

## Module Specification

### Module Summary Information

<b>1</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	Researching Professional Practice in Early Childhood
<b>2</b>	<b>Module Credits</b>	40
<b>3</b>	<b>Module Level</b>	6
<b>4</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	EDU6250

<b>5</b>	<b>Module Overview</b>
<p>In line with the philosophy and aims of the programme, this Level 6 module enables and supports you, as a member of the early childhood research community, to conduct a piece of small scale individual research that attends and adheres to key ethical principles. This module encourages you to engage in independent as well as collaborative critical analysis of contemporary issues and debates in early childhood research, policy and practice. You will be provided with an opportunity to clarify your understanding of key research terms, as well as to consider the link between epistemology, methodology and methods and the impact that your own personal philosophies have upon the design of your study.</p> <p>You will self-source and examine current examples of early childhood research and will design and conduct your own piece of research that explores a relevant and contemporary challenge related to teaching and learning within an early childhood context. The module is also designed to support you to critically examine the connections between early childhood research, associated policy and practice and to consider this connection in relation to the findings of your own study.</p> <p>To summarise, this module will support students to explore the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What techniques and approaches do early childhood researchers draw upon to design, gather and interpret research evidence?</li> <li>- How do I judge/critique the quality of early childhood research?</li> <li>- What are the strengths and weaknesses of a range of research methodologies and methods?</li> <li>- How do I design a piece of research?</li> <li>- What are my ethical responsibilities as a member of the early childhood research community?</li> <li>- What impact do my own philosophies have on my epistemological and methodological stances? How might this influence my choice of methods?</li> <li>- How do I present and communicate early childhood research?</li> </ul>	

<b>6</b>	<b>Indicative Content</b>
<p>You will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of research on policy and practice in early childhood</li> <li>• Evaluation of current research</li> <li>• Literature reviews</li> <li>• Your role as a researcher</li> <li>• Epistemology, methodology and methods</li> <li>• Asking the right questions</li> </ul>	

- Your ethical responsibilities
- Data analysis

<b>7</b>		<b>Module Learning Outcomes</b> On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:
	<b>1</b>	Critically evaluate pertinent research and its impact upon current policy, practice or provision in early childhood.
	<b>2</b>	Justify, design, carry out and share outcomes of a small-scale study that adheres to key ethical principles.
	<b>3</b>	Appraise individual research experience and its impact on personal and professional development.
	<b>4</b>	Evaluate research design and outcomes, including potential impact on practice.

<b>8</b>				<b>Module Assessment</b>			
<b>Learning Outcome</b>							
		<b>Coursework</b>		<b>Exam</b>		<b>In-Person</b>	
<b>1 – 4</b>		x					

<b>9</b>		<b>Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities</b>	
<b>Learning Activities</b>		<b>Hours</b>	
<b>Scheduled Learning (SL)</b> includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable		72	
<b>Directed Learning (DL)</b> includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE		72	
<b>Private Study (PS)</b> includes preparation for exams		256	
<b>Total Study Hours:</b>		400	