Vilnius University

Performance Report 2023

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Abbreviations

CA – Central Administration

CHGF – Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development

EC – European Commission

EEA – European Education Area

EHEA – European Higher Education Area

ERA – European Research Area

ERC – European Research Council

EU – European Union

EUA – European University Association

EVAF – Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

FAST – project 'Functional Administration System for You'

FF – Faculty of Physics

FLF – 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 – the infrastructure of humanities and social sciences

IAU – International Association of Universities

IF – Faculty of History

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

KU – Klaipėda University

LII – Lithuanian Institute of History

LLTI – Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore

LMTA – Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre

LRS – Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

LRV – Government of the Republic of Lithuania

LSSA– Lithuanian Student Sports Association

LURK – Lithuanian University Rectors' Conference

MF – Faculty of Medicine

MIF – Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics

MSCA IF – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship

SR&ED – scientific research and experimental development

MVDDA – full-time equivalent workload of one researcher

LL – lifelong learning

ŠA – Šiauliai Academy

TF – Faculty of Law

TSPMI – Institute of International Relations and Political Science

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

SF – State-funded

NSF – non-State-funded

VU – Vilnius University

Foreword by the Rector

Vilnius University seeks to consistently strengthen its role in the higher education system and society. Therefore, it is important to constantly react in a timely manner in response to challenges and actively participate in academic and public discussions, as well as in the life of the State. Our joint work, initiatives, and trust in each other are prerequisites for achieving good results and strengthening the University as an institution.

In the summer of 2023, during the NATO summit, Vilnius and the Grand Courtyard of Vilnius University were at the centre of the world's attention. US President Joe Biden's speech was disseminated around the world, as were images of our University as the host; the University's name was mentioned more than five thousand times in the international media. The University is an integral part of the identity of Lithuania and Vilnius, which celebrated its 700th birthday, so its achievements are important to the entire country.

Conducted in 2023, the comparative assessment of research of Lithuanian institutions showed that our research has reached an international level in many areas and that the scientific activity carried out by Vilnius University is the strongest in the country. The quality of the activities of two-thirds of the University's research fields has been rated as exceptionally good and very good. Regarding the cumulative estimate of all three criteria (quality of research, impact, development potential), two of the Vilnius University fields – biochemistry and history – were the only ones in Lithuania to receive the highest score of 14.5 (out of 15). The highest assessment score of five points relating to the quality of research in Lithuania was awarded to six fields, including four Vilnius University fields – biochemistry, ethnology, philology, and philosophy. Biology, economics, history, and political science received 4.5. The results of the assessment of research activities testify to the high level of scientific potential and perspectives in all developed areas: the

humanities and social, natural, technological, and medical sciences.

The year 2023 stood out for the diversity of research results and the beginning of important research and experimental development projects. Researchers from Vilnius University are increasingly actively and successfully participating in the Horizon Europe programme calls. The implementation of two European Research Council (ERC) projects began: PROTEGE (led by Dr Stephen Knox Jones Jr.) and MILWAYS (led by Dr Giedrė Motuzaitė Matuzevičiūtė Keen).

The establishment of the centres of excellence, for which a targeted grant of EUR 16 million was awarded, will provide a significant boost to the implementation of the University's strategic objectives and the development of research of a high international level. Over the next few years, these centres (the Centre of Excellence of Advanced Light Technologies, the Data Centre for Machine Learning and Quantum Calculations in the Fields of Natural and Biomedical Sciences, the Centre of Excellence of (Post)Authoritarian Landscapes Research, the Programme of Excellence of the Life Sciences Center) expect to attract more than 60 new researchers, postdoctoral trainees and doctoral students, as well as develop interdisciplinary research, strengthen international relations, and cooperation between science and businesses.

In the area of science and innovation development, a significant achievement is the large-scale (EUR 32.9 million) project won by the consortium formed by the University and its partners in the competition for science and innovation programmes based on missions announced by the Innovation Agency. In implementing the project in the area of health innovations, the Translational Gene Technology Centre will be established within a few years, which will contribute to accelerating the transfer of technologies to healthcare activities both in Lithuania and internationally.

Researchers from Vilnius University received five out of seven of the national Lithuanian Science Prizes. Doctoral studies were started by record numbers of doctoral students in recent years. More and more doctoral students and researchers from abroad have joined the University community.

In the area of studies, the strategic priority was preparing for the introduction of individual studies. This is one of the biggest recent developments for the University that opens up more opportunities and choices for students and is also another step forward in promoting collaboration and interdisciplinarity across different units. Using the opportunity to get acquainted with the diversity of studies offered at the University, almost half of the first-years chose to study at another unit.

The Concept of Interdisciplinary Studies approved by the Senate reflects the University's commitment to creating incentives for interdisciplinary collaboration within the academic community, promoting links between research in different fields, and developing interdisciplinary studies.

For the first time, an assessment of the study achievements according to the criteria established by the Law on Higher Education and Research was carried out at the national level, which determines additional funding for higher education institutions. As expected, the University has demonstrated the best results among all universities, but at the same time, the assessment has highlighted places that require change, especially with regard to graduate career planning.

Another area where we hope to see a breakthrough is the internationality of studies. We have approved the Plan for Attracting International Students which lays down concrete steps to achieve the target of international students making up about 15 per cent of all

Vilnius University students by 2026. Separately developed is the international marketing plan of Vilnius University that is already being implemented, in which specific measures and indicators have been established.

To increase accessibility to higher education, we continue to expand the VU450 scholarship initiative by providing special scholarships. The University's partners also contribute to the establishment of these scholarships. In 2023, this scholarship was awarded to 116 first-year Vilnius University students.

We have signed the agreement of the international alliance of the high-school student informatics competition 'Bebras International'. Almost twenty years of initiative and leadership by Professor Valentina Dagienė at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics have resulted in the initiative's incredible scale. The Lithuanian idea now reaches over 70 countries and engages hundreds of thousands of students around the world every year.

Researchers from Vilnius University actively contributed to the creation of the vision of Lithuania's future 'Lithuania 2050'. The vision was presented to the public at the 'Observatory of Ideas' of Vilnius University, and on 23 December, it was approved by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. Work with the Government and the 'Strata' continues with the organisation of further activities related to the development of the vision.

The University's share of communication in the field of higher education is growing (from 43.89 per cent to 46.46 per cent). The most prominent and largest part consists of the expert statements of University representatives; this visibility is especially important because expert opinions contribute to forming public opinion and attitudes, as well as to decisions based on scientific knowledge.

Following the amendments to the Law on Higher Education and Research, the Regulations for the Organisation of Teaching Staff Recruiting Competitions and Certification at the University were updated. In addition, the amendments to the law provide employees with more guarantees, which we have already incorporated into our internal documents.

The University was visited by the President of Germany, the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, the Director of the French Institute, the European Commissioner for Justice, and members of international scientific organisations (EMBO, CERN, ELI ERIC, etc.). The University has become a place of a new national memory tradition – together with public figures, politicians, and ambassadors, we honoured the memory of the rescuers of Lithuanian Jews on 15 March.

We continue to open the University to various societal groups: a new Lifelong Learning Center has started operating, the supply is being formed, the first programmes have been developed, and the activities of the Children's University have been renewed.

We also have a new space for initiatives regarding the dissemination of science; having undergone renovation, the former Vilnius University Observatory in Čiurlionio Street was reopened and has been transformed into the 'Observatory of Ideas' – a place for science communication, meetings, and discussions.

In 2024, the appropriations from the State budget received by the University increased significantly again (by 19 per cent). This allows us to increase staff remuneration and invest in key activities. It is very important to maintain the momentum gained and to continue to pursue the highest goals in all areas of the University's activity.

Our University

Structure

Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

Faculty of Philosophy

Faculty of Philology

Faculty of Physics

Life Sciences Center

Faculty of History

Kaunas Faculty

Faculty of Communication

Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics

Faculty of Medicine

Šiauliai Academy

Institute of International Relations and Political Science

Faculty of Law

Business School

The Rector
Prof. Dr Rimvydas Petrauskas

Chief Advisor

Advisor

Rector's Office

Internal Audit Division

Pro-Rector for Research (Vice-Rector)

Department for Research and Innovation
Library
Press

Pro-Rector for Organisation Development and Community Affairs

Community Well-Being Division
Human Resources Division
Strategic Planning Division
Botanical Garden
Culture Centre
Museum
Health and Sport Centre

Pro-Rector for Studies

Student Affairs and Career Office
Study Administration Division
Study Quality and Development Division
Methodological STEAM Education Centre

Pro-Rector for Partnerships

Communication and Marketing Division
International Relations Fivision
Partnership Development Division
Confucius Institute

Chancellor

Civil and Occupational Safety Service
Finance Department
Department for Development
Legal Division
Legislative Division
Procurement Division
Dormitory Centre
Information Technology Service Center
Training and Practice Base Centre
Property Management and Service Centre
Strategic Information Technology Project Manager

○ Pro-Rectors, Chancellor   ● General university units   ● Core non-academic units

○ Core academic units   ○ Branch academic units

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

VU is the oldest university in Lithuania (founded in 1579) and one of the oldest universities in Central and Eastern Europe, which opened modern faculties and research buildings (the Life Sciences Center) in 2015.

Recognised as one of the largest organisations in Lithuania, VU has 5,523 employees and 23,651 students.

Part of the European Universities initiative – VU is a member of the ARQUS Alliance.

It conducts studies in 66 fields.

The largest and oldest academic library in the Baltic States (dating back to 1570) is located at the University, and the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre is open 24/7.

It protects the rich cultural heritage of Lithuania and the University's architectural ensemble, which is part of Vilnius Historical Centre inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, with a history of almost 500 years.

Based on the comparative assessment of research activities, VU is the leading university in Lithuania in 2023.

Ranked 473th in the QS World University Rankings and 119th for teaching quality (out of nearly 3,000 research institutions worldwide.

Implementation of the Vilnius University Strategic Plan for 2021–2025: key activities to achieve the objectives

Strategic direction	Long-term objective	Long-term objective tasks / Long-term objective indicators	Key activities to achieve the objective in 2021–2023
Creating society and the State	Capable of solving societal problems	The study impact assessment on careers (a graduate survey)	The model of the structure and organisation of the first cycle and integrated study programmes of the University was updated, ensuring a personalised choice of studies. The content of the pilot study programmes began to be updated by introducing elements of the internationalisation and digitisation of studies.
			A graduate survey was prepared and carried out in accordance with an updated questionnaire that focused on the assessment of the impact of studies on careers.
			The Vilnius University Study Quality Guide is being prepared.
	Research of a high international level	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 was established and began operating, the Doctoral School in the Field of Education was established. The initial project of the institutional model of the network of doctoral schools was prepared.
			The portfolio of training of doctoral students' general skills is being expanded. A summer school for improving the general skills of doctoral students (with ARQUS doctoral students) was organised.
			Development strategies for 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.
		International recognition of research: an increase in the number of top-level international research grants (ERC/MSCA IF/ Coordinated Horizon Europe projects)	The Regulations of the Research Promotion Fund were approved.
			The support system for the development of international project applications (consultations, targeted training of international ERC, MSCA, etc. application preparation, new ways of finding partners) was reformed.
			The development of interdisciplinary research at the University: competitions of interdisciplinary research projects are announced annually, interdisciplinary seminars to promote ideas and activities of scientific cooperation are held.
		The growth of the share of foreign researchers working at VU for at least a year from the total number of academic staff (50 per cent over the basic level)	The procedure for competitions of visiting researchers (doctoral students, postdoctoral trainees, visiting scientists) was prepared and is being implemented. Attracting visiting researchers: international competitions are being announced, and the selection of researchers, recruitment, and monitoring of their activities and results are being carried out.
	Growing influence in society and the State	The impact of experts on public policy formation	Participation of the University's experts in the development of the strategy 'Lithuania 2050'.
			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.
		Significant growth of scientific communication	The Open Science Policy Guidelines were prepared and approved, along with their implementation plan.
			The Priority Guidelines for Science Communication were prepared and approved, along with their implementation plan.

☐ already implemented activities   ☐ activities being implemented

		Attracting motivated students to all study cycles	A long-term concept of attracting applicants was developed.
			An international marketing plan was prepared and coordinated with the core academic units.
			The plan of measures for attracting international students in 2023–2026 was launched, implementing the international audit recommendations.
		Involvement with the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals	The first draft of the Sustainable Development Strategy was prepared.
	The pedagogy of the 21st century	The areas under evaluation of the field of pedagogy valued at least 4 points out of 5 in the external assessment of 2024	The Concept of Teacher Training was developed and approved.
			The regulations of the STEAM Centre as a non-academic core unit were approved, and its head was appointed.
			The research projects of teacher development for the national progress instrument 'Pirmiausia – mokytojas' ('Teacher – First') were prepared and are now waiting assessment.
Colla-borative	Inter-disciplinary and international research and studies	Opportunities for all students to gain international study experience	The requirements for admission to international study programmes were updated.
			The analysis of the indicators of the internationality of studies is being carried out and recommendations for the development of the internationality of studies are being prepared.
		The impact of ARQUS Alliance Partnership on VU studies and science	Three joint study programme agreements on the implementation of study programmes were signed.
			The expansion of horizontal links between the units of the Alliance universities was developed: all core academic units joined the ARQUS activities.
Sustai-nable	Motivated employees and engaged students	Increased evaluation of job and studies involvement as well as satisfaction with the organisation, work, units compared to the evaluation of 2020	The project 'University Teaches the University' was prepared and is being implemented.
			An analysis of the causes of the employee turnover rate is being carried out, and a system of interviewing the outgoing employees was created.
			Based on the FAST project, the academic consulting process is being improved.
	Infrastructure that meets future needs	Development of the Saulėtekis and Santara VU campuses, and HSS infrastructure	The HSS infrastructure needs were identified; a plan for ensuring the HSS infrastructure needs was developed and opportunities for its implementation are being sought.
			The construction of the Science Centre of the Faculty of Medicine is nearing completion.
		Improvement of the effectiveness of operational support	The internal FAST project 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 survey of community satisfaction with operational support was prepared and carried out; users of the TVPC support register were interviewed.
			Development and improvement of e-systems (e-University): an agreement on the design and development of the VUSIS III system was signed.
		Green University	Photovoltaic solar power panels were installed on buildings.
			A remote solar power park was purchased.
	Financial growth through income diversification	Change in the revenue from SR&ED solutions and services and lifelong learning activities	The Lifelong Learning (LL) Centre was established, its regulations were approved, and the development plan of LL activities was prepared.
			Development of the system of science commercialisation: the Innovation Fund calls (for patenting activities, investments in VU spin-off companies, development of SR&ED solutions of higher technological maturity). A platform for cooperation networking between science and business was created (the Innovation Club, the discussion cycle 'Science Solutions 360°', and VU innovation day 'INNODAY').

☐ already implemented activities   ☐ activities being implemented

The context in which the University operates

Universities are an integral part of the development of the State and society and the fostering of academic culture, operating in various geopolitical, economic, and social environments. When implementing its strategic activities, Vilnius University operates in the context of worldwide trends, on global, European and national levels.

Operating in an environment of global competition, when planning its activities, the University:

- relies on analyses, recommendations and insights from expert organisations (e.g. IAU, EUA, OECD, EC);

- participates in international and national discussions on topics relevant to the State, society, and the academic community (e.g. UNESCO, EHEA, ERA, LRS, LRV, LURK, etc.);
- follows and actively participates in discussions, decision-making and agreements on education, higher education, scientific research and skills, and politics (e.g. the Bologna Process, EEA, ERA, etc.);
- aims to ensure the active participation of the University community and experts in the formation and implementation of decisions of public and State importance.

Figure 1. The main trends and factors that influence the activities of the University

GLOBAL AND EUROPEAN CONTEXT

CYBER ATTACKS / CHALLENGES TO INFORMATION BASES

ESTABLISHING AND DEVELOPING DIGITAL UNIVERSITIES, RAISING AWARENESS THEREOF IN SOCIETY

IT INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL PACE

DATA PROTECTION CHALLENGES

MILITARY CONFLICTS

THREATS TO DEMOCRACY

DISINFORMATION

ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

GLOBAL HEALTH CRISES

DISCREPANCIES IN SKILLS, QUALIFICATIONS IN THE LABOUR MARKET

CHANGING NEEDS OF MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

NATIONAL CONTEXT

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES:

DECLINING NUMBER OF SCHOOL LEAVERS IN GENERAL EDUCATION IN LITHUANIA

INCREASING IMMIGRATION FLOWS (RETURN OF LITHUANIANS WHO HAD LEFT TO LIVE ABROAD INCREASE IN THE POPULATION OF NATIONALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES)

REGIONAL CHALLENGES (OPERATING IN 3 CITIES)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES

CHANGES IN SR&ED FUNDING

CONTINUOUS CHANGES IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION

OPTIMISING THE NETWORK OF HE / RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

OTHER CHANGES

NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY AREAS

CHANGING FORMS OF DEMOCRATIC AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

DIGITAL ACTIVISM

COMPETITIVENESS OF THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DIGITISATION

GROWING DEMAND FOR SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE (E.G. MICRO-CREDENTIALS)

INTEGRATING THE SDCs INTO CURRICULA AND RESEARCH

STRONGER EUROPEAN NETWORKING AND NETWORKING DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE

A MOBILE LIFESTYLE OF SOCIETY MEMBERS

FLEXIBLE AND ATTRACTIVE CAREER OPTIONS

CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY / VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS

The priorities of the European Union (EU):

- the Green Deal
- digitisation
- equal opportunities and promoting the European way of life
- an economy that works for people

Important initiatives:

- 'NextGenerationEU' – based on this initiative, a Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) / 'Naujos kartos Lietuva' ('Lithuania of a New Generation') was prepared in Lithuania.
- EU Solidarity with Ukraine. A separate priority with a joint action plan of the Member States being developed to support it.
- Increasing the funding of Erasmus+. EUR 26.2 billion were allocated for the period of 2021 to 2027, which is 44 per cent more than for 2014–2020. The results of Lithuania in 2022 in attracting funds remain fairly average compared to other EU countries.
- The European Universities Initiative. The University operates in the university network ARQUS.

Priorities in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) are mobility, quality and transparency, and system unity. In 2024, a new agreement between the members of the EHEA is to be signed in Tirana following the Rome Agreement.

Priorities in the European Education Area (EEA) are the integration and implementation of the LL programmes, the development of micro-credentials, teacher training and improvement of curricula, adult learning, and updating training and retraining.

Priorities in the European Research Area (ERA). The ERA aims to promote investment and reform in the areas of research and innovation, with the 'ERA Policy Agenda 2022–2024' approved to achieve this. Following it, the funding of Horizon Europe and other priority research and innovation activities in the EU have been made more relevant; currently, the 'ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2027' presentation and the development of tools are taking place.

- The Horizon Europe funding instrument. The participation of Lithuanian organisations and institutions, having assessed its capacities, has the potential to grow. Among EU countries, Lithuania is 24th according to the number of participants and 22nd according to the funding allocated. In 2023, the University was in the top 3 of institutions in Lithuania attracting the most funds under this funding instrument. Collectively, EUR 8.5 million was attracted in Lithuania.
- European Research and Innovation Policy. Europe is one of the fastest growing regions for private equity investment. In terms of economic freedom, Lithuania is 12th out of 45 countries in the European region and has some of the best conditions for the development of start-ups in the world (41–50th place in the ranking). Open data is an important indicator for the development of research and innovation – Lithuania ranks 10th among OECD countries.

Lithuania's vision for the future 'Lithuania 2050'. The vision aims to ensure that Lithuanian business, science and art create high value for Lithuania and the world in a sustainable way through interdisciplinarity, business and science cooperation, LL programmes, and the promotion of international competitiveness. This requires an increase in public funding for SR&ED. In 2022, EUR 690.7 million were allocated for SR&ED activities. SR&ED expenditure increased by EUR 67 million in 2022 compared to 2021, or by 10.7 per cent; expenditure in the higher education sector increased by EUR 32.8 million, or by 15 per cent, and in the business sector – EUR 28.2 million, or 9 per cent, while in the government sector, spending amounted to EUR 5.9 million, or 6 per cent.

Science at the University

The year 2023 stood out for the diversity of activities and achievements; it also marked the beginning of important research and experimental development projects. In 2023, the Regulations for the Organisation of Teaching Staff and Research/Art Staff Recruiting Competitions and Certification, the Implementation Plan of the Open Science Policy Guidelines, and the Regulation of Doctoral Studies were prepared and updated. Doctoral studies were started by record numbers of doctoral students in recent years. More and more doctoral students and researchers from abroad have joined the University community. The published results of the international comparative assessment show how the scientific activities carried out by the University are assessed not only in the national but also in the international context. In recent years, the University's researchers have been increasingly actively and successfully participating in the Horizon Europe programme calls. Four interdisciplinary research centres have started their activities. A consortium formed by the University and its academic and business partners won the competition, announced by the Innovation Agency, for science and innovation programmes based on missions. In implementing the project in the area of health innovations, the Translational Gene Technology Centre will be established, which will contribute to accelerating the transfer of technologies to healthcare activities.

Facts and figures

Scientific activities at the University are carried out by:

- nearly 2,500 academic employees, including 75 postdoctoral trainees
- 800 doctoral students

Publications:

- Among >3,600 publications, >2,000 were articles.
- The percentage of articles by the University's researchers among all research articles of Lithuanian research and studies institutions published in the 'Clarivate Analytics Web of Science' list publications (per cent) was 32.4 per cent.
- The number of international-level research publications prepared with foreign partners was 50.8 per cent.
- The number of international-level research publications prepared with business partners was 2.6 per cent.

Funding for scientific activities:

- EUR 91.96 million
- 70 per cent of the funds were attracted through the implementation of tendering projects, the execution of commissioned works, the development of the University's scientific infrastructure, and the provision of research-related services.

Research projects:

- 474 projects were carried out, of which 177 were international.

Projects that were being implemented:

- 18 projects of the Horizon Europe programme
- 17 projects of the Horizon 2020 programme
- 108 projects of research groups funded by the Research Council of Lithuania
- 42 projects of national research programmes funded by the Research Council of Lithuania
- The value of the attracted Horizon Europe projects exceeded EUR 8.5 million.

Innovations:

- 31 patent applications have been filed.
- The University's patent portfolio consists of 171 invention patents and patent applications.
- 28 companies held the status of University start-up.

Assessment of research

The Research Council of Lithuania announced the results of the Comparative Expert Assessment of Research and Development Activities of Lithuanian Institutions for 2018–2023, taking into account three criteria: the quality of research, the social and economic impact, and the development potential. The scientific activities of the University were evaluated in 33 research fields.

Compared to the assessment of 2013–2017, higher rankings of the quality of research were given in 16 fields, whereas 11 fields maintained their previous assessments, and the rankings of six fields decreased slightly.

The quality of research of as many as 21 research fields was given 4, 4.5, or 5 points on a five-point scale.

Two fields of Vilnius University – biochemistry and history and archaeology – were the only ones in Lithuania to receive the highest score of 14.5 (out of 15) based on all three assessment criteria.

Table 2. The research areas that received from 4 to 5 points based on the comparative assessment criterion of the quality of research

5 points	biochemistry, ethnology, philology, philosophy
4 to 4.5 points	astronomy, biophysics, biology, chemistry engineering, education, economics, physics, informatics, history and archaeology, mathematics, medicine, materials engineering, political science, psychology, sociology, law, management

Table 3. The research areas that received from 4 to 5 points based on the comparative assessment criterion of the social and economic impact

5 points	biology, history and archaeology
4 to 4.5 points	biochemistry, chemistry engineering, education, economics, management, electronics and electrical engineering, materials engineering, philology, philosophy, ethnology, physics and astronomy, communication and information, mathematics and informatics, political science, sociology, psychology, law

Table 4. The research areas that received from 4 to 5 points based on the comparative assessment criterion of the development potential

5 points	biochemistry, history and archaeology
4 to 4.5 points	biology, chemistry engineering, education, economics, management, philology, philosophy, ethnology, physics and astronomy, communication and information, mathematics and informatics, medicine, odontology, pharmacy, public health, nursing, political science, sociology, psychology, law

The biggest positive change compared to the results of the comparative expert assessment of 2013–2017 was in the assessment of the fields of ethnology (SR&ED quality score increased from 3 to 5) and education (SR&ED quality score increased from 2 to 4).

Higher SR&ED quality scores were also given to the fields of geology and geography (from 2 to 3.5 points and from 2 to 3 points, respectively).

The rankings of almost all research fields within the humanities and social sciences improved.

In the research areas of the natural sciences, medicine and health sciences, and technological sciences, the assessment of the quality of research remained unchanged in ten research fields, improved in five, and deteriorated slightly in the rest (see Diagram 1).

Diagram 1. The changes in ranking of the quality of the SR&ED activities between the assessment of 2013–2017 compared to that of 2018–2022
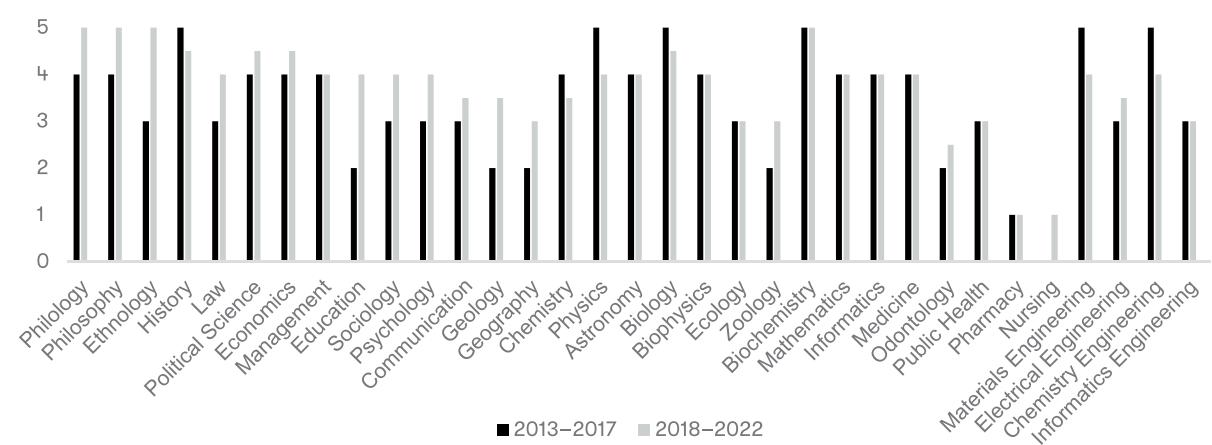
■ 2013–2017   ■ 2018–2022

The overall results of the comparative assessment of the SR&ED activities

Table 5. Summary of the results of the comparative assessment of the SR&ED activities in 2018–2022 and 2013–2017

		2018				2023			
		MVDDA[1]	Scientific activities	Impact	Development potential	MVDDA	Scientific activities	Impact	Development potential
Humanities	Philology	69,78	4	4	5	73,62	5	4,5	4,5
	Philosophy	10,01	4	4	5	15,86	5	4,5	4,5
	Ethnology	2,28	3			9,76	5	4,5	4,5
	History and Archaeology	20,82	5	5	5	23,79	4,5	5	5
Social Sciences	Law	18,57	3	5	2	24,87	4	4,5	4
	Political Science	11,62	4	4	2	16,37	4,5	4,5	4,5
	Economics	24,42	4	4	5	39,98	4,5	4	4,5
	Management	11,62	4			26,38	4		
	Education	3,18	2	4	3	24,07	4	4	4
	Sociology	10,59	3			18,84	4	4	4
	Psychology	16,96	3			27,09	4		
	Communication and Information	17,90	3	3	3	18,60	3,5	4	4
Natural Sciences	Geology	7,02	2	2	2	7,24	3,5	3,5	3,5
	Geography	5,81	2			7,14	3		
	Chemistry	33,10	4	3	5	33,35	3,5	3,5	3,5
	Physics	113,51	5	4	5	97,87	4	4,5	4
	Astronomy	25,96	4			17,19	4		
	Biology	41,48	5	5	5	70,08	4,5	5	4
	Biophysics	4,83	4			17,91	4		
	Ecology and Environmental Sciences	2,36	3			8,61	3		
	Zoology	2,94	2			4,87	3		
	Biochemistry	79,78	5	5	5	102,39	5	4,5	5
	Mathematics	40,70	4	4	5	38,56	4	4	4
	Informatics	29,93	4			40,35	4		
Medicine and Health Sciences	Medicine	90,17	4	3	3	91,45	4	3,5	4
	Odontology	3,84	2			5,07	2,5		
	Public Health	10,46	3			10,34	3		
	Pharmacy	2,06	1			4,31	1		
	Nursing	2,33	0				1		
Technological Sciences	Materials Engineering	9,38	5	4	5	28,07	4	4	3,5
	Electronics and Electrical Engineering	2,76	3			8,44	3,5		
	Chemistry Engineering	18,51	5	4	5	43,55	4	4	4
	Informatics Engineering	11,50	3	3	2	11,67	3	4	4

[1] MVDDA is the full-time equivalent workload of one researcher.

During the comparative expert assessment in 2018–2022, experts evaluated 28 Lithuanian research and studies institutions: 15 universities and 13 institutes (both State and non-State universities and institutes were assessed).

In addition to Vilnius University, the highest SR&ED quality rating was received by Vytautas Magnus University for history and theory of arts, and the Lithuanian Institute of History in the field of history and archaeology.

The comparison of Vilnius University and other institutions based on the weighted rankings of the assessed science fields in the science areas in the comparative expert assessment of 2018–2022

Diagram 2. The comparison of the weighted rankings between institutions of the natural sciences field

KTU	KU	LSMU	VDU	Vilnius Tech	VU	FTMC	GTC	IMC	NVI
3.6	3.8	4.3	3.6	3.2	4.3	3.7	3.5	3.6	4.2
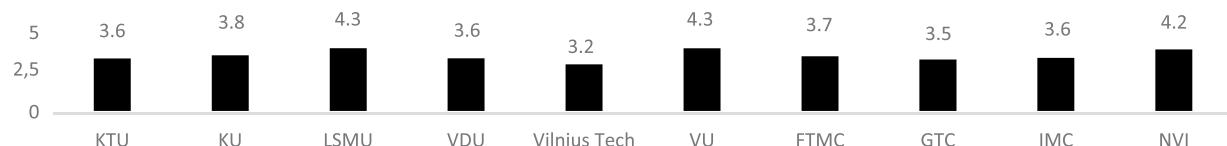
Diagram 3. The comparison of the weighted rankings between institutions of the medical sciences field

KU	LSMU	VU	IMC	NVI
3.0	4.1	3.7	3.0	4.2
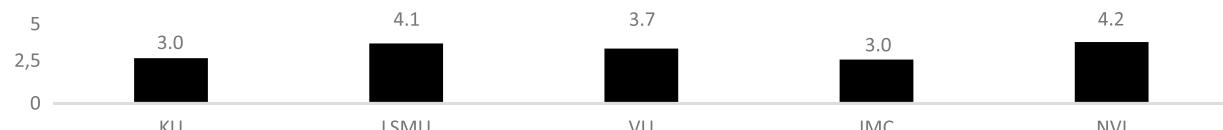
Diagram 4. The comparison of the weighted rankings between institutions of the social sciences field

KTU	KU	MRU	VDU	Vilnius Tech	VU	LEI	LSMC
3.7	3.4	3.5	3.9	3.3	4.1	3.7	4.0

Diagram 5. The comparison of the weighted rankings between institutions of the humanities field

KTU	KU	MRU	VDU	Vilnius Tech	VU	LII	LKI	LKTI	LLTI
3.5	3.9	2.9	4.1	3.8	4.8	4.6	3.4	3.2	3.2
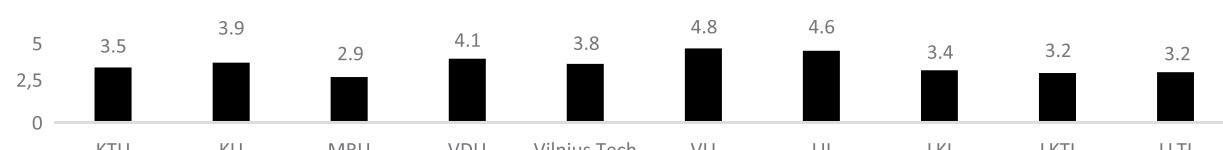
Research funding

In 2019–2023, the total funding for research activities from all sources has increased twice (from EUR 45,632 thousand in 2019 to EUR 91,961 thousand in 2023).

Programmes financed by EU Structural Funds were the most significant source of funding for research activities in 2019–2023, surpassing the second largest source of funding in terms of volume – appropriations from the State budget (see Diagram 6).

In 2023, funds from Lithuanian research programmes have also more than doubled compared to the previous years (see Diagram 6).

In 2023, funds from international research programmes increased, while the funds from commissioned work remained at a fairly similar level throughout 2019–2023.

Diagram 6. Funds for the research activities of the University (in thousands of EUR) in 2019–2022

	Appropriations from the State budget for VU research activities	Funds from commissioned work for VU research activities	Funds from Lithuanian research programmes for VU research activities	Funds from the programmes of EU Structural Funds for VU research activities	Funds from international research programmes for VU research activities
■ 2019	15,777.00	2,782.00	4,610.00	20,542.00	1,921.00
■ 2020	18,026.00	3,405.00	5,939.00	30,596.00	2,757.00
■ 2021	19,568.00	4,095.00	6,695.00	18,204.00	1,611.00
■ 2022	22,690.00	3,681.00	8,360.00	26,880.00	2,388.00
■ 2023	26,915.00	2,531.00	18,370.00	39,394.00	4,751.00

Project activities

In 2023, the University was implementing 474 projects. The total number of projects that were being implemented slightly decreased compared to 2021 and 2022 when the number of projects had had a significant increase; however, the number of projects was higher than in 2019–2020, and in 2023, there were the most international projects (see Diagram 7).

Diagram 7. The number of research projects at the University in 2019–2023

■ Number of projects ■ Of which – international projects
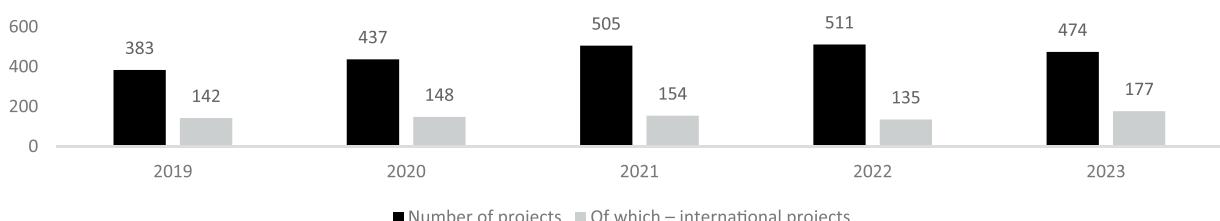
In the implementation of research projects, institutions in Germany (98 joint projects), Italy (93 joint projects), Spain (74 joint projects), France (69 joint projects), and the Netherlands (60 joint projects) are most commonly cooperated with.

The institutions most cooperated with are the National Centre for Scientific Research (France) (in French, *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*) (CNRS) (27 joint projects) and Lund University (17 joint projects). The most active partners from Lithuania are Kaunas University

of Technology (10 joint projects), Vilnius Tech (7 projects), and Vytautas Magnus University (6 projects). The neighbouring University of Tartu (15 joint projects) and the University of Latvia (11 joint projects) also make the top ten of the most active partners.
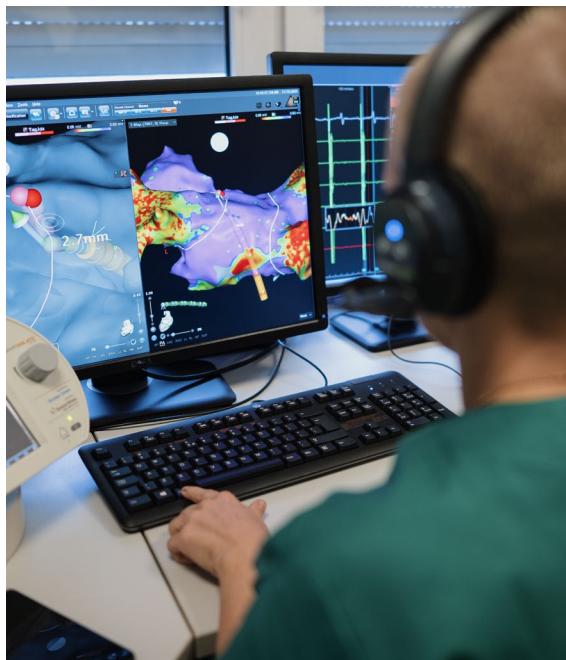
Table 6. TOP 20 countries from which at least one institution cooperates with the University on a research project (183 projects with foreign partners were being implemented in 2023)

	Country	Number of projects
1.	Germany	98
2.	Italy	93
3.	Spain	74
4.	France	69
5.	The Netherlands	60
6.	Sweden	58
7.	The United Kingdom	57
8.	Belgium	56
9.	Poland	53
10.	Greece	48
11.	Portugal	48
12.	Austria	43
13.	Czech Republic	41
14.	Lithuania	40
15.	Finland	40
16.	Slovenia	32
17.	Estonia	31
18.	Denmark	31
19.	Hungary	30
20.	Norway	30

Table 7. TOP 20 institutions that cooperate with the University on a research project (183 projects were being implemented with foreign partners)

	Institution	Number of projects
1.	CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS)	27
2.	LUNDS UNIVERSITET	17
3.	TARTU ULIKOOL	15
4.	MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FORDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTEN EV	15
5.	UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI	13
6.	AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS	12
7.	UPPSALA UNIVERSITET	11
8.	FUNDACIO INSTITUT DE CIENCIES FOTONIQUES	11
9.	LATVIJAS UNIVERSITATE	11
10.	STICHTING VU	11
11.	COMMISSARIAT A L ENERGIE ATOMIQUE ET AUX ENERGIES ALTERNATIVES	10
12.	FYZIKALNI USTAV AV CR V.V.I	10
13.	CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	10
14.	KAUNO TECHNOLOGIJOS UNIVERSITETAS	10

15.	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	9
16.	UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT	9
17.	IDRYMA TECHNOLOGIAS KAI EREVNAS	9
18.	UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN	9
19.	EIDGENOESSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE ZUERICH	9
20.	ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE	8

Four centres of excellence are under establishment at the University (a targeted grant of EUR 16 million): the Centre of Excellence of Advanced Light Technologies, the Data Centre for Machine Learning and Quantum Calculations in the Fields of Natural and Biomedical Sciences, the Centre of Excellence of (Post)Authoritarian Landscapes Research, the Programme of Excellence of the Life Sciences Center.

A project in the area of health innovations (EUR 32.9 million) was won in the competition for science and innovation programmes based on missions – the Translational Gene Technology Centre will be established at the University within a few years.

Scientific infrastructure and networks

To integrate into international scientific infrastructures, including the acquisition of scientific equipment, more than EUR 4.3 million were used in 2023.

Seven faculties used the targeted tool of the Research Council of Lithuania to purchase scientific infrastructure and acquired equipment worth EUR 1.8 million.

EUR 18.2 million was allocated in 2023 for updating technological equipment, including the projects mentioned above.

A large number of activities and projects were being carried out at the University in 2023 that allow it to get integrated and carry out activities in the ESFRI and other international research infrastructures:

• Research Infrastructure of High Intensity and Wide Wavelength Range Ultrashort Pulse Lasers for National and International Access (LASER RI) – membership of the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) and acquisition of equipment.
• Lithuania's membership of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) – membership fee, acquisition of equipment, research, and other activities of the CERN-LT Consortium.
• Centre for Computational, Structural and Systems Biology (CossyBio) – full membership of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and a membership of the Structural Biology European Research Infrastructure (Instruct-ERIC), payment of the Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC) fee, and the acquisition of equipment.
• Center for Spectroscopic Characterization of Materials and Electronic/Molecular Processes (SPECTROVERSUM) – participation in the activities of the Swedish National Laboratory of Synchrotron Radiation MAX IV and the acquisition of equipment.
• Molėtai Astronomical Observatory (MAO) – membership of the international WEAVE (next-generation spectroscopy facility for the William Herschel telescope) consortium, renewal of the observatories, acquisition of equipment.
• Lithuanian Grid Infrastructure for High-Performance Computing (LitGrid-HPC) – planned participation in the international MTI EGI (Advanced Computing for Research) or EuroHPC (European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking) and the acquisition of HPC equipment for the open access centre (APC) HPC Saulėtekis and ITAPC.
• Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (SHARE-ERIC). The main objective of SHARE is to collect data for the analysis of the ageing processes of the individual and society and to provide access to data.
• Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (CLARIN-ERIC). The main objective is to provide easy and sustainable access to a broad range of language data and tools for researchers from different scientific areas who research language and/or use language technologies in their research.
• Center of Semiconductor Technology (PTC). The Center provides researchers with access to the necessary resources for developing technologies and producing prototypes of electronic and optoelectronic devices.
• Centre for Innovative Chemistry (INOCHEM) (University – partner). INOCHEM's open-access SR&ED&I infrastructure is being developed, which will allow for more active

development of high-level SR&ED&I activities and participation in international and regional research initiative projects.

• Human Biological Resource Center (University – partner). Adaptation of premises, acquisition of equipment, creation of a unified information system, and integration into the international scientific research infrastructure BBMRI-ERIC.
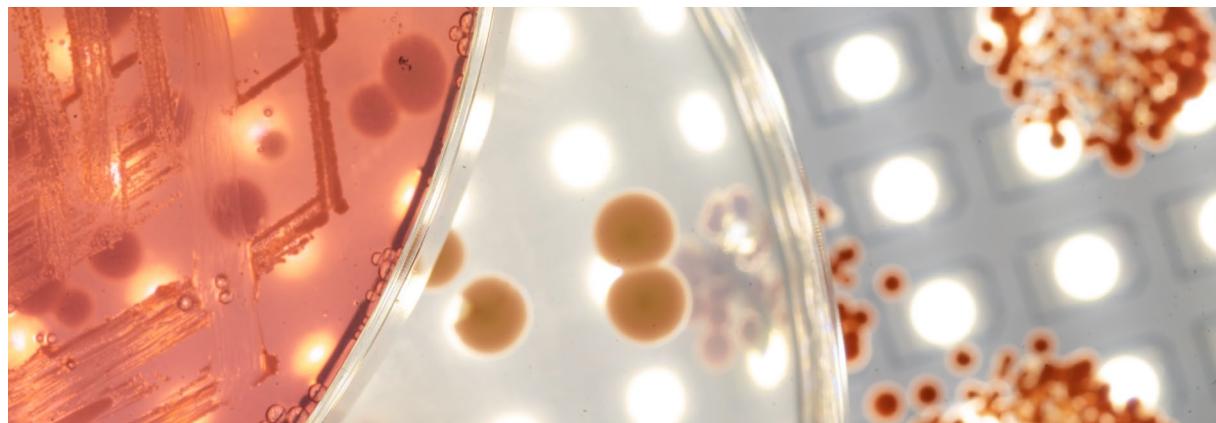
Scientific publications

In 2023, the University's researchers published 3,605 publications, and the year was particularly productive in publishing study literature (see Table 8).

Table 8. The publications of the University's researchers by type in 2019–2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Monographs, studies, fundamental and original theoretical research works	46	40	34	42	30
Articles	2,264	2,536	2,442	2,351	2,068
of which were published in peer-reviewed scientific journals in Lithuania	586	600	621	475	357
of which were published in international and foreign peer-reviewed journals	1,678	1,936	1,821	1,876	1,711
Study literature (textbooks/volumes, educational tools/volumes, methodical literature, etc.)	50	58	60	33	99
Other books (dictionaries, manuals, atlases, etc.)	75	82	69	64	68
Other publications	286	267	307	324	294
Conference proceedings	301	223	196	179	148
Conference abstracts	1,426	721	960	1,020	880
Data sets	1	5	92	137	18
Total:	4,449	3,932	4,160	4,150	3,605

*Data of 25 February 2024; the registration of the publications of 2023 is still ongoing. High-level publications peer-reviewed in the 'Clarivate Analytics Web of Science Core Collection' database amount to more than a third of all publications – 37.31 per cent (or 1,345 out of 3,605, see Table 8 and Diagram 8) and almost a third (32.4 per cent) of all high-level publications published by researchers from Lithuanian institutions (see Diagram 8 and Table 8).

Diagram 8. The University's research publications in the 'Clarivate Analytics Web of Science Core Collection' in 2019–2023

Year	Lithuania	VU
2019	3,745	1,279
2020	4,202	1,402
2021	4,549	1,447
2022	4,413	1,498
2023	4,151	1,345

■ Lithuania ■ VU
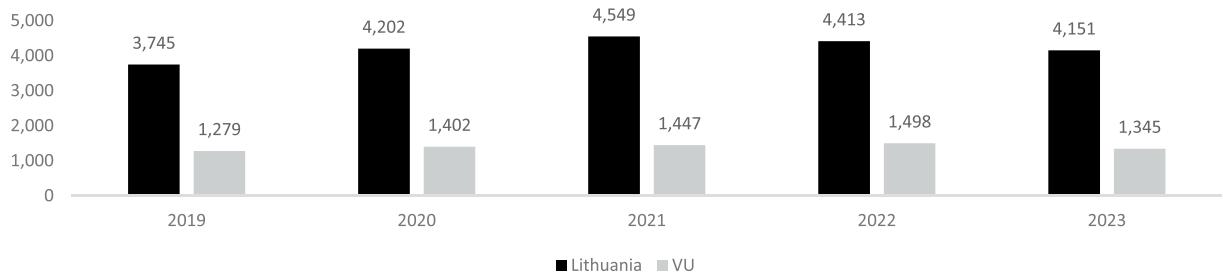
Cooperation with businesses, patents acquired, and University start-ups

The applied nature of the activities of University researchers is reflected in the context of cooperation of the University's research community with business companies.

For the implementation of commissioned research and the provision of research-related services to business entities, other institutions and/or natural persons, EUR 2.5 million were received in 2023 – slightly less than in 2022 or 2021.

To promote community discourse on the value of transferring knowledge and technologies, the

sixth hackathon, 'Hack4Vilnius', dedicated to Vilnius city innovations, was organised in 2023 together with the Sunrise Valley Science and Technology Park, Vilnius Tech, the international company 'Cognizant Technology Solutions', and Vilnius City Municipality. The hackathon attracted more than 160 participants who offered 30 new ideas for Vilnius. The Innovation Club, a networking platform for science and business cooperation, organised events in 2023. Four discussions on 'Science Solutions 360°' were held on various topics, ranging from space technology to the use of psychedelic substances in therapy, as well as on consumer choice, and the circular economy. More than 50 participants from scientific institutions, businesses, and public institutions attended each discussion.

The third innovation day of the University, 'INNODAY 2023', was organised at the University's Scholarly Communication and Information Centre, where success stories of the collaboration between business and the University's researchers and their entrepreneurship were presented, and technologies and innovations were created. More than 60 participants attended the event, and more than 150 viewers watched the event on the University's YouTube account.

In order to expand the potential of the SR&ED results developed at the University for international commercialisation, the SR&ED and innovation potential of the University have been presented at international events.

Figure 2. International events where the SR&ED and innovation potential of the University were presented in 2023
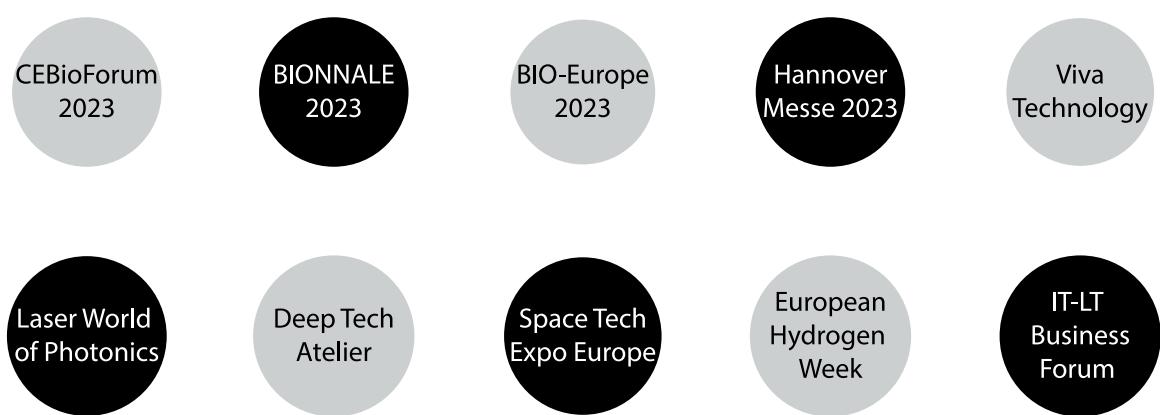
At the international event Life Sciences Baltics held in Vilnius in 2023, the University's researchers presented artificial bone implants used in dentistry and a 'Liver-on-a-Chip' model created by the scientists of the Faculty of Medicine.

At the Space Tech Expo Europe exhibition in Bremen, Germany, the joint Lithuanian stand showcased the University's astrophysics, wireless communication, nano-satellite systems, lasers and optoelectronics, lighting, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and big data technologies intended for use in space.

Patents

In 2023, in order to protect the intellectual property created at the University, the following were submitted:

- two international applications (under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT))
- twenty European patent applications (EPO)
- five United States patent applications
- two Japanese patent applications
- two Lithuanian patent applications

(both of these are priority applications and will seek to extend legal protection abroad when filing patent applications under the PCT, US, EPO, or in other jurisdictions)

Compared to previous years (see Diagram 9), the number of patent applications increased significantly in 2023. This change is directly related to the end of the projects financed by the EU Structural Funds and the achievement of their results.

Diagram 9. The number of the University patents filed in 2019–2023
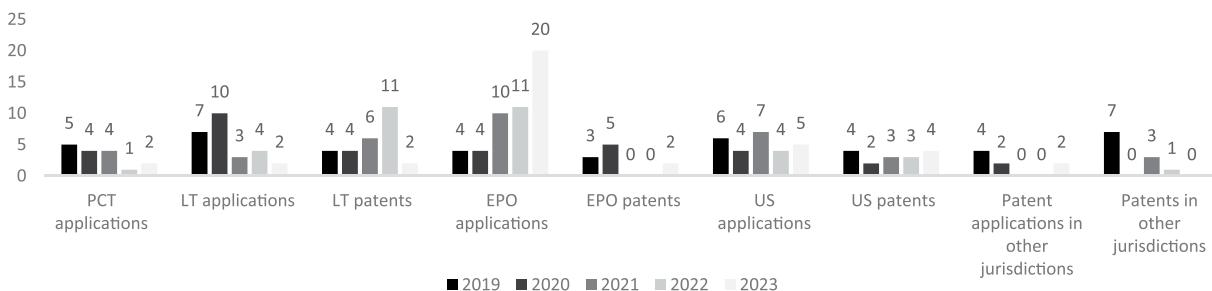
In 2023, four US patents (three in biotechnology and one in medicine), two European patents (in physics) and two Lithuanian patents (in biotechnology and physics) were obtained.

Currently, the University's patent portfolio consists of 171 invention patents and patent applications, including 25 European patents, 25 US patents, 27 Lithuanian patents, 44 European patent applications, 3 PCT patent applications, 20 US patent applications, four Lithuanian patent applications, 8 patent applications in other jurisdictions, and 15 patents in other countries (e.g. China, Australia, Japan, Mexico, etc.) (see Diagram 10).

The portfolio includes 22 patent families. The academic community has been responsible for creating 94 inventions, 44 of which are licensed.

Diagram 10. The composition of the University's patent portfolio according to the jurisdiction of patent issuance

Other patents (China, Japan, etc.), 15
PCT applications, 3
LT applications, 4
Other patent applications (except PTC), 8
LT patents, 27
US patents, 25
EPO applications, 44
US applications, 20
EPO patents, 25
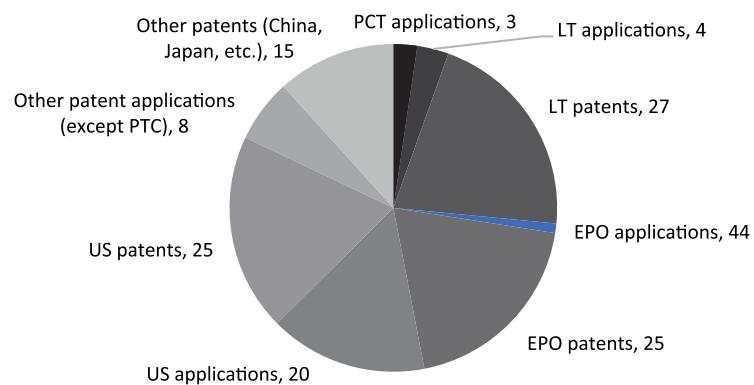
There are 30 inventions for which patent applications have been submitted or patents have been obtained that are jointly managed with third parties (legal/natural persons). The largest number of valid international patents are in the areas of life sciences (~60 per cent) and physics (~30 per cent).
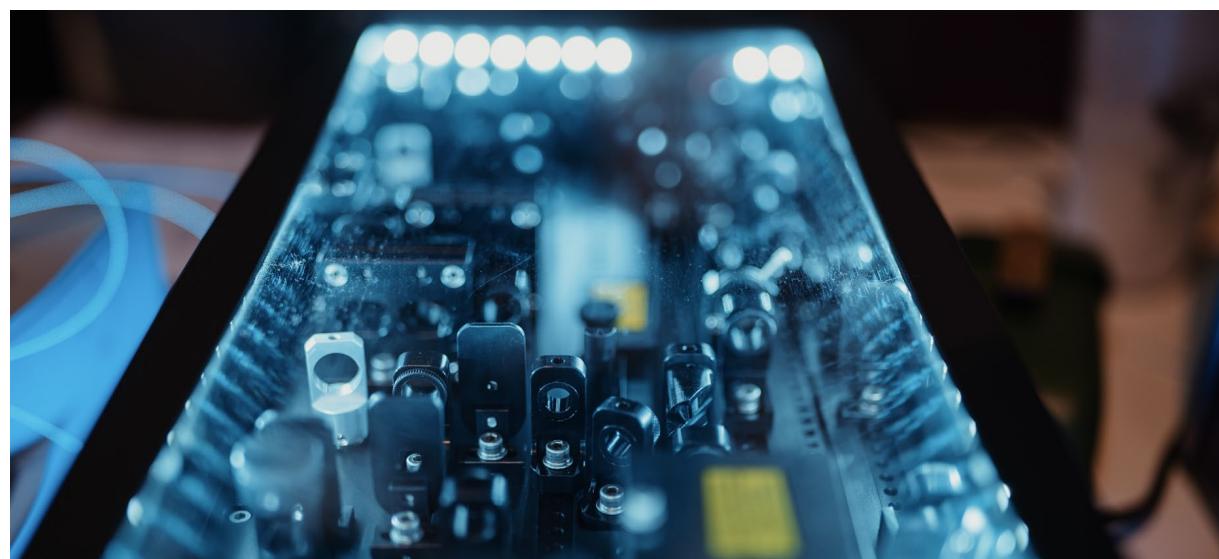
Start-ups

The University is becoming increasingly involved in promoting entrepreneurship, as well as in the activities of creating a start-up ecosystem.

Therefore, for several years now, we have been witnessing the specific impact on high-tech industries determined by the commercialisation of the scientific results created at the University.

In 2023, the status of Vilnius University start-up[2] was held by 28 companies commercialising the scientific research results created at the University. The total annual turnover of all University start-ups in 2022 was EUR 27.68 million. According to SoDra, the number of jobs created by all University start-ups has increased by ten per cent in the last year and stood at 388 at the end of 2023 (see Table 9), and the amount of remuneration paid amounted to EUR 15.5 million (average remuneration – around EUR 2,546 per month).

Table 9. The annual turnover of and the number of jobs created by companies holding the title of University start-up between 2019 and 2023

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

* Preliminary data according to the Rekvizitai.lt portal.

[2] University start-up' means a legal person established by members of the University community seeking to commercialise scientific and study results, know-how or experience, and intellectual performance results created at the University or belonging to those studying at the University that the University is not one of the shareholders or stakeholders of which, but holds a license and/or cooperation agreement for further development and commercialisation of the solution created at the University with them, which grants it the status of University start-up.

Training of researchers

Opportunities for doctoral studies at the University

The University carries out doctoral studies in five areas of science, which include 29 fields of science (see Diagram 11).

Diagram 11. Number of science fields of doctoral studies implemented at Vilnius University and in Lithuania

■ Number of science fields at VU   ■ Number of science fields in Lithuania
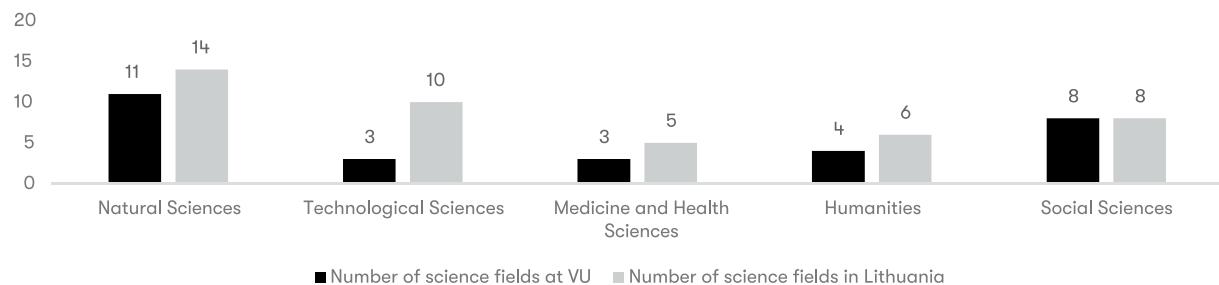
Joint doctoral studies with other research and study institutions are carried out in 11 fields of science.

Table 10. Joint doctoral studies with other Lithuanian research and study institutions

Humanities	Social Sciences	Natural Sciences	Technological Sciences
Philology with LLTI	Education with MRU and KU	Physics with FTMC	Materials Engineering with FTMC
History with LII		Chemistry with FTMC	
Ethnology with LLTI and LMTA		Geology with GTC	
		Physical Geography with GTC and KU	
		Ecology and Environmental Sciences with GTC	
		Zoology with GTC	

Diagram 12. Students undertaking their doctoral studies at the University in 2019–2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Foreign doctoral students	28; 3,6%	37; 4,7%	46; 5,8%	55; 6,9%	57; 7,0%
Lithuanian doctoral students	749	745	741	743	760

■ Lithuanian doctoral students   ■ Foreign doctoral students
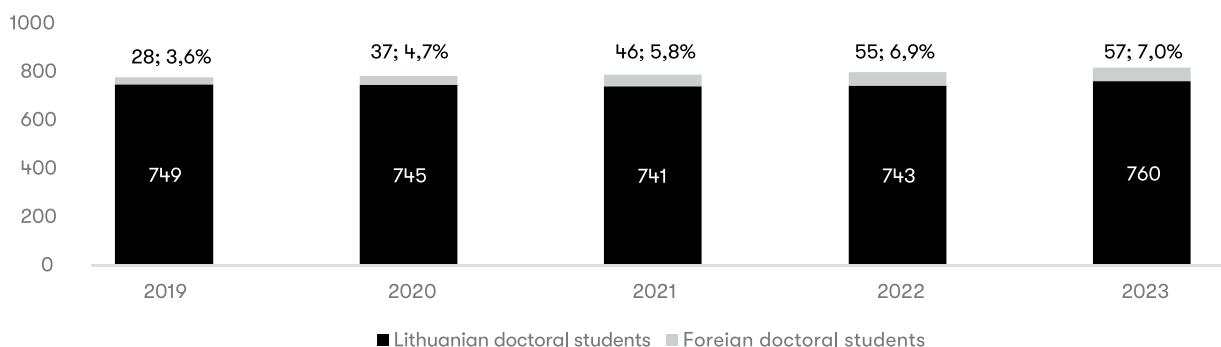
Over the five years, the total number of doctoral students increased from 777 to 817; however, this change wasn't spread evenly throughout all the units – the growth was determined by the integration of Šiauliai Academy and the increase in the number of doctoral students at the Life Sciences Center (see Diagram 12 and Table 11). The share of foreign nationals in doctoral studies grew from 3.6 per cent to 7 per cent (see Diagram 12).

The number of defended dissertations increased from 113 (in 2019) to 127 (in 2021 and 2022) (see Table 12).

In 2023, there were doctoral students from 25 countries. The largest number of doctoral students from abroad studied in the areas of natural sciences (10 per cent) and technology (7.5 per cent).

Admission of doctoral students in 2019–2023

In 2023, a record number of doctoral students was accepted – 187. The gender balance of those undertaking their doctoral studies was 56 per cent women compared to 44 per cent men.

Diagram 13. The distribution of doctoral students by gender

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Women	91	93	87	96	104
Men	79	71	61	80	83

■ Men   ■ Women
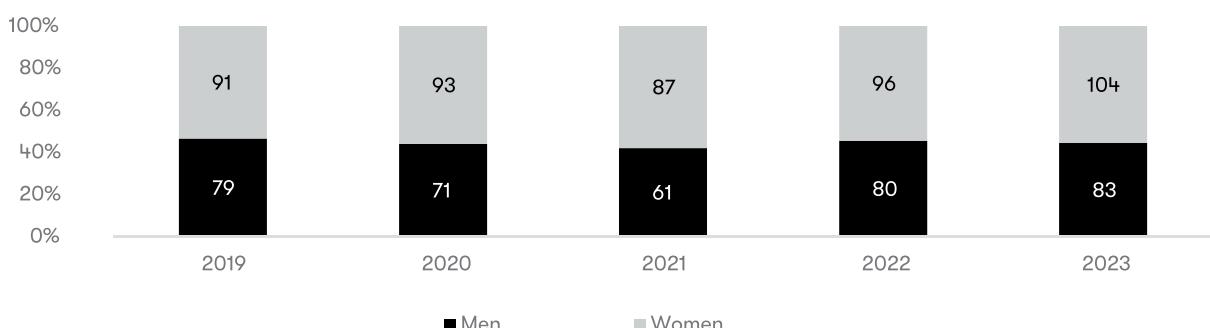
Table 11. The distribution of doctoral students by University unit

Year	CHGF	EVAF	FLF	FSF	FF	GMC	IF	KNF	KF	MIF	MF	ŠA	TSPMI	TF	Total:
2023	55	39	37	73	58	174	30	22	10	81	153	18	18	49	817
2022	61	39	34	77	59	163	31	22	12	72	140	22	17	49	798
2021	65	41	34	80	52	145	33	23	13	76	136	24	17	48	787
2020	71	42	36	80	52	138	36	23	14	78	149	-	19	44	782
2019	75	37	40	81	56	120	34	26	16	81	150	-	16	45	777

Table 12. The distribution of the number of doctoral dissertations defended at the University by doctoral students and employees by unit

Year	CHGF	EVAF	FLF	FSF	FF	GMC	IF	KNF	KF	MIF	MF	ŠA	TSPMI	TF	Total:
2023	11	8	6	16	7	20	5	4	3	5	21	4	3	4	117
2022	9	5	6	10	14	23	5	1	2	9	30	4	3	6	127
2021	14	7	7	18	11	14	3	2	4	13	25	-	1	2	127
2020	18	4	7	10	16	24	4	3	4	5	19	-	1	4	119
2019	9	7	3	12	13	15	7	4	3	13	23	-	3	1	113

Winners of the Best Dissertation Competition

In 2018–2022, 16 doctoral students that defended their dissertations at the University became the winners of the Best Dissertation Competition.

Table 13. Winners of the Best Dissertation Competition of the Lithuanian Young Scientists' Union in 2018–2022

	2018	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Philosophy			Ž. Pabijutaitė		
Sociology				S. Balčaitė	
Biochemistry	J. Kazokaitė M. Kazlauskienė		T. Šneideris	M. Mickutė	E. Žalytė
Biology			K. Šnipaitienė	Ž. Kapustina	
Chemistry					
Physics		D. Baziulytė-Paulavičienė	S. Balčiūnas		D. Banevičius
Physical Geography	M. Šimėnas	M. Tutkus I. Žičkienė		J. Kilpys	

Postdoctoral fellowships

The aim of postdoctoral fellowships is to promote innovative scientific research and provide young researchers with the opportunity to develop their own academic careers and engage in the University's academic community.

In 2023, the University had 75 scientists (see Diagram 14) undertaking their fellowships, of whom 15 per cent were foreign nationals. Most of them were on a fellowship at the Life Sciences Centre (15) and the Faculty of Philosophy (14). Seven trainees each were admitted to the Faculty of Philology and the Institute of International Relations, and six to the Faculty of Physics.

The trainees' activities are financed from various sources, including the European Commission's Horizon Europe programme, 'MSCA4Ukraine', the Research Council of Lithuania, Vilnius University, among others.

Five postdoctoral fellowship projects were being implemented or funding was allocated to from the funds of the European Commission's Horizon Europe programme in 2023: SPECTR (Dr Mantas Šimėnas, the Faculty of Physics), BACH (Dr Jorūnė Sakalauskaitė, the Life Sciences Center), ENTWINE (Dr Maria Fernanda Torres Jimenez, the Life Sciences Center), EMERALD (Dr Oksana Bersirova, the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences), 'Digital Forensic, Open Data Source and Artificial Intelligence as Tools of International Security' (Dr Kateryna Latysh, the Faculty of Law).

Diagram 14. The number of postdoctoral trainees at the University in 2019–2023
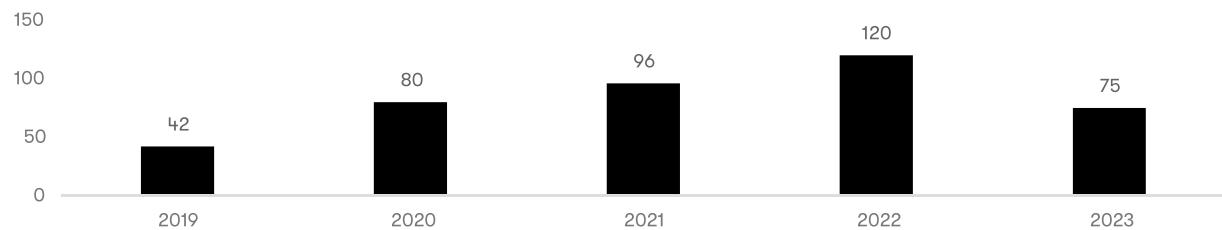
The activities of the Research Promotion Fund and the activities it finances

In 2023, the University's Research Promotion Fund financed the mobility of researchers, travel and/or accommodation expenses of guest speakers of international scientific conferences organised by the University, and the publications of scientific articles in high-profile open-access scientific journals. To fund these activities, EUR 126.4 thousand was distributed in 2023.

The rest of the fund was allocated to implement the scientific ideas of young researchers (researchers who defended their doctoral dissertations no more than ten years ago) and other researchers who were selected by way of competition. A mandatory condition for funding young researchers' projects is cooperation between at least two academic units and the execution of projects in at least two fields.

In 2023, 65 applications were submitted to the competition for the implementation of scientific ideas of young researchers and other researchers. 20 projects were funded (30.76 per cent success rate). More than half of all applications (36) were submitted and the funding was received (11 projects) by researchers from the Life Sciences Center. Diagrams 15 and 16 show the fields and cooperating units of the funded projects.

Diagram 15. The young researchers' cooperation between units in the implementation of projects funded by the Research Promotion Fund in 2023

Diagram 16. The interdisciplinarity of projects funded by the Research Promotion Fund

| Biochemistry and Medicine | Biology and Odontology | Biology and Medicine | Physical Geography and Ecology and Environmental Sciences | Biology and Biophysics | Sociology and Law | Ethnology and Political Sciences | Chemical Engineering and Chemistry | Biochemistry and Chemistry |
| | | | | Law and Informatics | Physical Geography and Informatics | Chemistry Engineering and Chemistry | Biochemistry and Biology | Physics and Chemistry |

Studies at the University

Facts and figures

There are 2,632 members of the teaching staff:

- 83 foreign citizens work under a permanent employment contract.
- At the University, the ratio of teaching staff members and students is 1 to 9 (on average, the ratio of members of teaching staff to students at Lithuanian universities is 1:10).
- There are 297 professors, a number surpassing every other Lithuanian university.

260 study programmes, including:

- 71 study programmes taught in a foreign language
- Four unique study programmes have no analogues in Lithuania – Archaeology, Geology, Classical Philology, and Special Education and Speech Therapy.

Doctoral studies in 29 science fields

23,651 students, enrolled in:

- the first cycle (bachelor) studies – 60.6 per cent
- the second cycle (master) studies – 17.5 per cent
- integrated studies, covering first and second cycles – 14.1 per cent
- residency studies – 3.4 per cent
- professional studies (non-degree studies) – 0.9 per cent
- third cycle (doctoral) studies – 3.5 per cent

International students make up ~12.2 per cent of the whole study body:

- 2,168 foreign nationals are enrolled in full-time studies, 786 of whom were admitted in 2023.
- 806 international exchange students chose to study here.
- Every year, more than half of the Lithuanian high school graduates with at least one 100-point assessment in their matura exams enroll at the University.
- The number of doctoral students accepted to study at the University amounts to 1/3 of all doctoral students accepted to study in Lithuania.
- Students at the University account for 33 per cent of all students studying at Lithuanian universities.

4,653 graduates:

- the largest number of graduates in Lithuania
- including 86 who received a *Magna Cum Laude* diploma
- including 336 who received a *Cum Laude* diploma

- For more than ten years now, the University Library has been operating 24/7.
- The University provides the most affordable accommodation for students in Lithuania.

The teaching staff

The members of University teaching staff work directly and continuously with students, playing a very important role: they contribute to the academic success of the students and their comprehensive learning experience at the University.

An analysis of the information related to studies reveals that:

In 2023, teaching staff accounted for 48 per cent (2,632) of all employees (5,523).

In 2023, the University employed the largest number of professors in Lithuania; 297 professors (including those under the category of 'distinguished professor') make up 11 per cent of the academic staff. A quarter of them (76 professors) work at the Faculty of Medicine.

83 international teaching staff members work under a permanent employment contract, 48 of whom are lecturers or assistant professors. The majority of international teaching staff members work at the Faculty of Philology (37) and the Faculty of Medicine (11), while all other faculties share a similar distribution.

The University employs 108 partnership professors and partnership associate professors – they are highly qualified specialists with a background in business, art, or the public sector who are employed in the best international or national companies and organisations and pass on their expertise to University students. The University was the first among Lithuanian higher education institutions to establish such a position in order to include active practitioners in the study process.

The University employs 1,578 teaching staff members with academic degrees. This enables the provision of research-based studies and study programmes.

Diagram 17. The number of teaching staff members at the University, 2023

Other VU employees; 2,891; 52%

VU employees 5,523

Teaching staff; 2,632; 48%
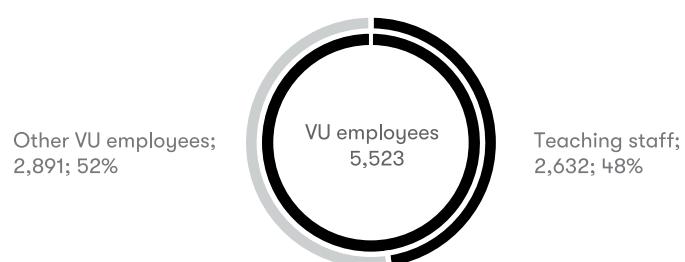
Diagram 18. The number of teaching staff members by position, 2023

- 297 ; 11%
- 41 ; 2%
- 663 ; %
- 67 ; 3%
- 463 ; 18%
- 220 ; 8%
- 881 ; 33%

- ■ Professors (including those under the category of distinguished professor)
- ■ Partnership professors*
- ■ Associate professors
- ■ Partnership associate professors*
- ■ Assistant professors
- ■ Junior assistant professors
- ■ Lectors
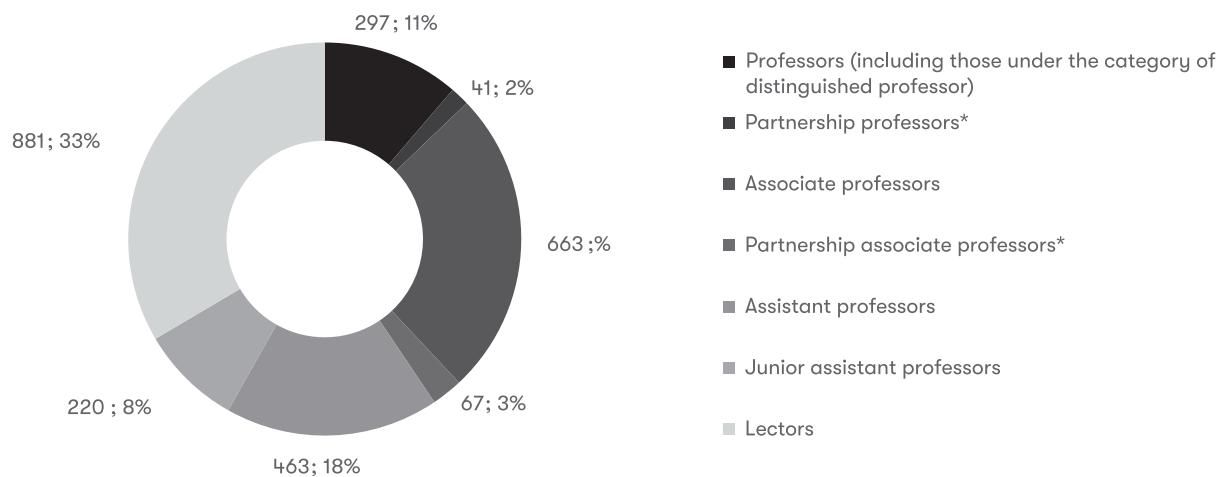
* Highly qualified specialists working in business, art, or the public sector who are employed by the best international or national companies and organisations

Study programmes offered at the University

With the study programmes offered, the University seeks to respond to the context and international, national, societal and business needs and challenges, as well as to cutting-edge research trends.

Vilnius University provides an opportunity to study in Vilnius, Kaunas and Šiauliai and choose the following studies:

- first cycle (bachelor) studies
- second cycle (master) studies
- integrated studies, covering first and second cycles
- residency studies
- professional (pedagogy) studies (non-degree)
- third cycle (doctoral) studies

The University's portfolio of study programmes, 2023

260 study programmes implemented, including:

- programmes in bachelor studies – 89
- programmes in master studies – 111
- programmes in integrated studies – four
- programmes in professional (pedagogy) studies – two
- programmes in residency studies – 54

As well, the University offers doctoral studies in 29 science fields.

Implemented at the University:

- Four unique study programmes with no analogues in Lithuania: Archaeology, Geology, Classical Philology, Special Education and Speech Therapy.
- Three interdisciplinary and 12 joint study programmes.
- 71 study programmes taught in a foreign language (23 bachelor, 46 master, 2 integrated).

Diagram 19. Study programmes offered at the University by cycle, 2019–2023

Bachelor studies: 74, 78, 88, 88, 89
Integrated studies: 4, 4, 4, 4, 4
Master studies: 98, 100, 111, 112, 111
Professional (pedagogy) studies: 1, 1, 2, 2, 2
Residency: 63, 63, 56, 58, 54

■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023
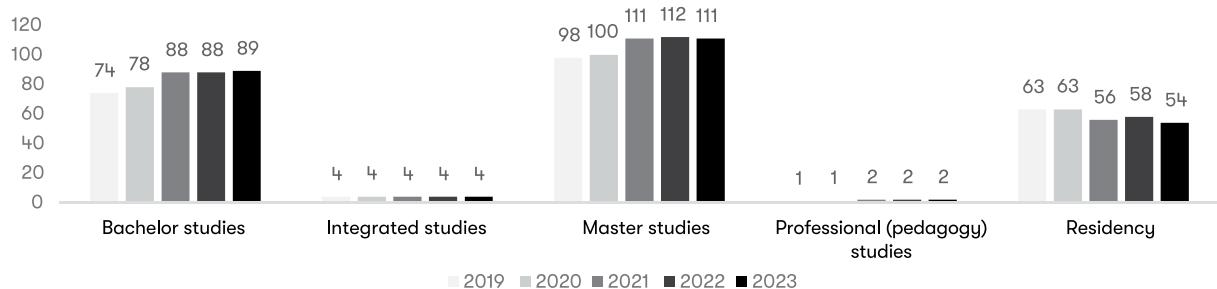
Diagram 20. Changes in the study programmes offered at the University by cycle, 2019–2023

Bachelor studies: +20%
Integrated studies: 0%
Master studies: +1%
Professional (pedagogy) studies: +100%
Residency: 14%
Total number of study programmes at VU: + 8%
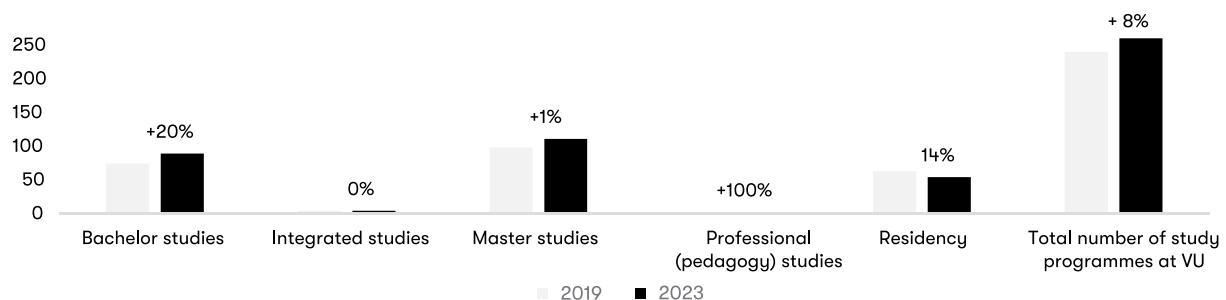
■ 2019 ■ 2023

Diagram 21. The number of study programmes taught in a foreign language by cycle, 2019–2023

2019: Bachelor 11, Integrated 2, Master 38, In total 51
2020: Bachelor 9, Integrated 2, Master 36, In total 47
2021: Bachelor 16, Integrated 2, Master 40, In total 58
2022: Bachelor 17, Integrated 2, Master 46, In total 65
2023: Bachelor 23, Integrated 2, Master 46, In total 71

■ Bachelor studies ■ Integrated studies ■ Master studies —●— In total
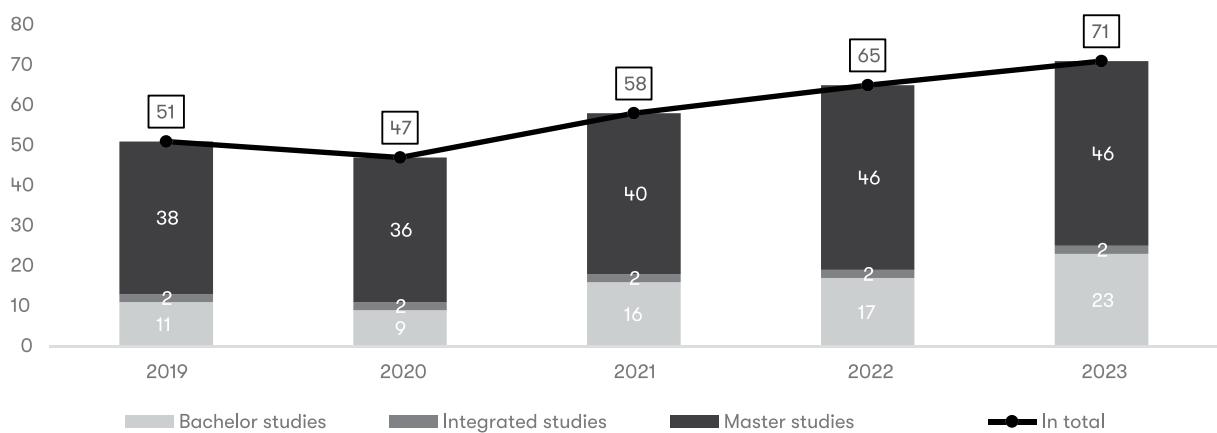
In 2021, the number of bachelor and master study programmes has increased significantly (by over 11 per cent). The total number of study programmes has increased by 8 per cent in five years, with a 20 per cent increase in bachelor studies and a 13 per cent increase in master studies. The change was mainly due to the integration of Šiauliai University (currently known as Šiauliai Academy). Internationalisation is also an important aspect, with a 39 per cent increase in the number of study programmes offered in a foreign language in 2019–2023 (20).

In 2023, following a change in the legal framework governing the duration and scope of

residency studies, all ongoing residency study programmes were updated.

The decrease in the number of residency study programmes (by 4 programmes) is due to the reduction in the number of State-funded student places approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania.

In 2022–2023, study programmes have been developed and reorganised to meet current challenges in the light of global situation:
- • Politics of Global Challenges (in English) in the Institute of International Relations and Political Science
- • Ukrainian Studies in the Faculty of Philology

In 2023, six international study programmes were launched:

- • Two joint master programmes: International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence (Kaunas Faculty); Financial Data Analytics and Sustainable Finance (Faculty of Economics and Business Administration)
- • Four double-diploma master programmes: Europhotonics (Faculty of Physics); Intelligent Photonics for Security Reliability Sustainability and Safety (Faculty of Physics); Cross-Border Criminology (Faculty of Philosophy); Economics and Geography of Innovation and Sustainable Development

Partnerships with 18 foreign higher education institutions and two foreign research institutes are being developed in the implementation of study programmes.

Candidates to study at Vilnius University

The offer of study programmes in 2023 for candidates to study at the University:

In 2023, the University offered 260 study programmes and doctoral studies in 29 research fields, including

- 20 new or updated bachelor or master study programmes
- one new bachelor study programme (taught in English)
- five new second cycle study programmes (taught in English)
- one new joint master programme European Studies, taught with partners of the ARQUS European University Alliance

Diagram 22. The number of University study programmes to which admission was carried out in 2023 by core academic units

	CHGF	EVAF	FLF	FSF	FF	GMC	IF	KNF	KF	MIF	MF	ŠA	TSPMI	TF	VM
Residency											54				
Professional (pedagogy) studies				1								1			
Master studies	7	11	8	13	6	9	3	8	7	6	7	13	6	2	5
Integrated studies											3				
Bachelor studies	7	7	12	9	4	7	3	7	4	10	5	10	2		2
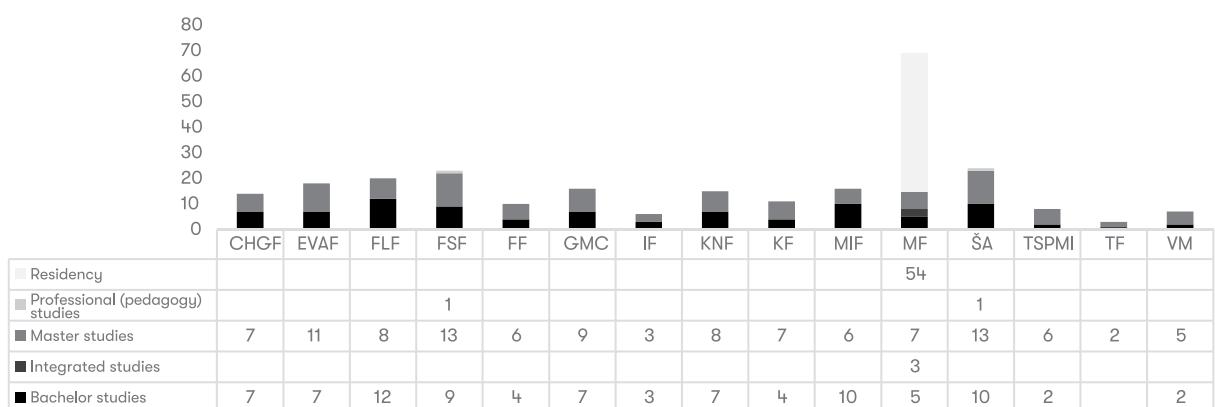
Applications to study in bachelor, integrated, master, professional (pedagogy), and residency study programmes.

The total number of applications to all study cycles (except for doctoral studies) in 2023 was 42,662.

Approximately 48.4 per cent of all applications are for studies at the University indicated as a first or second priority; this trend persists with some deviation.

70 per cent of applicants applied for State-funded places.

The number of applications from foreign nationals continues to grow every year; this year, over 2,500 such applications were received from prospective students from almost 100 countries.

Diagram 23. The distribution of the number of applications received to study in study programmes at the University by study cycle in 2023

Number of received applications
42,662

Bachelor studies
28,163

Master studies
8,373

Integrated studies
4,289

Professional (pedagogy) studies
299

Residency studies
1,538
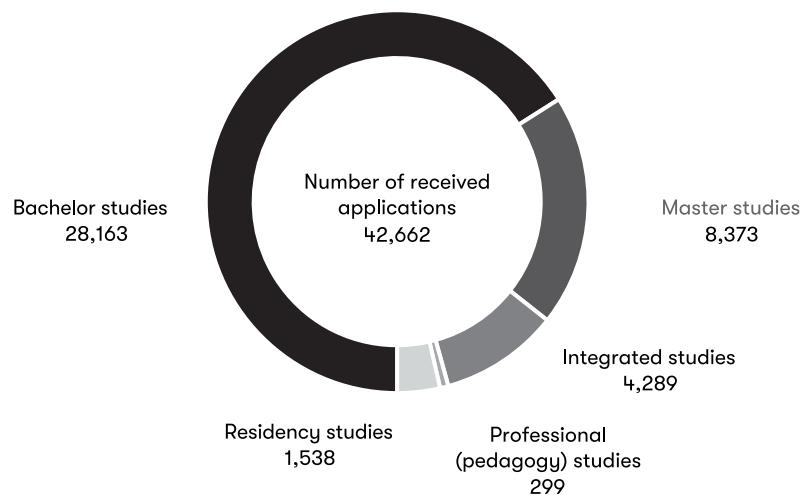
Diagram 24. The number of applications to study by 1–2 priority and all priorities in 2019–2023

Year	Number of applications to study programmes which were indicated as first or second priority	Number of applications with all priorities
2019	19,804	44,226
2020	21,066	44,050
2021	19,424	41,972
2022	19,710	41,300
2023	20,646	42,662

■ Number of applications to study programmes which were indicated as first or second priority
■ Number of applications with all priorities

Diagram 25. The applications (by all priorities) to study in study programmes offered by the University by cycle in 2019–2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
■ Bachelor studies	30,856	28,509	28,101	27,612	28,163
■ Master studies	6,331	8,631	7,512	7,875	8,373
■ Integrated studies	5,669	5,225	4,609	4,009	4,289
■ Professional (pedagogy) studies	120	239	264	260	299
■ Residency studies	1,250	1,446	1,486	1,544	1,538
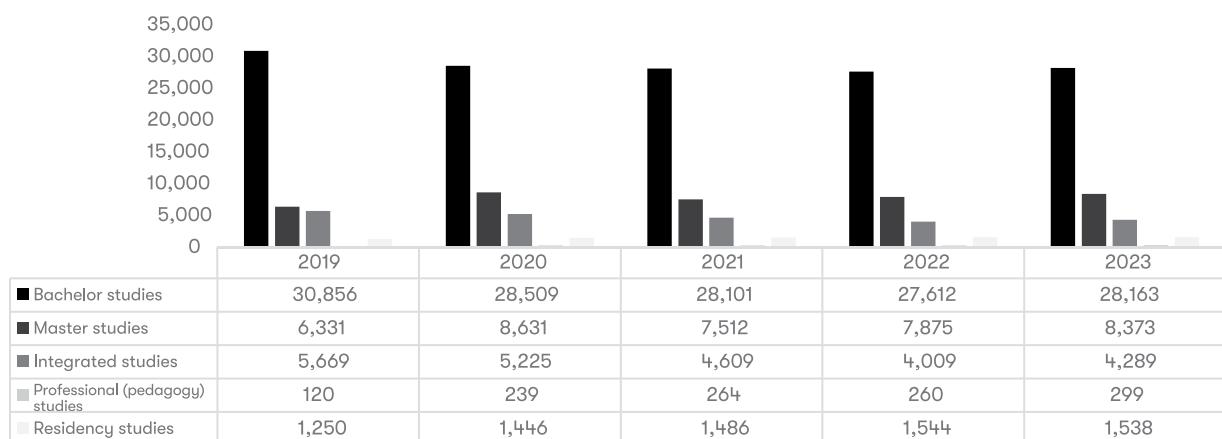
The total percentage change in the number of applications by all priorities is negative but close to zero; in 2022, the number of received applications decreased (7,875) but increased in 2023 (8,373).

In 2019–2023, the greatest change was observed among those wishing to select professional (pedagogy) studies. The trend to select pedagogy studies has been noticed across all universities in Lithuania. Once Šiauliai University was incorporated into the University (currently, Šiauliai Academy), the offer of professional (pedagogy) studies was expanded, the work with schools was strengthened, meetings in regional schools were organised, and pedagogical studies were made relevant in the public discourse. The State grants support of EUR 319 per month for students in bachelor and minor studies who have selected education studies.

Diagram 26. The distribution of the number of applications received to study at the University by core academic unit in 2021–2023
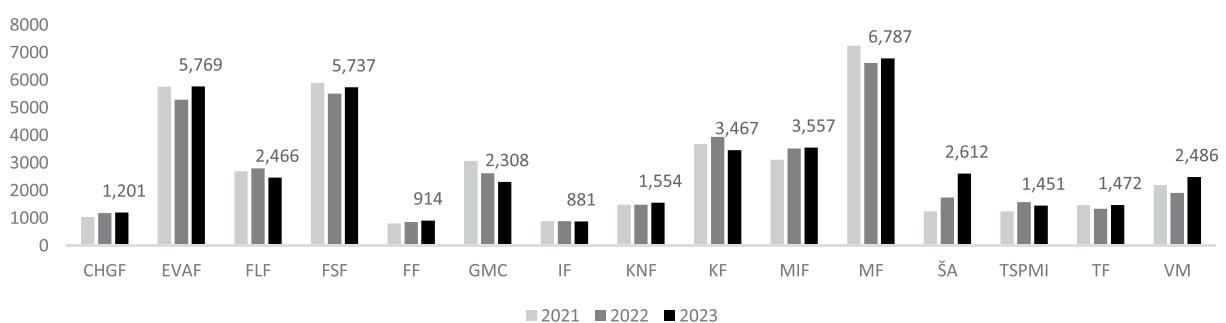
Diagram 27. The distribution of the number of applications received from foreign nationals to study in study programmes at the University by study cycle in 2019–2023
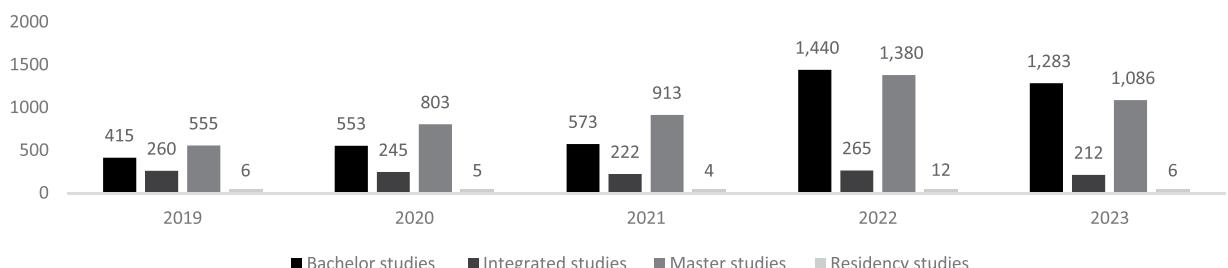
The number of foreign nationals wishing to study at the University has increased more than twice within five years, constituting approximately six per cent of all applications in 2023 (from 1,230 individuals in 2019 to 2,587 individuals in 2023). The number of applications to study in 2023 increased at EVAF, MF, ŠA, TF, and VM. This was determined by the war in Ukraine and the growth in the number of study programmes offered at the University in a foreign language.

The highest number of applications to study were received from foreign students who originated from Ukraine, although, compared to last year, the number of applications dropped by half (in 2022 – 768 while in 2023 – 365). Other countries where the number of applications has significantly increased are the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, India, and Bangladesh.

Top ten study programmes among applicants in 2023

Table 14. Top ten University study programmes where admission was carried out in 2023 according to the number of applications by first priority

Bachelor and integrated study programmes	Master and professional (pedagogy) study programmes	Residency study programmes
1. Special Education and Speech Therapy	1. Development of Business	1. Dermatovenerology
2. Dentistry	2. Pedagogy	2. Cardiology
3. Pedagogy of Primary Education and Pre-School Education	3. Clinical Psychology	3. Oral Surgery
4. Psychology	4. Advanced Practice Nursing	4. Chemotherapy Oncology
5. International Business	5. Medical Biology	5. Otorhinolaryngology
6. Criminology	6. Digital Marketing	6. Ophtalmology
7. Medicine	7. Human Resources Management	7. Orthodontics
8. Journalism	8. Finance and Banking	8. Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
9. Management	9. DeepTech Entrepreneurship	9. Pediatrics and Children's Endocrinology
10. Creative Communication	10. Accounting and Financial Management	10. Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

*The highlighted University study programmes in Table 14 are those which have entered the top ten within the last three years and received the highest number of applications, with the study programme indicated as the first priority in the competition in 2023.

In 2023, Special Education and Speech Therapy overtook the bachelor study programmes in Dentistry and Psychology, which have been the most popular for several years.

Advanced Practice Nursing and Digital Marketing entered the list of the most popular master study programmes in 2023.

Dermatovenerology and Cardiology studies were the most popular Residency studies for the third year running.

University students and graduates

It is important to analyse admissions data and that of current students and graduates, their preferences, mobility, services and financial support not only to ensure smooth study organisation processes but also to strengthen the quality of studies.

Individuals admitted to study at Vilnius University

Diagram 28. Students admitted to the University, distribution by cycle, 2023

Residency; 213; 3 %

Doctoral studies; 187; 3 %

Professional (pedagogy) studies; 121; 2 %

Master studies; 1,861; 26 %

7,154 admitted students

Bachelor studies; 4,094; 57 %

Integrated studies; 678; 9 %
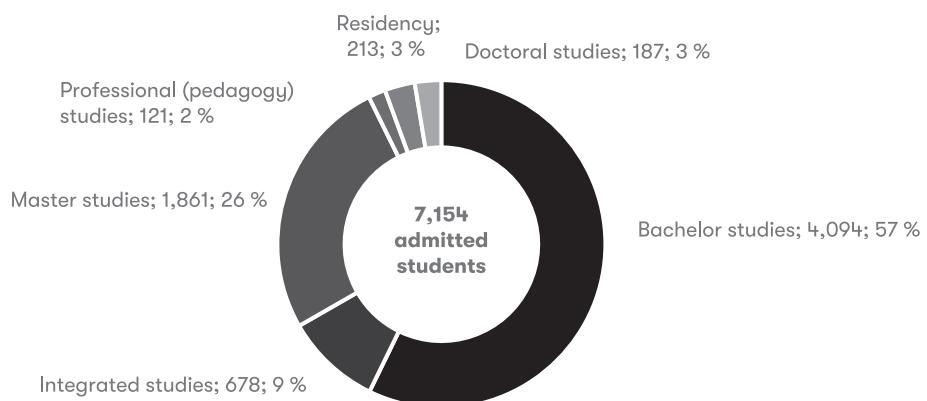
Over the last five years, the total number of students admitted to the University has increased by almost 17 per cent. The biggest changes in admissions have been in the Pedagogy, Medicine, and Social Sciences programmes.

The most significant change occurred in 2020 when admissions increased by 17.5 per cent due to an increase in the number of State-funded student places in 2020.

In 2023, the University admitted 7,154 students (all cycles included), which is 3 per cent more than in 2022 (6,927 students). This, again, was due to an increase in the number of State-funded student places in 2023.

Diagram 29. The change in the number of students admitted to the University and the distribution of admissions to State-funded and non-State-funded places, 2019–2023

Legend: Admitted to State-funded places — Admitted to non-State-funded places — Admitted in total

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Admitted in total	6,140	7,177	6,664	6,927	7,154
Admitted to State-funded places	4,389	5,431	5,074	5,032	5,205
Admitted to non-State-funded places	1,751	1,746	1,590	1,895	1,949
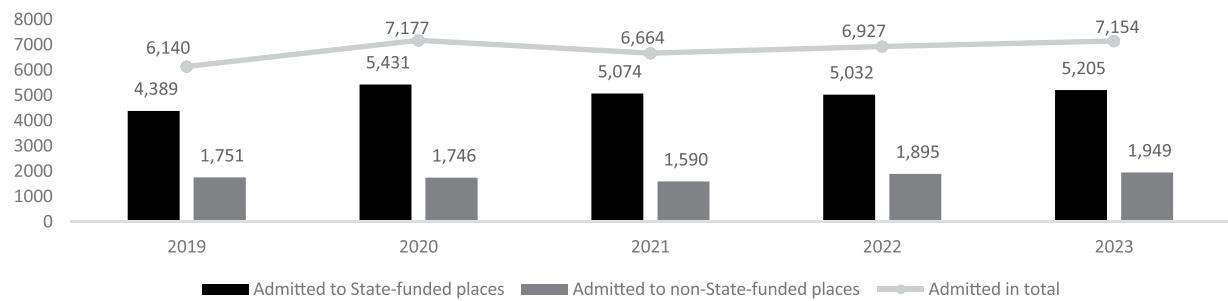
Diagram 30. The number of students admitted to the University, distribution by cycle, 2019–2023

	Bachelor studies	Integrated studies	Master studies	Professional (pedagogy) studies	Residency	Doctoral studies
2019	3,479	664	1,536	70	221	170
2020	4,251	775	1,693	83	213	162
2021	3,800	702	1,697	110	205	150
2022	3,999	701	1,715	129	205	178
2023	4,094	678	1,861	121	213	187
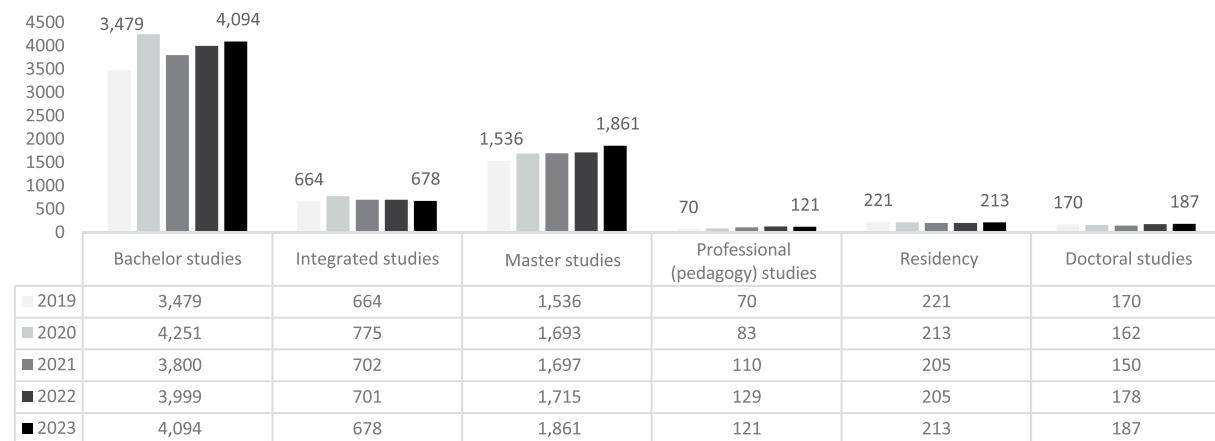
Diagram 31. The number of students admitted to the University, distribution by academic units, 2019–2023

	CHGF	EVAF	FLF	FSF	FF	GMC	IF	KNF	KF	MIF	MF	ŠA	TSPMI	TF	VM
2019	265	670	616	703	237	375	202	257	398	659	962		248	320	228
2020	278	909	519	882	258	451	212	280	518	639	1,177		300	406	348
2021	241	727	489	796	221	438	176	299	413	584	1,057	312	276	338	297
2022	275	767	510	787	229	441	172	276	431	641	1,044	383	295	382	294
2023	275	828	496	750	247	389	161	280	432	638	1,072	560	339	343	344
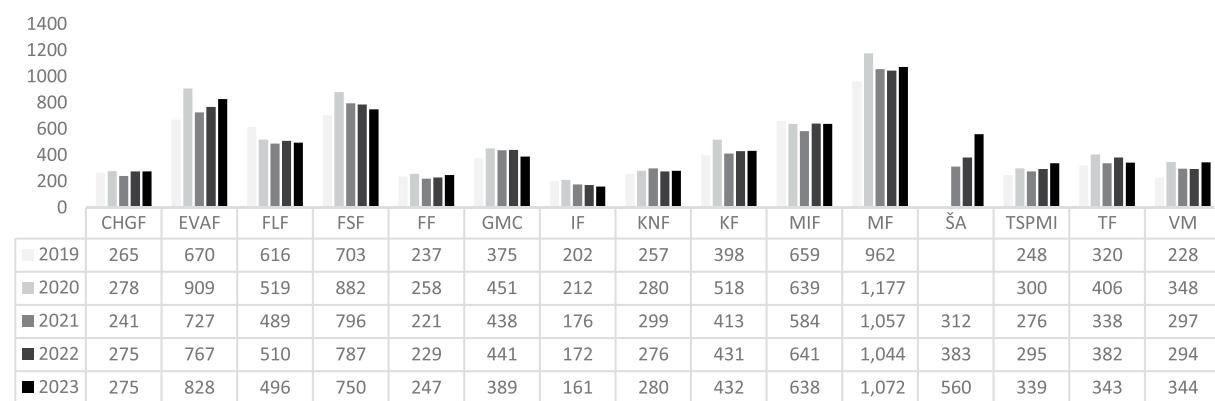
In 2023, 11,185 study agreements were concluded by students admitted to the bachelor and integrated study programmes of Lithuanian universities (data from the Association of Lithuanian Higher Education Institutions for Centralised Admissions). Of these, 4,772 individuals have concluded agreements with the University, representing almost 43 per cent of all those enrolled in Lithuanian universities.

The increase in the number of State-funded places in 2023 (5,207) and the admission of the highest number of non-State-funded students (1,949) in the analysis period 2019–2023 brought the total number of admissions close to the level of the year 2020. Between 2019 and 2023, the number of admissions to bachelor programmes increased by 18 per cent, while the number of admissions to master programmes increased by 21 per cent.

Individuals admitted to doctoral studies at the University

In the last five years, the University admitted 847 doctoral students. This represents one-third of all doctoral students admitted to Lithuanian universities.

Diagram 32. The number of doctoral students admitted to the University by area of science, 2019–2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Humanities	20	20	17	19	19
Social sciences	31	30	40	40	39
Natural sciences	81	75	62	73	80
Medicine and health sciences	27	26	21	34	42
Technological sciences	11	11	10	12	7
Total:	170	162	150	178	187
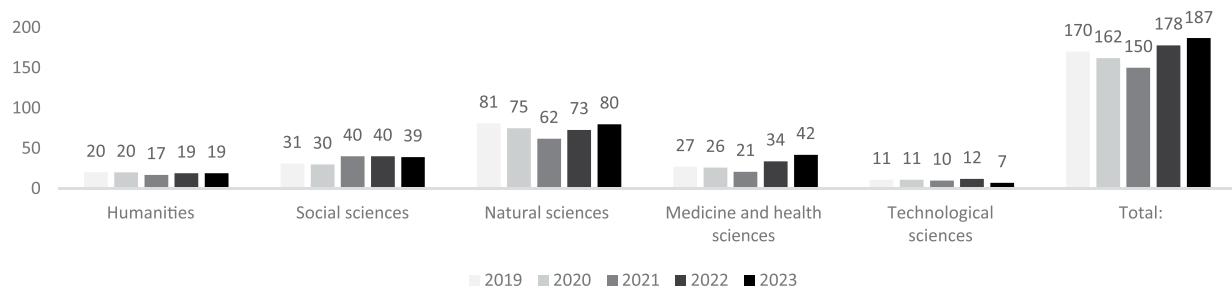
In the 2019–2023 period, the highest number of doctoral students admitted was in 2023, with the biggest changes in the areas of the natural sciences and the medicine and health sciences, where the number of doctoral students has increased.

16 foreign nationals have chosen to undertake doctoral studies, mostly at the Life Sciences Centre (six) and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (four).

The largest number of doctoral students was admitted at the Life Sciences Centre (42) and the Faculty of Medicine (42).

International students admitted to the University

The number of international students admitted to full-time study programmes has more than doubled in five years (104 per cent), accounting for around 6 per cent of total admissions in 2023.

The increase in the number of foreign student admissions is mainly due to the new study programmes offered in English (51 in 2019 and 71 in 2023). The most significant change is in the number of bachelor's degree programmes offered (11 in 2019 and 23 in 2023).

Diagram 33. The number of foreign nationals admitted to full-time study programmes at the University, 2019–2023

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
389	549	531	802	786

High school graduates with at least one 100-point assessment in their matura exams admitted to Vilnius University

More than half of Lithuania's high school graduates with at least one 100-point assessment in their matura exams choose to study at the University each year (when looking at the period of 2019–2023).

Diagram 34. The number of high school graduates with at least one 100-point assessment in their matura exams that chose to study at the University, compared to their number at other Lithuanian universities in 2019–2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
At Vilnius University	887	1,086	854	618	703
At other universities in Lithuania	765	883	695	461	627

■ At other universities in Lithuania   ■ At Vilnius University
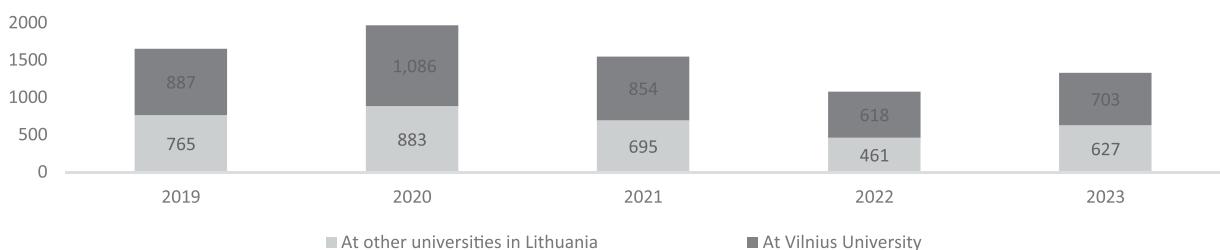
The high school graduates with at least one 100-point assessment in their matura exams mostly chose to study at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (134), the Faculty of Medicine (119), the Faculty of Philosophy (68), and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (61).

University students

Based on the preliminary data of the State Data Agency (source: the Database of Indicators – the Official Statistics Portal), 72,702 students were undertaking studies at Lithuanian universities in 2023. 23,651 students took courses at the University in 2023, representing 33 per cent of all students at Lithuanian universities. In 2019, students enrolled at the University amounted to 27 per cent of all students at Lithuanian universities. Thus, in the past five years, this share has increased by 6 per cent.

Table 15. The number of University students by cycle and the change in the number of students (as a percentage) within the last five years

	2019	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**change (in %) over five years**
Bachelor studies	11,739	12,455	13,592	14,029	14,338	Δ+22 per cent
Integrated studies	2,941	3,121	3,215	3,362	3,347	Δ+14 per cent
Master studies	3,478	3,639	4,002	4,023	4,142	Δ+19 per cent
Professional (pedagogy) studies	100	115	213	203	209	Δ+109 per cent
Residency	830	836	837	830	798	Δ-4 per cent
Doctoral studies	777	782	787	798	817	Δ+5 per cent
In total at VU:	**19,865**	**20,948**	**22,646**	**23,245**	**23,651**	**Δ+19 per cent**

The total number of students at the University increases every year; this is due to the increase of State-funded (SF) places which grew by 27 per cent in the last five years, the integration of Šiauliai University (currently known as Šiauliai Academy), the boost in the number of students that are foreign nationals, the promotion of pedagogy programmes by targeted scholarships, as well as a stable number of non-State-funded (NSF) students being maintained (more than 5,000).

In 2023, the Faculty of Medicine had the largest number of students (4,263), which amounts to 18 per cent of all students at the University, whereas the largest change in the number of students in 2019–2023 was recorded at the Business School, where the number of students increased by 58 per cent.

In 2019–2023, the number of doctoral students saw the largest boost in the fields of natural sciences (285 in 2019 and 328 in 2023), whereas in the fields of the technological sciences (50 in 2019 and 40 in 2023) and humanities (114 in 2019 and 101 in 2023), the number of students decreased.

Diagram 35. The number of students studying in State-funded and non-State-funded places at the University in 2019–2023
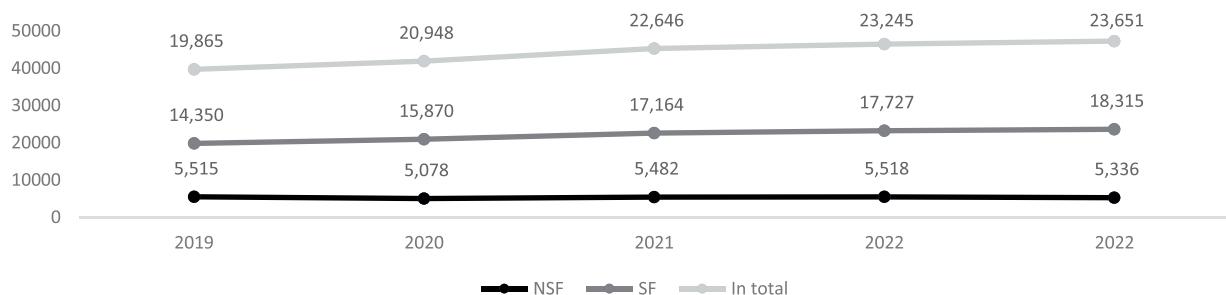
Diagram 36. The gender ratio of the University students in 2023

Women;
14,091; 64 %

Men; 7,946 ; 36%
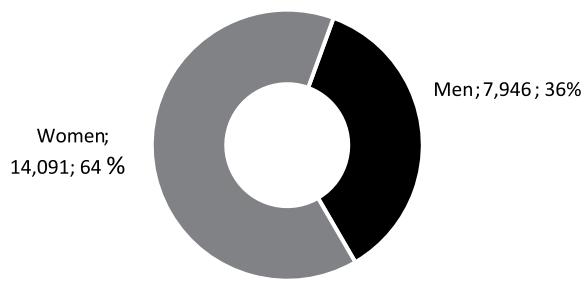
Although in the past five years the number of University students varied, the gender ratio of the University students in all cycles remained stable during the period in question – 36 per cent male students and 64 per cent female students (see Diagram 36).

The fewest male students were in professional (pedagogy) (21 per cent) and residency (28 per cent) studies.

Doctoral studies were the closest to achieving

a gender balance of students, with 42 per cent male students and 58 per cent female students. 2,168 international students were studying full-time at the University in 2023. They accounted for more than 9 per cent of all students. In 2023, the largest upturn of international students was recorded in bachelor study programmes (720 in 2022 and 863 in 2023), which was related to the increase in the study programmes offered in this study cycle. In residency and doctoral study programmes, the number of students from abroad remains relatively the smallest.

Diagram 37. The number of international students at the University according to the study cycle in 2022–2023

	Bachelor studies	Integrated studies	Master studies	Residency	Doctoral studies	In total at VU:
2022	720	742	505	22	55	2,044
2023	863	686	537	25	57	2,168

■ 2022 ■ 2023
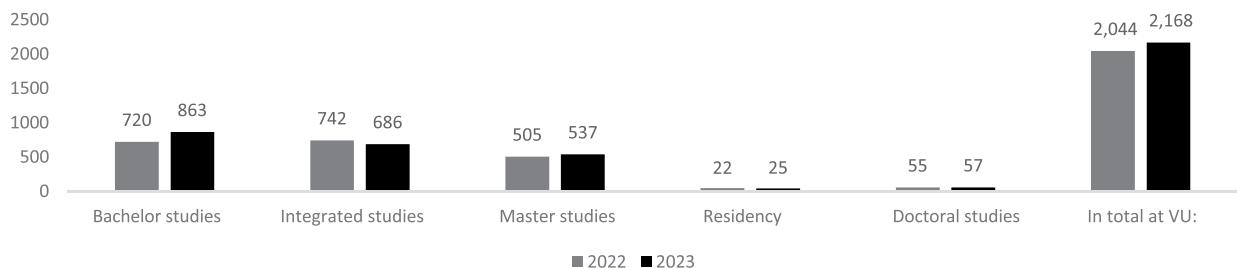
Students holding around 100 different citizenships study at the University; most international students undertaking their bachelor, integrated and master studies at the

University come from Ukraine (491), Germany (415), India (130), Belarus (116), and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (104).

Diagram 38. The number of doctoral students by area of science in 2019–2023

	Humanities	Social sciences	Natural sciences	Medicine and health sciences	Technological sciences	In total:
2019	114	178	285	150	50	777
2020	108	183	298	149	44	782
2021	106	204	296	136	45	787
2022	99	203	314	140	42	798
2023	101	194	328	154	40	817
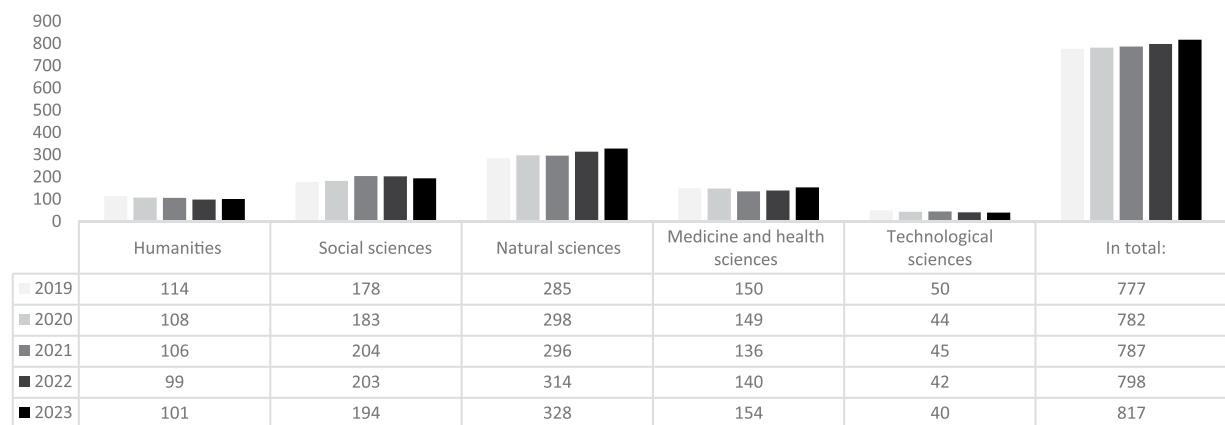
Student mobility

Vilnius University students are provided with the following study exchange opportunities:

Erasmus+ (ARQUS, COIMBRA Group)
bilateral agreements
ISEP
NordPlus
other instruments:
- Lithuanian Studies
- the international exchange programme of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- the project 'Užsienio baltistikos centrų ir Lietuvos mokslo ir studijų institucijų bendradarbiavimo skatinimas' ('Promotion of Cooperation between Foreign Baltic Studies Centres and Lithuanian Research and Educational Institutions')
- the Fulbright Scholar Program of the USA

The number of bilateral agreements increased by 13 per cent between 2019 and 2023 (196 in 2019, 222 in 2023). Of these, 115 were concluded with Asian universities. The number of Erasmus+ partners increased by 18 per cent between 2019 and 2023 (616 in 2019, 727 in 2023). The number of partner countries has also expanded from 39 in 2019 to 53 in 2023.

Student mobility had been strongly affected by the pandemic, but the number of students – both outgoing (491 in 2019, 641 in 2023) and incoming (739 in 2019, 806 in 2023) for partial studies – is back on track and improving. The international students came from 45 countries, with the largest number coming from Italy (115), France (108), Germany (104), and Spain (80).

Between 2022 and 2023, 806 international students visited the University via exchange programmes, including 59 students from seven ARQUS universities. The highest number of students came under the Erasmus+ long-term exchange programme (561). 111 students came under bilateral University agreements. Most of the programme participants were bachelor students (599 in 2023).

Diagram 39. The number of students incoming and outgoing for partial studies, 2019–2023
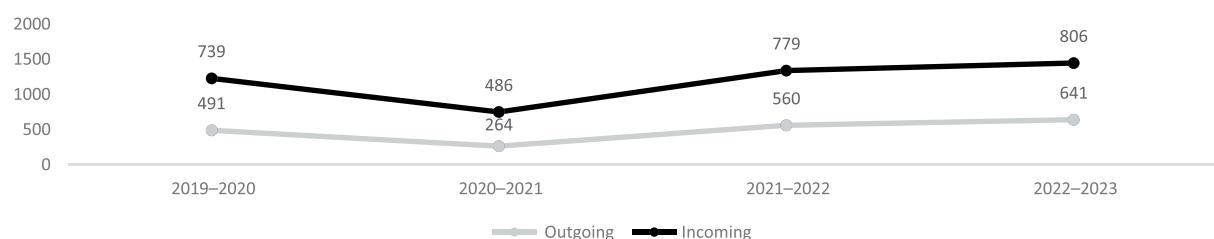
In 2023, 559 students went on Erasmus studies to 44 countries, mostly to Italy (111) and Spain (64). The most active participants in exchange studies are undergraduate students (549 in 2023).

Doctoral students less frequently use the opportunities of exchange programmes to study at other universities but they actively go on short-term placements and expeditions on the topic of their dissertation using the doctoral mobility allowance. Doctoral students undertake >300 visits to higher education institutions and companies each year.

Diagram 40. Visits (>5 days) to higher education institutions and companies undertaken by doctoral students of VU, 2019–2023
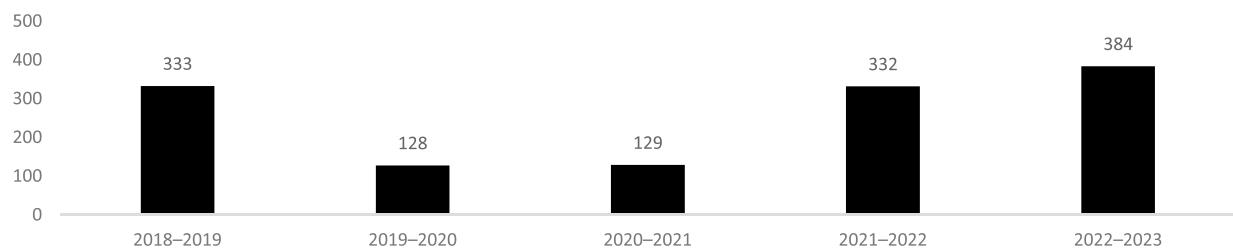
Over the past five years, 1,491 University students and graduates went on international internships. Of these, 1,416 went under the Erasmus programme, and 75 went to Lithuanian studies centres. In 2023, a total of 283 students and 83 graduates went on international internships.

Diagram 41. Students who went on international internships, 2019–2023
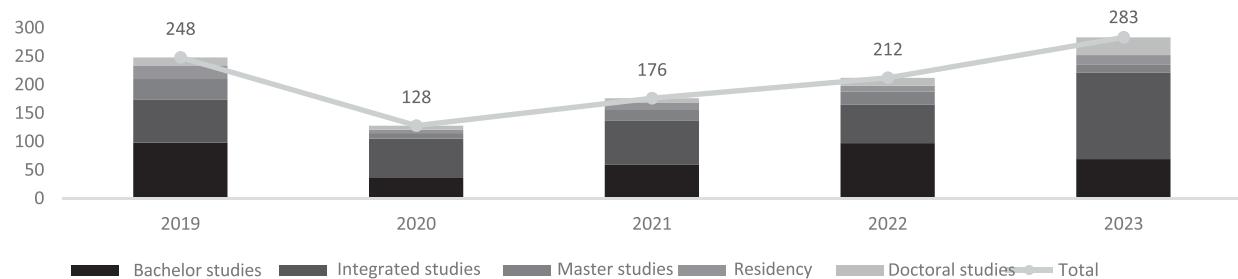
Diagram 42. Graduates who went on international internships, 2019–2023
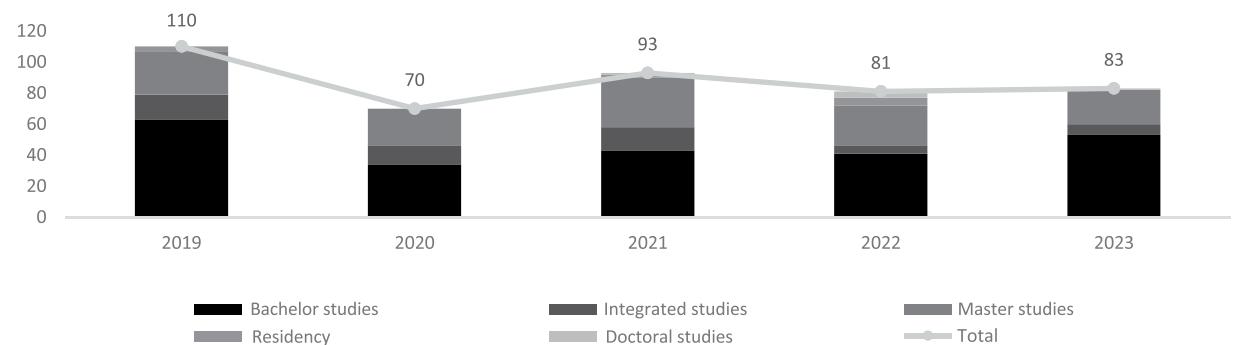
Study conditions and environment

The study information is supplemented by the actions carried out by the University to maintain and improve the permanent study environment and conditions.

Opportunities for individual studies

Individual studies have been available since 2023; during their course, 60 study credits can be allocated at the University for:

- course units of the main field of study or other studies
- minor studies (in 2023, eight faculties offered 36 study programmes)

- 20+ foreign languages
- general university course units
- partial studies at other higher education institutions

In 2023, 4,677, or 44.6 per cent of students registered for the choice at the University chose course units at other core academic units.

Virtual learning opportunities

The Virtual Learning Environment (VMA) 'Moodle' ('e-mokymai') is part of the University's e-learning environment with important integrations with other system components:

- the VUSIS study information system, which stores and manages all information about study programmes, course units, lecturers, and students;

- the ELABA coincidence verification system ESAS, which helps to ensure academic integrity and originality of scientific work.

Due to the integration with VUSIS, VMA 'Moodle' courses are automatically generated according to the course units specified in the study information system.

Table 16. The use of the virtual learning environment by University lecturers and students in 2019–2023

Academic year	Number of course units	Active lecturers	Active students
2023/2024	10,380	2,420	21,319
2022/2023	10,455	2,568	21,949
2021/2022	10,066	2,517	22,822
2020/2021	9,771	2,633	22,295
2019/2020	8,218	2,098	19,078

The analysis of the data of the last five years shows the growth in the number of course units taught within the VMA and the increased use of this platform by students and lecturers.

Library services

The University Library provides a wide range of services, from lending printed publications to providing access to a wide range of electronic information resources, comfortable workspaces in reading rooms, consultations by subject librarians, and training in information search for papers to a library that operates 24/7 (the number of visits to the physical and virtual library is 1.63 million every year).

In 2023:
- 96 databases of electronic scientific information resources are subscribed. Constant access to a comprehensive information base for research and studies is ensured. The usage count of information resources equals to 3.5 million units per year.
- The number of open-access documents in VU/VU Library information systems has increased by 8.5 per cent.
- The number of training sessions in academic hours is 261 per year.

Dormitory accommodation services

The University provides the most accessible student accommodation (dormitory rental) services in Lithuania (Vilnius and Šiauliai) compared to other higher education institutions in Lithuania.

The University provides over 5,000 residential places, all currently occupied.

In 2023:
- 129 dormitory residential rooms have been refurbished.
- The corridors, sanitary units, stairs and stairways of the dormitory entrance were renovated, and doors were replaced.
- Solar power plants were installed on the roof of the dormitory on Didlaukio Street.
- Six sanitary facilities (showers, toilets, washrooms, kitchens), the stairways and entrance lobbies in the dormitories at Saulėtekio al. 4 and Saulėtekio al. 6, as well as the shared premises (kitchens, showers, washrooms, toilets) of the dormitories on Čiurlionio Street have been refurbished in the last five years, using the funding of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania.

Ensuring the study infrastructure for students with special needs and learning disabilities

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

In 2023:
- • 55 plans for individualisation of studies were developed.
- • 159 students with individual needs were consulted.
- • Six thematic training sessions (on the topics of hearing, vision, mental health, learning difficulties, application of studies, etc.) were organised – since 2020, 24 training sessions have been organised.
- • On the University Intranet, training videos and six thematic videos with advice on the studies of people with different needs can be found.
- • The conference 'Neurodiversity in Academia: Where Are We Heading?' was organised to commemorate the International Day of People with Disabilities and Human Rights. Since 2017, conferences on topics of interest in dyslexia, learning difficulties, mental health, the autism spectrum, and services in higher education institutions have been organised.

Scholarships for students and other financial support

In 2023, the University granted:
- • 15 State and University-funded scholarships
- • 42 scholarships funded by the social partners

In 2023, students were awarded financial support of nearly EUR 6 million:
- • 5,814 students received scholarships for their learning outcomes (2,618 of them were funded by the University), and 874 students were awarded State-funded scholarships.
- • Over the past five years, the number of students receiving scholarships has increased by almost 2,000. During this period, the basic amount of social benefit also increased by approx. 1.5 times. With the changing Scholarship Regulations at the University, the scholarship rate has also changed, leading to a higher number of students receiving scholarships, and the number of these scholarships has also increased.
- • 273 students received the scholarships established by social partners.

Graduates

Over the past five years, almost 22 thousand graduates have acquired their education from the University. This accounts for approximately a third of all Lithuanian university graduates.

Table 17. The number of University graduates between 2019 and 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bachelor studies	2,243	2,051	2,356	2,383	2,475
Master studies	1,063	1,039	1,272	1,277	1,245
Integrated studies	419	431	459	429	464
Professional (pedagogy) studies	53	62	123	86	99
Residency studies	191	180	187	191	202
Doctoral studies	200	160	175	166	168
Total number of graduates	4,169	3,923	4,572	4,532	4,653

Diagram 43. The distribution of the number of University graduates by academic unit in 2023
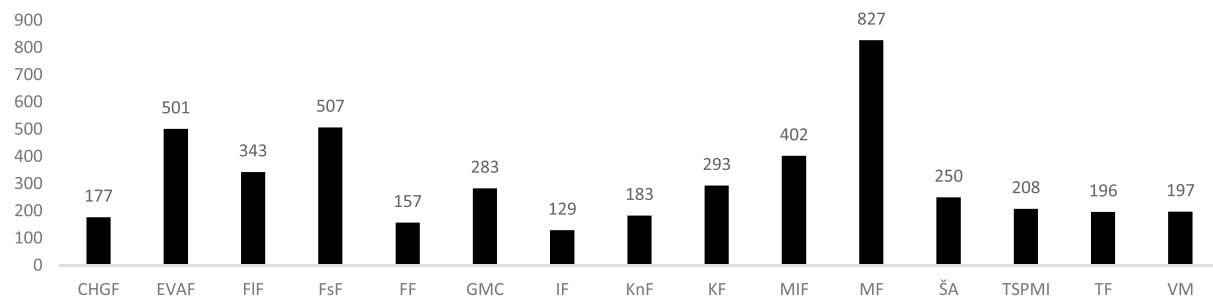
In 2023, the highest number of graduates were from the faculties of Economics and Business Administration, Philosophy, Mathematics and Informatics, and Medicine.

In 2023, 4,184 graduates received bachelor's, integrated, and master's degree diplomas:
- 86 were distinguished for their mature research activities and received *Magna Cum Laude* diplomas.
- 336 received *Cum Laude* diplomas.

Funding for studies

In 2023, the revenue from studies at the University amounted to EUR 78,004.83 thousand. That is 9.7 per cent more than it was in 2022, and overall growth since 2019 was 64 per cent.

Diagram 44. University revenue from studies (EUR thousand) by funding sources for 2019–2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CA revenue from FT	34,107,05	39,956,97	45,857,40	53,230,38	59,465,73
Revenue from FT	13,111,44	14,125,17	16,519,04	17,421,56	17,981,10
CAU revenue	356,91	392,50	441,97	448,29	558,00
Total	47,575,40	54,474,64	62,818,41	71,100,23	78,004,83
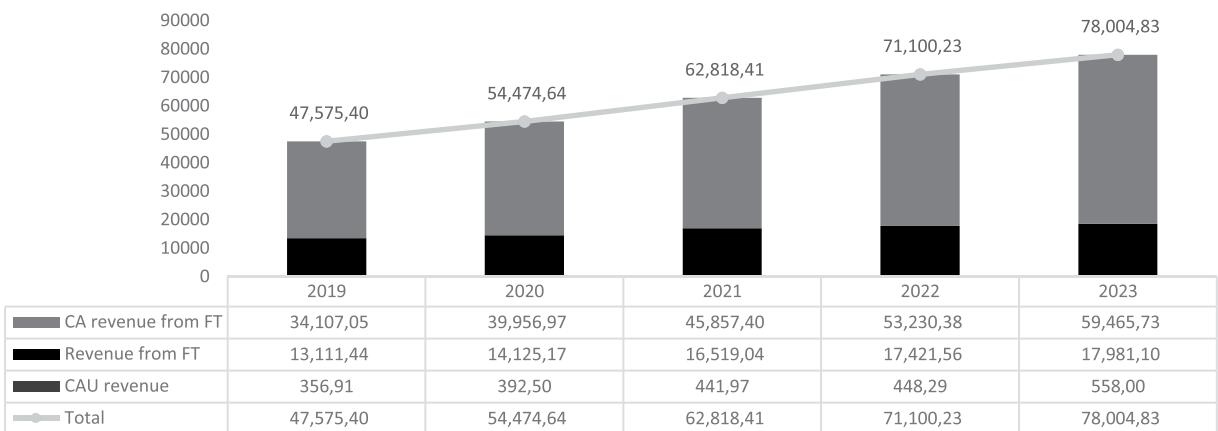
Note: revenue from studies is presented before redistribution between units.

Most of the revenue from studies (76 per cent) consists of appropriations from the State budget (ASB) for units. These are State allowances for studies and State budget funds, which are intended to pay the cost of studies in State-funded student places. In 2021, significant growth was observed due to the integration of Šiauliai University (now Šiauliai Academy) (EUR 2,473.3 thousand); the State allowance for studies was also increased, and the attribution of study programme groups to study fields was changed.

The University for the Community

In a large University community, numerous needs arise, and there is, therefore, a demand for services to meet those needs. Each year, the University invests more and more in the quality of its services. Efforts are undertaken to integrate new students and staff into the community through diverse activities. In 2023, the University approved the Policy on the Prevention of Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Violence and Persecution at Vilnius University and organised training on the matter. Services for emotional well-being are provided to the community, including free psychological counselling. The University can take pride in the community's significant achievements and accolades, both in Lithuania and on the global stage.

Facts and figures

In 2023, the University community comprised 5,523 employees and 23,651 students.

More than 1,200 employees enhanced their qualifications in 2023.

193 employees received additional payments.

3,921 individual psychological consultations were provided.

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

216 guided tours at the University Museum were organised for the University community and guests.

Established 34 years ago, the Vilnius University Students' Representation now unites 1,100 like-minded people.

 In 2023, 20 State awards were granted to University employees.

Benefits to the community

Services provided to the community:

Vilnius University Library services

E-Services – Information Technology Service Center of Vilnius University

VU Intranet – information for students and teaching staff, community news, information on University units, relevant documents, information on career opportunities, and various services

Health promotion consultations at VU Health and Sport Center

Pro bono legal aid services

Developing the competencies of staff members

Diagram 45. The number of staff members who participated in the competency development activities in 2019–2023

Legend:
- ■ Developing the general competencies of staff
- ■ Developing competencies of managing staff
- ■ Developing pedagogical competencies of teaching staff

Additionally, in 2020, 869 teaching staff members participated in presentational seminars on distance learning.

Training for managing staff in 2023:

- **14** training topics
- **27** days of training
- **320** managers involved

Training visits, work placements, and secondments of employees

Diagram 46. The number of training visits of the University staff under Erasmus programmes, 2019–2023

Legend:
- ■ Training visits to higher education institutions
- ■ Training visits to companies

Diagram 47. The number of University staff members on work placements and secondments, 2019–2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Work placements	49	40	43	113	94
Secondments	1,117	408	874	989	597

■ Secondments   ■ Work placements
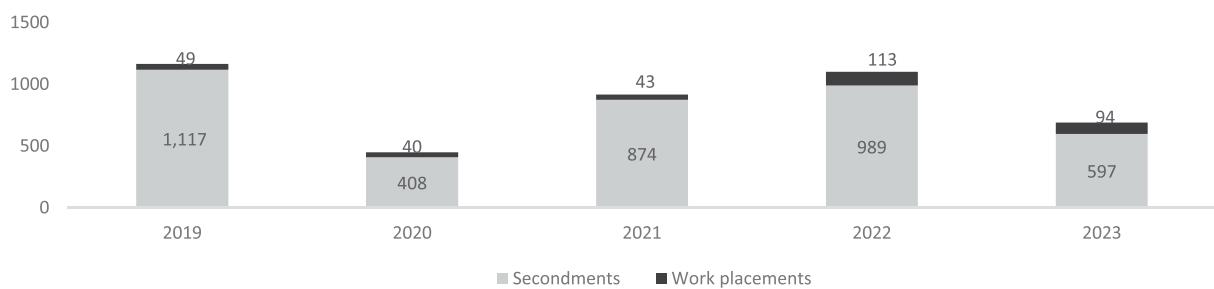
In 2023, 900 employees and 320 managing staff members engaged in competence-enhancing activities, and 320 teaching staff members engaged in activities to enhance their teaching competencies. 60 per cent more managing staff members participated in training compared to 2022.

Since 2019, the number of staff members going on Erasmus training visits has increased by 60 per cent, and the number of international students coming to the University under exchange programmes has increased by 76 per cent.

Diagram 48. The number of international staff members coming to the University under exchange programmes in 2019–2023

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
42	135	51	135	179
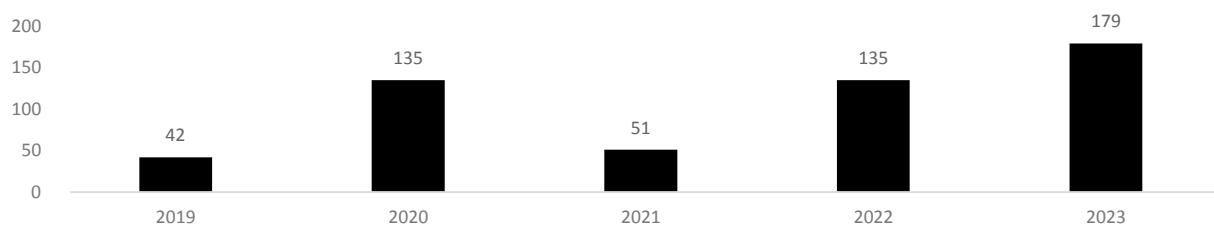
The new direction 'Mokytis žaVU' of the initiative 'The University Teaches the University' allows you to pick your own training and take part in organising training independently; 21 applications were submitted (four of which were funded).

Financial support for University staff

Financial support is provided:
- in the event of death of an employee, a family member of an employee;
- in the event of loss of housing and property due to floods, fire, or other extreme events;
- in the event of financial hardship or deterioration of the health of the employee or their family member;
- for every child born or adopted.

In 2019–2023 (see Diagram 49):
- The additional payments for the University staff amounted to EUR 465,561 over the entire period.
- 863 employees received additional payments.
- The number of employees benefiting

from the support available increased by 26 per cent.
- The amount of funds allocated to

payments has increased by 37 per cent since 2019.

Diagram 49. Additional benefits for University staff members in 2019–2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of beneficiaries	153	162	175	180	193
Amount paid, EUR	82,950	75,020	88,400	105,400	113,791
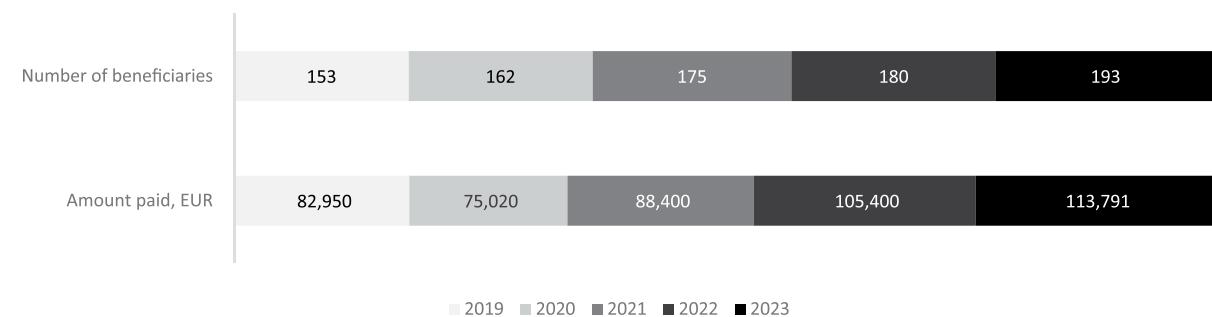
Emotional well-being at the University

Ensuring emotional well-being and equal opportunities:
- The Commission for the Prevention and Investigation of Cases of Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Violence and Persecution examined three reports and presented its conclusions and recommendations.

- The Trust Line (pasitikejimas@cr.vu.lt) provided consultations to eleven individuals, and eight meetings took place.
- Collaborating with three other ARQUS universities, a Community of Practice was established to address discrimination, harassment, and similar issues.

Psychological help

Free psychological counselling for psychological crisis emergencies

Diagram 50. The nature of the psychological counselling sessions provided to members of the University community in 2023

381; 10% 301; 8%

■ Individual psychological counselling session for a person going through a crisis

■ Individual psychological counselling session

■ Individual psychological counselling session for employees and students from Ukraine

3,239; 82%

The University provides free emergency psychological support for people going through (a) psychological crisis(es).

• 301 individual consultations for individuals going through crisis were provided; 11 group discussions were conducted. In total, 78 members of the VU community going through crisis participated in the group discussions.

The University Community Psychologists organise and conduct training and lectures for the University community.

• In 2023, 60 events (39 for students, 21 for employees) were organised, attended by 1,203 students and 267 employees.
• 3,921 individual psychological consultations were provided.

Spiritual support and consultations

To meet the spiritual needs of the University community, the Jesuits who serve St Johns' Church, and the Chaplain of the University, together with the Pastoral Care Center:

• provide sacramental services (masses, confessions, baptisms, marriages, funerals, etc.);
• run groups for knowledge and deepening of faith, Scripture and spirituality;
• provide support for families with children with communication disorders.

Leisure time

• Free pass to the botanical gardens of the University in Kairėnai, Vingis and Šiauliai Academy.
• Free-of-charge membership in 15 art groups of the University, comprising more than 600 members.
• Free pass to the University's architectural ensemble, the Bell Tower of St Johns' Church, and the Adam Mickiewicz Museum.
• Visiting Molėtai Astronomical Observatory.

'Newcomers Day' integration event for new staff members

Held twice a year, the event aims to acquaint new employees with the University, fostering communication, camaraderie, and shared interests through various familiarisation activities. This facilitates collaboration and understanding of the organisation.

Table 18. The number of 'Newcomers Day' participants, 2019–2023

	2019	**2020***	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
Spring	28	-	- *	31	20
Autumn	27	-	47	25	36
Total:	55	0	47	56	56

The events were not held due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Student community

VU SA – Vilnius University Students' Representation

Figure 3. Vilnius University Students' Representation in 2023

34
years of
representing Vilnius
University students

15
VU SA units in
three cities

20
VU SA projects,
clubs and
programmes

1,100
members with
a common objective
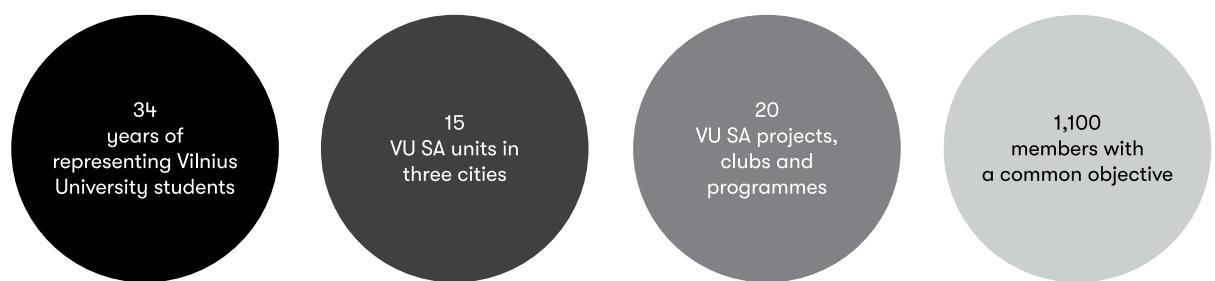
In 2023, there were 450 participants in VU SA programmes and other initiatives.

Integration of students into the University community

Student Integration Week 'StudentAUK' 2023:
- 15 events at the University faculties
- 2,669 participants

Mentor training in Lithuanian and English to give more opportunities to foreign students to capitalise on their potential in the University environment. The event was attended by 50 students and over 100 mentors.

First-year student camps have been held for 20 years. A total of 1,336 students participated in the camps in 2023.

1,882 participants attended the Integration Festival 'Ad Astra', which was dedicated to the University community and Vilnius city.

The event 'VUnity' is dedicated to the smoother integration of the international community of Vilnius University into life at the University and the country. Presentations were made by 12 students in six countries, and a total of 150 students attended the event.

The first-year international student integration camp 'VUnity' attracted 30 international students.

An integration event was held for first-year doctoral students.

Other initiatives and events in 2023

The Festival 'Studentify' is dedicated to International Students' Day.

The Sustainability Festival 'Cool the Heat' aims to encourage each community member to consciously incorporate sustainability principles into their daily lives. HACK VU aims to stimulate discussions and propose ideas on how

to address the challenges faced by students at the University.

Student traditions – annual Faculty events:
- FiNa – days of philologists
- IfDi – days of historians
- Mercury's Days
- Days of Chemistry
- FiDi – days of physicists
- TeDi – days of lawyers
- Fiesta personae – Faculty of Philosophy
- ATSIbusk – Faculty of Philosophy, Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies
- MeDi – medical days
- PoDi – political days
- LeŽuDi – journalist days
- MiDi – days of mathematicians, MiDi rock opera,
- VeDi – business days
- Kaunas Faculty Days
- Life Sciences Center Community Day

Four new clubs were established in 2023:
- Leisure Society 'Kauliukas' (60 participants)
- VU Military Club (30 participants)
- Ukrainian Youth Group In Lithuania YUGL (50 participants)
- 'Speak' (approx. 200 participants)

Important achievements, awards, and successes in 2023

International Achievements

Modernist Kaunas was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The expert group was led by Prof. Marija Drėmaitė (Faculty of History).

The UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize was awarded to Prof. Dr Almira Ramanavičienė (Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences) for her significant contribution to research on the life sciences, improving the quality of human life.

Dr Miglė Tomkuvienė (Life Sciences Center) received the L'Oréal-UNESCO award under the young talents programme in the Baltic States 'For Women in Science'.

The Installation Grant of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) was awarded to Dr Gytis Dudas and Dr Patrick Pausch (Life Sciences Center).

The EUR 2 million ERC Consolidator Grant was awarded to Prof. Dr Giedrė Motuzaitė Matuzevičiūtė Keen, Bioarchaeologist at the Faculty of History. Project 'Past & Future Millet Foodways'.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships – MSCA PF grant was awarded to Dr Jorūnė Sakalauskaitė (Life Sciences Center). Study 'The Molecular Suite of Shell Bio- & ArCHaeochromes – BACH', supervisor Prof. Virginijus Šikšnys.

The European Research Area (ERA) traineeship scheme was awarded to Dr Maria Fernanda Torres Jimenez (Life Sciences Center). Project 'Outcomes of Plant Invasions in Deadwood Fungi and Insect Communities – ENTWINE', supervisor Dr Virginija Podėnienė.

The fellowship of the European Commission 'MSCA4Ukraine' was awarded to Dr Kateryna Latysh (Faculty of Law). Project 'Digital Forensic, Open Data Source and Artificial Intelligence as Tools of International Security', supervisor Assoc. Prof. Gabrielė Juodkaitė-Granskienė.

The fellowship of the European Commission 'MSCA4Ukraine' was awarded to Dr Oksana Bersirova (Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences). Project 'Electrochemical Synthesis of Multifunctional (Magnetic and Electrocatalytic) Films of Nanostructured Rhenium Superalloys Deposits – EMERALD', supervisor Prof. Henrikas Cesiulis.

The prestigious scientific journal 'Nature' has published the article 'TnpB Structure Reveals Minimal Functional Core of Cas12 Nuclease Family' by the team of Prof. Virginijus Šikšnys (Life Sciences Center) and researchers from the University of Copenhagen.

A prestigious international publishing house 'Brill' has published the monograph 'The Great Restoration: Post-Communist Transformations from the Viewpoint of Comparative Historical Sociology of Restorations' by Prof. Zenonas Norkus (Faculty of Philosophy).

Dr Linda Hollebeek (Faculty of Economics and Business Administration) was included on the list of Highly Cited Researchers in 2023, compiled by the global data and analytics company 'Clarivate'.

John Weil Young Investigator Award of the International EPR (ESR) Society was awarded to Dr Mantas Šimėnas (Faculty of Physics) for

significant achievements in the application in the field of electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectroscopy in research of different materials and development of experimental EPR methodology.

The Young Minds in Psychotraumatology Award of the European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies was presented to Dr Paulina Želvienė (Faculty of Philosophy) for her significant contribution to developing psychotraumatology in Europe.

Interdisciplinary student team 'Vilnius-Lithuania iGEM' took second place in an annual international synthetic biology competition. The European Commission's initiative 'HEInnovate' has introduced the entrepreneurial activities of the team as one of the good examples in the EU.

The team of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (Dominykas Marma and Tautvydas Jasiūnas, supervisor Dr Vladas Tumasonis) has won a bronze medal in the International Olympiad in Informatics.

The project 'Bebras', which promotes computational thinking and was developed by Prof. Valentina Dagienė from the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, will be developed at schools in the United Kingdom. The initiative will be supported by Google. Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, and Finland have joined the current list of 60 countries that integrated the assignments of 'Bebras' in their educational programmes.

Lithuanian Science Prizes

In 2023, researchers of Vilnius University received five Lithuanian Science Prizes (seven prizes were presented in total):
  • In the field of Social Sciences – to Prof. Evaldas Kazlauskas. The research paper series 'Psichologinio streso moksliniai tyrimai: stresinių sutrikimų diagnostika, paplitimas, įveika ir psichologinių intervencijų veiksmingumas' ('Research on Psychological Stress: Diagnosis, Prevalence, Overcoming of Stress Disorders and Effectiveness of Psychological Interventions').
  • In the field of Natural Sciences – to Prof. Jūras Banys, Prof. Mantas Šimėnas and Dr Janas Macutkevičius, Assoc. Prof. Šarūnas Svirskas, Assoc. Prof. Sergejus Balčiūnas, Assoc. Prof. Vidmantas Kalendra, Prof. Robertas Grigalaitis. The research paper series 'Funkcinių medžiagų mikrobangų spektroskopija' ('The Spectroscopy of Microwaves of Functional Materials').
  • In the field of Medicine and Health Sciences – to Prof. Laura Malinauskienė and Prof. Rūta Dubakienė. The research paper series 'Alergija maistui ir cheminėms medžiagoms: nuo naujagimių kohortų iki epidemiologinių, eksperimentinių ir molekulinių tyrimų' ('Allergy to Food and Chemical Substances: From Newborn Cohorts to Epidemiological, Experimental and Molecular Research').
  • In the field of Medicine and Health Sciences – to Prof. Kęstutis Ručinskas, Assoc. Prof. Vilius Janušauskas, Prof. Robertas Stasys Samalavičius and Prof. Pranas Šerpytis. The research paper series 'Gyvybės palaikymo mechaninės kraujotakos priemonėmis sistemų įdiegimas į klinikinę praktiką ir metodikos tobulinimas' ('The Introduction of the Life Support Systems by Mechanical Blood Circulation Means in Clinical Practice and Improvement of Methodology').
  • In the field of Technological Sciences – Prof. Emeritus Antanas Žilinskas. The research paper series 'Inovatyvūs algoritmai sudėtingiems globalios optimizacijos uždaviniams' ('Innovative Algorithms for Complex Global Optimisation').

Achievements at the University

In 2023, the Senate of Vilnius University granted the title of Professor Emeritus to:
- Dr (HP) Valdas Sirutkaitis, Professor at the Faculty of Physics
- Dr (HP) Sigitas Tumkevičius, Professor at the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences
- Dr Romas Lazutka, Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy

The recipients of the Rector's Science Award in 2023 were:
- Dr Ramūnas Vilpišauskas, Professor at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science
- Dr Aleksejus Žarkovas, Professor at the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences
- Dr Audrius Dubietis, Professor at the Faculty of Physics
- Dr (HP) Artūras Dubickas, Research Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics
- Dr Tautvydas Karvelis, Senior Researcher at the Life Sciences Center
- Dr Vygandas Rutkūnas, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine
- Dr Linda Desiree Hollebeek, Research Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
- Dr (HP) Zenonas Norkus, Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy
- Dr Povilas Treigys, Research Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics
- Dr Almira Ramanavičienė, Professor at the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences

The Rector's Young Scientist's Awards in 2023 were presented to:
- Dr Inga Songailienė, Senior Researcher at the Life Sciences Center
- Dr Linas Stripinis, Researcher at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics
- Dr Darius Gailevičius, Senior Researcher at the Faculty of Physics

- Dr Karolis Ažukaitis, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine
- Dr Vilius Bartninkas, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Philology
- Dr Arūnas Žiedelis, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy.

The title of the Best Lecturer of 2023 was awarded to:
- Dr Laurynas Jukna, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences
- Dr Daiva Tamulevičienė, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
- Dr Jurgis Pakerys, Professor at the Faculty of Philology
- Albina Saikauskienė, Lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy
- Dr Thomas Gajdosik, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Physics
- Dr (HP) Juozas Rimantas Lazutka, Professor at the Life Sciences Center
- Andrius Grodis, Lecturer at the Faculty of History
- Dr Eglė Gabrėnaitė, Associate Professor at Kaunas Faculty
- Dr Dainius Vaitiekūnas, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Communication
- Dr Andrius Grigutis, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics
- Dr Marija Jakubauskienė, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine
- Dr Remigijus Bubnys, Professor at Šiauliai Academy
- Dr Inga Vinogradnaitė, Associate Professor at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science
- Dr Giedrė Lastauskienė, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law
- Dr Elzė Rudienė, Associate Professor at the Business School.

Assoc. Prof. Dr Roma Adomaitienė, Vice-Dean for Studies of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, received the Rector's Award for long-term leadership in strengthening the international student community and promoting international recognition of studies. The Nominal Scholarships of Prof. Virginijus Šikšnys were awarded to doctoral students Ugnė Kuliešiūtė and Jonas Juozapaitis from the Life Sciences Center who have achieved outstanding results internationally. Members of the Faculty of Philosophy team 'Stress Smart', lecturer Dr Odeta Geležėlytė and doctoral student Augustė Nomeikaitė, won first place in the science communication competition 'Scientific Sprint' for their presentation 'Išmanioji psichologija: ar mokslininkų sukurta internetinė programa gali padėti įveikti stresą?' ('Smart Psychology: Can an Internet Application Developed by Researchers Help Overcome Stress?').

National achievements

Researchers of Vilnius University were among the newly elected full members of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in 2023:
- Prof. Alvydas Jokubaitis from the Institute of International Relations and Political Science
- Prof. Evaldas Kazlauskas from the Faculty of Philosophy
- Prof. Darius Abramavičius from the Faculty of Physics
- Prof. Jonas Šiaulys from the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics
- Prof. Linas Mažutis and Prof. Sonata Jarmalaitė from the Life Sciences Center
- Prof. Olga Kurasova from the Institute of Data Science and Digital Technologies of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics.

Scholarships for Young Scientists by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (physical sciences area) in 2023: Dr Mantas Šimėnas (spectroscopic research in phase transition in new mixed hybrid perovskites) and Dr Mantas Žiaunys (research in environmental impact to the variability of protein amyloid fibril structure and its interactions with amyloidphilic molecules). Scholarships for the best students in the country established to honour the presidents of the Republic of Lithuania: Antanas Smetona, Aleksandras Stulginskis, Kazys Grinius, Jonas Žemaitis, and Algirdas Brazauskas. This year, students of Vilnius University received the highest number (nine) of scholarships.

Lecturer Vytis Vidūnas from the Faculty of Philosophy, researcher of Sanskrit, was honoured with the award 'For the Merit to the friendship between Lithuania and India' in 2023.

Assoc. Prof. Diego Ardoino, head of the Department of Italian Linguistics and Literature of the Faculty of Philology, received the 'Ordine della Stella d'Italia' ('The Order of the Star of Italy') award for his pivotal role in promoting friendly relations between Italy and Lithuania and cooperation between the two countries.

The St Jerome Award was presented to Assoc. Prof. Dalia Švambarytė, a scholar at the Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies of the Faculty of Philosophy, Japonologist, Orientalist, and translator. Rector Prof. Rimvydas Petrauskas was recognised for his research on the history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and received the Benedictus Polonus Award.

Vilnius City St Christopher Awards 2023 were granted to:
- Prof. Sonata Jarmalaitė (Life Sciences Center) for her merits to the oncological science.
- Prof. Dr (HP) Jūras Banys (Faculty of Physics) for his merits to science, dissemination, and research.

Award of the Ministry of Culture 2023 was granted to:
- Prof. Dr Arvydas Pacevičius (Faculty of Communication) for research in

librarianship, bibliography, and book studies.

The European of the Year Award of the MFA and Representation of the European Commission in Lithuania
• Assoc. Prof. Ieva Plikusienė (Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences) 'For promoting the name of Vilnius in Europe' and fostering support for young researchers.
• In memory of the filmmaker Assoc. Prof. Mantas Kvedaravičius and in honour of the co-director of the film 'Mariupol 2' Hanna Bilobrova, for their 'unconditional sacrifice in bringing the extent of Russia's crimes against humanity to the world's attention'.

Awards of the Best Lithuanian Master Theses of the Lithuanian Young Scientists' Union and Ministry of Foreign Affairs
• Winners in the competition: in the area of natural sciences – Džiugas Jurgutis; in the area of medicine and health sciences – Mantas Liudvinaitis; in the area of humanities – Pranciškus Gricius.
• Ignas Repčys, a student at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University, won third place.
• An incentive scholarship in the area of law was awarded to Justė Kavaliauskaitė, a student at the Faculty of Law.

Awards of the Ministry of Justice 'For merits in the field of human rights – 2023' were given to:
• Assoc. Prof. Dr Vigita Vėbraitė (Faculty of Law) for actively contributing to the legal education of society, communication with members of different communities, and strengthening human rights in Lithuania.
• Doctoral student Akvilė Giniotaitė (Faculty of Philosophy) for active involvement in the organisation of sexual education, improvement of its quality and effectiveness, active dissemination of researched problems in society, and strengthening human rights in Lithuania.

Justė Kavaliauskaitė (master thesis 'SLAPP ieškiniai civiliniame procese' ('SLAPP Suits in Civil Procedure')) became the winner in the Awards of the Best Master Thesis in Law held at the Supreme Court of Lithuania. Vincas Šniutė won the third place (master thesis 'Pandemijų ir kitokių ekstremalių situacijų įtaka sutarčių vykdymui' ('The Impact of Pandemics and Other Emergencies for the Execution of Agreements').

The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson and the Committee on Human Rights of the Seimas have presented a Letter of Appreciation to the University for a significant and historically relevant contribution to making equal opportunities a reality in Lithuanian society.

'Road to progress' Awards of the EU-funded projects of the Ministry of Transport and Communications 2023
• The title of the Most Public-Spirited Project was awarded to the project 'Lietuvių šneka valdomų paslaugų plėtra – LIEPA 2' ('Development of Services Operating in Lithuanian – LIEPA 2').

Tomas Bacevičius, a graduate of Kaunas Faculty of the University, was awarded first place in the competition of students' research papers on energy and climate change 'Žaliasis kelias: klimato kaitos ir energetikos iššūkiai' ('Green Way: the Challenges of Climate Change and Energy') organised by the Ministry of Energy.

LRT Awards of the Year
• Prof. Dr (HP) Saulius Klimašauskas, Dr Laura Manelytė, and Dr Miglė Tomkuvienė (Life Sciences Center) were awarded in the category 'Discovery of the Year' for the discovery of a new method of gene regulation (called 'Designer Nucleosome').

The Vilnius Club Prize for a student's research paper dedicated to Vilnius city in 2023 was awarded to master student Raminta Povilaitytė

from the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences for her paper 'Rezidencinės diferenciacijos tyrimų taikymas miestų planavime: Vilniaus miesto savivaldybės pavyzdžiu' ('Application of Residential Differentation Research in City Planning: an Example of Vilnius City Municipality'.

Vilnius University's campaign for attracting students 'Atverk pasaulį klausimais' ('Open the World with Questions') received the 'PR Impact Awards 2023'.

Assoc. Prof. Danguolė Bublienė from the Faculty of Law was appointed the President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Lithuania.

Dr Gintaras Valinčius, Executive Director at the Partnership Institute of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) of the Life Sciences Center, was appointed the Chairperson of the Research Council of Lithuania. Dr Inga Zakšauskienė, lecturer at the Faculty of History, was appointed the Chief Archivist.

State Awards

Prof. Dr (HP) Valentinas Mikelėnas from the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University, who significantly contributed to the creation of the system of Lithuanian private law and developed the legal science of private law and civil process, was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas.

The Knight's Cross of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas was awarded to:
• Assoc. Prof. Dr Sigitas Narbutas, bibliographer, literary historian, and member of the University Council
• Historian Genė Kirkienė, Associate Professor at the Faculty of History (for merits and long-term activity in fostering common historical memory of Lithuania and Ukraine, strengthening cultural relations between Lithuania and Ukraine)
• Sports scientist Albertas Skurvydas, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine (for significant merits in the fields of exercise, sports, and wellness)
• Professors at the Faculty of Medicine, doctors Diana Ramašauskaitė (for active research, teaching, and administrative activities) and Jelena Rascon (for significant professional activities, innovative scientific research and its practical application)
• Assoc. Prof. Robertas Badaras from

the Faculty of Medicine (for dissemination of the science of toxicology and active educational activities of different society groups significantly contributing to the prevention of addictions in Lithuania)
• Prof. Almira Ramanavičienė from the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences (for effective and productive research work, for the development of a new generation of researchers in Lithuania, and for dissemination of research achievements in Lithuania and abroad)
• Assoc. Prof. Dalia Švambarytė from the Faculty of Philosophy (for the presentation of the literary and cultural heritage of East Asia significantly contributing to the maintenance of cultural relations between Lithuania and Japan and the promotion of the name of Lithuania in Japan).

Professor Emeritus Eugenijus Butkus, an organic chemist (for his contribution to the consistent and long-term development of the system of Lithuanian science and its promotion worldwide), was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas.

The Knight's Cross of the Order for Merits to Lithuania was awarded to:
• Dr Justina Kozakaitė, lecturer at the

Faculty of History, Researcher at the Faculty of Medicine, and Bioarchaeologist (for anthropological research that helped identify the remains of commanders, partisans, and communicators of defence forces of the Union of Lithuanian Freedom Fighters that have contributed to their honouring and commemoration).
- Prof. Marija Drėmaitė from the Faculty of History (for research on Lithuanian modernist architecture, cultural and heritage research, educational activities, initiated and implemented international projects that have significantly contributed to the introduction of Lithuania worldwide).
- Prof. Jurgita Verbickienė from the Faculty of History (for long-term consistent scientific and expert activities in researching, actualising, and introducing the history, culture, and heritage of Lithuanian Jews, for formulated and established access for the integration of Jewish history into public and academic discourses).

The Medals of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas were awarded to:
- Partnership Assoc. Prof. Edvardas Kubilius from the Faculty of Communication (for exceptional attention to the ordinary people of Lithuania and for his contribution to reducing inequality and regional exclusion).

- Dr Ieva Petronytė-Urbonavičienė from the Institute of International Relations and Political Science (for the application of academic knowledge and research in the non-governmental sector pursuing a strong, active, and responsible Lithuanian civic society and favourable conditions for its operation).
- Assoc. Prof. Ieva Plikusienė from the Faculty of Chemistry and the Faculty of Medicine (for biotechnological research of the highest international level that significantly contributes to scientific progress in different fields and for promotion of the name of Lithuania worldwide).

Rasa Gelgotienė, the leader of the choirs of Vilnius University, was awarded the Cross of the Officer of the Order for Merits to Lithuania for her significant contribution to fostering Lithuanian choral music and innovative work with music lovers and promoting the name of Lithuania.

The President awarded the Medal of the Order for Merits to Lithuania to Assoc. Prof. Dr Pavel Lavrinec, Philologist and Russian Specialist at the Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic of the Faculty of Philology, for developing the new identity of a Russian-Lithuanian patriot in Lithuania and for his active, anti-Kremlin civic position.

Achievements in the field of sports

In 2023, the University celebrated the following sporting victories and achievements of community members:
- Diana Zagainova, a student from the Faculty of Philosophy, won a silver medal in the triple jump event at the World University Games in China.
- The athletes of the University won 31 medals in the traditional Baltic Student Games SELL held in Tartu.

- The University women's basketball team won silver medals in Israel's international Friendship Games sports event.
- Seven teams from the University participated in the World Inter Universities Championships in Paris. The University took second place in this sports event.
- Gold medallists: 3x3 women's basketball team of the University; Eglė Vaitulevičiūtė, a representative of track-and-field athletics

and a student at the Life Sciences Center; Martynas Glodenis, a table tennis player and a student at the Business School.

• Silver medallists: the University's 3x3 men's basketball team, the women's basketball team of the University, the teams of athletes competing in track-and-field events and table tennis.

• Individual second-place awards were granted to Karolina Bliujūtė, a representative of track-and-field athletics and a student at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration; representatives of table tennis: Laura Abaravičiūtė, a student at the Faculty of Law, Simonas Lukša, a student at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Adomas Zabeliavičius, a student at the Faculty of Philosophy, and Elzė Danilkevičiūtė, a student at the Faculty of Philology.

• Individual third-place awards were granted to the men's basketball team of the University, the representatives of table tennis: Meida Sereikaitė, a student at the Faculty of Philosophy, and Martynas Glodenis, a student at the Business School, and Laura Abaravičiūtė, a student at the Faculty of Law.

• In the academic year 2022/2023, 28 gold, 40 silver, and 36 bronze medals were won at the Lithuanian Student Championships and competitions organised by the LSSA and student leagues. The team of track-and-field athletes gained their first-ever team victory. The following teams became champions: football, futsal, rowing, fencing, orienteering, weightlifting, and tennis.

National mobility challenge #walk15. The University team was the first among higher education institutions in this challenge. Justina Jankauskaitė-Jurcikienė, Chief Specialist in the Strategic Planning Division, walked the most steps.

Cultural achievements

In 2023, the Wind Orchestra 'Oktava' and the Song and Dance Ensemble of the University received the 'Aukso paukštė' ('The Golden Bird') Award, the highest art award in Lithuania for amateurs.

The University for Society

Expert activities

For several years now, almost 640 Vilnius University experts in various areas have been sharing their knowledge by providing advice or issuing comments for science-based publications or news reports.

The total number of mentions has increased from 15.25 thousand in 2022 to 16.65 thousand in 2023.
The communication market share of the University has expanded from 43.89 per cent in 2022 to 46.46 per cent in 2023.

The most prominent communication part, expert statements, saw a boost from 6,275 statements given in 2022 to 6,585 expert statements in 2023.

The University's researchers actively contributed to the vision of Lithuania's future 'Lithuania 2050' by preparing the methodology for its creation. The vision was approved by the Government and Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. In November, a student hackathon took place where students developed ideas on how to present the strategy to young people. The vision was presented to the public at the 'Observatory of Ideas' of the University.

The University's experts in various scientific areas share their knowledge through podcasts:

• One episode – on the 'Dialogai iš balkono' ('Dialogues from the Balcony') podcast of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, where researchers discuss public events, helping the wider community to understand the circumstances in which we live and what leadership we need now.

• One episode – on the 'Akademinė druska' ('Academic Salt') podcast of the Vilnius University Students' Representation, where representation at the University, city, and national levels is being discussed, as well as the improvement of the study process, and the creation of a comfortable social and academic environment.

• Ten episodes – on the 'ARQUS Knowledge Pills' podcast of the ARQUS Alliance, where the community of the Alliance universities discusses how to create a multicultural, multilingual, and inclusive Europe that can overcome all challenges.

• 18 episodes – on the 'Mokslas be pamokslų' ('Science without Sermons') podcast, where the University's researchers, via conversations, help listeners expand their horizons, encourage them to think for themselves and maybe even change their minds or question the established 'truths'.

• 11 episodes – on the 'Ko tyli istorikai?' ('What are Historians Silent About?') podcast, where researchers from the Faculty of History invite you to listen to various conversations on history, historical memory topics, and discussions about current issues and new books.

• Seven episodes – on the 'Kalba kalba' ('Language Speaks') podcast of the Faculty of Philology, where its researchers discuss hot topics related to language, literature, and culture.

Vilnius University Innovation Club, a platform for networking in science and business cooperation, invites community members to participate in interesting discussions and encourages researchers to meet representatives of business enterprises at networking events. The club leads the discussion cycle 'Science Solutions 360'.

In 2023, five articles in the series 'VU Experts Help Understand' were published. In these articles, University researchers share their knowledge of various phenomena and discoveries.

The popular science journal 'Spectrum', published by the University, presents unique research, expert opinions, and assessments currently carried out in Lithuania and at the University. The main topics covered in 2023 were 'Ancient Religion and Cosmology: Why Do We Call Planets by Greek and Roman names?' and 'Opportunistic Infections: Who Is at Risk and How to Protect Yourself from Them?'.

Societal initiatives of the University

In 2023, the University focused on developing dialogue with the public, initiating expert discussions, and developing international partnerships on topics relevant to society and the State to implement strategic activities.

The most important events in 2023

International conferences:

• On 4 July, the international conference 'European Response. War in Ukraine and New Challenges' took place. Before the NATO summit, the Baltic presidents and regional leaders discussed the war in Ukraine and the Western response at the international conference hosted by the University.

• From 30 November to 1 December, the University organised an international conference, 'Culture and Imaginary Facing the War', in cooperation with the Embassy of France and the French Institute. Nearly 30 culture, science, and media experts from various European countries discussed the impact of war on ideas and culture, what culture can do in the face of war, and how war can be described in the media.

Visits:

• On 9 February, the European Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders delivered an open lecture on 'The Rule of Law or Power: The European Response'.

• On 1 March, the delegation of the National Taipei University of Technology (Taiwan) met at the University to discuss the issues related to cooperation in the field of studies and research.

• On 2 March, diplomat Eric Huang, head of the Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania, brought the donation of 200 books to Vilnius University Library that had been gifted by You Si-kun, the Speaker of Taiwan's Parliament.

• On 21–22 March, the ELI ERIC General Assembly was organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, the University, and the Center for Physical and Technological Sciences. The meeting discussed the potential of Lithuanian lasers and the access to the infrastructure provided by ELI for Lithuanian scientists.

• On 30 March, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna discussed political relations between countries during an informal meeting with students.

• On 20 April, the President of Armenia, Vahagn Khachaturyan, delivered the lecture 'Armenia: an Imperative to Build a New Society (Democracy and Free Market Economy)' at the University's Scholarly Communication and Information Centre and participated in a discussion with students.

• On 11 May, Presidents of Germany and Lithuania, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Gitanas Nausėda, opened the exhibition 'Curriculum Vilnae' in the University Library dedicated to the 700th anniversary of Vilnius. It showcased the most valuable documents of the city's history, including three letters of Grand Duke Gediminas brought from Germany.

• On 12 July, US President Joe Biden delivered a historic speech in the Grand Courtyard of Vilnius University.

• On 19 August, the Director of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO), Prof. Fiona Watt, presented EMBO programmes and activities during her visit.

- On 4 September, the 24th President of the CERN Council, Prof. Eliezer Rabinovici, delivered a public lecture at the Faculty of Physics.

Events:
- 11 March. The University for the City: a festive 11 March concert was attended by 500 University students, alumni, Vilnius residents, and city guests.
- 15 March. 200 politicians, members of the University community, descendants of Jewish rescuers, and representatives of Lithuanian Jews commemorated the Day of the Rescuers of Lithuanian Jews.
- 28 June. At the ceremony of awarding Memory Diplomas of the 'Recovering Memory' initiative, together with the nominees of the Memory Diplomas and their relatives, those who were forced to leave Vilnius University due to historical circumstances were remembered and honoured. Two Memory Diplomas were awarded in person. The other 34 symbolic diplomas were accepted by the closest relatives of the nominees.
- 23 October. At the evening of the alumni community of Vilnius University, almost 100 University alumni and representatives from the faculties and units were invited to renew old acquaintances and make new contacts.

The pedagogy of the 21st century

Following the Concept of Teacher Training at Vilnius University, pedagogical-qualification-awarding programmes and education field programmes are carried out 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 set up in the academic units
- STEAM education centres in Vilnius and Šiauliai. In 2023, the Methodological STEAM Education Centre was established at the University to coordinate formal and non-formal STEAM education activities in subjects of natural sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics in the city of Vilnius, as well as to provide methodological support to all other national STEAM centres.

The overall activities of Vilnius University as a national teacher training centre are coordinated by the Vilnius University Committee on Enhancing Professional Development for Teachers (led by the Pro-Rector for Studies Assoc. Prof. Dr Valdas Jaskūnas). In 2023, Vilnius University, as a national teacher training centre, implemented the following directions of the Concept of Teacher Training.

Research on education

To expand teaching and learning research, enhance other research on education, and develop research-based educational solutions, in 2023:
- The organisation of teacher training was updated; the production quality of research in the field of education was strengthened, and the competencies of researchers were enhanced; investments in research infrastructure were made; as well, efforts were made to attract students to pedagogical-qualification-awarding programmes and modules and encourage practising teachers to improve their competencies.

Diagram 51. The scores of the comparative expert assessment of the field of education

	VU	KTU	KU	LKA	LMTA	LSU	MRU	VDU
Score	4	3.5	3.5	2	4	3.5	3.5	4.5
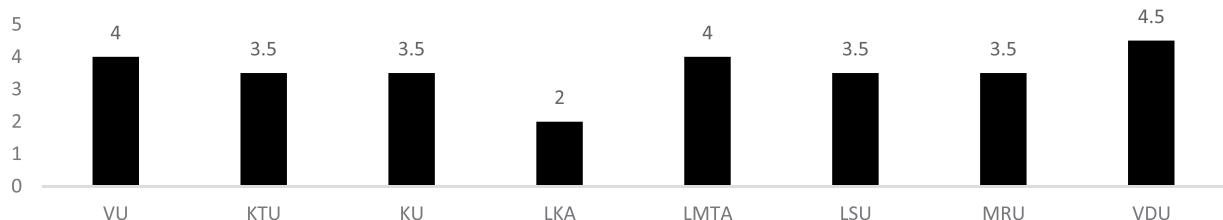
The improved results are due to:
- education field being identified as one of the University's strategic priorities
- active research and project activities carried out by researchers
- the integration of Šiauliai Academy by merging research groups, increasing the capacity for international networking, developing STEAM education activities
- establishing a joint Doctoral School in the Field of Education at Vilnius University
- the international winter school for education researchers in Druskininkai
- four international seminars for doctoral students in the field of education
a strategy session with researchers and doctoral students 'Educational Research and Including Doctoral Students in Research Teams'

Project activities (in the field of pedagogy):
- 17 international projects (Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ KA2, Erasmus+ KA3, Erasmus+ CBHE, Erasmus+ TEACH, Nordplus)
- five national projects focusing on teacher training and qualification enhancement
- 11 project proposals submitted to the Research Council of Lithuania under the call of the Research in Education Breakthrough Programme
- 31 research and educational innovation activities implemented by teams of University lecturers, students, and teachers in different Lithuanian schools

Teacher training study programmes

Acting as the national teacher training centre, Vilnius University offered four ways to acquire pedagogical qualification (hereinafter 'studies') in Vilnius and Šiauliai:
- nine study programmes awarding a bachelor's degree and a pedagogical degree
- two programmes in professional (pedagogy) studies
- 15 subject and pedagogical specialisation modules
- minor studies/individual studies

The bachelor's degree provides access to seven master programmes (that do not award a pedagogical qualification). Additionally, a joint programme of doctoral studies is offered.

Developing, improving, and updating the content of pedagogical studies

45 practising teachers enrolled on courses in pedagogy studies; the related course descriptions were updated.

90 course descriptions in pedagogy studies integrating blended learning principles (materials, tools, and instruments developed in the VMA environment) were developed.

The digitisation of the content of teacher training studies and pedagogical qualifications, including subject content (History, Language Didactics, Informatics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Special-Needs Education, Childhood Pedagogy), and practical activities for adaptation for blended or distance learning.

A new bachelor programme for mathematics teachers training, 'Mathematics Teaching and Educometry', has been launched (Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics).

Developing the competencies of students and lecturers in pedagogy studies

18 lectures by guest experts organised for students. Description of the Procedure for Organising Work Placements for Lecturers of Teacher Training Study Programmes of Vilnius University prepared and approved.

Lecturers took part in 60 qualification enhancement activities and went on 39 job placements in Lithuanian schools (23) and foreign higher education institutions (16).

Professional growth of educators: teachers, heads of schools and education practitioners (hereinafter 'professionals')

Professionals who chose to study in 2023

In 2023, 27 teachers completed a module of a teaching subject (chemistry – 15, physics – 12).
- 123 teachers started studying a module of a teaching subject. In 2023, the University prioritised language education.
- French – 40
- German – 33
- Polish – 7
- Chemistry – 8
- Physics – 12
- Mathematics – 22

Qualification-enhancement programmes and events were attended by numerous professionals:
- 60 teachers have been involved in national qualification enhancement programmes (2 programmes prepared):
- 28 teachers in the Life Skills Development Programme
- 32 teachers in the Mathematics Teaching and Learning Programme
- In 2023, 62 qualification-enhancement events were attended by 2,926 teachers

Table 19. The number of qualification-enhancement events and teachers participating, in 2019–2023

	2019	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
Number of events	80	48	59	44	62
Number of participants	1,969	2,182	2,226	2,175	2,926

Developing, improving and updating the content of pedagogical studies for professionals

The 'Educational Policy and Leadership' specialisation for a master's in education studies has been updated and approved with the aim of targeting heads of schools.

11 blended subject and pedagogical specialisation modules have been developed, providing practising teachers with competencies in a different subject or pedagogical specialisation.

Postgraduate training at master's level was organised for 30 managers in 2024–2026.

Six STEAM competency improvement programmes were developed (of at least 40 academic hours).

Eight general and subject-specific competency improvement programmes (of at least 40 academic hours) were developed for teachers.

Two joint nature science education competency improvement programmes (of at least 40 academic hours) were developed for teachers of primary and high school classes.

Methodological tools for sustainability education in schools developed (37 digitised tools for teachers, pupils, students, and parents).

Partnerships (in the field of pedagogy)

In cooperation with foreign higher education partners, three international conferences were organised on the topics of teacher training and innovation in pedagogy.

Cooperation agreements were signed with three foreign general education schools creating the possibility for students of pedagogical studies to perform internships there (Italy, Germany).

50 meetings with Lithuanian gymnasiums took place – 37 times the University representatives visited the gymnasiums and 13 times gymnasium students were welcomed at the University. In total, more than 4,000 students participated in these meetings.

Partnership agreements were signed with the 16 largest Lithuanian gymnasiums, setting the basis for developing mutually beneficial cooperation covering a range of areas.

To promote the said partnerships, the special web page www.vu.lt/mokykloms was set up, presenting over 80 different activities for pupils and almost 50 different activities for teachers

and training-for-career specialists.

In cooperation with the organisers of national competitions and Olympiads, more than 500 awards were granted to pupils. As well, more than 850 nominal letters signed by the Rector of Vilnius University were handed out to the senior pupils taking part in competitions and Olympiads, inviting them to choose studies at Vilnius University.

Furnishing and upgrading teacher training laboratories

Six laboratories for studies at Saulėtekio al. 22, Vilnius (Business School): Pre-School Education Lab, Primary Education Lab, Training Lab, Games Lab, Fine Arts Lab, Music Lab.

Nature Science 3D and VR Educational Labs.

Distance Learning Labs (Biology, Chemistry, Physics).

Special-Needs Education Lab for research on the education of children with autism spectrum disorder and for studies in special-needs education.

The University's partnerships

The University's social partnerships

The University is an active partner in international university networks and alliances. The University collaborates with businesses, schools, and other Lithuanian and foreign organisations to

strengthen the partnership between higher education and business, as well as public and non-governmental sectors. In 2023, 14 new partnerships were initiated with companies and governmental institutions.

In 2023, the University most actively cooperated with EPAM Systems, Thermo Fisher Scientific Baltics, Nasdaq Baltic, Coherent Solutions, Teleperformance LT, Invest Lithuania, and the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania in implementing initiatives to promote maximising the compliance of studies with the labour market needs, training highly qualified professionals, and increasing the availability of studies.

The University is a permanent and full member of 110 international associations and networks, as well as organisations and Lithuanian organisations and consortiums:
- three associations
- one European University Alliance (ARQUS)
- nine networks
- two programmes
- 58 international organisations
- 37 Lithuanian organisations and consortiums

Participation in the activities of associations

The University participates in the annual events and forums of the EUA, EIEA associations, such as: the European Quality Assurance Forum, the European Learning&Teaching Forum, and the 33rd EIEA Annual Conference.

The University cooperates with various international, regional and national institutions (in the IAU format) in search of proposals for solutions to challenges arising in the activities of the University.

Participation in the strategic ARQUS European University Alliance:
- among the first 17 financed university alliances in Europe (60 alliances were in operation in Europe in 2023)
- among the first 100 universities in Europe participating in the European Universities Initiative (in 2023, more than 500 universities participated in the European Higher Education Area)
- among the top-rated proposals submitted to the European Commission (during both the first and second funding calls)
- nine universities

- 317,000+ students
- 23,800+ members of the teaching staff
- 14,500+ administrative staff, of which 33 are the University's employees participating in continuous activity

The University's contribution to the ARQUS Alliance activities in 2023
- The implementation of the ARQUS joint master study programme in 'European Studies' began (partners: Granada, Graz, Leipzig, and Vilnius Universities).
- Admissions were opened to a new joint master study programme, 'International Cybersecurity and Cyberintelligence' (partners: Granada, Minho, Padua, and Vilnius Universities).
- Training on teaching excellence and study programme development took place, and the doctoral students' mentoring programme was implemented.
- Four out of 15 internal Working Groups were headed by the University.

The benefits of the ARQUS Alliance to the University community
- Remote seminars took place for

researchers on the mobilisation of science, business, politicians, and the public in search of specific solutions to problems (Co-creation).

• The Summer School for the teaching staff was held on the topic of 'Enhancing Students' Learning Using Appropriate Assessment Strategies'.

• A doctoral students' workshop on 'Careers Outside Academia' took place.

• A competition of students' joint initiatives was organised.

• Training occurred for students preparing for exchange programmes.

• The ARQUS Talent Scholarship has been established (for applicants to doctoral and master studies).

• Three calls were made to create a Community of Practice (for administrative staff), and seven interinstitutional Communities of Practice were created in total (the University is a member of these groups).

Participation in university networks. In 2018–2020, a University representative headed the Utrecht Network. In 2023:

• Proposals were being formed in Staff and Student Mobility Task Forces.

• The implementation of the activities of the 'Young Researchers Grant' working group was headed by a member of the University.

In the COIMBRA Group, University representatives participated in ten out of 12 working groups in 2023.

In the UNICA Network, University representatives participated in working groups in 2023, most actively in: 'International Relation Officers' and 'UNICA EduLAB' (two out of seven groups).

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.

Figures for 2023:

• EUR 912 thousand – the community of sponsors donated EUR 557 thousand to the endowment and EUR 335 thousand for targeted projects and management.

• 794 instances of donations – since the beginning of its operation, the University Foundation received donations over 3.6 thousand times.

• EUR 1.09 million – the sum allocated by the University Foundation for the University and its related projects exceeded EUR 1 million.

• EUR 4.2 million – for the first time, the endowment capital reached EUR 4 million and a return on investment of over EUR 748 thousand was recorded.

• EUR 815 thousand – a return on investment earned by Vilnius University since the beginning of investment management in January 2019.

The most important continuous project of the Foundation is to attract to the University talented young researchers with strong international experience.

In 2023, the co-funding of the winners of the 2021 competition, Dr Mantas Šimėnas and Dr Thomas Peak, as well as of the 2022 competition, Dr Aistė Kiltinavičiūtė and Dr

Vytautas Klimavičius, continued. The three newest winners of the 2023 competition – young researchers Dr Ilona Jurkonytė, Dr Marija Norkūnaitė, and Dr Šarūnas Šavėla, began to receive co-funding.

Diagram 52. The percentage allocation of funds from the Vilnius University Foundation by project, 2023

- For attracting talented young researchers with strong international experience to VU
- 'Tuition Fee Waiver' for talented master students from non EU/EEA countries
- For the Chrono-Epigenetics programme at the Institute of Biotechnology of the Life Sciences Center
- For Ukrainian academic community to continue their research activities in Lithuania and Ukraine
- For the development of research and studies at the Faculty of History, according to the will of sponsor Juozas Sidas
- Other projects

Sponsors and Partners
Subfunds

University graduates

ONCE A VU STUDENT – ALWAYS ONE OF VU ALUMNI

VU alumni privileges
- VU Library services
- Rent of premises for events
- VU Press services
- Museum
- Sport activities
- Culture events

- Career and counselling
- Alumni email service

The University invites the alumni:
- To join VU alumni platform https://alumni.vu.lt/
- To become a mentor
- To establish a personal nominal scholarship
- To donate to VU Foundation

Employment of graduates

The University has more than 4,500 graduates each year. In the last five years, it awarded almost 22,000 higher education diplomas.

The University monitors graduates' progress by conducting a follow-up survey to gain insights and ascertain their integration into the labour market and the overall employment rate of the University graduates* (see Diagram 53).

(*The employment rate of the University graduates 12 months after graduation is

The University for Society

represented by the share of graduates in employment, continuing their studies, on child care leave or doing military service, registered with the Lithuanian Public Employment Service, as well as those who have declared departure from Lithuania, and the individuals who do not fall under any of the above.)

The employability of University graduates 12 months after graduation shows the share of graduates who were employed and/or self-employed while continuing or not continuing their studies. In 2023, the employability rate* of graduates of all cycles was 83.9 per cent. (*Percentage of graduates in self-employment and other forms of employment)

In 2023, 3 per cent of all 2021–2022 graduates were registered with the Lithuanian Public Employment Service 12 months after graduation. Meanwhile, the average unemployment rate in Lithuania in 2023 was 6.8 per cent (source: State Data Agency).

Diagram 53. Employment of Vilnius University graduates 12 months after graduation

Employed, 83,9%

Continuing studies, not employed, 3,6%
Departed from Lithuania, 2.5% 2,5%
Doing military service, 0,4%
On child care leave, 0,2%
Registered with the Employment Service, 3.0% 3,0%

No data available, 6,3%
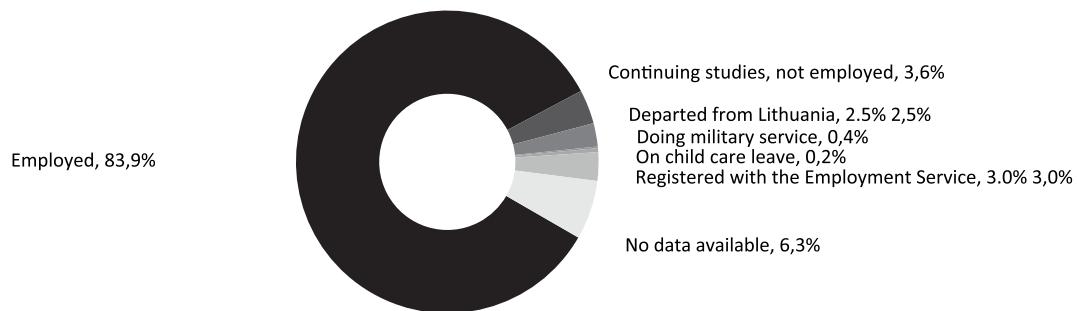
Information on the employment of graduates is based on data from the National Agency for Education.

Diagram 54. University graduate unemployment rate 12 months after graduation

Year	The percentage of unemployed VU graduates 12 months after graduation*	Country unemployment rate**
2019	2.7	6.3
2020	4.7	8.5
2021	4.2	7.1
2022	2.5	5.9
2023	3.0	6.8

■ The percentage of unemployed VU graduates 12 months after graduation*   ■ Country unemployment rate**
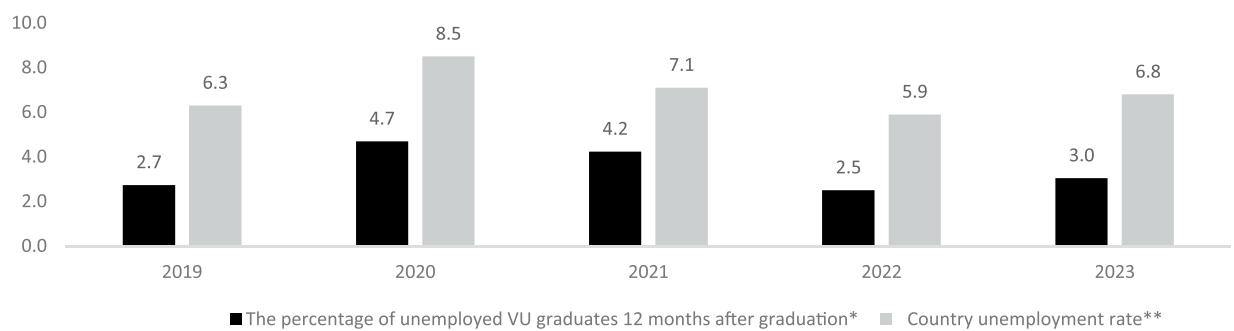
*Graduate unemployment rate is calculated as the percentage of graduates registered with the Lithuanian Public Employment Service 12 months after graduation.
**Country unemployment rates are available on the Official Statistics Portal.

Three quarters of University graduates are continuing their studies or employed in a job requiring a higher education qualification.

Diagram 55. Career success of Vilnius University graduates of the academic year 2021/2022*.

Graduates of bachelor studies	Graduates of integrated studies	Graduates of master studies	Graduates of pedagogy studies	VU graduates
75.72	75.43	74.59	75.15	89.52
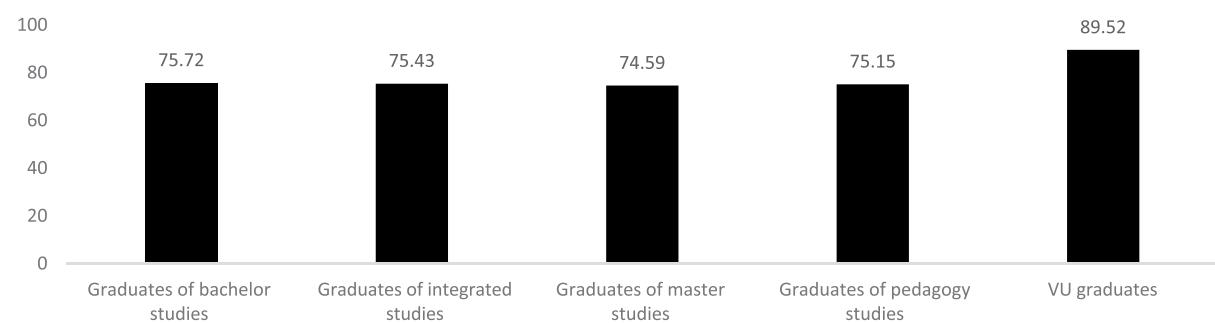
*Graduates' career success is measured by monitoring the number of graduates who, 12 months after graduation, are continuing their studies at a higher cycle and/or are employed in a job requiring a higher education qualification (percentage).

A University graduates survey was carried out in autumn 2023, involving the graduates of the cohorts of 2019 and 2021 (795 responses received).

The survey showed that satisfaction with studies corelates with graduates' career self-evaluation:

• Graduates who were more satisfied with their studies at the University also had a more positive view of their career.

• The more satisfied graduates were with their careers, the more positive they were about the impact of the University on their careers.

Lifelong learning activities at the University

Lifelong learning (LL) reflects the educational mission of the University. In 2023, significant steps were taken to reorganise the coordination and administration of all LL activities at the University, increasing their visibility and outreach both internally and externally:

• The Lifelong Learning Center of the Business School was established, and its regulations were approved, thus ensuring a one-stop shop for all LL activities; the documents regulating these activities at the University were updated.

• Information on all the LL activities at the University is available here: https://mvg.vu.lt/ (in Lithuanian).

• The acquisition of the LL information system has started.

• The renewed Children's University invited pupils to participate in new activities.

Lifelong Learning programmes and initiatives for adult individuals and businesses

Diagram 56. The number of the most popular LL programmes for professional development and language learning and the number of their participants in 2023
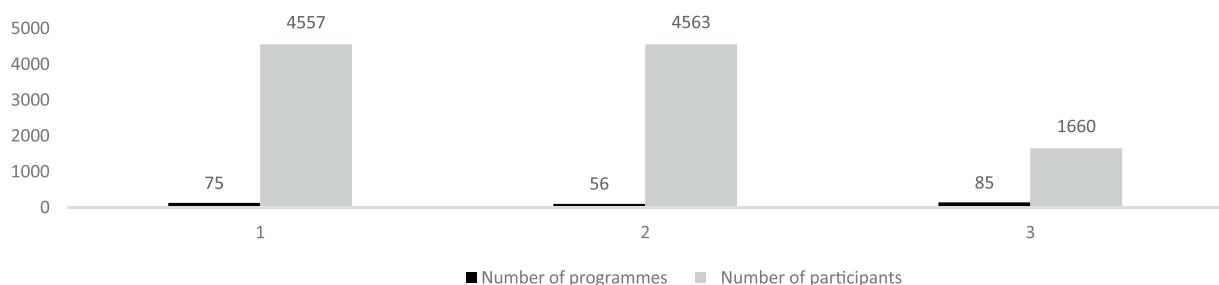
Eight new training programmes for companies have been added to the Individual Training Accounts system.

A new University project was launched in the autumn of 2023: digital lectures by University teaching staff on topics of public interest.

A new activity was proposed for businesses: afternoons with an expert, during which the University's experts introduce companies to the latest scientific discoveries and trends.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY events and initiatives for pupils in 2023:
- More than 4,000 participants attended the Children's University opening event, 'Mokslo magija' ('The Magic of Science').
- The autumn session of 'Jaunasis atradėjas' ('Young Discoverer') was attended by 184 primary school pupils.
- In total, more than 400 pupils attended the 13 children's schools/academies.
- Lectures organised by the units were attended by more than 1,200 pupils.
- Laboratory sessions took place with more than 1,400 participants attending such events. The initiative 'Pamoka su universiteto dėstytoju' ('A Lesson with a University Lecturer') by the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics proved very popular with schools, and lecturers were actively invited to schools to provide lessons for pupils.
- More than 500 participants from all over Lithuania took part in the distance lecture series 'Atraskime Aziją' ('Discovering Asia') and 'Lituanistikos atradimai' ('Discoveries in Lithuanian Studies').
- The initiative 'Klausk profesoriaus' ('Ask a Professor') was introduced, allowing pupils to pose questions on a variety of topics.

In total, more than 12,000 participants took part in 279 LL programmes, conferences, and the activities and initiatives organised for children in 2023.

Financial Management of the University

The University's funding and other revenue

In 2023, the University's funding and other revenue amounted to EUR 254.24 million, which is EUR 60.65 million or 31 per cent more than in 2022 (EUR 193.59 million).

The appropriations from the State budget increased by 19.1 per cent in 2023. EUR 8.86 million of appropriations were received for increasing the remuneration of employees, in addition to EUR 11.36 million for studies and research, and EUR 0.84 million for economy and administration.

The boost of 77.7 per cent in endowment funds was due to the EUR 20.17 million increase in funding from EU Funds and the European Economic Area.

Diagram 57. Vilnius University funding, income, and other revenue in 2019–2023 (EUR million)

	Appropriations from the State budget	Endowment funds (State targeted, support, etc.)	-of which – support from EU funds and the European Economic Area	Own funds (income from studies, courses, accommodation services, rental of premises and other goods and services provided)
2019	73.74	33.87	22.65	22.30
2020	81.90	49.91	33.93	24.46
2021	94.25	36.92	23.60	26.85
2022	117.08	48.76	31.01	27.75
2023	139.42	86.66	51.18	28.16

University expenditure

The University expenditure amounted to EUR 267.14 million in 2023. Remuneration and social security accounted for EUR 135.49 million or 50.7 per cent of the total expenditure.

EUR 8,862 thousand were received as appropriations from the State budget for increasing remuneration in 2023.

The official salary of academic staff increased by 13 per cent from 1 February 2023.

The acquisition of fixed tangible and intangible assets made up 28.6 per cent of total expenditure of the University. It included around EUR 44 million for the construction and furnishing of the Medicine Science Centre, around EUR 5.5 million for the construction and furnishing of the Methodological STEAM Education Centre, and around EUR 2 million for the acquisition of solar power plant energy generating facilities. Around EUR 29 million for the acquisition of mostly fixed assets was temporarily financed from the University's funds; the funding for these expenses will be acquired in 2024. Due to this, the University's expenditure exceeded its revenue in 2023.

Diagram 58. The cost structure of Vilnius University in 2019–2023 (in EUR million)

	Remuneration and social security	Acquisition of fixed tangible and intangible assets	Other various expenses	Scholarships
2019	78.99	9.92	20.26	10.72
2020	87.80	23.45	22.54	10.53
2021	103.19	8.59	25.21	13.28
2022	117.85	18.70	31.55	15.16
2023	135.49	76.41	38.36	16.88
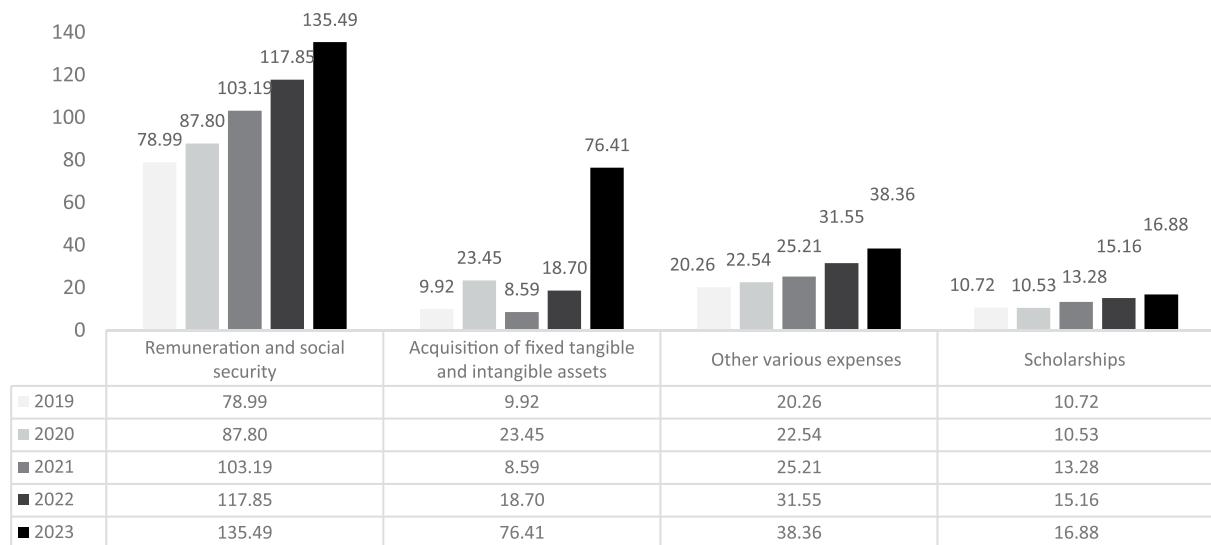
Other detailed outgoings were to equip the University with basic resources such as information and technological ones, the funds of the Library (books, journals, e-publications, etc.), the renovation of buildings and ongoing maintenance work on the premises.

Table 20. Vilnius University expenditure in 2023 by different types, in EUR thousand

University expenditure, in EUR thousand	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Funds for updating information resources*	3,613,0	9,430,8	789,0	819,5	6,855,5
Funds for updating technological equipment	5,632,5	9,795,9	1941,9	1,927,1	18,150,8
Funds for the renovation of buildings and premises	686,9	2,948,4	3,918,3	2,124,7	3,907,8
Funds for renting premises for the implementation of studies	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2
Funds for updating the funds of the Library	529,4	659,2	985,5	1,122,1	1,263,3

Since 2021, they include projectors, screens and hybrid learning systems

The operating costs of the University, not taking into account the operating costs of the tenants, amounted to EUR 7,516.2 thousand in 2023, which is over 28 per cent less than in 2022 (in 2022, it amounted to EUR 10,484.5 thousand).

Expenditure on electricity made up 38.8 per cent of the operating costs; due to the change in electricity rates, the outgoings were EUR 2,490.7 thousand lower than in 2022. Heating and hot water costs accounted for 29.8 per cent, cold water and sewage – 6.1 per cent.

For other expenses, such as transport maintenance, communications, cleaning, security services, gas, and rubbish removal – 25.3 per cent.

Diagram 59. The operating costs of the University in 2019–2023 (in EUR thousand)
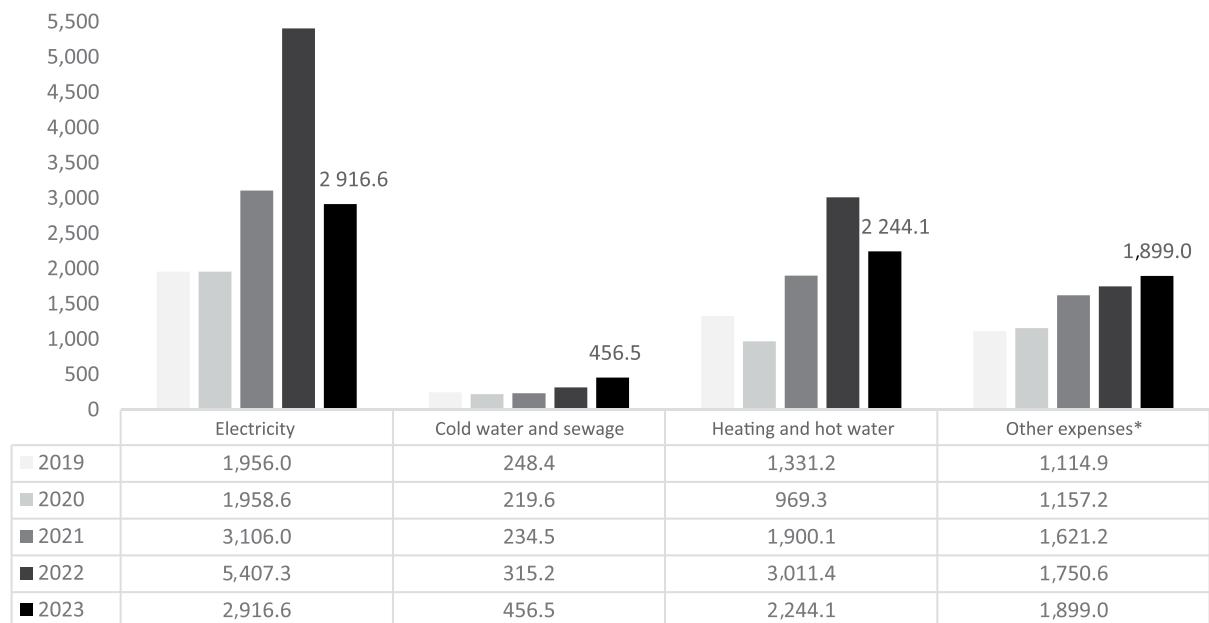
	Electricity	Cold water and sewage	Heating and hot water	Other expenses*
2019	1,956.0	248.4	1,331.2	1,114.9
2020	1,958.6	219.6	969.3	1,157.2
2021	3,106.0	234.5	1,900.1	1,621.2
2022	5,407.3	315.2	3,011.4	1,750.6
2023	2,916.6	456.5	2,244.1	1,899.0

* Transport maintenance, communications, cleaning, security services, gas, and rubbish removal expenses.

Table 21. The area of the University per student in 2019–2023

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
8,81	8,86	9,08	9,27	9,43

Table 22. The income of the University per student in EUR thousand in 2019–2023

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
6,5	7,5	7,0	8,3	10,8

Project activities of the University

In 2023, the University implemented 851 projects in the area of research and studies, infrastructure projects, and information systems development projects.

The total value of the implemented projects was almost EUR 282.97 million. The University received 93 per cent (EUR 263.65 million) of this sum.

Diagram 60. The number of projects being implemented at the University by funding source, 2023


International funds/programmes; 162; 19%

Other; 33

State budget; 529; 62%

EU investments; 150; 18%

Recovery and Resilience Facility; 7; 1%
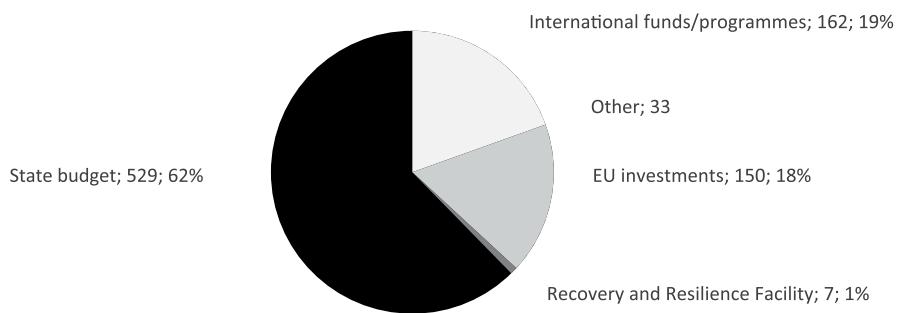
Diagram 61. Value administered by the University by project type, 2023

International funds/programmes; 29,458,986; 10%

Other; 180,800; 0%

State budget; 57,763,201; 21%

EU investments; 161,134,534; 57%

Recovery and Resilience Facility; 34,432,734; 12%
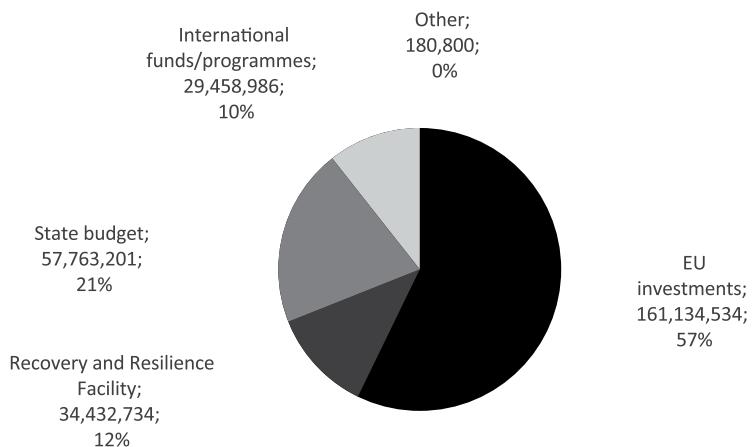
Diagram 62. Value for the University by project type, 2023

International funds/programmes; 22,309,974; 9%

Other; 180,800; 0%

State budget; 56,430,981; 21%

EU investments; 150,292,393; 57%

Recovery and Resilience Facility; 34,432,734; 13%
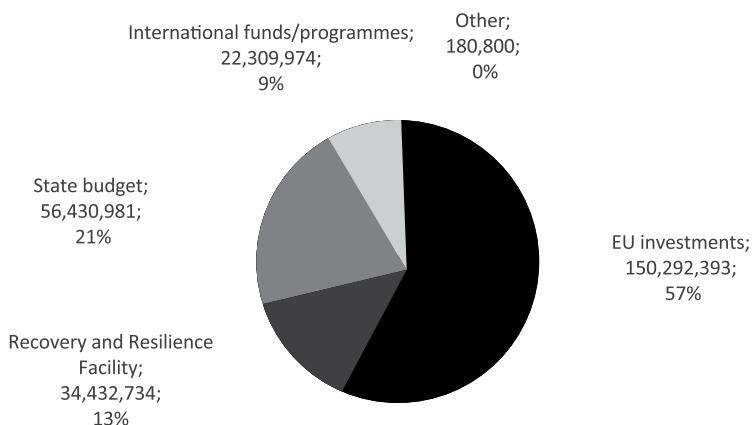
In 2023, the largest projects in terms of value, 22 ongoing projects, were carried out by the Central Administration. The total value of the projects was around EUR 109.5 million. The Life Sciences Center was implementing the most projects as a separate unit with 183 projects being implemented there, amounting to a total sum of EUR 52.6 million. In addition, the Faculty of Physics was implementing 94 projects exceeding the total value of EUR 43 million, the Faculty of Medicine – 77 projects exceeding the total value of EUR 15 million, and the Faculty of Philosophy – 114 projects exceeding the total value of EUR 11.8 million.

Table 23. The number of projects being implemented at the University units, the value of their administered projects, and the value for the University

Unit	Number of projects	Value of projects administered by VU, in EUR	Value for VU, in EUR
Central Administration	22	109,519,254	108,938,344
Life Sciences Center	183	52,622,237	50,461,889
Faculty of Physics	94	43,068,572	38,346,548
Faculty of Medicine	77	15,019,564	12,722,831
Faculty of Philosophy	114	11,846,921	10,591,400
Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics	23	7,374,260	6,619,131
Faculty of History	29	6,303,058	6,279,450
Faculty of Philology	66	9,189,979	5,844,483
Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences	65	3,821,645	3,821,645
Information Technology Service Center	3	3,935,980	3,495,450
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration	39	4,580,707	3,388,574
Šiauliai Academy	28	2,682,989	2,682,989
Institute of International Relations and Political Science	34	2,880,576	2,147,576
VU Methodological STEAM Education Centre	1	2,060,914	2,060,914
Faculty of Communication	18	1,615,760	1,615,760
Botanical Garden	4	1,073,649	1,073,649
Faculty of Law	18	1,142,447	950,917
Kaunas Faculty	20	2,518,048	891,638
VU Library	3	801,380	801,380
Property Management and Service Centre	2	696,625	696,625
Business School	3	94,783	94,783
VU Press	2	72,463	72,463
Health and Sport Center	1	24,470	24,470
Culture Centre	2	23,973	23,973

The largest projects of the University

The implementation of the largest-scale project to currently be carried out at the University – 'The Establishment of the Science Centre of the Faculty of Medicine' – continued in 2023.

- • The total value of the project is over EUR 50 million.
- • The project is intended for biomedical research, studies, and technological development purposes and contributes to the implementation of the priorities set out in the smart specialisation area 'Health Technologies and Biotechnology'.
- • The operation of the Centre would improve the efficiency of interdisciplinary and intersubject research under national and international programmes, as well as the number of publications and citations, more active transfer practices of knowledge and technology as well as commercialisation. Improvements will be seen in the laboratory – experimental and practical training of specialists of professional work in the area of biomedicine.

Together with Vilnius City Municipality, the University is establishing the Methodological STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, maths) Education Centre on the premises of the University's former Planetarium.

- • Intensive construction works were carried out in 2023.
- • The Centre is intended for the pupils of Vilnius region and the most talented ones throughout the country.
- • At the Centre, in coordination with general educational curricula, students will be able to design and conduct experiments

by themselves, thereby developing their cognitive abilities, imagination, and creativity.

• Research, scientific discoveries, and innovations will be presented to the public at the Centre, and teachers will be able to continue their professional development there.

• Eight laboratories will be in operation, six of which will be standardised: Life Sciences (Biology), Chemistry, Physics and Astrophysics, Engineering (Intelligent Structures and Materials), Mobile Technologies and Robotics, Visual Programming, and there will be two specialised laboratories: Light Technology and Digital Production (Fab Lab).

In 2023, eight EU Structural Funds projects were completed at the University, which allow it to get involved and carry out activities in the ESFRI (the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) and other international research infrastructures:

• Molėtai Astronomical Observatory (MAO) – membership of the international WEAVE (next-generation spectroscopy facility for the William Herschel telescope) consortium; renewal of the observatories and the acquisition of equipment.

• Research Infrastructure of High Intensity and Wide Wavelength Range Ultrashort Pulse Lasers for National and International Access (LASER RI) – membership of the Extreme Light Infrastructure ELI and the acquisition of equipment.

• Center for Spectroscopic Characterization of Materials and Electronic/Molecular Processes (SPECTROVERSUM) – participation in the activities of the Swedish National Laboratory of Synchrotron Radiation MAX IV and the acquisition of equipment.

• Centre for Computational, Structural and Systems Biology (CossyBio) – full membership of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and a membership of the Structural Biology European Research Infrastructure (Instruct-ERIC), payment of the Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC) fee, and the acquisition of equipment.

• Lithuanian Grid Infrastructure for High-Performance Computing (LitGrid-HPC) – planned participation in the international MTI EGI (Advanced Computing for Research) or EuroHPC (European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking) and the acquisition of HPC equipment for the open access Vilnius University centres HPC Saulėtekis and the IT Open Access Research Center.

• Cooperation with the CERN infrastructure.

• Center of Semiconductor Technology (PTC).

• Centre for Innovative Chemistry (INOCHEM, VU – partner).

• Human Biological Resource Center (VU – partner).

The project for the modernisation of the education science and social welfare study infrastructure at Šiauliai Academy was completed in 2023.

• The project was being implemented in the course of the development of the strategic direction No. 1(4) of the VU Strategic Plan, 'The pedagogy of the 21st century'.

• Upon Šiauliai Academy taking on the responsibility to implement the mission of being the regional pedagogical centre, the project's objective is to substantially update the teacher training base in Šiauliai.

• The laboratories and spaces were created that allow to develop the general, social/emotional, communicative, and didactic competencies of future teachers in a variety of subjects, using new technologies and tools for sustainability.

The project for the strengthening of the quality of study services and international competitiveness of Vilnius University (VUSIS) was launched in 2023.

- The project's objective is to install and start a new study information system based on a standard configurable product.
- The project's investments will allow for further automation and, in turn, the optimisation of study administration, organisation and management processes, the implementation of the updated study concept focused on the model of individualised studies, and the introduction of other means for the modernisation of studies that are necessary to increase the quality and internationalisation of studies when implementing the objectives set out by the European Universities Initiative.

Initiatives for improving the University's activities

Community surveys

Feedback is an important element of any organisation's successful operation; thus, the University seeks to receive it from all community member groups:

- The graduate survey was updated in 2023; its purpose is to get feedback on what influence the studies had (or could have had) on the graduate's career.
- At the end of each semester, the student survey is carried out to assess the general satisfaction of students with their studies during a specific semester.
- The survey of final-year students aims to get feedback on specific study programmes and their implementation for the improvement of the quality of study programmes.
- The yearly survey of doctoral students

aims to get feedback on doctoral studies and their administration.

• A survey of satisfaction with operational support was created and began to be conducted in 2023; it assesses the Customer Satisfaction Score (CSAT) and the Customer Effort Score (CES). The survey was designed for the users of the Property Management and Service Centre's support register; in the following years, it will also be carried out in other areas.

• The aim of the University's biennial employee survey is to learn how employees assess various aspects of the organisation's activities (psychosocial work factors) that affect employee well-being at work and their overall welfare.

FAST project for process efficiency

The objective of the FAST project is to improve the University's administrative processes by bringing together teams of process participants and providing them with management tools, knowledge, and skills. The project aims to ensure the smoother and more efficient management of administrative processes, more effective use of resources, clearer and better-quality results, and a reduced administrative burden on staff.

In 2022–2023, the efficiency of the following processes was improved: public procurement management, project management, secondment administration, Research Promotion Fund administration, and academic consulting administration.

Maintenance and updates of information systems

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

In 2023, an agreement was signed to create a new Vilnius University Study Information System (VUSIS), which will replace the current one.

The constantly improved support registers are the most operative way to register queries. In the FAST project in 2022, the process of registering queries was being improved in the Property Management and Service Centre's support register. In 2023, with the beginning of the assessment of the satisfaction with operational support and the monitoring of processes that were previously part of the FAST project, users of the register were surveyed for further improvement of the processes.

Project to create a 'green university'

In line with the current ecological agenda, the University is developing a model of a 'green university' where an impact assessment is carried out for all infrastructure projects in terms of their environmental compliance, and operational emissions are substantially reduced.

In 2023, solar power panels were finished being installed on top of buildings and solar power parks were built. Along with the installation of photovoltaic and solar power panels, the University started generating electricity, became greener, more economical and sustainable, and also facilitated the qualification development of the University's engineering staff in these areas.

Conservation of heritage

The University, the oldest and longest in operation institution in Lithuania, is responsible for material cultural heritage that is important not only to Vilnius and Lithuania but also to Europe (architectural ensemble, rare prints and manuscripts, other documents, museum exhibits, etc.). In addition to the conservation of heritage and preserving it for future generations, in implementing its third mission, the University pays significant attention to increasing public access to its heritage. The Library and the Museum of Vilnius University actively participate in this by organising events, exhibitions, and tours.

The University Library plays an important role in preserving and promoting documentary heritage of national and European importance, which is available to the public in digital format.