

What's Next?

Early Childhood Education & Care

Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education & Care

This qualification means you have the knowledge and skills to be a competent and professional practitioner in the education and care of young children. You have the opportunity to work in a variety of settings and services.



Core Skills

Transferable Skills

- Communications
- Interpersonal skills
- Empathic and non-judgmental
- Team working
- Time management and organisation.
- Research & report writing
- Professionalism
- IT skills.



Degree-specific Skills

Knowledge and understanding of theories, research methods & ethics (for the development of standards and best practice in ECEC)

Ability to relate well with children and to foster their holistic development and wellbeing

Design, develop, plan, deliver and evaluate learning opportunities in light of best practice guidelines and national frameworks

Manage all resources required for the delivery of programmes

Organise and manage people and processes in the ever changing ECEC sector

Detailed knowledge of practice in relation to Education and care advocacy, leadership & inclusion

Capacity to identify and undertake continuous personal and sectoral development within a critically reflective process.

Career Options



Think of your first job as the first step in your professional career where what you learn will lead to your next job. Early childhood education and care is a fast-changing profession with a wide range of options in Cork, Munster, around Ireland and abroad. Demand for qualified graduates is constant.

Roles for you to consider now and in the future include: **ECEC Manager, ECEC Professional, Pre-School Teacher, Room Leader, After School Practitioner, Early Years Specialist with Better Start, research, early Intervention specialist, project development**, and as an **inspector with TUSLA and DES, a Development Worker in a County Childcare Committee** or in **public and voluntary organisations.**

Also www.activelink.ie is a website for the non-profit sector in Ireland. It has a comprehensive job notices page which is updated regularly. You can sign-up to its newsletter.

Employers

Employers include:

- Pre-Schools
- Montessori Schools
- Day Care Centres and Crèches
- Special Schools
- Family Support Centres
- Community Resource Centres
- Residential Care Settings
- Government Departments & Agencies.



See examples of where some past graduates work overleaf.



Where are CIT graduates working?

Company

Bright Beginnings Childcare
 Little Hands Child Care
 Cheeky Cherubs
 CoAction West Cork
 Better Start
 LINC
 TeachKloud
 Cope Foundation
 Hopscotch Childcare
 Little Angels Preschool
 Maria Assumpta Primary School
 Mount Oval Childcare
 Baltimore Community Playschool
 Further Education Colleges

Job Role

Room Leader
 Early Years Practitioner
 Childcare Practitioner
 Home Support Worker
 Mentor
 Linc Programme Researcher
 Entrepreneur
 Care Worker
 Early Years Educator
 Preschool Practitioner
 SNA
 Preschool Assistant
 Preschool Assistant
 Further Education Teacher



Starting Your Job Search

Job search takes focus, effort and commitment. It's essential that you use various means to find a job, such as published adverts, recruitment agencies and relevant websites. Be prepared to make direct contact with organisations where you would like to work.

It is also helpful to have a LinkedIn profile as it is a source of valuable information. For example, see what jobs CIT Alumni (former graduates of your course) are in now and look back at their career journey. Ask to link with them and for a contact name to send your CV. Don't wait for jobs to be advertised, actively look for roles that interest you.

<http://www.mycit.ie/careers>

Professional Groups & Associations



Membership of a professional association is a useful way to meet new people in your field and will look good on your CV. Many professional bodies have jobs boards and these roles may not be advertised elsewhere.

Relevant professional bodies/associations include:

OMEP Ireland: www.omepireland.ie
 Early Childhood Ireland (it has a jobs board): <https://www.earlychildhoodireland.ie/>
 The National Childhood Network (NCN): <http://www.ncn.ie/index.php>
 Association of Childhood Professionals: <http://www.acpireland.com/>



Postgraduate Study

A Masters' degree (Level 9) will enable you to specialise or to become qualified in another related profession. Please note that therapeutic roles may require applicants to be over 25 years of age and/or have some years' full-time work experience directly with children.

Some programmes for further study include:

- Masters in Play Therapy; Masters in Art Therapy, CIT
- Advanced Clinical Practice with Children & Families, CIT
- Professional Masters in Education, Mary Immaculate College Limerick, DCU & Maynooth

University (to become a Primary School Teacher - you must also meet the Irish language requirements, which can be achieved via an exam if you don't have the Leaving Certificate grade)

- Postgraduate diploma in Teaching in Further Education
- Social Policy - Conversion Course (level 8) needed to become a Social Worker (an additional Masters programme), UCC
- Child Protection & Welfare, UCD and Trinity College Dublin.

You can also use **www.Qualifax.ie** to search for courses in areas of interest to you.

Working in research is also an option at Level 9 and at Level 10, where you would work towards a PhD. This is a useful website: **<https://www.findaphd.com/phds/ireland/>**

For information on Masters' programmes through English in universities across the EU: **www.mastersportal.eu**



Want to go abroad?

Graduates can apply for jobs in Early Years/Pre-Schools in the UK and in primary schools for Teaching Assistant or Substitute Teacher roles. Some past graduates have progressed from substitute teacher positions to full time teaching posts in primary schools in the UK due to a shortage of teachers. Useful websites for finding jobs in the UK:

<https://www.eteach.com/>

<https://www.tes.com/en-ie/jobs/browse/united-kingdom>

<https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/>

<https://www.smartteachers.co.uk/teaching-in-the-uk>

Jobs across the EU can be seen on the EURES website and financial supports are available for relocating to another EU country via the local EURES office, visit: <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/eures-searchengine/page/main?lang=en#/search>

International jobs: Would you like to work abroad? Working in an international school is an option via a network such as Sabis, who have recruited CIT graduates in recent years for schools in Dubai, Qatar and Abu Dhabi. Sabis also have schools in the USA, Europe, Asia and Africa.

See: **www.sabis.net**

If you wish to work in the USA, Canada or Australia, check out visa requirements first. There are graduate visas available to the USA (J1 Graduate Visa) that need to be taken up within six months of your final exams.

If you have an additional qualification to teach English, such as a TEFL Certificate, teaching English to pre-school children in countries like China, Cambodia and Vietnam is another career option, see here: **<https://www.gooverseas.com/teach-abroad/pre-school>**

Notes


