	<b>Тракийски университет – Стара Загора</b> <b>Педагогически факултет</b>		Издание: 1.1
	Вид на документа: Оперативен документ	№ на документа: 7.5.1_OD_1.0.1_PF	В сила от: 14.09.2011
	Име на документа <b>Квалификационна характеристика на специалност</b>		Страница: 1 от 4

The qualification characteristic of the specialty *Primary school pedagogy with a foreign language* (educational qualification degree "Bachelor") was prepared by the **Department of Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy** at the Faculty of Education, Trakia University - Stara Zagora. Its structure contains precisely formulated priorities, corresponding to the characteristics of the education in the educational-qualification degree "bachelor":

1. Qualification and competencies;
2. General and special training;
3. General and special skills;
4. Career opportunities

### **1. Qualifications and competencies**


Based on acquaintance with the achievements of modern pedagogy, psychology and linguistics, students, future teachers, form professional competencies to:

- teach and manage the pedagogical interaction in all subjects in the initial stage of basic education;
- set fundamental humanitarian and cognitive parameters of the educational function in pedagogical communication with students in I - IV grade;
- prepare strategies for the application of pedagogical technologies in order to support the cognitive, emotional and physical development of children of primary school age;
- apply in the practice of early foreign language learning results of research in the field of psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, text linguistics, linguodidactics;
- select appropriate technological means for the development and improvement of speech communication skills of children of primary school age as a consequence of the purposeful use of communicative strategies in foreign language learning;
- support the personal development of students with special educational needs in accordance with the requirements of the state educational standard for inclusive education;
- осъществяват резултатно педагогическо взаимодействие с учениците в мултикултурна образователна среда;

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- apply information and communication technologies in pedagogical practice by means of mastering competencies for working in a digital environment in asynchronous and synchronous learning.

## 2. General and special training

**The training of students is based** on the mastery of systematic knowledge and specific applied skills in the field of the compulsory cycle, including: general education disciplines, private didactics and those in the field of foreign language teaching. Broad-profile theoretical knowledge and practical skills are formed, related to current and perspective orientation of the humanities and natural sciences, by mastering the conceptual-terminological system and the methodology of teaching in all subjects for I - IV grade. The academic training in the specialty forms a professional-pedagogical competence, based on the developed practical skills for creativity and positive communication in interaction with students at the initial stage. The educational process in the specialty has a specific application orientation to the system of early foreign language learning.

The practical orientation of the training is achieved through training in *compulsory, elective and optional disciplines*, regulated by the State requirements for higher education for the educational qualification degrees "Bachelor", "Master" and "Specialist" (2002), as well as with the help of the teacher training carried out as observation and analysis of lessons, as well as with the implementation of educational practices in the field of private didactics.

The applied credit system creates conditions for establishing the status of the student, for mobility during the study in the specialty, as well as international comparability of the acquired knowledge and developed skills in the university educational process of future teachers.


In the process of training of the students majoring in *Primary School Pedagogy with a foreign language* both classical methods and tools for the formation of their professional and pedagogical competence are used, as well as modern methods and tools that predispose the creative rethinking of the mastered knowledge (discussions, simulations, role games, project and media activities, etc.). Skills for autonomous learning and teamwork are mastered, **with priority given to learning built on active interaction** - a form of organization in which students are active and use their experience and the

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experience of their fellow students on the basis of dialogue, joint decision-making, problems and empathy. Various **forms of extracurricular activities** of the student's choice are also applied (production of: posters, essays, projects, digital educational resources; participation in research activities, as well as in student forums).

### 3. General and special skills

The strategies and technologies in the teaching in the specialty Primary school pedagogy with a foreign language are based on current understandings, meeting the social needs in the modern socio-cultural context. They refer to the processes of development, upbringing and education of children in the initial stage of basic education. This lays the foundation for the professional and pedagogical competence of future pedagogues in carrying out training in accordance with the Ordinance on the state requirements for acquiring the professional qualification "teacher" (2016, last amended in 2021).

The aim is to form skills in future teachers to adapt the educational environment to the changing working conditions and apply an integrative approach in the process of interaction of social and educational factors for personal development of students from I - IV grade. The scope and level of knowledge and skills that students must have is also sought in the direction of formation and development of communicative competence in the field of English in order to implement effective university foreign language training. Its mastery by students, understood as linguistic, sociolinguistic, sociocultural, strategic and discourse competence, marks the transformation of knowledge into action, i.e. comprehension of the theoretical linguistic information in connection with its concrete application in real situations of communication from different social spheres. The disciplines in the curriculum of the specialty of the cycle of foreign language teaching, in addition to the practical course in English, include mastering competencies in the field of morphosyntax, literature for children and foreign studies. On this basis, the pedagogical competence of students in the field of language didactics is built. Future educators develop skills to practically use their achievements and develop receptive and productive speech skills (reading, listening, writing, speaking) according to the age characteristics of children in the initial stage of basic education, supported by their knowledge in the field of linguistic peculiarities in a foreign language.


The Faculty of Education of Trakia University provides specialized training with a focus on the knowledge and skills necessary for teaching English as a foreign language to students of primary school

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age. Its level provides an opportunity to obtain an internationally valid certificate for teaching at primary school age in the field of English after successfully passing the *Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT): Young Learners*.

The completed educational process ensures the acquisition of the professional qualification "primary teacher, primary foreign language teacher (English)" at the end of the training course in accordance with the requirements for holding the position of "teacher" of the Ordinance on the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists (2019).

#### 4. Career opportunities

The graduates of the specialty *Primary School Pedagogy with a foreign language* acquire the rights of "Bachelor" in the professional field of "Pedagogy" and can be **realized in the following areas**:

- teachers in the initial stage of the primary education;
- primary teachers of a foreign language (English);
- teachers in foreign language schools and centres, leaders of groups and centers for children of primary school age;
- methodologists in pedagogical offices, educational units and institutions;
- pedagogical consultants in non-profit and non-governmental organizations offering educational services;
- heads of public and private primary schools;
- scientific and research support positions;
- experts in primary school pedagogy;
- other positions requiring higher pedagogical education.

Those who have a bachelor's degree in the specialty of *primary school pedagogy with a foreign language* can continue their education in a *master's degree*.