The Early Childhood Postgraduate Certificate Award is an M level course for experienced practitioners and managers working in early years settings. It is specifically designed for part-time students working full-time. The course explores three broad areas of early years practice:

- understanding learning and development in the early years
- creating good quality experiences and environments for young children
- the challenges of leadership in the early years

Day / Time / Venue
The course will be based at the Harcourt Hill Campus, and takes place in three academic terms, September–December; January-April; May-July.

Sessions are run from 5.00-8.00pm on Tuesday evenings. A typical pattern of attendance would be seven face-to-face sessions and two online discussions for each module. Each module has an attached assignment which can draw directly on your own practice and setting.

Course cost for 2017-18
£600 per module, total for three modules = £1800

MODULE STRUCTURE

Learning and Development in Childhood
You will explore contemporary theories and research relating to young children's social and cognitive development and their implications for children's formal and informal learning. Alternative explanations of developmental processes will be discussed, drawing upon research evidence and your own observations from a range of settings. From a sharing of these individual enquiries, the group will reflect on the implications of their findings for the experiences and opportunities provided for young children.

Children’s Imaginative Worlds
You will explore the ways in which children seem to use their imaginations both to create alternative worlds to occupy and to make sense of their experiences. The development and psychological purposes of imagination will be explored and particular domains of imaginative experience examined. You will study a particular domain in depth, working together with others in a choice of reading groups (examples of domains include: children’s literature, children’s spirituality, drawing and painting, musicality, imaginative play and role play, children and new technologies).

Investigating Practice
You will explore the relationship between policy and practice as worked through in the teaching, learning and curricula opportunities provided in Early Years settings. This will include opportunities to critique the research...
of others and analyse the ways in which research evidence is drawn upon in the development of early years’ policy and practice. You will be introduced to methods to enable you to design and execute a small scale enquiry focussing on an aspect of education and/or care provided in an early years’ context.

Leadership in the Early Years
This module is designed for experienced early years teachers and managers. You will cover a range of leadership and curriculum issues and practices in the contemporary early years setting which will reflect recent national policy initiatives and research. You will cover the decisions made by managers in a range early years settings, and how such decisions impact on practice. You will also consider theories of management and how these relate to current practice in both public and private sectors, and the implications of this for the leadership of Early Years provision. You will be given the opportunity to explore leadership styles that you have experienced and observed.

WHAT CAN THE COURSE LEAD TO?
The 60 master’s level credits gained is one third of a full master’s programme, and can be built into a full master’s with the addition of 2 optional modules and the compulsory research methods and dissertation elements.

HOW TO APPLY
For more information and to register your interest please contact the Programme Administrator:

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If you would like to discuss the course in further detail please contact:

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