



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care

Course overview:

Since its inception, the Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education has worked to raise standards of Early Years practitioners and to promote quality education in early childhood settings by contributing to the drafting of policies, conducting research and offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

The BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Education and Care equips professionals with the necessary knowledge, values and skills to work with children between the ages of 0-7. It aims to equip prospective practitioners and more experienced Early Childhood Educators with the ability to offer a high-quality service and thus facilitate your recognition as a professional educator.

The course exposes you to various pedagogical models and perspectives in order to allow you the flexibility to make informed choices and have an eclectic repertoire which best addresses the teaching and learning situations you will face in Early Years settings.

In line with the National Curriculum Framework (2012), Early Childhood and Care in Malta (2013), the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) the Key Principles of a Quality Framework for ECEC (EU Council Recommendation, 2019), it aims to develop your call to the profession by forming your attitudes and character, have a good understanding of theories of learning, development, and play; develop an ability to understand children's perspectives through your ways of communication; be able to prepare high-quality pedagogic environments, as well as curricular activities and experiences that enhance inquiry, participation and interaction; by presenting you with the necessary professional knowledge; and provide opportunities to enhance your cultural capital.

Learning outcomes:

The B.A. (Hons.) in Early Childhood Education and Care is being offered as a three-year, full-time course, to provide professional training for you to work with young children aged 3 – 5 years, in the informal settings of the kindergarten. The aim of the course is to provide you with sound pedagogical knowledge which will help you to understand how young children learn and how to individualise learning to meet the individual interests, aptitudes, characteristics and contexts of children. Moreover, throughout the course, you will be exposed to a wide range of skills, including planning, observation, documentation, assessment and reflective practice, which are needed when one is working with young children. The participation of different lecturers who come from different professions and who have particular areas of expertise, enriches the programme. The programme will be taught over a variety of methods, including lectures, workshops, tutorials, observations, fieldwork and practical field placements, where students will have the opportunity to experience first-hand working with young children in school contexts. The study-units are focused to introduce you to professional, philosophical and pedagogical issues across different disciplines, with the aim to equip you with the knowledge, skills and competences needed, including:

- understanding the diversity of young children's growth and development
- developing an awareness of the impact of the social, cultural and life experiences on children's learning and development
- a broad pedagogical knowledge to understand how young children learn
- the ability to plan, develop and implement developmentally appropriate activities that are based on their interests through the most effective way; therefore, applying theory to practice;
- an awareness of a range of professional issues which impact directly on the management of and relationships amongst a group of learners
- an array of skills, attitudes and dispositions to become competent and committed professionals through the practical aspects of the course
- an awareness of the ethical issues implicit in the professional role
- a commitment to social justice and democratic participation in an education where children's rights, voices and an ethics of care are valued
- an understanding that teaching and learning are complex processes that involve working with multi-disciplinary professionals, parents and multiple practitioners
- an acquisition of specialised knowledge of early childhood education-related aspects of the following areas: Psychology, Pedagogy, Professional Practice, Creative Activity, and Professional Issues.