

Get ready for the PGCE International Early Years

We hope that you are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto the **PGCE International Early Years** programme. I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us in September.

The programme staff are looking forward to meeting you but in the meantime please do get in touch if there is anything that you need.

We look forward to meeting you.

Eleri John
Programme Leader



We are looking forward to welcoming you on the week commencing **7th April 2025** when your course will start, although your initial course materials and induction will be available from **31st March 2025**. During induction you will be involved in a range of activities including:

- familiarisation with your programme and modules
- learning how to engage with online learning
- familiarisation with the university and facilities
- information about where to get info, help and assistance

Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the [MYUWE](#) platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our [Registration](#) website.

Essential information

Please share the [Schools agreement \(file download\)](#) with your setting and return it to me at eleri.john@uwe.ac.uk. You will need to do this before you start your first module.

Know what to expect

This course is **100% online**. The majority of your teaching is asynchronous and can be accessed at a time that is convenient for you. There is no official timetable, you can engage with the learning materials at times that fit around your professional commitments. In the first week of the programme you will be assigned a Personal tutor. This person (who will be one of the teaching team) will arrange 2-3 tutorials with you during the modules, and will be able to answer questions as we go through the programme. These tutorials will be arranged and links provided through the announcements on the virtual learning environment and you will be sent emails to your UWE email account.

Your programme is structured as follows:

- Each module is 30 credits and has 10 units of learning.
- Each unit is timetabled for one week.
- Each unit has 5 steps,
- Steps may include lectures, readings, activities, written tasks and some group discussion.

As a guide, you will be expected to spend approximately 5 hours a week on directed activities and independent study.

It might be useful to spread your study over the week to allow for reflection on tasks. And please do read ahead as some tasks will take place in setting.

The course is designed for you to explore ideas in theory and practice, in your school/setting so in some weeks the activities will involve your reflection on some school/setting practice. This should be part of your daily activities, but it would be helpful if your line manager is aware of your requirements so that they are able to facilitate this for you.

We are aware that there may sometimes be issues with accessing practice experience due to COVID-19 restrictions. In this case please keep your UWE Bristol tutor up to date with any issues so that we can help support you with your study requirements. The course usually requires a minimum of 60 days (120 hours) logged in an educational setting.

Check key dates – Your programme dates for 2025/2026 are scheduled as follows:

Module	Start Date	End of Teaching	Assessment Hand in	Assessment Feedback return
INDUCTION	31 st March			
Learning and Teaching	7 th April 2025	30 th June 2025	<u>Assessment A:</u> 28 th May 2025 <u>Assessment B:</u> 30 th July 2025	<u>Assessment A:</u> Wk 23 rd <u>June</u> , 2025 <u>Assessment B:</u> Wk 27 th August, 2025
Contextual Inquiry	15 th September 2025	1 st December 2025	<u>Assessment A:</u> 29 th October 2025 <u>Assessment B:</u> 21 st January 2026	<u>Assessment A:</u> Wk 24 th Nov 2025 <u>Comp B:</u> Wk 16 th Feb 2026

How to make a successful start to your programme

1. Engage with your programme

Read around your subject – You are not expected to purchase any texts for the programme because all reading material will be available online for you. In advance of starting the programme, you may wish to read around teaching in the Early Years and developing good Early Years Practice, and the following chapter is a good place to start:

- Hallet, E. (2016). *Early Years Practice: For educators and teachers*. SAGE. Chapter one.

You can access your reading material in the [Programme reading list](#) available once you have registered: [UTTGV-30-M & UTTGHQ-60-M & UTTGJL-15-3 & UTTG3H-30-3 & UTTG7S-30-3 Early Years Teacher Status | UWE Bristol \(talism.com\)](#)

Refresh your study skills

If you are returning after a break or are new to study, it might be helpful for you to look at the '[Prepare for Study](#)' information which guides you on what to expect from studying at university.

Library support for distance learners

[Welcome - FET | academicskills.uwe.ac.uk](#)

Online learning: Advice and Guidance on how to make the most of studying online

[Online learning - Study skills | UWE Bristol](#)

Referencing and plagiarism

[Welcome - How to reference and avoid plagiarism \(uwe.ac.uk\)](#)

Planning and structuring writing

[Introduction - How to plan and structure your writing \(uwe.ac.uk\)](#)

How to write critically (essential for master's modules)

[Introduction - How to write critically \(uwe.ac.uk\)](#)

2. Rediscover your student self

Get online –Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the [library](#), [study skills](#), [academic support](#), [health and wellbeing support](#) and much more. You might want to download the UWE Bristol mobile app - available on [Apple](#) and [Android](#), this allows you to access various services and information on your phone.

Information on IT services can be found at [IT Services - Study | UWE Bristol](#)

This includes important information to support any online learning at home. You can connect to the UWE network from home. They also provide a generic guidance on choosing IT equipment: [Choosing the right IT equipment for university - IT Services | UWE Bristol](#)

You can contact our department technology support for access issues to this programme specifically at edutech@uwe.ac.uk

All students are provided with an Office365 account, which gives access to Outlook, Word, Excel, OneNote and PowerPoint, and 1TB of secure online storage.

Please note that UWE systems are configured for Windows although many of our students use Apple products or others.

Your coursework will be delivered via Blackboard.

Please note if you are joining from China: Recent accessibility tests were run on 3 telecom providers in China (Unicorn, Mobile and Telecom). There was only an issue (firewall blocking) accessing Blackboard on Telecom. Of course, the option to use Firefox as your default browser is available. This open-sourced browser has been thoroughly tested by Blackboard. Furthermore, Firefox is also available as a mobile app (www.firefox.com.cn) and Blackboard app is also available through the Play Store if you are using an Android phone.

https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Participant/Get_Started/Browser_Support

Before your course starts we suggest you test your network: [Speedtest by Ookla - The Global Broadband Speed Test](#) You should ensure you have access to a >10Mb line. Preferably a hard-line (ethernet) connection, as WiFi can be temperamental. Please be aware that other users on your WiFi will result in a reduction of the available bandwidth.

Connect with others:

Twitter: @uwebristol

Facebook: Uwe Bristol, Bristol Inter-disciplinary Group for Education Research

3. Be prepared

Access support – email me and [Disability Services](#) to let us know if you need any additional mobility or specific learning support to fully access all activities during your studies.

International students - Start to build friendships through the UWE Global Centre on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) and join in with their Global Café events; you don't have to be a registered student to take part. The dates and future topics are on the [UWE Bristol events calendar](#).

The University library provides [academic skills and advice](#) for international students. Once your registration as a UWE student is complete, you can sign up for [workshops](#). During your induction, we will tell you more about this support and show you where to find the information on your programme page so you can refer to it throughout the year.

Support to succeed at UWE Bristol

Explore our Five Secrets to Success – if you're looking for the secret to success at UWE Bristol, it's actually pretty simple, and it's within you. Across [five themes](#), using films and podcasts, we've brought together insight from our students, lecturers and support services that will help you develop five skills to look after your wellbeing.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact the Programme Leader Eleri John
Eleri.john@uwe.ac.uk

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: April 2025

Last updated: January 2025