



Foundation Degree (FdA) in Early Years



Overview

There is a demand for Early Years qualified staff. 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 seven 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 the University of Hertfordshire and is designed for people working with young children in public, private, voluntary and independent child care and education settings.

How will I be taught?

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

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

You will be required to have a work placement prior to starting the course, either as an employee or on a voluntary basis.

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 in Early Childhood Studies at the University of Hertfordshire.

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 - Awarded by University of Hertfordshire

How will I be assessed?

Assignment briefs covering:

- Written essays and reports
- Presentations
- E-posters and displays
- Work based tasks
- Reflective portfolios of practice

What are the entry requirements?

- GCSE English Language and Mathematics at Grade 4 (Grade C) or above, or an equivalent from the University of Hertfordshire's equivalency list.
- 48 UCAS points to come from a relevant qualification such as Level 3 CACHE certificate or significant relevant work experience, satisfactory reference, evidence of current DBS and interview.
- The University also accepts a number of other equivalent qualifications including BTEC, IB and Access courses.
- At least one satisfactory reference from an employer or workplace manager (part-time applicants) or an employer, workplace manager or tutor (full-time applicants)

You will be required to attend a guidance interview for this programme.

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



FdA Year 1 (selection & description of modules)

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

UNIT	Description
Early Years Policy and Practice	You will be introduced to legal and professional responsibilities based on current legislation and government policy so that you can work with children effectively and safely. You will develop the ability to work within the early years framework, learn about safeguarding children and how to collaborate with a multidisciplinary team (including parents).
The Developing Child	You will explore the development and learning of all children. You will focus on personal, social, emotional, physical, moral, cognitive and spiritual development with reference to inclusive practice and holistic development. Your observations from the workplace will be used to develop your understanding and implementation of evidence based and ethical practice in this area. You will be able to apply the skills gained to the workplace and reflect on your effectiveness and application of knowledge in your work setting.
Perspective on Early Years	You will develop your knowledge and understanding of the current early years framework within the UK as well as international frameworks. You will explore the key features of early childhood both nationally and internationally and examine the key factors affecting young children and their families around the world and within the UK.
Play and Learning	You will explore what play is, why children play and how a play can foster learning and development. You will also investigate the role of play in teaching and learning, and consider the factors that shape play including historical developments and play in different parts of the world.

FdA Year 2 (selection & description of modules)

You will complete another 4 modules (120 credits) leading to a FdA

UNIT	Description
Approaches to Research	You will explore and develop an understanding of research methodologies and data gathering relevant to undertaking research in an early years setting. You will learn how to identify an area of practice or provision suitable for research and to review a range of ideas, concepts and research in literature relevant to this aspect on early years practice.
Early Years Frameworks for children 0-7: Principles into Practice	You will examine a wide range of pioneers, principles and regulation that underpin early years learning and assessment provision in UK and international frameworks. You will explore different curriculum learning and assessment arrangements for older children (up to the age of seven). You will engage in group work to investigate and present your findings on the influence of Early Years Pioneers upon the principles, provision and practice of UK and selected international Early Years Frameworks for children aged 0-7 years. You will also be encouraged to undertake visits to a Key Stage 1 class to aid their understanding of the comparisons and contrasts between the required learning and assessment strategies for UK Early Years Frameworks and that of the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum.
Leadership and Management in an Early Years Setting	You will consider aspects related to early years leadership and management, in order to develop high quality workplace practice and to enhance your own professional practice and the professional development of others. You will explore and critically evaluate a range of leadership and management theories, which include analysing effective strategies to manage change in early years settings.
Collaborative Practice	You will explore and develop understanding required for the care and education of children across the Early Years Care and Education and school settings. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your own practice showing appropriate values and belief systems for work with children aged 0-7 years including those relating to anti-discriminatory practice, equality and inclusion.

****The units listed are an indicative guide only and the College may change the order of delivery.**