



# Early Childhood Education Diploma - Accelerated Option

Accelerated Online Option  
Tuition Free - Starting May 2026

**Start date:** May 19, 2026

**Typical length:** 19- 22 months

**Credential:** Diploma

**Location:** eCampus (online asynchronous)

## Learn while you work:

The Accelerated option is for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) **currently working** in a licensed child care centre or Pre-primary program in Nova Scotia.

## Program Overview:

The Accelerated option is **asynchronous online**, meaning there are **no set class times**. You can learn when it works best for you. Courses are offered in a **prescribed schedule**.

Work experience requirements are completed in your workplace. If you have learning and work experience in the ECE field and can demonstrate your knowledge and skills, you may be eligible for **PLAR (Prior Learning and Recognition) credit**.

After successful completion of the ECE diploma, students can apply for a **Level 2 Classification** under the Early Learning and Child Care Regulations.

## Employer Expectations:

Provide **written verification** from your employer that

- supports your participation in the program,
- agrees to provide you a minimum of 15 hours of work per week for the duration of the program,
- commits to supporting you in workplace practicum experiences

## Admission Requirements:

- **High School** Graduation Diploma or equivalent.
- Hold one of the following:
  - **Entry Level**
  - **Level 1 Classification**
  - **School-Age Training Approval**
- Be **currently employed** in a licensed child care centre or Pre-primary program with a **minimum 1 year** experience as an ECE in Nova Scotia (equivalent to 1,080 hours or more a year)
- Reside in Nova Scotia and hold **Canadian Citizenship** or legal **Permanent Resident** status
- Have a Canadian Language Benchmark minimum score of 8 or equivalent in all categories (if English is not your first language)
- Minimum **15 hours per week working** as an ECE in a licensed child care centre or Pre-primary program

## Funding:

Tuition, student fees, textbooks and other program cost are **fully covered** through funding from the **Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**.

This program is made possible by contributions received through the Canada-Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement coordinated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

## Questions? Contact us:

Amanda Sylliboy, Academic Chair  
ecework.learn@nsc.ca

[ednet.ns.ca/ece/excellence/accelerated-diploma/apply](https://ednet.ns.ca/ece/excellence/accelerated-diploma/apply)

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