024 and the average for 2019–2023 is provided.

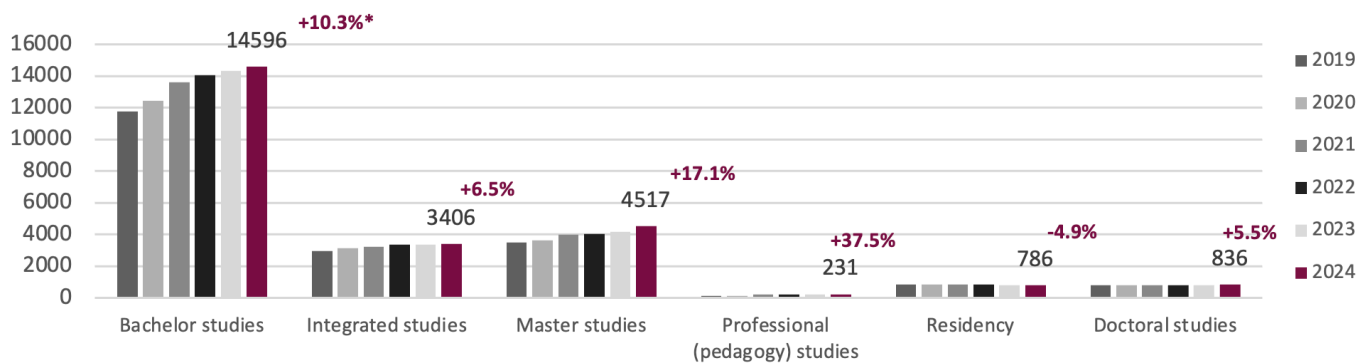


Figure 37. Dynamics of the number of students according to the study cycle in 2019–2024

* The comparison between 2024 and the average for 2019–2023 is provided.

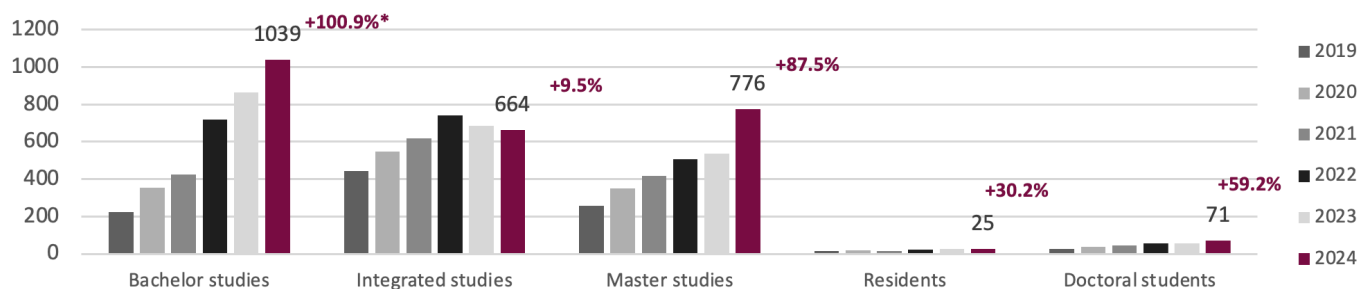


Figure 38. Number of international students at the University according to the study cycle in 2019–2024

* The comparison between 2024 and the average for 2019–2023 is provided.

Changes in student numbers

■ In 2024, the number of students increased by **10.4 per cent** compared to the average between 2019 and 2023 (see Figure 36). The main drivers of growth were:

- a significant increase in the number of international students (+60.8 per cent)
- a growth of the number of State-funded student places at the University in 2019–2024 (+4,000)
- a stable number of non-State-funded students (>5,800)
- the integration of Šiauliai University into Šiauliai Academy (since 2021)
- the promotion of pedagogy studies with targeted scholarships

■ In 2024, the decrease in the number of residency students was due to a decrease in the number of State-funded places (see Figure 37).

■ Of the 14 academic units, **12 recorded an increase in student numbers**. The Faculty of Medicine remained the largest (4,328 students, 18 per cent of all students). Compared to 2019, the fastest growth was recorded in the Business School, with the number of students increasing by about 30 per cent.

■ **The gender distribution has remained stable over the past six years** – in 2024, 64 per cent of students were women and 36 per cent were men. The lowest number of male students remained in professional (pedagogy) (22 per cent) and residency (24 per cent) studies. The lowest gender imbalance is recorded in doctoral studies (42 per cent men, 58 per cent women).



International students

In 2024, **2,575 foreign nationals were full-time students** at the University (2,168 in 2023), accounting for **11 per cent of all students** (see Figure 36).

Table 12. Proportion of foreign nationals (in per cent) among University students

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Proportion of foreign nationals (excluding residency and pedagogy students)	5.1%	6.5%	7.0%	9.2%	9.6%	11.0%

In 2024, the number of foreign nationals in Bachelor and Master study programmes increased the most compared to the average between 2019 and 2023, with rises of 101 and 88 per cent respectively (see Figure 38). Citizens of more than **100** different countries undertake full-time studies at the University. The largest number of students came from Ukraine – 458 (491 in 2023), Germany – 392 (415 in 2023), Pakistan – 211 (104 in 2023), Bangladesh – 189 (24 in 2023), and India – 153 (130 in 2023).

In 2024, the highest proportions of international students were enrolled in:

- **Integrated studies – 19.5 per cent**
- **Master studies – 17.2 per cent**
- A smaller proportion of international students are undertaking their **doctoral studies – 8.5 per cent** and **Bachelor studies – 7.1 per cent** at the University.

University graduates and career monitoring

In 2019–2024, about **26.5 thousand students graduated from Vilnius University**, of whom about **1.3 thousand were foreign nationals** (see Figure 39). The contribution of Vilnius University to the country’s higher education

system remains significant. According to data from the Education Management Information System, the University graduates make up **about a third of all Lithuanian university graduates**.

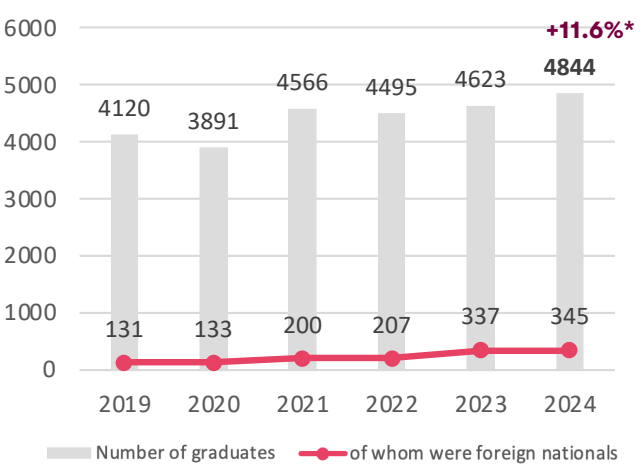


Figure 39. Number of the University’s graduates in 2019–2024
* The comparison between 2024 and the average for 2019–2023 is provided.

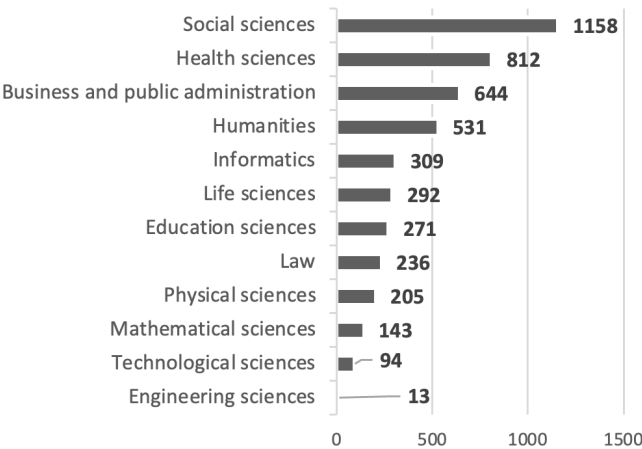


Figure 40. Number of Vilnius University graduates (excluding doctoral students) by study field groups in 2024

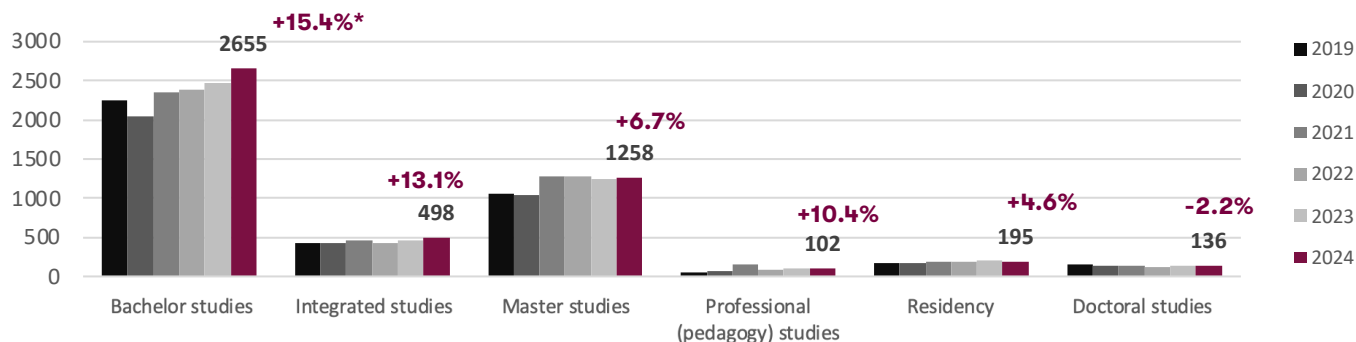


Figure 41. Change in the number of graduates by study cycle in 2019–2024

* The comparison between 2024 and the average for 2019–2023 is provided.
The number of doctoral graduates by area of science is presented in Figure 10.

The University monitors graduates by analysing national statistics and conducting graduate surveys. This data allows the University to monitor important indicators of the graduates.

National statistics

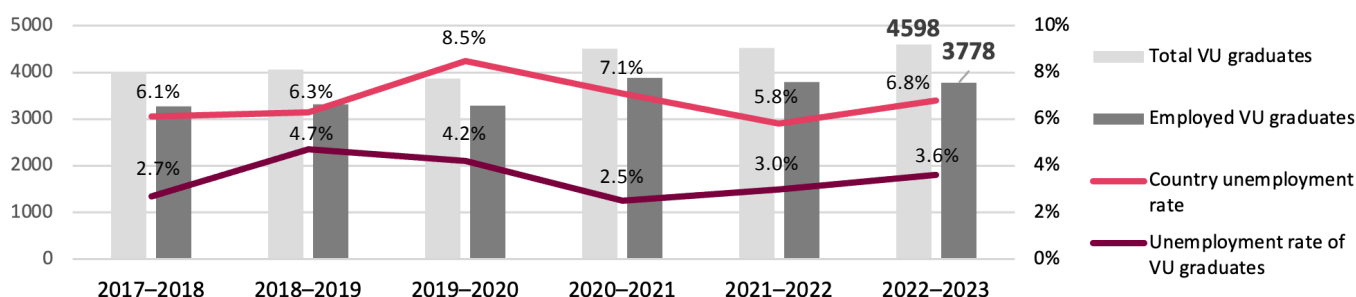


Figure 42. Employment rate of the University graduates and the unemployment rate in 2017–2023 (in Lithuania* and of VU graduates**)**

*The employment rate of the University graduates 12 months after graduation is represented by the share of graduates either in employment, continuing their studies, on child-care leave, doing military service, registered with the Lithuanian Public Employment Service, or the share of graduates who have declared departure from Lithuania, as well as the individuals who do not fall under any of the above.

*The University graduate unemployment rate is calculated as the percentage of graduates registered with the Public Employment Service 12 months after graduation.

**Country unemployment rate is available on the Official Statistics Portal.

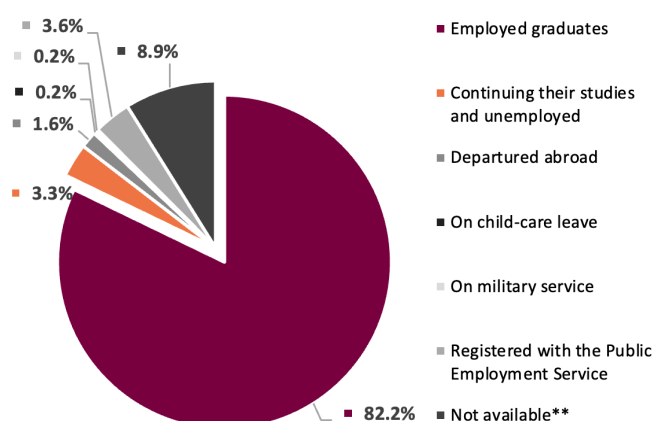


Figure 43. Vilnius University graduate employment 12 months after graduation in 2022–2023

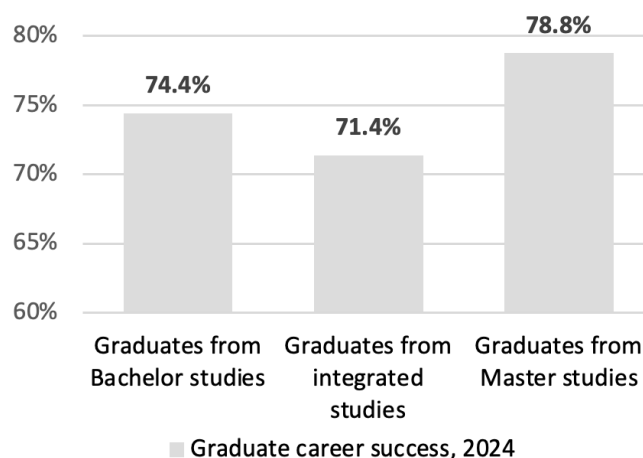


Figure 44. Career success of Vilnius University students who graduated in 2021–2022*

* Graduates' career success is measured by monitoring the number of graduates who, 12 months after graduation, have continued their studies at a higher cycle and/or are employed in a job requiring a tertiary education qualification (percentage).

Graduate trends

When analysing trends in the country in Bachelor's degree graduates from 2019 to 2023, a steady annual decline is observed – compared to 2019, the number **decreased by 23 per cent** in 2023. However, the number of Bachelor's degree graduates at Vilnius University has been increasing steadily since 2020. In 2024, the number of graduates was 11.6 per cent higher than the average in 2019–2023 (see Figure 41). Vilnius University is educating an increasing proportion of the country's Bachelor's degree graduates – their share has grown from 22 per cent in 2019 to 32 per cent in 2023. This shows the increasing position of the University in the context of the country's overall higher education.

■ In 2024, **4,411** Bachelor's and Master's degree diplomas were awarded at Vilnius University (see Figure 41), including **119** Magna Cum Laude and **333** Cum Laude diplomas.

■ In 2024, most students graduated from the Faculties of Medicine, Philosophy, and Economics and Business Administration. The largest number of international graduates was in the Faculty of Medicine, with 86 such graduates.

■ The largest number of graduates by study field group was 25 per cent in the social sciences, followed by the health sciences with 17 per cent, and business and public management with 14 per cent of all graduates (see Figure 40).

Graduate employability and career success

■ Between 2020 and 2023, the number of graduates remained stable (4,500–4,600), while the number of people employed was 3,750–3,900. In 2024, the **unemployment rate** of the University graduates was **3.6 per cent** (see Figure 43), well below the national average (6.8 per cent), which confirms their competitiveness in the labour market.

■ In 2022–2023, **the graduate employment rate reached 82 per cent a year after graduation** (see Figure 43). In addition, more than 75 per cent of them continued their studies or worked in jobs requiring higher education (see Figure 44), which reflects the demand for University graduates in the labour market.



Vilnius University graduate survey

The Vilnius University graduates survey evaluated the satisfaction of students who graduated in 2023, 2021, and 2019 with their studies and current careers, as well as the impact their studies had on their careers. In 2024, the survey was distributed among 11,930 graduates; although the response rate was relatively low (7–11 per cent), the results are still considered representative at the University level.

The employability of the University's graduates remains high, with the University playing a significant role in their

successful integration into the labour market, assisting them in finding a desired job and remaining in demand. Less influence is observed on their income and career growth. Increasingly, higher education, completing an internship during studies, and acquiring knowledge and skills are crucial for employment. **Graduates stressed the growing need for career services and the importance of the quality of internship placements.**

Study programmes offered at the University

Vilnius University provides studies in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Šiauliai.
In 2024, the following study programmes were implemented:

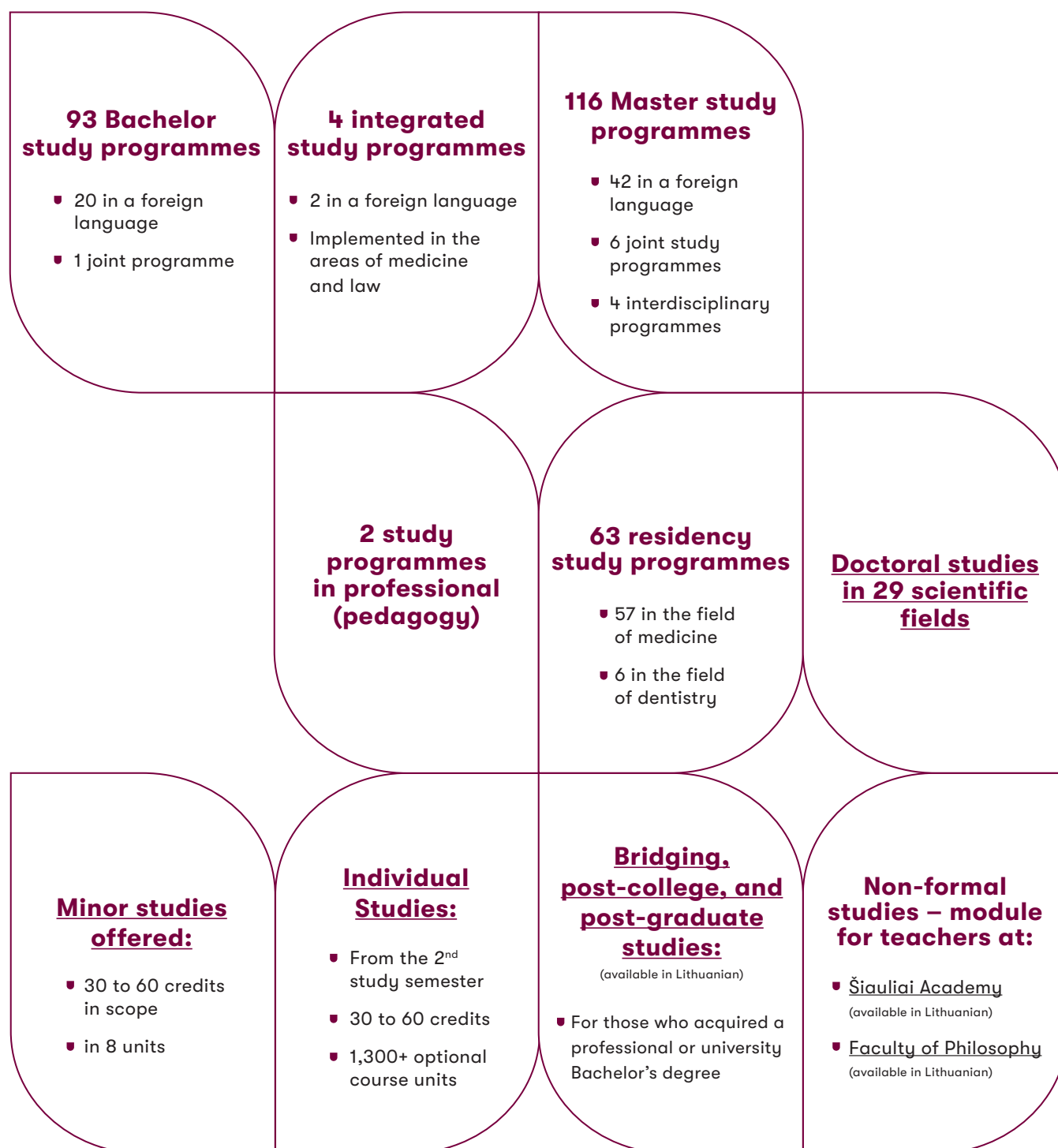


Figure 45. Study programmes offered at Vilnius University in 2024

Table 13. Top ten study programmes among applicants in 2024

Bachelor and integrated study programmes	Master and professional (pedagogy) study programmes	Residency study programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dentistry 2. Special Education and Speech Therapy 3. Psychology 4. Management* 5. Business and Finance 6. Journalism 7. Global Marketing* 8. Medicine 9. International Business 10. Software Engineering* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical Psychology 2. Business Process Management 3. International Project Management* 4. Medical Biology 5. Advanced Practice Nursing 6. Finance and Banking 7. Pedagogy, Professional (Pedagogy) Studies 8. DeepTech Entrepreneurship 9. Public Governance* 10. Finance and Banking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dermatovenerology 2. Cardiology 3. Orthodontics 4. Paediatrics and Children's Neurology 5. Paediatrics and Children's Cardiology 6. Urology 7. Psychiatry 8. Gastroenterology 9. Endocrinology 10. Radiology

* Study programmes whose popularity increased in 2024, as measured by a higher ratio of applicants per place compared to 2023.



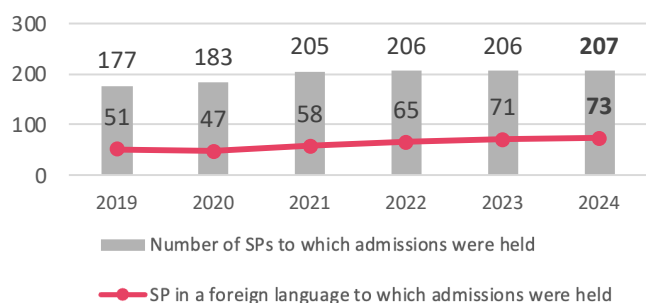


Figure 46. Number of study programmes* to which admissions were held in 2019–2024

* Number of Bachelor, integrated, Master, and professional (pedagogy) study programmes.

In 2024, Vilnius University offered the applicants 266 study programmes (see Figure 47), of which five were new (three Bachelor and two Master study programmes). Admissions for doctoral students were carried out in 29 science fields.

In 2025, admissions to four new study programmes in English, ‘Innovative Communication and Entrepreneurship’,

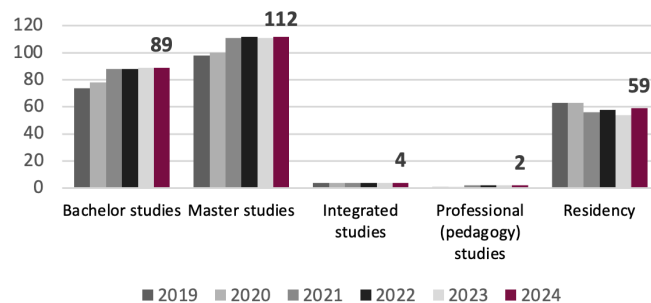


Figure 47. Number of study programmes to which admissions were held in 2019–2024 according to the study cycles

‘Language and Artificial Intelligence Management’, ‘Particle Physics and Accelerator Technologies for Research and Industry’, and ‘Sustainability and Future Societies’, will be held.

In 2024, **interdisciplinary and international studies were expanded** to meet the University’s strategic objectives.

Table 14. Interdisciplinary and international study programmes implemented in 2024

10 double-diploma study programmes:	7 joint study programmes:	4 interdisciplinary study programmes:
Three Bachelor study programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative Economics (EVAF) Management (EVAF) International Business (VM) 	Bachelor study programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Work and Social Rehabilitation (ŠA) 	Bachelor study programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language and Artificial Intelligence Management (KnF) (to be implemented in 2025)
Seven Master study programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Communication (KF) Linguistics (FLF) Laser Technologies (FF) International and European Law (TF) Marketing and Integrated Communication (EVAF) Global Business and Economics (EVAF) Translation (FLF) 	Six Master study programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Work (ŠA) Regional Development and Governance (ŠA) Arts Therapy (MF) European Studies (TSPMI) International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence (MIF) Financial Data Analytics and Sustainable Finance (EVAF) 	Four Master study programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Systems Management (ŠA) International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence (MIF) Systems Biology (MF) Arts Therapy (MF)
Over 30 study partners from 10+ countries		

In 2024, to promote an interdisciplinary approach to University studies, a training cycle was held for teachers planning to prepare or currently preparing interdisciplinary course units (modules). Calls for teachers to apply for funding for the preparation of these course units (modules) were also announced. Three course units of

interdisciplinary studies – Environmental Economics, Future Studies, and Introduction to Medical Humanities – were successfully developed last year, and students were given the opportunity to choose them as course units of individual studies during the autumn semester.

Student mobility

Mobility is a significant tool for enhancing the international experience of the Vilnius University community. It requires a wide and diverse network of partners, as well as activities that develop and incentivise mobility (for studies and practice).

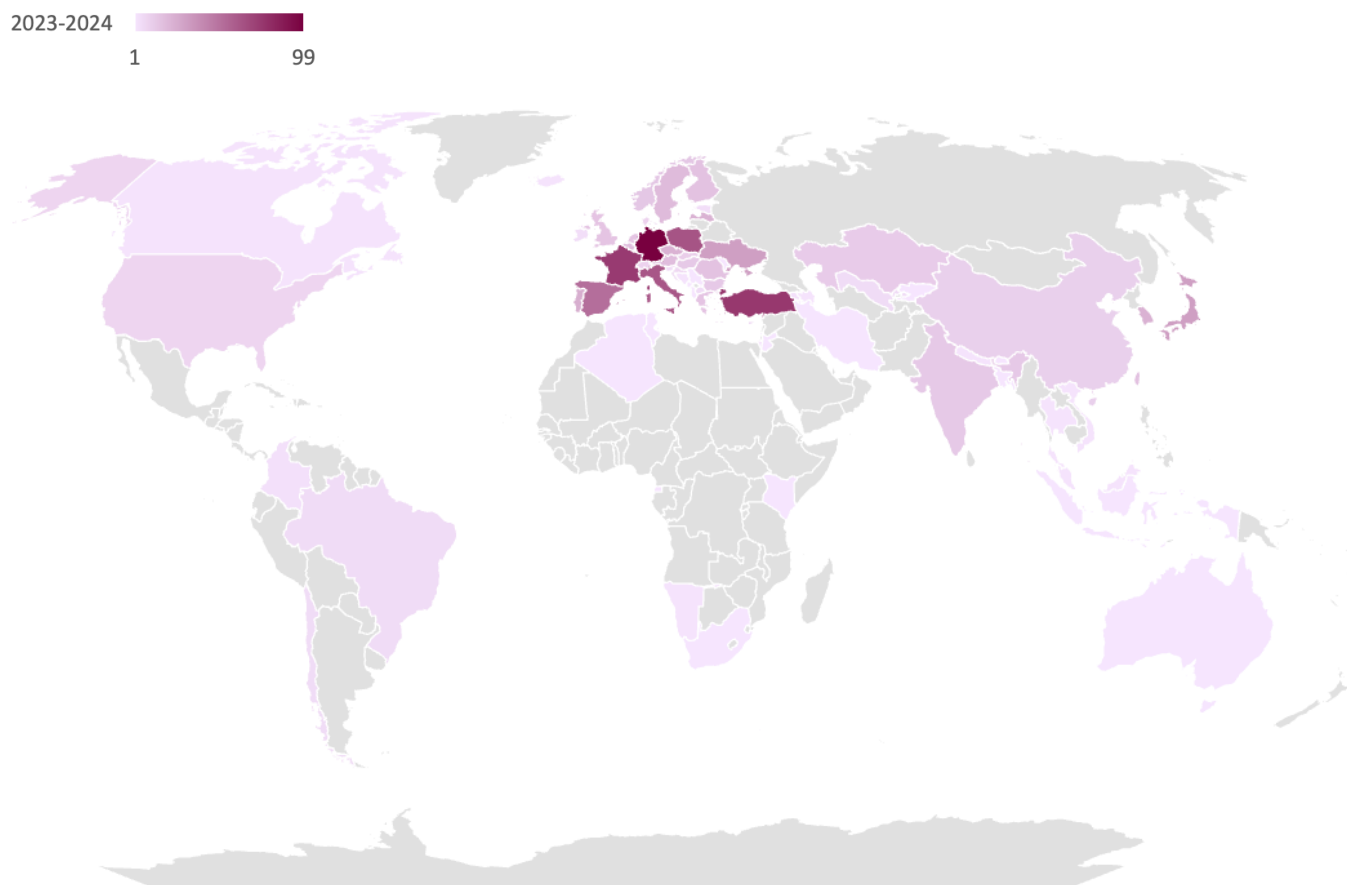


Figure 48. Distribution of Erasmus+ partners and bilateral university partnerships worldwide by intensity in 2023–2024

* The marked countries did not have any Erasmus+ partners in 2022–2023 and only joined in 2023–2024.

The highest number of Erasmus+ agreements			The lowest number of Erasmus+ agreements			The highest number of bilateral partnership agreements		
	Number of partners	Change		Number of partners	Change		Number of partners	Change
Germany	89	0	Armenia	1	+1*	Japan	30	+1
Turkey	73	+3	Azerbaijan	1	+1*	Ukraine	26	+1
France	72	0	Brazil	1	+1*	South Korea	22	0
Italy	56	-1	Canada	1	+1*	Taiwan	14	+2
Poland	56	+2	Tunisia	1	+1*	Kazakhstan	10	+1

Table 15. Erasmus+ and bilateral university partner agreements: leading countries and newly joined countries in 2023–2024

Incoming and outgoing exchange students

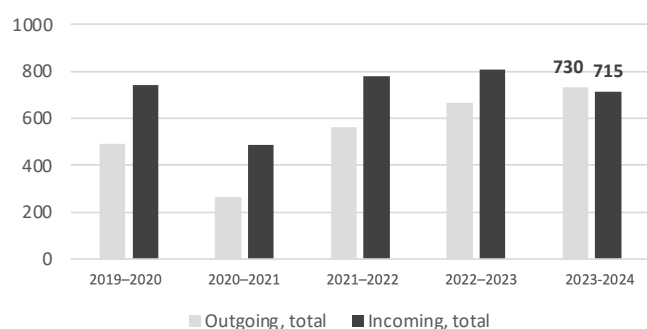


Figure 49. Dynamics of the number of incoming and outgoing exchange students in 2019–2024

Incoming exchange students: destinations and numbers		Outgoing exchange students: destinations and numbers	
Italy	113	Italy	103
France	91	Spain	73
Germany	66	France	62
Spain	62	Germany	59
Turkey	46	Portugal	55
		South Korea	23

Table 16. Incoming and outgoing exchange students in 2023–2024: the destinations chosen by the most students and the corresponding student numbers

International internships and work placements for students and graduates

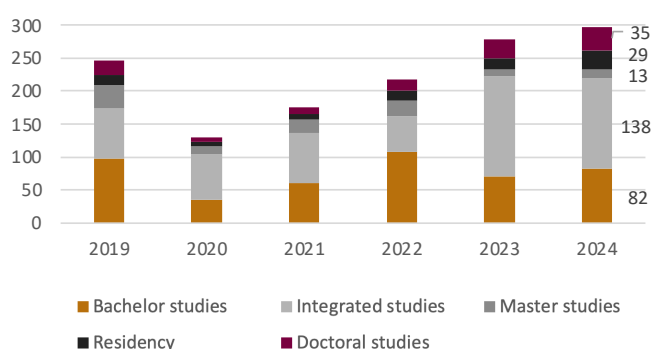


Figure 50. Dynamics of the number of University students going on international internships in 2019–2024

Number of students who have completed internships		Number of graduates who have completed internships	
Germany	96	Germany	16
Switzerland	22	Italy	15
Italy	21	Spain	12
France	17	Portugal	9
Poland	16	France	6

Table 17. Students and graduates going on internships in 2024: the destinations chosen by the most students and the corresponding student numbers

Mobility of doctoral students

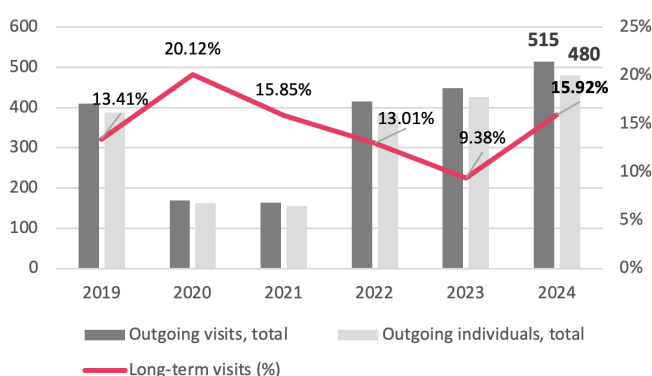


Figure 51. Dynamics of the number of outgoing visits and outgoing individuals in 2019–2024 and percentage of long-term visits

Country	Number of doctoral student visits
Germany	48
Italy	43
Latvia	34
Poland	29
Spain	26
France	25
Estonia	25
US	24
Great Britain	21
The Netherlands	21
Portugal	20

Table 18. Most prevalent destination countries for doctoral students and number of doctoral student visits in 2024

International cooperation and mobility

■ In 2023–2024, **the network of partners of Vilnius University expanded to 78 countries and 964 Erasmus+ bilateral agreements**. Europe accounts for 75.1 per cent of the partnerships, while Asia represents 16.3 per cent and is showing growth, particularly via partnerships with Asian countries (see Figure 48, Table 15).

■ With the growth of mobility, **Erasmus+ long-term exchanges remained the most prevalent** (498 cases). **Short-term exchange programmes increased by +38.6 per cent**. (97 cases). The number of outgoing individuals increased from 491 (in 2019–2020) up to 730 (in 2023–2024) (see Table 49).

■ For the first time, **the number of outgoing individuals exceeded the number of incoming individuals**. The most prevalent destination countries were Italy, Spain, Germany, and France, with growing interest in South Korea (see Table 16).

■ The University accepts more than **700 international exchange students annually**, mainly from Italy, France,

Germany, and Spain (see Table 16), but the number of incoming students from more distant regions, such as Argentina and Singapore, is steadily increasing. External factors (war, financing) affect the flow of incoming individuals.

■ A comparison of the number of students who participated in international internships between 2019 and 2024 (see Figure 50, Table 17) shows a growing trend. The majority are current students, as this measure remains less relevant for graduates. Most often, the destination chosen by these two groups is Germany).

■ The mobility of doctoral students increased significantly in 2024: 398 doctoral students went on 433 visits, of which 82 long-term work placements (of more than 30 days) (+51.2 per cent). The increase in long-term visits was driven by changes in doctoral regulations, which now encourage a minimum of three months for international work placements. The largest number of doctoral students went to Germany, Italy, and Latvia (see Figure 51, Table 18).

Study conditions and services

In pursuit of its long-term goal, ‘Motivated employees and engaged students’, the University measures the level of student satisfaction and initiates changes in the

study process to create the provision of individual studies, update and improve services, and review and increase student support.

Student satisfaction with the quality of studies

At the end of each semester, University students (except doctoral students) assess the quality of the completed studies.

Are you overall satisfied with this semester’s studies at Vilnius University?

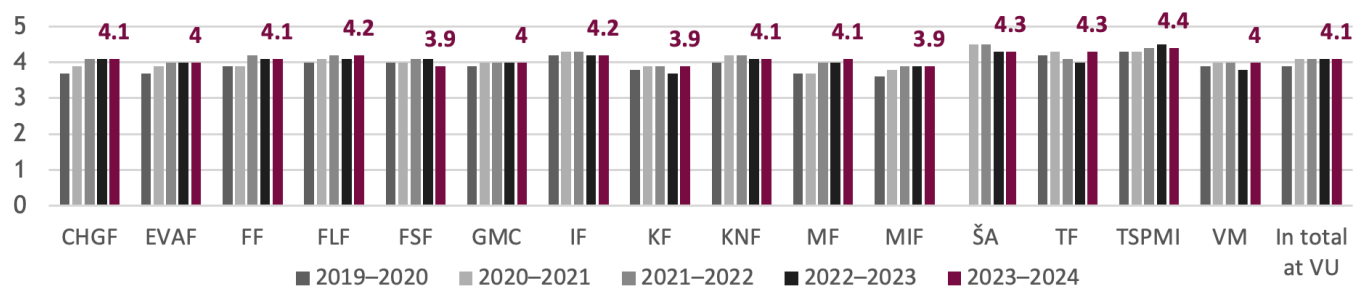


Figure 52. Satisfaction with the quality of studies at academic units in 2019–2024, on a five-point scale

The 2023–2024 survey had a response rate of 54–91 per cent, depending on the unit and the study cycle. The overall satisfaction with the studies rate at Vilnius University has been 4.1 out of 5 for four years. This shows that, in general, students are satisfied with

their studies. Šiauliai Academy, the Faculty of History, and the Institute of International Relations and Political Science are distinguished by a higher than the overall average of the University’s assessments, ranging from 4.2 to 4.3 points (see Figure 52).

Individual studies

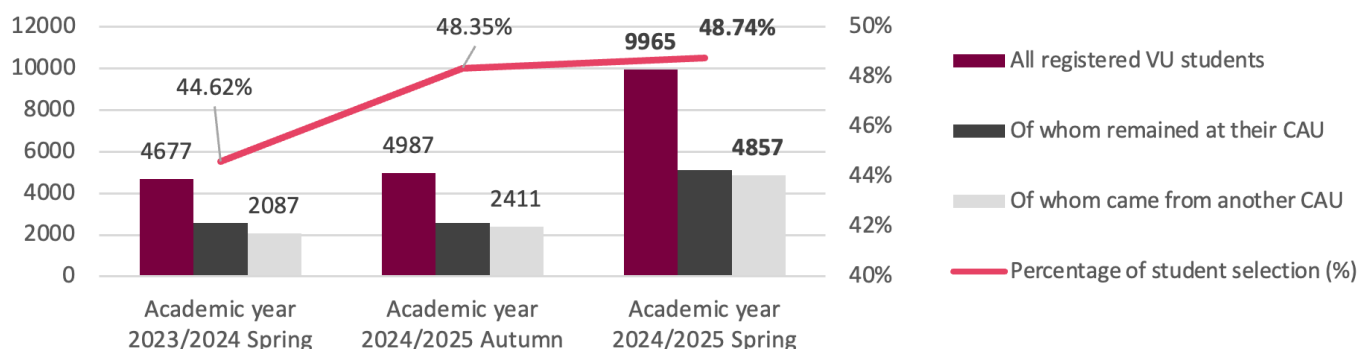


Figure 53. Dynamics of the number of individual course units selected in 2023–2025

A total of 4,987 students registered for individual course units in the autumn semester of 2024/2025; this number doubled in the spring semester to 9,965 students (see Figure 53). Only students in their second year (third semester) selected optional course units in the autumn semester of 2024/2025, since the selection option for students in their first year of study is only available from the second semester. In the spring semester of 2024/2025, the number of students choosing optional course units

doubled because both second-year (fourth-semester) and first-year (second-semester) students had the option to choose. The ratio between those who selected course units at another academic unit and their own remained the same throughout both semesters. The course units at other faculties were predominantly chosen by the MF, TF, and IF students, and least frequently by students from KNF, ŠA, and the FF. International exchange students mainly chose course units offered at the FLF and EVAF.

Services for students

In 2024, updates were made to the procedure for the organisation of student integration and the introductory week at Vilnius University. The application process for academic counselling was also revised, and the description of academic counselling was created. The website www.vu.lt, which publishes general information about the services provided to students, was also revised and updated.

Centralised services for students provided at Vilnius University:

- [Academic counselling](#)
- [Career services](#)
- [Training and educational activities](#)
- [Health promotion consultations](#)
- [Legal aid services](#)
- Library services in [Vilnius](#) | [Kaunas](#) | [Šiauliai](#)
- [E-services](#)
- Accommodation in [Vilnius](#) | [Kaunas](#) (alternatives offered) | [Šiauliai](#)
- [Recreation services](#)



Integration of students

The integration of students at the University begins even before the academic year – all freshers receive informational letters and invitations to introductory activities. During the introductory week known as [StudentAUK](#), new students are introduced to the academic environment, services,

psychological support, and the principles of academic ethics. For international students, integration is carried out in English; they are given the opportunity to learn the Lithuanian language during the semester.



Adaptation for students with individual needs and learning disabilities

By implementing the [Vilnius University Diversity and Equal Opportunities Strategy](#), the University aims to ensure greater access to the study process, implement the individualisation of studies, and provide financial assistance

and compensatory measures. This year, an [additional competition queue](#) (available in Lithuanian) option was implemented nationwide.

Academic counselling

The University provides academic counselling on applications for study and admissions, as well as on the study progress and funding issues.

Table 19. Change in student enquiries for academic counselling in 2020–2024

Year	Total number of international students/applicants	Change (%)	Total number of Lithuanian students/applicants	Change (%)	Enquiries in total	Change (%)
2020	5,809	—	14,147	—	21,269	—
2021	9,956	+71.40%	13,566	-4.10%	24,228	+13.90%
2022	14,820	+48.80%	12,187	-10.20%	27,532	+13.60%
2023	13,285	-10.40%	11,546	-5.30%	25,391	-7.80%
2024	16,748	+26.00%	12,339	+6.88%	29,087	+14.54%

■ In 2024, the highest total number of enquiries was recorded – **29,087** – during the period analysed (see Table 19).

■ For the University to better manage its services and allocate resources more efficiently, the handling of counselling was transferred to a centralised system of

enquiries, thus reducing enquiries on social media (1,333 in 2019 and 101 in 2024).

■ From 2020 to 2024, there was a significant increase in the number of international student enquiries, which encouraged the process to be reviewed and optimised.

Mentoring programme and the 'Ask a Student' initiative

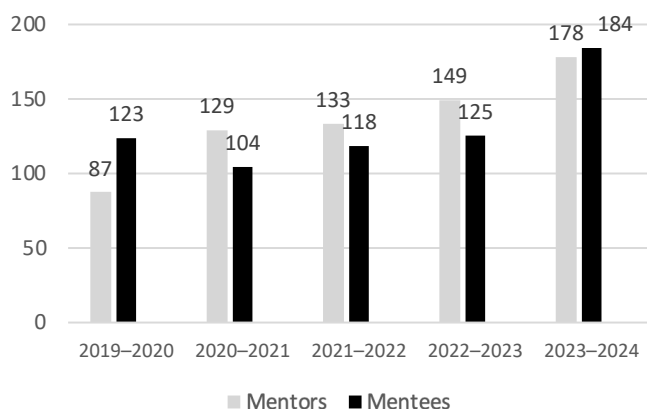


Figure 54. Number of participants involved in the mentoring programme in 2019–2024

The mentoring programme aims to create a supportive environment that encourages student growth, fosters professional and personal development, and strengthens community ties. Its activities are promoted through 'Trust in Experience' (available in Lithuanian) events, where University mentors – volunteer lecturers and staff, alumni – share professional experience, career discoveries, and advice.

The 'Ask a Student' (available in Lithuanian) initiative brings together University students – volunteers who

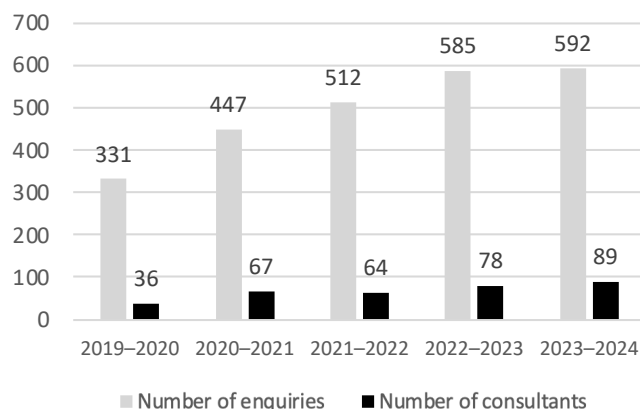


Figure 55. Number of enquiries and number of consultants available for the 'Ask a Student' initiative

help pupils understand university life more clearly, i.e. the study process, everyday life, and opportunities. This activity directly contributes to attracting new students and publicising study programmes.

The increasing numbers of the mentoring programme participants (see Figure 54) and the 'Ask a Student' initiative inquiries (in the JIRA system) (see Figure 55) show an increasing interest of students in these services and reaffirm the opinions of the graduates on the need and importance of such services at the University.



Support for students

The total value of scholarships awarded to students in 2024 was almost **EUR 7 million**. The University awarded:

■ **287** social partner scholarships (total amount – EUR 374.875 thousand) ↑ EUR 41.075 thousand*

■ **4,741** scholarships granted from the State budget (total amount – EUR 4,830.72 thousand) ↑ EUR 2,026.42 thousand*

■ **2,789** scholarships granted from the University's funds (total amount – EUR 1,746.8 thousand) ↑ EUR 231.1 thousand*

* Compared to the data of 2023

Table 20. Allocation of incentive scholarships from the State budget and the University's own funds in 2020–2024

Incentive scholarships granted from the State budget		Year	Incentive scholarships granted from the University's own funds	
Total unique students*	Funds (EUR thousand)		Total unique students*	Funds (EUR thousand)
3,452	1,532.5	2020	1,245	501.7
4,160	1,919	2021	1,624	667.3
4,053	2,088	2022	1,626	764
3,441	2,361.3	2023	1,603	981.7
3,996	3,342	2024	1,452	1,079

* The number of students who received incentive scholarships per year is less than the actual number of scholarships awarded in spring and autumn semesters, since the same student who received the scholarship in both semesters of the study year is counted only once.

■ In 2024, the total sum of scholarships awarded by social partners and the number of students who received them increased, but the sum and number of scholarships awarded by foreign social partners decreased.

■ In 2024, the methodologies for granting and paying student incentive scholarships were changed, and the sum of State-granted scholarships increased by more than EUR 2 million (see Table 20).

■ The total number of incentive scholarships is increasing both in terms of funds and student numbers (see Table 20). In total, 7,308 incentive scholarships were awarded in the autumn and spring semesters in 2024, and over EUR 4.4 million was granted to fund incentive scholarships:

■ 5,448 students received a scholarship for their learning outcomes (1,452 were funded by the University).

■ Over the past five years, the number of unique students receiving incentive scholarships has increased by almost 900. Basic social benefits increased by 57.6 per cent during this period, from EUR 34.89 in 2020 to EUR 55 in 2024.



Funding of studies

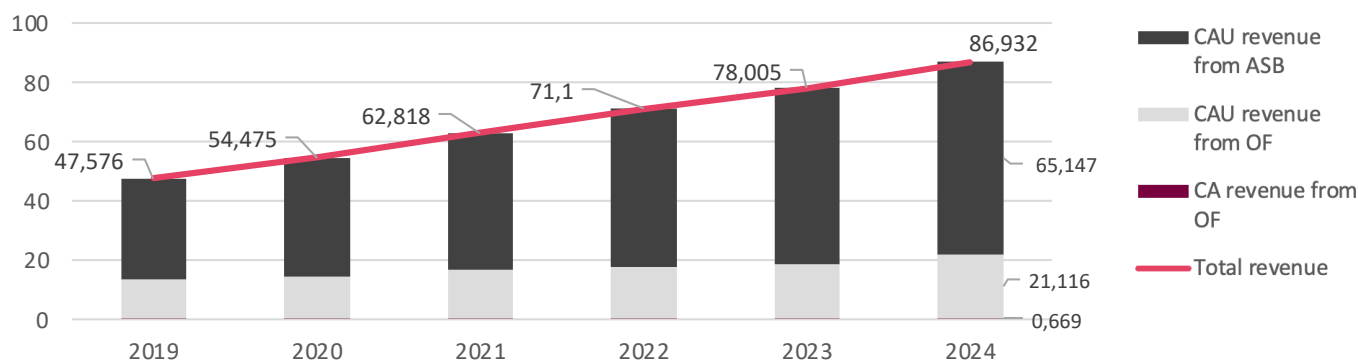


Figure 56. University revenue from studies (EUR million) by funding source in 2019–2024

Note: revenue from studies is presented before redistribution between units.

■ In 2024, the University's revenue from studies amounted to **EUR 86.932 million**, an increase of **11.45 per cent** compared to 2023 (see Figure 56). The overall growth in revenue from studies from 2019 to 2023 was **64 per cent**, and **82.7 per cent** to 2024. In 2019, the revenue from studies was **EUR 47.576 million**, and it increased by **EUR 39.357 million** over five years. This shows consistent budget growth. Over the past five years, the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) amounts to around **12.7 per cent**.

■ In 2024, the revenue from studies of academic units (CAU) from the appropriations from the State budget (ASB) – the State allowance for studies and State budgetary funds to cover the tuition fee in State-funded student

places – accounted for **74.8 per cent** of the total budget, remaining the largest form of revenue. The Central Administration's (CA) revenue from own funds (OF) and the academic units' revenue from own funds are steadily increasing. Still, their share in the overall budget remains small: CA revenue from OF is about **0.8 per cent**, and CAU revenue from OF is about **24.4 per cent**.

■ A significant growth in revenue from studies in 2021 (EUR 2.473 million) was due to the integration of Šiauliai University (currently Šiauliai Academy) into Vilnius University. In addition, the State allowance for studies was increased, the allocation of study programme groups to study fields was changed, and the Agreement on National Education Policy was implemented.





The University for the community

Vilnius University is more than just studies or scientific activities; it is also a strong community, which is continuously growing, evolving, and improving. In 2024, employee engagement and job satisfaction increased at the University, and initiatives to enhance the competencies of community members, both employees and students, were implemented; social responsibility and emotional well-being were also strengthened. The key initiatives, services, and achievements of the University community contributed to consolidating the University's position. Consistently developed initiatives and support mechanisms enable employees and students to become more actively involved in both academic and social activities. The University hosted various events, training sessions, and projects aimed at professional development and ensuring the community's well-being. One of the most

important initiatives carried out was the provision of supplementary health insurance for employees; this initiative was positively received by appreciative staff, who are very satisfied with it. Every year, the University seeks to alleviate the financial burden of its employees facing difficult circumstances by providing additional benefits, and the sum allocated for such benefits continues to be increased. After a long hiatus, the Alumni Festival was once again held at the University. Purposeful steps began to be taken to promote the active involvement of alumni in the University's activities. The main initiatives and changes undertaken in 2024 reflect Vilnius University's aim to be a strong academic institution where members of the University community can grow, learn, and feel safe.

Facts and figures



5,765 employees (academic and non-academic) and **24,372 students** in the University community



2,460 individual psychological consultations were provided



7 State Awards



188 public events in the Botanical Garden were held for the University community and guests



1,590 employees participated in qualification enhancement



66,797 guests visited the University Museum, and **1,371** individuals participated in educational activities



222 employees received additional benefits



35 years in operation, the Vilnius University Students' Representation unites **1,394** like-minded individuals



Services for the community

In order to unite its community and ensure its well-being, the University offers additional services to community members.



These services contribute to maintaining a strong and supportive environment at the University, ensuring the academic and personal success of members of the community.

In 2024, the University employees meeting the criteria established by the organisation were offered **supplementary health insurance services**. Employees can choose the insurance option that suits them best, covering healthcare services and medical supply costs. At the end of the year, more than **3,300** (almost **60 per cent**) employees were taking advantage of the insurance.

To ensure **smooth integration of new employees** at Vilnius University, the Human Resources Division of the Central Administration has been organising '**Newcomer Day**' events since 2018 to help acquaint employees starting their work at Vilnius University with relevant documents and information about the University, as well as the opportunities provided for the employees and to show them around the old campus of the University. In 2024, the event attracted the largest number of participants – 79 (see Figure 57).

The **Welcome Guide** was published in 2024, containing the most essential information for new employees.

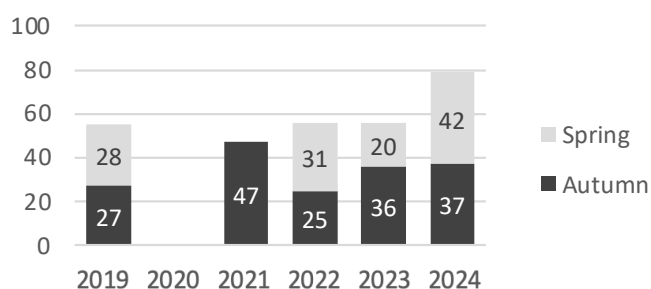


Figure 57. Dynamics of the number of 'Newcomer Day' participants in 2019–2024

* No event in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

Student employment at Vilnius University

The employment of Vilnius University students is focused on scientific research, experimental internship, lab work, and specialised study fields. In 2024, the Life Sciences Center and the Faculty of Medicine employed the most

students (165 each), followed by the Faculty of Physics (94). Only 10 per cent of all employed students performed administrative work (at the Central Administration and other non-academic units).

Developing the competencies of staff members

In 2024, the University provided training for staff in management roles and organised learning sessions on general competencies, peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing initiatives, and foreign language training.

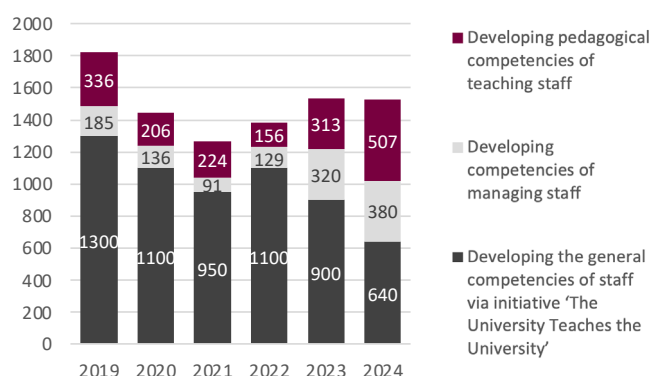


Figure 58. The number of staff members who developed competencies in 2019–2024

■ In 2024, the training organised by the Human Resources Division attracted almost **1,590** participants and covered a variety of areas, from leadership skills to the development of general competencies (see Figure 58). The training for management staff contributed to developing a stronger leadership culture, while internal projects such as ‘The University Teaches the University’ allowed staff to deepen their knowledge and foster cooperation.

■ The extensive and ever-growing scope of the training initiatives and the high level of engagement of the participants demonstrate the University’s commitment to holistically strengthen the competencies of its community, improve performance, and promote international cooperation.

■ For the second year, the University’s ‘**Mokytis ŽaVU**’ project gave employees the opportunity to propose relevant topics for training. **Four** out of the eight applications were funded this time, and the training sessions involved **60** participants.

■ **Learning languages.** In 2024, **the Centre for Foreign Languages at the Faculty of Philology** offered specialised training modules for the community.

Public speaking

40 academic hours

Writing articles in English

20 academic hours

Language courses

English, German, French, Spanish, Russian
50 academic hours

Free language courses

Hungarian, Romanian, Slovenian, Estonian, Slovakian, Georgian

■ **Training and studies for employees.** Vilnius University Business School provides opportunities for employees to participate in the intensive ‘**Mini MBA**’ programme for managers.



Staff study visits, work placements, and secondments

The international activities of the University staff, including training visits, work placements, and secondments, reveal significant trends in internationalisation and professional development.

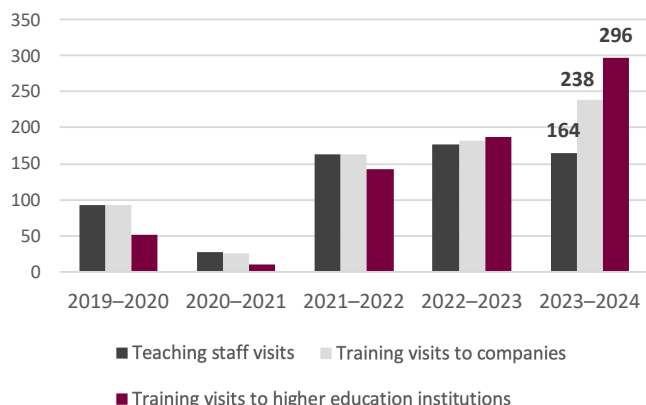


Figure 59. The number of University staff members who went on training visits under the Erasmus exchange programme in 2019–2024

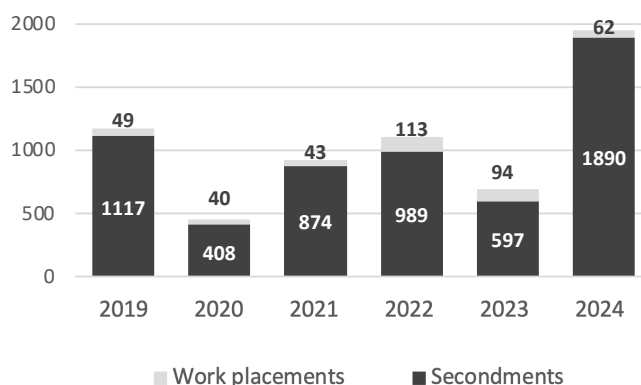


Figure 60. The number of University staff members on work placements and secondments, 2019–2024

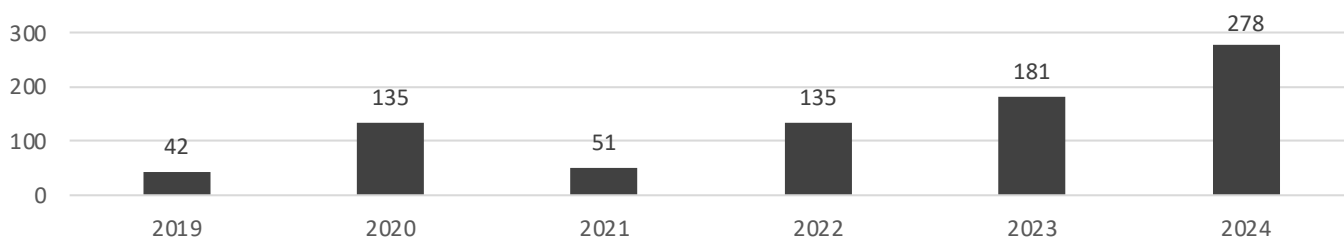


Figure 61. The number of staff members from abroad coming to the University under exchange programmes in 2019–2024

Over the five-year period, employee mobility has increased significantly (see Figure 59) despite a temporary decrease during the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of work placements increased by **26.5 per cent**, and the number of secondments increased by **69.2 per cent** (see Figure 60).

Although the pandemic temporarily reduced the number of visits, a swift recovery has been observed, followed by even faster growth.

The University purposefully encourages its employees to gain international experience and to strengthen their professional competencies. It also attracts more and more staff from abroad to train and upskill at Vilnius University (see Figure 61).

Financial support for University staff

The University aims to ensure the well-being and social security of its employees by providing additional benefits to ease the employee's financial burden under challenging circumstances, such as an employee or a family member of an employee suffering a severe deterioration in their

health or in the event of bereavement, when an employee or a family member of an employee passes away; as well as in celebration of joyful occasions – for every child born or adopted by the employee.

Table 21. The dynamics of financial support and number of beneficiaries in 2019–2024

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Amount paid, EUR	82,950	75,020	88,400	105,400	113,791	127,260
Number of beneficiaries	153	162	175	180	193	222

■ In 2024, **222** employees received additional benefits from the University (see Table 21); **EUR 127,260** was used for these benefits. In 2019–2024, **EUR 509,871** was used to pay additional benefits to **932** employees. 3.85 per cent of all employees received benefits, which is an increase of 15.03 per cent from the previous year.

■ Each year, an increasing number of employees take advantage of this opportunity. Since 2020, the number of employees who have received benefits has increased by **37 per cent**, and the amount of funds allocated to benefits has risen by almost **70 per cent**.

Emotional well-being at the University

Ensuring emotional well-being and equal opportunities:

The Commission for the Prevention and Investigation of Cases of Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Violence and Persecution received **eight** reports, of which the Commission examined **five** before presenting its conclusions and recommendations.

The Trust Line (pasitikejimas@cr.vu.lt) received **17** requests, provided **29** consultations, and offered advice in **14** unique cases.

Together with **three** other ARQUS Alliance universities, a community of practice was established to address discrimination, harassment, and similar issues. The community of practice holds regular meetings, shares experiences, and discusses relevant topics.

Ensuring the study infrastructure for students with learning disabilities and individual needs arising from disabilities

The University aims to ensure a good study and work environment, which fosters individual, social, and cultural diversity and ensures equal opportunities for the members of the University community:

- 80 new study individualisation plans were prepared (compared to 55 in 2023)
- consultations were provided to 230 community members on disability, the adaptation of studies, and other accessibility topics (compared to 159 in 2023)
- four thematic training sessions (on mental health, learning difficulties, and the adaptation of studies) were organised; since 2020, a total of 28 training sessions have been organised
- psychological support and consultations continue to be provided



Psychological support and consultations

Vilnius University actively seeks to strengthen the emotional well-being of its community members by providing psychological support, conducting training, and implementing support initiatives. **The Community Well-Being Division** (available in Lithuanian) of the University is the hub for emotional and psychological support, providing services to students and staff.

The dynamics of psychological support (see Figure 62) at the University reveal the ever-growing need for such services, especially in response to crises and specific groups of students and staff. The growing need and offer of support, compared to 2023, underlines the University's strategic direction to improve emotional well-being and create a cohesive and supportive academic environment.

■ The total number of individual psychological counselling sessions increased by **24.4 per cent** (from 3,239 to 4,029), which reflects the need for emotional support in the community.

■ The number of consultations for Ukrainian students and staff increased by **47 per cent** (from 200 to 294), which indicates a growing need for psychological support for those affected by war.

■ The number of consultations for persons going through a crisis increased by **41.6 per cent** (from 219 to 310), which testifies to the growing need for urgent psychological intervention in emergency situations.

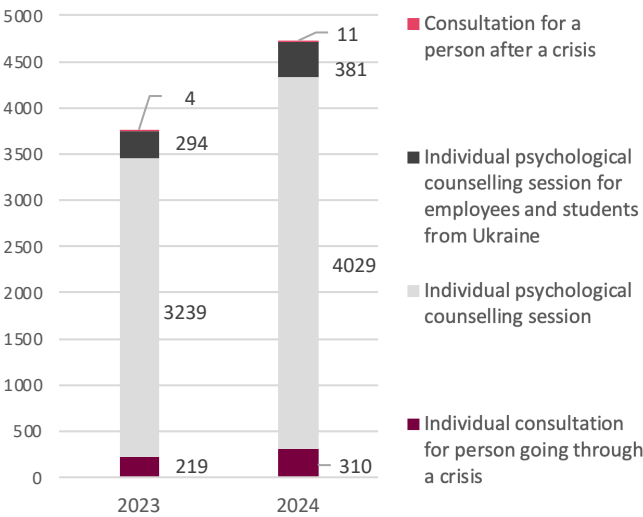
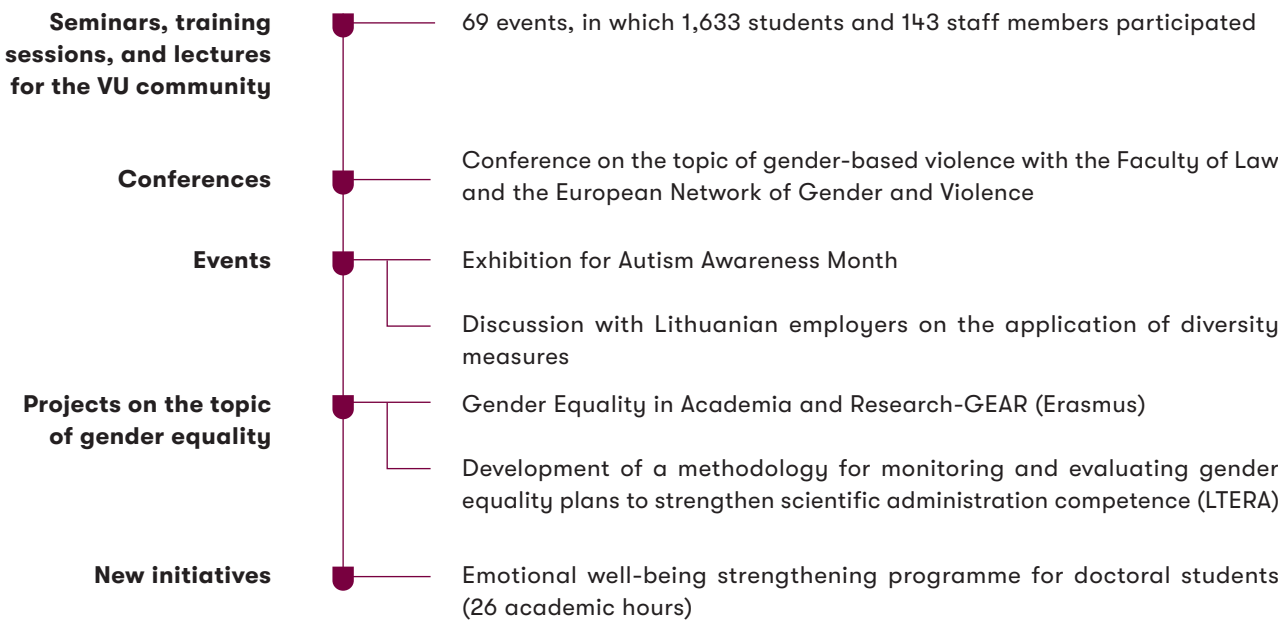


Figure 62. Nature of the psychological counselling sessions provided to the members of the University community in 2023–2024

Initiatives and events for the VU community in 2024



Academic pastoral care

The Chaplain of the University and his team provide **spiritual guidance and emotional support to community members** by organising regular Mass services (around 100–150 participants each week), events, and other initiatives for the University community.

■ Main events of 2024: academic pastoral care meetings (around 150 participants), ecumenical worship (about 150 participants), spiritual retreats (30 participants), the centenary of Academic Scouts, and a pilgrimage to the Basque Country (23 participants).

■ Involvement of the University community: excursions, integration week events, social initiatives, Easter and Christmas events in St Johns' Church, and May devotions at the Botanical Garden of the University.

The pastoral care team at Vilnius University creates a space of spiritual support and togetherness in the

University community, managing the activities of the Academic Pastoral Care Center in Vilnius, collaborating with other higher education institutions, leading spiritual discussions, and providing spiritual guidance for students and University units.

The student community



Vilniaus universiteto
Studentų atstovybė

Vilnius University is a space for student organisations, volunteering, initiatives, and civic engagement.

- **35 years of activity:** Vilnius University Students' Representation (VU SA) is the oldest student organisation in Lithuania
- **15 VU SA units and 24 VU SA initiatives**
- **1,394 members** representing the interests of students

Key achievements



New methodology

to improve infrastructure for individuals with specific needs.



Position

on the European Diploma adopted by the Arqus Student Council.



Award nomination

for Organisation of the Year (VU Students' Representation & Ukrainian Youth Group in Lithuania).



Arqus Student Council Elections

Uršulė Barkauskaitė elected as Vice President.

Strengthening student integration



Mentoring programme

241 mentors trained in 2024.



Student integration week

StudentAUK 2024 event.



Introduction to University life

activities and group meetings for first-year students.



Meetings and training sessions

for Master's and doctoral students.

Student initiatives

The path of their studies best reflects the value created for each student of the University by VU SA: from becoming a member of the University community to becoming involved in student self-governance activities and initiatives, which provide an opportunity to initiate changes at the University, national, and international levels.

■ The centre for student initiatives acts as a space for networking, support and volunteering, civic engagement,

and promotion of new initiatives. In 2023, 19 initiatives were implemented by VU SA, and 452 students were active participants; in 2024, 24 VU SA initiatives were implemented, involving 681 students.

■ In 2024, a Network of Research Initiatives was launched, a platform for events, experience sharing, and interdisciplinary projects.

Representing the interests of students

In 2024, VU SA actively represented the interests of students, contributed to the improvement of the quality of higher education, and strengthened the community spirit at the University.

■ Ten position papers (available in Lithuanian) to ministries, parliamentary committees, municipalities, and other institutions regarding:

- increasing access to higher education
- strengthening internationality
- developing interdisciplinary studies
- promoting student research activities

■ Seven public comments, four cooperation meetings

■ Permanent work of 265 student representatives (training, consulting, formulating student positions for lobbying)



Continuity of student traditions

Annual student events that bring together the University community:

■ 'Ad Astra' – VU SA Integration Festival (available in Lithuanian), which has been running for five years in a row, attracted three thousand participants in 2024.

■ Freshers' camps (available in Lithuanian) have been

held for over 20 years. In 2024, 15 freshers' camps were organised, attracting more than 800 freshers.

■ Renovatio Studiorum (available in Lithuanian). The festive procession of the University community has been held for 30 years, and more than 4,000 members of the University community participated in it.

Student traditions – annual faculty events

- **FiNa** – Days of Philologists
- **IfDi** (available in Lithuanian) – Days of Historians
- **Mercury's Days**
- **Days of Chemistry** (available in Lithuanian)
- **FiDi** (available in Lithuanian) – Days of Physicists
- **TeDi** (available in Lithuanian) – Days of Lawyers
- **Fiesta Personae** (available in Lithuanian) – Days of the Faculty of Philosophy
- **ATSibusk** (available in Lithuanian) – Days of the Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies of the Faculty of Philosophy
- **MeDi** (available in Lithuanian) – Days of Medics
- **PoDi** – Political Days
- **LeŽuDi** (available in Lithuanian) – Days of Journalists
- **MiDi** (available in Lithuanian) – Days of Mathematicians, **MiDi rock opera** (available in Lithuanian)
- **VeDi** – Business Days
- **Kaunas Faculty Days** (available in Lithuanian)
- **Life Sciences Center Community Day**



Other student organisations

- In addition to VU SA, the University has 20 independent student organisations.
- In 2024, 400 VU and 150 non-VU community members belonged to these student organisations.
- Other opportunities for volunteering and internships.

For more information on student organisations, see Annex 4. Student Organisations at Vilnius University.



Alumni

The University focuses on five main alumni activity fields and implements activities:

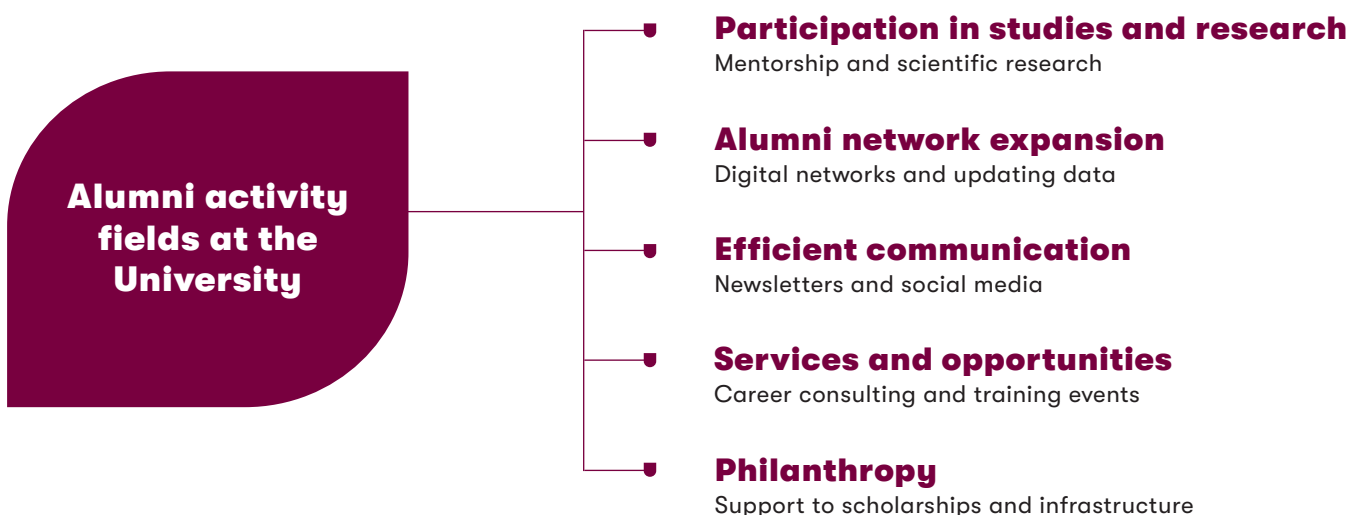


Table 22. Results of alumni-related activities

Year	Alumni events	Alumni in attendance	Newsletter subscribers	Registered alumni
2023	1	~100	6,020	10,962
2024	1	~2,300	7,652	12,684

In recent years, alumni events have grown both qualitatively and quantitatively. The number of alumni participating increased from around 100 in 2023 to 2,300 (see Table 22). There was also a significant increase in the number of registered alumni contacts.

In 2024, the University's courtyards became a meeting place for thousands of alumni – after almost a decade, the first **VU Alumni Festival** of such a scale was held: <https://www.vu.lt/alumnifestivalis>. Alumni participated in discussions, presentations, and excursions and met with their coursemates and like-minded people. A special VU Children's University space was created for children.

The festival attracted active alumni participation as well as public and media attention. Positive feedback from the participants shows that this event promises to become a long-term tradition that strengthens the link between alumni and the University.

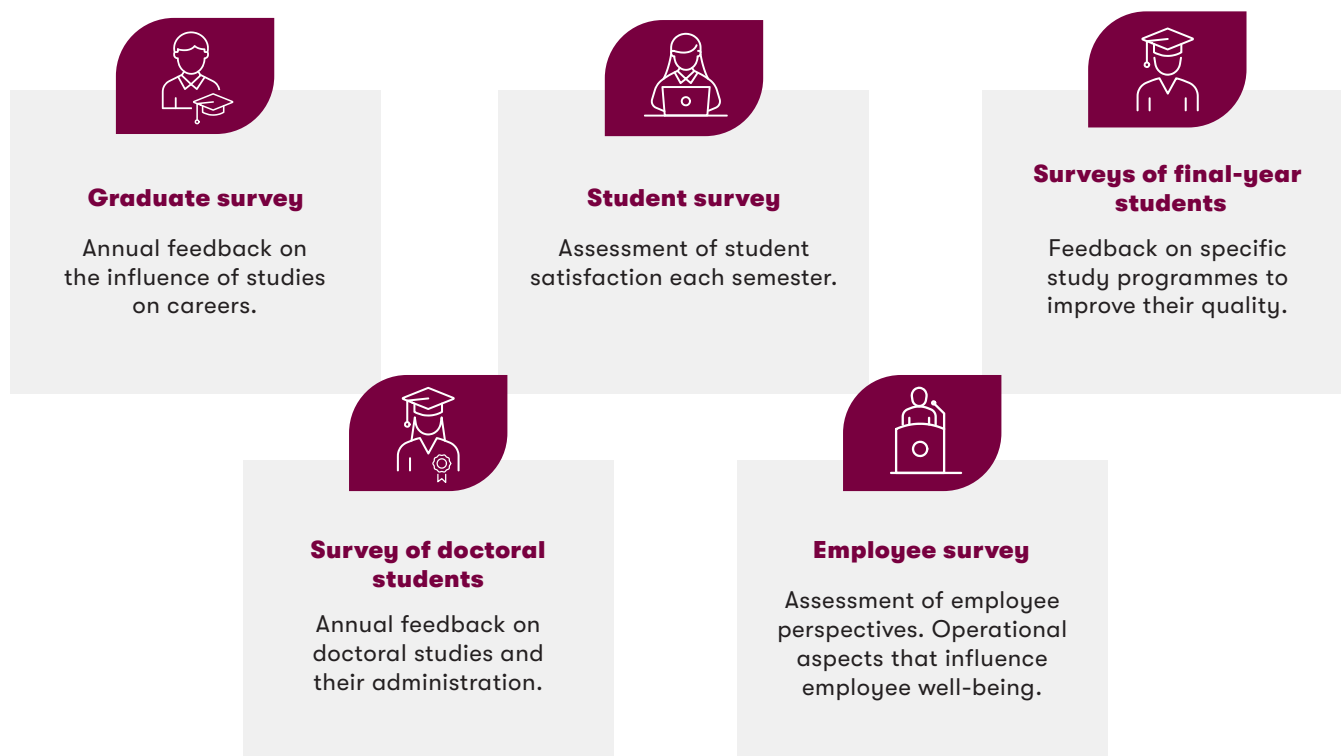
There is also the **Professors Emeriti Club** at the University, which unites 64 professors emeriti.



Community feedback

The implementation of the Vilnius University Strategy aims to ensure the motivation and engagement of employees and students. Feedback is an important element of any organisation's successful operation; thus, the University systematically conducts various surveys among all community member groups.

Community surveys



■ In 2024, the third **employee survey** was conducted, and 1,213 employees participated in it.

■ The results of the survey showed that the work engagement average, which had significantly decreased in 2022 (4.18 points on a 6-point scale), improved in 2024 (4.40), even exceeding 2020 levels (4.38 points), while overall satisfaction with the organisation, work, and unit, the respondents' ratings increased significantly to 4.10 points on a 5-point scale (compared to 4.00 points and 4.02 points in 2020 and 2022, respectively).

■ The overall average of the engagement assessment is 4.22 points (compared to 4.04 points in other public sector organisations in Lithuania). Based on the standards of engagement of employees in European organisations, this level is average.



Important achievements, awards, and victories

In implementing the Vilnius University Strategy, members of the University community contributed to creating and disseminating knowledge and international cooperation, strengthening academic competencies and the quality of scientific research, as well as responding to the needs of

society and the State. Due to these achievements, the University was recognised, and its members were awarded prestigious awards for their work in the areas of science, studies, and innovation.

Seven Lithuanian State Awards:

■ Assoc. Prof. Robertas Badaras, Prof. Marija Drėmaitė, Prof. Boguslavas Gruževskis, Assoc. Prof. Ieva Plikusienė, Prof. Almira Ramanavičienė, Assoc. Prof. Dalia Švambarytė, Prof. Jurgita Verbickienė

Three Lithuanian Science Prizes:

■ **In the field of natural sciences:** Senior Researcher Dr Justas Dapkūnas, Senior Researcher Dr Darius Kazlauskas, Senior Researcher Dr Klimentas Olechnovičius, and Research Prof. Dr Česlovas Venclovas

■ **In the field of medicine, health sciences, and agriculture:** Research Prof. Dr (HP) Rūta Navakauskienė and Senior Researcher Dr Veronika Viktorija Borutinskaitė

■ **In the field of technological sciences:** Researcher Dr Rimantas Budriūnas and Research Prof. Dr Arūnas Varanavičius



13 Lithuanian Academy of Sciences awards:

■ four young scientist scholarships (in the humanities and the physical, biomedical, and technological sciences)

■ one Lithuanian Academy of Sciences commemorative science prize (geosciences)

■ eight students and doctoral students were awarded for research papers

Four prestigious international awards and one title of Honorary Doctor:

■ the Constance Council Prize, the Birnstiel Award in the area of molecular biology, the Caroline von Humboldt Award, and two Polish State Awards

■ Gediminas Gaigalas, Professor at the Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astronomy of the Faculty of Physics of Vilnius University, was awarded the title of Honorary Doctor from the Faculty of Technology and Social Sciences, Malmö University.



Vilnius University awards given to the members of the University community in 2024:

- nine Rector's Awards
- three Rector's Young Scientist's Awards
- 15 awards for the best lecturers
- four open science awards
- four Professor Emeritus diplomas
- three titles of Honorary Doctor

■ The members of the University community were honoured for the best publications, the best applied work, initiatives for the development of internationality, work on the Vilnius University Council of 2019–2024, long-term leadership, and participation in the community activities of the University.

More than 90 medals in Lithuanian and international sports championships:

- 43 medals at the SELL Games (13 gold, 19 silver, and 11 bronze) and 52 medals in Lithuanian championships (250 student participants)

To learn about other important awards, prizes, State (nominal) scholarships, delegation to international academic councils and organisations, contributing to the development of scientific policy on a global scale, see Annex 3. Awards and Achievements of the Vilnius University community.





The University for the society

In 2024, Vilnius University continued its mission as an **open academic institution committed to the advancement of society**. The development of international relations and the establishment of partnerships with leading universities abroad have actively contributed to important initiatives of relevance to society. We constantly strive to ensure the highest quality of studies and research by promoting interdisciplinary research, innovation, and their application in practice.

University community experts are increasingly sharing their knowledge in the public space, and our academic achievements are reflected in the increasing international visibility of the University. 2024 was also crucial for science and business partnerships, new educational initiatives, and innovations in teaching.



Facts and figures



Membership in **110** international associations and networks, as well as Lithuanian organisations and consortia (available in Lithuanian)



969 healthcare employees who have developed their professional qualifications in training programmes and traineeships



Member of the **Utrecht, COIMBRA**, and **UNICA** university networks



9,856 participants in Lifelong Learning activities for adults



Member of the **ARQUS** European University Alliance



391 children in the spring and autumn sessions of the VU Children's University (available in Lithuanian)



439th in the QS World University Rankings



1,637 pupils from **28** schools participated in **132** activities at the STEAM Centre



640 University experts across various fields available for media commentary



After the renovation of the infrastructure, **the Teacher Training Centre was opened** in Šiauliai (available in Lithuanian)



20,180 annual mentions of the University in the media, one in five of which are in international media outlets



The value of the endowment capital of the VU Foundation is **EUR 9.45 million**, more than **EUR 1.4 million** return on investment



More than **1,500** studying persons in pedagogy programmes



1,509 participants in continuing professional development programmes for teachers

University partnerships

By developing international partnerships and participating in the ARQUS Alliance, Vilnius University implements its strategic goal of promoting interdisciplinary and international research and studies, thereby strengthening the impact of the University and its community on society and the State.

In 2024, the Rector and his team actively **forged partnerships in the fields of research and studies** with institutions from the US, Taiwan, France, Georgia, and South Korea.

Table 23. Visits and activities to strengthen partnerships in 2024

Direction	Visits and activities
US	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Visits were made to the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, the YIVO Institute in New York, and Yale University – participation in a discussion on education and the Baltic countries at the Rectors’ Plenary.■ A lecture was delivered at the Newberry Library in Chicago to mark the 700th anniversary of the city of Vilnius, and a cooperation agreement was signed.
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A cooperation agreement has been signed with Sorbonne University, and the lecture ‘From the Last Medieval Kingdom to Modern Democracy: Lithuania’s Road to Europe’ was delivered at a joint conference of the two universities. The Rector opened the Lithuanian season in France.■ The Rector of Collège de France gave an introductory speech at a conference dedicated to the history of Lithuanian language research.
Taiwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Visits were made to National Tsing Hua University, Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Sun Yat-sen University, National Taiwan University, National Chengchi University, Taipei University of Technology, and the National Taiwan University of Education. The delegation also visited Hsinchu Science Park.■ A meeting took place with Taiwan’s Political Deputy Minister of Education, Mon-Chi Lio.
South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ An agreement was signed with the King Sejong Institute on the establishment of the Korean Language Examination Centre. In 2024, the first iSKA (Sejong Korean Language Assessment) examination was held at Vilnius University.
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A visit to Tbilisi State University took place, and a discussion was held on the development of bilateral relations between Lithuania, Poland, and Georgia.

The University is an active member in 110 international associations, networks, and organisations, as well as Lithuanian organisations and consortia, including:

- three associations
- one European University Alliance ([ARQUS](#))
- nine networks
- two programmes
- 58 international organisations

Participation in university networks and associations

- In **the Utrecht Network**, proposals were developed within the Staff and Student Mobility Task Forces. The University led the activities of the ‘Young Researchers Grant’ working group.
- In the **COIMBRA Group**, University representatives participated in ten of the twelve working groups.
- Within the **UNICA network**, the University’s most active involvement was in the ‘International Relations Officers’ and ‘UNICA EduLAB’ working groups (two out of seven

groups). A proposal to establish the ‘Strategy and Quality Management in Universities’ working group was submitted.

- The University took part in the annual events of the **EUA** and **EIEA** associations: **European Quality Assurance Forum, European Learning & Teaching Forum, 34th EIEA Annual Conference**.

Participation in the ARQUS European University Alliance in 2024

■ The Associated Membership Agreement was signed with Durham University, UK.

■ The ARQUS academic services portal, 'Plaza', was launched to integrate many IT solutions: a catalogue of academic supply (joint programmes and courses/modules), an integrated application system for applying 'DreamApply', and a repository of learning materials and work resources.

■ A range of initiatives has been created to benefit students, researchers, and administrative staff.



Vilnius University's contribution to the ARQUS Alliance's activities in 2024 (see Figure 63)

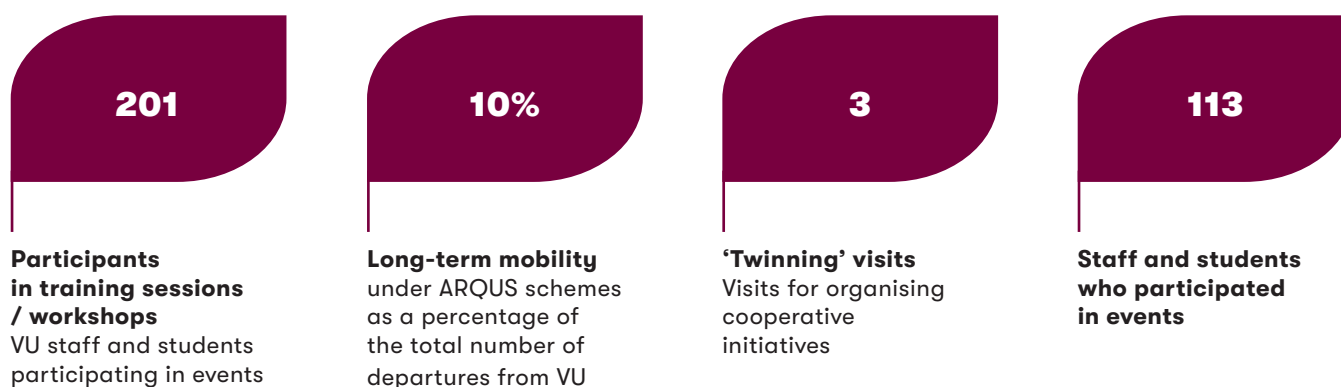


Figure 63. Statistics of University participation in ARQUS initiatives in 2024

■ **Three joint Master's degree programmes** have been prepared in cooperation with ARQUS partners. In 2024, admission was carried out to the programme 'International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence' (19 students enrolled). Five Master's and two Bachelor's degree programmes are also currently being developed.

■ VU participates in ten out of the eleven **communities of practice** and is responsible for coordinating four of them.

■ VU is a partner in eleven of the 24 **inter-institutional**

initiatives and serves as coordinator in three.

■ VU has submitted ten out of the 60 applications for the **ARQUS Teaching Excellence Awards**.

■ VU organised **six teaching innovation webinars** (500 participants).

■ 20 VU representatives participated in **courses to develop linguistic competencies**.

Cooperation in Lithuania

■ To strengthen partnerships between higher education and other institutions from business, as well as the public and non-governmental sectors, the University collaborates with companies, schools, and other Lithuanian organisations. In 2024, **67** partnerships were initiated with companies and governmental institutions.

■ In implementing initiatives to align study programmes to promote the highest possible match of study and labour market needs, training highly qualified specialists, and improving access to studies, the University was most active

in 2024 with 'EPAM Systems', 'Thermo Fisher Scientific Baltics', 'SEB bank', 'Coherent Solutions', 'Invest Lithuania', the 'Special Investigation Service', the 'Ministry of Foreign Affairs', and 'Vilnius District Municipality'.

■ In cooperation with Vilnius District Municipality, the University implemented the VU Academy project for pupils in Vilnius district (available in Lithuanian), bringing together 45 tenth- and eleventh-grade pupils from seven local gymnasiums.

Expert activities

Vilnius University aims to strengthen its influence on society and the State by disseminating scientific results and expert comments. Nearly 640 experts at the University share their knowledge with the media, businesses, and public sector institutions.

The visibility of the University in the media (see Figure 64 and Figure 65).

- **Number of mentions is growing:** from 2022 to 2024, it increased by almost a third (from 15.25 to 20.18 thousand).
- **International media:** one in five mentions in 2024

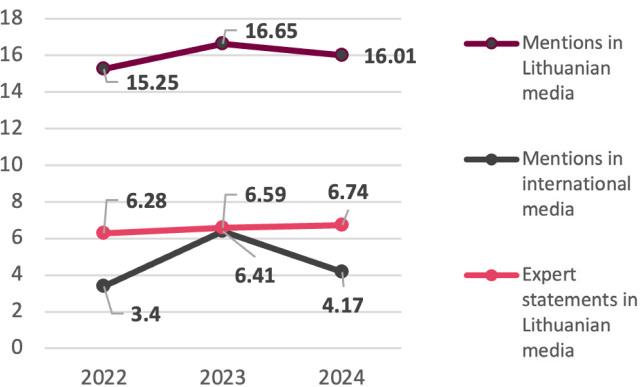


Figure 64. University’s visibility in the media. The dynamics of the number of general and expert mentions (thousands) in 2022–2024

(4.1 thousand), 492 related to research achievements. Compared to 2022 (3.1 thousand), the number of international mentions increased by a fifth.

- **Expert comments** in Lithuanian media account for one-third of all mentions (in 2022, they constituted almost half of all mentions). The number of comments is also increasing: 7.3 per cent more than in 2022.
- **Among Lithuanian universities,** Vilnius University is the most visible university in the media and reaches the largest audience (42.9 per cent).

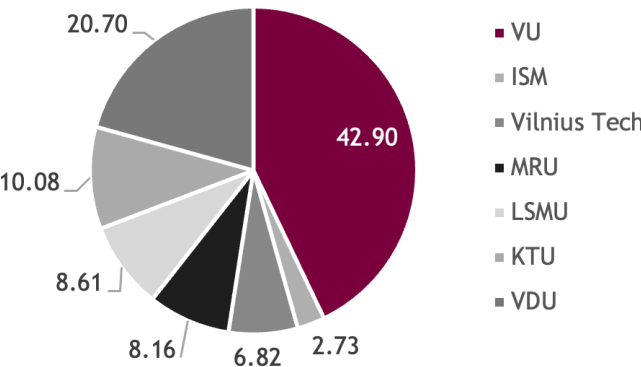
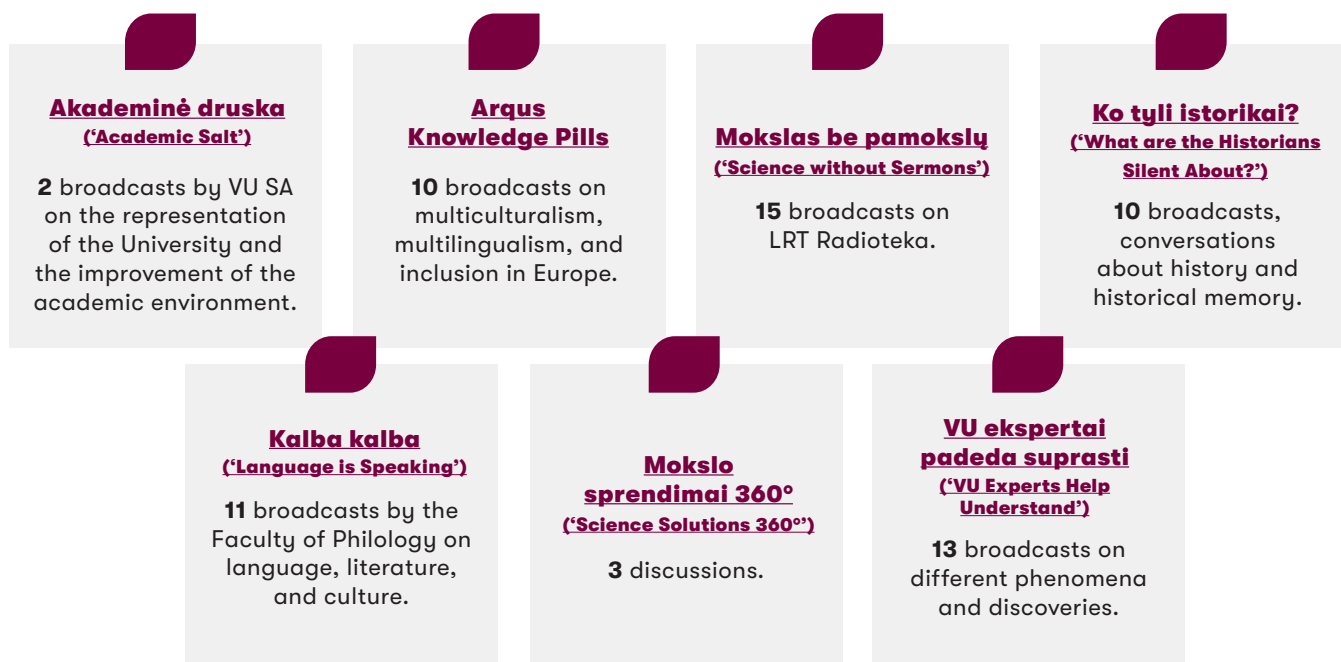


Figure 65. University’s visibility in the media in the context of other Lithuanian universities in 2024 (source: Vilnius University (2024). Komunikacijos analizė. Mediaskopas.lt)



By disseminating their expertise to the public, University researchers share their knowledge in articles and **podcasts**.



The Innovation Club, a networking platform for science and business cooperation, invites researchers to the discussions and encourages them to meet with representatives of businesses at networking events. The 'Mokslo sprendimai 360°' ('Science Solutions 360°') discussion cycle is one of the activities of the Innovation Club platform. This title reflects the nature of the discussions: innovation and

solutions are reviewed in great breadth, depth, and detail, from a 360-degree perspective.

'Spectrum' (available in Lithuanian) is a popular science journal published by the University, showcasing unique research, expert insights, and evaluations of scientific work currently carried out in Lithuania and at the University.

Societal initiatives of the University

While implementing its commitment to the society specified in the vision of Vilnius University, in 2024, the University focused on developing a dialogue with the public, strengthening international partnerships on topics relevant to society and the State, and protecting material and cultural heritage.

Together with other institutions, the University organised three important **international conferences** on issues of importance to society.

- VU Šiauliai Academy together with Dublin City University (Ireland), Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Slovakia), University of Bucharest (Romania), University of Babes-Bolyai (Romania), and the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI, United Kingdom) organised an international scientific conference for teachers 'Innovations in Inclusive Education and Meeting Special Educational Needs' (available in Lithuanian).

- Lithuanian and Ukrainian researchers, together with NATO representatives, discussed the challenges of NATO and the operation of defence mechanisms in the context of international law at the international conference 'Euro-Atlantic Partnership: Lithuania's 20 Years of NATO Membership and the Role of the Alliance in Changing International Geopolitical Landscape' organised by VU Faculty of Law.

- VU Life Sciences Center, together with the EMBL and STEAM centres and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, organised the 'EMBL 50th Anniversary and Lithuania's 5-Year Membership Celebration: Science, Art, and International Collaborations'.

Vilnius University – an open venue for society and the State

The **architectural ensemble of the University** is not only an open venue for the University community, residents, and guests but also **a representative place for high-level meetings**. In 2024, Marshal of the Polish Sejm Szymon Hołownia, President of the Republic of Malta Dr George William Vella, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte (available in Lithuanian), European Commission (EC) member Jutta Urpilainen (available in Lithuanian), and other high officials and guests visited the University.

Vilnius University also organises **open lectures and meetings for the public**. The special guests of 2024 were, among many others: legendary athlete and a symbol of struggle for equality, Billie Jean King, NASA astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper (available in Lithuanian), and famous astrophysicist and Director General of the European Southern Observatory, Professor Xavier Barcons.²⁰

Events, concerts, and performances are hosted by the Culture Centre in University venues: the Theatre Hall, Great Aula, and St Johns' Church. The Botanical Garden

invites visitors all year round; exhibitions, gardeners' fairs (available in Lithuanian), and the popular 'Piknikas alyvose' ('Picnic Among the Lilac Trees') (available in Lithuanian) are held here. The traditional 1 September parade, which processes joyfully down Gedimino Avenue, brought the city community together for the 30th time.

The University also protects the **cultural heritage** relevant to Lithuania and Europe.

■ **Architecture:** in 2024, the roof of the Theatre Hall was renovated (Šv. Jono g. 10), as well as the façade of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science (Vokiečių g. 10)

■ **Documentary heritage:** digitised 1,764.57 GB of content available to the public

■ **Rare books and manuscripts:** 52,100 cultural heritage objects were restored at the University Library

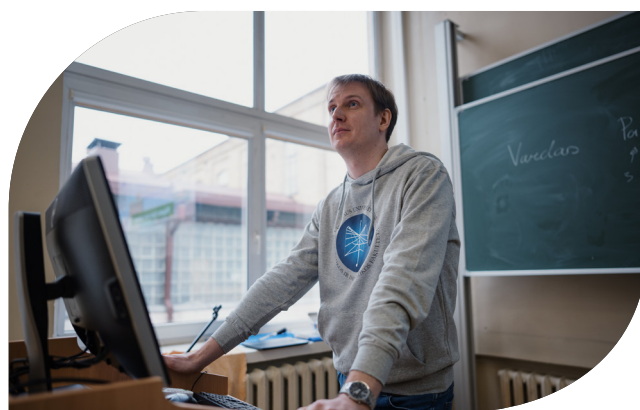
The pedagogy of the 21st century

Recognising the pedagogical challenges and educational innovations of the 21st century, Vilnius University views education as one of its strategic priorities. In order to ensure high-quality teacher training, programmes are implemented at:

- the Institute of Educational Sciences of the Faculty of Philosophy
- the Institute of Education of Šiauliai Academy
- the centres for didactics and educational challenges
- STEAM education centres in Vilnius (available in Lithuanian) and Šiauliai (available in Lithuanian)

Supply for teacher education and professional growth:

- **eleven study programmes** (including one launched in 2024) that confer a Bachelor's degree with a teaching qualification, minor studies (Subject-Specific Pedagogy)
- **two** programmes in professional (pedagogy) studies
- **six** Master's (that do not award a pedagogical qualification) and one doctoral study programme
- **eight** subject modules and **eight** pedagogical specialisation modules intended for retraining
- **21 modules** (three of which were offered in 2024) are used for qualification enhancement



²⁰Information on events is available on the University's website: <https://www.vu.lt/en/news-events/news>.

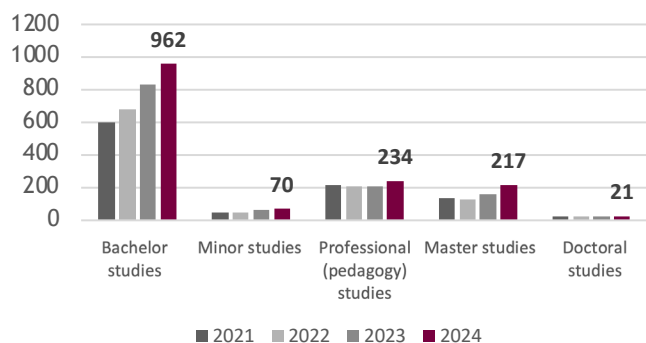


Figure 66. Number of students in programmes that awarded pedagogical qualifications in 2021–2024*

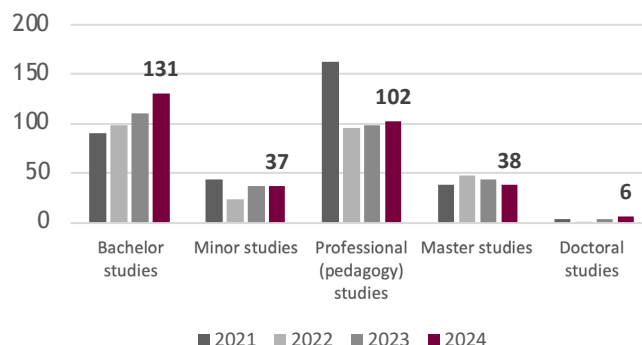


Figure 67. Number of graduates in programmes that awarded pedagogical qualifications in 2021–2024*

* Excluding subject and pedagogical specialisation modules intended for retraining and the enhancement of qualifications in pedagogy.

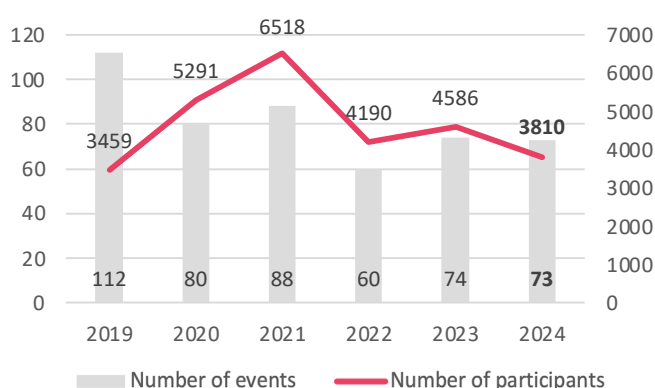


Figure 68. Number of graduates of qualification in pedagogy and retraining subjects and pedagogical specialisation modules in 2021–2024

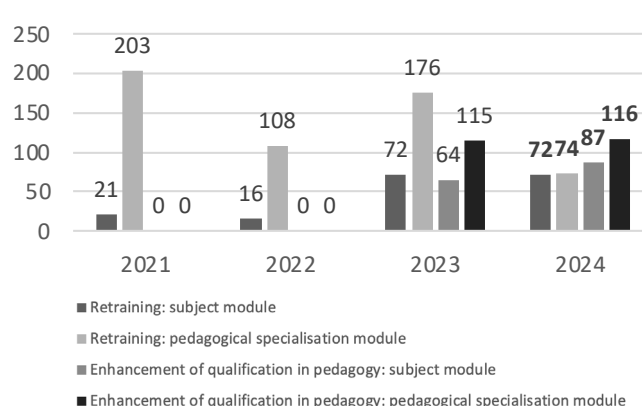


Figure 69. Number of qualification enhancement and improvement events and teachers who participated therein, 2019–2024

Pedagogy programmes in 2024

■ The number of students (of all study forms) increased (in 2024, there were 1,504 students in total), mainly in Mathematics Education and Educometrics (10 students in 2023 compared to 23 in 2024) and in Special Education and Speech Therapy programmes (243 and 318 students in 2023 and 2024, respectively). The number of students enrolled in the Master's programme is increasing, while the number of graduates is decreasing (see Figure 66 and Figure 67).

■ The pedagogical specialisation module is the most popular type of qualification enhancement (there were 116 participants in 2024), but as a retraining measure, it was chosen half as often (there were 176 participants in 2023 and 74 participants in 2024) (see Figure 68 and Figure 69).

■ The greatest need for retraining is in the area of Informatics (19 people were studying in 2023 and 36 in 2024), whereas for enhancing qualification – in

Speech Therapy (35 participants in 2024) and in Informatics (19 participants in 2023 and 37 in 2024). Since 2022, the number of participants in qualification enhancement and improvement events has decreased due to declining interest and the availability of remote events.

■ New modules for enhancing qualification in pedagogy have been proposed: Civic Education, Spanish Language, Latin Language, and Ancient Culture.

■ Three programmes were submitted for accreditation: Improvement of the Subject and Methodological Knowledge of Chemistry Teachers, Physical Education: Movement and Embodied Knowledge, and the Improvement of Didactic Competencies of Art Teachers.

Initiatives in the field of pedagogy in 2024:

- After renovations to upgrade the infrastructure, the Teacher Training Centre was opened (available in Lithuanian) in Šiauliai.
- Priority has been given to the preparation of digital learning content.
- The branch of the Master's degree study programme in Educational Science '**Education Policy and Leadership for Heads of Schools**' (24 principals participating) was launched.

Ongoing education research:

- **17** international projects (Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ KA2, Erasmus+ KA3, Erasmus+ CBHE, Erasmus+ TEACH, 'Nordplus') are currently implemented.
- **Nine** of eleven project applications received the financial support of the Research Council of Lithuania under the Research in Education Breakthrough Programme.
- **17** applications were submitted for new research projects (LMT; Erasmus+; COST activities, SR&ED).

- A **simulation classroom** was installed and tested in a virtual reality environment to improve special education competencies.

- For the period of 2021–2030, financial support of EUR 5,007,376 has been received for the development programme activities 'Development of the Necessary Infrastructure for the Training of Teachers and Doctoral Studies in Education'. The infrastructure development was started at Islandijos g. (Vilnius).

- **Three** doctoral students were accepted to the Doctoral School in the Field of Education of Vilnius University, and **four** dissertations were defended.

- Doctoral students actively participated in the Winter School, international seminars, traineeships, and the EERA conferences.

- A postdoctoral trainee has been employed.

New partnerships in the field of pedagogy:

- **three** international conferences on teacher training and innovation
- **two** Erasmus+ BIP international study projects
- **three** cooperation agreements with international schools (Italian and German) and a possibility to carry out internships
- **50** meetings with Lithuanian gymnasiums (37 trips, 13 receptions at the University), over **4,000** participants
- partnerships with **16** Lithuanian gymnasiums
- **500+** prizes awarded, and over **850** personalised letters of recognition from the Rector of Vilnius University were granted to competition participants

Methodological STEAM Education Centre (available in Lithuanian) established in the former Planetarium in the centre of Vilnius creates a space for modern educational technologies (**eight** laboratories: Life Sciences, Chemistry, Physics and Astrophysics, Engineering, Mobile Technologies and Robotics, Visual Programming, Light Technology, and Digital Production (Fab Lab)), where collaboration between researchers, businesses, and the public sector will enable pupils to conduct research, construct, design and become familiar with scientific innovation, and solve problems creatively during or after their lessons.

STEAM Education Centre in 2024:

- **18** educational activities were implemented for pupils in grades 7–12, and **132** activities were organised (**1,637 participants from 28 schools**).
- **Over 20** events, conferences, and discussions were organised.
- A consulting system was developed and launched at the methodological STEAM centres in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipėda.
- Partnerships were established in Lithuania and abroad (Portugal, Poland, Hungary), and an application was submitted to join the European Network of Science Centres and Museums – 'Ecsite'.





Vilnius University Foundation

The Vilnius University Foundation, established in 2016, is the first university endowment foundation to ensure the global competitiveness of Vilnius University as a national hub of science and culture.

Three new shareholders joined the VU Foundation in 2024: Algirdas Pace, Laisvis Makulis, and Rokas Pečiulaitis. The Board of the VU Foundation was expanded to seven members; Jurgis Rudgalvis and Justas Šaltinis joined the Board in 2024, and Prof. Konstantinas Pileckas stepped down from the Board.

Main highlights of the results of the VU Foundation in 2024:

■ **EUR 5.7 million** – the community of donors donated EUR 4.8 million to the endowment and EUR 0.9 million for targeted projects and management. This represents more than a sixfold increase compared to 2023.

■ Over **700** donations, including regular donor donations and one-off contributions for targeted projects (see Table 24).

■ **EUR 9.45 million** – since 2023, the endowment's value has more than doubled, generating a return on investment of more than EUR 1.4 million.

■ **EUR 538,300** in funding has been allocated to fund various projects at and related to VU.

Table 24. Capital managed by the VU Foundation in 2024

	2023	2024
Endowment managed by the VU Foundation (EUR thousand)	4,200	9,450
Return on investment earned by the VU Foundation (EUR thousand)	815	1,420
Donations received by the VU Foundation per year (EUR thousand), of which was:	912	5,730
■ for endowment	557	4,830
■ for the direct funding of projects and activities	355	900
Number of donors (or donors and partners)	794	716

Donors are increasingly interested in endowment sub-funds, with the possibility of launching endowment sub-funds with a predetermined specific purpose. There has been a noticeable increase in the value of the donations, and philanthropic traditions have been strengthened. New donors in 2024 exceeded the donation threshold of EUR

1 million, thus demonstrating the importance of financial support through donations and the value of managing such contributions through the endowment fund. Donors and partners launched new sub-funds and donated significant amounts to existing sub-funds (see Table 25).

Table 25. Most significant donations received in 2024

Donors	Purpose	Donations in EUR thousand
Angelė and Sigitas Kazlauskas	<u>Angelė and Sigitas Kazlauskas Sub-Fund</u> for strengthening VU Dentistry	4,700
Irena and Algirdas Juozapavičius	<u>Mantvydas Juozapavičius Sub-Fund</u> , VU Life Sciences Center Sub-Fund, Prof. Algis Petras Piskarskas Sub-Fund, and other activities of the VU Foundation	1,300
<u>The Future Biomedicine Foundation</u> (available in Lithuanian)	Funding of the Chrono-Epigenetics Programme of the Institute of Biotechnology of VU Life Sciences Center	320
Rūta Grušnienė	<u>Rūta Grušnienė Endowment Sub-Fund</u> for the VU Department of Ancient and Medieval History	200
Eglė and Romualdas Danielius	<u>Prof. Jonas Kazlauskas Endowment Sub-Fund</u> for VU Philology	150
‘Arimex’ UAB	<u>‘Arimex’ Endowment Sub-Fund</u> to promote the mobility of the VU community	100
Kęstutis and Jelena Stabingis	Donation to the <u>unrestricted Endowment Fund</u>	100
Reda and Alvydas Žabolis	<u>Prof. Algis Petras Piskarskas Sub-Fund</u> for Laser Physics	100
Šiauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Crafts	<u>Šiauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Crafts’ Sub-Fund</u> for VU Šiauliai Academy	50

To celebrate the **445th anniversary of Vilnius University**, a charity auction (available in Lithuanian) was organised for the first time together with the VU Foundation. The funds raised during the event were allocated to special 450th Anniversary Scholarships, which help students from underprivileged families to pursue their higher education and settle in Vilnius. Almost EUR 73,000 was collected for this noble purpose, and 25 new students received a scholarship of EUR 3,000. Entrepreneurs and philanthropists Danas TvariJonavičius, Petras Narbutas, Vytautas Bučas, Rūta and Vaidas Barakauskas, Daiva and Virginijus Adutavičius, Jolita and Vigantas Vėbra, Aurelija and Aurelijus Rusteika, among others, significantly contributed to the collected donations. The University community and partners donated special prizes as lots for the auction: Rector Prof. R. Petrauskas invited bidders to have lunch with him and go on a tour of

the architectural ensemble of the University, Prof. Marija Drėmaitė offered a special tour of Kaunas modernist objects, archaeologist Assoc. Prof. Aleksiejus Luchtanas invited bidders on a tour of Kernavė Mounds, and University physicists offered a trip to CERN headquarters. The Botanical Garden pledged to provide landscaping services for a plot of land and install a decorative plant display, and Prof. Eugenijus Laurinaitis gave an inspiring lecture to a company. Also among the auction lots was the legendary photo by photographer Antanas Sutkus ‘Maratonas Universiteto gatvėje’ (‘Marathon on University Street’), a round of golf with Gilė Bitė Starkutė – Lithuania’s best female golfer, a gastronomic experience with the team of the ‘Nineteen18’ restaurant in the Bell Tower of St Johns’ Church, and a day of birdwatching with Marius Čepulis.

Lifelong Learning activities

Lifelong Learning (LL) activities reflect the educational mission of Vilnius University. In 2024, the University significantly strengthened the coordination and development of LL activities.

- The LL Guidelines have been prepared and approved, and the regulatory documents have been updated.
- The development and implementation of the LL information system were carried out.
- The University has actively participated in the activities of KURSUOK, a national adult education platform of the non-formal adult education programme.



Lifelong Learning activities for adults

- In 2024, 384 LL programmes were implemented, involving almost 10,000 people (see Figure 70). Of these, 35 were new, and as many as 79 were carried out remotely.
- The Institute of Educational Sciences of the Faculty of Philosophy and the LL Centre of Šiauliai Academy were most active in organising teacher professional development programmes (for more information, see Chapter ‘Pedagogy of the 21st century’).
- The Faculty of Law held unique training for 1,420 participants in cooperation with the Lithuanian Bar Association and the State-Guaranteed Legal Aid Service.
- The Faculty of Medicine was distinguished by its abundance of programmes for healthcare professionals.

- The Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics organised a conference for mathematics teachers with the Institute of Educational Sciences.
- 13 programmes were implemented on the KURSUOK platform, benefiting 760 participants.
- 27 new programmes have been prepared in the IMP system (available in Lithuanian), which will be implemented in 2025. The Centre of Foreign Languages, Kaunas Faculty, the Faculty of Communication, the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, the Institute of Psychology, Šiauliai Academy, and the Business School were the most active participants in the KURSUOK project.

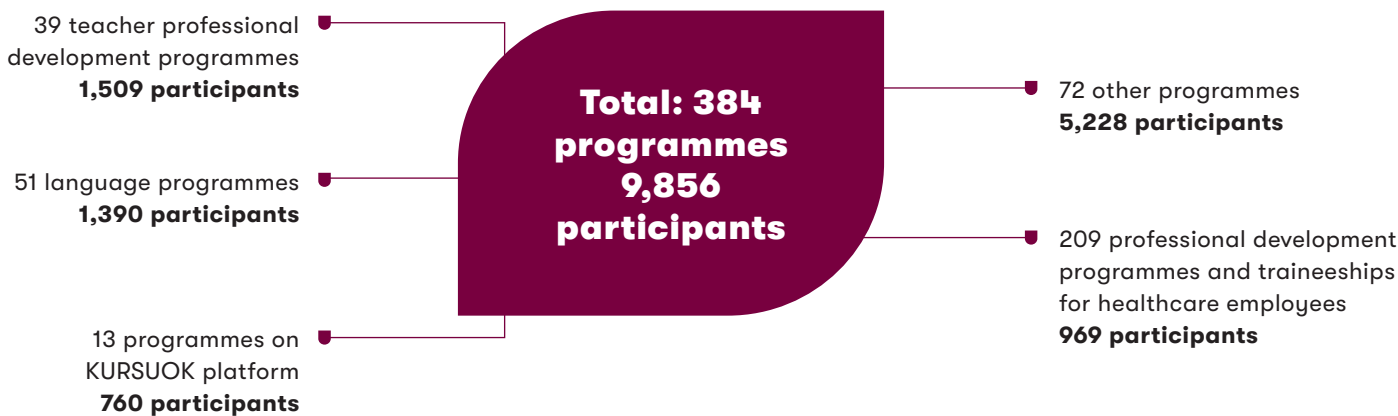


Figure 70. LL adult programmes for professional development and languages implemented in 2024 by target group and method of implementation



Figure 71. Programmes/activities for children and pupils implemented in 2024

Activities for children and pupils (see Figure 71)

- Over 30 initiatives/projects have been implemented for different age groups.
- Spring and autumn (available in Lithuanian) sessions of the VU Children's University (in Lithuanian) (VUVU 'Young Discoverer') were organised.
- VU Children's University was awarded the 'Best Social Project' by the Lithuanian Project Management Association.
- More than 5,000 pupils got involved in the activities for schoolchildren organised by the University's units.
- The National Drawing Competition 'Investavimo draugas: tapk savo ateities herojum' ('Your Investment Friend: Become

the Hero of Your Future') was organised in cooperation with the Bank of Lithuania.

- As has become tradition, in spring and autumn, the 'Student for a Day' event was organised, where pupils are given the opportunity to participate in lectures at Vilnius University. Schoolchildren were offered 769 lectures in Lithuanian and 134 lectures in English across VU faculties. In total, 13,909 applications were received for these lectures.

- The University website vu.lt/mokykloms (available in Lithuanian) offers **80+** activities for schoolchildren and **50+** for teachers in various units of the University.



Participation in rankings

Vilnius University is ranked in the prestigious global university rankings: **QS World University Rankings (QS)**, **ARWU (the Academic Ranking of World Universities, also known as the Shanghai Ranking)**, and the **Times Higher Education (THE)**.

Over the past decade, these rankings have become a source of information to monitor the performance of universities, compare them with each other, and enhance their international visibility. However, the **European University Association**²¹ points out that global rankings should not be the only criterion for evaluating higher education institutions, as they are based on a limited set of indicators. As a result, the rankings do not fully reflect the diversity of universities, their mission, or their contribution to society. The fourth commitment²² of the CoARA (Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment), which the University

joined in 2022, calls for the responsible use of the ranking results when taking political decisions on higher education, and discourages their use when assessing both scientific activities in general and individual academic achievements.

To evaluate higher education institutions more thoroughly and objectively, it is recommended that the rankings be analysed together with additional quantitative and qualitative data. It is also essential to understand what criteria and methodologies these evaluation systems are based on, as different rankings use different methodologies and apply different weightings to different aspects when calculating the overall score. Furthermore, methodologies are adjusted over time, and it is therefore necessary to take this into account when assessing the positions of universities in ranking tables.

Dynamics of Vilnius University ranking results (2020–2024)

The ARWU (Shanghai Ranking)

The methodology of the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) is focused on scientific activities. As a result, the universities that tend to rank highly are those with Nobel Prize and Fields Medal winners and high-citation publications. The University’s evaluation in

the ranking improved due to the higher number of scientific publications in prestigious journals, such as ‘Nature’ and ‘Science’, as well as the number of researchers whose scientific publications are among the most cited.

Table 26. Vilnius University’s results in the ARWU (Shanghai) Ranking

Criteria and indicators	Weight	Vilnius University’s results in the ARWU (Shanghai) Ranking				
Quality of Education: Alumni of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	10%	ARWU 2020	ARWU 2021	ARWU 2022	ARWU 2023	ARWU 2024
Quality of Faculty: Staff of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	20%					
Highly Cited Researchers™	20%				501–600	501–600
Research Output: Papers published in Nature and Science	20%					
Papers indexed in Science Citation Index-Expanded™ and Social Science Citation Index™ (Web of Science)	20%	701–800	701–800	701–800		
Per Capita Performance: Per capita academic performance of an institution	10%					

²¹ European University Association. (2023). Key considerations for the use of rankings by higher education institutions (Online access: [\[link\]](#) [viewed on 31 January 2025])

²²The CoARA Commitments [\[link\]](#)

The QS World University Rankings

The QS World University Rankings methodology focuses on academic reputation, employer reputation, graduate employability, and internationality. To reflect changing priorities in higher education and global challenges, the QS Rankings added sustainability and employability criteria to the methodology a few years ago; more weight was also given to employer reputation (see Table 26).

Vilnius University ranks first among other Lithuanian universities in the QS Rankings. It is distinguished by the following criteria: graduate employability, faculty-student ratio, and international research network, which reflects the number and quality of international partners.

Table 27. Vilnius University’s results in the QS World University Rankings

Criterion	Weight	Vilnius University’s results in the QS World University Rankings				
Research and Discoveries (Academic Reputation, Citations per Faculty)	50%	QS World University Rankings: 2021 (published in 2020)	QS World University Rankings: 2022 (published in 2021)	QS World University Rankings: 2023 (published in 2022)	QS World University Rankings: 2024 (published in 2023)	QS World University Rankings: 2025 (published in 2024)
Employment and Results (Employer Reputation, Employment Outcomes)	20%					
Global Engagement (International Faculty Ratio, International Student Ratio, International Research Network, International Student Diversity)	15%	423	400	400		439
Learning Experience (Faculty Student Ratio)	10%				473	
Sustainability	5%					

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings

The THE Rankings evaluate universities based on teaching quality, research environment, publication citation impact indicators, internationality, and industry income. The position of Vilnius University in the THE Rankings has remained stable but fell within the lower range of positions

in 2025 (published in 2024) (see Table 28). This could be due to two main reasons: firstly, 187 additional universities were included in the Rankings in that year (the total number of participants was 2,092); secondly, the publication citation results were lower.

Table 28. Vilnius University’s results in the Times Higher Education (THE) Rankings

Criterion	Weight	Vilnius University’s results in the Times Higher Education (THE) Rankings				
Teaching (teaching reputation, staff-to-student ration, doctorate-to-bachelor’s ratio, doctorates-awarded-to-academic-staff ratio, and institutional income)	29.5%	THE 2021 (published in 2020)	THE 2022 (published in 2021)	THE 2023 (published in 2022)	THE 2024 (published in 2023)	THE 2025 (published in 2024)
Research environment (academic reputation, SR&ED income, research productivity, revenue and reputation)	29%	801–1000	801–1000	801–1000	801–1000	
Research quality (citation indicators)	30%					
International outlook (international teaching staff, students, international publications, and study exchange)	7.5%					1001–1200
Industry income and patents	7.5%					



Financial management of the University

In 2024, the University continued to implement projects contributing to Objective 3.2 'Infrastructure that meets the future needs' of the Vilnius University Strategic Plan for 2021–2025. These initiatives created high-quality new research and study conditions at Šiauliai Academy and significantly contributed to the renovation and development of Vilnius University's Saulėtekis and Santara campuses. These projects enable the concentration of academic activities, ensure the development of different research fields and the conditions for interdisciplinary cooperation; they also provide economic and social benefits.



Facts and figures



The University's funding grew by **6 per cent**, reaching **EUR 269.52 million**



The Medical Science Centre of the Faculty of Medicine was opened



The income per student was **EUR 11,100**



The Teacher Training Centre of Šiauliai Academy has been **renovated**



The amount allocated to studies and research amounted to **EUR 103.24 million**



Significant projects were launched: the construction of a new building of the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences and the establishment of the Translational Gene Technology Competency Centre



EUR 19.2 million was allocated for student scholarships



There were **5,765** employees, with **4,515** full-time equivalents of posts



EUR 158.72 million was allocated for remuneration



EUR 4.46 million was allocated to professional development training and the secondment of staff



901 projects were administered, **17 per cent** of which were international



The total value of the projects was **EUR 159.90 million**

University's funding and other revenue

In 2024, the University's funding and other revenue amounted to **EUR 269.52 million** – an increase of EUR 15.28 million, or **6 per cent**, compared to 2023 (see Figure 72). The University's income per student increased 1.7 times compared to 2019 and **exceeded EUR 11,000** in 2024 (see Figure 73).

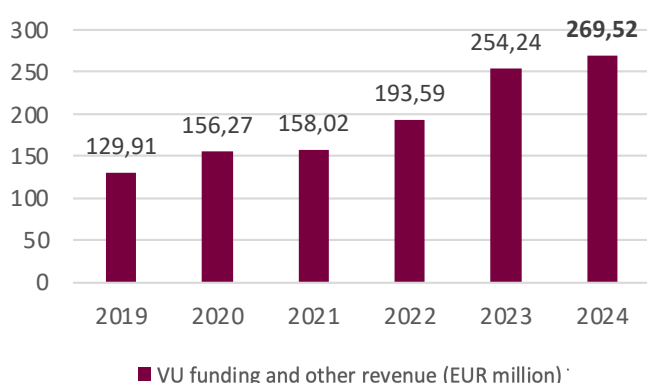


Figure 72. Funding and other revenue of Vilnius University (EUR million) in 2019–2024

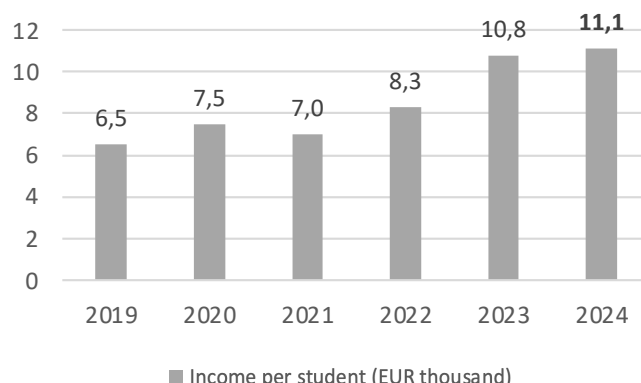


Figure 73. University's income per student (EUR thousand) in 2019–2024

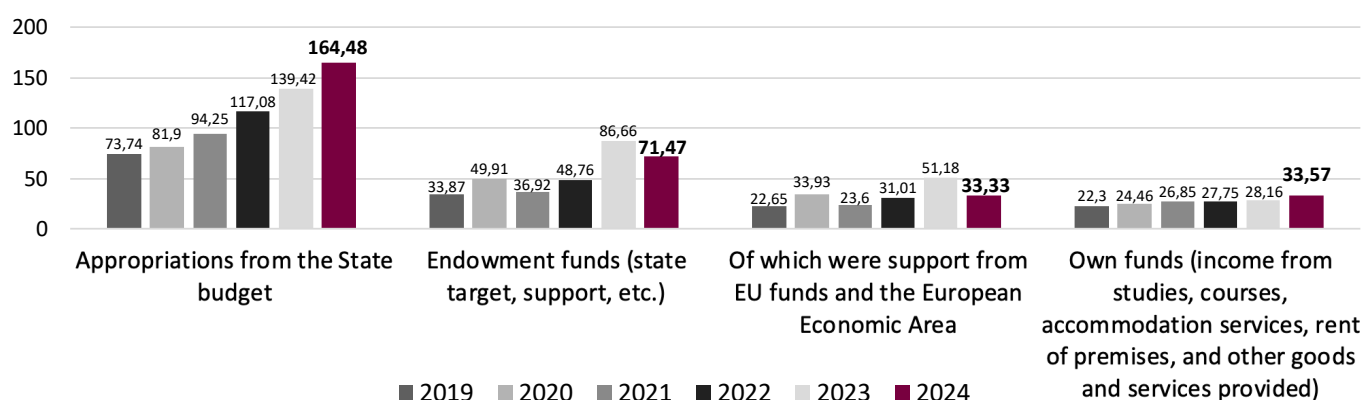


Figure 74. Funding, income, and other revenue of Vilnius University (EUR million) in 2019–2024

■ The appropriations from the State budget **increased by 18 per cent** in 2024 (see Figure 74):

- **EUR 21.18 million was allocated to increase staff remuneration**
- **the amount allocated to studies and research increased by EUR 7.71 million**
- the funds allocated to economic and administrative activities increased by EUR 0.87 million
- the amount allocated to utility costs decreased by EUR 3.08 million

■ The decrease in endowment funds by 17.5 per cent resulted from a EUR 17.85 million decrease in resources from EU funds and the European Economic Area. In 2024, the remaining funds received for the establishment of the Medical Science Centre of the Faculty of Medicine amounted to EUR 12.4 million, while the amount received in 2023 was EUR 25.95 million (see Figure 74).

■ Own funds increased by 19.2 per cent. In 2024, income from tuition fees for studies was EUR 3.1 million higher than in 2023, while courses generated EUR 0.48 million more in fees (see Figure 74).

University expenses

In 2024, the University's expenses amounted to **EUR 247.84 million**, of which **64.1 per cent** was spent on remuneration and social security, 10.1 per cent on the acquisition of fixed tangible and intangible assets, 7.7 per cent on scholarships, and 18.1 per cent on other expenses. (see Figure 75).

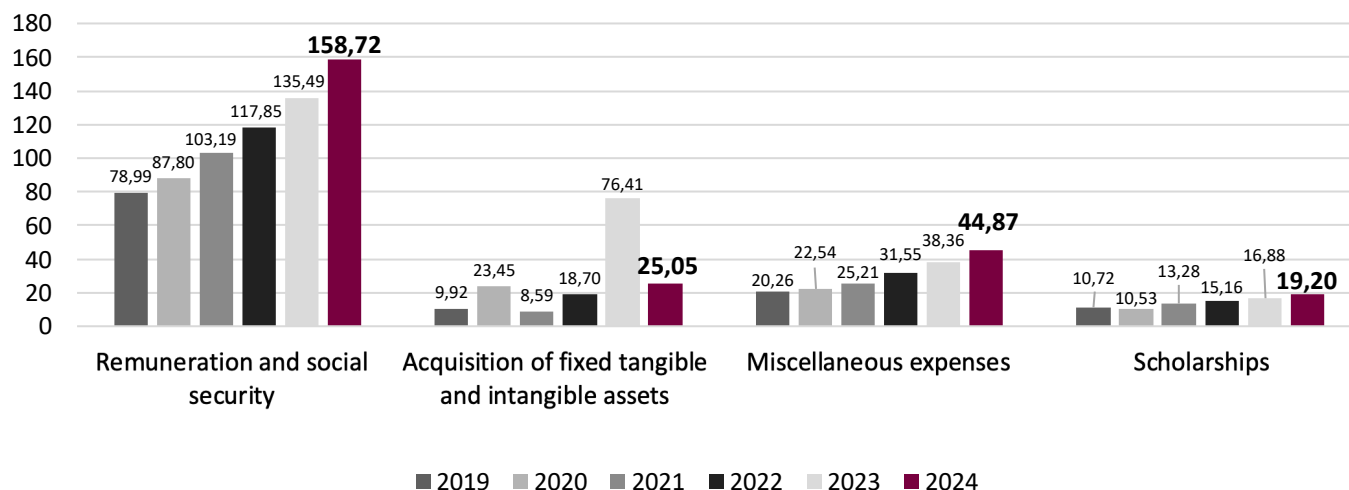


Figure 75. Vilnius University expenditure in 2019–2024 (EUR million)

Miscellaneous expenses, which amounted to **EUR 44.87 million** in 2024, are the cost of supplying the University's basic resources: information and

technological resources, library collections (books, journals, e-publications, etc.), building renovations, as well as ongoing and routine repairs to premises (see Table 29).

Table 29. Vilnius University expenditure in 2019–2024 (EUR thousand)

University expenditure (EUR thousand)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Funds for updating information resources*	3,613.0	9,430.8	789.0	819.5	6,855.5	7,925.4
Funds for updating technological equipment	5,632.5	9,795.9	1,941.9	1,927.1	18,150.8	4,830.6
Funds for the renovation of buildings and premises	686.9	2,948.4	3,918.3	2,124.7	3,907.8	7,609.1
Funds for renting premises for the implementation of studies	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Funds for updating the resources of the library	529.4	659.2	985.5	1,122.1	1,263.3	995.1

* Including projectors, screens, and hybrid learning systems since 2021.

The cost of running the University (without assessing the share of tenants) in 2024 was **EUR 7,684,900** (EUR 7,516,200 in 2023) (see Figure 76). Of these, electricity consumption costs accounted for 36.4 per cent; heating and hot water

– 29.2 per cent; cold water and sewage – 5.9 per cent; and other costs (transport maintenance, communications, cleaning, security services, gas, and refuse collection services) – 28.5 per cent.

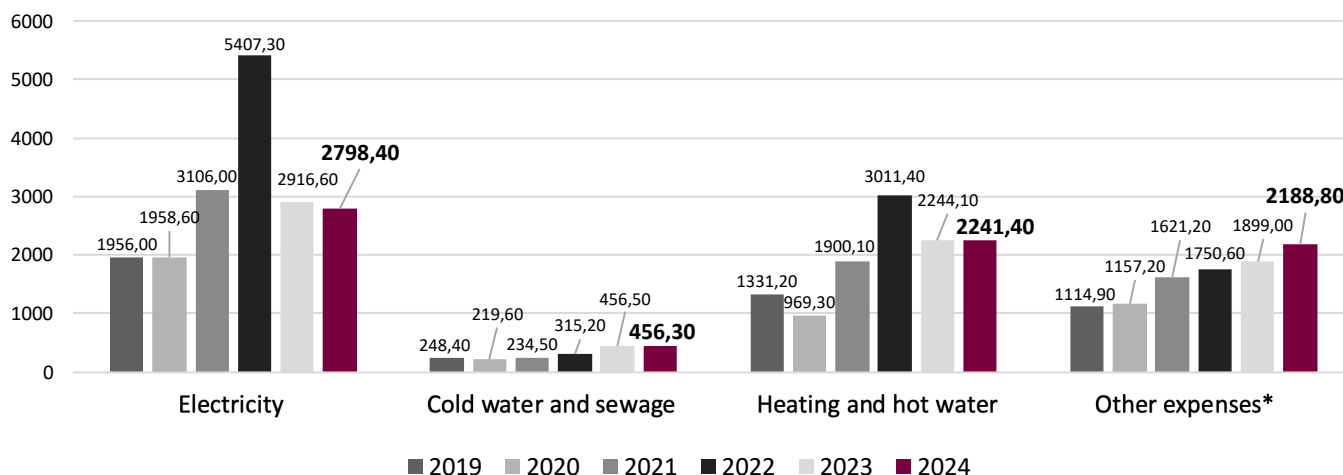


Figure 76. Cost of running the University (EUR thousand), in 2019–2024

* Transport maintenance, communications, cleaning, security services, gas, and refuse collection expenses.

University employees

In 2024, the University employed 5,765 members of staff who had 4,515 full-time equivalents of posts (see Table 30). Among them, academic staff accounted for 55.5 per cent of full-time equivalents of posts (FTE), while non-academic staff accounted for 45.5 per cent. Compared to 2023, the number of FTE posts increased by 4.6 per cent, and the

number of employees increased by 1.6 per cent. Changes in the number of employees were influenced by the number of persons employed and dismissed for the implementation of projects, the establishment of the new Medical Science Centre of the Faculty of Medicine, and related activities.

Table 30. Dynamics of the number of employees and the full-time equivalent of posts (FTE) in 2019–2024

Year	All VU employees		Academic employees*			Non-academic employees*		
	Number of employees	Number of FTE posts	Number of employees***	Number of FTE posts****	Percentage of the total number of FTE posts	Number of employees***	Number of FTE posts****	Percentage of the total number of FTE posts
2018	4,799	3,634.10	2,875	1,877.64	52%	1,924	1,756.46	48%
2019	4,823	3,683.61	2,948	1,954.38	53%	1,875	1,729.23	47%
2020	4,973	3,942.57	3,060	2,129.12	54%	1,913	1,813.45	46%
2021	5,417	4,307.73	3,342	2,372.34	55%	2,075	1,935.39	45%
2022	5,654	4,360.64	3,440	2,379.53	55%	2,214	1,981.11	45%
2023	5,523	4,315.62	3,432	2,324.11	54%	2,091	1,991.51	46%
2024	5,765	4,515.00	3,487	2,462.44	55.5%	2,278	2,052.56	45.5%

* Academic employees – lecturers, researchers, investigators, and research trainees.

** Non-academic employees – employees who hold non-academic positions throughout the University (top-level heads, managing administration, research and studies administration staff, technical support and maintenance staff, and cultural workers).

***The number of employees is indicated by the number of persons working under employment contracts.

**** The number of FTE posts shall be indicated for those employed under employment contracts and in the framework of the arrangements for additional work.

Table 31. Expenditure on training and professional development (EUR thousand) for employees

Expenditure:	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Secondments	2,746.9	404.9	656.3	2,705.7	3,390.1	3,842.9
Training and professional development	449.3	191.6	527.5	654.1	593.0	591.6
Reduction of tuition fees for employees	31.3	29.2	29.9	33.6	46.8	28.9
In total	3,227.4	625.7	1,213.8	3,393.3	4,030.0	4,463.4

■ The University has invested EUR 4.46 million to improve the qualifications of its staff, including training and secondments – an increase of almost 11 per cent compared to 2023 (see Table 31).

■ After the COVID-19 pandemic, the allocations for secondments have increased annually. In 2024, allocations for secondments were 13 per cent higher than in 2023.

Project activities of the University

The project activities of Vilnius University contribute significantly to the long-term objective ‘Infrastructure that meets future needs’ of the Vilnius University Strategic Plan for 2021–2025. In 2024, the University implemented

901 projects – 50 more than in 2023 (see Table 32). These were projects in the area of research and studies, infrastructure, information system development, the promotion of culture, languages, and other activities.

Table 32. Dynamics of the number of projects and their value in 2019–2024

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of projects	856	773	875	871	851	901
Share of international projects (per cent)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11%	17%
Value of projects implemented by VU (EUR million)	183.91	224.38	245.37	233.94	282.97	159.90
Share of value for VU (per cent)	N/A	90%	90%	92%	93%	93%

■ The total value of the implemented projects was almost **EUR 159.90 million** (EUR 282.97 million in 2023). The University received 93 per cent (EUR 263.65 million) of this amount (see Table 32). Major infrastructure projects ending in 2024 resulted in a 43 per cent decrease in the value of University projects compared to 2023, but the overall increase in the number of projects was driven by the growth in the number of research projects in 2024, of which 60 were new projects (see Table 33).

■ In 2024, only eleven projects worth EUR 8 million were implemented through EU funds. Meanwhile, in 2023, 150 projects worth EUR 150.3 million were funded from EU funds (see Table 34); this is due to the fact that the new period of EU funding began later.

Table 33. Numbers and values of funded, University-implemented projects by project type in 2023–2024

Type \ Year	Total projects		Administered value in EUR million		VU share in per cent		International projects		Administered value of international projects in EUR million	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Infrastructure development project	24	13	119.98	36.90	96%	99%	0	0	0	0
Research project	730	790	122.78	101.54	92%	94%	102	103	23.25	23.17
Study-related project	63	67	35.67	12.75	87%	92%	53	40	5.66	4.58
Information system development project	1	2	0.16	4.18	100%	48%	1	1	0.16	0.16
Other projects	33	29	4.39	4.55	90%	86%	6	9	0.38	0.95

Table 34. Numbers and values of funded, University-implemented projects by funding source for the period of 2023–2024

Funds \ Year	Total projects		Administered value in EUR million		VU share in per cent	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
EU investments	150	11	161.13	8.04	96%	93%
Recovery and Resilience Facility	7	35	34.43	42.71	94%	100%
National budget	529	697	57.76	79.94	97%	98%
International funds/programmes	162	153	29.46	28.86	79%	76%
Other sources*	3	5	0.18	0.35	100%	100%

* Private funds, donations, and other funds.

In 2024, the highest-value projects **(16 projects) were carried out by the Central Administration**. The total value of all the administered projects was **approximately EUR 39.7 million**. Compared to the **value** of the projects administered in 2023, it decreased by 64 per cent (Table 35). The largest number of projects – **208** (of which 22 were international) – was carried out by the Life Sciences Center, as a separate unit. This represents 25 more projects than in 2023. The total **value** of the projects administered by the Life Sciences Center was **EUR 39.7 million**.

The Faculty of Physics was implementing 116 projects exceeding the value of **EUR 26.8 million**, while 76 projects with a total value of over **EUR 26.3 million** were carried out at the Faculty of Medicine, and 31 projects exceeding the value of **EUR 13.7 million** were implemented at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics.

Table 35. Number of projects carried out in the University units and their values (EUR thousand) in 2024

Unit	Number of projects	Value of administered projects	Value per unit	Of which were international	Value of international projects (in EUR thousand)
Life Sciences Center	208	26,761.3	96%	22	5,001.7
Faculty of Physics	116	26,322.5	92%	15	3,018.4
Faculty of Medicine	76	6,297.5	96%	11	2,420.0
Faculty of Philosophy	107	13,694.4	95%	24	2,988.9
Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics	31	9,675.9	78%	4	377.0
Faculty of History	28	6,839.9	100%	5	2,618.1
Faculty of Philology	83	5,028.5	91%	21	2,096.8
Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences	74	4,396.2	100%	6	502.3
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration	39	3,206.5	94%	7	847.4
Šiauliai Academy	23	2,883.5	100%	5	603.3
Institute of International Relations and Political Science	29	3,668.5	80%	9	1,902.9
Faculty of Communication	14	1,119.5	100%	2	374.2
Faculty of Law	21	1,536.2	88%	9	1,142.6
Kaunas Faculty	18	2,688.8	40%	5	2,205.5
Business School	4	205.5	100%	0	
Central Administration	16	39,747.3	98%	5	2,502.7
Information Technology Service Center	2	2,654.0	84%	0	0
Methodological STEAM Education Centre	2	2,352.5	100%	0	0
Library	3	167.3	100%	1	104.8
Property Management and Service Centre	1	458.0	100%	0	0
Press	1	22.5	100%	0	0
Culture Centre	3	68.0	100%	1	50.0
Museum	2	108.7	100%	1	104.5

The largest projects of the University in 2024

The most important and largest strategic projects of Vilnius University implemented in 2024 were: the renovation of the **Teacher Training Centre of Šiauliai Academy**, whose upgraded infrastructure has resulted in better quality of studies and work and broader research opportunities, and the **Medical Science Centre of the Faculty of Medicine**, which was opened in autumn and has become

the largest investment in medical science infrastructure in Lithuania since the restoration of its independence. More information about these two projects is provided below.

After the implementation of the above infrastructure projects, in 2024, the area per student was equal to 9.12 sq. m.

In 2024, the investment project ‘Modernisation of the Education Science and Social Welfare Study Infrastructure at Vilnius University’ for the renovation of the Teacher Training Centre of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University (available in Lithuanian) was successfully completed.

- The project aimed to renovate the Teacher Training Centre of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University to train specialists in pedagogy, special pedagogy, and speech therapy, and to develop the qualifications of teachers in the country.

- The construction work included upgrading the infrastructure of the premises in accordance with the current requirements for carrying out study and research activities, which would ensure comprehensive training for specialists.

- During the implementation of the project, educational spaces and laboratories were created, as well as recreational spaces for students and premises for teaching staff, and 12 hybrid auditoriums were installed.



In October 2024, the opening of the Medical Science Centre of the Faculty of Medicine (available in Lithuanian) completed a significant project, **‘The Establishment of the Medical Science Centre of the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University’**.

- This project is part of the initiative of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport to renovate the science and study infrastructure across Lithuania, which has been allocated more than half a billion euros.

- The main goal of the project (available in Lithuanian) is to transform the excellence and fundamental discoveries of science into practical solutions that are applicable in medicine.

- The Medical Science Centre of 19,000 sq. m consists of six blocks divided into almost 900 individual rooms, featuring cutting-edge research infrastructure that meets the highest standards.

- The Medical Science Centre houses unique laboratories and research centres (available in Lithuanian). It uses a wide range of tools, from human cell cultivation and modern molecular research to digital technologies, and the centre develops translational, personalised, and digital medicine.

- The Medical Science Centre hosts the only Biobank of Lithuanian Population and Rare Disorders in the country, which collects and maintains a nationwide repository of biological samples from Lithuanian residents.



Two significant projects were launched in 2024: the construction of a new building of the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences and the establishment of the Translational Gene Technology Competency Center. Both initiatives will contribute to the strategic objective of concentrating academic activities on the Saulėtekis campus, ensuring that modernised infrastructural development in diverse scientific research fields fosters conducive conditions for interdisciplinary cooperation.

In 2024, the construction of the new building of the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences was launched, which is part of the long-term vision of creating a fully-fledged research and study campus in Saulėtekis.

- In 2024, Vilnius University signed a contract worth EUR 32.8 million for the construction of the research facility in Saulėtekis. This marked the start of the main project phase – the development of a building of more than 12,000 sq. m for scientific purposes.

- The Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences will be transferred to the new building, which is also set to accommodate all six departments of the Institute of Chemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences, where research in new functional materials, molecular and supramolecular systems, sensors, and biosensors, in other areas, and the Translational Gene Technology Competency Center of the Life Sciences Center will be actively developed.

- The new facility will provide a modern experimental base and feature infrastructure aligned with contemporary requirements for training specialists in the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, and nanomaterials chemistry.

- The new space will ensure the successful and smooth execution of international research and technology projects in order to compete effectively on a European and global scale.



In 2024, a project on the topics of three priority missions **‘Implementation of Mission Based Science and Innovation Programmes’** was launched under the Smart Specialisation priorities. Together with our partners (Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos VšĮ, the State Research Institute Center for Physical Sciences and Technology, ‘Femtika’ UAB, ‘Droplet Genomics’ UAB, ‘Caszyme’ UAB, ‘Cureline Baltic’ UAB, ‘Vugene’ UAB), the **Vilnius University Consortium is implementing the prioritised project ‘Innovations for Health’**. The project aims to establish a **Translational Gene Technology Competency Center in Saulėtekis**, which will:

- combine clusters of state-of-the-art scientific equipment and the interdisciplinary expertise of scientists in gene

editing, genomics, bioinformatics, cell technology, and other fields

- create conditions for establishing an international life sciences ecosystem, effectively promote scientific and business cooperation in the development of innovative services, products, and solutions for the health sector, with a special focus on age-related disorders and cancer diseases. It is expected that this will ensure the effective implementation of new biomedical programmes and the improvement of treatment strategies.

Initiatives for improving the University's activities

The development of infrastructure that meets future needs is one of the long-term goals of the Vilnius University Strategic Plan for 2021–2025, which includes improving the effectiveness of operational support, creating a Green University, and developing infrastructure.

The effectiveness of operational support is improved by enhancing administrative processes. This is taking place both in specific non-academic units and divisions performing general university functions, and more widely via an integrated approach through the framework of the internal FAST project.

FAST (Functional Administration System for You) project

FAST is an initiative already in its third year of activity; it brings together teams of heads and participants in processes with the aim of providing them with the management tools, knowledge, and skills to improve the University's administrative activities, processes, and procedures, thereby contributing to the improvement of the quality of the University's activities.



Main activities of FAST:

■ **Efficiency of administrative processes.** The aim is to ensure the smoother and more efficient management of administrative processes, the effective use of resources, clearer and better-quality results, and a reduced administrative burden on staff. In 2024, the strategic management process was reviewed and made more efficient, and the monitoring of the processes that were already streamlined in previous periods continued.

■ **Introduction of a visual management 'whiteboard' tool.** The aim is to improve the internal discipline of the organisation, strengthen result-oriented thinking, and improve internal communication between divisions, units, heads, and employees. During 2024, six 'whiteboards' were installed, six more units/divisions have received training and are moving towards implementing the initiative, while consultations with other divisions are also underway. The initiative will continue in 2025.

In addition to the efficiency and improvement of activities and processes carried out under the FAST project, a number of other actions have been introduced to ensure the smooth operation of administrative processes and the convenience, security, and timely updating of IT systems.


Maintenance and updates of information systems

The University takes care of the maintenance and updates of information systems dedicated to the facilitation and assurance of various internal processes of the organisation, and to communication. Key innovations in 2024:



VU INFORMACINĖ
SISTEMA

A new Vilnius University Study Information System (VUSIS) is being introduced, which will replace the current one.



VU pereina prie
Multi-Factor Authentication

Consistent efforts are being made to improve information security. The implementation of a multi-factor authentication system (MFA) has been rolled out in stages.




A new generation library service platform ALMA has been installed in the University Library and other Lithuanian educational institutions (available in Lithuanian).




Improving the procurement process


In 2024, a strong focus was placed on updating the procurement process, with the following changes:




Internal legal acts regulating procurement were updated.




A systematic register of queries, relevant reports in Power BI format, and contract registers were created.



A Microsoft SharePoint site for procurement was created and contains structured information.



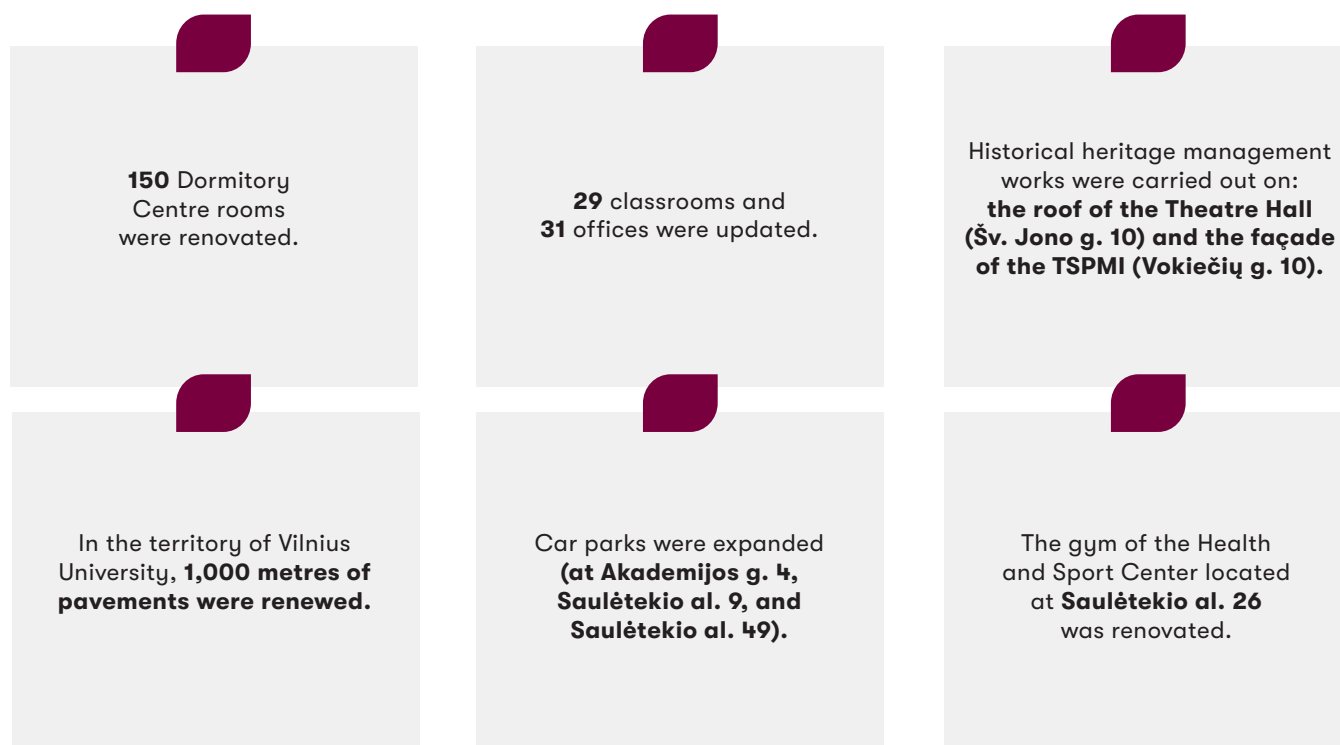
Dynamic procurement systems are being developed and the number of long-term and shared-use contracts is being increased.



The VIPIS system is being developed and training is provided.

Improving and updating the infrastructure

The improvement of infrastructure for the University community is ensured not only by developing new projects, but also by managing and updating existing resources:



Improving the feedback process

- In order to optimise the feedback process, a SharePoint site was created to collect the survey results, a survey implementation plan for 2025 was drafted and approved by the Order of the Rector, and a staff survey module is being developed.
- The satisfaction with operational support is evaluated by assessing the Customer Satisfaction Score (CSAT) and the Customer Effort Score (CES). In 2024, the questionnaire was adapted for the participants of the public procurement process. The survey itself will be launched in 2025. It is

planned that an annual assessment of this kind will be carried out each year, covering at least one activity.

- The satisfaction with operational support began to be evaluated in the form of a structured interview. At the end of the year, the information on the quality of service and needs that will allow planning of financial and time resources for the following year was collected by the University's Information Technology Service Center in all units.

Green University project

In line with current ecological concerns, Vilnius University is developing the model of a green university where all infrastructure projects are assessed in regard to their environmental impact, with the aim of substantially reducing operational emissions:

- In 2024, photovoltaic solar panels and two remote solar power parks were put into operation.

- Along with installing photovoltaic and solar power panels, the University started generating electricity, became greener, more economical, and more sustainable; it also facilitated the engineering staff of the University developing their qualifications in this area.

Abbreviations

ARWU – Shanghai Ranking (Academic Ranking of World Universities)

BIP – blended intensive programmes

CA – Central Administration

CHGF – Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences

EU – European Union

EERA – European Educational Research Association

EUA – European University Association

EAIE – European Association for International Education

EMBL – European Molecular Biology Laboratory

EVAF – Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

FAST – ‘Functional Administration System for You’ project

FF – Faculty of Physics

FIF – Faculty of Philology

FsF – Faculty of Philosophy

FTMC – Center for Physical Sciences and Technology

GMC – Life Sciences Center

GTC – Nature Research Centre

HPC – high performance computing

HSM infrastructure – infrastructure of humanities and social sciences

IF – Faculty of History

IMP IS – Information System for Individual Learning Accounts

ITPC – Information Technology Service Center

US – United States of America

CAU – core academic units

KC – Culture Centre

KF – Faculty of Communication

KNF – Kaunas Faculty

CNU – core non-academic units

LMT – Research Council of Lithuania

LMTA – Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre

MF – Faculty of Medicine

MIF – Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics

MSCA IF – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship

SR&ED – scientific research and experimental development

LL – Lifelong Learning

NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration

STEAM – science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths

ŠA – Šiauliai Academy

TF – Faculty of Law

TSPMI – Institute of International Relations and Political Science

VU – Vilnius University

VUVU – Vilnius University Children’s University

Annexes

Annex 1 Core Academic Unit Profiles

(Attached in separate documents)

Annex 2 Core Non-Academic Unit Profiles

(Attached in separate documents)

Annex 3 Awards and Achievements of the Vilnius University Community

(Attached in a separate document)

Annex 4 Student Organisations at Vilnius University

(Attached in a separate document)



**Vilnius
University**