

APPROVED BY
Resolution No. S-2015-9-2 of 24 November 2015
of the Senate of Vilnius University
(version of Resolution SPN-38 as of 22 June 2021
of the Senate of Vilnius University)

CRITERIA FOR AWARDING *CUM LAUDE* AND *MAGNA CUM LAUDE* DIPLOMAS AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Criteria for Awarding *Cum Laude* and *Magna Cum Laude* Diplomas at Vilnius University (hereinafter referred to as the Criteria) establishes the requirements for the award of *Cum Laude* and *Magna Cum Laude* diploma to graduates of first-cycle (bachelor's), second-cycle (master's) and integrated studies at Vilnius University (hereinafter referred to as the University).

2. The procedure for awarding *Cum Laude* and *Magna Cum Laude* diplomas is established by the Description of the Procedure for Awarding *Cum Laude* and *Magna Cum Laude* Diplomas to Vilnius University Graduates (hereinafter referred to as the Description), which is approved by the Rector of the University or a Pro-Rector authorised thereby.

CHAPTER II CRITERIA FOR AWARDING *CUM LAUDE* DIPLOMAS

3. *Cum Laude* diplomas are awarded to graduates of each first-cycle (bachelor's) study programme who meet all of the following criteria:

3.1. are in the top 10 per cent of the study programme graduates;

3.2. earned a grade of 10 (*excellent*) for their theses and final examinations.

4. If the weighted averages of several graduates in the same first-cycle (bachelor's) study programme are the same, the graduate whose weighted average in required subjects is higher shall be considered more advanced.

5. *Cum Laude* diplomas are awarded to graduates of groups of integrated studies or affiliated second-cycle (master's) study programmes who meet all of the following criteria:

5.1. are in the top 10 per cent of the affiliated study programme graduates;

5.2. earned a grade of 10 (*excellent*) for their theses and final examinations.

6. If the weighted averages of several graduates in the same group of integrated studies or affiliated second-cycle (master's) study programmes are the same, the graduate whose weighted average in required subjects is higher shall be considered more advanced.

7. The groups of affiliated second-cycle (master's) study programmes are formed by decision of the councils of the University's core academic units (hereinafter referred to as the core units) carrying out these study programmes. Based on the decisions of the councils of the core units, the groups of affiliated second-cycle (master's) study programmes are approved by order of the rector of the University or a pro-rector of the University authorised thereby.

CHAPTER III CRITERIA FOR AWARDING *MAGNA CUM LAUDE* DIPLOMAS

8. *Magna Cum Laude* diplomas are awarded by resolution of the senate of the University to the most advanced graduates of first-cycle (bachelor's), second-cycle (master's) and integrated study programmes who are distinguished for their mature research activities and who meet the criteria for awarding *Cum Laude* diplomas set out in Chapter II of the Criteria, with the exceptions provided in Paragraph 14 of the Criteria.

9. Mature research activities are considered to be research activities with results that meet at least one of the following criteria:

9.1. have been published in at least one article of a peer-reviewed national or international scientific journal or have received confirmation from the editorial board of the journal regarding the publication of such an article;

9.2. have been presented at a national or international scientific conference. Conference presentations can be oral or poster, and the research results can be presented by someone other than the student.

10. In order to be awarded *Magna Cum Laude* diploma on the grounds set out in Paragraph 9.2 of the Criteria, the graduate or the University employee nominating the graduate, when submitting the documents in accordance with the procedure established in the Description, must include a recommendation from the head of the core unit or the head of the branch academic unit of the core unit (hereinafter referred to as the branch unit) justifying the value and importance of the scientific conference to the field of science. In cases where there are no branch units in the core unit, or the head of the branch unit is the student's thesis adviser or consultant, a recommendation must be provided from the head of the core unit. If there are no branch units in the core unit and the head of the core unit is the student's thesis adviser, a recommendation must be provided from the deputy head of the core unit responsible for science.

11. Graduates who are candidates for *Magna Cum Laude* diploma must have specified the University division in their research results.

12. Graduates who are candidates for *Magna Cum Laude* diploma cannot receive them for the same scientific achievements that they previously received *Magna Cum Laude* diploma based on.

13. The senate of the University, taking into account the nominations submitted by the core units in accordance with the Description, has the right to decide to award *Magna Cum Laude* diploma to graduates with exceptional achievements in scientific and/or other activities not listed in the Criteria which are equivalent in significance to the achievements listed in Paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 of the Criteria.

14. The Senate of the University may decide to award *Magna Cum Laude* diploma to more than the top 10 per cent of graduates in first-cycle (bachelor's) study programmes and groups of integrated or affiliated second-cycle (master's) study programmes.
