VŠTE.
Vysoká škola technická
a ekonomická v Prešove

Regulation No. **38/2026**	**Internal Regulation of the Institute of Technology and Business in Prešov**

Directive VŠTE No. 38/2026 on the Rigorosum Examination (originally Directive No. 1/2019)

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			doc. Ing. Jakub Horák, MBA, PhD., Chair of the Board of Trustees		
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			doc. ThDr. PaedDr. Marek Storoška, PhD., Rector		
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Vysoká škola technická
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Directive on the Rigorosum Examination

Institute of Technology and Business in Prešov

Directive VŠTE No. 38/2026 (originally Directive No. 1/2019)

Directive on the Rigorosum Examination at the Institute of Technology and Business in Prešov (Smernica o rigoróznej skúške na Vysokej škole technickej a ekonomickej v Prešove)

2026 (revised wording of Directive No. 1/2019)

Article 1 General Provisions

1. The Directive on the Rigorosum Examination at the Institute of Technology and Business in Prešov (hereinafter "VŠTE in Prešov") has been drawn up on the basis of Sections 8, 61, 82, 84, 89, 95, 99, 103 and 137 and Section 31(1)(o) of Act No. 300/2025 Coll. on Higher Education and on Amendments to Certain Acts (Higher Education Act) (hereinafter the "Act").

2. The Directive on the Rigorosum Examination at VŠTE in Prešov regulates the procedure and rules for applying for, preparing and defending the rigorosum thesis, as well as the procedure for holding the rigorosum examination, including the electronic submission and service of documents and the online form of the rigorosum examination.

3. VŠTE in Prešov has the right to hold rigorosum examinations in the fields of study in which it has an accredited study programme upon completion of which the academic degree "magister" (Master) is awarded (Section 61(2) of the Act); at present this is the field of study Philosophy, in which the academic degree "doktor filozofie" (abbreviated "PhDr.") is awarded upon passing the rigorosum examination pursuant to Section 61(3) of the Act.

4. The defence of the rigorosum thesis forms part of the rigorosum examination (Sections 61 and 84 of the Act).

5. By passing the rigorosum examination the candidate demonstrates that, on the basis of independent study and independent specialised scientific work in the field of study, he or she has acquired deeper knowledge of its broader foundations and is capable of independently acquiring new scientific knowledge and applying it creatively in practice (Section 61 of the Act).

6. Upon successful completion of the rigorosum examination, VŠTE in Prešov confers the academic degree in accordance with Section 61(3) of the Act.

7. The rigorosum examination may be taken by a graduate of a study programme who has obtained the academic degree "magister" or an equivalent degree obtained abroad, in the field of study in which he or she obtained higher education or in a related field of study (Section 61(1) of the Act). A participant in the rigorosum procedure is not a student of VŠTE in Prešov; his or her rights and obligations in the rigorosum procedure are governed by this Directive.

8. The rigorosum procedure is conducted in the Slovak language and electronically via the e-learning environment of VŠTE in Prešov and the academic information system AiS2 (hereinafter "AiS2"); the e-

learning environment of VŠTE in Prešov and AiS2 are hereinafter jointly referred to as the "information system". As a rule, the rigorosum examination is held online pursuant to Article 8a. VŠTE in Prešov may also provide information on the rigorosum procedure and access to the electronic registration via the EUVERSA website (the trade name "Euversa — European University of Applied Sciences", which VŠTE in Prešov uses for education by the distance method); the party to the legal relationships under this Directive is always VŠTE in Prešov.

9. The artificial intelligence tools used by VŠTE in Prešov in the rigorosum procedure (preliminary assessment of the electronic registration, the AI consultant in the electronic course, the draft review and the summary of materials for the Board) only prepare materials and feedback and never take decisions. Decisions on the opinion on the registration, on the approval of the registration and of the topic of the rigorosum thesis, on the review, on the assessment and on the result of the rigorosum examination are taken, and responsibility for them is borne, exclusively by a human being (the guarantor of the study programme, the Rector, the supervisor, the reviewer, the Board). Outputs of artificial intelligence are labelled as outputs of artificial intelligence, their use is logged, and the applicant has the right to human assessment and to an explanation. Only artificial intelligence tools approved by the Rector may be used; the details, the retention periods of the logs and their subsequent reduction to metadata are laid down in Directive VŠTE No. 23/2026 on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence by Students and Academic Staff (Smernica VŠTE č. 23/2026 o využívaní generatívnej umelej inteligencie študentmi a akademickými pracovníkmi) in accordance with Section 8 of the Act and with Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Artificial Intelligence Act).

Article 2 Rigorosum Procedure

1. The term "rigorosum procedure" means the process of applying for the rigorosum examination, determining the topic of the rigorosum thesis, determining the examination subjects, and the rigorosum examination together with the defence of the rigorosum thesis.

2. The applicant for the rigorosum examination shall submit the application for the rigorosum examination and the registration for the rigorosum examination in a single electronic submission (hereinafter the "electronic registration") via the form published on the website of VŠTE in Prešov (www.vste.sk), to the extent of the data and annexes set out in the Annex to this Directive. The electronic registration may be submitted at any time of the year; the rigorosum procedure is not tied to the academic year. After the electronic registration has been submitted, the information system carries out a preliminary assessment of its formal requirements (completeness of the data and annexes and fulfilment of the condition under Article 1(7)) and, using an artificial intelligence tool, also of the connection between the field of study in which the applicant obtained higher education and the proposed topic of the rigorosum thesis on the one hand and the field of study under Article 1(3) on the other. The result of the preliminary assessment serves only as material for the guarantor of the study programme; it is not a decision and the electronic registration may not be rejected on its basis.

3. Within 30 days of receipt of the complete electronic registration, the guarantor of the study programme shall assess whether the completed study programme and the proposed topic allow the applicant to take the rigorosum examination and shall record his or her opinion in the information system. On the basis of a

favourable opinion of the guarantor of the study programme, the Rector of VŠTE in Prešov decides on the approval of the registration and of the topic of the rigorosum thesis; if the opinion of the guarantor of the study programme is unfavourable, the Rector shall not approve the registration and the applicant may submit a new electronic registration with a different topic. The opinion of the guarantor of the study programme and the decision of the Rector are served on the applicant electronically (Article 3(5)); an unfavourable opinion and a non-approval of the registration must state the reasons.

4. The rigorosum procedure at VŠTE in Prešov commences on the date of payment of the fee for the acts connected with the organisation of the rigorosum examination and the defence of the rigorosum thesis determined by VŠTE in Prešov in its internal regulation pursuant to Section 99 of the Act (Article 10(2)(b) of this Directive), which falls due after the Rector of VŠTE in Prešov has approved the registration and the topic of the rigorosum thesis. Payment of this fee is a necessary condition for commencing the rigorosum procedure. If the applicant does not pay the fee within the period stated in the notification of approval of the registration, the approval of the registration lapses; the applicant may submit a new electronic registration.

5. The rigorosum procedure ends:

- a) by the conferral of the above academic degree by VŠTE in Prešov,
- b) by a decision of the examination board for rigorosum examinations (hereinafter the "Board") that the applicant has failed even upon repeating the rigorosum examination,
- c) by delivery of the applicant's written request to terminate his or her rigorosum procedure to the Rector of VŠTE in Prešov,
- d) by failure to submit the completed rigorosum thesis within the set deadline without stating a reason.

Article 3 Registration for the Rigorosum Examination

1. The registration for the rigorosum examination is submitted exclusively electronically as part of the electronic registration under Article 2(2). The scope of the data and annexes of the electronic registration is set out in the Annex to this Directive; VŠTE in Prešov does not request any other personal data or documents unless they are required by the Act or by special legislation. In the registration the applicant states, in addition to his or her personal data:

- a) the field of study or study programme in which he or she obtained higher education,
- b) the field of study and the relevant study programme chosen for the rigorosum examination pursuant to Article 1(3) of this Directive,
- c) the proposed topic of the rigorosum thesis and a brief abstract thereof,
- d) whether he or she requests the appointment of a supervisor (Article 4a(3)) and whether he or she requests recognition of the dissertation examination or of the oral part of the rigorosum examination (Article 5(3)).

2. The registration for the rigorosum examination shall include (documents are attached as electronic copies – a scan or a PDF file):

- a) the higher education diploma,

- b) the diploma supplement; if the applicant was also issued a document on the state examination under the legislation in force until 31 August 2026 (certificate of the state examination or certificate of the state final examination), that document as well,
- c) the decision on the equivalence of the education document or the decision on recognition of the education document pursuant to Act No. 422/2015 Coll. on the Recognition of Education Documents and Professional Qualifications, as amended, or, where applicable, the nostrification clause, in the case of an applicant who graduated from a foreign higher education institution, where such a document is required,
- d) a document on a change of first name or surname, only if the applicant's first name or surname differs from the first name or surname stated on the diploma,
- e) a curriculum vitae,
- f) a request for recognition of a passed and valid dissertation examination as the oral part of the rigorosum examination in the case of an applicant who is a doctoral student in the full-time or part-time form of study (note: such a request may also be submitted subsequently by an applicant studying in the third cycle of higher education after successfully passing the dissertation examination in the course of the rigorosum procedure), or who has completed the studies but has not yet defended the dissertation thesis,
- g) the diploma in the case of applicants holding the academic degree PhD. or its older equivalent under previous legislation, for the purpose of recognition of the oral part of the rigorosum examination.

3. If the registration meets the requirements laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, VŠTE in Prešov shall confirm its receipt to the applicant electronically; the confirmation may be generated automatically by the information system. The supervisor of the rigorosum thesis is appointed by the Rector only at the applicant's request pursuant to Article 4a(3).

4. If the registration does not meet the requirements laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the applicant is requested via the information system to supply the missing data and components of the registration within a set deadline; the request may be sent automatically on the basis of the preliminary assessment under Article 2(2). If the applicant does not complete the registration within the set deadline, the Rector shall not approve the registration.

5. The electronic registration and its components are submitted exclusively electronically in the manner published on the website of VŠTE in Prešov (www.vste.sk). Documents in the rigorosum procedure, including decisions and notifications of the Rector, are drawn up in electronic form and are served on the applicant pursuant to Section 95 of the Act by electronic means, namely via the information system or to the e-mail address stated in the registration; where authorisation of a document is required, it is served as an authorised electronic document. Only the diploma under Article 11(5) is delivered in paper form. Submissions of the applicant in the rigorosum procedure (in particular requests, excuses and statements) are made electronically via the information system or from the e-mail address stated in the registration. Where this Directive requires the written form of a notification, request or other act, this requirement is also met by the electronic form under this paragraph.

6. The documents referred to in paragraph 2 are submitted as electronic copies together with the applicant's solemn declaration of their conformity with the original. The original (for inspection), an officially certified copy or an guaranteed conversion pursuant to Act No. 305/2013 Coll. on the Electronic Form of the Exercise of the Powers of Public Authorities and on Amendments to Certain Acts (e-Government Act), as amended, of the documents referred to in paragraph 2(a) to (d) and (g) shall be submitted by the applicant no later than before the diploma is issued (Article 11(4)); if there are doubts as to the authenticity of a document, VŠTE in Prešov may request that they be submitted earlier. Documents which VŠTE in Prešov already has at its disposal, in particular documents on the completion of studies at VŠTE in Prešov, are not submitted.

7. In the rigorosum procedure VŠTE in Prešov does not request a birth certificate, a marriage certificate, data on marital status, data on the applicant's employer and job position, the number of the identity card or travel document, or a copy of an identity document. The birth registration number is required only from an applicant who is a citizen of the Slovak Republic and to whom a birth registration number has been assigned, and exclusively for the purpose of unambiguous identification of the applicant in the registers kept pursuant to the Act (in particular in the Central Register of Theses pursuant to Section 137 of the Act) and in the register of graduates under Article 11(2); for other applicants the date of birth is used for these purposes. The identity of the applicant is verified at the rigorosum examination pursuant to Article 8a(3).

Article 4 Rigorosum Thesis

1. A rigorosum thesis submitted at VŠTE in Prešov belongs to the category of qualification theses prepared for the purpose of obtaining an academic degree and represents a qualitatively higher level than a master's thesis. The length of the rigorosum thesis is 70–90 standard pages excluding annexes (126,000–162,000 characters including spaces); further formal requirements are laid down in Directive VŠTE No. 4/2025 on the Requirements for Final Theses, their Bibliographic Registration, Originality Check, Preservation and Access (Smernica VŠTE č. 4/2025 o náležitostiach záverečných prác, ich bibliografickej registrácii, kontrole originality, uchovávaní a sprístupňovaní) (hereinafter the "Directive on Final Theses"). The applicant submits the rigorosum thesis for defence in the Slovak language. With the consent of the Rector the applicant may submit the rigorosum thesis in a language other than Slovak. In such a case the thesis must contain a RESUMÉ in Slovak, as a rule amounting to 10 % of the length of the thesis.

2. The applicant may not submit his or her master's thesis or another qualification thesis, or a work of a purely compilatory nature, as the rigorosum thesis. However, with the consent of the guarantor of the study programme and, if a supervisor has been appointed, by agreement with the supervisor, the applicant may continue with the topic of his or her master's thesis and submit an appropriately extended and elaborated master's thesis as the rigorosum thesis.

3. Pursuant to Section 61(1) of the Act, VŠTE in Prešov does not recognise a defended master's thesis or dissertation thesis as a rigorosum thesis. This is without prejudice to the possibility of submitting an appropriately extended and elaborated master's thesis as the rigorosum thesis under paragraph 2 or to the recognition of the dissertation examination or of the oral part of the rigorosum examination under Article 5(3).

4. The applicant may submit as the rigorosum thesis a published work or a set of published works which, by their content, elaborate the agreed topic of the rigorosum thesis. In such a case the applicant shall write an introduction to the rigorosum thesis briefly describing the current state of the issue, the objectives of the rigorosum thesis and the conclusions reached in addressing the topic of the rigorosum thesis. If a rigorosum thesis which is a collective work is submitted for defence, the applicant shall mark in it the parts which he or she prepared as author and shall attach a declaration of the co-authors confirming the applicant's authorship of the marked parts and assessing his or her share in the overall work.

5. The rigorosum thesis must be the result of the applicant's own creative activity and must not unlawfully interfere with the rights of third parties (Section 82(2) of the Act). The applicant is obliged to state truthfully in the rigorosum thesis whether and to what extent artificial intelligence tools were used in its preparation, in accordance with Sections 8 and 101 of the Act and with Directive VŠTE No. 23/2026 on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence by Students and Academic Staff (Smernica VŠTE č. 23/2026 o využívaní generatívnej umelej inteligencie študentmi a akademickými pracovníkmi). Submission of a rigorosum thesis which, through the applicant's fault, is not at least in part the result of his or her own independent work constitutes academic fraud pursuant to Section 101 of the Act.

6. The applicant shall submit the rigorosum thesis exclusively in electronic form in PDF format allowing conversion to text (Section 17 of Decree No. 205/2026 Coll.) via AiS2. Printed (bound) copies of the rigorosum thesis are not submitted. The submission includes the declaration on the use of artificial intelligence tools under paragraph 5.

7. Before being admitted to the defence, the rigorosum thesis is sent to the Central Register of Final Theses, Rigorosum Theses and Habilitation Theses and Records of Final Internships (hereinafter the "Central Register of Theses") and is subjected to an originality check (Section 137 of the Act). No licence agreement on the use of the rigorosum thesis is concluded; by submitting the rigorosum thesis for defence the author consents to its publication in the Central Register of Theses under the conditions laid down in Section 137 of the Act and in the Directive on Final Theses. The Library of VŠTE in Prešov ensures the bibliographic registration, preservation and accessibility of the defended rigorosum thesis.

8. The Rector shall notify the applicant in writing of the final deadline for submission of the rigorosum thesis.

9. As a rule, the rigorosum thesis also contains an empirical part, and the candidate's own contribution is a matter of course.

10. If a supervisor has been appointed for the applicant (Article 4a(3)), the supervisor is obliged to prepare a written review of the rigorosum thesis in electronic form via AiS2 and to submit it no later than 14 calendar days before the date of the rigorosum examination; the supervisor confirms the review in AiS2 after logging in and no paper original of the review is produced. VŠTE in Prešov shall deliver this review to the applicant no later than 7 calendar days before the rigorosum examination; the review is also sent to the Central Register of Theses (Section 137 of the Act). Article 7(5) applies to the preparation of the supervisor's review.

Article 4a Electronic Course, AI Consultant and Supervisor

1. After the rigorosum procedure has commenced, the applicant is enrolled in the electronic course of the rigorosum procedure in the e-learning environment of VŠTE in Prešov (hereinafter the "electronic course"),

which accompanies him or her through the preparation of the rigorosum thesis and the preparation for the rigorosum examination. The electronic course contains in particular the methodology for preparing the rigorosum thesis, the recommended procedure and interim parts of the thesis, the theses for the oral part of the rigorosum examination and information on the course of the online rigorosum examination. No separate fee is payable for participation in the electronic course.

2. The electronic course includes an AI consultant, which is an artificial intelligence tool approved by the Rector. The AI consultant provides the applicant with methodological support, feedback on interim parts of the rigorosum thesis and assistance in preparing for the oral part of the rigorosum examination on the basis of the published theses. The AI consultant does not produce the rigorosum thesis or any part of it on behalf of the applicant, does not assess it and does not decide on any matter of the rigorosum procedure; its feedback is neither a review nor an assessment and is not made available to the reviewers or to the Board. The applicant shall state the use of the AI consultant in the declaration under Article 4(5); Article 1(9) applies to its use.

3. The supervisor of the rigorosum thesis is appointed by the Rector, with the consent of the guarantor of the study programme, only at the applicant's request. The applicant may request the appointment of a supervisor in the electronic registration or at any later time during the rigorosum procedure, in particular if consultations with the AI consultant are not sufficient for him or her. The supervisor may be a university teacher or a researcher holding at least the academic degree PhD. or the relevant equivalent under the applicable legislation; the name of the supervisor is notified to the applicant electronically. As a rule, the supervisor consults with the applicant via the electronic course and the video-conferencing system of VŠTE in Prešov.

4. If no supervisor has been appointed for the applicant, the rigorosum thesis is assessed by two reviewers (Article 7(1)).

Article 5 Oral Part of the Rigorosum Examination

1. In the oral part of the rigorosum examination the applicant demonstrates that he or she has sufficient theoretical knowledge and applied knowledge necessary for mastery of the relevant field of study. This part of the rigorosum examination may not be identical to the state examination in second-cycle study programmes and, as a rule, has the character of a professional discussion.

2. The applicant takes the oral part of the rigorosum examination in a compulsory subject and an elective subject. These subjects are determined by the Rector on the basis of a proposal of the chair of the Board in cooperation with the guarantor of the study programme. The compulsory subject is tied to the given study programme. The elective subject is drawn from the broader foundations of the relevant field of study and is proposed to the chair of the Board by the guarantor with regard to the focus of the topic of the applicant's rigorosum thesis. The theses for the compulsory subject and the elective subjects are published by VŠTE in Prešov on the website of VŠTE in Prešov (www.vste.sk) and in the electronic course. The defence of the rigorosum thesis also forms part of this part of the examination.

3. On the basis of a written request of the applicant attached to the registration, or submitted subsequently after passing the dissertation examination, and on the recommendation of the relevant board, the Rector of

VŠTE in Prešov may recognise a passed and valid dissertation examination in doctoral studies in the given or a related field of study as the oral part of the rigorosum examination (Section 61(1) of the Act). For applicants holding the academic degree PhD. or its older equivalent under the applicable legislation, the oral part of the rigorosum examination is recognised on the basis of the electronic copy of the diploma attached to the registration and irrespective of the validity of the dissertation examination.

Article 6 Examination Board for the Rigorosum Examination

1. The same conditions and procedure apply to the holding of rigorosum examinations as to state examinations (Section 84 of the Act).

2. The composition of the Board and its chair, drawn from persons entitled to examine pursuant to Section 84(3) of the Act (university teachers holding the academic positions of professor and associate professor and other experts approved by the Scientific Board of VŠTE in Prešov), is appointed by the Rector of VŠTE in Prešov.

3. The Board consists of a chair and at least three members (at least four members in total – Section 84(2) of the Act). As a rule, one member of the Board is a distinguished expert in the given field of study from another higher education institution or from a legal person engaged in research and development, or from the relevant sector of professional practice, subject to the condition of eligibility to examine at rigorosum examinations. At least two members of the examination board are university teachers holding the academic positions of professor or associate professor. The Board has a quorum when four valid votes are secured while complying with the conditions set out in this paragraph.

4. At a rigorosum examination held online, a member of the Board is deemed to be present if he or she is connected via the video-conferencing system of VŠTE in Prešov with the camera and microphone switched on. The rigorosum examination may also be held with some members of the Board present at the registered office of VŠTE in Prešov and others connected online.

Article 7 Reviewer of the Rigorosum Thesis

1. To assess the rigorosum thesis, the chair of the Board shall appoint a reviewer holding at least the academic degree PhD. or the relevant equivalent under the applicable legislation. If no supervisor has been appointed for the applicant (Article 4a(3)), the chair of the Board shall appoint two reviewers.

2. A person who has joint publications with the applicant or who participated in the preparation of the rigorosum thesis shall not be proposed as reviewer. A person who is the applicant's direct superior or subordinate in an employment relationship, or who is related to the applicant, shall not be proposed as reviewer.

3. If the designated person cannot accept the function of reviewer, he or she shall immediately notify the chair of the Board.

4. The reviewer is obliged to prepare a written review of the rigorosum thesis in electronic form via AiS2 and to submit it no later than 14 calendar days before the date of the rigorosum examination; the reviewer confirms the review in AiS2 after logging in and no paper original of the review is produced. VŠTE in Prešov

shall deliver this review to the applicant no later than 7 calendar days before the rigorosum examination; the review is also sent to the Central Register of Theses (Section 137 of the Act).

5. When preparing the review, the reviewer and the supervisor may use a draft review prepared by an artificial intelligence tool approved by the Rector (Article 1(9)). The assessor studies the rigorosum thesis personally, examines and edits the draft and bears full responsibility for the content of the review and the proposed assessment. A review prepared with the support of artificial intelligence contains the declaration under Annex 1(c) of Directive VŠTE No. 23/2026 on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence by Students and Academic Staff. An assessor has no access to the draft review of another assessor.

Article 8 Course of the Rigorosum Examination

1. The date of the rigorosum examination is set individually for each applicant, at any time of the year; rigorosum examinations are not held in collective examination periods. The date is set by the Rector by agreement with the chair of the Board, taking into account the applicant's proposal. The Rector shall notify the applicant of the date and form of the rigorosum examination (Article 8a(1)) no later than 30 days before it is held. At the same time the Rector shall notify the applicant of the two subjects from the broader foundations of the field of study in the study programme provided in which the oral part of the rigorosum examination will be taken. This does not apply to applicants whose dissertation examinations the Rector has recognised on the basis of a request under Article 3(2)(f), nor to applicants holding the academic degree PhD. or its earlier equivalent under Article 3(2)(g).

2. The oral part of the rigorosum examination and the defence of the rigorosum thesis are held on the same day. The course of the rigorosum examination and the announcement of its results are public (Section 84(2) of the Act).

3. The rigorosum examination may be held only if the chair and at least three members are present, one of whom is, as a rule, from another higher education institution, and if the further conditions set out in Article 6(3) of this Directive are met; in the online form, presence is assessed pursuant to Article 6(4).

4. The rigorosum examination is chaired by the chair or the alternate chair. It consists of two parts. It begins with the defence of the rigorosum thesis and continues immediately with the oral examination in the designated subjects, except for applicants whose dissertation examination from doctoral studies has been recognised as the oral part of the rigorosum examination.

5. During the defence of the rigorosum thesis the applicant presents the main theses and conclusions of the submitted work within the time limit set by the chair of the Board. The applicant responds to the comments contained in the reviews of the reviewers and, where applicable, of the supervisor, and answers the questions of the chair and members of the Board.

6. The Board votes openly on the result of the rigorosum examination in the closed part of its session on the day of the rigorosum examination. The rigorosum examination is graded "passed" or "failed". If, with an even number of Board members, the vote is tied, the chair has the casting vote.

7. On the day of the examination a record of the rigorosum examination is drawn up in electronic form in AiS2 ("Record of the Rigorosum Examination"). Each member of the Board present confirms his or her

presence and the correctness of the record by an act in AiS2 after logging in; the chair of the Board signs the record with a qualified electronic signature pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and forwards it electronically to the Rector of VŠTE in Prešov. If the record cannot be signed in this way within five working days of the examination, it is drawn up in paper form and signed by the chair and the other members of the Board present at the examination.

8. After verifying the data, the Rector of VŠTE in Prešov signs the "Record of the Rigorosum Examination" with a qualified electronic signature and forwards it to the Study Department for the purpose of issuing the diploma and of any graduation ceremony for doctors. The record forms part of the applicant's electronic file. The documentation, including the record, is archived at VŠTE in Prešov in accordance with the Records Management Rules of VŠTE in Prešov and special legislation (Act No. 395/2002 Coll. on Archives and Records); the defended rigorosum thesis is retained in the Central Register of Theses for 70 years (Section 137 of the Act).

9. On the day of successfully passing the rigorosum examination, the Study Department shall issue to the successful applicant a confirmation of entitlement to use the academic degree in accordance with Section 61(3) of the Act in electronic form and shall deliver it to him or her via the information system. The confirmation is signed by the chair of the board for rigorosum examinations with a qualified electronic signature.

Article 8a Online Form of the Rigorosum Examination

1. As a rule, the rigorosum examination, including the defence of the rigorosum thesis, is held online via the video-conferencing system of VŠTE in Prešov integrated into the e-learning environment of VŠTE in Prešov; the details are laid down in Directive VŠTE No. 27/2026 on Online Examinations and Identity Verification (Smernica VŠTE č. 27/2026 o online skúškach a overovaní totožnosti). Since the rigorosum procedure is conducted by the distance method through an electronic course (Article 4a), the online form is a regular manner of holding the rigorosum examination (Section 2(i) and Section 74 of the Act, Article 1(4) of Directive VŠTE No. 27/2026); special procedures during a state of crisis under Section 143 of the Act are not affected. A rigorosum examination held online has the same effects as a rigorosum examination held in person. At the applicant's request, the rigorosum examination is held in person at the registered office of VŠTE in Prešov. If, in a particular case, the online form would preclude reliable verification of the applicant's identity or the proper course of the rigorosum examination, the chair of the Board shall interrupt the rigorosum examination or a part thereof, and the rigorosum examination shall be completed on an alternative date which is not counted towards the number of repetitions under Article 9(5).

2. If the number of members of the Board present pursuant to Article 6(4) falls below the number required under Article 8(3), the chair of the Board shall interrupt the rigorosum examination. The Board deliberates and votes on the result in a separate closed (non-public) room of the video-conferencing system of VŠTE in Prešov accessible only to members of the Board; the deliberation of the Board is not public, is not broadcast or recorded, and no automatic transcription tools or other tools processing its course are used.

3. Before the rigorosum examination begins, the identity of the applicant is verified by the chair of the Board or by a member of the Board authorised by the chair, in that the applicant presents an official identity

document with a photograph to the camera and his or her appearance is compared with the photograph in his or her profile in the information system. Only the type of document presented and the result of the verification are recorded; the number of the document is not recorded, no copy or image of the document is made and no biometric means are used. Guests are not present during the identity verification.

4. The public part of the rigorosum examination (the defence of the rigorosum thesis, the oral part and the announcement of the result) is accessible to the public online (Section 84(2) and Section 140(11) and (12) of the Act). The link for guests is published on the website of VŠTE in Prešov (www.vste.sk) in the schedule of rigorosum examinations, published under Directive VŠTE No. 15/2026; the name of the applicant is not published. Guests are admitted to the video conference by a member of the Board authorised by the chair of the Board; guests are connected without microphone and camera and without the possibility of writing in the chat. A guest who disrupts the course of the rigorosum examination is excluded by the chair of the Board. The chair of the Board announces the result of the rigorosum examination publicly after the deliberation of the Board has ended.

5. The public part of the rigorosum examination is recorded only after the applicant's identity has been verified, for the purposes of demonstrating the regularity of its course and of a review under paragraph 8 (Section 140(11) of the Act). The recording is accessible only to the Study Department and to the Rector in a review under paragraph 8. The recording is retained until three months after the expiry of the period for submitting a request for review and, if a request has been submitted, until three months after it has been dealt with; it is then automatically deleted. The deliberation of the Board is never recorded.

6. The technical conditions for participation in the online rigorosum examination (camera, microphone and internet connection) are notified to the applicant together with the date of the rigorosum examination. If the connection is interrupted, the chair of the Board decides, according to the nature and duration of the outage, whether the rigorosum examination is to continue or to be completed on an alternative date; the reason for and duration of the interruption are stated in the record of the rigorosum examination. An outage demonstrably not caused by the applicant is not considered an unsuccessful attempt or non-attendance at the rigorosum examination. Failure of the applicant to connect at the set time is treated as failure to appear for the rigorosum examination under Article 9(1) and (2).

7. During the rigorosum examination, artificial intelligence is not used to ask questions, to assess the applicant, to evaluate his or her behaviour or to infer his or her emotions (Article 5(1)(f) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689). A summary of the reviews and materials prepared using artificial intelligence may be used by the Board only as supporting material; the assessment and the result of the rigorosum examination are decided exclusively by the Board by vote pursuant to Article 8(6).

8. Within five working days of the day on which the result is announced, the applicant may submit to the Rector a request for review of the course of the rigorosum examination or a part thereof if he or she objects to a breach of this Directive or of Directive VŠTE No. 27/2026 on Online Examinations and Identity Verification in its course, in particular as regards the composition of the Board, public access, identity verification, a technical interruption or the use of artificial intelligence. The professional assessment of the Board is not subject to review. The Rector decides within 15 working days on the basis of the record of the rigorosum examination, the recording under paragraph 5 and the logs of the information system. If the

Rector finds a breach which could have affected the result, he or she annuls the assessment of the part of the rigorosum examination concerned and orders it to be repeated before a Board of different composition; this repetition is not counted towards the number of repetitions under Article 9(5).

Article 9 Repetition of the Rigorosum Examination

1. If the applicant fails to appear for the rigorosum examination on the set date and excuses his or her absence in writing within 3 days of that date, the Rector shall, on the basis of the applicant's written request and by agreement with the chair of the Board, set an alternative date for the rigorosum examination.

2. If the applicant fails to appear for the rigorosum examination on the set date and does not excuse his or her absence in writing within 3 days of that date, he or she is graded as having failed the examination.

3. An applicant who has failed both parts of the rigorosum examination, or only the defence of the rigorosum thesis or only the oral part of the rigorosum examination, may repeat the rigorosum examination on the basis of a written request no earlier than one month after the date on which it was held. The date of the repeated rigorosum examination is set by the Rector by agreement with the chair of the Board. In the resit the applicant takes only that part of the rigorosum examination which he or she failed. If the applicant did not successfully defend the rigorosum thesis, the Board determines whether it needs to be reworked or supplemented.

4. If the applicant successfully defended the rigorosum thesis, the defence need not be held again when the rigorosum examination is repeated. Otherwise the Board determines whether the thesis needs to be reworked or supplemented. If the applicant did not successfully defend the rigorosum thesis but passed the oral part of the rigorosum examination, that part need not be held again upon repetition. If the applicant failed the rigorosum examination in only one subject of the oral part, he or she repeats that subject when the rigorosum examination is repeated.

5. The rigorosum examination, or any of its parts, may be repeated twice. An applicant who repeatedly fails to defend the rigorosum thesis or repeatedly fails the oral part of the examination may apply to take the rigorosum examination at VŠTE in Prešov, as a rule, no earlier than after the lapse of one year.

Article 10 Fees Connected with the Rigorosum Procedure

1. Pursuant to Section 99(1) of the Act, tuition fees and fees associated with studies are determined by VŠTE in Prešov in its internal regulation. In accordance with Section 99(2) of the Act, VŠTE in Prešov publishes the tuition fees and fees associated with studies no later than 2 months before the last day set for the submission of applications. Since the electronic registration for the rigorosum examination may be submitted at any time of the year (Article 2(2)), VŠTE in Prešov publishes the amount of the fees connected with the rigorosum procedure on its website on an ongoing basis, and any change in their amount applies only to electronic registrations submitted after the lapse of 2 months from the publication of the change.

2. The following fees are payable in the rigorosum procedure, the amount of which, according to the category of applicant, is determined by Directive VŠTE No. 24/2026 on the Determination of Tuition Fees and Fees Associated with Studies (Smernica VŠTE č. 24/2026 Určenie školného a poplatkov spojených so štúdiom) and Directive VŠTE No. 25/2026 on the Determination of Tuition Fees and Fees Associated with

Studies for Foreign Students (Smernica VŠTE č. 25/2026 Určenie školného a poplatkov spojených so štúdiom pre zahraničných študentov):

- a) the fee for submitting the registration for the rigorosum procedure, payable upon submission of the electronic registration; the electronic registration is assessed after this fee has been paid,
- b) the fee for the acts connected with the organisation of the rigorosum examination and the defence of the rigorosum thesis, payable after the Rector has approved the registration and the topic of the rigorosum thesis; the rigorosum procedure commences upon its payment (Article 2(4)),
- c) the fee for issuing the diploma on the conferral of the academic degree "doktor filozofie" (PhDr.), payable after the rigorosum examination has been passed and before the diploma is issued,
- d) the fee for changing the date of the rigorosum examination, if the date is changed at the applicant's request.

3. For an applicant who works at VŠTE in Prešov for the established weekly working time, the Rector may, on the proposal of the chair of the Board of Trustees of VŠTE in Prešov, waive or reduce the fees connected with the organisation of the rigorosum procedure and the defence of the rigorosum thesis.

4. The fees are paid to the bank account of VŠTE in Prešov published on the website of VŠTE in Prešov (www.vste.sk) or via the payment gateway on the website of VŠTE in Prešov or in the e-learning environment of VŠTE in Prešov; the variable symbol and other payment details are given there. The applicant pays the fees exclusively and directly to VŠTE in Prešov. The details of the method of payment are laid down in the Price List and Terms and Conditions approved by the Board of Trustees and published on the website of VŠTE in Prešov (Cenník a obchodné podmienky).

5. The fee under paragraph 2(d) is not payable if the date of the rigorosum examination is changed for reasons attributable to VŠTE in Prešov or for the reasons referred to in Article 8a(1), (6) and (8).

6. Fees paid in the rigorosum procedure are not refunded, including where the Rector does not approve the application, where the applicant withdraws the application or requests termination of the rigorosum procedure, where the applicant does not pay a further fee within the set time limit, where the rigorosum procedure ends under Article 2(5)(b) to (d), or where the applicant fails the rigorosum examination. The fee under paragraph 2(b) is paid only after the application has been approved; if the Rector does not approve the application, it is not charged. If VŠTE in Prešov is unable to conduct the rigorosum procedure for reasons on its part, it refunds to the applicant the fees for acts it has not yet performed.

Article 11 Conferral of the Degree

1. To applicants who have successfully passed the rigorosum examination and fulfilled the other required conditions, VŠTE in Prešov issues a diploma and confers the relevant academic degree in accordance with Section 61(3) and (4) of the Act.

2. The Study Department keeps a register of graduates on whom an academic degree has been conferred pursuant to Article 11(1).

3. The rigorosum examination or a part thereof may be declared invalid under the conditions and by the procedure laid down in Sections 103 and 104 of the Act (in particular Section 103(2) of the Act); in such a case Section 106 of the Act on the return of documents also applies.

4. The diploma is issued after the documents under Article 3(6) have been submitted and the fee under Article 10(2)(c) has been paid.

5. The diploma is also issued in electronic form as an authorised electronic document pursuant to Section 89(11) of the Act; the paper form of the diploma is always issued. The paper diploma is handed over to the graduate in person, as a rule at the graduation ceremony, participation in which is voluntary, or at the Study Department; if handing over in person is not possible, it is sent to the graduate by post as an insured (valuable) consignment for delivery into the addressee's own hands to the address stated in the electronic registration.

Article 12 Related Regulations

1. Act No. 300/2025 Coll. on Higher Education and on Amendments to Certain Acts (Higher Education Act), in particular Sections 8, 31, 61, 82, 84, 89, 95, 99, 101, 103, 104, 106, 137 and 140; Decree of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic No. 205/2026 Coll. implementing certain provisions of the Higher Education Act (in particular Sections 2, 4, 9, 17 and 18); Act No. 422/2015 Coll. on the Recognition of Education Documents and Professional Qualifications, as amended; Act No. 185/2015 Coll., the Copyright Act, as amended; Act No. 305/2013 Coll. on the Electronic Form of the Exercise of the Powers of Public Authorities and on Amendments to Certain Acts (e-Government Act), as amended; Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (GDPR); Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (eIDAS); Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Artificial Intelligence Act); Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on Personal Data Protection, as amended; Act No. 395/2002 Coll. on Archives and Records, as amended.

2. Internal regulations of VŠTE in Prešov: Statute of VŠTE in Prešov (Štatút VŠTE v Prešove); Directive VŠTE No. 21/2026 Study Rules (Študijný poriadok); Directive VŠTE No. 4/2025 on the Requirements for Final Theses, their Bibliographic Registration, Originality Check, Preservation and Access; Directive VŠTE No. 15/2026 on the Publication of Information on Study and Educational Programmes (Smernica VŠTE č. 15/2026 o zverejňovaní informácií o študijných a vzdelávacích programoch); Directive VŠTE No. 23/2026 on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence by Students and Academic Staff; Directives VŠTE No. 24/2026 and No. 25/2026 on the Determination of Tuition Fees and Fees Associated with Studies; Directive VŠTE No. 26/2026 on the Distance Method and E-Learning (Smernica VŠTE č. 26/2026 o dištančnej metóde a e-learningu); Directive VŠTE No. 27/2026 on Online Examinations and Identity Verification (Smernica VŠTE č. 27/2026 o online skúškach a overovaní totožnosti); Directive VŠTE No. 17/2026 Library Rules (Knižničný poriadok); Directive VŠTE No. 5/2025 Code of Ethics (Etický kódex); Records Management Rules of VŠTE in Prešov (Registratúrny poriadok VŠTE v Prešove); Price List and Terms and Conditions approved by the Board of Trustees and published on the website of VŠTE in Prešov (Cenník a obchodné podmienky).

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Article 13 Repealing Provisions

1. Directive No. 1/2017, the Directive on the Rigorosum Examination at the Vysoká škola medzinárodného podnikania ISM Slovakia v Prešove, is repealed (already repealed by the original 2019 version of this Directive).

Article 14 Transitional and Final Provisions

1. Rigorosum examinations held on the basis of registrations submitted while this Directive is in force, as well as other rights and obligations relating to the rigorosum examination arising while it is in force, are governed by this Directive.

2. Rigorosum procedures commenced before the entry into effect of this revised version shall be completed in accordance with this revised version; fees paid before its entry into effect remain unchanged. A supervisor appointed before the entry into effect of this revised version continues to perform his or her function; a rigorosum thesis submitted before its entry into effect, including in paper form, is deemed to have been duly submitted.

3. The original wording of the Directive entered into force and took effect on 1 April 2019.

4. The Annex to this Directive (Electronic Registration for the Rigorosum Examination – Scope of Data) replaces the former Annex No. 1 Application for the Rigorosum Examination and Annex No. 2 Registration for the Rigorosum Examination and is updated together with the Directive; the electronic registration form is published by VŠTE in Prešov on its website (www.vste.sk) and in the e-learning environment of VŠTE in Prešov.

5. This version was approved and issued by the Board of Trustees of VŠTE in Prešov on the proposal of the Rector (Section 31(2)(g) of the Act) on 29 October 2026. Effective from 29 October 2026.

Prešov, 29 October 2026



doc. Ing. Jakub Horák, MBA, PhD.

Chair of the Board of Trustees of VŠTE in Prešov

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Annex:

1. Electronic Registration for the Rigorosum Examination – Scope of Data

Ing. Jozef Polačko, Chair of the Board of Trustees of VŠMP ISM Slovakia v Prešove (original version 2019)

Doc. PaedDr. Marek Storoška, PhD., Rector of VŠMP ISM Slovakia v Prešove (original version 2019)

ANNEX Electronic Registration for the Rigorosum Examination – Scope of Data

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS IN PREŠOV

Masarykova 22

080 01 Prešov

ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION FOR THE RIGOROSUM EXAMINATION

(application for the rigorosum examination and registration for the rigorosum examination in a single electronic submission pursuant to Article 2(2) of the Directive)

The electronic registration is completed and submitted exclusively electronically via the form published on the website of VŠTE in Prešov (www.vste.sk) after the applicant's user account has been created. A handwritten signature is not required; the applicant confirms the data and declarations in the electronic form. Items marked as optional need not be completed by the applicant.

Personal data of the applicant

Surname:

First name:

Surname stated on the diploma (only if different from the current surname):

Degree/title:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Nationality:

Nationality (for determining the fees under Article 10(2) of the Directive):

Birth registration number (only for a citizen of the Slovak Republic to whom it has been assigned; for the purposes under Article 3(7) of the Directive):

Photograph of the face (for identity verification at the rigorosum examination under Article 8a(3) of the Directive; it may also be uploaded to the applicant's profile later, but no later than before the rigorosum examination):

Contact details of the applicant

E-mail address (address for electronic service under Article 3(5) of the Directive):

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Telephone number (with dialling code):

Address for delivery of the diploma and other paper documents (municipality, postcode, street and number, state):

Higher education completed by the applicant

Full name of the institution (faculty):

Registered office of the institution (faculty):

Diploma number:

Study programme and field of study:

Academic degree obtained:

Year of completion of studies:

Title of the defended master's thesis:

Data on the rigorosum procedure

Field of study and study programme in which the applicant registers for the rigorosum examination:

Proposed topic of the rigorosum thesis and a brief abstract thereof (objective, method and expected contribution):

Continuation of the topic of the master's thesis under Article 4(2) of the Directive (yes/no):

Request for the appointment of a supervisor under Article 4a(3) of the Directive (yes/no; the appointment of a supervisor may also be requested later):

Request for recognition of the dissertation examination or of the oral part of the rigorosum examination under Article 5(3) of the Directive (yes/no):

Request for consent to submit the rigorosum thesis in a language other than Slovak under Article 4(1) of the Directive (optional; state the language):

Annexes to the electronic registration (electronic copies – a scan or a PDF file)

- higher education diploma;
- diploma supplement (and the certificate of the state examination or the certificate of the state final examination, if issued under the legislation in force until 31 August 2026);
- a graduate of a foreign higher education institution shall attach the decision on the equivalence of the education document or the decision on recognition of the education document pursuant to Act No. 422/2015 Coll., or, where applicable, the nostrification clause, where such a document is required;
- document on a change of first name or surname – only if the applicant's first name or surname differs from the first name or surname stated on the diploma;
- curriculum vitae;

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- a graduate on whom the academic degree "magister" was conferred subsequently shall submit a copy of the confirmation of entitlement to use the academic degree "Mgr.";
- a request for recognition of a passed and valid dissertation examination as the oral part, together with a document proving that it was passed, in the case of an applicant who is a doctoral student or who has completed the studies but has not yet defended the dissertation thesis (applies to both forms of study);
- the diploma in the case of applicants holding the academic degree PhD. or its older equivalent, for the purpose of recognition of the oral part of the rigorosum examination.

Documents which VŠTE in Prešov already has at its disposal are not attached. The original (for inspection), an officially certified copy or an guaranteed conversion of the documents shall be submitted by the applicant no later than before the diploma is issued (Article 3(6) of the Directive).

In the electronic registration VŠTE in Prešov does not request a birth certificate, a marriage certificate, data on marital status, data on the employer and job position, the number of the identity card or travel document, or a copy of an identity document (Article 3(7) of the Directive).

Declarations of the applicant (confirmed in the electronic form)

I declare that all the data given above are, to the best of my knowledge, complete and accurate.

I declare that the electronic copies of the attached documents conform to their originals, and I acknowledge that I will submit the original, an officially certified copy or an guaranteed conversion of the documents no later than before the diploma is issued.

I acknowledge that documents in the rigorosum procedure are served on me electronically (Article 3(5) of the Directive), that the rigorosum examination is, as a rule, held online, including identity verification and recording of the public part (Article 8a of the Directive), and that the fees are paid pursuant to Article 10 of the Directive and the Price List and Terms and Conditions approved by the Board of Trustees and published on the website of VŠTE in Prešov.

Information on the processing of personal data: The Institute of Technology and Business in Prešov processes the personal data given in this electronic registration and its annexes for the purposes of the rigorosum procedure pursuant to Sections 61 and 140 of Act No. 300/2025 Coll. (Higher Education Act) in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Act No. 18/2018 Coll. on Personal Data Protection, and only to the extent necessary for that purpose. The formal requirements of the electronic registration and the connection of the topic with the field of study are preliminarily assessed by the information system using an artificial intelligence tool; this does not constitute automated individual decision-making within the meaning of Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, as the registration is decided on by the guarantor of the study programme and the Rector, and the applicant has the right to human assessment. The rigorosum thesis and the reviews are sent to the Central Register of Theses (Section 137 of the Act). The recording of the public part of the online rigorosum examination is retained and deleted pursuant to Article 8a(5) of the Directive; other documentation is retained in accordance with the Records Management Rules of VŠTE in Prešov. Detailed information on the processing of personal data and on the rights of the data subject is published on the website www.vste.sk.

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Consent (optional): Pursuant to Article 6(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR), I give the Institute of Technology and Business in Prešov my consent to the publication of my data to the extent of my first name, surname and the academic degree conferred, for the purpose of their use at the graduation ceremony and their inclusion in the list of graduates. I may withdraw this consent at any time.

(The applicant submits the electronic registration with the required annexes exclusively electronically in the manner published on the website www.vste.sk; confirmation of its receipt is delivered to the applicant electronically.)