

Lead the Way - Become an Early Years Professional

Short and Long Pathway Routes



Fact file

Course Length

Short	6 months
Long	15 months

Start Date

Short	January and September
Long	April and September

Location

Short	Didsbury campus
Long	Didsbury or Crewe campus

Special features

- Fully funded course (no fees)
- Supply cover paid to settings

Contact

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Text	MMU EYP4 to 81025

Early Years Professional Status

These courses are part-time extended professional development routes for professionals working in early years settings or working as childminders or childminder network co-ordinators.

Effective early years practice requires enthusiastic and motivated practitioners who recognise the needs of young children.

Shaping the future

The Government's response to the national consultation on the future of the children's workforce highlighted the need for further reform of, and support for, the early years workforce. In particular, the response identified the benefits of developing the role of Early Years Professional (EYP) and confirmed the Government's aim to have EYPs in all children's centres offering early years provision by 2010 and in every full day care setting by 2015.

What is an EYP?

Early Years Professionals are key to raising the quality of early years provision.

They are change agents to improve practice. They lead practice across the Early Years Foundation Stage, support and mentor other practitioners and model the skills and behaviours that safeguard and promote good outcomes for children.

Effective early years practice requires enthusiastic and motivated practitioners who recognise the needs of young children, and who can provide a warm, stimulating and purposeful environment. As an EYP you will demonstrate you have the vision and commitment to improve outcomes for young children and raise the quality of early years provision. You will gain official recognition of your skills in working with children and know that you will play a significant role in enhancing the quality of experiences offered to babies, toddlers and young children in your care. The EYP status gives you the opportunity to be at the forefront of this exciting new career pathway.

Who is it for?

These courses are for graduates (or those with Early Years Foundation degrees or HNDs) who are working in early years settings or as childminders and wish to extend their professional development.

Which pathway is appropriate for me?

This depends on your experience and qualifications. Please see below for details.

1 The Short Extended Professional Development (EPD) Pathway

This is a six-month part-time extended professional development pathway for those who meet the entry requirements but may lack one or more of the following: sufficient knowledge of child development; multi-professional working; experience of working with the full 0-5 age range; or of leading practice across the age range. This pathway enables you to 'top up' your knowledge, understanding and skills so that you can meet the standards and may involve some taught sessions.

2 The Long Extended Professional Development (EPD) Pathway

This is a fifteen-month part-time extended professional development pathway for those with Early Years Foundation degrees or HNDs to enable them to achieve a full degree and sufficient experience. This route leads to the BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies.

Other graduates accepted on to this route may be eligible for the Postgraduate Certificate in Early Childhood Studies which offers credits at Masters level.

How will I be assessed?

Each pathway is assessed against the 39 National Standards and involves:

- a set of written tasks which document practical situations from your everyday work
- a concise portfolio of supporting evidence against the Standards
- a one day setting visit which includes an analytical tour, a scrutiny of the supporting evidence and interviews with other individuals who can provide further evidence of your work
- candidates on the Long EPD Pathway will be required to complete a number of academic assignments in order to achieve the full degree or the postgraduate certificate.

Funding

This course is fully funded by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC). In addition supply cover is paid to your place of work to enable you to attend the necessary training.

How do I apply?

Download an application pack from www.mmu.ac.uk/eyp or contact us for an application pack. All applicants complete a diagnostic assessment to determine the appropriate pathway.

Early Years Professionals will be key to raising the quality of early years provision.

Entry Requirements

Degree	Short Long	A degree HND or Early Years Foundation degree
GCSEs (or equivalent)	English Language and Mathematics, Grades C or above, or equivalent (MMU offers entrance exams to MMU Programmes if you do not have these qualifications).	
Other Requirements	Employment in an early years setting that attracts funding (Private, Voluntary, Independent, Children's Centres, Childminders). Be physically and mentally fit to work as an Early Years Professional. Show that you do not have a criminal background that might prevent you from working with children, or as an Early Years Professional, and have not previously been excluded from working with children. Appropriate experience with the age group birth to the end of the Foundation Stage. The commitment to completing the course within agreed timescales.	
Overseas candidates	Cambridge Proficiency in English, IELTS Band 7 or Pitmans Advanced in addition to the above.	

Contact us

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Case studies

Helen McCarthy (Short Pathway)

"This course has really enabled me to reflect on my own practice and help fellow practitioners to reflect on theirs. This experience has helped me to really think about my role and how I can lead and support others in order to effect change and help improve outcomes for children. It has also highlighted the importance of maintaining a positive relationship with practitioners, children and parents."

Isabelle Oamar (Long Pathway)

"Since achieving the status, I have a better understanding of implementing change and supporting staff and have become stronger in leadership and management."

Jane Preece (Short Pathway)

"Going through the whole EYP process has made me a very reflective practitioner."

Further information

www.cwdcouncil.org.uk
www.mmu.ac.uk/eyp

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This information is correct at the time of going to press. For terms and conditions applicable to the provision of the University's Educational Services please refer to the prospectus. February 2010.