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

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 2018–19

£610 per module, total for three modules = £1830

MODULE STRUCTURE

TERM 1

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.

TERM 2

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 (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.

**TERM 3**

**Working with Children and their Families**

This module focuses on the role of those working in services for children and their families. Course participants will be examining the rationale for the development of policy and practice aimed at the improvement of the quality of children’s lives and exploring the ways in which such practices position children and families. The evidence for a range of interventions is examined and features of effective practice identified. A fundamental concern in this area of work is the difficulties of ensuring effective communication between those working with children and their families and the nature and complexity of this communication. Both the organisational issues and the skills for practitioners will be a focus for study.

**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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