



Programme Specification

YOS-2018: Youth Studies

LU Foundation Degree in Arts awarded by Lancaster University (FHEQ Level 5)

LU Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Top-up) awarded by Lancaster University (FHEQ Level 6)

Programme Status: Approved | Version: 1

Introduction

This programme specification provides a summary of the main features of the Youth Studies programme and the learning outcomes that you as a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate on successful completion of the programme.

Further detailed information related to this programme and the College can be found in the following resources:

- Programme Handbook
- B&FC Student Handbook
- B&FC Admissions Policy
- Work based and placement learning handbook (for foundation degrees)
- Student guide to assessment and feedback

Key Programme Information

Programme Code	YOS-2018
Programme Title	Youth Studies
Teaching Institution	Blackpool and The Fylde College
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) Accreditation	None
UCAS Code	
Language of Study	English
Version	1
Approval Status	Approved
Approval Date	16 April 2018
JACS Code	
Programme Leader	Parvonay Amirkhani

Programme Awards

Award	Award Type	Level	Awarding Body
LU Foundation Degree in Arts	Foundation Degree (240 credits)	Level 5	Lancaster University
LU Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Top-up)	Honours Top-up Degree (120 credits)	Level 6	Lancaster University

Programme Overview

The Foundation Degree in Youth Studies develops your knowledge of the advanced theoretical principles which underlie contemporary issues relevant to young people within communities locally, nationally and internationally. Such knowledge will provide you with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the wider social, political and economic issues relevant to young people and will also help with the development of skills and attributes required within the sector. By completing the Youth Studies Foundation Degree your career prospects will be enhanced through the interrelationship between the current theoretical principles which provide the foundations for youth work and the completion of the highly vocational placement requirement which will enable you to apply theory to everyday practice. Being on placement for the duration of both the Foundation and BA (Hons) Degree is a mandatory requirement with all students having to be employed or engaging in a voluntary placement within the sector to ensure you have the opportunity to apply the theories and

concepts examined in the academic environment into practice. On completion of this programme of study it is envisaged that you will have the skills, knowledge, confidence and creativity required to be successful in this highly challenging field of work. This will be achieved by studying modules in subjects such as Child and Adolescent Development, Safeguarding, skills and attributes required to be a successful and effective practitioner within the sector, Leadership and Management, working with Looked After Children and issues relating to child and adolescent mental health.

The BA (Hons) programme provides the continued opportunity for you to critically engage with the theoretical principles of working with and supporting young people, many of whom face diverse and complex issues. The acquisition of knowledge is again expected to be transferred to the work place. A continuation from your Foundation Degree in relation to reflection on your practice will enable you to make positive changes not only to your own professional development but also the development of the young people you work with. This will ultimately benefit the young people you work with along with the wider society. Completion of the BA (Hons) degree will enable you to confidently work within the sector in a managerial / supervisory capacity or enter the field of specialist youth work in a variety of settings e.g. education, therapeutic, criminal justice, mental health. Topics examined on this programme include the rights of young people, management of services and assessing risk and ensuring the protection of young people. The Dissertation module, which runs for the duration of this programme, offers you the opportunity to conduct a small-scale research project into a specific area of your choice. This provides you with the opportunity to change practice within the sector whilst enhancing your understanding of the complexities faced not only with research, but also the challenges faced by young people in today's society.

On the successful completion of your BA (Hons) degree possible routes of further academic progression can include post graduate study in areas such as social work, teaching and youth and community work.

Admission Criteria

The Curriculum Area offers a suite of related programmes which spans across the life cycle from birth to end of life. Early years courses focus on working with babies and young children in nursery and reception class. Teaching and Learning Support is offered specifically for those wanting to work in schools or undertake pastoral roles in educational and associated establishments, Family Support and Well-being is aimed at those who wish to work with families in need of multi-agency interventions and Health & Social Care courses are linked to those who wish to work in adult social care as a profession.

The Foundation Degree in Youth Studies entry requirements

A minimum of 48 UCAS points (previously 120) from a relevant Level 3 programme or A Levels is required. These will include:

Level 3 in Health and Social Care

Level 3 Diploma for Children and Young People's Workforce

Alternatively any other relevant Level 3 qualifications will be considered however acceptance of this will be dependent upon work experience within the young peoples' sector.

There is a mandatory requirement for all students to be employed (on a paid or voluntary basis) within the sector for the duration of the programme. The weekly minimum expected engagement with an external employer will be 6 hours per week over 32 weeks). A letter to confirm your placement / support from your employer is required at enrolment.

BA (Hons) Degree in Youth Studies

Students who have studied the Foundation Degree in Youth Studies at Blackpool and the Fylde College and have achieved the minimum of a pass will be considered for this top-up course. Students who have successfully completed the Working with Young People Foundation Degree within the last five years will also be considered if they have remained active within the youth work sector. Students will also be required to be employed (paid / voluntary) in the sector from the start of the course and thereafter for an average of 6 hours per week over the duration of the course. A letter of confirmation of this placement is required on enrolment.

Career Options and Progression Opportunities

On completion of the Foundation Degree students will be employable within generic frontline roles. Examples of such include:

- Residential childrens work
- Family support work
- Youth mentor
- Youth advocate
- Pastoral roles in schools or related youth services

Those students completing BA Hons level will have the ability and knowledge to:

- succeed at management levels
- work within educational pastoral support
- Family In Need Keyworker
- Youth Offending Workers
- Social Work Assistant (or access to Step Up to Social Work programme)
- Support roles within the Health Service (e.g. CAMHS)
- Learning Support Mentors
- have the confidence and entrepreneurial skills to consider establishing their own youth organisations and projects to meet the needs of local young people through successful bid writing opportunities

Successful completion of the BA Hons top up will also offer students further opportunities to consider and apply for Post Graduate study. Considering post graduate options at the current time from programmes within the Curriculum Area it is envisaged that successful BA Hons graduates may consider subject areas such as teaching and social work.

Programme Aims

Foundation Degree:

- an understanding of and the capacity to apply and integrate theoretical frameworks and key concepts relevant to effective practice in youth work.

- the ability to maintain professional boundaries in voluntary relationships and in informal contexts, including the use of information technology and social media
- the ability to be an effective reflective practitioner, demonstrating appropriate professional actions and behaviours
- critical reflection upon, and commitment to continuing their personal and professional development and evolving their own practice
- the capacity to engage and safeguard young people and community groups, build relationships and facilitate young people's personal, social and emotional development
- the ability to analyse policies and practices in light of a range of theoretical perspectives
- skill in evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of their work
- organisation and articulation of opinions and arguments in speech and writing, using relevant specialist vocabulary
- commitment to the improvement of their own learning and performance

BA Hons Degree:

- an informed and critical understanding of their professional role as educators in the lives of young people
- systematic analysis of relevant concepts, theories and issues of policy, and their use in informing evidence-based practice
- the ability to make informed judgments on complex ethical and professional issues within the field of youth work and to act appropriately in the light of relevant professional and ethical codes of practice
- a commitment to the learning cycle, both as an individual and as part of a wider organisation
- understanding and critical evaluation of research in the sector and the ability to undertake small-scale participatory research projects evidencing the ability to collect, analyse and interpret qualitative and quantitative data
- self-management skills, including the organisation of an efficient and effective work pattern and the ability to work to, and meet, deadlines
- the ability to use knowledge and understanding critically to locate and justify a personal position in relation to the subject

The educational aims of this programme are closely aligned to the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement (2017) relating to Youth and Community Work

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 5

Upon successful completion of this level, students will be able to:

1. Discuss a range of philosophical, historical, psychological, sociological and health perspectives and how these underpin the wider concept of child and adolescent development
2. Examine and apply multiple perspectives to youth issues, recognising that such studies involve a range of research methods, theories and evidence
3. Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches in relation to the construction of childhood and adolescence by different subjects, places, cultures and apply these in a work context
4. Promote collaborative working and evidence interpersonal skills and the capacity to plan, share goals and propose solutions in a practical context
5. Explore the depth and strength of relationships within ecological systems and the facilitation of building relationships with others.
6. Apply digital and academic literacies to plan and manage continued personal and professional development.

7. Examine and evaluate the significance of cultural, historical and contemporary features of various policies, institutions and agencies in regards to children and young people

Level 6

Upon successful completion of this level, students will be able to:

8. Critically examine leadership and management in the context of the youth sector and analyse the strategies required to lead, support and work collaboratively with others including parents, colleagues and other professionals
9. Use research and inquiry skills to critically investigate youth practices in order to analyse data and draw considered conclusions and recommendations
10. Produce critical arguments for improvements in multi-agency and multi-professional practices for children and young people with particular focus on current safeguarding legislations.
11. Critically examine societal inequalities and consider the impact on a range of culturally diverse backgrounds and where appropriate act as an advocate for children, young people and communities
12. Critically analyse the ethics of studying children and young people from a range of perspectives at a local, national and international level
13. Critically examine the interrelationships between political, economic, cultural and ideological contexts in the lives of young people and their families.
14. Promote ethical safeguarding practices that follow and adhere to current legislative guidance

Programme Structure

Pathway	Module	Level	Credits	Coursework	Practical	Written Exam
Stage 1						
All	B4SHACYOS: Introduction to Academic Study (Mandatory)	4	20	60%	40%	
	YOS401: Introduction to Social Policy and Welfare (Mandatory)	4	20	100%		
	YOS402: Child and Adolescent Development (Mandatory)	4	20	70%	30%	
	YOS403: Safeguarding (Mandatory)	4	20	60%	40%	
	YOS404: Working with Young People (Mandatory)	4	20	70%	30%	
	YOS405: Management and Leadership (Mandatory)	4	20	100%		
Stage 2						
All	BFC502-S: Work Based Research Project (Mandatory)	5	20	80%	20%	
	YOS501: Professional Development (Mandatory)	5	20	70%	30%	
	YOS502: Contemporary Issues in Youth Work (Mandatory)	5	20	100%		
	YOS503: Looked After Children (Mandatory)	5	20	100%		
	YOS504: Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Mandatory)	5	20	70%	30%	
	YOS505: Youth Justice (Mandatory)	5	20	60%		40%
Stage 3						
All	YOS601: Dissertation (Mandatory)	6	40	100%		
	YOS602: Global Perspectives on Youth Services (Mandatory)	6	20	100%		
	YOS603: Rights of Young People (Mandatory)	6	20	60%		40%
	YOS604: Management of Youth Services (Mandatory)	6	20	85%	15%	
	YOS605: Risk and Protection of Young People (Mandatory)	6	20	100%		

Course Options

There are no optional modules included within the Foundation Degree or the BA Hons Degree programme

Study Workload

You are required to attend the University Centre for one day per week when undertaking the full time Foundation Degree and BA (Hons) programme. For students enrolling on a part-time basis the requirement is for 4 hours per week (one evening). Further independent study is a necessity throughout the duration of the programme where you are expected to engage in additional reading, research and the completion of assessments for approximately 10 hour per week per module.

Programme Delivery: Learning and Teaching

The teaching methods used within this programme will include traditional lectures, seminars and practical workshops. Role plays are an essential and enjoyable aspect of the course being used to replicate common multi-agency meetings. This forges the links between theory and practice and gives you an insight into multi-agency working. A strong feature on the programme will be the use of alternative methods of teaching and learning, particularly the use of online options, audio recorded powerpoint presentations, hyper-linked learning resources, role play analysis and case study work. You will be expected to actively participate in a wide range of learning activities including: live and online projects, presentations and discussions. These are completed either on an individual or group basis.

Additional support is available to all students in the form of specific one-to-one support sessions offered by all module lecturers along with the provision of nine additional support sessions per week (term time only). Generic lecturer support is available throughout each workshop session along. Specific ongoing support can also be accessed by all students via the Partners for Success Teams within college. Students will be actively encouraged to engage with Higher Education Learning Mentors (HELMS) in order to develop and enhance academic writing skills whilst Learning Resource Centre staff (LRC) can support students develop research skills which are essential for successful study throughout Level 4 to 6. Both HELMS and LRC staff will regularly attend Progress Meetings where additional academic skills will be developed in a collaborative student-led manner.

Programme Delivery: Assessment

Assessment will include a variety of formal and informal, summative and formative methods. Assessments will:

1. Reflect and support the programme aims and learning outcomes
2. Reflect on the application of national initiatives; offer the opportunity to reflect upon experiences in the workplace and practice
3. Provide constructive, informative and developmental feedback to you
4. Contribute to the grading of coursework, module and final award

You will be assessed in a variety of ways on the programme. Written essays will provide evidence of your knowledge and academic report writing skills and will enable you to hone the skills needed within the workplace; particularly in a care setting where emphasis is placed on your ability to record information fully and relay it thoroughly to others to serve client needs. Presentations are used as an assessment method on this programme and provide you with the opportunity to research a topic and then deliver a small scale presentation to your peers supported by a seminar paper/ report. In this way, oral communication skills are assessed and these presentations enable you through sustained practice to build your confidence when delivering to wider audiences such as managers, local authority personnel and to develop your interview skills.

Research project work in the Work Place Learning module on the Foundation Degree will help you to develop key research skills required for advancement on to the Level 6 (BA (Hons) Top Up year where you will produce a dissertation for assessment. .

We promote the use of online assessment and you will participate in a number of live online debates, quizzes and a 'pieces to camera' for assessment. As you progress through the programme you will gain the confidence and skills to verbally articulate your knowledge and understanding verbally to your tutor and peers providing you with necessary technology skills which are now required in every work place.

Reflective logs and diaries will enable you to set goals, review achievement and plan future goals and these will be monitored throughout your course and will count toward assessment at level 4 and level 5. Seminars may be recorded to enable you to learn from your peers and to reflect on sessions more fully through on line deliberation and debate on the Moodle platform. Case study work is integral in this field of study providing an opportunity to focus on real life situations. This method encourages a dedicated focus on specific scenarios and complex cases to support you in identifying the most appropriate interventions in a safe learning environment.

All your assessments on this programme will receive detailed tutor written and verbal feedback, enabling you to act on developmental advice and maximise your opportunity to obtain a good degree classification

Programme Delivery: Work Based and Placement Learning

The programme at both Foundation and BA (Hons) Top Up has a mandatory work based element that can be completed through employment or by identifying a voluntary placement in an appropriate setting where there is direct engagement with young people. Work-based learning enables you to take on appropriate roles within the workplace, giving you the opportunity to learn and apply the skills and knowledge that you have acquired from your academic studies.

Work / voluntary placements are an essential component of the programme due to the requirement of the completion of a Work-Based Learning Project where you are required to make a small change to practice and evaluate its impact on both practitioners, the service itself and the service users. Without an appropriate placement completion of this project is not possible. This module is also completed in the second year of the Foundation Degree, giving you the opportunity to have established a role for yourself and also to understand this role and where it fits with the organisation you work or volunteer for.

In order to benefit from placements it is essential that a minimum of 6 hours in placement per week is undertaken. This allows the opportunity for you to consider and apply academic theoretical perspectives to your practice and evaluate their effectiveness. Placements must therefore involve direct work with young people e.g. supporting young carers, working within educational settings, extra-curricular settings (Scouts, Girl Guides, football clubs, Cadets) and other charitable and voluntary organisations. Formal confirmation of your placement is required and an agreement that the college will liaison and engage with your supporting organisation is required.

Programme Delivery: Graduate Skill Development

On completion of both the Foundation Degree and BA (Hons) Degree programmes you should be expected to show evidence of knowledge and understanding of professional values and ethics, the principles and approaches of Youth Work, of communities and organisations and of learning and social theory which informs practice as well as demonstrating an ability to reflect on and justify action within practice.

In-line with B&FC Employability Strategy (2016-2020) the Youth Studies programme will ensure:

1. That staff encourage students to develop a commitment to learning and an active interest in the development of their careers.
2. You work collaboratively both within the college environment and on placement to enhance and develop leadership skills
3. Personal and intellectual autonomy is developed and facilitated through the provision of a range of independent research tasks, progressing from Level 4 to 6.
4. Your understanding relating to ethical, social and professional issues will be developed via a range of modules being offered which will challenge you to consider social justice and equality especially relating to your own professional practice. You will also consider ethical practice in relation to academic research via specific modules e.g. work-based learning (Level 5) and Dissertation (Level 6)
5. You will develop professional communication skills with the use of a variety of assessment methods being incorporated across the programme (e.g. presentations, written reports and essays, leading seminars). Research and digital literacy skills are introduced to students at Level 4 with the development of both research and IT skills being expected and encouraged as students progress through the programme
6. A number of modules within this programme ensures that you research and analyse issues which are globally recognised whilst being able to analyse such issues in relation to the context they are experienced in.
7. You actively research throughout the duration of the programme which supports the development of their own scholarship. Academic enquiry should inform practice with students using their enquiring minds both within an academic environment and their workplace
8. You are encouraged to develop your entrepreneurial awareness and abilities in order to meet the needs of young people in the community whose needs are not being met by current service provisions. This is an essential employability skill especially in light of the austerity of the times.

Study Costs: Equipment Requirements

No special equipment required as a full range of IT is available within the Learning Resource Centre for enrolled students.

Study Costs: Additional Costs

A DBS is mandatory for the placement element of this programme. The College is not responsible for paying for this so the cost may need to be covered by yourself or your placement organisation.

Related Courses

In the School of Society, Health and Childhood the range of higher education programmes available including:

Foundation Degree:

Health & Social Care

Teaching and Learning Support

Family Support and Wellbeing

Early Years

BA (Hons) Top Up:

Health & Social Care

Teaching and Learning Support

Family Support and Wellbeing

Early Years