

**MA Early Childhood Studies Froebel Trust Bursary Award Information for Applicants**

**Principle**

The Froebel Trust, which is committed to the development of theory and practice in Froebelian education and to increasing the numbers of Froebelian-trained educators, has agreed to fund a Scholarship Bursary Award to enable suitably qualified students to undertake the MA in Early Childhood Studies at the University of Roehampton. The Award will be explicitly linked to Froebelian principles, and successful applicants will be expected to be able to demonstrate familiarity with these in their prior professional experience and/or academic study.

Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) is famous pre-eminently for his radical insight that the first learning experiences of the very young are of crucial importance in influencing not only their later educational achievements, but also the health and development of society as a whole. Whilst understanding young children’s intrinsic playful creativity, Froebel also recognised the profound influence that community and social context had on whether and how young children’s playful explorations were facilitated or limited. The form and patterning of young children’s interactions with particular adults are uniquely individual and creative to them and nurtured or curtailed by the particular environments in which they occur. Distinctive cultural practices, political values and policies, and organizational structures all act to expand or curtail opportunity. It is an aim of the MA in Early Childhood Studies Programme to strengthen students’ awareness of these influences and their capacity to understand and take account of them in action.

**Amount of Scholarship Award funding**

The Froebel Trust will award up to £5,000 (five thousand pounds) towards your fees and these may be held full-time or part-time.

Should the successful applicant be a graduate of The University of Roehampton, the student will be eligible for a 20% discount and the award will be reduced pro rata.

**Selection and requirements for Students**

The principle of the Scholarship is set out in the opening paragraph. The aims of the Scholarship are as follows:

• to enable exceptional students with a record of knowledge of and commitment to Froebelian principles to continue their studies at post-graduate level

• to promote Froebelian scholarship and the production of high-quality work, with potential for publication, including on the Froebel Trust website

• to support the continued development of educationalists with knowledge of and an interest in Froebelian education. With these aims in mind, Scholarship students will be expected to demonstrate a commitment to deepening and developing their understanding of Froebelian principles and their relevance to contemporary policy and practice in all the modules of study they undertake, including the Dissertation.

**Application process**

Scholarship applicants are asked to complete:

1. an application form, and
2. a statement of 1,000 words, which would,
3. describe their understanding of Froebelian principles and their relevance to contemporary early years policy and practice; and
4. outline their ambition / aspiration as to how they could use their MA ECS Award to further promote Froebelian principles.

**Selection will be based on:**

1. Applicants who are on track to achieve (or have already achieved) a minimum of a class 2:2 first degree, and ideally a first-class degree.
2. Assessment of the 1000-word statement for rigour / detail of description / arguments, conviction and use of clear language. Criteria used in the University evaluation of ‘outstanding’ academic work will be used in the assessment of the statement.
3. Students who can demonstrate a commitment to Froebelian education and learning and how the Froebelian principles may inform their practice in the future.
4. Commitment to study the MA module: [Exploring the Froebelian Legacy in Early Childhood Practice](https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses/early-childhood-studies/).
5. Commitment to send a short report (max. 1,000 words) summarising the student’s experiences and learning about Froebelian education to office@froebeltrust.org.uk by 31 July 2025.

Priority will be given to UK students whose financial circumstances would preclude them from studying the MA ECS at the University of Roehampton without the award of a bursary.

**Payment of the Award**

On approval of a Scholarship Bursary Award, where it is being paid in the form of fees, these will be remitted by The Froebel Trust directly to the Finance Department of the University.

**Schedule**

* Advertising the Scholarship Bursary Award from 1st November 2024
* Deadline to receive applications 6th January 2025
* Panel review & decision week beginning 13th January 2025

**Further information** about the Programme and about the Scholarship Award can be obtained from the Programme Leader, Dr Evelyn Corrado evelyn.corrado@roehampton.ac.uk and TaughtPG@roehampton.ac.uk