

Module Offerings for International Students

2026 / 2027 Programme

Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Care and Education (BA ECCE)

YEAR	SEM	MODULE	ECTS
Y 1	S 1	ECE153 Child Development	6 ECTS
		This module introduces students to the discipline of developmental psychology with particular focus on child development during infancy and early childhood. It will provide the theoretical foundation for key constructs, theories and developmental processes in perceptual, physical, social, emotional, creative, cognitive and language development. Attention will also be directed towards the pre-natal stages of development. Students will engage with relevant theories of learning and the role of the early years' educator in understanding and promoting positive child development. An ecological approach to child development will be discussed with particular emphasis on the immediate family context and early educational environments. There will be an emphasis throughout the module on translating theoretical knowledge into practice.	
Y 1	S 1	ECE101 Foundation Studies in Early Childhood Care and Education	6 ECTS
		This module introduces students to the area of Early Childhood Care and Education. It provides them with an overview of the concepts and principles underpinning policy and practice, both nationally and internationally. The module introduces academic writing conventions, the use of information and communication technology to enhance learning, academic writing and research; accessing library resources; using the Moodle platform and the concept of 'digital citizenship'. The key elements of the early years educator as a professional are explored and analysed. Core areas will be addressed such as safeguarding children and child protection.	
Y 1	S 1	ECE102 Child, Family and Community 1	6 ECTS
		This module seeks to enhance students' understanding and appreciation of the relationship between the child, their family and community, with a particular focus on diversity and equity in early childhood. The module deepens students' understanding of the diverse societal influences that impinge on family today and how these impact upon the early years' setting and the work of early childhood educators.	
Y 1	S 1	ECE103 Language Development in the Early Years	6 ECTS
		This module generates an understanding of the centrality of speech and language in the development of young children. Children's mastery of varied communication processes and the complexity of language learning are addressed within this module, which also facilitates the student's appreciation of skills required by adults to enhance all aspects of communication in the early years.	
Y 1	S 1	ECE154 Child Health and Wellbeing 1	6 ECTS
		This module equips students with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to provide a safe, supportive and healthy environment for young children as a foundation for lifelong health and well-being. Students will consider their role in promoting health and well-being in the early years, from an evidence-based perspective, in keeping with current legislation and policy.	

Y 1	S 2	ECE152 Creative Music Making in the Early Years Curricula	6 ECTS
This module equips students with knowledge(s) practices and values relating to the provision of creative music-making experiences in the early years. It supports students to: explore the theoretical and policy context for creative music-making in the early years; develop an understanding of its value in the holistic development of the child; assist the student to experientially develop their own creativity through music; enable the student to design developmentally appropriate creative music-making opportunities for children in the early years; consider the unique role of the adult in the provision of quality musical experiences; discuss the student as a reflective practitioner; enable the student to take responsibility for, and be an active agent in his/her own learning.			
Y 1	S 2	ECE403 Curriculum and Pedagogy: birth to three	6 ECTS
This module supports students to explore how the curriculum and pedagogical practices can be adapted to meet the unique needs of infants and children under 3-years, in early childhood care and education contexts. Neuroscientific research now provides evidence that experiences in the first three years have a profound impact on life-long learning and development. In this module, students develop the competences needed to plan, facilitate and evaluate a curriculum which supports all infants and young children reaching their potential.			
Y 1	S 2	ECE104 The Role of Play in Development	6 ECTS
This module helps students to understand how play contributes to children's development in the early years. As the early childhood curriculum framework <i>Aistear</i> (NCCA 2009) identifies play as a key context through which children develop as confident and competent learners, understanding the role of play in development is prerequisite to designing a high-quality early years curriculum.			
Y 1	S 2	ECE202 Child, Family and Community 2	6 ECTS
This module introduces students to international and national policies affecting early childhood care and education relative to the child, the family and the community; an overview of early childhood education infrastructural development in Ireland; an overview of the role of statutory and voluntary sector early childhood organisations relative to the child, the family and the community; an examination of the role of the early childhood professional relative to contemporary policy; an examination of the centrality of reflective practice in assessing the quality of institutional practices aligned to policy objectives relative to the child, the family and the community. The overall purpose is to enhance students understanding of their role as early years professionals in bridging the gap between home and school for the benefit of the child.			

Y 2	2	ECE252 Educational Psychology	6 ECTS
This module introduces the field of educational psychology and examines how psychological theories can be applied to the understanding of early childhood care and education. More specifically, the module explores how motivation theories, attachment theories, ecological theories, behavioural and socio-cognitive theories can be used to create a positive learning environment for young children. It supports students in managing behaviour and in understanding how to create environments which foster children's learning and development. It adopts a preventative, positive framework for supporting the behaviour of children in early childhood settings. In this way, the module equips students with the knowledge and skills to use psychological theory as a tool for reflective practice.			
Y 2	2	ECE251 Models of Curriculum	6 ECTS
This module assists students to respect the historical, philosophical and cultural context in which early childhood education is located. <i>Aistear</i> the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (NCCA 2009) is informed by a range of historical and contemporary perspectives. In understanding and appreciating these various perspectives students will be supported to design a quality early childhood curriculum in practice. Throughout the module students explore and interrogate key historical and contemporary perspectives on early childhood curriculum			
Y 2	2	ECE354 Including children with Special Needs in the Early Years	6 ECTS
This module consolidates and further develops students' existing knowledge, understanding and skills related to meeting the needs of children with special needs in the early years. The purpose is to equip the students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to become collaborative early years educators in order to provide the best possible outcomes for children with special needs. Students have opportunities to develop an understanding of children with special needs and create a supportive early years' environment. They also develop a range of strategies to identify and provide appropriate support for these children at the critical early stages of development. The module is situated within the concept of partnership with families, other professionals and the wider community.			
Y 2	2	ECE204 Child Health and Wellbeing 2	6 ECTS
This module encourages students to consider the broader determinants of health, including the social and emotional well-being of children and families from a life course perspective. In keeping with current legislation and policy, adopting an evidence-based perspective, students consider the role of the early years educator in promoting the health and well-being of children, within a bioecological framework.			

Y 3	S 1	ECE254 Sociological and Global Perspectives	6 ECTS
This module introduces students to a range of sociological thinking tools and concepts necessary for the exploration of early childhood care and education structures and processes nationally and internationally; identifies and appraises the functions of ECEC in contemporary Ireland; identifies societal influences that reflect family formation today. It enhances student's critical thinking skills and academic engagement by taking a sociological and global perspective on early childhood education and early childhood discourse.			
Y 3	S 1	ECE203 The Early Years: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives and Analysis	6 ECTS
Students are introduced to the historical development of the concept of childhood from ancient to modern times. The module maintains a focus on providing students with an opportunity to examine and critique the key philosophical theories, which have contributed to our modern-day concept and perception of early childhood. It supports students to develop appropriate thinking tools to enhance their understanding of early childhood care and education structures, processes and practices and their professional role within it.			
Y 3	S 1	ECE201 Creative Arts in the Early Years	6 ECTS
This module explores creative arts in the early years from both a theoretical and practical perspective. Students have a range of opportunities to experience and conceptualise creative arts. They will broaden their understanding of the concept of creativity and consider implications for its application in the early years curriculum. Students are encouraged to discover or expand on their own creative explorations and artistic skills. A broad range of media and techniques offer students an opportunity to develop the knowledge(s), practices and values which will support their development as creative teachers of creative children.			
Y 3	S 1	ECE301 Leadership for Early Childhood Education and Care	6 ECTS
In this module students explore the concept of leadership in early childhood education and care settings. Leadership is central to quality practices in early childhood education and care settings. Leadership does not reside in just one individual and in early childhood settings, it manifests in multiple ways, pedagogical leadership, team leadership, leadership for inclusion etc. Accordingly, knowledge and understanding of leadership styles, characteristics, core knowledge and skills are central to the professional formation of the early childhood educator.			
Y 3	S 1	ECE350 STEM in the Early Years	6 ECTS
This module helps students to recognise and develop STEM-related concepts within the early childhood environment including developing awareness of key mathematical concepts (such as number, shape) scientific enquiry, problem-solving and critical thinking. It explores the integration of STEM into the early years setting; considers the unique role of the adult in the provision of a quality experience and enables the student to take responsibility for, and be an active agent in his/her own learning.			

Y 3	S 2	ECE253 Language and Literacy in the Early Years	6 ECTS
This module complements and extends the student's Year 1 module on Language Development in the Early Years by adding depth and complexity in terms of theory and the practice of skills and techniques to enhance speech and language development with young children. It also adds the dimension of early literacy, specifically offering a practical approach to young children's literature, their phonological awareness and their emergent reading and writing skills.			
Y 3	S 2	ECE451 Curriculum and Pedagogy - 3 to 6 years.	6 ECTS
In this module students develop the pedagogical skills required to develop an emergent and inquiry-based curriculum for preschool aged children. The Department of Education Inspectorate evaluates the quality of education provision in early childhood services. These Early-Years Education Inspections (EYEI) are based on a quality framework which requires provision to be informed by <i>Aistear</i> the early childhood curriculum framework (NCCA, 2009). This necessitates that students are competent in using <i>the Aistear Síolta Practice Guide</i> (NCCA 2015) to develop a high-quality preschool curriculum.			
Y 3	S 2	ECE352 Research Methods	6 ECTS
Building on students' existing knowledge and experience, this module introduces students to paradigms of research. It focusses specifically upon situating the paradigms of research in early years care and education policy and practice. The module focuses upon developing the concept of the early childhood professional as researcher and, provides students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to select appropriate research designs and corresponding methodologies in the context of best ethical principles for human participant research.			

Y 4	S 2	ECE353 Cultural and Linguistic Diversity: Implications for Professional Practice	6 ECTS
This module explores the critical issues facing teachers and young children in contexts of increasing cultural diversity in Ireland; the interactivity of race, ethnicity, gender, class, ability and community; the twin and interrelated themes celebrating diversity in young children's lives and confronting social injustice and oppression; culturally and developmentally appropriate teaching and learning approaches; the immersion method of language acquisition. The purpose of this module is to enhance student's ability to teach for cultural and linguistic diversity in our ever-changing early years landscape in Ireland.			
Y 4	S 2	ECE460 Governance and Management in Early Childhood Education and Care Contexts	6 ECTS
This module builds upon students' knowledge and understanding of the concept of leadership in ECEC contexts. With a specific focus upon Governance and Management in ECEC, it explores quality in practice, essential characteristics of effective management approaches, styles and practices; multi-professional team work in ECCE, sociological understanding of the organisation of work; sources of conflict and, constructive approaches to conflict management in ECCE, effective implementation of change; action research to facilitate decision making and problem solving; development of reflective analysis of policies and mechanisms of institutional quality in accordance with national standards and regulations			
Y 4	S 2	ECE461 Advanced Studies in Play and Child Development	6 ECTS
This module will advance students' understanding of the psychological underpinning of young children's thinking and cognitive development with particular attention to the role of playful interactions. This module will provide students with an opportunity to critically engage with interdisciplinary perspectives on play and to consider the various applications of play theory and research. Students will be encouraged to critically examine contemporary empirical research in this area and make links with practice. Students will develop key skills in engaging in playful interactions, and sustained shared thinking with young children. The module will prepare students to become critical, reflective practitioners with well refined skills for understanding and scaffolding children's learning, wellbeing and development.			