

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are the top questions that students and parents ask at open days about the BA (Hons) in Early Childhood.

- 1. When does the course run?** There is one annual intake for the The BA (Hons) Early Childhood (Professional Practice) three year course and it starts in September each year.
- 2. How many hours of study a week?** All universities are expected to offer Key Information Set (KIS) data on all modules of study they teach. The KIS highlights expected contact time; time spent in placement and the proportion of independent study. At the University of Worcester you will have 12 hours with tutors, up to 24 hours of group work and independent study.
- 3. Can I go on to train as a primary teacher after completing this course?** Our course gives you a broad knowledge of key subjects essential to working with children, as well as an invaluable foundation to somebody who wishes to proceed to teaching young children. [The practice-based learning aspect of the course means that you can spend time in a range of schools to develop your skills and knowledge of teaching.](#)
- 4. How much time will I have in practice placement?** You will have 30 days (210 hours) of practice-based learning each year of your degree. This does not restrict you from seeking additional experience in holiday periods. In fact, a lot of our students are offered employment in their practice settings once they have proved to be a valued member of the team. Our Practice-based learning is seen as 'full and relevant' by the National College of Teaching and Leadership. This means that on completion of the requirements for Practice-based learning module you are able to be included in ratios when working in settings that are delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- 5. Do we have to arrange our own placements?** We have a dedicated Practice-Based Learning Administrator, Julie Woodhouse, j.woodhouse@worc.ac.uk who liaises with employers and will support you in making choices for your practice experiences and a database of around 400 settings to help you find a placement. You will need to be pro-active in finding placements, but you will be supported by staff at the university. Having an active part in this aspect of your course means that you can build your own portfolio of practice-based learning experience and tailor it to your own career development.
- 6. What are the fees for the course?** The fees are £9,000 per year. Please see the 'figure out your finances' page for more guidance <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/your-home/figure-out-finances.html> , here's the link . You may be eligible to apply for loans and help with living expenses. Scholarships and a range of financial assistance are available for some students. If

you have a question about tuition fees and how to pay for them, please contact our Finance Department on 01905 542474 or 01905 855115 or email creditcontrol@worc.ac.uk

- 7. Can you tell me about the individual modules?** The academic and practice based learning opportunities within the programme relate to the education, health, welfare and development of children aged 0-8 years within the context of their families, community, society and culture. The programme draws on different disciplines and professional backgrounds to reflect the complexity of children's lives. The content provides a framework for a range of qualities and transferable skills.
- 8. Are there any exams?** Currently there are no exams and you will be assessed through ongoing course work. Your coursework can include essays, report writing, case studies, poster presentations and using problem-based learning approaches. We do continually review our assessment methods and change them in line with current requirements and thinking.
- 9. How much support will I get with my studies?** Every student has an Academic Tutor who supports learning on an individual and group basis. During year 3 you will be allocated an Independent Study supervisor who will guide you through your chosen research topic. If you need other support, Student Services provides non-academic support. There are a wide range of services available to support students in other areas of their non-academic life at University, please look at the information for prospective students that explains student support [University of Worcester Student Support](#)
- 10. How big are the groups?** Our annual intake is approximately 60. You will sometimes be together as a whole group in key note lectures and then it is usual that you split into smaller seminar groups. You will work with a group of about 6-7 other students to form your learning group. This learning group is a peer support system where you share ideas and work together on different activities.
- 11. Who will teach me?** You will be taught by members of staff from the Centre for Early Childhood. This is a multi- professional team and this reflects the nature of the early childhood workforce. Tutors have professional expertise in a range of areas, for example, education, health, social work, safeguarding. They are all actively engaged in their own professional development and use current research to inform their teaching. You may be interested in looking at the [Meet our Experts in the Centre for Early Childhood](#) webpage.

- 12. What are the employment opportunities on completion of the course?** In 2013, 100% of our students from the Centre for Childhood were employed or had gone on to higher levels of study. Those in employment went into a diverse range of roles, for example: charity research officer, hospital play worker, under eights officer, family care worker, nursery nurse, and as an early years advisor at a Local Authority. Completing the BA (hons) gives opportunities for progression to further study e.g. to PGCE or play therapy courses
- 13. Can I go on to further study after graduating?** Yes, the Centre for Early Childhood offers several courses. There is also a Masters in Early Childhood Education, see the link to the website: <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/journey/early-childhood-ma.html>
- 14. What chance will I have of employment after completing the course?** The chances of employment after graduating are very high, as stated in question in the answer to question 11, 100% of our students were in employment shortly after graduating. We encourage students to take up additional opportunities that we provide for students, for example – sign along, first aid training and training for the Teacher Status qualification. These are all valuable additions to your CV and can help to increase your chances of employment
- 15. What happens if I don't get my predicted grades?** Please get in touch with us to discuss your situation, we take each student on their individual merits and it may be possible to still offer you a place.

If you have any other queries about becoming a student on the BA (Hons) in Early Childhood (Professional Practice) here at the University, please get in touch with Anne Ball, a.ball@worc.ac.uk, our Education Administrator here in the Centre for Early Childhood, she will be delighted to help answer your query.