

Student Course Handbook

**Foundation degree in**

**Early Childhood Studies**

University Centre Weston

in partnership with

Bath Spa University

UCAS code: X315

This handbook is published for students studying at UCW on the above programme and is available in a range of alternative formats on request.

Version 1.0

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# Introduction

## Welcome

Welcome to the Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Studies. This course is offered in partnership between Bath Spa University and University Centre Weston (UCW). You are a registered student at Bath Spa University and at UCW and you have access to services on both sites.

This degree offers a blend of academic and vocational study that will provide you with the skills to become an effective practitioner working with young children.

## Purpose of the handbook

This handbook gives you essential background information that will be of help in your studies on the FdA Early Childhood Studies programme. It provides links to the definitive data sources wherever possible. The handbook can be accessed via Moodle and your Office 365 account:

[www.office.com](http://www.office.com)

Please note that the electronic version will be kept up to date and you will be notified of any significant changes. If you have taken a hard copy of any information please remember to refer back to the electronic version to ensure that you are working with the most up to date information.

For **module information** please see the respective Module Handbook.

For any further details of many other aspects of the degree, please refer to the Bath Spa University Guide to the Undergraduate Modular Scheme;

<https://tinyurl.com/yamgq88p>

# Course Content

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Major, Joint, Minor or Specialised | Specialised |
| Delivered at | University Centre Weston |
| Faculty | Education Health and Lifestyle |
| Campus | Wintergardens |
|  |
| Final award | FdA Early Childhood Studies |
| Intermediate awards available | Certificate of Higher Education |
| UCAS code | X315 |
| Details of professional body accreditation | Not applicable |
| Relevant QAA Benchmark statements | Early Childhood StudiesEducation StudiesFoundation Degree Characteristics Statement |
| Date specification last updated | 2015 |

## Course distinctiveness

The role of professionals in early years has been examined by Professor Cathy Nutbrown who indicated in her interim report (2012) that well trained practitioners with reliable qualifications are crucial to quality provision, but there is often insufficient time for students to study the theory underpinning practice. This degree will provide this background to prepare you for a successful contribution to the early years sector.

Our extensive experience working with practitioners in fulltime employment enables us to take a flexible and supportive approach to meeting the needs of our students. The students’ placements are used as a resource for the student to reflect upon practice and collect information to use in portfolios.

Students are effectively supported when preparing for assignments and develop a reflective approach to their work with young children.

The course offers a balance of theoretical perspectives and practical application. For instance, the status of children in society is considered, alongside discussions of how practitioners use the voice of the child. Principles underpinning safeguarding and the historical origins of these principles are considered alongside current safeguarding practice. As current practitioners, all the students can bring examples and strategies to discussions and compare practice. Students study reflective practice which is a powerful tool for professional and personal development.

In the final year of the course the research module, Research in Early Childhood, will be a work-based module where you will have the opportunity to carry out a piece of research on a topic of your own choosing. Your topic will be connected to your professional interests.

## Course content

A Foundation degree is a distinctive form of award with a strong vocational element and is designed to enable you to relate theory to practice in the workplace. It is equivalent in academic terms to the first two years of an Honours degree, but in addition it will enhance your professional practice. It is for this reason that your practice in your early years workplace is assessed.

If you successfully gain all the credits necessary to gain the Foundation Degree, you can apply for progression to the third year to gain a full Honours Degree in Early Years, as illustrated in the diagram below (UK’s National Qualifications Framework).

****

This course has been designed with employability in mind and has been written to enable students to engage with the issues and developments affecting the early years sector. Its vocational focus allows students to spend a significant amount of time within the workplace in order to gain experience, manage a variety of small projects and develop a range of skills. A vocational approach is underpinned by academic theory and industry standards which allow students to assess situations, make comparative judgments and suggest a range of alternative approaches. The modules have been designed to deliver a balance of theory and practical experience of key aspects of the Early Years sector.

### Course requirements

It is essential that all students gain experience in a wide variety of settings in order to develop a perspective of the early years sector. There are two placements per year, arranged by UCW, and it is essential that the assessed elements of the placements are passed. Students are expected to complete a number of tasks while on placement, and these will feed into the assessed work. Please see section 5 for more details, and also the placement handbook.

## Course structure

|  |
| --- |
| Year 1 |
| Level | Code | Title | Credits |
| 4 | ED4801-20 | Introduction to Early Child Development | 20 |
| 4 | ED4802-40 | Curriculum and Pedagogy: Linking Theory and Practice | 40 |
| 4 | ED4803-20 | Reflective Practice in Action | 20 |
| 4 | ED4804-40 | Supporting Young Children’s Holistic Health and Wellbeing | 40 |

|  |
| --- |
| Year 2 |
| Level | Code | Title | Credits |
| 5 | ED5801-40 | The Child, Family and Society | 40 |
| 5 | ED5802-20 | Contesting Childhood  | 20 |
| 5 | ED5805-20 | Supporting Children with Additional Needs | 20 |
| 5 | ED5904-40 | Research in Early Childhood | 40 |

All programmes at University Centre Weston are delivered as a collection of modules, which build on each other to form a complete programme of study. Each module carries a credit rating, defining how much study time it takes to complete. Notionally, 1 credit equates to 10 hours study time (so 10 credits = 100 study hours). “Study hours” includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, independent study and research – in fact, any time that contributes to your learning on the module.

### Link Tutor

Each programme has an identified link tutor from its validating partner University whose role it is to support the Weston team. The link tutor for your programme is:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Viki Bennett | Link Tutor, Bath Spa University | 01225 875861 | v.bennett@bathspa.ac.uk |

# Course Aims

The course will enable you to:

1. develop appropriate knowledge and understanding of the care and education of babies and young children in early years settings;
2. develop the professional and practical skills and competencies which are required in order to work at Foundation degree level in early years settings;
3. develop understanding of, and critical engagement with, the regulatory and legislative framework for early years in order to understand government’s agenda and strategies as they relate to young children and their families;
4. demonstrate appropriate values concerned with anti-discriminatory practice, equality of opportunity and inclusivity in early childhood education and care;
5. understand and work in partnership with colleagues, other professionals and parents;
6. develop as a reflective practitioner and be able to apply theory in your practice;
7. understand and apply the principles of evidence-based practice in early childhood education and care;
8. gain a suitable basis for progression onto an Honours Degree course and to QTS via an appropriate ITT course such as a Primary PGCE or Early Years Teacher Status (EYT).

## Ethical practice

Ethical practice is concerned with ensuring that all actions involving children could be considered as doing good. This includes doing no harm, making sure that informed consent is sought, and enabling the voice of the child to be heard.

It is therefore vital that **all of your assignments and practice on this course demonstrate good ethical practice.** This especially applies to work-based assignments where you will need to consider how your work might impact on others. **All assignments involving a practical or research element need to be preceded by an ethical approval form that is approved by the module leader, and the gathering of information cannot begin until this form is approved.**

Should a submitted assignment be deemed by the marker as showing an element of unethical practice, they will request the assignment be modified before dissemination, in order to remove the potential for harm. In certain assignments where ethics are a part of the requirement, it is possible to fail the assignment on grounds of poor ethical consideration.

**You must act according to good ethical practice at all times and ensure that when requested the ethical approval form is completed prior to the work.**

For further information on ethics, please see the Bath Spa University Ethical Guidance, appendix iii

## Interim Awards

Students who do not complete the course but successfully achieve at least 120 credits will be eligible to receive the interim award of a Certificate of Higher Education.

## Progressing onto Honours degree

You can ‘top-up’ your FdA degree to a BA (Honours) degree at University Centre Weston through an additional year of study.

To be eligible for progression you must have gained 240 credits, 120 credits at Level 4 and 120 credits at Level 5. The deadline for applications is usually on or before 1st May in the final year of Foundation Degree studies.

Your tutor will arrange a meeting with the Course Leader at UCW to discuss the modules on offer on the top-up degree and answer any questions that you may have.

# 5. Learning Environment

## Learning and teaching methods

UCW has a Learning and Teaching Strategy for Higher Education, which underpins our approach.

We intend that the learning programme should be both stimulating and demanding, and should lead you through progressive stages of development, towards increasingly complex and open-ended tasks, increasingly sophisticated application of intellectual/conceptual and personal (transferable) skills, and increasingly independent study.

A variety of learning methods will be used, which might include

* Lectures
* Seminars
* Experiential learning
* Reflective learning
* Skills practice
* Group work and group discussions
* Workshops
* Case studies
* Student presentations
* Information and communications technology (ICT) based activities
* Visiting speakers/expert practitioners will be used during the programme

UCW actively encourages the development of technology enhanced learning and you will find staff utilising new teaching methods to enhance your learning experience.

**Online course materials**

The majority of the material and information you need will be available via the relevant Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for your programme, which will be Moodle and Microsoft Office 365. Your lecturers will explain how to use the VLE in more detail during induction.

Office365 is free to download for students from www.office.com

You will need to sign in using your UCW email address and select “Work or School Account” (not Personal Account) when presented with these options. Select “Install Office365” to download the applications. Office365 is compatible with most devices, including PCs, Macs, smart phones, iPads and tablets.

Remember, the Office365 applications are free for students, so don’t click on the “Buy Office365” button by mistake.

## Placements

You will be required to attend a placement for a minimum of 36 days each year for a minimum of seven hours per day. This is broken down into two days a week for some weeks, as well as two weekly blocks per placement.

University Centre Weston will arrange the placements, and you will gain experience of a variety of settings over the two years. Settings will include child minders, pre-schools, nurseries and schools.

In your workplace placements you will receive guidance from a designated mentor. There are a variety of roles for the mentor. These are outlined and discussed during training sessions for mentors in UCW, and in addition a mentor handbook is provided for all mentors. This details what is required from the mentor, an explanation of the learning outcomes for all work-based modules as well as an explanation of the assessment for the modules.

Mentors will;

• Provide professional support, guidance and training in early years practice for placement-based learning outcomes. This will be achieved through discussion, professional dialogue, support and relevant advice.

* Advise and support good ethical practice throughout the course

• Guide students with placement-based assessment requirements. To do this, mentors will need to be conversant with all the practice-based assessment requirements for the course and provide time for you to carry out and complete the assessment activities. They will also provide support and advice as required.

• Contribute to the assessment of the placement-based element of the award. Mentors will complete reports and observations, which will provide evidence to the tutor of ongoing professional development in relation to the learning outcomes for the work-based modules.

• Support students in keeping up-to-date with professional developments. Mentors will ensure that you are kept up-to-date with local and national initiatives which impact upon your future work as an early years professional.

Each module you take will have its own handbook which will detail the learning outcomes and assessment requirements. You will receive that at the beginning of each module.

# 7. How is Quality Assured?

Quality monitoring and evaluation

The programme you are studying was approved by Bath Spa University. As part of the approval process it was assured that

* the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
* the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements; and
* the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This was done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including subject specialists from other institutions and industry.

### How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

* external examiner reports (considering quality and standards)
* statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate)
* student feedback including the National Student Survey (NSS)

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake an annual monitoring process, in accordance with the University's quality policy.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the subject area is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

### The role of the Programme Committee

This course has a Programme Committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards its effective operation (e.g. library/technician staff). The Programme Committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme and plays a critical role in the University's quality assurance procedures.

## External examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

* To ensure the standard of the programme; and
* To ensure fairness and equity.

The external examiner for your programme:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name  | Role in institution | Name of institution |
| Dr Jane Dorrian | Senior lecturer | Cardiff Metropolitan University |

External references

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

* Feedback from former students
* Communications with local employers
* Attendance at the National Early Childhood Studies network
* Communication with North Somerset Council early years team
* Communication with the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL)

# 8. Employability

## On completion of this award:

1. You can enter the early years sector as a practitioner with a high level of skills and knowledge, dependent on meeting the industry requirements for other qualifications. With further experience you can progress to a senior or managerial position.
2. You may seek to gain Early Years Teacher Status (EYT) by following one of the EYT pathways designated by the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

Early Years Teacher Status (EYT) <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/h00201345/graduate-leaders/early-years-teacher>

3. You may seek to progress onto a third year of a degree course. You will be invited to apply for Year 3 (Honours) of the BA (Honours) Early Years Education at Bath Spa University or at UCW. You will need to demonstrate a sufficient academic standard in the Foundation Degree to progress.

BA (Hons) Early Years Education at Bath Spa University <http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/schools/education/courses/undergraduate/education-studies>

BA (Hons) Early Years Education (Work-Based) at UCW

<http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/schools/education/courses/undergraduate/early-years-education-work-based>

4. On completion of the BA Honours degree you can apply for a place on an Initial Teacher Education (ITE) course. To apply for an ITE course you will need GCSE Grade C or equivalent in English and Mathematics and Science, a good undergraduate degree (ideally, 2.1 or above) and to have passed the National Skills Tests in English and Maths.

Get into Teaching <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching>

National College <http://www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege>

1. You could study for a Masters in a related subject

Other career and professional pathways for you on completion of the Foundation degree also include:

• child protection or children’s rights;

• local community projects

• family liaison

• play therapy

## Exit requirements

In order to work in the early years’ sector it is now compulsory to hold level 2 Maths and English Language. Please check that you hold these qualifications, and if not it is strongly recommended that you consider completing them during the course. In addition, any post-graduate course such as PGCE or EYT also require GCSE's in Maths, English and Science.

Employers also require a Paediatric First Aid certificate, although it is usual to expect new employees to complete training shortly after starting.

# 10. Module descriptors

**YEAR 1**

**Level 4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Module code  | c ED4801-20 |
| Module title | Introduction to Early Child Development |
| Subject field | Education |
| Pathway(s) | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Level  | 4 |  |  |  |
| UK credits | 20 |
| ECTS credits | 10 or 20 |
| Core or Compulsory or Optional  | Core |
| Acceptable for | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Excluded combinations | None |
| Class contact time: total hours | 52 |
| Independent study time: total hours | 148 |
| Duration of the module | 26 weeks over three terms  |
| Main campus location  | University Centre Weston  |
| Module co-ordinator | Viki Bennett |
| Additional costs involved |  |
| Brief description and aims of moduleThis module is concerned with child development pre and from birth to 8 years. It aims to enhance your understanding of the physical, communication and language development of babies, toddlers and young children.  You will explore the critical period of the early years in the context of lifelong development alongside the fundamental concept of the unique child. The content of the module will enable you develop a secure understanding of holistic development and of the importance of taking an holistic approach to support babies and young children’s development. There will be a focus on theoretical perspectives of early childhood studies and links will be made to pedagogy and practice, and the early years curriculum. |
| Outline syllabusThis module will:•    Explore how babies and toddlers develop physically, including brain development, through lectures, practical activities, seminar discussions and reading.•    Consider how thought, communication and language develops, and the adult’s role in supporting this through student’s work based experiences, practical activities in workplace and classroom, seminar discussions, lectures and reading.•    Encourage students to make connections between theory and practice and promote a sound knowledge of ethical considerations through  |
| Teaching and learning activities:* Seminar discussions, lectures and reading
* Video analysis of children playing, learning and communicating
* Visits from specialist speakers
* Holistic analysis
* Analysing observations from practice
* Document analysis and interrogation  - current policy and practice guidance
 |
| Intended learning outcomes*By successful completion of the module, you will be able to demonstrate the following:* Knowledge: students will understand: 1.    Theories and principles related to child development including physiological and psychological perspectives.2.    The curriculum framework for early years with a focus on the prime areas of learning.Skills: students will be able to:a)    Constructively critique theories, practice and research in the area of child development.b)    Communicate ideas and research findings by written means. Demonstrate understanding of ethical considerations & use of ICT. | *How assessed*S1S1 and S2S2S1 and S2 |
| Assessment and feedback*Formative exercises and tasks:** Students will share practical experiences as well as ideas from wider reading in small and large group discussions.
* They will be required to problem solve through responding to, clarifying and asking probing questions.
* They will listen carefully and provide critically reflective feedback, challenging and debating different viewpoints and perspectives, considering ethics throughout.
* Group poster/mini presentation
* Students will participate in a range of practical activities and concrete tasks.
* Individual and group tutorials will support assessment literacy and application of concepts.
* Tutor and mentor observations while on placement will consolidate the application of theory into practice.
 |  |
| *Summative assessments:*S1. Critique an article - 2000 wordsS2. Essay - 3000 words | Weighting%40%60%  |
| Learning resources *University Library print, electronic resources and Minerva:*Boyd, D. and Bee, H. (2010*) The Growing Child*  London: Allyn & BaconDFE (2014) *The Early Years Foundation Stage* Crown Copyright Doherty, J. & Hughes, H. (2014) *Child Development: theory and practice 0-11* 2nd ed. Harlow: PearsonEarly Education ( 2012) *Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage* Crown Copyright Gerhardt, S. (2014) *Why Love Matters : How Affection Shapes a Baby’s Brain* 2nd ed. London: RoutledgeLightbown, P. M. and Spada, N. (2013) *How languages are learned* 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University PressSheridan, M. D (2011) *Play in Early Childhood: from birth to six years* 3rd ed. London: Routledge |
| Take a moment to consider a child in your setting and what you know about her or him holistically – think about all areas of learning but also take account of the child’s interests, competencies, needs, family life, physical health and well-being, friendships, preferred resources and play. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Module code  | ED5802-40 |
| Module title | Curriculum and Pedagogy: Linking theory and practice |
| Subject field | Education |
| Pathway(s) | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Level  | 4 |  |  |  |
| UK credits | 40 |
| ECTS credits | 20 |
| Core or Compulsory or Optional  | Core |
| Acceptable for | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Excluded combinations | None |
| Class contact time: total hours | 104 |
| Independent study time: total hours | 296 |
| Duration of the module | 26 weeks over three terms  |
| Main campus location  | University Centre Weston |
| Module co-ordinator | Viki Bennett |
| Additional costs involved |  |
| Brief description and aims of moduleThis module will introduce you to the English Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS) and will investigate its implementation in practice in early childhood education and care. Taking key aspects from the EYFS, there will be a focus on the ‘unique child’, considering the similarities and differences between children and the role of the adult in supporting their holistic development. ‘Characteristics of effective learning’ will be discussed and analysed as an inherent feature of the ‘prime and specific areas’. The contested role of play in early human development and learning will be explored.  Multiple perspectives from developmental psychology will be used to highlight and underpin what happens in practice, the impact this has on children, and how this might be further improved. |
| Outline syllabusThis module will:•    Give you an in-depth working knowledge of the EYFS framework and of Development Matters •    Consider what it is that children are learning and the competing theories which seek to describe and predict these processes•    Enable reflective and critical analysis of both theory and practice* Enable reflection on analysis of children’s play to support planning for play in a setting
 |
| Teaching and learning activities:* Workshops to investigate the EYFS and key documents
* Web quests
* Reflections and discussions on time in placement
* Reading groups
* Peer teaching
* Visiting speakers with specialist knowledge and expertise will be invited to enrich the programme and to give current contextual perspectives.
 |
| Intended learning outcomes*By successful completion of the module, you will be able to demonstrate the following:* Knowledge: students will understand:1. Pedagogical approaches for working with babies and young children, families and communities
2. The value of detailed knowledge of some specialised areas
3. How babies and children learn and develop from a variety of psychological, play and educational perspectives

Skills: students will be able to:a)    Reflect upon, reason clearly, and demonstrate the relationship between theory and evidence b)    Adopt multiple perspectives in relation to early childhood c)    Demonstrate the ability to plan for, and where appropriate implement, assessment, evaluation and improvement of creative learning opportunities, taking account of babies and young children's health and emotional well-being | *How assessed*S1    S1    S1 and S2            S1    S1    S2 |
| Assessment and feedback*Formative exercises and tasks:** Students will be encouraged to research independently and present ideas in seminars as well as reflect on their own practice.
* Individual and group tutorials and action learning sets will be utilised to support and monitor progress and support peer review of learning
 |  |
| *Summative assessments:*S1. Essay (4800 words)S2. Presentation (3200) words     | Weighting%60%40% |
| Learning resources *University Library print, electronic resources and VLE*Beckley, P. (Ed) (2012) *Learning in Early Childhood*London: SageBrock, A, Dodds, S, Jarvis, P & Olusoga, Y. (2009) *Perspectives on Play: Learning for Life* Harlow: Pearson Bruce, T. (2011) *Learning through play (2nd Ed).* Abingdon: Hodder EducationDoherty, J. and Hughes, M. (2009) *Child Development: theory and practice 0-11.*Harlow: Pearson Education.Gray, C. and MacBlain, S. (2012) *Learning Theories in Childhood* London. SageMoyles, J. (2010) *The Excellence of Play (3rd Ed)* Maidenhead; McGraw-Hill/Open University Press Page, J, Clare, A & Nutbrown, C. (2013) *Working with Babies and Children From Birth to Three*  2nd Edition London: SagePalaiologou, I. (Ed) (2013) *The Early Years Foundation Stage; Theory and Practice  2nd Edition* London: SageWood, E. (2013) *Play, Learning and the Early Childhood Curriculum* 3rd Edition London: Sage |
| Preparatory work Consider the roles that practitioners in an early years setting take on a daily basis. What do you think  are the essential ways that adults support children to learn and develop  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Module code  | ED4803-20 |
| Module title | Reflective Practice in Action |
| Subject field | Education |
| Pathway(s) | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Level \* delete as applicable: | 4 |  |  |  |
| UK credits | 20 |
| ECTS credits | 10 |
| Core or Compulsory or Optional  | Core |
| Acceptable for | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Excluded combinations | None |
| Class contact time: total hours | 52 |
| Independent study time: total hours | 148 |
| Duration of the module | 26 weeks over three terms  |
| Main campus location  | UCW |
| Module co-ordinator | Viki Bennett |
| Additional costs involved |  |
| Brief description and aims of moduleThis module immerses you in the process of reflective practice in your placement. As a work based module you will use a reflective model to help evaluate various aspects of your practice and provision; creating conditions which enable babies and young children to flourish. You will identify how reflective practice leads to analysis, change and improvement both individually and collaboratively, using an inter-professional approach.  This module begins with your own experiences as an early years practitioner, encouraging and enabling you to make strong connections between early childhood education and care theory and practice.   You will ensure that ethical principles are demonstrated in relation to your area of study.  |
| Outline syllabusThis module will:* Enable students to gain an understanding of the value of reflective practice.
* Introduce reflective practice through the use of relevant theoretical models for both individual and collaborative reflection.
* Develop awareness of key ethical considerations for reflective practice in early years settings.
 |
| Teaching and learning activities:You will have some taught sessions to develop your understanding of the value of reflective practice and introduce you to theoretical models that will help promote effective reflection. You will be encouraged to consider how reflection supports the process of evaluation and change both individually and collaboratively.  These sessions will involve seminar discussions, practical and reflective tasks, lectures. There will be one action learning set to support peer review of student’s responses to the module assessment. You will engage in a one to one formative feedback session with your tutor following your submission of a written task.  You are able to request an additional individual tutorial with your tutor. You will be expected to be an independent learner, read widely out of class and use feedback to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding.This module is work based, which means you will draw on your experiences from your placement and engage in a professional dialogue with your placement mentor to support your reflections and practice. You will be observed in your placement by your tutor and your mentor to support effective reflection and recognise in practice how evaluation can support the process of change. You will use action plans to consolidate your understanding of key development areas agreed with your tutor and mentor and use these to develop your practice. |
| Intended learning outcomes*By successful completion of the module, you will be able to demonstrate the following:* Knowledge: students will understand: 1. The value of reflective practice for professional development. 2. The impact of evaluation in supporting analysis and change leading to improvements for babies, young children and their families.Skills: students will be able to:a) Constructively critique and use theoretical models of reflection.b) Communicate theoretical ideas linked to practice through visual presentation, oral discussion and the use of ICT.c) Use serious thought and constructive critical analysis in practice.d) Demonstrate an understanding of ethical considerations. | *How assessed*S2S1S1S1S2S1 & S2 |
| Assessment and feedback*Formative exercises and tasks:** Students will share practical experiences as well as ideas from wider reading in small and large group discussions.
* They will be required to problem solve through responding to, clarifying and asking probing questions.
* They will listen carefully and provide critically reflective feedback, challenging and debating different viewpoints and perspectives, considering ethics throughout.
* Students will participate in a range of practical activities and concrete tasks.
* Individual and group tutorials will support assessment literacy and application of concepts.
* Tutor and mentor observations will consolidate the application of theory into practice.
 |  |
| *Summative assessments:*S1. Seminar Presentation & Discussion (15 minutes plus 5 discussion - equivalent 2000 words)S2. Reflective Log (equivalent 3000 words)  | Weighting%40%60% |
| Learning resources Arnold, C. (2012)(ed) *Improving your Reflective Practice Through Stories of Practitioner Research.* Abingdon: RoutledgeHallet, E. (2013) *Becoming a Practitioner in the Early Years.* London: Sage.Lindon, J. (2012) *Reflective Practice and Early Years professionalism.* 2nd ed. Oxford: Hodder Education.Paige-Smith, A & Craft, A. (eds) (2011) *Developing Reflective Practice in the Early Years.* 2nd ed. Maidenhead: McGraw Hill/Open University Press.Reed, M. & Craft, A. (eds) (2010) *Reflective Practice in the Early Years.* London: SageHayes, C., Daly, J., Duncan, M., Gill, R. & Whitehouse, A.(2014) *Developing as a Reflective early Years Professional: A Thematic Approach.* Northwich: Critical Publishing Ltd.UCW Portal and VLE                         Laptops                                     Study Centre |
| Preparatory work Make a list of all the ways how you are able to reflect in your current setting both individually and with colleagues.Read Chapter 1 of Lindon, J. (2012) *Reflective Practice and Early Years Professionalism.* 2nd Edition. Oxford: Hodder Education. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Module Code | ED4804 |
| Module title | Supporting Young Children’s Holistic Health & Wellbeing |
| Subject field | Education |
| Pathway(s) | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Level \* delete as applicable: | 4 |  |  |  |
| UK credits | 40 |
| ECTS credits | 20 |
| Core or Compulsory or Optional  | Core |
| Acceptable for | Foundation degree Early Years |
| Excluded combinations | None |
| Class contact time: total hours | 104 |
| Independent study time: total hours | 296 |
| Duration of the module | 26 weeks over three terms  |
| Main campus location  | UCW |
| Module co-ordinator | Viki Bennett |
| Additional costs involved |  |
| Brief description and aims of moduleThis module will enable you to explore the importance of supporting young children’s holistic health and well-being.  You will consider issues relating to babies and young children’s health, both nationally and globally, drawing on government policy, guidance and research.   You will be introduced to and explore the importance of health promotion and will be able to consider your role as a practitioner in supporting young children and families to make healthy choices.   Ethical considerations around health will also be discussed in this module. |
| Outline syllabusThis module will:•    Introduce the concept of holistic health, factors that can impact on this and the resultant inequalities for babies and children,•    Consider current social, economic and political aspects of health both nationally and globally, •    Consider the important role played by practitioners in supporting families to make healthy choices and develop foundations for healthy lifestyles •    Promote discussion around ethical issues in practice  |
| Teaching and learning activitiesLectures and seminars will introduce key themes around the importance of supporting babies and children’s holistic health. You will be encouraged to take an active role in these through discussion, practical activities and action learning sets.Independent learning will be supported through set readings, your own research and reflective tasks in the workplace.Visiting speakers with specialist knowledge and expertise will be invited to enrich the programme. |
| Intended learning outcomes*By successful completion of the module, you will be able to demonstrate the following:* Knowledge: students will understand:1.    The importance of supporting children’s holistic health and the social, economic and political factors that can impact on this. 2.    The importance of making ethical decisions around children’s health and well-being.3.    The important role played by practitioners in supporting families to make healthy choices.        Skills: students will be able to:a) Critically explore the impact of the social, economic and political context on children’s health and well-being.b) Reflect upon the important role played by practitioners in supporting children’s health and well-being.c) Present information to others in appropriate forms. | *How assessed*S1    S1    S2            S1    S1    S2 |
| Assessment and feedback*Formative exercises and tasks:** Students will be encouraged to research independently and present ideas in seminars as well as reflect on their own practice.
* Individual and group tutorials and action learning sets will be utilised to support and monitor progress and support peer review of learning
 |  |
| *Summative assessments:*S1. Portfolio (7000 words)    S2. Market Stall (equivalent 3000 words)      | Weighting%70%30% |
| Learning resources *University Library print, electronic resources and VLE*Dowling, M (2014) *Young Children’s Personal, Social and Emotional Development* 4th ed London: SageNaidoo, J & Wills. J (2015) *Health Studies: An Introduction* 3rd Edition London: Palgrave McMillanParker-Rees, R & Leeson, C. (Eds) (2015) *Early Childhood Studies* 4th Edition London: Sage |
| Preparatory work Familiarise yourself with the importance of supporting young children’s health by exploring some key websites from key organisations such as the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and the NHS. |

**Level 5**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Module code  | ED5801-40 |
| Module title | The Child, Family & Society |
| Subject field | Education |
| Pathway(s) | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Level  | 5 |  |  |  |
| UK credits | 40 |
| ECTS credits | 20 |
| Core or Compulsory or Optional  | Core |
| Acceptable for | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Excluded combinations | None |
| Class contact time: total hours | 104 |
| Independent study time: total hours | 296 |
| Duration of the module | 26 weeks over three terms  |
| Main campus location  | University Centre Weston  |
| Module co-ordinator | Viki Bennett |
| Additional costs involved |  |
| Brief description and aims of moduleThis module will enable you to focus on current theory, research and social policy in early childhood education and care. You will explore local issues as well as issues in wider society and investigate the skills required for working collaboratively across the early childhood sector to promote positive outcomes for children, their families and the wider community.  You will be researching the development of services and support in this area, including deconstructing national and local legislation and policies. This will involve reflection and critical analysis of your setting’s practice in working collaboratively, which will include partnerships with families, children’s services, social care and health agencies. |
| Outline syllabusThis module will:•    Consider the development and significance of the multi-agency approach.•    Investigate the diversity of families and the importance of developing strategies for working in partnership with parents/carers.•    Investigate leading teams to meet the challenge of integrated working within the community.•    Analyse the implications of safeguarding responsibilities when working with young children and their families.•    Discuss the development of current legislation and the impact this has on early years settings. |
| Teaching and learning activities * This module will challenge knowledge and beliefs from the beginning.
* The student will be encouraged to develop as a researcher and reflective practitioner.
* Critical thinking will be developed in order to deconstruct government legislation, policy and guidance.
* Students will be encouraged to make connections with practice, starting from the students own experience.
* There will be a balance of lectures to introduce themes and seminars supported by set readings for each session.
* Visiting speakers with specialist knowledge and expertise will enrich the curriculum.
* Students will be expected to read widely, use policy documents, current research and the internet.
* Lecturer generated learning activities and course materials will be places on the VLE.
 |
| Intended learning outcomes*By successful completion of the module, you will be able to demonstrate the following:* Knowledge: students will understand: 1.    The development and significance of the multi-agency approach.2.    The diversity of families and the importance of developing strategies for working in partnership with parents within the community.3.    How leading teams effectively meet the challenges of integrated working.4.    The implications of safeguarding responsibilities when working with young children and their families.5.    The impact of current legislation.Skills: students will be able to:a)    Evaluate the significance of cultural, historical and contemporary features of various guidance and legislation in regards to young children and their families.b)    Produce critical arguments for improvements to multi-agency practices for young children, their families and for society.c)    Gain insight into leading and working collaboratively with others. | *How assessed*S1S2S2S1S1 and S2S1S1 and S2S2 |
| Assessment and feedback*Formative exercises and tasks:** Students will share practical experiences as well as ideas from wider reading in small and large group discussions.
* They will be required to problem solve through responding to, clarifying and asking probing questions.
* They will listen carefully and provide critically reflective feedback, challenging and debating different viewpoints and perspectives, considering ethics throughout.
* Students will participate in a range of practical activities and concrete tasks.
* Individual and group tutorials will support assessment literacy and application of concepts.
* Tutor and mentor observations will consolidate the application of theory into practice.
 |  |
| *Summative assessments:*S1 Report (5000 words)S2 Seen Theme (equivalent 5000 words including notes)     | Weighting%50%50% |
| Learning resources Corby, B., Shemmings, D. and Wilkins, D. (2012) *Child Abuse:  an Evidence Base for Confident Practice* (4th ed)  Buckingham: OUPFoley, P. and Rixon, A. (2014) *Changing Children's Services: Working and Learning Together* (2nd ed) Bristol: Policy Press in association with Open UniversityParton, N. (2014) *The Politics of Child Protection: Contemporary Developments and Future Directions*  New York: Palgrave MacmillanPugh, G. and Duffy, B. (2014) *Contemporary Issues in the Early Years*. (6th ed) London: SageReid, J. and Burton, S. (eds) (2013) *Safeguarding and Protecting Children in the Early Years* Oxon: RoutledgeRodd, J. (2012) *Leadership in Early Childhoo*d (4th ed).  Buckingham: Open University Press**Websites:**[www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare)[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk) [www.early-education.org.uk](http://www.early-education.org.uk) [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk) [www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)[www.victoria-climbie-inquiry.org.uk](http://www.victoria-climbie-inquiry.org.uk)[www.bristol-city.gov.uk](http://www.bristol-city.gov.uk)[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)[www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk) [www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)  |
| Preparatory work In order to prepare for this module it is would be beneficial to read widely around the subject of families and collaborative working within the Early Years Sector; An accessible text would be: Whalley, M. and Arnold, C. and Orr, R. (eds), (2013) *Working with Families in Children’s Centres and Early Years Settings,* Oxon: Hodder Education |

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| --- | --- |
| Module code  | ED5802-40 |
| Module title | Contesting Childhood |
| Subject field | Education |
| Pathway(s) | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Level \* delete as applicable: |  | 5 |  |  |
| UK credits | 20 |
| ECTS credits | 10 |
| Core or Compulsory or Optional  | Core |
| Acceptable for | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Excluded combinations | None |
| Class contact time: total hours | 52 |
| Independent study time: total hours | 148 |
| Duration of the module | 26 weeks over three terms  |
| Main campus location  | UCW |
| Module co-ordinator | Viki Bennett |
| Additional costs involved |  |
| Brief description and aims of moduleIn this module you will focus on the contested nature of childhood from a wide range of contexts. You will investigate the development of young children’s education, care and welfare services, highlighting key historical developments and sociological perspectives. You will consider a range of economic, political, legal and moral factors, with the underpinning theme of the evolving understandings and practices concerning the rights of the child. Through discussions, readings and reflection on current research, you will broaden your understanding of local, national and global issues relating to children and childhoods and children’s rights. |
| Outline syllabus. This module will:•    Analyse the historical and sociological perspectives in relation to the changing face of childhood, learn through lectures, seminar discussions and reading.•    Examine the role of religion, the state, media and charitable institutions in shaping views of childhood, through lectures, practical activities, seminar discussions, learning sets and reading.•    Debate the links between political and economic factors and their impact on the experiences of childhood both nationally and globally* Learn  through lectures, seminar discussions and reading; discussing texts concerning the reality of children’s lived lives in a global society
 |
| Teaching and learning activities:* Lectures, seminar discussions and reading.
* Reflective discussions on own childhood memories and experiences
* Timelines of key historical dates and perspectives
* Confidence sheets regarding learning outcomes and skills
* Web quests to identify key articles/pieces of research
* Reports back to the group on independent study topics
* Interactive and reflective exploration of Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Systems Theory
 |
| Intended learning outcomes*By successful completion of the module, you will be able to demonstrate the following:* Knowledge: students will understand: 1.    The contested nature of childhood through differing historical and sociological perspectives.2.    The similarities and differences between childhood experiences nationally and globally.Skills: students will be able to:a)    Reflect upon a range of sociological, cultural, historical and economic perspectives and consider how these underpin understandings of childhood and children’s rights.b)    Use communication skills necessary to debate, negotiate, persuade and challenge the ideas of others. | *How assessed*S1S2S1S2 |
| Assessment and feedback*Formative exercises and tasks:** Students will share practical experiences as well as ideas from wider reading in small and large group discussions.
* Students will share their own learning to the group
* They will be required to problem solve through responding to, clarifying and asking probing questions.
* They will listen carefully and provide critically reflective feedback, challenging and debating different viewpoints and perspectives, considering ethics throughout.
* Students will participate in a range of practical activities and concrete tasks.
* Individual and group tutorials will support assessment literacy and application of concepts.
 |  |
| *Summative assessments:*S1. Essay (3000 words)S2. Book review (2000 word equivalent) | Weighting%60%40% |
| Learning resources Edwards M (2015) *Global Childhoods*. Plymouth: Critical PublishingEquality and Human Rights Commission: Creating a fairer Britain [Online] <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>Georgeson J & Payler J (2013) *International Perspectives on Early Childhood Education and Care.* Maidenhead: Open University PressMoss D (2013) *Memories of Diverse Childhoods*. London: BloomsburySmith R (2010) *A Universal Child?* Basingstoke: Palgrave MacmillanUNICEF UK: For Every Child in Danger [Online]  <http://www.unicef.org.uk/>Wright H (2014) *The Child in Society*. London: SAGE |
| Preparatory work  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Module code  | ED5805-20 |
| Module title | Supporting children with additional needs |
| Subject field | Education |
| Pathway(s) | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Level \* delete as applicable: |  | 5 |  |  |
| UK credits | 20 |
| ECTS credits | 10 |
| Core or Compulsory or Optional  | Core |
| Acceptable for | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Excluded combinations | None |
| Class contact time: total hours | 52 |
| Independent study time: total hours | 148 |
| Duration of the module | 26 weeks over three terms  |
| Main campus location  | University Centre Weston  |
| Module co-ordinator | Viki Bennett |
| Additional costs involved |  |
| Brief description and aims of moduleThis module will enable you to develop an up-to-date appreciation of a range of learning differences and how they can best be supported through working collaboratively with parents and carers, colleagues and specialist practitioners. You will begin to form a personal framework for working collaboratively to support babies and young children with additional needs. Following a broad introduction, you may choose to specialise in areas of interest which could include Autism, Asperger’s, ADHD, Down’s Syndrome, Attachment Disorder, sensory impairments, physical differences, global delay, social and emotional difficulties, those working significantly above national expectations, and those with complex and multiple needs. You will be introduced to how current practice and legislation concerning support learners with additional needs is implemented in early childhood settings. |
| Outline syllabus. This module will:• Raise awareness of issues in relation to recent policies and initiatives which consider the experiences of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and support them to develop and learn.• Enable reflection on responses and reactions to these needs, the extent to and ways in which this could impact upon our work with children and their families, through students’ placement based experiences.• Consider the extent to which Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are supported in settings |
| Teaching and learning activities * Lectures, seminar discussions and reading.
* Reflective discussions on placement experience
* Reports back to the group on independent study topics
* Documentation familiarisation and analysis
* Visiting speakers
 |
| Intended learning outcomes*By successful completion of the module, you will be able to demonstrate the following:* Knowledge: students will understand: 1.    Pedagogical approaches for working with babies and young children, families and communities.2.    The value of detailed knowledge of some specialised areas.3.    The value of enabling environments and the impact on children’s learning.Skills: students will be able to:a)    Constructively critique theories, practice and research in the area of additional needs.b)    Reflect upon and plan for changes to practice in order to engage in anti-discriminatory and inclusive practice, demonstrating ethical consideration.c)    Reflect upon the use of appropriate equipment, resources and activities which promote the identity, rights and voice of the child. | *How assessed*All assessed through S1 |
| Assessment and feedback*Formative exercises and tasks:** Students will share practical experiences as well as ideas from wider reading in small and large group discussions.
* Students will share their own learning to the group
* They will listen carefully and provide critically reflective feedback, challenging and debating different viewpoints and perspectives, considering ethics throughout.
 |  |
| *Summative assessments:*S1. Essay (5000 words) | Weighting%100% |
| Learning resources Brodie, C. and Savage, K. (eds) (2015) *Inclusion and Early Years Practice*. RoutledgeDevarakonda, C. (2014) *Diversity and Inclusion in Early Childhood*. Sage Publications LtdDimitriadi, S. (2014) *Diversity, Special Needs and Inclusion in Early Years*. Sage Publications Pvt LtdMacintyre, C. (2014) *Identifying Additional Needs in the Early Years*. Routledge |
| Preparatory work Read pp 9 – 18 of ‘Early years: guide to the 0 to 25 SEND code of practice. Advice for early years providers that are funded by the local authority’ (<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/350685/Early_Years_Guide_to_SEND_Code_of_Practice_-_02Sept14.pdf>)What do you think are the key factors for ensuring the early identification of needs for babies and young children? |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Module code  | ED5904-40 |
| Module title | Research in Early Childhood |
| Subject field | Education |
| Pathway(s) | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Level  |  | 5 |  |  |
| UK credits | 40 |
| ECTS credits | 20 |
| Core or Compulsory or Optional  | Core |
| Acceptable for | Foundation degree Early Childhood Studies |
| Excluded combinations | None |
| Class contact time: total hours | 104 |
| Independent study time: total hours | 296 |
| Duration of the module | 26 weeks over three terms  |
| Main campus location  | University Centre Weston |
| Module co-ordinator | Viki Bennett |
| Additional costs involved |  |
| Brief description and aims of moduleThis module will introduce you to theoretical perspectives and a range of approaches to research in early childhood which will enable you to carry out a research project linked to your placements. You will be supported in this by a UCW tutor who will guide you on managing timescales and working independently. Whilst the precise topic for the research will be chosen by you, it will be discussed and approved by your tutor before you start the research process.  Appropriate research skills and knowledge will be explored and analysed together with a consideration of ethical issues to enable you to conduct the research effectively. You will develop a contextual understanding of designing research in all the stages: question/hypothesis, rationale, literature review, methodology and methods, data gathering and analysis, conclusions and presenting your research.  Through reading and investigation of a range of sources you will develop an in depth knowledge and understanding of your chosen early childhood topic. You will be able to use ICT as part of your research project. |
| Outline syllabus. This module will:•    Introduce you to the different types of early childhood research and to the key tools and processes •    Develop your knowledge and understanding of the ways in which information is handled and presented in early childhood research.•    Develop your capacity to work independently on a research project in an area of interest, with appropriate supervision.•    Develop your use of ICT for research, information handling and presentation.  |
| Teaching and learning activities Lectures and seminars will introduce you to the importance of research in early years and some of the key tools and processes when undertaking this.  You will be supported to choose a topic for your on research and to consider how other authors have engaged with this through analysis of relevant journal articles.  You will be supported to undertake your own project through one to one tutorials, group tutorials and formative assessment of draft work both by tutors and peers.  Past students will be invited to discuss their projects and exemplars of past projects will also be made available.  |
| Intended learning outcomes*By successful completion of the module, you will be able to demonstrate the following:* Knowledge: students will understand: 1.    A range of research skills appropriate to early childhood research.2.    The main methods of enquiry when carrying out research in early childhood contexts.3.    That there are underlying values and ethical considerations which inform research.Skills students will be able to:a)    Critically evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches when carrying out research in early childhood.b)    Initiate, design and carry out an empirical study ethically involving a variety of methods of data collection.c)    Analyse data and present and evaluate findings.d)    Manage and organise their work time, resources, records and information to support independent decision making. | *How assessed*S1     S2 and S3 S2 Proposal        S1     S3     S3S3 and S4 |
| Assessment and feedback*Formative exercises and tasks:** Students will use group and one to one tutorials to formulate an appropriate research question.  A research proposal including ethical considerations will be formally assessed.
* Students will be encouraged to complete draft sections of the project for peer and tutor review and use group work to develop ethics proposals and research methods such as questionnaires and interviews.
* Professional discussions with mentors in the placement will also support the development of the project.
 |  |
| *Summative assessments:*S1 Essay (2000 words)S2 Research Proposal & Ethical Approval (1000 words)S3 Research Project (6000 words)S4 Reflective Portfolio (1000 words) | Weighting%20%10%60%10% |
| Learning resources *University Library print, electronic resources and VLE*Cohen, L. Manion, L. & Morrison, K. (2011) *Research Methods in Education.* 7th Edition London: Routledge Falmer Costley, C. Elliott, G. & Gibbs, P. (2010) *Doing Work Based Research.* London: Sage McNaughton, G. Rolfe, S. & Siraj Blatchford, I. (2010) *Doing Early Childhood Research* 2nd Edition. Maidenhead: OUP Mukherji, P. & Albon, D. (2015) *Research Methods in Early Childhood: An Introductory Guide* 2nd Edition London: Sage Nolan, A., Macfarlane, K. & Cartmel, J. (2013) *Research in Early Childhood* London: Sage Roberts-Holmes, G. (2014) *Doing Your Early Years Research Project.* 3rd Edition London: Sage Thomas, G. (2013) *How to do Your Research Project.* 2nd Edition London: Sage Websites:British Education Research Association (BERA) [www.bera.ac.uk](http://www.bera.ac.uk)National Foundation for Educational Research [www.nfer.ac.uk](http://www.nfer.ac.uk)National Children’s Bureau [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk) |
| Preparatory work Consider possible topics for your research project based on your own interests and issues you may have seen while on placement Consider how these might impact on your practice.  |

# 13. Appendices

## Appendix i. Sample Assessment Report Form

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**Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Studies**

**Supporting Children with Additional Needs**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student Number: | Module Code: ED5805-20 |
| Assessment Type: S2 Reflective Journal | Word Count: |
| Course/Marking Tutor: Mark Wilkins | Date of Submission: 23rd May 2018 |

*In submitting this assignment, I am confirming that I have read and understood the regulations for assessment, and I am aware of the seriousness with which the University regards unfair practice.*

**Part 2 FEEDBACK**: Your assignment has been assessed against the following criteria:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | F <40% | D, 40-49%  | C, 50-59% | B, 60-69% | A, 70-79% | A+ 80+% |
| Critical understanding of perspectives and issues on positionality, diversity and inclusion.  |    |   |   |   |   |   |
|  Ability to critically examine one’s own positionality. |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Ability to reflect upon and make changes to practice in order to engage in anti-discriminatory and inclusive practice, demonstrating ethical consideration. |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| An ability to communicate ideas and research findings by written means *including the ability to follow correct Harvard referencing procedures* |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| FeedforwardOverall:Strengths:Points for development:   |
| Date:  | **Marker name:**  |
|   | **Moderator name**  |
| All marks are provisional until agreed at the end of year exam board.  | **Grade;** |

## Appendix ii: Marking Criteria

Marks will be allocated using the following qualitative guidelines:

**A Guide to Assessment Criteria**

**The following assessment criteria have been adopted by the University for all module assessment items in the Undergraduate Modular Scheme. They will be amplified and/or refined by more specific criteria, which will be set out in your module/programme documentation.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade**  | **Indicative**  | **Criterion**  |
|  | Mark Range  |  |
| **A** | **80-100**  | An outstanding first.Work of outstandingly high quality and originality. |
| **77 –79** | An excellent first. Work, which fulfils all the criteria of the A, grade, but at an exceptional standard for the Level concerned. Substantial originality and insight, very few minor limitations. |
| **74 – 76 A**  | A good firstWork of distinguished quality, which is based on extensive research and/or strong technical and creative competence. Clear and logical organisation; consistent scheme of references, used entirely appropriately. An authoritative grasp of concepts, methodology and content appropriate to the subject/discipline and to the assessment task will be demonstrated. There is clear evidence of originality and insight and an ability to sustain an argument and/or solve discipline-related problems, based on critical analysis and/or evaluation. The ability to synthesise material effectively and the potential for skilled innovation in thinking and practice will be evident. |
| **70 -73**  | A first. The qualities of an A grade but with more limitations. Work of very good quality which displays most, but not all, of the A grade characteristics for the Level concerned. |
| **B** | **67 – 69**  | A high upper second Work, which clearly fulfils all the criteria of the B grade for the Level concerned, but shows greater insight and/or originality.  |
| **64 - 66**  | A good upper second Work of good quality, which is based on a wide range of properly referenced sources and/or creative input, demonstrating a sound and above average Level of understanding of concepts, methodology and content appropriate to the subject/discipline and to the assessment task. There is clear evidence of critical judgement in selecting, ordering and analysing content to construct a sound argument based on responses which reveal occasional insight and/or originality. Ability to solve discipline-related problems will be effectively and consistently demonstrated. Draws on an appropriate range of properly referenced sources |
| **60 – 63**  | An upper secondWork of good quality, which contains most, but not all, of the B grade characteristics for the Level concerned |
| **C** | **57 – 59**  | A high lower second Work, which clearly fulfils all the criteria of the C grade for the Level concerned, but shows a greater degree of critical analysis and/or insight |
| **54 – 56**  | A good lower secondWork of sound quality which is based on satisfactorily referenced sources and/or creative input and which demonstrates a grasp of relevant material and key concepts, together with ability to structure and organise arguments or materials effectively. The work may be rather standard, but will be mostly accurate, clearly communicated and provide some evidence of ability to engage in critical analysis and/or evaluation. There will be no serious omissions or irrelevancies. In dealing with solutions to technical problems, appropriate methods will be chosen. Coherent organisation in general with effective use of references and acknowledgement of sources. |
| **50 – 53**  | A lower secondWork of sound quality, which contains most, but not all, of the C grade characteristics for the Level concerned.  |
| **D** | **47 – 49**  | A high thirdWork of a satisfactory standard demonstrating a reasonable Level of understanding, and competent organisation, but lacking sufficient analysis and independence to warrant a C grade at the Level concerned. |
| **44 – 46**  | A good thirdWork of satisfactory quality, which covers the basic subject matter adequately and is appropriately organised and presented, but which is primarily descriptive or derivative rather than analytical or creative. Study may be limited and narrowly focussed. There may be some misunderstanding of key concepts and limitations in the ability to select relevant material or techniques, and/or in communication or other relevant key skills, so that the work may be flawed by some errors, omissions or irrelevancies. There will be some evidence of appropriate research and ability to construct an argument, but it may be narrowly focused. In dealing with solutions to technical problems, established and appropriate methods will generally be chosen, but these may be applied uncritically |
| **40 – 43**  | A thirdWork of bare pass standard demonstrating some familiarity with relevant subject matter and application of relevant academic capabilities, but only just meeting threshold standards in research, analysis, organisation, focus or other skills essential to the assessment task, and/or with significant errors or omissions.  |
| **F** | **30 – 39** | A fail Work which indicates some evidence of engagement with the subject material and learning process, but which is essentially misinterpreted, misdirected, misunderstood or poorly organised and sketchy or otherwise just failing to meet threshold standards at the Level concerned. |
| **20-29**  | A clear failWork which indicates little engagement with the subject material and learning process; which contains substantial errors or irrelevancies; which shows minimal evidence of planning and hardly any use of references and acknowledgement of sources; which clearly fails to meet threshold standards at the Level concerned  |
| **10-19** | A bad fail Work of poor quality, which is based on only minimal effort and/or contains little of relevance. It will offer hardly any evidence of familiarity with subject materials or skills appropriate to the discipline or task at the Level concerned. |
| **1-9** | A very poor fail Some work submitted, but containing virtually nothing of any relevance, depth or merit. |
| **0** | Nothing submitted, and extension not agreed before due date; or work containing nothing of any relevance or merit. |
| **UP** | **0** | Work failed due to unfair practice. |

## Appendix iii: Research and ethics (non-clinical) at Bath Spa University

### Author - Dr Paul Davies

**1. Background**

1.1 This paper deals only with ethical considerations relating to non-clinical research.

1.2 Consideration of research ethics must take into account the legal framework. Relevant legislation includes The Data Protection Act 1984 (and subsequent), The Children’s Act 1989 (and subsequent) and various ‘privacy’ laws. As the legal obligations relating to research ethics are not covered by any single Act, research organisations have generally responded to their obligations via policy documents, codes of practice or similar.

1.3 Many higher education institutes have developed a research ethics policy and mechanisms for formally agreeing the arrangements with respect to the gathering and storage of data in projects where ethical considerations justify it. This is usually separate from the formal agreement of the project as a viable project. Good practice, through Codes of Practice, has also been developed by a number of professional bodies, for example by the British Sociological Association and the British Psychological Society. Research active members of those organisations are obliged to adhere to these Codes of Practice in addition to any organisational codes.

1.4 This document proposes a way in which BSU deals with ethical issues related to non-clinical research. It seeks to ensure that research ethics are considered in all research projects undertaken, and to formally scrutinise and agree procedures relating to individual defined projects where it is appropriate to do so. It therefore outlines the issues that need consideration and proposes Principles (which must be adhered to by all who undertake research -defined fully in Appendix 1a), and Procedures and Practice (to be followed when specific approval is required – see below).

**2. Definition of research subject to ethical considerations and definition of researchers included**

2.1 For the purposes of this document research means all research that involves human participants as subjects undertaken as a part of formal University activity. The phrase ‘human participants’ refers to persons used in all types of research. Qualitative based research projects may include personal interviews, questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, observation of groups etc. Quantitative and experimental research may include questionnaires, surveys, trials etc.

2.2 Research included is that undertaken by:

Undergraduate students undertaking research as part (or all) of an undergraduate qualification

Directors of Studies and supervisors of students

All staff doing personal research, collaborative research with outside organisations, contract research and consultancy

All staff undertaking research with students or with other members of staff

**3. Issues and Principles**

3.1 All research involving human participants must consider the following issues from the inception of the research project. Researchers should be in a position to justify the decisions undertaken as a result of those considerations should it be required:

* the value of the research
* informed consent
* openness and honesty
* right to withdraw without penalty
* confidentiality and anonymity
* protection from harm
* briefing and debriefing
* reimbursements, payments and rewards
* suitability/experience of researcher
* ethics standards of external bodies and institutions
* reporting on ethical issues throughout
* research for clients/consultants
* intended dissemination

3.2 Some of the above issues require very careful consideration. All are discussed in detail in Appendix 1a where the Principles governing such considerations are laid out.

3.3 Ethically responsible conduct is part of the University’s principles of good research practice (available as a separate document). It states that deliberate, reckless or negligent research misconduct may lead to disciplinary action via the University’s disciplinary procedure. It is important to note that honest errors do not constitute misconduct.

**4. Research for which approval is necessary**

4.1 If the research project involves either:

Deceptive research (defined below)

 or

Covert research where data are recorded in a manner in which anonymity of participants cannot be assured, or where when the research involves collection of sensitive personal material (including matters relating to behaviour), or where the participants are part of a vulnerable group (defined below)

approval must be sought through the procedures detailed below.

4.2 Deceptive research is that which is undertaken when the investigator deliberately conceals or significantly misrepresents his or herself, the true nature of the research, or any other significant aspect of the research (see Appendix 1b).

4.3 Vulnerable group includes any person(s) who may be precluded from giving informed consent. Note that this does not necessarily include all groups whose consent is given by parents or by those in loco parentis. It should additionally be noted that even in those circumstances the ‘real’ consent of those individuals under study should also be sought wherever possible (see Appendix 1a, informed consent).

4.4 Approval for research involving human participants not covered within the categories detailed in Section 4.1 should be sought thorough the school mechanisms agreed by AQSC on 6th October 2006. All projects must adhere to the Principles.

4.4.1 If there is any doubt as to whether a particular research project needs approval, advice should be sought from the relevant academic manager.

**5. Procedures and Practice for approving research**

5.1 Those projects requiring approval under 4 above will be required to seek such approval through the University’s Research and Scholarship Committee. Advice on submitting projects requiring approval should be sought from the Chair of that Committee at an early stage in the formulation of the research proposal. Under no circumstances should such research be started prior to approval being given.

**Appendix 1a - Principles**

**1 The value of the research**

The value of the research, in terms of its original contribution to knowledge, should be made apparent to all involved wherever possible. Obviously in the case of deceptive or some covert research this does not apply to participants, but needs to be justified through the procedures outlined above.

**2 Informed consent**

Informed consent by individuals, guardians or individuals acting in loco parentis can be complicated (particularly when children are involved). Except in cases where free and informed consent is thought not be warranted (ethically acceptable deceptive and some forms of covert research). The default position is that free and informed consent should normally be gained in writing from the participant(s) and/or their properly authorised representative(s). In exceptional cases there may be reasons why the participant(s) or representative(s) wish not to sign consent themselves. In such cases the researcher should record consent. Even where an authorised representative gives consent, the ‘real’ consent of the participant should also be obtained (see also right to withdraw).

The word informed is important. In order to be informed prior to consenting the participant should have an understanding of project aims, objectives, any potential benefits or harm that may arise and likely outcome of the research (eg. policy documents, publications).

Consent given does not oblige the participant to carry on through the entire research as originally requested in any formal or legalistic sense. It should, however, be made clear to participants what commitment they are consenting to, and also that by consenting they are in effect consenting to carry through the agreement.

The secondary analysis of data through access from their ‘gatekeepers’ does not negate the researchers involved from considering issues relating to consent except where the gatekeeper can act in law as the consenter (eg. is a parent or guardian).

**3 Openness and honesty**

As a default research should be carried out in an honest and open manner, with participants fully and honestly informed about the research rationale, method(s) and outcomes (see informed consent above). Some types of research (deceptive and some forms of covert research) may be exceptions and must be agreed (see above).

**4 Right to withdraw without penalty**

It should be made apparent to all potential participants, as part of the informed consent process, that they are free to withdraw without penalty from the research project, even if they have received inducements or payments. They

may also request that consent be withdrawn retrospectively and that any accrued data regarding them be destroyed.

Those whose consent has been given through a surrogate can themselves request to withdraw from the research, a request that must be honoured.

**5 Confidentiality and anonymity**

Privacy is normal practice in research and law. Confidentiality and anonymity becomes a real issue when data is recorded on computer (eg. named responses to questionnaires) or when named organisations are reported upon where individual roles cannot be hidden (eg. in action research projects). Data should be coded and stored in a manner that does not allow direct recognition of individuals within the stored data set(s) by anyone other than the researcher or research team. Data should not normally be shared with others without the consent of the subject or their surrogate. Plans to publish research should therefore be made clear at the outset. If it is suspected (due to the nature or context of the research work) that anonymity cannot be guaranteed even if data are coded etc. then this limitation should be made aware to the participants.

Those who court publicity or are active in the public-eye (speakers at public events, celebrities etc) are not considered subject to privacy/anonymity rights as outlined above.

**6 Protection from harm**

Researchers have a responsibility to ensure that the physical, social and psychological well-being of research participants is not affected in an adverse manner by the research. The relationship should one of mutual respect and based, wherever possible, on trust. Undue risk is considered to be that above and beyond risks run in the normal everyday life of the participant. Particular care is needed when the participants are from vulnerable and/or powerless groups. The responsibility for protection from harm does not necessarily end with the research project; it may extend to the life of the data set. Particular care needs to be taken when discussing the results of research projects with those in loco parentis or other consenting positions, since such discussion may prejudice attitudes toward the participants.

**7 Briefing and debriefing**

As well as being informed about the research, participants should be adequately briefed as to how the research is to be carried out from inception to dissemination (see informed consent above). Wherever possible participants should also receive information relating to the outcomes of the research. Sometimes, for example in some forms of laboratory controlled psychology research, debriefing may involve remedial action to negate post-participatory effects, for example where negative moods have been induced.

**8 Reimbursements, payments and rewards**

Any arrangements should be clearly articulated to participants, in writing wherever possible. If staged or progressive payments are involved these should be clearly articulated from the beginning. Withdrawal of the participant between stages does not negate the obligation to reimburse the participant for completed stages. Reimbursements, payments and rewards may not be used to induce participants to take undue risk.

**9 Suitability/experience of researcher**

Investigators should have the relevant academic/professional competence to carry out the research project. In particular they (meaning either an individual in terms of an individually-led project, or the ‘team’ in the case of joint research) should have experience of dealing with the ethical dimensions of the research.

**10 Ethics standards of external bodies and institutions**

Where external bodies and institutions (either those funding the research, or professional bodies to which the researcher belongs) have their own ethical codes these must be followed. If there is any conflict with BSU principles and procedures these should be identified as soon as possible and the relevant academic managers notified.

**11 Reporting on ethical issues throughout**

If there are interim reports, whether verbal or written, ethical issues should be acknowledged and discussed throughout.

**12 Research for clients/consultants**

Where it is necessary, ethical positions should be clarified with external clients and organisations prior to the research beginning. Agreement should preferably be in writing. It is particularly important to establish data ownership rights and rights to publish (on both sides), since this establishes future ‘gatekeepers’. Care should be taken not to compromise the BSU ethics guidelines and/or professional codes.

**13 Intended dissemination**

Should be relayed to the participant as part of the consent process. Wherever possible summaries of research findings (preferably in non-technical language) should be relayed to participants.

**Appendix 1b – definitions**

**Deceptive research:**  Research in which the investigator deliberately misrepresents his/her self, the true nature of the research and/or any other significant characteristic. Deceptive research may be a necessity, though as part of the procedures established above the investigator(s) must justify why deception is required.

**Covert research:**  Research gathering information about participants (in whatever form) without the participant’s knowledge or consent. Note that this is not always problematic, the gaining of ‘naturalistic’ data of ‘normal’ behaviour may not be unethical, unless it infringes on some of the principles outlined above. Covertly observing people at public meetings or events is also normally not considered unethical. Key issues of anonymity and/or recoding of sensitive data must still be considered.

**Gatekeeper:**  An individual or organisation that controls access to data, or has legal rights with respect to the giving of permission to obtain data. The consent of a gatekeeper does not, in itself, constitute informed consent on behalf of the participants unless the gatekeeper also acts in law as the consenting authority for the participant.

## Appendix iv - Bath Spa University Research Ethics Approval Form



This form forms part of the University’s Process and Procedure for the Approval of Research Activity.

Approval for research in undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes is normally dealt with at School level, through the research approval form below. Where necessary, the proposal will be referred to the School Ethics Sub-Committee.

Approval for research carried out by BSU employees and PhD students should be approved through School Ethics Sub-Committees, using the University Research Ethics Approval Form.

Where necessary, Research Ethics Approval forms will be referred to the University Research Ethics Sub-Committee for additional consideration.

Where research projects are subject to external approval, such as the NHS or professional bodies, the School responsible must ensure that this approval is sought and given. Where approval for a project has been given by a Research Ethics Committee at another university, as may be the case with a collaborative project, the School Ethics Sub-Committee must be provided with proof of this.

Research that is subject to ethical approval means all research that involves human participants or data (both existing and new) pertaining to human participants as subjects undertaken as a part of formal University activity. The phrase ‘human participants’ refers to persons used in all types of research. Qualitative based research projects may include personal interviews, questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, observation of groups *etc*. Quantitative and experimental research may include questionnaires, surveys, trials *etc*.

Research activities put forward for formal ethics review:

* Require ethics approval prior to commencement of the research activities
* Cannot continue if ethics approval has been withdrawn or suspended
* May have to request review during the course of the research if the research plan alters
* Must comply with the conditions set by the University or other recognised body

Decisions made by School and University Ethics Committees are binding, and failure to comply with decisions may be regarded as misconduct in research.

The process to be followed is set out below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Type of Activity*** | ***Process*** |
| Undergraduate Student projects | Complete form and checklist and submit to supervising tutor |
| Postgraduate Student projects(taught programmes) | Complete form and checklist and submit to supervising tutor |
| Postgraduate Student projects(research programmes) | Complete form and checklist and submit to Director of Studies for consideration by the Ethics Sub-Committee |
| All staff engaged in research activities | Complete form and checklist and submit to Director of Research for consideration by the Ethics Sub-Committee |

### Bath Spa University Research Ethics Approval Form

*Note for guidance in italics below – please delete when submitting. Please ensure to explain clearly, providing enough information.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student/Staff name |  |
| Programme and/or module |  |
| Title of the proposed research project: |  |
| Number and type of proposed participants  | *Also….*1. *Including ages of children*
2. *Context, and if the child is known to you explain this here*
 |
| How is permission being sought from the participants and/or their parents/carers? | 1. *Letter to (each) parents requesting consent must be in writing, and explicit – not opt-out*
2. *Explain aims and title of study*
3. *Explain clearly how children are asked for assent*
4. *Explain right to withdraw*
5. *Letters requesting consent to be submitted with ethics form*
6. *Information sheet for participants outlining rationale for study, if not included in consent to be submitted with ethics form*
 |
| How is participants’ anonymity to be preserved? | 1. *Explain how eg. using pseudonym*
2. *Take care not to include name in consent letter for approval or submission*
 |
| Describe the research methods proposed (e.g. interviews, classroom observations) | *Be clear about these* 1. *If interviewing, questions need to form part of the ethics approval - you can list these here*
2. *Photographs: permission must be explicitly sought, and faces as well as any identifying features not shown. Only use photographs where absolutely necessary and be sure to ask for explicit consent from parent, and child.*
 |
| List the ethical issues and potential risks associated with the research methods outlined above (e.g. confidentiality) and how you propose to deal with each of these. | 1. *You should show/read your interview transcripts to the adults/children for their approval before analysis – they have a right to review or revise their contributions*
2. *How will you store and subsequently destroy data?*
3. *Any particular issues for children, babies? How will you deal with these?*
4. *Procedure for dealing with disclosure*
5. *Any particular issues if conducting research with staff in place of work? How will you deal with these?*
 |
| Describe how your findings will be reported or disseminated | 1. *Who will see and read your report?*
2. *Will it be published, or uploaded?*
3. *Will it be shared with anyone?*
4. *This information should be in the letter requesting consent.*
 |
| Funding – Detail the funding and projected costs of your project | *If not relevant, then N/A* |
| RSA – State the amount of RSA time to be allocated to your project  | *For academic staff only, otherwise N/A* |
| ***I have read the University’s Process and Procedure for the Approval of Research Activity*** (please sign and date) | *Do not forget to familiarise yourself with the University ethics document, and to sign and date here.* |  |

**Ethical Review of Research Projects – Checklist**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Supervising Tutor/ Director of Studies Approval level required (Y/N)****Please write Y or N in the right hand column* |
| a) | proposals using human participants for research |  |  |
| b) | proposals for research that intends to use undergraduate students as participants  |  |   |
| ***School Ethics Sub-Committee approval required*** |
| c) | procedures involving any risk to a participant’s health (for example intrusive physiological or psychological procedures) |  |  |
| d) | research involving the donation of bodily material, organs and the recently deceased |  |  |
| e) | proposals which involve financial payments or payments in kind to participants above reimbursement of expenses |  |  |
| f) | proposals wishing to use children under the age of 16 or those over 16 who are unable to give informed consent (e.g. people with learning disabilities; see Mental Capacity Act 2005) as participants  |  |  |
| g) | research proposals to be carried out by persons unconnected with the University, but wishing to use staff and/or students as participants |  |  |
| h) | proposals which investigate existing working or professional practices at the researcher’s own place of work (including staff surveys) |   |  |
| i) | research where the safety of the researcher may be in question; |  |  |
| j) | proposals which require participants to take part in the study without their knowledge and consent at the time |  |   |
| k) | research involving prisoners and young offenders |  |   |
| ***University Ethics Sub-Committee approval required*** |
| l) | research involving access to records of personal or sensitive confidential information, including genetic or other biological information, concerning identifiable individuals |  |  |
| m) | surveys, questionnaires and any research, the nature of which might be offensive, distressing or deeply personal for the particular target group |  |   |

**Document checklist for submission**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***I have completed and include the following documents with this form****Please tick right hand column* |  √ |
| **Consent Form(s)***This to be attached with your ethics form* |  |
| **Research design documentation e.g. interview schedule; questionnaire***Attach separately here* |  |
| **Debriefing** *Explain here how you will do this, or attach plan for debriefing* |  |
| **Information Sheet** If this is included explain here |  |

**Supervising Tutor/Director of Studies/Director of Research use only:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Comments on the ethical issues raised by the proposed research: |  |  |
| Either: | I am satisfied that the ethical issues raised by the proposed research project have been addressed and give approval for the project to go ahead |  |
| Or: | The ethical issues raised by the proposed research project require referral to the School Ethics /Research Committee. |  |
| Signature and Date: |  |  |

**A copy of this form should be sent to the Director of Research in the School**

**School Ethics Sub-Committee Use Only:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Comments on the ethical issues raised by the proposed research and how well they have been addressed |  |
| **PASS** | I am satisfied that the ethical issues raised by the proposed research project have been addressed and give approval for the project to go ahead  |  |
| **CONDITIONAL PASS** | 1. The ethical issues raised by the proposed research project have not been adequately addressed and require re-submission to the IfE Ethics Sub-Committee. The following adjustments need to be made:
 |  |
| **REFERRAL** | The ethical issues raised by the proposed research project require referral to the University Ethics Sub-Committee. |  |
| Signature and Date:(Chair of School level committee)  |  |  |
| Signature and Date:(Dean of School) |  |  |

**A copy of this form should be retained by the Director of Research in the School**

**University Ethics Sub-Committee Use Only:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Comments on the ethical issues raised by the proposed research and how well they have been addressed |  |
| Either: | I am satisfied that the ethical issues raised by the proposed research project have been addressed and give approval for the project to go ahead  |   |
| Or: | 1. The ethical issues raised by the proposed research project have not been adequately addressed and require re-submission to the committee.
 |  |
| Signature and Date:(Chair of University Ethics Sub-Committee)  |  |  |

**A copy of this form should be retained by the Vice-Provost, Research & Enterprise**