 MA Programme: Design for digital learning (in English language teaching)

*Duration:*2 terms, 60 credits

*Form of Education:*part time

*Start:*winter semester, paid training

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The M.S. in Design for Digital Learning programme at the University of Sofia addresses the topic of learning design for digital learning, a term which we define in an inclusive way as any type of learning that is accompanied by effective use of technology (and so covers a wide range of practices including online learning, and eLearning, as well as their integration with face-to-face learning).

  The programme provides students with advanced knowledge in learning design approaches, learning theories, and in the development of skills and competencies to use this theory with contemporary technologies to design digital learning. The programme explores these design approaches, learning theories, and methods for digital learning with a special attention to the specifics of the educational context. As a result of participation in this programme, students will better understand and more effectively utilize technology, to design both digital products (web-based courses and e-learning resources) and digital learning and assessment activities. Using a variety of digital tools, students will build their own learning designs and theoretically justify the choice of design approaches and decisions, with an emphasis on the appropriate use of technologies to support digital learning in different contexts. Given the diverse career tracks in learning design, this programme offers students the flexibility to customize their course of study based on their individual goals and interests.

 As a result of their training in this program, students will acquire the following key knowledge, skills and competencies:

* Ability to apply learning theories in design and development of quality e-learning experiences
* Knowledge of learning design theories, models and principles and ability to apply appropriate, context-sensitive pedagogic design to develop innovative, engaging and successful digital learning courses and resources and to assess online students’ progress and learning results
* Identify and apply current research, theory and learning analytics to optimize the digital learning experiences
* Ability to identify customer/user requirements and to conduct needs’ analysis of different target groups and organisations
* Ability to apply accessibility and usability standards of media and technologies in selection, evaluation and design of digital learning activities and resources
* Ability to use VLE(s) and virtual classrooms for learning design (e.g., Blackboard; Moodle),
* Ability of incorporating visual, audio, video, and animation elements in the development of eLearning resources aiming at enhancement of learner experience
* Ability to identify and resolve legal and ethical implications of e-learning design
* Knowledge of eLearning quality standards and ability to apply them in the learning design products (courses, learning activities and resources), etc.

 Graduates of the program will be well prepared to use their expertise in a variety of learning contexts – formal, non-formal and informal, including K-12 schools, non-formal education, higher education, government, business or to pursue doctoral studies in the field.

 In particular, the students will be prepared to successfully practice as:

* Instructional/Learning designers for digital education – Code 2359.8 – European skills/competences, qualifications and occupations (ESCO)
* E-learning developer – Code 2359.5 – European skills/competences, qualifications and occupations (ESCO)
* Teacher trainers in the field of digital learning design (Information technology trainers - ISCO-08 code 2356 ESCO)
* Designers of digital educational resources and online modules/courses
* Evaluators of online courses, programs, resources and e-content in general
* Consultants of digital learning design in a variety of educational contexts
* Project developers and managers in the field of digital learning design.

Form of graduation – defending master thesis.

**Admission requirements for applicants from Bulgaria and EU member countries:**

* To have completed higher education with minimum Bachelor's degree in Education / Pedagogy awarded and / or a document for the acquired qualification "teacher". The documents have to be submitted at 212 room (Rectorate of Sofia University, 15 Tzar Osvoboditel blvd, Sofia ) or online: fp.kmk.uni-sofia.bg
* The average grade of the applicant's Diploma for higher education (BA / BSc degree) is to be no less than the equivalent of Good 3,50, according to the Bulgarian grade system.
* Candidates will be enrolled to the Programme after an interview in English about their motivation for and interest in the Programme. Information about the time and place of the interview is published on the website of the Faculty of Pedagogy.

**Admission requirements for applicant from non EU member countries:**

* To have completed higher education with minimum Bachelor's degree with Bachelor's degree in Education / Pedagogy awarded and / or a document for the acquired qualification "teacher". The Diploma must be recognized with the purpose of obtaining access to further education within the higher education system of Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski', 15 Tzar Osvoboditel blvd, Sofia – see the information about application procedure for international students at the SU website – https://www.uni-sofia.bg/index.php/eng/admission/international\_students
* The average grade of the applicant's Diploma for higher education (BA / BSc degree) is to be no less than the equivalent of Good 3,50 according to the Bulgarian grade system
* Candidates will be enrolled to the Programme after an interview in English about the motives for choosing the program, interest and expectations from the training. Information about the time and place of the interview is published on the website of the Faculty of Pedagogy.