

# LUTHERACADEMY

## STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION REGULATIONS

For the 2024/2025 Academic Year

### 1. General Provisions

1.1. These regulations are based on the Luther Academy (LA) Student Research Paper Competition Regulations, approved by the LA Senate on April 10, 2018.

1.2. The regulations define the procedure for the competition, the criteria for selecting papers, and the process for determining the winners.

1.3. The thematic focus of the 2024/2025 competition is **Lutheran Theological Anthropology**.

1.4. Research paper topics submitted for the competition must:

- Align with the confessions and contemporary concerns of the Lutheran Church.
- Comply with the strategic development plan of the Luther Academy.

1.5. The LA Science Council is responsible for the methodological, evaluative, organizational, and informational support of the competition.

### 2. Purpose and Objectives of the Competition

**Purpose:** To promote students' academic research activities by fostering creativity, critical thinking, and the ability to develop original research papers.

**Objectives:**

- Engage students in academic research and enhance their research skills.
- Encourage students to continuously improve and expand their knowledge in line with modern scientific and practical requirements.
- Facilitate student participation in academic activities.
- Promote collaboration between LA and other higher education institutions in Latvia and abroad in scientific research.
- Organize the publication of the best competition papers in the Luther Academy journal CREDIMUS IV and other academic publications.

### 3. Competition Participants and Requirements for Submitted Papers

3.1. The competition is open to students of all study programs at LA, regardless of their mode of study.

3.2. The competition accepts papers that are independent research projects conducted by students and align with the announced competition theme.

3.3. Students may **apply for the competition** themselves or be nominated by others by **March 1, 2025**, after coordinating their research topic with their supervisor.

3.4. Papers submitted for the competition must demonstrate:

- The relevance of the research problem.
- An independent and creative approach to problem-solving.
- The identification of practical implementation possibilities for the proposed solutions.
- Compliance with the content and formatting requirements outlined in these regulations.

3.5. If a paper does not meet the content or formatting requirements, the LA Science Council has the right to reject it or return it to the author for revision.

## 4. Content, Structure, Formatting, and Submission Guidelines

4.1. The content of submitted papers must align with the goals of **Lutheran Theological Anthropology**, which aims to provide a biblical, historical, systematic, pastoral, and liturgical understanding of the human being as God's creation.

4.2. **Structure and Formatting of Submitted Papers:**

- **Academic Integrity Statement** (*form to be provided*)
- **Topic Proposal (separate page)** including:
  - Title of the paper
  - Hypothesis
  - Research objectives
  - Justification of relevance
  - Research object
  - Research subject
  - Research method(s)
- **Abstract in Two Languages (English – Abstract, Latvian – Anotācija)**
  - Font: *Garamond Bold, size 12 pt*
  - Length: up to **500 characters**, including spaces
  - Content: topic, research problem, research methods, objectives, results, conclusions
- **Keywords**
  - Title: *"Keywords" (Garamond Bold, size 12 pt)*
  - Three to seven keywords listed in alphabetical order (*Garamond, size 12 pt*)
- **Main Text**
  - Length: **6,000 to 12,000 characters** (*4–8 pages*)
  - Font: *Garamond, size 12 pt*
  - Tables and figures formatted according to the *LutherAcademy's Research Paper Guidelines*
- **Paper Sections** (*Headings centered, Garamond Bold, size 12 pt*)

- **Introduction**
- **Main Body** (*preferably divided into chapters*)
- **Conclusions and Recommendations**
- **List of Sources and References** (*numbered, Garamond, size 12 pt*)
- **Citations and References**
  - References in the text must follow the formatting guidelines outlined in the *Luther Academy's Research Paper Guidelines*.

4.3. Students must submit their papers **by April 4, 2025**.

4.4. Papers must be submitted electronically to the LA Study Department at info@lut.edu.lv, with the subject line "Student Research Paper Competition".

## **5. Review and Evaluation of Papers**

5.1. Student research papers submitted within the designated deadlines and meeting the requirements will be registered and forwarded to the LA Science Council for evaluation.

5.2. The LA Science Council is responsible for assessing the research papers submitted.

5.3. Papers are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The coherence between the stated objective and planned tasks.
- The relevance of the content to the defined objectives and tasks.
- The connection between empirical research and theoretical insights.
- The appropriateness and correctness of selected empirical research methods.
- The practical significance of the research.
- The relevance of cited sources and literature to the content.
- The correct use of citations.
- The validity of conclusions.
- The specificity and relevance of proposed recommendations.
- The quality of academic language.

5.4. After the evaluation process, the LA Science Council will decide on **April 11, 2025**, whether the papers qualify for defense.

## **6. Research Presentation, Defense, and Final Evaluation**

6.1. The **public defense** of the approved research papers will take place on **April 25, 2025**.

6.2. Each research presentation will last **15 minutes**, followed by **5 minutes** for questions and answers.

6.3. The Competition Committee, appointed by the LA Science Council, will evaluate the presentation and defense of each paper.

6.4. The Competition Committee will assess the presentations based on the following criteria:

- Presentation skills.
- Use of visual materials.
- Argumentation and communication skills during the discussion.
- Precision of argumentation and theoretical knowledge demonstrated in the discussion.

6.5. The Competition Committee will document the competition results in an official protocol signed by all committee members.

## **7. Awarding of Competition Winners**

7.1. The total prize fund for the **2024/2025** competition is **EUR 1000**.

7.2. The Competition Committee has the right to distribute this prize fund at its discretion by awarding a one-time monetary prize to the winners. The committee's decision will be recorded in an official protocol.

7.3. Successful participation in the competition may be considered in the evaluation of the corresponding academic course.

7.4. If a student is dissatisfied with the Competition Committee's decision, they may appeal by submitting a written request to the LA Rector.

7.5. The Rector's decision may be further appealed to the LA Arbitration Court. The decision of the Academic Arbitration Court may be contested in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Law.