



Sector Endorsed Foundation Degree in Early Years (FdA)

Start date:	September 2010
Length:	2 years
Attendance:	1 afternoon/evening per week (6 hrs approx)
Awarding Institution:	Kingston University

Introduction

The Foundation Degree in Early Years is an employment related, level 5 higher education qualification, one level below the honours degree and is designed in conjunction with employers to provide specialist knowledge and skills applicable to this field, combining theory with practice. It is part of a government initiative through CWDC to raise standards and achievements in the early years sector. It is a full time degree valued at 240 credits.

Who is the course for?

This course is designed for people who are **currently** working with young children in an early years setting. You could be working in either private, voluntary, independent or statutory maintained settings, in a range of roles such as senior nursery nurse, nursery supervisor/manager, pre-school or play group leader, childminder, teaching assistant or play worker.

We actively welcome applications from male practitioners who are under represented in this area. We also welcome applications from mature practitioners from a variety of backgrounds.

Am I qualified to join the course?

You will need:

- **A recognised level 3 Childcare Qualification**

APEL (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning) is offered to support previous experience and current value of various qualifications. For qualifications gained before 1999 students will be required to demonstrate currency of practice through a portfolio of their Training.

What will I study?

Year 1 modules – Level 1 (Credit rating: 120 points at level 4)

- Personal & Professional Development Portfolio
- Child Development (1)
- Inclusive Education & Special Educational Needs
- Multi-Professional Perspectives
- Assessment and Assessment Techniques
- Information to Support Decision Making
- Personal and Professional Development Review
- Safeguarding Babies and Young Children

Year 2 modules - Level 2 (Credit rating: 120 points at level 5)

- Child Development (2)
- Evaluate and Use ICT to Support Children's Learning and Development
- Develop Own Resources
- Work-Based Learning
- Work with Parents to Enhance their Children's Learning and Development
- Action Research Portfolio
- Special Research Project

What can it lead on to?

As well as being an excellent route to obtaining a valuable, professional qualification in its own right, the course lays a firm foundation for a 'top-up' 3rd year leading to a full honours degree. This can be followed by a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) leading to Qualified Teacher Status (subject to the Teacher Training Agency entry requirements) or Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) or National Qualification for Integrated Centre Leadership (NPQICL) or Early Years Professional Status (EYPS).

Attendance and private study

You will need to come in to college for one afternoon/evening (6 hours) per week for lectures by college staff, workshops, seminars, discussion groups and private tutorial. Communication with your tutor can be sustained via on-line tutoring - you can email your tutor should you have any questions or require any information. You may be required to undertake additional assignments and projects as part of your work-based learning, which may not normally be covered in your daily duties. You will need to have a work-based mentor to help and guide you through these tasks. You will have access to the libraries and resources at Richmond upon Thames College and Kingston University to aid your private study.

How will I know I'm progressing and how is the course assessed?

There are a variety of assessment strategies to provide maximum opportunity for success. These will be both practical to demonstrate competence in the early years setting and academically rigorous to satisfy the university's assessment regulations. There are no exams for this course and assessment will be based on coursework.

How much will it cost?

University fees are £3,290, Kingston University are supporting students that apply for this course with a large bursary. This will result in students paying only £1,310 for this academic year.

Bursaries may also be available from your local Authority Early Years Training Co-ordinator. Please contact them beforehand in order to assess your needs.

How do I apply?

Please contact Niki Bailey, Course Administrator, on **020 8607 8214** or email: **nbailey@rutc.ac.uk**. Niki will then send you an information pack giving further details on the course. You will be required to come in for an interview with the Course Co-ordinator and successful candidates will then be required to apply directly through UCAS.

If you would like to speak to **Jan Ayres**, Course Director, during term time, please contact her on **020 8607 8190** or email: **jayres@rutc.ac.uk**.

It may sometimes be necessary to modify the information in this leaflet. 11/09

