



Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education

A short guide

2025-2026

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INTRODUCTION

Established in 1983, the *Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education (DECESE)* is dedicated to delivering high-quality education and training for prospective early childhood teachers and educational researchers. Our faculty members come from various disciplines and are engaged in teaching and conducting research on a wide range of scientific subjects related to education. We aim to foster a cohesive and inclusive identity in our students, empowering them as educators and researchers within the framework of the humanities and social sciences.

We invite students and educational researchers globally to join our community. Your unique contributions will significantly enrich the learning experience and research culture within our Department.

THE UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

The [University of Patras](#) was founded in 1964. It has since partnered with universities globally, participated in European educational and research programs, and encouraged collaboration with academics from different cultures.

The University of Patras is structured into several Schools, each comprising various Departments. The [School of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) encompasses the Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education, the Department of Education and Social Work, the Department of Philology, the Department of Philosophy, the Department of Theatre Studies, and the Department of History and Archeology. The university's leadership consists of the Rector, who is supported by the Rector's Council and Senate, and three Vice-Rectors overseeing Strategic Research, Planning and Development, Academic Affairs and Personnel, and Financial Planning and Development.

Committed to academic excellence and scientific progress, the University of Patras aims to provide high-quality teaching, research, and services to its citizens, Greece, and the international community, while also fostering strong relationships with industry and business.

THE DEPARTMENT

Since its establishment in 1983, the Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education has been committed to providing students with top-notch education, qualifications, and skills necessary to pursue careers as early childhood school teachers or to engage in educational research. To this end, the Department offers a variety of master's courses and research degrees in education. Our academic staff comprises experts with significant teaching and research experience across a range of disciplines. Upon graduation, students will receive a Degree from the Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education at the University of Patras. This degree carries the status of a Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) Certificate for Early Childhood Education, further demonstrating the high quality of education and training that our Department provides.

CONTACT

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- Website Administrator: Spyros Nikolaou
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- Official Website: www.ecedu.upatras.gr; for the English version see [here](#)

LOCATION

The Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education is housed in five separate buildings in the Northern side of the University Campus in Rio.

The classrooms we use are the following:

- A/E
- ATHE 5

- ATHE 6
- ATHE 7
- K21
- Lab of Pictorial Arts
- Events Room of the Department
- IT Lab
- Lab of Natural Sciences
- Seminar Room of the Division of Social Theory and Analysis
- Seminar Room of the Division of Cognitive and Differential Analysis
- Seminar Room of the Division of Theoretical and Applied Pedagogy

A detailed map of the Department's facilities is available [here](#). The Department is located in the University [Campus](#), 8 kilometres from Patras' city center. You can get to the University from downtown Patras by [bus](#) and/or [train](#); you can also get to the city of Patras from other Greek cities by [bus](#) and/or [train](#).

ADMINISTRATION & STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT

HEAD

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VICE-HEAD

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SECRETARY

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DIVISIONS

- DIVISION OF COGNITIVE AND DIFFERENTIAL ANALYSIS

HEAD: Maria Poulou, Professor

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- DIVISION OF SOCIAL THEORY AND ANALYSIS

HEAD: Dimitris Politis, Professor

dimpolitis@upatras.gr

- DIVISION OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED PEDAGOGY

HEAD: Maria Kampeza, Associate Professor

kampeza@upatras.gr

RESEARCH LABS

- [Laboratory of Science, Mathematics, and ICT Education Research](#)
- [Laboratory of Pedagogical Research and Lifelong Education](#)
- [Laboratory of Language and Literature](#)
- [Laboratory of Sociology and Education](#)

FACULTY & STAFF

The faculty of the Department is engaged in a wide range of educational research, such as Science Education, ICT, Pedagogy, Psychology, Sociology of Education, Educational Policy and Planning, Life-long Learning, Intercultural Education, Comparative Education, Sociolinguistics, Literature, Arts, Didactics of Rhythm and Movement, History of Education, Philosophy, Children's Rights, Educational Research Methods etc. See a list of Faculty and Staff members below; for more information, visit the Department's [website](#).

FACULTY

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	E-MAIL
Arvanitis	Eugenia	Professor	earvanitis@upatras.gr
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TEACHING STAFF

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ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The Department offers a comprehensive four-year (eight-semester) undergraduate program. The curriculum encompasses a broad spectrum of educational subjects, including Science Education, Mathematics Education, Statistics, Information and Communication Technology in Education, Biology Education, Pedagogy, Curriculum Development, Educational Research, Psychology, Cognitive Development, Sociology of Education, Educational Policy and Planning, Life-long Learning, Comparative Education, Sociolinguistics, Literature, Cultural Anthropology, Arts, Science Museums Education, Didactics of Rhythm and Movement, History of Education, Philosophy, Children's Rights, etc. The program includes both Compulsory and Elective courses. A detailed syllabus can be found in the table below. For updated information, see the Department's [website](#) and/or the Department's [eclass](#).

[School-Placement](#) is a mandatory component of the curriculum for all students, commencing in their second year of studies. From the third semester onward, students are required to attend public kindergartens in Patras. During these visits, they will engage in daily classroom activities and implement educational programs, all under the guidance of the School Placement teaching staff.

In their final year, students have the option to complete an individual [Undergraduate Thesis](#) under the guidance of a faculty member. With the supervisor's approval, two students may collaborate on a single thesis, provided each student's contribution is clearly defined. Upon completion, students must submit their manuscript and present it orally in a public defense. Both the manuscript and the presentation will be evaluated by two faculty members: the supervisor and a co-examiner.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES*

*Prior to registration, kindly confirm course availability and prerequisites with the administration office and the course instructor. Further curriculum details are available on the Department's [website](#) and/or [eclass](#).

1 ST YEAR	
1 ST SEMESTER	2 ND SEMESTER
COMPULSORY COURSES	COMPULSORY COURSES
Art in Education	Intercultural Pedagogy
Introduction to Educational Sciences	Introduction to Philosophy

Introduction to Information and Communication Technologies	Literature for Children I
-	Written Language in Early Childhood Education
ELECTIVE COURSES	ELECTIVE COURSES
Arts History I	Art Education in Early Childhood
Democracy and Citizenship**	Art History II**
Essential Topics in Human Biology	Cultural Anthropology and Education
History of Modern Greece	Developmental Psychology**
Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Sociology I
Music Education I	Introduction to Web Science
-	Music Education II
Foreign Language: English/French/German/Russian	Foreign Language: English/French/German/Russian
2 ND YEAR	
3 RD SEMESTER	4 TH SEMESTER
COMPULSORY COURSES	COMPULSORY COURSES
Early Childhood Education	Information and Communication Technology in Education
Educational Psychology I	Introduction to Special Needs Education
Human Rights	Mathematics Education for Early Childhood
Language Teaching in Multilingual Education	Scientific Literacy I
ELECTIVE COURSES	ELECTIVE COURSES
An Introduction to Mathematical Science**	Children's Rights
Introduction to Sociology II	Cognitive Development**
Philosophy of Education	Movement Play and Physical Literacy
Lifelong Learning and Education	Multiculturalism and Learning Designs
Literature for Children II	Planning Artistic Activities
Modern Applications of Information and Communication Technologies	Political Sociology
Teaching Fine Arts	Principles of Educational Policy
Theatrical Pedagogical Practices in Education	Essential Concepts of Ecology

-	Neo-Hellenic Literature
-	Topics of Bilingual Education
-	Structure and Development of Logico-Mathematical Thinking
3RD YEAR	
5TH SEMESTER	6TH SEMESTER
COMPULSORY COURSES	COMPULSORY COURSES
Physics Education for Early Childhood	Biology Education for Early Childhood
Sociology of Education	Modern Greek Educational System
Statistics I	Music in Preschool Education
Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Education: Planning Activities I	Planning and Applying Educational Activities in Kindergarten I
ELECTIVE COURSES	ELECTIVE COURSES
Cognition and Learning: Theories and Practical Implications	Anthropology and Education
Diversity and Education in Greek Diaspora	Conducting educational research: from theory to practice
Early Education Intervention: Models and Support Practices	Curriculum and Assessment in Early Childhood Education
Educational Activities in Early Childhood using ICT	Designing multilingual material in preschool education
Introduction to the Methodology of Educational Research	Didactics of Informatics and ICT
Management, Educational Planning and Control	Educational Psychology II
Museology of Natural Sciences	Emotional and Behavioral Problems in School
Music Activities for Kindergarten	Inclusive Pedagogy
Scientific Literacy II	Introduction to Epistemology
Specific Topics in Mathematics Education for Early Childhood**	Planning and Evaluation of Adult Education Programs
Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Settings	Science Education Activities for Kindergarten

-	Statistics II
-	Teaching practices of early literacy in kindergarten
4 TH YEAR	
7 TH SEMESTER	8 TH SEMESTER
COMPULSORY COURSES	COMPULSORY COURSES
Aesthetic Theories and Education	Comparative Education
Psychomotor and Physical Education in Early Childhood	Planning and applying educational activities in kindergarten II
Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Education: Planning activities II	-
ELECTIVE COURSES	ELECTIVE COURSES
Advanced Topics in Teaching Physics Intercultural Teacher Education	Aesthetic Education: Pedagogical Applications**
Assessment and Program Planning in Inclusive Education	Bodily and Theatrical Expression in Early Childhood Education - Dramatisation
Early Childhood Educational Institutions in Europe	Distance Education
Family literacy	Educational Software Design and Evaluation
Literature in the Kindergarten	Pedagogical Trends in Early Childhood Education
Counseling Psychology in Education	Sociology of School Knowledge and Practice
Specific Topics of Educational Politics	University Pedagogy
Specific Topics of Early Childhood Physics Education	Topics in European History
Technologies of Information and Communication Technology in Teaching and Learning	Topics in European History
Text Linguistics	BA Thesis
Topics in Modern Philosophy	School Placement (ESPA)

** These courses are inactive

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

The Department offers MA as well as PhD studies.

MA STUDIES

MA-students enroll in one of the following MA-programs:

- **NATURAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS AND ICT DIDACTICS (SMD):** Students get involved in basic research in the fields of physics, biology & mathematics education, museum education, ICT-education, philosophy of science and cognitive psychology; they are expected to deepen their knowledge on the relation of these fields to education.
- **SOCIAL THEORY, POLICY AND PRACTICES IN EDUCATION (SPP):** Students get involved in basic research in the fields of sociology of education, political theory, educational policy and intercultural education; they are expected to deepen their knowledge on the relation of these fields to education.
- **LANGUAGE, ART AND CULTURE IN EDUCATION (LAC):** Students get involved in basic research in the fields of anthropology, arts, linguistics and literature; they are expected to deepen their knowledge on the relation of these fields to education.

Admission to the Postgraduate Studies Programme requires (1) a higher education degree or diploma, (2) application/supporting documents submission, (3) admission exams, and (4) an interview.

After admission, and to obtain the Postgraduate (MA) Diploma, students are required to (a) successfully attend nine 10-ECTS courses, and (b) successfully defend a 30-ECTS Postgraduate Diploma Thesis. Specifically:

- Over the first three semesters, students must complete three compulsory (C) courses, one per semester, and six elective (E) courses, two per semester. Further curriculum details are available on the Department's [website](#) or [eclass](#). A curriculum overview is also provided in the table below.
- In their final two semesters, students are required to complete a Postgraduate (MA) Diploma Thesis under the supervision of a faculty member. This thesis is a mandatory component for obtaining the Postgraduate (MA) Degree. Each

student prepares their thesis individually, guided by their supervisor. Upon completion, students must submit their manuscript and defend it through a public oral presentation. Both the written thesis and the presentation are evaluated by a committee of three faculty members: the supervisor and two co-examiners.

Students are required to assist with Departmental activities such as exams, tutorials, and labs. Additionally, active participation in research seminars and conferences is strongly encouraged.

The language of instruction is Greek. For Erasmus students however, instruction may also be given in English or French, depending on the course.

The Postgraduate (MA) Degree has the status of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) Certificate.

POSTGRADUATE (MA) COURSES*

*Prior to registration, kindly confirm course availability and prerequisites with the administration office and the course instructor. Further curriculum details are available on the Department's [website](#) or [eclass](#).

Course	Type	Year/Semester
Methodology of Educational Research: Quantitative Approaches (SMD / SPP/ LAC)	C	1 st Year/1 st Semester
Introduction to Science Education (SMD)	E	1/1
Applications of Information and Communication Technologies in Teaching and Learning (SMD)	E	1/1
Issues in Educational Psychology (SMD)	E	1/1
Museology and Education (SMD)**	E	1/1
Educational Policy and Comparative Education Approaches (SPP)	E	1/1
Cultural and Educational Aspects (SPP/LAC)	E	1/1
Arts in Education (LAC)	E	1/1

Early Literacy and School Literacy: Theories and Teaching Practices (LAC)	E	1/1
Cognitivist Aesthetic Theories (LAC) **	E	1/1
Methodology of Educational Research: Qualitative Approaches (SMD / SPP/ LAC)	C	1 st Year/2 nd Semester
Mathematics Education: Inquiring and Teaching Approaches (SMD)**	E	1/2
Didactics of Biology: Research Lines on Learning and Teaching (SMD)**	E	1/2
Didactics of Informatics: Research Lines on Teaching and Learning (SMD)**	E	1/2
Contemporary Perspectives on Early Childhood Education (SMD)	E	1/2
Design, Implementation and Evaluation of Educational Software (SMD)**	E	1/2
Psychology of Thinking (SMD)**	E	1/2
Lifelong Learning and Adult Education (SPP)	E	1/2
Dimensions of Interculturality and Otherness in Education (SPP)	E	1/2
History of European Education (SPP)	E	1/2
Approaches to Aesthetic Theory and Education (LAC)	E	1/2
Theories of Literature (LAC)	E	1/2
Social and Cognitive Dimensions of Literacy (LAC)**	E	1/2
Postgraduate (MA) Diploma Thesis: Research Design (SMD / SPP/ LAC)	C	2 nd Year/3 st Semester
Didactics of Physics: Research Approaches to Learning and Teaching (SMD)**	E	2/3

Specific Topics in Biology Didactics (SMD)	E	2/3
Web Science and Education (SMD)	E	2/3
Topics in Epistemology (SMD)	E	2/3
Democracy and Education (SPP)	E	2/3
Sociology of Educational Knowledge and Educational Practices (SPP)	E	2/3
Early and Inclusive Support for Children with Disabilities in Educational Environments (SPP)	E	2/3
Linguistic Analysis of School Texts (LAC)**	E	2/3
Body Expression, Culture and Education (LAC)	E	2/3
Sociolinguistic approaches to multiliteracies (LAC)	E	2/3
Postgraduate Diploma Thesis (SMD / SPP/ LAC)	C	2 nd Year/4 th Semester

** These courses are inactive

PhD STUDIES

To be eligible for PhD studies, candidates must possess an MA degree and submit a research proposal. Acceptance is granted based on this proposal by a supervising faculty member. This supervisor, along with two additional faculty members, will form the student's Advisory Committee for a minimum of three years, until the thesis is completed.

Upon completion, the student is required to submit their manuscript and defend it in a public, oral presentation. Both the manuscript and the presentation will be evaluated by a seven-member committee, comprising the three Advisory Committee members and four other faculty members from any Greek university.

All PhD students are strongly encouraged to participate in research seminars and conferences throughout their studies in the Department.

ERASMUS PLUS & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education at the University of Patras actively participates in the Erasmus+ program, fostering numerous international collaborations. We maintain thirty Bilateral Agreements with universities across Europe and are delighted to host many Erasmus+ students and researchers annually. A significant portion of our courses are accessible to Erasmus students. Prospective Erasmus students interested in studying at our Department can find comprehensive information on both the [Department's Erasmus webpage](#) and the [University's main Erasmus page](#).

To study in the Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education, first verify if your home university has an active Erasmus agreement with our Department. You can do this by contacting your home institution's Departmental Erasmus coordinator to express your interest. If an agreement exists between your university and the University of Patras, and you wish to study with us, please contact the Erasmus Office of our Department at nekstel@upatras.gr.

The Department actively fosters international collaborations, engaging in numerous European and international research projects and establishing agreements with educational institutions worldwide.

THE DEPARTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

The Department maintains strong ties with local schools and the community. Faculty and teaching staff regularly engage in school and community projects and conduct seminars for educators and the public. Annually, in May, the Department hosts a week-long [Children's Festival](#) at its facilities for 3-7 year olds. During this event, students, in partnership with faculty and teaching staff, organize and lead creative activities and workshops for kindergarten pupils.

STUDENT LIFE

The University of Patras is one of the largest universities in Greece. Campus life includes cultural events, sports, opportunities for volunteering and social action. The University also provides student care facilities and services.

All the [Department's](#) and the [University's](#) events are announced on their official sites.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

[Academic year 2025-2026](#) runs from September 2025 to June 2026, as follows:

COURSES

- Fall Semester (A): From 29.9.2025 to 9.1.2026
- Spring Semester (B): from 16.2.2026 to 29.5.2026

EXAMS

- Fall Semester (A): 19.1.2026 to 6.2.2026
- Spring Semester (B): from 8.6.2026 to 26.6.2026
- September 2026 (both Semesters)

HOLLIDAYS

- National holiday: October 28
- Athens Polytechnic Uprising (Student uprising against the military junta in 1973): November 17
- Saint Andrew's Day, Patron Saint of the city of Patras: November 30
- Christmas Holidays: December 24 – January 6
- Celebration of Education Day: January 30
- Monday of Lent
- National holiday: March 25
- Easter Holidays: from Easter Monday to Sunday after Easter
- Labour Day: May 1
- Holy Spirit Monday (Monday after Pentecost)
- Students Elections Day