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# STUDENTS RIGHTS

AND

# WARRANTIES DECLARATION



Lietuvos  
studentų sąjunga

## 02

The Lithuanian Students' Union, based on many years of experience, claims that students lack information about their rights and guarantees, and opportunities to influence the quality of the higher education process.

For this reason, the Lithuanian Students' Union decided to prepare the Declaration of Student Rights and Guarantees as one of the measures intended to help persons studying in Lithuanian higher education institutions to defend their rights, legitimate interests and expectations. It is hoped that this publication will strengthen the individual self-confidence of each student, provide a legal basis for reasoned opinion formation and become a tool for creating a brighter tomorrow, for which each student is responsible.

The Lithuanian Students' Union is a national, democratic, independent and non-governmental organization representing the interests of Lithuanian students, uniting 30 student governments of Lithuanian higher schools and representing 120 thousand students. The Lithuanian Students' Union represents Lithuanian students and defends them at the national level. In order to realize this mission, the Union organizes events and campaigns. In this way, the aim is to draw the public's attention to the existing problems, to create and improve the education system together, to promote the partnership of students and the entire academic community.

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**THE RIGHT TO ACCESSIBLE PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT  
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**RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES OF STUDENTS**

## STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND SUMMARY OF WARRANTIES

*Student - a person studying at a higher education institution according to a study program or a doctoral program (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 4, p. 2)*

### RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

- Higher education is accessible to all according to each person's ability. Free education is guaranteed to well-educated citizens in public higher education institutions (LR Constitution, Article 41, d. 3).
- The student's study results after completing the module (subject) are evaluated by assigning them to the level of study achievements (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 78, p. 1).
- There are three levels of modules (subjects) of study achievements: excellent, typical and threshold (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 78, p. 2).
- After the evaluation period determined by the higher education institution, which is no longer than the year of study, the evaluations of the modules (subjects) are summarized and the level of study achievements of the evaluation period is determined (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 78, p. 3).

## THE RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

- A student who does not have academic debts, who has fulfilled all the requirements of the study program during the evaluation period and who has achieved an excellent or typical level of achievement is considered a good student (Law on Research and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 78, p. 4).
- For a student whose short-cycle, first-cycle or integral studies are state-financed, after the evaluation period determined by the higher education institution, which is no longer than a year of study, the state funding for studies remains, if he meets the established criteria for good education. If a student does not meet the criteria for good learning, he loses state funding (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 78, Paragraph 5).
- Students have the right to study according to the chosen study program (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 62.1p.1d).
- Students have the right to study according to more than one study program or other study subjects in the same or another higher education institution (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Art. 62, p. 1, p. 3).
- Students have the right to assess the quality of the teaching and study provision of the subjects they are studying (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies, Article 62, Section 1, Paragraph 4).

## THE RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

- If the employee is studying on his own initiative in pursuit of a bachelor's degree, master's degree and/or professional qualification according to formal vocational training programs and the employer pays all or at least half of these costs, the parties to the employment contract may additionally agree that the employee, during the period , until he continues his studies paid for by the employer and within three years after the end of this period, he can terminate the employment contract on his own initiative without valid reasons only after compensating the employer for the expenses incurred (Labor Code of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 37, p. 4).
- The employer must comply with the employee's request to grant annual leave to employees who study without interrupting work, combining the annual leave with the time for exams, taking credits, preparation of diploma (bachelor, master) work, laboratory work and consultations (Labor Code of the Republic of Lithuania, Art. 128, p. 3 d.).
- Employees who study according to formal education programs are granted study leave according to the certificates of the education providers implementing these programs (Labor Code of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 135 p. 1):
  - 1. to prepare and take regular exams - three calendar days for each exam;
  - 2. to prepare and hold tests - two calendar days for each test;
  - 3. to perform laboratory work and consult - as many days as determined in the training plans and schedules;

# THE RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

- 4. thirty calendar days to complete and defend a diploma (bachelor's, master's) thesis or doctoral dissertation or art project.
- The beginning and end of the study year is determined by the higher education institution. During the study year, students must be granted an uninterrupted vacation of at least one month (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 53, Paragraph 1).
- In order to carry out student internships provided for in the study program, the company, institution or organization where the student is doing an internship, and the student and the higher education institution where he is studying, conclude a practical training contract. The model contract form is approved by the Minister of Education and Science. The higher education institution is responsible for the organization of student internships (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 53, p. 16).
- Up to 10 percent students who have graduated from the best colleges and seek to acquire competences and abilities to continue their studies according to the master's study program, taking into account the results of their studies at the college, can study according to the compensatory and/or additional studies carried out by the university at a state-funded place in accordance with the procedure established by the Minister of Education and Science (LR Science and Studies law, article 56, p. 2).

## THE RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

- The service provider (in this case, the higher education institution), when providing the services, must act honestly and reasonably, so that it best meets the interests of the customers, and in this case, the students. Legal interpretation – this means that such a norm legitimizes the principle of the priority of students' interests over the higher education institution with which the contract was concluded, because the service provider must always give priority to the client's interests and act in his favor (Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 6.718).
- In accordance with the procedure established by the government or its authorized institution, support (no more than 530 amounts of basic social allowance (hereinafter referred to as BSI) for one year of study) may be granted to citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who have enrolled in and are studying in higher education institutions outside the Republic of Lithuania, as well as to citizens of other European Union member states, for citizens of the countries of the European Free Trade Association, who work and/or have the right to live permanently in the Republic of Lithuania and their family members. This support can also be granted to citizens of other foreign countries and stateless persons who have the right to live permanently in the Republic of Lithuania, unless otherwise stipulated in international treaties or other legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 82, p. 9).
- Persons studying at state-financed places must not pay any fees to the state higher education institution directly related to the implementation of the study program, except for the cases specified in Article 80, Part 3 of the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 83, Paragraph 5).



## RIGHT TO ACCESS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Specific student support systems need to be available without financial burdens, as good health and wellbeing, whether mental or physical, should not be a luxury but a right (Social Dimension Policy Paper, adopted at the European Students' Union Board Meeting 77 in Malta, in December of 2019).
- International experts working with the "PL4SD" (Peer Learning for the Social Dimension) project, after their visit to Lithuania, prepared a package of recommendations, the conclusions of which emphasize that support for students should be directed not only to financial, but also to academic and psychological support (European Union programs based on the Lifelong Learning project, PL4SD report).
- Residents are provided with free psychological consultations at the Mental Health Centers operating in municipalities (Such services for residents are financed from the compulsory health insurance fund (PSDF). paid from

Approval of the budget of the mandatory health insurance fund, classifier", classifier 3430 - Outpatient short-term psychosocial rehabilitation).

## RIGHT TO ACCESS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- The fifth task is to strengthen psycho-emotional health: to
- ensure assistance provided by emotional support lines to persons experiencing an emotional
- crisis; ensure the availability of psychiatric and psychological support services provided in mental health centers; to ensure the
- implementation of psychological assistance and preventive measures for the reduction of suicide risk factors for persons with serious somatic diseases; increase public awareness
- and literacy in the field of mental health, reducing stigmatizing public attitudes; systematically carry out measures for the
- prevention of domestic violence and bullying and strengthening the psychological resilience of target population groups; reduce the consumption of
- alcohol and other psychoactive substances, strengthen the prevention of addiction diseases, early intervention, improve the diagnosis of mental and behavioral disorders; to develop healthy
- sexual habits. (Resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Approval of the Lithuanian Health Strategy 2014-2025", p. 94).

## RIGHT TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Taking into account the legal regulation of the support granted to students, the purposes of its allocation and the payment procedure, the support provided (paid) to students in accordance with the procedure established by the Description in the aspect of the application of the Personal Income Tax Law of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Personal Income Tax Law) is, according to its content, to be considered as student scholarships, financed with state funds. Article 17 of the General Labor Code 1 d. In point 33, it is established that scholarships and allowances for school students and pupils, for which funds from the state budget and municipal budgets of the Republic of Lithuania are used, are classified as non-taxable income of the population. Pursuant to this regulation of the Polish Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in the description of the procedure "Regarding Support to citizens of the Republic of Lithuania enrolled in and studying in higher education institutions outside the Republic of Lithuania, as well as to citizens of other European Union member states, European Free Trade Association states, who work and/or have the right to permanently reside in the Republic of Lithuania , and their family members, as well as citizens of other foreign countries and stateless persons who have the right to live permanently in the Republic of Lithuania" according to the established procedure, the support provided (paid) to students is not subject to income tax (Explanation of the State Tax Inspectorate regarding non-taxation of the provided support).

## 1 2

# RIGHT TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- The following financial assistance measures are provided to the disabled who meet the requirements of point 6 of the above-mentioned
- Description: 4.1 to meet special needs - monthly target payment of 50 percent of the basic state social insurance pension; 4.2. for those studying in public
- higher education institutions in places partially financed or not financed by the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania - a target payment of 0.2 times the amount of the minimum standard of living established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for each semester to partially compensate the costs of studies.

(Government Resolution No. 831 "On the provision of financial assistance measures for the disabled studying in higher education institutions", p. 4).

- In accordance with the procedure and amount determined by the government, the tuition fee paid during the relevant period is compensated every year for persons who have completed the year of study with the best results in non-state-funded short, first and second cycle or integral study places (part of the tuition fee, no higher than the standard tuition fee). The number of persons who are compensated for the tuition fee (a part of the tuition fee, no higher than the standard tuition fee), according to the specific field of higher education studies, is determined by Article 79 of the Law on Science and Studies. the procedure established in paragraph 2. In places of study not financed by the state, the ranks of those who have completed the best year of study according to the fields of study are formed according to the procedure established by the higher education institution. (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies, Article 79, p. 1).

# 1 3

## RIGHT TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Financial assistance measures are provided to citizens of the Republic of Lithuania or citizens of other states and stateless persons who have declared their permanent place of residence in the Republic of Lithuania or are included in the records of persons who have not declared their place of residence in accordance with the procedure established by the Law on Declaration of Place of Residence of the Republic of Lithuania and who meet all of
    - the following conditions: 45 percent or less level of work ability or severe or moderate level of disability; is
    - studying at a higher education institution for the first time after the diagnosis of disability, i.e. without completing the studies of the relevant level (except for the case provided for in clause 14.3 of the description): according to the first-level (aims to obtain a professional bachelor's or bachelor's qualification degree) study program or
    - according to the integrated studies program; according to second-cycle program;
    - according to the professional study
    - program; according to third-cycle (doctoral) studies program;
    - according to the short study program.
- (Government Resolution No. 831 "On the provision of financial assistance measures for the disabled studying in higher education institutions", p. 6).

# 1 4

## RIGHT TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Students can be paid social, incentive grants and study grants. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 82, p. 1)
- The state higher education incentive scholarship fund is created and these scholarships are awarded according to the procedure established by the senates (academic councils) of the state higher education schools, coordinated with the student self-government. (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies, Article 82, p. 3).
- Expenditure on student promotion amounts to 4.0 BSI. (Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania N.149 "On the Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies", p. 5 of the description of the procedure for calculating the tuition fees of a standard field of study or a group of study programs and allocating funds from the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania to pay the tuition fees at state-funded study places).
- Incentive scholarships for the best students, regardless of the nature of their study financing, are awarded from higher education institutions or other funds, taking into account study results or other academic achievements. (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies, Article 82, p. 3).

## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

- Students of higher education institutions of the Republic of Lithuania studying under full-time study programs, citizens of the Republic of Lithuania and citizens of other countries and stateless persons permanently residing in the Republic of Lithuania, studying in European Union member states (including the United Kingdom) are considered insured persons who are insured with state funds. and the Kingdom of Northern Ireland, if the studies were started before the date of this country's withdrawal from the European Union) in higher education institutions according to study programs of permanent study form, students who study in schools of the Republic of Lithuania according to general education programs in the form of group learning in the daily way of organizing the education process (except for adults , who learn according to adult primary, basic, secondary education programs) and individual learning in the form of self-organization of the educational process, according to formal vocational education programs in the form of group learning in the daily organization of the educational process, and in the form of individual learning in the independent way of organizing the educational process (Law on Health Insurance of the Republic of Lithuania , Art. 6 4 p. 7th).
- The right to purchase a one-time or fixed-term nominal ticket for long-distance or local (suburban) regular transportation buses, passenger trains with a 50 percent discount is available to high school students studying on a full-time or full-time basis, in the Republic of Lithuania, other  
Citizens of European Union member states and European Economic Area states and their families

## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

members studying in higher education institutions of the member states of the European Union or the countries of the European Economic Area according to the permanent or full-time form of study, as well as students who study according to the formal vocational education programs in the form of group learning in the daily way of organizing the educational process, in the form of individual learning in the independent way of organizing the educational process. (Law on Transport Benefits of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 5, p. 3).

- Students have the right to take an academic leave due to illness, on the recommendation of a doctor or a doctor's advisory committee, or due to pregnancy and childbirth, child care, as well as once during the study period for personal reasons, but for a period not exceeding one study year, without losing student status and rights after on academic leave to continue their studies at a state-financed place of study, if they studied there before going on academic leave. (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies, Article 62, p. 1, p. 11).
- If there are no students studying at non-state-financed study sites who meet the criteria for good learning in the short-cycle, first-cycle and integral studies study course of the relevant field of study and form of study, state funding for studies remains for students studying at state-financed study sites and who do not have academic debts, even though their evaluation period the level of achievement is threshold. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 78, p. 6).



## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

- Students of higher education institutions studying on a full-time or full-time basis, citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, other European Union member states and European Economic Area states and their family members studying on a full-time or full-time basis in higher education institutions of European Union member states or European Economic Area states, children from 7 to 8 years old, students who study in schools according to general education programs (except adults who study according to adult primary, basic, secondary education programs) in the form of group learning in the daily way of organizing the educational process and in the form of individual learning in the independent way of organizing the educational process, according to the programs of formal professional education in the form of group learning in the form of daily organization of the educational process and in the form of individual learning in the form of independent organization of the educational process, and in schools implementing specialized education programs, students have the right to purchase a ticket for riding local (city) regular transportation buses and trolleybuses with these discounts (Law on Transport Benefits of the Republic of Lithuania, Art. 5 p. 6): fixed-term nominal travel ticket -  
  
with 80 percent 1. discount; one-time ticket - with a 50 percent  
discount. 2.

## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

### ● **Social scholarships:** 1.

Social scholarships are paid from the state budget to students of short, first, second, third cycle, integrated and professional studies of higher education institutions. The amount of the social scholarship is 6.5 times the amount of the basic social allowance per month. Social scholarships are awarded for the study semester.

2. A social scholarship is awarded when the student meets at least one of the criteria at the time of accepting applications for a social scholarship: he is one of the persons

living together or one 1. living person who has the right to receive or is receiving a social allowance according to the Law of the Republic of

Lithuania on Monetary Social Support for Indigent Residents ; has a 45 percent 2. or lower level of work capacity or a severe or disability level

determined in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts; is no older than 25 years old and until he reaches adulthood 3.

guardianship (care) has been established in accordance with the procedure established by law or both of his parents (he has only one parent) are dead.

3. The following students do not have the right to receive social

1. scholarships: persons specified in Article 80, Part 2 of this Law; after going on academic leave;

2. having more than 3 academic debts according to the procedure established by the higher

education institution; students who have fulfilled the requirements of the study program, 4. but they have been postponed the defense of the final thesis or the completion of the final exam.

## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

4. A student who meets more than one of the criteria set out in part 2 of this article or who studies under several study programs at the same time, is awarded only one social scholarship per study semester.

5. Payment of the social stipend is terminated:

1. if the student completes his studies earlier than the scheduled graduation date, interrupts his studies or expels the student from the higher education institution; after the occurrence and/or becoming clear of the circumstances specified in paragraph 3 of this article 2., due to which the student could not be awarded a social scholarship; 3. upon the death of the student.

6. The procedure for awarding and administering social scholarships is determined by the Government. This amendment to the law, with the exception of paragraph 2 of this article, enters into force in 2020. July 1) (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 82(1))

- Conditions under which cohabitants or a single cohabitant are entitled to cash social assistance: Individuals studying in a general education program or in a formal vocational training program or studying at a higher education institution (students), including periods of academic leave due to illness or pregnancy, until they reach the age of 24 years and in the period from the date of completion of the general education program until September 1 of the same year, but no longer than they turn 24. (Law on Social Fund Support for Indigent Residents of the Republic of Lithuania, Art. 8, p. 1, p. 2)

## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

- Everyone is free to choose work and business and has the right to adequate, safe and healthy working conditions, fair remuneration for work and social security in case of unemployment. (Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 48).
- The state guarantees the right of citizens to receive old-age and disability pensions, social support in the event of unemployment, illness, widowhood, loss of a breadwinner and other cases provided for by law. (Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 52).
- An unemployed person is a person who meets the following conditions: does not study according to general education programs, except for persons who study according to adult primary, basic, secondary education programs. (Law on Employment of the Republic of Lithuania, Art. 22, p. 1, p. 5).
- The right to an unemployment insurance benefit is available to the persons registered in the territorial labor exchange, specified in Article 4 of the Law on Unemployment Social Insurance of the Republic of Lithuania, who have been granted the status of unemployed, if the territorial labor exchange did not offer them appropriate employment or active labor market policy measures and if they meet at least one of the following conditions: up to has at least 18 months of unemployment insurance experience during the last 36 months of registration at the territorial labor exchange; (Law on Unemployment Social Insurance of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 5, Paragraph 1, Paragraph 1).

## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

- The student has the right to change the study program and/or form of study, while maintaining state funding, in the following cases with accompanying consequences:
- Changing the study form and/or study program in the same group of study areas in the same or another state higher education institution, without changing the type of study program (university, college studies), is possible no earlier than after the end of the first semester of the first year of study for persons studying under the first, second degree, integral and professional study programs (except for persons studying under residency study programs);
- Changing the form of study and/or the study program in the same group of study areas in the same or another higher education institution, without changing the type of study program (university, college studies), is possible no earlier than after the completion of the first year of study for persons receiving a study scholarship, studying according to the first, second degree studies and integral studies

Software;

- It is possible for individuals to change the residency study program, without changing the acquired qualification (specialization), in the same group of study areas in another state higher education institution, no earlier than after completing the first year of studies;
- It is possible to change the residency study program, and at the same time the acquired qualification (specialization) in the same group of study areas in the same or another higher education institution once, for persons who: due to a diagnosis based on the
- results of the researches established and carried out, cannot continue their studies according to certain residency study programs;

## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

- studies according to the residency study program, upon completion of which the qualification of a pediatrician is obtained (specialization), - to another study program, upon completion of which the qualification of a pediatrician is obtained (specialization) and another professional qualification of medical practice (specialization);
- is studying according to a residency study program, after completion of which the qualification of a pediatrician (specialization) is obtained and another professional qualification (specialization) of medical practice, - into a study program, after completion of which the qualification of a pediatrician (specialization) is obtained, or into another study program, which after completion the qualification of a pediatrician (specialization) and a professional qualification (specialization) of medical practice other than the previously studied one are acquired. (Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 149 "On the Implementation of the Law on Science and Studies", page 3 of the description of cases and procedures for changing the study program and form of study while maintaining state fu
- A student changing the study program and/or form of study must complete the semester (in the case of residency and persons receiving study scholarships - the year of study) without academic debts and apply in writing to the higher education institution where he intends to continue his studies, according to the procedure established by the higher education institution, but no later as 10 days before the start of the new study semester (in the case of residency, the year of residency studies). In the request to change the study program and/or form of study, the studied program and/or form of study must be indicated.

## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

- A student changing his study program and/or form of study, after receiving a decision that he can study according to another study program and/or form of study at another higher education institution, within 3 working days of receiving the decision, informs the higher education institution where he is studying and indicates the degree of study. the reason for termination at that higher education institution is the change of study form and/or study program when changing the higher education institution.

(Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 149 "On the Implementation of the Law on Science and Studies", page 4 of the description of cases and procedures for changing the study program and form of study while maintaining state funding).

- If the price of the desired study program is not higher than the price of the study program being changed, the cost of the study program determined by the higher education institution is paid from the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania. (Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 149 "On the Implementation of the Law on Science and Studies", p. 6.1 describes the cases and procedures for changing the study program and form of study while maintaining state funding).
- For a student receiving a study scholarship who changes the study program and/or form of study, the study scholarship remains, but not higher than the standard tuition fee of the changed study program and/or form of study; if the study scholarship is lower than the tuition fee determined by the higher education institution, the difference in the tuition fee from the beginning of the semester is paid by the student changing the study program and/or form. (Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 149 "On the Implementation of the Law on Science and Studies", p. 6.2 describes the cases and procedures for changing the study program and form of study while maintaining state funding).

## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

- For a student who changes the form of studies, the cost and duration of financing of the form of study chosen at the time of admission remain, except for the cases specified in point 6.2 and point 8 of the Description. (Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 149 "On the Implementation of the Law on Science and Studies", page 9 of the description of cases and procedures for changing the study program and form of study while maintaining state funding).
- For the student changing the study program, specified in Clause 3.4 of the Description, state funding of studies remains for the entire duration of the chosen study program. (Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 149 "On the Implementation of the Law on Science and Studies", page 10 of the description of cases and procedures for changing the study program and form of study while maintaining state funding).
- If a student changes the study program in the study group of the same field of study and the price of his previous studies differs from the new study price, when calculating the amount of funds for studies, the lower study price is taken, without losing the remaining part of the state funding of studies, not higher than the standard tuition price of the new study program. (Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 149 "On the Implementation of the Law on Science and Studies", p. 14 of the description of the procedure for calculating the tuition fees of a normative field of study or a group of study programs and allocating funds from the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania to pay for the tuition fees at state-funded study places).



## THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL BENEFITS WARRANTIES

- States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities have access to general higher education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with other persons. To this end, the States Parties to this Convention shall ensure that conditions are adequately adapted to persons with disabilities. (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 24, p. 5).
- An environment that best promotes academic and social development must provide effective individualized supports consistent with the goal of full inclusion. (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Art. 24 p. 2 p. e d).

# RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE HIGH SCHOOLS DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

- The higher school council consists of 9 or 11 members.  
The specific number of members of the higher education council is determined by the statute of the higher education institution. One member is appointed and dismissed by the Student Self-Government in accordance with its established procedure, if there is no general meeting (conference) of students, other members of the academic community elect and dismiss, respectively, no more than 4 or 5 members belonging to the staff of the higher education institution in accordance with the procedure established by the senate (academic council). According to the procedure established by the Senate (academic council), 4 or 5 members who do not belong to the staff and students of the higher education institution are elected and dismissed respectively, one member of which is the student self-government according to its own procedure. These 3 or 4 members are selected through a public tender. Council members are elected separately for each of the 8 or 10 seats, respectively, defined by the senate (academic council) taking into account the different interests of the higher education institution. The composition of the council is publicly announced by the chairman of the senate (academic council) (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 27, p. 3).
- Members of the senate (academic council) can be members of the academic community of the university (college), members of the university (college) administration who are included in the senate (academic council) according to their position, as well as researchers, teachers and recognized artists from other scientific and study institutions.  
Representatives appointed by students must comprise at least 20 percent of the members of the senate (academic council).  
Student representatives to the senate (academic council) are appointed by the student self-government, and if there is no student self-government, by the general meeting (conference) of students. Professor and

# RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE HIGH SCHOOLS DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

the persons holding the position of chief researcher must make up at least 20 percent of the members of the senate. Persons holding the positions of associate professor and senior researcher must comprise at least 20 percent of the members of the senate (academic council). Members of the senate (academic council) shall, according to their position, make up no more than 10 percent of the members of the senate (academic council). Ex officio members of the Senate (academic council) may be employees of other scientific and study institutions. The rector (director) of the higher school is an ex officio member of the senate (academic council). (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 28, p. 5).

- Students' interests are represented in the management bodies, advisory and dispute resolution structures of the higher education institution and its departments by student representatives, who are appointed by the student self-government according to its established procedure, and if there is no student self-government, by the general meeting (conference) of students. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 30).
- If there are students studying in the field for which the decision was taken not to accredit, the higher education institution must implement measures to ensure that students studying in the field have the opportunity to complete quality studies within 2 months (not including the months of July and August) from the day of the decision on the non-accreditation of field the plan (hereinafter referred to as the plan of measures) (that is, to indicate what measures the higher education institution will take in order to correct the fundamental shortcomings of the field of study). The plan of measures also includes suggestions for

# RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE HIGH SCHOOLS DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

further study opportunities for students. (Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania "Regarding the approval of the evaluation areas and indicators of the description of the external evaluation and accreditation procedure of studies" evaluation areas and indicators p. 24.1).

- The higher education measures plan is being considered by the commission formed by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports The Ministry, representatives of Lithuanian higher education institutions and student representative offices, social partners of higher education institutions, which submits proposals to the Minister of Education, Science and Sports regarding the further study opportunities of the students, no later than within 3 months from the date of receipt of the plan of measures. The Minister of Education, Science and Sports makes the decision regarding further study options for students studying in higher education. The Ministry informs the Center and the higher school about the adopted decision. Taking into account the decision made by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports, the Center makes a decision on the extension of the accreditation period for the field of studies and the duration of the accreditation period. (Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania "On approval of the description of the procedure for external evaluation and accreditation of studies, evaluation areas and indicators", p. 25).
- If there are students studying in the field of study for which the decision to de-accredit was made, the higher education institution, higher education institution in exile, branch must, within 2 months (not including the months of July and August) from the day of the decision on the non-accreditation of the field of study, make measures to ensure that those studying in the field of study

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the implementation plan for students to complete high-quality studies (that is, to indicate what measures the higher education institution, the higher education institution in exile, the branch will take in order to correct the fundamental shortcomings of the field studies). (Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania "On the approval of the description of the procedure for external evaluation and accreditation of studies, evaluation areas and indicators", Article 25, p. 1).

- Proposals for a higher education institution, a higher education institution in exile, or a branch are considered by a commission formed by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports from the Ministry, representatives of Lithuanian higher education institutions and student governments, and social partners of higher education institutions, which makes a decision on further study options no later than within 3 months. The Ministry informs the Study Quality Assessment Center and the higher school about the commission's decision. Taking into account the commission's decision, the Center makes a decision on the extension of the accreditation term of the field of studies and the length of the accreditation term or non-accreditation. (Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania "On approval of the description of the procedure for external evaluation and accreditation of studies, evaluation areas and indicators", p. 26).
- The Minister of Education, Science and Sports shall, within 20 working days from the date of adoption of the decision in Clause 22.3 of the Description, make a decision to revoke the permission of the higher education institution to conduct studies and study-related activities. In cases where there are students who have studied in a public higher education institution whose accreditation is suspended, but have not completed it, education,

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# RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE HIGH SCHOOLS DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

the Minister of Science and Sports determines their further study options. (Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania "On the approval of the description of the external assessment and accreditation procedure, assessment areas and indicators of higher education institutions and branches of higher educational institutions of foreign countries", p. 26).

# FOREIGN STUDENTS RIGHTS AND WARRANTIES IN LITHUANIA

- The following types of scholarships can be awarded for foreign studies and Lithuanian education in Lithuanian higher education institutions: partial studies of all levels of study in various fields of study (hereinafter - partial studies); for studies of second-cycle permanent forms of study (hereinafter - master's studies); for learning the Lithuanian language according to Lithuanian education programs (hereinafter - Lithuanian studies); for intensive (up to one month duration) Lithuanian language and culture courses (hereinafter - Lithuanian language and culture courses).
- A temporary residence permit can be issued to a foreigner, if he: is accepted to study at a research and study institution according to the study program(s) or for doctoral studies; admitted to study at an educational institution according to the general education or vocational training program(s); at the time of submitting the application for a temporary residence permit, is studying in a foreign country that is not a member state of the European Union, and after his studies, a higher education qualification is granted and he has entered into an internship contract with the host entity in the same field as his studies. A temporary residence permit may be issued to a foreigner who also meets the conditions listed in this point, if he

## FOREIGN STUDENTS RIGHTS AND WARRANTIES IN LITHUANIA

has completed studies in the same field as the intended internship no later than 2 years before the date of submitting the application for a temporary residence permit;

- invited to improve qualifications to a research and study institution.
- A foreigner has the right to work no more than 20 hours a week during the period of study or training, except for the period of summer vacation, study or training period determined by the educational institution or scientific and study institution. The working time limitation established in this part does not apply to foreigners studying for a doctoral degree. (Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Legal Status of Foreigners", Article 46, p. 4).



## FOREIGN LITHUANIANS RIGHTS AND WARRANTIES IN LITHUANIA

*According to the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania: Lithuanians Abroad - citizens of the Republic of Lithuania who have lived abroad for at least 3 years, and foreigners of Lithuanian origin, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A foreigner of Lithuanian origin is considered to be a foreigner whose parents or grandparents or one of the parents or grandparents are or were Lithuanians and who declares himself Lithuanian this in a written statement to the decision-making authority*

- Support is given to foreign Lithuanians who have obtained secondary education according to the education programs of foreign states and international organizations, and to foreign Lithuanians who have obtained secondary education in the Republic of Lithuania, and who have lived abroad for at least three years, and when they arrived in the Republic of Lithuania, started studying in grades 8-12 ( in grades I-IV of high school). (Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "Regarding the approval of the description of the procedure for awarding state support for Lithuanian studies abroad in Lithuanian higher education institutions" p. 2).

# FOREIGN LITHUANIANS RIGHTS AND WARRANTIES IN LITHUANIA

- Recognition of education and qualifications related to higher education and acquired according to the academic programs of foreign states and international organizations is carried out by the Study Quality Assessment Center, the Science Council and higher education institutions authorized by the Minister of Education and Science in accordance with the procedure established by the Government. Academic recognition is considered to be the decision of the competent institution, which names the value of that qualification (education) determined during the evaluation of the qualification (education) when intending to study and/or work in the Republic of Lithuania.

In cases determined by international agreements, automatic academic recognition is possible. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 52, p. 13).

- Foreign Lithuanians are granted the right to receive a scholarship and social allowance. (Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "Regarding approval of the description of the procedure for awarding state support for foreign Lithuanian studies in Lithuanian higher education institutions" p. 7, p. 7.1 and d. 7.2).
- Scholarships specified in subsection 7.1 of the description are awarded for one semester of study including the vacation period, but no longer than until the end of studies. (Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "Regarding the approval of the description of the procedure for awarding state support for Lithuanian studies abroad in Lithuanian higher education institutions" p. 8).
- In cases where the amount allocated to scholarships is lower than the need for funds, the right to receive a scholarship is given priority (order of decreasing priority) (Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "On approval of the description of the procedure for awarding state support to foreign Lithuanian studies in Lithuanian higher education institutions" p. 21 ):

## FOREIGN LITHUANIANS RIGHTS AND WARRANTIES IN LITHUANIA

- students of the first cycle, integral, second or third cycle studies of the first year of permanent study; first-cycle, integrated, second-cycle or
- third-cycle continuous study students, studying in the second or subsequent courses, who have achieved an excellent level of achievement; students of first-cycle, integrated, second- or third-cycle studies in the permanent
- form of studies, studying in the second or subsequent courses, who have reached a typical level of achievement; students of first-cycle, integrated, second-cycle or third-cycle studies in the permanent form of studies, studying
- in the second or subsequent courses, who have reached the threshold level of achievements; first-year students of continuous studies; students in the second or subsequent year of full-time studies.
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- In cases where the amount allocated to social benefits is lower than the need for funds, students have the priority right to receive social benefits (in descending order of priority) (order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "On the approval of the description of the procedure for awarding state support to Lithuanians studying abroad in Lithuanian higher
- education institutions" p. 22 .): up to 26 years old (inclusive), whose parents (had only one parent) or
- guardians (carers) are dead; up to 26 years old (inclusive), one of whose parents
- or guardians (carers) is dead; up to 26 years old (inclusive), at least one of whose parents or guardians (carers) is disabled;

## FOREIGN LITHUANIANS RIGHTS AND WARRANTIES IN LITHUANIA

- under the age of 26 (inclusive) from large families in which at least 3 children or adults under the age of 26 (inclusive) are studying (studying) according to formal education programs.
- Criteria and amounts for awarding social benefits (Annex of the Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "On approval of the description of the procedure for awarding state support for Lithuanian studies abroad in Lithuanian higher education institutions"):
  - Students under the age of 26 (inclusive), whose parents (had only one parent) or guardians (carers) are dead - 319 euros;
  - Students under the age of 26 (inclusive), whose one of the parents or guardians (carers) is dead - 261 euros;
  - Students under the age of 26 (inclusive), whose at least one parent or guardian (carer) is disabled - 232 euros; Students under the age of 26 (inclusive) from large families in which at least 3 minor children or adults under the age of 26 (inclusive) are studying (studying) according to formal education programs - 203 euros.
- The scholarship is awarded for one semester and is paid monthly.

## STUDENT COUNCIL RIGHTS

- The interests of students of higher education are represented by the student self-government. Students of that higher education institution can be members of the student self-government. Members of student self-government governing bodies - students - are elected by the general meeting (conference) of student self-government members based on the principles of universality, transparency and openness. In its activities, the student self-government is guided by the Law on Associations of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter - the Law on Associations), if this law does not stipulate otherwise, as well as the statute of the higher education institution and the student self-government statutes approved by the general meeting (conference) of the members of the student self-government. (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies, Article 63, p. 1).
- If there is no student self-government in the higher education institution, the students of the faculties of the higher education institution delegate to the general student meeting (conference) of the higher education institution representatives elected by the majority of votes in the general meetings (conferences) of students of the faculties. The general meeting (conference) of students is convened and decisions are made according to the procedure established by the higher education institution, based on the principles of universality, transparency and openness. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 63, p. 2).
- A general student meeting (conference) is legal if more than half of all students (all delegates) participate in it. The decisions of the general meeting (conference) of students are considered adopted if more than half of the participating students vote for them. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 63, p. 3).

## STUDENT COUNCIL RIGHTS

- Student representatives are delegated to higher education management and other bodies based on the principles and procedure of universality, transparency and openness, which are established in the statutes of the student self-government and other documents regulating the activities of the student self-government. Student representatives participate in the activities of higher education governing bodies with the right of decision-making vote. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 63, p. 4).
- The student self-government has the right to receive information and explanations from the higher education institution and its departments on all matters related to studies and studies. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 63, p. 5).
- The university supports student self-government and other student organizations, allocates premises and funds to finance their activities, as well as allocates funds for cultural, sports and social activities of students, in accordance with the procedure established by the council of the university. Student self-government and other student organizations account for funds allocated by the higher education institution. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 63, p. 6).
- The student self-government has the right to express its opinion on all issues of concern to students and, in accordance with the procedure established by the statute of the higher education institution, to demand reconsideration of the decisions made by the governing bodies of the higher education institution. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 63, p. 7).

## STUDENT COUNCIL RIGHTS

- The student self-government publishes the annual activity and financial reports approved by the general student assembly (conference). (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 63, p. 8).
- Funds from the state budget may be allocated for the activities of student self-governments and other student organizations in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 63, p. 9).

# IN INTERNATIONAL IN THE DOCUMENTS REGULATORY AR DECLARED BY STUDENTS RIGHTS AND WARRANTIES

## Connection with Lithuanian legal regulation:

- Studies are based on the principle of compatibility with the provisions of the European Higher Education Area. (Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies, Article 3, p. 2, p. 11).
- The quality assurance of higher education studies is based on the regulations and guidelines for the quality assurance of studies of the European Higher Education Area. (Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 46, p. 3)

According to the quality assurance provisions and guidelines of the European Higher Education Area (ESG), approved by the Ministerial Conference in Yerevan:

- Research and study institutions and quality assurance agencies rely on the ESG as a reference document for internal and external higher education quality assurance systems. (Quality Assurance Provisions and Guidelines of the European Higher Education Area (ESG), approved at the Ministerial Conference in Yerevan).
- The greater accessibility of higher education allows institutions of higher learning to take advantage of the increasing diversity of individual experiences. This diversity and growing expectations are forcing a fundamental change in the nature of operations. This requires more student-centred teaching and learning methods, the use of flexible learning methods and the recognition of competences acquired through study outside the formal curriculum.



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- ESG is based on the following four principles of quality assurance in the EAME (European Higher Education Area):
  - they are primarily responsible for the quality of services provided by research and study institutions and their assurance; ensuring quality
  - takes into account the diversity of higher education systems, institutions, programs and students; quality assurance
  - helps to develop a quality culture; ensuring quality takes into
  - account the needs and expectations of students, all other stakeholders and society.
- Curricula are the foundation of higher education's mission to teach. Programs:
  - developed with the involvement of students and other
  - stakeholders; prepared in such a way as to ensure the smooth
  - development of the student in order to
  - achieve the study goals; defines the expected workload of the student, for example in ECTS credits.
- Research and study institutions should ensure that study programs are implemented in such a way as to encourage students to actively participate in the study process, and that student evaluation reflects this approach.
- Research and study institutions should consistently apply pre-defined and publicly announced rules covering the entire study cycle, ie student admission, course of studies, recognition and issuing of diplomas.
- Research and study institutions must publish clear, accurate, impartial, up-to-date and easily accessible information about their activities, including study programs.

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- Research and study institutions must monitor and regularly evaluate their study programs in order to fulfill the set goals and meet the needs of students and society.
- Research and study institutions must have adequate funding for the development of teaching and learning activities and provide adequate and easily accessible study resources and support for students.

## **PARIS COMMUNIQUÉ adopted at EHEA Ministerial Conference, 2018:**

- We will support higher education institutions to develop and enhance their strategies for learning and teaching. We also encourage them to provide inter-disciplinary programmes as well as to combine academic and work-based learning. Students should encounter research or activities linked to research and innovation at all levels of higher education to develop the critical and creative mind-sets which will enable them to find novel solutions to emerging challenges. In this regard, we commit to improving synergies between education, research and innovation.
- Digitalisation plays a role in all areas of society and we recognise its potential to transform how higher education is delivered and how people learn at different stages of their lives. We call on our higher education institutions to prepare their students and support their teachers to act creatively in a digitalised environment. We will enable our education systems to make better use of digital and blended education, with appropriate quality assurance, in order to enhance lifelong and

# IN INTERNATIONAL IN THE DOCUMENTS REGULATORY AR DECLARED BY STUDENTS RIGHTS AND WARRANTIES

flexible learning, foster digital skills and competences, improve data analysis, educational research and foresight, and remove regulatory obstacles to the provision of open and digital education. We call on the BFUG to take the issue of digitalisation forward in the next working period.

- We recognise that further effort is required to strengthen the social dimension of higher education. In order to meet our commitment that the student body entering and graduating from European higher education institutions should reflect the diversity of Europe's populations, we will improve access and completion by under-represented and vulnerable groups.

## **YEREVAN COMMUNIQUÉ adopted at EHEA Ministerial Conference, 2015:**

- We will encourage and support higher education institutions and staff in promoting pedagogical innovation in student-centred learning environments and in fully exploiting the potential benefits of digital technologies for learning and teaching. We will promote a stronger link between teaching, learning and research at all study levels, and provide incentives for institutions, teachers and students to intensify activities that develop creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. Study programmes should enable students to develop the competences that can best satisfy personal aspirations and societal needs, through effective learning activities.

# IN INTERNATIONAL IN THE DOCUMENTS REGULATORY AR DECLARED BY STUDENTS RIGHTS AND WARRANTIES

- We need to ensure that, at the end of each study cycle, graduates possess competences suitable for entry into the labour market which also enable them to develop the new competences they may need for their employability later in throughout their working lives.

We will support higher education institutions in exploring diverse measures to reach these goals, e.g. by strengthening their dialogue with employers, implementing programmes with a good balance between theoretical and practical components, fostering the entrepreneurship and innovation skills of students and following graduates'

career

developments.

- We undertake to widen participation in higher education and support institutions that provide relevant learning activities in appropriate contexts for different types of learners, including lifelong learning.

## 4 5 CONTENTS CREATED BY THESE ON THE BASIS OF DOCUMENTS:

Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania

Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "On the approval of the description of the procedure for the competition of persons educated in institutions of foreign countries or according to the educational programs of international organizations for admission to state-funded study places in higher education institutions"

Order of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "On State Support for Studies, Academic Mobility and Lithuanian Education in Lithuania and Abroad"

Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania "Regarding approval of the description of the procedure for awarding state support for Lithuanian studies abroad in Lithuanian higher education institutions"

Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania "On the approval of the description of the procedure for external evaluation and accreditation of studies, evaluation areas and indicators"

Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania "On the approval of the description of the external assessment and accreditation procedure, assessment areas and indicators of higher education institutions and branches of higher educational institutions of foreign countries"

Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania

Government Resolution No. 149 "On the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies"

## CONTENTS CREATED BY THESE ON THE BASIS OF DOCUMENTS:

Government Resolution No. 831 "On the provision of financial assistance measures for the disabled studying in higher education institutions"

Resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Approval of the Lithuanian Health Strategy 2014-2025"

Law of the Republic of Lithuania "On the Legal Status of Foreigners"

Labor Code of the Republic of Lithuania

Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania

Law on Health Insurance of the Republic of Lithuania

Employment Law of the Republic of Lithuania

Law on Unemployment Social Insurance of the Republic of Lithuania

Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Cash Social Support for Indigent Residents

Law on Transport Benefits of the Republic of Lithuania

Explanation of the State Tax Inspectorate regarding non-taxation of the granted support in the amount of income

Order of the Director of the State Sickness Fund of the Republic of Lithuania under the Ministry of Health "On approval of the classification of Personal health care services and services provided for in health programs, which are paid for from the budget of the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund"

## CONTENTS CREATED BY THESE ON THE BASIS OF DOCUMENTS:

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the  
European Higher Education Area, ESG

European Students' Union Social Dimension Policy Paper  
Report of the "PL4SD" project of the European Union program  
based on the principle of lifelong learning

Ministerial Communiqué adopted at Paris, 2018

Ministerial Communiqué adopted at Yerevan, 2015

READY:

LITHUANIAN STUDENTS' UNION

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