



SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY "NEOFIT RILSKI"

FACULTY OF ARTS

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DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Information Package ECTS

Specialty

METHODOLOGY OF MUSIC EDUCATION

Academic degree: PhD

Professional qualification: Researcher

Form of study: full-time / unsupervised self-studied / distance

Term of study: 3 years

ANNOTATION

The doctoral studies in the program "Methodology of Music Education" within the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", in the Field of Higher Education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Field: 1.3. Pedagogy of Music Education, are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Higher Education Act and are oriented toward the preparation of research-oriented specialists, capable of contributing to the development and renewal of contemporary music pedagogy.

The program is aligned with the needs of the educational system, the cultural environment, and music practice in the context of dynamically changing social and technological realities.

It provides opportunities for in-depth mastery of the methodology of scientific research in the field of music education, as well as for conducting independent empirical, experimental, and applied studies. The doctoral training focuses on the analysis and critical reflection of existing methodological concepts, on the development of new approaches to teaching, upbringing, and personal development through music, and on the evaluation of the effectiveness of current educational models and technologies.

The program ensures the integration of an interdisciplinary approach (music, pedagogy, psychology, methodology, technologies), with a strong focus on innovation in teaching. Special emphasis is placed on developing skills for the creation and testing of original methodological models, adapted to specific educational contexts.

The educational, research, and pedagogical activities of the doctoral candidate are structured by semesters and ensure the accumulation of 180 ECTS credits (through full-time study or individual preparation), distributed as 30 credits per semester.

The structure of the curriculum and the content of the academic disciplines ensure a high level of scientific-pedagogical and specialized competence, independence, and opportunities for the expression of personal perspective and creative stance in the process of study, research, and doctoral thesis development.

The distribution of courses complies with the requirement for a balanced relationship between educational, research, and teaching activities:

Semesters I and II – focused on academic training,

Semesters III and IV – primarily dedicated to research and teaching activity, including presentation of parts of the dissertation work,

Semesters V and VI – aimed at summarizing, finalizing, and preparing the full dissertation project for defense.

The doctoral student in Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of Music Education, through the course of their academic and research training, is prepared for:

- Independent scientific research in the field of general pedagogy and specialized pedagogical technologies and practices relevant to the contemporary educational science system;
- Continuous enhancement and improvement of the music-pedagogical process across various educational levels through the implementation of results from their own research;
- Academic teaching in higher education institutions in disciplines related to the scientific specialty Methodology of Music Education and its related areas;
- Administrative and managerial roles within the educational system, in positions that require the corresponding level of pedagogical qualification;
- Expert and consultancy work, addressing research and applied tasks in institutions such as research institutes, universities, regional education inspectorates, media organizations, NGOs, and others.

The curriculum allows each doctoral student to be assigned personalized educational and research tasks, tailored to the specific characteristics of the research field and the doctoral thesis they are developing.

OBJECTIVES OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The primary objective of the doctoral program is to prepare researchers, university lecturers, and experts with a high level of scientific competence and the capacity to develop, evaluate, and apply innovative methodologies, technologies, and pedagogical practices in music education. The program is aimed at cultivating professionals capable of contributing to scientific knowledge and educational practice through original research and applied developments.

Specific Objectives and Sub-objectives:

- *Development of scientific competence in the field of music methodology*
- *Preparation for and implementation of independent research activity*

- *Development of teaching and methodological consulting competences*
- *Fostering innovative and interdisciplinary thinking*
- *Development of skills for scientific communication and academic mobility*

The fundamental and specialized training provided within the doctoral program "Methodology of Music Education" ensures that graduates achieve a high level of competence and competitiveness, not only in Bulgaria but also across the European Union and beyond. The awarded educational and scientific degree "Doctor" positions them successfully on the labor market, particularly in professional fields that require a higher level of qualification than that provided by the "Bachelor" and "Master" degrees.

The specialized scientific and methodological preparation of doctoral candidates opens up opportunities for realization in the fields of teaching, research, expert consulting, and creative projects related to music education.

Main Tasks of Doctoral Training and Preparation:

- Mastering the methodology of scientific research and its effective application in the formulation, investigation, and resolution of specific scientific and practical problems in the field of music education.
- Developing skills for the use of academic tools, including academic writing, structuring scientific texts, referencing and citation practices, bibliographic formatting, and the reasoned formulation of scientific theses.
- Building analytical and interpretive abilities for identifying, formulating, and critically analyzing current scientific, pedagogical, and creative issues.
- Acquiring skills for applying a scientific approach and using research instruments, including qualitative and quantitative methods applicable to contemporary methodology of music education.
- Gaining knowledge and approaches in teaching methodology, especially in areas related to cultural theory and applied music pedagogy, including work with different age groups and educational contexts.
- Developing competencies for working with a variety of information sources, and acquiring skills related to the use of modern technologies in scientific and pedagogical research, within the context of the global academic environment and cultural-information exchange.

GENERAL SPECIALIZATION AND QUALIFICATION OF THE PROGRAM

The doctoral program "Methodology of Music Education" is research-oriented and focused on the development of highly qualified specialists with the competence for independent scientific, teaching, consulting, and expert activity in the field of music education.

The program combines fundamental knowledge in the field of pedagogical sciences with specialized training in music and methodology, through which doctoral students develop specific skills for scientific analysis, research interpretation, and methodological modeling.

The general qualification acquired by graduates corresponds to the standards for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and includes:

- Mastery of a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches related to the study of music education across various age groups and institutional contexts;

- In-depth proficiency in scientific tools, including methods for data collection and analysis, argumentation, and formulation of conclusions;
- Competence to teach within the higher education system and to participate in the development of educational policies, programs, and strategies in the field of music education.

A successfully defended doctoral candidate is prepared to carry out research activities within an academic institution, research center, non-governmental organization, or cultural and educational institution.

The specialization of the program is focused on the methodology of music education, regarded as a scientific discipline with an applied orientation. In this context, the doctoral student acquires:

- Knowledge and skills for designing, implementing, and evaluating curricula, methodological systems, and instructional models across different educational levels – from early childhood to higher education;
- Preparation for researching pedagogical processes related to musical interpretation, perception, creativity, and intercultural communication;
- Qualification for analyzing the effectiveness of teaching approaches, including through empirical, experimental, and interdisciplinary research;
- Specialized competences for introducing innovations in music teaching, related to new technologies, digital resources, and modern educational platforms.

The program allows for individual profiling of the research topic according to the doctoral student's interests, offering the opportunity to work on themes related to:

- Integration of music with other arts and sciences;
- Music education and intercultural pedagogy;
- Pedagogy of musical performance and creative interpretation;
- Technology-assisted music education;
- Contemporary forms of non-formal and alternative music education.

ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND COMPETENCES ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Knowledge (Theoretical and/or Factual)

In accordance with Level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework, graduates of the doctoral program "Methodology of Music Education" acquire highly advanced, systematized, and critically evaluated knowledge in the scientific field, demonstrating an original contribution to the expansion of the boundaries of pedagogical and methodological knowledge in the sphere of music education.

Skills (Cognitive and/or Practical)

Graduates of the doctoral program "Methodology of Music Education" acquire highly specialized cognitive and practical skills, essential for: conceptualizing, planning, and conducting independent scientific research; solving complex pedagogical and methodological

problems; and generating new knowledge that contributes to the advancement of the field of music education. These skills operate across several key levels:

Cognitive Skills

Practical Skills

Autonomy and Responsibility.

The doctoral program "Methodology of Music Education" prepares the candidate for independent and responsible scientific, teaching, and methodological work, in alignment with the highest academic standards. At this level, the expectation is not merely to reproduce or apply existing knowledge, but to initiate, lead, and defend innovative research and educational solutions that demonstrate verifiable scholarly contribution.

Autonomy in research activity

Responsibility for research outcomes and their impact

Leadership and advisory roles

Professional and academic autonomy

Learning Competence.

The doctoral program "Methodology of Music Education" fosters a highly developed capacity for self-directed, purposeful, and critical learning. This competence does not conclude with the completion of the academic degree but ensures a sustainable ability for lifelong professional and scholarly development.

Independent planning and management of one's own learning

Reflection on learning and improvement of learning strategies

Networked learning, exchange, and scientific collaboration

Learning mindset and sustainable academic development

Communication and Social Competences.

Within the framework of the doctoral program "Methodology of Music Education", students develop advanced communication and social competences essential for meaningful participation in academic and scientific life, collaboration in interdisciplinary teams, and effective communication in professional, teaching, and public environments. These include:

Academic communication and presentation of scientific ideas

Effective interpersonal communication in academic and professional contexts

Teamwork and academic collaboration

Social engagement and professional ethics

Professional Competences.

Throughout the course of study in the doctoral program "Methodology of Music Education", highly specialized professional competences are developed and consolidated. These enable the doctoral graduate to carry out independent, responsible, and innovative activities within academic, educational, cultural, and research institutions, specifically expressed through:

Competence for independent scientific work and contribution to knowledge

Competence in teaching and methodological leadership

Competence for scientific-organizational and expert activity

Competence in integrating science, pedagogy, and culture

FIELDS OF PROFESSIONAL REALIZATION

Graduates of the doctoral program "Methodology of Music Education" are realized as highly qualified specialists with the potential for professional activity in academic, educational, research, and cultural institutions, both nationally and internationally. The awarded educational and scientific degree "Doctor" ensures the ability to perform independent, expert, and leadership roles in the following core fields:

Academic teaching and instruction in higher education

Scientific research activity

Methodological and consultancy work

Participation in cultural-educational and creative projects

CURRICULUM

№	NAME OF ACTIVITIES	Form of preparation and implementation			Form of recognition
		CREDITS	HORARIUM	lectures, seminars, laboratory exercises, independent preparation, consultations	exam, current assessment, interview, certificate, report,
I.	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY				
1.	Methodology of pedagogical research	4,0	120	45 l, 75 s	exam
2.	Project preparation and management	4,0	120	45 l, 75 s	exam
3.	English language	4,0	120	45 l, 75 s	exam
4.	Elective course according to the thematic focus of the dissertation	3,0	90	30 l, 60 s	exam
	TOTAL:	15	450		
II.	RESEARCH ACTIVITY				
1.	Literature research and referencing	10,0	300	consultations, independent preparation,	interview
2.	Presentation of the concept and tools for dissertation research	10,0	300	consultations	interview
3.	Preparation and participation in a scientific forum	30,0	900	participation	certificate
4.	Discussion of a separate part of the dissertation work	20,0	600	consultations	interview

5.	N number of publications that cover 30 items of the minimum national requirements under the ZRASRB for ONS Doctor in scientific field 1. Pedagogical sciences	30,0	900	self-study	publications
6.	Preparation and participation in a scientific forum	20,0	600	participation	certificate
7.	Discussion of a dissertation option	20,0	600	consultations	interview
	TOTAL:	140	4200		
III. PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITY					
1.	Leading a seminar, practical or laboratory activities, consulting students, observations and hosting	5,0	150	participation	interview
2.	Checking written work, preparing reviews of diploma theses	5,0	150	activities	interview
	TOTAL:	10	300		
IV. OTHERS					
1.	Participation in department meetings	5	150	meetings	protocol
2.	Work in departmental, faculty and university committees	5	150	activities	protocol
3.	Participation in academic activities and appearances of the department	5	150	activities	protocol
	TOTAL:	15	450		
	TOTAL (for the entire duration of the training):	180	5400		
ELECTIVE DISCIPLINES					
1.	Research in music education	3,0	90	30 l , 60 s	exam
2.	History and specificity of performing arts	3,0	90	30 l , 60 s	exam
3.	The folklore diversity of the Balkans - authenticity and modernity	3,0	90	30 l , 60 s	exam

ANNOTATIONS OF STUDY DISCIPLINES

METHODOLOGY OF PEDAGOGICAL RESEARCH

ECTS credits: 5.0

Horarium: 45 l, 15 ex 90 s

Knowledge test form: c.c.

Type of exam: written work

Methodological guide:

Department of Music

Faculty of arts

Lecturer:

prof. Iv. Vlaeva Dr.Sc.

e-mail: vlaeva@swu.bg

tel.073 588 501

The course "**Methodology of Scientific Musicological Research**" is aimed at forming knowledge among doctoral students about the development of music science, its main areas and characteristics, as well as the interrelationships with musical practice. It aims to introduce the specifics of this musical issue in the context of European and world cultures.

In the lecture course, doctoral students are introduced to the historical development of musicology and the methodology of musicological research. Research paradigms created and developed historically, as well as new ones that are gaining ground in modern times, are presented. The scientific study of music is presented through basic musicological methods: historical method, analytical method, critical or interpretative method. Along with them, new ones that have gained ground in the last few decades are also studied.

In the exercises, they acquire practical skills and habits for analysis and evaluation of the studied phenomena. The object of detailed examination are specific methods and their application in basic musical layers and their research, which help in understanding the studied musical material.

AIMS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The course aims to contribute to the professional growth of doctoral students in accordance with the scientific issues selected for research.

Expected results:

Upon completion of the course, doctoral students will acquire:

- knowledge about the historical development of musicology in the context of European and world cultures;
- knowledge about the development of important research methods;
- skills for practical application of research methods in the field of musical art;
- skills for multifaceted perception, understanding and research of different musical material;
- development of search skills and criteria for working with necessary information sources;
- development of skills necessary for conducting one's own scientific research.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN MUSIC EDUCATION

ECTS credits: 3.0

Knowledge test form: c.c.

Methodological guide:

Department of Music

Faculty of arts

Lecturer:

prof. Iv. Vlaeva Dr.Sc.

e-mail: vlaeva@swu.bg

tel.073 588 501

Horarium: 30 l, 60 s

Type of exam: written work

The course **"Research in Music Education"** is aimed at forming knowledge among doctoral students about the development of music science, various research approaches and their interrelationships with musical art and education. It aims to introduce the specifics of this musical issue in the context of European and world culture.

In the **lecture course**, doctoral students are introduced to the historical development of music science and important approaches in the study of musical art and education. The two-way reflection is observed - of scientific knowledge on the creation and establishment of various musical practices and methodologies, as well as the reverse process. Individual creative manifestations and corresponding realizations characteristic of different schools in education are analyzed.

AIMS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The course aims to:

The course aims to contribute to the professional growth of doctoral students, in accordance with the thematic focus of their scientific research and development.

After completing the course on **"Research in Music Education"**, students should acquire in-depth knowledge about:

- the historical development of musicology in the context of European and world cultures;
 - the development of important research and educational approaches;
 - for practical application of research approaches in the field of musical art and education;
 - active perception of musical material, consistent with the professional and educational needs and growth of students;
- for developing search skills and criteria for working with necessary information sources.

HISTORY AND SPECIFICITY OF PERFORMING ARTS

ECTS credits: 3.0

Knowledge test form: c.c.

Methodological guide:

Department of Music

Faculty of arts

Lecturer:

Prof. Jordan Goshev Dr.Sc.

Email: goshev@swu.bg

tel.073 588 501

Horarium: 30 l, 60 s

Type of exam: written work

The discipline **"History and Specificity of Performing Arts"** traces the development of performing arts to the present day with an emphasis on piano art as a model for highly developed performing practice. The development of keyboard instruments over the centuries, creativity for it and the genesis of performing arts are examined. When studying world piano literature, special attention is paid to the specificity of different musical styles. The achievements of world piano art are examined through the creative and performing activities of its greatest masters.

In the **lecture course**, doctoral students study the historical prerequisites for the emergence and development of keyboard instruments, become familiar with the problems of interpretation in a historical and theoretical aspect, and gain knowledge about the development of Bulgarian piano art.

AIMS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The academic discipline aims:

To contribute in the professional growth of doctoral students whose research topic is close to this issue and helps to expand the scope of their theoretical knowledge and the accumulation of rich aural experience through contact with the world's achievements in piano performance art. After completing the course "**History and Specifics of Performing Arts**", students should acquire in-depth knowledge of:

- knowledge related to clarifying issues related to the historical features in the development of performing arts;
- skills for correct assessment of performing achievements;
practical skills for correct and accurate interpretation of various works based on the accumulated listening experience.

FOLKLORE POLYPHONY IN THE BALKANS - AUTHENTICITY AND MODERNITY

ECTS credits: 3.0

Knowledge test form: c.c.

Methodological guide:

Department of Music

Faculty of arts

Lecturer:

Prof. Dr. Binka Dobрева

Email: bindobkot@swu.bg

tel.073 588 501

Horarium: 30 l, 60 s

Type of exam: written work

The discipline "Folklore Polyphony of the Balkans - Authenticity and Modernity" aims to develop, deepen and structure knowledge about the existing polyphonic forms of music making, existing among the peoples inhabiting the Balkan Peninsula.

The Balkan countries, located on the border between East and West, have their own unique musical culture, the forms and manifestations of which develop monophonically or polyphonically. The general trends in the development of Balkan music should be studied and identified from the point of view of geographical and/or cultural conditions.

In this regard, the main and formative elements of the musical art of the Balkans should be examined, such as musical forms, typical styles and genres, metre-and-rhythm, mode characteristics, polyphonic/harmonic principles in the construction of polyphony, instrumentation, etc.

The discipline "Folklore Polyphony of the Balkans - Authenticity and Modernity" studies both the traditional building blocks of polyphonic music making, and their development in contemporary Balkan communities. The interaction and interpenetration of musical culture between different ethnic groups and peoples, styles and genres, amateur and professional approaches to music making, etc. are examined.

Knowledge of polyphonic music making in the Balkans expands and deepens the culture and knowledge of master's students, builds in them the necessary confidence and competence, the ability for objective and accurate assessment, combined with precise criteria in the perception of polyphonic music from the Balkans.

The lecture course is based on the established general knowledge of Balkan music, but also complements and builds on it. The main forms of polyphony, regularities and trends related to its development and performance are revealed. Traditional and contemporary interpretations of Balkan folklore are studied.

AIMS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The course aims to:

- develop, deepen and structure knowledge about the existing polyphonic forms of music making, existing among the peoples inhabiting the Balkan Peninsula.
- introduce students to the general trends in the development of Balkan music which should be studied and recognized from the perspective of geographical and cultural factors.
- examine the basic and formative elements in the polyphonic musical art of the Balkans such as musical forms, typical styles and genres, metrorhythmics, mode characteristics, polyphonic/harmonic principles in the construction of polyphony, instrumentation, etc.
- study the traditional building blocks of polyphonic music making and their contemporary development.
- examine the interaction and interpenetration of musical culture between different ethnic groups and peoples, styles and genres, amateur and professional approaches to music making, etc.
- to expand and deepen the culture and knowledge of students, to build in them the ability for objective and accurate evaluation, combined with precise criteria in the perception of polyphonic music from the Balkans.

After completing the course on **"Folklore Polyphony in the Balkans - Authenticity and Modernity"**, students should acquire in-depth knowledge of:

- historical and geographical distribution of polyphony music on the Balkan Peninsula;
- the main, forming elements in the construction of polyphony;
- traditional performance techniques and their contemporary development;
- precise criteria in the perception of polyphony music from the Balkans.