



## **BA Early Childhood Practice – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is the Level 7 BA in ECP?**

The BA in Early Childhood Practice is a degree level, 180-credit programme jointly delivered over four semesters by both the Faculty of Education at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and the Department of Social Sciences at the Institute of Technology, Tralee. On successful completion, you will be conferred with a University of Limerick level 7 Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Practice. This programme has been designed specifically to up-skill staff currently working in the Early Childhood Care and Education sector.

### **2. What are the entry requirements?**

Applicants should have FETAC Level 6 or equivalent and should be working in the Early Childhood Care and Education sector.

### **3. I do not have a Level 6 qualification or equivalent but have considerable professional experience at the appropriate level. Am I eligible to apply?**

You may apply and provide evidence of how your professional experience matches the learning outcomes of the programme. Such applications will be considered on an individual basis and eligibility will be ascertained with reference to the existing programme entry requirements.

If you are in this category please contact Gerard O Carroll 066 7191904 or [Gerard.ocarroll@staff.ittralee.ie](mailto:Gerard.ocarroll@staff.ittralee.ie)

### **4. What does online and blended delivery mean?**

About 1/3 of the programme is delivered in face-to-face classes. The remaining 2/3 is delivered online. This means that you will be able to access notes, presentations, reading, video and audio clips, activities etc at home in your own time. There will be dedicated times each week when you will participate in online discussions and tutorials from home. You will also be required to undertake intensive independent study for the duration of the programme.

### **5. I am not very up to date in using technology. Is this a problem?**

The technology used will be internet based so all you require is a good internet connection and a PC or laptop. You will be provided with support to use the online/blended content.

### **6. What time commitment is required?**

The BA ECP is a Level 7 (degree) award and as such requires a sustained input from the learner. You will cover 5 modules in each semester which entail class contact, readings, independent study and online participation. A range of assessment modes will be used to

measure your achievements on the programme, including written assignments, oral presentations and the compilation of portfolios.

**7. How does joint delivery work?**

The programme involves joint delivery by ITT and MIC. The first semester, from September 2014 to January 2015 will be delivered by ITT. The following semester from January to May 2015 will be delivered by MIC. The third semester from September 2015 to January 2016 will again be delivered by ITT and the final semester from January to May 2016 by MIC.

**8. How many class contact hours will I have per week?**

The total class contact hours per semester will be approximately 50. The group will meet approximately every 3 weeks. Contact hours will be blocked into either one evening and one half Saturday or two evenings or one weekend approximately every 3 weeks

**9. Where will face-to-face classes take place?**

Depending on the semester, classes will take place in either ITT or MIC or possibly at a suitable central location depending on the geographical spread of participants.

**10. Is there a work placement component?**

The assessment of practical professional practice is part of the programme and this can be achieved through your existing employment and contacts. It is proposed that the placement component will occur during both spring semesters for one day per week over the course of 12 weeks.

**11. How much does the course cost?**

The cost is €1,850 per semester. For tax relief, please see information at <http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it31.html>

**12. How do I apply?**

Application form is available for download [here](#)

ITT will forward application forms to anybody who has provided contact details.

Completed applications forms should be returned to: Admissions Office, Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick.

**Closing date for receipt of application form is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

**13. When will programme start?**

The programme will commence the first week of September 2014.

**14. If I have further questions**

Contact Gerard O Carroll [gerard.ocarroll@staff.ittralee.ie](mailto:gerard.ocarroll@staff.ittralee.ie) or 066 7191904 or Deirdre Breatnach [deirdre.breatnach@mic.ul.ie](mailto:deirdre.breatnach@mic.ul.ie) 061-204565 or Jennifer Pope [jennifer.pope@mic.ul.ie](mailto:jennifer.pope@mic.ul.ie) 061-204581