

Career opportunities

The introduction of the ECCE scheme (the free preschool year) places a premium on graduates working in a service. There is an unprecedented demand for graduates of ECE. Former graduates of DIT's BA (Hons.) in Early Childhood Education have found employment in a wide variety of Early Years services and many are now in management positions. Graduates also work in the area of project development and in management positions in the Health Service Executive, county childcare committees, and national voluntary organisations. Some proceed to postgraduate study and primary education programmes.

Desirable Personal Attributes

An Early Years Professional should be reliable and trusting, have a desire to work with and help young children and families, be positive and have an understanding and sensitivity of how to support and enhance young children's learning and development. He/she should also have the potential to become a responsible professional comfortable with working in close collaboration with families.

The Early Years professional needs to understand the many facets of the young child's development and to encourage dispositions for learning including curiosity, problem-solving, persistence, creativity and reflection. The Early Years professional also needs to understand how best to plan and implement programmes that address children's learning and development in a holistic way.

Testimonial

"I chose DIT as this course has an excellent reputation for training students to a very high standard. After graduation, I started my career as assistant manager in a day care centre based in a disadvantaged area. A little over a year later I began acting as manager of the centre. Soon after, I secured my current job as a play specialist in a reception centre for asylum seekers."

Lynda Stokes, ECE Graduate

USEFUL LINKS

- Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. www.omc.gov.ie
- Irish Preschool Play Association (IPPA) www.ippa.ie
- National Children's Nursery Association (NCNA) www.ncna.net
- Dublin City Childcare Committee: www.childcareonline.ie
- Fingal County Childcare Committee www.fingalcountychildcare.ie
- DunLaoghaire-Rathdown County Childcare Committee www.dlrccc.ie
- The National Quality Framework for Early Siolta: Childhood Education: www.siolta.ie
- National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA): www.ncca.ie



Further details and application forms can be obtained from our website at:

<http://www.dit.ie/socialscienceslaw/howtoapply/socialsciences/bahonsinearlychildhoodeducationin-service/>
or from

Department of Social Sciences Office,
Dublin Institute of Technology
41 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1.

T: +353 (0)1 4024164 F: +353 (0)1 4024263

E: socialsciences@dit.ie

W: <http://www.dit.ie/socialscienceslaw/>

BA (Hons.) in Early Childhood Education (In-Service)

Flexible delivery



Department of Social Sciences
Dublin Institute of Technology

Flexible Training in DIT

Value of Training in Early Childhood Education (ECE)

Ireland has witnessed unparalleled policy developments in ECE. Siolta, Aistear, the Workforce Development Plan, and the ECCE scheme (the free pre-school year) demonstrate understanding of the critical importance of quality provision in ECE, and the valuable role of early childhood professionals. Research clearly demonstrates the strong associations between qualified early childhood professionals, quality service provision and positive child outcomes.

This 3 year BA (Hons.) in Early Childhood Education (ECE) is delivered across 2 evenings a week over 3 years and is based on Advanced Entry to year 2. A key advantage of this programme is the opportunity it offers to gain a Level 8 ECE qualification by combining evening college attendance with work-based learning.

Location

The B.A. (Hons.) in Early Childhood Education is located in DIT Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1.

Duration

Three years, two evenings a week (4-8pm typically with commitment to two block weeks during the year).



Level of Award

BA (Hons.) in ECE is at Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Why Study Early Childhood Education at DIT?

Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) has been to the forefront of professional training in the area of Early Childhood Education since 1977 and has the longest track record of offering Early Years programmes in Ireland. Academic staff, who are specialists in their field, have actively contributed to many important policy developments

Programme outline

Students on the B.A. (Hons.) in Early Childhood Education, (in-service) study a wide range of subjects and also undertake reflection on their practice in their workplace.

Modules

- Early Education
- Professional Practice Issues
- Child Development
- Psychological Adjustment in the Early Years
- Social Theory and Legal Issues
- Research Methods & Dissertation
- ICT in the Early Years
- Assessing and Planning for Learning in the Early Years
- Development of Business and Management Skills in Early Years Services
- Working with Families
- Child Protection in Early Years Services
- Bilingualism/Outdoor Play
- Creative Studies
- Reflective Practice

Reflective Practice

The programme provides the opportunity for practitioners to reflect upon and review the value and quality of their practice and thereby to contribute positively to the development of quality practice in the service in which they are working. Professional practice skills will be developed in close collaboration with a College Tutor. Reflective practice is an important part of the academic component of the programme as experiences and perceptions in the work place are linked to theoretical frameworks back in college.

Entry requirements

All candidates must have completed a FETAC (The Further Education and Training Awards Council) full award at Level 5 and a FETAC full award at Level 6 in Childcare or equivalent. They should have preferably two years suitable experience in Early Childhood Education and be currently in paid employment in an ECE setting.

Candidates must also have the Leaving Certificate (or equivalent) with passes in five subjects including English and Mathematics, except in the case of mature students (i.e. at least 23 years of age since 1st January in year of entry).

Applicants will be required to provide evidence of Garda Vetting before being eligible to register.

