

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) IN

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE**FACTFILE****Part-time Schedule****Delivery**

Blended - Livestream with some Campus and/or Campus Stream classes, scheduled in advance. See page 4 for more information.

Application

Apply online at www.ncirl.ie

Indicative Schedule**Years 1-4:**

Monday and Wednesday evenings from 18.00 - 22.00 and some Saturdays 09.30-13.30. Some classes may be delivered online.

In addition, students are required to be in Supervised Professional Practice Placement. The schedule for supervised practice will depend on placement settings schedules.

There is a daytime version of this course available through the CAO under the Free Fees Initiative for school leavers. Visit www.ncirl.ie for more details.

Duration

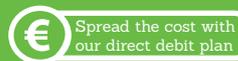
4 calendar years

Start Date

Sept 2022

Fees

Year 1: €2,370
Year 2: €2,625
Year 3: €4,000
Year 4: €4,000
(Fees revised annually)

**Course Description**

The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care is a four-year, day and evening delivery programme, designed for people who are interested in pursuing opportunities in the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector.

The aim of the BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care is to provide learners with a firm foundation in Early Childhood Education and Care so as to practice as Professional Early Childhood Educators in a range of ECEC environments. As such, the programme aims to present learners with a comprehensive foundation in the principles and pillars of professional practice of early childhood education and care in Ireland and internationally, underpinned by a solid theoretical framework.

The course incorporates key topics including holistic child development, child health, nutrition and wellbeing, essential legislation and regulatory practices in the Irish and International environments, music, movement, art and drama, creativity and play, methods and approaches to ECEC, working in multi-professional environments, parent/family participation besides aspects of leadership management and governance in the sector. Students are encouraged to reflect,

inquire and investigate a range of theoretical and practical pedagogical approaches to learning and development in ECEC.

Professional Recognition

This degree is recognised by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) as Initial Professional Education (IPE), to practice as professional Early Childhood Educators in ECEC also called the Early Learning and Care sector in Ireland. The programme meets the approval of the QAB (Quality Assurance Board) at the Department of Education and Skills, as it meets the DES (2019) Professional Awards Criteria Guidelines (PACG)

This programme is also aligned with the professional profile of Early Childhood Educators the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (2019). The DCEDIY provides a list of acceptable qualifications for meeting the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and DCEDIY Childcare Programme Contracts.

Supervised Professional Practice Placement

A strong emphasis on professional practice placement in diverse Early Childhood settings is included on the course from year one. It offers students an opportunity to combine their experiences and skills in a final year capstone project. The course provides a pathway to competence and professional employment in the Early Childhood Learning and Care environments. It offers a strong core of foundation modules in early childhood education and care and in personal and professional identity as an educator. Our pedagogy aims to develop Early Childhood Educators to practice with their head, heart and hand. 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 and challenging landscape of the ECEC sector and those of the future.

Who is the course for?

This course is ideally suited to those working with or wishing to work with babies and children from birth to six in the ECEC sector such as pre-schools, 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). The course is for school leavers, mature learners returning to education, and/or international students.

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.

'First 5': A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families (2018) suggests a reform in the Early Learning and Care Sector moving towards a graduate-led workforce. The ECCE Scheme (free preschool years) also offers a higher capitation fee to Early Childhood Education and Care service providers where all leaders hold a Bachelor of Arts (Ord) 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 ECEC.

Award and Progression

The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care (240 credits) is awarded by QQI at NFQ Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Students who successfully complete this course may progress to the Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Practice in Teaching for Further Education featured on page 66, or the Master of Arts in Educational Practice detailed on page 64.

The programme includes three related exit awards:

- BA (Ordinary) in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 7 on NFQ) (180 credits)
- Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 6 on NFQ) (120 credits)
- Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 6 on NFQ) (60 credits)

Students may exit after Year 3, Year 2 or Year 1 and receive the relevant awards.

Entry Requirements

The minimum entry requirements are a level 5 qualification in any discipline, ideally with professional involvement in the delivery of learning in Early Childhood Education and Care. All applicants will be interviewed by the Programme Director.

Applicants with a Major Award in Early Learning and Care/Early Childhood Education and Care at NFQ level 6 may be eligible for an advanced entry into Year 2 of the programme.

Applicants who do not meet the entry requirements outlined above may apply through Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) which considers applicants based on relevant work experience. All applicants will be required to be Garda Vetted as part of the admission process.

Garda Vetting

Incoming students on the BA(Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care programme must undergo Garda Vetting. Garda Vetting is part of the admissions process. Garda Vetting applications must be submitted to NCI prior to commencing the programme. Guidelines on this process is provided by admissions.

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1

- Holistic Child Learning and Development
- Foundations of Early Childhood Education and Care
- Music, Movement, Art and Drama
- Academic Foundations and Scholarship
- Essential Legislation and Regulation in ECEC
- Child Health Nutrition and Wellbeing

*Field visits to diverse Early Childhood settings will be integrated within these theory modules (6 visits, 3 in each semester)

Year 2

- Core Pedagogies and Curriculum in ECEC
- Dispositions and Dynamics of Behaviour in Children
- Managing Your Learning and Academic Practice
- Diversity and Pluralism in Learning Language and Literacies
- Play and Creativity in ECEC
- Placement: Observation and Reflection in ECEC Practice

Year 3

- Quality Assurance in ECEC Environments
- Early Learning in a Digital World
- Inquiry Learning – Design and Evaluation of Curriculum in ECEC
- The Child Family and Society – Stakeholders in ECEC
- Leadership and Governance in ECEC Environments
- Placement: Application of Strategies in Learning Environments in ECEC Practice

Year 4

- ECEC Inquiry and Research Methods
- Social, Political and Cultural Contexts of ECEC
- Working in Multi Professional Contexts
- Personal and Professional Identity
- Capstone ECEC Practice-based Project

This programme is approved by the Qualifications Advisory Board (instituted to review level 7 and level 8 degree programmes for the Early Learning and Care Sector) as meeting the requirements of the Professional Award Criteria and Guidelines standards

Note: Students will not be permitted to begin their placement until their vetting application is processed and approved in accordance with NCI's Student Vetting policy.

Funding

The BA (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care is a four-year Honours Degree programme, approved by QQI for full-time delivery with 60 ECTS credits per academic year. The weekly contact teaching time is 15 hours. The course meets the requirements as an approved full-time course under the Student Grant Scheme (SUSI).

Laptop Requirement

All students applying to NCI must have access to a laptop that will allow them to attend classes online and, where relevant, to participate in on-campus learning. Some students may be able to avail of the Student Laptop Loan Scheme, subject to eligibility. See page 77 for more information.

COURSE DELIVERY

for 2022/23

The majority of NCI's part-time programmes featured in this prospectus will be delivered in a blended format for 2022/23.

In most programmes this will mean the majority of the programme content will be delivered online but with some on-campus sessions. This will vary with the programme, but the breakdown of your course will be communicated to you in advance, and you will be able to plan for any required campus elements.

Across courses the following delivery methods may be employed:

Campus – The learning event (lecture, tutorial, laboratory, or seminar) takes place face to face on campus.

Livestream – The learning event takes place online.

Campus-stream – The learning event takes place face to face on campus and is simultaneously streamed online.

Directed e-learning – There are specified tasks to be carried out by students during a designated time interval (such as viewing a video, taking a quiz)

How these elements are broken down for each course will be available on the course pages on ncirl.ie.

In some instances, recorded lectures may also be available.

Bring Your Own Device

Given the amount of online content in these programmes it is a requirement that all students applying to NCI have access to a suitable laptop and broadband that will allow them to engage with online and other classes. A student laptop loan scheme is available for eligible students. See page 77.