



Start year: September 2023

Course length:
3 years full-time / 6 years part-time

Campus: King's Lynn

Accredited by:
Anglia Ruskin University

BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies



University Centre
West Anglia



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This exciting and fulfilling course is focused on developing your knowledge, skills and understanding of contemporary issues in the childhood studies sector. The course blends theory with practice as there is the expectation that you will complete a voluntary placement or be employed in an early years setting or school for the duration of your studies. The multi-disciplinary programme prepares students for careers in early years education and care or primary education as a teaching assistant or class teacher, family support, health and social services.

The three-year degree programme is taught by a highly experienced, professional team with expertise in the fields of education and the early years sector. It draws on external practitioners and experts in the field to provide specialist input. You will have the opportunity to explore theoretical perspectives and work-based practice through lectures, workshops, presentations, work-based projects, electronic discussions and assignments. There is a strong emphasis on the development of ICT, communication and presentation skills. With a full BA Hons degree and appropriate entry requirements, you could progress into primary teacher training or early years teacher training, both of which would require a further year of study. Some students decide to continue their studies moving on to master's level study in Education, Early Years or Social Work. Some students progress into management posts in early years or full day care settings.

Early Childhood Graduate Competencies

This degree has been designed with the demands of employers in the early years/school sector in mind, along with the principles of Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT). We are pleased to be able to offer our degree students the option to complete the Early Childhood Graduate Competencies as part of their course. The Graduate Competencies are completed over the three years of study on the degree programme and will give successful students a recognised, practice based qualification alongside their degree. The skills, understanding and experience acquired through completing the Graduate Competencies will support students in developing a sound knowledge and vocational base to be able to confidently undertake the role of an early years practitioner or a role in supporting teaching and learning.



ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment activities include written essays, poster presentations, portfolio building, article writing, group work, group presentations and a number of practical activities to be carried out in the workplace or placement setting, for instance, child studies, activity planning, implementation of activities and work based learning projects.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 80 UCAS tariff points from a minimum of 2 A-Levels or equivalent level 3 qualification
- 5 GCSEs at grade 4 (C) or above, including English language
- An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

Learners who studied an Access to HE Diploma with 30 level 3 credits at a merit grade will also be considered

COURSE COMPOSITION

How many days per week:

2 afternoons per week for full time study / 1.5 afternoons a week for part time study.

What days:

TBC, but either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday.

Expected contact hours (per week)

10 hours attendance at the university centre including lectures, seminar activities, study skills support and tutorials. 2 full days in work or placement.

Made up of:

4 hours for each module studied including lectures, activities, seminars, discussion etc, 1 hour of study skills support and 1 hour of one to one tutorial support.

Expected self-study hours (per week):

Approximately 8 hours for 1st year, 12 hours for 2nd year and 20 hours for 3rd year.



Work placement:

If the student is not employed in the industry, work placement is expected in a school or early years setting of the student's choice for two days a week. *Workplace experience is a requirement for awarding the Graduate Competencies.*

Experience of course team:

Kathryn Le Serve spent many years working in various early years and school provision before working as an Early Years Advisor in Norfolk. She taught on various early years courses in the county before coming to teach at the university centre. Kathryn is Course Director for the BA Hons and the Foundation Degree and has been teaching on the degree programme for 16 years. Her areas of specialism include outdoor play and learning and early years pedagogy.

Jeanette Nowrung has been working in the early years sector for over 30 years. Currently she is the manager of 2 outstanding settings (Ofsted 2019 and 2020). She has been teaching at the university centre on a part time basis for over 25 years. Her areas of specialism include safeguarding, embracing diversity and leadership and management. Jeanette has taught on the degree programme for 18 years, currently teaching on the second and third year.

Sophie Brearley spent 10 years working as a TA and nursery manager before moving to work with Norfolk County Council for 6 years as an Early Years Advisor. Sophie joined the university centre in 2015 and is course director for the level 3 Early Years Educator programme. She has been teaching on the first year of the degree for 5 years. Her areas of specialism include theories of learning and development and research.



MODULES

All the following modules are compulsory to achieve the qualification.

Year 1

Module name	Credits
Learning and Development	30
Play, Health and Wellbeing	30
Researching Childhood	30
Early Years Practice and Pedagogy	30

Year 2

Module name	Credits
Supporting Children's Learning - Comparing Curricula	15
Supporting Children's Learning - Practical Project	15
Safeguarding Children	30
Embracing Diversity	30
Early Years Practice, Policy and Professionalism	30

Year 3

Module name	Credits
Undergraduate Project	30
Children's Rights	30
Early Years Leadership & Management Styles	15
Early Years Leadership & Management - Change Management	15
Interdisciplinary Perspectives	30



COURSE FEES

Tuition fees:

Full-time: £9,000 (2023-2024)

Part-time: £4,500 (2023-2024)

We set our course fees annually. As students pay a fee for each year of their course, the fees set for future academic years may be higher than those set in the 2023/2024 academic year.

For each future academic year of your course of study, your fees may be subject to review and increase on a basis in line with the Retail Prices Index (RPI) plus 3%. RPI is a measure of inflation published monthly by the Office for National Statistics which measures the changes from month to month in the cost of a representative sample of retail goods and services bought by consumers within the UK. This means that your course fees will not be increased each year by more than RPI + 3% from the previous year's fees and will not ever exceed the maximum amount that the government allows higher education institutions to charge students in the related academic year.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

DBS check: £45 (if needed)

Trip:

A trip to the Museum of Childhood is organised in year 3. Entry to the museum is free, the return train fare from Kings Lynn is approximately £27.



FURTHER STUDY AND PROGRESSION

Career opportunities

- After completing the BA Hons Early Childhood Studies (with a 2:2 or above and GCSE English and maths at C/4) you can progress onto primary teacher training in order to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). This generally requires a further year of study. Some students, depending on experience, study for their QTS while completing the third year of study
- You could gain a place to study for Early Years Teacher status (with a 2:2 or above and GCSE English and maths at C/4).
- You may be able to secure an appointment as an unqualified teacher or as a HLTA.
- You may be able to secure an enhanced management role in your workplace or move to a more senior position with the sector.
- You could work in a Family Support within an early years setting or with families in crisis.
- You could progress onto Masters level study in Education subjects, Social Work or other related studies.