**Frequently asked questions and answers for those wishing to apply for the Foundation Degree in Healthcare Play Specialism:**

1.

**Q**. Is it possible to do this course through distance learning?

**A.** No. The course requires a minimum of taught tuition hours **and** practical placement hours in order to achieve the academic credits allocated to year one and year two of the programme

2.

**Q.** I do not have a level 3 qualification in childcare but have studied at a higher level in a related area. Am I still eligible to apply for this course?

**A.**Your application will be considered on an individual basis by the programme leader in order to assess your experience of working with children and families.

3.

**Q.** Is a play therapist the same as a health play specialist?

**A.** No, it is a different profession. The health play specialist role involves working as part of a multi professional team in a healthcare setting, rather than based on individual therapy practice.

4.

**Q.** How do I apply for the course and what is involved?

**A.** The process of applying for the course can be done anytime under “University Level Courses” on the Nescot website. <https://www.nescot.ac.uk/higher-education/early-years/courses/healthcare-play-specialism-foundation-degree-n4655/> Successful applicants will be invited to attend an interview at Nescot. Interviews take place between January and July unless the course is full sooner.

5.

**Q**. When does the course begin, what day will it be on and what time does it start and end?

**A.** The course begins around the second week of September. At interview, applicants will be informed of the start date and the day of attendance. Classes run from 10.00 - 4.00 with additional time available for individual tutorials at the beginning and end of the day, if required.

6.

**Q.** What day do I need to attend the placement and for how long?

**A.** Placement days will be mutually arranged between the student and the mentor. Attending one day a week is the usual practice but again, this is a mutually agreed arrangement. All students must complete 200 hours of placement in year one **and** in year two

7.**Q.** Where is the placement located and do I need to make my own arrangement before I apply for the course?

**A.** If you are **not** already employed in a healthcare setting with a registered health play specialist who is able to act as your mentor, you will need to make your own initial enquiries. To do this, phone a hospital which is commutable to you and ask to speak to a health play specialist on the paediatric ward. You will be informed if they are able to take a student. If possible, it is preferable to do this before you apply for the course.

8.

**Q**. I already have a qualification higher or at the same level as a foundation degree. Is it possible to do the course in a shorter time?

**A.** No. This is because the specific focus of the programme is understanding how the study of therapeutic play in a healthcare setting can support the treatment and experience of the child/ young person and family. This requires all the designated modules and placement hours to be completed in full.

9.

**Q.** Is funding available to help cover the course fees?

**A.** If you have not already accessed a Government Student Loan then you may be eligible to apply for funding to cover your tuition fees. You could also apply to your bank for a Career Loan

10.

**Q**. I will be self-funding the course, can I pay in instalments?

**A.** Yes, however half the fees are payable at enrolment, followed by two other installments.