

Early Childhood MA

The Early Childhood MA examines current issues in the provision of care and education for children under the age of eight with regard to practice and policy in the UK and abroad.

Our philosophy is that study should be relevant to the workplace, with a strong emphasis placed on reflecting on professional practice in order to bring about personal, professional and organisational improvements. These improvements will impact upon the attainment, achievement, motivation and well-being of children directly, or indirectly, through improvement in the quality of service provision.

This course is suitable for a range of early childhood professionals working in the Early Years field.

Accreditation of Prior Learning and Experience

In many cases it is possible to gain credit for previous study or experience. Previous study at the same level in other institutions is recognised as transferred academic credit, and professional learning can be analysed through the completion of an Independent Study.

Up to 50% of taught elements of the award for which you are registered may be achieved through Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) or Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL).

Study options

It is possible to study towards a Masters award (Nine modules) or either of the interim awards: Postgraduate Certificate (three modules) or Postgraduate Diploma (six modules).

Postgraduate Certificate

To gain a Postgraduate Certificate students must successfully complete three modules; these may be taught or a combination of taught and individual study modules. It is possible to complete a 'named' award, which reflects the focus of study (see pathway options).

Postgraduate Diploma

After completing the Postgraduate Certificate, it is possible to complete a further three modules to achieve the award of Postgraduate Diploma. If you wish to exit the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma, two of the modules must be taught and the third will be a summative essay. Up to three taught modules may be replaced by an Independent Study.

Get in touch

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You will normally have one of the following:

Either a first or second class Honours Degree in a relevant subject

A wide range of relevant experience

If English is not your first language, you will be expected to have reached a sufficient standard on admission to the course (e.g. IELTS 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 in each element)

Modules

Mandatory Modules

- Approaches to Educational Research: Research Methods for Professional Enquiry in Education
- For the award of Masters – a Dissertation (equal to four modules) is required

Optional Modules include:

- Pedagogy, Policy and Practice in the Early Years
- Communication and Collaboration in Leading Early Years Practice
- Effective Early Years Practice and Pedagogy
- Mentoring Skills and Quality Enhancement in Early Childhood
- Inclusive Early Childhood Provision

Routes into an Early Childhood MA include:

- The Early Childhood Network
- Postgraduate Certificate in Integrated Children's Services
- Postgraduate Certificate in Mentoring in Early Childhood
- Early Years Professional Status

Assessment

A variety of teaching methods are used, including led lectures and seminars, out-of-term conferences, summer schools, Independent Study and Local Authority-based courses to suit the needs of most students.

Most of the assessment will be of a written nature, requiring students to read and research widely, reflect upon the material gathered and structure the synthesised ideas into critical, coherent assignments of varying styles and length. There may also be presentations and assessed portfolios. Detailed feedback will be provided to assist students' personal, professional and academic development.

Academic department

[Institute of Education](#)

"Our high quality programmes and innovative teaching methods prepare and train the very best professionals. Worcester graduates have made a huge difference in the field of education."

Professor Chris Robertson, Head of Institute

Employability

Completing a Masters Degree will enhance your skills and give you the opportunity to excel through promotional opportunities. If you are in the Early Childhood Sector, completion of a Masters Degree will enable you to work in a leadership, advisory and consultancy capacity and will enhance any role where you will be able to put your newly attained knowledge into practice.

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