

B.A. (Early Childhood Studies and Practice)

“As a mature student, I am happy to recommend the Certificate in Early Childhood Studies & Practice as a worthwhile journey in ones professional practice and personal development. Whilst challenging at times, the programme is ideally suited to practitioners working in the Early Years, drawing on practical experience and developing one’s ability to relate theory to everyday practice. It is an added bonus that one has the option to complete the Diploma in Year 2 and the BA following years 3 & 4 meaning that I can gain a new qualification at each stage of the journey, thus increasing my profile as a professional practitioner”.

- Susan Quirke-Crowley

COURSE OVERVIEW: 4 Years, Full Time.

This programme of study builds year to year on the skills and knowledge students develop through their exposure to key areas of the course, including theory, social policy, the development of research skills, and the enhancement of practical experiential learning opportunities. By the completion of year four, the graduate emerges as a reflective practitioner with an in-depth understanding of the holistic needs of children and families and the role of early year’s services in the broader community and policy context:

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Year One

Introduction to Learning (5 ECTS), Psychology: The Developing Child 1 (10 ECTS), Creative Development in Early Years (5 ECTS), Child Protection and Safety in Childcare Services (10 ECTS), Health, Hygiene and, Nutrition in Early Childhood (5 ECTS), Work-based Project: Year 1 (10 ECTS).

Year Two

Psychology: The Developing Child 2 (10 ECTS), Implementing the Early Learning Curriculum (10 ECTS), The Child and Family in Irish Law (5 ECTS), Quality Awareness in Early Learning (10 ECTS), Work-based, Project: Year 2 (10 ECTS).

Year Three

Children and Families in Society (10 ECTS), Working in Varied Care and Education Settings (5 ECTS), Management Skills for Childcare Environments (10 ECTS), Effective Leadership for the Childcare Sector (5 ECTS), Social Research Methodologies (5 ECTS), Work-based Project: Year 3 (10 ECTS).

Year Four

Promoting Inclusion in Early Years Care and Education (10 ECTS), Irish Social, Family and Early Years, Policy: Critical Analysis (10 ECTS), Critical Reflection on Learning and Practice (5 ECTS), Research Dissertation (20 ECTS).

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants will ideally be adult learners, aged 21 years or over, returning to education and employed in an early childhood setting with up to 2 years experience working in the sector or relevant experience. While formal academic qualifications are not necessary, those possessing a NFQ Level 5 or 6 qualifications in the childcare or related disciplines will be encouraged to apply. Candidates must have computer proficiency and access to the internet

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Students with previous relevant qualifications at NFQ Level 7 or 8 may be eligible to apply for exemptions from modules on this programme of study or for advanced academic entry.

Applicants for RPL will be required to prepare a detailed learning portfolio which must be submitted for assessment by the second Friday in June of the year of entry. Further information on the RPL process may be obtained from the Programme RPL co-ordinator. Suzanne Golden, e-mail: suzanne.golden@nuigalway.ie.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply online: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/apply/>

(Online applications open April 2016)

[BA in Early Childhood Studies & Practice Application form](#)

The Closing Date for receipt of applications is the **3rd June 2016**. Late applications may be added to a waiting list and considered if vacancies arise.

FEES

EU Fees: €2,900

Non-EU Fees: €3,400

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Your career opportunities will grow as you will be able to hold a wider variety of occupational roles. Upon completion of this degree course students will be qualified to be employed in a variety of early years settings, including preschool settings, full daycares/crèches, playgroups, after school settings, drop in centres as well as a range of specialised locations such as family intervention settings. Due to the extensive range of course topics covered, the graduate will be skilled in a wide range of issues and areas that might also see them employed in early years support organisations, such as county/city childcare committees, in community outreach and development settings, family and community resource centres, or at a national level contributing to policy or programme development arena.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Next Intake of Students: August 2016