**Master of Arts in Preschool Teacher Education**

**Field:** Pedagogical and andragogical sciences

**Level of study programme:** Master academic studies, second degree higher education

**Duration:** Two semesters – one year

**Study programme pre-requisites:** Completed relevant undergraduate academic studies (240 ECTS credits)

**Mode of study programme delivery:** Non-distance education

**Study programme objectives:** The Master of Arts in Preschool Teacher Education study programme have been designed on the basis of the following: necessary competences of the BA and future MA; requirements of the contemporary preschool institution aiming at the education quality improvement and optimal development of preschool children; developmental and educational needs and interests of preschool children.

**Courses**

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| 1. Methodology of Scientific Research |
| 2. Inclusive Education – Theory and Practice |
| 3. Management and Guiding in Education |
| 4. Contemporary Teaching Methodology 1 of elected subject |
| 5. Contemporary Teaching Methodology 2 of elected subject |
| 6. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of elected subject – Special Course |
| 7. Research Practice |
| 8. Master Thesis |

Those completing master academic studies acquire the academic title of **Master of Arts in Preschool Teacher Education**.

**Master of Arts in Preschool Teacher Education**

***Description:***

Master academic studies last for one year and they are divided into two study semesters. The points value of these studies is 60 ECTS (adding to the previously achieved 240 ECTS during the undergraduate studies for preschool teachers) – 30 ECTS for each semester and 18 ECTS for the master thesis. The points value of each course is showed in the Master of Arts in Preschool Teacher Education Curriculum. The contents and structure of the study programme have been harmonized with the requirements of the Bologna Declaration, legal regulations and normatives for accreditation of higher education and respective study programmes prescribed by the National Council for Higher Education of the Republic of Serbia, and relevant study programmes of similar domestic and foreign faculties.

This study programme consists of three compulsory courses (Methodology of Scientific Research Inclusive Education – Theory and Practice, Management and Guiding in Education), three teaching methodology courses of the chosen subject area (contemporary teaching methodology of mathematics, serbian language and literature, environment comprehension, arts education, music education, information technology, physical education, special course – master thesis), and research practice. The ratio of compulsory and optional subjects is in optimal balance. The first three subjects are compulsory for all students. The subjects that are optional – optional course, seminar paper and final (master) thesis – are all parts of a whole and are connected to the same scientific area.

This study programme structures theoretical and methodological subjects, scientific and professional subjects, and professional and applicable subjects. In the first semester students learn about theoretical and methodological foundations of educational work, methodology of scientific and expert paper, and contemporary concepts of education. Through optional subjects in both semesters students are guided towards theoretical and practical (during research practice) aspects of teaching methodologies of education in preschool institutions.

Students complete their studies with a master thesis which synthesizes chosen teaching methodology area of educational work in a preschool institution on scientific, professional, and theoretical and methodological foundations. The master thesis has to be defended in front of the committee consisting of at least three teachers, one of which being a student’s mentor.

The teaching is executed in the form of lectures (monologic, dialogic, interactive, and textual methods), tutorials (dialogic, interactive, and textual methods), and consultative teaching.

***Results:***

Master of Arts in Preschool Teacher Education study programme aims at providing students with the extensive knowledge of relevant scientific and professional areas, as well as implementation of didactic and teaching methodology achievements in their independent research and scientific work. The general competences of preschool teachers include development of the ability of critical and self-critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and foreseeing solutions to any problem in the educational process, development of communicative skills and cooperation with the narrow social and international environment, as well as mastering the methods, procedures and processes of scientific and professional research.

The following general and subject-specific competences of the Master of Arts in Preschool Teacher Education result from the above mentioned objectives of this study programme:

• Ability to independently obtain knowledge and profoundly understand relevant concepts of the broader domain of didactic and teaching methodology sciences in the area of preschool education;

• Ability to competently and rationally plan, create and successfully implement immediate educational activities in a preschool institution;

• Ability to plan as a team and organize teaching methodology research (to generalize results and improve educational activities of a preschool institution);

• Keeping up with and implementation of innovations in the area of didactic and teaching methodology science in solving educational problems in teachin preschool children;

• Successful usage of contemporary IT in the process of education;

• Establishing successful cooperation and communication with the environment of the relevant preschool institution (cooperation with parents in order to keep them well-informed and improve the level of the children education culture).

Description of the learning results:

Knowledge of cognitive, emotional, and social development of a child.

Knowledge of contemporary teaching methods (heuristic, problem solving teaching, discovery learning, interactive learning – cooperative methods).

Knowledge of contemporary models of creative teaching: problem solving and discovery learning/research models, receptive-aesthetic models, algorithm-mathematical models, exemplary-paradigmatic models, multimedia-multisource models, computer-simulation models, literary-artistic models, structural-graphic models, mutual conditionality of the creative models.

Ability to implement new theoretical-methodological and teaching methodology knowledge in educational practice.

Ability to independently write scientific and professional papers and do scientific research.

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| **Subjects of elective block 1** |
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| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Serbian Language and Literature 1 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Mathematics 1 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Natural Sciences 1 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Music Education 1 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Arts Education 1 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Physical Education 1 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Informatics 1 |
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| **Subjects of elective block 2** |
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| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Serbian Language and Literature 2 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Mathematics 2 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Natural Sciences 2 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Music Education 2 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Arts Education2 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Physical Education 2 |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Informatics 2 |
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| **Subjects of elective block 3** |
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| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Serbian Language and Literature - Special Course |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Mathematics - Special Course |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Natural Sciences - Special Course |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Music Education - Special Course |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Arts Education- Special Course |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Physical Education - Special Course |
| 1. Contemporary Teaching Methodology of Informatics - Special Course |

**MA in Preschool Teacher Education – *elective courses***