FdA Early Years Education

Validated by Sheffield Hallam University, the FdA in Early Years Education is designed to encourage, enable and equip students to become capable, confident and reflective practitioners in the field of Early Years Education. Students will gain a detailed understanding of early childhood and the factors which impact upon it and affect and influence children and their families. The programme will help to build an understanding of child development, the theories that underpin practical work, and develop the skills necessary to work with families. It also offers an insight into the importance of multi-agency work, provides the opportunity to develop key employability and transferable skills valued by today’s employers, such as team and independent work, presentation, role play and an ability to communicate effectively with a range of children, families and professionals in a variety of contexts.

About the Course

Validated by Sheffield Hallam University, the FdA in Early Years Education is designed to encourage, enable and equip you to become capable, confident and reflective practitioners in the field. You will gain a detailed understanding of early childhood, the factors which impact upon it and affect and influence children and their families. The programme will help you to build an understanding of how children develop and learn, the theories that underpin practical work with young children, and develop the skills necessary to work with families. It also offers an insight into the importance of multi-agency work, provides the opportunity to develop key employability and transferable skills valued by today’s employers, such as team and independent work, presentation, role play and an ability to communicate effectively with a range of children, families and professionals in a variety of contexts.

In addition to preparing you for Early Years Education, the programme explores wider issues in a holistic fashion, considering the health and wellbeing of young children. Key skills and employability are embedded in all the units but are a particular feature of Observation and Assessment in Professional Practice, and Communication in an Early Years Setting. It ensures that students acquire and develop transferable academic skills, graduating as analytical and critically reflective professionals.

Quick Information

Qualification: On Application

Date:
Assessment of learning will be carried out in the workplace and also in taught sessions at City campus. Students will be expected to attend classroom based sessions each week (these could be during the day or twilight sessions and we shall try to be responsive to the needs of employers).

Assessment:
Assessment methods include:
- essays
- reports
- case studies

Level: H
Area: Childcare
Course Code: CFHCC1A

Find us on social media platforms
SEARCH: Sheffield College

Please visit www.sheffcol.ac.uk for more information and details on how to apply.
Course Content

The course consists of six 20 credit modules in Level 4, the first year of study and four 20 credit modules and one 40 credit research module in Level 5, the second year. As you develop your understanding and competency you will be given the opportunity to select a research topic of your choice in the second year, enabling you to specialise. It is also recognised that some students may go on to study at a higher level, therefore this research module will allow you to consolidate your knowledge and develop skills of critical thinking and analysis.

In the first year, you will receive an intensive induction (2 weeks) in order to introduce you to the concept of studying; some of you may not have studied for a while. This will focus on skills such as critical reading, referencing, time management and presentation skills. The following modules will be covered, Child Development, Play and the Early Years (Semester 1) and Curriculum, Observation and Assessment in Professional Practice, Safeguarding, Enabling Environments and Communication in an Early Years Setting (Semester 2). In the second year you will continue studying Child Development and will also study modules on the National Curriculum – Key Stage 1, and Inclusive Practice (Semester 1). You will also study Theoretical Perspectives and undertake a Research Project (Semester 2).

Course Composition

Students will attend college for lectures, seminars and tutorials. You will also need to obtain a paid or voluntary position in an Early Years setting for at least two days a week, where your practice will be assessed.

Teaching & Learning Methods

The course will be delivered through a combination of:

- lectures
- seminars
- small group discussions
- individual tutorials
- observations

Key Units

Year 1

Semester 1

- Study Skills for Appropriate Level [Induction]
- Child Development [Part 1] (20 credits)
- Play and the Early Years Curriculum (20 credits)

Semester 2

- Observation and Assessment in Professional Practice [Portfolio] (20 credits)
- Safeguarding - Working Together for Children (20 credits)
- Communication in Early Years Settings (20 credits)
- Enabling Environments (20 credits)
Year 2

Semester 1

- Child Development [Part 2] (20 credits)
- Inclusive Practice (20 credits)
- The National Curriculum Key Stage 1 (20 credits)

Semester 2

- Theoretical Perspectives in Early Years (20 credits)
- Promoting Children’s Health – Research in Action (40 credits)

Entry Requirements

Progressing students should have:

- The equivalent of 48 UCAS points
- GSCE grade C/4 or above in English Language and Maths
- A good knowledge of current practices

External applicants will also be expected to have a high standard of literacy and numeracy, GCSE Maths and English Language at grade C/4 or above (or equivalent). A recognised childcare qualification at Level 3 is also required, as well as evidence of working in an appropriate Early Years setting, such as a reference from an employer.

Students will need to have prior experience of working in an Early Years setting; they should also have attained paid employment or a voluntary placement within a setting working with children between the ages of 0 - 7 years.

Assessment

Assessment of learning will be carried out in the workplace and also in taught sessions at City campus. Students will be expected to attend classroom based sessions each week (these could be during the day or twilight sessions and we shall try to be responsive to the needs of employers).

Assessment methods include:

- essays
- reports
- case studies

Where does this Lead

On successful completion of this programme of study students will have the opportunity to progress to honours degree at Sheffield Hallam University or other higher education institutions across the country.
Students may also consider undertaking further qualifications such as a qualification in Management and Leadership or gaining Early Years Professional Status.

**Future Opportunities**

Students who successfully complete this course will be well placed to work within childcare settings and with children aged 0-5 years in nursery settings.

**Tell Me More**

**How to Apply**
Please note that applications for this course should be made through [UCAS](https://www.ucas.com).  
UCAS course code: **U3A4**
College institution code: **S22**

**Further Information**
Additional information about higher education at The Sheffield College can be found [here](https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk).

If you have any further queries please email the University Centre via heunit@sheffcol.ac.uk leaving your name, contact details and the title of the course you are interested in and a brief summary of your query. Alternatively, please call the college on 0114 260 2600.

The Sheffield College is a registered provider with the Office for Students.

**Course Handbooks**
Please click on a link below to download the course handbook for this qualification, and other associated documents.

- [Course Handbook](https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk)
- [Programme Specification](https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk)
- [Module Descriptors and Assessment Schedule](https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk)
- [Additional Info](https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk)

**Terms and Conditions**
You can find details of all our university level policies, procedures and T&Cs [here](https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk).

**Extra Costs**

Students will be required to have a Disclosure & Barring Service check, which is currently priced at £52.