

Field of study	Special Needs Education – Intervention
Study	Single-subject, Bachelor's degree, full-time/combined
Length of study (years)	3
Academic degree	Bc.
Study guaranteed by	prof. PhDr. PaedDr. Miloň Potměšil, Ph.D. e-mail: milon.potmesil@upol.cz mvpotmesil@gmail.com Phone: 585 635 334 Institute of Special Education Studies Žižkovo nám. 5 771 40 Olomouc www.uss.upol.cz

Description of the programme

The study is designed as a Bachelor's non-teaching course with a focus on working with persons with special educational needs. The study is internally divided into three specialized areas, which the students can focus on. These areas include special needs education school-based counselling, special needs education counselling designed for the family and children with health disability at an early age, and special needs education counselling designed for communicative competence disorders. The structure and content of the lectures, seminars and teaching practices reflects the requirements of Act No. 563/2004 Coll., on pedagogical staff as last amended on 1 January 2015.

The graduates have an opportunity to continue in the follow-up Master's degree in Special Needs Education – Counselling.

Graduate profile and job opportunities

Special needs education – school counselling

The study is designed as a three-year full-time and combined course, whose aim is to prepare graduates with a Bachelor's degree, who will be able to work under supervision in the area of school counselling with a focus on children and pupils.

Job opportunities of the graduates include positions with a direct contact with children and pupils with health disability. The graduates will be ready to communicate and collaborate with the parents of children and pupils and teachers in special and mainstream schools. The graduates can work in helping professions and under professional supervision of a qualified special needs educator – graduate of a respective Master's degree, other jobs include assistant positions in schools and non-school facilities.

Special needs education – early age counselling

The three-year Bachelor's degree will prepare graduates for working with the target groups of children with health disability and their parents, or children in institutional care. This is the age group of children between 0 and 7 years, according to the severity of their disability. Special needs education counselling for early age represents a set of activities that are provided to a family with an early-aged child with disability. In terms of terminology, a child with health disability includes various forms of endangerment of healthy development, whether for health, social or environmental reasons. Currently in the Czech Republic, early age of a child is understood as a period in which essential bases are developed for the

subsequent learning process, not only in terms of preparing for school, but also as a comprehensive system with lifelong importance.

The target group consists of families with children with disability. Regarding this fact, it is also necessary to ensure appropriate education for the staff in this relatively new area of special needs education. Job opportunities of the graduates include early intervention centres, special needs education centres and special pre-school facilities. The age groups of children with multiple disabilities include children younger than 3 or 4 years of age and children with severe multiple disabilities until seven years of age.

Special needs education – orthocommunication

In accordance with the increasing attention paid to the education of children, pupils and youth with health disability in schools and non-school facilities, one of the main barriers seems to be the communication barrier. These are children and pupils have so severe health disability that in earlier times they would be completely disqualified as a result of their disability and detached from mainstream education. Special education intervention is provided by experts not only in the field of education, but also in other sectors (health care and social care). As a result, the target groups, regarding the age range, also include the group of adults.

The aim of the study is to prepare experts in the area of communication development and treatment of communication disorders. The target group might include individuals not only with severe mental disability but also autistic symptoms, and severe sensory or somatic disability. The graduates should be proficient in the methods required for the development of individual communication systems, participate in specific diagnostic procedures and last but not least use various technical equipment facilitating or mediating communication. The proposed Bachelor's degree should prepare experts capable of working under the supervision of a Master's degree graduate in the field as well as outpatient environment.

Admission requirements:

The applicant must prove his/her fitness for study in a motivation letter (in English) and a profile essay 15 000 – 20 000 symbols long, focused on the area of study program.

Language competence:

- The standard English language requirement is level B2 in accordance to the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR).
- Minimum language requirements in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): Internet based Test (IbT): 61, Computer based Test (CbT): 173, Paper based Test (PbT): 500 or an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) overall band score of at least 6.0.

The applicants are required to send:

- application ([online application form](#));
- [proof of recognition](#) of their previous education (i.e. foreign certificate as equivalent to a certificate of education issued in the Czech Republic;
- motivation letter;
- profile essay;
- CV;
- certificate of language competence

to the address dagmar.zdrahalova@upol.cz by **31 May 2018**.

Further information about the admission requirements will be published at www.uss.upol.cz

Admission exams

Interview, whose content is based on the secondary school subject of social sciences and general knowledge in order to assess the applicant's awareness, ability to respond, and their interest in the field of study.

More information about the requirements for the interview will be published on www.uss.upol.cz.