



UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

at Cheltenham and Gloucester

Sure Start Sector-Endorsed

Foundation Degree in EARLY YEARS



Sure Start Sector-Endorsed Foundation Degree in Early Years

Developing professionally

The Sure Start Sector-Endorsed Foundation Degree in Early Years, endorsed by the DfES, is an innovative, high quality higher education qualification at National Qualification Framework (NQF) Level 5, which could lead to Early Years Professional Status, a mark of professional excellence.

It guarantees that the practitioner has knowledge and skills to a professional level that is nationally recognised – and a proven track record. It helps build a better qualified, highly trained and more respected workforce, raising the status of the early years and childcare sector, giving it the standing it deserves.

About the course

The Early Years Foundation Degree enables committed and hardworking early years practitioners and teaching assistants to gain recognition for advanced skills with children.

The degree represents an important new career pathway which recognises the existing skills and abilities of the Early Years Practitioner, enabling you to enhance your professional development.

It is all about achieving your potential, improving your prospects in your job, and personal development. On the Early Years Foundation Degree you will:

- know that the foundation degree is based on what is actually required in employment, as it has been developed with employers and employer representatives, such as EYCS, PATA, LEA and the DfES

- be able to perform at a level recognised by employers and gain effective management skills along with higher education transferable skills, such as research skills, problem solving, evaluative skills and analytical skills
- have the opportunity on completion of the Early Years Foundation Degree to progress onto the final year of a related bachelors with honours degree and Early Years Professional Status.

Study locally

Modules will be delivered in a variety of flexible ways including work-based and online learning.

You will be studying at home and in the workplace; however, you will be expected to attend regularly at college or university as part of the programme, where appropriate. The Level I campus based modules will be delivered at Gloucestershire College in Cheltenham, Royal Forest of Dean College in Coleford, and Norland College in Bath (restricted entry), minimising your time out of work and time away from home.

Level II campus based modules will be delivered at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham or at Norland College in Bath (restricted entry).

Throughout your academic life as a University of Gloucestershire foundation degree student you will have access to the university's and FE college's resources, placing you in the unique position of having access to Gloucestershire's foremost learning resources at this level.



Entry requirements

Students will be expected to have had a minimum of two years' experience in relevant employment or at least the equivalent to a half-time post, or organised voluntary work. All entrants must be employed (or undertaking voluntary work) in the sector for the duration of the course. A reference from your employer is required at application to indicate:

- that you will have the support of your employer throughout the course
- that you have the intellectual capacity and motivation to succeed on the course

All entrants will require valid enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance through the university. A CRB through the setting will not be sufficient.

Students wishing to progress on to teacher training courses, the BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies or Early Years Professional Status need to have a GCSE grade C or above, or its equivalent, in English and maths. Please note that equivalency tests will not be acceptable for teacher training courses.

Length of course

Completion times may vary for individuals because foundation degrees accredit individuals for existing qualifications and skills gained in the workplace. There are two modes of study available, each involving attendance on one day per week. Students may study on either a full-time or part-time basis.

Assessment

Assessment on the Early Years Foundation Degree is continuous and module-based. There will be a variety of assessment methods ranging from case studies and written assignments to observations, but there are no examinations. Assessment is built around reflective and reflexive practices.

This involves the development of observational skills that enable the Early Years Practitioner to adapt current theory and thinking to meet the holistic needs of the child. The learning environment is enhanced through peer group support and the sharing of work-based practices.

Gaining credit for previous study and/or experience

Formal certificated qualifications may exempt you from certain modules, eg, NVQ Level 4 Management or modules taken at another university could be accredited towards required modules. Work experience can also be accredited, however the learning from experience may have to be evidenced through some formal assessment. If you are interested in Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL), please see the university's website:

<http://resources.glos.ac.uk/apply/apl/index.cfm>

There is an additional application form to fill in to progress directly to Level II or to avoid taking certain modules.

| Study | Full-time Mode | Part-time Mode |
|---|------------------|---|
| Completion | Normally 2 years | Normally minimum 3 years, maximum 5 years |
| Attendance | 1 day per week | 1 day per week |
| Modules studied in Year 1 | 8 Level I | 5 Level I |
| Modules studied in Year 2 | 8 Level II | 3 Level I 2 Level II |
| Modules studied in Year 3 | N/A | 6 Level II |
| Suggested self-study time per week (including workplace learning) | 32 hours | 24 hours |
| Apply to | UCAS | See the university's website |

Sure Start Sector-Endorsed Foundation Degree in Early Years

Course content

The field maps below show the modules taken at each level of the course for all students commencing the course from September 2009 onwards.

| Modules | Sem I | Sem II | CATS |
|---|-------|--------|------|
| EYF160 Learning and Personal Development | * | * | 15 |
| EYF161 Reflection on Practice 1 | * | * | 30 |
| EYF162 Child Development (0-8) | * | * | 30 |
| EYF163 Studying Children (0-8) | * | | 15 |
| EYF164 Children's Language and Literature | | * | 15 |
| EYF165 Studying Early Childhood | | * | 15 |

| Modules | Sem I | Sem II | CATS |
|--|-------|--------|------|
| EYF261 Reflection on Practice 2 | * | * | 30 |
| EYF262 Working with Families and Communities | | * | 15 |
| EYF263 Children's Wellbeing | * | | 15 |
| EYF264 Children as Learners | * | | 15 |
| EYF265 Children in Society | * | | 15 |
| EYF266 Creative Learning | | * | 15 |
| EYF267 Independent Research: Literature Analysis | | * | 15 |

Education beyond the foundation degree

During Level II all students will receive guidance on progression to further training opportunities.

On successful completion of your Early Years Foundation Degree, you will be able, if you wish, to progress onto the final year of the BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies and undertake Early Years Professional Status. Students wishing to progress will be required to have GCSEs of C or above, or equivalent, in maths and English. Those who successfully achieve their BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies can apply to the Graduate Teacher Programme or to the PGCE (3-7) to gain QTS. Please note that equivalency tests for GCSEs will not be sufficient for teacher training courses.

Issues related to working with families and children of 0-3 are explored in order to extend students' knowledge of the community in supporting children's progress from 0-8. The study of leadership and mentoring prepares students to take increased levels of responsibility.

Cost of the degree

The foundation degree costs £3,375 per year for entry in academic year 2011-2012. Part-time students are charged per module. For updated information about fees and financial support, see the university's website.

Funding help may be available through your Local Authority. For more information about university funding help, contact:

Teri Garfitt, Student Finance Manager

Tel: 01242 714535

Email: moneyadvice@glos.ac.uk

Where to go from here

If you are interested in being a full-time student, apply through UCAS:

UCAS, Rosehill, New Barn Lane, Cheltenham GL52 3LZ

Tel: 0870 1122211

Email: app.req@ucas.ac.uk

Web: www.ucas.com

All part-time applicants must apply through the university. The application can be obtained from the Student Records office (studentrecords@glos.ac.uk) or from the university's website:

www.glos.ac.uk/apply/undergraduate/Pages/default.aspx

For more information, please contact:

Lorna Meredith, Courses Administrator for Early Years

Tel: 01242 714733

Email: lm Meredith@glos.ac.uk