

VYTAUTO DIDŽIOJO UNIVERSITETAS

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VYTAUTO DIDŽIOJO
UNIVERSITETAS
MCMXXII

Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Languages of the Wider World

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The aim:

- Wide range of languages on offer at VMU
- Organization of teaching less widely taught languages
- Multi-lingual strategy of the university



22 languages are offered at VMU

- 5 popular EU languages:

– English 

– German 

– French 

– Spanish 

– Italian 









Languages of our neighbours

- 4 languages of neighbouring countries:
 - Estonian 
 - Latvian 
 - Polish 
 - Russian 
- 2 Scandinavian languages:
 - Norwegian 
 - Swedish 
 - Old Scandinavian (not this semester)



6 non-European languages

- Turkish 
- Chinese 
- Korean 
- Japanese 
- Arabic 
- Hebrew 

Ancient languages

- 3 ancient languages:
 - Latin
 - Old Greek language and culture
 - New Testament Greek
- 2 Lithuanian:
 - Lithuanian Sign Language
 - Lithuanian language and culture to foreigners



Culture and language related courses

- Islam in Today's Contemporary World
- Culture of Arab countries
- Culture of Turkic Countries
- Japanese Way of Thinking: Ethics of Communication and Management
- Birth of European Literature
- Latin Culture and Literature in the Great Lithuanian Duchy
- Antique Culture
- Antique Mythology
- Culture of Hellenism and Christianity
- Symbolics
- Ancient City: Culture and Politics

Initiatives undertaken at the level faculty

Catholic Theology Faculty:

- *Dept. of Catholic Theology - 1 level of Latin language (6 ECTS)*

Faculty of Humanities:

- *Dept. of Ethnology – Latvian language and culture (4.5 ECTS)*
- *Dept. of History – speciality language – 2 levels of one of 4 offered languages Polish, Russian, Latin, German*
- *Dept. of English Philology – 2 levels of a FL (12 ECTS)*
- *Dept. of German Philology – 2 levels of FL (12 ECTS);*
- *Dept. of French Philology – 2 levels of a FL (12 ECTS) and Basics of Latin (6 ECTS)*
- *Dpt. of Philosophy – 1 level of a FL (12 ECTS)*
- *Dept. of the Lithuanian Philology - 1 level of Latvian language and Culture (6 ECTS) and Basics of Latin (6 ECTS)*

Number of Students

- The total number of students attending language courses in 2008 – 7084
- The total number of students attending compulsory English– 3781
- 3303 students attend optional but credited courses of other languages
 - language and culture related courses – 556



Number of students in language courses apart from English – Autumn semester 2008

- German – 182
- French – 173
- Spanish – 145
- Italian – 89
- Russian – 51
- Polish – 53
- Norwegian - 62



Number of students in less widely taught language courses

- Turkish - 28
- Japanese - 47
- Arabic - 16
- Chinese - 12
- Korean - 9
- Latin - 36
- Old Greek – 9
- Lithuanian gesture language - 25



Organisation of teaching less widely taught languages

- 6 ECTS credits
- mainly optional but credited
- intensive teaching 5 days a week
- 1 class - 60 min
- morning hours for languages
 - 8:00-9:00, 9:00-10:00 or 10:00-11:00
- 1 level - one semester (15 weeks)
- small groups (12-17; 5-12)
- native teachers (Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Italian, Estonian, Polish)
- free of charge
 - Estonian, Latvian, Turkish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean <
 - Arabic, Latin, Old Greek, New Testament Greek,
 - ss pay 60 Euros for English, German, French, Italian, Russian, Polish, Spanish/semester



Introduction of novel learning environments

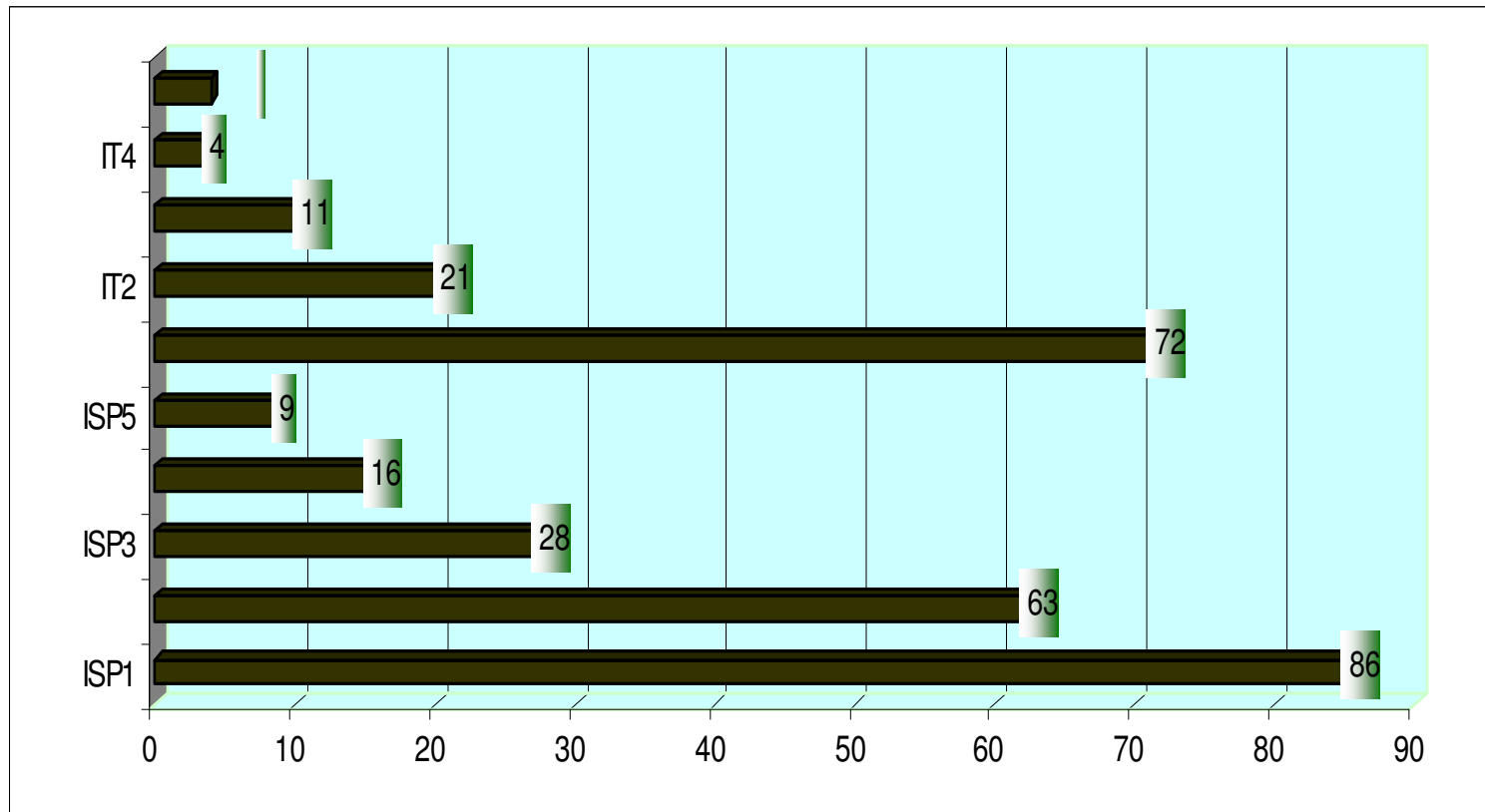
- multimedia language learning laboratory, equipped with the state-of-the-art digital language teaching and learning facilities - SANAKO Lab 300
- teachers passionately engage in building up the SANAKO Lab 300 based course material for specific targets, different languages or class periods.

Content

- The content of languages
 - general language and intercultural competence development
 - rare cases of C1 levels - specific academic and professional competence development
- The *tendency* with other optional but credited languages apart from English - study more languages but at lower levels



Year 2008 Graduates (Bachelor Programmes) n=806





Formal language teaching
combined with extensive exchanges,
partnerships,
extracurricula activities



European / international partnerships

- Almost 100 Lifelong Learning and Erasmus programme partners in the whole world
- 44 treaties of mutual cooperation with universities in Europe, Asia, the USA and Japan
- a member of a number of international organizations
- a member of Campus Europae

*Collaboration with cultural institutes, embassies
that are our sponsors*

- Italian government and Italian Culture Institute
- British Council
- Goete Institute
- Swedish Institute
- Government of Japan
- Embassies of Turkey, Norway, Estonia, Spain

Language club DIWAN

ديوان

- Aims:
 - gather together all interested in the history, culture and traditions of nations living in Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan
 - unite those who want to learn more about the Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia





Japanese language and culture club HASHI

- “Hashi” = bridge
- Aims:
 - Enhance active interest in Japan and Japanese language and culture
 - Introduce culture, way of thinking, political, business, art and other aspects

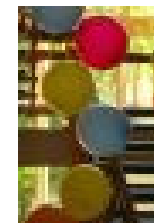
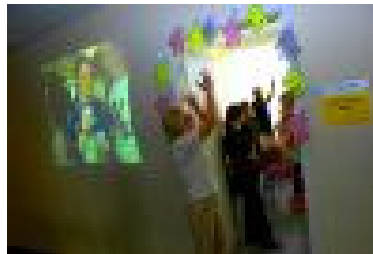




Traditional events



- 2 September – Language Fair for Freshmen
- 26 September – European Day of Languages
- 14 February – Birthday of the Centre of Foreign Languages





Multi-lingual strategy of the university

- Since re-establishment in 1989 (after being closed during the soviet period), conditions for learning languages have been favourable.
- the English language competence at upper intermediate level and above
- learning of other foreign languages as optional but credited subjects encouraged



University Strategy for 2007-2013

- “Broad humanitarian, social and **language** preparation ... ”.
- “Good **competence in several languages** is an indispensable part of a modern university education.”
- “University creates opportunities and access to study **more than 20 languages** to all university non-language programme students”.
- “During the language courses students acquire not only good language skills but become aware of the target country culture, customs and traditions”.
- An important aspect that requires **good language competence** is the target to develop “PARTNERSHIP of research and study participants:
 - through initiation of the establishment of inter-institutional Lithuanian research and study clusters, and the creation of common study programmes
 - through promotion of the mobility of students and teachers
 - through participation in national and international research, study and social projects

The Strategy Implementation Plan (2.1.5)

- “To create an optimal foreign language learning system cohering students’ ambitions and opportunities, requirements of professional activity and international communication”.

The Strategy of the Centre of Foreign Languages for 2007-2013

- “liberalise the choice of foreign languages cohering students’ needs with the employability and international communication requirements”;
- “expand the range of languages offered and renew the content of language programs regularly, taking into account new societal and professional needs”;
- “offer distant language education courses”;
- “design courses in different languages to university community (faculty staff)”

Why students choose other languages apart from English?

- A broad ethos of plurilingualism at institutional level
- A long-term tradition of language teaching and learning at VMU – alumni opinion
- Promotion of language learning in university press, web-page, catalogues and booklets
- Promotion of language learning during traditional events
- Promotion of language learning during extra-curricula activities
- A wide range of languages on offer
- Credits for optional language courses
- Skilled, active and devoted language teaching staff
- ICT and self-study facilities in computer lab, the combination of formal and informal learning options offered, etc.
- Integration of language and culture
- A system of language teaching organization



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Thank you for attention

