

AGREEMENT OF THE RECTORS' SCHOLARSHIP

Nr. B5-180000-2011

Scholarship awarded by rectors of the leading universities of the three Baltic countries to a student proficient in the official languages of all Baltic countries

Article 1 The aim of the Rectors' Scholarship (hereinafter referred to as the Scholarship) is to encourage a cross-border cooperation between the three Baltic countries and cooperation of the leading universities of these countries in academic affairs, to promote the language and culture studies of other Baltic countries among students. The Scholarship is awarded by the rectors of the University of Tartu, the University of Latvia and Vilnius University (hereinafter also: university, or collectively: universities).

Article 2 The amount of the annual Scholarship is €2000. The Scholarship may be used for studies at another university (academic mobility) or for another activity supporting the student's studies. In addition, every year the universities support the three scholarship candidates from their university who have reached the final round, by covering their travel and accommodation costs on their trip to another university where the final round is taking place.

Article 3 The scholarship is awarded once a year starting from the year 2018. The universities award the Scholarship in turns. The first Scholarship is granted by the University of Tartu, then - by the University of Latvia, next by Vilnius University, etc.

Article 4 Students of all study levels and all curricula of the University of Tartu, the University of Latvia and Vilnius University, who can express themselves in one of the three official languages, i.e. Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian at the high level (C1) and at the minimum level of A2 in two other languages, are eligible to apply for the Scholarship. A student may apply for and be awarded the Scholarship repeatedly.

Article 5. The Scholarship is applied for and awarded on the basis of an open competition. The Scholarship competition consists of local preliminary rounds held at each university and the final round which is common for the three universities. The Scholarship competition is announced simultaneously in all the universities by means of both electronic and other acceptable communication channels. Each university will appoint a support unit and a person in charge for the communication work of the Scholarship competition. Organising the local preliminary and final rounds of the Scholarship competition will be the responsibility of the universities' structural units in which the official languages of the Baltic countries are taught. Each university will establish the regulations for the Scholarship according to their respective legal acts on awarding nominal scholarships.

Article 6. A candidate for the scholarship will register to participate in a local preliminary round as set out in the competition announcement and will take part in a written and oral local preliminary round. The schedules and conditions for the competition established in the announcements will be previously coordinated between the universities. In order to participate in a local preliminary round of the Scholarship competition, a student will present a written introduction of himself/herself and a short essay on a given topic in Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian. The candidate for the Scholarship will also present the short essay orally in all three languages at the speech contest of the local preliminary round.

Article 7. Based on the written competition entries submitted to the local preliminary round and the oral presentations, language skills of the Scholarship candidates will be assessed by a minimum three-member local committee, which comprises lecturer(s) of the respective language(s), representatives of the embassies of the respective countries, or a representative of the local national societies in Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania.

Article 8. In each university the local committee selects the top three speakers of the official languages of the three Baltic countries, who will advance to the final round of the Scholarship competition. The final round includes oral presentation and is organised in one of the three universities in the order as agreed in Article 3. In the final round, one recipient of the Scholarship is selected.

Article 9. The universities will inform the public of the Scholarship competition and its results. The recipient of the scholarship is expected to collaborate with the universities to provide information about him/her for the news and marketing materials of the universities.

Article 10. The scholarship is paid in one disbursement to the recipient's bank account. The bank transfer charges will be borne by the payer.

Article 11. In the absence of suitable candidates, the universities reserve the right not to award the Scholarship.

Article 12. This Agreement will come into force on the day it is signed by the last of the three parties. It is concluded for an indefinite term until all parties agree to terminate it by a written mutual agreement or upon one of the party's initiative.

Article 13. All disputes arising from this Agreement will be settled by amicable negotiations between the universities. In the case of ambiguity or inconsistency between the provisions of the Agreement and the provisions of the Statute, the provisions of the Statute will prevail.

University of Tartu



Volli Kalm
Rector, Professor

University of Latvia



Indriķis Muižnieks
Rector, Professor

Vilnius University



Artūras Žukauskas
Rector, Professor

Riga, November 3rd, 2017

STATUTE

of

the University of Tartu, the University of Latvia and Vilnius University Rectors' Scholarship

1. The Rectors' Scholarship is established pursuant to the Agreement signed by the University of Tartu, the University of Latvia and Vilnius University on November 3rd, 2017.
2. The aim of the scholarship competition is to promote learning and teaching the languages and cultures of the Baltic countries in the three universities that established the scholarship.
3. The amount of the annual scholarship is 2000 euros. In addition, the university who organises the scholarship competition covers the accommodation costs of students who participate in the final round. Travel costs are paid by the sending university.
4. The scholarship competition is open for full-time students of any curricula at the University of Tartu, the University of Latvia and Vilnius University, who know the Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian language at least at C1 level and the other two languages at least at A2 level.
5. The University of Tartu, the University of Latvia and Vilnius University have the right and responsibility to organise the Rectors' Scholarship competition in turns.
6. The scholarship competition is announced in the autumn semester by the rector of the university that organises the competition as follows:
 - University of Tartu in 2017;
 - University of Latvia in 2018;
 - Vilnius University in 2019; etc.
7. The competition announcement will include the following:
 - 7.1. topics of competition papers;
 - 7.2. deadline for submitting papers;
 - 7.2.1. topics for the written competition held within the university;
 - 7.2.2. dates of oral competitions within the university;
 - 7.2.3. date of the final round (oral);
 - 7.2.4. date of the scholarship award ceremony;
 - 7.3. contact persons (coordinators at the university).
8. The submitted papers are assessed by the juries formed at the universities.
 - 8.1. In the written round which conducted at universities, papers are assessed based on the following descriptions of levels:
 - A2**
 - a student can write a text formed of short simple sentences.



- a student can write in connected sentences on topics related with his/her everyday life (e.g. people, places, work and studies).
- Student can write short and simple descriptions of past events, his/her earlier activities and personal experience.
- a student can use the most common conjunctions (“and”, “but”, “because”) to compile a narrative.
- a student uses simple structures correctly, may make certain mistakes in basic grammar (e.g. mix up tenses or make mistakes in subject-verb agreement); still, the meaning is mostly clear.

C1

- Student can write clear, fluent and appealing stories and descriptions of experiences in an appropriate style.
- Student shows skilled use of compositional patterns and conjunction techniques.
- Student can quite precisely convey the level of certainty, doubt, likelihood, etc. in his/her opinions and statements.
- Text layout, paragraphing and punctuation is correct and supports reading.
- Spelling of the text is accurate; minor mistakes may occur.
- Student has a rich vocabulary, incl. idioms and colloquial phrases; he/she perceives connotations.

8.2. A student who meets the requirements of the written competition is invited to participate in the oral round, where participants introduce themselves in all the languages and present their written papers.

9. Three best students from each university are invited to participate in the final round. The creative tasks for the final round are prepared by the organising university based on the proposals of the juries of all the universities. In the performance of the creative tasks the following aspects are assessed:
- text understanding;
 - listening skills, understanding;
 - oral self-expression;
 - pronunciation.

10. The jury of the final round is formed by the Rector of the responsible university. The jury is formed of language teachers of the university which announces the scholarship, representatives of respective societies (e.g. heads of Tartu Lithuanian Community and Latvian Society), and representatives of the embassies if applicable.

11. A student may participate in the scholarship competition repeatedly.


