
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Higher Diploma in Early Childhood Education

Programme leaflet for entry in 2026/27

Programme code HDECE

The Education University of Hong Kong

10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong

Enquiries: fehd@eduhk.hk

At a glance

Programme	Higher Diploma in Early Childhood Education
Programme code	HDECE
Faculty	Education and Human Development
Intended for	Local applicants; Current
Entry	September 2026
Medium of instruction	English, with selected courses offered in Chinese
Campus	Tai Po campus, The Education University of Hong Kong

The Higher Diploma in Early Childhood Education is a sub-degree programme for students who wish to enter the early childhood workforce quickly, or who intend to use it as a pathway into a related bachelor's degree. It suits secondary school leavers who did not initially secure a place on a degree programme, as well as current students seeking a qualification with a strong practical focus.

Structure and Duration

The programme is offered full-time over two years and normally carries around 60 credit points. Study combines classroom-based courses with structured field attachments in kindergartens and child care centres. Students typically take four courses each term, with field attachment concentrated in designated periods.

What You Will Study

- Foundations of child development
- Early childhood curriculum and activity planning
- Health, hygiene and safety in early years settings
- Communication with children, parents and colleagues
- Guiding children's behaviour and social development
- Basic assessment and record-keeping
- Supervised field attachment in an early childhood setting

Entry Requirements

- Satisfaction of the general entrance requirements for sub-degree programmes, including the minimum requirements in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination or an equivalent qualification
- A satisfactory level of attainment in Chinese Language and English Language
- A satisfactory result at interview, which normally includes an assessment of suitability for working with young children

- Current students of the University applying for an internal transfer are considered under separate arrangements

Career Prospects

Graduates commonly take up posts as child care workers or teaching assistants in kindergartens and child care centres. Many progress to a relevant bachelor's degree, including the Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Early Childhood Education, subject to meeting the admission requirements for advanced standing at the time of application.

Remarks: Programme details, including field attachment arrangements and progression pathways to degree programmes, are subject to approval by the University's academic bodies and may be revised from time to time. The University reserves the right to amend, suspend or discontinue the programme.

How to apply

- Applications open in the autumn preceding entry and are made online through the University admissions system.
- Applicants supply academic transcripts, evidence of language proficiency where required, and the names of two referees.
- Shortlisted applicants are invited to an interview, held on campus or online, between January and April.
- Offers are issued on a rolling basis. Applicants are advised to apply early, as places in popular specialisations fill before the closing date.

Apply online at <https://www.eduhk.hk/hd-ece>.

Fees, scholarships and support

Tuition fees for 2026/27 are published by the Registry and are confirmed in the offer letter. Entrance scholarships are awarded on academic merit and do not require a separate application. Need-based financial assistance, including government schemes for local students, is administered by the University Student Affairs Office.

Contact

Programme enquiries	fehd@eduhk.hk
Faculty Office	Telephone (852) 2948 8888, 09:00 to 17:30 Monday to Friday
Postal address	Faculty of Education and Human Development, The Education University of Hong Kong, 10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong

This leaflet is a summary prepared for prospective applicants. Programme structure, course lists and fees are reviewed annually; the programme document and the admissions pages carry the authoritative version for the year of entry.