

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Early Childhood Studies

Cork College of Commerce is currently in advanced discussions with Dundalk Institute of Technology to provide night classes in the Bachelor of Arts in Applied Early Childhood Studies (level 7) degree as an outreach programme.

The programme is suitable for:

- Early year carers in crèches, pre-schools, school age childcare services, special education services and childminding settings
- Managers of crèches, pre-schools, school age services, special education services
- Early childhood practitioners in the Health Services Executive
- County Childcare Committee members and staff
- Practitioners in the child and family support sector Early Childhood generally refers to the care and the education of children aged 0-6 years.

The Early Childhood professional educator needs to understand many facets of the young child's development and how best to plan and implement programmes that address the child's needs in a holistic way. This applied programme in Early Childhood Studies is designed for people who have been working in the early childhood care and education sector for a number of years and who may already hold some qualifications in the early childhood area, but now wish to obtain academic qualifications to degree level. It is in response to national strategies on early childhood care and education which has identified the need to up skill the workforce in this sector. The programme will nurture students' personal, social and professional development with a view to producing a highly competent professional educator committed to providing high quality services to babies, young children and their families based on the contemporary principles of best practice as determined by Aistear and Siolta

Semester 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploration of Emergent Numeracy and Literacy• Creativity and the Arts in Early Childhood Studies 1• Developmental Psychology• Professional Practice 2	Semester 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Educational Needs• Business and Innovative Management Skills for the Early Childhood Sector• Sociological Aspects of working with families and children• Professional Practice 2
Semester 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pedagogical Framing• The Voice of the Child and Social Policy• Introducing Evidence Based Practice in Early Childhood• Regulation and Applied Law in Early Childhood• Professional Practice 3	Semester 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity and the Arts in Early Childhood Studies 2• Teaching Self Regulation• Consultation and Evaluation in Early Childhood• Early Childhood: Physical Activity• Professional Practice 3

Awarding Body: Dundalk Institute of Technology NQAI Level 7 Award (180 credits)

Who Should Apply:

The programme is suitable for:

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Course Duration

Stage 2 – The course takes place over 2 years, for students who gain advanced entry to stage 2. Learners will be expected to attend Cork College of Commerce two evenings a week (6.00pm-9.30pm) and one Saturday in three (full day).

As the programme progresses attendance at college will be reduced. The course is delivered using a blended learning approach. Due to the blended learning delivery within this programme students should have access to PC / Mac, a headset with a mic, and a broadband internet connection from home, so as to be able to fully participate in the programme.

In stage 2, semester 2 of the programme, students will be required to undertake a full time 5-day work placement in a Special Needs setting. The placement site for this mandatory practice is organized by DkIT.

Starting Date: September 2016 (subject to demand)

Academic requirements

For Advanced Entry to **Stage 2**, candidates must have:

FETAC Level 5 and Level 6 or FETAC level 6 only (if awarded since 2015) in early childhood studies or equivalent and have two years' work experience in a HSE notified early child care service (minimum of 15 hours per week).

All eligible candidates will be interviewed.

Work Experience while undertaking the B.A in Applied Early Childhood Studies

Applicants must have access to a HSE notified early child care service, or work in another relevant organisation in the Early Years Sector throughout their course of study to facilitate integration of theory with practice and to meet the different module learning outcomes. Applications will not be accepted without a written confirmation from the applicant's organisation covering each of the points below:

- Details of the organisation for which the applicant is working in
- Details of the length of time the applicant has been working in the organisation

- Details of the roles and responsibilities of the applicant in the organisation in the timeframe stated above, including promotions and progressions, clearly indicating the specific nature of the applicants' current role.

Professional practice (fieldwork) is a part of the programme. For all applicants, Police/Garda vetting, Hepatitis B vaccination and an up to date First Aid Certificate will be required as conditions of the programme. Further details are included in the DkIT Police/Garda vetting procedure for students.

Course fee is €2,500 per year. The fee is payable in 2 instalments as follows:

- Instalment 1 of €1,250 is payable on acceptance of offer of a course place.
- Instalment 2 of €1,250 is payable at the start of Semester 2 in January 2017.

The BA in Applied Early Childhood Studies has been approved by Revenue as a course eligible for tax relief. For more information click on <http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it31.html>

Further Details:

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