

## **IMEC** **International Master in Early Childhood Education and Care**

**Duration:** 2 years

**Course description:**

The objective of International Master in Early Childhood Education and Care (“IMEC”) is to establish a competitive European Master Programme to be able to attract students from Third Countries who are now taking this kind of specialisation elsewhere. Its forerunner, EMEC - European Master Programme in Early Childhood Education and Care (developed 2005-2008), is one of the few existing Master programmes in this field in Europe.

This study programme is a two-year full-time Master programme (120 ECTS credits) in early childhood education and care, “IMEC”, offered by a consortium of 3 partner universities in Norway, Ireland and Malta. Co-ordinating institution is Høgskolen i Oslo / Oslo University College (HiO). From 2011 the consortium will be expanded to 4 partners, with University of Gothenburg (Sweden) as the fourth partner.

The programme includes 8 modules and one thesis organised as follows:

- 1st year of study, 1st semester, in Norway:
  - Play and Learning (10 ECTS credits)
  - Aesthetics of Children’s Culture (10 ECTS credits)
  - The Evolution of Early Childhood Research Practices and Policies (10 ECTS credits)
- 1st year of study, 2nd semester, in Ireland:
  - Research Methodologies (10 ECTS credits)
  - Childhood and Children in Contemporary Europe (10 ECTS credits)
  - Addressing Diversity (10 ECTS credits)
- 2nd year of study, 3rd semester, in Malta:
  - Professional Reflection (10 ECTS credits)
  - Questioning Curriculum and Critical Issues (10 ECTS credits)
  - Thesis (to be continued in 4th semester)
- 2nd year of study, 4th semester, in any of the 3 partner countries:
  - Thesis (40 ECTS credits)

IMEC is delivered on campus. The 3 first semesters will have an introductory week at the new university. Online learning materials and videoconference seminars will support traditional teaching methods such as lectures and supervision. An LMS (Learning Management System) will support on-campus learning.

On successful completion, students will be awarded a joint Master degree (120 ECTS credits) recognised by all 3 partners: HiO, Università ta’Malta and Dublin Institute of Technology. Teaching language is mainly English. Norwegian, Maltese and Irish language courses will be offered. IMEC will receive 17 students, whereof 10 from third countries and 7 from EU/EEA countries.

Admission criteria:

- Bachelor degree or equivalent in or with significant relevance to early childhood education;
- Sufficient command of written and oral English;
- Computer knowledge and skills.

**Website:** [www.hioa.no/imec](http://www.hioa.no/imec)

**Partners:**

OSLO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Norway (Co-ordinating institution)  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, Malta  
DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY , Ireland

**Contact:**

Kjersti Winger  
IMEC Administrative Coordinator  
Faculty of Education and International Studies  
Oslo University College

Postbox 4 St. Olavs plass  
N-0130 Oslo  
Norway

telephone: +47 22 45 20 95  
email: [imec@hioa.no](mailto:imec@hioa.no)

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