

## PROPOSED MERGER WITH QUB

Potential applicants to this course may have heard of the proposed merger between Stranmillis University College and Queen's University with a target implementation date of August 2009. Until economic and legislative approval for the merger has been received from government, Stranmillis will continue with the current practice of separate recruitment and admissions processes.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Stranmillis University College  
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Stranmillis University College

A College of Queen's University Belfast

## Early Childhood Studies Part-Time BA (Hons)



STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
BELFAST

## 2010 ENTRY

### THE BA (HONS) DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES - by Part-Time Study

The BA (Hons) Degree in Early Childhood Studies offered by Stranmillis University College, is based on the concept of 'Educare'. It aims to both investigate and further advance a multi-professional approach within the field of Early Years services in Northern Ireland and beyond. The course has been developed by a group of professionals in consultation with representatives from the statutory, voluntary and private sector and responds to government reports and legislation which demands co-ordination and collaboration in services for young children. The degree is also meeting, at graduate level, the training needs of both current and future practitioners and is thereby underlining the need for highly qualified personnel within the sector.

#### COURSE STRUCTURE

The degree is offered on a part-time basis at both Stranmillis University College and South West College. The course is organised on a modular basis with a work placement experience forming the 'core'. Students will undertake a programme of 18 modules of study, extending over 4-7 years depending on their circumstances. Students may also participate in the ERASMUS programme with the opportunity to study in prestigious higher education institutions in one of a number of European countries, including Spain, France, Germany, Denmark and Finland.

#### COURSE CONTENT

The modules offered will address broad areas such as 'Understanding the Child', 'The Child in the Learning Context' and 'The Child in the Family & Community'. The theoretical training establishes and develops the skills necessary to cope with the demands and challenges of supporting, caring for and educating young children in a professional environment. A work-based element forms an integral part of the degree, and puts theoretical learning into practice in a supervised and supportive environment. On completion of the degree, graduates will be highly qualified with a sound practical and theoretical training, and equipped to work with young children in a variety of professional contexts.

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the minimum admission requirements of:

- 4 GCSEs at Grade C (including English Language and Mathematics)
- and 3 GCE A levels at Grades BBB
- or Grades BBB in VCE A Level: 12 or 6 unit award combination, totalling 18 units

Applications are welcomed from students whose qualifications are alternative to those listed on this leaflet. Examples are Access, CACHE Diploma or HND qualifications. Students must demonstrate potential to undertake the BA and cope successfully with the demands of modules within it. It is advisable to contact Academic Registry at Stranmillis in order to gain detailed guidance about qualifications or experience, or to determine eligibility for entry.

Certain qualifications at HNC/D level or the Advanced CACHE will enable applicants to apply for Credit Transfer and thus be considered for entry into Year 2 of the degree. Offers to HND students for entry to Year 2 of the degree are normally stated in terms of 10 distinctions overall.

For those students who have completed a Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Studies articulation arrangements are available from the relevant Regional College.

All entrants to the part-time degree must be able to demonstrate that they can gain access to young children in a structured setting either through employment or negotiated access. It is advised that this should be for a period of no less than seven hours per week.

Entry to the BA degree is based on qualifications, reports from schools/colleges, references and an interview which will include a presentation. Where there is competition for places the admission requirements may be enhanced at the shortlisting stage.

In line with government policy it is a requirement that all entrants to the course must undertake a criminal record check through AccessNI.

#### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The degree has been planned to provide the essential knowledge and experience for those working with young children in a variety of establishments and contexts. These include Nursery and Primary Schools, Crèches, Parent And Toddler Groups, Centres Associated With The Early Years Organisation, Toy And Book Libraries, Childcare And Family Centres. A number of graduates have gone on to pursue further study at both Postgraduate Diploma and Masters level in the fields of Early Childhood Studies, Social Work and Play Therapy. Others have taken up employment through, for example, the Government funded initiative "Sure Start".

The BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies also provides a relevant foundation for entry to post-graduate study to gain qualified teacher status, including the Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (Early Years) course which is offered by Stranmillis University College.

#### FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The tuition fees for the BA are £220 per module subject to confirmation. Full details of fees and financial support arrangements can be found on the finance section of the Stranmillis University College website ([www.stran.ac.uk](http://www.stran.ac.uk)).

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Application for the BA Early Childhood Studies (part-time) degree should be made directly to the University College. Application forms are normally available from early November.

... see over for further information