



Irish College of Humanities & Applied Sciences

MA in Childhood Studies

Critical Perspectives on Child and Adolescent Development

The aim of this Module is to support learners to acquire the necessary conceptual knowledge to work with children and adolescents. Learners will focus on the range of conceptualizations and discourses associated with child and adolescent development approaches over the period of the Module and will be required to appraise the evidence base for the range of explanatory theories and practices associated with developmentalist constructs relevant to their domain of practice.

Governance & Professional Leadership in Child and Adolescent Practice

The aim of this Module is to support learners to acquire the necessary knowledge in good governance structures and processes emphasizing responsible and inclusive leadership as a core component of effective management and oversight. Learners will acquire critical insight into theoretical and conceptual models of contemporary governance with reference to leading compliant and efficient policy-informed procedural strategies to enhance and optimize professional and organizational activity. The module will facilitate the acquisition of advanced interactional, organisational and procedural awareness to meet the challenges of leadership in complex multi-stakeholder regulated environments.

Curricular & Pedagogical Approaches in Early Learning & Care

The aim of this Module is to support learners in acquiring deep critical insight into curricular and pedagogical frameworks as applied in Early Childhood education and care settings. Students will enhance critical capacity to comparatively theorise concepts and constructs underpinning national and international early childhood curricula, frameworks and approaches and integrate and distill key features of effective pedagogy for practical application. Students will explore the formulation of curricular content, the ranges of approaches to content delivery and active performance appraisal modalities. Finally,

students explore their role as contributors to communities of expertise and active participants in policy formation including and beyond immediate contexts both at professional and national level.

Contemporary Discourses in Early Learning & Care

The aim of this Module is to support students in acquiring advanced insight into contemporary issues in the ELC sector. Students will enhance their critical capacity to identify, conceptualize and analyse a range of sectoral challenges, critically and comparatively locating national experience in a broader international context. Students will critically explore how policy is formulated at national level and how the operation of macro-structures and agencies influence constructs of professional practice. Finally, students explore their role and responsibilities as ELC professionals across the range of exigent sectoral issues.

Research Methodologies & Design

The aim of the module is to facilitate students to critically evaluate the differing approaches and methods used for the generation of evidence.

Dissertation

As a capstone module, the aim is to facilitate students to complete a research project, drawing on their own learning within the programme and enabling them to focus on an area of specialism that is of particular interest and relevance to their own practice. The Dissertation module (30 ECTS) will be a culmination of the research-based practice/independent practice and in the form of an Academic Dissertation.

Practicum

The aim of this module is to support learners to acquire the skills, knowledge, and attitude to work within applied settings at a higher order level using a defined structure to enhance ongoing performance. Professional practice in childhood and adolescence has dimensions that extend beyond the acquisition of theoretic knowledge alone and the professional Practicum placement affords the opportunity for learning to take place in appropriate professional contexts. This module aims to extend the professional experience of learners through exposure to varied approaches and philosophies and allow them the opportunity to experience a range of service provision models. This experience will allow learners to reflect critically on issues relating to quality and delivery of practice. The module will further explore the concepts of professionalism, ethical practice and continuing professional development, enabling learners to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes for dealing with issues both personal and professional.