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**MASTER STUDY PROGRAMME**

**SOCIOLOGY**

(State code –621L30001)

**Outline**

Vilnius

August 2013

**PRINCIPAL DATA ON THE STUDY PROGRAMME**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of the study programme**  | Sociology |
| **State code**  | 621L30001 |
| **ISCED code**  | 51231 |
| **Type of the study programme** | University studies  |
| **Study stage**  | Second |
| **Form of studies (duration in years )** | Full-time (2) |
| **Scope of the study programme in credits**  | 120 |
| **Degree and /or****professional qualification awarded**  | Master of Sociology |
| **Date of last registration of the study programme**  | **2013-03-12 Nr. SV6-20** **Until 2018.07.01** |
| **Beginning of the implementation of the study programme**  | **1997.09.01**  |
| **The language for the implementation of the study programme** | **Lithuanian, some courses may be taught in English**  |

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# 0. INTRODUCTION

Vilnius University, established in 1579, is the oldest and largest institution of scientific research and academic studies in Lithuania. Vilnius University is structurally divided into academic and non-academic divisions, and by their status the divisions are categorized into core and branch divisions. The principal activities of the academic divisions of the University are research and/or studies. The core academic divisions are the Faculties of the University and other comparable divisions (12 faculties, 7 institutes, and 4 centres having the status of core academic divisions).

The supreme self-governance body of Vilnius University is the Senate. The Senate of the University consists of 72 members. The Senate is responsible for the general affairs of the University, the collegial decisions regarding the most important issues and problems. The head of the University is the Rector who is elected by the Senate and accountable to it. The Rector of the University is elected for a term of five years. Presently there are five Vice-Rectors – deputies of the Rector responsible for the respective functions assigned to them: academic affairs, strategic development, administrative affairs, scientific research, and international relations. The Senate of the University approves and removes the Vice-Rectors by motion of the Rector.

The core academic divisions have a definite autonomy, ability to make decisions regarding the studies or research related issues without seeking approval of higher governing structures of the University. However, the coordination of the study process and the supervision of general regulations are performed by the University. The Committee of Studies formed by the Senate processes new study programmes and then submits them to the Senate for decision about accreditation. The Directorate of Studies prepares and submits to the Senate general regulations of the study process. The main documents regulating the study process at Vilnius University are the following: Regulations of Studies, Regulations of the Study Programmes, The Procedures for Evaluations of the Results of Studies, Regulations of Stipends, The Procedures of the Records of Academic Achievement, The Regulations of the Preparation, Defence and Retaining of the Graduation Theses, etc.

Faculty of Philosophy at Vilnius University was re-established in 1989. Its curriculum included the reinstated study programme of psychology (hitherto part of the studies at the Faculty of History) and the newly developed programmes of philosophy and sociology. Master Study Programme in Sociology was introduced in 1997 together with the introduction of two cycles (undergraduate/graduate) studies into Lithuanian higher education system. In the 2005, Faculty of Philosophy moved into its present location in the Vilnius old town, relocating into one of the buildings from the historical complex of the Vilnius University after its capital reconstruction.

The Council of the Faculty is the highest decision-making institution of the Faculty's self-governance, and is responsible for the strategy and planning of the Faculty's scientific research and studies. Presently the Council is composed of 22 members (three among them are representatives of students). Specialized commissions – Commission of Appeals, Commission of Attestation, Commission of Disputes and Academic Commission – are accountable to the Council. The Faculty is administered by the Dean's Office which consists of the Dean and three Vice-deans (for Studies, for Research and Strategic Planning, and for Relations and Projects), Heads of Departments and Administrator of the Faculty.

The Faculty of Philosophy is composed of seven departments – General Psychology, Educational Sciences, Philosophy, Logic and History of Philosophy, Clinical and Organizational Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology – and other branch academic divisions – Centre of Criminology Studies, Psychophysiology Laboratory, Psychological Innovations and Research Training Centre, Laboratory of Special Psychology.

In September 2011 In June 2012 there were 104 employees: 77 of them were academic personnel (17 among them – professors). At the beginning of the academic year 2011-2012, there were 1514 students enrolled in studies at the Faculty: 1106 in undergraduate programmes, 333 in the Masters programmes, and 75 in the doctoral programmes. The Faculty offers four undergraduate programmes (Philosophy, Psychology, Social Work, Social Policy, Sociology), thirteen Masters programmes (Educational Studies, Philosophy, Clinical Psychology, Organizational Psychology, Educational Psychology, Psychology and Criminology, Health Psychology, Social Work, Social Policy, Sociology, Sociology and Criminology, Information Society Studies, Special Pedagogy), and four doctoral programmes (Educational Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology).

The Faculty of Philosophy is unique in Vilnius University and beyond for the variety of sciences and studies assembled, and could be justly called “a university within university”. This variety of sciences is reminiscent of the times when the terms “philosophy” and “science” had the same meaning. Scientific research is conducted in three different areas that are distinguished in Lithuania: biomedical sciences (B000), humanities (H000), and social sciences (S000). Such structure of the Faculty produces environment favourable for interdisciplinary research and studies. There is a possibility to integrate the subjects from one neighbouring programme into any other. Some courses of social sciences (psychology and sociology) are integrated into Philosophy programme, and some researchers doing interdisciplinary research from Departments of Philosophy and Educational Sciences are invited to teach in the Sociology Programmes.

The Sociology programmes (both Bachelor and Master) are implemented by the Sociology Department. Lecturers and researchers from other divisions of the University as well as from other research institutions are also involved in the process of studies, and the staff members of the Faculty of Philosophy are often active members in the study programmes of other divisions of the University.

# 1. PROGRAMME AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Master Study Programme in Sociology was launched in 1997, and until 1998 the Department of Sociology was responsible for implementation of this programme. However, in 1998 in order to improve the management and quality of two different academic programmes – Bachelor and Master Studies in Sociology – it was decided to establish a new sociological department - Department of Social Theory responsible for administration of Master programme in Sociology. The Department of Sociology continued administration of the Bachelor programme in Sociology. In the year 2004, the Department of Social Theory because of the financial economy reasons merged with Department of Sociology, and since this time MA in Sociology studies are managed by the Department of Sociology again.

This study programme directly complies with the main objectives of Vilnius University – to reinforce and develop the role and influence of science in the present and future Lithuanian society, to ensure quality studies guaranteeing the education of a competent, critical, responsible and ever-developing personality, to train scientists and specialists of the highest qualification who would be open to scientific innovations and the ever-changing challenges of the society and ready to participate in the local and international academic life with responsibility for Lithuanian culture and openness towards other cultures.

The need for sociology studies is determined by different factors. Firstly, sociology as classical discipline of social sciences has established and recognized position. Secondly, society, which underwent radical political and economical changes and value shifts, deep changes in social structure accompanied with such negative consequences as growing levels of poverty and the sense of social inequality, etc., needs sociological knowledge, needs people who are able to understand the determining factors of social life and underlying processes. Thirdly, the demand for sociology specialists is related to the establishment of the market economy. There were more than 10 public opinion and market research agencies set up in Lithuania over the last 20 years. Sociology specialists are required in agencies of public opinion and market research, national and local governmental institutions, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, media, advertising, i.e. wherever there is a need of knowledge and skills of analysis of social phenomena and processes – competences that are develop and acquired in sociology studies.

The aim of the programme is to educate life-time learning specialists equiped with up-to-date knowledge in social theory and methodology, fit for academic research activity, mastering skills to apply acquired theoretical knowledge in practical fields, displaying creative abilities of sociological imagination and independent, open, and critical thinking, having interiorized the norms of sociological professional ethics, able to interpret social events and facts, as well as to understand their own sociological work in the broad cultural perspective.

A graduate can work as a researcher at various academic institutions, as an expert in the field of politics, law, economics, communications, he/she can carry out research in the areas of marketing, public administration, public relations and advertising for non-governmental organizations and teach at secondary schools and colleges, or continue her studies as PhD student. According to the available data (see data about the employment of the graduates (see section 5th), they find jobs in these and other segments of labour market, providing the evidence about the demand for programme.

In the second quarter 2011, there was conducted the research of the professional practice of Lithuanian sociologists, with the aim to analyze the connections between studies of sociology and professional career. Through using Internet questionnaire 141 sociology masters was surveyed (74 from Vilnius university; 36 from Kaunas Technological University; 31 from Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas). During the semi-structured interviews the sociology graduates of Vilnius University and their employers have stressed that the advantage of studies of sociology is universality. According to the informants, sociology is a broad speciality, encompassing social and humanitarian as well as exact sciences, thus, it provides broad knowledge. By acquiring a well-rounded education at the sociology studies and by investing efforts in a certain work place the graduate can become a good specialist in a wide variety of work fields. None of the graduates could say that they or their fellow-students had any difficulties in finding a job, whether it matched their speciality or not.

Another feature of the sociology speciality which came to the surface during the interviews with the informants is its attractiveness and advantage with respect to other social sciences, such as management or economics. The sociology graduate can work in a variety of fields where management or economics graduates are employed. The sociologist, more than a manager or economist, will be required to have a unique and original outlook on many things.

In comparison with BA programme study in sociology, master study programme provides a a new stage of sociological education, preparing graduates for the work on PhD thesis. Taking into account the structure and content of education in the antecedent bachelor programme, it transfers them on the higher academic level, providing state of art knowledge near to advanced research frontier in sociological theory, methodology, contemporary state of Lithuanian society, and several „hyphen-Sociologies“ (e.g. Sociology of Law and Deviance, Sociology of Socio-Economic Change etc.), where the academic staff of the programme has the record of advanced research. Because the MA programme deepens the know-how and know-that knowledge received in the BA studies, part of the common for both programmes. This relates first of all the education of generic competences:

1. Ability to find, analyze, systematize information from various sources;
2. Cross-cultural understanding and appreciation, especially regarding racial, ethnic, gender, religious differences in values, perception and behaviour;
3. Independent work and team work skills: to communicate and cooperate in different contexts, work independently and in a team;
4. Practical knowledge application and problem-solving ability;
5. Ability to communicate in written and oral form within the professional environment with non-experts of the professional field.

Another set of programme objectives are mainly specific for MA Programme, including the education of the following specific competences:

1. Understanding of sociology theories and their development, the ability to apply them for the purpose of the analysis of sociological problems;

(2) Ability to analyse society structures and institutions by means of application of sociology theories and methodologies;

 (3) The ability to identify and analyse social problems;

 (4) Ability to conduct social research, assess data quality and present research results;

 (5) Ability to analyze quantitative as well as qualitative sociological information with the application of the methods of statistical analysis, to model, interpret analysis results and forecast the local as well as global social processes;

 (6) Ability to use the knowledge of the related and inter-field disciplines relevant for the analysis of the sociological problems' analysis.

The table Nr.1 provides the list of the expected outcomes of the education of the competences listed above, while table Nr. 2 explains how specific study subjects (courses) contribute to the realisation of the learning outcomes.

**Table 1. Learning outcomes of the Sociology master study programme**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Generic competences** | **Programme learning outcomes** |
| 1. | Ability to find, analyze, systematize information from various sources  | 1.1 | The students will be able to choose and to apply relevant search systems, national and international data basis, and relevant software for the search, analysis and systematization of social information  |
| 2. | Cross-cultural understanding and appreciation, especially regarding racial, ethnic, gender, religious differences in values, perception and behaviour. | 2.1 | The students will be able to understand cross-cultural differences, especially regarding racial, ethnic, gender, religious differences in values, perception and behavior, ability to reflect on one’s theoretical and practical position in the context of social diversity  |
| 3. | Independent work and team work skills: to communicate and cooperate in different contexts, work independently and in a team | 3.1 | The students will have the ability to communicate and cooperate in a local, national and international teams, taking up leadership positions in at least a number of areas, prepare and manage projects  |
| 4. | Practical knowledge application and problem-solving ability | 4.1 | Being able to formulate, analyze, solve complicated problems and make decisions having insufficient or limited information available in a new and unfamiliar environments; ability to implement these decisions in a relevant social policy |
| 5. | Ability to communicate in written and oral form within the professional environment with non-experts of the professional field | 5.1 | The students will be able to represent their academic community, to communicate in written and oral form with specialists of the professional field as well as with non-experts, to initiate subject specific discussions in the public sphere and to actively participate in them  |
| Specific competences | Programme learning outcomes |
| 1. | Understanding of sociology theories and their development, the ability to apply them for the purpose of the analysis of sociological problems | 1.1 | The students will be able to perform analysis and critical assessment of the contemporary social theories, be argumentative and reasonable in their choice of the theoretical and methodological model relevant for a certain scientific problem of sociology research |
| 1.2. | The students will be able to perceive the relation of elective affinities of the sociological thinking and sociological concepts with research approaches characteristic for other social sciences |
| 1.3. | The students will be able to track, understand and critically assess the sociology literature from the frontier research, understand the relations between the sociology innovations and tradition |
| 1.4. | The students will be able to write analytical literature reviews in the specific sociology research areas, participate in the academic sociology discussions, present the results of scientific research [orally, in written form, with multimedia]. |
| 1.5. | The students will be able to present the application possibilities of the sociology theories and sociology methods while analysing the local, regional and global social problems for non-professional audiences |
| 2. | Ability to analyse society structures and institutions by means of application of sociology theories and methodologies | 2.1. | The students will be able to describe and analyse the social phenomena and processes of the micro/mezzo/macro levels related to societal structures and institutions of the local and global context, to select relevant sociological theories and methodologies for the objectives and tasks of the analysis |
| 3. | The ability to identify and analyse social problems | 3.1. | The students will be able to identify and analyse complicated social problems related to definite societal structures and institutions, to analyse the causes and consequences of these social problems based on sociology theories and methodologies, to present the results of such analysis to different audiences, to offer institutional engineering solutions to these problems |
| 4. | Ability to conduct social research, assess data quality and present research results | 4.1 | The students will be able to assess the methodologies of sociological research, identify the problems of contemporary social research, to make independent choice of research |
| 4.2. | The students will be able to create scientific and applied quantitative and qualitative social research methods, present it [orally, in written form, with multimedia] to different target audiences (the academic community, the contractors of applied social research) |
| 4.3 | The students will be able to observe the ethical and legal requirements for social research while organizing and conducting scientific and applied social research, compiling the technical specification for social research tasks, collecting sociological data, analyzing this data and applying the relevant interpretation, presenting the results of the scientific and applied research orally, in written form, with multimedia (in professional and non-professional environments as well as in the public sphere). |
| 5. | Ability to analyze quantitative as well as qualitative sociological information with the application of the methods of statistical analysis, to model, interpret analysis results and forecast the local as well as global social processes | 5.1. | The students will be able to find necessary quantitative or qualitative social information from local and international sources, assess the quality of the data presented there, manage the databases and compile quantitative data for analysis. |
| 6.  | Ability to use the knowledge of the related and inter-field disciplines relevant for the analysis of the sociological problems' analysis | 6.1. | The students will know the main research areas of the related and inter-field disciplines, will be able to find relevant information in the scientific sources and apply it in the analysis of the sociological problems |

**Table 2. Course units and the corresponding generic and specific competences with learning outcomes of the Master’s degree programme in Sociology[[1]](#footnote-1).**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Code** | **Course units (modules)**  | **Credits** | **Student** **workload** | **Contact hours** | **Independent work hours** | **Key programme competences** |
| **Generic competences** | **Specific competences** |
| **1.** | **2.** | **3.** | **4.** | **5.** | **1.** | **2.** | **3.** | **4.** | **5.** | **6.** |
| **Learning outcomes** |
| **1.1** | **2.1** | **3.1** | **4.1** | **5.1** | **1.1** | **1.2** | **1.3** | **1.4** | **1.5** | **2.1** | **3.1** | **4.1** | **4.2** | **4.3** | **5.1** | **6.1.** |
|  | **1st year** | **60** | **1600**  | **384** | **1216** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **1st term** | **30** | **800** | **192** | **608** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ***Compulsory Courses: 1 semester*** | ***12*** | ***334*** | ***80*** | ***254*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. | Critical Sociological Discourses in Contemporary Social Theories | 6 | 174 | 48 | 126 | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  | X |
| 2. | Sociological Rational Choice Theory | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  | X |
|  | **Optional Courses: 1 semester** | ***18*** | ***466*** | ***112*** | ***354*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Reflexive Sociology: P. Bourdieu | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  | X |
| 4. | Contemporary Theories of Information Society(every other year) | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  | X |
| 5. | Theories of Ideology  | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  | X |
| 6. | Methodology of Qualitative Research: Biographical Method) | 6 | 160 | 48 | 112 |  |  | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X | X |  |
| 7. | Contemporary Philosophical and Sociological Problems of Law | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X | X |  |  | X |  |  |  |  |  | X |  |  |  |  |  | X |
| 9. | Contemporary Social Change in Lithuania (every other year) | 4,5 | 120 | 32 | 88 | X |  | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| 10. | Employment Theories and Labour Market | 4,5 | 120 | 32 | 88 | X |  |  | X | X |  |  |  |  |  | X |  |  |  |  | X | X |
| **Code** | **Course units (modules)**  | **Credits** | **Student** **workload** | **Contact hours** | **Independent work hours** | **Key programme competences** |
| **Generic competences** | **Specific competences** |
| **1.** | **2.** | **3.** | **4.** | **5.** | **1.** | **2.** | **3.** | **4.** | **5.** | **6.** |
| **Learning outcomes** |
| **1.1** | **2.1** | **3.1** | **4.1** | **5.1** | **1.1** | **1.2** | **1.3** | **1.4** | **1.5** | **2.1** | **3.1** | **4.1** | **4.2** | **4.3** | **5.1** | **6.1** |
|  | **2nd term** | **30** | **800** | **192** | **608** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ***Compulsory Courses: 2 semester*** | ***18*** | ***480*** | ***112*** | ***368*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. | Current Topics in the Methodology of Social Science | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 12. | Sociology of Knowledge | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X |  | X | X |  | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X |  |  | X |
| 13. | Political Sociology | 6 | 160 | 48 | 112 | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ***Optional Courses: 2 semester*** | ***12*** | ***320*** | ***80*** | ***240*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14. | Contemporary Comparative Historical Sociology | 6 | 160 | 64 | 96 | X | X |  | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  | X | X |
| 15. | Social Network Analysis | 6 | 160 | 48 | 112 |  |  | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X | X |  |  |  |
| 16. | Sociology and Anthropology of Body  | 6 | 160 | 48 | 112 |  |  | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| 17. | Personal Well-being: Interdisciplinary Approach  | 6 | 160 | 48 | 112 | X |  |  | X | X |  |  |  |  |  | X |  |  |  |  | X | X |
| 18. | Consumer Behaviour | 6 | 160 | 48 | 112 | X | X |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X |  |  | X |
| 19. | Genealogy of Political Ideas | 6 | 160 | 48 | 112 | X | X |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  | X |
| 20. | Criminological Theories  | 6 | 160 | 32 | 118 | X | X |  |  | X | X | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |  |  | X |
| 21. | Sociology of Marginal Groups | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X |  | X |  | X |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X |  |  |  | X |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Code** | **Course units (modules)**  | **Credits** | **Student** **workload** | **Contact hours** | **Independent work hours** | **Key programme competences** |
| **Generic competences** | **Specific competences** |
| **1.** | **2.** | **3.** | **4.** | **5.** | **1.** | **2.** | **3.** | **4.** | **5.** | **6.** |
| **Learning outcomes** |
| **1.1** | **2.1** | **3.1** | **4.1** | **5.1** | **1.1** | **1.2** | **1.3** | **1.4** | **1.5** | **2.1** | **3.1** | **4.1** | **4.2** | **4.3** | **5.1** | **6.1.** |
|  | **2nd year** | **60** | **1600** | **365** | **1235** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **3d term** | **30** | **800** | **175** | **625** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ***Compulsory Courses: 3 semester*** | ***19,5*** | ***520*** | ***111*** | ***409*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22. | Problems of Contemporary Social Research | 6 | 160 | 48 | 112 | X |  | X |  | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X | X |  |
| 23. | Social Problems of Deviance | 6 | 160 | 48 | 112 | X |  | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 23. | Research Work | 7,5 | 200 | 15 | 185 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ***Optional Courses: 3 semester*** | ***10,5*** | ***280*** | ***64*** | ***216*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23. | Contemporary Theories of Information Society(every other year) | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  | X |
| 24. | Fundamental Problems in Urban Studies | 4,5 | 120 | 32 | 88 | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X | X | X |  | X |
| 25. | Problems in Rural Sociology | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X |
| 25. | Criminological Discourses | 6 | 160 | 32 | 128 | X |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  | X |
| 26.  | Film Sociology | 4,5 | 120 | 32 | 88 | X | X | X |  | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| 27. | Intercultural Education  | 4,5 | 120 | 32 | 88 | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  | X | X |  |  |  |  | X |
| 28.  | Conciliatory Mediation | 4,5 | 120 | 32 | 88 |  | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X |  |  |  |  | X |
| 29. | Contemporary Social Change in Lithuania (every other year) | 4,5 | 120 | 32 | 88 | X |  | X | X | X |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Code** | **Course units (modules)**  | **Credits** | **Student** **workload** | **Contact hours** | **Independent work hours** | **Key programme competences** |
| **Generic competences** | **Specific competences** |
| **1.** | **2.** | **3.** | **4.** | **5.** | **1.** | **2.** | **3.** | **4.** | **5.** | **6.** |
| **Learning outcomes** |
| **1.1** | **2.1** | **3.1** | **4.1** | **5.1** | **1.1** | **1.2** | **1.3** | **1.4** | **1.5** | **2.1** | **3.1** | **4.1** | **4.2** | **4.3** | **5.1** | **6.1.** |
|  | **4th term** | **30** | **800** | **190** | **610** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ***Compulsory Courses: 4 semester*** | **30** | **800** | **190** | **610** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 30 | Practice of Sociological Research | 7,5 | 200 | 174 | 26 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 31. | Final Thesis | 22,5 | 600 | 16 | 584 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

According to survey findings from 2011, majority (77%) of sociology masters are satisfied or very satisfied with their studies in VU, there are a few (6%) who are unsatisfied or very unsatisfied. In the questionnaire, seven competencies were distinguished: analytical and critical thinking, writing skills, knowledge of theories and methodology, computer programs of data analysis and skills of presenting research results. About 9 out of 10 of masters surveyed evaluate competencies of thinking analytically and critically as good or very good. Skills of using computer programs of data analysis tend to be evaluated as neither good nor bad; other competencies are evaluated as good and very good (more than 50%) or neither good nor bad (more than 30%).

# 2. THE DESIGN OF THE PROGRAMME

The students enrolled into the MA in Sociology Study have to collect 30 credits each semester (total 120). While during first three semesters students are involved in intensive studies of sociological theories, specialized fields of the sociological research, last (4th) semester is com-pletely reserved for the research activity of students: they participate in sociological research practice (7,5 credits), and complete their master degree thesis (22.5). By the end of the third semester, the project of the Master thesis must already be ready, earning by this time 7.5 credits for the research work on thesis. The total work load in the Sociology of MA programme is 3200 hours (see also Table Nr. 2).[[2]](#footnote-2)

The programme is updated every year, the course outlines or course sequence undergoes corrections, but they do not overstep the requirements for programme alterations (up to 30 per cent). The table Nr. 3 represents the state of the programme in the academic year years 2011-2012. [[3]](#footnote-3)

Table Nr. 3. Master’s study programme in Sociology by semesters

|  |
| --- |
| **VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS** |
| **FILOSOFIJOS FAKULTETAS** |
|   |
|

|  |
| --- |
| TVIRTINU |
| Programos komiteto pirmininkas |
|   |
| Profesorius Habil. dr. Zenonas Norkus  |

 |
|   |
| **Sociologija** [ 6211JX024 ]  |
| **Studijų programos planas** |
|   |
| Studijų pakopa: | **antrosios pakopos studijų** |
| Studijų rūšis: | **magistrantūros** |
| Studijų forma: | **nuolatinė** |
| Vykdymo kalba: | **lietuvių** |
| Studijų sritis: | **socialiniai mokslai** |
| Studijų kryptis: | **sociologija** |
| Suteikiamas laipsnis: | **sociologijos magistras**  |
| Suteikiama profesinė kvalifikacija: | **nėra**  |
| Studijų trukmė (metais): | **2** |
| Kreditų sk.: | **120**  |
| Srautas: | **2017-09-01**  |
|   |
| Struktūra: |

|  |
| --- |
| **Sociologija** (studijų programa) **1 - 4** sem.; **120** kred.  |

 |
| Informacija gauta: 2017-09-07 08:56 |

|  |
| --- |
|   |
| **Sociologija** Kreditų sk.: **120**  |
|   |
| **1 k., 1 (2017/18 m.m. rudens) semestras**[nuo 2017-09-01 iki 2018-01-26] |
| **Dalykoaprašokodas** | **Dalyko pavadinimas** | **Kred.sk.** | **Val.sk.** | **Ats.form.1** | **Dėst.kalba2** | **Stud.progr.dalis** | **Lavin.lygis3** |
| **Privalomieji dalykai**  | **12** |  |
|   | Racionalaus pasirinkimo sociologija  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  |  |
|   | Refleksyvioji sociologija: Bourdieu  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
| **Pasirenkamieji dalykai**  | **18** |  |
|   | Gyventojų užimtumo teorijos ir darbo rinka  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Ideologijos teorijos  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Informacinio bendrabūvio raiškos ir prasmės  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Kokybinių tyrimų metodologija: biografinis metodas  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Kūno sociologija ir antropologija  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  |  |
|   | Šiuolaikinės Lietuvos socialinė kaita  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Švietimo politika ir vadyba  | 6 | 64 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Tarpkultūrinis ugdymas  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
| **Iš viso 1 semestre:**  | **30**  |   |
|   |
| **1 k., 2 (2017/18 m.m. pavasario) semestras**[nuo 2018-02-04 iki 2018-06-30] |
| **Dalykoaprašokodas** | **Dalyko pavadinimas** | **Kred.sk.** | **Val.sk.** | **Ats.form.1** | **Dėst.kalba2** | **Stud.progr.dalis** | **Lavin.lygis3** |
| **Privalomieji dalykai**  | **24** |  |
|   | Mokslo tiriamasis darbas  | 6 | 6 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Politikos sociologijos problemos  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Šiuolaikinės socialinių mokslų metodologinės problemos  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Žinojimo sociologija  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
| **Pasirenkamieji dalykai**  | **6** |  |
|   | Asmens gerovė: tarpdalykinis požiūris  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Europos Sąjungos švietimo politika  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Kino filosofija  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Politinių idėjų genealogija  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Socialinių tinklų analizė  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Šiuolaikinė lyginamoji istorinė sociologija  | 6 | 64 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
| **Iš viso 2 semestre:**  | **30**  |   |
|   |
| **2 k., 3 (2018/19 m.m. rudens) semestras**[nuo 2018-09-01 iki 2019-01-26] |
| **Dalykoaprašokodas** | **Dalyko pavadinimas** | **Kred.sk.** | **Val.sk.** | **Ats.form.1** | **Dėst.kalba2** | **Stud.progr.dalis** | **Lavin.lygis3** |
| **Privalomieji dalykai**  | **12** |  |
|   | Socialinės deviacijų problemos  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Vizualiosios sociologijos metodai  | 6 | 64 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
| **Pasirenkamieji dalykai**  | **18** |  |
|   | Filosofinės ir sociologinės teisės problemos  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Gerovės valstybės lyginamosios studijos  | 6 | 64 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Informacinio bendrabūvio raiškos ir prasmės  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Kriminologiniai diskursai  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Kūno sociologija ir antropologija  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  |  |
|   | Pamatinės miesto studijų problemos  | 6 | 32 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Taikinamasis tarpininkavimas  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
|   | Vartotojų elgsena  | 6 | 48 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
| **Iš viso 3 semestre:**  | **30**  |   |
|   |
| **2 k., 4 (2018/19 m.m. pavasario) semestras**[nuo 2019-02-04 iki 2019-06-30] |
| **Dalykoaprašokodas** | **Dalyko pavadinimas** | **Kred.sk.** | **Val.sk.** | **Ats.form.1** | **Dėst.kalba2** | **Stud.progr.dalis** | **Lavin.lygis3** |
| **Privalomieji dalykai**  | **6** |  |
|   | Sociologinių tyrimų praktika  | 6 | 16 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
| **Baigiamasis darbas arba(ir) baigiamieji egzaminai**  | **24** |  |
|   | Magistro baigiamasis darbas (kryptis: sociologija)  | 24 | 10 | **E** |  | PS  | Gl |
| **Iš viso 4 semestre:**  | **30**  |   |

|  |
| --- |
| 1 Atsiskaitymo forma: E-egzaminas |
| 2 Dėstymo kalba: nurodoma tik tuo atveju, jei dėstoma ne lietuvių kalba |
| 3 Lavinimo lygis: N-neapibrėžtas, Gl-gilinamojo lygio |

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|    |
| Studijų programos komitetas:  | **doc. dr. Rūta Žiliukaitė, prof. dr. Arūnas Poviliūnas, prof. dr. Aleksandras Dobryninas, dr. Vladas Gaidys (socialinis partneris, UAB Vilmorus ), studentė Elena Sinkevičiūtė**  |
|    |
| Paruošė: Vida Valatkaitė, 2667626, vida.valatkaite@fsf.vu.lt  |

 The courses that are offered in the framework of Master Study Programme in Sociology Master Study Programme in Sociology at Vilnius University reflect modern problems of theory and methodology of sociology, interdisciplinary trends in social sciences, and are oriented to their application in the research of the current state of the Lithuanian society. The main goal of the programme is to deepen the knowledge provided by the antecedent BA in Sociology programme. Therefore, the main criterion for the selection of the obligatory courses is to provide them with the knowledge of the state of art in the contemporary sociological theory and methodology, in general as well as in some fields of the sociological research. Together with knowledge acquired by the study of the optional subjects and training of the research during the preparation of the MA thesis and sociological research praxis, they should help to educate a graduate fit for the work on PhD thesis or professional career.

Two obligatory courses taught during the first semester (“Sociological Rational Choice Theory” and “Critical Sociological Discourses in Contemporary Social Theories”) introduce into the debates between the positivist (most strongly represented by the Rational Choice Approach) and constructivist cum critical streams of thinking in the contemporary sociology. Then during next two semesters the students are invited to get the knowledge-in-depth in the three special fields of sociological research - sociology of law, sociology of knowledge, and sociology of politics (courses “Social Problems of Deviance”, “Sociology of Knowledge”, “Political Sociology”). The obligatory courses include also two courses designed to help students in their work on their MA thesis projects, upgrade their and skills in the quantitative and qualitative methodology by teaching them selected methodical techniques (e.g. focus groups, qualitative comparative analysis), and make them familiar with the current methodological debates. These are the tasks of the courses “Current Topics in the Methodology of Social Science“ and „Problems of Contemporary Social Research“, taught (respectively) during the second and third semesters.

The Sociology Department has the advantage of being part of the the Faculty of Philosophy of Vilnius University, which is famous as "university within university" because of the sciences and studies assembled here. Therefore, the programme provides rich supply of the optional courses, enabling students to build their individual study profiles by supplementing the obligatory courses by the optional ones which build several specialized modules: (1) Sociology of Law and Deviance; (2) Sociological Theory and Methodology; (3) Socioeconomic Change in the Post-Communist Lithuania; (4) Applied Cultural Sociology. The time schedule of the course delivery is constructed to enable a student to take up to two from these four modules in addition to the obligatory programme core courses. This enables the students to construct for themselves 6 individual profiles of their MA studies, total menu including following combinations:

1. Sociological Theory and Methodology and Socioeconomic Change in the Post-Communist Lithuania;
2. Sociological Theory and Methodology and Applied Cultural Sociology;
3. Socioeconomic Change in the Post-Communist Lithuania and Applied Cultural Sociology
4. Sociology of Law and Deviance and Sociological Theory and Methodology;
5. Sociology of Law and Deviance and Socioeconomic Change in the Post-Communist Lithuania;
6. Sociology of Law and Deviance and Applied Cultural Sociology;

However, the students are only adviced about the possibility to select specific modules or study profiles, and are not committed to make their starting the studies. They are allowed to pursue individual education agendas, making use of the rich supply of optional courses. On demand, it is possible to arrange with study committee an individual study plan, taking optional courses taught at other deprtaments of Philosophy faculty, at other faculties of Vilnius university or taken at the foreign universities during Socrates/Erasmus exchange.

The sociology of law and deviance is research area where Department of Sociology exhibits special strengths. Actually, Sociology and Criminology MA programme branched off from the Sociology MA Programme which thus is the ancestor or progenitor of the first programme. But also now the students who have interest in the sociology of law instead of the crime prevention or social rehabilitation of delinquents, may satisfy this interest by enrolling into the MA in Sociology Program and taking some core courses from the daughter MA Programme, which are included into the list of the optional courses: “Contemporary Philosophical and Sociological Problems of Law” (1st semester), “Criminological Theories” (2nd Semester), “Criminological Discourses” (3d Semester).

“The Sociological Theory and Methodology” module includes following optional courses, extending its obligatory core part, delivered during the first and following semesters: “Reflexive Sociology: P. Bourdieu”, “Contemporary Theories of Information Society” (taught every second year), “Methodology of Qualitative Research: Biographical Method”, (1st Semester), “Personal Well-being: Interdisciplinary Approach”, “Genealogy of Political Ideas”, and “Social Network Analysis” (2nd Semester). Its goal is to provide the knowledge-in-depths in the selected areas of sociological theory, its history, and advanced working knowledge of some classical and new methodological research and data analysis techniques. This knowledge and related expertise is critical for those graduates who envision academis careers.

The module “Socioeconomic Change in the Post-Communist Lithuania” includes courses “Contemporary Social Change in Lithuania (taught every second year), “Employment Theories and Labour Market” (1st semester), “Contemporary Comparative Historical Sociology”, “Marginal Groups Sociology” (2nd semester), “Fundamental Problems in Urban Studies”, “Problems in Rural Sociology” (3d semester). Its goal is to provide knowledge and expertise useful for the future workers in the various institutions of the private, public, and non-profit non-governmental sector.

The module “Applied Cultural Sociology” includes courses “Theories of Ideology” (1st semester), “Sociology and Anthropology of Body”, “Consumer Behaviour” (2nd semester), “Film Sociology”, “Intercultural Education”, “Conciliatory Mediation” (3d semester). Its goal is to provide knowledge and expertise for future professionals planning careers in mass-media, market research, culture industries sectors, competent to cope with the challenges of the coming multi-culturization of Lithuanian society.

 The work on the master thesis is an integral part of the studies. The organization of work on it is described in the section 5th about the study process and student’s assessment.

# 3. FACILITIES AND LEARNING RESOURCES

The total area of the premises housing the Faculty of Philosophy is 3,289.38 m2. The area occupied by the staff of the Department of Sociology is three small rooms (413, 414, and 403) 40 m2 in total. One small room (412) is shared with Centre of Criminological Studies. The premises of the faculty underwent major renovation in 2005. The Faculty students use the nearby canteen; the Faculty has a small area for bicycle parking.

There are 31 rooms in the Faculty, in total occupying an area of 1,276.09 m2, accommodating an audience of 1,051. All rooms can be broadly classified into three types: 1) 3 large (accommodating 75-100 seats each) – (Rooms 301, 302 and 306); 2) medium (each accommodating 36-66 seats) –there are seven such rooms (207, 209, 214, 303, 304, 307, 313); and 3) 11 small rooms used for seminars (14-26 places) (Rooms 001, 106, 107, 204, 205, 305, 308, 401, 403, 406, 407). All rooms, except four (106, 401, 406, 407), are equipped with overhead projectors and computers, and the four latter will be equipped in near future, currently the public procurement tenders are under way.

When necessary, rooms of other Faculties of Vilnius University are used (for common lectures jointly with students of other programmes): the printing room in the Institute of Foreign Languages (130-140 places), Jablonskis Room (214 places), Rooms JR1 (350 places) and JR2 (220 places) in the Faculty of Law.

In view of shortage of premises for academic rooms teachers of the Faculty do not have their personal working places. The Department of Sociology have arranged four stationary computerised working places for teachers to be used as needed; the working rooms have eight computers. In order to create efficient working conditions teachers are provided with service laptops with the necessary software installed. Two Rooms are used for research seminars and conferences: Room 208 is equipped with an interactive board; a computer is available in Room 201, also overhead projectors, and audio equipment for sound recording of different events.

The Faculty of Philosophy has two computer rooms: Room 111 for lectures / seminars for an audience of 23+1; and Room 112, which is an open access room for 23+1 visitors, with computers operating the following software: Windows Professional Upgrade, MS Office 7, electronic dictionaries (e.g., Alkon), IBM SPSS Statistics 19, Sample Power 2.0, SPSS Amos, Kaspersky 10. Also the Faculty may avail itself of other software that may be installed as needed, such as Microsoft Visio Premium 2010, Hamlet II 3.0, ATLASti; MAXQDA PLUS, IBM SPSS Modeler Professional 14.0, DBTextWorks, Adobe Acrobat Professional, Adobe Photoshop Extended, Adobe Photoshop Lightroom, Capture One 5 PRO.

In total, there are 186 computers in the Faculty including 15 desktop and 35 laptop computers. 69 computers (50+19) (in computer classes and rooms) are provided for student needs. 3 laptop and 17 desktop computers are used for administration purposes; also the Faculty has 26 overhead projectors, 12 TV sets and 11 slide projectors that can be put in place in any room as needed.

 All areas in the Faculty of Philosophy have wireless coverage, which the Faculty students and teachers can access free of charge provided they have a University e-mail address.

In 2010, the library of the Faculty of Philosophy was integrated into the structure of the [Central Library of Vilnius University](http://www.mb.vu.lt/en/titulinis). The newly arranged reading room offers all conditions for comfortable studying and work. The reading room has to offer an abundant collection of literature on psychology which, following the most recent trends in library management, is open and publicly accessible. Any publications that are not available in the faculty library may be ordered from the repositories of the Central Library or borrowed from other libraries. The library has 13 reading rooms, three rooms for group work that may be booked for discussions or working on group projects. The Reading Room of the Faculty of Philosophy has 32 working places of which 11 are computerised; the Reading Room is provided with wireless internet.

 The open funds of the [Reading room at the Faculty of Philosophy](http://www.mb.vu.lt/en/skaityklos#philosophy) have accumulated publications of 14,693 titles (36,585 copies) on didactics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, social work and medicine. The list of readings in psychology comprises publications of 3,205 titles (7,230 copies), of which periodicals make up 52 titles (1,254 copies), of them 339 titles (2,644 copies) in the Lithuanian language and 2,031 titles (3,161 copies) in English and 588 titles (1,082 copies) in Russian. The remaining publications are in other languages. In total, all funds of the Library of Vilnius University contain books on psychology of 5,611 titles (11,967 copies) and subject-related periodicals of 91 titles (1,744 copies).

 The scope of subscription to paper periodicals has significantly decreased as all research magazines may be accessed in the databases subscribed to by the library. Currently the Vilnius University library is a subscriber to [53 full-text databases, 8 bibliographic data and one image database](http://www.mb.vu.lt/istekliai/index.php?browse=db-pr&p=5&l=en). Students and professors can use all data bases subscribed to by the Library of Vilnius University, many of which are accessible from professors’ working places and students’ computer class. The following data bases are subscribed to by Vilnius University: Annual Review, EBSCO, JSTOR, Oxford Journals Online, Sage Publications: Sage Journals Online, Science Direct (SciVerse), Springer LINK, Wiley Online Library, etc. It is important that via VPN service these data bases could be accessed from any place where Internet access is available.

 The funds of the Library of the Faculty of Philosophy are regularly supplemented and enriched. On average LTL 59,000 are allocated for the purpose of acquisition of different publications. In 2006–2010, the total expenditure for research publications accounted for LTL 296,050, and in 2010 the Reading Room of the Faculty was supplemented by new publications of 291 titles (307 copies) for LTL 38,380. The Faculty acquired periodicals of 37 titles (137 copies) after LTL 14,382 were allocated by the Faculty for subscription to periodicals.

The areas of the library used for studies and work interchange with informal areas equipped and arranged for recreation and communication. A recreation room for students and library staff is arranged next to the Reading Room of the Faculty of Philosophy, and used by students to warm up food, make tea or coffee, or meet in cosy surroundings. The Communication Corner and the HIC Green Reading Room areas serve as a place for recreation, a meeting point and a place for a discussion over a cup of coffee. In addition, the library regularly organises different events and exhibitions.

# 4. STUDY PROCESS AND STUDENT ASSESSMENT

To the Master Study Programme in Sociology at Vilnius University can apply persons who have bachelor degree or higher education diploma. Their competition grade is calculated as the average of the grades for study subjects listed in their B.A. Diploma supplement. The applicants receive additional points for the subjects building the core of the B.A. in sociology and for the B.A. thesis in the social sciences. As core study subjects are considered: (1) Classical Sociological Theories; (2) Contemporary Sociological Theories; (3) Quantitative Methods of Social Research; (4) Qualitative Methods of Social Research, or equivalent courses (according to the admission commission judgment). So the maximal sum of the additional points is 5 (4 for core subjects and 1 for BA thesis in social sciences). This ruling privileges applicants graduating with B.A. in sociology, because they receive 5 additional points by default. If admitted, the applicants without the complete study record in the core sociological subjects are expected to fill out the gaps in their sociological education during their M.A. studies by enrolling into the selected courses in the B.A. in Sociology programme. The applicant is adviced on the individual basis by the Study programme committee which ones sociological core courses should be enrolled additionally.

These admission rulings make possible to study sociology on the master level at Vilnius University not only for the B.A. in Sociology graduates from Vilnius university, Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, and Vytautas Magnus University, but also for absolvents from the related B.A. studyprogrammes like Communication Studies, Economics, Cultural Anthropology, Management, History. The Table Nr. 6 shows the dynamics of application to the M.A. Studies in Sociology.

**Table Nr. 6. Information about admission to the Master's program in Sociology in 2007-2011.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Plan | Applicationsreceived | Admitted | Competition | Competitive Score |
| Total | Primary applications | Simple | Weighted | Max | Min |
| 2007 | 14 (-) | 32 (-) | 8 (-) | 10 (-) | 2,29 (-) | 0,68 (-) | 29,56 (-) | 13,00 (-) |
| 2008 | 14 (1) | 32 (7) | n/a | 11 (-) | 2,29 (7,00) | 0,80 (1,95) | 28,77 (-) | 14,00 (-) |
| 2009 | 10 (10) | 41 (14) | 18 (-) | 11 (2) | 4,1 (1,4) | 1,64 (0,21) | 21,90 (17,09) | 18,65 (17,09) |
| 2010 | 10 (4) | 31 (6) | 14 (-) | 8 (-) | 3,1 (1,5) | 1,17 (0,21) | 20,95 (16,20) | 18,70 (16,20) |
| 2011 | 8 (3) | 85 (16) | 27 (-) | 8 (2) | 10,63 (5,33) | 2,69 (0,54) | 24,18 (19,17) | 22,69 (18,21) |

\*The numbers outside brackets refer to the state-funded places and the numbers in brackets refer to non-state-funded places

The student admission procedures, requirements and competitive grade composition are defined in the *Rules of admission to the principal and continuous studies* that are approved in the meeting of the commission of the Senate on the annual basis and are published in the Information Leaflet of the University as well as on the University's admissions website (<http://www.vu.lt/studijos/stojantiesiems/priemimas> ). The information is also available on the website of the Faculty of Philosophy. In order to enroll adequately prepared and motivated students, twice a year (in December and April) Vilnius University organizes Open Doors Day where prospective applicants can meet the staff and students.

Upon admission to the first year of the study programme students are acquainted with the subjects of the whole study programme and the order of studies. They receive a syllabus of the study programme as well as information about the procedure pursuant to which MA Final Thesis are written. At the beginning of each examination period a meeting with students is held to adjust the timetable and the procedure of taking examinations and credit tests.

The main forms of class activities are lectures, seminars. Basic methods of study used during lectures and seminars are interactive, they include discussions, case analyses, presentations, concept mappings, problem-oriented situations analyses, reflections on accumulated experience (drawn from professional practice and work experience), group work, project activities, etc. In addition to traditional lectures and seminars, new forms of instruction are encouraged – group projects, film screenings and discussion, creative projects, etc. Most teachers take the opportunity to invoke the use of information technologies. On the website of the Faculty there are places for each teacher's methodological material and self-presentation.

Individual work is an integral part of the studies. Students are engaged in self-training study of mandatory and recommended scientific and methodological books, get ready for the seminars and interim tests. The assessment of student self-training work is a part of the cumulative mark. The academic staff consult the MA students at the Department, by e-mail or by other ITC means. Each teacher allots not less than two hours per week for individual consultations to assist students in mastering the individually read literature, preparing (yearly) papers and final theses. Teachers’ consultation hours are indicated in the schedule on the notice board of the Departments and Faculty Internet website.

The examination schedule is made in accordance with the pre-set examination time terms, as well as per student requests and teachers' possibilities. As a rule the winter examination session takes place from December 22 to January 26, while the summer session – from June 3 to June 30. The exact examination date is coordinated by the student group monitor and each of the teachers one and a half months before the examination and is approved by the order of the dean. There must be at least a 2 day break between the examinations. Based on the university procedure the student who failed the examination has a right to retake it within the faculty designated time. A student with two academic debts can continue on with the studies on condition of retaking the examinations during the first two weeks of the following semester. The exact procedure of retaking examinations and of academic debts is provided on the faculty website in the section of Studentams (For Students).

Achievement assessment criteria are determined by each teacher individually and coordinated on the general study committee meeting in correspondence with general assessment requirements in VU. During the first lecture the students get to know about the assessment criteria, requirements and testing procedures, which are mentioned in the course outline of every teacher. The descriptions of the grades from 1 to 10 are approved by VU Study results' assessment procedure description (June 22, 2006) with the minimal positive assessment being 5.

Research practice of 200 hours (7.5 credits) during the last semester at various Lithuanian research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, is only a part of imbibing students with the sociological research skills during the studies. Firstly, students are involved in small research projects in the framework of such courses as “Sociology of Knowledge”, “Methodology of Qualitative Research: Biographical Method”, “Contemporary Information Society Theories”, and some others. Secondly, they often voluntarily participate in the research projects which are carried out by their professors and thesis supervisors, many master thesises coming out as parts or spin-offs of these larger research projects, involving both professors and students. So in some cases students’ participation in research can be described even as hyperactive.

As was already explained in the section 2 about the programme design, 30 credits are assigned for the research and master's final thesis work. A student is expected to make her selection of the thesis theme and supervisor by the end of the first semester. The teaching staff announces their proposals of thesis subjects, but students are invited and encouraged to make their own proposals. Student’s experience in the work on his/her B.A. thesis and his expectations about future professional carreer are taken in consideration while advising on the selection of M.A. thesis subject. By the end of the second semester, the survey of relevant core literature is expected. By the end of the third semester, detailed research plan jointly is due. During the fourth (second Spring) semester students are free from classroom activity and concentrate on preparation of final master thesis as well as participate in sociological research practice. The final thesis is publicly defended. The reviewer - with a doctor's degree - of the master's paper is assigned by the Sociology department. The thesis is assessed by the evaluation commission approved by the order of the rector which consists of not less than 5 members one of whom must come from another education or study institution.

All the important academic information (for students, teachers, and applicants) is published on the website of the Faculty of Philosophy [www.fsf.vu.lt](http://www.fsf.vu.lt). The office hours of each teacher of the Faculty are published on the website of the Faculty, everyone is using e-mail and it must be admitted that direct communication is in many cases surpassed by the electronic. The main reason is simple – the Faculty does not have in the near future do not expect to have the conditions ensure personal office space for every teacher.

Academic counselling of the Master's students is performed by the Chairman of the Study Programme Committee, who is assisting students with regard to all principal academic decisions – the choice of the individual focus of studies, the choice of the supervisor, change of supervisor when necessary, transfer of credits and other relevant issues. Presently he also aided by the Vice-Dean of Studies of the Faculty, who is also helpful in giving general advice about the studies in the Faculty, about Erasmus exchange, about relationships with teacher, etc.

 VU provides financial support of all kinds: incentive grant, social grant, one-off social grant, one-off earmarked grant and nominal grant. Incentive grants are awarded to best performing students for good studying results that have no history of failures in their academic performance. Each semester best students are identified within each form, programme, or branch and course of studies according to the studies results in accordance with the Procedure for compiling the sequence of best students of VU approved by the Resolution of the Commission of the Senate. Grants are distributed proportionally among all study programmes, branches of study programmes and courses according to the number of students within each of them.

Students from socially needy families or those living alone, also students of 45 percent or lower working capacity, suffering from disabilities, or in respect of which custody has been established, or students whose parents have died, are eligible for social grants. Social grants are allocated per one semester of studies, however for a period no longer than to the end of the studies. One-off social grant is awarded to students in case of an accident, disease or other cases. One-off earmarked grant is awarded to students which have achieved outstanding results in research or other activities. Nominal grants are awarded to best students according to certain areas of activity for special achievements in the area. The basis for and the principles underlying the procedure are defined in the regulations for a specific nominal grants or support agreement.

 Dormitories of Vilnius University are scattered throughout the entire city of Vilnius. The place of residence of a student depends on the Faculty (institute, centre) he is studying at and the study programme chosen by the student. Dormitories are available to VU students of all stages (first, second and third) of continual studies for the period of studies at the University. Priority for accommodation in dormitories is granted to students requiring social support.

There is a number of student organisations active in the University, in addition to research societies and art groups and collectives. Students gladly use the Health and Sport Centre (SSC) to engage in sport and physical culture. The function and mission of the Student Representation is to deal with various issues and concerns of students, act as student representatives and defend their interests, also help students in issues related to academic and social welfare. Student self-governance organisation is engaged in organisation of cultural events, fostering of student traditions, at the same time creating new traditions, helps first-year students integrate into the University community and familiarise themselves with the possibilities open to them. Vilnius University has also established the Career Centre to assist students with their future careers including assessing their personal abilities and skills, helping students select and prepare for careers in their chosen fields, informing students of educational opportunities under the Erasmus programme, etc. (see <http://www.karjera.vu.lt/> ).

Students are offered different opportunities to be involved in different extra-curriculum activities at Vilnius University (VU). For instance, those who love dancing, singing or playing may join the girls’ choir “Virgo“, the mixed choir ”Pro musica“, the national folk chapel “Jaunimėlis“, orchestra “Oktava“, chamber music ensemble, folkloreensemble “Ratilio“, or the Song and Dance Group. Those willing to act may join the drama group **“**MINIMUM“ or A. Pulkauninkas’ Physical Theatre. Those willing to participate in activities of clubs or organisations may join the VU Debate Club, the Association of Lithuanian Psychology Students (LiPSA) whose office is registered at the Faculty of Philosophy of Vilnius University, the VU radio station ”Start FM“, VU SA photography and cinema club, newspaper “Studentų era“, etc. At events organised by the “Creative movement” of the Faculty of Philosophy students and teachers are invited to present own-creation songs, verses, photographs, play music, sing or participate in group discussions. The Faculty also organises different film presentations, meetings of students and teachers, etc.

As a matter of fact, students in the M.A. programmes only sparsely use these opportunities.. Up to 20 % of MA in Sociology Programme Students participate at Erasmmus exchange during their master studies. [Erasmus partners](http://www.vu.lt/en/international-cooperation/erasmus-partners) of the Philosophy Faculty of Vilnius university include Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf (Germany); Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg (Germany); Universität Erfurt (Germany); Universität Hildesheim (Germany); Universität Konstanz (Germany); Universität Siegen (Germany); Universidad de Granada (Spain); University of Tartu (Estonia); Universita degli Studi di Foggia (Italy); Universita degli Studi di Teramo (Italy); The University of Malta (Malta); Hogskolen i Oslo (Norway); Volda University College (Norway); Instituto Superior de Ciencias do Trabalho e da Empresa (Portugal); Uniwersytet w Bialymstoku (Poland); University of Lodz (Poland); Lunds universitet (Sweden); University of Jyväskylä (Finland); Abo Akademi University (Finland).

According to the data collected in the second quarter 2011 in the survey of the graduates of the Sociology in MA Programme (N=74) 45% of them were employed in the private sector, 28% worked in the research and education institutions, 17% were busy in the governmental and 10% in the non-governmental organizations (see Fig. 1).

**Fig. 1. Employment of the Graduates of the M.A. in Sociology Programme by the Working Place Sector**

Fig. Nr. 2 displays statistical data about the graduate employment by the area of employment. According to these data, main area of their employment are public opinion and market research (21%), education (17%), trading and services (17%), government and administration (8%), social services (9%), and marketing(7%).

**Fig. Nr. 2.** **Employment of the Graduates of the M.A. in Sociology Programme by the Area of Employment**

The Fig. Nr. 3 displays the statistical data about the employment of the graduates by the functions at the working place. According to these data, they are most frequently employed as specialists (55%), less frequenly – as administrators (24%) and directores (18%). Importantly, they only very seldom (3%) work as unskilled workers. These data validate the conclusion that graduates successfully compete on the job markets, capitalizing on the general and specific competences acquired during their studies.

**Fig. Nr. 3. Employment of the Graduates of the M.A. in Sociology Programme by the Functions at the Working Place.**



# 6. MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME

The supervision of the quality of the programme, its content and competences is performed by the Committee of the Study Programme of MA in Sociology. The Committee currently consists of prof. dr. habil. Zenonas Norkus (Chairman), Martynas Kriaučiūnas (student), assoc prof. dr. Vladas Gaidys (social partner), prof. dr. (HP) Aleksandras Dobryninas, prof. dr. (HP) Arūnas Poviliūnas, assoc. prof. dr. Rūta Žiliukaitė. The Chairmen of the Committee coordinates the work of the Committee and organizes the discussion and approval of the implementation and changes of the programme. The opinions of social partners and students are taken into account. The Committee considers the programme no less than twice a year, proving proposals for the schedule of the next academic year and each semester.

The responsibility for the implementation of and the oversight of the Master’s programme in Sociology also lies with the Department of Sociology (which is in charge of all decisions related to all Sociology study programmes). Eventually all decisions related to the implementation supervision and improvement of the programme are approved by the Academic Commission and the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy. The responsibility for the study process within the Faculty is taken by the Vice-Dean for Studies, who supplies the Study Programme Committee with the factual information regarding the study process and the legal and other normative information regarding the changes in administration of the programme and proposals with regard to emerging possibilities.

Since academic year 2003-2004, when the last external evaluation of the programme was conducted, three courses were dropped from the programme (“Rational Choice Theory and Religion”, “Theories of Elite”, “Social Theory of Max Weber”,), and five new courses were introduced in the programme ( “Social Network Analysis”, “Sociology and Anthropology of Body”, “Personal Well-being: Interdisciplinary Approach”, “Fundamental Problems in Urban Studies”, “Film Sociology”).

1. Optional courses are marked by asterisk (\*) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The credit number and work load hours comply with the general requirements of the principal legal acts governing studies listed at the beginning of this Report, and Study Regulations of Vilnius university, accepted by the Vilnius University Senate on 21.06.2012. These regulations specify that 1 credit is equivalent to 25-30 work hours, or up to 3000-3600 work hours for total 120 credits programme. See: Vilnius University Study Regulations approved by the VU Senate Commission as of June 21, 2012 proceedings Nr. SK-2012-12-4. <http://www.intranet.vu.lt/images/stories/Biuletenis-Nr-8.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For information about allocation of time between contact hours and individual work, see Table 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)