

EXPERT OPINION
Competitive Application Procedure for the academic position
of 'associate professor'

In the field of higher education:	1. Pedagogical Science
Professional direction:	1.2. Pedagogue (Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature in Preschool and Elementary School)
Announced in:	State Journal issue 45 from 17.06.2022 г.
For the needs of:	' Prof.d-r Assen Zlatarov ' University, Burgas

The Expert Opinion has been written by:

PhD Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva, associated professor at 'Paisii Hilendarski' University, Plovdiv-Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Preschool Pedagogy, as a member of a Scientific Jury for the competition, in connection with Order RD -244 issued by Prof. d-r Magdalena Mitkova, Rector of 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University, Burgas

Chief assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva from 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov ' University, Burgas is a sole candidate

I. General overview of the submitted papers

1. Scientific Data

For participation in the competition, chief assistant Penka Vulcheva has submitted 9 publications in scientific editions, refereed and indexed in world known scientific data base; 7 articles published in unrefereed magazines with scientific reviews; 1 doctoral work-a monograph; 1 published book based on a defended dissertation work for acquiring a PhD degree; 1 published co-authored university book; 1 university teaching aid and 2 teaching aids, used in preschool education.

The submitted scientific papers haven't been used for acquiring the PhD degree and the academic position of chief assistant and fully correspond to the competition subject matter.

The following documents have also been presented:

Participation application, professional autobiography in accordance with the European standards, higher education diploma, PhD diploma, a list of publications and copies of all works, bibliography in English and Bulgarian, resumes of the submitted for the competitions resumes in English and Bulgarian, a list of citations, professional experience certificate, scientific and research information, teaching experience, scientific and organisational activity, professional expertise, minimal national requirements reference and additional requirements according to Appendix 1, Field 1. Pedagogical Sciences at 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University, Burgas. All papers meet the requirements and provide extensive information about the candidate's contributions and publications.

2. Professional data

The candidate has a 8-year professional teaching experience in preschool and elementary school education system which continues in the sphere of higher education, after successfully winning a competitive application procedure for the position of assistant (2018) and chief assistant (2020) at the Department of Pedagogy, at ' Prof.d-r Assen Zlatarov' University, Burgas.

3. General overview of the scientific papers and achievements of the applicant

The applicant has submitted publications in the following sphere:

(1) Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature in kindergarten

- Perceiving a literary work;
- Development of coherent oral speech;
- Language competencies in preschool age;
- Reading techniques in elementary school and prerequisites for its early mastering.

(2) Methodology of Bulgarian language and Literature in elementary school

- Continuity between preschool and elementary school reading and writing process;
- Developing coherent oral and written speech;

The quantitative index criteria for the academic position of associate professor- in general according to the Academic Staff Development Law in Republic of Bulgaria and in particular- 'Prof.d-r. Assen Zlatarov' University regulations for holding scientific degrees and academic position have been strictly observed. The applicant has written 9 articles published in refereed scientific editions.

There hasn't been detected plagiarism in any of the submitted papers.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's teaching activity, project participation and other activities

Chief assistant Vulcheva has participated in 4 scientific and educational projects.

The teaching and educational activity is characterized by activities, related to the subject and themes of the competition: lectures on Methodology of Bulgarian language and Literature in preschool and elementary school stages; Comparative Education; Teaching Literature to Bilingual Children. She is an active participant in the organizational and scientific life of 'Prof. d-r. Assen Zlatarov' University.

5. Efficiency survey of the scientific and scientifically applied contributions of the candidate, related to the submitted papers.

The analysis of the candidate's publications can be summarized as follows:

-Language teaching in kindergarten; literature teaching in preschool; continuity between preschool and elementary school education process in terms of teaching reading and writing as basic process.

-The scientific works correlate to the subject and themes of the competition and are published in reputed editions The main contribution can be seen in upgrading the existing theoretical formulations through their implementation in practice.

The methodological and scientifically applied research are credited to the candidate and the citations make her a recognizable author.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

None.

7. Personal opinion about the candidate **Лични впечатления за кандидата**

I have known chief assistant Vulcheva for more than 6 years and consider her a tolerant, industrious, loyal to colleagues and scientifically competent person. She possesses all personal and professional qualities required for the position of Associate Professor.

8. Conclusion

All papers submitted by chief assistant d-r Penka Vulcheva meet the requirements of the Law of Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria, the regulations for its implementation and the respective Rules of Procedure of 'Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov' University

The number of the submitted papers published after the candidate's dissertation is sufficient and focus on the methodological education of the students from the pedagogical disciplines and the actual pedagogical practice.

9. General conclusion

Based on **all the above**, I can fully claim that the submitted scientific publications and the scientific and practical experience of the candidate give me full grounds to advise the members of the esteemed Scientific Jury to propose to the Department Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences at 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University to **elect chief assistant PhD Penka Vulcheva as associate professor in professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy- Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature Teaching in preschool and elementary school, at 'Prof. d-r Asen Zlatarov' University.**

Date 21.10.2022 г.

(Associate Professor d-r Ekaterina Cherneva)

(доц. д-р Екатерина Чернева)