

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	Typical offer: 112 UCAS tariff points Plus GCSE English grade C or above (Level 2 equivalent qualification in English will also be considered)
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College
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 BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies and Dip HE Early Childhood Studies are designed to provide a higher educational programme of study.

The excellent reputation of the ECS degree programme continues to place the University of Suffolk in the forefront of developments and initiatives in this now established discipline. A holistic philosophy permeates the programme. Principally young children from birth to eight years, within their familial, social and cultural contexts, are the central focus and the pervasive and unifying theme. Major trends in the field are embraced in modules at all levels, and form guiding principles that permeate and unify the entire ECS programme.

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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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 skills/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.

1. systematic knowledge and critical understanding of key aspects of early childhood (subject specific skills)
2. 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) (subject specific skills)
3. an enhanced ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry (cognitive skills)
4. 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 (knowledge and understanding skills)
5. a well-developed ability to apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding (knowledge and understanding skills)
6. the ability to communicate effectively information, ideas, problems and solutions in a variety of appropriate forms (cognitive skills / generic skills)
7. the generic skills/ transferable skills necessary to exercise initiative, personal responsibility, decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts, and to work collaboratively with others (generic skills)

In addition to the above BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies those students undertaking practice modules will be able:

8. to demonstrate evidence of competence in practice to the requisite Early Years Occupational Standards

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

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Course Design

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

- Early Childhood Studies (2014)
- The 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			
	Foundations of Study and Research	20	M
	Sociology of Early Childhood	20	M
	Developmental Psychology	20	M
	Early Childhood Education	20	M
	Children and Social Policy	20	M
	Health in the Early Years	20	M
Level 5			
	Safeguarding Children	20	M
	Research Methods in Early Childhood	20	M
	Children's Geographies	20	R
	Play and Learning	20	R
	Social Psychology and Children	20	R
	Children's Rights and Citizenship	20	R
Level 6			
	Dissertation	40	M
	Early Childhood Intervention	20	R
	Young Children's Cultural Worlds	20	R
	Leadership & Management in Early Years Contexts	20	R
	International & Comparative Education	20	R

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.

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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Course Delivery

The course is delivered at University of Suffolk at West Suffolk College. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies are likely to have approximately 238 contact hours for level 4, 246 contact hours for level 5 and 220 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminar, and tutorials. Students will be expected to undertake considerable hours of independent study per module, 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 will be mostly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, observations and activity plans, and research projects). There are three examinations at level 4 and one at level 5. There are no examinations at Level 6.

Course Team

The BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies course is offered within the School of Healthcare and Early Years. Details of the academic staff who deliver on the course are provided in the Course Handbook.

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.

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](#).