



Portobello
INSTITUTE

**WHERE
BRIGHT
FUTURES BEGIN**

BA (Ord) in Early Childhood Studies - Blended



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EXPLORING

BA (Ord) Early Childhood Studies

You can gain a level 7 BA in Early Childhood Studies, in just 14 months whilst you are working, if you currently hold a QQI ECCE Level 6 award. You can study this degree in your own time through blended learning, with a combination of tutorial seminars and online learning. With centres throughout Ireland, you can join the network of early years practitioners in your area on this learning journey. There is an easy payment plan designed to make this degree affordable. These factors, together with the one to one tutorial support, offer you a level 7 degree that is accessible, affordable and achievable.



WHY SHOULD I STUDY THIS DEGREE?

If you hold the ECCE full major award and are looking to further your qualifications, we have designed this level 7 BA Early Childhood Studies for you. It is delivered by blended learning to support your work-life balance and offers you a path of progression to level 8 and right through to a Level 9 Masters Early Childhood Studies.

As an early years graduate, working as a manager in an early childhood setting is a natural career progression. There will also be new career options available to you. You will be eligible to apply for more diverse roles such as those within community projects and public health. Visit our website to read our Graduates Success Stories and understand the opportunities they availed of and their learning journey.

A LOOK AT

Course Modules and Learning Outcomes



CHALLENGING INEQUALITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Describe and analyse the ways in which inequalities may impact on babies, young children, families and staff within the early years setting.
- Examine and evaluate their own practice in addressing inequalities and ensuring access to the full curriculum for all children.



COMMUNICATING IN MULTILINGUAL CONTEXTS

- Describe, analyse and constructively critique current research and theories of language acquisition and communication in children from birth to six years old.
- Identify and discuss the ways in which children may be supported in the development of their first language whilst acquiring English.
- Plan, execute and evaluate practice and provision that effectively addresses linguistic and symbolic diversity.



APPROACHES TO PEDAGOGY AND CURRICULUM

- Critically analyse aspects of early childhood curricula in relation to theories of learning and pedagogy and relate this to practice in their settings. Describe, analyse and constructively critique a range of perspectives on early childhood education in this and some other countries.
- Articulate the practitioner's role in planning and implementing a broad and balanced, child-centred curriculum indoors, outdoors and beyond the early childhood setting.



EARLY YEARS LEARNING AND PRACTICE FRAMEWORK

- Demonstrate an understanding of the underpinning policy, and principles of the Irish frameworks, guidelines and regulations both nationally and internationally.
- Examine, plan and evaluate one aspect of the curricula and make links to principles endorsed in frameworks, guidelines and regulations.
- Examine the role of early years' practitioners in providing an enabling inclusive environment and in scaffolding children's learning and development.



LEADING PRACTICE WITH FAMILY AND PROFESSIONALS

- Discuss and evaluate the impact of their role in developing and leading effective practice
- Describe, analyse and constructively critique legislation, social policies, and research related to partnership between young children (0-6), parents and professionals
- Describe, analyse and constructively critique the theory and practice of leadership when supporting teams in promoting high quality provision

ENQUIRY-BASED LEARNING

- Demonstrate knowledge of enquiry-based learning and identify how this relates to practice in early childhood.
- Describe, analyse and constructively critique pedagogical and theoretical perspectives on enquiry based learning. Analyse and evaluate enquiry based learning theory and research in the light of current issues.
- Apply and evaluate methods of small scale enquiry practice including planning and the appropriate collection, analysis and presentation data

DEBATING CHILDREN AND CHILDHOOD

- Analyse different social constructions of childhood. Critically discuss relevant aspects of global, political, cultural, historical, and economic contexts of early childhood.
- Consider the impact of inequalities on young children's lives. Critically evaluate contemporary debates in relation to early childhood

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN TODAY'S WORLD (15)

- Evaluate current debates on the sociological and socio-legal theories and concepts of childhood and children's rights in relation to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child Articulate how relevant legislation and codes of practice impact the varied childhoods experienced by children in the minority and majority world
- Critically consider the rights and responsibilities of people/agencies concerned in the planning and provision of care, education, health, welfare and advocacy of children and young people

READING RESEARCH AND RESEARCH METHODS (15)

- Describe, analyse and constructively critique the major research methodologies used in the field of Early Childhood Studies
- Apply ethics in relation to research and Understand a range of research methods and approaches and be able to articulate when to use them. Be able to critique existing research in the early childhood field

Qualification Gained & DCYA Recognition

This degree is awarded at level 7 on the NFQ and is recognised by the DCYA for higher capitation purposes.



Entry Requirements

Entry on to this degree programme is by direct application to Portobello Institute. Applicants must hold a QQI level 6 ECCE major award or equivalent.

Application Process

Applications can be made online via our website at www.portobelloinstitute.ie or by calling us direct on 01-8920020.



Course Structure and Duration

This programme is structured into 7 tutorial seminars with online content delivered over 14 months. The tutorial seminars are held at the start of each module and are designed to guide and support you throughout the module. These seminars lay out the module for you and the content you will cover. The assessment and expectations for successful completion are covered in detail as is where and how to access the information on the LMU Weblearn platform. You will meet fellow students and have the opportunity to create your study network for the duration of your learning journey.

Locations

This level 7 degree programme is currently offered in Dublin and the following locations;

Carlow
Cork
Gort, Co Galway
Letterkenny, Co Donegal
Navan, Co Meath
Roscommon Town
Tralee, Co Kerry



Course Price

The cost of this level 7 degree programme is €3,395 & €305 registration fee*

Easy Payment Plan

Students can avail of an easy payment plan as follows;
€900 booking deposit , 8 payments of €335 payable on 10th of each month commencing the month after the start date – total cost €3,580

*The registration fee of €305 is due on the start date. Further payment options and group discounts available - contact Jenny on 01-8920031



Educational Qualifications Recognised Globally

Since 1981, Portobello Institute has been educating professional practitioners for the early years sector. Awarded at level 7 on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications, this degree has been researched to develop the specific knowledge and skills needed by early years practitioners.

Recognition of Prior Learning

This course has been designed to offer advanced entry to holders of QQI level 6 ECCE Major award, Montessori teaching or equivalent.

Further Study

BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies

Start Date, Course Duration & Structure

This programme commences Autumn and Spring. It is structured over 3 semesters and takes 14 months to complete. There is a seminar held at the commencement of each module. Attendance is recommended however is not mandatory at the seminars.



What is blended learning?

Blended learning is a mix of course material delivered online via the student portal as well as attending supported seminars.





A Unique Learning Journey for Every Student

We recognise every student learns at a different pace and in a different style. The delivery of this programme by blended learning with supported seminars allows students to create their own learning path with the support of module tutors via telephone, email, one-to-one tutorials and module seminars. We work in partnership with our students, supporting them to achieve their educational goals.



Tutor Support

Our programme management & tutor team consist of a combination of educational professionals and former early years practitioners. Their experience in both the sector and education affords our students the opportunity for guidance and assistance throughout their learning journey. Visit our website to meet our Early Years degree tutor team



Assessments

The assessment for this degree is not exam based. Assessments vary from practice based assignments to lesson plans and reflective essays, all seeking to combine up to date and relevant theory with scenario-based learning and practical implementation.



Computer Capability

This is a blended learning course which means some of the programme is accessed through an online platform called weblearn. Everything required to complete this course is contained on this easy to navigate and use platform. Part of the first workshop is a tutorial on how to use the online platform and find information needed.

Students only need basic computer skills such as making an internet search and typing a word document to participate. Many of our students are concerned about their computer skills. Support from family members from the outset can help whilst building confidence and the basic computer skill needed.

GET IN TOUCH

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