

Table 5.2B Specification of master's thesis

Study programme: Special education and rehabilitation for persons with difficulties in mental development
Study type and level: Second degree academic studies
ECTS: 20
Prerequisites: The writing of master's thesis starts in the first semester of master academic studies. A student can defend master thesis after having passed all the exams specified in the degree programme.
Objectives of master's thesis: A student will be able to adhere to research scientific methodology in special education and rehabilitation, while conducting research studies and to select adequate research methods for the goals established in the master's thesis project.
Expected outcomes: It is expected that the student will be able to plan and independently conduct research in the field of assessment of persons with difficulties in mental development; treatment strategies, educational and rehabilitation programmes evaluation, and environmental variables relevant to the field of special education and rehabilitation. It is also expected that the student will be able to adequately use inferential statistics, to interpret research results in an objective and critical way and to make reasonable conclusions. The student will be able to present research results, accurately and clearly, comparing them with the results of relevant research studies.
General contents: During the final work a student should apply scientific research methodology in the field of special education and rehabilitation for persons with difficulties in mental development, depending on the chosen topic. Once completing empirical research a student makes the final report with the following contents: Introduction, Theoretical background, Methods, Results and discussion, Conclusion, and References. The Appendices may also be included. Electronic audio and video recordings as well as software solutions can be an integral part of the final work. Once received the master's degree a student is able to work independently and (or) to continue his/her education at PhD courses. Oral defence of the master's thesis, together with a power-point presentation, is required. The final work can also be defended in sign language or by means of augmentative communication, with an assistance of authorized interpreter.
Methods of realization: Theoretical master's theses are not acceptable. That is why, in addition to logical content analysis, one should apply all other qualitative and quantitative research methods, in accordance to the topic of the final work.
Score (maximal points = 100)
Written presentation of master's thesis: 80 points Oral presentation of master's thesis: 20 points