Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Early Childhood Education
The Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Early Childhood Education aims to provide the early childhood sector with holistic, highly competent and research-engaged practitioners. This is a 240 credit (NFQ Level 8), QQI blended learning programme where students will engage in a variety of face to face and online engagements.

In addition, through Professional Practice Placement and the provision of a well-structured mentoring professional support team (PST) across the four years of the programme, students will engage in multiple opportunities to act and reflect on their emerging understanding of knowledge, practice and values and critically examine their commitment to quality in diverse situations.

This degree programme is distinctive because it offers the current ELC workforce a flexible professional development opportunity that is innovative, creative and focused on career progression.

Graduates of the programme will have engaged in special education, inclusion and diversity in early intervention and early education, and explored research methods that enhance research-informed practice across all four stages of the programme.

Hibernia College is a nationally recognised leader in teacher education. Our programmes are validated by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). Hibernia College has engaged extensively with educators and practitioners in the Early Learning and Care sector (ELC), and in responding to their professional development needs, has created this Bachelor of Education (Honours) Degree Programme.

A philosophy of care is exemplified across our interactions with our future students — we lead by example.

Hibernia College has a reputation for pioneering new teaching methodologies and embracing change in the ever-evolving world of education.

‘There is no education without care’
Entry Requirements

Applicants must be 18 years of age on 1 January on the year of entry.

- Level 5 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) in Childcare/Early Childhood Education and Care

- Leaving Certificate or equivalent in the following subjects:
  - Grade H5 or above in a higher-level paper in two subjects or more
  - Grade O6/H7 or above in four additional subjects including:
    - Grade O6/H7 in Maths
    - Grade O6/H7 in English

Note that qualifications other than Irish Leaving Certificate will be assessed for equivalency.

- Relevant experience working with 0–8 year olds in a Tusla-registered setting (for example, early childhood teacher, assistant, childminder, childcare worker, room leader, nanny, health care assistant)

- English Language Proficiency (where applicable)

Online Tutorials

You should expect to have approximately three webinars each week (Mon.–Fri.). Tutorials are one hour in length and occur typically between the hours of 5pm and 8pm. Please note that these classes are live and you will be expected to attend at the times stated.

Professional Practice Placement

You will complete 12 weeks of Professional Practice Placement at the end of each of the four stages of the programme. You will be supported in specified work placements by a Placement Educator and a Peer Mentor. 35% of the programme is set aside for Professional Practice Placement.

Asynchronous Tutor Support

At all times, students are afforded opportunities to engage with their tutors via email and discussion forums.

Face-to-Face Days

You will meet approximately once a fortnight for one full day (five hours) in a central location. Workshops will be highly practical and interactive, providing opportunities for simulated practice and modelling play-based learning.

Required Study and Attendance

It is recommended that you set aside approximately 23 hours per week for study, including tutorials and classes. The programme is four years with short breaks at Christmas and Easter. The programme is full-time, delivered through a blended learning model and requires full attendance.

Assessments

Formative feedback is provided throughout the programme in a timely, regular and individualised manner, allowing students to build the confidence to succeed in the programme. A wide variety of assessment strategies are added to a digital portfolio, which you build over the four years of the programme as you develop your professional identity. Assessment methodologies include the creation of resources, short questions, essays, reports, placement assessment and a research project.

Reflection

Reflective practice is a core element of the programme. Reflective activities include writing blog posts, keeping a reflective journal and building a digital portfolio.
**Application Process**

The application process is carried out primarily online. You will be required to complete a personal statement and upload some supporting documents to your application, which are outlined below. Note that you must upload all documents in PDF format (under 4 Mb) to your application. We cannot accept images, Word documents or other formats.

The following documents must be uploaded as part of your application:

- Leaving Certificate
- Evidence of NFQ Level 5 qualification or above in a cognate area such as Early Childhood Education and Care (This must be on the official paper of the awarding institution or body.)
- Evidence (from applicants whose first language/primary mode of expression is not English) of English competence at B2+ or higher in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

Before starting an application, review our Application Guide and documentation samples on the Hibernia College website. Here is the link.

**Interview**

Once your online application has been reviewed and it has been deemed that you meet the minimum entry requirements, you will be called for an interview.

The interview will assess your motivation and professionalism. It will also consider your suitability to work with very young children and your pedagogic knowledge. It will evaluate your relevant experience of working with 0–8 year olds in a Tusla-registered setting as well as your communication, interpersonal, organisation and planning skills.

Furthermore, it will assess your knowledge of Hibernia College and the programme.

**Recognition of Prior Learning**

For information on the Recognition of Prior Learning please see qualityframework.hiberniacollege.com or contact advisor@hiberniacollege.net

**Fees**

**Tuition Fees**

The tuition fee is €3,500 per academic year. This is payable as follows:

- To confirm acceptance of a place on the programme: €550 (includes €50 Garda Vetting fee)

**Balance**

- Year 1 fees (paid before the programme begins): €3,000
- Year 2 fees (paid before Year 2 begins): €3,500
- Year 3 fees (paid before Year 3 begins): €3,500
- Year 4 fees (paid before Year 4 begins): €3,500

**Tax Relief**

Hibernia College is an approved college for the purposes of s.474 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997. This programme is approved for tax relief. For more information, please click here.

**Programme Learning Outcomes**

To review the programme learning outcomes, please click here.
### Structure of BEd (Honours) Degree in Early Childhood Education

This is a four-year Honours Bachelor Degree, which allows students to complete 60 ECTS credits per stage.

#### Stage 1
- Professional Identity 1 5 ECTS
- Early Childhood Education Policy and Legislation 1 5 ECTS
- The Playful Pedagogy and Curriculum 1 10 ECTS
- A Holistic Approach to the Developing Child 1 5 ECTS
- Leading Dialogue 1 5 ECTS
- Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education 1 5 ECTS
- Research Methods for Early Childhood Education 1 5 ECTS
- Professional Practice Placement 1 20 ECTS

#### Stage 2
- Professional Identity 2 5 ECTS
- Early Childhood Education Policy and Legislation 2 5 ECTS
- The Playful Pedagogy and Curriculum 2 10 ECTS
- A Holistic Approach to the Developing Child 2 5 ECTS
- Leading Dialogue 2 5 ECTS
- Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education 2 5 ECTS
- Research Methods for Early Childhood Education 2 5 ECTS
- Professional Practice Placement 2 20 ECTS

#### Stage 3
- Professional Identity 3 5 ECTS
- Early Childhood Education Policy and Legislation 3 5 ECTS
- The Playful Pedagogy and Curriculum 3 10 ECTS
- A Holistic Approach to the Developing Child 3 5 ECTS
- Leading Dialogue 3 5 ECTS
- Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education 3 5 ECTS
- Research Methods for Early Childhood Education 3 5 ECTS
- Professional Practice Placement 3 20 ECTS

#### Stage 4
- Research in Practice Capstone 20 ECTS
- Neuro-Developmental Disabilities and Specific Interventions 10 ECTS
- Professional Practice Placement (0–3 years) 10 ECTS
- Professional Practice Placement (3–6 years) 10 ECTS

#### Elective Modules
- Music in Education 10 ECTS
- An Introduction to Play Therapy 10 ECTS
- Citizen and Community Education 10 ECTS
- Deaf Education and ISL 10 ECTS
- Deaf Education and ISL 10 ECTS
- Professional Practice Placement (0–3 years) 10 ECTS
- Professional Practice Placement (3–6 years) 10 ECTS

### Contact Us Today

**Enrolment Advisors**
(01) 661 0168 (Option 2)
advisor@hiberniacollege.net

**Webinars**
Dates available at
hiberniacollege.com/meet-us/