

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	<b>MA Childhood Studies</b>
Awarding Bodies	<b>University of Suffolk</b>
Level of Award <sup>1</sup>	<b>FHEQ Level 7</b>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	<b>None</b>
Credit Structure <sup>2</sup>	<b>180 Credits at level 7</b>
Mode of Attendance	<b>Full-time and Part-time</b>
Standard Length of Course <sup>3</sup>	<b>1 year full-time</b>
Intended Award	<b>MA Childhood Studies</b>
Named Exit Awards	<b>PgD Childhood Studies PgC Childhood Studies</b>
Entry Requirements <sup>4</sup>	<b>Typical Offer: Bachelors Honours degree 2:2 (or equivalent)</b>
Delivering Institution	<b>University of Suffolk</b>

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MA Childhood Studies course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2024-25 academic year<sup>5</sup>.

### Course Summary

This taught postgraduate course has been developed for postgraduate students or senior professionals interested in specialised or advanced study of childhood. It will, therefore, be of particular interest to those wishing to be or already employed in the children and young people's workforce. In line with recent international developments in social studies of childhood, this programme is interdisciplinary in approach but has a strong emphasis on perspectives drawn from sociology, social policy, history, English, and anthropology. The course is informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) framework and draws on current methodological standpoints in childhood research that emphasise participation. It is committed to adopting a 'child-centred' philosophy throughout and reflects the principles of protecting the rights and interests of children and young people and the increasing importance of participation. The changing conditions of childhood and the ways in which children and young people themselves experience and understand their everyday lives is emphasised throughout. The course is delivered through a blended learning

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

<sup>3</sup> Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

<sup>4</sup> Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

<sup>5</sup> The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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approach, employing both traditional methods of teaching and technology-enhanced learning to provide a dynamic and exciting master's course.

### **Course Aims**

1. Offer an innovative, dynamic and flexible programme that critically considers developments in the academic study of childhood and the changing contexts of childhood in a globalised world;
2. Critically explore the cultural and social constructions of childhood and the implications that they have had and continue to have on children's everyday lives;
3. Advance students' knowledge of the complexity of understanding the relationship between children's rights, the ideologies and responsibilities for welfare and the lived realities of children's diverse experiences;
4. Provide a robust theoretical framework for students to develop an integrated and critically aware understanding of childhood studies and to cultivate a critical and analytical approach and to engage meaningfully with contemporary methodological advances in childhood research and the research process;
5. Develop in students a range of intellectual skills reflecting both the ethos of lifelong learning and the rigour required at Master's level, a high level of student autonomy and self-direction in order to facilitate the student to demonstrate initiative, originality alongside integrity and ethical judgement in their advanced scholarship and to become influential and effective specialists in the field of childhood studies.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

The following statements define what students graduating from the MA Childhood Studies course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)<sup>6</sup>.

1. A systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of contemporary issues and recent developments which are at, or informed by, the forefront of childhood studies;
2. A comprehensive understanding of the appropriate techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship and originality in their application of that knowledge to derive solutions to / recommendations to resolve complex situations and address issues in relation to children;
3. A conceptual understanding of children's rights and welfare that enables the student to evaluate critically complex issues, both systematically and creatively, to evaluate improving outcomes for children;

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<sup>6</sup> As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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4. Advanced scholarship of childhood studies through a critical evaluation and analysis of methodologies and previous/current to propose new research questions and directions;
5. The skills required to exercise independent learning and to develop these skills to a high level so as to work with self-direction and originality, to communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences so as to contribute to the academic study of childhood studies.

### Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2014)
- Masters Characteristics statement (2015)

### Course Structure

The MA Childhood Studies comprises modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type <sup>7</sup>
Level 7			
	Making Children: The Social Construction of Childhood since 1870	20	M
	Critical Perspectives in Childhood Studies	20	M
	Principles of Research	20	M
	Independent Project	60	M
Plus three of the following optional modules:			
	Creative Arts in Childhood Studies	20	O
	Embodied Childhoods Self-identity and Development	20	O
	Globalisation, Social Justice, and Children's Rights	20	O
	The Time of their Lives? Childhood and Danger in the British World since 1800	20	O
	Systematic Review Methodology	20	O
	Children's Literature: Through the Looking Glass	20	O
	Empowering Looked After Children: Trauma, Attachment and Educational Provision	20	O

<sup>7</sup> Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

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Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

### Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded an MA Childhood Studies. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Childhood Studies on successful completion of 120 credits including the modules *Making Children: The Social Construction of Childhood since 1870*; *Critical Perspectives in Childhood Studies*, and *Principles of Research*, or a PgC Childhood Studies on successful completion of 60 credits including the modules *Making Children: The Social Construction of Childhood since 1870* and *Critical Perspectives in Childhood Studies*.

### Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time are likely to have approximately 168 hours of tutor-structured learning across the course. Tutor-structured learning will be a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activities and guided learning activities through our online learning environment (OLE). The Online Learning Environment (OLE) provides opportunities for students to engage with course materials and relevant readings and for interactions with peers and tutors through discussion boards, blogs, wikis, and other interactive learning tools. Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 25 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

### Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be almost entirely coursework (including essays, research reports, presentations, reflective diaries, and creation of intervention tools or creative artefacts, and research projects).

### Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

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**Course Costs**

Students undertaking MA Childhood Studies will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,090 per year
Part-time UK	£1,010 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£14,625 per year
Part-time EU/International	£1,625 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students can also choose to take part in an optional fieldtrip. Costs will vary each year depending on the destination, but students can expect to pay approximately £500 (not including the cost of food, passports or visas) to take part in this fieldtrip.

**Academic Framework and Regulations**

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).