

Field of study	Primary School Teacher Training in Special Needs Education
Faculty	Faculty of Education
Study	Single-subject, Master's degree, full-time/combined
Length of study (years)	5
Academic degree	Mgr. (Magister, similar to Master of Education, M.Ed.)
Study guaranteed by	doc. Mgr. Dita Finková, Ph.D. e-mail: dita.finkova@upol.cz Phone: 585 635 339 Institute of Special Education Studies Žižkovo nám. 5 771 40 Olomouc uss.upol.cz

Description of the programme

The study is designed as a teaching (one-stage) course with a focus on special needs education and special needs education for younger school age. The aim of the field of study of Teaching for 1st Grade of Elementary Schools and Special Needs Education is to prepare graduates – special needs educators – for highly qualified professional work in the area of educating individuals with special needs in the age category of younger school age to adults (target group differs according to selected specialization) in the sector of education, health care, labour and social affairs, including non-governmental organizations in these sectors.

The study organically links the knowledge of education, special needs education, primary education, psychology, pathopsychology, medical propaedeutics, didactics of educational areas for 1st grade of elementary schools and other related disciplines. By studying educational, psychological and other social science disciplines the graduates will acquire educational competences and will be prepared to work as fully qualified teachers and special needs educators. On the basis of a broad interdisciplinary approach the students are led to independent and creative work in solving complex theoretical and practical issues with their clients.

Graduate profile and job opportunities

In accordance with Act No. 563/2004 Coll., on pedagogical staff, as last amended, the graduates of the Master's degree Teaching for 1st Grade of Elementary Schools and Special Needs Education will be qualified to work in the following positions:

- Special needs educator – 1st grade of elementary schools,
- Special needs educator – 1st grade of elementary schools with a focus on pupils with special educational needs who are educated by means of individual or group integration,
- Special needs educator – preparatory class of elementary schools,
- Special needs educator – elementary schools with an educational programme designed for pupils with special educational needs in grades 1 to 5 (e.g. speech and language therapy elementary school, elementary schools for hearing impaired pupils, elementary school for physically disabled pupils, elementary school for visually impaired pupils, elementary school for pupils with specific learning disorders, elementary schools for pupils with specific behaviour disorders),

- Special needs educator – elementary schools with an educational programme of a practical or special school, rehabilitation classes,
- Special needs educator – preparatory stage of a special elementary school,
- The graduates will be able to provide counselling services in the extent of the teaching position, and in accordance with Section 18 of Act No. 563/2004 Coll., on pedagogical staff as last amended, will be qualified for counselling work in the position of a special needs educator in school counselling facilities such as special needs education centres or educational and psychological counselling centres.

The graduates have an opportunity to work as special needs educators in facilities designed for persons with health disability or disadvantage, including the sector of labour and social affairs.

The graduates of an accredited Master's degree of special needs education (Teaching for 1st Grade of Elementary Schools and Special Needs Education), who pass the state final exam from speech and language therapy and surdopaedy (speech and language therapist) will be qualified to work in the health care sector as qualified staff with professional competence under the supervision of a clinical speech and language therapist (in accordance with Section 44, 46 of Decree No 55/2011 Coll., on the activities of health care professionals and other professionals, as last amended, and in accordance with Section 23 of Act 96/2004 Coll., on non-medical health care professions, as last amended).

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 the study programme.

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.

A necessary prerequisite for the admission proceedings is the submission of a report of a phoniatic and speech and language examination of the applicant.

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
- phoniatic and speech and language reports

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