

Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Studies

at Ashton Sixth Form College

Awarded by Staffordshire University

Guidance and Information





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When can I apply?

You can apply now for September 2019.

Application deadlines and interviews will take place as follows:

Round One	Round Two	Round Three
7th June 2019 Interviews held from June to July.	6th July 2019 Interviews held from July to September.	29th August 2019 Interviews held in September.

What is a Foundation Degree?

A Foundation Degree is a level 5 qualification made up of 240 credits, 120 of which are gained at level 4 study and a further 120 at level 5 study. These credits are gained by completing modules throughout the course. Although the Foundation Degree is a qualification in its own right, with further study it can be developed into a full Honours Degree through the acquisition of another 120 credits on a top up course. For further information on topping up to a full Honours Degree and progression routes, please see the **Where can I progress to?** Section on page 5.

Who is the course for?

This part time route is designed for level three qualified practitioners who are currently employed, either paid or voluntary for at least four hours a week who wish to further their academic qualifications and in an early years environment as a nanny or child minder, or within a school, nursery, children's centre, etc.



What will the course cover?

This course is made up of the following eight modules:

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Y E A R 1	1.Practitioner’s Personal, Academic and Professional Development <i>30 credits Level 4</i>		
	2.The Developing Child: A Holistic View <i>30 credits Level 4</i>	3.The Planning Cycle <i>30 credits Level 4</i>	4.Inclusive and Enabling Environments <i>30 credits Level 4</i>

(A Certificate in HE may be awarded with 120 credits at Level 4)

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Y E A R 2	5. Leading a Change in the Early Years <i>30 credits Level 5</i>		
	6. Safeguarding and Promoting Children’s Welfare <i>30 credits Level 5</i>	7. Working with Young Children <i>30 credits Level 5</i>	8. Professionalism and Career Development <i>30 credits Level 5</i>



What are the entry requirements?

All applicants are individually assessed on their qualifications, skills and experience. However, you would *normally*:

- Be in employment (either paid or voluntary) within an early years setting for at least four hours a week. *
- Have a pass in an appropriate Level 3 vocational qualification (e.g. CACHE DCE, NNEB, DNN, Level 3 Diploma, BTEC National Diploma Early Childhood Studies, NVQ Level 3 Early Childhood Studies/Playwork, etc.)
- GCSE qualifications in English and Maths or demonstration of a level 2 competence*
- If English is not your first language you will be expected to have achieved an IELTS score of 6.0 or above
- Entry will be subject to a successful interview and applicants providing evidence that they have a clear enhanced DBS check which confirms that there are no reasons why a candidate should not work with children
- Letter from employer in support of work based activities
- Must be aged 18 or over
- Proof of a current DBS disclosure or a Declaration of Criminal Convictions

*Note: evidence of suitable workplace experience will be considered

Advisory notes – at interview you will be asked to demonstrate that your current writing skills are at level 2. Although this does not form part of the entry criteria it may be used to identify further support needs to assist with your achievement on the course.

Although you may hold an English and maths qualification which isn't a GCSE, we strongly advise that you have or are working towards a GCSE in English and maths, especially if you are interested in teacher training.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed in every module for which you enrol. The assessments are designed to test achievement of the module's learning outcomes and you will be given information on what is expected of them at the start of the module. Assessment types, volume and length have been considered by the University team to allow students to demonstrate skills and knowledge outlined within module assessment criteria. Some modules have more than one assessment task and some will be linked to the teaching and learning methods of the module.

The assessment tasks set over the duration of the programme have been designed to develop and build upon a wide range of personal and professional skills, whilst strongly reinforcing links between theory and practical application. The assessment strategy has been constructed to reflect the changing role of the early childhood studies practitioner at all ages from 0-7 years.



It is understandable that some methods of assessment will suit different students in different ways, therefore a range of assessment methods will be used on the programme to assess the learning outcomes of the modules.

Assessment methods include:

- Assignments
- Case Studies/Practical Planning
- Poster Presentation
- Group presentations
- Annotated bibliography
- Independent Research project
- Portfolio
- Reflective Log

How long does the course take?

This is a fast track programme, which will take two extended years of part time study to complete (September to September), with College attendance of four hours per week and at least four hours per week in the relevant work place. You will also be expected to undertake self-directed study.

How much does the course cost?

The fees for this course are £4,800 per year, totalling £9,600.

Students accepted onto this programme are generally entitled to a tuition fee loan from Student Finance England. Further information on student finance can be found in the accompanying Student Finance Information booklet or at: www.gov.uk/studentfinance. Please note that it is your responsibility to apply for the loan. Students might also ask their workplace for support in funding this course.

Where can I progress to?

On successful completion of your Foundation Degree, you can then apply to study for a BA (Hons) in either Education or Early Childhood Studies. This involves studying a further 120 credits at level 6 over one extended academic year (September to July). Other opportunities for progression may be available depending on your field of work and other qualifications.

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