

APPROVED

**By the Senate of the Lithuanian Academy of Physical Education
on 22 June 2011 (Minutes No 9)**

New Revision Approved on 3 November 2011 (Minutes No 2)

New Revision Approved on 5 December 2013 (Minutes no 3)

New Revision Approved on 6 June 2014 (Minutes no9)

New Revision Approved on 30 March 2016 (Minutes no 6)

New Revision Approved on 25 May 2017 (Minutes no. 15)

New Revision Approved on 1 October 2020 (Minutes no. 12)

New Revision Approved on 29 October 2020 (Minutes no. 2)

REGULATIONS OF DOCTORAL STUDIES IN BIOLOGY FIELD OF LITHUANIAN SPORTS UNIVERSITY, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TARTU (ESTONIA)

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This Regulation establishes the procedure for admission to doctoral studies, doctoral studies, doctoral research, preparation and defence of a dissertation at Lithuanian Sports University with the participation of the University of Tartu (hereinafter referred to as Institutions of Joint Doctoral Studies).
2. A doctoral degree shall be awarded to a person who had successfully completed regular or extended doctoral studies and defended a doctoral dissertation. A doctoral degree may also be awarded to a person who had defended a doctoral dissertation externally.
3. Duration of regular (full-time) doctoral studies at Lithuanian Sports University is up to 4 years, duration of extended doctoral studies at Lithuanian Sports University is up to 5 years.
4. Definitions of terms used in the Regulations:

Doctoral student is a third cycle student and researcher.

Doctoral student's work plan is individual work plan, where stages and terms of doctoral studies, research work and dissertation writing are provided.

Scientific supervisor is a researcher, who conducts research in biology, meets the qualification requirements established by the institutions concerned, supervises the studies and the research of the doctoral student.

Doctoral Studies Committee (hereinafter the Committee) is composed of top-level scientists who are responsible for delivering doctoral studies.

Dissertation Defence Council (hereinafter the Council) is a group of scientists who decide whether the candidate is worth to be awarded the doctoral degree after having analysed the submitted dissertation, evaluated the quality of research paper and compliance with the standards of doctoral papers, and having evaluated the doctoral student's research competence.

Research Council is the common unit of the institutions of Joint Doctoral Studies that administers doctoral studies.

Coordinating university means a university designated by the agreement between the joint doctoral institutions. It will submit an application for the grant of a joint doctoral program on behalf of the partner institutions and coordinate the implementation of the joint doctoral program.

Doctoral student's institution means an institution where a doctoral student studies, conducts research and prepares his/ her dissertation.

II. COORDINATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

5. The process of doctoral studies is coordinated by Lithuanian Sports University.

6. Lithuanian Sports University (hereinafter the University) shall:
 - 6.1. Collect information about the progress of joint doctoral studies;
 - 6.2. Handle and file minutes of Doctoral Committee meetings and other documents;
 - 6.3. Accept documents of applicants to doctoral studies;
 - 6.4. Organize defence of dissertations;
 - 6.5. Handle and file documents of doctoral students of the University;
7. University of Tartu shall:
 - 7.1. Participate in the announcement and organization of the contest for dissertation topics and doctoral student supervisors;
 - 7.2. Deliver doctoral studies in collaboration with the University;
8. Doctoral studies and scientific research are coordinated by the Committee.
9. The Committee is composed of 15 prominent scientists in the relevant field of science: 10 full-time researchers from Lithuanian Sports University and 5 from the University of Tartu.
10. University scientists are delegated to the Committee by the university departments and research units. The list of the candidates is approved and the Committee members are then elected by a simple majority by the University Senate. Scientists from the University of Tartu are delegated to the Committee by the Research Department of the University of Tartu. The list of the TU candidates is approved and the Committee members are then elected by a simple majority by the LSU Senate.
11. Committee members shall meet the following qualification requirements: a researcher after defence of the dissertation shall have at least 7 research articles published, 3 of them published in the last five years in peer-reviewed journals indexed in *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* (The former Web of Science Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge; ISI WEB of Science) journal lists.
12. The composition of the Committee is approved by Rector of the Coordinating Institution.
13. Functions of the Committee shall:
 - 13.1. annually announce the competitions for dissertation topics, scientific supervisors and admission to doctoral studies;
 - 13.2. appoint the scientific supervisor(s);
 - 13.3. appoint doctoral student's scientific adviser s (not more than 2) as proposed by the supervisor;
 - 13.4. design the curriculum of doctoral studies, run accreditation of doctoral programmes;
 - 13.5. approve doctoral students' work plans;
 - 13.6. make decisions on crediting the examinations of doctoral programme subjects passed in other higher education institutions;
 - 13.7. make recommendations regarding the eligibility of researchers to deliver subjects of doctoral programme;
 - 13.8. conduct the assessment of doctoral students after the first year of studies and every 6 months afterwards;
 - 13.9. make decisions regarding the appropriateness of the dissertation to be defended upon the proposal of the department (research unit) and scientific supervisor.
 - 13.10. prepare and submit to the Rector of the Coordinating Institution the preliminary list of members of Dissertation Defence Council, appoint the chairman.
 - 13.11. make a list of national and foreign institutions to which information about the defence of the dissertation must be provided;
 - 13.12. assess the quality of dissertations in the relevant field (branch) of science;
 - 13.13. analyse and assess the applications of external students to allow defending the doctoral dissertation, to appoint the scientific adviser for the external student, to make a decision about the crediting of the examinations of doctoral programme subjects passed by the doctoral candidate, to determine the examinations of doctoral programme subjects that must be passed and the deadlines for passing them, to appoint the scientific adviser s and to set the deadlines dissertation defence.
14. Procedures of the Committee:
 - 14.1. The Committee shall elect the chairman from University researchers in the first meeting.
 - 14.2. Minutes of Committee meetings shall be taken;

- 14.3. The quorum of the meeting is at least 2/3 of its members. Committee members from other institutions may attend the meeting and vote by means of telecommunication.
- 14.4. The Committee decision is in force if at least 2/3 of its members participating at the meeting vote for it;
- 14.5. Decisions and proposals of the Committee are documented by the resolutions of Coordinating Institution Senate and/or Rector's orders;
- 14.6. Documents of the Committee shall be handled by Research Office.
15. Doctoral studies and scientific research are organized and their quality is assured by the departments / research units of the Institutions of Joint Doctoral Studies. These units shall:
 - 15.1. propose to the Committee to approve the doctoral student's work plan on the recommendation of the scientific supervisor;
 - 15.2. promote student mobility;
 - 15.3. during doctoral student evaluation procedures, submit to the Committee its conclusions on the quality of doctoral students' work results;
 - 15.4. after the doctoral student has prepared the dissertation, organize its evaluation and submit to the Committee its conclusions on the compliance of the doctoral dissertation with the requirements of the doctoral dissertation.

III. ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

16. Researchers from each institution of the Joint Doctoral Programme in the field of Biology willing to become scientific supervisors every year have to suggest relevant dissertation topics and present short annotations to the Committee.
17. Scientific supervisor has to meet the following requirements: have at least 7 research articles published after dissertation defence, 3 of them published in the last five years in peer-reviewed journals indexed on *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* (Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge (former ISI Web of Science) journal lists.
18. The Committee shall discuss the proposed dissertation topics and approve by voting the list of priority topics. The Committee shall also propose the prospective scientific supervisors. The supervisor may supervise up to five doctoral students simultaneously.
19. The proposed dissertation topics for Lithuanian Sports University have to conform to strategic directions of science of the University.
20. A list of proposed dissertation topics shall be announced on the websites of the coordinating university.
21. Requirements for admission to doctoral studies must be announced by the Rector of the coordinating institution in accordance with the requirement established in national regulatory documents. Holders of MA or an equivalent diploma of higher education can participate in the competition for admission to the Joint Doctoral Studies.
22. Only citizens of Lithuania and EU states are eligible for admission to state-funded places. Fee-paying students may be admitted through separate competitions held (if there are any applicants) in accordance with a separate Rector's order.
23. The candidate must address the application to join the competition for doctoral studies at the University to the Rector and submit it to the Office of Doctoral Studies and Research. The application specifying up to three priority areas of research shall enclose the following documents:
 - 23.1. Curriculum Vitae;
 - 23.2. Copies of an MA diploma or an equivalent diploma of higher education with diploma supplements;
 - 23.3. A list of research papers published in peer-reviewed journals and their printouts;
 - 23.4. A copy of passport or identification card.
 - 23.5. essay on selected PhD topic (according to the requirements).
 - 23.6. other documents indicated in the *Rules of Admission to Doctoral Studies*.
24. Graduates of Master degree studies in the fields other than Life Sciences, Health Sciences, and Sport shall take an examination in Physiology. Having passed the examination, applicants shall continue to participate in the competition in accordance with the procedure laid down.

25. PhD programme applicant selection requirements s:
 - 25.1. positive evaluation of motivation (evaluated following the interview);
 - 25.2. positive evaluation of English skills and positive evaluation of the essay on selected PhD topic.
26. Heads of selected research topics chose the applicants for doctoral studies according to the priority queue.
27. The admission competition to Doctoral Studies is held at the time set up in the regulations of the coordinating institution. The admission competition is organized by the Research Office of the coordinating institution and carried out by the Committee. All candidates for doctoral studies have to participate at the meeting of the Committee.
28. The decision of the Committee the admission or denial of admission to doctoral studies is documented in the minutes of the meeting signed by the Committee chairman.
29. A person is admitted to doctoral studies by coordinating institution Rector's Order and is appointed to a department/research unit according to the applicant's area of research. Rector's order shall specify the field of science, the mode and duration of doctoral studies.
30. If after the admission there a vacancies according to the quotas, the Research Office may organise a second admission round following the same procedure.
31. After the admission the Research Office shall make a doctoral student's file containing the following documents:
 - 31.1. application for admission to doctoral studies with annexes;
 - 31.2. Rector's Order on admission to doctoral studies;
 - 31.3. Documents on the appointment of scientific supervisor and scientific adviser s for the doctoral student;
 - 31.4. doctoral student's work plan;
 - 31.5. Documents on doctoral student's annual assessments;
 - 31.6. Documents on postponing the terms of the work plan;
 - 31.7. Minutes of the doctoral student's examinations
 - 31.8. A list and copies of published doctoral student's research articles and articles accepted for publication;
 - 31.9. Decision about elimination of a student from doctoral studies if a student was eliminated from doctoral studies because of negative assessment or other reasons or did not submit a dissertation for defence;
 - 31.10. Doctoral student's application for permission to defend the dissertation and a proposal of the Committee to defend the dissertation;
 - 31.11. Documents on the formation of the Dissertation Defence Council;
 - 31.12. A list of institutions to which information about dissertation defence was sent;
 - 31.13. Decision of the Dissertation Defence Council about awarding a scientific degree;
 - 31.14. A document confirming that the dissertation was presented to Lithuanian National M. Mažvydas Library and the relevant Library in Estonia;
 - 31.15. A copy of the doctor's diploma.

IV. SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

32. Scientific supervisor (hereinafter referred to as the Supervisor) shall supervise the process of studies and scientific research of the doctoral student. The supervisor must conduct research in the field (branch) of science selected for doctoral studies. The supervisor can supervise up to five doctoral students simultaneously.
33. Where necessary, two supervisors from both institutions can be appointed for the doctoral student; however, only the supervisor working at LSU shall evaluate the implementation of the doctoral student's work plan.
34. Where necessary, scientific advisers (up to two) can be appointed for the doctoral student; they can be scientists of another field of science. Doctoral student advisers may be appointed no earlier than the approval of the topic takes place. A supervisor or an adviser may be a researcher from a

- foreign institution. In cases where the doctoral student's supervisor is from a foreign institution, the doctoral student's adviser shall be from a Lithuanian institution.
35. A scientific adviser to a PhD student shall meet the following qualification requirements: a researcher after defence of the dissertation shall have at least 7 research articles published, 3 of them published in the last five years in peer-reviewed journals indexed in *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* (former Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge; ISI WEB of Science) journal lists.
 36. Doctoral student's supervisor shall:
 - 36.1. Together with the doctoral student draft the doctoral student's work plan;
 - 36.2. Provide scientific and methodological assistance to the doctoral student, help to solve organisational issues related to studies and dissertation writing ;
 - 36.3. Advise the Committee about the progress of doctoral student's studies and scientific research and the feasibility to further doctoral studies;
 - 36.4. Propose candidates for scientific adviser.
 37. The scientific adviser shall:
 - 37.1. Consult the doctoral student in one of fields or branches of science;
 - 37.2. Organise scientific research or experiments in other departments and laboratories of the University or institutions outside the University;

V. THE PROGRAMME OF DOCTORAL STUDIES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DOCTORAL STUDENT'S WORK PLAN)

38. At least one month following the admission, the doctoral student together with the supervisor shall draft a programme of doctoral studies, scientific research, announcement of results and dissertation writing (hereinafter the work plan). The work plan must include the deadlines of all tasks. Purposeful scientific research must be started right at the beginning of doctoral studies. Research internships in Lithuanian and foreign institutions may be planned.
39. If possible, examinations of all subjects included in the work plan must be passed within 18 months following the admission to doctoral studies.
40. The approved work plan shall be kept in doctoral student's file.
41. The curriculum of doctoral studies shall consist of at least four subjects; the scope of the doctoral programme shall be equal to at least 30 ECTS credits.
42. The list shall include two compulsory subjects (one offered by LSU, another by TU); all PhD students in the field at both institutions shall study the subjects. Other subjects shall be selected by a PhD student's scientific supervisor having regard to the specifics of the research.
43. Programmes for each subject have to be designed in the established format and approved by the Committee. Scientific advisers (subject teachers) must meet the requirements for associate professor or senior research fellow.
44. Doctoral student's work plan shall be assessed in accordance with these Regulations.
45. Doctoral student shall study the chosen subjects autonomously following the advice of scientific adviser (subject teacher). Lectures of some doctoral programme subjects can be organized if the number of doctoral students is not less than 3.
46. Doctoral student's research programme (at least 210 ECTS) shall consist of: scientific literature analysis, scientific research, analysis of obtained data and their presentation at international conferences, writing of scientific articles, dissertation writing.
47. Doctoral student's work plan must be confirmed by the department (research unit) and approved by the Committee. The work plan shall be kept in in doctoral student's file.
48. The doctoral student shall conduct scientific research following the approved work plan. The contents, quality, scope and deadlines of research work shall assessed in the student's assessment session.
49. The doctoral student shall be provided with the opportunity to use the research equipment in the departments and research units of the joint doctoral institutions. At least 50 percent of the doctoral study fee received by the institution shall be allocated for doctoral research on the topic of the dissertation and student mobility.

VI. EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE DOCTORAL STUDENT

50. Studies of each subject shall be concluded with examination.
51. The examination board shall consist of at least two examiners: the scientific adviser of the subject (subject teacher) and doctoral student's supervisor or the scientific adviser, or a Committee member.
52. Examination results (10-point system) shall be documented in the examination report signed by all examiners and kept doctoral student's file.
53. The assessment is positive if the mark is not lower than 7 (average) points.
54. Upon research supervisor's proposal the Committee may credit examinations of elective subjects included in the work plan and previously passed in other higher education institutions (in Lithuania and abroad). The doctoral student must furnish the supervisor with minutes of the examination and a list of themes (study programme).
55. The doctoral student shall report to the department (research unit). The department (research unit), in the presence of doctoral student, scientific supervisor and the Committee, shall assess the progress of the work plan and, if necessary, revise the dissertation theme and research programme. Conclusions shall be submitted to the Committee.
56. The Committee shall pass a decision on doctoral student's assessment. The doctoral student and/or his/her supervisor can be invited to the Committee meeting. The Committee shall consider the conclusions made by the department (research unit) and give a positive evaluation (approve the continuation of doctoral student's work plan) or negative evaluation (propose to cancel doctoral studies), or may postpone the attestation, requiring the student to complete the tasks of the work plan before the deadline of postponed attestation. In the latter case, the Committee may revoke the payment of scholarship to the doctoral student. The Committee may propose to change the work plan for objective reasons or accept minor changes initiated by the doctoral student, the supervisor or department to which the doctoral student reports. The Committee's decision must be recorded in the minutes. The doctoral student assessed negatively is eliminated from doctoral studies by Rector's Order.
57. For good reasons (illness, maternity leave, etc.), the Rector may postpone the term of examinations and the annual assessment session planned in doctoral student's work plan and grant the student an academic leave upon the receipt of doctoral student's application and scientific supervisor's consent.

VII. DISSERTATION WRITING AND REVIEWING

58. A doctoral dissertation shall consist of a dissertation text, a summary and copies of scientific publications (or links to the articles) on the dissertation topic written by a person submitting dissertation for defence (hereinafter referred to as the defendant).
59. A list of scientific conferences with publications of scientific research results is presented as well as the dissertation defender's Curriculum Vitae.
60. A doctoral dissertation shall be original research work summarizing the research performed by the doctoral student and addressing a certain research problem in the field of biomedical sciences. A dissertation must contain: a defined research goal and objectives, explanation of research work novelty, an overview of relevant research done by others, research methods employed, analysis of the results obtained, their reliability and relation with the latest data of other researchers, conclusions, other aspects deemed important by the doctoral student. Lists of literature sources and dissertation defender's research publications (or links to an articles) under the topic must be included. A dissertation must be written in correct scientific language.
61. A monograph written without co-authors can also be presented as a doctoral dissertation. Summary of the monograph has to be included. Other scientific research publications are presented if there is a need to disclose the theme of the dissertation.

62. A dissertation based on a collection of scientific articles may be submitted for defence as a doctoral dissertation. In this case, a dissertation shall be composed of a review of at least 1 author's sheet, a summary in the Lithuanian or a foreign language (other than the one used in the review) and copies of scientific publications on the dissertation topic written by the defendant. The defendant shall have the most important findings published in not less than four articles (and be indicated as a lead author of at least one of the articles) published or accepted for publication in international scientific journals with a citation index in *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science*. After defending a dissertation on the basis of a collection of scientific articles, these articles cannot be used to defend other dissertations.
63. The dissertation has to be written in Lithuanian, English or Estonian. Summary of the dissertation or monograph must be presented in a language other than the language of the dissertation or monograph. If the dissertation or monograph was presented in English, the summary must be written in Lithuanian or Estonian.
64. The summary shall include a description of the issue under research, the goals and objectives of research work, explanation of research work novelty, research methodology, the main outcomes and conclusions defended by the dissertation defender. The list of research publications under the topic shall be included together with a short information about the doctoral student.
65. The summary of defended dissertation or monograph (in one language) must not exceed one printer's sheet (one printer's sheet equals to 40.000 characters including spaces).
66. The title page and the second page of a dissertation (in case of a monograph – its summary) shall be laid out in accordance with the examples available on the websites of the Joint Doctoral Studies institutions.
67. The doctoral student may present the dissertation for defence after he/she:
 - 67.1. Had passed all examinations of doctoral study programme;
 - 67.2. Had presented the key research results in at least three scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals. At least two of three articles must be published in the journal indexed in *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* (the former Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge; ISI Web of Science) journal lists (the article may be accepted for publishing) *with a citation index**.
*The requirements applies to those who have been enrolled since 2014.
**The above requirements are applicable to doctoral students who started doctoral studies in 2018 and later.
 - 67.3. Had given verbal or poster presentation based on research results in at least two international scientific events;
 - 67.4. The supervisor had concluded that the dissertation is completed and can be presented for defence.
68. The doctoral student shall present the completed dissertation at the meeting of the department (research unit) in the presence of Committee members. The supervisor has to assess the dissertation orally or, in case of absence under serious circumstances, in writing. The department (research unit) has to assess the dissertation, as well as research articles under the research topic and submit its conclusions to the Committee.
69. On the recommendation of the department (research unit) and with the Committee's approval, the doctoral student shall defend the dissertation within 12 months after the completion of doctoral studies.
70. If the doctoral student does not submit the dissertation or does not defend it one year after completion of doctoral studies, the dissertation can be defended externally after paying the dissertation defence fee set by the institution.
71. The Committee must appoint two researchers-experts to assess the quality of a doctoral dissertation.
72. When experts' conclusions in writing are presented, the Committee may decide that:
 - 72.1. The dissertation has been completed properly, it meets the requirements of the Regulations, the doctoral student has a required number of research publications as well as presented research results at international scientific events and the dissertation can be submitted for defence without any or with minor corrections;

- 72.2. The dissertation is not completed and major corrections are required.
73. Having decided that the dissertation can be submitted for defence, the Committee shall:
- 73.1. draft the composition of the Dissertation Defence Council and appoint the chairman;
- 73.2. Prepare a list of addressees in Lithuania as well as in foreign institutions who will be informed about the forthcoming defence of the dissertation;
- 73.3. Set a deadline for defence which cannot be longer than 1 year after completion of doctoral studies and not earlier than 6 weeks after the decision on dissertation defence was made;
74. The Dissertation Defence Council shall consist of five scientists. Member of the Council can be a researcher who had at least seven research articles published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge (former ISI Web of Science) journal lists; three articles must have been published in the last five years. No members of the Dissertation Defence Council shall be co-authors of any publications with the defendant. More than half of the members of the Dissertation Defence Council shall not be co-authors of publications with the scientific supervisor.
75. One member of the Council must be appointed as Chairman. At least one member of the Council must be from the institution of the Joint Doctoral Studies. There cannot be any conflicts of interests between the dissertation defender and the supervisor or members of the Council.
76. After the Rector signs the order:
- 76.1. The doctoral student must complete the dissertation as well as the summary of the dissertation and within at least 10 days upload the summary of the dissertation (in Adobe PDF format) on the website of the Joint Doctoral Studies institution;
- 76.2. The Research Office of the institution shall organise the printing of the required number of copies of the dissertation.
77. At least 30 days before the defence of the dissertation the Research Office shall send one copy of the dissertation to each member of the Board and to the libraries of Joint Doctoral studies institutions.
78. At least 30 days before the defence Research Office shall announce information about the defence of the dissertation on the websites of the institutions concerned as well as on the website of the Science Council of Lithuania or equivalent authority of Estonia and shall inform Lithuanian and foreign institutions specified by the Doctoral Committee.
79. The announcement about the defence of the dissertation must contain the following information: dissertation defender's name, surname, hosting institution, supervisor (or scientific adviser for external students), members of the Dissertation Defence Board (scientific degree, name, surname, field(s) and branch(s) of science, institution represented,), title of the dissertation, place and time of defence as well as links to the website with electronic version of the dissertation.

VIII. DISSERTATION DEFENCE OF AND DEGREE AWARDING

80. Dissertation Defence Board members shall submit their reviews of the dissertation in writing to Research Offices of relevant institutions at least five working days prior to the defence of the dissertation.
81. The reviews shall assess the scientific level of the dissertation, its novelty and originality, credibility of conclusions, specify the shortcomings and inaccuracies.
82. The dissertation shall be defended in a public meeting of the Dissertation Defence Council. The meeting shall take place at the doctoral student's institution in the national language. If, as approved by the Council, the meeting is held in a foreign language, the Research Office must provide interpreting service. The meeting shall be headed by the Council chairman. Council members from foreign institutions may attend the meeting by means of videoconferencing. A meeting is considered legitimate if at least four of five Council members (including videoconferencing members) are present. Reviews of the absent members and other comments regarding the dissertation shall be read orally.
83. Proceedings of the meeting must be recorded. Electronic recording of the meeting must be stored for five years in the Research Offices of the institution where the dissertation was defended.

84. Documents of the Council are handled and the meeting is serviced by the Research Office.
85. Dissertation Defender shall present the most significant results and conclusions of the research, specifies his/her contribution to research publications presented in the list. All members of the Board shall give a well-reasoned evaluation of the dissertation quality and research competence of the Dissertation Defender. The Defender shall answers question and comment on remarks.
86. After discussions the Council members shall vote openly for or against awarding a doctoral degree. The Council members who participate by means of videoconferencing shall also vote. The decision to grant a doctoral degree is made if at least four of five Council members vote for it. Minutes of the meeting must be signed by all members of the Council who participated at the meeting. If a decision is made not to award a doctoral degree, the voting minutes shall state the reasons for such a decision.
87. Should the Council decide to deny awarding the doctoral degree, the dissertation defender can resubmit the amended and/or supplemented doctoral dissertation for defence only one year later. (add about plagiarism)
88. Within 10 working days after the defence of the dissertation, the Research Office must announce the results of the defence meeting to the institutions concerned in accordance with normative documents. The report to the Council shall provide information on the reasons why the dissertation was not defended.
89. Within two weeks after the defence the dissertation defender of the must submit one copy of the dissertation to Lithuanian National M. Mažvydas Library and adequate authority of Estonia.
90. Within two weeks after the defence the dissertation or its summary must be entered into the electronic thesis and dissertations database (ETD) pursuant to the Description of the procedure for the writing, submitting and uploading final papers, doctoral dissertations, their summaries, reviews of research papers presented for habilitation procedure onto Lithuanian higher education and research database system approved by LSU Rector's order.
91. A person who had successfully defended a doctoral dissertation is awarded a doctoral degree and issued a diploma. The diploma is signed by the Chairman of the Council and the Rectors of both institutions of Joint Doctoral Studies.
92. Doctoral degree diploma forms, the procedure of diploma template printing, registration and accounting are established by national governments of the institutions of Joint Doctoral Studies.
93. The dissertation defender may within three working days appeal the negative decision of the Council to the Senate of the institution where the dissertation defence took place. The appeal must be analysed and a decision shall be made within 20 working days after its lodging.
94. In case the Dissertation Defence Council denies granting the degree, an amended and (or) supplemented dissertation may be provided for defence in one year at the earliest. In this case, a doctoral degree shall be acquired externally in accordance with the requirements laid down in Chapter IX.
95. The decision to award a doctor's degree can be revoked if facts of plagiarism or facts of violations of the regulations are found.
96. The decision on revoking the awarded doctoral degree must be approved by the Senate.
97. A doctoral dissertation defence shall be considered timely if it is defended not later than one year after the end of doctoral studies.

IX. OBTAINING A DOCTORAL DEGREE EXTERNALLY

98. A person applying for a doctoral degree externally must hold a master's degree or an equivalent diploma of higher education (hereinafter referred to as an external student).
 - 98.1. Have a monograph published or presented their research results in at least three scientific journals indexed in international databases approved by the Science Council of Lithuania. At least two of three articles must be published (or accepted for publishing) in peer-reviewed journals indexed in Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge (former ISI Web of Science) journal lists.

- 98.2. Have made oral or poster presentations results of scientific research in at least two international scientific events.
99. The application addressed to the Rector for the permission to defend the doctoral dissertation shall be submitted to Research Office. The following documents must be enclosed with the application:
- 99.1. A dissertation manuscript or a published monograph;
 - 99.2. A list of research publications and copies of their electronic versions;
 - 99.3. Copies of MA diploma or an equivalent diploma of higher education with diploma supplements;
 - 99.4. Copies or extracts from the minutes of examinations of doctoral studies (if such examinations were taken and passed);
 - 99.5. Curriculum Vitae.
100. The Rector shall forward the application with enclosed documents to the Committee. The Committee shall appoint two reviewers to assess the significance of published research results and decide whether the dissertation or monograph meets the requirements of Clauses 57 and 58 of these Regulations, and decide in which department (research unit) the doctoral student will conduct the research.
101. Within three months following the receipt of the application the Committee shall analyse the material and make a decision whether the dissertation manuscript or the monograph meet the requirements of doctoral dissertation. If the decision is positive the Committee shall:
- 101.1. specify what changes in the dissertation or its summary must be made and set the deadline for implementing the changes;
 - 101.2. propose a scientific adviser for the external student. The approved scientific adviser shall perform the research supervisor's functions as provided in this Regulation. If the external student previously was a doctoral student but had not submitted the dissertation for defence, the Committee may appoint his/her former supervisor or another person to be the external student's scientific adviser;
 - 101.3. make a decision about crediting of the examinations of doctoral studies passed by the external student, decide what additional examinations of doctoral studies until when must be taken by the applicant, decide the composition of Examination Board, the procedure of examination; passed by the external student and specify the deadlines and determine the examiners and the process of examination;
 - 101.4. Form the Examination Board(s);
 - 101.5. Set a deadline for defence of the dissertation which shall not be later than one year after the decision was made.
102. Having received an approval of the Committee the external student can defend the dissertation as established in these Regulations.
103. The external student shall cover the costs directly related to degree awarding. The fee is determined by the Senate.
104. In the event the Committee rejects the external student's application to defend the dissertation another application to defend the dissertation externally may be submitted not before the expiry of a period of one year.

Senate Chairman

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vidas Bružas

Senate Secretary

Dr. Kristina Bradauskienė