

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### FAQs

#### HNC EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE GRADED UNIT

##### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADED UNIT?

The graded unit is a project in the form of an investigation, which is used to assess the **application of knowledge and skills** gained during your HNC. It should take you around 40 hours to complete.

##### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADED UNIT?

The purpose of the Graded Unit is to

- Assess your ability to retain and integrate the knowledge and skills you have gained by studying the mandatory units of the HNC Early Education and Childcare
- Grade your achievement of the above at A B or C
- Assess whether you have met the principal aims of the HNC Early Education and Childcare

##### WHAT ARE THE MANDATORY UNITS?

They are

- Working in an Early Education and Childcare Setting
- Children and Young People's Rights: Provision, Protection and Participation
- Theoretical Approaches to Development and Learning
- Curriculum and Assessment in an Early Education and Childcare Setting OR
- Facilitating Playwork Opportunities

## WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL AIMS OF THE HNC EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE SPECIFIED IN THE GRADED UNIT?

They are

- To enable candidates to demonstrate an understanding of the values and principles which underpin work in early education and childcare settings
- To enable candidates to integrate knowledge, theory and practice effectively in a variety of early education and childcare settings
- To enable candidates to have a service user and childcare worker focus in their practice
- To prepare for or develop in employment
- To assist candidates to practice in an anti-discriminatory way
- To enable candidates to critically evaluate their practice and to be reflective practitioners
- To enable candidates to develop a working knowledge of current legislation, policy and practice methods
- To facilitate progression to higher education

## WHO MARKS IT?

The Graded Unit will be assessed by your course tutors and marked out of 100. There are marks allocated to each part of the project and you will know how many marks are allocated to each stage. You will also be given a completion date to hand in your project.

## WHAT ARE THE GRADES?

Your project will be marked out of 100 and graded as follows

- A = 70-100%
- B= 60-69%
- C = 50-59%

## WHAT HAPPENS IF FAIL?

If you fail the project you cannot achieve your HNC (you need to pass each **stage** of the project) You can request to be assessed for the unit again, however, this **must** be done using a *substantially different* project, ie all stages are undertaken using a new project. In this case, your grade will be based on the achievement in the **reassessment, if this results in a higher grade.**

If you are unhappy with the assessment decision you should use your Centre's Appeals Process.

## **WILL I BE ABLE TO REMEDIATE?**

Yes. Remediation is possible within the project. However, as the Graded Unit is intended to be a piece of work which demonstrates your ability to work autonomously with minimal support, remediation will be reflected in the grade you are given. Once the centre marks the project you will be notified of your grade. All group award Graded Units will be subject to external moderation by SQA and this means that SQA moderators will sample candidates' projects from all centres to ensure that national standards are being maintained.

## **WILL I BE GIVEN ANY HELP BEFORE I START?**

Yes. You will be given instructions on how to complete the project in plenty of time. Your tutor will answer any questions you may have to provide clarification and guidance. You must ensure that you ask all the questions you need to, so that you are quite clear about what it is you have to do.

## **WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?**

The project is in the form of an investigation, which requires you to examine an area of early education and childcare, which is relevant to your area of practice. You are asked to select either a topic which can be implemented in practice or one which will have practice implications. The project is in three stages; planning, developing and evaluating. The planning stage is assessed by a short planning document and discussion with your tutor.

You are required to produce

- An action plan
- An investigative report
- An evaluation

The project should be around 3300-4500 words in total

## **WHAT KIND OF TOPICS WOULD BE SUITABLE?**

Projects can be based on a particular aspect from the list of broad headings provided in the Unit Specification or you can agree a suitable topic with your Tutor.

There are **suggested** topics in the Unit Specification for

- Playwork
- Primary School
- Nursery

## **WILL I BE GIVEN ANY HELP ONCE I HAVE STARTED?**

The role of your tutor is as a facilitator and you should work independently on your project. Your tutor will ask you questions at various stages to check your knowledge and understanding of the project. In order to gain high marks, you must show that you have been able to work on your own to plan and carry out the investigation. If you need a lot of extra help with the project then your marks will reflect this

## **CAN I GET EXTRA TIME IF I NEED IT?**

No. Not unless there are exceptional circumstances. The setting of deadlines in project-based Graded Units is imposed to ensure fairness so that all candidates are given the same time to complete either the entire project or phases within the project. Your Centre should take into consideration any exceptional personal circumstances in line with their centre's own policy and SQA's guidance on special assessment arrangements if necessary. If you don't submit your project on time your grading will be affected as stated in the Unit Specification.

July 2007