



Early Years Professional Status

Study for an early years qualification while you work – fully funded by the government including supply cover for your employer.



University of Brighton

What is Early Years Professional Status?

Having a highly skilled workforce is vital to all early years childcare. In fact, research has shown that the development of young children is directly linked to the qualifications held by the early years workers around them.

The Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) is a professional status for practitioners that work with children aged 0-5, and part of the government's strategy to professionalise the early years sector. Like Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), EYPS is a professional status but it recognises the different skills required for this age group.

Studying for your EYPS will open up new career opportunities for you. Early years professionals work in a variety of areas within the early years sector, delivering a quality service to children and their parents. They hold job titles such as curriculum leader, SENCO and deputy manager.

Good for practitioners

The course will equip you with the skills to:

- Improve and change practice in your setting
- Lead practice across the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Support and mentor your colleagues and others
- Model skills and behaviours that safeguard and promote good outcomes for children.

Good for your setting

The government is carrying out an extensive awareness-raising campaign and it is envisaged that over the next few years parents will look for settings where one or more staff has an EYPS qualification. By helping you gain your EYPS, your employer will ensure they are ready for this change.

Working with partners

We value the ways in which our partners shape and support our courses. We have excellent working relationships with Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey local authorities. We also work closely with a range of private and public sector employers who take our candidates on placement.

"We have recently supported our deputy nursery manager to successfully obtain the EYPS. Having an early years professional gives a further layer of leadership which can only benefit our children's centre and nursery. The course has given our early years professional time for reflective thinking about what we provide for the children across all age groups, from birth to five years, and their families.

The role complements and works effectively with other positions such as managers, teachers and senior practitioner roles, and is seen as a very positive addition to our highly skilled team".

**Helen Cowling, early years manager
Hollingdean Sure Start Children's Centre**

Why study with us?

An excellent reputation for success

The EYPS pathway is run by the University of Brighton's School of Education which has an excellent national reputation, for example our youth work programmes have been commended by the National Youth Agency.

The School of Education enjoys high standards of teaching, strong links with employers and good employment rates. Our students have an excellent success rate in achieving Early Years Professional Status.

We actively work to attract students from many backgrounds and are committed to responding to the needs of a diverse population of students. We aim to develop effective and sustainable professional networks within and beyond local, regional and national borders.

"The University of Brighton is clearly establishing good provision for early years professional candidates and is making an important contribution to the yearly years professional programme".
EYPS external quality assurance report

Fully funded by the government

All EYPS training pathways are fully funded for eligible candidates.

If you are eligible for one of the EYPS pathways you will:

- have your fees paid for you
- have supply cover paid to your employer for the period you are studying
- have the costs associated with mentoring support met by the university.

The University of Brighton administers the financial support and will pass on funding for supply cover costs and the cost of receiving mentoring. In addition, settings which have an EYPS candidate may be eligible for support through the Local Authority's Graduate Leader Fund.



EYPS pathways

We offer three different pathways to Early Years Professional Status. Which one is right for you, depends on your professional qualifications and previous work experience in the early years setting.

if you...	suitable pathway	duration
<p>have QTS (qualified teacher status) in the primary age range or another degree and significant experience with the 3-5 age range, or</p> <p>a degree in Early years childhood studies and some experience working with 0-5 year olds</p>	extended professional development - short pathway	6 months part-time
<p>have an early years foundation degree and experience working with 0-5 year olds, or</p> <p>have a degree in an unrelated subject with some experience with 0-5 year olds, or</p> <p>have a vocational degree and substantial experience working with the 0-5 year age range (i.e. health visitor)</p>	extended professional development – long pathway	15 months part-time
<p>are a practitioner with NVQ level 3 in an early years setting (including child minding)</p>	<p>Before you begin the EYPS course, you need to undertake our Early Years Care and Education foundation degree, see overleaf 'Pre-EYPS foundation degrees)</p> <p>Once completed you can follow the Extended Professional Development – long pathway</p>	2 years part-time for the foundation degree, plus a further 15 months part-time to achieve EYPS

How to apply and further information

Contact Helen McLaren
 (programme assistant EYPS)
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h.l.mclaren@brighton.ac.uk
www.brighton.ac.uk/education/eyps

EYPS facts

What does EYPS training cover?

All candidates will be assessed to determine their needs in order to meet EYPS standards. Training will be tailored to meet these needs and could include aspects of the following:

- experience in a range of settings for children aged up to five year
- development and learning in 0–5 age group
- presentation skills
- leadership skills
- assessment in the early years foundation stage
- parent partnership
- working with sector professionals including speech and language therapists

Time commitment

The number of days you will spend training will depend on which pathway you follow and your professional development needs. The EYPS training runs alongside your employment and for some sessions your employer will need to agree to give you time off to attend university; other training takes place in the evening or at weekends.

During the assessment period all candidates need to attend the university for five days plus one day for your assessment visit.

Assessment process

The assessment is based on candidates meeting the standards in practice and leadership required for EYPS. The assessment process includes:

- a review of leadership skills
- seven written assessment tasks based on experiences of early years practice, and a review of your written work
- a one-day setting visit, including a tour of your own workplace setting
- two interviews, and also interviews with others who know your work.

Location

The School of Education is based at the university's Falmer campus, just outside Brighton.

Entry requirements

To train for EYPS you must be a graduate working in the early years sector, see pathway entry requirements overleaf. If you do not have a degree, the university offers a number of ways to gain one, including part-time study to fit around work commitments.

You must also have GCSEs in English language and maths. If you do not meet the GCSE requirements, we can offer an equivalence test. We are happy to offer advice on the standards required – please get in touch with the course programme assistant. See facing page for contact details. We also need to see and take a copy of your advanced CRB check certificate before you can begin on the EYPS pathway.

Pre-EYPS foundation degrees

We offer a very successful range of early years courses including the Early Years Care and Education foundation degree.

This foundation degree provides the specialist knowledge and skills needed to progress your career and gain academic credibility in early years, playwork and school-based settings. The award allows progression to a full honours degree, and then to Early Years Professional Status providing you meet any additional entrance requirements. Our foundation degrees can be completed in two years part-time.



EYPS tutor profiles



On this page,
Erica Evans (left)
and Louise Juhl
(right).

On opposite
page from top to
bottom:
Chris Randall
Roopal Gordon
Davina Goldman

Erica Evans **Joint programme manager**

Erica has over 16 years experience working in education. She has worked as a class teacher, registered childminder and childminding network co-ordinator. In 2007 she successfully completed the EYPS validation pathway at the University of Brighton.

Erica has enjoyed supporting adult learners in a range of settings, including childminders, teaching assistants, early years practitioners and student teachers. She currently teaches on the Foundation Degree in Early Years at the Open University, and the BA(Hons) with QTS at the University of Brighton.

She also delivers Early Years training workshops through Brighton and Hove Early Years and Childcare.

Erica has enjoyed working as an EYPS assessor and mentor. She brings her wealth of experience of quality Early Years provision, and her passion for the development of excellence in Early Years to her role as joint programme manager for the EYPS programme at the University of Brighton.

Louise Juhl **Joint programme manager**

Louise has worked for many different local authorities, settings and institutions in the UK and overseas, as a practitioner, head teacher, early years manager, adult and teacher trainer and early years consultant.

Louise has more than 25 years experience working with young children and their families, as well as with practitioners, in a wide variety of settings including schools, family centres, nurseries and playgroups. She has, throughout her career, actively supported her colleagues to develop their excellence and professionalism in early years education.

Through her teaching on the EYPS programme, Louise shares her expertise and her long experience with students in areas including learning through play, observation and leadership in early years settings, and developing a professional voice and confidence.

What our candidates say

From the outside EYPS can feel like a daunting process, but at Brighton you really don't need to worry. Right from the start the tutors have been great at breaking the process down, providing high quality seminars and offering support. We have a lovely community of practitioners on the pathway too and I'm sure this has everything to do with the passion staff show for children and the EYPS in general.

Alex Paterson

EYPS sounded like the opportunity I had been looking for – and it was. After graduating with a History of Art degree, I discovered a passion for working with young children. The training has given me the self-awareness and skills that I need to improve my own practice and lead others to do the same. I was well supported right to the end, I am very glad I took on the challenge.

Sarah McHale

Having the option of completing the validation pathway locally gave me the opportunity to pull together all of my qualifications and experience into one professionally recognised qualification. All of this has validated my experience as a man in the early years and helped to consolidate my knowledge, whilst also providing a springboard into a local community of early years professionals which provides exciting opportunities for the future.

Chris Randall

As a result of the knowledge and understanding gained through undertaking EYPS, my team management skills have been enhanced and the quality of the provision for children and families using my setting has improved. Being an early years professional means that I feel more valued and respected.

Roopal Gordon

I confess that when I began on the short pathway to Early Years Professional Status, as a Childminder, I had my concerns as to whether it was an achievable goal. However, the team at the University were fantastic, tailoring the course to meet my needs. I found the tutors inspiring and the mentor support invaluable, just having someone else believe in you is incredibly motivating. I have gained confidence, not only in my own abilities, but also in Childminding as a profession and doing EYPS has helped me to develop my career.

Davina Goldman

Former EYPS candidate – currently EYPS mentor and assessor at the University of Brighton

Achieving my EYPS at the University of Brighton has broadened my professional role significantly, from owner/manager of a pre-school to that of a leader who strives to inspire, motivate and support other practitioners in giving children under the age of five the best possible start in life.

Janet Hornsby

Former EYPS candidate – currently EYPS mentor and assessor at the University of Brighton



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