

Postgraduate Diploma/ Masters of Arts in

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY IN THE EARLY YEARS



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Postgraduate Diploma/ Masters of Arts in

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Ireland's Early Learning And Care (ELC) sector has a dynamic, exciting and challenging future. It needs effective and confident leaders across the fields of practice, policy, advocacy, regulation, education and professional development.

This Level 9 transformational leadership development programme is specifically designed for Early Years Professionals who are moving into roles with increased strategic and leadership responsibilities. The programme will act as an important guide as you harness your existing strengths, build new competencies, and develop your own unique leadership identity.

- **Do you have the knowledge, values and practices that defines an effective transformational ELC leader?**
- **Do you want to develop your leadership and advocacy skills and capabilities in ways that reflect and build the capacity of the ELC sector?**
- **Do you want to be part of a community of practice that will influence and lead the ELC sector into the future?**

If the answer to these questions is yes and you have a 2.1 BA Honours in Early Childhood Education or cognate discipline and will have at least two years experience working in the ELC sector or a related field completed at the end of the post graduate programme, then the Institute of Technology Sligo, has the Level 9 programme that will help you to fulfill these ambitions.



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme is structured around two modules per semester. You will be engaged in content that will include online lectures from lecturers and key leaders and experts in the field; online discussions and activities; access to digital resources; and the opportunity to share your own experiences.

In each semester, there will be a residential programme delivered on the IT Sligo campus which brings you together with your fellow participants and leading figures in the ELC sector.

This will allow you to engage directly in academic and practice debate, extended learning, assessment activities and keynote lectures and seminars.

Assessment on the programme will be through a broad variety of student-centred and active techniques such as reflective journals, essays, work-based projects, digital screencasts, simulations and presentations.

The professional relationships you develop through this course will provide the basis for your leadership and advocacy networks and communities of practice in the future.

PROGRAMME KEY FACTS

Accredited by: IT Sligo through delegated authority from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) PGDip – 60 ECTS credits: MA – PGDip + 30 ECTS credits (ECTS = European Credit Transfer System)

Programme structure: 6 modules (2 per semester) for the PGDip, + 2 modules (over one further semester) for the MA (each module = 10 ECTS credits)

Delivery: Blended, weekly online lectures, with a mandatory five-day residential workshop (Mon-Fri) each semester at IT Sligo campus

Duration: 3 semesters (PGDip) + 1 further semester (add-on MA)

Cost: €5,000 PG Dip, €2,500 Add on MA. Total for MA €7,500.
May be paid in instalments



Intake: September. All applicants will be interviewed via either face to face or online. Semester 1: September to January; Semester 2: January to May.

The programme will be delivered subject to a viable cohort of 20 applicants.

MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Leadership and advocacy in the early years

Making & Analysing Social Policy

SEMESTER 2

Children's Lives

Contemporary Child Psychology

SEMESTER 3

Research, policy and practice

Researching Leadership and Advocacy in ECCE

SEMESTER 4

Leading Organisations and Change Management

Final Research Project

I deepened my knowledge in International and National Policy, strengthened my leadership skills and discovered the wealth of research that is constantly taking place in the area of Early Years Education.

Anne Marie Tiernan,
Creche Manager,
Nurture's Best Creche, Roscommon



DEVELOP KEY SKILLS

ON COMPLETION OF THIS PROGRAMME YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

- document, recognise and reflect on your existing bank of knowledge, skills and experience
- critically assess and apply central theories of leadership and management from within and outside the sector, in an international context
- engage in effective professional advocacy communication, networking, use of social media and lobbying
- understand how contemporary ELC organisations work, how to effectively engage and change them, and why it can be so challenging to achieve this?
- engage critically in research, with an in-depth knowledge of crucial social issues related to children and the skills to conduct ethical research of your own.

I believe that my new role as EU Project Officer was as a direct result of my MA achievement with IT Sligo. This role involves a lot of research and academic writing and I feel that this course further developed those skills while also broadening my knowledge and enhancing my confidence.

Fiona Kelleher,

EU Project Officer with Early Childhood Ireland

CAREER PROGRESSION PATHWAYS

The programme is distinguished by its strong sectoral support. In this interactive, blended learning environment, you will experience a challenging developmental process that builds your leadership capacity, confidence and applied skills.

In every lecture, tutorial, keynote seminar and activity, you are asked not only to study leadership, but to demonstrate it.

Graduates of the MA programme may progress their careers into a variety of roles including leadership roles in ELC services; Inspection and Management roles in DCYA, DES, mentoring roles with Better Start; lecturing and tutoring roles and advocacy and research in ELC.

I found the lecturers very supportive and engaged. They were clearly experts in their given subjects. IT Sligo offered me the opportunity to study remotely through online classes, complimented by onsite classes every term. This suited my situation perfectly, as a mother to two young children and working full time.

Lorraine Farrell,

National Aistear Coordinator,
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)

KEY BENEFITS

PERSONAL APPROACH

The MA in Leadership and Advocacy in the Early Years is designed with small class sizes for greater individual attention.

- **Applied experiential learning** that examines today's complex leadership and advocacy issues in ELC
- **Practical real-world application** that can be applied in the context of your workplace
- **Individual strategy project** that addresses a specific challenge within your ELC organization
- **Sectoral networking opportunities** with peers across an array of countries and sectors

CONTACT DETAILS

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Roisin McGlone
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TO APPLY

ADMISSIONS

admissions@itsligo.ie