

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MA Childhood Studies
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	MA Childhood Studies
Named Exit Awards	PgD Childhood Studies; PgC Childhood Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: Bachelors Honours degree 2:2 (or equivalent)
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MA Childhood Studies course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2019-20 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

MA Childhood Studies is an interdisciplinary, postgraduate programme, which explores current, sometimes controversial, issues facing children, such as media, sexualities, embodiment, death and politics. The programme is committed to a child-centred philosophy and is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) framework. The course provides an advanced understanding of childhood, social theory, and social policy and reflects on the principles of protecting the rights and interests of children and the increasing importance of their participation in these discussions. The course is delivered through a blended learning approach, employing both traditional methods of teaching and technology-enhanced learning to provide a dynamic and exciting master's course.

Course Aims

- to offer an innovative, dynamic and flexible programme that critically considers developments in the academic study of childhood and the changing contexts of childhood in a globalised world
- to critically explore the cultural and social constructions of childhood and the implications that they have had and continue to have on children's everyday lives

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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- to advance students' knowledge of the complexity of understanding the relationship between children's rights, the ideologies and responsibilities for welfare and the lived realities of children's diverse experiences
- to provide a robust theoretical framework for students to develop an integrated and critically aware understanding of childhood studies and to cultivate a critical and analytical approach and to engage meaningfully with contemporary methodological advances in childhood research and the research process
- to develop in students a range of intellectual skills reflecting both the ethos of lifelong learning and the rigour required at Master's level, a high level of student autonomy and self-direction in order to facilitate the student to demonstrate initiative, originality alongside integrity and ethical judgement in their advanced scholarship and to become influential and effective specialists in the field of childhood studies

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MA Childhood Studies course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of contemporary issues and recent developments which are at, or informed by, the forefront of childhood studies
2. a comprehensive understanding of the appropriate techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship and originality in their application of that knowledge to derive solutions to / recommendations to resolve complex situations and address issues in relation to children;
3. a conceptual understanding of children's rights and welfare that enables the student to evaluate critically complex issues, both systematically and creatively, to evaluate improving outcomes for children
4. advanced scholarship of childhood studies through a critical evaluation and analysis of methodologies and previous/current to propose new research questions and directions
5. the skills required to exercise independent learning and to develop these skills to a high level so as to work with self-direction and originality, to communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences so as to contribute to the academic study of childhood studies

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark:

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2014)
- Masters Characteristics statement (2015)

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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Course Structure

The MA Childhood Studies comprises modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷	Year Offered
Level 7				
	Critical Perspectives in Childhood Studies	40	M	Every year
	Research Methods	20	M	Every year
	Dissertation	60	M	Every year
Plus three of the following optional modules:				
	Embodied Childhoods	20	O	Every other year
	Ethics, Agency and Political Activism	20	O	Every other year
	21 st Century Digital Childhoods	20	O	Every other year
	Law, Society and Childhood	20	O	Every third year
	Theories in Educational Practice	20	O	Every third year
	Leadership in the Context of Children's Services	20	O	Every other year
	Critical Conversations in Death and Childhood	20	O	Every other year
	Sex, Sexuality and Childhood	20	O	Every third year
	Independent Learning: Short Project	20	O	Every year
	Enhancing Practice to Empower Looked After Children: Trauma, Attachment, and Education	20	O	Every year

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards

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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a MA Childhood Studies. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Childhood Studies on successful completion of 120 credits including both the Critical Perspectives in Childhood Studies and the Research Methods modules, or a PgC Childhood Studies on successful completion of 60 credits including the Critical Perspectives in Childhood Studies module.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the MA Childhood Studies programme are likely to have approximately 240 contact hours. Contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, and practical activities. Face to face sessions will take place in 8 hour blocks on Saturdays. The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) provides opportunities for students to engage with course materials and relevant readings and for interactions with peers and tutors through discussion boards, blogs, wikis and other interactive learning tools. Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 25 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be almost entirely coursework (including essays, research reports, presentations, reflective learning blogs, creation of intervention tools or creative artefacts, and research projects), with just one optional module including an examination.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking MA Childhood Studies will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£7,830 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£870 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£11,790 per year
Part-time International	£1,310 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).