

Qualifications Update – April 2011

1. Introduction

This factsheet provides detailed information about the Childhood Practice degrees currently available (BA and Pg Dip) which meet the appropriate standards for the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) Lead Practitioner requirements which come into place in December 2011. It also contains information about qualifications available through the Open University which meet Support Worker and Practitioner qualification requirements with the SSSC, and as such is an alternative route to SVQs.

The factsheet also highlights possible funding for qualifications.

2. Funding for Qualifications

Part-time Fee Grant (formerly known as ILA 500)

This scheme provides up to £500 a year towards the cost of tuition fees.

Eligibility

To qualify for this funding, you should have an individual income of £22,000 a year or less. You also need to be studying a part-time Higher Education course, Professional Development Award (PDA) or Continuing Professional Development (CPD) at levels 7-11 of the Scottish Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and complete at least 40 SCQF credits per year. You must also be studying at a Scottish Institution. Eligible learners studying less than 40 SCQF credits may qualify for the ILA200 offer. This support also extends to eligible students studying part-time taught postgraduate courses at SCQF Level 11.

Applying for support

You can only apply for support up to one month after your course starts. Applications for the academic year 2010-2011 must be submitted before 31 July 2011. You can only apply by downloading a copy of the 2010-2011 Part-Time Fee Grant (PTFG1) Application from:

www.student-support-saas.gov.uk/forms/pt_form_10_11.pdf

Although many local authorities have paid for out of school care staff to undertake qualifications through workforce development funding, we now know that this may be limited, or not available. Despite this, staff are still required to achieve the appropriate qualifications as regulated by the SSSC, so how can individuals pay for qualifications?

One way of covering some of the costs, if not all, is through the Independent Learning Account (ILA) 500. The ILA 500 is available to people aged 16 or over, living in Scotland and who have an income of £22,000 a year or less and want to undertake learning which involves studying 40 Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) credits or more in an academic year.

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Higher education courses, Professional Development Awards (PDA) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses at SCQF levels 7-10 are eligible. SVQ levels 2 – 4 and the BA in Childhood Practice are therefore eligible qualifications. This is not a loan but a grant and does not need to be repaid.

Application packs can be obtained through the ILA Scotland helpline on **0808 100 1090** or for further information visit: **www.ilascotland.org.uk**

(Information accessed 23/11/10 from www.ilascotland.org.uk)

3. Level 9 Childhood Practice

After December 2011, individuals registering, or re-registering, with the Scottish Social Services Council as a Lead Practitioner within early years services, including out of school care, will be required to have, or be working towards, a Level 9 Childhood Practice qualification. This requirement however does not mean that all lead practitioners must have this level of qualification by December 2011- the date varies for individuals depending on when they registered and have to re-register. See the examples below:

If an individual only registered as lead practitioner in 2010, then they are required to meet the current qualification requirement (SVQ 4 or equivalent) by 2013, if they do not already have this level of award. However, when the individual comes to re-register in 2015 it is only then that they will be required to have, or be working towards, the level 9 qualification. If they do not have this award by 2015 they will be given three years to achieve it. So, for lead practitioners registering for the first time in 2010, they do not need to achieve the level 9 until 2018.

Anyone re-registering prior to December 2011 will only be required to achieve the current level of qualification (SVQ 4 or equivalent). With a subsequent re-registering in 2016, they will be required to have or be working towards the level 9 meaning they will have until 2019 to achieve the award.

However, if someone registers for the first time as a lead practitioner from December 2011 onwards, they will then be required to achieve a Level 9 within the specified timescale.

4. Level 9 Childhood Practice Award- what courses are available?

Currently individuals are only able to undertake a degree in Childhood Practice either at undergraduate level (BA) or postgraduate level (Pg Dip) delivered by various Scottish universities. (Please note that the postgraduate degree is currently only available from one university.)

The Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) has developed a PDA Level 9 which will also meet the SSSC requirements, and delivered through accredited colleges and

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training providers. This award was launched in March 2011; see the SQA website for further information: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45066.html>

By 2011 individuals should be able to choose to study for either a degree or a PDA Level 9 in Childhood Practice. Both routes will meet the SSSC requirements.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION- things to consider

- If an individual wishes to apply to a university to undertake the degree in childhood practice please be aware that some universities have only one in-take per year (September/October), although some have two (September/October and February/March). Applications should therefore be started well in advance of the in-take i.e. started in spring for autumn in-take.
- An individual should also consider which is the best course for them – it is recommended they don't just apply to the closest university but instead find out what all the courses offer and how they are delivered. Each course differs slightly in the modules offered- some may be of more interest or relevance. Also, some courses are taught within university premises, others are delivered via on-line distance learning. Individuals should consider which is the best option according to their circumstances, and also which is their preferred study method. For example, it may not be possible for an individual to attend classes one evening a week at a university but they could undertake distance learning where they can study in their own home at convenient times.
- Individuals are expected to already have a childhood practice qualification such as SVQ 3, as a minimum, prior to starting the degree qualification.
- Anyone undertaking the postgraduate qualification will be required to undertake a SVQ 3, or similar, as a minimum, if they do not already have this qualification. Prior credit is only given to qualifications relating to childcare, and recognised by the SSSC. Other non-childcare qualifications including degrees do not count towards the Childhood Practice Level 9 Award- this is a work-based qualification relating to the social care of children.
- An individual should be working as a lead practitioner within a childcare setting.

5. Currently Available Childhood Practice Courses

Three courses are available through distance learning (Universities of Aberdeen; Dundee and UHI) and four are taught on site (Universities of Edinburgh; Glasgow; Strathclyde and UWS).

1. University of Aberdeen – BA Childhood Practice



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Catriona McDonald, t: 01224 274801; e: c.mcdonald@abdn.ac.uk

Distance learning.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/bacp/>

2. University of Dundee – BA Childhood Practice

Brenda Dunn, t: 01382 381450 e: b.h.dunn@dundee.ac.uk

Distance learning.

www.dundee.ac.uk/admissions/distance_learning/courses/professional_development_childhood_practice_ba.htm

3. University of Edinburgh – BA Childhood Practice

Lorna McNicoll, t: 0131 651 4801; e: lorna.mcnicoll@ed.ac.uk

Taught courses at university.

<http://www.education.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/childhood-practice.html>

4. University of Glasgow – BA & PgDip Childhood Practice

Mary Wingrave, t: 0141 330 8156; e: m.wingrave@educ.gla.ac.uk

Both are taught classes.

BA Childhood Practice

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/faculties/education/programmesandcourses/undergraduatstudy/childhoodpractice/>

PgDip Childhood Practice

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/childhoodpractice/>

5. University of Highlands and Island (UHI) – BA Childhood Practice

Alice Mongiello, t: 01463 273351; e: Alice.Mongiello@inverness.uhi.ac.uk

Distance learning.

www.uhi.ac.uk/home/courses/courses-available/education-and-childcare/childhood-practice/ba-childhood-practice/?searchterm=childhood_practice

6. University of Strathclyde – BA Childhood Practice

Joan Martlew t: 0141 950 3046; e: joan.martlew@strath.ac.uk

Taught courses at university.

www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/courses/education/courses/bachildhoodpractice/coursestructure/

7. University of the West of Scotland (UWS) – BA Childhood Practice

Dorothy Johnson, t: 01292 886275; e: dorothy.johnson@uws.ac.uk

Taught courses at university.

<http://www.uws.ac.uk/courses/ug-courseinfo.asp?courseid=742>

(All above information accessed and correct as of 23/11/10)

6. Support Worker and Practitioner Level Qualifications through the Open University

According to SSSC qualification requirements, the following courses through the Open University are acceptable alternatives to SVQs at support worker and practitioner levels. These courses can be paid for partially by the ILA 500.



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For further information on Open University courses appropriate at Support Worker and Practitioner levels, please contact: Lore Gallastegi, t: 0131 549 7925 e: l.gallastegi@open.ac.uk

Support Worker

- OU Certificate in Early Years Practice or,
- OU Foundation Degree in Early Years/ Diploma of Higher Education in Childhood Practice. (Formerly DipHE Early Years) or,
- Level 1 of the OU DipHE in Childhood Practice (formerly DipHE Early Years) or
- Level 1 of the OU Foundation Degree in Early Years (Courses E100 (formerly E123 +E124) and E105 (formerly E115)

Practitioner

- Level 1 of the OU DipHE in Childhood Practice (formerly DipHE Early Years) or
- Level 1 of the OU Foundation Degree in Early Years (Courses E100 (formerly E123 + E124) and E105 (formerly E115) or,
- OU Foundation Degree in Early Years/ Diploma of Higher Education in Childhood Practice. (Formerly DipHE Early Years).

7. Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)

For up-to-date information on Childhood Practice or qualification requirements, please contact the Scottish Social Services council directly:

Telephone: 0845 60 30 891

Information on Childhood Practice: <http://ewd.sssc.uk.com/ewd/learning/the-new-childhood-practice-awards.html>

Qualification Requirements: <http://www.sssc.uk.com/sssc/all-about-registration/what-qualifications-do-i-need-to-register-with-the-sssc.html>