

The Dr. Juozas Kriaučiūnas Scholarships Have Been Awarded

Every year the Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Science (LCAS) awards scholarships to deserving students who are working on their Master's or Doctor's degrees. In the past, both students living in the U.S. and those living in Lithuania have received this scholarship.

This year (2025) the LCAS Scholarship Committee unanimously decided to confer the Dr. Juozas Kriaučiūnas scholarship to six candidates: \$2000 each to Simonas Bansevičius, Ignas Kriaučiūnas, Marius Daugėla, Milda Adamonytė, Akvilė Kašiubaitė and Vytis Turonis. All six are exceptionally strong candidates.



Simonas Bansevičius.

Simonas Bansevičius earned his Master's degree in Political Science at Vilnius University and will work on his Ph.D. at Vytautas Magnus

University. His doctoral thesis is „The Link between Ethical Conflicts in Artificial Intelligence and Social/Political Tensions.“

Simonas is a member of the Lithuanian Catholic Federation Ateitis and an active Catholic. He led a group of young men in the Exodus90 spiritual exercise program and has led Catholic Bible studies for university students.



Ignas Kriauciūnas.

Ignas Kriauciūnas earned his Bachelor's degree in Microbiology at Vilnius University. He has completed training as a Junior Officer, earning the rank of Reserve Lieutenant in the Lithuanian army. At present he is working on a graduate degree in Philosophy at Vilnius University.

Ignas was president of the Ateitis Association of University Students and since 2023 serves as the General Secretary of Ateitis.



Marius Daugėla.

Marius Daugėla earned his Bachelor's in Religious Studies with a Teaching qualification in 2016 at Vytautas Magnus University. In 2020 he earned a Master's degree in Education with a UNESCO certificate at Vytautas Magnus University. At present he is working on a Ph.D. in Education at the same institution. His doctoral thesis is: "The Significance of Academic Identity in Higher Education: Experiences of Academicians with Multidisciplinary Training at Various Levels of Learning."



Milda Adamonytė.

Milda Adamonytė earned a Bachelor's degree at Vilnius Academy of Arts and a Master's at the Vilnius University History Department. She won the award for best Master's thesis for her work „The Modernization of Sacral Architecture in Lithuania between 1918 and 1940: the Legacy of Architect Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis.“ She is in her third year working on a Ph.D. in Art Research in a joint program with Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuanian Cultural Research Institute and the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.

The LCAS scholarship will enable her research in the archives of Rome, where architects Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis and Stasys Kudokas studied architecture.



Akvilė Kašiubaitė.

Akvilė Kašiubaitė earned a Master's in History at Vytautas Magnus University. In 2024 she began her doctoral studies in History and Archeology at that institution. Her doctoral thesis is: „The Role of Nuns in the Republic of Lithuania in 1918-1940.” She will present a lecture on this topic in November, 2025 at the annual ASEEES (Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies) conference in Washington. She has prepared a book for publication on the Old Believers (Old Ritualists) of Kupiškis in 1795-1915 and has published a variety of academic articles.



Vytis Turonis.

Vytis Turonis earned a Master's degree in Law at Vilnius University and presently is a doctoral candidate at the Vilnius University Department of Law. His doctoral thesis is „The Separation of Church and State in the State Constitution: a National and Comparative Study.“ He has published a number of academic articles in various periodicals.

In 2020-2024 he was the President of Ateitis and currently serves as member of the Ateitis Federation Board.

Candidates for the scholarship were evaluated by the LCAS Scholarship Committee, consisting of Dr. Aleksas Gedmintas (Committee Chair), Dr. Mirga Girniuvienė and Onutė Traitor. In their opinion, the six scholarship winners are great young scholars and we can expect to hear about their interesting insights as well as important achievements in the future.

If you would like more information about the work of LCAS, please visit our website at www.lkma.org or write Mirga Girnius at mgirnius@hotmail.com.

*Dr. Mirga Girniuvienė
LCAS President*