

APPROVED

by Resolution No. SPN-14 of 17 March 2026  
of the Senate of Vilnius University

**VILNIUS UNIVERSITY  
PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION  
OF ACADEMIC ETHICS VIOLATIONS  
FOR 2026–2028**

**Preamble**

The Senate of Vilnius University (hereinafter the ‘Senate’), emphasising that academic ethics and academic integrity are the essential preconditions for the mission of Vilnius University (hereinafter the ‘VU’, ‘University’), the quality of studies and research, trust in academic achievements and the reputation of the University, hereby establishes a consistent, evidence-based, and community-wide direction of prevention of academic ethics violations for the period of 2026–2028. The Senate underlines that a culture of academic ethics is not just about meeting the requirements or imposing sanctions; it is a daily practice of the academic community grounded in honesty, respect, responsibility, and fairness.<sup>1</sup>

The Senate, updating and developing the University’s academic ethics culture, draws on the regulatory bases of academic ethics valid at the University, including the VU Code of Academic Ethics and the system of academic ethics commissions, which ensures the interpretation of ethical standards, consultation, and the investigation of violations. The Plan for the Prevention of Academic Ethics Violations (hereinafter the ‘Plan’) is a strategic and overarching document designed to strengthen clear rules, develop competencies, raise community awareness, ensure fair assessment practices, and reduce the risks of academic dishonesty, while maintaining proportionality, procedural justice, and orientation of assistance.

The Senate, taking into account the conclusions of the exploratory study on academic ethics conducted by the Vilnius University Students’ Representation (hereinafter the ‘VU SA’) from 10 December 2024 to 10 January 2025, concludes that additional, targeted, and coordinated measures are necessary for the prevention of academic dishonesty. The study shows that more than 80 per cent of students have performed activities that could be considered academically dishonest at least once in the past year, and that significant effects of technological change are recorded: 55.9 per cent of students used artificial intelligence (hereinafter the ‘AI’) tools (e.g. *ChatGPT*, *Copilot*, *Quillbot*) for academic purposes, and

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<sup>1</sup> International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI), Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity (honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage).

14.54 per cent did so on a regular basis (11 times or more).<sup>2</sup> At the same time, a need for clear rules and literacy is evident: 24.44 per cent of students reported that the rules for using AI at the University were unclear to them and 11.40 per cent claimed they simply did not know about it; in the context of academic literacy, 35.97 per cent rephrased or copied content without a reference at least once, and 1.37 per cent submitted the work done by others as their own. The aforementioned indicators should be considered sufficient grounds for adopting preventive measures that focus both on detecting violations and, primarily, on clarity, education, fair assessment alternatives, and risk reduction.

In the development of this Plan, the Senate also follows international and foreign university practices, which define academic integrity as an institution's and the community's commitment to fundamental values and their implementation through clear policies, assessment culture, consultation, and consistent communication. European and international academic integrity networks emphasise that effective prevention requires (i) clear and accessible rules, (ii) strengthening community competencies, (iii) harmonisation of institutional processes (study, assessment, AI usage, citation, and academic literacy), and (iv) continuous, data-driven monitoring of the situation and review of measures.<sup>3</sup>

Taking into account the aforementioned principles and data, the Senate hereby approves the VU Plan for the Prevention of Academic Ethics Violations for 2026–2028, which aims to: (i) strengthen the culture of academic ethics and the confidence of the community in the learning outcomes; (ii) reduce the incidence of academic dishonesty, including risks associated with the use of AI; (iii) ensure clear, uniformly understood and applied rules and procedures; (iv) develop prevention measures focused on education, consulting, and the introduction of fair assessment practices; (v) ensure a continuous assessment of the effectiveness of the measures and accountability. Monitoring and coordination of the implementation of the Plan shall be carried out by the Community Well-Being Division, which shall provide annual reports to the Senate.

### I. Measures aimed at students

Measure	Responsible unit	Implementation period	Impact indicator
A lecture on academic ethics during integration activities	Core academic units (CAU)	Q3 2026 Q3 2027 Q3 2028	Every year, a lecture on academic ethics is held during integration activities at all CAUs.

<sup>2</sup> Report on the Study of Academic Dishonesty of Vilnius University Students 2025, Vilnius University Students' Representation, Virbašius, P. [https://vustudentuatstovybe.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/vieningai/EYznVwl\\_LL9NvM9CgFQV0iABRwGrzs5-v71u1BV4Fdv8w](https://vustudentuatstovybe.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/vieningai/EYznVwl_LL9NvM9CgFQV0iABRwGrzs5-v71u1BV4Fdv8w) (in Lithuanian)

<sup>3</sup> European Network for Academic Integrity (ENAI), Academic Integrity Policies Working Group / institutional policy best practices.

Academic ethics training for PhD students	Department for Research and Innovation	Q1 2027 Q1 2028	Academic ethics training is carried out for PhD students, each of which involves at least 60 per cent of PhD students
Inclusion of academic ethics topics in the content of study programmes	Core academic units	2026–2028	In each study programme, at least one module integrates and clearly defines the academic ethics competency.
Updated methodological guidelines for final theses and other research papers to include topics on academic ethics with specific examples	Core academic units	Q2 2027	All methodological guidelines contain information with specific examples on academic ethics.
A developed and implemented for use declaration of academic ethics during assessments via electronic means	Core academic units	Q2 2027	During all assessments via electronic means, students sign a declaration of academic ethics.
The functions of the academic ethics ambassadors (Ambassadors are teaching staff members who take various measures to promote academic ethics at VU) integrated into the Teaching Staff Academy network	VU SA and VU Educational Competence Centre	Q4 2028	The Teaching Staff Academy network has implemented 15 initiatives aimed at fostering the principles of academic ethics.
A lecturer on academic ethics created on the basis of artificial intelligence (AI could consult students on issues of academic ethics (AE), citation, etc. (AI AE twin))	Community Well-Being Division	Q4 2028	500 students consulted.
A conducted survey on the climate of academic ethics	VU SA and the Study Quality and Development Division	Q3 2026 Q3 2028	Two representative studies of academic ethics are implemented, based on the methodology of Dr Donald McCabe and the International Center for Academic Integrity. The change in the

			climate of academic ethics is assessed by comparing the results of 2026 and 2028 studies.
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## II. Measures aimed at academic staff

Measure	Responsible unit	Implementation period	Impact indicator
A general academic ethics training material for academic staff and PhD students prepared; the training must be passed within half a year from the start of work/studies.	VU Educational Competence Centre	Q4 2026 – Q4 2028	Mixed continuous training organised, attended by at least 60 teaching staff members.
Developed guidelines for teaching staff members on the application of innovative methods to reduce the risk of academic ethics violations.	VU Educational Competence Centre	Q4 2026	Guidelines are developed and available to the teaching staff.
A study of academic staff carried out on the observance and application of the principles of academic ethics in their activities.	Strategic Management Division	Q1 2027	A representative study of VU academic staff carried out.
A community of practice group on academic ethics created.	VU Educational Competence Centre	Q2 2027	A community of practice group created and at least three meetings on sharing best practices organised.

## III. Development of academic ethics infrastructure

Measure	Responsible unit	Implementation period	Impact indicator
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Ensured systematic prevention of academic ethics violations at Vilnius University	Community Well-Being Division	Q3 2026	The coordination of academic ethics at Vilnius University is carried out by the Community Well-Being Division.
Celebration of the Academic Ethics Day (October 16)	Community Well-Being Division	Q4 2026 Q4 2027 Q4 2028	The Academic Ethics Day celebrated at Vilnius University.
The analysis of the decisions of the academic ethics commissions of Vilnius University's core academic units and integrity thereof as well as of their activities carried out and recommendations submitted	Central Academic Ethics Commission	Q1 2026 Q1 2027 Q1 2028	The analysis was prepared and recommendations were made for the improvement of the activities of the academic ethics commissions.
The Regulations of the Academic Ethics Commission of the Core Academic Units of VU reviewed and, if necessary, updated	A working group formed by the Senate	Q1 2027	A working group created to review the Regulations and update them if necessary.
The Code of Academic Ethics of Vilnius University reviewed and, if necessary, updated	A working group formed by the Senate	Q1 2027	A working group created to review the Code and update it if necessary.
A register of decisions adopted by the Central Academic Ethics Commission compiled, in which a common culture for solving relevant issues is publicised and shaped	VU Legislative Division	Q3 2026 – Q4 2026	A register of decisions, accessible to academic ethics commissions, compiled and continuously updated.

**Monitoring the implementation of the Plan and accountability**

The Community Well-Being Division shall, by 1 March each year, submit a report to the Senate on the implementation of the Plan, which shall include information on the measures implemented, the achieved impact indicators, and proposals for the adjustment of the Plan. The Senate, after assessing the content of the report, may decide on the adjustment or supplementation of the Plan's measures.

The implementation of the Plan shall be ensured and facilitated by the VU Pro-Rector for Organisation Development and Community Affairs, together with the VU Community Well-Being Division.