

## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis focuses on the topic of the transition of people with disabilities from the school environment to working life. The thesis is divided into a theoretical and a practical part. The theoretical part presents key topics related to the transition of people with disabilities from school to the labour market, such as support in education, employment and independent living, transition programmes, employment choices and job opportunities. For the practical part, qualitative research was chosen to explore, using unstructured narrative interviews, the transition between school and employment for people with more severe physical disabilities who already have work experience. Social support from friends was found to play a key role in the job search process. Respondents had a limited choice of high schools, often opting for schools with secondary school diplomas in order to continue their studies at university, but at the same time choosing their field of study according to the school they required to be barrier-free and experienced in teaching pupils with disabilities. Motivation to seek employment was mainly financial and the desire to be useful to the labour market, while respondents did not want to spend all their time non-productively at home. None of the respondents used the transition program or other services that are primarily dedicated to preparing them for the transition to the labour market, but all were eventually able to find employment that suited them. Transition programs could simplify the job search process, but research has shown that it is not necessary for people with disabilities to complete them for a successful transition to the labour market.