



LITHUANIA

INFOPACK - RECOGNITION OF LEARNING PERIODS ABROAD IN GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

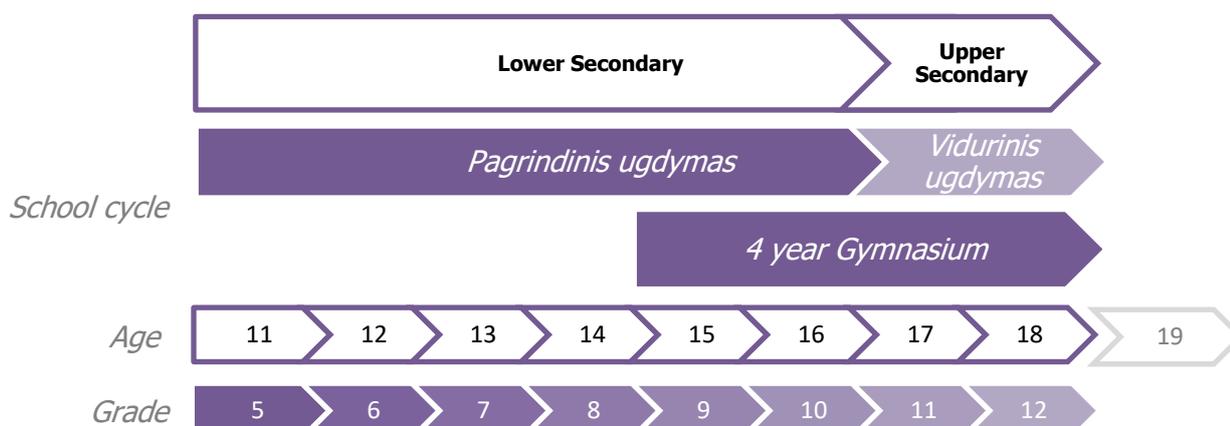
Contents

<u>GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM</u>	2
<u>INFORMATION FOR PUPILS GOING ABROAD FROM LITHUANIA</u>	3
<u>RECOGNITION OF LEARNING PERIODS ABROAD</u>	3
<u>INFORMATION FOR PUPILS HOSTED IN LITHUANIA</u>	3
<u>TESTIMONIAL</u>	4

The information below gives an overview of procedures¹ for the recognition of learning periods abroad in general secondary school. It can be consulted by pupils, as well as their families and teachers, who are or plan to be involved in long-term individual pupil mobility programmes abroad. Please note that this general overview does not include details on different programme types (which may be run by governmental agencies, civil society organisations, private companies or schools themselves) and such information can be obtained directly with the provider of the respective mobility programme.

¹ Based on data gathered in February 2021.

GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM



Education is compulsory until 16 years of age. After the first cycle of lower secondary education (until grade 8) pupils willing to continue their studies in general secondary education can choose whether to join a 4-year Gymnasium or complete lower secondary education in grade 10, and then enrol in general upper secondary education².

Graduation and Certification

At the end of upper secondary education, pupils can take the Maturita examination, which includes at least 1 compulsory subject, namely Lithuanian language and literature. Pupils can choose among three different ways to earn the Maturity certificate (*Brandos atestatas*):

- state-level: at least 2, maximum 6 examinations, set and assessed by National Examination Centres;
- school-level: at least 2, maximum 6 examinations, set and assessed by the school;
- Maturity thesis + compulsory Lithuanian language and literature examination: assessed by National Examination Centres³.

The Maturity certificate gives access to higher education and the Matura examinations subjects and results are criteria for admission⁴.

For more information on the structure and features of the different national education systems in Europe please see the Eurydice overview: National Education Systems | Eurydice (europa.eu).

² Eurydice, National Education systems, Lithuania, Organisation of the Education system, https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/organisation-education-system-and-its-structure-44_en

³ Eurydice, National Education systems, Lithuania, Assessment in General Upper Secondary Education, https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/assessment-general-upper-secondary-education-31_en

⁴ Eurydice, National Education systems, Lithuania, Higher education-Bachelor https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/bachelor-44_en

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INFORMATION FOR PUPILS GOING ABROAD FROM LITHUANIA

Age and grade

Pupils usually enrol in a pupil exchange programme in 2nd or 3rd grade of the *Gymnasium* (age 16/17 or 17/18 years old).

Registration in the sending school

When you go on an individual mobility programme, you are not enrolled in your home school. Readmittance to the same school is not guaranteed when you return from the study period abroad.

Funding for the sending school

Schools only receive State funding for pupils actually registered in their school, therefore the school does not receive funding when the pupil is abroad.

RECOGNITION OF LEARNING PERIODS ABROAD

The following information addresses learning periods abroad lasting up to a full school year. The same procedures are applied, irrespective of which country the learning period is spent in (EU or non-EU) and the length of the mobility.

Please note that in the case of a mobility within a school-to-school partnership (e.g. Erasmus+) the learning agreement between sending and host school can be used as a tool for recognition, although there is no evidence that it can be successful for the recognition of a full school year abroad.

It is up to school to decide whether and how to recognise the learning period abroad. The procedure is not defined. If you are motivated and a high performer, the school may recognise the period abroad and give credit for the different subjects, and admit you to the next grade. In most cases the exchange period is not recognised and most pupils have to repeat the school year in order to fulfil educational programme requirements and to be better prepared for the Maturita examinations.

Possibility to take an exam on the whole curriculum to be admitted to the next school year

In the case of a full school year abroad, the school might provide the opportunity for you to take an exam either when you are abroad or on your return, during the summer holiday.

INFORMATION FOR PUPILS HOSTED IN LITHUANIA

Registration in the host school

You are registered in the host school and included in the register of pupils.

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Funding for the host school

Schools can get funding for the hosted pupil since they are regularly enrolled, however it is complicated due to time frames and bureaucratic procedures, which is also related to the issuing of the residence permit for the pupil. Schools include exchange pupils in their register and submit it to the Ministry of Education at the beginning of the school year. If they do it on time, namely within a month of the start of the school year, the school will get funding. If a mobility programme starts later in the school year, the school will not be able to apply for funding for the pupil. Therefore, often schools decide not to apply for State funding or to not host pupils in the framework of an exchange programme, due to the complicated procedure for obtaining the funding.

Certification for hosted pupils

Schools will usually provide a document stating what subjects you followed and what marks (if any) were obtained.

Possibility of graduating in the host country during the exchange

You may take the upper secondary education exams only if you have provided the necessary documents proving you have a lower secondary education certificate. However, there is very little chance that you would pass the final exam as it requires a high level of proficiency in Lithuanian. Therefore, this is a rare practice.

TESTIMONIAL

Dagne from Lithuania: a school year in Denmark

"The exchange gives an opportunity to find your place in the world."

Living abroad and discovering another culture is what motivated me to go on exchange. Before leaving I attended preparatory workshops and had to fill some forms for school. At first changing family was difficult, but with time my host family became a very important part of my life, and it still is. Language also was an obstacle while making friends, but English was always a viable option. There were times where I couldn't understand some jokes like: "Are you finish?" and the answer should be: "No, I am Danish!". It took ages to understand it.

A greater accomplishment in place of recognition

I was aware that, upon my return, I wouldn't be able to continue the year with my classmates. When I came back, I had to start from where I left off before leaving. That didn't bother me, because the exchange contributed significantly to my personal enrichment.

Thanks to this experience my life quality increased a lot: I became more open, active in different organisations, I overcame my fear of approaching others and my perspective is much broader now. It also helped me to choose my study programme. I would definitely recommend it to any student.

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