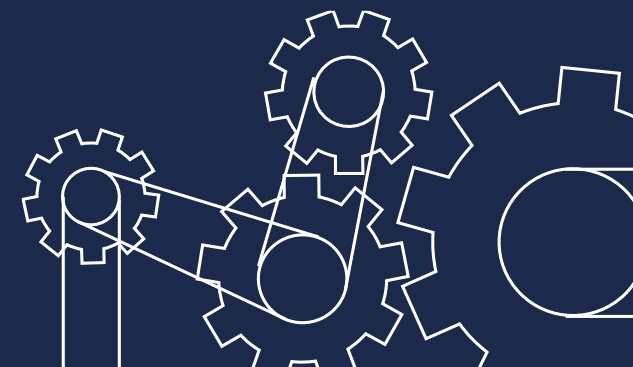


# The Landscape of Higher Education in Lithuania: An Overview from the Perspective of the Lithuanian University Rectors' Conference

**Alvidas Šarlauskas**

*Chair of the International Committee of the Lithuanian University Rectors' Conference*



# Contents

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- Higher education profile
- Lithuanian University Rectors' Conference
- Higher education and research in figures and achievements
- Institutional profiles and connections to the defense area





# Country overview

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POPULATION  
2.7 million



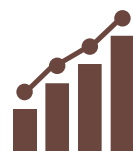
STABILITY  
Global rank: 29 (2020)



MEDIAN AGE  
43.7 (2018)



LITERACY  
99% (2011)



ANNUAL GDP GROWTH  
5.0% (2021)  
(Global avg. 3.0%)



RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT 1.2% of GDP  
(Global avg. 2.3%)



INNOVATION Global rank:  
40 (2020)

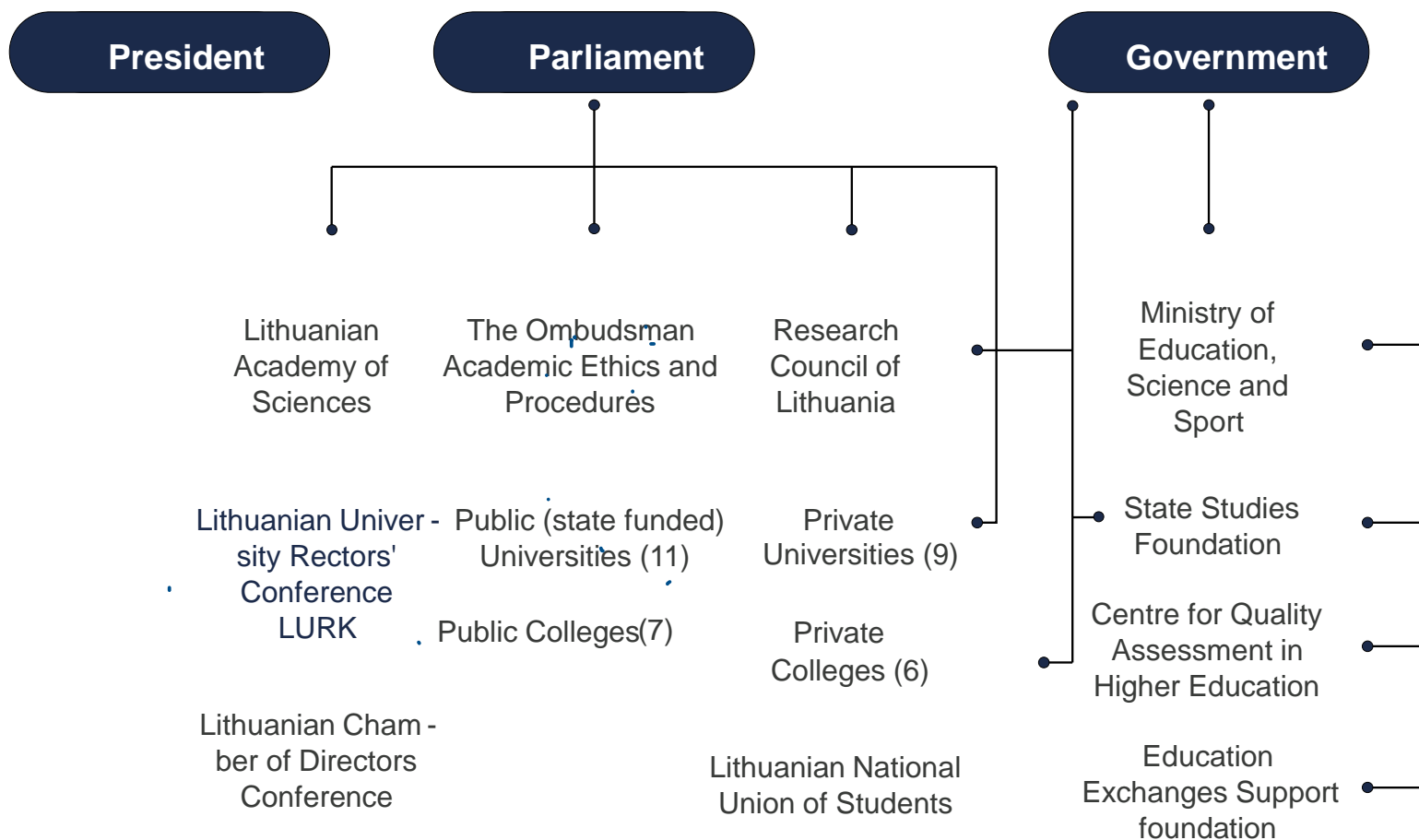


INTERNET USAGE  
83.1% (2020)

<https://startupuniversal.com/country/lithuania/>



# Lithuanian Higher Education System



# Lithuanian University Rectors' Conference (LURK)



12 rectors represent their universities



LURK started activities in 1995 years Legal status – association/public institution



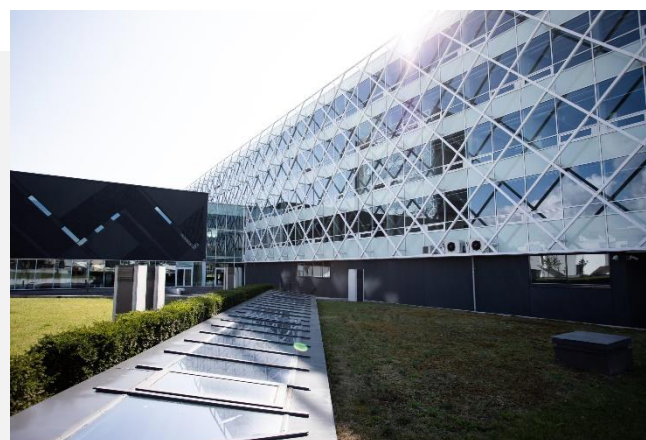
# Lithuanian University Rectors' Conference (LURK)

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## Mission

### Promotion:

- Lithuanian scientific, educational, cultural and economic development.
- Co-operation between higher education institutions.
- International networking.
- Cooperation with governmental authorities and local self-government bodies.





# Lithuanian University Rectors' Conference (LURK)

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## Committees:

- Research
- Studies
- Infrastructure and Finance
- Artificial Intelligence
- Law

## Standing working groups:

- International Relations
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Student Affairs

Committees and performs monitoring of the HE related environment and suggest draft of various documents for Rectors' approval





## Dissemination of Values and Knowledge

- Cultural values
- Dissemination of research results
- Technology and knowledge transfer
- Continuing education & training
- MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses)



## Partnership

- Collective membership in EUA
- Representation in Lithuanian governing bodies
- Cooperation with industry & community





# Studies in Lithuania in figures

- Doctoral students at universities – 2300+
- Doctoral students at research institutes - ~400
- Total number of scientific personal - ~19000

## Study fields:

- Biomedical Sciences
  - Creative Arts and Design
  - Humanities
  - Physical Sciences
  - Social Sciences
  - Technological Sciences
- Universities – 13 401
  - Colleges – 3 071
  - Research Institutes – 131

International full degree students – 15,4%

Exchange students:

- Universities 4010
- Colleges - 973

Total number of students: 107 625

- Universities – 79 392
- Colleges of higher education – 28 233

Three cycle studies – Bolonian approach introduces in full



## Citizens of Canada

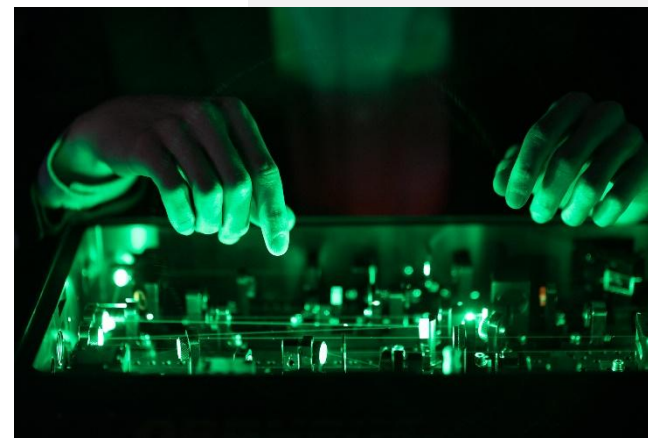
- Students – 29
- Research students – 1

Half of them are in the fields of health and veterinary sciences.

# Research focus

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- Internationally recognized publications
- European research projects
- University-supported research and arts
- Research valleys
- Contracted research





# Excellence and Internationalisation in Higher Education

- Vilnius University - 446th in QS World University Rankings, 2 other – 741-750, others – 851-900 and 1001-1200.
- 2019 – 2020, five universities became involved in the **European Universities Alliances initiatives**:
  - Vilnius University is involved in the **ARQUS** initiative (*European University Alliance*).
  - Kauno University of Technology is involved in the **ECIU** initiative (*European Consortium of Innovative Universities*).
  - Klaipeda University is involved in the **CONEXUS** initiative (European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability).
  - Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VILNIUS TECH) is involved in the **ATHENA** initiative (Advanced Technology Higher Education Network Alliance European University).
  - Vytautas Magnus University involved in **Transform4Europe** initiative (**T4E: The European University for Knowledge Entrepreneurs**).



# Integrated Science, Studies and Business centers (Valleys)

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5

**Sciences and research valleys with significant partnership opportunities**

**Largest** excellence network of R&D and innovation infrastructure, services and competence **in the Baltic states**



N E M U N A S  
V A L L E Y

S A U L Ė T E K I S  
V A L L E Y

M A R I N E  
V A L L E Y



# Membership/collaboration in international research infrastructures and organizations

- European Social Survey (ESS ERIC).
- Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE ERIC).
- Common Language Resources and Technology infrastructure network (CLARIN ERIC).
- Integrated Structural Biology Infrastructure (INSTRUCT ERIC).
- Extreme light infrastructure (ELI ERIC).
- Biobanking and biomolecular resources infrastructure (BBMRI ERIC).
- European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL, EMBC/EMBO).
- CERN (associate member).
- The European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU).





# Life Sciences sector

85

Life Science companies having manufacturing or R&D operations present

~2.5 %

percentage of Lithuania's GDP generated by the sector

32nd

in the Global Biotechnology Innovation ranking

90 %

percentage of all pharmaceutical and healthcare production exported, with products going to over 100 countries

<https://investlithuania.com/life-sciences/>



# Lasers

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50 %

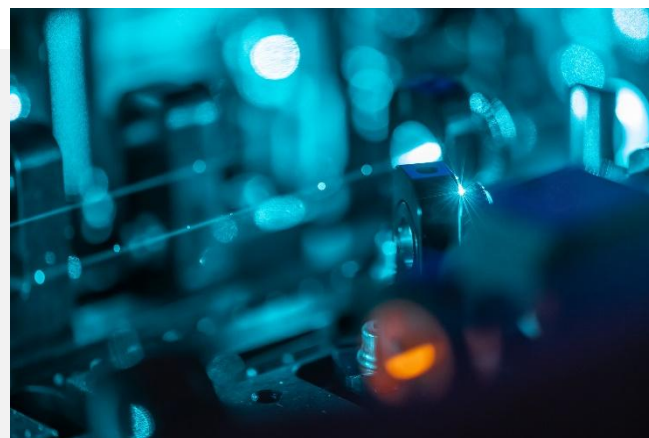
of the global scientific  
ultrashort-pulse laser market

> 50

enterprises

> 80  
countries

Export of lasers and laser-  
based technology



# Fintech

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Number of Fintech companies operating in Lithuania<sup>1</sup>



Number of employees in the Fintech sector<sup>1</sup>



Average number of employees in a Fintech's Lithuanian office<sup>1</sup>



Global ranking for Ease of Doing Business (out of 190 countries)<sup>2</sup>



Global ranking of Vilnius in Tech Startups FDI Attraction Index<sup>3</sup>



Lithuania's position in the Global Fintech Ranking<sup>4</sup>





# KLAIPEDA UNIVERSITY

Established 1991

## Faculties

- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Marine Technologies and Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

## Research Institutes

- Baltic Region History and Archaeology Institute
- Marine Research Institute

## Other Departments

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Fleet            | University Hospital |
| Botanical Garden | STEAM centre        |



[ku.lt/en](http://ku.lt/en)



Klaipėdos universitetas



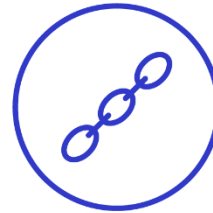
[klaipedauniversity](https://www.instagram.com/klaipedauniversity)

# KLAIPĖDA UNIVERSITY - KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE SEA AND COASTS

## Strategic areas



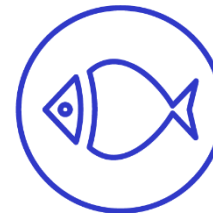
The ecological status of sea waters



Longevity



Shipping, port, and maritime infrastructure



Potential for marine aquaculture and marine biotechnology

### BALNEOTHERAPY

Mineral water for health and wellness – research and practical application; exploitation of geothermal resources.

### COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE (CAM) THERAPIES

Canine-assisted therapy (CAT), dolphin-assisted therapy (DAT), equine-assisted therapy (EAT), phytotherapy, apitherapy, aromatherapy, etc. – methodological research, scientific justification.

### INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR MARINE RECIRCULATING AQUACULTURE SYSTEMS

(RAS): fish and shrimp aquaculture, probiotics etc.

### BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS FOR COSMETICS AND PHARMACY

Marine microorganisms for pollution reduction and other nature-based solutions

# **KLAIPĖDA UNIVERSITY - POTENTIAL IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY AND DEFENSE**

## **Experience of the Crew of the Research Vessel Mintis In the North, Baltic and Mediterranean Seas and the Atlantic Ocean:**

- seabed surveys for renewable energy development projects;
- geophysical and engineering surveys of planned submarine cable and pipeline routes;
- inspection of existing submarine cables and pipelines;
- inspection of wind turbines;
- identification of explosive locations;
- identification, inspection and filming of sunken underwater objects, including ships, lost anchors, trawls and other objects.

## **Research Areas**

- research on the development of the defence industry;
- ecological studies of seabed habitats;
- validation and testing of data from space science missions, manned and unmanned aircraft;
- manoeuvring flights with unmanned aircraft;
- innovative digital tools and sustainable energy solutions;
- Hardware-in-the-Loop (HIL) platform;
- applications of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity solutions in various industrial and business sectors.



**LSMU is a public University providing education since 1922.**

**The largest specialised university in life sciences in Europe and the largest for biomedical sciences in Lithuania**, successfully integrating studies, research, and clinical practice.

Studies and scientific research at LSMU take place in **2 academies** (Medicine & Veterinary), **7 faculties** and **5 research institutes**, as well as at the animal clinics and **2 LSMU-affiliated hospitals**: Kauno klinikos and Kaunas Hospital.

Study programmes meet European standards for higher education. A diploma is internationally well recognised.

University is a member of the main international organisations in the field of activity (AAHCI, EUA, ASPHER, AMSE, AMEE, EAEVE) and it runs **2 WHO Collaborating Centres**.

## Community

8,242+ Students

27.7% International students

1,088 Residency students

1,687 Academic & research staff

56,000+ Alumni

## Programmes

31 Study programmes

20 programmes in English

10 PhD programmes

78 Residency programmes



# LITHUANIAN SPORTS UNIVERSITY established 1934



The leading sport science university in the Baltic Sea region, with a strong focus on sport, physical activity, rehabilitation and active leisure.

## **4 BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES IN ENGLISH:**

- Sports Coaching
- Physiotherapy
- Sports and Tourism Management
- Exercise, Nutrition and Stress Management

## **7 MASTER'S PROGRAMMES**

### **PhD DEGREE**

Biomedical Sciences or Social Sciences

## **STRATEGIC RESEARCH AREAS:**

- Muscles, motor control and health promotion
- Athlete training technologies
- Sports and tourism management
- Physical education and well-being

# DEFENCE REALITED RESEARCH PROJECTS

## OPERATIONAL READINESS IN TACTICAL ATHLETES

*Research focus: integrated monitoring of fatigue, recovery, cognitive readiness and operational performance in military training environments. The project transfers elite sport science methodologies into tactical athlete and defense contexts.*

*Developed in cooperation with defence stakeholders and supported by the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence.*

## INJURY PREVENTION AND PHYSICAL READINESS IN MILITARY RECRUITS

*Development of an integrated physical preparedness and injury-risk prediction model for military recruits. Includes individualized intervention strategies for injury prevention during military training.*

*Developed with institutional support from defence-related stakeholders.*

## NATIONAL PHYSICAL READINESS AND YOUTH RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

*National-scale initiative for validating a school-based physical readiness assessment system. More than 10 schools and approximately 1,500 schoolchildren are involved. The project addresses declining physical fitness and physical activity levels among youth. The initiative aims to strengthen evidence-based physical readiness monitoring and contribute to future societal and national resilience capacity.*



## Mykolas Romeris University

**MRU IDENTITY:** Dynamic, international, technologically advanced and sustainable university for an individual, society, and the State  
<https://www.mruni.eu/en/university/about-mru/>

**We are** a public university specializing in **social and human sciences**, established in **1990** with campuses in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Marijampolė.

Member of the European Reform University Alliance since 2023.

In the 2025/2026 academic year enrolls ~**6500** students and ~650 staff.

Runs Bachelor (3-4 years), Master (1,5-2 years), LLM (1 year), MBA (1 year), Doctoral (4-6 years) studies in **5** academic divisions:

**Law School** (Law )

**Public Security Academy** (Public Security)

**Faculty of Public Governance and Business** (Business studies, Economics, Finance, Management, Informatics, Political Sciences, Public Administration)

**Faculty of Human and Social Studies** (Communication, Education, Philology, Psychology, Social Work)

**Sudovian Academy** (Social Work, Education, Languages, ICT)

About 30% of the academic offer is taught in English: **9** BA, **14** MA, **2** LLM, MBA, **6** PhD programmes available in English

Special focus establishments at MRU: KSI Vilnius, Baltic Ukrainian Center, LegalTech Center, Australian-Lithuanian Hybrid Threat Centre, UNESCO Chair on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies and Innovations for Society, Human-Environment-Technology (HET) Systems Centre

**Current partners in Canada:** Saint Mary's University, University of Regina– bilateral and Erasmus+ KA171.

MRU is open to Collaboration Opportunities:

Faculty / Student Exchange, Joint Programs / Dual Degrees, Microcredentials, Research Collaboration, Visiting Professorships, Internships for researchers and PhD students ([roffice@mruni.eu](mailto:roffice@mruni.eu); [io@mruni.eu](mailto:io@mruni.eu))





Mykolas Romeris  
University

**Long-term interdisciplinary research programs:**

Educational Science Research Programme in the Field of Social Sciences;  
Philology Research Programme in the Field of Humanities;  
Communication and Information Research Programme in the Field of Social Sciences;  
Psychology Research Programme in the Field of Social Sciences;  
Sociology Research Programme in the Field of Social Sciences;  
Social Science, Law Research Programme: Rule of Law, Sustainability and Technology;  
Social Science Programme on Management, Economics, Political Science: Resilience, sustainability and progress perspectives.

**MRU LABs** - Interdisciplinary teams of scientists, researchers, students and other interested individual groups who implement MRU research programs, develop an ecosystem based on a high-level of knowledge, state-of-the-art technology, collaboration between science, business, and government institutions and society, and network governance. There are **16 LABs** in the network (<https://www.mruni.eu/en/research/mru-laboratories/>), such as the Security Research Laboratory; Justice Research Laboratory; Sustainable Innovations Research Laboratory; Human Rights Research Laboratory; Environmental Management Research Laboratory; Life Quality Research Laboratory; Public Governance Innovation Research Laboratory, etc.

**Projects** - More than 100 ongoing or recently finalized projects under national, regional, international, EU-funded programmes <https://www.mruni.eu/en/research/projects/ongoing-projects/> and <https://www.mruni.eu/en/research/projects/implemented-projects/>

**Research covers** almost all imminent and upcoming societal challenges in Cyber security, Artificial Intelligence, Public security, Resilience, Sustainability, etc. Researchers are open to collaboration ([research@mruni.eu](mailto:research@mruni.eu))

# VILNIUS GEDIMINAS TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

## Facts and figures

Established in **1956**

**10 000** students

The academic community has **1100** staff members

**25%** international students from **90+** countries

**300** business partners worldwide

**470+** partner universities in **60+** countries globally

Member of **ATHENA European** University Alliance

### 11 FACULTIES

Architecture

Business

Management

Civil Engineering

Creative Industries

Electronics

Environmental Engineering

Fundamental Sciences (ICT &  
Computer Sciences)

Mechanics

Transport Engineering

Lithuanian Maritime Academy

**6** Competence Centers

**6** Research Centers

**24** Research Laboratories

**13** Research Institutes



# 100+ study programmes

78% in the field of Engineering, Information and Technological Sciences

62% taught in English

16 joint or double degree programs

## PhD studies in 12 fields

### Technological Sciences

Civil Engineering  
Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Environmental Engineering  
Informatics Engineering  
Materials Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering  
Transport Engineering

### Social Sciences

Communication and Information  
Economics  
Management

### Natural Sciences

Informatics

### Humanities

History and Theory of Arts

## R&D areas for co-operation

Smart City & Digital Built Environment

Civil and Structural Engineering

Urban Mobility

Autonomous Vehicles

Cyber Security

FinTech

CreaTech

Robotic Systems for Smart Manufacturing

Bioengineering

Circular Economy



VYTAUTAS  
MAGNUS  
UNIVERSITY  
M C M X X I I

## Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) as an Interdisciplinary Partner in the Fields of Defence, Security, and Societal Resilience

VMU can be presented as an institution whose potential in the topic of defense and security is revealed through a broad, interdisciplinary concept of security. Modern defense is increasingly understood not only as the development of military technologies or physical platforms, but also as the ability of the state, society, academic institutions, the technology sector, and the civic community to operate under conditions of cyber, informational, geopolitical, social, and infrastructural threats.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Why VMU would be a good fit</b>	<b>Canadian institutions</b>
<b>AI, data analysis and digital defence</b>	VMU has a research focus in artificial intelligence and digitalisation: AI in language technologies, fintech, security, biomedicine, robotics, VR and smart environments. VMU's AI Laboratory also references AI, statistical methods, language technologies, risk assessment and quantum computing.	Carleton, BCIT, Brock, Lakehead, McMaster, Waterloo, Guelph, SAIT
<b>Cybersecurity, AI governance, law and regulation</b>	VMU faculties of Informatics, Law, and Political Science and Diplomacy implement / coordinate national and international projects on AI governance, data protection, platform accountability and cybersecurity law.	Carleton, Guelph, INRS, BCIT, SAIT, McMaster
<b>Disinformation, media literacy and information resilience</b>	<b>A key competence area.</b> The activities of the VMU UNESCO Chair include media and information literacy, media pluralism, disinformation, cybersecurity issues and civic engagement. VMU doctoral research also links AI with disinformation detection, including analysis of Russian Telegram channels.	Carleton, Saint Mary's / CMVF3C, Guelph, Brock

# Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) as an Interdisciplinary Partner in the Fields of Defence, Security, and Societal Resilience



VYTAUTAS  
MAGNUS  
UNIVERSITY  
M C M X X I I

**Security policy,  
democratic  
resilience, the  
Baltic region**

VMU's Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy specializes in international relations, security studies, regional security, foreign policy and public diplomacy. VMU is also associated with a journal focused on the foreign and security policy of small and medium-sized states, especially in Central-Eastern and Northern Europe ("Lithuanian Foreign Policy Review").

Carleton, Saint  
Mary's / CMVF3C,  
Dalhousie, McMaster

**Critical  
infrastructure,  
resilience,  
emergencies**

VMU can combine expertise in informatics, public policy, communication, law and bioeconomy. Canadian partners place particular emphasis on critical infrastructure, resilience, crisis management and whole-of-society models.

Carleton, BCIT,  
SAIT, McMaster,  
Saint Mary's /  
CMVF3C

**Bioeconomy, food /  
water / climate  
security**

The BioTEC directions of VMU's Agriculture Academy include climate-smart digital agriculture, water management, sustainable food systems, healthy soils and plants, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

University of Guelph,  
Lakehead, McMaster,  
UBC, SFU

**Micro-credentials,  
joint programmes,  
student / staff  
exchanges**

Almost all Canadian profiles mention exchanges, joint programmes, micro-credentials, internships or remote learning. Such cooperation is valuable and aligned with the VMU's strategic priorities.

BCIT, Brock, Guelph,  
SAIT, INRS, Carleton



**Vilnius  
University**

**Established in 1579**, Vilnius University is the first and largest comprehensive University in Lithuania, ranked **#1 nationally** and **among the top 450 universities in the world**. Vilnius University is a comprehensive university offering **300+ study programmes**, which have **26 thousand students** in total, and **3,000+ academic staff**.

**Commitment to research has been in the DNA of Vilnius University for centuries**. VU conducts **fundamental and applied research in all areas of science** (Humanities and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Medicine and Health Sciences, and Technological Sciences) and implements experimental (social, cultural) development activities in a broad range of research fields.



## Vilnius University

Being a modern university with a primary excellence in research and an active player in the innovation ecosystem, we have a huge infrastructure to facilitate business ideas in various ways. Vilnius University creates new technologies, knowledge, and methods that can be applicable while developing innovative decisions. We collaborate with companies through R&D solutions in different fields, such as natural sciences, medicine and health sciences, technology, social sciences and the humanities.

160+  
research  
groups

150+ patents  
& patent  
applications

450+ open-  
access R&D  
services

25+ start-up  
companies

500+  
research  
Projects  
annually

### Active player in the innovation ecosystem:

- Shareholder in 2 science parks operating
- 200+ companies cooperate with us every year
- Bio-incubator
- Shareholder of the Santaros Clinics

7  
ERC  
grants:

Research Excellence,  
bioarchaeology,  
gene editing



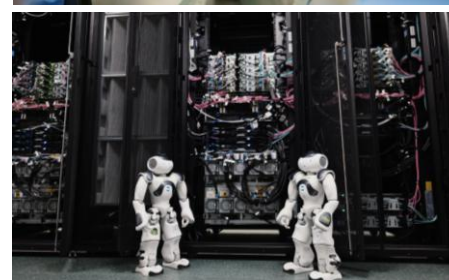
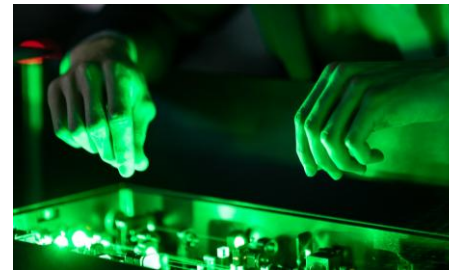
Among pioneers in  
CRISPR/Cas technology

2

Space  
technologies:  
Lithuanian  
satellites



Laser technologies:  
Improved light pulse  
amplification technology  
(OPCPA)



### Life Sciences

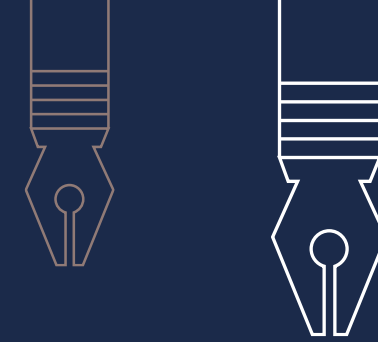
European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Partnership Institute (PI) for Genome Editing Technologies operates at the Life Sciences Center

### Fintech

Center for Excellence in Finance and Economic Research (CEFER) with the Bank of Lithuania

### High-tech

- The European Consortium for Research Infrastructures for Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI ERIC) is established by Lithuania. The Republic of Lithuania is a Founding member of ELI ERIC with the rights and obligations by Prof. Aidas Matijošius, Director of the Vilnius University Laser Research Center.
- The Vilnius University Laser Research Center is a member of Laserlab-Europe (The Integrated Initiative of European Laser Research Infrastructures) and provides international access to researchers from Europe and beyond.
- In 2018 Lithuania became an Associate Member State of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). Vilnius University is participating in large-scale research collaborations and CERN governance.



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*Chair of the International Committee of the Lithuanian University Rectors' Conference*

