



UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW

“Graduate programme in teaching English to young learners” open at the Faculty of Education of Warsaw University

The “Graduate programme in teaching English to young learners” enriched the offer of second cycle master’s studies at the Faculty of Education in the academic year 2014/2015. The main goal of this innovative programme is to develop students’ competences in implementing CLIL instruction as well as bilingual education in kindergarten and primary school settings. Both knowledge and skills gained in those fields are currently highly sought-after in the educational job market.

The programme is designed for individuals seeking theoretical and practical preparation in the methodology of teaching English to young learners, pedagogy as well as language acquisition. Students in this programme engage in teaching practice in a variety of instructional contexts; for instance, they have an opportunity to teach at both American and British schools operating in Warsaw as well as Polish and international schools specializing in bilingual education and content and language integrated learning. Exposed to such settings, students will be better prepared to teach in different contexts.

As Dr. Katarzyna Brzosko-Barratt, programme coordinator, emphasizes, “the close cooperation between a mentor teacher experienced in bilingual education and a trainee teacher will allow students to gain a deeper understanding of practical issues related to teaching. Such knowledge is valued both by employees as well as parents of the youngest learners.”

What has attracted many students to the programme are workshops with international experts. “Introduction to action research” is the title of the workshop conducted by Kimberly Johnson from St. Catherine University in Minnesota, USA, who specializes in the field of teacher education. The students also had an opportunity to participate in a lecture on bilingual literacy and a workshop on assessment to bilingual literacy, which were conducted by Dr. Anne Dahlman from Minnesota State University, whose expertise encompasses culturally responsive teaching and learning.

Throughout the academic year the programme has organized workshops also with experts from Poland. For instance, during Dr. Agnieszka Otwinowska-Kasztelanica’s workshop titled “Introduction to CLIL” the students gained both theoretical and practical knowledge about integrating content and language in primary school settings.

Another outstanding feature of the programme are study visits. In March 2014 two groups of students will travel to Finland and Slovenia where they will learn about innovative solutions in the field of CLIL and bilingual education implemented in international contexts.

The application process for the new academic year 2015/2016 starts in June. Information regarding admission requirements as well as specific dates of the recruitment procedures will be available at the programme's website <http://www.pedagog.uw.edu.pl/bilingual/> or <https://www.facebook.com/NauczanieDwujezyczneCLIL> and on UW recruitment website <https://irk.uw.edu.pl/index.php>.

Contact information: clil.pedagog@uw.edu.pl.

Graduate programme in teaching English to young learners is carried through the project: Bilingual education. MA in teaching English to young learners as a second and foreign language; with official financing support from the Operational Programme in Poland: Human Capital, within Priority axis: IV Higher Education and Science; Measure: 4.1. Strengthening and development of the didactic potential of universities and increasing the number of graduates of study programmes which are key to the knowledge-based economy; Submeasure: 4.1.1. Strengthening the didactic potential of higher education institutions