

**BACHELOR OF ARTS
(HONS) IN EARLY
CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION
AND CARE
BLENDED ONLINE**



PROGRESSIVE
COLLEGE
ESTABLISHED 1986

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE



Delivery: Blended (Online with some face-to-face classes)

Start Date: September 2021

Application: www.progressivecollege.ie

Duration: 4 Years

Fees

Year 1 -	€2,250
Year 2 -	€2,500
Year 3 -	€3,800
Year 4 -	€3,800
(Fees revised annually)	

Course Description

The BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care is a degree which is designed with Early Childhood professionals, and the children they will engage with, in mind. The programme has three exit awards – Higher Certificate in ECEC (level 6), BA Ord in ECEC (level 7), and BA Hons. In ECEC (level 8). At each exit award stage, the programme aims to equip future ECEC professionals with the tools to navigate the ever changing landscape of early childhood education and care in Ireland and internationally, provide learners with the tools and dispositions to provide the best practice and care for the children they engage with, and to enable learners to think critically about their roles as professionals, both locally and globally.

Using Bronfenbrenner's Bioecological Model of Human Development as the theoretical underpinning for this programme keeps the child at the heart of the training, practice, and professionalism of its future graduates

Whos is this course for?

The BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care, with its range of exit awards will respond to the needs of a wide range of potential learners. This programme is suited to those learners who would like to pursue a career in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) or for those who currently work in the Early Years sector but who may like to pursue leadership roles. Successful graduates will be well placed to direct and lead learning in a wide range of ECEC settings, in local and national development and voluntary organisations or other fields relevant to Early Childhood.

The overall programme framework is based on an integrated and complementary structure which supports the learner to explore concepts, develop, critique and synthesise module content. The design of this programme creates significant opportunities for the integration of learning. Smart assessment techniques and a careful alignment of modules allows for a greater synthesis and explicit connection for the learner.

Award and Progression

The Award Title – a Level 8 award of BA (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care. On completion of this award, students are eligible to apply to progress onto a Higher Diploma, Masters, or PhD programme.

Programme Aims

The BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care is designed to meet the needs of learners wishing to enter the early years workforce, or for those, already working in the sector, to upskill to an Early Childhood Education & Care degree qualification. The programme

will cater to a variety of adult learners, ranging from school leavers with no previous experience in the Early Years sector to more mature adults with relevant life and/or work experience.

The programme offers the learner the opportunity to gain the necessary skills and theoretical framework from which to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of the role and work of an Early Childhood professional. The programme design combines a core of foundational, educational and personal development modules as well as the opportunity to engage in specific areas of specialism. Each module in its own right examines and explores the unique characteristics of the Early Learning and Care (ELC) sector. The programme aims to produce reflective practitioners who place children's concerns at the core of their practice. They assume a facilitative role with their adopted theories and specialist knowledge. The overarching objective of this programme is the development of the professional educators of the future.

Course Structure

Years 1 & 2 - Introduces the learner to the key concepts and theories involved in Early Childhood Education and Care while simultaneously equipping them with the skills and competencies to lead a room in an early childhood education and care setting. On completion of the Higher Certificate in ECEC the learner will be able to assess the holistic needs of the children in their care and create developmentally appropriate plans to further the child's learning and care, as well as interacting appropriately with various stakeholders. On completion of this award, students are eligible to apply to progress onto the BA in Early Childhood Education and Care (Ord).

Year 3 - Will equip the learner with specialized knowledge to lead and manage in the field of early childhood education and care. Learners will be enabled to critically analyse and critique existing bodies of knowledge and build on them with new knowledge. They will make connections between various modules and theories, concepts, and discourses enabling them to create emergent individual and whole group curriculum plans, design Individual Education Plans (IEPs), utilize inspection tools & the Corrective Action Preventative Action (CAPA) forms, reflect on their own professional practice, lead, and work within a team of professionals.

Year 4 - Enables learners to develop a deeper knowledge of ECEC discourses, theories, concepts, and practices whilst simultaneously mastering the skills needed to conduct an individual research project at the cutting edge of social science. The learner will also be enabled to specialize in one of several areas: Special Educational Needs, Equality & Diversity, Training & Mentoring, Birth to Three Pedagogy, and Arts & Creativity. Through communities of practice the learners will advance their already existing skills of learning, reflecting, and sharing practice and funds of knowledge.

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What Will I Study?

Year 1

Placement | Introduction to ECEC in Ireland | Academic Skills | Introduction to Child Psychology | Introduction to Child Development | Educational Philosophy | Approaches, Methods & Curricula | Inclusion, Equality & Diversity in ECEC | Holistic Development Birth to Three Years | Sociology of Childhood | Global Childhoods

Year 2

Placement | Leadership & Legislation | Advanced Child Psychology & Development | Transitions & Transitional Practice | Children's Rights & Voice in ECEC | Holistic Development Three to Six Years | Professional Development | Stakeholder & Advocacy in ECEC | Art & Creativity in ECEC | ELC Environments

Requirements

Application to programmes are open to those learners who meet the minimum entry requirements, namely an ordinary leaving certificate with;

- Grade H5 or above in a higher-level paper in two subjects or more
- A grade O6/H7 in four subjects, which must include Maths and English or Irish. Foundation level mathematics will meet the minimum entry requirement where a grade F2 or higher is achieved.
- FETAC/QQI applicants must have achieved a full FETAC/QQI Level 5/Level 6 Major Award in ECCE or related discipline where appropriate.
- Other Qualifications would be assessed for equivalency, i.e. using Entry requirements criteria for EU/EFTA Applicants (other than Irish Leaving Certificate).

Mature applicants are also welcome, to apply but candidates must be 23 years of age or over on the 1st January of the year of entry to their programme of study. Mature candidates with significant related employment field experience may be admitted to the programme if they can demonstrate their potential to meet the learning requirements of the programme and satisfy the respective Admissions Criteria and Admissions Regulations. Required eligibility will be determined by a review of the application, an interview with the admissions tutor (as required), and subject to confirmation with the respective programme leader (also as required).

Year 3

Placement | Advanced Art & Creativity in ECEC | Assessment, Observation & Planning | Advanced Approaches, Methods & Curricula | Policy Development in ECEC | Professional Skills | Research Methods

Year 4

Placement | Curriculum Development | Writing for Research | Discourse Analysis in ECEC | ITC Research Skills | Research & dissertation | SEN Specialism | Equality & Diversity Specialis | Training & Mentoring Specialism | Birth to Three Years | Pedagogue Specialism | Creative Arts Specialism

Where admission with advanced standing is considered all applicants may be required to provide written references for their work experience and/or suitable evidence supporting their application. (Applicants may also be formally considered for admission to the programme using the appropriate Regulations and RPL, procedures at each Programme Stage).

Future Careers

Graduate employment demand for pre-school education has been affected by changes in family structures, a commitment to equal opportunities and the demands of the labour market. Consequently, there are increasing demands for qualified graduates in early childhood education in both the private and public sector, examples of which include;

Childcare workers/room leaders,
Early Learning and Care service manager,
Curriculum development
Community outreach worker,
Early intervention specialist
Early Years Education Programme Lecturer
Working with Children with Specific Learning Needs;