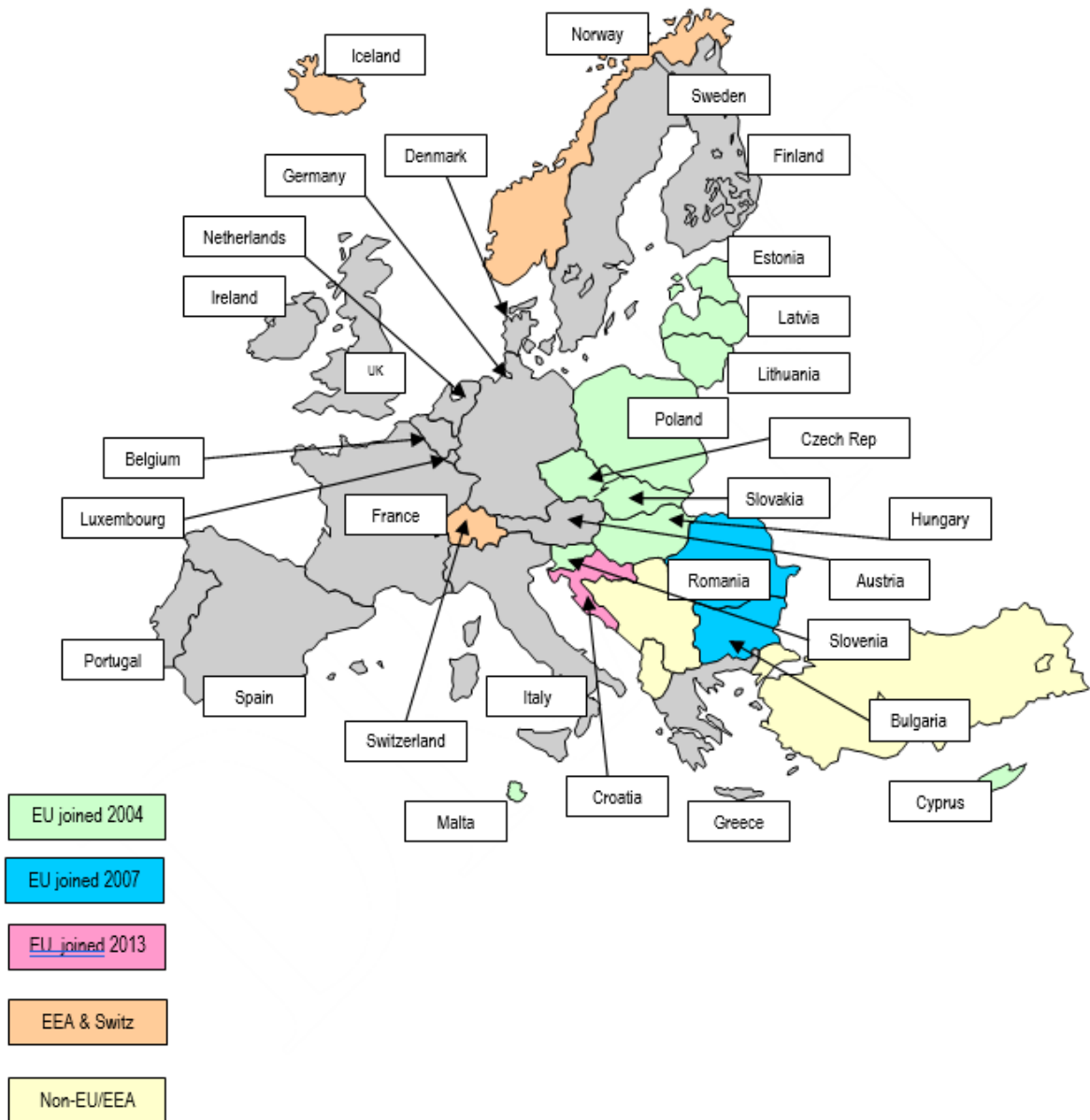


Council of European Dentists

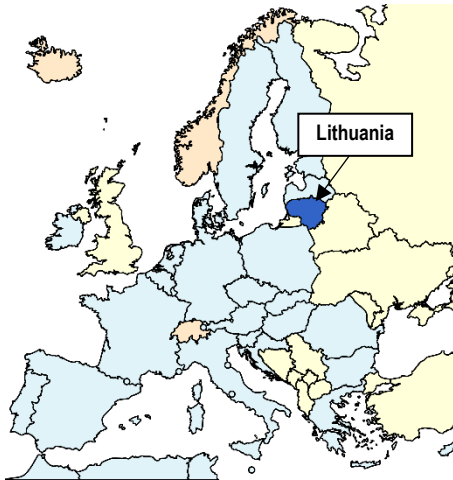
MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

Lithuania





Lithuania



Date of last revision: 27 April 2026

In the EU since	2004
Population (2026)	2 897 000
GDP PPP per capita (2025)	34 743
Currency	Euro € (EUR)
Official language	Lithuanian
<p>The Lithuanian healthcare system is based on principles of universality and solidarity. 99% of the population is covered by the statutory health insurance scheme. This scheme is implemented by a single insurance fund, <i>Valstybinė ligonių kasa (VLK)</i>. It is funded by a mixed model of earmarked payroll contributions and the national budget. Publicly funded oral healthcare services under the VLK remain limited and are predominantly provided by general dental practitioners. Partly covered oral health services are available to adults between 18 and 65 in primary health centres (PAASP). Co-payments remain on dental materials, medicine and disposable items. Orthodontic treatments for children, prosthetic services for over 65 years, oral healthcare for people with disabilities and at risk of social exclusion are however free of charge, with no co-payments.</p>	
Number of dentists (active)	4 166
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab)	143,8
Members of Dental Association (<i>mandatory for dentists and auxiliaries (oral care specialists)</i>)	4166
<p>6 dental specialties are recognised and well established. CPD is mandatory, with 120 credits every 5 years. There is currently a big shortage of dental assistants.</p>	

Government and healthcare in Lithuania

Lithuania is a democratic parliamentary republic. Legislative power is vested in the unicameral parliament, the Seimas, which consists of 141 members elected for four-year terms (71 members are elected in single-member constituencies and 70 through proportional representation). The President is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President with the approval of the Seimas.

Administratively, Lithuania is divided into 10 counties (*apskritis*) and 60 municipalities (*savivaldybės*). Municipalities are responsible for the organisation and delivery of certain local public services, including public health activities and elements of primary health care, as well as the oversight of primary health care centres (PAASP) at the local level.

Since 2010, counties in Lithuania no longer have administrative governance functions; however, they continue to be used for statistical purposes, regional analysis, and health system planning.

The Lithuanian healthcare system is based on the principles of universality and solidarity. The statutory health insurance model was established in 1996 and is administered by the National Health Insurance Fund (*Valstybinė ligonių kasa, VLK*), which operates under the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for developing national health policy, drafting legislation, regulating the health system, and overseeing its overall performance. Health financing is determined through the state budget process involving both the Government and the Seimas.

The health system is predominantly financed through the statutory health insurance scheme, with the VLK acting as a single national purchaser.

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	7.3%	2023	OECD
% of this spent by government	68%	2023	OECD
% of public financing for dental care out of total health spendings	12%	2023	OECD

Primary health care services (PAASP – *Pirminės asmens sveikatos priežiūros paslaugos*) are mainly delivered through primary health care centres and family doctors, who act as gatekeepers to secondary and tertiary care.

Primary dental care services are provided by dentists working within primary health care centres or by dental care providers that have contractual arrangements with primary health care institutions. These services constitute a distinct component of primary health care.

Public coverage for oral healthcare is limited in scope, and a substantial share of dental services, particularly for adults, is financed out-of-pocket.

The system is financed through a mixed model, with compulsory health insurance contributions paid by employers, employees, and the state on behalf of economically inactive population groups, as well as direct allocations from the state budget.

The statutory health insurance system covers almost the entire population (approximately 99% in 2025), including citizens, permanent residents and other insured groups.

The system is based on the principle of solidarity, whereby contributions from the economically active population and the state ensure coverage for pensioners, children, students,

persons with disabilities and the unemployed. Voluntary health insurance plays only a marginal role in Lithuania.

The publicly financed oral health system is integrated within primary health care and delivered through dentists working in primary health care centres or in dental practices affiliated with these centres. Reimbursement for dental services is linked to services provided within primary health care institutions (PAASP) where the patient is registered.

Publicly funded dental care for adults is limited and typically covers only defined essential services, while patients are required to make co-payments for materials and other treatment-related costs.

Children under 18, as well as certain other groups (including persons with disabilities and socially vulnerable groups), are entitled to a broader scope of publicly funded dental services. Prosthetic dental services are also partially covered for older adults under specific conditions.

In 2023, a total of 693,502 patients received primary dental care services financed under the statutory health insurance system, including 399,900 children and 293,602 adults.

In 2023, specialist dentists provided a total of 92,619 consultations, distributed as follows:

- Endodontology: 5,114
- Orthodontics: 25,842
- Prosthetic dentists: 13,700
- Periodontology: 7,378
- Oral surgery: 32,942
- Paediatric dentistry: 7,645

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

Access to dental school is open to secondary school graduates providing a matriculation or a leaving school certificate.

For admission to a dentistry course, students must present a general certificate of secondary education, or a secondary school matriculation, as a minimum required. All persons having secondary, or higher education and able to prove it with documents recognized in the Republic of Lithuania have the right to be admitted to the first year of undergraduate dental studies.

Admission to the study program is carried out according to joint regulations of Lithuanian Higher Institutions Association for Organizing Joint Admission (LAMA BPO), which organizes a unified admissions process for Lithuanian universities and colleges.

Admission takes place by competition, and priority is given to those who have higher ranking following competition results. There are no entrance examinations, students are selected according to their final examination grades after secondary education (biology, chemistry, Lithuanian language, mathematics), and overall average grades.

Entrance examinations for international students are however required and are organised by each university from January onwards. Exemptions may apply for students from some specific EU countries. International students must also present an English language certificate at a minimum B2 level, as well as submit a motivation letter.

Year of data	2025
Number of schools	2
Student intake	228
Number of graduates a year	167
Gender balance (% of female students)	~70
Duration of studies	5

The original title for dentistry, *stomatology*, was changed to *odontology* in 2003.

Dental programmes are offered in two public universities, in the Faculty of Odontology of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences in Kaunas, and in the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University. Both universities offer undergraduate programmes taught in Lithuanian and in English.

The undergraduate training programme is delivered in one distinct 5-year module (300 ECTS). Clinical practice on patients begins in the third year, with dedicated clinical training modules in 5 different dental departments throughout the course of the fourth year. In the final year, students must carry out an integrated mandatory internship (equivalent to a vocational training year) (20 credits) during which students, supervised by teachers, consolidate the theoretical and practical knowledge gained during earlier semesters in operative dentistry, prosthetic dentistry, paediatric dentistry, oral surgery and orthodontics.

Additionally, international students are also required to follow courses in the Lithuanian language for 6 consecutive

semesters.

Upon graduation from the Master of Science in Odontology, students obtain the qualification of Doctor Odontologist.

Registration

The registration of dental practitioners and oral care professionals (dental technicians, oral hygienists and dental assistants) was restored under the responsibility of the Lithuanian Dental Chamber from 1 January 2025.

All practising dentists and dental care professionals are required to be members of the Lithuanian Dental Chamber.

Licenses to practice are delivered and regulated by the Commission for the Licensing of Dentists.

The State Health Care Accreditation Agency under Ministry of Health assumed responsibility for licensing dentists in Lithuania in May 2020, taking over the function from the Lithuanian Dental Chamber, before the function was returned to the Chamber in 2025.

The Accreditation Agency has, however, kept the mandate for the licensing of dental practices.

Yearly membership fee:	2025
Dentist / Specialist Dentist	60€
Dental Technician	45€
Oral Hygienist	20€
Dental Assistant	10€

Dentists have to submit a medical certificate (issued no more than 3 months prior to the application and through the use of a special form), to confirm that the applicant does not suffer from diseases that prevent effective practice of dentistry.

Vocational Training (VT)

There is no separate mandatory vocational training in Lithuania, it is integrated into the 5th and final year of studies (equivalent to 20 credits).

Language requirements

For all foreign countries qualified dentists, written and oral language tests are carried out by the National Agency for Education (NAE). A certificate from a university or language institute is an acceptable alternative, with a minimum required B1 level.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)*

* For further detailed information on CPD requirements, please refer to Table 1 in annex of this chapter.

CPD is mandatory in Lithuania. Dentists must declare 120 hours of CPD every 5 years. CPD is currently overseen by The State Health Care Accreditation Agency under the Ministry of Health. Within the mandatory 120 hours, dentists must follow compulsory topics, including professional ethics (2 hours), prevention of oral diseases (2 hours), first aid (8 hours), rational use of antimicrobials (6 hours).

According to the Lithuanian Dental Chamber, the current CPD framework does not meet the needs and expectations of dentists.

Specialist Training Requirements

6 dental specialties are recognised in Lithuania.

Dental specialty residency programmes last 3 years and can be undertaken only full time. Programmes are split between theoretical learning (25%) and residency practice (75%). The admission process is overseen by LAMA BPO (Lithuanian Higher Institutions Association for Organizing Joint Admission).

Specialist training programmes are available at Vilnius University and the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. The number of available places for specialty training is determined every year by the Ministry of Health.

Lithuania recognises the following dental specialties:

- **Oral Surgery** – 3 years
- **Orthodontics** – 3 years
- **Periodontology** – 3 years
- **Endodontics** – 3 years
- **Paediatric Dentistry** – 3 years
- **Prosthodontics** – 3 years

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is also recognised as a medical-dental specialty.

Workforce

Dentists

Lithuania has one of the highest dentist-to-population ratios in the EU. The number of practising dentists has also seen a progressive rise in recent years, with an important ageing of the overall health workforce. This leads to a rising pressure on the future of the dental workforce and a structural challenge for both dental care and the wider health system.

Although Lithuania does not currently face a shortage of dentists, unequal geographical distribution of dentists and regional shortages persists, with limited access to dental care in rural areas.

An overarching majority of dentists work in private settings. Approximately 80% of dentists work fully or mainly privately and are not or not fully contracted under the national health insurance fund (VLK).

According to data from the Ministry of Health, 2,170 dental care providers were registered in Lithuania at the end of 2025, including 348 providers offering both dental and other healthcare services.

Of the total number of dental providers, 903 institutions were also registered as associate members of the Lithuanian Dental Chamber.

The quality of dental care is monitored by the State Health Care Accreditation Agency under Ministry of Health. The Lithuanian Dental Chamber publishes guidelines and recommendations.

Self-governing rules of the dental profession in Lithuania, which impact the licensing of dental professional, auxiliaries, dental care providers and the compulsory membership of dentists to the Lithuanian Dental Chamber were abolished in December 2019. In December 2024, the Lithuanian Parliament voted in favour of the restoration of self-regulation.

The Lithuanian Dental Chamber therefore regained the mandate to license and oversee the dental profession from 1 January 2025, as well as mandatory membership of professionals to the Chamber.

The State Health Care Accreditation Service under the Ministry of Health still retains the responsibility for the licensing of dental care providers.

Year of data	2025
Total Registered	4 166
In active practice	4 166
Dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab)*	143,8
Percentage female	74

*Active dentists only

Movement of dentists across borders

Although no specific data is available, Lithuania attracts an important number of international students, through its dental programmes offered in English.

However, most students travel back to their home country to practice after completing undergraduate studies, in part due to Lithuanian language requirements for practising dentistry.

Specialists

The requirements and rules for regulating dental speciality programmes are set by the Government of Lithuania.

There are 6 dental specialties recognised in Lithuania, as well as the medical-dental speciality of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS).

Year of data	2025
Oral Surgeons	158
Orthodontists	140
Endodontics	95
Periodontists	95
Paediatric dentists	74
Prosthodontists	244
OMFS	16

There are two ways for patients to access specialists in Lithuania. The first is to ask for referral, from a family doctor or a family dentist. All expenses in these cases will be covered by the insurance system. However, if a patient wishes to go directly for a specialist consultation, this is possible but would be responsible to cover the fees.

Dental specialists register again, since 1 January 2025, with the Commission for the Licensing of Dentists under the Lithuanian Dental Chamber.

Auxiliaries

Dental auxiliaries are known as *Oral Care Specialists*. They study in the chosen specialised field of practice (either dental technology, dental hygiene or dental care) under a professional Bachelor of Health Sciences and Dental Technology in specialised higher education schools.

Auxiliaries must register and obtain a licence to practice from the Commission for the Licensing of Dentists under the Lithuanian Dental Chamber.

All dental auxiliaries must also carry-out mandatory CPD (*for further information, please refer to Table 1 at the end of this document*).

Year of data	2025
Technicians	1 050
Chairside assistants	2 060
Hygienists	1 756

Dental Technicians

Dental technicians train at the University of Applied Sciences of Kaunas and Utena.

Dental technicians train for 3 years in specialised vocational training schools. After completion of studies, graduates receive a diploma and a professional Bachelor of Health Sciences in Dental Technology.

Technicians normally work in commercial or independent laboratories, only a few are employees of dentists or of clinics. They construct prostheses for insertion by dentists. They hold

legal responsibility for their work but do not accept payments from patients.

services they can provide without a referral from a dentist is quite limited.

Dental Chairside Assistants (Nurses or Odontological Care Specialists)

According to the Lithuanian Dental Chamber, Lithuania is currently experiencing a shortage of practising dental chairside assistants, posing a growing strain on dental practices. An estimated 2,000 additional chairside assistants are needed to supplement the existing 2,000 professionals.

They train for 3 years in various higher education colleges or Universities of Applied Sciences specifically for dental assistants. These programmes are located in the cities of Utena, Klaipėda, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Šiauliai.

Dental assistants are required to follow CPD. Courses on infection control and emergency care are mandatory. Following the completion of studies, dental assistants obtain a Professional Bachelor of Health Sciences, with a qualification of Dental Assistant.

Dental assistants support general and specialist dentists in the delivery of care, working under the supervision of a dentist. They are responsible for infection control and sterilisation procedures and, since 2007, are also permitted to provide oral health education.

Dental assistants may establish their own practice; however, they are only permitted to work in collaboration with, and under the supervision of, a dentist.

In Lithuania, there are no legal restrictions on the ownership of practices by dental care providers; however, the responsibility for the quality of dental services is legally assigned to a licensed dentist.

Dental Hygienists

Prospective students in dental hygiene are exempt from university entrance exams, unlike general dental students.

Hygienists are permitted to work only provided they have a diploma. They train in specialised colleges or Universities of Applied Science. Programmes are available at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences through a professional Bachelor of Science in Oral Health Care (3 years), or a Bachelor in Dental Hygiene (4 years) under the Faculty of Odontology, at the Higher Education Institution KVK in Klaipėda (3 years) and at the University of Applied Science, or Higher Education Institutions. Some programmes are open to English-speaking students.

Graduates of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences receive a bachelor's degree and the qualification of Oral Hygienist.

Hygienists can practise as an employee, employer or self-employed. They may accept payments from patients. They have competence to undertake scaling, cleaning and polishing, removal of excess filling material, local application of fluoride agents, the insertion of preventive sealants and Oral Health Education. They may give local anaesthesia.

Dental hygienists are authorized to operate their own practices without the supervision of a dentist. However, the range of

Other Useful Information

Table 1: Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements in Lithuania

Professional Qualification	Total Hours	Specialised Clinical Hours (min. 60%)			General Clinical Hours (max. 30%)			Non-clinical Hours (min. 10%)	
		Specialised Clinical Hours (incl. Infection control and Oral disease prevention)	Infection Control	Oral Disease Prevention	General Clinical Hours (incl. First Aid and Rational Use of Antibiotics)	First Aid	Rational Use of Antibiotics	Non-clinical Hours (including Ethics)	Ethics
Dentist / Specialist Dentist	Minimum 120	Minimum 72	0	2	Maximum 36	8	6	Minimum 12	2
Dental Technician	Minimum 60	Minimum 36	2	2	Maximum 18	8	0	Minimum 6	2
Oral Hygienist	Minimum 60	Minimum 36	2	2	Maximum 18	8	0	Minimum 6	2
Dental Assistant	Minimum 50	Minimum 30	2	2	Maximum 15	8	0	Minimum 5	2

Main national associations

National dental associations and information centres	
<p>Lithuanian Dental Chamber Chamber of Dentists of the Republic of Lithuania - Lietuvos Respublikos Odontologų Rūmai</p> <p>Palangos str. 2-7 LT-01117 Vilnius Lithuania</p> <p>Phone: +370 652 01253 Email: rumai@odontologurumai.lt vilma.brukiene@odontologurumai.lt Website: www.odontologurumai.lt</p> <p>The Chamber issues and renews practice licenses for dentists and oral health care specialists, maintains a database of their information, actively contributes to addressing issues related to formal and non-formal education, organizes professional development programs and trainings, actively engages in oral health prevention matters at the national level, and performs other functions provided for in the laws of the Republic of Lithuania and the Chamber's statutes.</p> <p>The Chamber regained the mandate of licensing of specialists and compulsory membership from 1st January 2025.</p>	<p>Lithuanian Dental Hygienists Association</p> <p>Žalgirio str. 115 LT-08217 Vilnius Lithuania</p> <p>Phone: +370 682 50 409 Email: info@lbhd.lt Contact form: https://lbhd.lt/kontaktai/# Website: www.lbhd.lt</p>

Lithuanian Dental Assistants Association	Lithuanian Society of Prosthodontics
Rinktinės str. No 4-13 LT-09312 Vilnius Lithuania Tel/fax: + 370 5 2735377 Mobile: +370 698 80836 Email: tatjana.tomasevic@pylimas.lt ravickasdental@yahoo.com	Sukilėlių av. 51 LT-50106 Kaunas Lithuania Phone +370 619 88711 E-mail info@lood.lt Website: https://lood.lt/en/
Statistics Lithuania (main information centre)	LAMA BPO – Lithuanian Association of Higher Education Institutions for General Admission (for Lithuanian students)
Gedimino av. 29 LT-01500 Vilnius Lithuania Phone: + 370 656 97 121 E-mail: statistika@stat.gov.lt / info@stat.gov.lt Website: http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/home	Studentų str. 54, LT-51424 Kaunas Lithuania Phone: +370 37 280400 Email: info@lamabpo.lt Website: https://lamabpo.lt/

Competent authorities

National Health Insurance Fund – Ministry of Health Valstybinė ligonių kasa	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania
Europos aikštė 1 LT-09308 Vilnius Lithuania Email: vlk@vlk.lt Phone: +370 5 232 2222 Website: https://ligoniukasa.lrv.lt/en/	Vilniaus str. 33 LT-01402 Vilnius Lithuania Phone : +370 800 66 004 E-mail: ministerija@sam.lt Website: https://sam.lrv.lt/lt/

Main Professional Journal
Baltic Dental and Maxillofacial Journal (Stomatologija)
<i>Journal published jointly by the public institution "Odontologijos studija," Lithuanian Dental Chamber, the Latvian Dental Association, the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Odontology Vilnius University, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Odontology, the Riga Stradins University, Institute of Stomatology, the Estonian Dental Association, and the Tartu University, Faculty of Stomatology</i>
I. Kanto str. 4-1, LT-44296 Kaunas Lithuania Phone/Fax. +370 37 228307, Phone : +370 612 71707 E-mail: zilinskas@sbdmj.com , edoffice@sbdmj.com Website: www.sbdmj.com - Stomatologija - Baltic Dental and Maxillofacial Journal

Dental Schools:

Public Universities	
The Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LUHS) – Faculty of Odontology	Vilnius University Faculty of Medicine – Institute of Dentistry

<p>Faculty of Odontology A. Mickevičiaus str. 9, LT – 44307 Kaunas</p> <p>Phone: +370 37 361902 Mobile: +370 686 10217 Email (undergraduate studies in Lithuanian): komisija@ismu.lt Website: https://ismu.lt/en/about-ismu/structure/medical-academy/faculty-of-odontology/</p> <p>Language of teaching: Lithuanian or English.</p> <p>Undergraduate fees (for international students): €13,600 per year (for years I to III) and €14,100 per year (for years IV to V)</p> <p>Postgraduate (Residency) Studies available in: Orthodontics; Paediatric Dentistry; Prosthetic Dentistry; Periodontology; Endodontology; Oral Surgery; Maxillofacial Surgery.</p> <p>LUHS also offers a Dental Hygiene programme in English and Lithuanian: https://ismu.lt/en/admission/undergraduate-studies/dental-hygiene/</p> <p>Number of dentistry students (2025): 717 Number of dental hygiene students (2025): 105</p>	<p>Institute of Dentistry Žalgirio str. 115/117, LT-08217 Vilnius</p> <p>Phone (General): +370 5 2727589 Email (General): mf@mf.vu.lt</p> <p>Phone (Director, Prof. Vilma Brukienė): +370 5 272 7589 Email (Director, Prof. Vilma Brukienė): vilma.brukiene@mf.vu.lt Website: http://www.mf.vu.lt/index.php</p> <p>Language of teaching: Lithuanian or English</p> <p>Undergraduate fees (for international students): €15,000 per year</p> <p>Postgraduate (Residency) Studies available in: Orthodontics; Paediatric Dentistry; Prosthetic Dentistry; Periodontology; Endodontology; Oral Surgery; Maxillofacial Surgery.</p> <p>Number of dentistry students (2025): 241</p>
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