**Programme Specification**

**Foundation Degree in Children's Development and Learning**

**For students entering Part 1 in September 2019**

NFCDLDUM
NFCDLBCA
NFCDLBCOT
NFCDLBWC
NFCDLNEW
NFCDLWIN

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Awarding Institution | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution | University of Reading |
| Length of Programme | 2 years |
| Length of Programme with placement/year abroad | Foundation Degree in Children's Development and Learning- Berkshire College of Agriculture - 2 years<br>Foundation Degree in Children's Development and Learning - Basingstoke College of Technology - 2 years<br>Foundation Degree in Children's Development and Learning- Bracknell and Wokingham College - 2 years<br>Foundation Degree in Children's Development and Learning- Newbury College - 2 years<br>Foundation Degree in Children's Development and Learning - Windsor Forest Colleges Group - 2 years |
| Accreditation | |

**Programme information and content**

The programme is delivered at the following partner colleges:

Berkshire College of Agriculture (code: NFCDLBCA)
Basingstoke College of Technology (code: NFCDLBCOT)
Bracknell and Wokingham College (code: NFCDLBWC)
Newbury College (Code: NFCDLNEW)
Windsor Forest Colleges Group (Code: NFCDLWIN)

The Foundation Degree (FD) provides a model of vocational higher education based on close collaboration between employers and providers of higher education. The programme will furnish candidates with the knowledge, skills and understanding to progress in their chosen career within related childcare or education. Many students will become Early Years Teachers as a result of this programme. It also provides an appropriate base for progression to honours and QTS, if required.

The aims of the FD are to develop:

| | - the knowledge and critical understanding of child development and learning principles and the way in which these have evolved<br>- the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles to the work context and to argue their effectiveness<br>- a knowledge of the main methods of enquiry and an understanding of how to use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information<br>- an ability to critically evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches and to apply these to the work context<br>- an understanding of how limited personal knowledge can influence analyses and interpretations<br>- effective synthesis and communication of information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences<br>- a desire to improve knowledge, skills and understanding throughout students' professional lives. |
|---|---|
| Part 1: | Introduces you to underpinning theories of children's development and learning, both classic and contemporary. It also focuses on the development of reflective practice and use of analysis and evaluation to make effective links between theory and practice. |
| Part 2: | Provides you with further input across a range of modules to develop your academic skills further and explore theory that you may apply to your workplace.  In particular, you will complete a practitioner research module which will give you the opportunity to explore an area of your choice in depth. This will help you to prepare for a final year top up to BA honours if you choose to continue your studies. |
| Part 3: | |

**Module information**

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

**Part 1 Modules:**

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|---|---|---|---|
| ED1FCS | The Child in Society (1) | 20 | 4 |
| ED1FDL | Theories of development and learning | 20 | 4 |
| ED1FLS | Learning Spaces | 20 | 4 |
| ED1FPP | Partnership with Parents | 20 | 4 |
| ED1FPS | Professional Skills in the Children's Workforce | 40 | 4 |

All modules at Part 1 of the programme are compulsory.

**Part 2 Modules:**

| Module | Name | Credits | Level |
|--------|------|---------|-------|
| ED2FCS | The Child in Society (2) | 20 | 5 |
| ED2FCT | Creativity and Critical Thinking | 20 | 5 |
| ED2FDL | Supporting development and learning for 0 - 11 years | 20 | 5 |
| ED2FPR | Practitioner Research | 40 | 5 |

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules from a specified list available in the Institute of Education.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

**Part 3 Modules:**

**Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

**Additional costs of the programme**

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget up to £200 per year, depending on your preference to have your own books rather than borrow from the Library. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library resources both in your College and at the University. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Students are expected to attend some events at the University of Reading which will incur additional travel costs, the amount of which will vary depending on mode of transport. There are three events of this kind over the two years of the FD, and students are advised to car share to reduce costs.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on each Foundation Degree College campus: individual Colleges will advise of costs. Essential costs in this area will be low as most coursework will be submitted electronically.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2018.

**Placement opportunities**

Foundation Degrees integrate academic and work-based learning through close collaboration between employers and programme providers. As such, this programme offers substantial work-based experience in early years/educational settings (0-11) and there will be opportunities to visit other placements. The programme assumes that students are working at least 0.5 in an in early years/educational setting. Most modules rely upon students applying theory to their practice and undertaking tasks related to college inputs.

It may be possible to complete elements of the programme abroad through the Erasmus scheme.

**Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught: through lectures, work-based learning and practical work.  Teaching will be delivered by the FE colleges, in conjunction with employers, using a mixture of face to face teaching, web-based and distance learning methods, self-directed studies, project work and problem-based learning.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 – 183 (+513 placement and work-based learning) hours, Part 2 - 200 (+513 placement and work-based learning). In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

**Accreditation details**

DBS clearance

**Assessment**
The assessment of the FD will be based on University-approved assessments that will include a mixture of assignments. These will include formative assessments to feed into

summative assessments, essays, presentations, evaluations of practice, development of an e-portfolio and other formats.

In line with the nature of Foundation Degrees, assignments require students to link theory to practice in the work place. It is expected that descriptions and evaluations of practice will include references to relevant literature. Work-based learning will provide an essential contribution to achievement of the outcomes.

An appropriate mentor will be agreed in conjunction with the college. The role of the mentor will include supporting work-based assessments (WBA) that will contribute to the formal assessment of modules. The mentor will award one of the following grades for each work-based assessment: excellent (75%); good (65%); satisfactory (50%) and fail (35%). These grades are subject to moderation by College tutors.

**Progression**

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

*Part 1*
(i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
(ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

In order to pass the Foundation degree overall, students must pass Part 1 and achieve an overall average of at least 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2, and achieve a mark of at least 40% in 80 credits taken in Part 2 and a mark of at least 30% in 120 credits taken in Part 2.

**Classification**

Foundation degrees
The University's classification scheme is based on the following:

| Mark | Interpretation |
|---|---|
| 70% - 100% | Distinction |
| 60% - 69% | Merit |
| 40% - 59% | Pass |
| 0% - 39% | Fail |

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Part 1: pass/fail only
Part 2: 100%

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Foundation Degree in Children's Development and Learning for students entering Part 1 in session 2019/20
10 April 2019
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