

# Master's Program in Early Childhood Studies (MECS)



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ryerson University is opening an innovative new Master's program in Early Childhood Studies (MECS) for September, 2006\*.

### The program:

- is unique in its emphasis on diversity and inclusion issues in Early Childhood Studies
- prepares graduates for advanced practice and study in the fields of education, early learning, family and community
- enriches the knowledge and skills of practitioners currently employed in the field
- provides a networking base with the large group of academic and community professionals in the Toronto region
- promotes research in early childhood studies as critically important for work with children in Canada
- is available in both full- and part-time study options.



\*This program is scheduled to commence September 2006, pending final approval from the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies and the Ryerson University Board of Governors.

# Master's Program in Early Childhood Studies (MECS)

## PROGRAM MISSION

Ryerson University provides an excellent home for a Master's in Early Childhood Studies with a concentration on issues of diversity and inclusion. The terms diversity and inclusion are used in the broadest sense to include issues of linguistic, cultural and racial identity as well as disability, gender, class, sexuality and migration status. This approach is in recognition of children's need to develop a positive identity, not only as individuals but also as members of the groups to which they belong. Specific issues of the relationship between English language learners and identification of special needs will be addressed.

Early Childhood Studies students will discuss issues of special needs and diversity as part of a larger critical and reflective process. Students will develop a deep understanding of the complex issues that affect children and their families. As the face of Canadian society changes, institutions serving families must also change. Developing a program that specifically addresses Canada's diversity is critical to the healthy integration and academic success of all children. Ryerson University's School of Early Childhood Education and the Faculty of Community Services possess an outstanding faculty complement, as well as necessary institutional and community ties, for this new master's program. Faculty from the Sociology, Child and Youth Care, Politics and Public Administration, and Psychology departments add to the teaching and supervision complement.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND CURRICULUM

The MECS program in Early Childhood Studies consists of 7 one-term courses, plus a three-credit research paper, for a total of 10 course credits. The program can be completed by:

- Full-time students during a period of 12 months (three semesters); or
- Part-time students during a period of 24 months (six semesters)

### Course Curriculum:

#### Required Courses

- Research Methods in Early Childhood Studies (Fall)
- Theoretical Frameworks for Childhood Studies (Fall)
- Curriculum Development in a Changing Society (Winter)
- Families and Educational Equity (Winter)
- Major Research Paper (Spring/Summer)

#### Elective Courses\*

- Implications of Educational Change for Learners from Diverse Backgrounds
- Achieving Social Justice in Education
- Special Needs across Diverse Populations: Issues in Assessment and Pedagogy
- Multiage Groupings in Early Education
- Statistics
- Risk and Resilience among Children and Families
- Social and Political Contexts for Early Childhood Professionals
- Social Research with Children
- Transformative Literacy: Critical Pedagogy in Action
- Linguistic Issues of Minority Language Children
- Social Policy and Early Childhood Education
- Policy Issues Related to Immigrant and Refugee Children

\* It is recognized that not all elective courses will be offered in a given academic year but rather three in the Fall and two in the Winter. The current list may be expanded as enrolments increase, the program develops and new faculty or adjunct faculty become involved with the program.

## RYERSON FACULTY

**Patrizia Albanese**, PhD, University of Toronto. Fields of specialization:immigrant families, child and family policies.

**Mehru Ali**, PhD, Michigan State. Fields of specialization:research methods, immigrant parents.

**Rachel Berman**, PhD, University of Guelph. Fields of specialization:working with families in ECEC settings.

**Judith K.Bernhard**, PhD, University of Toronto. Fields of specialization:equity, multi-local families, transformative literacy.

**Jean-Paul Boudreau**, PhD, Tufts University. Fields of specialization:infant development and research methods.

**Roma Chumak-Horbatsch**, PhD, University of Toronto. Fields of specialization:needs of minority language children.

**Patricia Corson**, EdD, University of Toronto. Fields of specialization: child development and socio-cultural context.

**Elaine Frankel**, EdD, University of Toronto. Fields of specialization:special needs and inclusive education.

**Francis Hare**, PhD, University of Toronto. Fields of specialization:evaluation of programs for children and youth.

**Kenise Murphy Kilbride**, PhD, Fordham University. Fields of specialization:immigrant families, children and youth.

**Celina Kwan**, PhD, University of London,UK. Fields of specialization:childcare quality and evaluation.

**Melanie Panitch**, PhD (c),City University of New York. Fields of specialization:disability studies, activist mothering,inclusive child care, social movements.

**Robert Rinkoff**, PhD, Purdue University. Fields of specialization:children,wilderness and education.

**Gloria Roberts-Fiat**, PhD, University of Toronto. Fields of specialization:immigrant settlement, immigrant youth.

**Arthur L. Ross**, PhD, University of Toronto. Fields of specialization:immigration policy, community agency.

**Kim Snow**, PhD (c),University of Toronto. Fields of specialization:services for children and youth, children's rights.

**Carol Stuart**, PhD, University of Victoria. Fields of specialization:standards for practice and resiliency.

**Vappu Tyyska**, PhD, University of Toronto. Fields of specialization:immigrant families and youth.

**Angela Valeo**, PhD, York University. Fields of specialization:Educational inclusion of children with disabilities.

## ADMISSION INFORMATION

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the MECS program requires a four-year honours degree in one of the following disciplines:

- Early Childhood Education
- Child and Youth Care
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Social Work
- Political Science
- Child Development
- Disability Studies

Applicants from other disciplines will also be considered. Applicants who have not taken a course in research methods or who do not have any background in research will be required to take a qualitative or quantitative research methods course prior to entering the program. In addition,a minimum B average from a four-year undergraduate program is required for consideration for admission to the program. Students must also provide two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with their academic work. Students applying for the part-time program may substitute one letter from their current employer for one of the academic references.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Ryerson University provides financial support in the form of scholarships, awards or assistantships for as many full-time students as possible. Scholarships and awards are offered on a competitive basis, so the number awarded in any year varies, depending on academic performance. For more information on available awards see: [www.ryerson.ca/gradstudies/funding](http://www.ryerson.ca/gradstudies/funding)

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### HOW TO APPLY

School of Graduate Studies

Ryerson University  
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Toronto, ON, M5B 2K3

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Fax:416-979-5153

E-mail: [grdadmit@ryerson.ca](mailto:grdadmit@ryerson.ca)  
[www.ryerson.ca/gradstudies](http://www.ryerson.ca/gradstudies)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To obtain additional information about the program, please contact Dr. Judith K.Bernhard at [bernhard@ryerson.ca](mailto:bernhard@ryerson.ca)

For more information,please also visit  
[www.ryerson.ca/gradstudies/mecs.html](http://www.ryerson.ca/gradstudies/mecs.html)



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