**KAZIMIERAS SIMONAVICIUS UNIVERSITY**

STUDY FIELD OF LAW
2017

# SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

LAW
(State code – 601M90003, new code – 6011KX004)

Rector of Kazimieras Simonavicius University    .......................   Prof. Dr. Arūnas Augustinaitis

Head of Self-Evaluation Working Group    .........................   Dr. Aida Kišūnaitė

Vilnius, June 2017

Information given in Self-Evaluation Report about study programme in study field of Law

| Title of the study programme | Law |
|---|---|
| State code of study programme | 601M90003 (new code 6011KX004) |
| Study type | University studies |
| Study cycle | Integrated |
| Form of study (duration in years) | Full-time 5 years, Part-time 6 years |
| Program scope in credits | 300 ECTS |
| Qualification title to be awarded | Master of Law |
| Program registration date and order number | 2009-08-17, order no. 1-73 |

## Self-evaluation group

| Seq. No. | Academic title (degree) name and last name | Position | Phone | E-mail adress |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Dr. Aida Kišūnaitė | Dean of Faculty of Law | +370 5 213 5172 | aida.kisunaite@ksu.lt |
| 2. | Prof. Dr. Raimundas Kalesnykas | Professor of Faculty of Law | +370 679 44441 | raimundas.kalesnykas@ksu.lt |
| 3. | Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gintautas Šulija | Associate Professor of Faculty of Law | +37067601088 | gintautas.sulija@ksu.lt |
| 4. | Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lina Aleknaitė – Van der Molen | Associate Professor of Faculty of Law | +370 682 10873 | lina.aleknaite@ksu.lt |
| 5. | Agnė Bružaitė | Head of Studies Development Department | +370 5 213 3606 +370 655 62117 | agne.bruzaite@ksu.lt |
| 6. | Dovile Satkauskienė | Chief of the Lithuanian Chamber of Bailiffs | 370 5 2750067 | dovile@antstoliurumai.lt. |
| 7. | Olegas Beriozovas | President of KSU Alumni Club, Graduate of Law study programme | +370 609 14472 | olegas.beriozovas@ksu.lt |

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ANNEX 1.     Plan of Law study programme
ANNEX 2.     Description of study courses
ANNEX 3.     List of academic staff
ANNEX 4.     Curriculum Vitae of academic staff
ANNEX 5.     List of Final theses
ANNEX 6.     Summary of 2014 assesment findings of KSU Law programme
ANNEX 7.     Organisational structure of Kazimieras Simonavicius University
ANNEX 8.     Participants of international mobility programmes in 2012 - 2017
ANNEX 9.     Partners of Kazimieras Simonavicius University
ANNEX 10.    Places of Final Internships of Kazimieras Simonavicius University Law study programme students in 2012-2017
ANNEX 11.    Students participation in mobility programmes

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Kazimieras Simonavičius University (hereinafter the University) is a non-state university, established in 2003. It has developed through two qualitatively different stages:

1) in 2003–2011 the University functioned as a public institution Vilnius Academy of Business Law. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania on 25 August 2003 registered the public institution Vilnius Academy of Business Law (registration certificate No. 000495) and issued an authorization for the integrated university studies (licence No. 002426). During that period the University prepared only the specialists of the analysed programme of studies who, upon completion of the integrated law studies, used to acquire a degree of master in law.

2) on 5 January 2012, upon change of the stakeholders (shareholders) of PI Vilnius Business Law Academy it was decided to rearrange this university. The reorganisation of the University included the change of its legal form, the name, and the appointment of new managers of the university. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania provided the license issued in 2003, and on 8 February 2012 allowed Kazimieras Simonavičius University, UAB to engage in other activities related to studies (permit No. 002081). The year 2012 was a qualitatively new stage of the University's activities: in order to improve the administrative capacity, the administrative structure of the University was rearranged, programmes of studies relevant for society were developed, current and new national and international partnerships were intensively developed, the University was deploying modern information technology systems, and strengthening the research base. On 23 August 2012 the non-governmental university Graduate School public institution Public Business and Management Academy (hereinafter the BMA) with academic and structural units successfully integrated in the University structure, and merged to the University.

The Self-Evaluation Report of the programme of studies contains information from 1 September 2012.

Studies at Kazimieras Simonavičius University are carried out in Vilnius (the main division) and in Klaipėda. The main academic structural units are the faculties (institutes, centres, schools can also function as faculties) and departments. Faculties are the basic structural units, developing cant implementing programmes of studies and carrying out research activities.

At the beginning of 2012, considering the management changes at the University and the needs of implementation of new accredited study programmes and relevant scientific research, the fundamental changes were made to the University's development strategy: its organizational structure was redesigned, and in 2016 the structure of the University, in the course of the University development, was complemented with new divisions (see Annex 7).

According to the information of 10 February 2017, University had a total 443 students in full-time and part-time studies, of them: 176 in the Faculty of Law (in the programmes of Law, International Business Law, Law and Economic Security, from them – 90 in Klaipėda section (reorganized into the Department of Klaipėda)), 172 in the Creativity Society and Economy Institute (in the programs of Creative and Cultural Industries, Entertainment and Tourism Industries, Fashion Industry), 63 in the School of Business (in the programmes of Aviation Management, Marketing and Advertising, Business Management, Entrepreneurship and Management), 17 in the Economic Linguistics Department (in Political Communication and Journalism programme), 15 in the Internet Engineering Department (in Internet Engineering programme).

During the analyzed period (from September 2012 to January 2017) the University had 239 graduates of the integrated programme of Law studies who were awarded diplomas of the Master in Law. Since its founding in 2003, a total of 516 graduates completed 8 full-time and 17 part-time courses of the Law studies at the University.

The working group assigned the task to carry out the self-evaluation of the Law study programme and draw up the Self-Evaluation Report was formed according to the Order No.4 of the

Rector of Kazimieras Simonavicius University of 6 February 2017. The Self-Evaluation Working Group (see Table 1) was set up with due consideration to the quality policy of the University, values and provisions of academic ethics, establishing the objective to involve into all processes taking part at the University all administration employees, teachers (researchers), students and social partners. The Self-Evaluation Working Group is made up of five employees of the University, one representative of employers and one graduate of the Law study programme. Each member of the Self-Evaluation working group was drafting individual self-evaluation parts for which she/he was responsible (see Table 1). The summary version of the Self-Evaluation Report was edited up by the Head of the Self-Evaluation Working Group.

**Table 1.** The contribution of members of the Self-Evaluation Working Group in drafting the Self-Evaluation Report of the Law study programme

| No. | Academic title, degree, name and last name | Sections of the Self-Evaluation Report drafted |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Dr. Aida Kišūnaitė | 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.1.3; 2.2.3, 2.1.5; 2.2.5, 2.1.6, 2.2.6 |
| 2. | Prof. Dr. Raimundas Kalesnykas | 2.1.3, 2.2.3, 2.1.5, 2.2.5, 2.1.6, 2.2.6 |
| 3. | Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gintautas Šulija | 2.1.1, 2,2.1, 2.1.6, 2.2.6 |
| 4. | Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lina Aleknaitė-Van der Molen | 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.2 |
| 5. | Agnė Bružaitė | 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 2.1.4, 2.2.4, 2.1.5, 2.2.5, 2.1.6, 2.2.6 |
| 6. | Dovilė Satkauskienė | 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.1.6, 2.2.6 |
| 7. | Olegas Beriozovas | 2.1.5, 2.2.5 |

The Self-Evaluation Report was drafted according to the approved schedule (see Table 2). The Self-Evaluation Report was drafted in stages. Meetings and discussions of members of the Self-Evaluation Working Group were arranged after each stage of the self-evaluation assignment to discuss any issues encountered or the outcomes of the self-evaluation exercise. The data required for the analysis was collected from the different reports, research papers, and the performance self-evaluation reports drawn up by the University and its individual units.

**Table 2.** Schedule for the drafting of the Self-Evaluation Report

| No. | Assignment title | Term |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Forming of the Self-Evaluation group | 2017 February |
| 2. | Set up of the work schedule, identification of assignment and allocation of responsibilities | 2017 March |
| 3. | Collection, systematisation and analysis of the required data | 2017 April |
| 4. | Discussion of the preliminary results of the self-evaluation | 2017 April |
| 5. | Drafting of the final Self-Evaluation Report | 2017 April–June |
| 6. | Discussion of the Self-Evaluation Report | 2017 June |

The self-evaluation of the programme of Law studies is prepared for the second time under the Law studies field evaluation plan drafted by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. The previous evaluation of the programme took place in 2014 and a group of experts consisted of Dr. Robert Lane (Head of the Group), Prof. Tanel Kerikmäe; Prof. Mar Campins Eritja; Dr. Raimundas Kalesnykas; Ramūnas Kazlaukas; Birutė Noreikaitė.

# 2. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

## 2.1. Integrated Law study programme (full-time studies)

### 2.1.1. Programme aim and learning outcomes

The Law studies are an integral part of the social environment that directly reflects with the economic, political and cultural development of the society, therefore, both the law and the concepts of justice and legality stem from public relations, their formation and the result created by those relationships.

Also, the need for the law studies arises from a common vision of the state, which is reflected in the priority areas of activities – creation of new jobs, provision of high-quality services, and development of a mature civil society. The Lithuanian Progress Strategy for the year 2030 states that one of the three areas of progress – management – must be based on evidence-based information. It should be noted that legal information is one of the most important evidence-based policy-making aspects, the importance of which is further enhanced by a multi-level management system that requires legal compatibility between different levels of governance.

Typically, law studies are designed to train qualified legal professionals who can work in all legal institutions, i.e. to be judges, lawyers, notaries, bailiffs and engage in other legal activities in the private or public sector.

A person with lawyer's qualifications must be socially responsible – his professional knowledge, skill, personal characteristics, values system not only directly leads to specific operational success, but also the public value orientation, based on the principles of justice, fairness, legality fostering equality, respect for human aspirations, recognition of the rule of law and respect of law. Current lawyers are subject to very high ethical standards, along with equally important and socially responsible behaviour and responsibility to society.

The concept of law, a category expressing a specific public mental and social model of relations, is the main object of studies of different periods lawyers, philosophers, sociologists, political scientists and other scholars. The concept of law is constantly given different meanings, however, it has been unanimously agreed that the law is not just a set of rules and norms (as a whole), and that the modern conception of good requires every lawyer to understand that the law is not an isolated means of social control. It expresses the values of society, creative and social practices, therefore, it is the factor of society integration, and socialisation acting in addition to other social norms.

It is widely recognized that the law is a social phenomenon. Society itself lays down the rules which it recognizes and follows, but these rules, in interaction with other social norms, are changing – they are modified. This is caused by the changing needs of society and legal relations, necessitating the change of the content of law, receiving the law as a continuous process, while maintaining the stability of its legal values , with the help of which to create and maintain the public confidence in the law, public authorities and judicial authorities

The Europe Strategy 2020 highlights the innovative and smart economic development, as well as the role of small business and entrepreneurship. One of the priorities in the development of the single market is a favourable environment for entrepreneurship. Its development is impossible without adaptation of modern legal paradigms to business needs. The purpose of the main initiatives of the Europe 2020 – the "Innovation Union"[1] – is to transform ideas into new jobs, green growth and social progress". This initiative is to emphasise that the future economic growth and jobs in Europe will increasingly more depend on innovations in products, services and business models. This means that the business and legal regulation of social relations cannot be static. Lithuania 2030 highlights the importance of smart economy, which is based on knowledge, entrepreneurship and social responsibility. The strategy project envisages "to focus great attention on the promotion of

---

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm

entrepreneurship and support business creation"[2]. Innovative economy leads to changes in the regulation of modern legal and social relations, and the emergence of innovative social ideas in all areas. The emergence of the Innovation Law (*Innovationsrecht*) in the EU's universities is a vivid example of these changes[3].

Objectives and outcomes of the provided programme are formulated in accordance with the Dublin descriptors and levels of studies, and the methodological guidance of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education.

**The aim of Law study programme** is to train top-level lawyers capable of exercising the conceptual way of thinking, identifying and solving problems of legal regulation in various fields and of various complexity, applying legal norms and serving the public and private sectors at the national, regional and international levels, in compliance with professional qualification, social responsibility, quality and ethical standards.

Requirements for the professional field for which the specialists are trained, were taken into account in the formation of the programme aim and the learning outcomes. Legal professionals must:

1. Be able to independently identify relevant sources of law, to have knowledge of the principles of public and private law and the institutional framework, relations between them, the law relationship of law with the political, economic and social processes, to be able to use legal principles and rules of law in a proper manner, in addressing modern problems. To integrate the knowledge in the field of law and be able to apply it in the analysis of practical situations, dealing with problems in national, international and supra national context.

2. To be able to logically, critically and systematically analyze legal texts and to think not only within the law but also in accordance with the law – in the abstract and conceptual way, to see the theoretical foundations and institutes manifesting him practical legal phenomena, to apply the acquired knowledge for correct and reasoned layout of the legal thought and its justification.

3. While working independently and in a team, must be able to identify the legal measures and methods of solving a social dispute with the element of legal vulnerability, which would best suit and purposefully change the situation and ensure the effective protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the subject of social relations, and their implementation. To identify legal issues, to apply the mastered methodologies and techniques to solve these problems, to adapt them and use in the investigative or professional activities.

4. With a wide range of theoretical and practical knowledge of the nature and purpose of law, principles of business and financial branches and the range of content of their norms, to be able to interpret and apply the law creatively. Using innovative technologies, to be able to plan, organize and control individual activities, to distribute and coordinate tasks, and to monitor their performance.

5. To be able to understand the purpose and content of law, to critically evaluate different opinions and positions, to correctly apply the norms of law in non-standard situations, to correctly create documents expressing the norms of law. To be able to impart knowledge and to take responsibility for the decisions made.

6. To be able to develop and engage in lifelong learning, to accept innovations, identify legal issues, adapt them and use them in their professional practice. To be able to create a socially responsible environment, and make innovative solutions in it.

Aim of the programme and the learning outcomes are relevant and meet the professional requirements for the programme graduates, provide knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for professional activities. Relationships between the programme aim, learning outcomes and study courses are presented in Table 3.

---

[2] http://www.lietuva2030.lt/images/stories/projektas.pdf
[3] http://www.zmi.uni-giessen.de/publikationen/publikationen-geistigeseigentum.html

**Table 3.** Relations between the aim, learning outcomes and study courses

| Aim of the program | | |
|---|---|---|
| **The aim of the programme** is to train top-level lawyers capable of exercising the conceptual way of thinking, identifying and solving problems of legal regulation in various fields and of various complexity, applying legal norms and serving the public and private sectors at the national, regional and international levels, in compliance with professional qualification, social responsibility, quality and ethical standards. | | |
| **Description of results of the level of studies** | **Learning outcomes of the study programme** | **Courses (modules)** |
| 1. Knowledge and its application | 1.1. Students have to acquire fundamental legal knowledge, to understand the principles and the institutional system of the public and private law, their relationship, the relationship of law with political, economic and social processes. | Constitutional law; International private law; International public law; European Union law; History of law; Theory of law; Legal institutions; History of political, legal and economic theories; Economic theory, Non-governmental organization law |
| | 1.2. Students must acquire a wide range of theoretical and practical knowledge of the essence and purpose of rights and freedoms, to learn the principles of individual branches of law and the content of their norms, to know the structure and formation of legal institutions. | Philosophy; Roman law; History of law; Theory of law; Law sociology; Labour law; Family law; Financial law; Business and commercial law; Administrative and administrative procedure law; Criminal law; Criminal procedure law; Civil law; Civil procedure law; Financial law; Tax law and tax administration; Law of enforcement proceedings; International trade law; International protection of human rights |
| 2. Research skills | 2.1. Students must be able to apply analytical critical thinking and be able to collect and analyze the information for solving important practical and scientific problems, to interpret and apply legal norms in separate socio-legal issues through the use of global political and legal processes, to have knowledge of economic laws and special research methods in the areas of social and legal relations. | History of political, legal and economic theories; Economic theory; Social research methods; Law sociology; Course paper; Business and commercial law; Competition law; Evidence and evidencing; Criminalistics; Penal enforcement law |
| | 2.2. Students, using the legal terminology, must be able to analyze practical situations of individual fluent and legally reasoned speeches to different audiences, to analyze information about legal and social processes, to raise reasoned hypotheses, to be able to independently carry out scientific research in the field of law, to base their conclusions on logic legal arguments in oral and written form, as well as the ability to establish and maintain professional relationships with individuals and groups. | Internship; E-business; Corporate social responsibility; Information and communication technologies; Legal psychology; Legal rhetoric; Logic; Alternative business dispute resolution; Course paper; Final thesis |
| 3. Special skills | 3.1. The students must be able to apply the norms of law correctly and understand the documents expressing them, by analyzing sources of law and critically assessing different opinions and positions. | Internship; Final internship; Course paper, Final thesis |
| | 3.2. Students must be able to make legal decisions, to understand the contemporary contexts of legal regulation, to effectively apply law knowledge, and to analyze and organize legal processes. | Alternative resolution of business disputes; Non-governmental organization law; Corporate social responsibility; Evidence and evidencing; E-business; Final internship; Final specialisation exam |
| | 3.3. Students must be able to make decisions by applying specialized (sub-branch) legal norms and to provide complex legal conclusions taking into account the peculiarities of the regulation of legal relations in other fields and their nature. | Real estate law, Consumer law; Insurance law; Contract law; Family law; Bankruptcy law; Insurance law; Intellectual property law; Business finance; Supervision of financial institutions; Social insurance law; Final exam |
| 4. Social skills | 4.1. Students must be able to communicate in writing and orally effectively and professionally, | Philosophy; Logic, Information and communication technologies; Legal |

| | using innovative technologies, conveying both complete and incomplete information in the Lithuanian and English languages in the field of law. | psychology; Foreign language; Legal rhetoric; Latin language |
|---|---|---|
| | 4.2. While working independently and in a team, students must be able to identify the legal measures and methods of solving a social dispute with the element of legal vulnerability, which would best suit and purposefully change the situation and ensure the effective protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the subject of social relations, and their implementation. | Evidence and evidencing; Bankruptcy Law; Contract law; Labour law; Insurance law; Financial law; Intellectual property law; Competition law; Criminology; Tax law and tax administration; Real estate law; Corporate social responsibility; Legal psychology; Family law; Consumer law; Business and commercial law |
| 5. Personal skills | 5.1. Students must be able to develop themselves and engage in lifelong learning, make innovative decisions and perform legal research. | Final specialisation exam; Methods of social research; Final thesis |
| | 5.2. Students must be able to accept innovations, identify legal issues, adapt them and use them in their professional practice. | Internship; Final internship; Final thesis |

Compliance of the learning outcomes of the programme studies to the requirements of the cycle of results of the order No V-2212 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 21 November 2011 "On the approval of the description of the cycles of studies". The qualification acquired by the graduates of the integrated programme of Law studies is in line with the statutory requirements for legal professionals (resolution of the Constitutional Court of 20 February 2008 "On the approval of qualification requirements of higher education for persons willing to occupy the position of judge in accordance with the procedure specified in the law") and allows to occupy the most important legal positions, including notary, judge, lawyer, etc.

Study aim and learning outcomes and other information is published and made available on the University's website (www.ksu.lt), in the column presenting the analysed programme. Furthermore, the programme information is available in the Open Information Counselling and Guidance System (AIKOS, www.aikos.smm.lt). Students and entrants are introduced to the programme of Law studies, its concepts and objectives, and the target outcomes of studies during the meetings with the University representatives; the programme aims and content are delivered each year in the information publications of the University.

Lithuanian universities do not have a big number of integrated programmes of law studies (see Table 4).

**Table 4.** Integrated programmes of law studies of Lithuanian universities

| State code | New state code | Name of studies programme | Institution | Qualification awarded |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 601M90003 | 6011KX004 | Law | Kazimieras Simonavičius University | Master of law |
| 601M90001 | 6011KX002 | Law | Vilnius University | Master of law |
| 601M90004 | 6011KX003 | Law | Vytautas Magnus University | Master of Law |
| 601M90005 | 6011KX001 | International Law and European Union Law | European Humanities University | Master of law |

*Source:* Open Information, Counselling and Guidance System, 2017
https://www.aikos.smm.lt/studijuoti/SitePages/Noriu%20studijuoti.aspx?ss=d9a29f14-8448-4350-9538-857d9dcd62c7

The Law study programme is the only integrated study programme implemented at the University. The University also has the right to organize studies for bachelors in law who specialize in international business law and the law and economic security field. The International Business Law programme (state code 612M90009) was launched since 2012, the programme of Law and Economics Security (state code 612M90010) has been accredited in 2013, and started in 2015. Since 2016 the University has the right to train Master students in the field of law, initialising in the environment of global challenges of the European Union law and in the international trade and business law.

| Strengths | Weaknesses | Improvement actions |
|---|---|---|
| 1. One of the few integrated law degree programmes in Lithuania. | | 1. To continue to ensure the involvement of all teaching and research staff and stakeholders in the improvement and review of the programme objectives, in pursuit of the maximum compliance to both statutory regulated requirements, and professional and labour market needs and issues. |
| 2. The programme is in line with the qualification requirements for judges established by the resolution of the Constitutional Court. | | |
| 4. Aim and the learning outcomes of the programme are formulated in accordance with the results of latest research and the approaches, concepts, theories of the EU and global research. | | |

## 2.1.2. Structure of the programme

**Study plan, course descriptions, programme logic.**

The material structure of the programme is logically consistent with programme aim and the learning outcomes. These links are presented in section 2.1.1, Table 3.

Composition and scope of the programme of Law studies meets the requirements of the "Schedule of general requirements for degree-awarding undergraduate and integrated studies general programmes", approved by order No V-501 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 9 April 2010, regulating integrated studies and providing requirements for the scope of subjects, practices, theses, examinations, student independent and classroom work. Furthermore, the programme of studies meets the requirements of the "Description of the field of the studies of law", approved by order No. V-1260 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 10-12-2015 "On the approval of the modified description of the field of the studies of law".

The volume of the integrated programme of Law studies is 300 (ECTS) credits (8000 academic work hours). Duration of the full-time studies is five years (10 semesters). The first stage of the studies includes 240 credit programme (semesters 1–8), with no more than 7 courses studied during the semester. The second studies cycle includes part of the programme (semesters 9–10) with no more than 5 courses, as required in the documents regulating the master studies. The volume of courses in the programme of studies also meets the legal requirements. The scope of legal courses in the first cycle of studies is at least 4 credits, the volume of other courses – no less than 3 credits. The scope of courses in the second cycle of the programme of studies is at least 5 credits.

**Table 5.** Compliance of the structure of the studies programme with legislative requirements

| Item No | Element | Required by legislation | In the programme |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Courses of the field of studies | No less than 195 credits | 235 credits |
| 2. | Scope of the final thesis and final exams* | At least 15 credits | 22 credits |
| 3. | General university courses | At least 15 credits | 23 credits |
| 4. | Courses established by the university and elected by the student for deeper specialization in the same area; courses of other field; internship; elective courses | No more than 60 credits | 42 credits |
| 5. | Scope of internship** | At least 18 credits | 18 credits |
| 6. | Scope of all study programme*** | No less than 300 credits and no more than 360 credits | 300 credits |

* The final thesis and final exams are assigned to the courses of the area of studies therefore, line 2 containing the number of credits for them is included in the amount of credits in line 1.
** The credits of internship are included in the total amount of credits of courses in line 4.
*** The scope of the entire programme of studies is calculated by adding the amounts of credits in lines 1, 3 and 4.

The programme of studies is structured to ensure a consistent and purposeful studies of law. The studies start with the general university education courses and courses providing fundamental knowledge in the field of law, and gradually proceed to the studies of the courses in the relevant

branches of law. Consistency of studies is introduced by ensuring that the special stages of the relevant parts of law only follow the general subject of studies, and the branches of the procedural law are studied on after acquiring the fundamentals of certain branches of substantive law. Courses of the programme of studies and the number of credits allocated to them is appropriate for students to successfully achieve the expected learning outcomes.

The plan of full-time studies of the programme based on delivered courses and their sequence is provided in Annex 1. Descriptions of all study courses with their content, scope and relations of learning outcomes, course coutcomes, study methods and assessment methods and other information are presented in Annex 2.

The general education part of the programme of studies includes 23 credits. The general education corses include subjects such as Foreign Language, Logic, Philosophy, Economic Theory, Information and Communication Technology, and others. These courses are studied in the first years of studies.

The part of the studies area courses consists of 235 credits. Courses of the area of studies can be distinguished into several groups by their content and purpose. The first of these are the courses providing fundamental knowledge of law and include: Theory of Law, History of Law, Roman Law, Legal Institutions, History of Political, Legal and Economic Theories, Economic Theory. The second group of the area of studies are courses providing the legal knowledge, shaping the legal thinking of the future specialist, and comprising the background of legal knowledge: Constitutional Law, Civil law, Criminal law, Labour Law, Administrative and Administrative Procedure Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Civil Procedure Law, European Union Law, International Public Law, International Private Law, Business and Commercial Law, etc. In addition to the main mandatory legal disciplines, in pursuit of better compliance of the studies to individual needs of students, students are offered opportunity to studies areas of law, such as Real Estate Law, Non-Governmental Organization Law, Social Insurance Law, Enforcement Proceedings Law, Criminology, etc. The third group of courses of the area of study filed are courses providing the knowledge in other fields of social sciences, which include: Methods of Social Research, Legal Rhetoric, Legal Psychology, Law Sociology, Corporate Social Responsibility, E-business. This group of courses provide students with additional knowledge, abilities and skills that enable to apply the acquired legal knowledge in a more efficient manner, and understand them in a broader context.

The plan of studies took into account the fact that students can be offered an opportunity to partly choose the fields of knowledge of studies, through elective courses. Students have 8 opportunities to choose the elective courses during the entire period of studies. The Faculty of Law aims at increasing the offer of optional/elective courses, in light of the present day realities and needs of the labour market.

The volume of student internships is 18 credits. During the studies students have two internships: first internship in semester 7 and the final internship – in semester 9.

In the last semester, students have the final exam covering 7 credits and the final thesis, covering 15 credits. Students develop the ability to write legal texts needed for the research work, gradually during the entire process of studies, starting from papers, abstracts, course papers (students write course papers in semesters 4 and 8) and ending with the final thesis.

**Requirements for the final theses.**
Writing and defence of the final theses of the studies of law is also a teaching method developing the student ability to link the knowledge of several disciplines, and apply them in solving theoretical and practical problems. Formal evaluation of this thesis confirms the student's acquired skills and logically completes the studies. Thus, the final thesis is a qualification work specifically written for this purpose. Students choose the topics of final theses in semester 9. During the preparation and defence of the final thesis, students have to develop and demonstrate a number of inter-related skills. In particular, students must be able to identify and define them important

problem of law. It requires knowledge accumulated during the studies, and practical knowing of a particular field of law.

The final thesis and its defence must show in an aggregated form:

1. General theoretical knowledge of students, i.e. business-like erudition;
2. Ability to look into the topic in theoretical terms, i.e. theoretical preparation;
3. Ability to choose data collection methods corresponding to the topic, and accumulate the required amount of information, i.e. methodological preparation;
4. Ability to properly analyse the collected material and offer the solution is to the chosen problem, by integrating theoretical models and practical information;
5. The ability to justify the idea of the final thesis with original assumptions and hypotheses.

In addition to these basic goals, the final thesis reveals the student's ability to coherently and convincingly deliver teaching material in technical-scientific style, the proper use of literary sources and correctly formalise the work. Another important aspect is the presentation of thesis and reasoned answering to questions during the defence, modelling a discussion situation in the academic environment important for the lawyer and educating didactic abilities.

| Strengths | Weaknesses | Improvement actions |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The programme ensures the system and organisation fundamental courses and courses for advancement of legal knowledge. | 1. Relatively limited variety of elective courses offered to students. | 1. In the future it is planned to provide wider opportunities for students to learn the knowledge of various legal areas, through elective courses |
| 2. The total number of credits of courses of studies (235 credits) provides comprehensive legal knowledge and consistency of skills. | | 2. To further ensure the compliance of the structure of the programme to legal issues and relevant changes in the society |
| 3. General university education courses are aligned with the nature of the legal field of studies, providing general methodological competencies. | | |
| 4. Elective courses, allowing students to deepen knowledge in a broader range of areas of law, in the light of relevant issues of the present day and labour market. | | |
| 5. Other courses of social and humanitarian sciences provide interdisciplinary knowledge and transferable competencies on the contemporary social, economic and technological environment. | | |

## 2.1.3. Human resources

**Human resources composition and changes.**

Lectures, seminars of the integrated programme of law studies are delivered, and students are consulted by qualified lecturers – professors, associate professors and lecturers. Most of the teachers are lawyers with the highest legal qualifications (PhD degree of law) practising in the field of law (judges, lawyers, state civil servants and other persons involved in legal activities). At present, there are 36 teachers in the study programme (of whom 19 have doctoral degrees): 6 professors, 12 associate professors, 1 lecturers with doctoral degrees and 17 lecturers without doctoral degrees (part of them are students of doctoral studies). The ratio of the programme lecturers and students is currently equal to 0.2, i.e. an average of 1 teacher per 5 students. This ratio is highly favourable for the qualitative organisation of studies and full transfer of knowledge because it gives the teacher the opportunity to devote sufficient attention to each student both during lectures and seminars, and additional consultations; allow to apply individual tasks of studies and ensure effective monitoring of knowledge assimilation among students, and student-oriented training.

Non-state university status and its flexibility in employing lecturers makes it easier to build a team of lecturers and to select the best professionals, and although it had a larger impact on the faculty rotation, however, allowed to bring together a competent team of professionals and researchers delivering lectures to students. Part of the programme faculty at the University are also employed in the Legal and Economic Security and International Business Law programmes of studies, delivering the subjects in the field of law. Therefore, it can be said that the programme for students is delivered by permanent, although not full-time, University professors, with sufficient expertise and experience in teaching. During the programme the staff changes were slightly determined by factors such as parental leave, departures to internships abroad, increased employment in primary jobs of teachers. Structure of the academic personnel delivering the programme of law studies by age groups is presented in Table 6.

**Table 6.** Structure of the academic personnel delivering the programme of law studies by age groups in academic year 2016–2017

| Position title | Age group | | | | | | | | | | Total: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Up to 25 | 25 – 29 | 30 – 34 | 35 – 39 | 40 – 44 | 45- 49 | 50 – 54 | 55- 59 | 60- 64 | Over 65 | |
| Lecturers | | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | | | | 1 | **18** |
| Associate Professors | | | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | | | | 1 | **12** |
| Professors | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | **6** |

More information about lecturers: their pedagogical and academic degrees, teaching experience, research interests, practical work experience, subjects taught and experience of the particular subject area is presented in list of academic staff (see Annex 3) and Curiculum Vitae of academic staff (see Annex 4). The composition of studies fully complies and even exceed the formal requirements for integrated studies established in legislation. Compliance is represented in Table 7.

**Table 7.** Compliance of the studies programme staff with legislative requirements

| Criterion | Required by legislation | In the programme |
|---|---|---|
| Percentage of staff with academic degree in the integrated part of studies corresponding to the first cycle of studies | at least 50 per cent | 67 per cent |
| Percentage of staff with academic degree in the integrated part of studies corresponding to the second cycle of studies | at least 80 per cent | 83 per cent |
| Percentage of staff with academic degree in the integrated part of studies corresponding to the second cycle of studies with the field of scientific activity corresponding to the subjects of studies | at least 60 per cent | 83 per cent |
| Percentage of staff with academic degree in the integrated part of studies corresponding to the second cycle of studies holding the position of professor | at least 20 per cent | 23 per cent |

**Staff competence and professional development.**

In the reference period, the main task of the University in human resources management was to bring together a team of permanent lecturers, to increase the number of permanent lecturers, and to improve the lecturers' motivation and evaluation system. Attraction of permanent teaching staff has become a serious challenge, which has been given considerable attention. The University, being the youngest university type of institution in Lithuania, and offering only one programme of studies in the field of law, in the beginning of the analysed period could not offer favourable conditions facilitating the involvement of professors and other famous law specialists of Lithuania in the teaching and academic positions. For this reason, the greater part of lecturers were not permanently employed but also worked in other higher education institutions (the faculty is listed in Annex 3). During the analyzed period, the policy-making factors applied by the University in the staff formation allows to achieve positive results, increasing the number of permanent staff and high academic workload per teacher, which in turn increase their loyalty to the University and involvement into the implementation of the programme of studies. For example, in the academic

year 2012–2013 the University had 2 full-time lecturers and in the academic year 2016–2017 their number increased to 6.

In order to ensure the quality of studies, the University prepared the personnel motivation system, approved job descriptions of the teaching staff, used for selection of teachers. The faculty offering the programme of studies was responsible for selection and certification of teachers. In this period the teaching staff quality was fully insured, the faculty was included in the study quality management processes and departments, working groups.

Teaching staff of the programme of Law studies at the University have been selected on the basis of the following requirements of the training programme (no less than 50% part of the programme corresponding to the first cycle of studies, and no less than 80% part of the programme corresponding to the entire second cycle of studies of teachers were scientists) and the requirements of the approved job description of the professor, associate professor, lecturer laying down the minimum qualification requirements. From 2012 the University lecturers' qualification has become one of the most important priorities. The Staff management process description drafted in 2012 describes and establishes the annual activities of training for the teaching staff. Much attention was given to the academic staff training. During the period of 2012–2017, the University was periodically organising various events and training to teachers, to improve their subject, didactic, social and communication competences. For example, in 2012 it organised the staff training under the project "Enhancement of the efficiency of studies at Kazimieras Simonavičius University"; in November 2012 lecturers participated in the training according to the project "Development and implementation of the formalisation system for informally acquired competences in the West Lithuanian Business College and partner institutions". During the analyzed period, the University each year organised about 10 events (courses, lecture cycles, qualification improvement seminars) on legal topics that could be attended by academic staff. A total of 49 events have already taken place.

The management of the Faculty of Law, in the light of the staff turnover and demand of specific knowledge for preparation required for new lecturers (practitioners), since 2016 has initiated additional training for academic staff to improve didactic social and communication competencies. For example, in 2016 the teaching staff of the Faculty of Law could participate in the effective teamwork and leadership courses and in 2017 – in andragogy courses (adult education) organised by the University.

Furthermore, the Faculty of Law organises periodic consultations for the teaching staff. Before the beginning of each semester the faculty organises a meeting with the faculty team of each course in that semester. It discusses the qualitative requirements of teaching, focusing on teaching planning, quality of preparation of individual assignments, application of teaching and learning approaches and discusses quality discrepancies observed during the semester. The University has developed quality teaching requirements, which must be followed by all University professors. It conducts a survey of lecturers and meetings to determine the training needs, to hear proposals for the study process improvement.

During the analysed period (2012–2017) lecturers and researchers were active participants of various research programmes, projects and other public initiatives. As part of the scientific activities they participated in scientific (international and national) conferences, seminars, lectures, prepared scientific publications, conducted research, prepared research projects, and improved qualification in internships abroad and in Lithuania. Scientific activities of most of the academic staff were carried out in their fields of social (law, management, economics and sociology) sciences (see more in Annex 4).

During the analysed period the academic staff attended 44 conferences, 23 of them were international scientific conferences (Table 8).

**Table 8.** Participation of the University's academic staff in scientific conferences

| | Participation of the University's academic staff in scientific conferences | | | | | | Total: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2107** | |
| National | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | **21** |
| International | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | **23** |
| | | | | | | **Total** | **44** |

Part of the conference participant scientists (faculty) delivered presentations at these conferences or, on other bases of research, prepared and published 84 (Table 9) scientific publications in peer-reviewed periodicals, serial or one-time scientific publications (some of the publications were published in the magazines of science and practice of law), including monographs, textbooks, scientific articles, educational books and methodological tools (see Annex 4). Many new scientific works in 2017 were delivered and accepted for publication in scientific journals.

**Table 9.** Publications of the University's academic staff

| Publications | | | | | | Total: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **84** |
| 19 | 19 | 20 | 6 | 17 | 3 | |

One of the main strategic objectives of the latter years of the Faculty of Law has been the development of scientific activities, with organisation of international scientific conferences as one of its forms. On 25 February 2016, Kazimieras Simonavičius University organized an international event in Vilnius, "Sharing EU Expertise: Gender Equality Index of Taiwan". The event was attended by the representatives of Kazimieras Simonavičius University (Lithuania), the University of Latvia (Latvia) and Riga Stradinšo University (Latvia), the National University of Kaohsiung (Taiwan) and the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (Taiwan).

On 4 November 2016, the Faculty of Law of the University, the National Consumer Confederation and the Republic of Lithuania Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs, in the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania organised the international conference "Regulation of alternative dispute resolution between consumers and businesses: Experience of the European Union and Lithuania". The aim of the conference was to promote international scientific co-operation in alternative dispute resolution between the consumer and the entrepreneur in the field of law. At the conference, presentations were delivered by legal scholars of Lithuania and foreign countries (Great Britain, Spain, Poland) (a total of 119 participants).

In 2016 December, Vilnius City Municipality held the international scientific seminar "How to achieve progress in the field of child welfare: interdisciplinary and multi-regulatory perspectives", organized by the interdisciplinary Rights of the Child Research Centre of Kazimieras Simonavičius University in collaboration with the Navininkai Children's Day Centre (a total of 64 participants).

In 2017 January, Kazimieras Simonavičius University organized an international conference "Prospects for the development of law". The conference was attended by 68 scientists, professors and students from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The academic staff are also actively involved in research, and implementation of educational programmes of the University or other educational and research institutions. The University-approved education programme "Legal effectiveness in the environment of global challenges" is a fundamental background for the research of the University community, by linking this research and the curriculum content. Given the objectives of the analysed programme of Law studies, the subjects of studies are based on the research of the research programme "Legal effectiveness in the environment of global challenges" (programme manager Assoc. Prof. Dr. Virginia Kondratienė, Prof. Dr. Ryšardas Burda, Jolita Malinauskaitė, Jolanta Tupko-Mazur) in the selected fields (convergence of international, European and national legal standards; protection of constitutional individual rights and their implementation in Lithuania and in the European Union, the effectiveness of government institutions, public security, investigations in prevention of corruption, improvement of legal business environment, alternative dispute resolution). Furthermore, the

University actively collaborates with social partners, in various non-formal education projects of consumer protection, intellectual property rights and other areas.

The University scientists (teachers) are highly regarded in their fields, and therefore, while teaching, can rely not only on research, but also on the results of practical activities. The staff of the Faculty of Law have considerable legal experience in private and (or) public or government institutions, other educational institutions or studies (e.g., Dr. Aida Kišūnaitė, Prof. Dr. Raimundas Kalesnykas, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gintautas Šulija, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Evaldas Klimas, Prof. Dr. Ryšardas Burda, lekt. Laura Altun and others have law firms of their own name or work in the best legal firms of Lithuania.

Dr. Aida Kišūnaitė is a lawyer theoretician and practitioner specializing in the field of legal research methodology. Furthermore, Dr. Aida Kišūnaitė in her scientific work draws much attention to the protection of human rights in the European Union and in the international context, to the welfare state policy and legal regulation, legal regulation of multi-level governance and enhancement of its efficiency. Dr. Aida Kišūnaitė has extensive experience in scientific activities in foreign universities (University of Hamburg, University of Amsterdam) and international working groups in the field of the European Union law.

Professor Dr. Raimundas Kalesnykas is a doctor of Law sciences, proffessor at the Faculty of Law of Kazimieras Simonavičius University, and experience of expert in various international organizations (Scientific research group of European Law Enforcement Academy (CEPOL), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), UN International Development Agency (USAID), with over 20 years of academic experience teaching in Lithuanian and foreign universities, conducting various legal and anti-corruption training for state politicians, civil servants and officials, employees in the public and the business sector. He has drawn up and led the implementation of national and international projects in the development of public sector management, improvement of the anti-corruption environment, protection of human rights, police and judicial reform, more than 10 years in advising a variety of public and private sector organizations in the implementation of corruption risk management and anti-corruption measures in Lithuania and abroad (Ukraine, Moldova, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan), and currently manages the National Anti-Corruption Association (NACA). He has published more than 40 scientific works in Lithuania and abroad, participated and presented papers in over 60 international scientific conferences in Lithuania and abroad, performed the internship at the UN, the OSCE, CEPOL and other international organizations. His research interests include extensive theory and practice problems in field of law, public security and the fight against corruption: international anti-corruption standards, international security policy, international protection of human rights, EU law, administrative law, public administration, public security processes and change management, law enforcement system reform management.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lina Aleknaitė-van der Molen is an attorney who specializes in financial and commercial law, as well as works in corporate law. At the international conference "Alternative methods of business dispute resolution" organised by Kazimieras Simonavičius University in 2014 Dr. Aleknaitė-van der Molen made a presentation on alternative dispute resolution in the banks and the financial sector. Subsequently, the report was published in the publication of the conference. In 2014–2015 Dr. Aleknaitė-van der Molen took part in the project funded by the European commission "Study of Material bankruptcy law in the European Union countries", where she prepared the materials on bankruptcy law regulation in Lithuania. In 2015–2016 Dr. Aleknaitė-van der Molen took part in the European Commission-funded projects "Collateral Law and European Insolvency Regulation", and prepared the material on ensuring the regulation of law in some aspects of the insolvency and its practical application in Lithuania.

The attorney Laura Altun is one of the programme teachers, and is actively involved in the legislative process, and in the activities of the Civil and Civil Procedure Law committee of the Lithuanian Bar Association (she is a member of the Committee since 2014). Lect. Laura Altun actively speaks in the public domain, for example, in 2015 she gave an interview about the relations between the lawyer and the client relationship (LRT *Laba diena, Lietuva*, 01-04-2015), which

attracted great interest. In 2015 Laura Altun acquired the professional qualifications of the public relations and marketing communications, has integrated this knowledge and developed and delivered lectures on the topic "Interaction with the media: risk of law infringement and advice on avoiding them". Furthermore, in 2016 she prepared and delivered a series of lectures about civil proceedings for the students of Petras Leonas Academy.

The University staff improved their skills in scientific study visits to the United States, France, Denmark, Germany and other countries. They took part in a total of 40 internships. Furthermore, the staff took an active part in social activities as members of various projects. During the analysed period the teachers participated in 22 projects.

**Table 10.** Participation of the University faculty in internships and projects

|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2107 | Total: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Participation in scientific internships | 0 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 8 | 6 | **40** |
| Participation in projects | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | **22** |

In 2012 the University applied for, and was granted the Erasmus University Charter. It allowed the exchange of students, faculty and administrative staff from the start of the academic year 2013–2014. Furthermore, began to actively use other opportunities of the Erasmus programme: applications were submitted for implementation of preparatory visits, intensive programmes and other activities. From the academic year 2012–2013, foreign teachers began to visit the University under the programme is funded by the Lithuanian Research Council (hereinafter referred to as the LRC). Under the programme funded by the LRC, in November 2012 the series of lectures "Project of the general system of the principles: arbitration and private law reform" was delivered to the law students by Prof. Dr. Tibor Tajti from the Central European University (Budapest, Hungary), in December, the cycle of lectures "Dispute resolution with foreign parties" was delivered by Prof. Dr. Leonilla Guglya from European University (Geneva, Switzerland). In 2013 the University held the open lecture of Prof. Dr. Fernand de Varennes (United States) "R2P doctrine (responsibility to protect), crimes against humanity and minorities. The legal discussion", Prof. Dr. Makane Moise Mbengue (Switzerland) series of lectures "Law and practice of the World Trade Organization". Furthermore, the University started visits of lecturers under Erasmus+ and other programmes and projects, such as in 2014 – Dr. Anna Ostrowska from Bialystok Higher Financial and Management School (Poland), coming under the Erasmus+ exchange programme, who gave an open lecture "Intellectual property law" and in 2015 – the open lecture of Dr. Ivan Mangatchev (Bulgaria) from the New Bulgarian University "European Union finance law". In November 2016, Kazimieras Simonavičius University held an open lecture of advocate Dr. Marcin Białecki (Poland) "Mediation in civil cases. Recent developments in Polish Civil Procedure from theoretical and practical perspective".

For greater degree of internationalization in the context of the traditional branches of law, the Faculty of Law, in collaboration with the International Travnik University (Bosnia and Herzegovina), in 2016–2017 included the lectures of visiting faculty of the University in the contents of the lectures. For example, in March 2016, it held a series of lectures on the topic "Constitutional law through the prism of Comparative Law" (Prof. Alisa Salkič). In 2017 April, at Kazimieras Simonavičius University lecturer Selma Otuzbir gave a series of lectures on Roman law.

The visits of lecturers were planned specifically, in accordance with the content and areas of the programme students, so that the delivered knowledge would contribute and complement it.

Furthermore University was looking for ways to start visits of incoming lecturers and projects under other programmes too. Figures of incoming and outgoing staff under international exchanges are presented in Table 11. Precise details about visiting staff are presented in Annex 8.

**Table 11.** Academic staff incoming and outgoing according to international exchange programmes

| Year | Programme/agreement | Incoming staff | Outgoing staff |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2012–2013 | Erasmus | 7 | - |
| | LRC agreement | 2 | - |
| | Other programmes, agreements | 6 | - |
| 2013–2014 | Erasmus | 16 | 3 |
| | LRC agreement | 2 | - |
| | Other programmes, agreements | 8 | - |
| 2014–2015 | Erasmus | 22 | 22 |
| | LRC agreement | - | - |
| | Other programmes, agreements | - | - |
| 2015–2016 | Erasmus | 4 | 8 |
| | LRC agreement | - | - |
| | Other programmes, agreements | - | - |
| 2016–2017* | Erasmus | 7 | 7 |
| | LRC agreement | - | - |
| | Other programmes, agreements | - | - |

* Information for the period up to 30-06-2017

During the analyzed period, 40 staff members travelled to international exchanges and 74 arrived. In the short term, the University aims to further expand the numbers of incoming and outgoing lecturers.

| Strengths | Weaknesses | Improvement actions |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The programme of studies has focused sufficient and high-quality scientific-pedagogical potential. | 1. Small number of permanent academic personel and researchers. | 1. The University carries out the human resources training programme focusing on the implementation of new, innovative, student-oriented teaching methods. |
| 2. Particular attention is paid to the development of international relations, preserving the possibility of increasing international staff mobility | 2. Insufficiently developed research. | 2. In the light of globalization processes, to further promote the internationalization of the programme in terms of scientific events, staff, used literature and teaching methods. |
| 3. Significant practical experience of staff, institutionalized staff training. | | |
| 4. High quality of teaching and continuous performance monitoring and feedback given to staff. | | |

## 2.1.4. Material resources

**Adequacy and sufficiency of premises for studies.**

Since the beginning of the analyzed period until the move to the new campus building in November 2016 at Dariaus ir Girėno g. 21, lectures for students in Vilnius were hosted in rented premises at J. Basanavičiaus g. 29A. Lectures four Klaipėda students are held in rented premises at Bijūnų g. 17.

The total area of the new 3-storey University building at Dariaus ir Girėno g. 21 posting the lectures to the students of the Law programme is 1700 m². There are 17 auditoriums and a library with a reading room. It has two computer auditoriums with 12 workplaces, which can be transformed to a larger auditorium of 24 workplaces, and 6 auditoriums of large attendance theoretical lectures: with 32–90 seats. Other smaller auditoriums have from 8 to 24 workplaces. Furthermore, it has a separate internet engineering laboratory with 10 workplaces.

The total area of the premises at J. Basanavičiaus g. was 815.06 m². These premises were equipped with 8 auditoriums and a library with a reading room. There was 1 computer auditorium with 30 workplaces, 4 auditoriums of large attendance theoretical lectures: 56, 44, 42 and 77 places. Other smaller auditoriums had from 24 to 36 places.

Moving into the new premises has helped to improve the conditions of studies and ensured adequate space for the studies to the growing number of the University students and the programmes of studies. In the planning of the new premises, special attention was paid to the

development of a functional, comfortable area of studies meeting the needs of students. The University opened a cafe, equipped comfortable auditoriums and lounge areas, a summer terrace, group work rooms, computer laboratories, a library and a reading room. Students and the University staff have access to 2 car parking lots. It is planned that in the future University's spaces and auditoriums will be accesable for students and staff 24/7. Auditoriums characteristics are presented in Tables 12 and 13.

**Table 12.** Kazimieras Simonavičius University autitoriums and educational areas at J. Basanavičiaus str. 29A, Vilnius

| Room name | Workplaces | Remarks |
|---|---|---|
| Auditorium 5 | 42 | Large auditorium for large attendance lectures |
| Auditorium 7 | 77 | Large auditorium for large attendance lectures |
| Auditorium 8 | 36 | Medium-sized auditorium for theoretical lectures/seminars. |
| Auditorium 9 | 30 | Computer workstations. (Computer classroom) |
| Auditorium 10 | 24 | Medium-sized auditorium for theoretical lectures/seminars. |
| Auditorium 13 | 24 | Medium-sized auditorium for theoretical lectures/seminars. |
| Auditorium 14 | 56 | Large auditorium for large attendance lectures |
| Auditorium 15 | 44 | Medium-sized auditorium for theoretical lectures/seminars. |
| Library and reading rooms | **24** | It is possible to bring portable multimedia equipment |
| **In total at the University:** | **357** | |

**Table 13.** Kazimieras Simonavičius University auditoriums and educational areas at Dariaus ir Gireno str. 21, in Vilnius

| Room name | Workplaces | Remarks |
|---|---|---|
| Auditorium 101 | 90 | Big auditorium on the first floor for large attendance lectures, conferences and events. |
| Auditorium 102 | 8 | Auditoriums for the individual work, consultations or seminars |
| Auditorium 103 | 8 | |
| Auditorium 104 | 8 | |
| Auditorium 105 | 8 | |
| Auditorium 106 | 8 | |
| Auditorium 108 (Internet Engineering Laboratory) | 10 | Computer workstations. |
| Reading room | 10 | Computerized independent workplaces. |
| Auditorium 202 | 8 | Auditorium for the individual work, consultations or seminars |
| Auditorium 204 | 16 | Auditorium for theoretical lectures/seminars of small groups of students |
| Auditorium 205 | 12 | Auditorium for theoretical lectures/seminars of small groups of students |
| Auditorium 209 (auditorium 209 a/209 b) | 24 (12 + 12) | Computer workstations. Auditorium with a mobile wall that allows it to split into 2 separate auditoriums. |
| Auditorium 210 | 32 | Medium-sized auditoriums for theoretical lectures. These auditoriums can be easily transformed to be suitable for practical seminars. |
| Auditorium 211 | 32 | |
| Auditorium 212 | 32 | |
| Auditorium 213 | 32 | |
| Auditorium 214 | 64 | Large auditorium for large attendance lectures |
| **In total at the University:** | **402** | |

Klaipėda Faculty of the University located at Bijūnų g. 17 leases the premises in the Faculty of Marine Engineering of Klaipėda University. The University has the agreement and can use 40 auditoriums, 2 computer auditoriums and 15 specialized technical laboratories with a total area of 5190 m². During the academic year 2012/2013 – 2016/2017, lectures to the University students were held in 8 auditoriums and 2 computer auditoriums.

During the free time, when there are no lectures in auditoriums, students can use them for homework, independent work or team tasks. It is important to note that students can freely use the

Internet connection. All areas have wireless internet, students can print their papers, prepare visual material for reports etc. Internet for study needs is unlimited, students can use 5 copying and 3 printing machines.

Lectures for university students are held on weekdays and weekends, therefore, work in auditoriums is distributed evenly. The University ensures sufficient number of auditoriums, studios, laboratories and project work areas for the students of the Law programme.

**Adequacy and sufficiency of equipment for studies.**

The study and research premises of the University are equipped with the modern technologies that ensure proper conditions for the creativity, applied activity and the practical interactive environment for the studies. The University has ensured a proper application of information technologies during contact hours: there is wireless internet connection in all premises, the lecture and seminar rooms have computerised working places for teachers with an internet access, all auditoriums at Dariaus ir Girėno str. 21 in Vilnius and Bijunu St. 17 in Klaipeda have projectors with all the required auxiliary equipment.

The University has 100 Mbps wireless Internet, covering all University premises. This gives students access to all online information for the studies. Furthermore, the University provides the e-mail service for students and personnel. It is available to all students admitted to the University, and to the faculty and administrative staff.

In the academic year of 2016/2017 the University students and employees at Dariaus ir Girėno str. 21 used 88 stationary and portable computers, 18 printers and 5 photocopiers, and 17 portable projectors in classrooms with all necessary equipment. All workstation computers are connected to a common computer network. Laptops can also have access to the Internet and intranet in all University premises.

Nearly all university auditoriums are equipped with computer workstations (with *MS Windows XP, MS Windows 7, MS Office 2003, Open Office* and other software). Computerized lecturer workstation includes a computer with Internet access, a projector and sound equipment. Furthermore, lecturers can also easily connect their personal computers instead of the auditorium computer.

Computers of the University auditoriums and reading rooms have installed: *MS Windows XP, MS Windows 7, MS Office 2003, Open Office, Acrobat PDF reader, 7-zip, CDburnerXP, Opera, IE7, Mozilla FireFox, FileZilla, Skype, Media player classic, Paint.net, PrimoPDF, RIVILĖ, IBM SPSS* applications.

The workstations in the Internet Engineering Laboratory include tables, chairs and computers. Lecturer's place with demonstrator screen (65-inch diagonal LCD). Workstations are connected to the server. It is a specially equipped and conditioned room with RAC type servers, telecommunication switching cabinet (manufacturer: *Extreme Networks*) firewalls and IDS unit (manufacturer: Cyberoam) and Wi-Fi stations (manufacturer: D-Link). The laboratory is used for practical classes, scientific research and professional development in the field of Internet technology.

When planning lectures at Faculty of Klaipeda, efforts are made to ensure that all premises rented at the Marine Technology Faculty of Klaipeda University are equipped with all the facilities required for studies. The rooms used for classes have computerised working places for teachers with internet access, and all the multimedia equipment required for lectures. The computer rooms are equipped with all the necessary hardware and software.

The study equipment, the level and the quantity of information technologies at the University are sufficient and meet the requirements of the Law study programme.

**Adequacy and availability of methodical resources for studies.**

Kazimieras Simonavičius University library aims to fully meet the information needs of higher education and research of the University community, according to the changing academic environment, rapid developments of science, information and communication technology and become a centre of information and cultural attraction.

The University has been conducting integrated Law studies since 2003; therefore it has accumulated sufficient legal literature and published its own scientific publications (*Konstitucinė teisė* (Constitutional Law), K. L. Valančius, 2008; *International Legal English: Supplementary Activities for Students of Business Law*, R. Navickaitė, D. Gulbinskienė, D. Snapkauskaitė, 2008; *Verslo teisinis reguliavimas* (Legal Regulation of Business), compiled by K. L. Valančius, 2007; *Makroekonomikos pagrindai* (Basics of Macroeconomics), Z. Pagirskienė, 2008; *Kriminologija: teorija ir aktualijos* (Criminology: a theory and realities), J. Galinaitytė, 2009; material of the international scientific conference "Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods in Central and Eastern Europe", compiled by L. Aleknaitė-Van der Molen and V. Kondratienė, 2012; Systemic and Topical Mapping of the Relationship of the Draft Common Frame of Reference and Arbitration, T. Tajti, 2013; material of the youth conference "My Europe. My Rights", devoted to 2013 – the European Year of Citizens and the Lithuanian presidency of the Council of the European Union, compiled by J. Malinauskaitė, 2013). Moreover, in spring 2012 and in summer 2015, while preparing to launch the new bachelor's degree programmes International Business Law and Law and Economic Security, the library has been updated with a specialized book fund, which is required for the studies of these programmes. A considerable part of the materials for studies is stored in e-medium and is available to higher number students. The library has literature (basic scientific, educational, practical books, periodicals) that meets the requirements and is sufficient for all subjects of the law programme. It should be noted that from 2016 the University actively collaborates with the library of the Bureau of Permanent Representation of Lithuania in the European Commission based in Vilnius, which as abundant collection of the latest information in paper and electronic forms on various issues of legal regulation and legal matters.

Special attention is given to the access to latest information. For this purpose, the University's reading room is equipped with 10 computer workstations with access to a wide range of international and Lithuanian databases enabling students to use the most recent information and learn about the prevailing specialty trains changing on a daily basis. There is electronic access to basic scientific description databases: Ebsco database package, Emerald, Taylor and Francis, INFOLEX bei atviros prieigos prie Math-Net.Ru, Bepress Legal Repository, Central and Eastern European Online Library (C.E.E.O.L.), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Economists Online, Europeana, Eurostat, FORENSICnetBASE: Forensic Handbooks Online, Global Development Finance Online (GDF), Global Legal Information Network, HighWire Press, INASP Directory of Free and Open Access Online Resources, IPSA – International Political Science Abstracts, Open J-Gate portal, RePEc, Science, ScienceResearch.com, Scientific Journals International, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Theses Canada Portal, the World Bank Open Data, DOAB: Directory of Open access Books, BookBoon books and textbooks, OAPEN electronic books, Google Scholar, Google Books, MRU electronic books, the European Union Council documents public register, search of the European Union law, EUR-Lex, TAR legislative registry, Lithuanian academic e Library (eLABa), Lithuanian electronic theses and dissertations (ETD), documents published by the Lithuanian Parliament, Republic of Lithuania Term bank, 1918–1940 Lithuanian legislative database, National bibliographic data bank of Lithuania periodic newspaper article archive database of 1994–2002, Lituanistika database. Furthermore, the University offers access to test databases to its students on a regular basis.

The University library is constantly updated and annexed with new books and periodicals.

Students can use the library and reading room during the opening hours of the University.

The University has entered into a cooperation agreement with the Lithuanian Technical Library, with the books funds available to the University students and the faculty.

**Adequacy and sufficiency of facilities for student internships.**

Performance of student internships is a valuable part of the programme of Law studies, which is organized in accordance with the "Methodological guidelines of internship" and the "Procedure for organisation of final internship". These documents define: goals of internship, specific tasks of internship, likely outcomes and achievement assessment system, as well as support for students during the internship, indicating the criteria for recognising and evaluating the skills at

the appropriate level acquired by students during the internship. The first internship is performed in semester 7, and the final internship is performed during the semester 9.

Students can choose a place of the internship. The Career Centre Portal http://www.ksu.lt/praktikos-ir-darbo-pasiulymai/ and the KSU Facebook account publishes the list of potential places for internship, i.e. list of organisations with which cooperative agreements have been signed. The University's social partners are listed in Annex 9.

After the change of the University management in 2012, the development of the social partners network was highlighted as one of the main strategic lines of action of the Faculty of Law. Special attention was paid for the development of the new active communication for places of internship and closer co-operation. For example, from 5 to 26 of August 2013 the Faculty of Law and the Labour Law Academy carried out an intensive training programme and practice "Experience the Labour Law". The Programme partner – the Law firm Bagdanskis iLAW, custodians: the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the State Labour Inspectorate under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation, the Lithuanian Labour Exchange, the State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Ariril UAB. Furthermore, the Faculty of Law has taken active steps in collaboration with various associations of legal professions (Lithuanian Bailiff Palace, Lithuanian Chamber of Notaries, Association of Assistant Judges, National Association of Bankruptcy Administrators) in order to ensure the compliance of the curriculum to the needs of the labour market.

Students can find a replacement for internship themselves, with approval of the internship supervisor. Working students are offered an opportunity to have an internship in their workplace in accordance with an individualized internship programme.

Upon selecting the institution for internship, a tripartite agreement is signed between the student, the University and the placement institution. The legal basis for internship is the Model Tripartite Agreement of Student Internship approved by order No V-1011 of 16-11-2016 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. It is signed by every student having an internship, by the internship coordinator in the university and the company or institution providing a place for internship.

From 13 January 2015 the "Description of procedure for volunteer internship" was approved by order No A1-13 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour. Therefore, students can carry out a voluntary internship in a company, institution, organisation or other structure chosen voluntarily at mutual agreement (up to 2 months in a calendar year).

It is particularly important that the place of the final internship is aligned with the topic of the final thesis, and is similar to the jobs for which the graduates are trained. Teachers of the Faculty of Law, offering the topics of the final thesis also provide recommendations as to where students can perform their final internships. Information about the places of internship in which students carried out their final internships is provided in in Annex 10.

Students who perform the final internship, submit a report and the internship assessment questionnaire where they can provide suggestions on the organisation of internship, list professional aspirations and achievements, and submit proposals to the process of studies. On the other hand, employers also provide feedback about the internship of students. These evaluations are beneficial for the development of the process of organisation and studies of the students of the Faculty of Law.

It is important to note that it is provided that in the future that students should acquire practical knowledge not only during the internship and final internship. In spring 2016, the Youth Law Clinic was launched, having one of the main objectives – to assist the students of the Faculty of Law to consolidate their theoretical knowledge in practice, in order to provide comprehensive legal education and foster the lawyers of high morale.

| Strengths | Weaknesses | Improvement actions |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. After moving to a new building, learning conditions greatly improved. There is sufficient number of premises to perform the programme of Law studies, | 1. The usage of the up-to-date information available in the databases is not maximised in the | 1. To ensure the upgrade and update of equipment, auditoriums and library resources. |

| equipped with the appropriate equipment. | study process. | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. The library has adequate sources of electronic information required for the programme execution. Students can use the reading room, with access to the Lithuanian and foreign databases providing the latest information, and the functionality of the Moodle system. | 2. The library is not equipped with the most recent foreign literature (in paper format) to the maximum extent. | 2. To organise ongoing training courses for teachers and students for development and improvement of database searching skills. To offer foreign language courses for teachers and students, contributing to the improvement of knowledge required to master the information in a foreign language. |
| 3. Strong network of social partners, which ensures an adequate supply of placements for internshios to the students of the programme. | | 3. Increase the use of material and technological resources of social partners in the study process. |
| 4. The use of information technology (Moodle system, KSU information system) in the process of studies and preconditions for the implementation of distance learning. | | |

## 2.1.5. Study process and student evaluation

**Admission requirements, information about admitted students, dynamics of student numbers.**

Admission is organised by way of competition according to the "Description on ranking of best graduates of the secondary education programme" approved by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. Requirements for admission to state non-funded with scholarship and state non-funded places were the same. It is not possible for applicants to pretend to state funded study places as University is non-state (private) higher education institution. The same procedure was applied for admission of applicants choosing full-time or part-time studies (admission to part-time studies was organized up until 2012).

There are no special requirements for entrants to the integrated programme of Law studies. Applicants must have a high school graduation certificate and fulfill the conditions for admission to the University. The structure of the competitive score is presented in Table 14.

**Table 14.** Structure of competitive score applied in 2017 for enrolment to the programme of Law

| Subjects | Weighting | Grade type |
|---|---|---|
| History | 0.4 | Maturity examination evaluation |
| Mathematics or Information Technology | 0.2 | Maturity examination evaluation or annual grade of a subject |
| Other subject not coinciding with the first, second or fourth subject | 0.2 | Maturity examination evaluation or annual grade of a subject |
| Lithuanian Language and Literature | 0.2 | Maturity examination evaluation |

Admission to the programme of Law studies was carried out in two ways: through the LAMA BPO general admission system and by direct enrolment to the University. All direct applicants had to participate in the motivation interview with the Admissions Committee. During the interview the academic preparedness and motivation for studies of this student, arguments of the selection of the programme of studies, career plans, etc. were evaluated.

Relations between the student and the University are formalised in the studies agreement. Standard terms of the agreement of studies are established by the Ministry of Education and Science. Agreements of studies specify the basic conditions of studies at the University and obligations of both parties.

The innovation applied for the admission of 2017 – future students are offered to enter the programme of integrated studies of law with additional mandatory practice of 2 months in a year. A student, after studying for 5 years, enters the labour market having one year of practical experience in various legal institutions. The University, in collaboration with its social partners, in this way

encourages students to acquire initial working skills combining them with studies, thus increasing the employability of graduates, in accordance with the individual needs of students (1 year of work experience can be carried out in different institutions and organizations, thereby providing a better understanding of the specifics of future work). In order to attract talented students to this study form, the University applies the 50% discount on the tuition fee.

The University pays great attention to the publicity of the programmes. From 2012 the KSU programmes are presented in the event "Fair of specialties", since 2013 – in the High school Fair Exhibitions (Kaunas) and the Studies International Knowledge exhibition (Litexpo), at the Higher Education Fair (Kaunas) and Studies 2014 (Kretinga) and other events.

Information about the admissions in the academic year 2012–2017, scores of accepted students, number of dropouts and graduates and ratio of admitted students and graduates are presented in Table 15.

As seen from Table 15, the number of enrolled students correlates with the demographic, economic and education policy situation in Lithuania. Starting with the academic year 2014–2015, the number of applications and the number of students is decreasing. This is related to the total decrease in the number of students graduating from schools, as well as increase in popularity of other fields of studies. Because of these reasons, the University had to take even more action to increase the awareness and popularity of the programme of Law studies. From 2016, after a substantial change in the management of the Faculty of Law, it has taken measures to attract students:

1. From 2016, the University started to focus on the promotion of the programmes of studies in smaller Lithuanian cities. The integrated programme of Law studies was introduced in the event "Career beehive 2016" (Mažeikiai), "Professions Fair 2017" (Panevėžys), "Studies 2017" (Kretinga), "Your Path to Success 2017" (Ukmergė). Furthermore, held lectures in the Lithuanian non-formal education centre of pupils. KSU also held presentations for gymnasium pupils, provided consultations at the gymnasium career days. In total representatives of university has visited more than 50 Lithuanian gymnasiums (Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Trakai, Šiauliai, Molėtai, Utena, Ignalina, Švenčionėliai, Marijampolė, Šalčininkai, Panevėžys). During presentations pupils of higher grades of gymnasiums could get more about the programmes of studies organized at University.

2. Specifically for awareness-raising of the programme of Law studies in spring 2017 the academic staff of the KSU Faculty of Law in the gymnasiums of Klaipėda and Vilnius (in total in 19 gymnasiums) ran the project "The day of law at your school" which consisted of 4 practical courses. The aim of the project was to introduce the everyday legal issues important for young persons, to familiarise with wide adaptability of legal knowledge, to demonstrate the relevance of studies and the real link with the labour market needs.

3. KSU continues the Open Doors Days events. In 2013, KSU held the Open Doors Day named "Become a KSU student for one day". From 2014, the "Open day – Every day" programme is held; it's purpose is to have the University doors open every day. Pupils, their parents or classes of pupils register for personal consultation, meeting with the KSU ambassadors, personnel of the Studies Development Department, heads of faculties, lecturers who introduces to the programme of studies and procedures of enrolment, and show the University premises. Pupils have the opportunity to come and listen to the lectures at the University. The last event of this type held on 3 March 2017 brought together a very big number of pupils from all over Lithuania. This may be associated with an active position of the University in the regions of Lithuania, and the increase of the awareness of the University during the regional events.

4. From 2016 the Faculty of Law launched a particularly active co-operation with the Lithuanian non-university higher education institutions (colleges) that gives graduates non-university bachelor degrees of law. The University representatives went to colleges and during the meetings with their students presented the programme of Law studies and the legal labour market issues. Furthermore, during the presentations students were introduced to the peculiarities of the legal profession, to skills, abilities and competencies required to educate themselves as a lawyer

(future lawyer), willing to become a professional, fully proficient and well prepared to successfully operate in today's job market.

5. One of the main priorities of the Faculty of Law is the attraction and promotion is the most advanced students. Given the fact that the University has no possibility to receive state-funded places of studies which could help to attract the most talented students, the University began to apply a discount system. It allows graduates of schools with good results, to study free of charge or to get a 30–50% discount for the tuition fee.

6. The most complete and accurate information is provided by the KSU ambassadors programme, where KSU ambassadors go to schools and explain the study programmes and admission procedures to pupils. Furthermore, there are KSU ambassadors in schools – pupils who publicize information about the University's programmes of studies and advertised posters in their schools.

7. Information about the programme is presented in annual the KSU information publication, magazines *Kur stoti* (*Where to enroll*), *Kuo būti* (*Whom to be*), the University website www.ksu.lt and KSU social networks *Facebook* and *Instagram*.

8. Every year the University participates in the Researchers night where interesting presentations are delivered by KSU professors and guests, linking the themes with the KSU study programmes. Furthermore, KSU participates in the Cultural Night event publicising the KSU programmes of studies interactively engaging Vilnius residents and guests.

9. Raising the awareness of the programme on legal studies took place during special events for pupils. On 30 May 2016, the Faculty of Law and its social partners launched the summer project "Case No LAW SUMMERY /2016!" The aim of the project was to draw attention of Lithuanian pupils to the importance of legal knowledge, to familiarize them with the legal profession and its possibilities. In 2017, the University launched the project SmartUni, inviting the public to have meaningful leisure time: to take part in free lectures and acquire relevant knowledge, to meet with professionals in various fields, to draw inspiration and ideas.

It should be noted that information in Table 15 also shows the dynamics of the change of the number of students in groups, which is affected by the student dropout rate and renewal of studies, or admission of students to a higher course. Student dropout causes are constantly analysed at the meetings of the Faculty of Law, and discussed in administration's meetings. The main dropout reasons are: lack of motivation, academic failures, financial reasons, family circumstances and work abroad. The largest student dropout is in the last courses. One of the reasons for termination of studies is overestimation of own abilities and indecisiveness for study. The motivation factor is very important for successful studies. It is indicated by the trend that some students enrolling with lower competitive grades are less motivated, experience difficulties in learning and terminate studies after the first or second semester. Moreover, it was observed that more individuals among early dropouts are of younger age, who begin their studies immediately after graduation of secondary school. In older courses dropouts are more common because of family reasons of students, inability to combine employment and studies, and longer travels abroad. There is a trend that students who have interrupted their studies in last courses of studies, return to the University after a while. This is illustrated by the information in Table 15 about the students admission to the higher course. Furthermore, there is a trend in higher courses to go from full-time to part-time studies which can be easier combined with employment.

**Table 15.** Admissions, scores of accepted students, number of dropouts and graduates and ratio of admitted students and graduates in the academic years 2012–2017

| Indicators | Academic year | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2012/2013 | | | 2013/2014 | | | 2014/2015 | | | | | 2015/2016 | | | | | 2016/2017** | | | | |
| | NL/D (VLN)* | I/N (VLN)* | I/N (KLP)* | NL/D (VLN)* | I/N (VLN)* | I/N (KLP)* | NL/D (VLN)* | I/N (VLN)* | NL(S)(VLN)* | I/N (KLP)* | NL(S)(KLP)* | NL/D (VLN)* | I/N (VLN)* | NL(S)(VLN)* | I/N (KLP)* | NL(S)(KLP)* | NL/D (VLN)* | I/N (VLN)* | NL(S)(VLN)* | I/N (KLP)* | NL(S)(KLP)* |
| Number of applications | 81 | 50 | 45 | 18 | 14 | 39 | - | - | 17 | - | 15 | - | - | 10 | - | 9 | - | - | 5 | - | 6 |
| Admissions to the first year of study | 6 | 8 | 22 | 12 | 12 | 14 | - | - | 14 | - | 12 | - | - | 6 | - | 7 | - | - | 3 | - | 7 |
| Admissions to the higher course of studies | - | - | - | 8 | 43 | 22 | 17 | 23 | - | 7 | - | 9 | 10 | - | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 18 |
| Highest competitive score | 16.44 | 16.31 | 15.46 | 14.84 | 16.67 | 18.08 | - | - | 4.21 | - | 2.82 | - | - | 3.25 | - | 3.34 | - | - | 4.51 | - | 4.21 |
| Lowest competitive score | 12.37 | 11.71 | 4.8 | 5.98 | 5.52 | 5.94 | - | - | 3.01 | - | 2.44 | - | - | 3.01 | - | 2.28 | - | - | 2.18 | - | 2.25 |
| Competitive point average | 14.52 | 13.75 | 12.38 | 8.92 | 10.97 | 12.53 | - | - | 4.08 | - | 2.06 | - | - | 3.13 | - | 2.81 | - | - | 3.71 | - | 3.18 |
| Number of dropout students: | 11 | 10 | 19 | 29 | 51 | 7 | 7 | 16 | - | 4 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | - | 2 |
| Course 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | 4 | - | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Course 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | 3 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Course 3 | 3 | 6 | 6 | - | 5 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 1 |
| Course 4 | 2 | - | 5 | 9 | 6 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Course 5 | 5 | - | 2 | 19 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 1 | - | - | - | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Course 6 | - | 4 | 4 | - | 27 | 3 | - | 14 | - | 2 | - | - | 8 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Number of graduates | 26 | 30 | 9 | 38 | 30 | 11 | 21 | 15 | - | 19 | - | 8 | 10 | - | 20 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - |
| Ratio of enrolled students and those who successfully completed the programme, % | 433.33 | 375 | 40.91 | 190 | 54.54 | 30.55 | 123.53 | 65.22 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 285.71 | - | 25 | - | - | 50 | - |

* NL/D (VLN) – full-time studies in Vilnius, I/N (VLN)* – part-time studies in Vilnius, NL(S)(VLN)* – full-time studies organized in sessions in Vilnius, I/N (KLP)* – part-time studies in Klaipėda, NL(S)(KLP)* – full-time studies organized in sessions in Klaipėda

** Information for the period up to 30-05-2017

NOTE: from the academic year 2014/2015, the calculation of the passing score is done according to the new formula. According to it, the maximum competitive score of the applicant is 10 without added additional points.

**Volume and forms of students involved in research, art and applied activities.**

Law students are encouraged to participate in science, art and applied science activities. Lecturers, facilitating better learning of the study courses and skills, and abilities to perform the research in the area, encourage students to engage in research and creative projects related to their field of study.

From 2010, activities are carried out by the Scientific Society of Students of the the Faculty of Law (hereinafter referred to as the FL SSS). FL SSS is a structural unit of the Faculty of Law, which brings together students, actively seeking high academic results and participating in scientific activities, as well as teachers and researchers seeking to transfer the experience of scientific and applied research organization. For example, in 2013, the FL SSS, in collaboration with the administration of the Faculty of Law, conducted a cycle of events "My Europe. My rights". Based on it, the Lithuanian Parliament organized a national youth conference "My Europe. My rights" to commemorate the year 2013 – the year of European citizen, and the Lithuanian presidency of the European Union Council. During the conference, students presented their works and participated in discussions with the members of European Parliament, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, prominent lawyers, and business representatives. The conference works were published in a separate publication. In 2015, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania organized a national conference of law students: "Lawyer's career: Let's start from the University" for the promotion of the priorities of the Bologna process and the Lithuanian project "European Higher Education Area to students". During the event, the FL SSS research "I am a lawyer" was presented.

FL SSS members contributed to the organisation of open lectures and lecture cycles. For example, in 2016 it held a seminar for the following relevant topics: "Career motivation: individual career path", "What do we know about mediation and brokers?", "Personal data protection issues in Lithuania", "Efficient and accurate civil procedure: value to the participants and the state".

The FL SSS particularly emphasizes the importance of academic ethics. On 17 May 2016, it organized a roundtable discussion "Academic (non)integrity – reflection of our approach to life". The aim of the event was to discuss the problems of plagiarism, purchase and sale of student papers, efficiency of prevention of dishonesty as anti-corruption measure by analyzing the attitudes of students to these phenomena and making value conclusions on the future success of student career.

Together with the social partners, students are actively involved in the events organised by the University. For example, together with the Association of Assistant Judges, the students of Law organised the event "Professional competence of assistant judge: practice in theory and theory in practice", in which the association representatives shared their experiences about the beginning of their career, and discussed practical aspects of activities of assistant judges; and together with the Lithuanian Chamber of Bailiffs organised the event "Bailiff's activities and performance" where bailiffs shared experiences about the beginning of their career and successful career, and discussed practical aspects of bailiff activities.

The Faculty of Law implemented innovative student placement projects. In 2013, the Faculty of Law signed a co-operation agreement with the organisers of the project "Opportunity Academy". "Opportunity Academy" is a long-term project, which aims to train prospective inexperienced lawyers in the practical field, as well as highlight the competencies of young lawyers, survey skills, professionalism, enabling to become preferred workers for employers. Furthermore, the University implements a student career planning programme "Career path", which aims to build individual career prospects for each University student. The Faculty of Law implements this programme by organizing a variety of scientific and practical activities and projects designed to expand the horizons of students choosing a particular professional field. For example, on 26 March 2015 it held an open lecture of the manager of the Youth Work Centre of Vilnius Territorial Labour Exchange Jolanta Skirmantienė "Job interview: come out the winner".

The students of the programme of Law studies can train their career skills at the Youth Law

Clinic operating under the University, and in the Interdisciplinary Research Center for Children Rights (IRCCR). The Youth Law Clinic provides primary legal aid, which includes legal information, legal advice and preparation of documents submitted to state and municipal institutions, with the exception of procedural documents. In addition, this legal assistance includes advice on the resolution of the dispute out of court, actions for amicable resolution of the dispute (meditation, negotiation) and preparation of the settlement agreement. The Clinic also helps customers to prepare procedural court documents (claims, complaints, statements, comments, and other procedural documents). The IRCCR was established and started operating in July 2016. This is the first centre of its kind in Lithuania, seeking to draw attention to the relevance of the topic of the rights of the child, promoting the scientific evidence-based policy-making and proving the qualification of people working in the child protection field. The IRCCR is an academic centre engaged in academic research and seeking an integrated and comprehensive approach to the rights of the child.

**Student participation in mobility programmes.**

In 2012, after the change of the University management, it submitted an application and the Erasmus University Charter was awarded for the University enabling to engage in student mobility activities. In 2012-2013 the University engaged in active preparation for international student exchange: it has signed cooperation agreements with universities in other countries (currently, the University has 120 foreign partners, see Annex 9), applied for funding, organised information sessions for students on international exchange opportunities, and began to offer subjects in English. Erasmus exchanges started in 2013 and have since been notable by the growth in the number of students arriving to the University.

From 2014, students under the Erasmus+ programme are offered to go for an internships to companies and other organizations in foreign countries.

The number of students who went for international exchange programmes under the programme of Law studies is not high, but it can be explained by a low total number of students. There were no students travelling under Erasmus programmes in 2015/2016. Reasons of this are student employment, personal commitments, lack of confidence in their English language skills and financial reasons. The number of incoming students is constantly growing, which indicate the popularity of the University's Law studies among partner university students.

Information about the number of students incoming and outgoing according to international exchange programmes is presented in Table 16.

**Table 16.** Students incoming and outgoing according to international exchange programmes.

| Year | Programme/contract | Number of outgoing students | Number of incoming students |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2012/2013 | Baltic Sea Summer University | - | 5 |
| | Erasmus | - | - |
| 2013/2014 | Erasmus | 2 | 3 |
| 2014/2015 | Erasmus | 2 | 4 |
| 2015/2016 | Erasmus | - | 8 |
| 2016/2017* | Erasmus | 1 | 12 |

* The information provided until 30-06-2017

In summer of 2013 the University and the CIFE (Centre International de Formation Européenne, France) organized a week-long intensive summer training cycle Baltic Summer University "Baltic countries in Europe", which welcomed first foreign students. The participants and lecturers came to this event from University's partner schools in 9 countries.

Detailed information about students incoming and outgoing under the mobility programmes is presented in Annex 11.

**Support forms for students.**

During the period concerned, in the course of study students were provided full organisational, academic, study subject, and financial support.

The University develops individualisation and tutorship culture of studies, with a particular focus on individual educational and consultation work and enhancement of academic communication ethics. These are the fundamental provisions of the assessment of the quality of studies. Student consultations procedure consists of student notification tools, consultation supply of the study process and consultation services for career planning. Consultation tools: information and consultations by phone and e-mail, individual lecturer acceptance hours, administrative staff consultation.

In the beginning of the studies, students are introduced with the general information related to studies: University procedures, the most important aspects of the study and the ongoing proceedings, their rights and duties. Students are consulted on the process of studies by the Head of the Studies Development Department, and by the coordinators of studies.

Students are advised on academic and methodological issues by the management and teaching professionals of the Faculty of Law. Academic assistance is provided through seminars "Features of writing course papers", "Methodology of Law research and peculiarities of writing final thesis", open cycle of lectures and notifications about events of social partners (for example, the Association of Assistant Judges in its seminars offers 2–3 places free of charge to the University law students). Course descriptions, course materials, assignments are uploaded on the electronic environment using the Moodle system. The University is guided by the values of openness and accessibility and therefore students can address to the management of the Faculty of Law and the University on any issues and at any time.

During the first lectures lecturers introduced students with the requirements of their course, the procedure of deliveries and sources of studies. Course lecturers advise students on tasking issues, recommend literature, prepare individual tasks, take part in non-formal education process on value and worldview issues directly and in the digital Moodle environment. Communication of lecturers and students in various forms is encouraged: meetings, e-mail, telephone, tour lectures, instant messaging programmes.

The Competence Development Centre and the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre at the University provide students with the opportunity to engage in active complementary activities annexing the non-formal education.

The University also offers comprehensive leisure options for students. The University has: Photo club, Line dance group, Forum theatre group and others. It should be noted that the University focuses on the training of social and civic skills of students. For example, in 2013, the Faculty of Law signed a co-operation agreement with the PI Menų ir mokymų namai, and made a joint project sponsored by the European Commission, "Citizen's Road". This project is dedicated for the meetings of citizens of various EU countries citizens, for discussions and work.

**Discount system.** The University provides financial assistance to entrants and students. In order to increase the academic achievements of students and reduce social exclusion, the University apply the following financing system of studies:

**Table 17.** Discounts applied in the admission of 2017

| FOR ENTRANTS | |
|---|---|
| Students entering with high competitive grades (for undergraduate and integrated studies) | FREE studies for applicants whose competitive score is 9 or more. 50 per cent discount to tuition fees for applicants with a competitive score from 8.5 to 8.99. 30 per cent discount to applicants with a competitive score from 8 to 8.49 |
| For entrants accepted through direct admission till 14 July. | 30 per cent discount on the tuition fee applies for direct admission candidates and for those signing the documents of studies before 14 July. |
| For those who have completed military service | Those who have completed military service receive 50 per cent discount on tuition fee. |
| For disabled persons | Disabled persons get 50 per cent discount on tuition fee. |
| Special price for college graduates | Higher education (college) graduates (law field), applying to the course III of the integrated law studies, the tuition fee is EUR 550 per semester. |
| FOR STUDENTS | |

| For advanced students | After each session, 2 of the most advanced students can study free of charge in the next semester. |
|---|---|
| For KSU ambassadors | KSU ambassadors representing the University receive 50 per cent discount on tuition fee |
| For active students | Every semester 3 students who have achieved outstanding results in scientific, artistic or sports activities, as well as actively participate in the University community, are given 50 per cent discount on tuition fees. |

During the analysed period, the University offered the discounts on tuition fees for socially disadvantaged students and students with good academic achievements (Table 18). Attraction and promotion of the most advanced students is one of the key priorities of the University, and since 2013 it has introduced the tuition fee compensation for advanced students, which allows the best students to study free of charge. Under this procedure, reimbursement of tuition fee is a sign for the next semester of studies, students are rotated after every autumn and spring examination session. It should be noted that in the academic year 2016–2017 this compensation arrangement has been applied for as many as 13 times, i.e., 7.4% of students studied free of charge. The numbers of applied discounts show tendency to grow in year, it proves that university has an understanding and makes investments in various means of students' motivation.

The University, being aware of the significance of the diploma of a Master in Law for every person, seeking a legal career, offers those having a professional bachelor of Law, to continue studies that the integrated programme of studies of Law at KSU. These students are admitted to the III (third) course of a programme, and are offered special reduced price of tuition, by integrating additional studies required for them to the process of studies. This offer is announced to the graduates of colleges and is publicised over the KSU application channels; also, in spring 2017, collaboration contracts with colleges are signed.

**Table 18.** Discounts of tuition fees for the students of the programme of Law studies (cases) in 2012/2013 – 2016/2017

|  | 2012–2013 acad. year | 2013–2014 acad. year | 2014/2015 acad. year | 2015–2016 acad. year | 2016-2017 acad. year | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reduced tuition fees: | 4 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 18 | 42 |
| For good academic achievements (100% of semester price) | 1 | - | 3 | 5 | 13 | 22 |
| For good academic achievements (90 % of semester price) | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| For good academic achievements (LTL 604 per semester, i.e. students receiving state funding do not have to pay the price difference not covered by the study basket) | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Orphans (50% of the tuition fee) | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| For Disability (100 % of the tuition fee) | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| For Disability (50% of the tuition fee) | - | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 11 |
| For the University ambassador duties | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 |

Information about studies is continuously provided on the University website, University social network accounts (www.facebook.com, www.pinterest.com, www.youtube.com), meetings with the academic community and social partners. The University is guided by the principle of openness, and therefore actively cooperates with the University Student Association, involving representatives of students to all University management processes.

**Evaluation of student achievements.**

The organization of the study process is aimed at adapting the teaching and learning methods that correspond to different student learning styles and needs. During the whole study period, seeking for more efficient and extensive assimilation of knowledge and active involvement of students during the entire study semester, the university applies cumulative scoring for many study courses. As a rule, scores for interim assessments (colloquiums), work and presentation of performed tasks, written papers, essays, summary reports, applied research, projects during lectures and seminars constitute 35–45 % of the student's final evaluation for a study course. The University

also seeks to promote students' active participation in other curricular activities, deepening students' knowledge and introducing the latest news on the subject. This is achieved in cooperation with other entities, social partners participating in the study process; for scientific and cognitive purposes, upon prior approval, students may attend visiting profesors' lectures, participate in study visits to public and private institutions, etc. Show and application of knowledge acquired in the course of additional study and practice activities during lectures and seminars on the study subject often constitutes 10 % of the student's final evaluation. Each course is completed by an examination testing student's knowledge and understanding of the subject (55 – 65 % of the final evaluation). Usually an examination consists of a written test with one or more possible answers and open questions/tasks. Specific assessment system of student achievements in the programme is described for each course of studies and presented in the enclosed course descriptions in Annex 2.

The evaluation system enables the University to monitor students' progress in achieving learning outcomes, establish changes, detect deviations in a timely manner, maintain feedback, and create preconditions for adjustments. Learning outcomes, the programme structure, teaching methods and the size of a student group determine methods of evaluation of student achievements.

**Time of student lectures, workshops, independent work.**
The University organises full-time studies in semesters, consisting of 16 weeks of lectures (15 of which are dedicated for lectures, and 1 week is for independent student work or consultations with teachers out of classrooms) and the examination session takes 4 weeks. The autumn semester starts on 1 September and continues until 31 January; the spring semester starts on 1 February and ends on 30 June.

During the whole study period, students spend 1676 academic hours (20.95 %) in classrooms. 996 hours out of them (59.43 %) are dedicated for theoretical lectures, 680 hours (40.57 %) for seminars (practical classes). 6324 hours (79.05 %) are dedicated for independent student work. In the part of the programme corresponding to the first study cycle of full-time form of law studies, lectures and seminars in average take 11.5 academic hours per week (23 %), whereas independent work – 38.5 academic hours per week (77 %), in the part corresponding to the second study cycle lectures and seminars in average take 6.5 academic hours per week (13 %), whereas independent work – 43.5 academic hours per week (87 %).

Studies of students and exam sessions are conducted in accordance with the schedule prepared and approved by the Studies Development Department, in cooperation with the Faculty of Law and other departments of the University. Timetables are published on the University's information system, where every student and lecturer has access to them; they are also displayed on the University billboards.

**Final theses of graduates.**
Topics of final theses of students in the last 2 years, supervisors and assessment are presented in Annex 5. Table 19 presents the statistics on the defence of final theses in the academic year 2015–2016.

**Table 19.** Defence of final theses in the academic year 2015–2016.

| Defence time | evaluation score | Evaluated (full-time studies, Vilnius) | | Evaluated (part-time studies, Vilnius) | | Evaluated (part-time studies, Klaipėda) | | Evaluation score group averages |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number of students | Per cent | Number of students | Per cent | Number of students | Per cent | |
| Spring semester 2015 | 10 (excellent) | - | 0 | 1 | 14.29 | 3 | 30 | Full-time studies (Vilnius): 7.1 |
| | 9 (very good) | - | 0 | - | 0 | 2 | 20 | Part-time studies (Vilnius): 7.29 |
| | 8 (good) | 3 | 30 | 3 | 42.85 | 2 | 20 | Part-time studies (Klaipėda): 9 |
| | 7 (satisfactory) | 5 | 50 | - | 0 | - | 0 | Total: 7.8 |
| | 6 (satisfactory) | 2 | 20 | 2 | 28.57 | 2 | 20 | |
| | 5 (weak) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14.29 | 1 | 10 | |
| | Total: | 10 | 100 | 7 | 100 | 10 | 100 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Autumn semester 2015 | 10 (excellent) | - | 0 | - | 0 | 1 | 7.69 | Full-time studies (Vilnius): 7 Part-time studies (Vilnius): 7.5 Part-time studies (Klaipėda): 7.46 Total: 7.32 |
| | 9 (very good) | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | |
| | 8 (good) | - | 0 | 1 | 50 | 7 | 53.84 | |
| | 7 (satisfactory) | 1 | 100 | 1 | 50 | 2 | 15.39 | |
| | 6 (satisfactory) | - | 0 | - | 0 | 2 | 15.39 | |
| | 5 (weak) | - | 0 | - | 0 | 1 | 7.69 | |
| | Total: | 1 | 100 | 2 | 100 | 13 | 100 | |
| Spring semester 2016 | 10 (excellent) | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | Full-time studies (Vilnius): 6.86 Part-time studies (Vilnius): 6.5 Part-time studies (Klaipėda): 6.29 Total: 6.55 |
| | 9 (very good) | 1 | 14.29 | 1 | 12.5 | 1 | 14.29 | |
| | 8 (good) | 1 | 14.29 | 1 | 12.5 | 1 | 14.29 | |
| | 7 (satisfactory) | 2 | 28.57 | 1 | 12.5 | - | 0 | |
| | 6 (satisfactory) | 2 | 28.56 | 3 | 37.5 | 2 | 28.57 | |
| | 5 (weak) | 1 | 14.29 | 2 | 25 | 3 | 42.85 | |
| | Total: | 7 | 100 | 8 | 100 | 7 | 100 | |
| Autumn semester 2016 | 10 (excellent) | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | Full-time studies (Vilnius): 7 Part-time studies (Vilnius): - Part-time studies (Klaipėda) 8 Total: 7.5 |
| | 9 (very good) | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | |
| | 8 (good) | - | 0 | - | 0 | 1 | 100 | |
| | 7 (satisfactory) | 1 | 100 | - | 0 | - | 0 | |
| | 6 (satisfactory) | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | |
| | 5 (weak) | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | |
| | Total: | 1 | 100 | - | 0 | 1 | 100 | |

As can be seen from Table 19, the results of final work defence of students during the entire period are quite similar: The average of the spring semester 2015 was 7.8; autumn – 7.32 points; The average of autumn semester of 2016 was 6.55 points, while the spring semester – 7.5 points. The autumn semester of 2015 has shown a better average of part-time studies in Klaipėda.

The biggest differences can be identified between the groups of full-time and part-time studies autumn when the total average assessments of the full-time group of studies and part-time group of studies in Vilnius and Klaipėda deferred, but these differences do not reflect the general trends, and the total number of students who have defended the final work is too low to make any generalized conclusions.

**Employability of students and graduates.**

Attractiveness of the University graduates is best demonstrated by the opinion of the employers. In recent years, very good results have been achieved in this area. This is illustrated by the *Reitingai* magazine performing the ranking of all universities in accordance with various criteria every year. In 2017, according to the *Reitingai* survey, the University was first by the added value created by alumni and the employers' assessment criterion. During the survey employers were asked to evaluate whether the knowledge and skills of graduates comply with the needs of our company, and whether they would recommended the University to others. Furthermore, the number of the University students who did not find employment after graduation, according to the labour exchange data, was evaluated. According to the data of Lithuanian Labour Exchange (LLE), after graduation only 1.8% of the Law students do not find employment (information was collected at least in 9 months after graduation).

These data are confirmed by the graduate surveys conducted by the University after graduation. Results of these surveys make a significant contribution to the annual upgrade of the programme of studies, and improvement of the quality of studies. The results of the survey in 2016 showed that 86 per cent of graduates of the full-time studies started working still during their studies, and had employment during the graduation; and from among the part-time students (Vilnius and Klaipėda) 100 per cent of graduates had employment and were working. Therefore, this suggests that the graduates and students of the University's programme of Law studies successfully establish themselves in the labour market.

Being aware of the importance of communication of graduates with the University, the University creates a system of unified communication with graduates. Development of this system began in 2012. Its main objectives are to develop and complete a database of graduate workplaces and other activities while maintaining informal contacts with alumni and inviting them to

participate in the University events. In May 2012, the University founded the Alumni Club. The University's Alumni Club operates on the basis of the online platform (alumni.ksu.lt), where the alumni of the University can publish information about their careers, communicate with each other, and get the University news and help. The University's Alumni database contains information of all the graduates. They are regularly sent reminders to annex their questionnaire forms, and enter data on the workplaces.

| Strengths | Weaknesses | Improvement actions |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The University applies the "Career path" programme for the integration of students into the labour market. | 1. Trend of the decline in the number of new entrants. | 1. To involve a bigger variety of social partners in the development of the "Career path" programme. Taking into account the proposals of social partners, to improve the contents of studies and ensure the compliance of competences to the labour market needs. |
| 2. Active Student Scientific Society of the faculty of Law. | 2. Low international mobility of outbound students. | 2. To ensure the implementation of Erasmus and other mobility programmes. To engage in new mobility programmes. To expand the network of specialized partners. |
| 3. Students are offered conditions to deepen their professional and general knowledge and skills through additional activities, research events, international mobility programmes and other extra-curricular activities. | | 3. The University aims to increase the awarness in is of its name, and efficiency of external communication (particularly remaining and increasing co-operation with Lithuanian schools and gymnasiums) |
| 4. Experiential training is included in the process of studies. | | |
| 5. Targeted strategy is implemented to attract students and a differentiated financial motivation system of student is applied (discount system) | | |

### 2.1.6. Programme management

The programme of Law studies is implemented by the Faculty of Law of Kazimieras Simonavičius University. The programme of studies is managed from Vilnius but implemented in Vilnius and Klaipėda (during the analysed period, Klaipėda had the part-time studies and later full-time studies organized in sessions). The study programme is a part of the study quality assurance system of Kazimieras Simonavicius University. The main criterion for evaluation of the entire study programme and of separate courses is the maximum compliance to the learning outcomes and the quality of competences to be given to students. The study programme monitoring and self-evaluation system is constantly performed in the University (on the University and Faculty levels).

In this regard, the programme focuses on the ongoing changes taking place on a global scale, and the introduction of the latest scientific advances, in the subject teaching methodologies and assessment systems. The essential factor of ensuring the quality of study programme is the feedback from students, alumni and social partners. The research and creative work of the programme of studies are linked with the topics and problems raised by social partners. In development, improvement and evaluation of the programme, students, alumni and social partners are invited to Faculty meetings and participate in taking decisions related to the management of the Law study programme. Representatives of students and social partners participate as equal members in the development of the programme of Law studies.

Management of the study programme (in Vilnius and Klaipeda) is directly ensured by the Study Programme Committee (hereinafter – the Committee), the composition and functions of which are defined by the regulations of the University's Study Programme Committee, the Description of the Procedure of Study Programme Preparation, Approval and Improvement, the Description of the Procedure of Internal Study Programme Quality Monitoring and Evaluation, the

Description of the Process of External Evaluation and Accreditation of Study Programmes and by the Quality Manual of the University, according to which the Committee:

1. is a permanent University body for preparing, improving, performing and ensuring quality of study programmes, for distribution of responsibilities and decision taking;
2. plans, orders preparation of and evaluates learning resources;
3. accepts, prepares and considers proposals regarding involvement of social partners into the study programme process, reinforces connections between academic and professional institutions, private and public sector;
4. evaluates changes and innovations in the field of study, considers possibilities of their application, in this way ensuring the quality and innovation of the study process;
5. considers, implements and ensures openness to application of new management models, creation of European modules, encouraging internationality and mobility of students.

The Committee of the programme of Law studies consists of eight members: Dr. Aida Kišūnaitė (Dean of the Faculty of Law), Prof. Dr. Ryšardas Burda (Professor of the Faculty of Law), Prof. Dr. Raimundas Kalesnykas (Professor of the Faculty of Law), Assoc. Dr. Lina Aleknaitė-Van der Molen (Associate Professor of the Faculty of Law), Lect. Laura Altun (Lecturer of the Faculty of Law), Dovilė Satkauskienė (representatives of social partners of the Faculty of Law), Olegas Beriozovas (Graduate of the Faculty of Law), Agnė Bružaitė (Director of the Studies Development Department).

**Organisation of the process of studies.**

The Law studies are organized and conducted by the Faculty of Law and the Studies Development Department. Studies at the University are coordinated by the coordinators of studies.

University lectures are conducted according to the study schedules with indication of the classroom work forms, time, duration and location. University students study under the schedule of full-time studies, when lectures are held on weekdays from Monday to Friday, or a schedule of full-time session type studies when lectures are held for students coming to 3-day lecture sessions (Friday-Sunday). Full-time session type studies were launched in 2014 as an alternative to the full-time studies and are adapted for employed persons. Requirements for full-time studies and full-time session type studies are the same. Study schedules are drafted at the beginning of August and January. They are sent to the Faculty of Law for approval of lecturers, indicating the time and date of schedule approval by which changes can be made. Schedules must be published two weeks before the beginning of the lectures or examinations session in the semester (until 1 September and respectively by 1 February). Schedules are drafted for semester. Approved schedules are posted on the University website and on billboards at the University.

The academic year in the University starts on 1 September ends on 31 August, including vacations. The academic year is divided into semesters and vacation periods. Usually, an academic year consists of two semesters: autumn semester and spring semester. If necessary, a summer semester can be organised. The calendar duration of a semester is 20 weeks. Full-time students have Christmas and Easter vacations and vacations after the examination session of the autumn semester. During summer time students are given a summer vacation, which cannot be shorter than one month without interruptions. An academic calendar is prepared for an academic year and is placed on the University's website at the beginning of an academic year.

Academic mobility includes changing a student's study programme, changing the type and manner of studies, changing financing of studies, termination, suspension and resumption of studies. Students who did not fail during examinations, in case of vacancies, can be moved from one type of studies to another one within four weeks after the beginning of a semester under the competitive procedure.

Studies are terminated and a student is deleted from student lists: upon request of the student himself/herself; if the student does not return from the academic leave; in case of death. A student is expelled from the University: due to under-achievement; if the student fails to register for studies in time; if the student does not pay for studies in time; for gross violations of academic ethics, which

are established in the University's Code of Ethics. Students are deleted from student lists and expelled from the University by the Rector's order.

By an order of the Rector of the University students can be allowed to suspend studies for no longer than one year. In such a case they are not deleted from student lists, financing of studies does not change. Upon their own request (due to disease, child care or other objective reasons) students can be given an academic leave, its duration cannot be longer than one year. When the period of the student's academic leave is coming to an end and in case of presentation of documents proving that there are objective reasons to extend the leave, such a leave can be extended. Financing of studies does not change during the period of the academic leave.

Promoting the internationalization of education, advanced students having no academic debts can be sent to periods of study to higher schools of other countries and Lithuania according to international, inter-departmental, inter-university and other cooperation agreements and student exchange programmes, based on the conditions of cooperation agreements or student exchange programmes, or for partial studies is freely moving students to independently selected a recognized institution of higher learning. The University participates in the Erasmus programme and has entered into co-operation agreements with 120 universities in Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Poland, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Germany, Portugal, France, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Italy, Cyprus, India Hungary, etc. The University also develops co-operation under bilateral agreements with the universities in Taiwan (National Kaohsiung University, National Kaohsiung University of applied Sciences, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology) and the United Kingdom (Kingston University).

The final year students defend their final theses and take final examinations. The procedures of organisation of final examinations and preparation and defence of final theses are established in regulations approved by the University. The graduation procedures are checked and a decision on granting a qualification degree is taken by the qualification commission for granting Master's degree. Teachers of the University and other higher education institutions, researchers of scientific institutions, social partners can be members of the commission.

A graduate of the University is considered to be a person, who fulfilled all the requirements of a chosen study programme. A person, who completed integrated studies and fulfilled all the University's requirements according to the established procedure, is issued a diploma and a diploma supplement confirming the Master's degree in the study field of law. Students, who graduated only with very good and perfect grades, are given a diploma cum laude.

Communication between lecturers, administrative staff and students during studies is regulated bythe Code of Ethics of Kazimieras Simonavičius University. This document sets out the values of the activities in the University, provisions on constructive behaviour, regulates the important norms of unwanted behaviour, which are not directly established by legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania, employment contracts and documents of internal procedure of the University. The relationship of the University community and students is based on the principles of respect, impartiality, benevolence, non-discrimination and tolerance, academic cooperation and transparency.

**Procedure for assurance of the quality of studies.**

The University has an internal system of managing and ensuring the quality of studies (ISO 9001:2008), which is based on distribution of responsibility for the quality of studies. According to the provisions of the European internal study quality assurance, best practices of Lithuania and universities worldwide, the University develops modern quality culture, implements and improves the internal study quality assurance system. Provisions of the internal quality assurance of the University studies are as follows:

*Quality assurance policies and procedures.* The University develops and implements the quality assurance policies and operating procedures to help ensure the quality of studies. The main study processes are implemented in accordance with the established and approved descriptions of procedures, and sharing responsibilities between different departments and offices. The Study Programme Committee is active in seeking to improve the curriculum content and organization and

to ensure the quality of studies. Its composition and functions are defined by the regulations of the KSU Studies Programme Committee. In accordance with the quality manager of the University, it has implemented the quality indicator measurement system, based on which the key programme indicators are monitored and evaluated. In implementing ISO 9001: 2015 standard the University carries out annual audit covering the implementation procedures and results of the programmes of studies.

*Assessment of study outcomes.* Results of studies of students are evaluated using the criteria, methods and procedures announced in the Procedure for evaluation of the study results and organisation of the examination session of the University. Each subject to description indicates the assessment methods and criteria. During the first lectures of each course students are familiarised with the contents of the course, requirements, evaluation criteria and methodology, and delivery procedures. For all courses of study the University applies a cumulative assessment system.

*Assurance of lecturers competence and performance.* The University ensures that the faculty is qualified and competent to teach. Lecturers are selected according to the laws and the requirements specified in procedure for selection and assessment of the University's pedagogical scientific personnel. The selection of the teaching personnel is based on: 1) their education and scientific degree; 2) pedagogical/scientific experience; 3) publications proving scientific qualifications; 4) personal initiative and leadership. In their activities lecturers follow the quality requirements for teaching, covering the requirements for the organisation of studies, student information provisions and qualitative and methodological requirements. Lecturers are encouraged to constantly improve their skills, engage in active scientific activities, participate in conferences, scientific exhibitions, and attempt to take over the experience of foreign countries. The FL lecturers are encouraged to actively take advantage of teaching and training opportunities of Erasmus and other exchange programmes. The FL on a regular basis organises meetings of lecturers involved in the programme, to discuss the progress of the programme of studies, delivery of different subjects, project and independent activities of students, and teaching methods.

*Resources of studies and support for students.* The University ensures that the resources necessary for the students of the programme of studies are adequate and sufficient. In order to provide the best possible conditions and to provide all necessary resources for the study of its students, the University periodically updates technical facilities of the University, cooperates with social and business partners on infrastructure renewal or opportunities for students to use the facilities of partners, expands its library, improves the operation of student consulting and information systems. The University is guided by the values of openness and accessibility and therefore students can address to the management of the FL on any issues and at any time.

*Information systems.* The University ensures the collection, analysis and use of appropriate information to help effectively manage the programmes of studies and learning activities. The University uses the Moodle system and the KSU information system.

*Public notification.* The University constantly publishes up-to-date and unbiased quantitative and qualitative information about the programmes of studies and qualifications awarded. Documents regulating the studies and methodical documents are published on the University's website. Students are informed about changes of the study regulation or methodological requirements by email. Information about studies, study programmes, schedules, current affairs and events, research and student achievements is always available on the University website, University social network accounts (www.facebook.com, www.twitter.com, www.youtube.com), and during meetings with the academic community and social partners. The University is guided by the principle of openness and therefore actively cooperates with the University Student Association, involving representatives of students to all University management processes. If necessary, it organises meetings of students with the management of the University and the FL management, Studies Development Department and other departments.

*Student career.* Another important part of quality assurance is student career planning and opportunity to apply training results in practice. The University implements the "Career path" programme, which aims to introduce students to career opportunities and test themselves in various

fields from the first year of studies. According to this approach, the study tasks are associated with the integration of knowledge of law into the business sector, development of capacity to create added value and assimilation of latest technologies in active cooperation with social partners. The University has the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre, which seeks to engage students in active extra curricular activities, enriching their studies with informal learning.

*Programme development.* The University's study programmes are constantly updated and complemented, according to the needs of students, social partners and developments in the field of law. At present, the greatest attention is paid to the development of the internationalization of the programme, opportunities for double diploma and joint degree programmes. Furthermore, efforts are also made to increase the programme's innovation and direct application of competences in developing and creating jobs in this field. The academic potential of the programme is increased, applying latest results of scientific research and experimental development, for the improvement of the process of studies, using new technologies of studies and learning environments, on the basis of student oriented learning didactics and methodologies.

*Student feedback, complaints and requests.* Particular attention is drawn to the development of student's individuality with consideration to his needs, special requests and complaints. The system which can flexibly, transparently and objectively impeccably response to all deviations from the process of studies, changes in conditions or violations, is created. Students are advised by the coordinators of study and supervisors of the programmes of studies, and optimal decisions are swiftly made, they are summarised and transposed to the relevant legal acts of the University. In implementing the programme of studies, ongoing surveys of students and graduates are conducted, and the programme of studies is updated and developed based on their results. Student surveys are conducted in the following stages: 1) In the second month of each semester the University organises meetings with the FL management with the students of each programme of studies, to discuss student expectations, complaints and suggestions regarding the content and organization of studies; 2) at the end of each semester a student survey is carried out, to evaluate the quality of teaching and organisation of each subject of studies on the basis of a questionnaire prepared in advance; 3) the studies are completed with the survey of graduates, to evaluate the overall quality of the programme of studies by the students. The University's Student Association also implements student survey projects, for instance, the initiative "Throughout a problem" allowing students to provide anonymous information about problems during the course of studies. Results of this initiative are presented to the management of the University and its divisions, and that considered in the organisation of the process of studies and improvement of the quality of studies programmes.

| Strengths | Weaknesses | Improvement actions |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Competent and professional management of the programme of studies and the effective personal qualification training systems. | 1. Faculty activities require greater coordination during the studies in Vilnius and Klaipėda | 1. To continue to organize and ensure the mechanism of permanent qualification upgrade of teachers |
| 2. Social partners are involved in the management and improvement of a programme of studies. | | 2. To ensure continuous operation of the committee of the programme of studies, and supervision of quality of studies |
| 3. Feedback with students is continuously maintained. | | |
| 4. The quality management policy and ISO 9001:2015 is actively implemented | | |

## 2.2. Integrated Law study programme (part-time studies)

### 2.2.1. Programme aim and learning outcomes

The aim of part-time studies is to provide education by integrated Law study programme to persons, who cannot study in full-time form of studies and who seek to combine studies and work.

Programme aim and learning outcomes of the part-time study programme correspond to the programme aims and learning outcomes of the full-time study programme, which are indicated in section 2.1.1.

From the academic year 2014–2015, students were not accepted to part-time studies and the full-time studies organized in sessions were offered as an alternative to part-time studies. Only students after an academic break were returning to the form of part-time studies or students who were admitted to a higher course of studies were joining exicting part-time study student groups (IV – VI year of studies).

### 2.2.2. Structure of the programme

The structure of the programme and its compliance to the requirements of legislation is described in section 2.1.2 of the SER.

The length of part-time studies in the academic year 2008–2013 was 300 credits (8000 working hours), lasting six years (twelve semesters). The scope of the programme of study subjects is also in line with the legal requirements (described in section 2.1.1).

Requirements for the students' final theses are described in section 2.1.2.

### 2.2.3. Human resources

Data on staff is presented in section 2.1.3.
List of lecturers is presented in Annex 3.
Descriptions of lecturer activities are presented in Annex 4.

### 2.2.4. Material resources

Data on material resources is presented in section 2.1.4.

### 2.2.5. Study process and student evaluation

Data on adoption, movement and gradation of full-time students is presented in section 2.1.5 and shown in Table 15.

During the analysed period there was a clear trend among the applicants to the part-time studies – willingness to acquire another university education, or to supplement their college education with the university level of knowledge. During the analysed period, 25–78 per cent of entrants to the part-time studies in Vilnius already had the college or university education or have studied, but not completed studies in other universities. Klaipėda group had 41–72 per cent of students who have already studied elsewhere. These data suggest that part-time studies, and from 2014 – full-time studies organized in the session form were chosen by older and more motivated students seeking knowledge.

Volumes and forms of students involved in scientific, arts and applied research is presented in section 2.1.5.

Support forms for students are described in section 2.1.5.

Principles of the student achievement assessment system are described in section 2.1.5.

Part-time studies were organized on weekends. Semester duration was 5 months. Of these, 4 months were allocated for lectures, which take place for 8 weekends (lectures take place on Saturdays and Sundays), the examination session lasts one month, for 4 weekends.

Topics, supervisors and evaluations of student final theses in the last 2 years are presented in Annex 5 and described in section 2.1.5.

## 2.2.6. Programme management

Programme management information presented in section 2.1.6.

**ANNEXES**

ANNEX 1.       Plan of Law study programme
ANNEX 2.       Description of study courses
ANNEX 3.       List of academic staff
ANNEX 4.       Curriculum Vitae of academic staff
ANNEX 5.       List of Final theses
ANNEX 6.       Summary of 2014 assesment findings of KSU Law programme
ANNEX 7.       Organisational structure of Kazimieras Simonavicius University
ANNEX 8.       Participants of international mobility programmes in 2012 - 2017
ANNEX 9.       Partners of Kazimieras Simonavicius University
ANNEX 10.    Places of Final Internships of Kazimieras Simonavicius University Law study programme students in 2012-2017
ANNEX 11.    Students participation in mobility programmes