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Lithuania

General education

In Lithuania, general education starts with pre-primary education (compulsory from age 6), followed by primary education, which covers grades 1 to 4 and typically serves children aged 7 to 10. This stage focuses on foundational skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and basic sciences, as well as introducing foreign languages (usually English). Education is delivered in Lithuanian, though schools for national minorities may teach in other languages.

Secondary education in Lithuania is divided into two stages: lower secondary (grades 5-10) and upper secondary (grades 11-12). Lower secondary is a continuation of general education, while upper secondary may take place in general education schools or gymnasiums and culminates in the Brandos Atestatas (Maturity certificate) state examination. Students choose from a range of academic subjects and may tailor their studies towards variety of fields. Completion of upper secondary education with the Maturity certificate allows entry to higher education institutions. The system encourages academic flexibility and preparation for further study or employment.

Starting from 1 May 2023, Lithuania issues digital certificates, including maturity certificates. These documents are granted in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport, which establishes the official procedure for issuing general education and maturity certificates in the Republic of Lithuania.

Vocational training

Vocational training (VET) in Lithuania provides practical and profession-oriented alternatives to academic pathways. It is available to students who have completed lower or upper secondary education and can be pursued in parallel with general education. VET institutions offer qualifications at different levels, including vocational diplomas and post-secondary non-tertiary certificates. Programs may include hands-on training and internships in cooperation with employers. Although graduates are usually solely prepared for entering the labor market, recent reforms aim to modernize curricula and increase the prestige and quality of vocational pathways.

Higher education

Higher education in Lithuania is binary in its nature. Professional higher education is provided by colleges and universities (offering academic programs). Colleges are limited by the law to award only professional bachelor degrees corresponding to 6 level of EQF while universities offer bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs.

Admission is based on the results of the state exams leading to Brandos Atestatas but also might include entrance exams or tests (e.g. for admission to art programs offered by Art Academy of Vilnius).

Lithuanian higher education institutions offer programs in Lithuanian and an increasing number in English, attracting international students. The system emphasizes quality assurance, academic mobility, and participation in European research and education initiatives. Students may receive state-funded study places based on competitive admission, while others pay tuition fees which vary depending on the chosen field of study.

Qualification levels

- **Bakalauras (Bachelor)**

First cycle

Level 6

Level 6

Bakalauras (Bachelor) degree study programmes are oriented to expand one's general education and provide knowledge in certain field of science or art and offer the background necessary for further study or professional activity. Compared to college studies, university curriculum is more academically oriented.

Rights granted

Access to Master's degree programmes (Level 7)

Recognition status

Accreditation at the study programme and institutional level is compulsory.

Other Information

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• Doctoral diploma (daktaro diplomas)

Short cycle

Level 8

Level 8

- PhD degree in Education sciences
- Doctor of arts (professional doctorate)

Rights granted

- Access to Master programmes

Recognition status

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Other Information

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• Master diploma (Magistro diplomas)

Second cycle

Level 7

Level 7

- Master of Law
- Master of Arts

Rights granted

Rights granted magistro

Recognition status

Recognition status magistro

Other Information

Additional information

- **Certificate of residency (Rezidentūros pažymėjimas)**

Second cycle

Level 7

Level 7

- Surgeon

Rights granted

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Recognition status

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Other Information

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Useful links

- google.lt
- youtube.com

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gateway to recognition of qualifications