



Early Childhood Education

Online Diploma, with option for Recognition of Prior Learning and Competence (PLAR)

Free seats in 2025-2026 for eligible residents of Nova Scotia!

Start Date: September 3, 2025

Duration: Minimum 20 months

Delivery Method: Online

Learn while you work! The Early Childhood Education program with the PLAR option is designed for early childhood educators (ECE) currently working in a licensed daycare or pre-primary program in Nova Scotia. PLAR is a process by which registered students can obtain official recognition of skills acquired through life and work experience by undergoing an assessment, without taking a course or courses.

Program description:

- Courses are offered online according to a prescribed schedule but are flexible to accommodate working early childhood educators.
- If you have two or more years (2,060 hours or more) in the field of early childhood education in Nova Scotia and can demonstrate your knowledge and skills, you may be eligible for PLARs.
- After obtaining the ECE diploma, students can apply for Level 2 Classification in accordance with the [Acts, Regulations & Standards | Early Years | NS Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development](#).

Verification by the employer:

Your employer must provide written confirmation that he/she:

- Supports your participation in the program.
- Undertakes to provide you with a minimum of 15 hours of work per week for the duration of the program.
- Undertakes to support you in your workplace internship experiences.

Admission requirements:

- Secondary school diploma.
- Currently employed in a pre-primary or licensed daycare with a minimum of 2 years (2,060 hours or more) of experience as an ECE in Nova Scotia.
- Reside in Nova Scotia and have Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status.
- Have a minimum level of CLB8 (if French is not your mother tongue).
- Work at least 15 hours a week as an ECE in a licensed daycare center or pre-primary program.
- Other eligibility requirements are listed on our website.

Funding:

Tuition, registration fees, books and other program costs are fully covered by funding from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Questions? Contact Nicole Thimot,
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