

## DEPARTMENT OF LOGOPEDICS (SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY) AND COMMUNICATION ABILITY STUDIES

The **Department of Logopedics (Speech and Language Therapy) and Communication Ability Studies** gathers experts focusing on **all components and forms of verbal and non-verbal communication and its disorders** (including developmental and acquired learning disorders or physiology and pathology of the orofacial area), on specialized **issues of symptomatic speech disorders in individuals with primary disabilities or disease (including syndromes related deficits and multiple disabilities)** and on communication specifics of individuals from culturally-linguistically diverse environment (the issue of bilingualism, communication specifics in migrants and others). It guarantees a unique five-year master's degree study "**Speech and Language Therapy**", which, inter alia, meets the requirements for further implementing of graduates in the health care and medical oriented institutions (see e.g. <http://www.upol.cz/nc/en/news/clanek/speech-therapy-studies-at-palacky-university-found-excellent-in-international-ranking/> ).

All academic staff of the department participate, to various extents, in **pedagogical, scientific and research, consulting, publication and project-related activities**, inclusive of **lecturing and educational activities** in co-operation with professional as well as the general public (including expert and scientific societies and non-governmental and non-profit organizations), and closely **co-operate with the educational and clinical institutions**, both in the Czech Republic and worldwide.

The department also acts as the **guarantor of teaching and instruction of specific techniques, methodological procedures and systems** (teaching communication systems and techniques for individuals with symptomatic speech disorders, and alternative and augmentative communication), and in co-operation with the departments abroad it **researches, develops and verifies new unique techniques and systems** (e.g. myofunctional orofacial disorders, voice disorders ). Simultaneously, emphasis is placed on mastering **the use of special instruments and aids**, many of which are available directly at the department.

Furthermore, the department **provides instruction under selected modules for foreign students in the English, German and Russian languages**. However, with regards to certain specific topics, communication may also be in Slovak, Polish, Spanish, French, or the sign language.

### Head of the Department

- Assoc. prof. Kateřina Vitásková, Ph.D.

### Members of the Department

- PhDr. Renata Mlčáková, Ph.D.,
- PhDr. Alena Hlavinková (roz. Říhová), Ph.D.
- Mgr. et Mgr. Gabriela Smečková, Ph.D.
- Mgr. Lucie Šebková
- Dr. Brenna J. Farrow

