

Faculty of Education and Humanities

BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies

2018-2019

**Welcome**

**Booklet**



## Welcome to the University of Northampton

A very warm welcome to Early Childhood Studies. We are delighted that you have chosen to study with us. Our programme is designed to support you in making a real difference to the lives of children and their families, and to equip you for a stimulating and rewarding future in the early years. Our friendly and highly experienced multi-professional staff team are eager to support you on your personal and academic journey. We hope you have a happy, successful and rewarding time studying at the University.

We hope the following information will support you in preparing to join us in September and if you have any questions please contact:

Tanya Richardson: [tanya.richardson@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:tanya.richardson@northampton.ac.uk)

## Your Timetable

In Year One you will study:

EYS1011	Studying Child Development in the Early Years
EYS1012	Children's Health and Well-Being
EYS1013	The Child, Children's Services and The Law
EYS1117	Worked Based Learning in Early Childhood Education and Care
EYS1118	Personal, Academic and Professional Development 1

All modules are compulsory, and you must pass EYS1117 to progress to Year Two. Each Module will be taught in blocks so that you are totally immersed in each subject.

You will have five weeks of Placement:

22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Case study observations

25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019: Work Based Placement in an Early Childhood Education and Care setting.



## How will your week be structured?

You will be in University for most of **Welcome Week (24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> September 2018)**. A programme for this week will follow as a separate document.

Your modules start the week of the **1<sup>st</sup> October 2018**.

Your formal timetable will be available before you join us and will show specific times for formal sessions and rooms.

**On your days in University you will be in all day not just the hours on your timetable. You will have group work, support sessions and tutorials built around your formal contact with the module team.**

### A Typical Week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-4.30	9-4.30	Private Study/ Afternoon Sports Clubs	9-4.30	Private Study

**Placement Weeks are full time (7 ½ hours per day) 5 days per week**

## How will you learn?

You will learn through a range of experiences, at University and on placement, which blend together to ensure you develop academic and professional skills and a strong value base.

Each module is made up of 'Learning Events' which involve a whole range of activities that take place before, during and after formal sessions on the days you are in University.

You will have other reading, online activities and work for your assignments to complete on your Private Study days.

## Support

You will all have a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) based at the University and a trained mentor during each placement experience. The PAT is your first 'go to person' if you have any questions or need support. The PATs meet with the Programme Leader on a regular basis and you can contact the Programme Leader at any time.

Your Programme Leader is Tanya Richardson and she can be contacted by email on [tanya.richardson@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:tanya.richardson@northampton.ac.uk) Please note that university policy is that emails must be responded to within five working days (working day is between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday)



Each teaching group will have an elected representative who will regularly gather and discuss the feedback from the 'student voice'.

Support is also available from the library, academic librarians, student centre, counselling team, Assist....You will receive all of the details of the various support that is available when you commence the course.

## Mentors

During your time at the university, especially during your first year, you may have some questions as to what to expect.

We have a group of mentors available to you who have just completed their first year of the Early Childhood Studies course and are able to offer you support and guidance if needed. They have received training on being a mentor and are therefore very well placed to offer help should you need it.

They will come into some of your sessions so hopefully they will become familiar faces as you settle into university life.



Hi, my name is Louise, I am 19 years old and live in Buckinghamshire. I have always wanted to work with children and I am hoping when I graduate I will be accepted onto a PGCE course to become a primary school teacher!

As a commuter, when I first started I felt so nervous and all alone as I wasn't living in halls, however, it is not as bad as you think, and almost half of my year commuted! Please feel free to email me about any questions, worries or just a general conversation about the course on [louisehawes@hotmail.com](mailto:louisehawes@hotmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you!

Hi, my name is Cerys. I am currently 19 years old and I am living in Northampton with some girls on the course. After getting my degree, I hope to continue my studies and work towards becoming a Nursery Teacher. I am very passionate about working children and I look forward to my career in the future. At the moment, I am not a very confident person but it has been gradually improving due to the opportunities we are given on this course. Having been there myself, I understand to worries and issues you might face within your first year, but your lectures and mentors are here to help with whatever we can. I will be available for any problems or questions you might have, feel free to drop me an email any time.

My email is [ceryswaltham@icloud.com](mailto:ceryswaltham@icloud.com).

Enjoy your first year!





My name is Joanna and I have just finished my first year in Early Childhood Studies, so I know and can remember exactly how you must all be feeling! Its nerve-wracking as well as incredibly exciting and that's why me and a few of my other course mates and friends are here to support you during your first year. I was on the dance team last year and for the next academic year I am Vice-Captain and Jazz Choreographer, I completely suggest joining a sport or a society and I can offer support in this as well as support in how to balance your free time with studying. Trust me – you will love this year, make the most of it and push yourself out of your comfort zone, I look forward to meeting you all next year!

Hi I'm Rebecca, I am 20 years old and currently living in Milton Keynes. I live at home after spending a year living in halls. I am extremely passionate about children's learning and development and focusing on how children learn. In year one I enjoyed the child development module and the law module. I hope to be working in education when I finish the course. Feel free to email me about anything, this may be about the course, assignments, personal worries and student life in general. My email address is [rebecca.nicole2018@btinternet.com](mailto:rebecca.nicole2018@btinternet.com), don't be shy to contact me and ask me anything I am more than happy to help in any way that I can.



**Hi, my name is Ruth,** I am 19 years old living with my family, and I'm a Christian. My passion is working with children and my desire is to own a school where I can service their needs. I found my first year at university quite daunting, but ended on a high. Therefore, I can help you avoid some of the pitfalls in the first year. Please feel free to contact me when you need help. My email is [anna.umoren@outlook.com](mailto:anna.umoren@outlook.com)

Hi, I'm Katie. I am 21 years old and I live just outside of Northampton, I grew up in Northampton so have a lot of local knowledge, which you may find useful! I hope to work for the police in child protection when I qualify! The first year of university has been a wonderful experience and I hope you all enjoy it as much as I have!

This time last year I was where you are, I understand all your fears and worries, I had them too! My email address is [katiewr@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katiewr@hotmail.co.uk), please feel free to email about any questions or concerns you have whether course related or personal, or if you just need a chat. I will do my best to give you advise or point you in the direction of someone who can help further. I look forward to meeting you all soon.



Hi, my name is Lucy and I am 25 years old. I have recently moved from Oxford to Northampton to live with a few other girls on my course. A favourite part of year 1 for me was placement; I enjoyed going in to a Primary School setting and gaining some experience within a classroom, especially as I would like to go into teaching after this degree. I am keen to help others and will be at hand should you need a friendly face or some welcoming advice whether it be a personal problem or coursework related. Please feel free to email me anytime: [lucyelizabeth-@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucyelizabeth-@hotmail.co.uk).

Hi, my name is Gina, I am 21 and living in a student house in Northampton. I'm a quiet person, who often keeps to myself and I fancied a challenge, so I decided to volunteer to become a mentor for you. I have a passion when it comes to the early years and I love working with young children. I also have a massive passion for baking, which is something which really inspires me, especially when helping young children to bake. I would love to help you out if you need any advice and support and I am always an email away if you need me, ([Georginaallicelinnett12@gmail.com](mailto:Georginaallicelinnett12@gmail.com)). Don't be shy to contact me! Remember, I've been through this too! I look forward to hearing from you.



## Books

There are two books we would like you to buy before you join the course to support your learning and your assignments:

Santrock, J. (2019) *Children*. 14th ed. New York: McGraw Hill Education.

Waller, T. and Davis, G. (eds.) (2014) *An introduction to early childhood a multidisciplinary approach*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. London: Sage.

**Please make sure you buy the right edition**

## What to do before you start the Programme?

### Being a Learner

We would like you to spend some time before you join us preparing yourself for learning in Higher Education

[Study Skills for Academic Success](#) course is designed to help you develop key skills including academic writing and references. Please access this course and spend some time familiarising yourself with the content.



## Case Study Children

As part of your Early Childhood Studies degree you will be asked to complete Case Study Research on **two children**. This will support planning, preparation and focus for the studying Child Development module in year one(EYS1011) and the Children and their Learning in year 2 (EYS2006).

The objectives of the study are

- To inform and support your knowledge of child development
- To develop and sustain professional, ethical and sensitive relationships with children and parents
- To learn and reflect on the practice of studying children
- To begin to develop your skills as a researcher, involved in a longitudinal study

### What does Case Study work involve?

Students will need to identify two children to study; one child will ideally be aged between 0-1 and the other aged 3-4. Over the three years of the course each student will have experience of observing children in their own home contexts across a broad age range. Students will carry out observations and report on these children's growth and development throughout the course

### Identifying children to study

Most students select children from their home area, through family or work experience contacts but children should not be part of the students' immediate family as some objectivity needs to be maintained. Some students approach health visitors or nurseries and ask if any families might be able to help. If you are finding it difficult to identify children to study ask other students in the group. **It is imperative that you identify these children as soon as possible and be ready to observe them from October.**



### **What do families need to know?**

Parents will need to know that:-

- You will negotiate mutually convenient times to visit.
- You value all the insights they can give you into their child and that you will be interested in what he/she does and how he/she is learning and developing between your visits.
- You will keep in regular contact by telephone or other means to
- That with their permission you will record observations and information parents may give you
- Any material you collect will be recorded so that the child and the family cannot be identified as you will use pseudonyms instead of real names.
- You will not keep anything in your file without showing it to them.
- It would be very useful for you to take photographs or video of their child to help you understand their development. **\*Please do not do this before University starts and you have studied Ethics of researching children.**

### **What do you need to do next?**

Identify 2 children – do this as soon as possible before your start University

### **What will we do to support you?**

In the first few sessions we will help you to:

1. Consider ethical issues involved in studying
2. Write a 'Statement of Intent' illustrating how your study will conform to ethical guidelines Complete the ethics form
3. Complete a risk assessment.
4. Gain informed consent from the parents.
5. Work with the parents on a background 'history' of the child
6. Begin collecting data (observations, transcripts of conversations with parents, annotated photographs and pictures)\*
7. Keep your tutor informed of your progress by bringing in your Case Study details to all focus sessions.
8. Make sure you evaluate your observations and other records of the child's development straight away.

**Any questions please contact Tanya Richardson**  
[tanya.richardson@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:tanya.richardson@northampton.ac.uk)

Time	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September
9:00am					9:00am - 12:00 noon Skills Session Group 1 LH126 Group 2 SN110
10:00am		10:00am - 12:00 noon Meet the group! In the Engine Shed!	10:00am - 1:00pm Individual tutorial sessions - your tutor will email with time and location		
11:00am					
12:00pm				12:00 noon - 3:00pm Subject Session Group 1 SN306 Group 2 LH124	
1:00pm		1:00 - 2:00pm Meet your personal tutor - they will email you with location	1:00pm - 3:00pm When not with your tutor spend time with your group preparing for afternoon		1:00pm - 1:30pm Q &A session Group 1 & 2 SN304
1:30pm					
2:00pm					
3:00pm			3:00pm - 6:00pm Social Belonging/Team Building Group 1 LH230 Group 2 LH229		
4:00pm		4:00 - 4:30pm Expectations session Group 1 & 2 SN101			
4:30pm					
5:00pm					
6:00pm					