

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Early Childhood Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-level), DMM (BTEC) A satisfactory DBS check will be required for practice modules
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	X346

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2018-19 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The Early Childhood Studies (ECS) programme was established in 1993, the first course of its kind to focus on early childhood as a distinct life stage (principally 0-8 years). Since this time Early Childhood has become an academic area essentially interdisciplinary, and acquired its own research base for the study of early childhood and early childhood services. A holistic (whole child) philosophy permeates the programme. Major trends in the field are embraced in modules at all levels, and form guiding principles that permeate and unify the entire ECS programme which includes educational, health, welfare, psychological, sociological, legal, philosophical, political and economic perspectives. The excellent reputation of the ECS

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 Undergraduate 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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degree programme continues to place the University of Suffolk in the forefront of developments and initiatives in this now established discipline.

Course Aims

- To develop understanding of the conceptual underpinnings of Early Childhood Studies as a subject area;
- To develop systematic knowledge and critical understanding of early childhood from differing perspectives and disciplines;
- To encourage development of generic / transferable skills of value in employment, further study and personal development.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Early 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 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. An in-depth conceptual understanding that enables the student to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of the discipline;
2. A well-developed ability to apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding;

Mental or cognitive skills

3. An enhanced ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry;
4. The ability to communicate effectively information, ideas, problems and solutions in a variety of appropriate forms;

Subject Specific and Practical Skills

5. Systematic knowledge and critical understanding of key aspects of early childhood;
6. A well-developed ability to reflect on a range of perspectives in relation to early childhood (philosophical, historical, psychological, sociological, educational, cultural and health, welfare, legal, political and economic);
7. Where relevant, evidence of competence in practice to meet the relevant requirements of particular statutory or regulatory bodies;

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

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Key Skills

8. The ability to communicate effectively information, ideas, problems and solutions in a variety of appropriate forms;
9. The generic / transferable skills necessary to exercise initiative, personal responsibility, decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts, and to work collaboratively with others.

Course Design

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

- Early Childhood Studies (2014)
- Social Work (2016)
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008)

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

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
Level 4			
	Introduction to Academic and Research Skills	20	R
	The Sociology of Childhood and Families	20	R
	Psychology and the Family	20	R
	Early and Primary Education	20	R
	Children, Families and Welfare	20	R
	Healthy Children and Families	20	R
Level 5			
	Safeguarding	20	M
	Research Methods	20	M
	<i>Plus 80 credits from:</i>		
	Play and Learning	20	O
	Developing Practice	40	O
	Social Psychology and Children	20	O
	Children's Health and well-being	20	O

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

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	Children’s Geographies	20	O
	Children’s Rights and Citizenship	20	O
	Language and Literacy	20	O
Level 6			
	Dissertation	40	M
<i>Plus 80 credits from:</i>			
	Dissertation (Additional Option – Part time only)	20	O
	International Perspectives on Children’s Health and Well-being	20	O
	International & Comparative Education	20	O
	Leadership & Management in Early Year Contexts	20	O
	The Child as Creative & Critical Thinker	20	O
	Early Childhood Intervention	20	O
	Young Children’s Cultural Worlds	20	O
	Professional Practice in Early Year Contexts	40	O

Optional modules are offered each year.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Early Childhood Studies on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich and West Suffolk College. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies are likely to have approximately 12 contact hours per week for level 4, 12 contact hours per week for level 5 and 10 contact hours per week for level 6. The contact hours will be made up of a mix of lecture, workshop, seminar, group- work and practical activities. Students who undertake the optional practice modules at level 5 and level 6 will also be required to attend one day of work placement each teaching week plus any specific module requirements where necessary. Students will be expected to find their own placement although practice tutors can support students in this endeavour.

Students will normally be expected to undertake a minimum of 12 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,

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depending on optional modules chosen, will be approximately two thirds coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals) and one third examinations. at level 4; and nearly all coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) in levels five and six, with examinations in two mandatory modules and one optional module at level 5 and two optional modules at level 6.

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 BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£11,500 per year
Part-time International	£1,915 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.

Optional field trips may be offered which incur additional costs.

Academic Framework and Regulations

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