

*APPROVED by
Resolution No. S-2016-1-2 of the
Senate of Vilnius University of 2016-01-19
(Recast of Resolution No. S-2018-1-4
of the Senate of Vilnius University of 23
January 2018)*

THE CONCEPT OF GENERAL UNIVERSITY STUDIES OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

I. General provisions

1. **General university studies** are the formation of an outlook that corresponds with the vision of the university, as well as the development of erudition and creativity in all the first cycle and integrated study programmes of Vilnius University (hereinafter – University). General university studies satisfy the need to disseminate and share with the public the most important scientific ideas and intellectual arguments.
2. General university studies **go beyond** the boundaries of fields of study and study programmes: it is a part of studies that has interdisciplinarity, dialogue and sociality typical for university studies and science.
3. The essence of **general university studies** is highlighted by the **mission of the University** which declares the obligation and right to strengthen the cognitive and creative powers of Lithuania and the world, foster academic, spiritual and social values, as well as educate active and responsible citizens of Lithuania and leaders of the society.
4. By following its Statute and carrying out its mission, the University enables students to acquire a universal education based on the unity of science and studies, become active, responsible professionals with a high need and ability to seek knowledge and professional development throughout their lives, and be active participants in the activities of the state and the society.

II. The purpose and task of general university studies

5. The **purpose** of general university studies of Vilnius University is to educate students to be active, creative, open-minded, tolerant and responsible members of the modern society and their country who understand the achievements of the past, the problems of the modern world, and who create the future.
6. The **task** of the general university studies of Vilnius University is to provide students with the necessary conditions to develop their:
 - 6.1. understanding of the social and natural world around them;
 - 6.2. knowledge of cultural contexts;
 - 6.3. understanding of the political, economic, technological, natural, social well-being and sustainable development processes of the changing world, their challenges and consequences, and the ability to critically evaluate them;
 - 6.4. perception of human expectations, beliefs, their biological, social, personal motives and choices, and the ability to critically evaluate them;
 - 6.5. ability to assess social development processes, civic responsibility and awareness when participating in public life and expressing one's civil position;
 - 6.6. ability to act under the conditions of social and cultural diversity by fostering public well-being and assuming responsibility for the national culture;
 - 6.7. ability to support their future professional and social activities with the values of humanism and democracy, perception of the ethical dimension of each activity, responsibility for their decisions, and the ability to justify them;

6.8. creative and innovative potential, ability to communicate and cooperate, to lead a team or a group of society and motivate its members to achieve common goals.

7. The aim of each specific module of the general university studies (hereinafter – GUS) must comply with the purpose of the general university studies in the University, while the objectives, content and process of the studies must comply with the task set for the general university studies in the University.

III. Implementation of general university studies

8. The mandatory scope of GUS modules in the first cycle and integrated study programmes is no less than 15 credits.

9. Each GUS module must have a scope of 5 credits comprising of:

9.1. 130 hours of total student work time;

9.2. at least 48 hours of contact work time.

10. GUS may be implemented only according to the GUS modules freely selected by the student from the register of GUS module descriptions (hereinafter – Register). The list of GUS modules taught during a specific semester is published in the University's study information system. The committee of each study programme shall select GUS modules that are closely related to the mandatory and optional modules of the study programme; these GUS modules will not be provided to be selected for the students of that study programme.

11. A new GUS module can be prepared and implemented by a lecturer or lecturer group.

11.1. A lecturer who prepares a GUS module shall also be considered the coordinating lecturer of the module. If the GUS module is prepared by a lecturer group, it must specify the coordinating lecturer of the GUS module.

11.2. The coordinating lecturer may be a lecturer of the core academic unit with a doctorate degree. The coordinating lecturer cannot be a lecturer who is employed on an hourly basis.

11.3. The coordinating lecturer is responsible for the GUS module implementation quality.

11.4. The core academic unit (hereinafter – Unit) where the GUS module coordinating lecturer is working shall be responsible for the organization of the GUS module.

12. The council of the Unit shall examine the GUS module prepared by a lecturer or a group of lecturers of the Unit, and make one of the following decisions: approve the implementation of the module and submit it for consideration to the General University Studies Commission formed under the resolution of the Senate (hereinafter – GUS Commission) or object to the implementation of the module and do not submit it for consideration to the GUS Commission. If the GUS module was prepared by a lecturer group, the decision regarding its implementation shall be made by the council of each Unit where at least one of the members of the group works.

13. GUS module description together with the extract(s) of the minutes of the meeting of the council(s) of the Unit regarding GUS module implementation, as well as the resume (CV) of the coordinating lecturer shall be submitted by the Head of Unit or his authorized person to the Student Academic Affairs Unit within the Central Administration (hereinafter – Student Academic Affairs Unit) via e-mail to bus@cr.vu.lt.

14. After assessing whether the GUS module description complies with the formal requirements of legal acts regulating the process of the regulations of Vilnius University study programmes and other studies, the Student Academic Affairs Unit shall submit the GUS module description and an extract(s) of the minutes of the Council(s) to the GUS Commission. Only those GUS module descriptions that comply with the formal requirements shall be submitted for consideration.

15. After assessing whether the GUS module description received from the Student Academic Affairs Unit complies with the Concept of General University Studies, the GUS Commission shall prepare a reasoned conclusion regarding inclusion of the description in the Register no later than within 2 months, as well as provide recommendations on how to improve the GUS module, if necessary. After

considering the conclusion of the GUS Commission, the Senate shall make a final decision on whether to include the GUS module in the Register.

16. The Register is updated at least twice during the academic year: until the 1st of May of the current year for the autumn semester, and until the 1st of December of the current year for the spring semester.

17. In order to update a GUS module that was added to the Register, the coordinating lecturer must coordinate the update with the Student Academic Affairs Unit via e-mail: bus@cr.vu.lt. If material changes must be made to the GUS module description (when changing the title of the module, the coordinating lecturer, the aim and the study objectives), the GUS Commission shall carry out an expert evaluation of the changes and make a decision on whether to approve or reject these changes, or shall provide recommendations to revise the GUS module description.

18. GUS module implementation quality oversight shall be carried out by the GUS Commission which will receive all the necessary information from the Student Academic Affairs Unit.

18.1 The GUS Commission shall provide suggestions for the lecturer(s) implementing the GUS module regarding GUS module improvement, as well as recommendations to the Unit(s) implementing the GUS module and the Senate regarding the necessary GUS quality assurance measures.

18.2. After evaluating the GUS module implementation quality oversight data, the GUS Commission may provide the Senate with a reasoned suggestion to remove the GUS module from the Register. The GUS module shall be removed from the Register under the decision of the Senate.

19. Funds necessary for the implementation of GUS modules are provided in the University's budget estimate and distributed among Units according to the procedures established in the legal acts of the University.
