

Induction 2025 Arrival Guide

Early Childhood Care, Health and Education

Department of Early Education & Social Studies

Programmes:

- Higher Cert in Early Childhood Care, Health and Education
- BSc in Applied Approaches to Childhood Autism
- BSc in Inclusive Practice for Special Needs Assistance
- BSc in Health and Social Studies (Monaghan Institute)
- BSc Hons in Health and Social Studies (Monaghan Institute)
- BSc Hons in Early Childhood Care, Health and Education
- BSc Hons in Health and Social Care
- BSc Hons in Inclusive Practice
- HDip in Leadership and Wellbeing in the Workplace
- HDip in Counselling Studies
- Certificate in Community Development Practice (Level 6)
- Certificate in Building SAFER Communities (Level 7)

Department of Early Education & Social Studies:

- Head of Department of Early Education and Social Studies:
Dr Nigel McKelvey
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Faculty Management Suite Room 2461
- Dept of Early Education and Social Studies
Practice Placement Co-Ordinator: Ms Sarah Bonar
Email: EESS.Donegal@atu.ie
Tel: 0749186309
Faculty Administration Office Room 2469

Welcome!

We are delighted you have chosen to study in the Department of Early Education and Social Studies. Our Induction Programme is designed to introduce you to ATU Donegal, academic and support staff and your fellow students. It is essential you attend the activities timetabled here to ensure you don't miss out on any important information that will make life and learning easier at ATU Donegal. Welcome to Atlantic Technological University Donegal – the future is here!

Department of Early Education & Social Studies

Congratulations on accepting a place on your chosen programme in the Department of Early Education & Social Studies at ATU Donegal. The Department is a vibrant and dynamic department and currently has approximately 600 undergraduate and postgraduate students studying at Level 6, Level 7, Level 8 and Level 9.

Dr Nigel McKelvey, Head of Department of Early Education & Social Studies, together with all Department Staff welcome you to the Department of Early Education and Social Studies and wish you every success in your studies.

Induction - Wednesday 10th September 2025

Induction for all full-time undergraduate courses in the Department of Early Education and Social Studies will take place on campus on Wednesday 10th September 2025. Please check the ATU Donegal website for details of the registration time for your programme. You can begin the Registration process with Online Registration before you visit the campus. Students registered for online or blended delivery programmes can expect to receive an invitation to your online induction over the coming days.

Garda Vetting may be required for your programme and where applicable, you must engage with the Garda Vetting Liaison Officer regarding additional requirements as your registration may not be complete until you have submitted all relevant documentation.

Online Pre-Induction

Information regarding your on-campus induction can be found here:

[Donegal Induction - Atlantic Technological University](#)

Please access Pre-Induction information via the following link:

<https://www.atu.ie/student-life/induction/online-and-flexible-induction/atu-donegal-flexible-induction/atu-donegal-flexible-pre-induction>

You will find information on programme registration, fees and payments, student supports and learn more about the technologies used in online learning and the virtual learning environment (VLE). You will also learn about the supports and resources available to online learners at ATU and how to prepare for taking up or returning to study.

Information on how to register for your programme can be found here: [Registration - Atlantic Technological University](#)

Once you have registered for your programme of study you will be able to access the ATU Student Hub, where you will find information that you need for student supports and services available at ATU: [ATU Student Hub](#)

All communication with students from the Department will be via your **ATU Student Email only**, please set up your student email account as soon as possible.

Department Induction

Our programme co-ordinators and programme teams will meet you at Induction to share essential information about your course syllabus, assessment types, professional practice placement and regulatory information, off-campus educational trips, class groups and your timetable to help you prepare for the first day of class. You will receive information about The Curve, Learning Support Centre, Computer Services and the Library. See below table for induction information session times and locations.

Department Administration Support

Monday-Friday 10.30am-12.00pm and 2pm-3.30pm.

The Department of Early Education & Social Studies office is located at room 2469, on the first floor. To access the office from the main reception desk; proceed up the main staircase and turn right, follow the corridor passing the stairs and take the next right, room 2469 is on the right-hand side.

Support services available to students include:

- Communicating to students regularly via ATU Student email regarding timetables, class groups, class activities, attendance requirements etc.
- Scheduling appointments for students to meet with the Head of Department if required.
- Provision of guidance with regards to timetables/student groups etc.
- Providing the College stamp/logo on required documents such as medical card applications, social welfare applications etc.

You must present your ATU student ID card if you require any of our services. Please note that there is a 5-day timeframe for documents to be issued and this may increase at peak times. You are advised to request any necessary documentation in a timely manner to allow us to support your request. Administrative support can only be provided directly to registered students and cannot be provided to third parties (parents/guardians). Should you require support or guidance with any issue or query, you are welcome to contact the office in person at Room 2469 or by email to EESS.Donegal@atu.ie and we will direct you to the relevant supports.

Programme Induction Sessions Wednesday 10th September 2025

PROGRAMMES	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	EVENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Early Childhood Care, Health and Education • Higher Certificate in Science in Early Childhood Care, Health, and Education 	Wednesday 10 th September	Room 1452	10.00-13.00	<p>Head of Department presentation: information on minimum attendance requirements, Fitness to Practice,</p> <p>Programme Co-ordinators and Year Tutors</p> <p>Programme Teams, Garda Vetting Officer, Academic Expectations, Policies and Procedures.</p> <p>Professional Accreditation & Regulatory Information.</p> <p>Peer Mentoring/Social & Civic Engagement/Student Led Initiatives.</p>

BSc Hons Early Childhood Care Health & Education AU390
Level 8 QQI Framework
Higher Certificate Early Childhood Care Health & Education AU190
Level 6 QQI Framework

The Department Early Education and Social Studies is a vibrant, dynamic department with approx. 600 students at ATU Donegal. It is equipped with up-to-date equipment and state-of-the-art laboratories.

As part of your programme of study you will take both theory and practical classes. Practical classes are an essential part of your programme as they put into practice much of the theory you have been taught in class. Employers expect and require graduates to have up-to-date practical skills. The Department places great emphasis on this aspect of our programmes and students are required to attend and participate in all scheduled classes/practical classes and labs in addition to undertaking independent learning. This is a full-time programme with classes taking place Monday to Friday from 09.30 to 17.30. Students on the Early Education programmes may be required to wear an ATU branded polo-shirt/ hoodie for some engagements. These are provided by the Department and the costs are covered by the additional course costs. (Please refer to the Quick Guide Information for further details.)

Early Childhood Care, Health and Education students are required to be Garda Vetted and must also complete mandatory training. People Moving & Handling training is provided by the Department and is scheduled for all Year 1 students in Semester 2 following completion of the summer examination process. Garda Vetting is mandatory, and you are required to provide all necessary documents, including proof of ID and proof of address to the Garda Vetting Liaison Officer. Further information regarding Garda Vetting will be provided to you in due course.

Professional practice placement is an integral part of your programme of study. 100% attendance is required on professional practice placement, which takes place in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 of your programme. Our programme team will support your preparation for placement. Students are not permitted to arrange their own placement and all allocations are organised by the Practice Placement Co-Ordinator in consultation with the relevant Department of Early Education and Social Studies practice placement governance teams. Further information regarding professional practice placement will be provided in due course.

Once again congratulations on securing your place in the Department of Early Education and Social Studies. Induction for **Early Childhood Care, Health & Education Students** takes place on **Wednesday 10th September** and class starts on Monday 15th September.

You will receive information about your Class Group and Timetable at Induction. I look forward to meeting you then.



Dr Nigel Mc Kelvey
Head of Department of Early Education and Social Studies



Quick Guide Information for Early Childhood Care, Health & Education Students

Online Registration

- Information on how to register for your programme can be found here: [Registration - Atlantic Technological University](#)

Once you have registered for your programme of study you will be able to access the ATU Student Hub, where you will find information that you need for student supports and services available at ATU: [ATU Student Hub](#)

Virtual Learning Environment/ Blackboard

- Student Guidance and support for using Blackboard, our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) is available on the Student Guidance and Support module, in Blackboard. Once you have completed your student registration you will be able to access this module here: https://lyitbb.blackboard.com/ultra/courses/_46489_1/cl/outline

Placement Information

- Students must complete placement as follows:

Year of Programme	Weeks	Hours
Year 2	12	300
Year 3	12	300
Year 4	6	150
Totals	30	750

- In addition to completing the hours noted above students are required to complete the placement matrix – undertaking professional practice placement across a range of early years settings.
- Mandatory training includes People Moving and Handling and Basic First Aid Training.
- Student e-portfolios are used to manage timesheets, competencies, etc.
- Further information will be provided at Year 1 Induction

Special Purpose Awards

- Information regarding Special Purpose Awards for Peer Mentoring, Social and Civic Engagement and Student Led Initiatives will be available to you at Induction.



Additional Costs*

Purpose	Cost	
Course Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc Hons Early Childhood Care, Health and Education €100 (tbc) –student contribution towards Mandatory Training, branded jacket/hoodie, transport (buses). Higher Certificate Early Childhood Care, Health and Education €75 (tbc) –student contribution towards Mandatory Training, branded jacket/hoodie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid through ATU Student Banner

*Please note additional costs are not covered by the SUSI grant and students are required to arrange payment through their ATU Student Banner.

Department of Early Education and Social Studies Contacts

Early Education and Social Studies	Role	Email	Location
Dr Nigel Mc Kelvey	Head of Department	Nigel.McKelvey@atu.ie	Room 2461
Ms Veronica McTaggart	Programme Co-Ordinator Early Childhood Care, Health and Education	Veronica.mctaggart@atu.ie	Room 2262
Ms Sarah Bonar	Practice Placement Co-Ordinator	Sarah.Bonar@atu.ie 0749186309	Room 2469
Ms Orla McHugh	Technician	Orla.McHugh@atu.ie 0749186231	Room 2469
Ms Karen Doherty	Faculty Administrator	Karen.Doherty@atu.ie 0749186310	Room 2458
Ms Aisling Erskine	Garda Vetting Liaison Officer	Aisling.Erksine@atu.ie Extn 6305/6637	Room 3401



Oifig na Gaeilge – Welcome to Your Irish Language Hub!

Fáilte go hOllscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh – Welcome to ATU!

Whether you're a fluent Gaeilgeoir or just starting your journey with the Irish language, **Oifig na Gaeilge** is here to support and encourage your use of Irish during your time at ATU!

Cad é Oifig na Gaeilge - What is Oifig na Gaeilge?

Oifig na Gaeilge is ATU's dedicated Irish language office.

We work to promote Irish on campus, create opportunities for students and staff to use the language socially and professionally, and organise fun and inclusive events throughout the year across all campuses.

What We Offer:

- Imeachtaí agus ceardlanna Gaeilge / Irish language events and workshops
- Ciorcail chomhrá / Conversation circles for all levels
- Ranganna Gaeilge / Help accessing Irish language classes
- Treoir agus Tacaíocht / Guidance and support for all things Gaeilge

Bí ar an Eolas - Stay in the Loop: Keep up to date with all our Irish language activities by checking the ATU website, your student email, and our social media channels. Events range from coffee mornings to yoga classes, guest speakers to Irish music sessions – there's something for everyone!

Bí páirteach – Get involved!

Tá Oifig na Gaeilge anseo chun cabhrú leat an Ghaeilge a úsáid agus taitneamh a bhaint aisti i dtimpeallacht chairdiúil agus fáiltiúil.

Irish belongs to everyone – no matter your background. Oifig na Gaeilge is here to help you enjoy it in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Déan Teagmháil linn / How to Get In Touch:

 **Email:** gaeilge@atu.ie



Early Childhood Care Health and Education Programme Team

Lecturer	Email
Ms Veronica Mc Taggart Programme Co-Ordinator Academic Placement Lead Year 4	Veronica.McTaggart@atu.ie
Ms Daríona Mc Clafferty Academic Placement Lead Year 2 and Year 3	Dariona.McClafferty@atu.ie
Ms Patsy Callaghan	Patsy.Callaghan@atu.ie
Dr Karen Patton	Karen.Patton@atu.ie
Dr Richard D'Souza	Richard.DSouza@atu.ie
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Dr Trish McLaughlin	Trish.McLaughlin@atu.ie
Ms Louise Toner	Louise.Toner@atu.ie
Ms Rachel Kearney	Rachel.Kearney@atu.ie
Ms Carol Beatty	Carol.Beatty@atu.ie



Useful Contact Numbers

Department	Extension	Email	Location
Admissions	0749186125/ 6129/6127	Admissions.Donegal@atu.ie	Reception, Main Building
Exams Office	0749186124/ 6126/6128	Exams.Donegal@atu.ie	Reception, Main Building
Computer Services	0749186050	Ithelpdesk.Donegal@atu.ie	Main Building
Student Health Centre	0749186855	Health.Donegal@atu.ie	An Dánlann
Sports Centre	0749186800	sportscentre.donegal@atu.ie	An Dánlann
The Curve, Learning Support Centre	0749186175	thecurve.donegal@atu.ie	Third Floor, Main Building
Library	0749186150	librarymail.donegal@atu.ie	Main Building
Careers Service	0749186812	Careers.Donegal@atu.ie	An Dánlann
Reprographics (Printing)	0749186599	Reprographics.Donegal@atu.ie	Room 1148, Main Building
Students Union	0749186820	atusudonegal.ie	An Dánlann
Flexible and Online Learning Unit		Flexibleonline.donegal@atu.ie	Co-Lab
Department of Early Education & Social Studies	0749186309	eess.Donegal@atu.ie	Room 2469 Main Building
Garda Vetting Liaison	074918637	Aisling.Erskine@atu.ie	Room 3401 Main Building
Practice Placement Co-Ordinator	0749186309	Sarah.Bonar@atu.ie	Room 2469 Main Building

1st Year Student Registration Checklist

Registration Process	Students	Complete	Follow -Up Required
Online Registration	All Students		
Review All Policies	All Students		
Computer Services Induction	All Students		
ATU Donegal Student Card	All Students		
ATU Student Number	All Students		
ATU Student Email	All Students		
Access ATU Blackboard (Virtual Learning Environment)	All Students		
Admissions/Fees – Fee Payment plan	All Students		
Garda Vetting Required to complete registration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographic ID • Proof of address • Contact Garda Vetting Liaison Officer 	All Students		
Induction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet Programme Team • Timetable/Class Group • Day 1 (find out what you need for the first day of class) 	All Students		
Mandatory Training Further information at Induction	All Students		
Materials Fees extra costs for your course check ATU Student Account	All Students		
Professional Practice Placement	Year 2 Year 3 Year 4		