

Dear Sir/Madam,



You are reading the introductory booklet to the Faculty of Education for Children and Special Educational Needs of the University of Debrecen. Thank you for your time and attention.

'Non scholæ, sed vitæ discimus' as the old adage goes: We do not learn for school, but for life. This is the fundamental creed that defines the spirit of our Faculty.

We equip our majors with valuable and up-to-date knowledge that will enable them to excel professionally and realize themselves personally in a variety of educational and social fields as well as to find their way towards personal self-realization.

We are proud of providing a modern classroom environment and wide-ranging professional perspectives as well as maintaining our traditions. Our Campus offers diversity and the opportunity to become a successful independent thinker.

Prof. Dr. Péter BÁLINT
Dean

University of Debrecen

■ www.unideb.hu



The University of Debrecen is more than 450 years old. It is Hungary's oldest higher education institution operating continuously in the same city and, as one of the largest educational centres of the country, it is a central player in Hungarian higher education. It has outstanding educational, research, and innovation capacities at an international level and plays a major role in the realization of national strategic objectives. It is currently ranked as one of the top 500 universities in the world. The student community of 30,000 can study in 14 faculties, in institutions of an excellent scholarly standard. As a leading university, it is known in Hungary as an intellectual centre providing the widest spectrum of educational programmes while also closely cooperating with the private sector, the business sphere, and local government.

Faculty of Education for Children and Special Education

▪ gygyk.unideb.hu



Besides the six basic BA-level programmes: Early Childhood Education, Kindergarten Pedagogy for Ethnic Minorities, Infant and Child Care, Social Pedagogy, Romany Studies and Special Needs Education, the Faculty has recently obtained accreditation for a Social Pedagogy MA programme. Thus, besides providing undergraduate courses, we consider it to be our important task to offer a wide range of in-service education programmes and to move ahead with MA-level programmes.

Education, research and artistic activities are led by the following organizational units:

- Institute of Special Needs Education,
- Department of Social Pedagogy,
- Department of Child Education,
- Department of Social Sciences,
- Department of Literature, Communication and Cultural Anthropology,
- Department of Arts, Sport and Health Education.

Education and Training Profile of the Faculty

Special Needs Education BA Programme

▪ gygyk.unideb.hu/hu/node/80



The Special Needs Education BA Programme launched in 2017 offers two areas of specialization: Speech and Language Therapy and Learning Disabilities and Difficulties. The main goal of the programme is to train professionals in the field of Special Needs Education and to provide postgraduate learning opportunities for special needs educators and therapists (e.g. in the areas of health, pedagogy, humanities). Students can also take part in research carried out by teachers of the Institute. We incorporate the latest results of national and international research projects into our teaching programme. The Institute provides many opportunities to gain knowledge, experience and professional practice in non-institutional facilities. These opportunities are part of a partnership with public institutions, such as public and special schools, nursery schools and health care institutions.



Education and Training Profile of the Faculty

Early Childhood Education BA Programme

- gygyk.unideb.hu/hu/node/79

The Early Childhood Education BA Programme has been running at the Faculty since 1971, when our institution was established. The aim of the course is to train kindergarten pedagogues who are suitable and able to:

- acquire theoretical knowledge and later on organize colourful and interesting activity programmes in kindergartens using up-to-date methods,
- transfer universal and national values to children as well as supporting differentiated child development, in cooperation with the family and in accord with the social environment.

Practical training in kindergartens is a major integral element of the ECE BA programme. Students take part in practical training from the first to the fifth term and get to know the special characteristics of children aged 3-7. At the Campus there is a training kindergarten attached to the Faculty where students can gain valuable experience in working with children. In every group of the training kindergarten, highly qualified tutor kindergarten pedagogues support the students' professional development. In addition, we offer a number of high-quality vocational training programmes and postgraduate courses for graduated kindergarten pedagogues.



Kindergarten Pedagogy for Ethnic Minorities BA Programme

Besides Early Childhood Education BA Programme

- during the education and practical training students get first-hand experience of working with children from disadvantaged backgrounds,
- students are given the possibility to learn Lovari (the Hungarian Romany language),
- they obtain detailed knowledge of the colourful Romany culture and traditions in the Carpathian Basin,
- both full-time and corresponding students are entitled to apply for supplementary scholarships which they can hold for the whole course.



Education and Training Profile of the Faculty

Infant and Child Care Studies BA Programme

▪ gygyk.unideb.hu/hu/node/81



The programme of Infant and Early Childhood Care BA was launched at the Faculty in 2009. The importance of Early Childhood Education and Care as well as development has received encouragement from the social sector and from the training system. The degree awarded at the end of the programme enables students to work with children from birth to the age of 3. The practical training involves:

- group practice and supervision at the training institution,
- visiting external institutions, observation in more institutions,
- individual practice at the partner institutions,
- extended practical placement.

Education and Training Profile of the Faculty

Romany Studies BA

▪ qyqyk.unideb.hu/hu/romologia#overlay-context

The main objective of Romany Studies is to:

- train those kinds of experts who are capable of conveying issues and problems concerning Roma communities,
- mediate effectively between social organisations and Romany communities,
- inform Roma communities and disadvantaged groups about the requirements of different social organizations,
- mediate between professionals (sociologists, social politicians, teachers, lawyers, doctors) who deal with cultural, social and financial issues of Roma communities and disadvantaged groups.



Students acquire a wide range of awareness during their training:

- they get acquainted with the culture, language, history and literature of Roma groups,
- they become aware of the social situation, legal and institutional system of Roma communities and disadvantaged groups in Hungary,
- students learn the appropriate methodologies which are the most commonly used in social science research.

Education and Training Profile of the Faculty

Social Pedagogy BA and MA

- gygyk.unideb.hu/hu/node/82

There has been a Social Pedagogy major at the University of Debrecen Faculty of Child and Special Educational Needs since 1992. The first MA major in Social Pedagogy in Hungary was launched at Faculty of Child and Special Educational Needs. The aim of the Social Pedagogy BA is to train social pedagogues

- who can use theoretical knowledge about the functioning of and disruptions to society, interpersonal relationships, deviations, groups with special needs, child welfare and child protection systems to help others.
- who are able to improve the social integration of children and young people, their families, groups and communities, the life chances and the quality of life of those in need of social assistance..



The Department of Social Pedagogy works in close contact with over 70 field institutions where our students receive their practical training. The further aims of the Social Pedagogy MA are to:

- train students who will be able to carry out research,
- enable graduates to engage in professional, educational decision making,
- develop the skills required to control, plan and organize tasks responsibly in social pedagogical environments, either individually or as part of a team,
- produce students who are able to continue with doctoral studies.

Talent Management Programme (DETEP)

- helps to unlock the talent inherent in our students, the most important centre of students' talent management
- the applicant has to compile an individual work plan
- research is carried out by students in the departments with the help of a supervisor.
- scholarship is based on scholarly accomplishments (performance) in the previous year (published papers, conference papers etc.)
- a supplementary diploma is given to those graduating students who have completed the consultation credits during their enrollment in the programme
- open for full-time and corresponding students as well.

New National Excellence Programme



- the programme offers students, young researchers and teachers financial support to carry out their research projects,
- scholarships for 5 or 10 months.

Talent Management

Students' Scientific Associations

- our students regularly participate at the National Conference of Students' Scientific Associations which is held every two years,
- based on the education profile of the faculty, students present papers about pedagogical issues and social sciences,
- research papers are initially presented at the Faculty, the best ones being selected for submission to the National Conference of Students' Scientific Associations,
- our students' work has consistently won prizes for excellence and been awarded special prizes,
- in between national conferences, the National Talent Programme supports individual student research supervised by teachers.

Balázs Lippai College for Advanced Studies

▪ szakkollegiumok.unideb.hu/hu/node/222

- active role in Roma talent management, personalized mentoring,
- more than 60 graduated students,
- open to every student of the university,
- opportunity to obtain scholarships,
- wide range of activities – friends and community,
- sensitivity, interest and commitment to social issues and Romany culture.



International relations

▪ gygyk.unideb.hu/hu/node/280

Our international relations network offers our students and staff the opportunity to gain experience of studying abroad with scholarships to improve their knowledge and adapt to today's new challenges which require flexibility.

ERASMUS partner countries:

- United Kingdom,
- Austria,
- Estonia,
- Poland,
- Germany,
- Italy,
- Portugal,
- Romania,
- Spain,
- Slovakia,
- Turke.



In accordance with the fundamental creed of the faculty, there has been a strong cooperation with Hungarian universities across borders. The results of these professional relations appear in mutual research projects, organizing scientific conferences and joint publications.

Student life

- professional trips,
- pumpkin carving,
- international nights,
- choir, chamber music,
- personal mentoring,
- professional counselling,
- autumn day in the training kindergarten,
- sports facilities in the campus area,
- Christmas in the training kindergarten,
- board game nights,
- barbecues, cooking,
- quiz shows,
- film club,
- hiking in the hills.

Events organized by the Student Union:

- freshers camp,
- freshers party,
- Santa Claus,
- introductory week for the BA courses,
- party for graduating students.



Official Bodies Participating In and Supporting the Training

Training Kindergarten of the University of Debrecen

▪ gygyk.unideb.hu/hu/gyakorloovoda



- within the campus area of the Faculty
- 10 groups
- 250 children
- excellent Early Childhood Educators tutors support the students during their professional training
- international relations all over Europe
- methodological and innovation centre.

University and National Library of the UD Library of the Faculty of Education for Children and Special Education

▪ ped.lib.unideb.hu



- part of the University of Debrecen University and National Library
- approx. 60.000 volumes
- free enrollment for students
- members can borrow books from every constituent library of the University of Debrecen
- subscription to more than 70 Hungarian and international periodicals

Official Bodies Participating In and Supporting the Training

Student Dormitory of the Faculty of Education for Children and Special Education of HKSZK at the University of Debrecen

▪ gygyk.unideb.hu/hu/node/163



- situated in the campus area,
- 210 places,
- friendly, cosy environment,
- well equipped 3-bedded rooms,
- two, well equipped kitchens.

Regional Applied Social Sciences Research Centre

The professional development of the courses offered at our Faculty is supported by high quality research work, which also involves our students. The research teams are led by professionals of national renown, whose results are widely published in course books, periodicals, journals and their own book series..

- Applied Narratological Workshop,
- The East-Central European Research Centre of Early Childhood,
- Research Centre of Special Educational Needs.

Useful links

- gygyk.unideb.hu/hu/node/82
 - gygyk.unideb.hu/hu
- www.facebook.com/watch/?v=175942853359441
 - unideb.hu
 - www.debrecen.hu
 - hajduboszormeny.hu
- hajduboszormeny.hu/vendeglatas
 - hajduboszormeny.hu/latnivalok
- www.bocskaitermal.hu/szolgalatasok/gyogyfurdo-es-uszoda

LIFE ahead is waiting for them!

