**Lithuanian History and Culture through the Prism of Auxiliary Historical Disciplines**

This programme encompasses eight auxiliary historical disciplines: heraldry, sigillography, genealogy, legal archaeology, diplomatics, Latin palaeography, Cyrillic palaeography, and retrospective branch-specific bibliography. Today the above are viewed in two way, namely as auxiliary historical disciplines and independent aspects of historical study. The latter analyse specific research objects and use appropriate research approaches and methods. The analysis of the same source through the prism of several of the above disciplines results in mutually supplementary data detailing and illuminating social, mental and cultural phenomena from one or another period. What is important is that the objects analysed by these disciplines have both a common European universality and at the same time regional or local differences. Thus, investigations into some topics, and through them Lithuanian history and culture, will be placed in a comparative Western-, Central-, and Eastern European context.

**Aim of the programme**: to analyse social, political, legal, mental and cultural processes, their nature, reasons and developmental dynamics in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the modern Lithuanian state through the prism of auxiliary areas of history, interpreting the results received in a broader European context.

**Objectives of the programme:**

1. To conduct research on objects of heraldry, sigillography, genealogy, legal archaeology, diplomatics, and Latin and Cyrillic palaeography. To introduce new, and reconsider already-known sources in current historical discourse.

2. To analyse the forms of interaction and universal symbols characteristic of Byzantine-Ruthenian and Latin cultures in the Late Middle Ages and the Modern Period.

3. To create a Lithuanian language terminology for auxiliary historical disciplines, or to introduce terms that are used in international and traditional historical scholarship.

4. To disseminate the concept of auxiliary historical disciplines as a specialised field of research; to present on a broader scale the information that is acquired from their research objects; and to show the potential of these disciplines through the prism of their research objects when analysing a wide spectrum of different issues.

5. To present research results to Lithuanian and international academic communities and to wider audiences, highlighting the history and culture of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.