

## **Level 4 and 5 opportunities for Early Years Practitioners on the route to gaining Early Years Teacher Status**

**Following completion of either Foundation Degree or Higher Diploma (240 Credits) you will need to 'Top Up' to an Ordinary or Honours Degree**

**The University of Northampton** [Foundation Degree in Early Years](#)

**Loughborough College** in conjunction with the University of Derby are offering the [FdA in Children's and Young People's Services](#)

**Stephenson College** in conjunction with The University of Derby are offering the [FdA in Special Educational Needs and Disability](#)

**Stephenson College** in conjunction with The University of Derby are offering the [FdA in Children's and Young People's Services](#)

**North Warwickshire and Hinckley College** in conjunction with the University of Warwick offer the [Foundation Degree in Early Childhood](#)

Study will take place at North Warwickshire and Hinckley College and some Saturdays at University of Warwick.

**Pen Green Centre** in conjunction with Hertfordshire University are offering a [Foundation Degree \(Arts\) Integrated Working with Children and their Families in the Early Years](#)

**Doncaster College and University Centre** offer **DISTANCE LEARNING** programme [Foundation Degree Children's Learning and Development](#)

**The Open University** offers distance learning options to gain 240 credits (equivalent to FdA):

[Diploma of Higher Education in Early Childhood](#) (course code W50)

[Early Years Courses at Level 4, 5 and 6 can be found here](#)

[Access modules](#) are a great bridge between L2/L3 vocational study and L4+ academic study, and there is a funded pathway for those who are using

Access to prepare themselves for higher education and who meet the eligibility criteria

**Local Colleges and Training Providers** may also offer alternative HNC/HND route to gaining 240 credits: [Level 4 Higher National Certificate in Advanced Practice in Early Years Education \(HNC\) and/or Level 5 Higher National Diploma \(HND\) in Advanced Practice in Early Years Education](#) via a local college or training provider.

For Example:-

[North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College](#)

[Brooksby Melton College](#) 01664 850 850  
or email [courseenquiries@brooksbymelton.ac.uk](mailto:courseenquiries@brooksbymelton.ac.uk)

**Please contact each training establishment directly to discuss exact training delivery schedule. However, generally:**

- University of Northampton delivery day is usually on a week day, you would therefore need to be released from work for around one full day per week
- University of Derby (including Loughborough College and Stephenson College) deliver during evenings and weekends
- Pen Green deliver in solid week blocks, so you attend every day for one week each term.
- Open University is distance learning, so you undertake the work in your time
- HND programmes are usually delivered during evenings

## **Cost and Finance**

University programmes will always cost more than colleges due to their fee structure and a HND will cost less than a Foundation Degree. It is important to find the programme and training provider that suits you best, if you are using student finance don't get hung up on the cost because there is a very good chance you will never pay it back.

## How Does Student Finance Actually Work?

You don't pay back a penny until you earn over £26,575. If you earn over £26,575 you pay back at a rate of 9% for your earnings ABOVE £26,575

You pay back 9 pence for every £1 over £26,575

So if you earn £27,000 you pay back 9 pence for every £1 over £26,575 = £3/month.

On [our Level 4 and 5 Qualifications web page](#) you will find lots of information, documents and links to student finance information.

### Example repayment amounts

Income each year before tax	Monthly salary	Approximate monthly repayment
£26,575	£2,214	£0
£27,000	£2,250	£3
£29,500	£2,458	£21
£31,000	£2,583	£33
£33,000	£2,750	£48