

FdA Early Years and Education

Start year: September 2023

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

Campus: King's Lynn

Accredited by:
Anglia Ruskin University



University Centre
West Anglia



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This exciting and fulfilling course is focused on extending 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 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 and care or primary education as a teaching assistant or class teacher, family support, health and social services.

The course is taught by a highly experienced professional team with expertise in the fields of education and the early years sector. You will have the opportunity to explore theoretical perspectives and work based practice through lectures, workshops, presentations, work based projects, presentations and assignments. There is a strong emphasis on the development of ICT, communication and presentation skills. With the foundation degree in Early Years and Education you may be able to progress on to our top-up qualification, which will provide you with the opportunity to gain a BA (Hons) in Childhood Studies.

If further study is not for you, you may be able to gain senior practitioner status in an early years setting, move into management in a setting or work as a higher level teaching assistant.





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

- A relevant level 3 qualification (e.g. Early Years Educator or Supporting Teaching and Learning). *There is an expectation of 64 UCAS points from level 3 but not all relevant level 3 qualifications carry UCAS points and therefore levels of experience in working with children will be taken into account.*
- A grade 4 (C) or equivalent level 2 in GCSE English language
- Approximately two years of proven work experience in an early years or school setting
- An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

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 (part time 5 hours) attendance. 2 x full days in work or placement.

Made up of:

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

Expected self-study hours (per week):

Approximately - 1st year – 8 hours, 2nd year – 12 hours

Work placement:

If the student is not employed in the industry, work placement is expected in a school or early years setting of the students choice for two days per week.



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 College of West Anglia. 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 College of West Anglia 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 college teaching team 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
Workbased Learning 1 Professional Practice	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
Workbased Learning 2 Professional Practice	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)



FURTHER STUDY AND PROGRESSION

Courses offered

On successful completion of the Foundation degree in Early Years and Education, you could apply to study for a further year to gain the full BA Hons degree in Early Childhood Studies. You would need to have GCSE English at grade C /4 or above, along with your foundation degree.

Career opportunities

- You may be able to gain a senior practitioners role in an early years setting.
- You may be able to secure an enhanced management role in your workplace as room leader or move to a more senior management position within the sector.
- You may be able to secure an appointment as an unqualified teacher or as a HLTA.
- You could work in a family support role within an early years setting or with families in crisis.
- You could work in a supporting role for the social work team or occupational therapy.