



Your Qualification

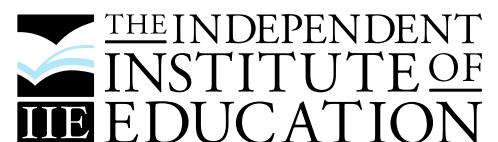


The Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education

The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE)

The IIE Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education (HCECCE) is an entry level/introductory qualification (at NQF Level 5) to the study of early childhood development (ECD) education from birth through to 4 years of age. It is intended to provide students with “basic introductory knowledge, cognitive and conceptual tools and practical techniques to enable further study in ECD” (DHET, 2017: 24).

This one-year higher certificate is structured in accordance with The Department of Higher Education and Training’s (DHET) Policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes Leading to Qualifications in Higher Education for Early Childhood Development Educators (2017), and with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for Children from Birth to Four Policy (2015). In addition, it is aligned to the HEQSF guidelines, and will provide students with the beginning knowledge, skills and applied competences identified to be critical for facilitation at this level. Graduates will be well prepared with insight and skills that are both employable and relevant to further specialisation study in support of the principles of life-long learning.



Varsity College is an educational brand of The Independent Institute of Education (Pty) Ltd which is registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997 (reg. no. 2007/HE07/002). Company registration number: 1987/004754/07.

What is this higher certificate's accreditation status?

The IIE Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education is accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and is registered by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) as a 137-credit qualification on level 5 (SAQA ID: 104532).

Who is the higher certificate aimed at?

If you have a passion for working with babies, toddlers and young children, are concerned about their well-being, early learning and development and you would like to facilitate as a beginner ECD (0-4 years) practitioner, then this higher certificate is for you. Graduates who successfully complete this higher certificate and who want to become a professionally qualified educator, would be required to complete further studies at a diploma or a degree level in ECD studies.

What entry requirements will I need to study this higher certificate?

To be registered as a candidate you must have satisfied the admission requirements as set out below:

| Minimum Admission Requirements | | English | Notes |
|--|---|---|---|
| | NSC: HC pass with | 30% | |
| | NC(V): HC pass | 40% | |
| | SC: Endorsement - none | 33.3% | |
| | SC(a): HC pass with | A minimum of 30% in LOLT in NSC/ SC(a) OR with a min. of 33.3% in SC | |
| | International: A SAQA Evaluation Certificate with NSC Level 4 equivalence with at least 30 % or equivalent for English. | | Please refer to the International Admissions spreadsheet for further admissions criteria. |
| Senate Discretionary Admissions | Mature Age Exemption | Candidates must have attempted the Senior Certificate or equivalent, attained the age of 23 before or during the first year of registration with three years' work experience and proven ability relating to the proposed | |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | programme as well as adequate communication skills; OR Candidates must have attained the age of 45 before or during the first year of registration. |
| | Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) | Where candidates do not satisfy the formal admission requirements for this qualification, The IIE may consider an admission application in terms of the Credit Accumulation and Transfer, Recognition of Prior Learning and Qualification Completion Policy (IIE010). |
| | General Education Development (GED) - An USA qualification developed by the American Council on Education (ACE) | Candidates with a GED qualification may be admitted if they have a SAQA Evaluation Certificate with NSC L4 equivalence as well as NBT: AQL results and have obtained a score of at least 37 for Academic Literacy (AL) and a score of at least 37 for Quantitative Literacy (QL). |
| | OQSF Qualifications | Candidates with an OQSF Level 5 or N4-N6 qualifications or combination of N3 and SC subjects, or an NSC (FET Colleges) with N3 subjects may be admitted to Higher Certificate Studies. |

Please note, requirements for entry to this qualification are correct at the time of printing, however, these may change. At the time of registration, please check that the entry requirements have not changed.

What is The Teaching and Learning Strategy of The IIE's Varsity College, and how will it help prepare me for the 21st century working world?

Our teaching and learning approach is based on active learning which enables us to focus on the skills you need to succeed in the New World. This way, the student is at the centre of learning. Academic life, we believe, should be as relevant and participative as possible – a dynamic, two-way exchange.

This enables students to:

- Engage with subject material
- Build understanding
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills for the 21st Century workforce.

This collaborative approach teaches you how to think, and to ask questions; the right questions. We call it New World Thinking.

Our active learning approach is structured as a blend between online and face-2-face lectures. This allows us to take learning beyond the confines of the lecture room. independent, self-directed learners. Our Learning Management System called VCLearn enables this blend and affords you a range of approaches to teaching and learning, and resources that are designed to promote self-organised learning and thought leadership.

How is this higher certificate structured at The IIE's Varsity College?

The IIE Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education (HCECCE) is a one-year certificate programme. . Modules (individual subjects) are delivered on a full-time basis with lectures and tutorials being scheduled during the day from Monday to Friday.

The specific skill-sets and competences incorporated into this qualification are highly attractive to prospective pre-schools, crèches, early childhood learning centres, day-care and educare facilities and should add significant value to the local education environment.

The curriculum outlined below is correct at the time of print. Please note however, that in line with best academic practice, The IIE's curriculum is reviewed annually and so changes may occur in module structure and sequence to ensure that the qualification remains relevant and effective. The exit level outcomes of the programme, however, will not change. Registered students receive updated programme curriculum on an annual basis.

As a one-year full-time programme, students will commence their first semester with a mixture of theoretical and practical components related to education, including Early Childhood Learning and Development; Health, Safety and Nutrition; Management, Development and Professionalism in ECD; Digital and Academic Literacies and a Communicative Language. The second semester will focus on the didactic subjects, namely Facilitating and Managing the Life Skills Programme; Facilitating and Managing the Numeracy Programme; and Facilitating and Managing the Literacy Programme; along with their ECD Experience module (six-week ECD based work integrated learning).

THE HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

Year 1

| 1 st Semester | NQF Level | Credit Value | 2 nd Semester | NQF Level | Credit Value |
|--|-----------|--------------|--|-----------|--------------|
| DIAL5111 – Digital and Academic Literacies | 5 | 15 | FMLP5112 - Facilitating and Managing Literacy Programme | 5 | 15 |
| HSNU5111 - Health, Safety and Nutrition | 5 | 15 | FMNP5112 - Facilitating and Managing Numeracy Programme | 5 | 15 |
| ECLD5111 - Early Childhood Learning and Development | 5 | 15 | FMLS5112 - Facilitating and Managing Life Skills Programme | 5 | 15 |
| COXH5112/COZU5112/CONS5112 Communicative Languages: IsiXhosa/IsiZulu/Northern Sotho | 5 | 15 | ECDX5112 - ECD Experience (6 weeks of ECD based work integrated learning) | 5 | 17 |
| MDPE5111 - Management, Development and Professionalism in ECD | 5 | 15 | | | |

If a student has an African language (excluding Afrikaans) as part of his/her NSC OR if a student is claiming proficiency in an African language (excluding Afrikaans), then the student is required to pass a proficiency test* on NQF Level 5 in order to demonstrate competency in such language and receive academic credit for this module.

Proficiency tests are offered in four (4) official languages only, namely isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi and Setswana on The IIE campuses.

Note: Languages offered are campus dependent.

If proficiency is claimed in another African language (excluding Afrikaans) other than the four listed above, the onus is on the student to provide evidence of NQF Level 5, or higher competency in that language.

ECD EXPERIENCE

The ECD Experience module, will see students placed for 6 weeks at selected pre-schools, crèches, early childhood learning centres, day-care and educare facilities as arranged by the relevant campus. This critical component allows students to practice their understanding of theory, and provides significant opportunities for practice and reflection on teaching and learning/facilitation in the Early Childhood Development band, thus allowing for suitable preparation of graduates as beginner ECD practitioners.

During ECD Experience students are supported in their development by The IIE's Varsity College Supervisors. This includes: guiding and assessing students while undertaking their ECD practice; and providing students with developmental feedback.

The timing of ECD Experience is carefully considered each year to fall in line with The IIE's Varsity College Academic Calendar.

Access onto ECD-based Work Integrated Learning (i.e. ECD Experience):

This qualification of The IIE Faculty of Education has ECD-based Work Integrated Learning (WIL) that occurs in the ECD context with particular requirements. The following is important in this regard:

Police clearance certificates

All students undertaking an academic qualification with an ECD-based WIL component will be required to have a valid police clearance certificate on commencement of their ECD Experience component in an ECD context.

Attendance requirements for access on to the ECD-based WIL:

Students will be allowed access to the main ECD-based WIL [referred to as ECD Experience in semester 2] if:

The student has met the 80 % lecture attendance requirement for each of the identified modules as is aligned to ECD Experience for the year:

Year 1 (sem 1)

| CODE | MODULE NAME |
|----------|--|
| ECLD5111 | Early Childhood Learning and Development |
| HSNU5111 | Health Safety and Nutrition |

Year 1 (sem 2)

| CODE | MODULE NAME |
|----------|---|
| FMLP5112 | Facilitating and Managing the Literacy Programme |
| FMNP5112 | Facilitating and Managing the Numeracy Programme |
| FMLS5112 | Facilitating and Managing the Life Skills Programme |
| ECDX5112 | ECD Experience (WIL) |

Dealing with Exceptions:

In cases where students' have not met the 80 % lecture attendance requirement for 1 or more of the identified modules as is aligned to ECD Experience for that year:

Students will be expected to achieve a combined 80 % attendance (i.e. average) across the identified modules on condition that no single module attendance falls below 70 %.

Students who fall into this category will submit a 1-page motivation for ECD Experience access to The IIE's VC School of Education Campus Programme Manager for consideration by The IIE's VC Head of School.

What about timetables?

The IIE's full-time programmes are aimed at students wishing to dedicate themselves to full-time studies for the duration of their qualification. This means that students are expected to engage in additional learning activities and assessments outside of the scheduled lecture-time.

Students must understand that timetables remain subject to change throughout the year. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that timetable structures will remain the same during each year of your studies with us. In addition, where students are repeating modules, these modules may be offered in the evenings or on weekends. Students are required to attend lectures in order to remain up to date with the academic programme. Students who would like to pursue limited part-time employment opportunities outside of the academic programme must prioritise their studies and avoid committing to work schedules until after they have received their timetables and academic calendar from the institution.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL)

Students must complete the Work Integrated Learning component to achieve the graduation requirements of this programme.

What must I pass in order to graduate with this higher certificate?

In order to be awarded this qualification, you must have achieved a minimum final year mark of fifty percent (50%) for each module of the programme; and have met all the Work Integrated Learning requirements, where applicable.

How long do I have to complete this qualification?

Students have a maximum of two years to complete this qualification.

With what qualification will I graduate?

You will graduate with The IIE Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education, which is at NQF level 5.

Career opportunities: what career areas can I pursue once I have completed The IIE Higher Certificate?

- Beginner ECD Practitioner/Facilitator
- ECD/Preschool Teacher Aid
- Au Pair
- ECD/Preschool Aftercare Teacher

Should you wish to continue your studies and register onto The IIE Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase Teaching, please note that there are additional language entry requirements that are required to be met prior to registration.

Call your nearest IIE's Varsity College campus to discuss your career options with one of our Student Advisors.

HCECCE 2021 V1 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

Disclaimer: Please note that this fact sheet is accurate at the time of publication. The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE) reserves the right to alter any of the content prior to commencement of registration due to changes in regulation, policy, market requirements or any other valid reason.



British Accreditation Council

The IIE is not only accredited in South Africa but its dedication to providing quality education also led to it being accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC) in 2014. The British Accreditation Council is an independent authority in the United Kingdom that accredits private providers globally, including Greece, Switzerland, Singapore, India, Mauritius and the United Arab Emirates. In 2017 The IIE had its accreditation status confirmed by the BAC as an Independent Higher Education Institution confirming our confidence in the international comparability of our standards.

“South African students need to know, when they select a private higher education institution, that the standards offered are equivalent to those of a public University. Our students get this from our extensive local accreditation and registration. The students also benefit from knowing that we meet international standards too. The IIE is accredited as an Independent Higher Education Institution by the British Accreditation Council. Locally and internationally we have demonstrated the quality of what we offer,” said Dr Coughlan, Director, The Independent Institute of Education.

The IIE's Varsity College students can be confident that their IIE learning experience meets international best practice standards.”