Approved by Order No. ……….

 of the Life Sciences Center Council

 of Vilnius University as of 19 March 2021

**REGULATIONS OF AWARDING THE PROFESSOR VIRGINIJUS ŠIKŠNYS’ SCHOLARSHIP TO THIRD-CYCLE STUDENTS OF THE LIFE SCIENCES CENTER OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY**

 **CHAPTER I**

 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Regulations of awarding the Professor Virginijus Šikšnys’ Scholarship to third-cycle students of the Life Sciences Center (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) of Vilnius University regulate the procedure for awarding the Nominal Professor Virginijus Šikšnys’ Scholarship (hereinafter referred to as the Scholarship) and determine the main selection criteria of the candidate for the Scholarship (hereinafter referred to as the Candidate).

2. The Scholarship is established by *GO Vilnius* Public Institution (hereinafter referred to as *GO Vilnius*) and Vilnius University Life Sciences Center (hereinafter referred to as LSC). It is paid using means transferred by *GO Vilnius* to Vilnius University (hereinafter referred to as the University) settlement account as support according to the Support Agreement No. KTS0017:2020 as of 16 December 2020 and/or using LSC own funds.

3. The Regulations are designed in compliance with the University Scholarship Regulations and do not contravene them.

4. The aim of the Scholarship is by assessing internationally recognized exceptional research results of the LSC third-cycle students to encourage these students to continue their research in expanding the knowledge boundaries of life processes, applying scientific knowledge for the creation of human well-being and preserving environmental sustainability and diversity.

5. The Scholarship is a one-time scholarship, it amounts to 10,000 € (ten thousand Euros). In exceptional cases when there are two equal candidates, two scholarships may be awarded of 5,000 € each. The Scholarship is awarded each year of studies until 15 March.

 **CHAPTER II**

 **PROCEDURE OF AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIP**

 **AND SELECTION CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES TO GET THE SCHOLARSHIP**

6. The Scholarship competition (hereinafter referred to as the Competition) is announced every study year by 15 November. Information regarding the Competition and other information concerning the Scholarship is provided on the University website and LSC website in Lithuanian and in English as well as the University, LSC and *GO Vilnius* information channels.

7. All the LSC students of the third-cycle without any exceptions (both citizens of the Republic of Lithuania and citizens of other countries) can take part in the Competition on condition they have achieved significant research results and meet the following criteria:

7.1. students having published results of their research in international scientific journals with *Clarivate Analytics* citation index and/or having filed international patent applications;

7.2. students not falling behind to account for the activities scheduled in their doctoral study plan;

7.3. students with impeccable repute (student’s behaviour meets the norms of Vilnius University Code of Academic Ethics, he/she has not been convicted of criminal offence by a final court judgment, he/she has not been dismissed from a post or a job for a severe disciplinary offence or at least five years have passed since any such dismissal, and that he/she is not an alcohol abuser and does not consume narcotic drugs, psychotropic and/or toxic substances).

8. The candidates have to fill in an electronic application until 15 December of the current study year on the LSC Doctoral School website and submit it to the Doctoral School by e-mail phd@gmc.vu.lt. The application consists of:

8.1. application to get the Scholarship confirming that the Candidate meets all the criteria listed in Article 7 of the Regulations;

8.2. the Candidate’s CV;

8.3. the Candidate’s list of research works and activities as well as description of his contribution to every research result;

8.4. documents confirming the Candidate’s achievements and their recognition (copies (or functioning online links) of scientific articles, articles about the Candidate in the media, copies of patent applications and awards etc.);

8.5. a motivational letter by the Candidate, in which the Candidate not only names scientific activity results achieved but also presents his/her vision of further scientific activity;

8.6. a recommendation by the doctoral studies tutor of the Branch Academic Unit;

8.7. the Candidate’s commitment having received the Scholarship to publicly present award-winning scientific activity results at LSC seminar as well as to cooperate with *GO Vilnius* and representatives of LSC communication units;

8.8. other documents, in the Candidate’s opinion possibly important in selection for the Scholarship.

9. An Evaluation Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) is formed by the order of the Director of the LSC for awarding the Scholarship. The Commission consists of 5 (five) members, 4 (four) of whom are LSC academic employees and one is a third-cycle representative delegated by the Vilnius University Students’ Representation, who is not a candidate for the current study year Scholarship. If necessary, the Commission may invite an external expert(s).

10. The Commission members are not additionally paid for the evaluation work.

11. The Commission follows the Candidate(s) selection recommendations approved by the LSC Council.

12. The Commission having received the Candidates’ applications nominates the Scholarship recipient until 31 January of the current study year according to the following general criteria:

12.1. potential of scientific results impact;

12.2. originality of scientific activity;

12.3. relevance of scientific activity;

12.4. scope of scientific activity.

13. The Commission’s decision is made by simple majority and formalized by a protocol, which is signed by all the Commission members who evaluated the Candidates.

 **CHAPTER III**

 **PROCEDURE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT**

14. Following the Commission’s proposal, the Scholarship is awarded by the order of the Rector or his authorized Vice-Rector and is transferred to the personal account of the Scholarship recipient no later than during a month since awarding the Scholarship.

15. The University informs *GO Vilnius* about awarding the Scholarship yearly no later than 15 February of the current year.

16. The Scholarship is not paid or its payment is terminated in case, during the period from awarding the Scholarship until its transferral to the Scholarship recipient’s account, the Scholarship recipient terminated his studies or was expelled from the University or was penalized in compliance with the University legal acts.

17. In any case set forth in Article 16 of the Regulations awarding or payment of the Scholarship is terminated by the Rector or his authorized Vice-Rector following the LSC Director’s proposal.

18. Having terminated the Scholarship payment, the issue of using unpaid monetary means is decided by a separate *GO Vilnius* and LSC agreement concerning the reallocation of the Scholarship funds to the Competition of the next study year.

19. The Scholarship recipient(s) is informed about the Commission’s decision and the Rector’s or his authorized Vice-Rector’s order concerning transferral of the Scholarship. During the annual reporting meeting of the LSC taking place at the end of February or first half of March, the Scholarship awarding certificate, issued by the Doctoral School and signed by the LSC Director, is solemnly handed to the Scholarship recipient(s).

20. The student may be awarded the Scholarship once only.

21. The student having received the Scholarship retains the possibility to receive awards or scholarships established in the state or other national or University legal acts.

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