



**INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY**



**DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION &  
CARE**

**Courses offered in English for incoming  
students**

**Academic Year 2022-2023**

<b>WINTER SEMESTER COURSES</b>		
	<b>COURSES</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
1	Introduction to Educational Studies	6
2	Health & Safety in Early Childhood	6
3	Introduction to Psychology	6
4	Test & Measurements in Early Childhood	6
5*	Research Work Seminar (RWS): Applications of Infant Care	12
6*	RWS: Applications in Preschool Assessment	12
7*	RWS: Applied Pedagogy	12
8**	Practical training in Day Care Centers	12

*\*From the courses 5, 6, 7, the students can choose one of these. Part of these courses will be a practical project implemented in a day care center once a week*

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

<b>SPRING SEMESTER COURSES</b>		
	<b>COURSES</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
1	Developmental Psychology	6
2	Special Issues of Infancy	6
3	Professional Ethics & Ethical Behavior	6
4	Environmental Communication in Education Sciences	6
5*	Research Work Seminar (RWS): Applications of Infant Care	12
6*	RWS: Applications in Preschool Assessment	12
7*	RWS: Applied Pedagogy	12
8*	RWS: Applications in Social & Developmental Psychology	12
9**	Practical training in Day Care Centers	12

*\*From the courses 5, 6, 7, 8, the students can choose one of these. Part of these courses will be a practical project implemented in a day care center once a week*

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

## **CONTENT OF THE COURSES**

### **WINTER SEMESTER COURSES**

### ***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 and Safety in Early Childhood ECTS: 6***

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.

### ***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 in the tests and measurement tools that are widely used in early childhood education.

The course is organized in three sections.

The first part of the course provides a) an overview of the scientific field of psychometry, b) develops 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 works will concern the presentation of a widespread psychometric test, according to what was taught during the lectures.

### ***Research Work Seminar (RWS): Applications of Infant Care ECTS 12***

The aim of the course is to: utilize skills such as observation, critical thinking, discussion, questioning, analysis and synthesis of theory and practice, search for appropriate scientific information from relevant Greek and international literature, examine the understandings of critical reflection on a multifaceted basis, develop personal/professional development of students, study in depth a specific issue related to infant education and care, explore the theoretical and practical implications of the concept of critical thinking and utilize bibliographic sources by developing critical thinking and professional consciousness

### ***RWS: Applications in Preschool Assessment ECTS 12***

The main purpose of this seminar is to familiarize students with assessment processes through the pilot application in practice of assessments of the preschool environment, the preschool children, the preschool teacher, the educational act, etc.

### ***RWS: Applied Pedagogy ECTS 12***

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.

### ***Practical training in Day Care Centers. ECTS 12 (Twice a week)***

## **SPRING SEMESTER COURSES**

### ***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.

### ***Special issues of infancy ECTS 6***

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

### ***Professional Ethics and Ethical Behaviour ECTS 6***

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.

### ***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.

### ***Research Work Seminar (RWS): Applications of Infant Care ECTS 12***

The aim of the course is to: utilize skills such as observation, critical thinking,

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

***RWS: Applications in Social and Developmental Psychology ECTS 12***

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 familiarise 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.

***RWS: Applications in Preschool Assessment ECTS 12***

Το σεμινάριο αυτό έχει βασικό στόχο την εξοικείωση των φοιτητών/τριων με διαδικασίες αξιολόγησης μέσω της πιλοτικής εφαρμογής στην πράξη αξιολογήσεων του περιβάλλοντος της προσχολικής τάξης, του μαθητή,/της μαθήτριας του/της εκπαιδευτικού, της εκπαιδευτικής πράξης κλπ.

***RWS: Applied Pedagogy ECTS 12***

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.

***Practical training in Day Care Centers. ECTS 12 (Twice a week)***

## **Holidays**

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

### **A. Winter semester**

National “OXI” holiday 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

Anniversary of Athens Polytechnic Uprising 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2022

Christmas holidays 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 to 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2023

### **B. Spring semester**

Clean (Ash) Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2023

National holiday 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2023

Easter holiday 8<sup>th</sup> of April to 24<sup>st</sup> of April 2023

Holly Spirit holiday 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2023

### **C. Local holidays**

26<sup>th</sup> of October 2022- Religious holiday of Saint Dimitrios, Patron Saint of Thessaloniki