

## Description of the study programme

**Name of the higher education institution:** Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica

**Address of the higher education institution:** Banská Bystrica

**Identification number of the higher education institution:** Organisation ID 30232295 / School ID 714 0000 00

**Name of the faculty:** Faculty of Education

**Address of the faculty:** Ružová 13, Banská Bystrica (Slovakia)

Institution body for approving the study programme:

- The Board for the Internal Quality System of MBU** in accordance with the Statute of the Internal Quality System Board of FoE UMB, (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/system-kvality/statut-rady-pre-vnutorny-system-kvality-pf-umb.html>) Directive MBU No. 1/2021 Creation, modification and approval of study programmes and submission of applications of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (SAAHE), <https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/vnutorny-system-kvality/zakladne-vnutorne-predpisy-vsk-umb/smernica-c-1-2021-vytvaranie-uprava-a-schvalovanie-studijnych-programov-14493.html>), Methodological Instruction No.7/2021 on Doctoral Studies at FoE UMB (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/doktorandske-studium/smernice-phd/smernica-7-2021-o-doktorandskom-studiu-na-umb.html>) and Methodological Instruction No.1/2022 on Quality Assurance of Doctoral Studies at FoE UMB (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/doktorandske-studium/smernice-phd/metodicky-pokyn-1-2022-k-zabezpeceniu-kvality-doktorandskeho-studia-na-pf-umb/>)
- The Board for the Internal Quality System (BIQS) of MBU** in accordance with the BIQS Statute of the Internal Quality System (<https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/vnutorny-system-kvality/zakladne-vnutorne-predpisy-vsk-umb/statut-rady-pre-vsk-umb/>), Directive MBU No. 1/2021 Creation, modification and approval of study programmes and submission of applications to SAAHE (<https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/vnutorny-system-kvality/zakladne-vnutorne-predpisy-vsk-umb/smernica-c-1-2021-vytvaranie-uprava-a-schvalovanie-studijnych-programov-14493.html>) and Methodological Instruction No. 4/2021 for the Harmonisation of Study Programmes and Study Fields in Habilitation Proceedings and Study Fields in Inauguration Proceedings at MBU in Banská Bystrica pursuant to Act No. 269/2018 Coll. until 31 August 2022 (<https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/vnutorny-system-kvality/zakladne-vnutorne-predpisy-vsk-umb/>) Approval of the study programme follows Directive No. 7/2021 on doctoral study (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/doktorandske-studium/smernice-phd/smernica-7-2021-o-doktorandskom-studiu-na-umb.html>).

<b>Date of the study programme approval or the study programme modification:</b>	Date of SP approval by BIQS MBU
<b>Date of the latest<sup>1</sup> change to the study programme description:</b>	This is not a study programme modification pursuant to Sec. 30 of Act. no. 269/2018 Coll.
<b>Link to the results of the periodical evaluation of the study programme performed by the higher education institution:</b>	<i>The first periodical evaluation cycle will begin in 9/2022.</i>
<b>Link to the evaluation report pertaining to the request for accreditation of study programme pursuant to Sec. 30 of Act. no. 269/2018 Coll.<sup>2</sup>:</b>	link to the BIQS MBU evaluation report

<sup>1</sup>Unless it is a study programme modification pursuant to Sec. 30 of Act. no. 269/2018 Coll.

<sup>2</sup>Provide only if study programme accreditation was granted pursuant to Sec. 30 of Act No. 269/2018 Coll.

## 1. Basic information about the study programme

<b>Number according to the register of study programmes</b>	Pre-school and Elementary Pedagogy, 12314
<b>Level of higher education and ISCED-F education level code</b>	3rd degree, 864 – doctoral study programme
<b>Place(s) of delivery of the study programme:</b>	Ružová 13, 974 11 Banská Bystrica
<b>Name and number of the field of study in which higher education is obtained by completing the study programme, or a combination of two fields of study in which higher education is obtained by completing the study programme, ISCED-F codes of the field/fields.<sup>3</sup></b>	7605 Teacher Training and Education Science/0111 Teaching Science
<b>Type of study programme:</b>	academically oriented
<b>Awarded academic degree:</b>	PhD.
<b>Form of study<sup>4</sup></b>	internal form
<b>In the case of joint study programmes, cooperating institutions and the range of study obligations the student fulfils at each of the given institutions (§ 54a of the Act on Higher Education Institutions).</b>	
<b>Language or languages in which the study programme is delivered:<sup>5</sup></b>	Slovak
<b>Standard length of the study expressed in academic years:</b>	3 years
<b>Capacity of the study programme (planned number of students), the actual number of applicants and students:</b>	number of applicants 2/number of accepted students 2

## 2. Graduate profile and learning objectives

### Graduate profile including indicated occupations

In the process of harmonisation, the Pre-School and Elementary Pedagogy study programme responds to the current needs of educational practice (as confirmed by the graduates, potential employers, and clients – representatives of state, public, and private entities) as well as to the international requirements for quality research and potential development in the individual fields of research. Its offer allows for continuous quality improvement in training of the generation of creative university teachers prepared in an international and interdisciplinary way – teachers and young researchers trained to perform quality research in the areas of education and upbringing on the international level and in cooperation with other experts. The goal is to contribute to the development of education sciences and prepare competent managers and experts capable of performing analyses in the area of education and upbringing. Its originality lies in the fact that it provides potential employers with university graduates well-versed in theory and practically prepared to independently perform the following jobs and tasks: research, university teaching, institutional management, analysis of educational phenomena – all in accordance with the trends in EU educational policies. A significant difference in comparison with the previous doctoral study programmes is defined by the emphasis on interdisciplinarity and internationality, scientific

<sup>3</sup>According to the International Standard Classification of Education. Fields of study and practice 2013.

<sup>4</sup>Pursuant to Section 60 of Act. no. 131/2002 Coll.

<sup>5</sup>Languages in which all learning outcomes are achieved, all related subjects of the study programme and the state examination are carried out. The institution shall indicate information on the possibility of studying parts/subjects in other languages separately in section 4 of the description.

precision, and ethics of research and publishing. The new SP focuses on training excellent, internationally accepted, and creative young researchers specialising in education sciences as well as the practice of early education, creation and verification of educational programmes and policies, professional development of teaching staff and their cross-cutting competences (in accordance with Dublin descriptors, international, and national qualification frameworks).

### **Learning objectives and outcomes**

The detailed structure of learning objectives and outcomes (knowledge, skills, capabilities, attitudes) can be found in the *Structure of the study programme* (PrEIPg\_PhD\_D\_struktura\_programu). The detailed structure of the learning outcomes can be found in the course information letters attached (PrEIPg\_PhD\_D\_informacne\_listy). The learning outcomes of the profile disciplines can be found in the *Learning objectives and outcomes* attached (PrEIPg\_PhD\_D\_ciele\_vystupy\_vzdelavania).

The study develops competences in the following key areas: General knowledge of pre-primary and elementary pedagogy (and their profile disciplines), psychological and sociocultural aspects of education and upbringing, inclusion, diversity, and differentiation in education and upbringing, developmental and educational needs of child, theory and practice of pre-primary and primary education (PPPE), diagnostics, observation of pedagogical phenomena and their research, professional reflection, development, and ethics, institutional and professional contexts of teaching, classroom and school management, scientific foundation of the profile educational areas. It also focuses on developing the following transferable competences: professional communication, team work, critical and creative thinking; moral, prosocial, and ethical values, civic engagement, digital literacy.

The graduate develops knowledge in the following areas:

- educational policy concepts and strategies including their creation on the national and international levels,
- non-formal learning context, trends and innovations in educational policies,
- advanced research designs,
- creation of measuring instruments,
- impacts of the social paradigm on education,
- the rules for creation of and verification of intervention programmes,
- specific forms of data analysis.

The graduate develops the following practical capabilities and skills:

- they can critically analyse and compare pedagogical and educational theories, strategies, and educational policy concepts, and applies them creatively to their own research,
- they can creatively evaluate the usefulness of pedagogical research methods based on a complex analysis of the specific problem,
- they can build on the knowledge of the developmental characteristics pertaining to the research sample to design, plan, and implement their own research,
- they can independently analyse the socially determined issues in education and upbringing, and clearly formulates the research problem,
- they can plan data collection and perform it using appropriate measuring methods, and evaluates the results using appropriate measuring methods data analysis methods,
- they are publishing and otherwise present their research results in Slovakia and abroad,
- based on a comparative analysis of programmes, they propose modifications in accordance with the principles of efficient intervention,
- they understand the specificities of didactic categories in PPPE and independently create the respective parts of university study programmes, implement and evaluate the educational process,
- they reflect on their professional activity, accept constructive criticism, and constantly develop.

The graduate develops the following additional knowledge, capabilities/skills, attitudes:

- they can critically and creatively apply their knowledge and practice in the field,
- they have excellent communication and presentation skills in Slovak and English (level B2),
- they master the state-of-art digital tools,
- they actively participate in life of the scientific, academic and other specialised/professional community actively influencing other areas of social life,
- they adhere to the principles of scientific, academic, and professional ethics, they keep developing personal and professional openness towards diversity and otherness.

**The institution indicates the professions for which the graduate is prepared at the time of completion and the potential of the study programme from the point of view of graduate's employability.**

The graduate has been trained to independently work as a university teacher, researcher specialising in education and upbringing at the primary and primary levels of education (PPPE), education and upbringing analyst, and manager in the area of education and upbringing in PPPE.

The graduate of this study programme can work in tertiary education (university, higher education institution), governmental and non-governmental organisations focusing on education and upbringing (e.g. State Educational Policy Institute, Slovak Governance Institute, Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture, Center for Economic and Social Analyses); as well as private educational and analytical organisations and associations.

The graduate has deep insight as they have been trained to respond to and research various problems of the educational reality and educational institution management. The study programme has trained the graduate to respect the basic paradigm of PPPE theory and practice. Currently, this paradigm covers the concept of systemic approaches to knowledge acquisition, research, and development of educational reality on the aforementioned levels of education. This paradigm also shifts the research focus towards ontogenetic categories of pre-school and primary school children as well as a range of educational reality contexts including teaching as a profession. Although there have been PhD programmes with similar focus in Slovakia before, the focus of this study programme on the cross-cutting research competences makes this SP original.

The Pre-School and Elementary Pedagogy study programme has been accredited at four faculties of education – Catholic University in Ružomberok, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Comenius University in Bratislava, and University of Prešov. However, this study programme follows the trends in doctoral studies abroad. The FoE MBU Doctoral School offers the PhD students the opportunity to develop cross-cutting as well as transferable competences necessary for holistic personality development as well as their research careers. The Doctoral School is a platform focused on developing a broad range of knowledge, skills, and intellect in general including personal efficiency and engagement, and of course, management and research. The emphasis is on scientific discourse, critical thinking, publishing and presentation skills in Slovak and world languages.

**Relevant external stakeholders who have provided the statement or a favourable opinion on the compliance of the acquired qualification with the sector-specific requirements for the profession**

Name of the organisation	Seat of the organisation
Methodological-Pedagogic Centre	Ševčenkova 1128/11, 852 01 Bratislava
Štátny pedagogický ústav/State Educational Institute	Pluhová 8, 831 03, Bratislava

**3. Employability**

**Assessment of the employability of the study programme's graduates**

Graduates of this study programme are trained to work within the area of education. Many have been working in the academic environment and continue their research. Others are working in kindergartens and primary schools, often in managing positions.

**Successful graduates of this study programme:**

- Mgr. Michaela Vargová, PhD. – headmaster of the Profesor Sára Kindergarten in Banská Bystrica, president of the Council for Kindergarten Development civic association, member of the Expert Committee for Inclusive Education and Education in Special Schools under the National Institute for Education, lecturer at the Methodological-Pedagogic Centre, author of several specialised publications.
- Mgr. Petronela Bábyová, PhD. (neé Tabačáková) – former headmaster of the Krivá Primary School
- Mgr. Alena Lopušná, PhD – director of the Methodological Association at the Tulsá Kindergarten in Banská Bystrica, lecturer of further education
- Mgr. Barbara Basarabová, PhD. – holder of the Dean’s Award, currently university teacher and researcher at FoE MBU

**Employers’ evaluation of the study programme’s quality (feedback)**

Employers’ evaluation of the study programme’s quality (feedback) The selected employers were contacted to evaluate the quality of the study programme and create evaluation reports. Please, find them attached in the accreditation file along with the notes on incorporating the comments and proposals.

**4. Structure and content of the study programme****The rules for designing the study programme’s curricula**

The rules for the design of study plans within this field of study are specified in Directive No. 1/2021 Creation, modification and approval of study programmes and submission of applications to the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education, (<https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/vnutorny-system-kvality/zakladne-vnutorne-predpisy-vsk-umb/smernica-c-1-2021-vytvaranie-uprava-a-schvalovanie-studijnych-programov-14493.html>), and Directive FoE MBU No. 4/2021 Creation, modification and approval of study programmes and submission of applications for habilitation and inauguration proceedings to BIQS MBU, (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/system-kvality/smernice-a-pokyny-na-urovni-pf-umb.html>), and in the MBU Study Regulations (<https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html>).

In the creation of study plans, the following rules are adhered to the following rules:

- Profile courses are taught by teaching staff holding the associate professor or professor (functional) positions.
- The number of credits assigned to individual courses reflect their position in the structure of the study programme and correspond with the student’s load (compulsory course, elective course), i.e. profile and compulsory courses are assigned the highest number of credits.
- In-person teaching (lectures, seminars, exercises, field training) determines the number of lessons necessary to fully develop the competences; it is usually lower in elective courses and higher in compulsory and profile courses.
- The courses and defined learning outcomes are logically linked in terms of topics and competences across the levels of study.
- The courses cover the entire graduate’s profile; duplicity in terms of topics is monitored and prevented (see *PrEPg\_PhD\_D\_struktura\_programu* attached)
- The course outline (regardless of the number of points specified in the CIL) covers the 13-week semester in terms of topics.
- The learning outcomes correspond with the number of assigned credits.
- The evaluation procedures will focus on real verification of the student’s skills (not only knowledge).
- The level of cognitive and affective educational goals corresponds with the degree of study and follows the Dublin descriptors.

- The study plans integrate the experience with the FoE MBU Doctoral School, which provides the students with the opportunity to develop a broad range of research as well as cross-cutting skills.
<b>The institution compiles the recommended study plans for individual study paths</b>
The study plans can be found in the <i>PrEPg_PhD_D_odporucany_studijny_plan</i> attachment specifying the profile courses.
<b>Number of credits required for proper completion of studies</b>
180 credits
<b>Number of credits from compulsory courses:</b>
Study part – 36 credits Scientific part – 68 credits
<b>Number of credits for professional practice</b>
-
<b>Number of credits from elective courses:</b>
Study part – 15 credits Scientific part – 24 credits
<b>Number of credits from optional courses:</b>
Study part – 9 credits Scientific part – 28 credits
<b>Number of credits for the final thesis and its defence</b>
40 credits
<b>Other requirements that the student must meet within the study programme and for its proper completion, including the requirements for state examinations, rules for re-study and rules for the extension, interruption of study.</b>
The requirements and rules for successful completion of the study and state examinations as well as other study-related rules are defined in: MBU Study Regulations, ( <a href="https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html">https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html</a> ), Methodological Instruction FoE MBU No. 1/2010 on recognition of credits from previous study ( <a href="https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/system-kvality/smernice-a-pokyny-na-urovni-pf-umb.html">https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/system-kvality/smernice-a-pokyny-na-urovni-pf-umb.html</a> ), Directive No. 9/2021 on final, rigorous, and habilitation theses at MBU in Banská Bystrica ( <a href="https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/koncim-studium/zaverecne-prace/">https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/koncim-studium/zaverecne-prace/</a> ).
The requirements and rules for successful completion of the study are defined in: Directive No. 7/2021 on doctoral studies at MBU ( <a href="https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/doktorandske-studium/smernice-phd/smernica-7-2021-o-doktorandskom-studiu-na-umb.html">https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/doktorandske-studium/smernice-phd/smernica-7-2021-o-doktorandskom-studiu-na-umb.html</a> ) and Methodological Instruction No.1/2022 on Quality Assurance of Doctoral Studies at FoE UMB. ( <a href="https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/doktorandske-studium/smernice-phd/metodicky-pokyn-1-2022-k-zabezpeceniu-kvality-doktorandskeho-studia-na-pf-umb/">https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/doktorandske-studium/smernice-phd/metodicky-pokyn-1-2022-k-zabezpeceniu-kvality-doktorandskeho-studia-na-pf-umb/</a> )
<b>Rules for verification of learning outcomes, students assessment and the possibilities of appealing against the assessment.</b>
The rules for verification of learning outcomes, student assessment, and submitting complaints regarding study (managed by the FoE MBU Admission Office and Vice-Dean for Pedagogical Activities) are defined in MBU Study Regulations ( <a href="https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html">https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html</a> ) MBU Student Disciplinary Regulations ( <a href="https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html">https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html</a> ), Statute of the Ethical Committee for Students ( <a href="https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/o-univerzite/akademicka-etika-umb/eticke-komisia/statut-etickej-komisie-studentov.html">https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/o-univerzite/akademicka-etika-umb/eticke-komisia/statut-etickej-komisie-studentov.html</a> ).
Further possibilities for (non)anonymous appealing include the FoE MBU Electronic Inbox for Complaints and Proposals (administered by the Vice-Dean for Development and Quality Assurance) pursuant to Directive No. 3/2021 on the evaluation and development of the quality of education at

FoE MBU (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/system-kvality/smernice-a-pokyny-na-urovni-pf-umb.html>).

#### **Conditions for recognition of studies or a part of studies.**

Conditions for recognition of studies or a part of studies are defined in: MBU Study Regulations, (<https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html>), Methodological Instruction FoE MBU No. 1/2010 on recognition of credits from previous study (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/system-kvality/smernice-a-pokyny-na-urovni-pf-umb.html>), Directive No. 9/2021 on final, rigorous, and habilitation theses at MBU in Banská Bystrica (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/koncim-studium/zaverecne-prace/>). Directive No. 11/2021 on awarding ECTS credits for extra-curricular activities at MBU (<https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/kreditovy-system-studia/uznavanie-extrakurikularnych-aktivit-na-umb/>).

#### **Topics of final theses of the study programme**

The following dissertation thesis topics are planned to be offered:

- Work load in the teaching profession and its subjective perception in primary/pre-primary education teachers
- Teachers' attitudes towards inclusive education and differentiation of teaching in primary education
- Speech development in pre-school aged children. The creation and verification of vocal-rhythmical stimulation methodology
- Innovative teaching and teachers at the 1st stage of primary school as the potential for a systemic reform in school education
- The factors determining the pre-primary teachers' ideas of inclusive education

#### **Rules for the assignment, processing, opposition, defence and evaluation of final theses in the study programme,**

The rules are defined in Directive No. 9/2021 on final, rigorous, and habilitation theses at MBU in Banská Bystrica (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/koncim-studium/zaverecne-prace/>) as well as the MBU Study Regulations (<https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html>).

Detailed instructions are provided in Methodological Instruction No. 4/2019 on creation and defence of final and qualification theses at FoE MBU (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/koncim-studium/zaverecne-prace/>). These documents provide detailed specification of the recommended final thesis designs and structure for the respective type of thesis and level of study. Final and qualification theses follow the IMRaD structure. Students can access all relevant documents on the faculty website.

#### **Opportunities and procedures for participation in student mobility**

Support for individual mobility of students and staff is a basic priority of MBU's internationalization strategy. This priority is specified in The Strategy of Internationalisation (<https://www.umb.sk/en/international/strategy-principles-and-goals/>), Erasmus Policy Statement UMB (<https://www.umb.sk/en/international/erasmus/erasmus-policy-statement.html>), Directive No. 4/2019 on Erasmus+ mobility at MBU (<https://www.umb.sk/medzinarodne-vztahy/mobility/erasmus/smernica-c-4-2019-o-mobilitach-erasmus-na-umb.html>), the Long-Term Plan of MBU in Banská Bystrica for 2021–2026 (<https://www.umb.sk/rozvoj/>) and Long-Term Plan of FoE MBU (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/informacie-o-fakulte.html>). FoE MBU also supports recognition of blended virtual mobility in accordance with the valid Slovak and European legislation. The university has concluded approximately 130 bilateral agreements, 69 have been concluded on the faculty level. The Office of International Cooperation and Mobility also offers internships. FoE students can select an international mobility or study abroad from the offer published on the faculty website, which is regularly updated (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/erasmus-a-studium-v-zahranici/>).

#### **Rules for adherence to academic ethics and consequences of non-adherence**

At MBU, there is an Ethical Committee, which addresses the questions and issues related to adherence to academic ethics (employees and students). Relevant information about the Ethical Committee and its tasks can be found at the university website (<https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/o-univerzite/akademicka-etika-umb/eticka-komisija/>). Students must adhere to the MBU Student Code of Ethics (<https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/o-univerzite/akademicka-etika-umb/eticka-komisija/eticky-kodex-studenta-umb.html>). Every student can take online training in ethical decision-making in accordance with the MBU rules (<https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/o-univerzite/akademicka-etika-umb/trening.html>).

Other relevant document defining the rules are the MBU Disciplinary Code (<https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html>) and FoE MBU Student Disciplinary Code (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/app/cmsFile.php?disposition=a&ID=5449>), which specifies the position and activity of the FoE MBU Disciplinary Committee. Students can access all relevant documents on the faculty website.

The issue of scientific ethics is addressed in detail during the course in Scientific Ethics.

#### **Procedures applicable to students with specific needs**

Students with specific needs follow the MBU Study Guide for Students with Special Needs and the instructions published at the university website (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/chcem-studovat/co-este-potrebuje-vediet/informacie-pre-uchadzacov-o-studium-a-studentov-so-specifickymi-potrebami/>).

Students with specific needs (SSN) can find information on the FoE MBU website (<https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/student-so-specifickymi-potrebami/informacie-pre-studentov-so-specifickymi-potrebami.html>).

FoE MBU has a SSN coordinator who supports students and helps them adapt to the university environment, and resolve any study-related issues (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/chcem-studovat/co-este-potrebuje-vediet/informacie-pre-uchadzacov-o-studium-a-studentov-so-specifickymi-potrebami/>).

#### **Procedures for filing complaints and appeals by students**

Filing complaints and rules for committee examination are defined in the MBU Study Regulations (<https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/know-how-pre-studenta/studijne-predpisy.html>). Further possibilities for (non)anonymous appealing include the FoE MBU Electronic Inbox for Complaints and Proposals (administered by the Vice-Dean for Development and Quality Assurance) pursuant to Directive No. 3/2021 on the evaluation and development of the quality of education at FoE MBU (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/system-kvality/smernice-a-pokyny-na-urovni-pf-umb.html>). Complaints related to violation of the student/employee Codes of Ethics can be submitted directly to the Ethical Committee in writing (<https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/univerzita/o-univerzite/akademicka-etika-umb/eticka-komisija/>).

### **5. Course information sheets of the study programme**

Structured according to Decree no. 614/2002 Coll. – see attached as *PrEPg\_PhD\_D\_informacne\_listy\_*.

### **6. Current academic year plan and current schedule**

#### **Current schedule**

The schedule is available on the faculty website.

<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/harmonogram-studia.html>

#### **Current schedule**

<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/doktorandske-studium/rozvrhy-2021-2022.html>

### **7. Staff responsible for the study programme**

<b>A person responsible for the delivery, development, and quality of the study programme</b>		
prof. PaedDr. Štefan Porubský, PhD.; professor; stefan.porubsky@umb.sk; 048 446 4859		
<b>List of teachers of the study programme with the assignment to the course and provided with a link to the central Register of university staff and with contact details (may be a part of the study plan).</b>		
Name and contact	Course	<i>Central Register of University Staff (CRUS) – link</i>
prof. PaedDr. Štefan Porubský, PhD. Professor <a href="mailto:stefan.porubsky@umb.sk">stefan.porubsky@umb.sk</a> <u>048 446 4859</u>	Curricular Policy	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11290">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11290</a>
prof. PhDr. Bronislava Kasáčová, CSc. Professor <a href="mailto:bronislava.kasacova@umb.sk">bronislava.kasacova@umb.sk</a> <u>048 446 4863</u>	Metodológia edukačných vied/Methodology of Educational Sciences	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11139">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11139</a>
doc. PaedDr. Milena Lipnická, PhD. Associate professor <a href="mailto:milena.lipnicka@umb.sk">milena.lipnicka@umb.sk</a> <u>048/446 4856</u>	Inclusion as a Research Problem	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11294">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11294</a>
doc. PaedDr. Simoneta Babiaková, PhD. Associate professor <a href="mailto:simoneta.babiakova@umb.sk">simoneta.babiakova@umb.sk</a> <u>048 446 4862</u>	Pedeutology	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11513">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11513</a>
doc. PaedDr. Katarína Vančíková, PhD.; Associate professor <a href="mailto:katarina.vancikova@umb.sk">katarina.vancikova@umb.sk</a> <u>048 446 4851</u>	Sociológia výchovy/Sociology of upbringing	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11250">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11250</a>
<b>List of persons responsible for the key courses of the study programme</b>		
<p>RATP of persons responsible for the profile courses have been attached to the respective accreditation file. Accreditation applications are registered in the internal AIS2 Academic Information System.</p> <p>Students have access to information on the teachers' personal websites under the respective faculties as well. Currently, this includes members of the Department of Elementary and Pre-School Pedagogy (<a href="https://www.pdf.umb.sk/katedry/katedra-elementarnej-a-predskolskej-pedagogiky/clenovia-a-clenky-katedry.html">https://www.pdf.umb.sk/katedry/katedra-elementarnej-a-predskolskej-pedagogiky/clenovia-a-clenky-katedry.html</a>)</p>		
<b>List of teachers of the study programme with the assignment to the course and provided with a link to the central Register of university staff and with contact details (may be a part of the study plan).</b>		
The courses taught by individual teachers can be found attached as <i>PrEPg_PhD_D_odporucany studijny plan</i> . List of contacts including links to the Central Register of University Staff:		
Name and contact	<i>Central Register of University Staff (CRUS) – link</i>	

prof. PaedDr. Štefan Porubský, PhD. Professor stefan.porubsky@umb.sk 048 446 4859	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11290">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11290</a>	
prof. PhDr. Bronislava Kasáčová, CSc. Professor bronislava.kasacova@umb.sk 048 446 4863	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11139">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11139</a>	
doc. PaedDr. Katarína Vančíková, PhD.; Associate professor katarina.vancikova@umb.sk 048 446 4851	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11250">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11250</a>	
doc. PaedDr. Simoneta Babiaková, PhD. Associate professor simoneta.babiakova@umb.sk 048 446 4862	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11513">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11513</a>	
doc. PaedDr. Milena Lipnická, PhD. Associate professor milena.lipnicka@umb.sk 048/446 4856	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11294">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11294</a>	
prof. PaedDr. Dana Hanesová, CSc., professor dana.hanesova@umb.sk 048/446 4762	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11254">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11254</a>	
prof. PhDr. Eva Sollárová, CSc. Professor eva.sollarova@umb.sk 048 446 4717	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/10579">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/10579</a>	
doc. PaedDr. Lada Kaliská, PhD. lada.kaliska@umb.sk 048 446 4717	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11506">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11506</a>	
doc. Ján Kaliský, PhD. Associate professor jan.kalisky@umb.sk 048 446 4317	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11504">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11504</a>	
doc. PhDr. Ľubor Pilárik, PhD. associate professor lubor.pilarik@umb.sk	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/10644">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/10644</a>	
Mgr. Ing. Eva Virostková Nábělková, PhD. University teacher eva.nabelkova@umb.sk 048 446 4718	<a href="https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11511">https://www.portalvs.sk/regzam/detail/11511</a>	
<b>List of thesis supervisors with assignment to the topics of currently supervised theses (including contacts)</b>		
Name and position	Telephone/e-mail	Overview of supervised final theses in the respective degree of study
prof. PaedDr. Štefan Porubský, PhD. Professor	stefan.porubsky@umb.sk 048 446 4859	Innovative teaching and teachers at the 1st stage of primary school as the potential for a systemic reform in school education

prof. PhDr. Bronislava Kasáčová, CSc. Professor	bronislava.kasacova@umb.sk  048 446 4863	Work load in the teaching profession and its subjective perception in primary/pre-primary education teachers
doc. PaedDr. Katarína Vančíková, PhD.; Associate professor	katarina.vancikova@umb.sk 048 446 4851	Readiness of the school practice for the introduction of compulsory pre-primary education from the viewpoint of kindergarten teachers
doc. PaedDr. Milena Lipnická, PhD. Associate professor	milena.lipnicka@umb.sk 048/446 4856	Speech development in pre-school aged children The creation and verification of vocal-rhythmical stimulation methodology
doc. PaedDr. Simoneta Babiaková, PhD. associate professor	simoneta.babiakova@umb.sk 048 446 4862	Research and development of reading skills in younger school-aged pupils
doc. Mgr. Mariana Cabanová, PhD. Associate professor	mariana.cabanova@umb.sk  048 446 4863	Teachers' attitudes towards inclusive education and differentiation of teaching in primary education
prof. PaedDr. Dana Hanesová, CSc. professor	dana.hanesova@umb.sk 048/446 4762	The pedagogical application of neuroscientific knowledge in the teaching process
doc. PaedDr. Lada Kaliská, PhD. associate professor	lada.kaliska@umb.sk 048 446 4717	Pupils' social-emotional development in primary education
doc. RNDr. Jarmila Kmeťová, PhD. Associate professor	jarmila.kmetova@umb.sk 048/446 7404	Experimental skills and the level of knowledge in pupils at the 1st stage of primary schools in terms of developing science literacy

#### **Links to thesis supervisors' research/art/teacher profiles**

Supervisors' research/art/teacher profiles (RATPs) can be found in the AIS2 Academic information system. Students have access to information on the teachers' personal websites under the respective faculties as well. Currently, this includes members of the Department of Elementary and Pre-School Pedagogy (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/katedry/katedra-elementarnej-a-predskolskej-pedagogiky/clenovia-a-clenky-katedry.html>), Department of Pedagogy and Andragogy (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/katedry/katedra-pedagogiky-a-andragogy/clenovia-katedry.html>), and the Department of Psychology (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/katedry/katedra-psychologie/clenovia-a-clenky-katedry.html>). One supervisor works at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences MBU (<https://www.fpv.umb.sk/katedry/katedra-chemie/clenovia-katedry.html> )

#### **Student representatives representing the interests of students of the study programme (name and contact details)**

Mgr. Dominika Molnárová – representative in the FoE MBU Academic Senate

#### **Study advisor of the study programme**

Mgr. Petra Fridrichová, PhD.

#### **Supporting staff of the study programme**

Position	Name/titles	Telephone/e-mail
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Study officer	Ivona Bajsová/Admission Officer	048 446 4248 ivona.bajsova@umb.sk
Schedule coordinator	Mgr. Marián Lakomčík	048 446 4262 marian.lakomcik@umb.sk
Credit System of Study coordinator	Faculty level Mgr. Marián Lakomčík  Department level Mgr. Barbara Basarabová, PhD.	048 446 4262 marian.lakomcik@umb.sk  048,446 48 61 barbara.basarabova@umb.sk
International relations and mobility officer	Ing. Anita Dienesová	048 446 4226 anita.dienesova@umb.sk
Officer for students with specific needs	doc. PaedDr. Vlasta Belková, PhD.	048 446 4755 vlasta.belkova@umb.sk
Psychological consulting	doc. PaedDr. Lada Kaliská, PhD.	048 446 4717 lada.kaliska@umb.sk
	prof. PhDr. Eva Sollárová, PhD.;	048 446 4717 eva.sollarova@umb.sk
	PaedDr. Jana Stehlíková, PhD.	048 446 4718 jana.stehlikova@umb.sk
	PaedDr. Lucia Pašková, PhD.	048 446 4722 lucia.paskova@umb.sk
	Mgr. Michaela Souček Vaňová, PhD.	048 446 4714 michaela.vanova@umb.sk
	PhDr. Beata Žitniaková Gurgová, PhD.	048 446 4725 beata.gurgova@umb.sk
	Mgr. Zuzana Heinzová, PhD.	048 446 4711 zuzana.heinzova@umb.sk
Pastoral counselling	doc. ThDr. Albín Masaryk, PhD.	048 446 4911 albin.masarik@umb.sk
	doc. PaedDr. Viktória Šoltéssová, PhD.	048 446 4230, 048 446 4917 viktoria.soltesova@umb.sk
Social consulting	doc. PhDr. Alžbeta Brozmanová Gregorová, PhD.,	048 446 4784 alzbeta.gregorova@umb.sk
	Mgr. Jana Šolcová, PhD.,	048 446 4784 jana.solcova@umb.sk
	PhDr. Katarína Kurčíková, PhD.	048 446 4525 katarina.kurcikova@umb.sk
	PhDr. Michaela Šavrnöchová, PhD.	048 446 4525 michaela.savrnochova@umb.sk
Legal consulting	Mgr. Jakub Dzimko	048 446 3149 jakub.dzimko@umb.sk
	JUDr. Ľubica Saktorová PhD., LL.M., M.A.	lubica.saktorova@umb.sk
Social-pedagogical consulting	PhDr. Patrícia Zólyomiová, PhD.	048 446 4761 patricia.zolyomiova@umb.sk
	doc. PaedDr. Vlasta Belková, PhD.	048 446 4755, 048/4464759 vlasta.belkova@umb.sk
<b>Other kinds of support and consulting for students</b>		
At the Faculty of Education MBU, a Doctoral School has been established in order to develop the continuous and systematic model of doctoral student support. It provides doctoral students with seminars and workshops focused on developing generic research and scientific competences,		

methodological seminars, series of lectures on publishing strategies, training blocks focused on developing authenticity in behaviour and decision-making. Under the Doctoral School, the following projects have been created: research incubator with a simulated grant scheme, online meeting platform for doctoral students, e-courses for selected activities in the study plan. <https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/dekanat-9207/centrum-edukacneho-vyskumu/doktorandska-skola-pf-umb/>

A new MBU project supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Research of Slovak Republic allowed for the establishment of the *University Consulting and Support Centre* in September 2021. (<https://www.umb.sk/studium/student/univerzitne-poradenske-a-podporne-centrum-umb.html>), It provides social, psychological, and legal consulting for students and applicants with specific needs or from socially disadvantaging environments. The centre provides professional consulting to students and applicants in a safe space and adheres to the highest ethical principles of consulting practice. Consulting is provided in cooperation with MBU staff, external experts, and students trained in the respective areas (under professional supervision). MBU students can easily access consulting and support services addressing a variety of their needs. The goal is to help them in their study, and promote emotional, social, intellectual, and professional development. The centre provides personal and remote consulting for students and special-pedagogical consulting for students and applicants with special needs. The MBU Career Centre (<https://poradenstvo.umb.sk/poradenstvo/karierove-poradenstvo>) provides career consulting (individual and group), workshops and training focused on career management; students can also try out the assessment centre to get acquainted with the procedures. The centre facilitates contact between students and potential employees by means of job fairs, expert lectures, workshops, and excursions. The MBU Career Centre regularly updates their social networks and websites to provide information on job vacancies, internships, and professional practice (<https://www.umb.sk/univerzita/karierne-centrum-umb/karierove-poradenstvo/>).

## **8. Spatial, material, and technical provision of the study programme and support**

**List and characteristics of the study programme classrooms and their technical equipment with a view to learning outcomes and courses (laboratories, design and art studios, other studios, workshops, interpreting booths, clinics, seminaries, science and technology parks, technology incubators, school enterprises, practice centres, training schools, classroom-training facilities, sports halls, swimming pools, sports grounds).**

FoE MBU has 140 personal computers, 181 notebooks+AiO and 9 tablets for education, research, and daily operation. All creative employees have PCs with an Internet connection. Other technical equipment includes scanners (19), photocopiers (4), printers (64), multifunctional printers (24), data projectors (50), interactive whiteboards (6), cameras (19), photo cameras (24), CD players (5), DVD players (4), projection screens (12), video-conference systems (28), software (72).

The material and technical equipment of the teachers providing the study programme is at a good level. Every teacher has a PC station or notebook with Internet connection and a phone line in the office. The employees have access to a printer, scanner, photocopier, DVD player, and webcam to provide state-of-art implementation of the study programme.

Departments have state-of-art didactic technology in their own classrooms (data projectors, TV). Shared lecture halls and seminar rooms also provide didactic technology, PCs connected to the Internet, data projectors, and interactive whiteboards. In 2021, 26 classrooms were equipped with video conference systems for hybrid and remote teaching.

There are 6 public computers for students. 2 classroom are also equipped with 20 PCs. Another 8 classrooms are equipped with multimedia and ICT. WiFi is accessible in most of the FoE premises so that student can connect to the Internet via their notebooks. The software equipment includes: OS MS Windows, Office 365, ESET and KASPERSKY antiviruses, ADOBE READER & PDF CREATOR, SPSS (statistical package). This material and technological equipment allows for achieving optimal quality of the educational process.

At FoE MBU, there are 37 classrooms. 10 of them are specialised (gym). The two largest classrooms (capacity: 2x78 students) have been renovated and modernised. All classrooms are fully equipped with ICT (plasma TV, data projector, 60 PC available to all faculty departments). The classroom furniture is maintained, repaired, and replaced continually. To improve the quality of teaching, FoE has created several specialised classrooms/labs: a classroom for the Department of Social Work – 30 students; two classrooms for the Department of Music Culture – 40 students; concert and dance hall (for psychosocial training focused on psychomotor development); two classroom for the Department of Elementary and Pre-School Pedagogy; two classrooms for the Department of Fine Arts – modelling room, room for plastic and spatial creation, special multimedia studio; and specialised classrooms for social-psychological training.

Doctoral students in this study programme also have a separate room (C303) with office furniture, 2 new PCs and a phone line. They are allowed to use the printer, copier, and scanner at the secretary's office.

To improve the study and work environment, FoE has provided the following: wheelchair access to all faculty premises including parking, camera system, student parking in front of the faculty, renovation of C and AB buildings including entrance halls. In the FoE MBU premises, there is a copy centre providing printing, binding, laminating and sells stationery. The Pedagogical Study located on the 1st floor of the Student House NO. 5 can accommodate 55 students. Presence study is possible.

**Information management of the study programme (access to study literature listed in course descriptions, access to information databases and other information sources, information technologies, etc.).**

All information about the study programme, including course information letters is available in the Academic Information System (AIS2) and on the faculty's website. Course syllabi, eligibility criteria for receiving credits and qualitative assessment are published on the websites of individual lecturers or in the LMS MOODLE system pertaining to the relevant course. The course of study from the admission examinations to state examinations are controlled through AIS2. The LMS MOODLE system is used to support face-to-face and distance learning, AIS2 and e-mail are used for communication and feedback. Each student has a university e-mail address, which allows them to access the University library and its libraries. All student homes provide Internet in student rooms, most classrooms have wi-fi (coverage is continually improved). Students have Internet access at FoE MBU halls as well. The Department of Elementary and Pre-School Pedagogy publishes up-to-date announcements for students on its website. The website has a Study section, which provides study-related information (teaching practice, information for the finishing students, instructions for submitting final theses, etc. Information about the courses and downloadable materials can be found in a separate section. Students can use all software programs for which the university has purchased licenses. Besides MS Office 365, other specialised graphic and music programs as well as research software are available: SPSS 19.0 – statistical data processing; UNISTAT, ATLAS-TI – qualitative research data processing, etc. All school computers can be used to access publication databases via university licences. Students of education sciences use mainly the WOS, SCOPUS, EBSCO, and SCIENCE DIRECT databases.

Teachers responsible for the study programme actively create study material for the individual courses. They are (co)authors of university textbooks and materials on education sciences.

Students can also purchase books published by FoE MBU staff in the Pedagóg civic association shop. There is sufficient material, technical, and informational equipment to implement the proposed study programme; moreover, it is continuously innovated and updated. Students and teachers can visit the department library (C228/1) and borrow books that are unavailable in other studies or the central university library in accordance with the internal rules of this workplace. The items in the library are regularly updated based on the proposals of the teachers responsible for the study programme.

Many information sources are provided via the Internet. The software is regularly updated. Students also have access to an open library located in the hallway. They can freely borrow and return the books there. This project is based on the principles of trust and solidarity.

Library and information services are also provided by the University Library of Matej Bel University at the central workplaces at Tajovského 40 and 51 and at dislocated workplaces at each faculty. It offers absence and presence library services, consulting, research, reference, copy services, and Internet access 54 hours a week. Online services and electronic information sources can be accessed 24/7. The library collection contains over 277,000 scholarly and specialized monographs, textbooks, edited volumes, encyclopaedias, dictionaries and other types of documents. Acquisition is managed in cooperation with teachers according to the current academic and scholarly duties of the university. The collection also includes 251 periodicals, 120 of which are foreign. Final theses and other qualification theses defended at the university have been available in electronic form since 2009. Over 700 textbooks and study materials published by the university press are available via the MBU Virtual Reading Room. Further databases can be accessed via the library website: ACM, ProQuest Central, ProQuest Ebook Central, SpringerLink, Springer Nature, Wiley Online Library, Cambridge Journals and Emerald full text databases, and educational videos on the platform HSTalks are also accessible.

The Circulation Branch at Tajovského 40 is the library's central branch for circulation services, allowing users to borrow from a collection of over 87,000 printed documents. Its opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The branch also offers interlibrary loan services. The General Reading Room at Tajovského 51 features a reference collection of over 16,500 printed documents and 134 periodicals from every field of study. Its opening hours are Monday to Wednesday from 8:30 am to 9:00 pm, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The reading room also includes the university's European Documentation Centre, as well as an archive of final thesis and other qualification thesis in printed form.

The General Reading Room at Tajovského 15 features a reference collection of over 6,500 printed documents, 39 periodicals, and 125 didactic games and aids. Office hours: Monday – Wednesday (9.00 am – 9.00 pm), Thursday – Friday (9.00 am – 4.00 pm). The AMOS Centre for Pedagogical Practice and Didactic Aids resides in the Pedagogical Study Room.

**Characteristics and extent of distance education applied in the study programme's courses. Access to and manuals of e-learning portals. Procedures for the transition from contact teaching to distance learning.**

Each course information letter specifies the form of study. If the CIS specifies the form as combined or distance, the teacher is obliged to create an interactive e-learning course in LMS Moodle. The use of the portal is regulated by Directive No. 3/2016 on e-learning at MBU, which is available in the interface after opening (<https://lms.umb.sk/>). At the beginning of their study, 1st year students receive detailed instruction on e-learning support, mainly during the introductory courses. They can also address their teachers/study advisors during consulting hours if necessary. At the beginning of the semester, each teacher updates the course and sends sign-in information to the students (passwords). Besides syllabi and requirements for completion, there are also links to MS Teams (distance teaching), ZOOM, lecture videos, tasks, fora & discussion, polls, study materials, etc. Students can even be assessed through Moodle courses. In case of need (e.g. current pandemic situation), presence teaching fluently transforms into distance teaching in all courses and levels of study. Quality of distance teaching is continuously monitored and improved based on students' input collected by surveys.

**Institution partners in providing educational activities for the study programme and the characteristics of their participation.**

**Methodological-Pedagogic Centre**, Ševčenkova 1128/11, 852 01 Bratislava, specifically its branch in Banská Bystrica (<https://mpc-edu.sk/sk>) – cooperation in dissertation research, development of students' understanding of the importance and mission of life-long learning in professional development and continual education for the teaching staff – potential client

**National Institute of Education**, Pluhová 8, 831 03, Bratislava – cooperation in the creation of partial curricular documents related to the content reform of education focused on ISCED 0 and ISCED 1 – potential client (<https://www.minedu.sk/>).

**Pedagogic-psychological consulting and prevention centre**, Mládežnícka 34, B. Bystrica – cooperation in dissertation thesis research (<http://www.cpppap.svsbb.sk/>)

**NÚCEM – National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements** (<https://www.nucem.sk/>) – cooperation in specific research tasks, data provision, consulting, preferring FoE MBU doctoral students to participate in creating test tasks in Mathematics and Slovak Language and Literature – potential client

**Primary Art School**, Nádvořná 10, Zvolen – pilot dissertation thesis research, one of the doctoral students teaches at this school

**Slovak supplementary school in Birmingham** United Kingdom – dissertation thesis research focused on teaching Slovak compatriots' children, one of the doctoral students is the director of this centre.

**Škola dokorán, n. o.** (<http://www.skoladokoran.sk/>) Independent NGO focused on analytical and educational activities striving to create fairer and more cohesive society; specific focus on socially disadvantaging environment and early care. Possibility to co-organise scientific and specialised events, lectures, lectures and workshops for students, research consulting, data analysis.

**MESA10** Center for Economic and Social Analyses (<https://www.mesa10.org/>). Independent Ngo participating in EU projects (Learning Makes Sense) and NATO striving to shape, initiate, and implement reforms. Possibility to co-organise scientific and specialised events, lectures, lectures and workshops for students, research consulting, data analysis. – participation in analyses focused on the state of the education system and quality of education in Slovakia – potential client

**Council for Kindergarten Development** (<http://www.rrms.sk/>). A professional association focused on developing kindergartens and pre-primary education in the Slovak Republic. Cooperation possibilities: discussions and workshops for students, research, analyses at the request of practice, commenting conceptual documents regulating the conditions in pre-primary education.

**Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK)** in Bratislava (<http://cvek.sk/>). Independent NGO focused on research, analytical, and educational activities striving to create fairer and more cohesive society. Possibility to co-organise scientific and specialised events, lectures, lectures and workshops for students, research consulting, data analysis.

**Slovak Governance Institute (SGI)** (<https://www.governance.sk/>). Independent NGO analysing the existing and prepared public policies, research in different areas of public policy. Cooperation possibilities: organising educational events (discussions, lectures and workshops for students), consulting, access to specialised literature, networking with other partners.

**Open Society Foundation** (<https://osf.sk/>). Non-profit organisation supporting (also) educational and upbringing programmes and projects, education system initiatives, supporting democracy and equal opportunities. Possibility to co-organise scientific and specialised events, lectures, lectures and workshops for students, research consulting, data analysis.

**Academic workplaces:**

Department of Pedagogical Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín

Department of Pedagogy and Andragogy, Faculty of Education, University of Ostrava

Faculty of Education, Masaryk University, Brno

Faculty of Education, Charles University, Prague

Institute of Research and Development in Education, FoE CU Prague – research, projects.

School Education Research Institute, FoE MU Brno – joint research projects

Wydział Etnologii i Nauk o Edukacji, Śląska univerzita, Katowice;

Wydział Pedagogiki, Uniwersytet Kazimierza Wielkiego, Bydgoszcz;

Cooperation takes the following forms: invited lectures of renowned experts – incoming a outcoming, student internships and mobility, research, publishing, and project cooperation, student participation in research and specialised events.

Faculties of education at fellow Slovak universities – expertise and reviewing in evaluating projects and dissertation theses, membership in field-of-study committees, state exam committees, dissertation thesis defence.

#### **Characteristics of the possibilities for social, sports, cultural, spiritual and social activities.**

MBU offers a rich variety of social and cultural events, sports, and spiritual activities. In terms of sport activities, students can join several sport clubs (athletics club, women's basketball team, gymnastics club, university hockey team, mountaineering club, karate club, judo club). The Sports for All club offers a swimming pool, sports games: floorball, football, volleyball, fitness, Power Zumba, Country dance, jumping, classic and sports massage. More information can be found at <http://www.sportklub.umb.sk/>.

There are three artistic ensembles based at MBU (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/v-com-sme-vynimocni/umelecke-subory/>): the Mladost University Choir, the Mladost University Folk Ensemble and the Mladost Chamber Orchestra. They work primarily with FoE MBU students but are open to all MBU students. They are operated by the FoE MBU Department of Music Culture. Students can also participate in the activities of UNIS, the student theatre ensemble, which is open for all students who are interested in doing theatre. The University Dance Center offers various dance classes.

For over 20 years, MBU has actively cooperated with the Volunteer Center, a Banská Bystrica based non-profit organisation, which motivates students to participate in the Center's own volunteer programmes, as well as those of other organizations, and supports their involvement in the community. MBU students can also participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. UMB is the only university in Slovakia to be a local centre for this award. DofE is a comprehensive development programme that gives young people aged 14 to 24 a chance to develop their abilities and character for real life and fulfil their potential, helping them to succeed in life. MBU students can not only participate in DofE, but also learn the methodology and became programme leaders (<https://dofe.umb.sk/>).

As for free time, FoE MBU provides several premises where students can spend their free time, e.g. cafeteria and students' room (catering), relaxation and study room No. B003 (including a kitchenette where students can heat up their own food). The Kolečko café employing disabled people to sensitise the customers towards other people's needs. The Chillpoint relaxation zone has been created by the students themselves (building A, second floor), but there are also a canteen and another cafeteria nearby the FoE MBU Dean's Office. The PuFkáčik children's corner is available for the public, employees' and students' children.

In addition to the activities offered directly by the faculty and the university, rich opportunities for spending free time are also provided by the City of Banská Bystrica, with which MBU actively cooperates, keeping students regularly informed about such opportunities via social networks and bulletin boards in the faculty premises.

#### **Possibilities and conditions for participation of the study programme students in mobilities and internships (indicating contact details), application instructions, rules for recognition of this education.**

Possibilities and conditions for student participation in mobilities and internships are guided by Directive No. 4/2019 on Erasmus+ mobility at UMB. They are regularly published in a separate section of the FoE MBU website (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/erasmus-a-studium-v-zahranici/>). Besides Erasmus+ mobilities, other schemes such as SAIA are also supported. The Office of International Cooperation and Mobility also arranges internship opportunities. Every September, FoE MBU organises the Mobility Days during which students are informed about mobilities and internships. Students also receive this kind of information via the faculty newsletter well in advance of the application deadline. The call for applications for mobility is announced every year in the first half of the winter semester. Those interested in mobility submit an application along

with a letter of motivation. In the application, they can indicate a selection of up to three host institutions they are interested in. Subsequently, a pre-selection of participants takes place, which consists of an evaluation of the submitted documents and a personal interview. It is essential that students choose a host institution where they can study their field and specialisation. In cooperation with the departmental coordinators and the Office of International Cooperation and Mobility, students prepare a preliminary study plan in advance. The results of the pre-selection are the basis for drawing up the grant application, which is submitted to the National Erasmus+ Agency each year. The results of the pre-selections are announced to the students after the grant has been awarded by the National Agency. This is followed by the stage of practical administrative preparation for mobility stays, which consists of communication with partner institutions and nomination of students. The student sends the Learning Agreement and other documents to the partner institution according to their request (academic transcript, proof of accommodation, language certificate). The Office of International Cooperation and Mobility prepares the financial contract and aids the student in the process of securing insurance and accommodation, as well as the journey itself. After returning from mobility, the marks obtained for the courses completed at the host institution are entered into AIS (the Academic Information System). Courses other than the recognized compulsory courses are recognized according to the student's preference (as an elective or optional course). Recognition of credits in the ECTS system is made possible thanks to the precise monitoring of mobility activities before, during and after mobility. Prior to mobility, maximum attention is paid to motivating students and facilitating communication between students and host institutions so that a realistic personalized learning agreement can be developed for each student, taking into account the requirements that students have to meet at their home institution and the opportunities offered by the host institution. The learning agreement remains a key and binding document in the next phases of mobility implementation as well. During a mobility stay, the Office for International Cooperation and Mobility, in close cooperation with the departmental coordinators, provides ongoing support to students studying abroad. Any possible discrepancy between the obligations defined in the learning agreement and the reality at the host institution is resolved in such a way that the student can obtain the necessary ECTS credits for the mobility period. The student has the opportunity to promptly draw attention to discrepancies in the offer of subjects so that a suitable solution to the situation can be proposed in cooperation with all involved parties. After the student's return, the staff of the Office of International Cooperation and Mobility, in cooperation with the faculty study departments and departmental coordinators, confirms the recognition of ECTS credits obtained abroad. FoE MBU also supports recognition of blended virtual mobility in accordance with the valid Slovak and European legislation.

## **9. Required abilities and admission requirements for the study programme applicants**

### **Required abilities and necessary admission requirements**

Graduates of the 2nd degree of the following study programmes can apply: teaching at the 1st level of primary schools, pre-school teaching and pre-school pedagogy; in specific cases also: pedagogy, social pedagogy, special pedagogy, leisure pedagogy – if the applicant is able to research pre-school and primary school education or a related subject matter in an interdisciplinary way. The applicant is required to prove specialised knowledge in the field or its subdisciplines including the dissertation thesis topic and research methodology on the Master degree level, the ability to communicate specialised matters including correct terminology, comprehension of the interdisciplinary context of the topic, the ability to create a logically structured research project and appropriate stylistics, knowledge of the appropriate research instruments, comprehension of specialised text and ordinary communication in a foreign language, active approach to personal development and interest in research.

### **Admission procedures**

Application deadline: 31 May 2022. Detailed instruction can be found at <https://www.pdf.umb.sk/chcem-studovat/co-este-potrebuje-vediet/dolezite-terminy/>  
Admission requirements for the 3rd degree of study

Successfully completed 2nd degree of study in a relevant study field (see above). The applicant specifies a topic offered by one of the supervisors. The supervisors and the topics offered are published on the faculty website in early March of the given academic year. The information can also be found on the department website in the Department Announcements section. The topics have been approved by the field-of-study committee.

The application must include:

– preliminary project of the dissertation thesis proving the applicant’s knowledge of the subject matter, research methodology, and specialised literature (2 copies);

an overview of the applicant’s previous activities related to research or dissertation thesis topic (participation in research and other projects including Students’ Research Conference, active participation in conferences and seminars, completed courses and training, other field-related activities, list of publication/artistic activity including outputs in specialised press or websites, internships and stays abroad at relevant institutions including Erasmus, volunteering, etc.)

The applicant is required to successfully pass four components of the examination:

1. *Dissertation thesis project (DTP) defence* (methodological aspects), especially: knowledge of the selected methodological procedures, methods, and research instruments, principles and caveats of their use, correct methodological terminology, previous use of the research instruments proposed, orientation in methodological literature.
2. *DTP defence* (specialised knowledge), especially: the knowledge of the appropriate approaches, relevant concepts, current state of research in the area, specialised literature, interdisciplinary knowledge related to the subject matter.
3. *Command of a foreign language* allowing the applicant to study foreign literature, mainly: standard communication in the foreign language, specialised communication to present the topic, the ability to comprehend specialised text.
4. The applicants can also gain points for experience and personal qualities proven by the documents confirming their previous research and publishing activity submitted. They need to confirm previous active participation in research or purposeful self-development of the applicant.

The applicants are ranked according to their scores. The highest ranking applicants will be accepted.

The admission exam usually takes place during the first week of July.

#### **Admissions results from the recent period**

During the last three years, 7 applicants applied for this study in its internal form. Upon successful completion of the admission exam, 5 were accepted.

### **10. Feedback on the quality of education**

#### **Procedures for monitoring and evaluating students' opinions of the study programme's quality**

Procedures for monitoring and evaluating students' opinions of the study programme's quality follow Directive No. 3/2021 on the rules for education quality assessment at FoE MBU (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/o-fakulte/system-kvality/smernice-a-pokyny-na-urovni-pf-umb.html>).

The following procedures and tools are used for evaluation and development of the quality of education at FoE MBU with different, but periodical frequency:

- a survey of students' satisfaction with the quality of teacher and instruction within a specific course
- a survey of students' satisfaction with the quality of professional practice in the specialised training facility at FoE MBU
- a satisfaction survey for students with special needs
- an evaluation of students' satisfaction with the quality of instruction during their mobility abroad
- a satisfaction survey for foreign students on mobility at FoE MBU
- identifying needs and ideas on improving the quality (performed by study advisors)

- electronic inbox for complaints and proposals
- evaluation of the pedagogical process and teacher by means of pedagogical observation
- a survey of students' satisfaction with the spatial, material, and technical equipment available for their study programme
- evaluation of the professional practice by the specialised training facilities at FoE MBU
- students' evaluation of study programmes
- graduates' and employers' evaluation of study programmes
- tracking the study programme graduate's employability in practice,

All the aforementioned procedures are analysed on multiple levels (main guarantor, head of the department, Vice-Dean) in accordance with the respective Directive. All quality evaluation surveys are processed into reports. Each report summarises the results and proposes respective measures aimed at improving the quality of education. All reports are archived.

In 2019–2020, descriptive quantitative research was performed to identify the students' attitudes to their doctoral study, their satisfaction, issues encountered, and needs. The research sample consisted of 74 doctoral students at the Faculty of Education MBU in Banská Bystrica who studied there between 2001 and 2018. A qualitative content analysis of 32 reflections on a variety of situations related to the preparation for and course of the doctoral studies was also performed. These reflections are a part of the reflective diary kept by the students during the eponymous course.

All the aforementioned procedures are analysed on multiple levels (main guarantor, head of the department, Vice-Dean) in accordance with the respective Directive. All quality evaluation surveys are processed into reports. Each report summarises the results and proposes respective measures aimed at improving the quality of education. All reports are archived.

#### **Feedback on the quality of provided education and relevant measures**

The results of monitoring student satisfaction with the doctoral studies, their issues, and needs have been elaborated in the monograph entitled *Doktorandská škola – cesta k transformácii a inovácii doktorandského vzdelávania vo svete a na Slovensku* (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/katedry/katedra-psychologie/publikacie/book-19354/doktorandska-skola-cesta-k-transformacii-a-inovacii-doktorandskeho-vzdelavania-vo-svete-a-na-slovensku-19354.html>)

#### **Results of student feedback and related measures to improve the study programme quality**

The results of monitoring student satisfaction with the doctoral studies, their issues, and needs have been elaborated in the monograph entitled *Doktorandská škola – cesta k transformácii a inovácii doktorandského vzdelávania vo svete a na Slovensku* (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/katedry/katedra-psychologie/publikacie/book-19354/doktorandska-skola-cesta-k-transformacii-a-inovacii-doktorandskeho-vzdelavania-vo-svete-a-na-slovensku-19354.html>)

### **11. Links to other relevant internal regulations and study-related information**

All links to relevant study support documents can be found on the faculty website in the following sections:

I WANT TO STUDY (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/chcem-studovat/>),

I HAVE JUST BEGUN MY STUDIES (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/zacinam-studovat/>),

I AM STUDYING (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/studujem/>)

I AM FINISHING MY STUDIES (<https://www.pdf.umb.sk/studenti/koncim-studium/>).