

FdA Early Years Leadership, Early Years Education and Early Years Practice (Part Time)

Summary 2011/12

- Flexible learning options are creatively designed to fit with your work and other commitments, including part-time, home-based and web-based learning, with full support provided for all trainees;
- A range of course options for existing or aspiring practitioners, all carefully designed to meet your early years professional development;
- Career progression opportunities to gain Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) or top-up to full honours degree.

These courses are in line with the latest Government guidelines, including the Every Child Matters: Change for Children agenda and the new Early Years Foundation stage.

Practical, work-based learning will improve both your experience and your professional confidence, providing you with invaluable skills in planning, management and leadership to boost your career prospects.

These foundation degrees provide a direct progression route to BA (Hons) degree programmes at Level 6. These include two option routes Early Years Leadership and an Early Years Practice option. The Early Years Foundation Degree also provides a direct progression route option to the new Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) pathways.

Please note, EYPS progression routes require applicants to undergo an additional application and interview for selection. QTS numbers are limited by TDA allocations.

Campus: Armstrong House, Manchester

Woodford Lodge Professional Centre, Winsford
Ormskirk Campus, Edge Hill University
Wirral Professional Excellence Centre
Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology

FdA Early Years Leadership is available with a January start at Woodford Lodge. The same pathway is available with a September start at Edge Hill University's Ormskirk Campus, Shrewsbury College of Art and Technology, Wirral Professional Excellence Centre and Armstrong House. FdA Early Years Education is available with a September intake at the Ormskirk Campus. FdA Early Years Practice has April intakes at the Ormskirk Campus and Shrewsbury College of Art and Technology.

Course Type: Foundation Degree

Attendance & Study Mode: 2 years Part Time

Start Date: September 2011 or January 2012 or April 2012

2011 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A typical offer is expected to be a minimum of 40 points from one A level or an equivalent Level 3 qualification. Accreditation of prior learning through relevant NVQ Level 4 or 5 qualifications may be possible. GCSE in English Language and Mathematics at grade C or equivalent are desirable.

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Details

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

If you work with children aged between birth and five years, and seek a higher education qualification which will enable you to work towards a recognised early years professional status, then this course is for you.

The three pathways are:

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Attendance & Study Mode: 2 years Part Time

Start Date: January 2011 or April 2011

2010 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 40 points from one A level or equivalent Level 3 qualification is normally required. Accreditation of prior learning through relevant NVQ Level 4 or 5 qualifications may be possible. GCSE in English Language and Mathematics at grade C or equivalent are desirable.

- Pathway A: Early Years Leadership is designed for existing and aspiring managers in early years settings who wish to become the Early Years Professionals/ Graduate Managers of the future.
- Pathway B: Early Years Education is designed for existing workers in early years settings who see themselves as Early Years Professionals working towards a career within early years education.

- Pathway C: Early Years Practice is designed for aspiring practitioners with limited experience in Early Years Settings. Please note, this pathway is also available as a full-time programme.

WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM THIS PROGRAMME?

You will gain a solid academic grounding will improve your current working knowledge and understanding as an effective early years practitioner. This will provide further opportunities for you to develop as a graduate early years professional.

It may also pave the way for your future professional development, including the potential to progress directly onto a relevant Honours degree or Early Years Professional Status.

HOW WE WILL SUPPORT YOU

You will be given all the help and support you need to successfully complete the course. All students are allocated a personal tutor who will be on hand to offer guidance on anything from academic writing and assignment planning to other non-academic issues. You will also have telephone, online and email support, to ensure that you are supported every step of the way.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The pathways have been designed around a curriculum that focuses on four key 30 credit strands: Children, Communities and Context, Early Years Provision: Collaboration and Partnership, and Personal and Professional Development in a work-based context.

All students will study Level 4 modules addressing various professional, academic and vocational issues common to all Early Years workers. As well as gaining a greater understanding of holistic child development in social and cultural contexts, you will be taught specific best practice techniques and principles, and learn how to plan and manage different roles and responsibilities in a modern, multi-professional workplace.

Depending on your current status and level of experience, you will progress onto a choice of Level 5 modules to boost your individual development. Topics currently available include:

- How to best meet the diverse needs of young children.

- Working with interdisciplinary teams and managing other practitioners. In-depth study of development from birth to three years of age.
- Delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and assessment.
- Building community partnerships.

You will also learn how to boost your personal and professional development as a trained Early Years worker in the workplace.

Supported learning using the internet and Edge Hill University's online resources is a major feature of the programme. No prior IT experience is necessary, as full support will be provided.

WHO WILL BE TEACHING ME?

You will be taught by a high quality team of early years lecturers and associate tutors with extensive expertise and experience and a passion for early years. All of the team are involved in current research and have actively contributed to projects including the development of the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership (NPQICL). Each member of the team brings a particular expertise and all are very respected practitioners.

WHAT ARE MY CAREER PROSPECTS?

- **Early Years Leadership:** the skills and knowledge gained on the programme can enhance your career progression within the sector and may lead to you gaining Early Years Professional Status.
- **Early Years Education:** This programme is designed to further your knowledge and understanding of the Early Years curriculum and may lead on to a career as a qualified education professional. This may include manager or teacher in a children's centre, lecturer in Further Education, nurture group manager, behaviour support unit leader, pastoral care leader, learning and pastoral mentor, support staff manager or assistant SENCo.
- **Early Years Practice:** The Early Years sector is expanding, and new and exciting roles are being created in Children's Centres, nurseries and pre-schools including multi agency work. This pathway may also lead into gaining Early Years Professional Status.
- **All routes:** Following the Foundation Degree with Early Years Professional Status will extend your career options within the Early Years sector. Qualified Early Years Professionals will be required in all Children's Centres offering early years

provision by 2010, and all full day care settings by 2015.

FURTHER STUDY AT EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY

These Foundation Degrees provide progression routes to Honours degree programmes at an undergraduate Level 6 option as follows:

- BA (Hons) Early Years Leadership
- BA (Hons) Early Years Practice

All pathways also provide a direct progression route to the EYPS programme. This requires you to gain an additional 60 credits for the BA (Hons) Professional Development award or 120 credits for the BA (Hons) Professional Development award whilst undertaking the Long EPD Training pathway for EYPS.

RELATED PROGRAMMES

FdA Early Years Practice - a full-time programme for existing or aspiring practitioners, carefully designed to meet your early years professional development.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Apply directly to Edge Hill University. Download application form (pdf) and notes for guidance (pdf).

See our How to Apply pages for more information on the application process and our Admissions criteria.

FEES AND FINANCE

Tuition fees for part-time foundation degree students are still to be confirmed for academic year 2011/12. Please keep checking this page for updates.

For more information about fees and financial support for part-time foundation degree students, visit www.edgehill.ac.uk/fees. Please note, the above information is for UK and EU students only.

NOT GOT THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Students returning to education may present their previous experience in work (paid or unpaid) to support their application.

Students with relevant study through either a professional body, or appropriate academic course, can apply to join the programme at an advanced stage.

If you do not have the GCSEs required for this programme, Edge Hill offers equivalency tests in English and mathematics.

For personalised advice based on your circumstances, please contact us or come to an event.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

If you would like to receive a copy of our prospectus, or be kept updated about forthcoming events, then complete our course enquiry form or contact the Course Enquiries Unit on freephone 0800 195 5063.

You can also register to attend one of the open days and evenings we run throughout the year. These are held at our main campus and at other venues across the region. You'll also find University staff at many national careers fairs and UCAS events.

STILL WANT MORE?

If you don't find all the information you need on this website, please contact:

- Liana Beattie, Early Years Practice Programme Leader (Foundation Degree)
- Tel: 01695 650961
- Email: liana.beattie@edgehill.ac.uk

Or

- Michael Anderson, Programme Administrator
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- Email: michael.anderson@edgehill.ac.uk

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- Shelley Webber, Programme Administrator
- Tel: 01695 584434
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