

## 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, young people 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 registered 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.

11. **Q.** My hospital would like me to train as part of the apprenticeship programme; what is involved in the training and how do I apply?

**A.** Applicants can apply on-line following the link.

[https://www.nescot.ac.uk/higher-education/early-years/courses/healthcare\\_play\\_specialist\\_level\\_5\\_apprenticeship\\_N8811/](https://www.nescot.ac.uk/higher-education/early-years/courses/healthcare_play_specialist_level_5_apprenticeship_N8811/)

If you are employed in a related field within an NHS Trust, your hospital may wish you to attend the programme as an apprentice. You will attend one day a week at Nescot where academic studies will inform the summative assessment for each module. Your professional practice will be assessed in the workplace by a registered health play specialist. In addition, at the **end** of year two, apprentices will undertake an End Point Assessment which involves an observation of practice, a professional discussion and a multiple-choice test.