

Programme Specification

PGCE Early Years (full-time)

PFTZEYEYTSHC

For students entering in 2027/28

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	PGCE Early Years (full-time) - 10 months
Accreditation	Department of Education
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Level 7 Master's Degree Higher Education Qualification

Programme information and content

- To provide an accredited qualification for graduates with non-relevant degrees wishing to work in the field of early childhood education and care or for those already working in the sector.
- To equip students with the experience, knowledge and skills necessary to function as a leader in this sector.
- To enable students to develop a theoretical framework within which they can critically analyse contemporary early years issues and develop their own professional practice.
- To enable students to reflect upon their learning gained from placements.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-PGCE Early Years (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	To develop evidence informed early years teachers by students drawing on theory and research literature relating to a wide range of early childhood issues and their relevance to the role of the Early Years Teacher.
2	To develop pedagogical skilled practitioners through the engagement with child development to foster an understanding of how children learn and develop and how this can be affected by individual circumstances.
3	Provide detailed knowledge and understanding of the principal features of different educational approaches and apply these to the professional context.
4	Develop skills in critical reflection making systematic and comprehensive use of theoretical models of reflection.

5	Develop an understanding of the implications of relevant legislation and statutory frameworks.
6	Draw on current research to develop leadership and collaboration skills required by an early years teacher.
7	Develop knowledge and skills which student can connect to the real world through authentic teaching, learning and assessment.
8	Ensure students meet the Teachers' Standards Early Years (outlined by the DfE).

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information			
The programme comprises 120 Level 6 credits as shown below and 60 Level 7 credits.			
Compulsory modules			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
ED3IEY	Independent Implementation (Early Years)	60	6
ED3SEY	Shared Implementation (Early Years)	60	6
EDM182	Professional Studies: The Reflective Early Years Teacher	40	M
EDM200	Families and Learning	20	M
PATHWAYS			
Students enter on either the Graduate Entry (GE) pathway or the Graduate Employment Based (GEB) pathway to Early Years Teacher Status; the only difference in the pathways is in the entry route to the programme.			
Part-time or flexible modular arrangements			
The PGCE Early Years is available only as a full-time programme.			

Placement opportunities
Placements are part of the programme.

Study abroad opportunities
There are no study abroad options for this programme.

Optional modules
There are no optional modules on this programme.

Teaching and learning delivery

Students are taught through a series of lectures, workshops, tutor and student led seminars, feedback on individual and group research, presentation, work-based learning and practical work and through individual consultation with academic staff.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

The PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education) Early Years is awarded by the University of Reading.

The Department for Education awards the EYTS part of the qualification following recommendation from the University.

Assessment

Teaching of the level 7 modules is by a variety of methods, including lectures, seminars, workshops, individual feedback on written work and individual supervisions. The programme provides opportunities for a high proportion of work/institutionally based research and students are encouraged to review how they will take advantage of these opportunities over the course of the programme.

Progression

Students must complete ED3SEY before progressing to ED3IEY

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

Level 6 modules

To pass each of the level 6 placement modules, students must meet the curriculum check-point requirements as stipulated per module. These check-point criteria meet DfE requirements and cumulatively lead to recommendation of Early Years Teacher Status.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

and to be recommended for EYTS students must:

(ii) pass all level 6 modules

To qualify for the lesser exit award, **Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (with EYTS)**, students must pass all level 6 modules only.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

Travel, accommodation and subsistence: Students are responsible for their own travel costs to University and placement.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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.**

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