



STRANMILLIS  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

A College of Queen's University Belfast

## PGCE (EARLY YEARS) WITH QTS

With the increased value on playful approaches to teaching and learning, both at pre-school and foundation stage levels, this aims to provide students with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of how a play-based curriculum can be effectively translated into practice. Students will critically examine relevant theory and research in this field and the appropriate role of the teacher will be discussed and debated. Much emphasis will be placed on preparing students to offer children a developmentally appropriate curriculum which builds on children's needs and interests and allows playful approaches to be infused across the entire early learning experience.

The course also aims to enhance students' understanding of the integrated nature of children's learning. It focuses on how the six key areas of learning at Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 can be taught, principally through the use of themes.

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is of thirty-six weeks duration, beginning in early September and lasting until late June. Half of the course is based in the University College and the other half in schools. Both aspects of the course have been designed to complement each other and to contribute to the development of professional competence.

The course consists of 4 modules:

- **Implementing a Play-based Curriculum**
- **Teaching the Key Stage 1 Primary Curriculum**
- **Professional Experience 1**
- **Professional Experience**

### HOW WILL I STUDY?

In addition to seminars, tutorials, workshops and individual/group work, at least eighteen weeks are spent obtaining practical teaching experience. At the outset of the course, students will spend a short period of time in SureStart centres with 2-3 year old children. The initial assessed placement is spent in a nursery setting towards the end of October, lasting for a period of five weeks.

An additional five weeks in January/February is spent in a Foundation Stage classroom (i.e. Year 1 or 2 in a primary school) and a further 6 weeks spent in a Key Stage 1 classroom (i.e. Year 3 or 4 of a primary school) in April/May. Students will then get the opportunity to spend two weeks in an additional alternative educational setting of their choice in Northern Ireland. A small number of students will also get the chance to undertake their final two week placement in a European setting. Students will spend every Monday in schools for observation purposes.





### WHO WILL BE TEACHING ME?

In University and on your professional placements, you will be taught, assessed and supported by an exceptional team of internationally recognised, research-led and experienced practitioners. As a small, specialist institution, our tutors get to know you – your strengths, your weaknesses, your abilities and your talents – and will support you to become a learning leader.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed wholly by course work and continuous assessment, including the assessment of practical teaching.

**Entry Requirements: 2:1 Honours' Degree**

**Duration: 1 year**



For more information:

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