

STATEMENT

ON THE COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF “PROFESSOR”

in the field of higher education **2. Humanities**, professional field **2.1. Philology**, in the specialty “**English for Medical Purposes**”

at the Department of Western and Classical Languages,
Department of Foreign Language Training, Communication and Sport,
Medical University – Varna,
announced in the **State Gazette, Issue No. 50/02.06.2026**

MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY: ASSOC. PROF. ALBENA NEDKOVA DOBREVA, PhD

Internal member of the Scientific Jury appointed by **Order No. R-109-278/30.07.2026** of the Rector of the Medical University – Varna

The present statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements applicable to candidates under the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, on the basis of the documents submitted by the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna in connection with the competition.

1. General characteristics of the candidate’s research and research-and-applied activities

The habilitation thesis submitted for evaluation addresses an exceptionally relevant and significant issue in contemporary higher education – the academic teaching in English, examined from the perspective of the specific requirements of medical university settings.

Scientific publications

The candidate has submitted 1 monograph, 1 published book based on a doctoral dissertation, 4 articles indexed in internationally recognized databases of scientific information, 16 non-refereed articles, 2 chapters in collective monographs, and 10 publications beyond the minimum requirements. Assoc. Prof. Ilina Doykova has participated in 41 national and international scientific forums, with 35 papers, 1 poster presentation, and 6 oral presentations.

The submitted scientific publications comprise 22 single-authored publications and 8 co-authored publications, of which the candidate is first author in 5 and second author in 3.

Research projects

The candidate has reported participation in 3 research projects during the period 2018–2026.

Academic and didactic publications

Assoc. Prof. Ilina Doykova has submitted 5 university textbooks in specialized English, including two single-authored textbooks and three co-authored textbooks in which she is the first author.

Citations

The total number of citations is 17, including 2 citations in scientific publications indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized databases, 4 citations in peer-reviewed monographs and edited volumes, and 11 citations in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Doykova fully meets the minimum requirements for appointment to the academic position of Professor, with some of the requirements being exceeded.

2. Evaluation of the candidate's pedagogical training and teaching activities

Assoc. Prof. Doykova also possesses substantial experience in teaching. In 1994, she began her academic career as an assistant lecturer in English for Specific Purposes at the College of Tourism of the University of Economics – Varna. Since 2008, she has taught English for Specific Purposes at the University of Applied Sciences in Hamburg, Germany, the Technical University of Varna, and the Medical University – Varna, and has served as Academic Director at Varna University of Management.

In 2018, she was habilitated as an Associate Professor in Specialized English and assumed leadership of the Department of Western and Classical Languages. Since 2022, she has served as Director of the Department of Foreign Language Training, Communication and Sport. Since 2025, she has also been Head of the Center for Medical Pedagogy and Communication.

A number of lecture courses for the Doctoral School and for the major academic programmes at the Medical University – Varna have been successfully developed, piloted, and implemented during the period 2018–2026.

3. Major scientific and research-and-applied contributions

MONOGRAPH

With regard to the habilitation thesis entitled “Academic Teaching through English: Language and Pedagogy in Medical Higher Education”, the following research-and-applied contributions can be highlighted:

- **Development of an interdisciplinary conceptual model for Academic English in medical education.** A model of academic teaching in English is substantiated as an interactive practice at the intersection of linguistics, university pedagogy, and institutional internationalization policies. It is demonstrated that the quality of teaching depends on the strategic use of language as a tool for knowledge organization and the management of the academic environment.
- **Compilation and corpus-based analysis of a specialized corpus of spoken academic discourse.** An empirical corpus comprising 50 academic video lectures (2020–2025) in medical disciplines was compiled, transcribed using HappyScribe, and analyzed with WordSmith Tools, with comparisons against the reference corpus MICASE. The rhetorical, lexico-grammatical, and paralinguistic features of lectures delivered by non-native English-speaking lecturers (L2) were identified in comparison with those of native English-speaking lecturers (L1), highlighting the compensatory nature of structured L2 strategies.
- **Development of a methodological framework for the organization of the teaching and learning process (lectures and small-group instruction).** Practice-oriented models have been developed for organizing academic lectures, including the structuring of introductions, transitions, exposition, and conclusions, as well as for interactive

small-group formats, including problem-based, case-based, and simulation-based learning. The linguistic specificities involved in task formulation, discussion facilitation, and the management of multilingual and multicultural student groups have been identified, based on experience with nearly 1,900 international students from 52 countries at the Medical University – Varna.

- **Systematization of assessment and feedback tools.** Strategies have been proposed for distinguishing subject-specific from language-related assessment criteria through the use of assessment rubrics, together with specific feedback models, including the sandwich model, ALBA, SMART, and Ask–Tell–Ask. An exemplary assessment scale for academic presentations and alternative forms of summative assessment have also been developed.
- **Development of applied tools for lecturers' professional development.** Nine practical worksheets have been developed for self-assessment and the management of academic discourse, lectures, and seminar classes (Appendix 1), together with an in-depth linguistic and discourse analysis of a model lecture (Appendix 2), supporting institutional preparation for English-medium academic teaching.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- **Academic communication and university pedagogy.** An interdisciplinary model of academic teaching and spoken academic discourse in medicine has been developed, combining pedagogical approaches with strategies for lecturers' professional development. (*V_3; G_7-5*)
- **Contrastive linguistics and terminology.** Predicative adjectives, interlingual transformations, and asymmetries between English and Bulgarian have been investigated, resulting in the development of bilingual thematic glossaries and collocational models. (*G_7-5; G_7-2; G_7-7; G_7-9; G_7-10; G_7-13; Add.-9*)
- **Corpus-based genre analysis.** An integrated approach employing corpus software (*WordSmith, AntConc, Sketch Engine, etc.*) has been applied to the analysis of medical discourse and clinical communication, identifying empathy and a patient-centered approach as key genre features. (*G_7-1; G_7-8; G_7-9; G_7-10; G_7-12; G_7-15; G_7-16; Add.-2; Add.-8; Add.-10*)
- **Academic writing and language competence.** The stylistic features, syntactic compression, and language transfer manifested in the academic texts of Bulgarian authors have been investigated, resulting in recommendations for the enhancement of academic writing style. (*G_7-2; G_7-5; G_7-12; Add.-1; Add.-3; Add.-5; Add.-6; Add.-7*)
- **Methodology of teaching Medical English.** A communicative approach based on authentic discourse has been substantiated. The first comprehensive university textbook series in Bulgaria for medical specialties has been developed, together with new resources for dentistry, speech and language therapy, and clinical practice. (*G_6-3; G_7-1; G_7-3; G_7-4; G_7-6; G_7-9; G_7-11; G_7-14; G_10_1; G_10-2; E_21-1 to E_21-5; Add.-4; Add.-5*)
- **Assessment of communicative competence.** A framework for electronic assessment and CEFR-based test banks has been developed, and the application of artificial

intelligence has been evaluated in comparison with human-generated tasks, complemented by alternative portfolio-based assessment methods. (G_6-1; G_6-2; G_6-4; G_7-8)

- **Project participation.** The research-and-applied contribution is evidenced by participation in the National Programme “Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Fellows” (terminological databases), the international HELP2 project (*Erasmus+*, *recipient of the European Language Label, 2022*), and the MUVE-TEAM project under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. (G_10-1; G_10-2)

4. Significance of the contributions to science and practice

I consider the contributions formulated by Assoc. Prof. Ilina Doykova to be significant both for science and for practice, while at the same time demonstrating the candidate’s high research potential. The number of documented citations, **17 in total**, is a clear indicator of the recognition of Assoc. Prof. Doykova’s scholarly work within academic communities in Bulgaria and abroad. The quantitative indicators required for appointment to the academic position of Professor have been fulfilled.

5. Critical comments and recommendations

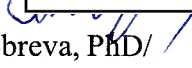
I have no critical comments regarding the materials submitted by the candidate as part of the procedure. All documents have been properly prepared and are supported by the necessary evidentiary documentation.

CONCLUSION

Having reviewed the documents submitted as part of the procedure, I consider that **Assoc. Prof. Ilina Tsvetanova Doykova, PhD, fully meets the requirements for appointment to the academic position of “Professor”**, as stipulated in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as in the Regulations on the Terms and Procedure for Appointment to Academic Positions at the Medical University – Varna.

Taking this into account, as well as the submitted scientific publications and their respective contributions, I consider it well-founded to strongly recommend to the Scientific Jury that Assoc. Prof. Ilina Tsvetanova Doykova, PhD, be appointed to the academic position of “Professor” in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.1. Philology, specialty “English for Medical Purposes.”

Date: 21 September 2026
Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury: 
/Assoc. Prof. Albena Dobрева, PhD/

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