

REGULATION ON THE DOCTORAL STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE AT VILNIUS ACADEMY OF ARTS AND KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Regulation on the Doctoral Studies in the Field of Architecture (hereinafter – doctoral studies) at Vilnius Academy of Arts (hereinafter – VDA) and Kaunas University of Technology (hereinafter – KTU) (hereinafter – Regulation) is prepared following Law No. XI-242 on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 30 April 2009 (including any further amendments and supplements), the Regulation on the Doctoral Studies in Arts approved by Order No. V-69 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 8 February 2017 (edition of Order No. V-74 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 24 January 2020), the Statute of Vilnius Academy of Arts approved by Resolution No. XI-1536 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 23 June 2011 (updated edition of Resolution No. XII-370 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 13 June 2013) and the Statute of Kaunas University of Technology approved by Resolution No. XI-2149 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 28 June 2012.

2. The Regulation sets out the procedure for doctoral studies in the field of architecture, and the preparation and defence of an art project at VDA and KTU.

3. The doctoral student shall use all the rights and obligations enshrined in the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania and the Statutes of VDA and KTU.

4. Doctoral studies include studies, preparation and defence of an art project, as well as the dissemination of the results of artistic research. The doctoral degree in arts is awarded to a person if this individual has fulfilled the requirements for the doctoral studies specified in the Regulation, has demonstrated, by the prepared art project and its public presentation (in exhibitions, creative competitions or other events), the ability to independently and critically apply creative methods, theoretically formulate the creative problems characteristic to the field of architecture and resolve these problems in practice, and has submitted and defended an art project.

5. The following definitions are used in the Regulation:

- **Doctoral studies in the field of architecture** – third cycle university studies in the artistic field of architecture, designed to prepare highly-qualified architectural researchers who can initiate and implement, design, interpret and develop research based on architectural practice, as well as generate systematic practical and theoretical knowledge for the development of new ideas; apply state-of-the-art knowledge to the advancement of society, culture, or business, thus enabling effective expression in the areas of arts and architectural creation.
- **Doctoral student in the field of architecture** (hereinafter – doctoral student) – a student and researcher-practitioner of the third cycle studies.
- **Architect** – a natural person whose formal education conforms to the requirements set out by the Law on Architecture of the Republic of Lithuania and the Professional Standard for the Architectural Sector.
- **Doctoral committee in the field of architecture** (hereinafter – Doctoral Committee) – a group of architects (recognised artists), scientists conducting high-level research and doctors in

arts responsible for the content, quality, organisation and delivery of doctoral studies.

- **Doctoral student's supervisor for creation** – a recognised artist or doctor in arts who meets the requirements set out in the Regulation and supervises the art project and the doctoral student's studies.
- **Doctoral student's supervisor for research** – a scientist or doctor in arts who conforms to the requirements set out in the Regulation and supervises the research part of the art project.
- **Doctoral student's work plan** – the doctoral student's individual work plan which includes the stages and deadlines for the doctoral studies and the preparation of the art project (creative and research work), participation in international mobility programmes and/or artistic and scientific events.
- **Doctoral student's institution** – the institution where the doctoral student implements his/her doctoral studies and prepares the creative and research work for the art project.
- **Doctoral department** – the department of a joint doctoral institution organising the activities of doctoral studies.
- **Defence council** – a group of recognised artists (architects), scientists conducting high-level research and/or doctors in arts, assembled by the Doctoral Committee, which evaluates the art project to be defended and decides whether the doctoral student should be awarded a doctoral degree in arts.
- **Consultant** – a person who is providing consultations to a doctoral student preparing creative and/or research work of an art project.
- **Coordinating institution** – the institution designated by the joint activity agreement of doctoral institutions to administer the doctoral studies and coordinate the process of doctoral studies; in this particular case – Vilnius Academy of Arts.
- **Postgraduate studies in arts** – third cycle university studies in the field of art studies provided at VDA until 2012 which were designed to prepare lecturers in the field of art studies and specialise artists, as well as the preparation and defence of art projects.
- **Licentiate in Arts** – (1) a qualification degree awarded to the person who has completed a programme of postgraduate studies and prepared, publicly presented and defended an art project, (2) a person who holds the qualification of the licentiate in arts.
- **Art project** – the entirety of works prepared and defended during the doctoral studies, consisting of two integral parts: artistic-creative (hereinafter referred to as 'creative') and research.
- **Doctor in arts** – (1) a degree awarded to the person who has completed the doctoral study programme, prepared, publicly presented and defended an art project, (2) a person who holds a doctoral degree in arts.
- **Recognised artist** – an artist whose creative activities are characterised by works of particular significance for art and culture realised in Lithuania and/or abroad which have received extensive acknowledgement of the public and art professionals, have been awarded prestigious international or national prizes and other top-level awards, and/or who has educated renowned artists and meets the requirements set out by the higher education institution which he/she is applying for or holds a position at.
- **Internationally recognised artist** – an internationally recognised artist whose particularly significant works have been realised in Lithuania and abroad, in prestigious art spaces, and/or who has educated internationally renowned artists.

Other definitions used in the Regulation are defined in the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania.

6. The Doctoral Committee decides on the issues of doctoral studies, the defence of the art project and the award of the doctoral degree in arts.

7. The Doctoral Committee and changes therein are approved by the Research Council of Lithuania at the proposal of the rector of VDA and in agreement with KTU. The Doctoral Committee is composed of 9 members – architects (recognised artists), scientists conducting high-level research and/or doctors in arts working at VDA and/or KTU. The Doctoral Committee must include at least 3 internationally recognised artists, 2 recognised artists and/or doctors in arts and 4 scientists conducting high-level research. The chairperson of the Doctoral

Committee is an architect or a doctor in arts. The same person cannot be a member of more than two Doctoral Committees.

8. The Doctoral Committee elects its chairperson at its first meeting. A member of the Doctoral Committee may serve as chairperson for a maximum of two consecutive 4-year terms. The chairperson is elected in rotation from both institutions of doctoral studies.

9. The doctoral department at the coordinating institution – VDA – is responsible for the management of the documentation of the joint doctoral studies and the coordination of the activities of the members involved in the process of the doctoral studies.

II. ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES

10. Admission to the doctoral studies is held by open competition. The competition is open to candidates with a master's qualification degree in architecture or arts, or an equivalent higher education qualification, to individuals who have achieved high artistic results, are denoted by an original creative approach, critical thinking, knowledge in the field of architecture, a broad outlook, and the ability to formulate ideas in a reasoned manner, both orally and in writing.

11. The duration of the doctoral studies does not exceed 4 years.

12. The open competition for admission to the doctoral studies and the admission conditions are announced by the Rector of the Coordinating Institution at the proposal of the Doctoral Committee.

13. The competition for the doctoral studies is conducted by the admission committee composed of the members of the Doctoral Committee and, if required, invited members.

14. The admission competition is conducted in two stages:

14.1. The review, i.e., the assessment of creative works and professional preparation. The admission committee examines the applicants' documents, recommendations by recognised artists and/or architects, and the applicants' portfolios. If the admission committee decides that the applicant's artistic level is insufficient (the threshold score is 7), the applicant is excluded from further competition. The review is evaluated on a 10-point system;

14.2. Presentation of the description of the artistic project to be developed and an interview. During this interview, the applicant delivers an oral presentation of the creative and research parts of the planned research project to the admission committee. The interview is evaluated on a 10-point system. It may take place online. After the review and the interview, the admission committee announces the results of the competition.

15. The selection criteria for the applicants to doctoral studies are:

15.1. an artistic research project;

15.2. the compliance of the applicant's qualification, publications and/or artistic and practical activities and experience within the selected thematic area;

15.3. an interview;

15.4. publications (monographs, papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals, professional and cultural media and exhibition catalogues);

15.5. knowledge of foreign languages;

15.6. other criteria approved in the minutes of the Doctoral Committee.

The selection criteria, their scores and weighting coefficients, and the calculation of the competition score are approved in the minutes of the Doctoral Committee for each academic year.

16. Upon the receipt of the conclusion of the admission committee, the Doctoral Committee discusses the results of the competition and submits a proposal on the admission of applicants to the doctoral studies to the Rectors of VDA and KTU.

17. Each year, the Doctoral Committee organises an annual competition for doctoral thematic areas and supervisors of doctoral students in architecture. The approved list of thematic areas and potential supervisors is formalised in the minutes of the Doctoral Committee and is available on the websites of all the institutions of doctoral studies.

18. An applicant may submit an application for the participation in the open competition for

doctoral studies to each institution of doctoral studies.

19. Applicants for the doctoral studies in arts are required to submit:

19.1. an application addressed to the Rector of the institution of doctoral studies to which they are applying;

19.2. a Curriculum Vitae;

19.3. copies of the master's degree or equivalent higher education diploma and its supplements;

19.4. recommendations by two architects and/or recognised artists (written in the calendar year of the admission competition);

19.5. a portfolio of the applicant's creative works and/or projects;

19.6. copies of diplomas, press reviews and other evidence of high artistic achievement in competitions, exhibitions, screenings, etc.;

19.7. artistic, scientific and cultural publications (if any);

19.8. a description of the art project (3000–5000 words).

20. All the documents listed in Paragraph 19, except for the recommendations specified in Section 19.4, are sent as a single document in the pdf format. The architects and recognised artists recommending the applicant for the doctoral studies send their recommendations directly to the Doctoral Division of the coordinating institution at the indicated email address.

21. The heads of the institutions of the doctoral studies or their authorised individuals sign bilateral agreements in the prescribed form with the candidates admitted to full-time doctoral studies in the field of architecture under the procedure of competition.

22. If there are vacancies left after the admission according to the quotas of the institutions of the doctoral studies, or if some of the admitted students do not arrive for their studies at the beginning of the academic year, the doctoral department may organise a second admission competition to be carried out under the same procedure. Applicants with a negative evaluation cannot participate in the second admission competition in the same year.

23. Those applicants who do not qualify for state-funded positions in the competition may, if the committee proposes, opt for fee-based doctoral studies by paying the tuition fee set out by the institution of the doctoral studies with which they sign an agreement.

24. Citizens of foreign states (i.e., countries outside the European Union (hereinafter – EU)) applying for doctoral studies who have a master's degree in architecture or a master's degree in arts, or a diploma of equivalent higher education, submit a document confirming the recognition of the qualification acquired abroad together with the documents listed in Paragraph 19, and study in a state-funded position of studies under the procedure set out by the legislation, or pay the tuition fee set out by the institution of the doctoral studies with which they sign an agreement.

25. Citizens of the countries of the European Union participate in the competition under the general procedure.

26. The Doctoral Committee organises (a) meeting(s) of the Doctoral Committee within one month (30 calendar days) of the beginning of the academic year which is (are) attended by the newly admitted doctoral students. The successful candidates are assigned their supervisors, topics of art projects, and departments or research divisions of the institution of the doctoral studies. The decision of the Doctoral Committee is recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Extracts of these minutes are submitted to each institution of the doctoral studies individually. The minutes are forwarded to the doctoral department of the coordinating institution.

27. The file of an applicant who has not been admitted to the doctoral studies is stored for one year at the doctoral department of the coordinating institution.

28. A candidate who has applied for admission to the doctoral studies and has not been admitted may appeal, within the deadline specified in the Procedure for Admission to Doctoral Studies, to the appeal board appointed by order of the Rector of the coordinating institution.

III. PROVISION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

29. Doctoral studies and research are organised by the Doctoral Committee.

30. The provision of the doctoral studies is administered, and the process of the doctoral studies is coordinated by an institution designated by the joint activity agreement (hereinafter – coordinating institution).

31. The Doctoral Committee:

31.1. approves the conditions and the procedure for open competition for the admission to the doctoral studies;

31.2. carries out the selection of the thematic areas of art projects in the field of architecture and the supervisors of doctoral students;

31.3. carries out admission to the doctoral studies and nominates the admission committees;

31.4. approves supervisors and consultants of doctoral students; considers applications for the replacement of a supervisor or a consultant;

31.5. approves the doctoral student's study plan and any amendment(s) thereof, work plans, and examination commissions;

31.6. provides conclusions on the quality of the doctoral studies, creative and research work, its presentation in exhibitions, creative competitions, joint creative projects, cultural and artistic or scientific publications, and the performance of the doctoral art project, and conducts performance evaluation of the doctoral students;

31.7. ensures successful provision of the doctoral studies and is responsible for the improvement of their standards;

31.8. appoints the defence councils.

32. The records of the meeting of the Doctoral Committee are managed by the secretary of the meeting, and the minutes of the meeting are signed by the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee and the secretary of the meeting. All submissions, proposals and minutes of decisions are forwarded by the Doctoral Committee to the doctoral department of the coordinating institution which prepares the materials for the heads of the institutions of the doctoral studies or their authorised individuals.

33. Decisions taken by the Doctoral Committee are valid when at least two thirds of the Doctoral Committee members, including the chairperson, are present at its meeting (including the members participating by teleconferencing). Those members of the Doctoral Committee who are unable to attend a meeting can submit their views on the discussed issues in advance in writing or by email, but this does not constitute a vote. The submitted opinions are presented at the meeting. The final decision of the Doctoral Committee is made by voting. Decisions are considered as 'approved' if at least two thirds of the members of the Doctoral Committee vote in favour. The minutes of the meeting of the Doctoral Committee are stored for 6 years in the doctoral department of the coordinating institution, and thereafter in the archives of the coordinating institution. An electronic survey may be organised to discuss an issue considered by the Doctoral Committee. The members of the Doctoral Committee express their opinion(s) on the matter discussed by electronic means and vote. The agenda of an electronic meeting cannot include any issues that require a secret ballot.

34. The coordinating institution:

34.1. announces an open competition for the admission to the doctoral studies under the conditions and procedures set out by the Doctoral Committee;

34.2. accepts applications for the admission to the doctoral studies;

34.3. together with the institutions of the doctoral studies, prepares and submits reports on the provision of the doctoral studies to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, the Research Council of Lithuania and other institutions specified in the

legislation;

34.4. compiles information on the progress of the doctoral studies;

34.5. stores the minutes of the meetings of the Doctoral Committee and other documents;

34.6. prepares materials for the institutions of the doctoral studies based on the Doctoral Committee's documents;

34.7. collects documents from the institutions of the doctoral studies and forwards them to the Doctoral Committee.

35. The doctoral student's institution:

35.1. manages the funds transferred from the state budget to cover the doctoral student's study programme and research, the preparation and defence of doctoral art projects, the work of the supervisor, the consultant, the lecturers and the Doctoral Committee, and any other related expenses;

35.2. awards scholarships to doctoral students;

35.3. draws up documents on the provision of the doctoral studies, the appointment of supervisors and consultants for the doctoral students, and the assignment of the defence council;

35.4. organises the preparation of the doctoral student's study and research plan, the publication of the doctoral art project and its abstracts, and the defence of the art project;

35.5. provides the doctoral student with the appropriate conditions for the preparation and provision of the doctoral study programme and individual work plan, and for the preparation and defence of the doctoral art project;

35.6. prepares and stores the doctoral student's file. The doctoral student's file is stored at the doctoral student's institution during the doctoral studies for the entire duration of the studies plus one year after the defence of the art project, after which, it is transferred to the archives of the doctoral student's institution;

35.7. prepares and submits reports to the coordinating institution on the progress of the doctoral studies;

35.8. forwards the necessary documents of the doctoral students to the coordinating institution;

35.9. manages the production, record-keeping and registration of doctoral diploma forms;

35.10. issues and registers doctoral diplomas.

36. Doctoral studies and research are organised by the research departments of the institution of the doctoral studies to which the doctoral students are assigned by the order of the head of the institution of the doctoral studies on the recommendation of the Doctoral Committee. These departments:

36.1. supervise the doctoral student's doctoral studies;

36.2. provide methodological support; promote the doctoral student's academic mobility;

36.3. for each performance evaluation of the doctoral student, submit its opinion to the Doctoral Committee on the results of the doctoral student's studies and research as well as on the expediency of continuing the doctoral studies.

37. The Doctoral Committee, while taking into account the doctoral student's opinion, approves the supervisors of the creative and research parts of the doctoral student's art project. The doctoral student's supervisors have to be approved at the latest within 1 month (30 calendar days) from the start date of the studies.

38. The doctoral student is assigned by the order of the institution of the doctoral studies to the appropriate department whose research and artistic activities field correspond to the doctoral student's study field. The head of this department, together with the doctoral student's supervisor, takes charge of the doctoral student's studies and artistic activities, provides methodological support, and ensures that the doctoral student is provided with the appropriate working conditions and facilities.

39. Upon the receipt of the doctoral student's application and the consent of the doctoral student's supervisors, the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies may grant an academic leave of absence for up to one year by the Rector's order under the procedure set out by the institution of the doctoral studies. During the period of academic leave of absence, no scholarship (support for studies) is paid.

40. Upon the receipt of the doctoral student's application and the consent of the doctoral student's supervisors, the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies may do the following by passing an order for any important reasons (illness, childbirth leave, etc.):

40.1. extend an academic leave of absence;

40.2. postpone the deadlines for examinations, creative work and performance evaluation indicated in the doctoral student's individual work plan for a period not exceeding 3 months.

41. The Doctoral Committee approves the doctoral study programme (teaching modules) which consists of general subjects, a specified number of which must be completed by each doctoral student in the field of architecture, and elective subjects. The general subjects and the electives are included in the doctoral student's individual work plan. The doctoral student's individual work plan specifies a deadline for passing each examination.

42. The institution of the doctoral studies compiles the doctoral student's personal file, in which, the following documents are stored:

42.1. application for admission to the doctoral studies including the appendices listed in Paragraph 19 of the Regulation;

42.2. the documents for admission to the doctoral studies;

42.3. documentation on the appointment of the supervisors and consultants;

42.4. the doctoral student's individual work plan;

42.5. the doctoral student's performance evaluation documents;

42.6. documents on the postponement of the deadlines of the doctoral student's individual work plan and other evaluations;

42.7. records of the examinations of the doctoral studies;

42.8. a description of the prepared art project (research work);

42.9. a list of the creative works carried out during the doctoral studies, copies of the documents testifying the participation in exhibitions, screenings, conferences, competitions, festivals, joint art projects, etc., and media reviews of creative activities;

42.10. documents on the defence of the art project:

42.10.1. reviews by the members of the art project defence council;

42.10.2. a digital medium of the audio recording and the minutes of the art project defence meeting;

42.10.3. a record of the vote of the art project defence council and the decision on the award of the doctoral degree in arts;

42.11. the decision on the termination of the doctoral studies in the event of negative performance evaluation or any other reasons set out by the Regulation;

42.12. records of appeals and hearings on applications;

42.13. a reasoned decision of the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies to revoke the decision on the award of the doctoral degree in arts (if such a submission exists);

42.14. a copy of the doctoral diploma.

IV. SUPERVISION OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

43. The doctoral student's studies and research are supervised by the supervisors of the creative and research parts of the art project:

43.1. the supervisor of the creative part of the doctoral student's art project is required to be a recognised artist in the field of architecture or a doctor in arts. The supervisor can simultaneously supervise no more than 5 doctoral students.

43.2. the supervisor of the research part of the art project has to be an active scientist or a doctor in arts carrying out scientific or artistic research who meets the qualification requirements for a senior researcher or an associate professor. The supervisor of the research part can simultaneously supervise no more than 5 doctoral students. At least one of the supervisors has to be employed at VDA or KTU.

44. The supervisors of the creative and research parts of the art project, in mutual cooperation:

44.1. together with the doctoral student, prepare the plans for the doctoral student's studies,

creative and research parts of the doctoral student's work, and help the doctoral student to formulate the content of his/her art project;

44.2. provide artistic and methodological support to the doctoral student;

44.3. propose candidates for consultants, if required;

44.4. regularly advise the doctoral student in the course of the preparation of the art project and in the preparation for its public presentation and defence;

44.5. at each performance evaluation of the doctoral student, give their opinion on the results of the doctoral student's studies and research and the expediency of continuing the doctoral studies;

44.6. assist the doctoral student regarding the organisational aspects of the doctoral student's studies and the preparation of the art project;

44.7. after assessing the preparedness of the doctoral student, submit a proposal to the Doctoral Committee to set a date for the public defence of the art project and, together with the doctoral student's institution, organise the defence procedure;

44.8. supervise the doctoral student's artistic or research activities and continuously monitor the progress of the doctoral student's doctoral studies.

45. In the development of the art project, a consultant may be appointed for the doctoral student, if necessary. The consultant may be a creative architect, a recognised artist, a practitioner or a scientist, a researcher or a practitioner in any other field whose creative, research or practical activities are relevant to the art project being developed by the doctoral student. The consultant can be appointed for a period of at least two semesters. The doctoral student can have no more than one consultant at a time. The procedure for the approval of doctoral consultants (if the doctoral student, the supervisor and the Doctoral Committee deem them to be necessary) is the same as for the supervisor.

46. If it is necessary to replace the supervisor or the consultant for important reasons, this change is coordinated and approved under the same procedure as the appointment of the supervisor and the consultant.

47. A doctoral student is entitled to submit a reasoned application, addressed to the head of the institution of the doctoral studies, for the replacement of the supervisor no later than one year before the end of the doctoral studies. The head of the institution of the doctoral studies, or the individual authorised by the head of the institution of the doctoral studies, refers the doctoral student's application to the Doctoral Committee which considers the application at its meeting within 1 month (30 calendar days) of the reception of the application. If the doctoral student's application is approved, the Doctoral Committee approves a new supervisor for the doctoral student, while taking into account the topic of the doctoral student's art project. If the Doctoral Committee does not approve the doctoral student's application, the current supervisor continues to supervise the doctoral student. A replacement of the supervisor less than one year before the end of the doctoral studies can only be made for an important reason and is decided by the Doctoral Committee.

V. DOCTORAL STUDENT'S WORK PLAN AND PROCEDURE OF STUDIES

48. The supervisor and the doctoral student prepare the doctoral student's work plan within one month (30 calendar days) of the supervisor's approval. The work plan stipulates the subjects to be studied, the deadlines for assessments, the components of the art project, specifically, the creative and research work, the stages of their preparation, and the deadlines for assessment. The work plan also includes the study of literature, scientific and/or artistic research, some of which may be carried out at high-level research centres abroad, the analysis of the obtained data, the writing of publications, delivery of presentations at scientific conferences, the preparation of the theoretical part, etc.

49. The doctoral student may also study subjects relevant to the field of the doctoral student's art project at other higher education institutions, provided that the programmes of these subjects are designed according to the requirements for the doctoral studies.

50. The examination records submitted by the doctoral student may be used to credit examinations of the subjects previously completed as part of the doctoral studies in art or science.

51. The doctoral programme comprises studies of art in the field of architecture (the scope of the subjects is at least 40 study credits); artistic-creative internship (the scope is at least 80 study credits) and research (the scope is at least 80 study credits). The total scope of the doctoral studies has to make 240 study credits.

52. The doctoral student studies at least 4 mandatory subjects of the study field and 1–2 elective subjects. The studies of each subject are completed with an examination.

53. Within the first two years of the doctoral studies, the doctoral student must complete and get assessment in the form of an examination for all the study modules specified in the study plan. 6 months are allowed for the elimination of the academic debts of the doctoral student who has not obtained a performance evaluation or an assessment. If the debts are not eliminated within this period, the doctoral student is expelled from the doctoral studies. If the doctoral student fails to submit and defend the art project by the deadline for the completion of the doctoral studies, the doctoral student is expelled from the doctoral studies.

54. If the master's degree or the equivalent higher education qualification obtained by an individual admitted to the doctoral studies is not in the field of architecture, the doctoral student may be required to complete additional studies according to the Doctoral Committee's recommendations.

55. The doctoral study programme is required to consist only of study subjects/modules approved by the Doctoral Committee. The doctoral department ensures that only approved study subjects/modules that are relevant to the doctoral study programme are included in the doctoral students' work plans.

56. The doctoral student may be tutored and supervised in practical work by scientists holding the title of a Professor or an associate professor and/or meeting the requirements for a senior researcher whose artistic or research activities during the period of the five years prior to this nomination were relevant to the subject being taught. The examinations are conducted by at least three lecturers, one of whom is the lecturer who has been giving the lectures or supervising the practical work. One of the examiners may be the doctoral student's supervisor or consultant. The examination timetables are drawn up under the procedure set out by each institution of the doctoral studies. The members of the examination boards are approved by the Doctoral Committee.

57. Lectures and seminars for doctoral studies are organised under the procedures set out by the institution of the doctoral studies.

58. The department or division to which the doctoral student has been assigned at the institution of the doctoral studies considers the doctoral student's work plan and submits its conclusions to the Doctoral Committee. The Doctoral Committee approves the doctoral student's work plan. This plan is submitted by each doctoral student to the doctoral department no later than one month (30 calendar days) after the approval of the supervisor and is stored in the doctoral student's file.

59. The doctoral student studies and conducts research according to the approved work plan. The content, quality, scope and deadlines of the conducted research are assessed during the doctoral student's performance evaluation. At the end of each academic year, the Doctoral Committee reviews the doctoral student's work plan, and, if necessary, approves amendments thereto.

60. The doctoral student is given access to the equipment available in the departments, laboratories and other research units of the institutions of the doctoral studies for the research and practical work stipulated in the doctoral student's work plan. If some research cannot be carried out at the institutions of the doctoral studies, the doctoral student may be delegated to carry out research at another national or foreign research institution. The participation of the doctoral student in national and, in particular, international scientific conferences and artistic/scientific events is desirable.

VI. DOCTORAL STUDENT'S EXAMINING AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

61. After passing an examination, the examination record is completed and signed by all the examiners. The records of these examinations are stored in the doctoral student's file.
62. If an examination is not passed, it may be retaken once, but not earlier than one month after the failed attempt. The failure to pass the examination for a second time results in the doctoral student's extraordinary performance evaluation.
63. The doctoral student reports twice per year to the department or research division of the doctoral student's institution, within the deadlines set out by the Doctoral Committee. The department or research division, in the presence of the doctoral student and the doctoral student's supervisor, delivers conclusions to the Doctoral Committee after evaluating the doctoral student's work plan. The doctoral student's supervisor submits a written evaluation of the doctoral student's performance to the department or the research division. The doctoral student's supervisor forwards the doctoral student's performance evaluation documents discussed by the department or the research division to the Doctoral Committee which either gives the positive performance evaluation to the doctoral student (thereby agreeing with the continuation of the doctoral student's doctoral studies and adjusting the plan for the following academic year) or the negative evaluation (thereby proposing to terminate the doctoral studies) or proposes to postpone the performance evaluation for a period of up to three months, pending the elimination of the deficiencies in the implementation of the work plan. The doctoral student and the doctoral student's supervisor may be invited to attend the Doctoral Committee meeting.
64. If the doctoral student is failing to meet the requirements of the studies or the research plan, an extraordinary performance evaluation may be initiated at the proposal by the doctoral student's supervisor or the head of the department, or the Doctoral Committee.
65. The doctoral student who has received the negative performance evaluation is expelled from the doctoral studies by the order of the head of the doctoral student's institution.
66. All applications of doctoral students are registered, and all draft orders are prepared by the doctoral student's institution.

VII. TRIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, APPEALS AND OTHER CONDITIONS

67. The individuals admitted to state-funded positions of full-time doctoral studies are paid a scholarship (support for studies) in the amount determined by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania during the period of studies. The scholarship is paid by the doctoral student's institution.
68. If a doctoral student in full-time state-funded studies has the performance evaluation postponed at the proposal by the Doctoral Committee, the scholarship is withheld during the period of the postponement of the performance evaluation.
69. If the studies are interrupted and the student resumes doctoral studies on a day other than the last day or the first day of a month, the calendar days of the part of the month are included in the duration of the doctoral studies, and the corresponding share of the scholarship is paid to the doctoral student.
70. In the event of an illness, the doctoral student or the doctoral student's relatives have to notify the doctoral department within three days at the latest. Upon the doctoral student's return after the illness, the doctoral student is required to present a certificate/proof/note covering this period. This certificate is the basis for the postponement of the assessment deadlines by the order of the head of the doctoral student's institution or the individual authorised by the head of the doctoral student's institution. The duration of the doctoral studies is not altered due to illness. In the event of a prolonged illness, the doctoral student can request a temporary interruption/suspension of the doctoral student's studies and take an academic leave of absence.

71. A doctoral student may conduct a part of the preparation of the creative project and research or complete partial studies (at least 3 months is recommended) in (a) foreign institution(s). This period is included in the total duration of the doctoral studies, and the full scholarship (support for studies) is paid for this period. Under the procedure set out by the doctoral student's institution, the doctoral student undertakes such trips by the order of the head of the doctoral institution or the individual authorised by the head of the doctoral student's institution after the submission of an application in the prescribed form, coordinated with the doctoral student's supervisor, and the head of the department. The costs of the trip may be covered by projects or programmes administered by the Research Council of Lithuania, the department of the doctoral student's institution, the host institution, or other sources. The payment to cover the costs of the trip or a part thereof can be paid before departure.

72. Should the doctoral student demand, at the request of the doctoral student's division or department, they can be provided with a pedagogical internship or participation in other activities of the department, with academic credits being awarded for such activities.

73. A reasoned appeal or complaint for a non-awarded doctoral degree in arts, the rejection of the external or the doctoral student's application to defend an art project, and other issues related to the organisation/management and provision of the doctoral studies are to be submitted within 14 working days to the doctoral student's institution; these are addressed to the head of the doctoral student's institution. The head of the doctoral student's institution refers the appeal or complaint to the Doctoral Committee, and a special appeal committee assembled by the order of the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies for the consideration and repeated evaluation of the art project. If an appeal against the non-award of the doctoral degree in arts is considered, more than a half of the members of the appeal commission are required *not* to be the members of the defence council which evaluated the art project. An art project which has been repeatedly negatively evaluated shall not be evaluated further. In such a case, the individual expelled from the doctoral studies can apply for the external award of the doctoral degree in arts after one year at the earliest. The appeal or complaint must be considered, and the verdict must be taken within 1 month (30 calendar days) of its receipt. The decision of the doctoral student's institution is sent to the applicant within 5 working days of the decision. An appeal against the non-award of the doctoral degree in arts can also be submitted to the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures.

VIII. ART PROJECT

74. During the doctoral studies, the doctoral student is required to prepare and defend an art project consisting of the integral creative and research parts.

75. The creative part of the art project consists of the works of art created, performed and publicly presented during the doctoral studies. The totality of these works has to reveal the doctoral student's professional development, multifaceted artistic individuality and creative maturity. The creative part of the art project is submitted for the defence together with the materials presenting and/or testifying to the work (artistic, experimental projects, methodologies, prototypes or other works of art created, performed and/or otherwise publicly presented in exhibitions, creative competitions or other events, catalogues of competitions or exhibitions, photographs, reviews by critics or experts, and other materials from official sources).

76. The research part of the art project is developed in parallel with the creative part of the art project by studying the selected research topic.

77. The research part of the art project summarises the research carried out by the doctoral student in the course of the doctoral studies. It has to reveal the skills of the methodological research work, the ability to independently interpret and reasonably address the current issues of architectural art and/or cultural processes. The nature of the research work may vary: comprehensive multifaceted research and justification of the method and/or methodology of one's own creation and/or interpretation; an exploration of the relevant problems of art practice;

theoretical-methodological research. In the course of the research work, architectural objects, phenomena, practices, visual and documentary sources, scientific literature and other information are studied regarding the selected aspect. The interaction between the practical and theoretical activities along with interdisciplinary insights is encouraged.

78. The doctoral student's research part of the art project to be submitted for defence, as a coherent monograph, published in the English language or in the Lithuanian language, consists of the text of the research work (with examples, illustrative materials, bibliography, references, appendices) of 30,000 to 40,000 words and a summary of approximately 5,000 words in the English language or in the Lithuanian language.

79. The main parts of the research part of the art project are as follows:

79.1. Introduction. It substantiates the research problem, defines the research object, the objective and the tasks, describes the relevance and novelty of the work. It provides a review of the research on the topic carried out in Lithuania and/or abroad and the author's (i.e., the doctoral student's) contribution to the explored problem. The research concept is revealed, and the doctoral student's research methodology is described.

79.2. The main body of the text. The nature of the research work may vary: detailed multifaceted research and the justification of the method of the doctoral student's own creation and/or interpretation; an exploration of the relevant issues in art practice; theoretical-methodological research. The main body of the text is required to reveal the ability to independently interpret and reasonably address the current problems of art and cultural processes.

79.3 Conclusions. The conclusions are required to summarise the research results and present the implementation of the tasks or solutions to the problems outlined in the Introduction.

79.4. A list of references used (cited) in the text, and if necessary, a list of archival sources is provided separately.

79.5. Appendices.

79.6. Acknowledgements (if applicable, acknowledgements are written before the Introduction).

80. The doctoral student has to prepare a detailed abstract of the art project:

80.1. The abstract defines the concept, the creative problem, the objective, and the relevance of the art project to the discourse of the field of art and the context of personal creation. It presents the creative strategies and the research methods in use, the main results. The conclusions are based on the obtained results and are to be defended by the doctoral student.

80.2. A list of the doctoral student's publications on the topic of the art project with a full bibliographical description; a list of conference presentations on the topic of the art project is provided at the end of the abstract. The abstract also contains basic information about the doctoral student.

81. The first page of the title page of the art project indicates:

81.1. the institution where the doctoral art project is bound to be defended;

81.2. the name and surname of the doctoral student;

81.3. the title of the art project;

81.4. the text *Art Project. Research Part*;

81.5. the area and the field of art, the code of the field of art;

81.6. location (city) and year.

82. The second page of the title page of the art project indicates:

82.1. the period and place of the preparation of the art project;

82.2. if the art project is defended externally, the wording *Art Project is Defended Externally* is used;

82.3. the doctoral student's supervisor of the creative part, the supervisor of the research part and the consultant(s) (if any). The supervisors and consultant(s) are presented in the following order: the pedagogical/scientific position held by the individual, degree, name, surname, workplace (full title), area and field of art/science and its code. If the doctoral student's supervisor has been replaced, any previous supervisor and the period of the supervisor's employment are also indicated. If the doctoral student's supervisor or consultant

is a foreign scientist, the country is specified next to the supervisor's/consultant's workplace.

83. The research part of the art project is accompanied with a list of publications on the topic of the art project in cultural and artistic or scientific publications, a list of conferences in which the research results on the art project have been presented, and a description of the doctoral student's life, the doctoral student's creative and research activities.

84. The first page of the title page of the abstract of the art project indicates:

84.1. the institution in which the art project is bound to be defended;

84.2. the name and surname of the doctoral student;

84.3. the title of the art project;

84.4. the text *Abstract of a Doctoral Art Project*;

84.5. the area and the field of art, the code of the field of art;

84.6. location (city) and year.

85. The second page of the title page of the abstract of the art project indicates:

85.1. the period and place of the preparation of the art project;

85.2. if the art project is defended externally, the wording *Art Project is Defended Externally* is used;

85.3. the doctoral student's supervisor of the creative part, the supervisor of the research part and the consultant(s) (if any). The supervisors and the consultant(s) are listed in the following order: the pedagogical/scientific position held by the individual, degree, name, surname, workplace (full title), the area and field of art/science and its code. If the doctoral student's supervisor has been replaced, any previous supervisor and the period of the previous supervisor's employment are also indicated. If the doctoral student's supervisor or consultant is a foreign scientist, the country is specified next to the supervisor's/consultant's workplace;

85.4. the title of the art project defence council;

85.5. the chairperson and the members of the art project defence council. The members of the council are described in the following order: the pedagogical/scientific position held by the member of the council, the degree, name, surname, workplace (full title), the area and field of art/science and its code. If a member of the defence council is a foreign scientist, the country is specified next to the individual's workplace;

85.6. the date and location of the defence of the art project (including the exact address);

85.7. the institutions in whose libraries the research part of the art project is available.

86. If the research part of the art project or its abstract is written in a foreign language, a second title page in the Lithuanian language must be added.

87. The doctoral student can only submit an art project for defence once the doctoral student has passed all the examinations, presented the creative works stipulated by the doctoral work plan, and published the main ideas of the research part in at least two papers in cultural, artistic or scientific publications/journals.

IX. DEFENCE OF THE ART PROJECT

88. The doctoral student submits the art project upon agreement of the supervisors, together with the application for defence, to the doctoral department of the doctoral student's institution which verifies whether the doctoral student has fully implemented the individual work plan and has fulfilled any other applicable requirements set out in the Regulation. Then, the art project is submitted to the Doctoral Committee.

89. The Doctoral Committee appoints one reviewer for the evaluation of the creative part and one reviewer for the research part of the art project. The reviewers evaluate the doctoral student's research and submit written conclusions along with proposals within 1 month (30 calendar days) after receiving the work(s) of the doctoral student.

90. After receiving the reviewers' conclusions, the Doctoral Committee decides whether the art project is to be submitted for defence, or it needs to be revised, and determines the deadline for the revision of the project according to the reviewers' comments.

91. If the Doctoral Committee decides that the draft art project can be submitted for defence, it

is defended as a single piece of work (i.e., both the creative and the research parts are defended together).

92. For the defence of the art project, the Doctoral Committee appoints a five-member defence council and appoints one of its members (a professional architect or a doctor in arts) as the chairperson whose attendance at the defence council meeting is mandatory. The defence council has to include three architects and/or doctors in science and two scientists. At least one member of the defence council has to be from a foreign institution providing related doctoral studies. One of the members of the defence council may be an internationally renowned artist from outside the institution of the doctoral studies. The members of the defence council must meet the qualification requirements for the position of a professor, and one member of the defence council can meet the requirements for the position of an associate professor. The composition of the defence council is approved by the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies.

93. There can be no conflict of interest between the members of the defence council and the doctoral student, the doctoral student's supervisor(s) and reviewers. In the event of a conflict, it is first handled by the Doctoral Committee. If the conflict cannot be resolved within the Doctoral Committee, it is handled under the procedure set out by the legislation. The doctoral student's supervisor and the research consultant cannot be a member of the Council.

94. At least 30 calendar days before the defence of the art project, the doctoral department:

94.1. submits the publication of the draft art project to the members of the defence council and to the library of the institution of the doctoral studies in which the work has been prepared, and, under the procedures set out by the institution of the doctoral studies, publishes it in the *Electronic Theses and Dissertations Database* (ETD) subsystem of the *Lithuanian Academic Electronic Library* (eLABa);

94.2. sends a notification of the intended defence to the Research Council of Lithuania;

94.3. carries out a plagiarism check under the procedure established by the institution of the doctoral studies.

95. The art project is defended at a public meeting of the defence council. The meeting is held in Lithuanian or in a foreign language. The institution of the doctoral studies at which the art project is defended provides translation from or into the Lithuanian language. The meeting is chaired by the chairperson of the defence council. The meeting is valid if at least four members of the defence council are physically present. The feedback on the art project received from the absent member of the defence council and any other received feedback is read at the meeting. The meeting may be organised remotely by electronic means.

96. The defence of the art project at the meeting of the defence council is required to demonstrate the integrity of the creative and the research parts, the professional skills appropriate to the qualification of a doctor in the field of architecture, the individuality of the artistic position as well as the novelty of the approach, along with the knowledge of the research field.

97. In the course of the public defence of the art project, when presenting the creative part of the project, the doctoral student comments on the creative ideas and/or technological solutions, substantiates the artistic position, the relevance of the work, reveals its place in the development of architecture, and responds to any questions and comments made by the participants of the public defence procedure. The defence council assesses the originality of the submitted creative project, the doctoral student's professionalism, artistic maturity, knowledge, the overall competence and/or ability to discuss cultural and architectural issues.

98. In the presentation of the research part of the art project, the doctoral student presents the main results and conclusions of the work and indicates one's own contribution to the problem that has been researched. The doctoral student replies to the questions and gives feedback to any comments/remarks made by the participants of the public defence procedure. The members of the defence council assess the quality of the research work, the novelty and originality of the results, the validity of the conclusions, and point out any shortcomings or inaccuracies in the work.

99. After discussions with the doctoral student, the members of the defence council decide by voting, in a closed meeting, whether or not the doctoral degree should be awarded. The decision

to award the doctoral degree in arts is made if at least two thirds of all members of the defence council vote in favour of the decision at the meeting. The minutes of the vote and the decision to award the doctoral degree in arts are signed by all the members of the defence council who are present at the meeting. If the defence and the vote are conducted remotely by using digital technology, the digital version of the minutes may be signed electronically.

100. The doctoral department informs the Research Council of Lithuania about the results of the defence no later than 10 working days after the meeting of the defence council of the art project. Within 14 calendar days after the decision of the defence council to award the doctoral degree in arts, one copy of the defended publication of the art project is submitted to Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

101. If the defence council decides that the doctoral degree in arts is not to be awarded, the doctoral student is allowed to resubmit a revised and/or supplemented art project for defence once not earlier than after one year and not later than after two years from the failed attempt of defence. In this case, the costs of organising the repeated procedure of defence of the art project shall be borne by the applicant. In the event of scientific dishonesty (plagiarism, etc.), the art project cannot be defended anymore, and the already awarded doctoral degree is revoked with a verdict of the defence council which awarded it; it is subjected to the approval of the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies.

102. If a doctoral student submits an art project for defence before the end of the doctoral studies but is unable to defend it due to important reasons, the art project may be allowed to be defended under the standard procedure within the next 12 months after the end of the doctoral studies. If the art project is not defended within this period, it may be defended externally according to Chapter X of the Regulation.

X. OBTAINING A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN ARTS EXTERNALLY

103. An individual holding a master's degree or an equivalent higher education qualification, actively engaged in creative activities, denoted by the achievement of significant creative results, and capable of preparing an art project which meets the requirements set out by the Regulation, may apply for the doctoral degree in arts externally.

104. The external candidate is required to submit a detailed report on one's artistic activities for the last 5 years, thereby presenting one's creative achievements at the national and international level. The external candidate is required to deliver an independently prepared research project for the qualification of the doctor in arts and research which fulfils the requirements of the Regulation on Doctoral Studies.

105. The artistic-creative activity report, the independently prepared research work (which may be a published monograph) and its abstract, together with the application for permission to defend the art project externally, are submitted to the rector of the institution of the doctoral studies at which the doctoral degree in arts is bound to be awarded. The application is required to feature the following attachments:

105.1. reviews from professional art and/or architecture evaluators and other information from official sources;

105.2. a list and copies of works delivered (if any) in cultural and artistic and/or scientific publications/journals;

105.3. a copy of the master's qualification (or any other equivalent higher education qualification) diploma and its appendices;

105.4. certified copies or extracts of the reports of the examinations of the doctoral studies (if any);

105.5. a description of life and creative activities (*Curriculum Vitae*).

106. No later than 3 months after the submission of the application, the Doctoral Committee convenes in a meeting with the participation of the external candidate. The meeting examines the submitted material and appoints one reviewer for each: the evaluation of the creative and the research parts of the art project. The reviewers submit written conclusions and proposals.

After receiving the reviewers' conclusions, the Doctoral Committee decides whether the art project meets the requirements of the doctoral studies and should be submitted for defence, or it needs to be revised, and determines the deadlines for the revision according to the reviewers' comments.

107. If it is decided that the submitted or slightly revised external candidate's art project can be recommended for defence, the Doctoral Committee:

107.1. approves the external candidate's consultants who will perform the functions of the supervisors of the external candidate's art project; if the individual applying for the doctoral degree of the doctor in arts has already done doctoral studies without submitting an art project, the Doctoral Committee may appoint a former supervisor or another person as the candidate's consultant;

107.2. decides on the issue of the crediting of the examinations of the doctoral studies already passed by the external candidate, determines which further examinations of the doctoral studies the external candidate is required to pass and by what deadlines, determines the composition of the commission of examiners and the examination procedure;

107.3. sets a deadline for the defence of the art project which may be not later than 18 months from the date of the decision.

108. The external candidate may submit an art project for defence after having published the main ideas of the research part of the project in at least two works in cultural and artistic and/or scientific publications/journals.

109. The external candidate's examinations are organised, the art project is examined and defended according to Chapters VI and VIII of the Regulation. The external candidate covers only the costs of the doctoral student's institution directly related to the award of the doctoral degree in arts.

110. If the Doctoral Committee decides that the art project cannot be prepared for defence within 18 months of the decision, or if the defence council decides that the doctoral degree in arts is not to be awarded to the external candidate, the external candidate may appeal to the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies. If the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies approves the negative decision of the Doctoral Committee or the defence council, the external candidate may reapply for the defence of the art project at the earliest after 2 years from the date of the negative decision.

XI. AWARDING A DOCTORAL DEGREE IN ARTS

111. Upon making the favourable decision on the award of the doctoral degree in arts, the defence council submits a document confirming the decision to the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies in which the art project has been defended.

112. Based on the favourable decision of the defence council, the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies in which the art project has been defended signs the doctoral diploma together with the chairperson of the defence council.

113. If the project prepared by the doctoral student receives the negative evaluation by the defence council, the doctoral student can appeal to the Rector of the institution of the doctoral studies in which the art project was attempted to be defended by following the provisions of Chapter VII of the Regulation.

114. The decision to award the doctoral degree in arts may be revoked if artistic and scientific dishonesty has been established.

115. The institution of the doctoral studies in which the art project has been dishonestly defended revokes the decision to award the degree if the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures adopts the binding decision to that effect.

116. The form of the doctoral diploma in arts and the procedure for the production, record-keeping and registration of the diploma forms is set out by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania.

XII. FINANCING OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

117. Doctoral studies are financed from the state budget allocations, funds from state investment programmes and state investment projects, income from tuition fees, income from economic and research activities and services, funds from competitive research funding, funds from the state, international and foreign foundations and organisations, and any other legally obtained funds.

118. Funds for the doctoral students' scholarships, salaries and social security payments for the members of the defence council, doctoral students' (except for the external candidates) supervisors, advisors, lecturers, members of the Doctoral Committee, employees of the doctoral department, doctoral students' research (including, but not limited to, the purchase of research materials, artistic and scientific literature, and any fees related with the publication of the doctoral student's scientific papers in international journals, the organisation of exhibitions and/or fellowships at international art events, architectural biennials, artists' residencies, doctoral summer schools, conferences, art and science institutions), the multiplication of the art project and its abstract, and any other costs related to the award of the doctoral degree stipulated in the budget estimates of the programmes of the institutions of the doctoral studies.

119. Each institution of the doctoral studies is in possession of mobility incentive tools to ensure the international academic mobility of the doctoral students. The specific funding model and the funds allocated to the doctoral students are set out by the internal legislation of the institution of the doctoral studies.

XIII. QUALITY ASSURANCE IN DOCTORAL STUDIES

120. Quality assurance in doctoral studies is regulated by the Regulation on Doctoral Studies in Arts approved by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania, resolutions of the Research Council of Lithuania, this Regulation, other legislation regulating the third cycle studies, and the joint activity agreement of the institutions of the doctoral studies.

121. For the internal quality assurance in the doctoral studies in the field of Architecture, the Doctoral Committee evaluates the quality of the doctoral studies in the field of Architecture at least once every three years, while taking into account the following indicators:

121.1. *the indicator of efficiency and performance.* The assessment of the ratio of the doctoral students in the field of Architecture to doctors in arts; the works and research produced and published by the doctoral students during their doctoral studies; the participation of the doctoral students in fellowships and conferences; the participation of the doctoral students in scientific and other research projects relevant to the thematic area of their thesis; the employability and further careers of the former doctoral students who successfully defended their art projects;

121.2. *the indicator of artistic and scientific resources.* The assessment of the compliance of qualifications of the recognised artists and scientists involved in the preparation of doctoral students in arts with the established qualification requirements;

121.3. *the organisational indicator.* The assessment of whether the training of the doctoral students in arts is organised in the planned manner, with reasoned justification of all the stages of the process;

121.4. *the infrastructure indicator.* The assessment of whether the appropriate organisational and material conditions are provided for the high-quality studies of the doctoral students in arts and the dissemination of their scientific achievements;

121.5. *the indicator of social partnership and cooperation.* The assessment of whether the appropriate organisational and material conditions are provided for the high-quality implementation of the doctoral students' projects and the dissemination of their practical

achievements, as well as the employability of the doctoral students after graduation.

122. The Doctoral Committee assesses the following procedure:

122.1. it gets acquainted with the self-assessment material in the doctoral studies in the field of Architecture provided by the institutions of the doctoral studies;

122.2. it visits each institution of the doctoral studies:

122.2.1. it holds discussions with the employees and researchers responsible for the process of the doctoral studies (the discussion process is as follows: the process of admission to the doctoral studies, the process of studies, the procedures for the completion of the doctoral studies, the typically arising issues and the areas for improvement);

122.2.2. it discusses with the doctoral students (discussion process: motives for applying for the doctoral studies, the process of the doctoral studies, supervision of art projects, the organisation and material support of studies, typical problems and areas for improvement);

122.2.3. it discusses with the social partners (by holding discussions on the appropriate conditions for cooperation, material infrastructure, the implementation of the art project, exchange and dissemination of mutually useful information, the confidentiality of information, employment opportunities);

122.2.4. based on the qualitative and quantitative information that has been obtained, it evaluates the *efficiency and performance of the doctoral studies in the field of Architecture at the institutions of the doctoral studies; the artistic and scientific resources; the organisation and infrastructure of studies; and the social cooperation level*;

122.3. it provides the heads of the institutions of the doctoral studies with summarised conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the quality of the doctoral studies.

XIV. PROCEDURE OF THE DEFENCE OF AN ART PROJECT

123. This procedure establishes the working procedures of the council for the defence of art projects in the field of architecture (hereinafter – Defence Council).

124. The members of the Council submit written reviews of art projects to the doctoral department of the doctoral student's institution at least 5 working days before the defence of the art project. The doctoral student is informed of these reviews at least 3 working days before the defence of the project.

125. The Council's documents are managed and the meeting for the defence of the art project is organised by the doctoral department of the institution of the doctoral studies.

126. The work of the Defence Council is organised by the chairperson of the Defence Council. The chairperson:

126.1. examines the file of the candidate who is bound to defend the art project (hereinafter – doctoral candidate) in advance and makes sure that the file and all the documents of the meeting (ballot papers, voting record form, etc.) comply with the requirements;

126.2. examines the received reviews which are required to be submitted at the meeting of the Defence Council, or delegates this task to another member of the Defence Council;

126.3. ensures that the meeting has been properly prepared (audio recording or transcription of the meeting, display of the visual materials, and, if necessary, translation of the meeting); chairs the meeting of the Defence Council; and signs the documents of the Defence Council meeting.

127. Each member of the Defence Council examines the art project submitted for defence in advance and assesses whether it is an original creative work and the research summarising the artistic exploration work carried out by the doctoral student on a problem in the field of art, and whether its content meets any other applicable requirements for the doctoral art projects.

128. An audio or video recording of the meeting of the Defence Council is made.

129. The proceedings of the meeting are as follows:

129.1. the chairperson of the Defence Council makes sure that at least 4 members of the Defence Council are present at the meeting and that those members who are not physically present have submitted written reviews of the art project; the chairperson informs the

participants of the quorum and presents the doctoral student's file;

129.2. the doctoral student presents the art project: the doctoral student demonstrates the integrity of the creative and research parts, reveals the professional skills appropriate for the qualification of the doctor in the field of Architecture, the individuality of the artistic position and the new approach and the developed knowledge in the research field. 20 minutes are allocated for the doctoral student's presentation. After the presentation, the doctoral student answers the questions submitted by the members of the Defence Council;

129.3. the doctoral student's supervisors and consultants for the research and creative parts are given the opportunity to speak;

129.4. the chairperson of the Defence Council announces the discussion;

129.5. the chairperson or a member of the Defence Council appointed by the chairperson publicly reads the received reviews of the art project from the absent members of the Defence Council and any other received reviews; the chairperson presents the comments and conclusions formulated in the reviews, and the doctoral student responds to the comments being made;

129.6. all the members of the Defence Council take the floor; they make comments to the doctoral student and raise questions for discussion. The doctoral student responds to the comments and questions;

129.7. other members of the meeting are given the opportunity to speak; after each speech, the doctoral student may ask for the right to respond and is given the opportunity to respond to the questions and/or comments;

129.8. at the end of the discussion, the doctoral student is given the final word;

129.9. after the discussion with the doctoral student, the members of the Defence Council vote in a closed session on whether the doctoral degree in arts should be awarded to the doctoral student:

129.9.1. the chairperson of the Defence Council distributes the ballot papers. The members of the Defence Council who are present by teleconferencing also vote by sending a scanned ballot paper marking their vote;

129.9.2. after the vote, the chairperson completes the minutes of the vote; the members of the Defence Council have the right to verify the results of the vote. The decision to award the doctoral degree in arts is adopted by the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of the Defence Council;

129.9.3. all the members of the Defence Council who are present at the meeting sign the minutes of the vote of the Defence Council and the decision on the award or non-award of the doctoral degree in arts;

129.10. the chairperson of the Defence Council announces the decision to all the participants and declares that the meeting has been closed.

130. At the end of the meeting, the chairperson of the Defence Council returns the documents on the defence of the art project to the doctoral department of the institution of the doctoral studies.