



QueenMaudUniversityCollege
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Norwegian Early Childhood Education and Care, Theory and Practice

A Comparative, Theoretical and Practical Approach
to Early Childhood Education and Care in Norway
20 ECTS



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Norwegian Early Childhood Education and Care, Theory and Practice (Code UTEC2001)

- A Comparative, Theoretical and Practical Approach to Early Childhood Education and Care in Norway

Name	Bachelor Preschool Teacher Education, Exchange Module for incoming students
Course code and course title	<i>UTEC2001 Norwegian Early Childhood Education and Care, Theory and Practice</i>
Credits/ECTS:	20
Full time / part time	Full time
Type of study	Bachelor level
Number of weeks	13 weeks
Lanaguages of instruction	English (and some Norwegian)
Grade:	Letter grade (A-F)
Start semester	Autumn or Spring
Fees	No fees for students from partner institutions
Admittance	1 June for autumn semester/ 15 October for spring semester
Academic coordinator	Marit Hallset Svare
Administrative coordinator	Anne Sine van Marion

1. Brief Introduction about the course

1. Kort om studiet

The course provides experiences, insight and knowledge about everyday life in Norwegian early childhood education and care institutions. Simultaneously they will be introduced to the Nordic view on play and learning, the close relationship to nature, as well as children's rights to participation. The Norwegian society may still be categorised as quite homogeneous. However, increasing numbers of multi-cultural groups of children lead to more emphasis on inter-cultural work.

1.1 Target group

1.1 Målgruppe

The course is designed for visiting students in Norway on 13 weeks of exchange. It is free for students from institutions with an exchange agreement with Queen Maud University College (QMUC).

1.2 Admission

1.2 Opptakskrav

Students have to be enrolled in Early Childhood studies at their home institution. The home institution nominates students for the exchange programme.

1.3 Further information

1.3 Andre opplysninger

All students outside the EU/EEU are required to send a copy of a recent tuberculin test (not older than 3 months). The tuberculin test result must be negative for the student to be admitted to QMUC.

2. The Basic Values of the Course

2. Studiets verdier

The course module is based on a view of children that emphasizes children's participation and children's competences, a societal view that emphasizes responsibility for the environment and sustainable development, and a view on culture that embraces both cultural heritage and cultural criticism. The course gives the students an insight into children's culture and the formative influences that are part of the processes in a child's development. Core values in this work are respect, creativity, dialogue and wondering.

Other values are gender equality and equality between all people in a social and ethnic diversity. Accompanying this are moral values which constitute the foundation for a modern democracy, and are in accordance with the United Nations (UN) Human Rights. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) forms the ethical basis by emphasizing the child's rights to a life that allows a physical, spiritual, moral and social development. In addition it is also a foundation for developing an understanding of the values inherent in religious cultural traditions.

3. Learning Outcomes

3. Læringsutbytte for modulen

At the end of the course module the students has developed knowledge, skills and competence within the following areas:

The *theoretical part*

The student has:

- Gained a deeper understanding of society, children and childhood
- Got an understanding of Norwegian childhoods and child cultures and can compare this with experiences from own country
- Has an insight in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child
- Has an understanding on the condition under which children grow up in Norway both regarding legal framework, attitude to children and childhood and an outdoor way of life
- Is familiar with local cultural activities for children, and how everyday life for children is organised
- Has reached a comparative and historical perspectives on growing up

The *practical training*

The student has:

- Shown interest, ability and competence in interacting and communicating with children, their parents and the staff.
- Developed knowledge of views on children and pedagogical practise in another culture
- Gained an insight into the relevance and the conditions for play and interaction
- Gained an insight into the view on the relationship between play and learning:
 - How children use the indoor and outdoor space in their free play
 - How the teacher uses these spaces in his/her pedagogical planning
 - The significance of nature and outdoor space on play and learning in Norway
- Gained experience with planning, carrying out and evaluating a project about his/her own country in the early childhood education and care (ECEC) institution.
- Gained experience with leading small groups of children in various activities in the ECEC institution.
- Gained experience in seeing links between theory and practise in Norwegian ECEC institutions.

4. ECTS credits for each subject:

4. Studiepoengfordeling fordelt på fag:

Subjects	ECTS credits
Nature and Outdoor Activities	2
Art/Drama/Music	3
Norwegian	4,5
Education/Pedagogics	5,5
Norwegian Culture and Society	3,5
Religion, Philosophies of Life and Ethics	1,5
Total ECTS credits	20

5. Organisation and working methods

5. Organisering og arbeidsmåter

The module is approximately 13 weeks, of which a total of 35 days are mentored practical training. Some of the teaching will be in classes together with Norwegian students; some will be in English in groups with only the visiting students. In some sessions the QMUC students who are going abroad will join the visiting students.

Working methods will be lectures, seminars where all students are expected to contribute, excursions and practical work. In addition students are expected to work through the course material.

Travel expenses will be paid by the college for out of town excursions.

During periods of practical training, students will meet a day a week at the college to discuss their experiences in a comparative perspective. Students will also have a meeting with one of the teachers from QMUC in the ECEC institution.

5.1 Theory and practical training

5.1 Teori og praksis

The course module is part of a professional education where theory and practice form two equal sources of knowledge which are inter-related. The course is a platform for a reflexive meeting between theoretical subject knowledge, practical skills and professionalism, and the three areas of competence should be seen as a holistic unit. Therefore parts of the module will be practical training in an ECEC institution.

5.2 Mentored practical training

5.2 Veiledet pedagogisk praksis

During the course the students will gain experience with planning, carrying out and evaluate pedagogical work in the ECEC institution, and gain experience with the preschool teacher profession. Tutoring of the practical training is a joint responsibility for all teachers during the course. The students will have 35 days practice experiences throughout the course module of 13 weeks. The practice tutor at the college has the coordinating responsibility for the students during their practical training, and the practice mentor in the ECEC institution is responsible for the practical training in the ECEC institution.

Practical Training	Duration
Early Childhood Education and Care Institution 0-5 years	34 days
Primary School 6-8 years	1 day

5.3 Responsibility for own learning

5.3 Ansvar for egen læring

The students are expected to take joint responsibility and to have a joint influence during the course module. The students are required to work independently and actively to be well prepared for co-operation with children, colleagues, parents and the community, both during the study and in a lifelong learning process. In addition to lecturers and other teacher initiated activities the students have to take responsibility to acquire knowledge of the contents of the course through self study, groups, as well as individual work.

5.4 Student participation

5.4 Studiedeltakelse

All teaching throughout the course module is compulsory. In order to have the various parts of the course approved and to take the final exam the students have to fulfill all compulsory assignments, the requirement of mandatory attendance included.

Students who have not got the compulsory assignments approved will not be admitted to take the final exam.

6. Assessment and Transcript of Records

6. Vurdering og karakterutskrift

6.1 Assessment

6.1 Vurdering

Visiting students will do a tutored practical training period of 35 days in an ECEC institution. At the beginning of this period, the student together with the tutor set objectives for the training. These objectives will constitute the basis both for the tutoring and for the report the student writes towards the end of the training. This 12 page report will reflect on the practical training period and the development the student has undergone. This reflection must include theoretical considerations. The last 4 of the 12 pages should include an in depth comparative reflection on a phenomenon or issue in Norwegian ECEC institutions that is markedly different from the experience from their home country.

The grade, grades A-E and F, given for the *Norwegian Early Childhood Education and Care, Theory and Practice* course is based on the achievement of the objectives during the practical training (60%) and the written report (40%).

6.2 Compulsory course work

6.2 Arbeidskrav

- Presentation of own preschool teacher education, ECEC system and own country
- A minimum of 4 written documents for mentoring sessions
- Participation in excursions
- 2 reflective reports of 2 pages from excursions (more details given in class)

6.3 Themes for the exam

6.3 Emne/tema for eksamen

6.3.1 Written assignment

6.3.1 Skriftlig oppgave

Course code	<i>UTEK2001</i>
Course title	<i>Norwegian Early Childhood Education and Care, Theory and Practice, written assignment</i>
Credits/ECTS:	20
Percentage of grade	40%
Grade:	Letter grade (A-F)
Study period	Autumn or Spring
Exam	Written assignment, 12 pages
Academic coordinator	Marit Hallset Svare

6.3.2 Practical Training

6.3.2 Praksis

Course code	<i>UTEK2001</i>
Course title	<i>Norwegian Early Childhood Education and Care, Theory and Practice, practical training</i>
Credits/ECTS:	20
Percentage of grade	60%
Grade:	Letter grade (A-F)
Study period	Autumn or Spring
Exam	35 days of mentored practical training
Coordinator	Anne Sine van Marion

6.4 Transcript of Records

6.4 Karakterutskrift

At the completion of the course module QMUC issues a Transcript of Records where the letter grade for the whole course of 20 ECTS is given. The grade comprises individual grades for the teaching practice (60%) and the theoretical subjects (40%).

7. Required reading

7. Pensum

Approximately 750 pages.