

Student Scientific Society

The Student Scientific Society of the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University (hereinafter - VU TF SMD) is a joint project of two active student organisations – ELSA Vilnius (ELSA – European Law Students' Association) and the Student Representation of the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University (VU TF SA). The project brings together students who are interested in research in the area of law, researchers of the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University who seek to pass on their research experience and skills, and representatives of other professions.

VU TF SMD Project Stages

1. **Preparation and proposal of the topics for research articles (May–July).** In this stage the lecturers of the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University who are interested in acting as curators of VU TF SMD must propose relevant topics to be included in the list of topics and published on the website of the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University. The students will be able to choose the topics (irrespective of their study mode) as agreed with the curators. Students may also find a curator independently and propose their own topic.
2. **Selection of topics and team formation (1 September–30 September).** In this stage, teams consisting of two students (students may be in different years of studies) and two curators must be formed. One of the curators must be a lecturer of the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University (academic curator), the other curator may not be a lawyer and may represent any other profession (practical curator). Both the academic curator and the students may propose the practical curator. The main task of the practical curator during the preparation of the research paper is to provide comments regarding the relevance of the paper, and the feasibility and other aspects of its implementation.
3. **Preparation of research papers (1 October–26 February).** In this stage, the teams prepare their research articles. The form of communication (meetings, email, etc.) is agreed internally between the students and curators. The teams must email completed research articles and other supplementary material (slides, video, etc.) to info@vutfsmd.lt by the date specified above. In this stage, seminars for students and curators on how to write an article, how to make a public speech, how to make an efficient presentation, etc. will be organised.
4. **Elimination conference (9 March–variable date).** During the conference, all participating teams will present their research papers. During the conference, a special committee (each year the composition of the committee varies) will provide their observations regarding the research articles and will select the 6 best teams, which will take part in the final conference.
5. **Submission of research articles (10 March–5 April).** In this stage, the teams will provide their research articles, revised according to the comments, for publication in the annual VU TF SMD journal by email info@vutfsmd.lt.
6. **Final conference (6 April–variable date).** At the final conference, the students will compete for the award for the best paper and a lump-sum scholarship of Prof. J. Žeruolis (the 3 best teams will be awarded scholarships).

Student Scientific Society is an opportunity

- To explore the desired area of law in cooperation with curators, to produce a research article to be published in the VU TF SMD journal, and to present the article at VU TF SMD conferences;
- To have the research article recognised as a term paper of 3 ECTS credits with the approval of the academic curator;
- To participate in the training organised exclusively for VU TF SMD members;
- To cooperate directly with researchers of the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University.

Procedure for recognition of the VU TF SMD research paper as a term paper

- Students in their second or third year of studies, who wish their research article to be recognised as a term paper, must get the approval of the academic curator by filling in an application of the established form at the Studies Unit (Room 606). The application must be submitted to the Studies Unit by 26 February. The research article must be uploaded into the Information System of Vilnius University by 30 June.
- Students in their fourth year of studies, who wish their research article to be recognised as a term paper, must get the approval of the academic curator by filling in an application of the established form at the Studies Unit (Room 606). The application must be submitted to the Studies Unit by 6 January. The research article must be uploaded into the Information System of Vilnius University by 26 January.