

BACHELOR OF ARTS HONOURS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Factfile

Schedule

Location
IFSC Campus

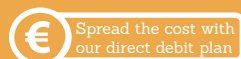
Start Date
Sept 2019

Application
Apply online at www.ncirl.ie

Duration
4 calendar years

Indicative Schedule
Years 1-4
Mondays and
Wednesdays and
some Saturdays.
Some classes may
be delivered online

Fees
Year 1: €2,250
Year 2: €2,500
Year 3: €3,800
Year 4: €3,800
(Fees revised annually)



Course Description

The Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education is a four-year, evening delivery programme, designed for people who are interested in pursuing opportunities in the early childhood education and care sector. The overall goal of the programme is the development of professional educators for the future who specialise in early childhood education (ECE).

The course incorporates key topics including child health and wellbeing, Irish national frameworks such as Aistear and Siolta, including other related legislation and regulation, creativity and play, methods and approaches to early childhood care and education, parent/family involvement besides aspects of leadership and management in the sector. Students are encouraged to reflect, enquire and investigate a range of theoretical and practical pedagogical approaches to learning and development in early childhood.

A professional practice placement in an early childhood setting is included on the course from year two. It offers students an opportunity to combine their experiences and skills in a final year specialist project. The course provides a pathway to competence and professional employment in the early childhood sector. It offers a strong core of foundation modules in early years education and in personal development as an educator. Students will be supported in their learning and development as professional early childhood educators, to go out into the workforce as innovators and leaders, competent in the skills that are required in the current changing landscape of the ECE sector and those of the future.

Who is the course for?

This course is ideally suited to those working with or for babies and children from birth to six in the ECE sector such as crèches, naíonraí, special needs, childminding, home visiting, including those currently working in early intervention programmes, the Health Service Executive and TUSLA: the child and family support agency and curriculum trainers.

Career Prospects

Graduates will possess the skills to work as room leaders or supervisors working directly with children, setting managers, advisory, mentorship, training and leadership roles. This programme is recognised by the DCYA list of acceptable qualifications for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the regulations and the DCYA childcare Programme of Contracts (DCYA, 2015).

The report of the Expert Advisory Group on the National Early Years Strategy, established by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in October 2013; "Right from the Start" highlighted the need for training of leaders and managers in early years settings. The ECCE Scheme (free preschool years) also offers a higher capitation fee to preschool service providers where all leaders hold a bachelor degree in childhood/early education (level 7 on the NFQ or equivalent) and have three years of experience in the sector. This indicates a government commitment towards a graduate-led workforce in ECE.

Award and Progression

The Bachelor of Arts Honours in Early Childhood Education (240 credits) is awarded by QQI at level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Students who successfully complete this course may progress to the Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Learning and Teaching, including the further education track of this award for initial teacher education in the further education sector featured on page 82, and/or the Master of Arts in Learning and Teaching detailed on page 80.

The programme includes three related exit awards, offering learners the chance to select the programme that best suits their learning objectives:

- BA (Ordinary) in Early Childhood Education (level 7 on NFQ) (180 credits)
- Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Education (120 credits)
- Certificate in Early Childhood Education (60 credits)

Students may exit at different stages and receive the appropriate award.

COURSE CONTENT

- Introduction to Irish Education and Training
- Lifespan Development
- Introduction to Play and Creativity in Early Childhood
- Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- Academic Writing Skills
- English for Academic Purpose (optional)
- Introduction to Legislation and Regulation in Early Childhood Education
- Introduction to Psychology
- Building Learning Skills
- Introduction to Child Health and Wellbeing
- Argument and Critique

Year
1

- Cultural, Historical and Current Topics in Learning and Development
- Introduction to Sociology
- Advanced Play and Creativity in Early Childhood
- Core Approaches to Learning and Development
- Placement: Observation and Reflection in Practice
- Managing Your Learning
- Introduction to Social Policy in Early Childhood Education
- Theories of Learning
- Technology and Learning
- Personal Development and Learning Skills
- Advanced Child Health and Wellbeing

Year
2

- Policies and Practice in Irish Education
- Encouraging Early Learning and Development
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Application of Strategies in Learning Environments
- Placement: Application of Strategies in Learning Environments in Practice (ECE)
- Communication and Presentation Skills
- Discourses of Learning and Development
- Leading and Managing in Early Childhood Education
- Career Management Skills

Year
3

- Research Methods for Learning and Development
- Inquiry Learning
- Motivation and Performance
- Design and Evaluation of Curriculum
- Placement: Design and Evaluation of Curriculum
- Advanced Academic Writing Skills
- Specialist Topic in Learning and Development
- Professional Development Skills
- Family Participation
- Placement: Family Participation

Year
4

Application

Apply online at www.ncirl.ie. Spread the cost with our direct debit plan.

Entry Requirements

Applicants will require a level 5 qualification in any discipline ideally with professional involvement in the delivery of learning in early childhood education. All applicants will be interviewed by the Programme Director. Additional requirements as needed for the ECE sector. Applicants with a QQI (formerly FETAC) Early childhood Education and Care Major Award – 6M2007 at level 6 may be eligible for an advanced entry. The college operates a Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) scheme meaning applicants who do not meet the normal academic requirements may be considered based on relevant work and other experience.

Funding

Students interested in this course may be eligible for funding. In order to be eligible for SUSI funding, students wanting to complete a level 8 (honours degree) course must choose a course that is full-time and takes at least one year to complete.

As the BA Honours in Early Childhood Education is a four year honours degree programme, approved by QQI for full-time delivery with 60 ECTS credits per academic year, along with a weekly contact teaching time of 15 hours, it meets the requirements as an approved full-time course in the State to which free fees does not apply.