



INTERNATIONAL
HELLENIC
UNIVERSITY



Courses offered in English for incoming students

School of Social Sciences

Department of Early Childhood Education & Care

Study-units for Erasmus Students

Academic year
2026 - 2027

Overview Fall Semester

Study-unit Code	Study-unit Title	Credit value	Study-unit coordinator	Pre-Requisites
280-230101	Introduction to Educational Studies	6	Asoc. Pr. Petkou Dafni	No
280-230103	Health & Nutrition in Early Childhood	6	Assist. Pr. Tympa Eleni	No
280-230102	Introduction to Psychology	6	Assist. Pr. Maria Vairami	No
280-230308	Test & Measurements in Early Childhood	6	Pr. Tsitiridou Maria	No
280-230311	Development of Mathematical concepts	6	Dr. Kassoti Olga	No
280-230310	Foreign language	6	Mrs Polymerou Maria	No
280-230302	Motor Education	6	Pr. Zachopoulou Eri	No
280-230306	Educational interactions	6	Dr. Karamane Efi	No
280-230301	Emergent Literacy	6	Assist. Pr. Papadopoulos Isaak	No
280-230701	Implementation of Research Designs	6	Assist. Pr. Kroysorati Katerina	No
280-230703	Family Psychology	6	Dr. Erifylli Diamantopoulou	No
	Teaching Greek as a Second/Foreign Language	6	Teaching staff of another Department	No
***	Practical training in Day Care Centers	6	Assist. Pr. Tympa Eleni	No

Overview Spring Semester

Study-unit Code	Study-unit Title	Credit value	Study-unit coordinator	Pre-Requisites
280-230201	Developmental Psychology	6	Assist. Pr. Maria Vairami	No
280-230202	Play & Learning	6	Assist. Pr. Tympa Eleni	No
280-230204	Fundamental Principles of Infant Pedagogy	6	Dr. Zisopoulou Eleni	No
280-230402	Special Education	6	Assist. Pr. Kossyvaki Lila	No
280-230603	Environmental Communication in Educational Sciences	6	Asoc. Pr. Petkou Dafni	No
280-230604	Natural Sciences in Early Childhood Education	6	Dr. Kassoti Olga	No
280-230602	Social Psychology in Educational Settings	6	Dr. Erifylli Diamantopolulou	No
280-230616	Research Seminar (RS) on Applied Transition	6	Dr. Zisopoulou Eleni	No
280-230629	Research Seminar on Applied Pedagogy	6	Dr. Karamane Efi	No
280-230613	Research Seminar on Interventions in Early Childhood	6	Pr. Tsitiridou Maria	No
280-230611	Research Seminar on Applied Physical & Movement Educational Activities	6	Pr. Zachopoulou Eri	No
280-230615	Research Seminar on Applied Emergent Literacy	6	Assist. Pr. Papadopoulos Isaak	No
***	Practical training in Day Care Centers	6	Assist. Pr. Tympa Eleni	No

***Practical training in Day Care Centers is implemented twice a week

Content of the courses Fall Semester

Introduction to Educational Studies ECTS 6

The course presents to students the fundamental concepts of educational sciences. Based on the ecological model of development by Bronfenbrenner that stresses that a person is a part of a complex system, the course presents children's development and the role of the family, preschool and society in it. Attention is given to the basic characteristics of the educational process. Topics such as the preschool environment, the role of the educator supplement the introduction to the topic. Two sessions are dedicated to educational research methodology.

Health & Nutrition in Early Childhood ECTS 6

The aim of the course is for students to acquire general knowledge regarding the health education, safety and nutrition of infants and toddlers in the context of their role as educators of early childhood. The course includes theoretical knowledge and practical advice on accident prevention and treatment practices indoors (home and daycare centers) as well as outdoors (outdoor areas and playgrounds). The course also aims to provide students with the necessary knowledge about the important role of nutrition and its connection to the physical and mental development of the child. This course will include reflective activities to enable students consolidate their learning. Lectures will also include case studies - many from real life - to provide practical examples to help them apply concepts to their own setting. Emphasis will be given to good communication and the effective use of communication tools. Finally, lectures will highlight latest 'current thinking' across a variety of different settings, to ensure relevance to a broad array of practitioners working across differing settings.

Introduction to Psychology ECTS 6

The aim of this course is to provide students with a general introduction to the study of psychology, including its historical development, major modern fields of research and application, perspectives and key issues. The first lectures will be devoted to giving a general background to the history and philosophy of psychology. We will then examine some approaches in more depth and consider the applications of theory and research to selected examples of human characteristics, development, and behaviour.

Tests and Measurements in Early Childhood ECTS 6

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the tests and measurement tools that are widely used in early childhood education.

The course is organized into three sections.

The first part of the course provides a) an overview of the scientific field of psychometry, b) develop theoretical issues concerning measurements, tests and their application in early childhood, c) the stages of a test development, d) definitions of the psychometric properties (reliability, validity, objectivity). Emphasis is given to ethical issues that arise during the process of measurements and test applications. Definitions are given and the terms are scientifically analyzed.

In the second part of the course the tests and measurement tools that are widely used in early childhood education are presented. The tools presented cover a wide range of areas of the child's development (e.g. cognitive, social, emotional, relationships, child's environment). Detailed examples are provided both theoretically and applied, so that students understand the object of measurement of specific tests, how to apply and present their results.

The third part of the course is dedicated to the presentation of small assignments by students. The work will concern the presentation of a widespread psychometric test, according to what was taught during the lectures.

Development of mathematical concepts ECTS 6

The content of the course is organized in the context of the pedagogical knowledge of the content of mathematical concepts, which is developed by the participating students, in order to be able to plan, organize and implement pedagogical activities for the development of mathematical concepts by children of early childhood. Specifically, the theoretical framework for the learning possibilities of developing mathematical concepts by children of early childhood and the specific content of mathematical concepts in all fields are developed. The aim is for the participants to know the basic characteristics of a mathematical activity and the appropriate teaching practices. Also, didactic suggestions are presented for all fields of mathematical concepts.

Foreign Language ECTS 6

The aim of the English Language course / Scientific Terminology is to familiarize students with the English educational terminology of their curriculum. Oral and written comprehension skills are cultivated while at the same time the creative and inductive thinking of the students is enhanced through the elaboration on scientific articles. Contact with authentic pedagogical texts helps students better understand the English terminology of their specialty, making them proficient users of the foreign language both during their undergraduate course of studies and in an Erasmus course framework.

Motor Education ECTS 6

The primary purpose of the course is to help students understand the basic principles of development of motor and social skills of preschool children. The basic principles of organizing and teaching motor games for children up to six years old are presented, and the way in which the developmental stage of the children determines the content of the activities, the organization of the group, and the verbal behavior of the teacher are discussed. The role of the teacher in the organization and implementation of the activities is described and the way in which the teacher helps children activate their creativity. The effect of motor play on the motor, mental and psychosocial development of preschool children is also presented. Students are also taught the effective application of motor play in the respective learning environment. A variety of motor games are used to achieve the motor, cognitive and emotional objectives of the lesson. The role of motor play in interdisciplinary teaching and in the development of the motor and social skills of children is emphasized.

Educational interactions ECTS 6

The aim of this course is to provide students with theoretical and practical knowledge to understand the interpersonal relationship between educators and children, as well as the social relationships within the classroom group. Furthermore, it aims to improve communication techniques, so that future professionals can establish a positive relationship with children.

Emergent Literacy ECTS 6

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the concept of emergent literacy, examining the developmental processes underlying early literacy acquisition. It explores how children in early childhood engage with literacy through cognitive processes and interaction with appropriate stimuli within their sociocultural environment. The course focuses on the developmental trajectory of written language acquisition through real-life, experiential learning situations, highlighting early manifestations of literacy and their pedagogical implications.

Development & Implementation of Research Designs ECTS 6

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Fully understand the process of developing research designs
 - Fully understand the process of implementing research designs
 - Develop the ability to design and implement a research design
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Family Psychology ECTS 6

The aim of the course is to explore the structure and function of the family through various theoretical psychological perspectives, including systemic, psychoanalytic, and feminist approaches. It adopts a seminar-style format, aiming to synthesize the knowledge students have acquired from previous psychology courses. Drawing from a broad range of theoretical viewpoints, the course takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the formation of the family in both the public and private spheres.

Teaching Greek as a Second / Foreign Language ECTS 6

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to understand the basic principles, learning theories, and teaching methods that govern the learning and teaching of Greek as a second/foreign language. They will also be capable of designing language lessons, utilizing educational materials for teaching Greek as a second/foreign language, and evaluating preschool-age children as well as the teaching materials produced and adopted by the state for teaching Greek to non-native speakers. Lastly, special emphasis will be placed on familiarizing students with the framework of teaching the Greek language within the diaspora community.

Practical training in Day Care Centers. ECTS 6 (Twice a week)

The aim of this course is to familiarize students both with the learning and socio-cultural environment of infant-toddler centers and with the implementation of the educational and pedagogical process through systematic observation and their involvement in the application of spontaneous and organized activities. Incoming students do their internships in preschool centers that have English-speaking teachers.

Content of the courses Spring Semester

Developmental Psychology ECTS 6

Developmental psychology is a multidisciplinary framework, with much attention being paid to the distinction between 'nature' and 'nurture' and the status genetic and environmental explanations for psychological development. The aim of this module is to underpin our understanding of the development of behaviour and cognition throughout the lifespan, with specific focus on childhood.

Play & Learning Environment ECTS 6

The content of the course concerns the investigation of the effect of the learning environment, as well as the importance of play and creativity in the all-round development of the young child. The concept and importance of play as a framework for learning in preschool age, the forms of play, the main theoretical approaches of playful learning in preschool age and the effect on the development of young children's thinking and learning are mentioned.

The organization of the preschool environment, the value of the pedagogical material and equipment and its functionality are analyzed. Learning processes in preschool are described, specifically cooperative learning, the role of the educator in organizing the learning environment and the design of the pedagogical process based on play. The method of play therapy is presented and cases of organized and free play in preschool education environments are studied.

Fundamental Principles of Infant Pedagogy ECTS 6

The aim of the course is for the students:

- To acquire the first knowledge about the development phases and the needs of infants as well as their psycho-pedagogical importance.
 - To understand the basic principles of infant education as well as the contribution of nutrition and care to their all-round development.
 - To understand the role and duties of the preschool teacher.
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Special Education Sciences ECTS 6

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the concepts of diversity and special educational needs. It will cover the main models of disability (medical, social, and multifactorial), present key principles of common special educational needs/disabilities (e.g., intellectual disability, autism, vision and hearing problems) in early childhood, and address critical issues related to their education.

Environmental Communication in Education Sciences ECTS 6

The aim of the course is: Students understand the complexity of environmental issues, the basic dimensions of the ecological crisis and raise awareness concerning the solutions through the implementation of environmental actions and programs in Education Sciences.

Natural Sciences in Early Childhood Education ECTS 6

The aim of this course is to help students understand which natural science concepts are relevant to preschool children and help them explain them. Then, students will be able to comprehend better the learning process according to children's approach to these concepts. Students will be familiar with modern learning theories related to the approach to natural science concepts and the development of scientific thinking in preschool-aged children. They will integrate learning objectives with the preschool curriculum and discover, organize, and assess instructional and methodological approaches for teaching natural science concepts in early childhood education.

Social Psychology in Educational Studies ECTS 6

The aim of this course is to enable students understand basic social psychological theories and constructs related to the educational environment. They will also be able to critically discuss how fundamental social psychological constructs affect child-educator relationships and learning, as well as critically examine both the processes and outcomes of social psychological research. Finally, students will be able to assess the relevance of social psychological research to practice in the educational context.

Research Seminar (RS) on Applied Transition ECTS 6

The aim of the course is for students to acquire specialized knowledge in specific topics which are about understanding the significance and the value of transitions in children's lives and in their management via bibliographic and empirical research and also to present them in a scientific project. In particular: to seek the appropriate scientific information from relevant Greek and international bibliography, know bibliographic sources and data bases, process the results from bibliographic search, delve deeply in a specific topic relevant to infant's education, write a scientific project and orally present it. In particular, students will learn strategies to look for relevant scientific data both in Greek and international bibliography, get to know bibliographic sources and different data bases, process the results of a bibliographic research, study thoroughly a specific topic within infant's education framework, and finally, write and orally present their own scientific project.

Research Seminar (RS) on Applied Pedagogy ECTS 6

The course presents to students the basic concepts of designing and implementing intervention programs in early childhood. Based on the Theory of Change, the course presents the need of learning how to design intervention programs and the role they can play in children's learning and development. Through a series of research examples students will be taught how to design intervention programs by taking into account the causal links between factors, the theoretical framework, the assumptions, research evidence and children's needs. They will be taught how to understand the role of evaluation of such intervention programs, this will allow revisiting topics of educational research methodology.

Research Seminar (RS) on Applications of Interventions in Early Childhood Education ECTS 6

The aim of the seminar is to introduce students to the basic concepts of designing and implementing intervention programmes in early childhood education. Based on the Theory of Change, the course presents the need for intervention programme design and their role in children's development and learning. Through various examples, students will be trained in designing intervention programmes, considering causal relationships between factors, existing assumptions, theoretical frameworks, evidence-based research data, and children's needs. They will understand the role of evaluating similar programmes, revisiting educational research methodology issues.

Research Seminar (RS) on Physical Activity & Movement Education ECTS 6

The main goal of this seminar is to familiarize students with physical activity and movement education applied research for early young children, through the pilot implementation of activities and protocols of physical activity and movement education.

The seminar includes the following phases:

- (a) Presentation and analysis of concepts related to the physical activity
- (b) Analysis and presentation of physical activity and movement education programs
- (c) Pilot organization and implementation of programs in practice.

Upon completion of the course, students are expected:

- To plan a physical activity and movement education program for early young children
 - To implement physical activity and movement education programs for early young children, following innovative teaching and methodological approaches
 - To interpret, analyze and discuss the results of these programs' implementation
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Research Seminar (RS) on Applied Emergent Literacy ECTS 6

The seminar was designed with the goal of introducing and familiarizing students with the context of emergent literacy. This course aims to introduce and familiarize participants with the developmental process of emergent literacy, focusing on the evolution of corresponding cognitive processes and the interaction of young children with appropriate stimuli within their socio-cultural framework. This field is centered around exploring the evolutionary trajectory of written language expression, promoting authentic experiential situations and relevant precursor manifestations that arise in the early childhood age range. Within this educational framework, students will have the opportunity to explore and analyze practical examples and understand the role of the cultural and social context in shaping this process.

Practical training in Day Care Centers. ECTS 6 (Twice a week)

The aim of this course is to familiarize students both with the learning and socio-cultural environment of infant-toddler centers and with the implementation of the educational and pedagogical process through systematic observation and their involvement in the application of spontaneous and organized activities. Incoming students do their internships in preschool centers that have English-speaking teachers.

Holidays

During the Fall and Spring semesters there are no classes or exams:

A. Winter semester

- National “OXI” holiday 28th of October
- Anniversary of Athens Polytechnic Uprising 17th of November
- Christmas holidays 24th of December 2026 to 6th of January

B. Spring semester

- Clean (Ash) Monday 15th of March 2027
- National holiday 25th of March
- Easter holiday 26th of April to 09th of May 2027
- Holly Spirit holiday 21th of June 2027

C. Local holidays

- 26th of October - Religious holiday of Saint Dimitrios, Patron Saint of Thessaloniki