



Study Guide

Programme of Undergraduate Studies

Academic Year 2022-2023

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Foreword

The Student Guide of the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care is an essential aid to students from the beginning to the successful completion of their studies. It is renewed every year and includes all the latest information. The Student Guide and the Studies Regulations are the two key and comprehensive sources of information about all issues pertaining to their studies.



Table of Contents

Foreword	2
The Department of Early Childhood Education and Care	6
Some history.....	7
Organisation-Administration.....	8
Location of Buildings-Access	9
Access.....	10
Faculty & Staff.....	11
<i>Teaching & Research Faculty:</i>	11
<i>Professors</i>	11
<i>Assistant Professors</i>	11
<i>Professor Emeritus</i>	11
<i>Laboratory Teaching Staff (EDIP)</i>	11
<i>Administrative Staff</i>	11
Academic Calendar 2021-2022.....	12
Dates of Classes/Exams.....	12
Examination period of September 2021 (winter and spring semester 2020-2021)	12
Winter semester 2021-2022 (13 weeks of classes)	12
<i>Laboratory Exams (make up classes)</i>	12
<i>Examination period for the Winter semester (3 weeks)</i>	12
Spring semester 2021-2022 (13 weeks of classes).....	12
<i>Laboratory Exams (make up classes)</i>	12
<i>Examination period for the Spring semester (3 weeks)</i>	12
Examination period of September 2022 (winter and spring semester 2021-2022) (3 weeks)	12
Holidays.....	12
Programme of Undergraduate Studies	14
Mission-Objectives	15
Learning Outcomes-Organisation of Studies	16
Brief description of the curriculum	16
<i>Types of courses</i>	17
<i>Grading system</i>	17
Course descriptions (abstracts).....	18
1 st semester	18
280-190101 Introduction to Educational <i>Studies</i>	18
280-190102 <i>Introduction to Psychology</i>	18
280-190103 Health and <i>Safety</i> in Early Childhood.....	18
280-190104 Infant's Education and Care	18
280-190105 <i>English Language: Scientific Terminology</i>	19
2 nd semester	19
280-190201 <i>Developmental Psychology</i>	19
280-190202 Play and Learning Environment.....	19
280-190203 Early Childhood Education	19
280-190204 Special issues of infancy	19
280-190205 <i>Assessment</i> in Educational Studies.....	20
3 rd semester.....	20
<i>Compulsory Core Courses</i>	20
280-190301 Language Education & Literacy.....	20
280-190302 <i>Motor Play</i> and Basic Skills.....	20



280-190303 <i>Theory and Methodology of Early Childhood Activities</i>	20
280-190304 <i>Digital Pedagogy</i>	21
<i>Compulsory Elective Courses</i>	21
280-190305 <i>Tests and Measurements in Early Childhood</i>	21
280-190306 <i>Music & Movement</i>	21
280-190307 <i>Children’s Literature</i>	21
280-190308 <i>English Language II</i>	21
280-190309 <i>Development of Mathematical Concepts</i>	22
4 th semester	22
<i>Compulsory Core Courses</i>	22
280-190401 <i>Basic Principles of Research Methods</i>	22
280-190402 <i>Preschool Educational Programmes and Methodological Approaches</i>	22
280-190403 <i>Professional Ethics and Ethical Behaviour</i>	22
280-190404 <i>Infants’ and Toddlers’ Environment</i>	23
<i>Compulsory Elective Courses</i>	23
280-190405 <i>Utilization of Digital Media in Pedagogical Practice</i>	23
280-190406 <i>Aesthetic Education</i>	23
280-190407 <i>Dramatic Play</i>	23
280-190408 <i>Social and Emotional Education</i>	23
280-190409 <i>Music Education</i>	24
280-190501 <i>Seminar of Internship’s Applied Activities</i>	24
<i>Internship-Applied Activities</i>	24
6 th semester	24
<i>Compulsory Core Courses</i>	24
280-190601 <i>Sociological and Cultural Approaches to Childhood</i>	24
280-190602 <i>Environmental Communication in Education Sciences</i>	24
<i>Compulsory Elective Courses</i>	25
280-190603 <i>Natural Sciences in Early Childhood</i>	25
280-190604 <i>Organisation and Administration of Preschool Educational Centres</i>	25
280-190605 <i>Special Issues in Developmental Psychology</i>	25
Course from a different department at IHU.....	26
<i>Compulsory Elective Seminars (SSR: Seminar in Scientific Research)</i>	26
280-190606 ΣΕΕ: Εφαρμοσμένη Αξιολόγηση στην Προσχολική Αγωγή	26
280-190607 <i>SSR: Applications of Children’s Literature</i>	26
280-190608 <i>SSR: Applied Research on Physical Activity and Movement Education</i>	26
280-190609 <i>SSR: Applications of School & Counselling Psychology</i>	26
280-190610 <i>SSR: Applications of Infant Care</i>	26
280-190611 <i>SSR: Applications of Environmental Education</i>	27
280-190612 <i>SSR: Applied Pedagogy</i>	27
280-190613 <i>SSR: Digital Pedagogy Applications</i>	27
280-190614 <i>SSR: Applications in Social and Developmental Psychology</i>	27
7 th semester	28
<i>Compulsory Core Courses</i>	28
280-190701 <i>Developmental Psychopathology</i>	28
280-190702 <i>Ανάπτυξη και Εφαρμογή Ερευνητικών Σχεδιασμών</i>	28
280-190703 <i>Innovation and Creativity in Pedagogical Practice</i>	28
280-190704 <i>Counselling and Interpersonal Skills in Early Childhood Education</i>	28
<i>Compulsory Elective Courses</i>	28
280-190705 <i>Applications of School Psychology</i>	28
280-190706 <i>Family Psychology</i>	29



280-190707 <i>Social Pedagogy & Interculturalism</i>	29
280-190708 Physical Activity and Health Education	29
Course from a different department at IHU	29
8 th semester	29
<i>Compulsory Core Courses</i>	29
280-190806 <i>Undergraduate Thesis</i>	29
280-190801 <i>Children's Rights</i>	30
<i>Compulsory Elective Courses</i>	30
280-190802 <i>Psychosocial Care</i>	30
280-190803 Ανάλυση Ποσοτικών Δεδομένων.....	30
280-190804 <i>Qualitative Data Analysis</i>	30
280-190805 Digital Pedagogical Material and Creative Learning	31
Course from a different department at IHU	31
Erasmus+	32
Degree awarded (Ptychio)	33



ΤΜΗΜΑ ΑΓΩΓΗΣ & ΦΡΟΝΤΙΔΑΣ στην ΠΡΩΪΜΗ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΗ ΗΛΙΚΙΑ
ΣΧΟΛΗ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΩΝ
ΔΙΕΘΝΕΣ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ



Department of Early Childhood Education and Care



History

The Department of Early Childhood Education and Care (DECEC) is part of the International Hellenic University (IHU) (Weblink: <https://www.ihu.gr/>) with its head office in Thessaloniki. It was established by the Law 1404/1983 «Structure and Function of Technological Education Institutes» as the “Department of Infant-Toddler Carers (Vrefonipiokomias)” and was incorporated into Higher Education by the provisions of the Law 2916/2001. In 2013 by Presidential Decree 82/2013 (Government Gazette 123/v.A/3-6-2013) the “Department of Infant-Toddler Careers (Vrefonipiokomias)” was renamed into “Department of Early Childhood Education.” In 2019 the “Department of Early Childhood Education was again renamed into theartment of Early Childhood Education and Care” and became one of the two (in service) departments of the *School of Social Sciences* of the International Hellenic University (Article 2, Law 4610/2019, Government Gazette 70/v. A/7.5.2019).

The International Hellenic University (IHU) was organized and functions as a Higher Education Institute according to Law 4610/2019 (Government Gazette 70/v.A/7.5.2019) and is the result of synergy between the *International Hellenic University* and the former *Alexander Technological Education Institute of Thessaloniki* (Alexander TEI of Thessaloniki), the former *Technological Education Institute of Central Makedonia* (TEI of Central Makedonia) and the former *Technological Education Institute of Eastern Makedonia and Thrace* (TEI of Eastern Makedonia and Thrace).

All Faculty members of the Department of Early Childhood Education of the Alexander TEI of Thessaloniki were integrated into the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care of IHU (Article 8, Law 4610/2019, Government Gazette 70/v. A/7.5.2019).

The Department of Early Childhood Education and Care admitted its first students in the academic year 2019-2020.



Organization-Administration

The Department is the fundamental academic unit according to legislation for Greek higher education (Law 4485/2017). Each Department serves a scientific discipline. Departments of related disciplines can form a School. The Department of Early Childhood Education and Care is one of the two Departments that form the School of Social Sciences.

The Department is governed by the General Assembly and the President. The **General Assembly consists** of the Faculty, a representative of the Laboratory Teaching Staff, a representative of the Technical Staff, and a representative of the undergraduate students. The General Assembly holds the duties and responsibilities prescribed by law and the Internal Rules of Procedure of IHU with the exception of those assigned to other governing bodies.

Academic Year 2021-2022

Dean of the School of Social Sciences: **Evridiki Zachopoulou**

Head of the Department: **Vasilis Grammatikopoulos**

Vice Head of the Department: **Maria Tsitiridou**

Head Secretary: **Mina Papdiamanti**



Location of Buildings-Access

The facilities of IHU-Campus Sindos are located west of the city of Thessaloniki, in Sindos at the Municipality of Delta where the industrial area is also located. The IHU-owned facilities are 17 kilometers away from the center of Thessaloniki and can be reached by car taking the exit to Sindos while driving on the National Road to Athens.

You can view the facilities of IHU-Alexander Campus through google maps:

[https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-e&tbs=lf:1,lf_ui:2&tbm=lcl&sxsrf=ALeKk0191x6TkoVbdKX7MBfYt_Diw1Wozg:1621959114429&q=%CE%B4%CE%B9%CF%80%CE%B1%CE%B5+%CF%83%CE%B9%CE%BD%CE%B4%CE%BF%CF%85&rflfq=1&num=10&ved=2ahUKEwii6uvGnOXwAhXOzqQKHSinDKMQtgN6BAgQEAQ#rflq=hd::si::mv:\[\[40.658871999999995,22.8179494\],\[40.6551968,22.801564499999998\]\];tbs:lrf:!1m4!1u3!2m2!3m1!1e1!1m4!1u2!2m2!2m1!1e1!2m1!1e2!2m1!1e3!3sIAE,lf:1,lf_ui:2](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-e&tbs=lf:1,lf_ui:2&tbm=lcl&sxsrf=ALeKk0191x6TkoVbdKX7MBfYt_Diw1Wozg:1621959114429&q=%CE%B4%CE%B9%CF%80%CE%B1%CE%B5+%CF%83%CE%B9%CE%BD%CE%B4%CE%BF%CF%85&rflfq=1&num=10&ved=2ahUKEwii6uvGnOXwAhXOzqQKHSinDKMQtgN6BAgQEAQ#rflq=hd::si::mv:[[40.658871999999995,22.8179494],[40.6551968,22.801564499999998]];tbs:lrf:!1m4!1u3!2m2!3m1!1e1!1m4!1u2!2m2!2m1!1e1!2m1!1e2!2m1!1e3!3sIAE,lf:1,lf_ui:2)

The Department of Early Childhood Education and Care shares a building with the Department of Midwifery. The building (the side of the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care) includes:

Groincludesor

Secretariat

Classrooms

New Amphitheatre

1st floor

Classrooms

Conference room

Faculty office

Educational Materials Laboratory

Computer Laboratory

Study room

Access

By bus from the center of the city

Regular buses run by the Thessaloniki Urban Transport Organization (<https://oasth.gr/>) serve the route



from the Railway Station to IHU-Sindos. Bus number 52 stops right in front of the main entrance to IHU-Sindos.

Map of IHU-Sindos, Department of Early Childhood Education and Care



Note: The building of the Department is outlined in yellow.

Faculty & Staff

Teaching & Research Faculty:

Professors

Vasilis Grammatikopoulos

Assessment in Preschool Education

Evridiki Zachopoulou

Physical Activity and Education in Early Childhood



Maria Tsitiridou Design and Implementation of Early Childhood Interventions

Smaragda Papadopoulou Didactics of Modern Greek Language

Thomas Kourtessis Motor Coordination Disorders

Assistant Professors

Christina Megalonidou Education, Care & Welfare Policy in Infancy

Michalis Vitoulis Digital Pedagogy and Creative Thinking

Dafni Petkou Environmental Communication and Education in Early
Childhood

Helen Tympa Infant Education and Care

Professor Emeritus

Dimitrios Ziamos

Laboratory Teaching Staff (EDIP)

Herakles Grigoropoulos Grigoroglou

Zoi Tziortzioti

Administrative Staff

Mina Papdiamanti, Head Secretary

Parthena Katsaraki, Secretary



Academic Calendar 2022-2023

Dates of Classes/Exams

Examination period of September 2022 (Winter and Spring Semester 2021-2022)

Monday 29/08/2022 – Friday 16/09/2022 (3 weeks)

Winter Semester (13 weeks)

Courses begin: Monday 26/09/2022

Courses end: Friday 06/01/2023

Laboratory Exams (Classes substitution)

Courses begin: Monday 09/01/2023

Courses end: Friday 13/01/2023

Examination period for the Winter semester (3 weeks)

Courses begin: Monday 23/01/2023

Courses end: Friday 10/02/2023

Spring semester (13 weeks)

Courses begin: Monday 20/02/2023

Courses end: Friday 2/06/2023

Laboratory Exams (Classes substitution)

(Monday 5/6 Holy Spirit)

Courses begin: 6/06/2023

Courses end: 9/06/2023

Examination period of Spring Semester (3 weeks)

Courses begins: Monday 12/06/2023

Courses end: Friday 30/06/2023

Examination period of September 2023 (Winter and Spring Semester 2022-2023) (3 weeks)

Courses begin: Friday 01/09/2023

Courses end: Friday 22/09/2023

During the Winter and Spring Semesters, courses or exams **are not held**:

A. Winter Semester



National Anniversary 28th of October 2022

Anniversary of Athens Polytechnic Uprising 17th of November 2022

Christmas holidays 24th of December 2022 to 6th of January 2023

B. Spring Semester

Clean Monday 27th of February 2023

National Anniversary 25th of March 2023

Easter holidays April 8th to April 23rd 2023

Holy Spirit, June 5th 2023

Student elections day

C. Courses and exams are not be held during local celebrations and bank holidays both at the departmental and School level.

Katerini	16 th of October 2022	Liberation of the city
Thessaloniki	26 th of October 2022	Religious celebration of Saint Dimitrios, the Saint of the City
Drama	4 th of December 2022	Religious celebration of Saint Barbara, the Saint of the City
Didymoteicho	18 th of January 2023	Religious celebration of Saint Athanasios, the Saint of the City
Kilkis	21 st June 2023	Liberation of Kilkis the Saint of the City
Kavala, Serres	29 th June 2023	Religious celebration of Saint Apostoles' Peter and Paul, the Saint of the City



ΤΜΗΜΑ ΑΓΩΓΗΣ & ΦΡΟΝΤΙΔΑΣ στην ΠΡΩΪΜΗ ΠΑΙΔΙΚΗ ΗΛΙΚΙΑ
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ΔΙΕΘΝΕΣ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ



Programme of Undergraduate Studies



Mission-Objectives

The curriculum covers the subject of the Education and Care of infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children (from birth to 7-8 years of age) and at the same time focuses on the connection with and support of their families.

The Department's mission is to promote the building, development, and transmission of knowledge in Early Childhood Education Science through teaching and applied research. At the same time, it looks to the knowledge of new educational practices in Early Childhood Education and Care as well as to the understanding of contemporary educational methods pertaining to various dimensions of Education Sciences. Moreover, Moreover, it aims at the development of critical reasoning and of new research ideas which will allow the Field of Early Childhood Education and Care to embrace new potential and perspective.

By harmoniously combining theoretical and practical training, the undergraduate programme of studies aims at preparing educators who will possess the necessary scientific knowledge and skills as an essential foundation of their scientific identity and sound professional training in every level and form of their future career.



Learning Outcomes-Organization of Studies

The Programme of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care focuses on the attainment of learning outcomes so that students are able:

- to acquire knowledge of the education and care in early childhood which is based on contemporary empirical data in the fields of Education Sciences and Psychology
- to comprehend and critically view the concepts, methods, and practices of education and care in early childhood so that they can adapt to scientific and educational changes
- to develop knowledge of and comprehend children and the social-cultural context where children develop focusing and critically analyzing timely social and educational issues while respecting diversity and human rights
- to process and use the acquired knowledge so that they can apply it in early childhood education and care contexts, taking into consideration each child's full development and personal rhythm as well as the needs of each family and the special features of the social-cultural environment
- to responsibly and critically choose scientific sources and empirical data and to get informed about new educational approaches and practices so that they can develop and implement appropriate educational programmes in agencies for formal and non-formal education and care in early childhood education by showing professionalism and social responsibility according to the rules of professional ethics
- to plan, implement, enrich, evaluate, and re-design flexible learning environments by utilizing the pedagogical and educational possibilities that Digital Technologies offer
- to plan, implement, and/or participate in research studies in the field of Education Sciences and to transfer and apply the results of those studies to early childhood education and care centers and
- to reflect on their work by checking and evaluating its outcomes and by updating those based on evaluation results, research, and contemporary educational and scientific views.

Brief description of the curriculum

The Programme of Undergraduate Studies is based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and includes courses that amount to 240 ECTS. Specifically, it contains:

(α) twenty six (26) courses which are Compulsory (V), thirty (30) courses which are Compulsory



Elective (CE) and two (2) courses which are Free Choice (FC),

(b) Undergraduate Thesis, and

(c) Practical Training-Applied Activities.

Types of courses

The courses of the Programme of Undergraduate Studies are assigned to the following types:

(a) **Background:** 9 courses

(b) **General Knowledge:** 4 courses

(c) **Scientific Area:** 36 courses, and

(d) **Skill Development:** 17 courses.

The credit units (CU) are assigned to courses according to students' workload (1 credit unit per 25 hours of work). Specifically, Compulsory, Compulsory Elective, and Free Choice courses are assigned 6 ECTS each, while Practical Training offers 12 ECTS, Seminars in Scientific Research 12 ECTS, and Undergraduate Thesis 18 ECTS. Courses in each academic semester offer 30 ECTS.

Grading system

Grading is based on a 10-point scale:

8.5 – 10: Excellent

6.5 – 8.49: Very Good

5 – 6.49: Good

A grade of 5 points or more is required for the successful completion of a course.



Courses' brief description

1st semester

280-190101 Introduction to Educational Studies

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 that family, preschool and society play 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.

280-190102 Introduction to Psychology

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 behavior.

280-190103 Health and Safety in Early Childhood

The aim of the course is for students to acquire general knowledge regarding the health education and safety 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). This course will include reflective activities to enable students consolidate their learning. Lectures will also include case studies – many from real life – in order 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. Example of safety measures and first aid that apply to preschool and home settings for babies and children under the age of 4 will also be provided.

280-190104 Infant's Education and Care

The course aims to provide students with the basic theoretical and practical knowledge on a) the role and duties of a preschool teacher, b) care and education of infants especially in the first year.



280-190105 English Language: Scientific Terminology

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.

2nd semester

280-190201 Developmental Psychology

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.

280-190202 Play and Learning Environment

The course content concerns the exploration of the importance of play and creativity, as well as the learning environment's influence on the holistic development of the young child. The concept of play as a framework for learning in preschool age, the types of play, the basic theoretical approaches of learning through play and the impact on the development of thinking and learning of young children are presented. The organization of the preschool environment, the value of the pedagogical material and equipment and its functionality are analyzed. The learning processes in preschool stage, in particular the collaborative learning, the role of the educator in the organization of the learning environment and the design of the pedagogical practices based on play, are outlined. The method of play therapy is presented and types of organized and free play in preschool environments are studied.

280-190203 Early Childhood Education

The aim of the course is: Students understand contemporary teaching methods in preschool education as well as pedagogical methods related to the dimensions of social and emotional development, in order to deal with phenomena of conflict, management of behavioral problems and emotions in preschool age and the impact on preschool learning procedure.

280-190204 Special issues of infancy

The course 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



280-190205 Assessment in Educational Studies

The course introduces students to the basic concepts of all forms of assessment found in any educational evaluation. It introduces the student to assessment theories, the theoretical framework that governs them and the background on which they are based. Issues of practical applications of the science of assessment in education, the distinctions and classifications that have been captured as well as their application are analyzed. Topics of current trends in programme evaluation and implementation are presented. Topics of Issues of assessment of learning and development of children in early childhood education and care settings complete the course.

3rd semester

Compulsory Core Courses

280-190301 Language Education & Literacy

The overall aim of this course is the development of students' reflexivity through the perspective of educational linguistics in relation to how language activities can be organized in learning contexts of early childhood.

280-190302 Motor Play and Basic Skills

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.

280-190303 Theory and Methodology of Early Childhood Activities

The aim of the course is to make students understand the basic principles of child development (cognitive, emotional, linguistic, social) during the period of infancy and to acquire knowledge of the principles of daily education and childcare.



280-190304 Digital Pedagogy

Upon successful completion of the course, students will possess the knowledge about the means that result from the continuous evolution of N.T. and the possibilities they have in the educational process, following the current developments in the field and will acquire the general knowledge required for the application of ICT in pre-school education.

Compulsory Elective Courses

280-190305 Tests and Measurements in Early Childhood

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

280-190306 Music & Movement

The primary purpose of the course is to understand the goals and pedagogical principles of Music-Motor Education for preschool children.

The basic rules of organization and teaching of Music-Motor Education activities 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 teacher's verbal behavior. The role of the teacher in the organization and conduct of the activities is analyzed and the way in which the teacher helps to activate children creativity. Students participate in classes where they create a variety of musical rhythms, with percussion instruments and loud movements. A variety of music tracks from different types of music are used, as well as a variety of children songs, which are used as a basis for the lesson activities. The role of Music-Motor Education in the interdisciplinary teaching and in the development of motor and musical skills of children is emphasized.

280-190307 Children's Literature

In the course, topics of theory and criticism of children's literature are researched. The basic concepts and terms related to Children's Literature are also examined. The aim of the course is for students to understand the field of children's literature, as an independent discipline and to become familiar with its modern interpretive approaches that allow the reader, adult or child, to read critically all types of this literary production.

280-190308 English Language II

The aim of the *English Language II* course is to familiarize students with the English language and terminology in the wider context of their study program. 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.

280-190309 Development of Mathematical Concepts

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.

4th semester

Compulsory Core Courses

280-190401 Basic Principles of Research Methods

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the field of research, especially in the science of education and the acquisition of basic knowledge, which will help them: a) to understand and evaluate the published scientific research papers and b) to undertake a research themselves.

280-190402 Preschool Educational Programmes and Methodological Approaches

The subject of the course is the study of curricula in the field of educational sciences, which is constantly evolving. The basic knowledge on the theory of the curricula is considered necessary during the initial training of teachers, which they must use against the organization and planning of the educational process. Key issues related to the Curricula (definitions, categorizations, models of preschool curricula and pedagogical approaches they adopt), the factors that influence their design in the current social, economic, technological conditions, the theoretical principles adopted by the modern curricula and their structural elements (aims & objectives, content organization, methods-forms of teaching & evaluation).

280-190403 Professional Ethics and Ethical Behavior

The objective of this course is to explore the ethical rules and responsibilities governing the role of a professional early childhood educator. Furthermore, it aims at preparing students to handle potential problems that arise in their workplace by offering them the appropriate knowledge.



280-190404 Infants' and Toddlers' Environment

The course introduces students to the concept of organizing a quality infants' and toddlers' environment.

Compulsory Elective Courses

280-190405 Utilization of Digital Media in Pedagogical Practice

Upon successful completion of the Theory course students will be able to possess the knowledge regarding the possibilities created by the continuous evolution of N.T. and models of ICT integration in the educational process.

280-190406 Aesthetic Education

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to recognize and use with a creative way different forms of aesthetic arts that can support children's creative development and to implement creative activities in the daily programme in a balanced way with the rest of the areas of children's development and expression.

280-190407 Dramatic Play

The aim of the course is to provide students with a general introduction and a more specific approach at a theoretical and practical level, respectively, of the scientific field Theater in Education. Emphasis is placed on Dramatical Play as a methodology closer to the requirements, goals and peculiarities of Early Childhood Education and Care.

The course includes the following topics: Introduction to Theater, Theater and the Child, Theater in Education, Dramatical Play, Pantomime and Improvisation, Dramatization, Creative Dramatical Writing Workshop, Educational Drama, Animation of dramatical & pedagogical workshops (exemplary) by the Professor and the students in the context of the presentation of their Final Exam Exemption Assignment.

280-190408 Social and Emotional Education

The cultivation of emotions for the development of children, emotionally and socially, is very important in preschool, as it is the basis for the formation of character and personality in adulthood. Cultivating emotional intelligence and recognizing children's emotions helps in all-round development. Social and emotional development or socio-emotional education refers to a series of skills that begin to develop in the first years of a child's life and that they acquire during their lifetime. It is bibliographically argued that these skills can be taught for the smooth and comprehensive development of children and future adults. The aim of the course for students to understand the emotional and social abilities of preschool children as this age is crucial for the gradual understanding



of emotions and empathy. It is during this period that the expression and management of emotions, desires and needs develops through processes that are socially acceptable.

280-190409 Music Education

Students are expected to:

- familiarize themselves with appropriate teaching and methodological approaches, techniques and their tools for teaching music to children of pre-school age.
- acquire the required theoretical and practical musical knowledge in order to be able to perform and sing without help songs for children of pre-school age, and subsequently be capable of teaching them themselves.
- get to know ways for teaching songs and music education activities as well as implementing them in interacting student groups, so as they develop the required teaching skills.

5th semester

280-190501 Seminar of Internship's Applied Activities

The aim of the course is the planning, implementation and evaluation of activities in early childhood, connecting theory with applied pedagogical practice.

Internship-Applied Activities

The aim of the course is the familiarity of students with the learning, socio-cultural environment of kindergartens and the implementation of the educational and pedagogical process through systematic observation and their involvement in the implementation of spontaneous and organized activities.

6th semester

Compulsory Core Courses

280-190601 Sociological and Cultural Approaches to Childhood

The course aims to introduce participants to basic sociological concepts, theories, methods and research topic in the field of education optional subjects.

280-190602 Environmental Communication in Education Sciences

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.

Compulsory Elective Courses

280-190603 Natural Sciences in Early Childhood

The content of the course is organized in the context of the pedagogical knowledge of the content of



natural sciences developed by the participating students, in order to be able to plan, organize and implement pedagogical activities for the development of the concepts of natural sciences and for the understanding of natural phenomena by early childhood children. Specifically, awareness of the basic concepts of science and phenomena is developed by participants at a conceptual level. The experiential mental representations are studied, the cognitive barriers of early childhood for the concepts of natural sciences and phenomena, in order to be detected by the participants and to seek their transformation into higher mental models. Issues of didactic approach are examined in the context of different theories of learning the concepts of natural sciences and natural phenomena.

Specialized knowledge is offered for the planning of activities from the natural sciences, through the selection of objectives-obstacles, the application of methodological approaches, such as the project and the use of specific teaching tools and special educational material. Participants also have the opportunity during the course to participate in the design of simple experiments that relate to scientific concepts and natural phenomena, emphasizing materials used in everyday life, with the main purpose of predicting, describing and interpreting natural phenomena.

280-190604 Organization and Administration of Preschool Educational Centers

The object of the course is the contact of the students with the basic principles of organization and administration of a preschool care unit. In this context, the analysis of the structure and operation of the above units, the conditions of establishment, as well as the design, execution and evaluation of the provided project are investigated. The life of such an organization, its behavior, organization and operation are studied. Also, the issues of leadership and management of a nursery, the production of welfare, education and care services.

280-190605 Special Issues in Developmental Psychology

This is a seminar-type course that focuses on evidence-based development issues in early childhood. At the same time, by adopting an ecological, multicultural and critical perspective it aims at assisting students to deepen and extend their knowledge in terms of the interaction among theory, research, and applications in Developmental Psychology and in various contexts so that they can use this knowledge of developmental principles to guide their everyday practice.

Course from a different department at IHU

Students can choose up to two (2) courses offered by another Department at IHU-Sindos.

Compulsory Elective Seminars (SSR: Seminar in Scientific Research)

280-190606 ΣΕΕ: Applied Assessment in Preschool Education

The main objective of this seminar is to acquaint the students with assessment procedures through



the pilot application in practice in order to evaluate the environment of the preschool class, the student, the teacher and the educational practice, etc.

280-190607 SSR: Applications of Children's Literature

The object of the seminar Applications of children's literature is the Literary Education in early childhood and specifically the utilization of children's literature as a teaching tool in Preschool Education. The main educational process will be based on the transition from the theory of literature to the didactic practice. The course studies the effect of literary theories on the formation of preschool education programs, while at the same time specific didactic interventions are presented and analyzed, in the light of modern research data. After studying the modern theoretical data related to literary education, the students attempt to formulate didactic interventions (eg didactic approach to a fairy tale, picture book, etc.).

280-190608 SSR: Applied Research on Physical Activity and Movement Education

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.

280-190609 SSR: Applications of School & Counselling Psychology

This seminar's primary objective is to familiarize students with issues that belong to the scientific fields of Counselling and School Psychology by implementing the principles and methods of Counselling and School Psychology in early childhood education centers.

280-190610 SSR: Applications of Infant Care

The aim of the course is to:

1. utilize skills such as observation, critical thinking, discussion, questioning, analysis and synthesis of theory and practice.
2. search for appropriate scientific information from relevant Greek and international literature
3. examine the understandings of critical reflection on a multifaceted basis
4. develop personal/professional development of students
5. study in depth a specific issue related to infant education and care
6. explored the theoretical and practical implications of the concept of critical thinking
7. utilize bibliographic sources by developing critical thinking and professional consciousness



280-190611 SSR: Applications of Environmental Education

The purpose of the seminar is: To provide the necessary methodological knowledge, in order to introduce the student to process of preparing a scientific study for the environment through the literature and empirical research.

280-190612 SSR: Applied Pedagogy

The course presents to students the basic concepts of designing and implementing intervention programmes in early childhood. Based on the Theory of Change, the course presents the need of learning how to design intervention programmes 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 programmes 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 programmes, this will allow revisiting topics of educational research methodology.

280-190613 SSR: Digital Pedagogy Applications

The objective of the seminar is to provide students with the necessary knowledge so that they are able to design and implement research interventions in the field of Digital Pedagogy, to design and implement learning interventions by utilizing digital resources, to acquire the method of research observation in learning interventions by utilizing digital resources, to analyze and assess learning interventions by utilizing digital resources, and to implement learning interventions by utilizing digital resources and assess their results.

280-190614 SSR: Applications in Social and Developmental Psychology

The purpose of the seminar is to familiarize students with the design and implementation of research in the field of social-developmental psychology using quantitative and / or qualitative methodology and to familiarize them with the writing of a scientific paper. The aim is to formulate a research plan for the study of a specific topic as individual and / or group work.

7th semester

Compulsory Core Courses

280-190701 Developmental Psychopathology

At the end of the module, students should be able to: Understand how psychiatric classification systems work and critically reflect on their advantages but also the disadvantages. Have a good understanding of the major concepts and terms in Developmental Psychopathology. Be aware of the definitions, prevalence, development and prognosis of the disorders covered in the course. Identify



the aspects of the environment, parenting and within child characteristics that have been identified to lead to different infant or childhood onset disorders. Be aware of some treatment approaches of dealing with common infancy problems such as excessive crying, feeding or sleeping problems. Show a thorough understanding of the role of the environment and genetics in the development of disorders. Demonstrate knowledge of different methodological approaches to the study of psychopathology.

280-190702 Development and Implementation of research designs

After finishing the course, students will be able to:

- understand the process of developing research designs
- understand the process of implementing research designs
- to plan and implement a research design

280-190703 Innovation and Creativity in Pedagogical Practice

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to realize the necessity and the impact of the development of innovative initiatives in early childhood education and recognize the potential that can lead to the development of innovative interventions in the development of pedagogical science.

280-190704 Counselling and Interpersonal Skills in Early Childhood Education

The objective of this course is to make students familiar with the scientific field of Counselling Psychology, to inform them about the various counselling techniques, to practice basic counselling skills, and to discover the usefulness of those skills in their future profession.

Compulsory Elective Courses

280-190705 Applications of School Psychology

The objective of this course is to discuss various issues in the field of School Psychology and to highlight the application of principles and methods of School Psychology to early childhood education centers. Furthermore, it aims at providing students with knowledge and skills so that they are able to create an appropriate environment which will contribute to children's holistic development and to the effective collaboration among all stakeholders of early childhood education and care.

280-190706 Family Psychology

On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to: Identify and evaluate how familial relationships develop and breakdown. Gain a greater understanding of family problems and family crisis in order to help under the appropriate circumstances. Understand more about analyzing problems and finding solutions to help families with problems that emerge nowadays. Understand the



things that can go wrong with family relationships. Understand current and classic theories regarding family formation and family relationships

280-190707 Social Pedagogy & Interculturalism

This course aims to familiarize students with the modern aspects of Social Pedagogy and Interculturalism. Specifically, the students are involved in both the theoretical and methodological level of the interdisciplinary field of Social Pedagogy.

280-190708 Physical Activity and Health Education

The objective of the course is to familiarize students with terms related to physical activity and health education, to learn the relation of these terms to cognitive functions and behaviors and to be trained in the design and implementation of physical activities and health education programs.

Course from a different department at IHU

Students can choose up to two (2) courses offered by another Department at IHU-Sindos.

8th semester

Compulsory Core Courses

280-190806 Undergraduate Thesis

Upon successful completion of the undergraduate thesis every student will be able to:

- Implement valid procedures of a scientific inquiry in a context of a research area
- Implement effective ways of approaching a scientific topic
- Report a scientific research (empirical or review)
- Use effectively online databases for conducting literature reviews
- Be able scientifically to document a research problem and purpose of a research proposal

280-190801 Children's Rights

The course aims to provide basic knowledge regarding children's rights and their history, international Declarations and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, educators' perceptions about the children's rights and freedom. Students will obtain insight relative to the development of this specific human rights category, as well as to the evolution of the challenges faced by children over time and society's efforts to respond. More specific, this course examines and analyzes the importance of respect for protection rights and rights-freedoms, in dealing with violence, as well as their interdependence and their joint contribution to the moral and intellectual development of the child.



Compulsory Elective Courses

280-190802 Psychosocial Care

The course on psychosocial care covers a wide range of situations in which the social dimensions of an individual problem acquire particular solutions.

The aim is to understand the effects that various unpleasant experiences can have on children's development as well as resilience to such unpleasant events. Risk factors can range from grief and divorce to racial discrimination and prejudice and the critical questions arise from resettled families, adoption, adoption, trafficking, and child placement in public institutions. The cumulative effect of the above factors and the dysfunctional consequences when the child's adaptive abilities are flooded are highlighted. Psychosocial problems are analyzed and discussed in the light of the close cooperation of social, school, and health services for the protection and well-being of the child.

280-190803 Quantitative Data Analysis

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to understand the basic statistical concepts and follow the relevant literature concerning quantitative research. In addition, the student is expected to be able to make projects with descriptive statistical data analysis and a limited number of inductive statistical analyzes by using statistical packages.

280-190804 Qualitative Data Analysis

The primary aim of the course is an introduction to qualitative data analysis. Upon completion, the course aims at: Familiarising students with the theoretical concepts, research methods and techniques of qualitative research. Highlighting the interpretive approach to social life and its connection with the multiple versions of qualitative research. Discussion and analysis of qualitative studies and research examples.

280-190805 Digital Pedagogical Material and Creative Learning

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to possess the knowledge regarding the possibilities created by the continuous evolution of N.T. and models of ICT integration in the educational process and to recognize the possibilities that the utilization of N.T. can bring. in preschool education.

Course from a different department at IHU

Students can choose up to two (2) courses offered by another Department at IHU-Sindos.



Erasmus+

The International Hellenic University (Alexander Campus – Erasmus identification code: G THESSAL 14) welcomes all foreign students who wish to participate to Erasmus+ Programme by fulfilling a part of their studies and/or a traineeship in IHU-Sindos.

The Erasmus+ Program aims to support actions in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport. Erasmus+ encourages individual mobility, transnational partnerships and alliances to foster cooperation between organizations and institutions and to stimulate knowledge and innovation in the field of education, training and youth.

The International Hellenic University (Alexander Campus) accepts only exchange students from the following partner Universities with which there is a signed bilateral agreement:

	Country	University	Erasmus Code
1	Belgium	Artevelde University College Ghent, Belgium https://www.artevelde-uas.be/	B GENT 39
2	Belgium	VIVES University College, Belgium https://www.vives.be/en/vives-international	B KORTRIJ 01
3	Cyprus	University of Cyprus, Cyprus https://www.ucy.ac.cy/el/	CY NICOSIA 01
4	Cyprus	European University Cyprus, Cyprus https://euc.ac.cy/el/academics/schools-departments/#	CY NICOSIA 24
5	Germany	Justus Liebig University Giessen- Germany https://www.uni-giessen.de/welcome	D GIESSEN 01
6	Denmark	Absalon University College-Denmark https://phabsalon.dk/english/	DK SORO 02
7	Spain	Universidad de Murcia https://www.um.es/en/	E MURCIA01
8	Norway	Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood Education- Norway https://dmmh.no/en	N TRONDHE 06
9	Netherlands	Windesheim University of Applied Sciences- Netherlands https://www.windesheim.com/	NL ZWOLLE05

Students who have been selected by their home Institution to study at the International Hellenic University (Alexander Campus) as LLP/Erasmus exchange students have to be nominated by their home universities indicating the department of IHU for their studies. Nomination letters have to be sent in no later than 1st July for the autumn semester and 30th of November for the spring semester.



Degree awarded

The degree awarded by the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care is: **Early Childhood Educator**. The degree offered is at level 6 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-6). Students must successfully complete all requirements of the Programme of Undergraduate Studies and obtained 240 ECTS in order to be awarded a degree.

The graduates of the Department of Early Childhood Education and Care are called *Early Childhood Educators* and according to their scientific knowledge can be either self-employed or in collaboration with other specialists in the following sectors based on their professional rights (Presidential Decree 523/Government Gazette 203/24.12.1992):

1. Development, Organization, and Function of Infant/Toddler and Preschool Centers.
2. Education and care of early childhood children from 2 months until enrollment in Primary School.
3. Exercise of any type of professional activity that in under their specialty, from Education Sciences in general and the branch of Early Childhood Education and Care specifically, according to the regulations of the current legislation.

Furthermore, they:

4. progress along the administrative hierarchy in their fields of specialty, according to the regulations of the current legislation.
5. work in education (Institutes of Vocational Training) according to the regulations of the current legislation.
6. can work in research as members of research teams in subjects of their specialty.
7. can work in all member-states of the European Union.
8. can be accepted as graduate students by programmes of graduate studies in Greece and abroad.