DURATION OF STUDIES
1.5 years (3 semesters)

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
French
Passive knowledge of English is required.

ADMISSION CONDITIONS
This course is open to candidates who fulfil the general admission requirements of the University of Geneva and the HEP Vaud. Candidates must hold an ordinary pre-school and primary school teaching diploma (Bachelor’s level) or a BA in Speech Therapy or Psychomotricity. Access is also available to candidates with a Bachelor’s degree in a related field of study, in particular Educational Sciences, Social Education, Special Education, Psychology or Occupational Therapy, on condition that they take supplementary study courses. Candidates must also show that they have a minimum of 300 hours of professional experience in the children-family or children-community domain.

Prospective students may apply to the Vaud Canton Teacher Training College.

Merit-based admission.

Master’s Programme

THE MASTER IN SPECIAL EDUCATION, CONCENTRATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

is a joint programme between the University of Geneva and the Vaud Canton Teacher Training College. It offers basic training on how to provide preventative and educational support to children between the ages 0 to 6 whose development is jeopardised, altered or impaired and intervene accordingly in family or social settings. The programme offers solid theoretical and practical training through a range of core courses in special education as well as psychology, medicine, sociology and law components relevant to early childhood special education.

The curriculum is designed to address the challenges of early childhood special education, primarily through the earliest possible intervention with children and their families as a means of prevention and social inclusion; comprehensive analysis of the context of each individual situation; an interdisciplinary approach; a network system primarily focused on working with families; and a solid theoretical background that allows students to assess institutional and individual projects, the methods employed and the criteria for evaluating implemented measures.
STUDY PROGRAMME
3 semesters (max. 6 semesters) | 90 ECTS credits

Theory
18 credits
• Inclusive education
• Parent-professional cooperation
• Early childhood education and atypical development

Practice
21 credits
• Internship focused on the child and its family
• Internship focused on child and community
• Application and use of approved assessment and intervention methods

Integration seminar
12 credits
• Networks and resources
• Awareness of specific education contexts and situations
• Reflexive practice and decentring

Research preparation
15 credits

Dissertation
24 credits

PROFESSIONAL PROSPECTS
Upon completion of the programme, students obtain a Master in Special Education with a Concentration in Early Childhood Special Education and a Diploma in Special Education with a Concentration in Early Childhood Special Education.

This programme teaches future graduates to:
• Support children within at home or in early childhood care facilities;
• Work with parents or other people involved in the education of these children to assess their development and to define and achieve a number of support and education goals;
• Detect the factors that limit or jeopardise children’s development early on.

The diploma is a protected professional degree that enable graduates to practise in Switzerland.

UNIVERSITY TAXES
500 CHF / semester

REGISTRATION
Deadline: 31 March 2019
www.hepl.ch

CONTACTS FOR STUDIES
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All programs are subject to changes. Please consult the program regulations.