



IIE Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education

School of Education

The IIE Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education 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.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE

DISTANCE

Career Opportunities

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

Curriculum

Year 1							
Semester 1				Semester 2			
Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits	Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits
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 – 3 weeks online & 3 weeks ECD centre-based experience)	5	17
MDPE5111	Management, Development and Professionalism in ECD	5	15				

Languages

If a student has an African language (excluding Afrikaans) as part of his/her NSC or equivalent, they may receive an academic credit. Should a student wish to claim proficiency in an African language (excluding Afrikaans), then the student is required to pass a proficiency test 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, Northern Sotho (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.

Work Integrated Learning (i.e. ECD Experience - ECDX5112):

Early Childhood Experience is an integral part of any Early Childhood Care and Education programme and grants students an opportunity to work within an authentic Early Childhood Development (ECD) environment. Students will be required to complete a minimum of 6-weeks in work-integrated learning (3-weeks in Online Supplementary Activities and 3 weeks in an ECD Centre working with age groups 2-4 years). The three (3) weeks ECD Centre-based Experience must take place in a suitable, registered South African ECD Centre (as determined by the institution) within reasonable range of one of The IIE's Varsity College/ IIE MSA campuses.

Access on to Work Integrated Learning (i.e. ECD Experience):

The HCECCE Student is required to meet specific criteria for entrance into the School/ECD Centre for ECD Experience. The following is important in this regard:

Police clearance certificates:

All HCECCE students are required to provide a valid South African Police Clearance Certificate or an Afiswitch Criminal Check Certificate on commencement of their ECD Centre-based Experience.

Lecture Attendance/Engagement Requirement:

The HCECCE Student is required to meet the 80 % lecture attendance/ online engagement requirement for each of the identified modules as is aligned to ECD Experience for that year to gain access into their ECD Centre-based Experience.

Admission Requirements

NSC: HC pass with	English 40%
NC(V): HC pass	English 40%
SC: Endorsement - none with	English 40%
SC(a): HC pass with	English 40%
NASCA - National Senior Certificate for Adults	English 40%

Notes	<p>Student's proficiency in The IIE's Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT), English, plus partial proficiency (sufficient for basic conversation; i.e. conversational competence) in one other South African official language (excluding Afrikaans) are required components of fundamental learning for this programme. For this, the following will be endorsed on your certificate:</p> <p>LoLT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This higher certificate is delivered in English and thus English is known as the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT). On successful completion of this Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education, your certificate will be endorsed with LoLT (English). <p>LoCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have an African Language (excluding Afrikaans) as part of your NSC or equivalent, you may receive academic credit for this language. If you are claiming conversational competence in an African Language (excluding Afrikaans), you are required to pass a competency test on NQF Level 5 in order to demonstrate conversational competence in such a language and receive academic credit for this language. Competency tests are offered in four (4) official languages only, namely, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Northern Sotho (Sepedi) and Setswana on The IIE campuses. If conversational competence is claimed in another African language (excluding Afrikaans) other than the four listed above, the onus is on you to provide evidence of NQF Level 5, or higher conversational competence in that language. Once you have demonstrated conversational competence in an African language, and on successful completion of the Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education, your certificate will be endorsed, for example LoCC: isiZulu. <p>Note: Languages offered are campus dependent.</p>
International	<p>A SAQA Evaluation Certificate with NSC L4 equivalence with at least 40% or equivalent for English.</p> <p>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.</p>

Should you have any other school leaving qualification not mentioned above, please contact a student advisor.

What are the benefits of an IIE distance (online) qualification?

The IIE's distance (online) delivery mode provides you with the agility of studying towards a tertiary qualification asynchronously, at different times from different locations. Distance students need to commit to approximately 20-25 hours a week for distance engagement (most of which is after hours) with material and assessments to succeed.

Here are some of the benefits you can expect:

- A sequenced online learning environment that allows you the ability to manage your learning experiences flexibly and autonomously.
- A learner guide designed to lead you through the module material and learning outcomes, empowering you to effectively pace your learning in preparation for assessments.
- Our Learning Management System is designed to break up your learning units into manageable sections which include various activities to support learning.
- Module expert online lecturers that facilitate module teaching and learning support through various technology enhanced mediums.
- Online Success Navigators provide administrative and operational guidance and support throughout your academic journey.
- A professionally registered Student Wellness Manager/Counsellor available for short-term, primary counselling services. Additionally, the Student Wellness Manager/Counsellor hosts various webinars and virtual talks on topics that promote a balanced lifestyle as you pursue your academic goals.



Device and connectivity specifications required for online study:

- Reliable internet connection (we recommend 5-10 GB of data per month and an internet speed of at least 0.15 Mbps)
- Desktop PC or laptop with at least an i3 processor and 4GB RAM memory
- Windows 8 or macOS 10.15 (Microsoft Office 365 is available as a free download for IIE students), and Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge Chromium or Firefox
- A working webcam and microphone
- An uninterrupted power supply is also highly recommended

Exams are written at an exam centre and in some instances online. These details will be specified in your programme assessment schedule.

Where assessments are written in person:

- For students based in South Africa, online students may select any campus of The IIE's Varsity College, Rosebank College, Vega, or IIE MSA as their Examination Centre.
- An alternative examination centre is only permissible for students studying abroad and those located in a province of South Africa where there is no IIE campus. If there is no IIE campus within reach, an alternative venue will need to be sourced by you. For non-IIE venues, there is an alternative venue levy per module.

How will The IIE's Varsity College support your online learning as a distance (online) student, and how will it help prepare you for the working world?

Our distance teaching and learning approach is designed to allow you the freedom to self-govern your learning experiences according to your individual needs. You are at the centre of your own learning journey, and by offering curated engagement opportunities, we partner with you to:

- Engage with subject material
- Build understanding
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Manage your work, life and studies
- Succeed in your personal, professional and academic goals.

THE IIE IS ACCREDITED AS AN INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION BY THE BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL.

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. July 2024_v2