

Human geography

The aim of the study programme is to train highly qualified specialists of social geography by developing their competences oriented towards knowledge economy; to investigate the social and economic development problems of Lithuania; and to apply the principles of sustainability to the solution of social problems in the context of the Baltic Region and the EU members states.

The study programme is related to the following types of study outcomes:

- A) Knowledge and its application;
- B) Research abilities;
- C) Special abilities;
- D) Social abilities;
- E) Personal abilities.

Study outcomes

A) Knowledge and its application:

A1. The knowledge and the understanding of the aims and objectives of the EU regional policy, the ability to analyze the impact of the EU regional policy on Lithuania and the Baltic Region and to establish the impact of the EU policy on different social economic processes, the competitiveness of European countries (regions), regional cohesion and development, as well as to determine and assess the scenarios of the EU regional policy development for different sectors of economy and to analyze and assess regional development problems and their alternatives.

A2. The knowledge of the activities of the branches of economy in the countries and regions of the world, their diversity and classifications, the factors of uneven geographic distribution, regularities, and the interaction of the factors that precondition geographic distribution with the social-demographic, economic, and cultural indicators of the development of the society and economy in different countries.

A3. The ability to analyze the latest problems of research in respective study fields, to combine the elements of theory and practice, to understand the problems of the latest social and economic developments and their alternative solutions, and to analyze and assess complex insights for the forecast of the development of the researched issues and for territorial modelling.

A4. The ability to assess the intensity of economic relations of the states and of international trade, to analyze and assess the indices of the social economic development of the countries and their competitiveness, to understand the impact of globalization on the social economic systems of the countries, and to analyse the scenarios of further development of countries (regions).

A5. The knowledge of the latest trends of the development in urban studies and the sectors of maritime transport and the recreation and tourism economy; the ability to identify the problems, conflicts, and alternatives of the spatial development in those sectors, and the knowledge and understanding of the significance of social geography for problem solution, the formation of a strategic approach, and decision making.

B) Research abilities:

B1. The understanding and the knowledge of the methodology of quantitative and qualitative social research; the ability to establish the sequence of geographic research methods in societal research; the ability to establish the intensity, causes, effects, and relationships between the processes in the social and natural environments; and the ability to conduct sociological surveys of the population and do different complex territorial research.

B2. The understanding and the knowledge of the methods of collection and analysis of scientific literature; the ability to analyze the sources of geodata and other information, to interpret and summarize information in accordance with specific themes, to analyze scientific articles published

in databases, to assess their relevance and applicability in accordance with the themes of research, and to do critical analysis of scientific research (articles).

B3. The ability to analyze and systematize the natural resources (renewable and non-renewable) of the EU and the Baltic Region countries, to establish the means of rational exploitation of the resources and the impact on the environment, and to identify the problems of sustainable economic development, the alternatives of their solution, their justification, and practical application.

C) Special abilities:

C1. The understanding of the financial mechanisms of the EU measures for regional development and of the added value of the regional development programmes; the ability to write applications for regional development projects, to analyze the opportunities for development (to do feasibility studies), and to draw the budget of the project; understanding of the principles of project management; and the ability to analyze the requirements of the national, the EU, and other support funds and their applicability to project writing.

C2. The ability to identify the data (statistical and descriptive) for the spatial modelling of social processes and to work out the methodological sequences of data application in the conducting of research.

C3. The ability to do statistical–mathematical calculation, a statistical-mathematical analysis of errors and comparisons, and the assessment of the accuracy and reliability of the data; the knowledge of the applicability of the principles of statistics, mathematics, and spatial statistics in the research of human geography.

C4. The ability to work with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), to create geodata bases for the conducting of research, to understand the application of cartographic methods, to assess and establish the meanings of the modelled processes in the analysis of the social spatial processes, and to apply GIS remote sensing methods for the analysis of spatial (territorial) processes.

D) Social abilities:

D1. The ability to use legal documents, to understand the meaning of documents and legal acts in the research of social geography, and to assess the impact of different documents on social-economic processes at the local, national (regional), and global levels.

D2. Understanding and assessment of the importance of a holistic approach in the research of geography-related problems and in decision making.

E) Personal abilities:

E1. The ability to clearly and correctly present the research outcomes and conclusions to different audiences, both orally and in writing; the knowledge of the principles of presentation and publicizing of the research outcomes; the ability to competently answer to the questions, to assess the significance of a geographic approach to the justification of the outcomes of social-economic research, and to understand the significance of the science of geography for the research of human geography.

E2. The ability of time planning and work organization, the knowledge of professional terminology of the science of geography, the understanding of the significance of the factors of national culture when participating in international events, the ability to speak several foreign languages, the knowledge of the geography of Lithuania's neighbour states and the ability to assess the processes of social economic geography taking place in them, the knowledge of the code of ethics and diplomacy, and the ability to assess the significance of tolerance and politeness in the pursuit of the personal professional career.

Application of the learning outcomes to practice

The students of the graduate study programme of *Human Geography* study the EU regional policy and investigate the latest trends of the world economy and economic globalization, marine

economy, recreation and tourism, and urban studies and city development, as well as their impact on countries and regions. The processes are analyzed by means of the methods of spatial statistics and GIS; the abilities of writing applications for regional development projects are developed, expertise of the processes of regional developments is carried out, and feasibility studies are developed. The students' abilities are trained to create new GIS databases, to analyze areas by integrated indicators, to present research outcomes with cartographic presentation, and to polish professional English.

On the completion of the studies, graduates can work in municipal institutions, regional development agencies, national parks, labour exchanges, the departments of social care, and in environmental protection, as geography teachers, in travel agencies, as sales managers or analysts, in the field of finance, transportation, logistics, and trade, as personnel and marketing managers, market analysts, regional development experts, project leaders, in educational institutions and research institutes. They can also continue in doctoral studies.