

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	DipHE Early Childhood Studies
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 5
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	240 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	2 years full-time
Intended Award	DipHE Early Childhood Studies
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical offer: 80 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent) GCSE English grade C or above (or equivalent) A satisfactory DBS check will be required for practice modules
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	n/a

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the DipHE Early Childhood Studies course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2017-18 academic year.⁵

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 degree programme continues to place the University of Suffolk in the forefront of developments and initiatives in this now established discipline. The Diploma in Early Childhood Studies was introduced to widen participation in Higher Education as a different entry pathway for those with non-standard academic qualifications and/or vocational experience.

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 / transferable skills of value in employment, further study and personal development

Course Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Increased 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 growing 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 ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry
4. An increased ability to communicate effectively information, ideas, problems and solutions in a variety of appropriate forms.

Subject Specific and Practical Skills*

5. Knowledge and critical understanding of key aspects of early childhood
6. The 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)

* Where relevant, evidence of competence in practice to meet the relevant requirements of particular statutory or regulatory bodies.

Key Skills

7. The generic skills/transferable skills necessary in developing the use of initiative, personal responsibility, decision-making, collaboration with others.

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 Subject Benchmark Statement:

- Early Childhood Studies (2014)

Course Structure

The DipHE Early Childhood Studies comprises modules at levels 4 and 5.

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			
	Principles of Study and Research	20	R
	Sociology of Early Childhood	20	R
	Developmental Psychology	20	R
	Early and Primary Education	20	R
	Children and Social Policy	20	R
	Health in the Early Years	20	R
Level 5			
	Safeguarding Children	20	M
	Diploma Project	20	M
	Plus 80 credits from:		
	Developing Practice	40	O
	Play and Learning	20	O
	Social Psychology and Children	20	O
	Children's Health and well-being	20	O
	Children's Geographies	20	O
	Children's Rights and Citizenship	20	O
	Language and Literacy	20	O

Optional modules are offered each year.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a DipHE Early Childhood Studies.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on DipHE Early Childhood Studies are likely to have approximately 12 contact hours per week for level 4 and 12 contact hours per week for level 5. The contact hours will be made up of a mix of lecture,

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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workshop, seminar, group-work and practical activities. Students who undertake the optional Developing Practice module at level 5 will also be required to attend 1 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 depending on option modules chosen, will be approximately two thirds coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals), one third examinations at level 4, nearly all coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects), with examinations in one mandatory module and one optional module at level 5.

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 DipHE 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	£10,080 per year
Part-time International	£1,680 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](#).