



Foundation Degree (FdA) in Early Childhood Studies



Overview

Working with children and young people is demanding but most fulfilling work you can do. There is a high demand for early years qualified staff and this course aims to meet this demand by focusing on theory and practice of the study of the play, development and learning of children from birth to six years of age.

The course is designed to meet the professional and personal learning needs of all those working with primary aged children. It is aimed at classroom and learning support assistants in primary education settings, for example, people working as childminders or in a group setting, such as a **nursery, kindergarten, preschool, community crèche or children's centre** environment.

The course is validated by London Metropolitan University.

How will I be taught?

You'll be learning in our state-of-the-art facility, taking a hands-on approach to your learning by combining practical work and theory-based written assignments. You'll be taught by industry experienced tutors with a curriculum designed to equip you with skills to enable you to progress to employment or further study.

We aim to provide real working environments with our unique facilities for our students to fully prepare for a successful future.

Course Duration and Delivery Structure

The course duration is 2 years and the times/hours are: 2.5 days per week, 9am – 5pm

Funding for your Study

You can apply for the 'Student loan'. Student loans can include a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan to help with your living costs. **Help and advice is available.**

What can I do next?

Further studies:

- You can progress onto the final or year 3 of a related subject degree, for example, direct entry onto the BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies at London Metropolitan University.
- Progress into gaining the Early Years Practitioner Status

Job opportunities:

- Teaching Assistant, Nursery worker roles.
- Managerial or supervisory roles within early years as you'll have developed the skills and knowledge for higher level posts.

What qualification will I gain?

Foundation degree (FdA) - Awarded by London Metropolitan University

How will I be assessed?

- Written reports
- Oral presentation
- Work based tasks (practical)
- Work based observations

What are the entry requirements?

- Level 3 in Child Care and Education or equivalent
- GCSE grades 9-4 (A*-C) or Level 2 equivalent in English language and math or be working towards achieving them
- Two years' full-time experience working with children in an early years or school setting
- Currently working in early years, as either a paid employee or volunteer (12 hours minimum)
- Enhanced DBS (evidence required) to work with children
- One satisfactory reference from an employer or workplace manager

Mature (over 21) students, who do not meet these academic qualifications, with the relevant work or life experience will be considered.

Applicants are expected to attend an interview and may take College assessment for English and math.

For an Application Form or further information about this course please email Higher.Education@NCCLondon.ac.uk



FdA Year 1 (selection & description of module)

You will complete 4 modules (120 credits) for progression onto 2nd year.

Module	Description
Adult as Children Learners	You will learn different theories on how adults and children learn alongside the key professional skills required in the early childhood field. You will develop an awareness and understanding of the historical, social and political context of early childhood services and of the cultures, principles and values that underpin early childhood practice.
Perspective in Children's Development	You will be introduced to a wide range of current theories relating to infant's and young children's development. You will study key theorists and how their concepts inform our understanding of personal, social, emotional, physical, linguistic and cognitive development. You will practise a range of observational techniques in the workplace and to reflect on their use.
Understanding Play	You will be introduced to a range of historic and popular views on play and their relationship to learning, and focus on how adults can support the development of play and learning in young children. You will reflect on theories of play and their cultural contexts for children. You will explore ways of providing an environment, both in and outdoors, that supports and enhances children's individual learning through play and analyse the work of key theorists in relation to historic and theoretical views on play.
Safeguarding Young Children's Health and Well-being	You will learn a range of issues relating to the health and well-being of babies and young children and their families. You will understand the role of early years practitioners in the welfare and protection of children aged 0-6 and gain an understanding of historical, social and cultural contexts of health and welfare provision for young children and of current policy and legislative frameworks. You will develop your professional decision making and partnership working skills in relation to safeguarding health and well being.

FdA Year 2 (selection & description of units)

You will complete another 5 modules (120 credits) leading to a FdA

Module	Description
Challenging Equalities in Early Childhood	You will develop an understanding of the concepts of inclusion and diversity as they relate to both children and adults in their sphere of work and to critically reflect on your own practice in seeking to address inequalities. You will consider issues of identity development and diversity and their implications for the care and education of children aged 0-6. You will learn equality issues, including the legislation surrounding special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), children's curricular entitlement. You will develop a listening culture.
Approaches to Pedagogy and Curriculum in the Early Years	You will develop knowledge and understanding of a range of theories on how babies and young children learn and their practical implementation. You will examine approaches to the early childhood curriculum in England and a selection of other countries and how these relate to range of theories of learning approaches.
Personal, Social and Emotional Developmental Matters	You will learn the impact of cultural and social factors and the implications of these theories and factors for provision and practice with children aged from birth to three. You will explore theoretical perspectives on babies' and young children's personal, social and emotional development, with a specific focus on the first three years of life. You will develop skills as a reflective practitioner to enable you to understand the impact of your role on the lives of babies and young people.
Creative Thinking and Representation from Birth to Six	You will learn the different approaches to curriculum implementation that support the creativity and learning of babies and young children and analyse the way in which they represent or express ideas and feelings. You will consider a range of theories of babies' and young children's cognitive and representational development. You will explore the role of the adult and the importance of a range of indoor, outdoor and community environments in supporting babies' and young children's interests and creativity.
Communication in Multi – Lingual Contexts	You will develop the understanding of the theoretical and the practical aspects of providing for babies' and young children's communication and linguistic development. You will examine and debate fundamental issues relating to communicating in a multi-lingual environment and consider the importance of cultural and social aspects as part of the process. You will explore the relationship between symbolic representation and language learning.