



TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
DUBLIN - CITY CAMPUS

MA IN CHILD, FAMILY
& COMMUNITY STUDIES

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TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY DUBLIN



The MA Child, Family and Community Studies is an interdisciplinary programme in the broad socio-educational field. The programme has been running successfully since 2007 and attracts graduates from the social science disciplines and those working in the fields of social care, early education, community work, youth work and related areas.

This programme will be of interest to graduates of early education, social care, psychology, sociology, community studies and related disciplines, as well as professionals in the broad social services delivery area (for example, social work, youth work, teaching, community work, early education, family support work).

Former School Principal and founding Director of Crosscare Community College

“ I did the one year full time course and, although it was busy, the programme content and interactions with tutors and students gave me a good grounding in the core areas of Child, Family and Community Studies. This led to a very fulfilling experience and is still of immense value to me today both professionally and personally.



The overall aim of the programme is to examine how human capacity can be enhanced across the lifespan in the socio-educational sector. It will provide participants with a critical understanding of concepts and approaches to enabling individuals and groups to realise their potential. The programme aims to educate students to high levels of contemporary theoretical awareness and to create an atmosphere of rigorous academic enquiry and writing.

This programme allows students to examine concepts, topics and theoretical perspectives relating to children, families and communities in depth, in a critical and constructive manner. It does not lead to a professional qualification in social care or social work.



ADMISSION CRITERIA

Applicants must normally hold a second class honours degree, higher division (2:1) in the area of social care, early education, social sciences, psychology, sociology, youth and community studies or cognate discipline.

Applicants who do not meet the minimum academic requirements, but who have significant professional or vocational experience in child, family and community services shall also be considered. In addition to an application form, this latter category of applicants may be asked to present for interview. The Programme Committee will work to ensure a balance of recent graduates and professionals among the student intake.

Applications will be assessed based on prior academic attainment and relevant work/voluntary experience. Due to the considerable competition for this programme, satisfying the minimum entry requirement may not guarantee applicants a place.

Early Years Specialist

CC The course content is broad in scope and provided me with an opportunity to explore a wide array of social issues across the human lifespan and extend my knowledge in these areas. The core subjects and elective modules were extremely relatable to my work with children, families and the wider community. In the final year the programme provides the flexibility for students to explore an area of particular interest further.



PROGRAMME CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The programme commenced in 2007. It is organised to facilitate full-time students and those working in full-time employment. Consequently, modules are generally delivered in the late afternoon and evenings, generally on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Students take core modules in:

- Perspectives on child, family and community
- Equality, Diversity and Intercultural Practice
- Transitions across the lifespan
- Management issues in child, family and community work
- Research methods & dissertation

In addition, students shall select two from the following optional modules (which shall run subject to a viable cohort)

- Interventions in child and adolescent mental health
- Contemporary issues in the early years
- Youth offending & youth justice perspectives
- Risk, protection and resilience of children and vulnerable adults
- Perspectives on ageing
- Intergenerational Practice and Learning
- Masculinities, Care and Equality



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Disability Sector Professional

The Masters in Child, Family and Community Studies was an excellent fit. First of all the course was both affordable and manageable in a part time capacity when combined with full time work. Secondly, this masters proved to be an excellent and very relevant academic update for the sectors I work in. Many traditional models of service are

reconfiguring themselves towards more 'community based supports' and the M.A. in Child, Family and Community Studies allowed me an opportunity to explore concepts such as 'Community' at Level 9.

CLOSING DATE:
30th April each year

The programme is a taught modularised programme, delivered in semesters of 15 weeks duration. It is offered in both full-time and part-time modes. Students may take the taught programme on a full-time basis over two semesters and complete a dissertation in the third semester. Part-time students complete coursework over four semesters and complete a dissertation in the fifth semester.

Many participants on the MA in Child, Family and Community Studies already have practice experience and use the MA to develop their careers in different directions or to move in to management roles. Graduates have gone on to work in a variety of sectors including development and policy work in social care, early childhood education and the voluntary care sector. It is not necessary to have prior professional experience, however, to find the programme beneficial for career development.

ATTENDANCE

Full-time students attend lectures two evenings per week and part-time students one evening per week. Weekly timetables in semester 2 will vary depending on options chosen.

In addition to scheduled classes, students are required to undertake a substantial level of independent learning. It is highly recommended that students working full-time register for the part-time mode of the course.

FEES

Information on current DIT Postgraduate fees from <http://www.dit.ie/student-services/feesandgrants/fees/postgraduatefees/>

HOW TO APPLY

Apply on line at <http://www.dit.ie/studyatdit/postgraduate/taughtprogrammes/allcourses/dt576ftdt577ptchildfamilyandcommunitystudiesma.html>

PROGRAMME INFORMATION AND STAFF PROFILES

<http://dit.ie/llss/>

CURRENT CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY STUDIES STAFF



Ms Margaret Fingleton

Residential and community care, youth and disability services; therapeutic childcare; animal assisted therapy/activities; forest school education; Course tutor in Social Care.



Dr Anne Marie Halpenny

Child and lifespan psychological development, research methods, transitions across the lifespan, Interventions in child and adolescent mental health. Course Tutor MA Child, Family and Community Studies.



Dr David Williams

Principles of professional practice, challenging behaviour, risk, vulnerability and protection of children and vulnerable adults. Course tutor in Social Care.



Dr. Mairéad Seymour

Research methods, youth justice, research methods. Youth crime, youth justice, probation, community supervision, prisoner reintegration, desistance, procedural justice, therapeutic jurisprudence, and comparative criminal justice.



Dr Kevin Lalor

Teaching and research interests in youth crime, Victimology and child sexual abuse prevalence. Assistant Head of School.



Dr. Niall Hanlon

Social justice and equality studies, affective equality and care theory, critical studies of men and masculinities, professional care pedagogy, policy and practice, qualitative methodologies, emotional labour, emotional and nurturing capital, care and justice ethics, critical reflexivity and social justice pedagogy. Course Tutor BA Social Care; Course Chair MA Child, Family and Community Studies.



Mary Delany

Early childhood education - Pedagogy and curriculum; research methods; professional practice, contemporary issues in early education.



Jan Pettersen

Early childhood education - Mentoring, Management and Leadership, Digital Childhoods, Outdoor Learning, Inclusion, Contemporary Issues.



Dr. Cormac Behan

Punishment and Imprisonment; Comparative Penal Policy; Penal History; Deviance and Social Control; Prisoners' Rights Movements; Prison Education; Course Tutor, MA Social Care Leadership and Management.



Dr. Fiona McSweeney

Senior lecturer currently supervising PhD students as well as teaching psychology modules, research methods and academic skills. She is involved in lecturing transitions across the lifespan on the MACFCS. Her main areas of research focus on higher and professional education, identities and educational transitions.



Martina Ozonyia

Early Childhood Education- child protection, perspectives on family and community, curriculum and pedagogy, professional practice, and research methods. Programme Chair, Early Childhood Education.



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