Translation from Lithuanian

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Vilnius Gediminas Technical University No. 10.8-588
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VILNIUS GEDIMINAS TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

REGULATIONS ON ADMISSION TO THIRD-CYCLE STUDIES (DOCTORAL STUDIES)

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Vilnius Gediminas Technical University regulations on admission to third-cycle studies (doctoral studies) (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) determine the procedure of admission for doctoral studies conducted by Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (hereinafter referred to as the University) and other institutions, which implement joint doctoral studies together with the University.
2. The admission dates for doctoral studies are approved every academic year by the order of the University's Rector and announced on the University's official website.
3. Admission is carried out to state-funded and non-state-funded (full-time and part-time) doctoral study positions. Individuals who have studied at a state-funded position for more than half of their doctoral studies duration, foreign citizens, who have pursued doctoral studies abroad and who have already obtained a doctoral degree cannot apply for state-funded doctoral study positions.
4. Admission is carried out separately to the full-time and part-time doctoral positions for each partner institution that has acquired the right to the doctoral degree.
5. Admission to doctoral studies is carried out through an open competition. The procedure of admission to the doctoral studies:
    - submission and registration of applications and documents for admission to the doctoral studies;
    - applicants to the doctoral studies participate in the motivation interview at the doctoral committees of the scientific field;
    - signing of the doctoral study contract.
6. Lists of dissertation topics and their supervisors have been published on the official University's website and on websites of the partner institutions with which the University has joint doctoral programs.

CHAPTER II
SUBMISSION OF ADMISSION DOCUMENTS

7. Applicants who have attained the specified qualification in the relevant field of study, as outlined in Table 1, are eligible for admission to doctoral studies.

Table 1. Qualification requirements

Field of study code	Field of study	Qualification requirements
H 003	History and Theory of Arts	Individuals who have obtained a Master's degree in architecture, landscape architecture, art studies or a related field, or an equivalent qualification (art studies, etc.)

Field of study code	Field of study	Qualification requirements
S 003	Management	Individuals who have obtained a Master's degree in management or a related field or an equivalent qualification (business, public administration, economics, law, political science, sociology, psychology, education, etc.)
S 004	Economics	Individuals who have obtained a Master's degree in economics or a related field, or an equivalent qualification (management, business, sociology, etc.)
S 008	Communication and Information	Individuals who have obtained a Master's degree in communication or a related field or an equivalent qualification (economics, political science, sociology, social work, anthropology, social geography, psychology, public safety, information services, publishing, journalism, law, business, management, etc.)
T 001	Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Individuals who have obtained a Master's degree in electrical engineering or a related field, or an equivalent qualification (electronic engineering, informatics, informatics engineering, etc.)
T 002	Civil Engineering	Individuals with a Master's degree in civil engineering or a related field, or an equivalent qualification (safety engineering, geology, materials technology, environmental engineering, production engineering, transportation engineering, etc.)
T 003	Transport Engineering	Individuals with a Master's degree in transport engineering or a related field, or an equivalent qualification (aeronautical engineering, mechanical engineering, marine engineering, electronics engineering, civil engineering, energy engineering, computer science engineering, business, etc.)
T 004	Environmental Engineering	Individuals with a Master's degree in environmental engineering or a related field, or an equivalent qualification (chemistry, physics, environmental science, ecology, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, energy engineering, biotechnology, etc.)
T 008	Materials Engineering	Individuals with a Master's degree in materials technology or a related field, or an equivalent qualification (technological science, mechanical science, physics, chemistry, biology, etc.)
T 009	Mechanical Engineering	Individuals with a Master's in mechanical engineering or a related field or equivalent qualification (manufacturing engineering, transport engineering, bioengineering, physics, mathematics, etc.)

8. To enter the competition for a doctoral study position, interested individuals are required to submit the following documents:

8.1. **application form**[1]. The application form is available on the University's website. Applicants to the doctoral program may specify no more than one dissertation topic per field of study from the published list of dissertation topics. If an applicant is applying for a non-state-funded doctoral program position, they may propose their own topic, which will be considered and evaluated during the doctoral admissions committee meeting;

8.2. **a diploma confirming a Master's degree or a qualification corresponding to it and its supplement** (originals of the diploma and its supplement are submitted, after the documents are formalized, the diploma and supplement are returned). Academic institution certificate of completion and results of Master's degree studies are not accepted and will not be registered for the doctoral programme admission competition. If the diploma was obtained at a foreign university, a certificate of recognition of the higher education qualification obtained abroad issued by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) must be submitted together with the diploma (qualifications related to higher education that have been issued in Latvia or Estonia are the subject to automatic recognition since 2019). If such a certificate is not available, applicants to the University's doctoral program must submit a Bachelor's degree diploma and its supplement, a Master's degree diploma and its supplement, a copy of their passport, and consent form for the processing of personal data to the University's Doctoral School, which will contact the University's International Studies Centre to request a certificate regarding the recognition of a higher education qualification obtained abroad. All documents submitted for the evaluation of qualifications must be translated into English or Lithuanian. Applicants for doctoral positions at partner institutions must apply to the institution where they are applying for the doctoral position for a certificate recognising a higher education qualification obtained abroad. The average of the grades of the completed Master's (or equivalent) studies must be at least 7.0 (on the ten-point scale); otherwise, the applicant's documents will not be accepted;

8.3. **curriculum vitae** (CV);

8.4. **one or more recommendations from scientists are required**, with one of them being the recommendation-consent of the scientific supervisor of the dissertation topic to which the applicant is applying. The recommendations should be prepared within the same calendar year as the admission to doctoral studies;

8.5. **a list of scientific publications and their copies**. If no such publications are available, a research proposal must be submitted in accordance with the dissertation topic specified in the application (up to 20 pages). The procedure for preparing the research proposal is detailed in Annex 1, and the format is provided in Annex 3;

8.6. **a copy of the bank transfer receipt as proof of payment for the application fee**;

8.7. **a valid copy of the passport or a copy of the identity card**;

8.8. **foreign applicants who intend to study in English are required to submit proof of English proficiency**, such as an IELTS (score of no lower than 6 points), a TOEFL (no lower than 70 points), or a CEFR certificate indicating a B2 or higher level of English or an equivalent level on other international English proficiency exams. However, if the first or second-cycle studies were completed in English, the English proficiency certificate is not necessary.

8.9. **consent form** for the processing of personal data at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

9. Applicants are advised to submit their application and all mandatory documents to the University's Doctoral School before the specified deadline, which is publicly announced on *www.vilniustech.lt*. Documents issued in any language other than Lithuanian or English must be translated into one of these languages and duly certified following the procedures prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Lithuania. Failure to submit all required documents will result in the application not being processed, and the applicant will be notified of this in writing.

[1] The application form is available on the University's website. Applicants for doctoral studies may specify no more than one dissertation topic per science field in their application (from the published list of dissertation topics or propose their topic when enrolling in a non-state-funded study position).

CHAPTER III
COMPETITION SCORE AND ITS CALCULATION

10. Applicants seeking admission to doctoral studies in the field of science are selected through a competitive process based on their competitive score (*KB*):

$$KB = 0.15 \times TB + 0.15 \times VB + 0.7 \times PB,$$

Structure of the competitive score:
TB – represents the evaluation of the novelty, relevance, and alignment of the dissertation topic with the priority scientific research areas of the department (unit) by the scientific field doctoral committee (with a maximum score of 10 points);

10.1. *VB* – evaluation of the applicant's proposed academic supervisor (on a scale of 1 to 10), based on assessments of publication activity, the frequency of applications for competitive funding, and the supervision of doctoral students:

$$VB = 4 \times VP_5 + 1 \times VK + 5 \times VR,$$

here VP_5 – **a standardised assessment of the prospective supervisor's publication activity** [0; 1], calculated based on VPS_5, the number of the prospective supervisor's publications over the past 5 years (in the field of technological sciences – *Web of Science* (*WoS*); in the field of social sciences and humanities – publications indexed in the *WoS* and (or) *Scopus*), compared to the total number of publications by all prospective supervisors over the past 5 years (**VPS_5*** – vector), i.e., by applying the dense ranking method (the rank_T function assigns the supervisor a continuous and uninterrupted rank (sequence number) in descending order of the number of publications) and standardising the result by the total number of supervisors (*VS*):

$$VP_5 = \frac{VS - \text{rank}_T\left(VPS_5\right) + 1}{VS}.$$

VK – **evaluation of the prospective supervisor's submission of applications for competitive doctoral positions** [0; 1], calculated based on whether applications were submitted to the Research Council of Lithuania or the *Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions* (*MSCA*) *Doctoral Networks* during the current calendar year: 1 is assigned if one or more applications have been submitted, and 0 if no applications have been submitted;

VR – **standardised assessment of the prospective supervisor's doctoral training activities** [0; 1], calculated based on objective doctoral training outcomes:

$$VR = RE_5 \times \left(0,75 + 0,25 \times RP_{10}\right).$$

For candidates wishing to begin a career as a doctoral supervisor (a declaration must be submitted stating that the prospective supervisor has not had any doctoral students in the past 10 years), the evaluation of doctoral student training activities is equated to the VR median for the relevant field of study calculated for the current year (the median is calculated using only the results of experienced supervisors, applying the formula provided above). The median (rather than the average) is used to reduce the influence of isolated outliers and ensure a stable and accurate assessment in small samples.

The effectiveness of the prospective supervisor in training doctoral students over the past 5 years [0; 1]:

$$RE_5 = \frac{A_5}{A_5 + Z_5},$$

here, A_5 and Z_5 represent, respectively, the number of doctoral students who have defended their dissertations and the number of doctoral students who have not defended their dissertations (and have

not completed their doctoral studies) over the past 5 years. RE_5 is calculated only if the prospective supervisor has doctoral students who have defended their dissertations or have not completed their doctoral studies, i.e., if $A_5 + Z_5 > 0$.

The prospective supervisor's experience in supervising doctoral students over the past 10 years [0; 1]:

$$RP_{10} = \min\left(1, \sqrt{\frac{A_{10} + Z_{10}}{10}}\right),$$

here, A_{10} and Z_{10} represent, respectively, the numbers of doctoral students who have defended their dissertations and those who have not defended their dissertations (and have not completed their doctoral studies) over the past 10 years; min denotes the minimum function. The experience in training doctoral students (RP_{10}) is applied as a correction factor to ensure that doctoral training activities are evaluated based on long-term experience, but it does not in itself assess the quality of the results.

Data on the effectiveness and experience of doctoral supervisors in training doctoral students, as well as on applications submitted for competitive doctoral programs, are provided by the Doctoral School.

10.2. *PB* – evaluation of the applicant's preparation for doctoral studies (up to 10 points):

$$PB = 0{,}25 \times MP + 0{,}25 \times PK + 0{,}5 \times SJV,$$

here *MP* is the scoring of scientific publications published or accepted for publishing in the relevant field of science, calculating the applicant's contribution proportionally according to the number of authors (up to 10 points). Points are awarded in accordance with Table 2 of the Regulations (for admission to the fields of natural and technological sciences) and Table 3 (for admission to the fields of social sciences and humanities).

Table 2. Scoring of scientific publications by applicants for doctoral studies that have been published or accepted for publication, for admission to the fields of natural and technological sciences

Nr.	**Publication type**	**Awarded points***
1	An article in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* journal collections: *Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)* or *Social Science Citation Index (SSCI)*	8
2	An article in the *Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)* or *Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)* collections *of Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* journals and in the *Elsevier Scopus* database	7
3	An article in the *Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)* or the *Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)* in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* journal collections	6
4	An article published only in the *Elsevier Scopus* database	5
5	An article in a peer-reviewed scientific journal or in the proceedings of an international conference (excluding conferences for young researchers)	4
6	An article published in the proceedings of the conference for young researchers	2
7	The scientific research proposal	up to 2

Table 3. Scoring of scientific publications by applicants for doctoral studies that have been published or accepted for publication, for admission to the fields of social sciences and humanities

Nr.	**Publication type**	**Awarded points***
1	An article in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* journal collections: *Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)* or *Social Science Citation Index (SSCI)*	8

2	An article published in the *Elsevier Scopus* database	8
3	An article in the *Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)* or the *Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)* in the *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* journal collections	6
4	An article in a peer-reviewed scientific journal or in the proceedings of an international conference (excluding conferences for young researchers)	4
5	An article published in the proceedings of the conference for young researchers	2
6	The scientific research proposal	up to 2

* – When evaluating the articles listed in *Elsevier Scopus* and *Clarivate Analytics Web of Science* that were published by MDPI, the score is reduced by 2 points.

The research proposal must include the relevance of the topic, its scientific novelty and the problem, the objective, research tasks, the significance, the methodology, and the expected results. It is evaluated by the chair and secretary of the doctoral committee in the relevant field of science in which the University has the right to award doctoral degrees. A research proposal is submitted only if the applicant has no scientific publications. Points for scientific publications are not added to the points for the research proposal.

PK – evaluation of the interview at the scientific field doctoral committee for admission to the doctoral studies (up to 10 points). During the interview, it is recommended (a maximum of 20 minutes is allocated for the doctoral candidate's interview), that the applicant's scientific qualifications (2 points), understanding of the selected topic's scientific problems (2 points), ability to formulate answers within the selected scientific topic (2 points), scientific research experience (2 points), preparation and motivation to study for a doctoral degree, and the ability to answer questions in a foreign language are assessed (2 points). The assessment also includes an evaluation of whether applicants who work in other institutions will have sufficient time available to dedicate to research activities, attend lectures, participate in internships, and attend conferences. If the interview with the applicant is evaluated with 4 points or less, the doctoral committee of the scientific field may not recommend the applicant for admission to the doctoral studies;

SĮV – the weighted average of the grades of completed Master's degrees or equivalent studies (at least 7 points), calculated as follows:

$$SĮV = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{DS} DP_i \cdot DK_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{DS} DK_i},$$

here *DS* is the number of subjects; DP_i – subject grades; DK_i – is the number of subject credits.

11. In the event of applicants having an equal number of competitive points, the higher position in the competitive queue is awarded to the candidate whose published scientific publications (*MP*) possess a higher rating.

CHAPTER IV
COMPETITION FOR ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL STUDIES

12. Attendance at the doctoral committee meeting for admission to doctoral studies is mandatory for all applicants; the time and venue of which are posted on the *www.vilniustech.lt* website; failure to attend will result in the applicant's candidacy not being considered. The decision regarding the applicant's participation in the doctoral study admission meeting remotely is made by the doctoral committee of the respective scientific field on a case-by-case basis. An audio or audio-video recording is made during the field committee meeting for doctoral admissions (the recording after admission by the secretary of the committee of the scientific field should be submitted to the Doctoral School and

stored for up to 1 year). Supervisors of the dissertation topics for which the applicants are applying should participate in the meeting for admission to doctoral studies. If the supervisor is unable to attend scientific committee meeting due to the serious reasons, the interview should proceed under the standard procedures. Applicants, together with their prospective supervisors, are invited to attend the interview individually. The guidelines for the motivational interview are provided in Annex 2 of the Regulations. After the interview with the applicants, the doctoral committee of the scientific field calculates the competition score (*KB*) of each applicant.

13. Applicants must achieve a minimum competitive score of 6.5. Those who score below the minimum competitive score are ineligible to apply for state-funded doctoral study positions.

14. If, at the time of admission, the doctoral committee for the relevant scientific field concludes that the applicant's competencies are insufficient, it may prescribe supplementary doctoral-level modules to be taken in the first year of study, which the doctoral candidate must complete in addition to the doctoral study modules.

15. Applicants are arranged in descending order of competitive score in the competitive queue of each field of science. The doctoral committee selects the applicants with the highest competitive score from the list of those invited to the doctoral program. Applicants who did not get into state-funded positions may be offered to study at their own expense.

16. Following the admissions meeting, the secretary of the doctoral committee for the scientific field submits the table of competitive scores, signed by the committee chair, to the Doctoral School.

17. The list of dissertation topics, indicated in the application of those invited to study at the University, is published on *www.vilniustech.lt* website. Partner institutions with which the University has a joint doctoral program inform their applicants in accordance with their own regulations.

18. Applicants who have obtained the highest competition scores and fall within the quota of funded study positions set by the state shall be considered invited to the state-funded doctoral study positions. The Doctoral School shall inform the applicants who participated in the doctoral admission competition about the admission results to the e-mail address specified in the application for the admission to the doctoral study. Partner institutions with which the University has a joint doctoral program inform their applicants in accordance with their own regulations.

19. Study contracts for admitted candidates must be signed within the dates announced. Doctoral study contracts are signed in person at the Doctoral School. Students admitted to doctoral programs at partner institutions sign their study agreements at their home institutions. If the individuals who are invited to study fail to sign the study contract within the specified deadlines, the invitation to study becomes invalid, and the vacant positions are transferred to the next stage of admission.

CHAPTER V
APPLICATION FEE

20. According to Article 28, Part 2, paragraph 14, Article 83, Parts 1–3 of the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, the University's Senate determines the tuition fee and the amounts of contributions that are not directly related to the implementation of the study program. Prices and fees are published on the websites of the University and partner institutions.

21. The application fee can only be paid to the specified banks. Details of the admission fee: recipient – Vilnius Gediminas Technical University; recipient's bank – Swedbank AB, account no. LT32 7300 0100 0245 9012 or AB SEB, account no. LT39 7044 0600 0031 7750; the name of the fee – Doctoral admission fee; payment code – 102918; payer code – the personal code of the enrolling person. Applicants must pay application fees to the institution specified in their application for admission to the doctoral program. If the fee is not paid or paid to another account, the application fee and the application will not be considered. The application fee is non-refundable.

CHAPTER VI
FINAL PROVISIONS

22. Admission to doctoral studies is organised by the University's Doctoral School and is carried out by certain doctoral committees of scientific fields. Address: Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Doctoral School, Room SRC 803, Saulėtekio al. 11, LT-10223 Vilnius; tel. (0 5) 274 4956; email *doktor@vilniustech.lt*. Applications are accepted on weekdays in accordance with the application dates and deadlines, which are approved by the order of the University Rector and published on the website *www.vilniustech.lt*.

23. If there are remaining vacancies after the conclusion of the initial admission period for the doctoral studies, an additional competition for admission may be announced.

24. Substantiated appeals concerning the admission results must be submitted to the Doctoral School within the dates specified on the *www.vilniusetch.lt* website. Appeals are reviewed and decisions made by the Doctoral Student Appeals Examination Commission, established by the Rector's order, for all cases not covered by the Regulations.

Annex 1 to the
Regulations on admission to third-cycle studies
(doctoral studies)

PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

1. The research proposal must be prepared for the selected dissertation topic.
2. The purpose of a research proposal is to assess the applicant's subject-specific knowledge, critical-thinking ability, originality of research ideas, ability to formulate and pose relevant research questions and objectives, theoretical preparedness, proficiency in selecting and applying appropriate research methods, clarity of argumentation, and command of academic writing conventions—including proper use of sources.
3. The applicant ensures that the submitted proposal is original work and accepts full responsibility for ensuring that it does not infringe third-party copyrights, disclose confidential information, or contain material subject to publication restrictions under the laws of the Republic of Lithuania.
4. The proposal must follow the template provided at *www.vilniustech.lt* (available in Lithuanian and English). It must concisely present the research relevance, scientific novelty, problem statement, literature review, aim and objectives, practical significance, methodology, and expected results.
5. The scientific research proposal must include the dissertation topic supervisor's evaluation on a scale of 1 to 10.
6. The members of the scientific field committee evaluate the research proposal.

Annex 2 to the
Regulations on admission to third-cycle studies
(doctoral studies)

GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERVIEW AND QUESTIONS

General guidelines

1. It is essential to concentrate on each applicant's academic and research qualifications and to avoid questions that may be perceived as biased or discriminatory. The interview process should be conducted fairly and impartially; all applicants must be given the same core questions and any, if necessary, follow-up questions to ensure that every candidate has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their scholarly potential.
2. All applicants' submitted documents should be reviewed before the motivational interview begins.
3. At the beginning of the scientific committee meeting, all candidates who are present, both in person and participating remotely, along with their prospective supervisors, should be invited. The committee chair introduces the members of the specific field committee, outlines the meeting procedure in Lithuanian (and also in English if there are foreign candidates), and informs that candidates and their supervisors will be invited for the interview individually (with up to 20 minutes allotted to each candidate).
4. Questions asked during the motivational interview should include: scientific qualifications and research experience; understanding of the selected topic problem; details related to the research proposal or paper; content of publications and the applicant's contribution; the applicant's preparation and motivation for doctoral studies; long-term scientific or academic plans.
5. Evaluate the candidate's scientific potential, and communication skills in Lithuanian and English, including the ability to clearly express thoughts, argue, and present ideas.

Recommended questions to ask during the interview

6. What motivated you to pursue doctoral studies at this university?
7. Could you describe your scientific qualifications and research experience?
8. Which research methods do you intend to employ in your study?
9. How do you plan to contribute to your scientific field both during and after your doctoral studies?
10. If applicable, could you please introduce/describe a research project you have worked on, your role in it, and what you learned from the experience?
11. Doctoral regulations require a research internship abroad (the cumulative duration over the entire period of doctoral studies should be no less than 3 months). Have you identified a host institution or country, and what factors influenced your choice?
12. The doctoral regulations require that doctoral students must engage in on-campus research activities for at least 20 hours per week. How do you intend to meet this requirement?
13. What are your long-term career objectives once you have completed your doctorate?

Questions to avoid during the interview

14. Avoid the question groups relating to the candidate's private life (such as marital status, religious affiliation, or political convictions).
15. Avoid the question groups that could be considered discriminatory (on the grounds of race, gender, ethnicity, age, or disability).
16. Avoid the question groups concerning the candidate's health issues.
17. Avoid any question groups that are not directly related to the candidate's academic or scientific qualifications and research experience.

Annex 3 to the
Regulations on admission to third-cycle studies
(doctoral studies)

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

_____
(date)

Title of the doctoral dissertation

_____

Applicant's Name, Surname _____

Potential supervisor _____

Institution _____

Abstract
Concise and clear: Keep the abstract brief and to the point, summarizing the key aspects of your research proposal in a concise and clear manner. • *First impression counts (!)* • *Comprehensive enough to inform the evaluator and introduce the topic.* *Purpose: Clearly state the purpose of your research and what problem or gap in the knowledge it aims to address.* • *What has not been answered in previous research?* • *How will this research add to knowledge, practice, and policy in this area?*
Keywords
Keywords: Include a few relevant keywords that represent the main themes or concepts of your research, making it easier for readers to find your proposal. • *Not more than 5*
Formulation of the problem
Identify the research gap: Identify a specific gap or problem in the existing knowledge or literature that your research aims to address. • *What is already known or unknown and why do we need to know?* • *A synthesis of the introduction and literature review.* *Clearly define the problem: Clearly articulate the problem statement, making it specific, focused, and unambiguous. State what is currently unknown, unresolved, or needs further investigation.* • *Scientific enough to convince the evaluator that it is worth focusing on.*
Literature review
Comprehensive search: Conduct a comprehensive search of relevant literature using academic databases, journals, books, and other reputable sources. • *Critical enough.* • *Provide the evaluator with a comprehensive review of the literature related to the stated problem.*
Research aim and tasks
Research aim and tasks/objectives: Formulate specific research aims and objectives/tasks that directly address the identified problem. • *Aims and research tasks should guide your research and help you find answers or solutions.*

Scientific novelty of the research
Significance: Highlight the importance and relevance of your research, explaining why it matters and how it contributes to the field or society.
Research Questions (hypothesis)
Be specific: Formulate research questions that are clear, specific, and focused on addressing the problem identified in your research proposal. • *Emerge from the problem statement.* *Clear and concise: Write hypotheses clearly and concisely, stating the expected relationship or difference between variables.* • *Formulate hypotheses that can be tested and supported or rejected based on empirical evidence.*
Methodology
Methodology: Briefly describe the research design, methods, and approaches you will use to conduct your study. • *How do you plan to collect data (interview, survey, experiments, software)?* • *Which sources will you use?* • *Describe the process you will use to analyse data.*
Financing of the study (for non-state budget funded position)
This doctoral study is planned to be funded…
References
Use proper citations: Properly cite and reference all the sources you include in your literature review using a consistent referencing style (e.g., APA).

DECLARATION ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TOOLS

I declare that artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the research proposal (mark):

☐ **Were used** ☐ **Were not used**

If you marked "Were used", please specify for what purpose and how you used AI tools:

_____

_____

_____

Applicant's signature _____

Supervisor's evaluation

_____	_____	_____
(Name, Surname)	*(grade 1–10)*	*(signature, date)*