

Higher Education Courses at West Thames College

High quality and great value for money courses to give you the skills you need that employers want.



Childcare



Foundation Degree in Early Years – Full and Relevant

Run in collaboration with and validated by Kingston University, the Early Years foundation degree enables you to combine academic study with work-based learning.

You will develop theoretical and practice-based knowledge for working with young children (birth to five years of age) in a variety of settings. This course enables you to ‘learn as you earn’ by combining a minimum of 16 hours workplace learning with part-time study.

A career in early years is highly rewarding: you will make a lasting, positive impact on the wellbeing of young children and play an essential role in their development. You will need to have a genuine respect and fondness for children combined with excellent communication, listening and organisational skills. If you have creative skills in music, dance, drama, or arts and crafts, you can put them to great use developing inspiring activities.



There are two pathways for the foundation degree.

1. Foundation Degree in Early Years - for those with level 3 childcare qualification with early educator.
2. Foundation Degree in Early Years (with early educator) - for those without level 3 childcare or early years educator qualification.

Estimated salary

£25,000
Early years
practitioner

£37,500
Social workers

£44,000
Social services
managers & directors

Direct industry experience

Our students love the practical emphasis on our courses and our strong links with industry. Real-life briefs and projects, work placements, industry-sponsored competitions and field trips form an essential part of our courses.

In today's highly competitive jobs market, this vocational experience is key to your success, as you will gain the essential skills that employers are looking for – which looks great on your CV and helps you stand out from the crowd.

Careers advice

We will give you all the advice you need to plan your future career.

On successful completion, you can progress to a work-based learning BA (Hons) top-up programme at Kingston University. The FdA is a route into teaching, leadership and management, and special educational needs and disability.

While you study we take care of you

- ▶ **Gym:** Our gym is equipped with treadmills, cycling & rowing machines, cross trainers, resistance machines & weights to keep you fit and toned.
- ▶ **Hair and beauty salon:** Get pampered with a beauty treatment or new hairstyle and buy professional products for a fraction of the normal cost.
- ▶ **Nursery:** Our nursery offers full and part-time places for children aged 3 months to 5 years, providing a safe and stimulating learning environment for your child.

- ▶ **Student common room:** You can watch music, sport or films on the plasma TV screens, go online, play pool, table tennis, table football and other games or just meet with friends.

Fees & accommodation

Home students do not usually have to pay fees up front. Your fees will be covered by a student loan and you will not start repaying this until after you have graduated and are earning a salary of over £26,575.

Student finances

To cover the cost of studying if you can demonstrate that you are in financial hardship, you can apply for:

- ▶ A Tuition Fee Loan to cover your tuition fees in full
- ▶ A Maintenance Loan to help you with your living costs
- ▶ Extra financial support if you have a disability or children or adults who depend on you.

You may not have to pay tuition fees if:

- ▶ You are in receipt of state benefits and qualify for concession
- ▶ You are aged 19-23 and do not already have a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification.

Living in London is exciting but it does come at a price. We recommend you start your search for accommodation early as most specialist providers book several months in advance.

Private accommodation providers

- ▶ crm-students.com
- ▶ host-students.com
- ▶ freshstudentliving.co.uk

Licence to practice

If you do not already hold Early Years Educator Status from your Level 3 qualification, we offer the Early Years (with Early Years Educator) pathway which will give you Licence to Practice and is classified as a "full and relevant" qualification by the Department for Education (UCAS code: X120*). In addition to the core modules, you will complete a Reflective Professional Practice Record (RPPR).

Your application

Applications should be made direct to UCAS via their website ucas.com by using code X110 (Pathway 1) or X120 (Pathway 2).

You must also contact West Thames College regarding your application or apply online at **west-thames.ac.uk**

We will then contact you and help you through the admissions process.

Entry requirements

- ▶ Full and relevant Level 3 Early Years/Childcare qualification or equivalent as published by the DfE.
- ▶ Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social care.
- ▶ Access to Higher Education or social work

Please refer to the page below on our website for more information:
west-thames.ac.uk/higher-education

Next steps

You can apply using the 'Your application' information in this leaflet.

Alternatively, you may want to speak to the subject expert in this area for a quick chat about our foundation early years course. You can contact:

Natalie Boston

- ▶ **020 8326 2255**
- ▶ **Natalie.Boston@west-thames.ac.uk**

Carolyn Moncrieffe

- ▶ **020 8326 2255**
- ▶ **Carolyn.Moncrieffe@west-thames.ac.uk**

Further information

For general questions about student loans and how to apply, call the college's Information Centre on 020 8326 2000. They will help directly or book an appointment for you with our careers team.