

# Early Childhood Education and Care

## Direct Entry Year 2



### **“Achieving a graduate-led workforce by 2028”**

The Workforce Plan for Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare, 2022-2028 (Government of Ireland, 2022)

### **Advanced Entry to Year 2 (ATU Mayo and ATU Galway)**

If you hold a QQI FET Level 6 major award or equivalent you are eligible for consideration to enter directly into the second year of the ECEC programme on the ATU Mayo or ATU Galway campus.



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YEAR 2  
**Mayo**

YEAR 3  
**Mayo**  
(Level 7)

YEAR 4  
**Mayo**  
(Level 8)

YEAR 2  
**Galway**

YEAR 3  
**Galway**  
(Level 7)

YEAR 4  
**Mayo/Galway**  
(Level 8)

## What is Early Childhood Education and Care?

The BA in Early Childhood Education and Care focuses on the education and care of children from birth to six years.

It is designed to provide learners with the skills and competencies required for autonomous working practice in Early Childhood Education and Care.

## Work While You Study

This programme is perfect if you are currently working in the early childhood education and care sector and wish to upskill. You can continue working and this will fulfil your placement hours. Universal design assessment meets students individual learning needs.



# What will I study?

## Subjects include:

- **Play – Indoors and Outdoors**
- **Psychology**
- **Research with Children**
- **Family Centred Support and Practices**
- **Diversity and Equality**

## Career Opportunities

The Level 7 and Level 8 award in Early Childhood Education and Care meets the requirements for Core Funding previously known as Higher Capitation funding by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

Career opportunities include:

Practice:

- Working as an early years practitioner, room leader or manager in an ECEC setting
- Working as a practitioner, team leader or manager in a social care service

Research:

- Assistant researcher with voluntary or statutory agencies
- Assistant researcher academic institution

Policy:

- Social care settings
- Early years specialist
- Voluntary or statutory agencies
- Barnardos
- Early Childhood Ireland
- National Childhood Network
- County Childcare Committees
- Department Children Equality Disability Inclusion Youth
- Department of Education and Skills

## Student Stories



On completion of the QQI Level 6 in Early Childhood Education and Care, I was accepted for advanced entry into Year 2 of the BA in Early Childhood Education and Care at ATU. As a mature student working as an Early Years educator, I was daunted at the prospect of taking on a degree programme but need not have worried. The lecturers are welcoming and supportive every step of the way. The degree programme is both interesting and challenging and involves hard work and commitment. The blended structure of the programme allows me to combine my studies with family life while also allowing the opportunity to apply knowledge to practice in my role as an Early Years Educator.

**Carmel O'Mahony** (Mayo campus)



Being a mature student and working full time, I was apprehensive about returning to college, but with the blended learning available at ATU and the continuous support of the lecturers, I have been able to do so. I really enjoy the different modules and take my new learning back to enhance my work practice.

**Paula O'Reilly** (Galway City campus)



Returning to third-level education as a mature student was a little overwhelming. I chose the BA in Early Childhood Education and Care as I have worked in the sector for the past ten years and felt it was the next step in my progression. Although it has been challenging at times, the guidance and support from the lecturers has been incredible. The encouragement and assistance they offer has been remarkable.

**Sandra Mills** (Galway City campus)



## Travel

The BA in ECEC from ATU is internationally recognised. Graduates have opportunities to work in the early childhood education and care sector globally.

## How to Apply – Year 2 Advanced Entry

- We are inviting applications from 1 January.
- To apply for advanced entry go to [www.atu.ie](http://www.atu.ie)
- The closing date for advanced entry applications is 31 May. Applications received after this date will be considered if places remain available.

## Garda Vetting

It is a requirement that all students are Garda Vetted for this programme by ATU on commencement of their studies.

## Funding

This is a full-time programme, and you may qualify for a SUSI grant. To find out more, please see [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie)

Skillnet funding may apply. To find out more see [www.skillnetireland.ie](http://www.skillnetireland.ie).

ATU also offer a number of scholarships and bursaries. For more information, please see: [www.atu.ie](http://www.atu.ie)





## Further Study

Learners who complete the Level 7 degree can exit with a Level 7 award and/or can progress on to the Level 8 qualification. Following successful completion of the Level 7/8 in Early Childhood Education and Care, graduates can undertake a variety of career paths in the education, health and social care fields.

ATU qualifications are recognised worldwide for postgraduate entry. Graduates may go on to pursue further study in related fields at Post Graduate Diploma or Master's level.



## I want to know more. Who can I talk to?

Dr Rita Melia lectures on this course in the Galway City campus. Rita will be happy to help you. You can contact Rita on:

T 091 742735 E [rita.melia@atu.ie](mailto:rita.melia@atu.ie)

Joanne Doherty lectures on this course in the Mayo campus. Joanne will be happy to help you. You can contact Joanne on:

T 094 9043117 E [joanne.doherty@atu.ie](mailto:joanne.doherty@atu.ie)

[www.atu.ie](http://www.atu.ie)