*Unofficial automatic translation*

# MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

## ORDER
## ON THE APPROVAL OF THE DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE

13 February 2023 No V-158
Vilnius

In accordance with Paragraph 11 of Article 53 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania:

1. I a p p r o v e the Descriptor of the Study Field of Architecture (enclosed).

2. I d e t e r m i n e that the higher education institutions have to adjust their study programmes to the Descriptor of the Study Field of Architecture approved by Clause 1 hereby until 1 September 2023.

Minister of Education, Science and Sport Jurgita Šiugždinienė

APPROVED BY
Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport
of the Republic of Lithuania of 13 February 2023
No V-158

# DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF ARCHITECTURE

## CHAPTER I
## GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Descriptor of the Study Field of Architecture (hereinafter referred to as the "Descriptor") shall govern the specific requirements for the study field of Architecture (P09), which belongs to the group of study fields of arts (P). The Descriptor regulates the study field of Architecture (hereinafter referred to as the "Architecture field") in the scope not covered by the General Requirements for the Studies approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 December 2016 No V-1168 "On approval of the General Requirements for the Studies".

2. The Descriptor has been prepared taking into account the Law on Construction of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Territorial Planning of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Architecture of the Republic of Lithuania, and the following provisions of the legal acts of the European Union regulating the architect's activities: Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System and repealing Commission Decision 2008/49/EC, Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, Directive 2013/55/EU of the European parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications, European Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on (hereinafter referred to as the "EU Directive 2013/55/EU") on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System It has also been prepared taking into account the Law on the Recognition of Regulated Professional Qualifications of the Republic of Lithuania, the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 May 2005 No 554 "On the Approval of the Description of the trends of architectural policy of the Republic of Lithuania" and the Order of the Director of the Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training Development Centre of 4 May 2020 No V1-56 "On the approval of the Professional Standard for the Architecture Sector".

3. The terms used in the Descriptor shall be understood as defined in the Laws on Architecture of the Republic of Lithuania, on Construction of the Republic of Lithuania, on Territorial Planning of the Republic of Lithuania, on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania, on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Lithuania, on Protection of the Immovable Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Lithuania, on Public Procurement of the Republic of Lithuania, on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania.

4. In accordance with EU Directive 2013/55/EU, Architectural studies are carried out as full-time integrated university study programmes. Integrated study programmes shall be at least five (5) years in duration and consist of 300 or 360 study credits.

5. The second cycle studies are open to persons who graduated in Architecture and obtained the corresponding bachelor's qualification degree prior to the establishment of integrated study programmes in the field of Architecture in Lithuania, or who obtained a bachelor's degree in architecture abroad. The duration of the study programmes is 120 credits.

6. Graduates are awarded a Master of Arts qualification and an architect qualification corresponding to the seventh level of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning, as well as to the second level of the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area and confirmed by the master's diploma and a diploma supplement issued by the higher education institution.

7. Graduates must have acquired the knowledge, skills and competences set out in Article 44 of the Law on the Recognition of Regulated Professional Qualifications of the Republic of Lithuania, on the basis of which the general and specific learning outcomes are formulated in Chapter III of the this Descriptor. The title of the study programme must be "Architecture", but the higher education institution may also define a specific architectural specialisation (building architecture, urban design, building restoration or other).

8. It is recommended that persons with at least secondary education should be admitted to integrated studies by a competition for entry on the basis of their academic performance and the results of the entrance examinations, which test their artistic skills against the requirements set by the higher education institution.

9. Studies in the field of Architecture may be carried out as single-study field programmes (300 study credits), single-study field programmes with modules (subjects) of another study field or as interdisciplinary study programmes, the volume of which shall not be less than 360 study credits, of which 300 study credits shall be prescribed for studies in field of Architecture.

10. The main objectives of the study field of Architecture are:

10.1. to develop a responsible professional:

10.1.1. to provide knowledge and skills in architecture, urban planning and other artistic disciplines, as well as in the humanities, social sciences and technology, in order to create a quality human environment;

10.1.2. to provide professional experience in the design of space and function and the systematic thinking skills needed for professional independent or collective architectural practice;

10.1.3. to train a qualified professional able to apply the knowledge he/she has acquired to the design of architectural objects, who is aware of his/her responsibilities as an architect and is able to base his/her professional development on the principles of lifelong learning;

10.2. to develop a creative artist:

10.2.1. to develop a broadly erudite artist with creative, critical and systematic thinking and a broad understanding of the problem at hand;

10.2.2. to develop the ability to apply the knowledge acquired in related creative fields, collaborate with other professionals and interact with the public in order to achieve the best possible results in the student's studies and work.

## CHAPTER II
## CONCEPT AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY FIELD

11. The studies in the field of Architecture must strike a balance between the theoretical and practical aspects of architectural training and develop a sense of professional responsibility. Architecture must be a core component of the study programme:

11.1. the artistic and functional principles of the formation of spaces and volumes, the formation of buildings and the environment, the design and construction of architectural objects, construction technologies, the management of construction processes, rules and technologies for the protection of the immovable cultural heritage and the protection of the environment, the history of architecture and art, the means of artistic and visual expression, drawing and computer graphics, 3D modelling, the basics of designing information modelling of buildings must be studied; the skills of creative work and research must be developed and the individual and collective creative work experience must be implemented. Fundamental sciences must remain an integral part of Architectural studies;

11.2. the location and sequence of study subjects in the programme of the study field of Architecture is based on interdisciplinary links - the interconnection between architecture and other art subjects, technology, engineering, social sciences and humanities. The core and major part of the studies is devoted to subjects relevant to the study field and provide adequate professional training, while the general university study subjects and special education subjects are designed to develop a broader worldview and erudition. The study subjects of architectural design, fundamentals of

composition, urban design, environmental planning, fundamentals of structural design, professional internship and the final work form the basis of the study programme, which is expanded and complemented by the subjects of civil engineering, building physics, building economics and law, environmental protection, heritage protection, fundamentals of landscape architecture, visual expression. It is necessary to arrange the study subjects in order of increasing complexity of the problems and to arrange the theoretical subjects in the semesters according to their relation to the problems of the main professional part of the studies.

12. Graduates of studies in the field of Architecture can work in state and municipal institutions, independently design simple structures, work as an architects in architectural design and territorial planning companies under the supervision of a certified specialist (project manager), take part in the preparation of building projects, become certified architects, and continue their education in doctoral studies.

13. An architect must:

13.1. be able to prepare building projects, manage the main areas of technical activities of building construction (act as a manager of the main areas of technical activities of building construction) in the cases stipulated by the Law on Construction of the Republic of Lithuania;

13.2. be able to prepare territorial planning documents in the cases stipulated by the Law on Territorial Planning of the Republic of Lithuania, and manage the preparation of territorial planning documents;

13.3. be able to carry out activities related to the protection of the immovable cultural heritage in the cases stipulated by the Law on the Protection of the Immovable Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Lithuania: to prepare projects of management works and manage the design of management works, act as the head of the main areas of technical activities of the construction of buildings of immovable cultural heritage, prepare special territorial planning documents for the protection of the immovable cultural heritage, and manage the preparation of special territorial planning documents for the protection of the immovable cultural heritage;

13.4. be able to prepare special territorial planning documents for protected territories and lead the preparation of special territorial planning documents for protected territories in cases stipulated by the Law on Protected Areas of the Republic of Lithuania;

13.5. be able to plan and design public spaces, landscapes and urban structures;

13.6. be able to plan green spaces;

13.7. be able to engage in interior design;

13.8. be able to design architectural elements and objects;

13.9. be able to engage in research and/or teaching in architecture;

13.10. be able to engage in scientific and artistic research and carry out architectural expert evaluation;

13.11. be able to carry outother activities provided for by law.

## CHAPTER III
## GENERAL AND SPECIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

14. The intended learning outcomes must clearly define the body of knowledge, skills and abilities that a graduate of the study programme must acquire and without which it is not possible to be an architect.

15. The following learning outcomes must be achieved upon completion of integrated studies:

15.1. knowledge and skills. A person must:

15.1.1. be able to apply the general knowledge acquired at university (i.e., of philosophy, aesthetics, history of art and architecture, sociology, economics, culture of language, etc.) to his/her professional practice;

15.1.2. be aware of cultural phenomena (in Architecture and other fields of art) and be able to creatively analyse and systemise them;

15.1.3. be able to apply the acquired knowledge of architectural theory (i.e., of architectural composition, building design and territorial planning methodologies, urban planning, landscape architecture, etc.) in the preparation of architectural and urban projects;

15.1.4. be able to apply the acquired professional subject-matter and interdisciplinary knowledge (i.e., of construction materials, technologies, structures, surveying, engineering systems, etc.) in the preparation of architectural and urban projects; formulate and justify decisions on the basis of this knowledge; present visual and textual information in a creative, accurate and understandable manner;

15.1.5. be able to apply knowledge of construction law (i.e., of construction and territorial planning legislation and norms, heritage protection, environmental management requirements, etc.) in the preparation of territorial plans, designs for buildings, urban complexes, landscape architecture, public spaces;

15.2. research. A person must:

15.2.1. be able to use the results of a wide range of scientific and artistic research in his/her professional activities, identify and evaluate social, artistic and economic priorities, have the skills to search for information in primary and secondary sources, and use modern technologies;

15.2.2. be able to collect data necessary for solving architectural urban and environmental problems and be prepared to carry out design work independently; be able to apply professional and subject matter knowledge in the architect's creative activity, carry out scientific and artistic research, and formulate and justify decisions on the basis of this knowledge;

15.2.3. be able to organise the creative design process, rationally formulate arguments and criteria, make optimal decisions quickly, critically evaluate and apply theoretical and practical innovations, and systematise data;

15.3. special abilities: A person must:

15.3.1. be able to formulate and convey creative ideas and aesthetic attitudes, see and define problems, and make optimal decisions;

15.3.2. demonstrate the creative and critical thinking necessary to create quality human living environments, public spaces and buildings; be able to use traditional, digital and other appropriate means of visual expression;

15.3.3. be able to independently prepare a design for a building, an urban complex, environment formation, interior architecture, solve architectural tasks of building and open space formation, design buildings and their complexes of various purposes and complexity, public spaces and landscape, apply computer-aided design methods and use graphic expression tools;

15.4. social skills: A person must:

15.4.1. be able to work as part of a team;

15.4.2. be able to communicate and collaborate with other professionals in the national language and at least one foreign language;

15.4.3. be able to convey information and ideas persuasively, and develop skills in written and oral communication, computer-mediated communication and traditional visual expression;

15.4.4. be able to develop organisational skills and carry out tasks and responsibilities to society in a professional and responsible manner;

15.4.5. be able to assume social responsibility - to assess and predict the long-term social consequences of architectural activity, be aware of the architect's obligations to society;

15.5. personal skills: A person must:

15.5.1. be able to work independently and as part of a team, plan and execute activities, analyse information and make decisions;

15.5.2. be able to innovate and enhance professional competence, as well as develop and improve professional skills in thinking, learning, design, artistic expression, critical analysis and other skills necessary for the practice of architecture.

16. The following learning outcomes must be achieved upon completion of the second cycle studies:

16.1. knowledge and skills. A person must:

16.1.1. acquire up-to-date professional subject-specific knowledge, extending the knowledge acquired during the Bachelor of Architecture;

16.1.2. acquire knowledge of scientific and artistic research methodologies (i.e., of research methodologies, methods of analysis of architectural, urban and natural structures, methods of tectonic research methodology of architectural structural systems) and be able to apply them;

16.1.3. understand and be able to explain the results of fundamental or applied scientific and artistic research based on an understanding of cultural phenomena in architecture and other art forms, and the ability to think critically, analyse creatively and systemise;

16.2. research. A person must:

16.2.1. be able to apply professional and subject-specific knowledge in the architect's creative activity, carry out scientific and artistic research, and formulate and justify decisions on the basis of such research;

16.2.2. be able to apply a variety of research methods in applied research activities, have information-seeking skills in primary and secondary sources of information and information technology, and process, analyse, synthesise and evaluate data and draw conclusions;

16.2.3. be able to carry out applied research independently, formulate reasoned conclusions and, on the basis of the research carried out, draw up a design programme and plan and organise the design process;

16.2.4. be able to independently analyse research data, make appropriate decisions, evaluate alternatives and predict potential environmental impacts;

16.3. special abilities: A person must:

16.3.1. be able to work in and lead a team;

16.3.2. be able to see a wide range of issues, think conceptually, formulate rational arguments and make optimal decisions;

16.3.3. be able to initiate interdisciplinary projects and activities;

16.3.4. be able to independently solve complex architectural problems using scientific research, prepare designs for buildings of various purposes and complexity, their complexes, open public spaces and urban structures;

16.3.5. be able to use a variety of creative methods, express his/her ideas, and communicate them visually and persuasively to different groups using appropriate means of expression;

16.3.6. be able to work in a team, communicate and collaborate with professionals from different disciplines in the national language and at least one foreign language, think critically and self-critically, and be sensitive to the issues of diversity and multiculturalism;

16.3.7. be able to develop organisational skills in the performance of assigned tasks and responsibilities;

16.3.8. be able to follow professional ethics and citizenship, assume collective and personal responsibility, assess and predict the long-term social consequences of architectural activity; be aware of his/her responsibility to society;

16.4. social skills: A person must:

16.4.1. be able to work as part of a team;

16.4.2. be able to communicate and collaborate with other professionals in the national language and at least one foreign language;

16.4.3. be able to convey information and ideas persuasively, and develop skills in written and oral communication, computer-mediated communication and traditional visual expression;

16.4.4. be able to develop organisational skills and carry out tasks and responsibilities to society in a professional and responsible manner;

16.4.5. be able to assume social responsibility - to assess and predict the long-term social consequences of architectural activity, be aware of the architect's obligations to society;

16.5. personal skills: A person must:

16.5.1. be able to plan time and activities and use productive methods;

16.5.2. be able to innovate and develop professional competence, develop and improve his/her professional skills in thinking, learning, design, artistic expression, critical analysis, research and other skills necessary for the practice of architecture;

16.5.3. be able to work individually, anticipate the consequences of his/her actions and take personal responsibility for the impact of his/her actions on economic and cultural development, the environment and the well-being of society.

## CHAPTER IV
## TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

17. The main study methods focusing on active studying are problem-based learning, challenge-based learning, case studies, experiential learning, etc., through lectures, seminars, contact and self-directed work, individual tutorials, remote lectures, creative practical tasks, and professional internships.

18. The criteria for assessing student achievement must be directly related to the objectives of the study programme and the outcomes that can be evaluated. Aspects to be assessed include the application of acquired knowledge in practice, artistic and engineering literacy, the ability to present ideas persuasively, and the ability to learn and work independently.

19. Methods of assessing student achievement must be clearly linked to the content of the study subject and the study methods used in it. Recommended assessment methods include: architectural project and its defence, project report, internship report, examination, test, problem solving, individual work, etc.

20. The assessment system for study subjects must:

20.1. be valid and reliable, i.e. the assessment must be linked to the objectives of the study programme and be carried out in several dimensions. The final grade consists of several assessments covering different aspects of the coursework project or theoretical subject and the course of study;

20.2. assess skills, knowledge and consistency of study, i.e. application, creativity and workflow;

20.3. meet the criteria of validity, reliability, impartiality, objectivity, usefulness and openness.

21. Coursework projects are evaluated by a commission of several lecturers/experts. They are evaluated openly, with student representatives present, during a public presentation and discussion of the projects at the time of the evaluation by the Commission. The assessment is based on set criteria. The assessment system and the assessment criteria must be communicated to the students in advance, when providing the main task related to a specific assignment.

## CHAPTER V
## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES

22. One of the components of the success of study programmes is competent and qualified lecturers who shape the overall academic environment and set a positive example for students. Academic staff in integrated and second cycle study programmes are evaluated on the basis of their scientific, pedagogical and practical experience: participation in scientific or artistic research, application of advanced study methods, experience in the international scientific and pedagogical area, ability to communicate in foreign languages, participation in conferences, professional development programmes and internships, recognition in professional and scientific communities, professional acumen, personal interest in students' studies, ability to advise students on their study plans, professional careers and the criteria used for assessing their studies. Each higher education institution sets minimum qualification requirements for teaching posts for the study programme of the relevant cycle, which must not contradict the legislation in force.

23. Lecturers must pay attention to and be aware of innovations in art, science and technology, participate in research, and contribute to the development of new design, study/teaching, research,

creative methods and technologies. They need to know and understand the criteria used to accredit study programmes.

24. Professional internship takes places in architectural and urban design firms. The aim of the internship is to test and deepen the knowledge acquired during the studies and gain skills for independent professional activity.

25. Architectural studies are completed by the student defending his/her final work in public. The purpose of the final work is to demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired during the studies and to apply them to the creation of architectural objects.

26. The final work of the integrated studies in the field of Architecture is an original project of architecture, urban design or other object of environmental formation and use, based on detailed applied research, in which the student demonstrates the general architectural knowledge acquired during the studies, the understanding of architectural problems, the ability to form architectural solutions for the building and its environment under complex natural or urban conditions.

27. The final work of the second cycle studies in the field of Architecture is an architectural design project - an independently prepared original design of a complex architectural, urban object, architectural restoration or other architectural specialisation, based on detailed applied research and demonstrating high professional excellence and original creativity, inspired by the latest knowledge, theories, methods and technologies in architecture and other fields of science and art.

28. The final work is evaluated by an independent commission of experts from the study field - recognised artists, researchers, professionals and representatives of potential employers. The chair of the Commission must be from a different research and study institution from the one where the integrated or second cycle studies took place. It is advisable to invite specialists from other institutions to review the final works. The chair of the master's Final Work Assessment Commission must have a PhD.

29. The conditions must be suitable for students with special needs to be able to study.

30. The following material facilities are essential for the success of the study programme:

30.1. classrooms, buildings and infrastructure must meet the requirements of the hygiene standards and other legal acts in force in the Republic of Lithuania (i.e., those related to space heating, noise protection, natural and artificial lighting of workplaces, etc.);

30.2. the premises used for the study programme must be equipped with the modern audiovisual equipment and demonstration facilities required for the study programme. The classroom equipment and apparatus must be sufficient for the student to be able to apply modern digital methods of design and graphic representation, digital processing of materials and research;

30.3. the number of seats in the classrooms must be such that all lectures, with the exception of those of electives and special subjects, could be carried out in the first half of the day;

30.4. the library must provide students with the necessary number of textbooks and other literature needed for their studies, access to appropriate computer and software equipment, literature catalogues, search engines, access to the databases of the major libraries, and internet connection;

30.5. the minimum number of computers used must be appropriate to the needs of the study programme. All computers must have standard text and graphics software packages and an internet connection. Modern computer-aided instructional design, 3D spatial design and 3D modelling software is required.

---