

LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

VETERINARY ACADEMY



BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

STUDY FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

PROGRAMME OF SECOND CIRCLE STUDIES

ANIMAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

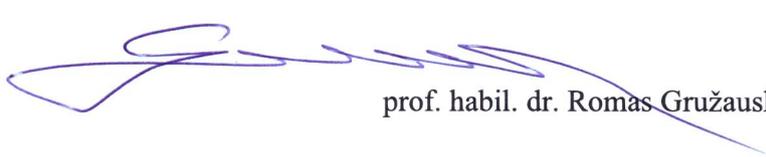
THE SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

2017

Rector of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences


prof. Remigijus Žaliūnas

Head of the self-evaluation group


prof. habil. dr. Romas Gružasuskas

Kaunas
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KEY INFORMATION ON STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	Animal Resources Management
National code	621D91001
Higher education type	University
Circle (type) of study	Second circle studies
Mode of study and duration in years	Full-time, 1.5 years
Scope of the programme in credits	90
Qualification awarded	Master of Animal Science
The Registration date of study programme	25-07-2011, Order No. 1-01-98

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The start of the programme provision	2011
The language of instruction	Lithuanian

Table 1. Self-evaluation group

No	Name, surname	Function	Responsibilities	Position	Phone , e-mail
1.	Prof. Habil. Dr. R. Gružasuskas	Head of self-evaluation group	Administration, coordination, development of the final self-evaluation report, presentation for faculty community and social partners	Head of Institute of Animal Rearing Technologies	+370 363 505, +37061023902, romas.gruzauskas@lsmuni.lt
2.	Prof. I.T. Miceikienė	Member	The programme aims and learning outcomes	Professor of Institute of Biological Systems and Genetics	+370 363 664 ilona.miceikiene@lsmuni.lt
3.	Dr. E. Šlyžius	Member	The programme aims and learning outcomes	Lecturer of Department of Animal Breeding and Nutrition	+370 465 423 evaldas.slyzius@lsmuni.lt
4.	Dr. L. Ašmenskaitė	Member	The programme aims and learning outcomes	Lecturer of Department of Health Management	+370 363 722 lina.asmenskaite@lsmuni.lt
5.	Dr. V. Vilienė	Member	The curriculum design	Lecturer of Institute of Animal Rearing Technologies	+370 363 505 +37062875126 vilma.viliene@lsmuni.lt
6.	Dr. A. Daukšienė	Member	A study process and students' performance assessment; Programme management	Associate professor of Department of Anatomy and Physiology	+370 363 505 agila.dauksiene@lsmuni.lt
7.	G. Stanytė	Member	The teaching staff; Facilities and learning resources	Assistant of Institute of Animal Rearing Technologies	+370 363 414 guoda.stanyte@fc.lsmuni.lt
8.	V. Dilbienė	Member	The curriculum design	Study administrator of Department of Animal Breeding and Nutrition	+370 363 408 vaida.dilbiene@lsmuni.lt
9.	Stud. L. Ivanickienė	Member	A study process and students' performance assessment; Programme management	Master student of ARM study program	ivalijana@yahoo.com
10.	Social partner S. Tumienė	Member	The teaching staff; Facilities and learning resources	Technologist	s.tumiene@kauno-grudai.lt

Head of self-evaluation group:

Head of Institute of Animal Rearing Technologies Prof. Habil. Dr. Romas Gružasuskas,

Phone: work 8-37 363505, mobile 8-610-23902,

E-mail: romas.gruzauskas@lsmuni.lt

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ABBREVIATIONS

ac. yr	–academic year
ARM	–Animal Resources Management
AS	–Animal Sciences
CAM	– complementary and alternative medicine
CQAHE	–Centre for quality assessment in higher education
FAHT	– Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology
FPH	– Faculty of Public Health
FV	– Faculty of Veterinary
h	–hour
LIC	–Library information center
LR	–Lithuania Republic
LSMUSIS	–study information system
LUHS	– Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
MA	–Medicine Academy
SPC	–study program committee
VA	–Veterinary Academy
yr	–year

INTRODUCTION

1. Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (hereinafter referred to as LUHS) is a state university – the subject of legal rights - acting as a public institution, which is established on the 30 of June in 2010 by the resolution of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, according to which Kaunas University of Medicine and Lithuanian Veterinary Academy were merged. LUHS is the largest university of biomedicine sciences that continues the best traditions of both schools.
2. The University has two collegial management bodies – the Council and the Senate and a sole management body – the Rector, who is elected by the Council. Chancellors and Vice-Rectors provide help for Rector. Medical Academy and Veterinary Academy are the main units of the University, which also includes Faculties, Research Institutes, University Hospital, Veterinary Clinics, Centre of Practical Training and Experiments, Theoretical and Clinical Departments, Faculty Institutes, Research Laboratories; other structural and functional units, which provide the needs for studies, research, health care and social and cultural life.
3. The University offers more than 40 study programmes. More than 7800 students including 761 foreign students are studying from 55 countries.
4. Teaching staff of LUHS consists of 168 professors, 243 associate professors, 327 lecturers and 448 assistant professors (by December 31, 2016). This entire staff provides qualitative studies of the first, second and third circle in biomedical sciences. At LUHS study quality assessment is consistently conducted, monitoring of study process implementation is carried out by study quality assessment commission.
5. Veterinary Academy has two faculties: the Faculty of Veterinary and the Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology. The most important VA divisions participating in the study programme and research are: 4 departments, 2 institute, 2 open access centres, 11 research laboratories, Large Animals clinic, Dr. L. Kriaučeliūnas Small Animal clinic, 3 Training centres (Practical Training and Experiments, Veterinary Continuous Education and Consulting, J. Tacas for Milking Training). MA divisions participating in the study programme and research are: Faculty of Public Health and Faculty of Nursing.
6. The Programme of Management of Animal Resources is carried out in the Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology. Currently the faculty comprises of Institute of Animal Rearing Technologies and Institute of Biological Systems and Genetic Research and department of Animal Breeding and Nutrition.
7. Self–evaluation of the Programme was carried out by a group established by the Dean’s of FAHT Order No V9F1–58, 17–10–2016 (Table 1). The group consists of 10 members (8 the university teachers, a master study student, and a representative of employers). The personal input volume of each member of self–evaluation’s group depended on member’s competence. The self– evaluation report on the Master’s study programme Animal Resources Management covers the period from 2012 to 2016 year. The self–evaluation was performed following the time–table (Table 2).The final version of self-evaluation was approved by all members of the group and by the Board of Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology.

Table 2. Work Schedule of the group of self-evaluation

No	Activities	Date
1.	Setup and approval of the group of self-evaluation	17-10-2016
2.	Discussion of self-evaluation course and distribution of activities	26-10-2016
3.	Data collection and analysis	26-10-2016 – 30-11-2016
4.	Discussion of initial self-evaluation results, discussion of programmes advantages and disadvantages, and means to ensure the quality of the programme	07-12-2016
5.	Discussion of self-evaluation summary project	27-12-2016
6.	Self-evaluation summary presentment for faculty community and social partners	17-01-2017
7.	Final presentment of self-evaluation summary	30-01-2017

8. Evaluation of the programme was carried out according to the methodology of programme self-evaluation of Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education and following legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania:
- Republic of Lithuania. Law on higher education and research. 20-Apr-2009, No XI-242 (Official Gazette, 2009, No 54-2140)
 - Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. Order No V-826, 3-Apr-2010 „Regarding the approval of Description of general requirements for the awarding a degree of the Master’s study programs“(Official Gazette, 2010, No 67-3375)
 - Director of Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. Order No 1–01-162 „Methodology of self-evaluation of study programmes” (Official Gazette, 2010, No 156-7954; relevant edition since 01-09-2016).
 - Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. Order No ISAK–1652 „Regarding the approval of Description of external evaluation of study programmes and accreditation” (Official Gazette, 2009, No 96–4083, No 134–5862 and No 152–6860).
9. The external evaluation of the second circle study programme Animal Resources Management was made by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, in 2014. The members of previous self-evaluation are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. The list of self-evaluation group in 2014

No	Pedagogical title (science degree), name, surname	Position
1.	Prof. Dr. Vida Juozaitienė	Head of self–evaluation group, Professor, Head of the Department of Animal Breeding of FAHT
2.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Janina Černauskienė	Assoc. Prof. at Department of Animal Nutrition of FAHT
3.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saulius Tušas	Assoc. Prof. at Department of Animal Science of FAHT
4.	Dr. Natalija Makštutienė	Lecturer at Institute of Biological Systems and Genetic Research of FAHT
5.	Dr. Evaldas Šlyžius	Lecturer at Department of Animal Breeding of FAHT
6.	Dr. Lina Ašmenskaitė	Lecturer at Department of Health Management of Faculty of Public Health
7.	Master Student Vaida Vedegytė	2 nd year master student of Animals resources management study programme of FAHT
8.	Ilona Kauzonienė	Senior specialist for animal husbandry, Chamber of Agriculture, RL

ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME

THE PROGRAMME AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

10. The demand of the programme is related to pervasive use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in Lithuania and worldwide. Animals are used to provide CAM service and to integrate animal therapy into rehabilitation process of humans. Increasing numbers of people use complementary medicine for health maintenance, prevention and treatment of ailments and diseases, the number of such patients is forecasted to increase¹. Approximately 65% of European population report having used services of CAM; about 30%-50% of patients use the CAM products to maintain their health; 10-20% of the European population has seen a CAM physician/practitioner within the previous year².

¹ Jayaraj P. Regulation of Traditional and Complementary Medicinal Products in Malaysia. International Journal of Green Pharmacy. 2010;10-14.

² The regulatory status of complementary and alternative medicine for medical doctors in Europe. CAMDOC Alliance, 2010, p. 4. http://www.epha.org/IMG/pdf/CAMDOCRegulatory_Status.pdf.

11. The definition of health highlights that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (WHO)³. The new comprehension and healthiness policies open opportunities not only for medical area initiatives, but for other health care initiatives as well, when the aim is to take care of the disabled, the infirm, elderly people, or persons having undergone traumas, or in socially isolated state. This highlights the increased possibilities in animal therapy usage to take care of every person and society's health and wellbeing.
12. In recent years, the numbers of elderly people^{4,5}, persons with mental disorders⁶, children in foster families or child care institutions⁷, children with developmental impairment⁸ have increased. Therefore, animals as alternative, innovative measure are involved to helping process.
13. Although animal therapy process is not regulated in Lithuania, there is a market demand, thus the initiatives to apply animal therapy are not scarce. In Lithuania, animal therapy service is provided by Dolphin Assisted Therapy Centre in Lithuanian Sea museum, Healthiness, Hippotherapy and Sport centre in the University of Siauliai, Service of Professional Canistherapy at LUHS Cynology Centre for Scientific and Educational Development, Canistherapy Association of Lithuanian Cynology Society. For example, in the dolphinarium of Lithuanian Sea museum, during the period of 8 years, dolphin assisted therapy was provided to 400 children; a consistent growth in the need of this service is noted⁹. According to the data of Training Centre under Cynology Society of Lithuania, in 2013 yr canistherapy service was provided to more than 3 thousand children.
14. Increasing demand of animal therapy service raised the concerns related to shortage of specialists and/or competence of service providers is not sufficient. There are few professionally qualified animal therapy specialists in our country. According to the registration of therapy dogs at the Canistherapy association of Lithuanian Cynology Society there are 12 canistherapists and 13 certified dogs, and in the centre for canistherapy – 21 and 17, respectively.
15. Currently, the service of psychosocial effect of health recreation area (using animal therapy) is executed by persons of a diverse education (social workers, special pedagogues, representatives of other helping professions and self-trained volunteers) and persons without a special education. The increasing demand for animal science specialists is evident. The specialists should have capabilities and skills to apply integrated assessment of selection process for methodics to choose assisting animals, to train them, to work with the animal, to choose process of helping – specialists able to make integrated decisions to ensure welfare and protection of assisting animals. Furthermore, this is activity with people who have disorders, which implies working with the most sensitive group of society, thus it requires a good knowledge of the disorders, capability to choose adequate methodics, to foresee assignments, reasonable objectives, to have appropriate provisions regarding the disabled and other.
16. There are a few obstacles restricting development of animal therapy in Lithuania. First, there is no regulation concerning it. In 2012 Health Minister of the Republic of Lithuania approved dolphin assisted therapy as service of psychoemotional and physical training that was allotted to healthiness service, and the idea of canistherapy development implementation intensified, because the precedent to use animals for therapy was created. Association of Canistherapy was established in Educational centre of LUHS that develops the idea on theoretical and practical issues. After (in 2014) Health Ministry of Republic of Lithuania adopted provision on participation of Chamber of Healthy Lifestyle and Natural Medicine licensing the methods when the service providers themselves control each other – animal therapy should

³WHO. WHO Definition of Health. Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22June 1946; signed on 22July 1946by the representatives of 61States (Official Records of the WHO, no. 2, p. 100) and entered into force on 7April 1948.<<http://www.who.int/about/definition/en/print.html>

⁴ According to forecast of EU statistics (*Eurostat*).

⁵Information Center of Hygiene Institute for Health, 2016.

⁶ Lithuanian Minister's of Health Order No. V-825, released in 16th of July,2014 „Action plan approval for healthy aging assurance in Lithuania during 2014-2023 yr”<<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalA>

⁷ Report of State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, 2014.

⁸ Report of A. Krasauskienė – Head of Children's Rehabilitation Hospital „Nursery“ on 27th of April 2016.

⁹sm-hs.eu/index.php/smhs/article/download/sm-hs.2014.066/1016

- intensify and be legitimized¹⁰. In 2016 Health Ministry prepared and submitted to Lithuanian government evaluation certificate on foreseen impact of the judicial regulation (prioritized legislation initiative to regulate practice of alternative medicine). The reports of USA Labor Department project the demand for therapy assistants and aides to grow at least 27% in nearest future¹¹.
17. The objective of the programme is to prepare Masters (in animal science) of high qualification, having comprehensive knowledge of sustainable use of therapy animals¹² in the area of persons' health and wellbeing, able to solve independently problems under consistent change, responsible for the results of their activity, to perform research, to develop new ideas and participate in interdisciplinary investigation. The study objective complies with LUHS mission formulated in the Statute: to train and develop creative, honest, initiative, educated, independent and entrepreneurial personality.
 18. Programme objectives, intended results and correlation of study subjects are given in Annex 1. The study programme outcomes comprise system of required knowledge and capabilities. The study outcomes are reachable through study subjects. The correlation between study programme outcomes and study subjects is presented in descriptions of subjects (Annex 1). Programme objectives, intended study outcomes and summary of description are presented on the university internet website^{13,14}, in the open system for information, consultation, orientation (AIKOS)¹⁵, on social website (*Facebook*). Information regarding study programme is given in the publications released every year (the university newspaper, booklets, leaflets etc.). Useful information is available in the descriptions of the subjects and modules on LSMUSIS website¹⁶.
 19. The study information is disseminated during open days events, career events, study fairs ("A fair of higher education schools"), shows (exhibition "Studies" in the Lithuanian centre of exhibitions and congresses LITEXPO), also on social website (*Facebook*)¹⁷. Additional information about study, in case a student needs it, is provided during individual consultations at the dean's office.
 20. The objectives of the programme are compatible with the second cycle university study. The complexity level of the Programme study outcomes corresponds to the VII level of study outcomes described in European qualification framework¹⁸. The outcomes of the Programme evidence the graduates to be prepared 1) for independent research and/or for third cycle (PhD) study; 2) for practical activity of animal science specialist at a work place. The programme study outcomes are pursuant to the provisions of Bologna process; i. e. efforts are put to ensure study quality, development of competences complying with rapidly changing market demands¹⁹.
 21. The intended content and logics of the study outcomes conform to: the provisions of the order of Lithuanian Ministry of Study and Science²⁰, the description of general requirements for Master study programme²¹, provisions of study cycle descriptor²², description of Lithuanian qualification framework²³, recommendation of European Parliament and Council on qualification framework creation for lifelong

¹⁰Letter of intent "of the State-sanctioned natural medicine and healthy lifestyle self-regulatory functions of transmission Lithuanian healthy living and natural medicine chambers. Jan 10, 2014. < www.sveikatosrumai.lt>

¹¹U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

¹²In this program assistant animals are perceived as animals use to communicate, which is intended for people with mental, emotional, social and cognitive (cognitive) capacity building.

¹³<http://www.lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/lsmu-studiju-programos/magistrantura/>

¹⁴<http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/11048/studijprogramosgyviniiteklivaldymasapraas.pdf>

¹⁵<https://www.aikos.smm.lt/studijuoti/SitePages/Noriu%20studijuoti.aspx?ss=07655141-f352-4a2d-a2b4-96451ada4cfb>

¹⁶<https://lsmusis.lsmuni.lt>

¹⁷<https://www.facebook.com/zootechnologijos.lsmu/about>

¹⁸Lithuanian Qualifications Framework, approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in 4th of May, 2010. Resolution No. 535 (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 56-2761)

¹⁹London communicate, 2007 yr.

²⁰The Republic of Lithuania Law on Science and Studies, 2009. 30 April. No. XI-242 Vilnius

(http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=343430&p_query=&p_tr2=).

²¹<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.374821>

²²Order of Minister of Education „On-stage study describes the approval“ on 21Nov 2011. Order Nr. V-2212, Vilnius (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 143-6721)

²³Resolution of The Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 4 May 2010. Order No. 535 (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 56-2761)

- learning, framework of European higher education area and descriptions of higher education cycles, objectives of the programme, objectives and strategic plans of LUHS for 2017-2021 and plan for their implementation²³.
22. Considering the newest scientific achievements, changes in labour market and juridical documents, the programme is revised annually. The revision of intended learning outcomes, list of subjects, subject descriptions, detailed content and plan is organised by the Committee of Study Programmes of Animal Science Bachelor and Animal Resources Management Master's studies.
 23. The last time the programme was updated after external evaluation of ARM programme performed by CQAHE (2014); remarks and recommendations of the experts were taken into account (Annex 2). For that, a new plan for further activity was structured – executing the new plan, objectives, and outcomes were corrected.
 24. Updating the programme objective, study outcomes, content of the programme, recommendations of *European Society for Animal Assisted Therapy*, ESAAT²⁴; *International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations*, IAHAIO²⁵; *Delta Society* and similar foreign organisations (Bergin University of Canine Studies study programme „*Master of Science in Canine Life Sciences*“²⁶), the providences of specialists of this area, questionnaires of potential employers were taken into account.
 25. The university has old and developed traditions of collaboration with academic, social and business partners. Social partners consistently take part in the activity of the Committee of Study Programmes of AS and ARM and the committee are in tight collaboration with social partners.
 26. During the annual event “Career days” (arranged at the university) employers disclose their expectations and requests which are taken under consideration updating descriptions of study subjects and intended outcomes of the programme. *Alumni* club is active at the university, thus contributes to the relationship with graduates and social partners. Together with social partners integrated science study and business valley “Nemunas”, which forms favourable conditions for collaboration and feedback, is established and being activated.
 27. The study programme ARM allocated to the field of Agricultural and veterinary sciences (D900) Animal Science branch (D 910), (Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania“ On the approval of the list of branches structuring study fields“, 19 Feb. 2010, No V-222). Compatibility of animal science study objectives, intended outcomes and qualification awarded is revealed via the objectives, content and outcomes of study subjects (Annex 1). After successfully completing the programme Master's degree in Animal science is awarded.
 28. Professional possibilities of graduates are related to the use of assistant animals for providing healthiness services which are integrated in to programmes for rehabilitation, recreation, care, training, education, social work and health improvement. Programme graduates in interdisciplinary team, together with other specialists will be able to work in institutions and enterprises of various type – institutions providing health care and social services (hospitals, psychic health centers, rehabilitation centers, day care centers, social services centers and others), in institutions providing special training and a variety of services (centers for disabled children's education, special schools, children's homes, homes of social care for senior people, homes of social care for the disabled). The graduates of the programme will be able to work as initiators of animal therapy programmes, chiefs and moderators, who will manage to organise animal therapy and ensure welfare of assisting animals. Graduates will also be able to work as managers, experts, consultants in non-governmental organisations, in entertainment industry. Graduates of the programme will be able to start and develop business of animal assisted therapy, consulting service.
 29. Programme of ARM is the sole programme of the field of Agricultural and veterinary sciences (D900) second cycle educating Masters of animal science, capable to sustainably and effectively use animals for enhancing physical, psychic, social health and wellbeing of humans.

²⁴ London communicate, 2007 yr.

²⁵ <http://www.iahaio.org/new/>

²⁶ Bergin University of Canine Studies study programm „*Master of Science in Canine Life Sciences*“ <http://www.berginu.edu/master-of-science.html>

30. In Lithuanian universities, usually only scarce fragments on animal assisted services are included into study programmes. In Siauliai University, hippotherapy subject is included into programmes of cinesiotherapy and health educology. In Klaipeda University study programme Complementary and Alternative Medicine (teaching dolphin assisted therapy subject) is offered. In Europe, programmes of animal assisted therapy are executed in different levels (Bachelor, Master, PhD studies). It is reasonable to mention one more factor: in some countries a strong tradition of education in private environment exists (not based on Bologna standards for higher education).
31. Summing up it is possible to say that the study programme is of interdisciplinary type. It conforms to the mission of the university, modern tendencies of science and expectations of students, employers and society. The programme objectives, outcomes, content and qualification awarded are compatible. The programme is unique in Lithuania, however, as many European, USA study programmes related to the use of assisted animals, does not have definite requirements/standards for study content and outcomes due to its holistic profile.
32. Consistent monitoring is required for: study programmes and tendencies, research, labour market (linked to the programme themes) in Lithuania and abroad seeking to immediately react updating programme outcomes; programme's outcomes, research coordination with that of foreign countries executing programmes similar in content, preconditioning students and teachers to get involved into international exchange programmes, open access courses; adjustment of the programme name to correspond to the content of the programme.

THE CURRICULUM DESIGN

33. The volume of the analysed study programme ARM complies with the description of general requirements for Master's study²⁷ (Table 4).

Table 4. The compatibility of the updated study programme structure with legislation requirements (ARM 2016-2017 ac. yr)

Requirements for the second cycle study programme pursuant to the description of general requirements for Master's study	Compatibility of the programme structure
The scope of the programme has to be not less than 90 credits	The scope of the updated programme is 90 ECTS credits
Not less than 60 study credits have to be for the field subjects that regarding content has to be qualitatively of higher problematic or innovative scientific level than the first cycle subjects of adequate cognitive area grounding them.	Total 60 credits: 2 of them (3 credits each) – elective subjects. The content of study subjects is qualitatively of higher problematic or innovative scientific level than the first cycle subjects and study subjects of complementary study programmes.
Not less than 30 study credits are for preparation and defence of final work	For preparation and defence of final work - 30 study credits
Not more than 5 subjects have to be studied per semester	In full-time and continuous study 1-5 subjects
Student's independent work should comprise at least 30% of every study subject scope.	The independent work comprises 66% in full-time and 82% – in continuous studies

34. The themes projected in the study programme are presented thoroughly; in the subject descriptions study objectives, content annotation, outcomes, content, volume of academic hours for students, types of learning activity (lectures, practicals, seminars, independent work, etc.), literature to be used and recommended, evaluation of knowledge (accumulative score formula) are given in Annex 3. The study plans are given in Annex 4.

²⁷<https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.374821>

35. The duration of the Master's programme in the period 2012-2017 yr, (for entrants until 2016 yr) is 2 years or 4 semesters (full-time study), scope - 120 ECTS credits; ECTS credit comprises 26.7 student's work hours (in the auditoriums, laboratories, independent work and etc.). In full-time study, the number of study subjects is foreseen to be not more than 5 subjects per semester, whereas the scope of a studied subject not less than 60 credits. The study volume per year – not less than 3 ECTS credits. The programme was updated in 2013-2014 ac.yr: In the subject *Optimization of animal reproduction* the volume of credits and number of contact hours were changed. The credit scope was reduced from 5 to 3 ECTS credits and the number of contact hours – from 90 to 70 hours. In the subject *Research methodology and statistical analysis* the scope of credits was increased from 5 ECTS credits to 7 ECTS credits and the number of contact hours was increased from 90 to 120 contact hours. *The subject Evaluation of feed production, quality, safety and hazards in compound feeds industry* (150 contact hours, 10 ECTS credits) was changed into *Modeling of Animal Husbandry Processes* (150 credit h, 10 ECTS credits) (FAHT Council resolution, 29-12-2012, No 9 (58)). In 2014/2015 yr 6 contact h were added to Research work-1, Research work-2 and 10 contact h were added to Practice, whereas for subject *Optimisation of animal reproduction* the number of contact hours was reduced from 70 to 60 contact h (FAHT Council resolution 23-09-2013 No 15 (64)). In 2015-2016 ac.yr, 6 contact h were allotted for the study subjects *Research work-3* and Master's thesis, whereas in the subject *Optimisation of animal reproduction*, contact hours were reduced from 60 to 40 contact h (FAHT Council resolution 21-10-2014, No 27 (76)). In 2016-2017 ac.yr, in the study programme for the second year, the contact hours were reduced in the subject *Ethics of biotechnology* (5 ECTS credits, 90 contact h), the content was updated and the subject name was changed into *Biotechnology of Animals* (5 ECTS credits, 65 contact hours). In the in the subject *Optimisation of animal reproduction* contact hours were reduced – 28 instead of the previous 40 contact hours. In the subject *Production of animal, quality and environment* the number of contact hours was reduced to 107 instead of the previous 170 contact hours (FAHT, SPC 06-10-2015 protocol No12; FAHT Council 07-10-2015 N3 (86)).
36. Considering the students' attempts to continue their study in Master's study programme ARM, the study programme has undergone changes and on 01 September of 2016 was updated (SPC, 02-02-2016, protocol No 18; FAHT Council 27 April 2016 No 11 (94), LUHS Senate on 27 May, 2016 protocol No. 74-09, on the open information consultation system AIKOS^{28,29}).
37. The main goal of the study programme's updating is training of specialists for ARM, who would be capable to apply assisting animals for human therapy and recreational rehabilitation. Basic fields of the programme: I – the use of assisting animals for human therapy; II – the use of animals for recreation.
38. The study programme is being executed in collaboration with the Department of Health Management and Department of Health Psychology (Faculty of Public Health), with Rehabilitation Clinic at the Faculty of Nursing, departments of physics, mathematics and biophysics of Medical faculty. The duration of Master's study programme is 1.5 yr or 3 semesters (full-time study) and 2 yr or 4 semesters (continuous study), scope – 90 ECTS credits. An ECTS credit comprises 26.7 hours of student's work (in auditoriums, classrooms, and laboratories, independent work and other). In the programme, projected number of study subjects in full-time study is not more than 5, and the scope of a study subject – not less than 3 ECTS credits.
39. Study subjects of high problematic and innovative scientific level of the study field and related to it comprise 60 ECTS credits (66.7% of total programme scope) the number includes two elective subjects (3 ECTS credits) of the study field. For preparation and defense of a final work – 30 ECTS credits (33.3%). According to the description of general requirements for Master's study, not less than 60 credits of Master's study should be structured from qualitatively higher problematic or innovative scientific level subjects and for performing final work – not less than 30 study credits of the study programme volume. The number of credits is appropriate for students to successfully reach intended study results.

²⁸ SMPKR regulations approved by LR government 26-08-2015 resolution No. 895, 31 updated item 20-06-2016

²⁹ https://www.aikos.smm.lt/Registrai/layouts/15/Asw.Aikos.RegisterSearch/ObjectFormResult.aspx?o=PROG&f=Prog&key=1798&pt=of&ctx_sr=za5dHDvp0IGJ2%2fD6Fkt7rIse6a8%3d

40. In the programme of 2016-2017 ac.yr (enrolled until 2016) for auditorium work 1224 hours (43%) are allotted, and for independent work – 1980 hours, (57%) of the scope of the study subject, including practice and final work (Table 5 and Table 6).
41. In the updated programme of 2016-2017yr (students enrolled since 2016yr) for *full-time* study programme auditorium work – 650 hours (34%), and for independent work – 1753 hours (66%) of the study subject scope, including practice and final work (Table 7 and Table 8).
42. In the programme of 2016-2017 yr (students enrolled since 2016 yr) for *continuous* study programme auditorium work – 324 hours (18%), and for independent work –2079 hours (92%) of the study subject scope, including practice and final work (Table 9 and Table 10).
43. The ways of students’ learning are contact work and independent work³⁰. Teaching type – auditorium work. Contact work consists of lectures, consultations, seminars, laboratory and practical work, testing, examination. Auditorium work is distributed: lectures – not more than 30% of contact time; consultations, seminars, laboratory and practical work, testing, examination – 70%. The forms of student’s independent work – team (group) and individual assignments, reports, preparation for tests, colloquiums, laboratory, practical work, independent study of literature and preparation and defense of final work.
44. The study programme plans and study subjects on the basis of semesters are provided on LUHS internet site³¹.The distribution of learning is appropriate for students to successfully reach the intended study outcomes.

Table 5. Plan of studies, I year (2016-2017 academic year; enrolled until 2016 yr)

No	Code of subject	Subject/module	Contact hours	Credits	Semester
1.	GTF/BIOGIV-M01	Genetic resources of Agricultural Animals	180	10	1
2.	GTF/VG/GIV-M01	Research methodology and statistical analysis	120	7	1
3.	VF/NL/GIV-M02	Optimization of animal reproduction	28	3	1
4.	GTF/BIO/GIV-M07 GTF/GVM/GIV-M03 GTF/GI/GIV-M01 GTF/GL/GIV-M02	Research - Work 1	6	5	1
5.		Elective subjects of the programme	90	5	1
	VF/MH/GIV-M04	Production of Ecological Products and Hazards			
	VSF/SMK/GIV-M02	Management of Business Projects			
6.	VF/MH/GIV-M01	Animal Hygiene and Wellness	90	5	2
7.	GTF/GM/GIV-M01	Feed Bioconversion	90	5	2
8.	GTF/GL/GIV-M01	Production of animal quality and environment	107	10	2
9.	GTF/BIO/GIV-M06 GTF/GI/GIV-M02 GTF/GL/GIV-M03 GTF/GVM/GIV-M04	Research - Work 2	6	5	2
10.		Elective subjects of the programme	90	5	2
	GTF/GM/GIV-M01	Practice of good management in production and preparation of feeds			

³⁰ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10290/lsmu_studiju_reglamentas.pdf

³¹ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/lt/veikla/studijos/akademine-informacija/studiju-planai/studiju-planai-2016---2017-mm/>

	VF/MH/GIV-M02	Hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) systems in a food enterprises Inovative Technologies of Milk Secondary Raw Materials			
Total			807	60	

Table 6. Plan of studies, II year (2016-2017 academic year; enrolled until 2016 yr)

No.	Code of subject	Subject/module	Contact hours	Credits	Semester
1.	VSF/PMK/GIV-M01	Bio economics	90	5	3
2.	GTF/GM/GIV-M04	Modeling of Animal Husbandry Processes	150	10	3
3.	GTF/GATI/GIV-M01	Biotechnology of Animals	65	5	3
4.	GTF/GL/GIV-M04 GTF/GVM/GIV-M02 GTF/BIO/GIV-M04 VA/GI/GIV-M01	Research – Work 3	6	5	3
5.		Elective subjects of the programme	90	5	3
	GTF/GL/GIV-M07	Biotechnology in animal husbandry			
	VSF/SMK/GIV-M01	Social-economical Problems of Countryside Development			
6.	GTF/GL/GIV-M09	Practice	10	15	4
7.	GTF/BIO/GIV-M05 GTF/GL/GIV-M10 GTF/GVM/GIV-M01	Master's thesis	6	15	4
Total			147	60	

Table 7. Plan of full-time studies, I year (2016-2017 academic year; enrolled since 2016 yr)

No.	Code of subject	Subject/module	Contact hours	Credits	Semester
1.	GTF/GVM/GIV-M07	Research Methodology	115	9	1
2.	GTF/GVM/GIV-M06	Management of Animal genetic resources and Genomic selection	107	9	1
3.	GTF/GVM/GIV-M05	Specialised diet of the farmed Animals, used for human rehabilitation	30	3	1
4.	VSF/SPK/GIV-M02	Small business management and Organizational Psychology	72	6	1
5.		Elective subjects of the programme	32	3	1
	VSF/SPK/GIV-M04 VSF/SPK/GIV-M01	Positive psychology Human and animal psychological aspects of communication			
6.	GTF/GATI/GIV-M02	Animal therapy in rehabilitation of patients	242	21	2
7.	GTF/GATI/GIV-M04	Practice	10	6	2
8.		Elective subjects of the programme	32	3	2
9.	VSF/FES/GIV-M01	Integral assistance			
10.	GTF/GATI/GIV-M05	The animal used for the rehabilitation and recreation, raising			

Total	640	60
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Table 8. Plan of full-time studies, II year (2016-2017 academic year; enrolled since 2016 yr)

No.	Code of subject	Subject/module	Contact hours	Credits	Semester
1.	GTF/GATI/GIV-M07 GTF/GVM/GIV-M08 VSF/SPK/GIV-M05 SLF/RE/GIV-M01	Master's thesis	10	30	3
Total			10	30	

Table 9. Plan of continuous studies, I year (2016-2017 academic year; enrolled since 2016 yr)

No.	Code of subject	Subject/module	Contact hours	Credits	Semester
1.	GTF/GVM/GIV-MI01	Research Methodology	58	9	1
2.	GTF/GVM/GIV-MI02	Management of Animal genetic resources and Genomic selection	50	9	1
3.	GTF/GVM/GIV-MI03	Specialised diet of the farmed Animals, used for human rehabilitation	15	3	1
4.	VSF/SPK/GIV-MI01	Small business management and Organisational psychology	35	6	1
5.		Elective subjects of the programme	16	3	1
	VSF/SPK/GIV-MI02 VSF/SPK/GIV-MI03	Positive psychology Human and animal psychological aspects of communication			
6.	GTF/GATI/GIV-MI02	Animal therapy in rehabilitation of patients I	76	15	2
7.		Elective subjects of the programme Integral assistance			2
Total			250	45	

Table 10. Plan of continuous studies, II year (2016-2017 academic year; enrolled since 2016 yr)

No.	Code of subject	Subject/module	Contact hours	Credits	Semester
1.	GTF/GATI/GIV-MI02	Animal therapy in rehabilitation of patients II	38	6	3
2.	GTF/GATI/GIV-MI03	Practice	10	6	3
3.		Elective subjects of the programme	16	3	3
	VSF/FES/GIV-MI01 GTF/GATI/GIV-MI03	Raising of animals used in rehabilitation and recreation			

6.	GTF/GATI/GIV-MI06 GTF/GVM/GIV-MI05 VSF/SPK/GIV-MI04 SLF/RE/GIV-MI01	Master's thesis		30	4
Total			64	45	

45. The consistency of the study subjects in the programme is based on reasonable sequence: 1) first – the subjects providing the knowledge and capabilities which contribute to efficient study of further study subjects, i. e. subjects of study field and related to it of qualitatively higher problematic level; 2) compulsory subjects of study field and alternatively electable subjects that deepen theoretical knowledge, required for independent research and preparation of final work of the study.
46. The scope of study programme ARM in the period of 2012-2017 ac. yr (students enrolled until 2016 yr) – 120 ECTS credits. The study is executed in semesters. In semester I compulsory subjects of study field and subjects linked to it, deepening theoretical knowledge required for further (in semester II) to be studied subjects: *Genetic resources of Agricultural Animals* (10 ECTS credits) *Research methodology and statistical analysis* (7 ECTS credits); *Optimisation of animal reproduction* (3 ECTS credits), *Research work-I* (5 ECTS credits). Elective subjects in semester I (5 ECTS credits): *Production of Ecological Products and Hazards and Management of business projects*. The subjects will contribute to the preparation for study subjects in second semester: *Animal Hygiene and Wellness* (5 ECTS credits), *Feed Bioconversion* (5 ECTS credits), *Production of animal, quality and environment* (10 ECTS credits), *Research work - 2* (5 ECTS credits). Elective subjects in semester II (5 ECTS credits): *Practise of good management in feeds production and preparation*, *Innovative Technologies of Milk Secondary Raw Materials*, *Hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) systems in a food enterprises*. The subjects studied in semester III: *Bioeconomics* (5 ECTS credits), *Modeling of Animal Husbandry Processes* (10 ECTS credits), *Biotechnology of Animals* (5 ECTS credits), *Research work - 3* (5 ECTS credits). Elective subjects in semester III (5 ECTS credits): *Biotechnology in animal husbandry and Social-economical Problems of Countryside Developmen* providing complementary specific theoretical and applicable knowledge required to prepare for doctoral study and and practical activity. *Semester IV - Practice* (15 ECTS credits) and *Master's thesis* (15 ECTS credits).
47. The scope of updated full-time programme (for the enrolled since 2016 yr) is 90 ECTS credits. The subjects are distributed in semesters – consistency, sequence, complexity and interrelation of the subjects are taken into account. The subjects studied in the first semester: *Research methodology* (9 ECTS credits), *Management of animal genetic resources and genomic selection* (9 ECTS credits), *Specialised diet of the farmed Animals, used for human rehabilitation* (3 ECTS credits), *Small business management and organizational psychology* (6 ECTS credits). Elective subjects in the first semester (3 ECTS credits each): *Positive psychology*, *Human and animal psychological aspects of communication*. Study subjects in semester II: *Animal therapy in rehabilitation of patients* (21 ECTS credits), *Practice* (6 ECTS credits). Elective subjects in semester II (3 ECTS credits each): *Integral assistance*, *The animal used for the rehabilitation and recreation, raising*. Semester III is allotted for *Master's thesis* (30 ECTS credits).
48. The plan and scopes of study subjects in the continuous study are identical to the plans of full-time studies, only the distribution and the number of credits of subjects in certain semesters differ – the continuous study subjects are not separately described in this part of self-evaluation.
49. Elective subjects are in the study plans, approved by the Senate after they had been discussed at the Committee of AS and ARM study programmes and at the FAHT Council. The order of choosing elective subjects is approved by LUHS Rector (21 Jan. 2014, order No V-100³²).
50. The interrelation of the study subjects foreseen in the programme is reflected in subject descriptions (providing a required preparation for a study of a particular subject (Annex 3). The consistency and correlation of the subjects ground the achievement of intended outcomes foreseen by the study programme objective.

³²<http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4038/pasirenkamujudalykupasirinkimotvarka.pdf>

51. The content of Master's study programme ARM conforms to the description of general requirements for Master's study programme and provides conditions for acquiring Master's degree.
52. The study themes of the delivered subjects comply with the intended study outcomes. The subjects' thoroughness and compatibility with the study outcomes are evaluated by the Committee of AS and ARM study programmes. Subject descriptions are constantly revised and updated before the start of every academic year, thus preconditioning adjustment of subjects' content to current interests and needs. The themes of study subjects are provided in the descriptions (Annex 3).
53. To reach study outcomes various methods are applied both in full-time and continuous studies of ARM: conventional lecture, laboratory and practical work, individual work, seminars, situational (case) analysis, discussion, consultation, team (group) work, debates, idea showers, ideas (concepts) map, search, reflexion, presentation of student's independent work and its discussion in the auditorium, etc). Analysis of situation (case) is integrated within the lecture time. To prepare for a discussion students are provided with individual or team assignments. Presentation is individual. The individual assignment permits students to use their knowledge and skills to solve the problem/situation. Team work provides students to gain knowledge not only from the study field, but also general competences (capability to solve problems, make decisions, generate new ideas and monitor information). Innovative teaching/learning methods, used in subjects study, urge students to learn from a real situation, precondition to learn from mistakes, develop skills for analysis, monitoring of scientific information, making decisions in professional activity and so forth.
54. After completing every module or subject, students' knowledge is assessed with an examination on the basis of order description for examination³³. System of cumulative evaluation score is used at the university; mediate evaluations compose a part of the examination score. Master student's practice is completed with the defense of individually prepared work (project). Students have already acquired relevant theoretical knowledge using animals for therapy and rehabilitation purposes, thus seeking to appropriately develop practical skills, to qualitatively prepare final work – practice is performed in various institutions. The university offers students a list of institutions (with which agreements are concluded) for practice. On the initiative of members of AS and ARM study programmes Committee, the agreements were concluded with foreign universities and students of the programme have an opportunity to go for practice according to Erasmus+ exchange programme to universities abroad: Kaposvá University – Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (Hungary); Warsaw University of Life Sciences – Faculty of Animal Sciences (Poland); University of Agriculture in Krakow (Poland); The University of Szeged, Faculty of Agriculture (Hungary). Practice is organised pursuant to the description of activity executing practice³⁴ that defines requirements for practice, exact assignments of the practice, intended study outcomes and system for evaluation of achievements, assistance for a student during the practice, also evaluation criteria for identifying and evaluating skills of appropriate level gained during practice. The study is completed with the defence of the thesis at the Commission. The Commission for thesis defence is proposed by the dean and approved by the Rector. Preparation of thesis is worth 30 ECTS credits.
55. Information on the system and process of study, academic mobility, achievements evaluation and all other information regarding study is accessible for students in the LUHS Study Regulation³⁵. Intranet is used for communication within the University (between teachers and students) and for study material delivering.
57. The study subjects foreseen in the programme, practice and thesis permit the students to reach intended study outcomes, form competences required for ARM specialists, which give an opportunity for graduates of the programme to work successfully and creatively according to qualification of ARM specialist in appropriate organizations.
58. Master's study is being graduated with preparation of thesis and its defence at the open meeting of the defence commission. Master's thesis – independent, original analytic, or research work based on

³³ Approved by FAHT Council on 25 Jun 2015, protocol No 34 (83), situated at LUHS FirstClass.

³⁴ Approved by LUHS Rector's order No. V-934 31 Oct 2016.

³⁵ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10290/lsmu_studiju_reglamentas.pdf

independent investigations, knowledge application or performed scientific trials. The investigation of master's thesis has to be performed assessing indices relevant for a chosen theme. By the thesis a graduate has to demonstrate his/her capabilities not only analyse a chosen theme, assess the works performed by other authors of the appropriate science field. He/her has to successfully perform analysis applying modern methods, has to be able coherently to describe the performed investigation work and reasonably formulate conclusions of investigations. Requirements for thesis are described in the regulation for preparation and defence of Master's thesis of ARM study programme approved by Council of FAHT³⁶. The regulation for thesis foresees mission and type of the thesis; requirements for assignments, thesis preparation, content, and structure, order of defence and evaluation. The recommended volume of master's thesis – 40-50 pages.

59. The teachers of the study subjects use data of the newest research performed at the university, in Lithuania and abroad – the data is accessible for teachers from science publications in LUHS library, through international data bases, participating in scientific conferences in Lithuania and foreign countries.
60. Concerning previous recommendations of self-evaluation for study programme ARM (LUHS second cycle study programme ARM 02 May 2014, conclusions of evaluation report No SV4-11):
- a) On improvement of themes and quality for thesis, and determination to stiffen requirements for thesis: LUHS FAHT Council adopted a new regulation for preparation and defence of Master's thesis (09 Nov. 2016, protocol No 3 (100)).
 - b) On implement ability of the programme: disseminating information about the study programme, strengthening its authentic parts, teachers from four LUHS faculties are integrated into the study of the programme, thus interdisciplinary coherence is achieved. The number of applicants to study in the programme is increasing.

61. **Strengths:**

1. The meetings of FAHT Council are held at the faculty, communication is maintained with students, social partners, decisions for improvement of study process are being searched.
2. The study subjects/modules and themes are not repeating, are set out concisely in a logical sequence. The Programme content corresponds to the study area, field, cycle, and duration, and the programme structure permits the students to reach and obtain intended study outcomes.

Weaknesses: On the level of Government of the Republic of Lithuania legalisation of documents legitimating use of alternative medicine is too slow.

Solutions: To submit proposals to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and Seimas (parliament) on regulation of alternative medicine.

THE TEACHING STAFF

62. The academic staff conforms to the requirements of the juridical acts: the competitions and attestations are executed pursuant to the legislation: LUHS Statute (resolution of LR Parliament on 3 June, 2010 No XI-973, amended LR 28 June, 2012 resolution No XI-2147), Law of science and study, regulation for election of the chief of a department, institute or clinic for rehabilitation (by resolution of Senate on 30 June, 2014 No 48-02, amendment 21 Oct. 2016, resolution No 80-9; the order for attestation and recruitment competitions for the positions of teachers and research staff (LUHS Senate 22 May, 2015 resolution No 59-04; amended by the LUHS Senate 23 Jan, 2015 resolution No 54-04); The competitions for teachers positions and attestation are arranged and executed conforming to LUHS Senate resolution of 30 May 2012, No 21-08; European commission recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (2005/251/EC). Teaching staff has to follow Code of Ethics (LUHS Senate, 20 June 2014, resolution No 47-17).
63. To ensure accomplishment of the programme goals and tasks, the team of highly qualified teachers, undergoing consistent improving is collected (Table 11). In 2016-2017 ac. yr, 22 teachers are employed in the programme: 18 doctors of science (6 professors, 8 associate professors, 7 lecturers and 1 assistant).

³⁶Approved by FATH Council on 9 Nov 2016, protocol No. 3 (100), situated at LUHS FirstClass.

Out of the total number of teachers engaged in the programme, professors comprise 27%, associate professors –36%, lecturers – 32%, assistants – 5%. Out of 22 teachers engaged in the programme, habilitated doctors comprise 5%, professors – 23% and teachers with PhD – 55%. The list of teaching staff, curriculum vitae of the teaching staff and descriptions of Teachers activity are given in Annex 5.

Table 11. Changes in the number of teachers (2016-2017 ac. yr)

Teachers	The number of programme teachers
Professors	6
Assoc. Prof.	8
Lecturers	7
Assistants	1

64. Qualification structure of the teachers engaged in the programme conforms to the minimal requirements for qualification structure of teachers employed in Master’s study programme, determined by the order of Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania “On the approval of the description of general requirements for degree awarding Master’s study programmes (03 June 2010, NoV-826 article19, Vilnius).
65. An integrated team of VA and MA of LUHS teachers are employed in Master’s study programme (meeting of AS and ARM study programmes committee, 07 Jan. 2016, protocol No 13). The teachers are competent in animal biology, morphology and physiology, animal breeding and nutrition, animal raising, business and management of animal husbandry, psychology and rehabilitation areas. Teachers pursue activity in areas of cynology, canistherapy, hippotherapy, pet raising and others. Teachers apply the newest methods of rehabilitation leading psychological-educational workwith disabled persons with children and adolescents of risk groups, with children having autistic syndrome and complex disabilities. Adjacent to scientific activity, professors, associate professors and lecturers propagate science in Lithuania and foreign countries, make reports, provide consultations for animal raisers, beginners in business, feed producers and other specialists of this area, organize BOVA courses for Master’s students, international conferences and seminars.
66. Seeking to ensure the recruitment of the best teachers, majority of teachers are admitted (on competition basis) for the period of 5 years. The arrangement of competitions is consistent with the order determined by University legislation; the competitors from Lithuania and abroad are legitimate to the competition if they meet the defined requirements. It stimulates the admitted employees to work effectively and to improve capabilities. Candidates’ attestation and selection for positions of teachers and researchers are executed by LUHS, VA commission for attestation and admittance of teachers and staff. The selection and attestation of professors are performed by the commission for university professors and senior research staff recruitment, headed by Rector of the university.
67. The average work experience of the programme employees comprises 18.2 yr; out of them: professors – 31 yr, associate professors – 15 yr, lecturers – 8.6 yr teachers without PhD degree – 2 yr.
68. The greatest teaching work experience is 37years, the lowest – 2 year. It manifests that majority of the programme teachers are experienced specialists of their area.
69. The average age of the programme teachers is 43.3 years, out of them that of: professors – 57.3 yr, assoc. prof. – 47.3 yr, lecturers – 38.6 yr. The youngest teacher with PhD degree 30 years old; the oldest teacher with PhD degree – 63 years old.

Table 12. The age distribution of teachers engaged in Master’s study programme

Position taken	Total	Out of them in age groups									Average age, years
		25-29 yr	30-34 yr	35-39 yr	40-44 yr	45-49 yr	50-54 yr	55-59 yr	60-64 yr	More than 65 yr	

Professors	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	57.3
Assoc. Prof.	8	-	-	1	3	1	2	-	1	-	47.3
Lecturers	7	1	2	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	38.6
Assistants	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.0

70. Teachers' work load and distribution is determined by LUHS Regulation for the calculation of divisions teaching load and salary foundation (approved by Senate resolution on 30 June 2014, No 48-1). A full-time teacher's working week consists of 30 hours per week. The structure of the teacher's position encompasses: 1) organisation and realisation of study, 2) applying of research outcomes in study, 3) accumulation of science knowledge, 4) health care related to the study process, 5) development of creative activity, 6) culture cherishing, 7) participation in another activity relevant to the University and its subdivisions (Table 13).

Table 13. Teachers pedagogic work load 2016-2017 ac. yr

LUHS teachers staff	Full-time study		Continuous study	
	Load, h	Load part, %	Load, h	Load part, %
VA	456	70.15	240	74.1
MA	194	29.85	84	25.9
Total:	650	100	324	100

71. The proportions of staff structure are allocated by the head of a subdivision, ensuring the execution of study process and activity linked to them and ensuring the conditions for teachers to fulfill minimal requirements of LUHS order of competition and attestation arrangement for teachers and research staff positions (LUHS Senate, 30 June 2014, provision No 48-01).
72. Teachers engaged in the programme participate in research applying for research projects, participating in the projects as leaders and executors, giving consultations and making experiments, publicising results of their research in science publications and scientific conferences in Lithuania and abroad (Table 14).

Table 14. The list of 2012-2016 yr scientific publications and reports of ARM teachers

Code	Name	Quantity
K1a	Monograph,	2
K1b	Study	2
K2a	Textbook,	2
K2b	Teaching book	14
K2c	Teaching methodical material	28
K2d	Other study material	3
K4c	MTD, projects and other reports	2
N5	Patents registered in Lithuania	2
P	Other articles in confrence proceedings	4
P1b	Article in conference publication LSC approved DB	6
P1d	Article in reviewed foreign international conference publication	98
P1e	Article in reviewed Lithuanian international conference publication	38
P1c	Article in conference publication in other DB	2
P1f	Article in reviewed Lithuanian conference publication	23
P2a	Article in not reviewed foreign international conference publication	4
S1	Article on ISI Web of Science	56
S2	Article in ISI Master Journal List	1
S3	Article in reviewed science publications referred on other DB	87
S5	Articles in other reviewed publications	10

S6	Article in a popular science publication	52
T	Conference theses	9
T1a	Theses on TR Web of Science and TR Proceedings	4
T1b	Theses ISI Master Journal List	13
T1e	Theses on other reviewed publications	39
T2	Conference theses in non reviewed publications	70
Total publications		571

73. The Programme teachers are active members of various commissions and projects (project chiefs or executors) organising activities, seminars and conferences, the themes of which correspond to the study field. Programme teachers are members of international editorial boards, organisers and members of international scientific conferences; they execute international projects. The programme teachers maintain coherent relations and exchange experience with foreign universities; Hohenheim University (Germany), Veterinary medicine University in Viena (Austria), Agricultural University in Vienna (Boku, Austria), Swedish agricultural University, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, the University of Warmia and Mozury (Poland), Estonian University of Life Sciences, Belorussian Agricultural academy, the University of Kaposvár Hungary and others.
75. All teachers employed in the programme have equal opportunities for improving pedagogic, research qualifications in formal and not formal way. Consistent monitoring and improvement of educational qualification of LUHS teachers are executed by LUHS centre for teacher's educational competence (TECC).

Table 15. Qualification improvement of the programme teachers 2012-2016 yr

Number of cases, units						
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Qualification improvement	1	1	1	2	2	7
Exchange programmes	1	1	1	1	3	7
Training	12	18	29	35	28	122
Courses	24	42	33	27	22	148
Conferences	6	10	5	7	7	35
Seminars	17	23	37	20	13	110
Teachers fom foreign universities	1	-	10	-	6	17
Participations in projects	3	9	8	8	2	30

76. Strengths:

1. The LUHS order for organising competitions and attestations for teachers and research staff positions motivates teachers and research staff to be competitive and improve qualification
2. Research and study subjects, performed by teachers employed in the programme, conform to the study field
3. LUHS teachers are provided with conditions for qualification improvement: teachers are active in scientific activity and educational seminars organised by LUHS Study centre.

Weaknesses:

1. Low mobility of study programme teachers, insufficient collaboration with University teachers from EU and other countries.
2. The number of teachers' publications related to specialisations is insufficient.

Ways for solution:

1. To invite foreign teachers to engage in the study process.
2. To stimulate teachers to participate in research projects, to prepare scientific publications in the areas of equine raising and cynology.

FACILITIES AND LEARNING RESOURCES

77. The study programme is being structured in compliance with the general order of LUHS for organising studies, coordinating study venue and time with other programmes of the University. The LUHS possesses all main resources (lecture halls, laboratories, laboratory equipment, information technology and library) for successful implementation of the programme. For the organisation of the study, lecture halls of different size (Annex 6), a classroom for distance teaching, 48 training laboratories, and 32 classrooms are available. Groups of students for Master's study programme are small; therefore smaller classrooms adjusted for team work are used. The conditions for the programme students are adequate for independent work – reading room, 6 computer classrooms are installed. Study rooms meet the requirements for safety and hygiene standards. The premises are in good condition. In 2011-2012 implementing integrated science, study, and business centre (valley) "Nemunas" project in VA, the premises were renovated and facilities updated. For the project, the sum of 30.3 mln. Lt.(8.8 mln. EUR) was allocated.
78. Teachers are provided with offices (2-4 work places each) equipped with computers, printers, and other facilities for work. Lecture halls are provided with computerised studio visualisation equipment (multimedia, smart boards). Legal, modern software is used for the study: Microsoft Office, Hybrimin Futter 2008, PEST, VCE, Windows“, „Internet Explorer“, „IBM SPSS Statistics“, „AMOS“, „Sample Power“, „EpiInfo“.
79. In the study process students of the programme have a possibility to use LUHS scientific laboratories, centres, vivarium and the equipment in them. The Annex 7 presents the list of laboratories with the equipment used for Master's programme study in them.
80. The methodical resources of the University are coordinated by LUHS Library and Information Centre (LIC). In the library and LIC, 6 reading rooms containing 544 workplaces (143 computerized), 3 rooms for group learning, multimedia room containing 8 workplaces, computer training classroom (12 workplaces), 2 seminar/conference halls are available for the users.
81. The library is opened on weekdays from 7.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., and on weekends - from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The checkout and reading rooms of VA are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., thus the readers have good possibilities to use the service of the library.
82. Majority of the programme's students take advantage of LIC VA funds. In VA division, readers get service at the checkout, general and science reading rooms containing 71 workplaces (20 computerised; wireless internet is installed. Funds of the University LIC contain 227 thousand titles and 819 thousand units of printed documents. Electronic printed publications (29175 titles) and electronic books (206 101 titles) are booked. The funds in VA subdivision contain printed documents of over 28 thousand and 125 thousand units.
83. The University subscribes up to 53 databases³⁷. Databases are subscribed through national project eMoDB. Lt. In 2015, the library subscribed to 53 databases, providing access to el. full text journals of 29175 titles and 206 101 el. books. The majority of subscribed databases were financed by Eu SF project eMoDB.LT: opening of electronic databases for Lithuania. The University subscribes independently to 14 databases (Acland's Video Atlas of Human Anatomy, Jo VE, European Pharmacopeia, British NATIONAL Formulary, Neofax&Pediatrics, Adis Insight, Rosh Review, Hippo EM, USMLE-easy, RAD Primer, Access Medicine, Up To Date, Micromedex, Natural Medicines Comprehensive). In 2015 yr 22 DB were under experimentation: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Society of Nephrology, MRU eBooks, European Pharmacopoeia, Taylor and Francis 2 collections (Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing&Allied Health and Taylor&Francis Expert Collection), Veterinary Education in Video, Vitae Litera, RAD Primer, In Cites, USMLE Easy, Hippo EM, Rosh Review, Adis Insight, BMJ Best Practice, Clinical Key, CAB Direct, Britannica Academic, Animal Health and Production Compendium, Animal Science, Vet Med Resource, Key Dentistry E-books. Not a few data bases even in medical field are suitable for students of animal husbandry and veterinary fields students, however the databases, more suitable for students of agricultural studies are to be distinguished: CABI, Cambridge

³⁷<http://smuni.lt/lt/biblioteka/informacijos-istekliai/prenumeruojamos-duomenu-bazes/>

Journals Online, Ebrary, Ref Works, In Cites, Science Direct, EBSCO Publishing, eBooks on EBSCO host, Springer Links, Taylor&Francis, Wiley Online Library and others are of biomedicine field: SAGE Journals; Ovide Books; Jo VE; Henry Stewart Talks.

84. Books and copies of scientific articles (in case they are not available at the University library) can be borrowed from Lithuanian National library, Lithuanian Technical Library and other libraries through the interlibrary loan directory (TBA).
85. The library is consistently enriched with new publications. In 2015, LIC VA division acquired new scientific publications of 888 titles (5713 units). The number of publications acquired by VA subdivision comprises 262 titles (1189 items) – majority of them are publications and textbooks of veterinary and agricultural area. All the mentioned publications are available for the teachers and students directly through databases or using integrated virtual library (LUHS virtual library³⁸; Lithuanian virtual library³⁹). All databases are available for community members on the University computers (library, computer classrooms, dormitories, teachers' rooms, and elsewhere). To use subscribed databases, not at the University premises, teachers and researchers can get connected through the University VPN (Virtual Private Network) or EZproxy.
86. Faculties, interior structural divisions, teachers of subjects, and LIC department of publications' compiling and preserving cooperate ordering literature for research and study. Information and advice concerning information search and resources are available on LIC website. The academic community of LUHS has possibility to request books and other material for study and research. The fund of library and information centre is compiled on the account of books needed for research and study. Electronic application form for ordering books is created.
87. Information and advice concerning information search and resources are available on LIC website; there is also information regarding services provided by the library, final work uploading online, order for use of plagiarism checker, teaching material, data bases, etc. Library users have a possibility to use electronic catalogue, to book publications, to extend the loan period of the book, to use service of electronic readers' information. Short period courses for LUHS students and employees are arranged by the staff of information centre. Annual seminars on information search for teachers and students are held in the library; courses for teachers, researchers, and students on information search and distribution are arranged consistently. Guidelines for final work's uploading (for authors) and the use of plagiarism checker (for advisors), training films are accessible.
88. The information about received publications and documents is available periodically: book fairs are arranged; lists of new books and their annotations are sent to the whole community by LUHS forum; the information is on a library website. All methodical material is consistently on display in the stand of LIC VA division. At LUHS LIC, students with special needs (hearing, mobility, vision and other impairments) can use equipment designated for their learning (adjustable tables, view magnifier (TOPAZ XL HD), sound equipment (Bellman Audio Domino Pro) software JAWS 14 for Windows – software, analysing information on the screen and transmitting it to speech synthesiser, which transforms text into sound. Win Talker Voice 1.6 – software (speech synthesiser), transforming information on computer screen to user in voice in Lithuanian.

89. Strengths:

1. The number of rooms (auditoriums, lecture halls, laboratories, offices is sufficient for implementation of ARM programme; departments/institutes and laboratories are sufficiently provided with the equipment required for ensuring study process of high quality.
2. Library is provided with books, study and methodical aids and databases required for the study.

Weaknesses: Insufficient material base for experiments and thesis preparing.

Ways of solution: To motivate teachers to be more active in preparing and performing projects, this would enhance their qualification and strengthen material base.

³⁸http://www.lvb.lt/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?dscent=1&dstmp=1386274425301&prefLang=lt_LT&vid=LSMU&fromLogin=true

³⁹www.lvb.lt

STUDY PROCESS AND STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

90. For ARM Master's study programme persons having graduated first cycle university study, Bachelors of all areas, who have completed study subjects of biology, chemistry, microbiology, ecology and environmental protection, basics of production of animal origin products, economics, management (the total amount not less than 10 credits, and presenting appropriate documents to confirm the education acquired) are eligible to participate in the competition. Students' admission to the studies is carried out pursuant to LUHS rules for students' admission annually approved by the Senate⁴⁰. The information on admission to ARM study programme is accessible on internet⁴¹. Cycles and dates of general admission are set on: <http://www.lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/lsmu-studiju-programos>.

Table 16. The average score of the enrolled students

Study programme	Year				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Master's study programme ARM	7.64	-	7.44	7.64	7.66

The average of competitive score was similar in recent years (Table 16).

Table 17. The number of students enrolled to ARM Master's study programme

Year	State financed place	Not state financed place	Total
2012	5	0	5
2013	0	0	0
2014	5	0	5
2015	5	0	5
2016	5	0	5

91. In years 2014, 2015 and 2016 there was no competition to the programme; all students studied and are studying financed by the state.

Table 18. The highest and lowest scores of the students enrolled to ARM study programme

Study programme	2012 yr		2013 yr		2014 year		2015 year		2016 year	
	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min
Master's study programme ARM	8.56	6.36	-	-	7.96	7.08	8.23	7.01	8.63	7.13

92. The highest and lowest scores of school leavers enrolled into ARM study programme in 2014 yr, 2015 yr and 2016 yr were similar. In 2014 yr as well as in 2016 yr ARM study programme was completed by 5 graduates, it equals to the number of the enrolled students to the programme. There were no graduates in 2015, as there had been no enrolled students in 2013.

93. Students have a possibility to take part in branch of Animal husbandry technology group of Students Scientific Society. The aim of which is to consolidate students' scientific and organisational activity, to provide more possibilities for performing research of higher quality, to work in team, to better shape perspectives of professional career .

94. Activity for esthetical and cultural education is intensive at the University – there is Centre of Culture, which comprises a folk dance group "AVE VITA", choir Neris, a folk dance group „Džigūnas“. LUHS Sport institute leads activity propagating health enhancement in which teachers and students are

⁴⁰ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/9991/taisyklsbekain_20161.11-25.pdf

⁴¹ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/lt/stojantiesiems/lsmu-studiju-programos>

- welcomed to participate. At LUHS, group *Academic Sielovada* is established. It is an area for collaboration between the University and church, mutual support and communication in the environment of belief and science.
95. Financial support for students is provided from a national study foundation: loans maintained by the state are provided for covering living expenses; loans maintained by the state for partial study on the basis of international (interinstitutional) agreements, national loans to cover study expenses (for students enrolled until 2009). Support for disabled students is provided in compliance with description of order for providing financial support to the disabled, studying in institutions of higher education; financial support is provided to citizens of Lithuanian Republic or citizens of other countries and persons without citizenship, who had declared residence place in Lithuania. Merit stipends are awarded to the best students (of study financed and not financed by the state) for their best admission or study results. Furthermore, the University awards personal single grants and single monitor's grants. Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren of Lithuanian emigrants may be awarded support of two types: stipend or/and social allowance.
 96. The concept for the assessment of students' achievements is coordinated with the content of national and international documents. The assessment of students' achievements is pursuant to the recommendations of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, therefore, two main goals are sought to be achieved: to assess students' advancement; to assess final study outcomes (in the study programme named as anticipated outcomes). The assessment of students' achievements is directly associated with the study results. The principles of the assessment are determined in the LUHS study regulation⁴² and described in the description of every subject. The system of assessment by a cumulative score is used at the University. The study subjects' outcomes are assessed by an examination; results of practice – by defence of practice, whereas the completion of the study programme – by the final Master's work, which students start to prepare at the beginning of the studies and present publicly at the commission for defence of theses.
 97. Requirements for Master's thesis preparation, methodical recommendations and assessment order are presented in the Regulation for preparation and defence of final works approved by FAHT Council on 9 Nov. 2016, protocol No 3(100). Teachers, choosing assessment methods, are provided with methodical help by the Centre of University Teachers Educational Competence.
 98. Ways to ensure students' honest studying are defined in LUHS Study Regulation⁴³. Students' complaints regarding execution and quality of ARM programme, discrimination, violation of ethics were not received.
 99. The ARM study accomplishment results are good: in 2015 the examination average of year I students was 9; II year – 10. All the enrolled students are still studying or have already graduated the programme study. There are no 'drop out' students in the programme. However, the students do not participate in mobility programmes.
 100. Time ratio allotted for lectures, practical classes and independent work is determined in LUHS Study Regulation⁴². Student's work time for every study subject are divided into contact hours and independent work hours. At the University, lectures comprise not more than 30% of contact work time.
 101. The enrolled students get information about ARM study programme, the school of higher education (graduates of other universities) from Dean's office, LUHS VA Students' representatives, LUHS website LSMUSIS. Students have a possibility to choose electives considering their own needs, on the basis of "Order for choosing elective subjects", approved by the LUHS Rector⁴⁴.
 102. Students of ARM study programme chose organisations of public and private sector for their practice. A. Vitkauskas, performing practice in *AB Vilniaus paukstydas* presented recommendations for growing broiler birds' parent flocks, and after implementation the recommendations, usage of equipment and birds' handling processes were optimised. V. Martinaitis, performing practice in *SC Kauno grūdai*

⁴²http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10290/lsmu_studiju_reglamentas.pdf

⁴³http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/10290/lsmu_studiju_reglamentas.pdf

⁴⁴<http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4038/pasirenkamujudalykupasirinkimotvarka.pdf>

analysed the technology for compound feeds and offered improving dosage of mineral fodder sources to update equipment (scales and transporters). S. Drulia, having completed practice in *ASC Agrowill lankesa* presents recommendations concerning computer programmes for management of cow's herd, on the basis of which robotisation for certain processes will be possible.

103. In the period under analysis all ARM study programme students successfully graduated and defended Master's theses. The list of graduates' theses is provided in the Annex 8.
104. The Master's theses of ARM graduates were distinguished for relevancy in public and private sectors. In J. Monkuvienė's Master's thesis, probability of genetic diseases in the most popular cat breeds was determined. A. Vitkauskas preparing his Master's thesis made experiments and on the basis of obtained results, selenium methionine hidroksi-analogue is currently used to improve birds' conception and to increase output of chicken. V. Martinaitis, preparing Master's thesis, analysed production processes of compound feeds and now, fodder sources are directly inserted into premixing container, thanks to which the quality of feeds improves.
105. Majority (60%) of ARM programme graduates (in 2014 yr) were employed (data 6 months after graduation), out of them 1 worked according to the acquired speciality⁴⁵. All graduates of the year 2016 are working, 3 of them - according to the acquired speciality.

106. **Strengths:**

1. After the improvement of management, authenticity, study quality of the ARM study programme, students' enrolment to the programme became stable. Since 2016 yr continuous study has been started, thus there is hope that the students' number will increase – the study will be accessible not only for those who have just graduated, but also for working people who don't have possibilities to study full-time.
2. In LUHS, conditions for students' research, cultural, spiritual, physical and sport activities are favourable.
3. Students of ARM study programme are provided with conditions to perform practice – LUHS Career centre has signed 45 agreements with Lithuanian organisations of appropriate specialisation. Furthermore, students of ARM programme have opportunities to go abroad for practice in universities and institutions of the same field.

Weaknesses: Students of the ARM study programme are not sufficiently active in Students' Scientific Society (SSS) and in mobility programmes (Erasmus+).

Ways of solution: To encourage students to participate in SSS activity, to thoroughly present SSS activity in meetings with students. To prepare joint conception for intensifying SSS activity.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

107. The programme ARM study is structured pursuant to the description of general requirements for degree awarding Master's study Programmes⁴⁶. The Dean of FAHT organises and controls ARM study process at the faculty, is responsible for accomplishment of Senate's or Rector's provisions and orders, submits proposals to the Committee of AS and ARM study programmes, FAHT Council, Rector, and Senate regarding execution of the study and quality improvement⁴⁷.
108. Vice rector for studies monitors the organisation of study at the University; Study Centre organises and coordinates the study process; the Faculty of Animal Husbandry⁴⁸ organises and divisions (the heads of which are responsible for composing plans of study subjects and submitting programmes for approval to the faculty Council and for their accomplishment) implement the study programmes. Heads of departments and institutes organise all the study process – distribution of pedagogic work load and control of the study process. The Study Centre monitors structuring of the time table coordinating with the Heads of divisions and teachers.
109. University seeking for sufficient knowledge and skills of the teachers to accomplish strategy of the University, the need for human resources (regarding quantity and quality) - constructs plans conforming

⁴⁵ <https://karjera.lt>

⁴⁶ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.374821>

⁴⁷ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/5983/lsmustudijureglamentas.pdf>

⁴⁸ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/8519/lsmu_va_gyvulininkystes_technologijos_fakulteto_nuostatai.pdf

- with the LUHS Statute⁴⁹, strategic plan for activity in 2015-17 yr⁵⁰, Guides for strategic development in 2011-16 yr⁵¹, Guides for strategic development in 2017-2021⁵², and implements them pursuant to: Labour Code⁵³, Law for Science and Study⁵⁴, the Description of minimal qualification requirements for science staff positions in national science and study institutions, (approved by Science Council of Lithuania⁵⁵), EC recommendation on European scientists charter and on the behaviour code for scientists employment (2005/251/EC)⁵⁶, Assessment methodics for real resources of higher education institutions⁵⁷, Principles of choosing and evaluation of LUHS employees⁵⁸, determining of qualification and attestation requirements for LUHS teachers and science staff, announcing competition for positions of teachers and science staff, order for organisation and implementation and for attestation of teachers and science staff⁵⁹ and other judicial acts.
110. The decisions on the programme management are taken by FAHT Council. For strategic decisions - meeting of the faculty's academic community is organised.
111. The programme is being implemented in academic division of LUHS – Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology. The study is administered by the dean's office of the faculty, governed by the Dean. The staff of the Dean's office is responsible for study organisation, administration of students work and achievements⁶⁰. The staff of Dean's office executes student's registration to the study, accumulation and analysis of study outcomes data, documentation of students' mobility, records of study results and formalizing completion of the study. The responsibilities are distributed to the employees and defined in provisions for their positions.
112. The supervision and coordination of the programme by the dean's proposal are performed by the Committee for AS bachelor and ARM Master's study programmes (order "On composing the Committee for Animal Science bachelor and Animal Recourses Management Master's study programmes, 13 Oct. 2015, No SC-1-875) The committee consists of at least 3 teachers engaged in the programme teaching and performing research (in the area of zootechnics, animal husbandry, animal genetics and breeding, animal nutrition), representatives of students and social partners. The composition of the committee is presented in Annex 9. The committee's chairman organises members' activity and makes decisions collegially. The committee collaborates with members of the academic community, faculty Council, its Commission of study and science, Study Centre and Commission for assuring study quality and monitoring, Career Centre, students representatives. The Committee approves study plans, organises reviews of study programmes achievements, surveillance of study subjects required to form competences, their descriptions and content. The Faculty Council discusses proposals regarding restructuring of the programme plan, implementation of the programme, reports of the commission for thesis evaluation, arising problems, results of admissions to the programme, approves documents on study organisation, makes proposals to improve the activity of the Committee. Committee's presentations, proposals for improvement of the study process are discussed in divisions, at the Faculty Council and after the approval at the Council; the proposals are approved pursuant to the defined order at the Rectorate and Senate.
113. The University cherishes culture of study quality, – employees' training is consistent and the code of LUHS ethics is approved⁶¹. The procedures for assurance of internal study quality, ways and measures are based on the provisions and guides of the Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the

⁴⁹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/74/lsmu_statutas.pdf

⁵⁰ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/8100/lsmu2015-2017mstrateginisveiklosplanas.pdf>

⁵¹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/20/lsmu_strategines_pletros_gaires_20112016_m_ir_ju_igvendingimoplanas.pdf

⁵² <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/11107/2tarybossprendimas1priedaslsmupletrosgaires.pdf>

⁵³ Official Gazette 2002, No. 64-2569; Official Gazette 2009, No. 54-2140

⁵⁴ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.343430>

⁵⁵ <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.A51D87D465CB>

⁵⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/LT/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32005H0251>

⁵⁷ <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.422267>

⁵⁸ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/733/lsmu_darbuotoju_parinkimo_ir_vertinimo_principai.pdf

⁵⁹ [http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/lsmukonkursuatastavimotvarka_2015-09-01%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/lsmukonkursuatastavimotvarka_2015-09-01%20(1).pdf)

⁶⁰ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4883/06-20-4.pdf>

⁶¹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4986/lsmu_etikoskodeksas1.pdf

- European higher education area, are based on the principles of the EFQM Excellence Model and on the activity improvement strategy approved by the university itself and on projected ways and tools facilitating to ensure the quality of the higher education provided by the institution and are regulated by provisions of the University "Provisions on assurance of study quality in Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (approved by the University Senate, 20 Jan. 2012, No 17-01).
114. In recent years, a lot has been done to enhance management of study quality: in the year 2012, Commission for study monitoring and assurance was established. The provisions for assurance of study quality at LUHS, the order for creation, improvement and management of LUHS study programmes, order for opinion analysis of students, teachers, and social partners (employers'), in 2013 – the order for organising LUHS graduates and social partners' questionnaires were approved by the Senate. The order for administration of study programmes implementation and qualitative assessment are discussed in the documents. Furthermore, the documents help teachers engaged in the programme to immediately detect programme aspects to be updated and improved, encourage collaboration. Since the study programme registration teachers employed in the ARM study programme and employers have been consistently interviewed.
115. The study programmes can be improved and updated considering students and social partners' opinion. The procedures are regulated by the LUHS order to analyse students, teachers and social partners' (employers) opinion⁶² and by the provisions of LUHS study programmes committees⁶³.
116. Information on the full-time programme of ARM and quality assessment is accessible: in discussions with students, meetings of departments/institutions, faculty council, at the study programme committee and at the meetings of academic community. Information on study quality and applied means to improve it is on LUHS website, annual Rector's reports on website and in publications such as *Admissions to Lithuanian Schools of Higher Education*, *Career Guide*, University newspaper *Ave Vita* and special booklets. Studies at LUHS are presented at annual study fairs; open days are arranged at the University.
117. The community of FAHT successfully participates in *Fairs of higher education institutions*, in international learning, knowledge fairs and in career planning fair *Studies* at the Lithuanian exhibition and congresses Centre LITEXPO.
118. The responsibility for study programme implementation is defined in LUHS regulation⁶⁴, provisions of Study Centre⁶⁵ and positional responsibilities of LUHS vice rector for study, head of Study Centre, faculty Dean, head of a department/institute^{66,67} and teachers (Rector's orders: No V-836 on 30-09-2016; No V-583 on 30-06-2016). The Study Centre organises and coordinates second cycle study at LUHS⁶⁸.
119. Quality culture and its nurturance is one of the foundation stones of the University's activity. At the institution of higher education quality is perceived first of all as study quality, which is integral ratio of study organising, teachers' professional qualification and teaching and study means essential for teaching of study subjects/modules, organising study process, teachers and students interrelationship. However, the conception of quality comprises much larger activity performed by the University community – research, taking decisions and administration of the University. The University has internal system for quality assurance.
120. Quality culture cherishing is strategic goal of the University. The quality culture of the University, as a culture of constant improvement and positive change, is nurtured on the basis of values implemented in the mission of the University, University Statute⁶⁹, provisions of quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area, LUHS provisions for assurance of study quality⁷⁰, principles of social

⁶² http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/798/studentu_destytoju_darbdaviu_nuomones_tyrimo_tvarka.pdf

⁶³ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/1506/12.12.14_d9.pdf

⁶⁴ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/5983/lsmustudijureglamentas.pdf>

⁶⁵ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/6595/studiju_centro_nuostatai_20150320.pdf

⁶⁶ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4892/06-20-14.pdf>

⁶⁷ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4882/06-20-3.pdf>

⁶⁸ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/6578/lsmustudijucentronuostatai.pdf>

⁶⁹ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/74/lsmu_statutas.pdf

⁷⁰ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/281/studiju_kokybes_uztikrinimo_lsmu_nuostatos.pdf

- responsibility and partnership. The University foresees ways, means and tools facilitating quality assurance of provided higher education.
121. Seeking quality of its activity, University not only structures internal quality assurance mechanisms, but participates in external systems for assurance of national quality. Study programmes, executed at the University, and University itself are regularly under assessment and accreditation pursuant to the order of Lithuanian judicial acts. Depending on the period of accreditation, every 6 or 3 yr, detailed evaluation of the programme is performed. The evaluation is performed according to the methodics approved by CQAHE. The last ARM study programme external evaluation was in 2014.
 122. The University consistently presents concrete quantitative and qualitative information on study programmes, qualifications of higher education, scientific activity, assessment results, students, graduates and others opinion concerning study quality, evaluation of the University activity conducted by recognised institutions, graduates' career results; other data, needed for the society also can be publicised. Assurance of study quality, assessment, and monitoring are determined by Study Regulation approved by the Senate⁷¹.
 123. Extended meetings of AS Bachelor and ARM Master's study programmes Committee with students of the programmes (in which students speak out their opinion regarding the study course, quality of lectures, practical classes, etc.) are organised (12 Jan. 2016, protocol No 14; 02 March, 2016 protocol No 19; 20 Dec. 2016 protocol No 35).
 124. No discrimination or intolerance cases were recorded among ARM study programme students and staff during the last 5 years. Prevention of intolerance and discrimination is regulated by LUHS Statute⁷², LUHS code of ethics⁷³. The Commission of law and ethics conducts its activity at the University.
 125. *Assurance of student's feedback.* Students take part at the activity of LUHS VA Students Representatives office. Student's representatives are members of LUHS Senate, FAHT Council, commissions for teachers' attestation and allocation of grants, Programme Committee. At the end of every semester students have the opportunity to speak out their opinion concerning subjects in the questionnaires via electronic system for recording study results (LSMUSIS). Summarized data of the questionnaires are presented in this system. Moreover, students may speak out their problems at the Dean's office; they can also apply to the University Study Centre and at the joint meetings with members of AS and ARM study programmes' Committee and directly to the teachers during lectures. During the implementation period of ARM programme, students' appellations or complaints regarding examinations were not submitted.
 126. *Assurance of graduate's feedback.* Since summer of 2015, University and some other schools of higher education have united into information system for career management (<https://karjera.lt>), which permits to conduct graduates' career monitoring 6, 12, and 36 months after completion of the study. In this system, data concerning graduates' employment are provided (according to specialty including), salaries and other.
 127. *Assurance of teachers' feedback.* Teachers can speak out their comments and proposals in the meetings of their divisions, meetings Committee of AS and ARM study programmes and faculty Council. Teachers get acquainted with the report and proposals of the chairman of Evaluation Commission for theses.
 128. *Assurance of employers' feedback.* Employers' representatives are involved into the activity of FAHT Council, Committee of AS and ARM study programmes, Commissions for evaluation of students' thesis. After completion of students practice, their employers were interviewed and their opinion evidences students of ARM study programme to have sufficiently theoretical knowledge; students are capable to apply the acquired knowledge in practice; they are active and receptive to innovation.
 129. **Strengths:**

⁷¹ <http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/5983/lsmustudijureglamentas.pdf>

⁷² http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/74/lsmu_statutas.pdf

⁷³ http://www.lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/4986/lsmu_etikoskodeksas1.pdf

1. At LUHS the system, facilitating assurance of internal study quality is created; distribution of the study programme administration and teachers' responsibilities is formed. The publicity of the programme has immensely increased.

2. There have been no intolerance or discrimination cases recorded, as the programmes for prevention of intolerance and discrimination are created.

Weaknesses: The programme ARM was updated in the year 2016, thus improving it, the content of the programme has to be discussed with the community of the University, social partners, ensuring implementation of the programme of high quality.

Ways of solution: To create more efficient system assessing teachers, students, graduates and social partners' opinion on implementation of the programme and quality of the study.