

Early Childhood Education Diploma

Work and Learn Offering: Supporting recruitment in hard-to-recruit communities



Start date: November 2026

Typical length: 22-24 months

Credential: Diploma

Location: eCampus (online asynchronous)

Learn while you work:

The Work and Learn Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program allows individuals to earn an ECE diploma through NSCC while working in a licensed child care centre or pre-primary program in designated Nova Scotia counties, supporting educator recruitment in these hard-to-recruit communities.

Program Overview:

The Work and Learn ECE program will provide students entering the sector with the knowledge and skills necessary to work in a variety of early childhood settings. Work experience requirements can be completed in your workplace.

The **online program**, allows you to work and learn simultaneously. Each course follows a set start and end date, with assignment due dates provided by your instructor. This program is asynchronous online, meaning there are no set class times. You can learn and engage with the course material when it works best for you. There will be opportunities to engage with your instructor and classmates in weekly discussions online.

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

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.

Funding:

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

Admission and Program Requirements:

- High School Graduation Diploma or equivalent.
- Be a Nova Scotia resident who is recently employed (12 months or less), has a job offer/ guaranteed employment in a licensed child care centre or pre-primary program in one of the following counties: Northern (Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough); South Shore (Lunenburg, Queens); Western Cape Breton (Inverness, Victoria & Richmond)
- Be able to work **15 hours per week** in a licensed child care centre or pre-primary.
- Be a **Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada**. Students with a high school diploma from outside of Canada may be required to provide English Language proficiency documentation. Requirements vary by country. [View document and language requirements here.](#)

Scan QR code or
[click here](#) to
access the pre-
screening form to
check your
eligibility.



Questions? Contact us:

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