The education system of Lithuania described and compared with the Dutch system
This document contains information on the education system in Lithuania. We explain the Dutch equivalent of the most common qualifications from Lithuania for the purpose of admission to Dutch higher education.

Disclaimer
We assemble the information for these descriptions of education systems with the greatest care. However, we cannot be held responsible for the consequences of errors or incomplete information in this document.

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### Evaluation chart

This overview shows on the left the foreign diplomas and the corresponding levels in the Lithuanian and European qualifications framework. The other columns show the Dutch equivalent along with the comparable levels in the Dutch and European qualifications frameworks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree or qualification and LTQF level</th>
<th>EQF level</th>
<th>Dutch equivalent and NLQF level</th>
<th>EQF level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pagrindinio Išsilavinimo Pažymejimas</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>VMBO-T diploma</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kvalifikacijos Pažymėjimas/</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>MBO diploma (qualification level 2, 3 or 4)</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profesinio Mokymo Diplomas (Profesine</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mokykla, Technologiju Gimnazija or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaunimo Mokykla)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brando Atestatas</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>VWO diploma</td>
<td>4+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profesinis Bakalauras Diplomas/Aukstojo</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>HBO bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mokslo Diplomas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakalauro Diplomas</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>HBO or WO bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magistro Diplomas</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>HBO or WO master’s degree</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB
- The information provided here is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.
- The EQF/NLQF level is not so much a reflection of study load or content; rather, it is an indication of a person’s knowledge and skills after having completed a certain programme of study.
- Information about Dutch equivalent qualifications can be found on our website: education and diplomas the Netherlands.
- The Cooperation Organisation for Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market (SBB) evaluates statements on foreign qualifications and training at VMBO and MBO level. The evaluation may vary if SBB evaluates the diploma for admission to VET schools or the labour market in the Netherlands.
Introduction

Lithuania is one of the three Baltic States (the other two being Latvia and Estonia). The country has been a parliamentary democracy since the Soviet Union dissolved.

Lithuania has a binary system of higher education with university institutions (akademija, seminarija and auksojoji mokykloja) and professionally oriented institutions (colleges). University institutions primarily provide academic education, while the colleges focus on non-academic education.

There are both state institutions and private institutions. Private institutions must have a government permit to operate. The programmes offered by all institutions are listed in the register of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (Švietimo, mokslo ir sporto ministerija).

In 1990 Lithuanian was reinstated as the country’s official language and it has gradually replaced Russian in public life. The institutionalisation of the new official language meant that public officials had to learn Lithuanian. Nevertheless, measures have also been taken to protect minority languages (Russian and Polish).

The language of instruction is primarily Lithuanian, but in some cases education is also provided in Russian and Polish.

Education is compulsory for children between 7 and 17 years of age.

The academic year starts on 1 September and consists of 2 semesters (autumn and spring), each lasting 16 weeks.
Primary and secondary education

Basic and general secondary education
Primary education lasts for 4 years and is intended for pupils 7 to 11 years of age. This type of education is provided at a Pradine Mokykla (Primary School). Pupils who successfully complete the fourth year will continue in lower secondary education. At the end of the fourth year pupils receive a Pradinio Išsilavinimo Pažymejimas (Certificate of Primary Education).

Lower general secondary schools last 6 years and pupils are usually between 10/11 and 16 years of age. School providing this type of education are called Vidurine Mokykla (School for Secondary Education) or Jaunimo Mokykla (Youth School). Upon completion of the programme, pupils are awarded the Pagrindinio Išsilavinimo Pažymejimas (Certificate Basic Education).

In terms of level, the Pagrindinio Išsilavinimo Pažymejimas is comparable to a VMBO-T (theoretische leerweg) diploma.

Upper general secondary education is for pupils from 16/17 to 18/19 years of age and lasts 2 years. The programme is completed with the final Matura examination (Maturity examination). This type of education is provided at a Vidurine Mokykla (School for Secondary Education), Gimnazija (Gymnasium), Licejus (Lyceum) or Tarptautinio Bakalaureato Mokykla (International Baccalaureate School). The diploma awarded upon completion is called Brandos Atestatas or Maturity Certificate. The Maturity Certificate grants access to higher education.

In terms of level, the Brandos Atestatas is comparable to a VWO diploma.

A list of secondary education institutions in Lithuania is available on the AIKOS website, administered by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Secondary vocational education
Pupils that at the age of 14 did not succeed in the final tests of basic education, continue in a vocational programme that lasts for 3 years. The programme offers both vocational and general subjects. Pupils that did succeed in these final tests, can continue in a vocational programme of 2 years.

Vocational education is provided by profesinė mokykla (vocational schools), profesinio mokymo centras (vocational education centres), darbo rinkos mokymo centras (labour market training centres), agricultural schools (žemės ūkis mokykla), and prekybos mokykla (trade schools).
Vocational programmes are concluded with a final examination that is both theoretical and practical. After successful completion of these programmes, the *kvalifikacijos pažymėjimas* (qualifications certificate) or the *profesinio mokymo diplomas* (vocational training diploma) is awarded, depending on the programme completed.

There are also secondary vocational education programmes for pupils from 14 to 20 years of age. This type of education is provided at a *Profesine Mokykla* (Vocational School), *Technologiju Gimnazija* (Technology Gymnasium) or *Jaunimo Mokykla* (Youth School). Pupils who subsequently pass the Maturity examination and obtain the *Brandos Atestatas* have access to higher education.

In terms of level, the *Kvalificaijos Pažymėjimas/Profesinio Mokymo Diplomas* awarded by *Profesine Mokykla*, *Technologiju Gimnazija* or *Jaunimo Mokykla* is comparable to an MBO diploma at qualification level 2, 3 or 4, depending on the duration and specialisation of the programme.

A list of vocational study programmes and institutions in Lithuania is available on the [AIKOS website](http://www.aikos.lt).
Admission to higher education

To be eligible for admission, students are required to have a secondary education diploma, the Brandos Atestatas, or an equivalent diploma. Admission is based on a comparative study subject to the regulations of the higher education institution where the student is applying.

The table below shows the number of subjects required for the Final Matura Examinations since 1999:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subjects Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-2001</td>
<td>examinations in 5 subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2006</td>
<td>examinations in 4 subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2009</td>
<td>examinations in 3 subjects (Lithuanian and 2 electives)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>examinations in 2 subjects (Lithuanian and 1 elective)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Higher education

After the Soviet years, a binary system of higher education was introduced: traditional research universities on the one hand, the universitai, and more professionally oriented colleges, the kolegios.

University education

A 3-tier system of education has evolved:

- A first cycle leads to a bakalauras degree, possibly in combination with a professional qualification.
  - A study load of 140 to 180 national credits is required. With the awarded degree, students have access to the second cycle of higher education.

  In terms of level, the Bakalauro Diplomas is comparable to an HBO or WO bachelor's degree, depending on the nature of the study programme.

- A second cycle leads to the Magistras degree, possibly in combination with a professional qualification. A study load of 40 to 80 national credits is required. Integrated studies combine the first and second cycle and lead to Magistras degrees in medicine, engineering, law and theology. The study load may differ but a minimum of 180 credits is required for a professional qualification, and 200 to 240 for a master degree in combination with a professional degree. More credits may be required in medicine, veterinary science and dentistry, but the maximum load is not to exceed 280 credits.
In terms of level, the Magistro Diplomas is comparable to an HBO or WO master’s degree, depending on the nature of the study programme.

- The third cycle distinguishes between 3 forms of postgraduate education:
  i. doktorantura, study leading to a doctorate, a research degree with a maximum duration of 4 years;
  ii. rezidentura, for professional programmes in the fields of medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, lasting 3 to 6 years;
  iii. meno aspirantura, programmes in the fine arts, at the end of which the meno licentiatas degree is awarded, after a maximum of 80 credits.

NB: At universities some programmes are offered without awarding a final degree. These programmes serve the purpose of either preparing students for independent professional practice or for upgrading professional qualifications. Specialist rezidentura programmes belong to this type of programme that does not lead to a degree. At the end of these programmes a certificate (pazymejimas) is awarded. Between 30 and 120 credits are required.

Non-university education
This type of education is mainly offered at the kolegia in 1 cycle, undergraduate programmes preparing students for several professions. Up until 2007 graduates were awarded the Aukstojo Mokslo Diplomas (Higher Education Diploma). Since 2007, accredited institutions are allowed to award a profesinis bakalauras (professional bachelor degree). Before 2007 the graduates obtained a professional qualification with the diploma, but not a degree. To complete the various study programmes offered, 120–160 credits are required. This degree is a professional qualification that allows the holder to practice the profession in question. Graduates who have completed college programmes can continue their studies in postgraduate master’s programmes after fulfilling additional requirements. They may also transfer to undergraduate or integrated study programmes offered by universities.

In terms of level, the Profesinis Bakalauras Diplomas/Aukstojo Mokslo Diplomas is comparable to an HBO bachelor’s degree.
Assessment systems

Since 1993 students are evaluated by using a 10-point grading scale, with 5 as the minimum pass grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numerical grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Performance description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Puikiai</td>
<td>Excellent performance, outstanding knowledge and skills (excellent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Labai gerai</td>
<td>Strong performance, good knowledge and skills (very good)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gerai</td>
<td>Above average performance, knowledge and skills (good)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Vidutiniškai</td>
<td>Average performance, knowledge and skills with unessential shortcomings (highly satisfactory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Patenkinama i</td>
<td>Below average performance, knowledge and skills with substantial Shortcomings (satisfactory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Silpnai</td>
<td>Knowledge and skills meet minimum criteria (sufficient)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nepatenkina mai</td>
<td>Knowledge and skills do not meet minimum criteria/below minimum criteria (insufficient)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lithuania has a National Credit System: 1 year of study represents 40 National Credits, 1 Lithuanian credit equals 1.5 ECTS credits.

More information on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is available in the ECTS Users’Guide, issued by the European Commission.

More information about the value of foreign grades can be found on our website (Dutch only).

Bologna process

Lithuania ratified the Lisbon Convention in 2000. And Lithuania implemented educational reforms in the early 1990s that resulted in the incorporation of the bachelor’s-master’s degree structure.

More information is available on the website of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).
Qualification frameworks

By Decree no 535 of 4 May 2010, the Government of the Republic Lithuania issued a description of a Lithuanian Qualification Framework (LTQF). Analogous to the European model, 8 levels of education have been defined in this framework.

Further information, including the national report on referencing the LTQF to the overarching European framework, is available on the website of the Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training Development Centre (KPMPC).

Accreditation and quality assurance

The Studijų kokybės vertinimo centras (SKVC – Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education), which serves also as the Lithuanian ENIC/NARIC, is responsible for the accreditation of institutions and programmes in higher education.

A list of accredited institutions and curricula is available on the AlKOS website.

Diploma Supplement

Diploma Supplements have been issued in Lithuanian and English since 2005 and are mandatory since 2006. They adhere to the form of UNESCO’s and the Council of Europe’s recommended format.

More information on the Diploma Supplement is available on the Europass website.

Composition of file

Most secondary education diplomas consist of several pages. After completion of a higher education programme 2 documents are generally issued: a Diploma and the corresponding list of subjects examined and grades obtained, documenting the award of the degree and corresponding professional qualification. A second document, the Diploma Supplement, usually gives further information about the study programme and the awarding institution. The latter is often bilingual.

Minimum file requirements: all Lithuanian files must consist of a certified copy of the original Lithuanian diploma and diploma supplement, plus an optional certified translation of both documents.
Overview of higher education institutions

The AIKOS website, with an overview of accredited higher education institutions and curricula.

Useful links

- Studijų kokybės vertinimo centras (SKVC – Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education), the Lithuanian ENIC/NARIC.
- The AIKOS website provides a list of secondary education institutions and an overview of vocational study programmes and institutions in Lithuania.