

Name of Program: Education Sciences
- Early Childhood Education

Degree: Master of Arts

The Master Education Sciences: Early Childhood Education is designed to offer a comprehensive program of postgraduate studies in the Education Sciences. Consequently, it aims to provide the students with the potential to deepen their understanding in relation to specific **dimensions** of the Education Sciences.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

The course provides the educators with the potential of a profound understanding and specialisation in the field of Early Childhood Education, by creating the appropriate circumstances that enable the teachers to redefine their professional identity or/and have the potential to continue their studies on a doctoral level.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

The course aims to:

- the comprehensive and specialized understanding of theories and to the profound study of research related to the field of Early Childhood education
- research engagement based on current developments and trends
- urge the students to take a critical stand and contribute to discussions and practices on a local and international level

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the program, students are expected to:

- evaluate and redefine in a dialectical and reflective way their professional and research identity and the content of Early Childhood Education on a local and international level through (a) the continuous expansion of their knowledge about issues concerning the early childhood education on a theoretical, philosophical, and practical level (b) a deep understanding of the young child
- design , complete and present small or large scale educational research which mostly focuses on qualitative methodological approaches
- manage the everyday practice as educators researchers in the context of a continuous procedure/process of professional development
 - get informed and receive further training concerning the general, specified and specialised issues of pedagogical and methodological approaches within the field of early childhood education through a wide range of sources.
 - collect and analyse data based on their practice
- identify issues/problems and apply/implement action plans for solving these issues and improving their practice
- manage their practice in a reflective way
- be scientifically qualified in issues concerning design, conducting and critical readings of educational research
 - evaluate research results which are available at school or in other educational contexts by critically reading these results
 - engage in designing and conducting research on a classroom level, school level and/or in a wider context aiming to answer specific research questions
- be familiarised with the contemporary trends in discussing fundamental issues of the pedagogical science in general and the different education sciences in particular, through the prism of different fields such as sociology, anthropology, history and comparative education.
 - realise and evaluate the impact that issues emerging from the social dimensions of education has on their everyday practice
- interpret knowledge through the historical, social and cultural contexts in which is produced for generating critical interpretations and perceptions regarding education within and out of school.
- construct knowledge, attitudes and skills that are based on a deep understanding of theories of learning and current issues related to the different cognitive subjects and

areas of the Early Ages Curriculum but also to their overall professional competency in a variety/range of educational contexts/frameworks.

- develop comprehensive/completed plans of educational activities based on the different models, styles and ways of organising learning in early childhood education
- differentiate their approaches and their teaching material in a way that meets the needs of mixed ability classrooms
- design and implement educational activities by being aware of the current epistemological and methodological issues that are related to each of them.
- develop, implement and evaluate programs within different areas of the Curriculum with a research perspective
- contribute to the wider educational life of the context where they are employed in a way that enables the communication among school – society and offers authentic experiences to the children.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

With the completion of their studies the students of this specific program will be able to enhance their employment’s potentials in the public service, as educators for the specific sector. Additionally, teachers actively employed at the different levels of Education will enhance the possibilities of their utilization / and or promotion in the public and private service.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS	CREDITS	ECTS
All students pursuing the Master degree in “Early Childhood Education” must complete the following requirements:		
CORE COURSES (1)	3	10
SPECIALIZATION COURSES: Early Childhood Education (4)	15	40
ELECTIVE COURSES: Early Childhood Education (2)	6	20
MASTER THESIS <u>or</u> Selection of <u>two</u> courses	6	20
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	30	90

Core Courses		3	10
EDG656	Educational Research Methodology	3	10
Specialization Courses		15	40
EDE654	Learning in Early Childhood Education	4	10
EDE655	Playing: Educational Dimensions for Small Children	4	10
EDE656	Educational Research Methodologies in Early Childhood Education	4	10
EDE657	Differentiation Practices in Early Childhood Education	3	10
Elective Courses Selection of two (2) courses:		6	20
EDE658	Literacy Practices in Early Childhood Education	3	10

EDE659	Art Styles, Expression and Creativity for Small Children	3	10
Elective course from the available Elective courses from another program of the MA Education Sciences (distance) or other distance Master of Arts of the School of Arts and Education Sciences (with an equivalent number of credits and ECTS)*		3	10
EDG695 MASTER THESIS <u>or</u> Selection of <u>two</u> courses, as below:		6	20
Selection of one (1) Research course		3	10
EDG683	Quantitative Research approaches for Education Sciences <u>Or</u>	3	10
EDG684	Qualitative Research Approaches for Education Sciences	3	10
AND			
Elective course from the available Elective courses from another program of the MA Education Sciences (distance) or other distance Master of Arts of the School of Arts and Education Sciences (with an equivalent number of credits and ECTS)**		3	10

For the successful completion of the master program and the awarding of the postgraduate title is expected from the student that s/he will complete the program's requirements as shown above (total 30 credits, 90 ECTS) and have an average (G.P.A) 2.5. or more according to the University regulations.
*Overall only one (1) course such as this may be selected by the student throughout the completion of the program requirements.