

Social economic geography and regional studies

The aim of the study programme is to train specialists of human geography able to investigate, analyze, manage, and model social-economic problems of the society and economy, to identify the spatial causes of the problems, and to apply the principles of sustainable development to their solutions; to train specialists of regional development.

The study programme shall be related to the following types of the learning outcomes:

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

Learning outcomes

A) The knowledge and its application.

A1. The knowledge and assessment of the indices reflecting the population's geodemographic and the country's geopolitical situation and the factors that influence the geodemographic structure of the society in Lithuania and in other countries and regions of the world. The ability to analyze human economic activities, their diversity and classifications, the factors preconditioning their distribution, and their interactions with other social-demographic-cultural indices of the society while pursuing the tasks of sustainable development.

A2. Understanding of the structure and the components of natural geosystems, the knowledge of the elements of landscape and its different interactions, the ability to assess the natural resources, including both non-renewable and renewable, the methods and measures of their rational use, and the impact on the environment, society, and individual regions.

A3. Understanding and the ability to assess the classical conceptions and modern methods applied to social sciences and particularly to human geography, as well as to the analysis of the obtained outcomes, their comparison, practical application, and decision making.

B) Research abilities

B1. Understanding and knowledge of the methodology of quantitative and qualitative social research; the ability to establish the sequence of geographic research methods in the conducting of societal research and to identify the intensity of societal and natural environmental processes, their causes, consequences, and relationships; and the ability to conduct sociological surveys of the population and different territorial complex research.

B2. Understanding and knowledge of the methods of collection and analysis of scientific literature; the ability to analyze the sources of geodata and statistical data, as well as other relevant sources of information; the ability to interpret and to summarize the information under specific subjects; to analyze scientific articles published in scientific databases and to assess their relevance and application to the research themes.

B3. The ability: to identify and analyze the problems of Lithuania's human resources, economic branches, land use, urban and rural areas, landscape, tourism, social culture, services, economic, social, and territorial administration problems; to assess and develop the stages of solution of geographic problems of the society and the economy, as well as in interaction with the natural and social environment; and to analyze and understand the quantitative and qualitative attributes of the problems, their relationships, typologies, classifications, hierarchies, causes, and consequences.

B4. The knowledge of the importance of application of a foreign language (English) to geographic and regional research; the ability to communicate with foreign specialists in respective professional fields; and the knowledge of the principles of organization of field studies and training practices through the implementation of the trips and expeditions.

C) Special abilities

C1. Understanding and knowledge of the ways of application of professional knowledge to the solution of quantitative and qualitative tasks within the field of human geography, frequently with just limited and/or contradictory information in possession; the ability to analyze different databases, data sets, and information sources and to establish and assess their reliability and the rules of application to geographic research.

C2. The ability to establish and to analyze the latest problems in the field of studies and to seek and assess the latest strategies of solutions and the methods of research; to understand the principles of combining the elements of theory and practice, their conformity and contradictions, exceptions and comparisons; the knowledge of the latest theories and their modifications, of social and geographic methods of research, and the conditions of their application.

C3. The ability to use ICT, to understand digital computerized methods, to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), to develop geodata bases for the conducting of research, to understand the application of cartographic (mapping) methods; and to assess and to establish the meanings of modelling processes for the analysis of the societal spatial processes.

D) Social abilities:

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

D2. The ability to establish the spatial processes in the development of the society, to analyze contradictory and concurrent situations, to analyze the interaction between society and nature, economics, and politics, and to understand the importance of sustainability principles and their application to decision making, elaboration of alternatives, their justification, and their practical application.

D3. The ability to understand and assess the importance of a holistic approach to the research into geographic problems and to strategic decision making

E) Personal abilities:

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

E2. The ability to do statistical-mathematical calculations, to do statistical-mathematical analysis of errors and comparisons, and to assess the reliability and accuracy of the data; the knowledge of the principles of application of statistics and mathematics to social-economic geography and regional studies.

E3. The ability to plan time and organize work; the knowledge of professional terminology of the science of geography; the understanding of the importance 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 countries and the ability to assess the social geography processes in them; the knowledge of the codes of ethics and diplomacy; and the ability to assess the importance of tolerance and politeness for one's personal professional career.

Application of the learning outcomes to practice

Graduate of the undergraduate studies of *Social Economic Geography and Regional Studies* shall have the knowledge of social and economic geography, research methods of the regional studies, demography, Lithuanian geography, political geography and geopolitics, land formation, territorial planning, management, economics, politics, sociology, law, and public administration. They shall be able to carry out the mapping of social economic processes, to analyze the researched

phenomena by GIS methods, to conduct social surveys of the population, to work with statistical databases and the SPSS programme, and shall be acquainted with the geography of Lithuania's neighbour states. The knowledge acquired during the studies shall be applied in the training, field, and special practices, and professional English shall be mastered.

On the completion of studies, graduates shall be able to work in municipal institutions (city municipalities and rural administrative districts), regional development agencies, national parks, job centres, in the field of environmental protection; they can work as teachers of geography, as sales managers and analysts, in travel agencies, in the fields of transportation, logistics, and commerce, and as consultants in enterprises which develop and administer national and international projects. They can continue in the second cycle (Master) studies.