The BA (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice) is for students who know that their future career lies either in practice with children, youth and families or in implementing and shaping public policy. The programme provides students with the relevant theory and practical skills to find employment in the sector. The core strengths of this programme include: a nine-month work placement in year three; small group teaching delivered in the Institute for Lifecourse and Society, the University’s flagship Institute for applied social science research that informs policy and practice; and teaching that is led by professionals working in practice and staff from the internationally recognised UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre (www.nuigalway.ie/childfamilyresearch).

http://www.nuigalway.ie/youthandfamilystudies/

What our students say...

“I am so glad that I had the opportunity to do this degree, I remember on the first day we spoke about critical thinking and these past few years have definitely taught me a lot about removing those blinkers! It was a very interesting, challenging informative and enjoyable course.”

Aisling O’Hara, BA (2017 Graduate)
BA (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice)

COURSE OUTLINE
This course is delivered through a series of modules centred around child, youth and family studies. These modules introduce students to the disciplines of political science, sociology, public and social policy, economics, psychology, the creative arts, information technology and law.

Modules delivered include:
- Understanding family and society
- Introduction to politics and sociology
- Developmental psychology
- Economics of family policy
- Communities in focus
- Youth work principles and practice
- Youth development
- Development work through the outdoors
- Promoting mental health and well-being in families
- Human rights, multi-culturalism and equality
- Child protection and welfare
- Family law

Many of the modules have a strong focus on personal and professional skills development, equipping students with both research and practice related skills necessary to work in the sector. A complete list of the modules delivered over the course of the programme is available at: www.nuigalway.ie/youthandfamilystudies/#course_outline

WORK PLACEMENT
Providing students with opportunities to apply their skills and knowledge in practice situations with children, youth and families is a core part of this programme. In years one and two students can participate in ALIVE, NUI Galway’s certified student volunteering programme, which operates both in the University and in the broader community www.cki.nuigalway.ie/alive. During year three of the programme, students will be placed in a structured, supervised and challenging work placement over a nine-month period, where they can further hone their skills and identify their specific career path.

EMPLOYMENT AND FURTHER STUDY
Upon graduation, students will have the necessary knowledge and skill-set to apply directly for positions in the community, non-profit and government sector. This includes positions in youth work with organisations such as Foróige and Youth Work Ireland, with whom the programme has strong links, positions in family support practice, community development and public administration.

Graduates of this degree will be eligible to apply for a range of postgraduate courses on offer at NUI Galway. These include, for example, the MA (Social Work), MA (Family Support) and MA (Gender, Globalisation and Rights).

Other postgraduate courses available to graduates of this degree are listed at: www.nuigalway.ie/youthandfamilystudies

Did you know…
This is the only full-time undergraduate programme focused on policy and practice as it relates to children, youth and families currently offered in Ireland.

If you are interested in part-time study check out our sister programme, the BA in Community, Youth and Family Studies delivered over four years, part-time: www.nuigalway.ie/courses/adult-and-continuing-education-courses/community-youth-family-studies

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