



CAREERS FOR EARLY YEARS AND CHILDHOOD STUDIES GRADUATES

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDHOOD STUDIES AT UCC

There is a growing recognition that Early Years and Childhood Studies is a distinctive specialism with its own career pathways. This is an innovative, interdisciplinary, honours degree which offers a rigorous academic study of Early Years and Childhood drawing on the disciplines of Education, Applied Social Studies and Applied Psychology. This interdisciplinary degree is designed for people working towards careers in services for children, young people and their families. Hence, it caters for the demand for highly qualified early years and childhood professionals, while also developing future researchers in the field and related areas.



UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Schools of
**Applied Psychology, Applied
Social Studies and Education**

WHAT CAN EARLY YEARS AND CHILDHOOD STUDIES GRADUATES OFFER EMPLOYERS?

Our degree allows for graduate entry into direct employment and to diverse post graduate courses in the Early Years and Childhood field. The following are some of the attributes and skills acquired by our students:

- Knowledge of developmental aspects of children from a holistic perspective (cognitive, social, emotional, creative).
- Knowledge of pedagogy of children's different learning strategies (play-based, social learning, early literacy and numeracy, language acquisition).
- Knowledge of working with parents and local communities (knowledge about families, poverty and diversity).
- Knowledge in relation to the health, care and wellbeing of young children.



- Knowledge of working in contexts of diversity, and participation (anti-bias approaches, intercultural dialogue, identity).

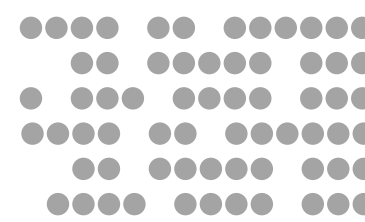
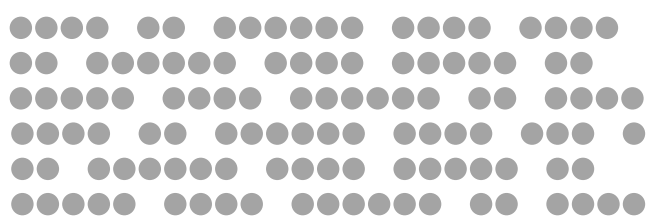
- Knowledge of team building.

- Knowledge of being a professional Early Childhood Educator, Leadership, Communication and Management in Early Childhood Care and Education.



GRADUATE OUTCOMES FOR EARLY YEARS AND CHILDHOOD STUDIES

Each year, UCC Careers Services produces a Graduate Outcomes Report based on the annual survey of graduates six months after graduation. Over the last number of years approximately 40% of EYCS graduates pursue further education on completion of the course, while another 60% progress directly to employment. The 5-year trend for all CK111 graduates is available at the following link on the UCC Careers website:



GRADUATE STUDIES

Several pathways from the degree provide postgraduate opportunities in the following fields:

- Masters in Social Work • MSocSc (Social Policy) Specialist Pathway (Children and Young People)
- MSc in Audiology • MA in Women's Studies
- M.Sc. Speech and Language Therapy
- M.Sc. Occupational Therapy • Higher Diploma in Applied Psychology • MA in Guidance Counselling
- Professional Masters of Education (Primary Teaching Qualification) • Higher Diploma in Arts in Early Childhood Montessori Education
- Masters in Child, Family and Community Studies
- MPhil/PhD in Education • MA in Teaching Visual Arts in Primary & Early Years Education.

AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR EARLY YEARS AND CHILDHOOD STUDIES GRADUATES

This interdisciplinary degree qualifies graduates to play leading roles in childcare and education provision and to pursue further academic and research opportunities in diverse fields. Past graduates have found employment in the primary and early years sector as well as in health related areas.

New opportunities are also now emerging in non-governmental organisations and community-based settings. Graduates are typically employed in the following areas:

Early Years Care and Education (Childcare Managers, Inspectors of Childcare Centres).

01

Primary Teaching (Teachers and Principals positions)

02

Lecturing posts in Further Education Institutes and Higher Education Institutes

03





Social Work (Social Workers)

04

Youth and Community Work

05

Speech and Language Therapy

06

Occupational Therapy

07

Audiology

08

Play Therapists

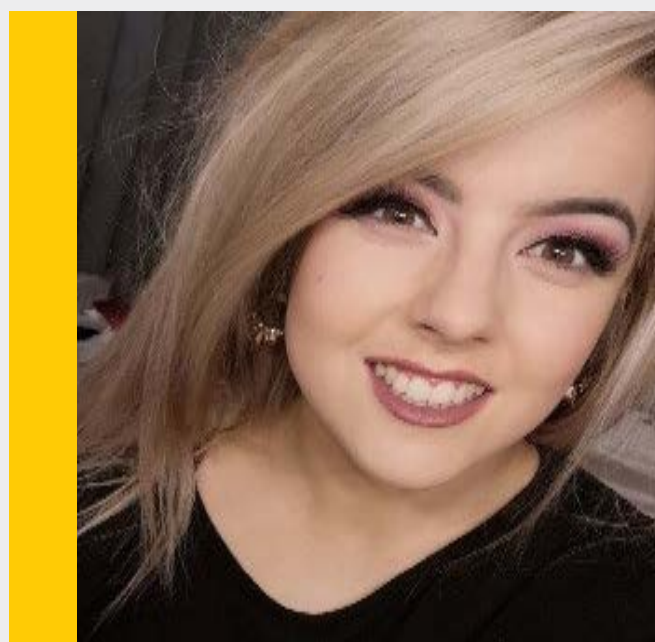
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Graduate Profile 1

CAOIMHE DUGGAN

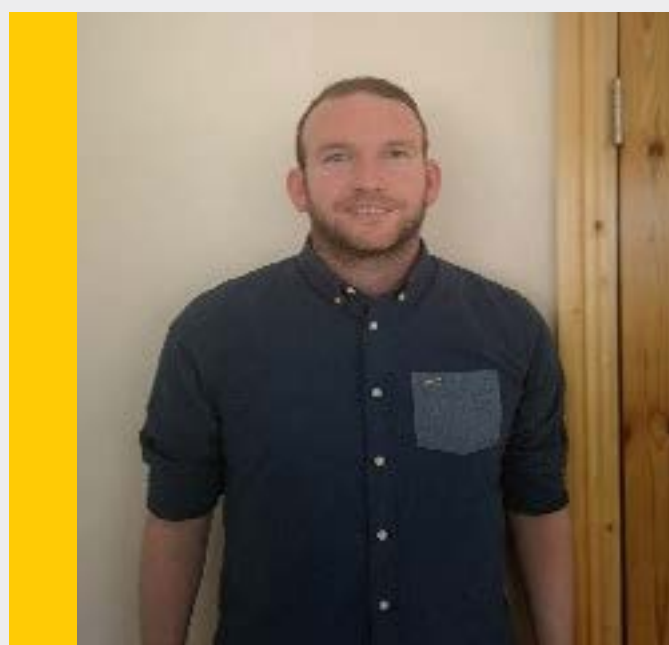
Since graduating from UCC in 2011, I have worked in the Early Years with an amazing company and my career has gone from strength to strength. In a relative short space of time I progressed from Educator to Centre Manager. Managing a centre has taught me the power of effective communication with the team, the children and families and creating positive relationships which has been crucial to my advancement in the company. Continued Professional Development in all areas of the Early Years and in Leadership has proven invaluable and has armed me with the tools in resilience.



Graduate Profile 2

DARREN MEANEY

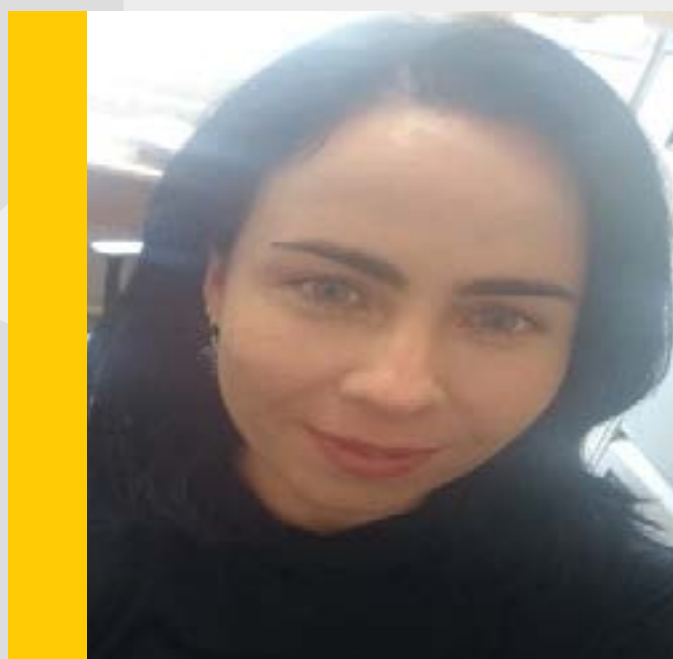
I have pursued and completed my dream of becoming a primary school teacher. On completion of my BA in Early Years and Childhood Studies course in UCC, I applied for the Master of Education programme in St. Patrick's College Drumcondra. The course itself was intense and demanding but also very exciting. After a two-year period, I had completed the course and in August I was awarded a permanent position in a school. The information that I learned in UCC was fundamental to my teaching degree and helped me in achieving my number one goal.



Graduate Profile 3

DENISE HEALY

The course's multi-disciplinary component provided a great platform to gain insight into a number of diverse areas, and the reflective element naturally encouraged much personal development. I went on to complete a Masters in Social Work and I currently work as a Child Protection Social Worker. Overall, my years in academia proved positively life changing. It moved me into a profession which fits well with my personal values. I draw from the child-centred practices of EYCS regularly. Particularly, it gave me the skills and knowledge to work directly with children in a way that is both therapeutic and rights based.



Graduate Profile 4

CLODAGH QUANE

I graduated from Early Years and Childhood Studies (EYCS) in 2015 and then went on to graduate from the MSc in Audiology in 2017. As an Audiologist I am responsible for diagnosing and managing hearing loss among adults and children. My undergraduate studies allowed me to develop many skills that have assisted me in my current role, particularly during the EYCS placement blocks. During the placement blocks you are exposed to working life and are given the opportunity to develop teamwork skills. The skills and competences I developed during my undergraduate studies have helped me in my role as an Audiologist.



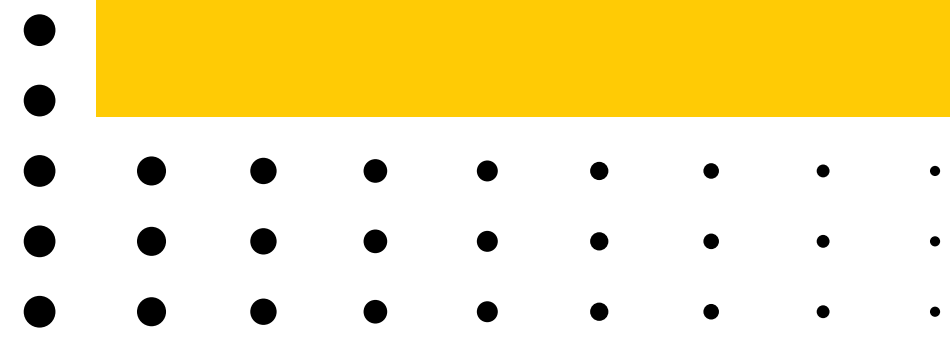
WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDHOOD STUDIES



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

(CITY AND COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEES)



ASSOCIATION OF CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS



**EARLY
CHILDHOOD
IRELAND**



**DEPARTMENT
OF CHILDREN
AND YOUTH
AFFAIRS**



12 WAYS TO PUT YOUR EARLY YEARS AND CHILDHOOD STUDIES DEGREE TO WORK

01

Participate fully in the professional training and fieldwork aspects of your degree.

02

Gain practical experience through the placements offered by the EYCS degree, that will equip you with the professionals skills needed to work in the area.

03

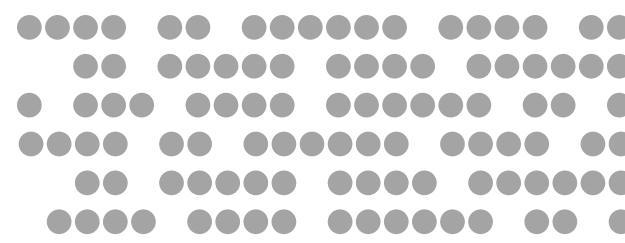
Gain relevant skills and experience through the “UCC Works” award.

[MORE INFO](#)

04

Gain relevant skills and experience through volunteering.





05

Gain relevant skills and experience by taking an active role in a club or society that interests you.

06

Avail of university-wide modules and skills training that will equip you with professional skills.

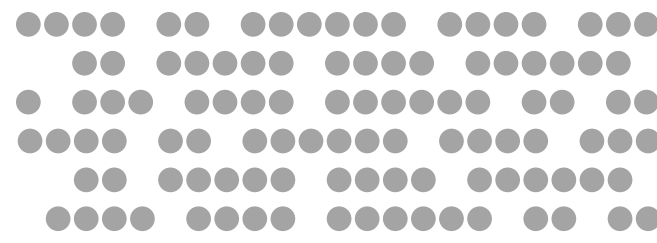
07

Attend careers workshops and talks given by past graduates and qualified professionals in your field.

08

Join relevant professional and industry networks in Ireland and abroad (e.g. the Association of Childhood Professionals).





09

Create an up-to-date CV and professional social media profile and presence.

10

Avail of professional, confidential and impartial careers advice at UCC Career Services by booking a consultation online.

11

Attend employer events on campus and use them to build relationships with potential employers.

12

Develop your degree with an array of diverse options in masters courses related to EYCS for future career training.



DID YOU KNOW?

One of the **fastest growing areas** of employment in Ireland is the Early Years Education and Care Sector.



CONTACT US



**UCC Career Services,
3 Brighton Villas,
Western Road, UCC**



**021 4902500
021 4903202**



Email Careers



**Book an
appointment
to meet a
careers advisor**



**Work
Placement**





UCC Works Award Programme



**Connect with
your job**

UCC Careers



MyStudentJob



Employability Events

**Careers Fairs, Roadshows,
Employer Presentations**



Volunteering Opportunities

