

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution	Glyndŵr University
Teaching institution (if different from above)	
Details of accreditation by a professional, statutory or regulatory body (including link to relevant website)	N/A
What type of accreditation does this programme lead to?	N/A
Is accreditation in some way dependent on choices made by students?	N/A
Final award/s available eg BSc/DipHe/CertHE	Cert HE Childhood Studies FdA Childhood Studies: Families and Young Children FdA Childhood Studies: Play FdA Childhood Studies: Education FdA Childhood Studies: Special Educational Needs BA Childhood Studies (level 6) BA (Hons) Childhood Studies (level 6)
Award title	FdA Childhood Studies: Families and Young Children FdA Childhood Studies: Play FdA Childhood Studies: Education FdA Childhood Studies: Special Educational Needs BA (Hons) Childhood Studies (level 6)
JACS 2 code	X310
UCAS code (available from Admissions)	N/A
Relevant QAA subject benchmark statement/s	QAA Early Childhood Studies Benchmarks
Other external and internal reference points used to inform the programme outcomes	Framework for HE Qualifications Foundation Degree Benchmarks
Mode/s of study (<i>p/t, f/t, distance learning</i>)	FdA – Part-time E-learning BA (Hons) – Part-time E-learning or Blended Learning
Language of study	English
Date at which the programme specification was written or revised	April 2013

Criteria for admission to the programme

UK based students

Foundation Degree

The following entry requirements apply to the FdA Childhood Studies: (all routes)

A successful interview (in person or by telephone/Skype) is required whereby the following areas will be checked/discussed

- Level 3 qualification (or equivalent 120 UCAS points) in a related subject.
- 2 years recent experience working within the children's workforce.
- Current employment (paid or voluntary) of at least 10 hrs per week within the children's workforce.
- Direct entry to level 5 will be considered where a student can APL the equivalent of 120 level 4 HE credits in a subject directly related to childhood studies.
- Exception may be made (at the discretion of the Programme Leader) to the above entry requirements for experienced practitioners (5+ years) who do not hold formal qualifications but can evidence personal development through attending training courses or other CPD.
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check or Enhanced CRB Disclosure (accepted from current employment)
- Confirmation of internet connection.

Students wishing to progress directly from the FdA to the BA (Hons) level 6 top-up should note:

- GCSE English grade C or an equivalent gained through an Access to HE course is required if a student wishes to progress to the BA (Hons) level 6 top-up.
- Exception may be made for students achieving an overall FdA Merit profile or above at level 5 and do not intend to pursue a career in teaching (see * below).

Bachelors Degree

- A completed FdA in a subject closely aligned to Childhood Studies gained from Glyndŵr University.
- An equivalent FdA in a subject closely aligned to Childhood Studies gained from a UK University.

Or

- A total of 240 HE credits (level 4/5) in a subject closely aligned to Childhood Studies gained from either Glyndŵr University or another UK University.

And

- Where students have not studied a research module at level 5 in their prior study they will be required to undertake a 20 credit level 5 research skills module before proceeding to level 6.
- GCSE English grade C or an equivalent gained through an Access to HE course*

- Successful Interview – in person or by telephone/Skype
- Confirmation of internet connection.

* Please note students who wish to progress from the BA (Hons) to a PGCE in teaching will require GCSE in English, Maths and Science or equivalent gained from an Access to H.E. route. Students are encouraged to contact their local PGCE provider for details of grade requirements as these are subject to change.

International Students

Entrance accepted on to the **FdA Childhood Studies: Education and BA (Hons) Childhood Studies** only (further routes may be made available at a later date).

Foundation Degree

- Minimum English Language Ability of IELTS 6.0
- Proof of qualification at an equivalent level 3 standard of which at least part must have relevance to working with children
- 2 years recent experience of working within the children's workforce
- A written (translated) statement from an employer confirming current and continued employment in the children's workforce
- A written (translated) statement from an employer attesting to the student's character and suitability for working with children.
- Successful Interview – by telephone or Skype
- Confirmation of access to internet connection capable of accessing the University VLE

Bachelor Degree

- Completion of a Glyndŵr University Foundation Degree in Childhood Studies
- Or
- Completion of an equivalent level 4/5 qualification. (Full transcript required)
- And
- Where students have not studied a research module at level 5 in their prior study they will be required to undertake a 20 credit level 5 research skills module before proceeding to level 6.
 - Minimum English Language Ability of IELTS 6.0
 - Successful Interview – by telephone or Skype
 - Confirmation of access to internet connection capable of accessing the University VLE

Advanced Standing – Appendix 1

Advanced standing for entry to the BA (Hons) Childhood Studies (level 6 top-up) is in place for the following Glyndŵr University qualifications

FdA The Learning and Development of Babies and Young Children
 FdA Early Childhood Care and Education
 FdA Childhood Studies: Families and Young Children

FdA Childhood Studies: Play
FdA Childhood Studies: Early Years Education

These programmes will be used as a benchmark for the APL of non Glyndŵr University foundation degree programmes.

Aims of the programme

This programme specification covers a suite of programmes consisting:

FdA Childhood Studies: Families and Young Children
FdA Childhood Studies: Play
FdA Childhood Studies: Education
FdA Childhood Studies: Special Educational Needs

BA (Hons) Childhood Studies (level 6 top-up)

At the core of all the above programmes sits the subject discipline of Childhood Studies which brings together a range of topics from education, psychology and sociology.

Foundation Degrees

The underpinning core of Childhood Studies aims to enable students to:

- Gain a historical and contemporary understanding of the key sociological impacts on the family and child.
- Develop a theoretical understanding of historical and contemporary views of child development and explore the relevant links between theory and practice.
- Explore the role of safeguarding on children and society including the impact on policy, provision, practice and legislation.
- Enhance understanding of the role of play and how this may be influenced by environment, attitudes and values.
- Explore the meaning, influence and purpose of educational Curricula.
- Understand the concept of the family and child within the structures of society, including education, health, social care and law and policy.
- Develop key study skills to be successful at H.E study.
- Understand the role of the practitioner researcher and develop appropriate research skills.

In addition specific aims can be identified for the following programmes:

FdA Childhood Studies: Families and Young Children

- Explore the nature of key relationships within early years practice.
- Gain a historical and contemporary understanding of how children's health and well-being is viewed including the influence of the environment and professional support.

FdA Childhood Studies: Play

- Understand the impact of the role of playwork and explore direct and indirect intervention.
- Explore space and place in relation to children's play.

FdA Childhood Studies: Education

- Explore the concept of learning dispositions including how they can be supported through the curriculum, environment and relationships.
- Understand the construction and delivery of early years/primary curricula in terms of core content
- Understand how to support the core curricula when special educational needs arise within primary education

FdA Childhood Studies: Special Educational Needs

- Understand how to support the core curricula when special educational needs arise within primary education.
- Explore the role of special educational needs support in relation to behaviour, emotional and social difficulties.

Bachelor Degree

BA (Hons) Childhood Studies (level 6)

- Critically interpret and evaluate contemporary discourses of childhood as a lens through which to explore contemporary debate.
- Critically explore and compare international perspectives on childhood.
- Develop and understand the role of independent study as a route to becoming a lifelong learner.
- Critically analyse the role of children's well-being through a lens of psychopathology.
- Critically reflect on the role of research within childhood studies and undertake a research project.
- Critically analyse the provision for risk, resilience and well-being in children's play.
- Critically examine the role of diversity and equality within childhood provision.

Distinctive features of the programmes

Context

The discipline of Childhood Studies exists with a period of change and development across the children's workforce. There has been a strengthening of the emphasis placed on both childhood poverty and children's rights to play and a review of early years education.

The Child Poverty Act 2010 has influenced both strategy and funding in an attempt to reach the most vulnerable families and children. In Wales, Flying Start has received an injection of funding to increase its work with families and children under 4 years of age during 2012 and the UK government has emphasised its commitment to children's health, parental involvement, learning activities and quality early years education as a means to tackling child poverty.

The latest General Comment released in March 2013 by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child articulates a need to address children's rights to play at national and local policy and planning levels.

These key issues do not exist in isolation and the purpose of the Childhood Studies suite of programmes is to examine the fundamental issues, theories and research which exist alongside the major developments in Government strategy.

Distinctive features

International Approach – International students are welcome to join both the FdA Childhood Studies: Education route and the BA (Hons) Childhood Studies (level 6 top-up). International students joining the programme will bring their own policy context to be examined in light of underpinning theory and research and provide a valuable comparative stance and debate relating to the social, economic, cultural, technological and global context of contemporary childhood.

Flexible Delivery – The programmes offer a flexible and interactive online learning experience using the University's virtual learning environment – Moodle. Students are able to study from the comfort of their own home at a time which suites them. Moodle is available to students 24/7 and provides an uncomplicated platform through which to access all course materials and communicate with the programme team and with each other.

Blended Delivery – The BA (Hons) Childhood Studies (level 6 top-up) is offered to students either as an online only course or blended delivery. The blended option is available for students who are able to travel to University and attended a 2 hr classroom session per week in addition to studying online.

Assessment Strategy – The assessment tasks set over the duration of the programmes are designed to develop and build upon a wide range of personal and professional skills, whilst strongly reinforcing the links between theory and practical application. The assessment methods have been designed to reflect the changing role of the professional, their ongoing academic achievement, as well as embracing the need for evaluation and reflection throughout.

Feedback – High quality feedback is provided to students studying online to enhance their overall achievement. Students will be provided with written feedback for each piece of work and have an opportunity to discuss this feedback with tutors. Feedback is presented in a way that allows students to see how their academic work is progressing throughout the year and to easily view the comments of all tutors in a single Moodle space. This allows students and tutors to track progress and engage in additional support where needed.

The programme team is experienced at working online with students and understands the challenge of combining study with family and work commitments. The team has a wealth of subject experience based in their ongoing links to the children's workforce. Current areas of research include a children's play project, public child law, well-being, quality of day care provision, the outdoor environment and creativity. The Team's Play Specialist has strong links to Play Wales and undertakes a number of projects, evaluations and talks in collaboration with the organisation.

Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

Foundation Degrees - The FdAs will run part-time over two calendar years. Each level will run across 3 trimesters from September to July.

FdA Level 4				FdA Level 5 (all routes)			
	Week	Weekly Study Hours		Weekly Study Hours			
		4 Hours	2 Hours	4 Hours	2 hours		
Sept	9	Understanding the Child and Childhood	40 Credit Core Module	Working with Children and Families in Society	40 Credit Core Module	Exploring Research Skills	20 Credit Core Module
Tri 1	10						
	11						
	12						
	13						
	14						
	15						
	16						
	17						
	18						
	19						
	20						
	21						
	22						
	23						
	24						
	25						
	26						
Tri 2	27						
	28						
	29						
	30						
	31						
	32						
	33						
	34						
	35						
	36						
	37						
	38	Academic and professional Skills for practitioners	40 Credit Core Module	Route Specific Module 1	20 Credit Core Module	Research in Practice	20 Credit Core Module
	39						
	40						
	41						
	42						
	43						
	44						
Tri 3	45						
	46						
	47						
	48						
	49						
	50						

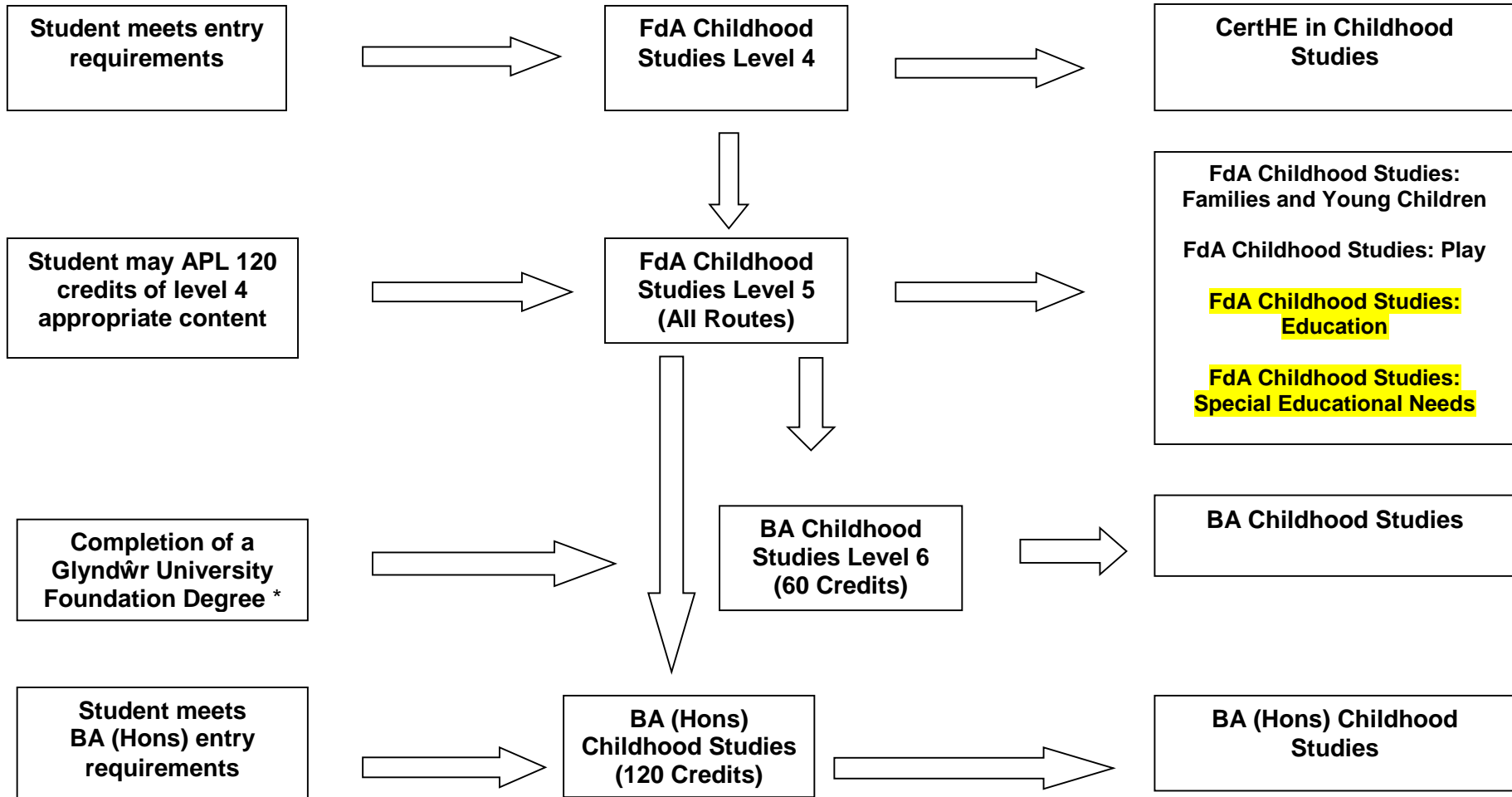
BA (Hons) Childhood Studies - The BA (Hons) Childhood Studies can be run over one or two years part-time. Students must choose either option 1 or 2 at enrolment and transfer between the options will not be permitted.

Option 1 – 1 Year part-time				Option 2 – 2 Years part-time					
	Week	Weekly Study Hours			Week	Year 1	Year 2		
		6 Hours	3 Hours			6 Hours	3 Hours		
Sept	9	Key Debates in Childhood Today 20 Credit Core Module 7 weeks @6 hrs per week = 42 hrs	Research Project 40 Credit Core Module 28 weeks @ 3hrs per week = 84 hrs	Sept	9	Key Debates in Childhood Today 20 Credit Core Module 7 weeks @6 hrs per week = 42 hrs	Research Project 40 Credit Core Module 28 weeks @ 3hrs per week = 84 hrs		
Tri 1	10			Tri 1	10				
	11				11				
	12				12				
	13				13				
	14				14				
	15				15				
	16			16					
	17			17					
	18	Assessment Week				18		Assessment Week	
	19	Psychology : Well-being in Childhood 20 Credit Core Module 7 weeks @6 hrs per week = 42 hrs				19		Psychology : Well-being in Childhood 20 Credit Core Module 7 weeks @6 hrs per week = 42 hrs	
	20				20				
	21				21				
	22				22				
	23				23				
	24				24				
	25				25				
	26			26					
Tri 2	27				Tri 2	27			
	28					28			
	29	Assessment Week				29		Assessment Week	
	30	International Perspectives on Childhood 20 Credit Core Module 7 weeks @6 hrs per week = 42 hrs				30		International Perspectives on Childhood 20 Credit Core Module 7 weeks @6 hrs per week = 42 hrs	
	31				31				
	32				32				
	33				33				
	34				34				
	35				35				
	36				36				
	37			37					
	38					38			
	39					39			
	40	Assessment Week				40		Assessment Week	
	41	Providing for Risk.... Or Equality and Diversity 20 Credit Option 7 weeks = 42 hrs				41		Providing for Risk.... Or Equality and Diversity 20 Credit Option 7 weeks = 42 hrs	
	42				42				
	43				43				
	44				44				
Tri 3	45				Tri 3	45			
	46				46				
	47				47				
	48			48					
	49	Assessment Week				49		Assessment Week	
	50					50			

Entry and Exit Points

ENTRY

EXIT



* The option to study for an ordinary degree is open to students from Glyndŵr University only

Programme Overview

This suite of programmes has been designed with the underlying premise that students need a solid grounding in 'Childhood Studies' upon which to build future knowledge and practice. For the purpose of these programmes 'Childhood Studies' means developing an understanding and competency in the fields of sociology, psychology and education.

The qualifications on offer in this suite of programmes are:

Certificate of Higher Education in Childhood Studies
FdA Childhood Studies: Families and Young Children
FdA Childhood Studies: Play
FdA Childhood Studies: Education
FdA Childhood Studies: Special Educational Needs
BA Childhood Studies (Level 6) – Glyndŵr University Students Only
BA (Hons) Childhood Studies (level 6)

Foundation Degree

Level 4 of the FdA is a generic year studied by all students undertaking the foundation degree. It is at this level the students gain the fundamental basics on which the remainder of the programmes are built. Key to level 4 is a sociological understanding of childhood, child development, safeguarding children and academic and professional skills development. Dependent on a student's professional role or personal interest they then have an opportunity to complete an optional module based in play or education.

Level 5 offers students three core modules which further builds upon their sociological understanding of childhood and introduces them to research skills. The students then have a chance to specialise according to their professional role or personal interest. These specialisms are described by the route titles.

Families and Young Children – this route is predominantly for professionals working with children under the age of 5 in non-maintained settings. It is also the preferred route for professionals working in a 'family' context where building relationships and understanding health and well-being is key to practice.

Play – this route is intended for professionals working with children of all ages in a play context. It is particularly suitable for playworkers, however there is growing emphasis for all professionals working with children to be trained in play. This route will help students to explore key areas including the role of the playworker and places and spaces for play.

Education – this route is suitable for all practitioners working with children in an education context. It specifically looks at children in the 3 to 11 age range. For practitioners working with children under 5 this route considers children's dispositions towards learning and the core curriculum and for practitioners working in the primary years it will consider the core curriculum and the role of support with regards to special educational needs within the core curriculum.

Special Educational Needs – this route is suitable for all practitioners working with children in an educational context. It specifically looks at children in the 5 to 11 age range. It explores the role of support with regards to special educational needs within the core curriculum and also behaviour, emotional and social difficulties.

Within the FdA there is a strong emphasis on linking theory to practice. Students will be supported at all stages of their study to consider the academic content in the light of professional practice.

Foundation Degree – Level 4

Level 4 modules have been developed to encourage knowledge, understanding and professional development in the core childhood study concepts. Students are supported to understand the meaning of childhood and to develop knowledge, professional understanding around child development, safeguarding, play and curriculum. Throughout the module students are expected to develop key academic and professional development skills.

Level 4 consists of 100 credits core with a 20 credit option.

The Academic and Professional Skills for Practitioners Module (40 credits) runs alongside the other modules (80 credits) so students can develop key skills within the context of developing knowledge and understanding. For example the students study essay writing skills at the point they write their first essay.

Foundation Degree – Level 5

Level 5 modules have been developed to enable students to challenge their own practice, concepts and values around working within the children's workforce. Students are supported to explore the role of family and child within society and the external factors which will influence the engagement of the professional within provision. Students will then study their chosen route to develop key aspects of childhood studies within modules which have a direct relevance to their personal and professional development.

Level 5 consists of 80 credits core and 40 credits specific to their chosen route.

40 credits at level 5 are used to develop research skills as they would apply to a professional working within the children's workforce. Students are supported to develop key research skills and a clear understanding of research ethics before applying these skills to their chosen profession.

Bachelors Degree

Students who wish to study the level 6 top-up are welcome to join the programme having studied an FdA delivered at Glyndŵr university or an equivalent FdA or level 4/5 academic programme at another university based in the UK or abroad.

The basis of the level 6 programme is to extend students' academic study by considering key contemporary issues in Childhood Studies. Students will be encouraged to develop independent study skills and become a lifelong learner in their professional context.

A major part of studying at level 6 is the completion of a research project. Students will be supported in a key debates module to research a contemporary topic of interest to support their professional development. This topic can then be explored further and if appropriate developed into a research project. Students will also study children's well-being through a lens of psychopathology before taking a look at Childhood in a global context. Students will produce a comparative study which will explore an area of childhood relevant to their current or potential professional career. Finally students will have the option to study either Equality and Diversity or Providing for Risk, Resilience and Well-being in Children's Play according to professional interest.

Bachelors Degree – Level 6

Level 6 modules have been developed to strengthen and challenge students' academic understanding and application of childhood studies. This will include developing independent study skills, comparative analysis and research. Students are asked to critically explore contemporary key debates, psychopathology, international perspectives, risk and resilience and diversity and equality.

Level 6 consists of 100 credits core with a 20 credit option to enable students to further expand a topic suitable to their own professional development.

40 credits at level 6 enable students to build upon the research skills studied at level 5 to complete a full research project.

Only students who have previously studied at Glyndŵr University are able to undertake an Ordinary Degree. They will engage with 60 credits of core modules, excluding the optional module and research project.

Programme Delivery

Both the FdA (all routes) and BA (Hons) level 6 will be delivered online using Glyndŵr's virtual learning environment – Moodle. This is an easy to use self-contained website which enables students to access the course materials, tutors and other students across their programme. We actively encourage communication and have a thriving community of students online who share their experiences of working with children in a variety of roles. We use a wide range of tools for keeping in touch including, online conferencing, chat rooms (forums), e-mails, messaging and telephone/Skype.

All programmes are designed to offer flexibility to fit study around family and work commitments, however students work within a course structure to encourage motivation and completion. The materials of each session are covered over a set period to enable students to develop their own study patterns i.e. daytime, evenings, weekends. Each session will engage students through a variety of tools from reading to video, podcasts, screencasts and exploring the web. Students will also be engaged in discussion around the session topics using a variety of chat forums and/or online conferencing.

The programme team recognises that face to face contact with students is important for some students to feel a sense of belonging to the University. Therefore all students are invited to attend three, one day Saturday study days throughout the year where they will be engaged in workshops (linked to staff expertise) and have a chance to meet other students and members of staff.

These study days are non-compulsory and do not cover content key to achievement on the programmes. All study days are run subject to student numbers.

For students not able to attend the onsite study days an alternative will be offered using web conferencing software i.e. Adobe Connect (university license) with webcam to simulate the experience of personal contact.

Module Structure

Foundation Degrees

FdA Childhood Studies – Level 4					
Module	Understanding the Child and Childhood	Academic and Professional Skills for Practitioners	Safeguarding Children	Understanding the Playing Child	Understanding Curricula
Module Leader	Kate Wagner	Liz Sheen	Dave Lane	Ben Tawil	Liz Sheen
Credit	40 (Core)	40 (Core)	20 (Core)	20 (Optional)	20 (Optional)
Delivery	Online	Online	Online	Online	Online

FdA Childhood Studies – Level 5 (All Routes)			
Module	Working with Children and Families in Society	Exploring Research Skills	Research in Practice
Module Leader	Kate Wagner	Liz Sheen	Liz Sheen
Credit	40 (Core)	20 (Core)	20 (Core)
Delivery	Online	Online	Online

FdA Childhood Studies: Families and Young Children – Level 5		
Module	Relationships in Practice	Health and Well-being
Module Leader	Dave Lane	Gillian Danby
Credit	20 (Core)	20 (Core)
Delivery	Online	Online

FdA Childhood Studies: Play – Level 5		
Module	Playworking	Places for Play
Module Leader	Ben Tawil	Ben Tawil
Credit	20 (Core)	20 (Core)
Delivery	Online	Online

FdA Childhood Studies: Education – Level 5			
Module	Dispositions for Learning	Core Curriculum	Supporting the Core Curriculum
Module Leader	Liz Sheen	Karen Southern	Emma Constantine
Credit	20 (Option)	20 (Core)	20 (Option)
Delivery	Online	Online	Online

FdA Childhood Studies: Special Educational Needs – Level 5		
Module	Supporting the Core Curriculum	Supporting Behavioural, Social and Emotional Difficulties
Module Leader	Emma Constantine	Emma Constantine
Credit	20 (Option)	20 (Core)
Delivery	Online	Online

Bachelor Degree

BA Childhood Studies – Level 6 (60 Credits)			
Module	Key Debates in Childhood Today	Psychology: Well-being in Childhood	International Perspectives on Childhood
Module Leader	Liz Sheen	Sahar Hamid	Kate Wagner
Credit	20 (Core)	20 (Core)	20 (Core)
Delivery	Online or Blended	Online or Blended	Online or Blended

BA (Hons) Childhood Studies – Level 6 (120 Credits)						
Module	Key Debates in Childhood Today	Psychology: Well-being in Childhood	International Perspectives on Childhood	Providing for Risk, Resilience and Well-being in Children's Play	Equality and Diversity	Research Project
Module Leader	Liz Sheen	Sahar Hamid	Kate Wagner	Ben Tawil	Kate Wagner	Liz Sheen
Credit	20 (Core)	20 (Core)	20 (Core)	20 (Optional)	20 (Optional)	40 (Core)
Delivery	Online or Blended	Online or Blended	Online or Blended	Online or Blended	Online or Blended	Online or Blended

Intended learning outcomes of the programme

Foundation Degrees

Level 4

On completion of Level Four, students will be able to:

A) Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be able to...

A1 Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the child and family within society.

A2 Understand and explore the ways in which children develop, learn and play.

A3 Demonstrate an understanding and awareness of the safeguarding system and its impact on and involvement of children and families.

A4 Show awareness of professional values and practice in terms of ethical considerations, equality of opportunity and respect for children, their families and communities.

B) Intellectual skills:

Students will be able to...

B1 Present a logical argument and draw appropriate conclusions.

B2 Demonstrate some depth of analysis and independent thought.

B3 Plan, manage and reflect on own learning and progression in acquiring graduate attributes appropriate for work with children and families.

B4 Appreciate and evaluate different viewpoints.

C) Subject and other skills:

Students will be able to...

C1 Communicate appropriately and effectively in a range of modes and media.

C2 Relate theory to practice so that work-based practice has a sound theoretical underpinning employed through a range of specialist skills.

C3 Demonstrate appreciation of study skills by applying what is learned to workplace tasks and assessments.

D) Professional Skills and abilities and Employability Skills and abilities:

Students will be able to...

D1 Read and write appropriately for a range of audiences and reference their work effectively.

D2 Demonstrate autonomy and self-reliance.

D3 Reflect on the importance of effective team working and forming a community of practice.

D4 Understand the skills needed to take responsibility for time management and work deadlines.

Level 5

On completion of Level Five (**All Routes**), students will be able to:

A) Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be able to...

A9 Critically reflect on the role of research in childhood studies and understand the need for research ethics.

A10 Analyse and understand the role of the child and family in relation to the structures of society.

B) Intellectual skills:

Students will be able to...

B1 Develop coherent, logical and relevant arguments, drawing appropriate conclusions.

B2 Demonstrate depth of analysis and independent thought.

B3 Take responsibility for monitoring and evaluating progress in their own learning and that of the group.

B4 Appreciate and evaluate different viewpoints and present justified argument.

C) Subject and other skills:

Students will be able to...

C1 Communicate appropriately, effectively and with judgement in a range of modes and media.

C2 Use judgement to relate theory to practice so that work-based practice has a sound theoretical underpinning demonstrated through a command of specialist skills.

C3 Demonstrate appreciation of research methodology by applying what is learned to workplace tasks.

D) Professional Skills and abilities and Employability Skills and abilities:

Students will be able to...

D1 Read effectively and write appropriately for a range of audiences and reference their work effectively.

D2 Demonstrate autonomy, self-reliance and team work.

D3 Develop transferable graduate skills in communication and interpersonal relationships and written argument.

D4 Develop the skills needed to take responsibility for time management and work deadlines.

On completion of Level Five (**Families and Young Children Route**), students will be able to:

A) Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be able to...

A1 Explore and understand the differing views in respect of children's health and well-being and how these apply to practice.

A2 Utilise an understanding of the nature and significance of relationships in early childhood practice.

On completion of Level Five (**Play Route**), students will be able to:

A) Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be able to...

A3 Provide a rationale for the importance of space and place to the playing child and child development.

A4 Explore and examine playworking practice.

On completion of Level Five (**Education Route**), students will be able to:

A) Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be able to...

A5 Explore the concept of learning dispositions in relation to early childhood practice including an analysis of the support provided by curriculum, environment and relationships.

A6 Examine the concept of curriculum and related core skills.

A7 Explore the needs and support for children with special educational needs in relation to the core curriculum.

On completion of Level Five (**Special Educational Needs Route**), students will be able to:

A) Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be able to...

A7 Explore the needs and support for children with special educational needs in relation to the core curriculum.

A8 Examine the needs of children with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties, including available intervention, programmes and strategies.

Bachelor Degree

Level 6

On completion of Level Six (**Ordinary**), students will be able to:

A) Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be able to...

A1 Critically evaluate current childhood discourses and apply these as a lens through which to examine key debates.

A2 Critically explore the development of resilience enhancing factors and well-being in childhood through a lens of psychological study.

A3 Critically examine and compare global perspective of childhood.

B) Intellectual skills:

Students will be able to...

B1 Critically consider the purpose of independent study and apply effectively to academic practice.

B2 Engage in abstract conceptualisation and application.

B3 Reflect analytically on and apply problem solving skills to a range of situations.

C) Subject and other skills:

Students will be able to...

C1 Reflect critically on the effectiveness and suitability of communication for a range of purposes.

C2 Engage effectively in comparative analysis.

C3 Critically reflect and analyse the application of childhood studies to practice.

D) Professional Skills and abilities and Employability Skills and abilities:

Students will be able to...

D1 Demonstrate an ability to be critical in the choice of research materials and in the methods used to convey key information to a variety of audiences.

D2 Demonstrate achievement of transferable graduate skills in communication, interpersonal relationships and written argument.

On completion of Level Six (**Honours**), students will be able to:

A) Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be able to...

A1 Critically evaluate current childhood discourses and apply these as a lens through which to examine key debates.

A2 Critically explore the development of resilience enhancing factors and well-being in childhood through a lens of psychological study.

A3 Critically examine and compare global perspective of childhood.

A4 Critically analyse Diversity and Equality as it applies to childhood practice or evaluate the relationship between risk, resilience and well-being in children's play

A5 Reflect critically on the application of research to childhood practice.

B) Intellectual skills:

Students will be able to...

B1 Critically consider the purpose of independent study and apply effectively to academic practice.

B2 Engage in abstract conceptualisation and application.

B3 Reflect analytically on and apply problem solving skills to a range of situations.

B4 Demonstrate an effective range of research skills and a critical understanding of research ethics.

C) Subject and other skills:

Students will be able to...

C1 Reflect critically on the effectiveness and suitability of communication for a range of purposes.

C2 Engage effectively in comparative analysis.

C3 Critically reflect and analyse the application of childhood studies to practice.

C4 Demonstrate a clear understanding of the appropriateness and applicability of research to the children's workforce.

D) Professional Skills and abilities and Employability Skills and abilities:

Students will be able to...

D1 Demonstrate an ability to be critical in the choice of research materials and in the methods used to convey key information to a variety of audiences.

D2 Demonstrate achievement of transferable graduate skills in communication, interpersonal relationships and written argument.

Curriculum Matrix

Level 4

		<i>Knowledge and understanding, intellectual skills, subject skills, and practical, professional and employability skills</i>																
	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>C/ O*</i>	<i>A1</i>	<i>A2</i>	<i>A3</i>	<i>A4</i>	<i>B1</i>	<i>B2</i>	<i>B3</i>	<i>B4</i>	<i>C1</i>	<i>C2</i>	<i>C3</i>	<i>C4</i>	<i>D1</i>	<i>D2</i>	<i>D3</i>	<i>D4</i>
L4	Understanding the Child and Childhood	C	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x
	Academic and Professional Skills for Practitioners	C				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
	Safeguarding Children	C	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x
	Understanding the Playing Child	O		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
	Understanding Curricula	O		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x

* C/O = Core/Option

Level 5

Knowledge and understanding, intellectual skills, subject skills, and practical, professional and employability skills																								
L5	Module Title	C/ O*	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10		B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3	D4
	Working with Children and Families in Society	C										x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
	Exploring Research Skills	C									x			x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x
	Research in Practice	C									x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
FdA Childhood Studies: Families and Young Children																								
	Relationships in Practice	C		x										x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
	Health and Well-being	C	x											x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
FdA Childhood Studies: Play																								
	Playworking	C				x								x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
	Places for Play	C			x									x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
FdA Childhood Studies: Early Years Education																								
	Dispositions for Learning	O					x							x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
	Core Curriculum	C						x						x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
	Supporting the Core Curriculum	O							x					x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
FdA Childhood Studies: Special Educational Needs																								

Supporting the Core Curriculum	O									x						x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Supporting Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties	C										x					x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x

* C/O = Core/Option

Level 6

		<i>Knowledge and understanding, intellectual skills, subject skills, and practical, professional and employability skills</i>															
L6	Module Title	C/O*	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2
	Key Debates in Childhood Today	C	x				x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x
	Psychology in Childhood	C		x			x	x	x	x				x		x	x
	International Perspectives on Childhood	C			x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x
	Providing for Risk, Resilience and Well-being in Children's Play	O				x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x	x
	Diversity and Equality	O				x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x	x
	Research Project	C					x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x

* C/O = Core/Option

Learning and teaching strategy used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

These programmes take a spiral curriculum approach strengthening and deepening learners' knowledge and understanding of theoretical perspectives in Childhood Studies. This enables an understanding of the scope and detail of literature, policy and legislation within the field and fosters an understanding of the need to develop a mature and informed approach with regard to academic progress and personal and intellectual development.

Online Learning

The programmes offer a flexible and interactive e-learning experience using the University's virtual learning environment – Moodle.

Moodle is available to students 24/7 and provides an uncomplicated platform through which to access all course materials and communicate with the programme team.

Students will work with the online course materials through self-directed study at a time and pace which is convenient to them. A structure is incorporated into the course materials to guide students through the learning experience and to encourage students to study on a regular basis. Students are not able to access all course materials from the beginning of the programmes. Each programme has a timetable which details when modules are available and students must study each session before progressing to the next.

Online course materials are presented in a variety of formats to encourage ongoing engagement. Typically a session may consist of a voiced-over presentation, reading materials, online exercises i.e. a quiz, video clips, screencasts or podcasts. Students are directed towards and supported to access journal articles and e-books through Athens.

Alongside self-directed study students are encouraged to engage with the programme team and with each other using a range of communication tools. This engagement will be both to support learning through the discussion of course materials using chat forums, web conferencing and Skype and to support the sharing of experiences and work-based learning through forming an online community of practice. Interaction between students is facilitated and encouraged throughout the course through 'Sharing Practice' forums and through group work using wiki pages.

Students will also receive individual academic and pastoral support through communication tools such as e-mail, Moodle messaging and Skype.

Students studying the BA (Hons) top-up programme also have access to a blended learning route. This will consist of studying course materials online alongside the e-learning students and then entering the classroom once a week to engage in group discussions, sharing experiences and activity while e-learners will undertake a similar learning experience through chat forums, web-conferencing, and group wiki pages.

Work-based Learning – Foundation Degrees Only

Work-based learning is an integral part of the programmes, 'it includes, at its core, activities and learning outcomes designed around the individual's occupation, whether paid or unpaid.' (QAA Code of Practice) It enables learners to develop their role(s) within the workplace, giving them the opportunity to learn and apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired as an integral element of the taught programmes. It will involve the development of higher-level learning within both the institution and the workplace. It will be a two way process, where the learning acquired in the workplace can be applied to the taught programme and the learning from the taught programme taken into the setting.

Work-based learning for the foundation degrees will take the form of continuous employment within the children's workforce.

Work-based learning is an integral part of the foundation degree programmes and reflected in each programmes aims and outcomes.

Work-based Learning Management and Support

The relationship between the employee (as a student) undertaking a programme of study and their work-place is established through a Learning Agreement. The purpose of the Learning Agreement is to ensure that the employee has access to the learning opportunities and documentation they need to successfully complete their course. To oversee this requirement the setting is asked to provide their employee with a work-place mentor if required. The role of the work-place mentor will differ depending on the role and needs of the employee. As a minimum the work-place mentor should ensure the employee has access to the opportunities outlined in the Learning Agreement. However it is hoped that the work-place mentor will also provide the role of a critical friend.

Work-place Learning Agreement

The Learning Agreement will provide information for the employer regarding the modules a student is studying. This is so the employer is aware of the topics for discussion and learning opportunities i.e. child observations their employee may wish to engage in. It will briefly explain the role of the work-place mentor and provide a place for the setting to indicate the name of the allocated person. Finally a senior employee i.e. line manager is asked to sign the Learning Agreement to indicate they understand and support their employee to undertake study.

Learning Agreements will not be required by lone-workers i.e. childminders or practitioners who hold the most senior role within their setting as permission will not be required to access learning opportunities.

A draft Learning Agreement is included in appendix 2

Management of relationship

The student is responsible for maintaining the relationship with their work-place mentor. Where a breakdown of the Learning Agreement occurs the programme leader will work with the student to seek a solution which will maintain the student's employment and their place on the course, each case will be treated individually and sensitively.

The role of the Work-place Mentor

The role of the work-place mentor is that of enabler and critical friend. They are not required to assess the student or provide any written documentation. No formal training is required to undertake this role, although the programme leader will be happy to provide support and guidance if needed.

The mentor's role will typically involve:

- Enabling the student to access opportunities to carry out work-based study tasks i.e. observing a group of children they wouldn't normally work with.
- Enabling the student to access relevant documentation
- Supporting the student as a critical friend.
- Encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences.

Peer Mentor

Peer mentors will be used when an employee is not in a position to identify a work-based mentor i.e. students who work alone or hold the most senior position within their setting or organisation. Peer mentors can be chosen by the student or can be chosen, with the support of the programme leader, from within the student cohort.

The role of the peer mentor will typically involve:

- Supporting the student as a critical friend.
- Exchanging ideas and experiences.
- Providing encouragement and a listening ear.

Welsh Medium Provision

The University is committed to expanding Welsh medium provision and while the Childhood and Family studies team is unable to deliver any of the programmes through Welsh, there is opportunity for students to submit written assignments in Welsh. Throughout the programmes reference is made to Welsh context, policy and legislation as it applies to Childhood Studies.

Assessment strategy used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

Foundation Degrees

The assessment tasks, set over the duration of the programmes, are designed to develop and build upon a wide range of personal and professional skills, whilst strongly reinforcing links between theory and practical application. The assessment methods chosen have been designed to reflect the changing role of the professional, their ongoing academic achievement, as well as embracing the need for evaluation and reflection throughout.

All assessments at foundation degree level have an academic and work-based element. A number of the assessments consist of multiple components especially at the beginning of level 4. This enables students to work on and receive feedback on shorter written pieces at the beginning of their studies and to quickly develop key skills.

Within the foundation degree the main assessment types are:

- Essay
- Report
- Portfolio
- Project

Portfolios are used as a method of bring a number of shorter and varied tasks together in to one piece of work. A portfolio may consist of online quizzes, online discussions, written reflective tasks, wiki pages and short pieces of group work.

A project is used to donate pieces of work used to develop key skills as requested by employers these may include:

- Develop frameworks
- Write proposals
- Briefing papers
- Develop questionnaires and interviews
- Develop resources
- Team work

To enable students to make transition between level 3 studies and level 4 academic study an assessment word count of 3000 words per 20 credits or equivalent has been adopted. This will enable students to work within more manageable word counts to develop academic writing conventions.

At level 5 students are expected to make a transition to more independent learning and to manage assessments with more complexity and scope. To enable this an assessment word count of 4000 words per 20 credits or equivalent has been adopted.

Bachelor Degree

At level 6 students are encouraged to develop more graduate based skills. Therefore the assessment tasks are devised to reflect a number of higher level attributes.

Students will experience and engage in a different assessment type per module these being:

- Annotated Literature Review
- Essay
- Comparative Study
- Case Study

The skills gained from these assessment types should then form the underlying skill set required to undertake a research project.

All assessments at level 6 have a nominal 4000 word count. However to enable more scope for development the Research Project is 6000 words in total.

The following information applies to both the foundation degrees and the bachelor degree.

Criteria for Devising Assignments.

They will :

- be appropriate to undergraduate levels Four, Five and Six of the awards and are based on the Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.
- provide realistic scope that allows the candidate to relate to the aims and outcomes of the module.
- clearly state the expectations of the assignment and the methodologies to be used.
- use valid and reliable techniques of assessment,
- not be focused too narrowly.
- allow the candidate to demonstrate his/her analytical and reflective skills,
- allow candidates to integrate theory with practice and draw upon their own direct, personal, and professional experience,
- give opportunity for the candidate to demonstrate his/her own professional development,
- encourage consideration of equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice,
- maintain ethical standards of confidentiality,
- be appropriate and sensitive to the needs of the children's workforce
- be manageable for a student studying on a part-time basis.

Assessment Handbook

At the beginning of each programme students are given access to an Assessment Handbook which outlines the learning outcomes and assessment tasks for each module. It also contains details of submission dates, details of the feedback process, key study skills and Harvard referencing guidance.

Assessment Feedback

A clear feedback strategy is presented to students at the beginning of the programmes. This strategy is based on the understanding that written feedback and feed forward will be timely, appropriate and constructive, to enable students to develop personally, professionally and academically. Areas of strength and those for development will be identified against the intended module learning outcomes and 'closing the gap' comments offered to guide students in their learning and progress.

A generic assessment rubric is used across all levels of study and this is based on the development of key academic skills (see appendix 3 for an example).

All student work and feedback will be submitted and returned electronically using Moodle.

Quality Assurance

Second marking offers tutors the opportunity to confirm their interpretation of the outcomes. Moderation procedures will ensure that there is comparability of assessment across the modules within the programme. External Examiners will sample work from all modules, enabling them to scrutinise the fairness of the marking and to make appropriate recommendations where necessary.

Assessment Table

Level	Module Title	HE Credit	Assessment	Weighting	Submission
4	ECS404 Understanding the Child and Childhood	40 Core	Essay	40%	December
			Portfolio	60%	February*
	ECS405 Academic and Professional Skills for Practitioners	40 Core	Essay	40%	June
			Portfolio	60%	April*
	ECS406 Safeguarding Children	20 Core	Report	100%	May
	ECS407 Understanding the Playing Child	20 Option	Group Project	100%	July
ECS408 Understanding Curricula	20 Option	Group Project	100%	July	
5	ECS504 Working with Children and Families in Society	40 Core	Portfolio	100%	February*
	ECS505 Exploring Research Skills	20 Core	Portfolio	100%	March*
	ECS506 Research in Practice	20 Core	Project	100%	June
	ECS507 Relationships in Practice	20 Core (Route 1)	Essay	100%	May
	ECS508 Health and Well-being	20 Core (Route 1)	Project	100%	July
	ECS512 Playworking	20 Core (Route 2)	Essay	100%	May
	ECS509 Places for Play	20 Core (Route 2)	Project	100%	July
	ECS510 Dispositions for Learning	20 Option (Route 3)	Essay	100%	July
	ECS511 Core Curriculum	20 Core (Route 3)	Project	100%	May

	ECS 514 Supporting the Core Curriculum	20 Option (Route 3 & 4)	Essay	100%	July
	ECS 513 Supporting Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties	20 Core (Route 4)	Project	100%	May
6	ECS604 Key Debates in Childhood Today	20 Core	Annotated Literature Review	100%	December
	PSY616 Psychology: Well-being in childhood	20 Core	Essay	100%	February
	ECS605 International Perspectives on Childhood	20 Core	Comparative Study	100%	May
	ECS607 Providing for Risk, Resilience and Well-being in Children's Play	20 Option (Hons)	Case Study	100%	July
	ECS606 Equality and Diversity	20 Option (Hons)	Case Study	100%	July
	ECS608 Research Project	40 Core (Hons)	Project	100%	May

* Portfolios consist of a number of tasks which will be formatively assessed throughout the duration of the module and summatively assessed in the month given.

Assessment regulations that apply to the programme

Regulations

Glyndŵr University's regulations for initial undergraduate modular degrees, diplomas, certificates and foundation degrees.

Borderline definition – Foundation Degrees

Only the following rounded marks will be regarded as “borderline”:

59% Borderline Merit

69% Borderline Distinction

If a student's average score is borderline as defined above, the following criteria shall be used:

- At least 50% of the credits at level 5 (or above) fall within the higher classification.
- All level 5 modules must have been passed at the first attempt.

In considering borderline cases the Assessment Board shall raise the classification to the next level if **all** of the criteria are met.

An exit qualification (a Certificate of Higher Education) may be awarded to candidates who have obtained a minimum of 120 credits at level 4 or above but find themselves unable (or are not permitted) subsequently to complete the scheme.

Borderline definition – Bachelor Degree

Only the following rounded marks will be regarded as “borderline”:

39% Borderline Class III

49% Borderline Class II(ii)

59% Borderline Class II(i)

69% Borderline Class I

If a student's average score is borderline as defined above, the following criteria shall be used:

- At least 50% of the credits at level 6 fall within the higher classification.
- All level 6 modules must have been passed at the first attempt
- The mark achieved for the research project is within the higher classification.

In considering borderline cases the Assessment Board shall raise the classification to the next level if **all** of the criteria are met.

Programme Management

The programme team has extensive experience in Childhood Studies both through academic study and engagement with the children's workforce. The Programme Leader has interest and experience in delivering programmes through e-learning and gained a PGC E-Learning: Theory and Practice in 2011.

The suite of programmes will have a single Programme Leader to oversee the continuity of the programme and delivery from level 4 to level 6.

Programme Team

Role	Staff Member	Specialist Area
Academic Head	Phil Bassett	
Programme Leader	Liz Sheen	Learning Technology
Module Leaders	Ben Tawil	Children's Play
	Kate Wagner	Sociology of Childhood
	David Lane	Public Child Law & Safeguarding
	Gillian Danby	Health and Well-being
	Karen Southern	Family and Education
	Liz Sheen	Development of babies and young children
	Sahar Hamid (Psychology)	Psychology
Module Input*	Paula Hamilton	Education/Inclusive Practice
	Ruth Davies	Early Years Education
	Duane Chong	Creativity
	John Luker	Education

* Lecturers who have had an input into the design and development of the suite of programmes and who may teach occasionally on modules.

Quality Management Arrangements

Programme Team Meetings

The programme team hold Programme Board meetings in each semester the programmes run where various operational and strategic issues are discussed. This is also the forum for the discussion of end of module feedback, the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and External Examiner Report with the programme team.

Informal team meetings are held on a weekly or monthly basis (as required) to deal with adhoc issues as and when they occur.

Staff Student Consultative Committee (SSCC)

These meetings take place two times per year and are in line with Glyndŵr University policy. As students study online feedback is collected electronically. All students are provided with details on the purpose and process of the SSCC. Students then have an opportunity to provide feedback by e-mail to the course administrator who collates and anonymises the information before passing to the programme leader. The programme leader then produces a report for students which acknowledges their comments and addresses their concerns.

Feedback from students and other stakeholders.

Feedback is formally collected from students at the end of each module using an online Student Experience of Module (SEM) survey in Moodle. The results of the survey are downloaded, collated and discussed with tutors individually. General comments from the collated feedback would be shared with all tutors during the Programme Board.

Any pressing issues raised by students in the feedback would be addressed immediately through e-mail with the applicable cohort. Any non-urgent issues would be addressed as part of the SSCC report.

Due to the online collaborative nature of the programmes students also have an ongoing means of providing informal feedback through various chat forums and tutor/student messaging. Students frequently communicate their thoughts about the course and the module content which enables the Programme Leader and Module Leaders to be proactive in supporting students as and when issues arise.

As there is a requirement that students undertaking the foundation degree are in employment our students have a direct link to our stakeholders or are themselves a stakeholder. Feedback regarding the programmes often refers to the link between the course and the requirements of the workplace. This enables us to continually adapt our module materials to ensure currency.

In addition there is ongoing contact between the Programme Leader and organisations within the children's workforce who provide funding for students. Progress reports are provided on a regular basis and the organisations provide welcome feedback on the validity of the programmes at annual funding review meetings.

Content Review

The content of the programmes are reviewed annually in line with the AMR process, student feedback and workforce developments and any necessary changes are made in consultation with the external examiner using the AM1 or AM2 (minor and major modifications) process as presented in the University regulations.

External Examiner

An external examiner is appointed to the programmes and will see samples of assessment from across all levels. Feedback on work sampled in accordance with University regulations is fed back to the programme team for action/consideration and response, which subsequently informs the Annual Monitoring Review.

A copy of the external examiners report and reply is made available to students on Moodle.

Research and Scholarship Activity

The programme team's research and scholarly activity underpins the overall teaching in Childhood Studies. Specific research and scholarly activity is presented in individual staff CV's (see additional document), but an overview of how some of this activity underpins the programme content will be provided here.

All team members either hold or are working towards a postgraduate qualification relevant to the subject area. Areas of research currently engaged in by members of staff include:

- The lived experiences and perceptions of participants of a children's play project (PhD study)
- The concept of child centeredness in decision making in public child law proceedings- perspectives of the judiciary (PhD study)
- Children's well-being in Education (PhD study)
- Quality provision in day care settings for children young people and families (PhD study)
- Children's learning in the outdoor environment (MEd study)
- Practitioner perceptions of creativity and its impact on children (ProfDoc study)
- Inclusion, Diversity and Children's Well-being (PhD study)

Ben Tawil led the team in developing a conference in 2011 - 'Children's Well-being in Wrexham - Provision, Participation and Protection' in collaboration with Wrexham Local Authority

Individual members of the team are also involved in a number of external projects including:

Play in schools evaluation toolkit. Wrexham Local Authority. 2012.

Play Sufficiency assessment. Wrexham Local Authority. 2012/13.

Regional Play project evaluation. Flintshire Local Authority. 2013.

Reflecting on research *in practice*: developing innovative support structures for students undertaking small-scale research projects in work settings.

Particular support for learning

Tutor Support

Academic and personal support, whether delivered in person or through the VLE, will be a central premise upon which these programmes are built. The students will come from a wide range of personal and professional contexts, having reached different points in their professional careers in different institutions and systems, and having different personal circumstances. This calls for a flexible, adaptive and frequently personal approach to pastoral and welfare support by staff. The primary point of academic support for all students will be from the module tutor and pastoral support from the Programme Leader or other member off the staff team to whom they have formed a relationship.

The team do not impose a member of staff to provide pastoral care as student retention is best obtained by supporting a relationship between the student and member off staff with whom they feel most comfortable online. This requires some flexibility on behalf of the programme team facilitated by the Programme Leader to ensure equity and fairness.

Students are encouraged to use the module tutor who will be marking their assignment as their first point of contact for academic guidance and support, since this is someone who will be familiar with their professional and academic context. Again, if appropriate, the Programme Leader will also be available. In those instances where, for whatever reason, a student has difficulties completing a module, we provide support as appropriate whilst recognizing that we are not trained counselors. Where the difficulty is not academically related and the nature of the issue lies outside the remit of the tutor or Programme Leader, we refer the individual to appropriate support groups, either inside or outside the University.

Students have different initial points of contact at different times during their studies. It is expected that the main methods of communication will be via Moodle using messaging and by e-mail and telephone/Skype. Each module tutor will be the student's initial contact point during the time they are studying that module. Once a student embarks upon the research project, the research supervisor will become that student's tutor for the remainder of the programme. The student may, at any time, approach the University's student support groups or the Programme Leader for guidance as and when appropriate.

For all students, there will be clearly defined paths of access to module tutors, Programme Leader, Academic head and staff within the Undergraduate School Office. All students will receive a Student Handbook at the commencement of their studies.

Resources

At the beginning of their studies students will receive clear guidance on how to access electronic resources via Athens. The students are provided with a list of available e-books relevant to the subject area to which the University subscribes and can be accessed through Dawson Books.

Students are also guided to access the most suitable and relevant journals according to the level of their study.

Each module will have at least one essential text which can be accessed through Athens. The recommended reading list will also contain a number of e-books currently subscribed to by the University.

The department of Childhood and Family studies continually strive to add to the e-book resources available to students.

Students may also request a Sconul card which will allow them access to University libraries close to where they live.

Students may make further use of library services by contacting the library staff by e-mail or telephone.

Study Skills

Students requiring additional study skills support can access the study skills team through telephone or by Skype. Online students have the same access to student support as available to those on campus.

International Students Language Support

International students joining the programmes may need support in Academic English. The programme team will liaise with The Language Centre and direct students as required.

The Programme Leader has a qualification in Teaching English as a Second Language and has 10 years of experience of working with non-native speakers of English in an educational context.

Equality and Diversity

Glyndŵr University is committed to ensuring that everyone who has potential to achieve in higher education is given the chance to do so, irrespective of age, gender, disability, sexuality, race or social background. This is reflected in the fact that the University has the highest number of students from non-traditional backgrounds and those claiming Disabled Student Allowance in Wales (HESA performance indicators June 2008).

The programme team are committed to supporting equality and diversity. This can be seen through the integration of diversity and equality into the recruitment, selection and admission of students on to the programmes. Prospective students are given the opportunity to discuss individual needs during interview and with the Programme Leader once the studies have commenced. Reasonable adjustments will be made as far as possible and advice will be provided in line with individual requests and needs.

Modules have been designed to include a wide variety of learning materials to enable students to engage with the programme at a comfortable level.

Additional support will be offered to participants with additional learning needs arising from a disability and/or special learning differences. Where appropriate, specialist support is made available by staff within the Learning Support Suite. Study skills support will be provided by the programme team, together with specialists from the library and information centres when required. It will be the responsibility of the student to access these or other appropriate resources when advised to do so. Support can be accessed at a distance by telephone and through Skype.