



Foundation Degree FdA (Hons) in

# Childhood Studies

Shaping a Positive Future

Programme starting September 2010



## Foundation Degree (FdA) in Childhood Studies



### What's it all about?

This exciting new foundation degree is designed to provide an in-depth understanding of childhood studies from birth to 16 years. This programme aims to help you become a knowledgeable, creative, committed and enthusiastic advocate for young children and their families.

We know from research that highly skilled and motivated staff are the key ingredient in helping young people reach their full potential. A good start in life – and that means stimulating, high quality care and education – brings benefits for your whole life. Families, governments and service providers across Europe are recognising this too.

The childcare sector in Jersey is very active and there are currently about 850 staff employed in it. In future, there will be an increasing demand for professionals who have trained to the highest levels in this area.

Taking this programme will put you at the forefront of developments in your profession. This degree is designed, run and monitored by Highlands College in close partnership with the University of Plymouth, which already offers similar courses in the UK.

### Who is this course for?

It is ideal for people who aim to work in the higher positions in Jersey's childcare industry or start their own business in the long term. It would appeal to sixth-form school leavers who wish to study to a higher level without leaving the Island but, equally, it provides an excellent path for existing professionals to continue their development in this rewarding, quickly changing sector.

## What will I study?

You will study the most important subjects for those working with children of all ages, including theory and observations of children's learning, children's rights and welfare, interpersonal skills within teams, and disability and inclusion.

You will be taught by experienced academics and professionals who are experts in their field. This combination of expertise will provide the best possible mix of learning styles and approaches.

Throughout the course you will work closely with organisations and professionals already in this sector in Jersey. This will enable you to apply your academic learning to the workplace. The course will also give you important transferable skills that will enhance your employability.

In the first year you will study:

### **Professional development**

This module (or subject) is designed to give students the skills and confidence to make the most of the college and work-based elements of the programme. It includes communication, time management, team working, study skills, objective setting and learning while working.

You will be spending one day a week working with children aged 0-16 years throughout your degree, in a range of different settings in Jersey. This will help you to link theory to practice.

### **Understanding children's learning**

You will explore the various theories about children's development. There is particular emphasis on the role of play, social and emotional development, language and motor skills. You will learn how to use observational techniques to analyse children's development.

### **Interpersonal skills within teams**

This module explores the difficulties of being part of a team and investigates potential solutions. It also examines leadership and decision-making. There will be opportunities to practice in small groups and develop analytical and reflective skills.

### **Children's rights and welfare**

You will look at the key social and political issues that affect the lives of children and families in Jersey and the UK. You will learn about important laws (including child protection), both here and in the UK, as well as relevant international agreements.

### **Today's child**

Children's lives and experiences are extremely varied today. This module analyses family patterns and social factors that influence these experiences. Comparative studies are used to develop awareness of historical and social constraints.

### **'Include Me' - Perspectives on disability and inclusion**

You will examine the key issues in disability, inclusion and exclusion and learn to critically examine historical and cultural views. Students will be challenged to examine their own attitudes and values.

### **Provision for Children**

You will be introduced to the way children's services are provided locally and in the UK, and will compare this with provision from around the world.

Your second year studies will build on these subjects.



## What is a Foundation Degree?

A foundation degree is the same as the first two years of a similar degree at any UK university. This is a two-year full time course, with part-time study also possible.

Individual modules can be taken as a short course for your professional development.

## What will this lead to?

At the end of the course you will have:

- The confidence and qualifications to undertake a responsible position working with children and young people in Jersey.
- Increased knowledge, skills and experience needed to make a positive contribution to the community and wider society.
- Work-based and research skills that are relevant to the sector.

If you want to carry on to gain a full honours degree, you will be able to do a third and final year at Plymouth University. This course is designed to lead in to their BA(Hons) in Early Childhood Studies.

Once you graduate with a full degree, you would be eligible to apply for UK university programmes leading to the Early Years Professional Status and Qualified Teacher Status, including the Post Graduate Certificate in Education. Progression to other professional conversion courses, including psychology, might also be possible depending on the course content.

Plymouth graduates have gone on to work in a range of professions including health care, social work, nursery management and community work.

## What are the entry requirements?

240 UCAS points (at least 160 of which are from two A-levels or one double award). International baccalaureate: minimum 25 points. GCSE maths and English at grade C or above are mandatory. Other level 3 qualifications will be considered and mature applicants with relevant professional experience will be considered on an individual basis. All candidates will need to have a successful interview and clean police record check.

## What do I do next?

For more information contact:

Lynn Blakemore on 608535 or [lynn.blakemore@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:lynn.blakemore@highlands.ac.uk)

Mary Collins on 608623 or [mary.collins@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:mary.collins@highlands.ac.uk)

