



## **MASTER PROGRAM PSYCHO-SOCIAL INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Department of Health Care and Social Work  
2018/2019 School Year  
Sofia**

The aim of this program is to improve the skills of current professionals working with children and families, and to prepare future specialists for this workforce. Students will have the opportunity to acquire a wide range of modern knowledge, learn skills within this sector, and learn innovative new skills, methods, and interventions in working with specific groups of children developed in the Europe and Bulgaria during the last 15 years.

The specific groups of children and families central to this program are:

- Children at risk of violence and neglect,
- Children from care homes,
- Children in conflict with the law,
- Victims of trafficking, physical, and sexual violence,
- Children involved in prostitution,
- Children with disabilities and their families (physical, mental, and intellectual),
- Children of different ethnic groups and cultures (Roma children, refugees, etc.),
- Children and families living in poverty,
- Children of parents working abroad,
- Children with chronic conditions (eg. HIV-positive children).

This program is designed for those with experience in working with children and families in social services, in the school system, and for specialists of other fields with reason to acquire skills for working with at-risk children and management of services for at-risk children.

The aim of the program is to allow students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for casework. Therefore, the focus of the training will be in internships, working with at-risk children and families under professional supervision. In the internship, students will integrate teaching theories, and will acquire skills used in assessing, planning, and implementing interventions aimed at providing a safe for children in family and community life. Training will give students the opportunity to:

- Work in multidisciplinary teams,
- Understand the dynamics of customer relations,
- Understand and manage relationships within the multidisciplinary team,

- Understand the philosophy and ethical standards of modern practice in working with children, as well as the skills to apply them elsewhere,
- Using modern training methods, including interactive methods, online discussions with lecturers and students from other European universities, participation in international webinars, use of online training resources in the field of child protection, and work with at-risk children.
- Use this knowledge to ensure the quality of their work, and to improve the professional environment.

Students will develop skills to manage team processes, interventions, and mentoring in social work.

### **Ensuring international standards**

This program has been developed with the consultation of an international team of University teachers in social work projects:

- “Improving the protection of children and their well-being in Europe: Enhancing the training program” is funded by the Erasmus+ program. Within this project, modules for distance learning in social work are being developed along with synchronization of social work training programs of 8 European universities, including the NBU.
- The “Child Welfare Program” is funded by the Austrian Development Agency, the European Union, the Oak Foundation, Terre des Hommes, and the Kanton Zurich Lottery Fund. This project aims to create a platform for real-time exchange of experience between professionals around the world in the field of child protection. The platform has a versatile learning resource for students. The NBU participates in this platform through one of its research centres, the Know-How Centre for Alternative Child Care.

**Financing of training:** Students will be supported in applying for a paid internship to non-governmental, municipal, and state organizations in order to partly cover the costs.

**Flexibility of training:** Course times and internships are tailored to work commitments. One-fifth of the training is offered remotely through webinars and access to online resources.

**Courses and themes are adapted to feedback from students, feedback from services, and annual analysis of the need for specialists.**

**This program was developed in cooperation with the International Advisory Council.** This council consults and supervises the development of the program. Its task is to maintain the standards of the program for work with children and families in Bulgaria, and to ensure that feedback from students and practitioners is integrated into teaching.

### **Members of the International Advisory Council Are:**

- Prof. Jane Reeves, co-director of the Children’s Rights Center at Kent University, UK
- Dr. Helen Whincup, social work teacher at Stirling University, UK
- Dr. Paul Rigby, social learning teacher at Stirling University, UK
- Peter Tsintarsky, representative of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Dr. Elena Kabakchieva, chair of the Health and Social Development Foundation
- Renee Turston, child and family psychotherapist, London, UK
- Prof. Joan Burzoff, clinical social worker, psychotherapist, teacher, USA
- Prof. Andrew Bilson, professor of social work, University of Central Lancashire, UK

## School of Graduate Studies

### Programming Plan:

Γ ο δ ·	Semester	Total courses and credits (Paid/Free)		Audience Lecture Courses (Credit) Paid		Extracurricular Study Forms (Credit) Free	
			Preparatory	5 courses	15 cr.	5 courses	15 cr.
1	I	10 courses (5/5)	30 cr. (15/15)	5 courses	15 cr.	5 courses	15 cr.
	II	10 courses (5/5)	30 cr. (15/15)	5 courses	15 cr.	5 courses	15 cr.
2	III	10 courses (5/5)	30 cr. (15/15)	5 courses	15 cr.	5 courses	15 cr.
-	Graduate	-	15 cr. (15/0)	Protection of mag. thesis		-	

### Important!

Students choose 15 of 21 credits, both from the auditory and extracurricular study forms for each semester. In the case that the extracurricular study forms for the semester include an internship or a high-level practice, the ability may be lower.

### Specialty and professional qualification:

**Specialty:** Social work with children and families – **Clinical profile**

**Qualification:** Specialists in Social Work (children)

**Professional Field:** 3.4. Social activities

### Occupation:

Graduates of the program may work in: State and municipal mental health services, community support centres for children and families, non-governmental organizations, health and consultative centres, group practices for special psychiatric help, hospitals with both general and specialized profiles, centres for social rehabilitation, and school and university advisory services.

### Acceptance:

Students with a Bachelor's Degree or higher may be admitted to the program. Candidates must have basic knowledge in either social work, pedagogy, psychology, or medicine. At the discretion of the admissions committee, candidates who do not have the necessary entry competencies may be allowed to record courses from the Preparatory module.

Admission process includes a motivational essay and an interview.

### Practices:

Students practice in services for children and families under the supervision of program teachers.

### Knowledge gained by program graduates:

- Theories of individual development
- Theories in social work and their application in practice
- Approaches, techniques, and programs in working with children and their families
- Different service systems and their relationships between each other
- Roles and responsibilities in multidisciplinary teams working with children and their families
- Policies - Creation and implementation
- National and international child welfare projects

- The role of relationships in a professional environment

**Skills for:**

- **Working with specific groups of children:** Children from care homes, children in conflict with the law, child victims of trafficking, physical, and sexual violence, children with disabilities, children of different ethnic groups and cultures (Roma children, refugees, etc.)
- **Casework:** With children and families
- **Management of team processes, mentoring, and interviewing**

**Graduation:**

After covering the required number of credits, a Master's Thesis, and a state examination.

**Professional Development:**

Ideal workplaces for graduates

- Community social services
- Child protection departments
- Schools
- Medical centres
- Psycho-social counselling centres

**Department which proposed this program:**

Health and Social Work

**Didactic Methods:** Texts, textbooks, films, research, practice, supervision, webinars

## **Master Program: Psycho-Social Interventions with Children and Families**

### **Preparatory semester**

#### **Auditory Courses**

##### **BEHM 102 Dynamic Psychology**

Dr. Galina Markov

30 h. 3 cr.

##### **BEHM 107 Social Policy Analysis**

Prof.Dr. Haralan Alexandrov

30 h. 3 cr.

##### **BEHM 110 Introduction in Social Work**

Dr.Antoaneta Mareeva

Dr. Galina Markova

30 h. 3 cr.

##### **BEHM 215 Psychopathology**

Chief ass. prof. SvetlozarVassilev

30 h. 3 cr.

##### **BEHM 717 Psychology of Human Relations**

Prof. Dr. Haralan Alexandrov

30 h. 3 cr.

### **Semester 1**

#### **Auditory Courses**

##### **PIDM 001 Human Relationships as a tool for Individual Development**

Dr. Galina Markova

Dr. Antonaeta Mateeva

30 h. 3 cr.

##### **PIDM 002 Neurobiological Foundations of Developmental Disturbances**

Prof. Dr. Margarita Stankova

30 h. 3 cr.

##### **PIDM 003 Legal and Ethical Aspects of Social Work. Part 1.**

Ass. Prof. Stoyan Stavru

Assoc. Prof. Diana Videva

30 h. 3 cr.

##### **PIDM 004 Casework: A Method for Individualized Care in Social Work**

Chief Assist. Dr. Rumen Petrov

Dr. Antonaeta Mateeva

30 h. 3 cr.

##### **PIDM 005 The Child at Risk. Violence, Neglect, and Effects on the Development of the Individual, the Family, and the Community**

Chief Assist. Dr. Rumen Petrov  
Dr. Yana Katsarova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 006 The Child at Risk. Emotional Themes and Problems during the childhood**

Prof. Dr. Orlin Todorov  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 007 The Child at Risk. Vulnerable Children at an Early Age - Children in Institutions and Residential Care**

Dr. Galina Markova  
Assoc. Prof. Evgenia Toneva  
30 h. 3 cr.

**Out-of-Class Courses**

**PIDM 008 Practice: Case Formulation Development: Evaluation**

Dr. Galina Markova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 009 Seminar: The Policy of Deinstitutionalization**

Chief Assist. Dr. Rumen Petrov  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 010 Seminar: Psycho-social Programs for Families at Risk - Integrated Approach: Legal, Psychosocial, Health Procedures**

Dr. Galina Markova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 011 Practice: Case Formulation Development: Intervention Planning**

Dr. Galina Markova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 012 Practice: Casework: Work on the Formulation and Interventions**

Dr. Galina Markova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 013 Practice: Casework: Ending**

Dr. Galina Markova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 014 Practice: Multidisciplinary case work**

Ass. Prof. Dr. Rumen Petrov  
Dr. Antoaneta Mateeva  
30 h. 3 cr.

**Semester 2**

**Auditory Courses**

**PIDM 015 Legal and Ethical Aspects of Social Work. Part 2**

Assist. Dr. Stoyan Stavru  
Chief Ass. Dr. Rumen Petrov  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 016 The Child at Risk. Exclusion from Community Life: Working in the Community and with the Community**

Prof. Haralan Alexandrov  
Assoc. Prof. Radostina Antonova  
Assoc. Prof. Diana Videva  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 017 Social Work with Families: Legal Aspects and Good Practices**

Assist. Prof. Stoyan Stavru  
Assoc. Prof. Diana Videova  
Assoc. Prof. Radostina Antonova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 018 The Child at Risk. Learning Difficulties**

Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Todorova  
Assoc. Prof. Tsveta Kamenski  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 019 Procedures, Implementation, and Management in Social Services**

Ch. Assist. Prof. Polina Mihova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 020 The Child at Risk. Sensory Disturbances**

Dr. Slavina Lozanova  
Dr. Antonaeta Mateeva  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 021 Social Policy, Communities, and Culture**

Prof.DR. Haralan Alexandrov  
30 h. 3 cr.

**Out-of-Class Courses**

**PIDM 022 Practice: Case Formulation and Therapeutic Alliance Development**

Dr. Galina Markova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 023 Practice: Case Management of Migrant Children and Unaccompanied Children. Involvement of the Family**

Dr. Galina Markova  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 024 Seminar: Social Policy**

Prof. Haralan Alexandrov  
30 h. 6 cr.

**PIDM 025 Seminar: Social Work Involving Children with Multiple Needs**

Chief Assist. Dr. Rumen Petrov  
30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 026 Practice: Applied Research Project in the Field of Social Work**

Dr. Antoaneta Mateeva  
Dr. Galina Markova

30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 027 Seminar: Social Policy and Models Analysis**

Prof. Haralan Alexandrov

Dr. Antoaneta Mateeva

Assoc. Prof. Radostina Antonova

30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 028 Seminar: Analysis of the Legislation in the Area of Social Support**

Assist. Dr. Stoyan Stavru

Assoc. Prof. Diana Videva

Assoc. Prof. Radostina Antonova

30 h. 3 cr.

**Semester 3**

**Auditory Courses**

**PIDM 029 Social Work with Families. Psycho-Social Interventions**

Prof. Dr. Zlatka Mihova

30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 030 The Child at Risk. Mental Retardation and Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Ch. Prof. Svetlozar Vasilov

30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 031 The Child at Risk, Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders**

Prof. Dr. Margarita Stankova

30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 032 Modern Information Technologies in the Social Sphere**

Assoc. Prof. Polina Mihova

30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 033 Intervision, Supervision, and Mentoring in Social Work**

Dr. Galina Markova

Assoc. Prof. Radostina Antonova

30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 034 International Social Work with Children: Culture, Standards, and Ethics**

Ch. Dr. Rumen Petrov

Assoc. Prof. Radostina Antonova

30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 035 Communities and Community Services - Development and Management**

Ch. Assist. Dr. Rumen Petrov

Assoc. Prof. Radostina Antonova

Assoc. Prof. Diana Videva

30 h. 3 cr.

**PIDM 036 Master Internship**

150 h. 15 cr.

For further information and applying:



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