

## Higher Education Pathway

Higher Education offers opportunities to extend your studies to degree level. Deciding on whether this is right for you and what degree to study can be confusing. There are several ways that you can study for a degree, either in Universities or in Further Education Colleges with Higher Education provision.



There is a range of study options including:

- a full time honours degree programme
- a part time degree studied over 3-6 years
- a Foundation Degree studied full time or part time (2-3 years) with the option to progress to a 'Top Up' third year that leads to the award of an honours degree

You can start a degree at any age, as long as you meet the specific entry requirements for the programme you want to study. All degree programmes can be found on the UCAS web site or use a search engine to find the University you want to study at and explore the courses they have on offer.

For those wanting to extend their study in Early Childhood there is a range of undergraduate programmes in [Early Childhood Studies](#) or Childhood Studies. Some universities offer opportunities to study alongside another subject such as English, Psychology or Sociology.

Many Early Childhood degrees have placement opportunities to enable you to apply your learning to practice. The type of placement offered is programme specific and many include assessments that are mapped onto the Level 3 Early Educator qualification and/or Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner Competencies.

You may want to progress to become an Early Years Teacher (0-5) (EYITT), a Teacher with QTS (3-7, 5-11), Social Work or a career in health. You have opportunities to complete these as an undergraduate or after your first degree as post-graduate student.

The important thing is to ensure that you know what the admissions criteria are for the course you want to study, and research the course content and placement opportunities thoroughly.

## **Case studies**

### **Pedagogy Manager**

My name is Ben and I've worked in education for 17 years and have a Bachelor of Education Honours degree. I began my career teaching in primary school. I increasingly found myself drawn to the younger year groups and took the leap into early years and haven't looked back – teaching early years in Greenwich for 6 years

I then went to a British international school in Malaysia teaching the EYFS curriculum. During this time I was promoted from teacher to year leader, then assistant principal with responsibility for EYFS curriculum. After 7 years overseas, I returned to the UK as reception teacher in a two form primary school –where both reception teachers were men! This was one of my favourite years of teaching! So much fun and so much progress!

I then relocated and applied for a position with LEYF (London Early Years Foundation) it was a new position at the social enterprise with the title Pedagogy Manager. I have been in position for 6 months now. I am responsible for developing the LEYF Pedagogy across the organisation and supporting each nursery with raising quality. As a social enterprise, we make a social impact on both the children and their families' lives. The better the quality of our nurseries, our teachers and our children's experience the better their development and our impact on improving lives. "Changing the world one child at a time"

My role consists of many different parts, supporting individuals, mentoring deputies, leading team training, demonstrating best practice, researching new approaches, attending conferences and much much more. I have loved my career in early years education so far and am excited to see where it continues.

### **Senior Lecturer/Programme lead for Early Childhood Studies Degree at University of Northampton**



My name is Tanya and I am a Senior Lecturer/Programme lead for Early Childhood Studies Degree at University of Northampton.

In a typical day, I teach and support students who are studying on an academic course. This involves face to face lecturing, marking of assignments, tutorial support sessions, administration and anything else that needs doing. I just never know what the day will bring!

I love my job because it is so varied and it is fantastic to be able to support the professional practitioners of the future. The children who we care for deserve the best and it is a privilege to be part of training the workforce, and inspiring them to be the best that they can be. My job also involves research and I love that I able to continue to grow and develop as a professional in my own right, whilst helping others to do the same.

Prior to doing this I owned and managed my own nursery setting. In 2008 the government at that time said that all nurseries had to be led by a graduate. I could not afford to pay a graduate's salary so decided the best way forward was to get the degree myself. I therefore began the foundation degree, mainly because my hand was forced, but very much looking forward to the challenge that it may bring. I attended university one day a week whilst still running my business and for the next few years the degree took over my life. It took over my life in a remarkably positive way, though! As well as enabling me to progress in my career it has also gave me a love of academia.

Once I completed my BA (Hons) I then went on to obtain an MA and I am now undertaking a PhD. When I began the course in 2008 I would never have dreamt that this journey would unfold in the way that it has. I now lecture full time at University and am able to inspire the next generation of practitioners in the way that I was extremely lucky to be inspired.