

PGCE Early Years (EYTS)

Gain the knowledge and skills to become an early years leader

The PGCE Early Years (EYTS) Graduate Employment-based (GEB) route at the University of Reading is designed for those already working in an early years setting in the UK who want to develop their practice and gain Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS).

Delivered by the Institute of Education, the programme combines practical workplace experience with academic study, supporting professionals to enhance their expertise in early education and care across the birth-to-five age range. The course also includes 60 master's credits and is fully funded by the Department for Education, meaning there are no tuition fees to pay.

Key features

- Part-time, 12-month programme
- Designed for professionals already employed in an early years setting in the UK
- Leads to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS)
- Includes 60 master's credits
- Fully funded by the Department for Education



How you will learn

The programme combines university-based learning with practical, work-based experience. Students learn through:

- lectures and workshops
- tutor- and student-led seminars
- group activities and presentations
- individual tutorials
- work-based learning
- independent study and reflection

Throughout the course, students explore legislation, statutory frameworks and approaches to teaching and care in early years education. The programme encourages collaboration, discussion and reflective practice to support professional growth and leadership development.

Career development

The programme supports early years professionals in strengthening their knowledge, confidence and leadership skills, helping them make a positive impact on children's learning and development.

Overall, 99% of our postgraduate initial teacher education graduates who reported their main activity were in graduate-level work and/or further study 15 months after completing their course.

(HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022/23)

Find out more: [PGCE Early Years, University of Reading - 2026/27](#)