

Early Years Master's Pathway

Turn your professional experience into a master's — no degree required.

Early Years Senior Leader Apprenticeship



Complete our Apprenticeship Levy-funded Early Years Senior Leader Apprenticeship to earn 120 Master's credits.



Best Practice Network



60 Credit dissertation module with Chester University

Complete a 60 credit dissertation module with Chester University for £3k.



University of Chester

MA in Educational Leadership



You now have 180 Master's credits and Chester University will award you a full MA in Educational Leadership!

Learn more and apply:

bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYLeader



Fast-Track to a Master's

Turn your Early years Senior Leader apprenticeship into an
MA in Educational Leadership

No degree? No problem

- You do not need a bachelor's degree to take this route
- If you are eligible to start this Level 7 apprenticeship, you are automatically eligible for the Master's fast track
- Your professional experience in early years leadership is recognised and valued by the University of Chester and Best Practice Network

1. Complete the Early Years Senior Leader Apprenticeship

- Fully funded through the Apprenticeship Levy - no cost to you or your setting in most cases. Just £700 for non-levy paying settings.
- Delivered at Master's level and formally recognised by the University of Chester.
- By completing the programme, you gain 120 Master's-level credits

2. Add a Dissertation Module (£3,210)

- Choose to continue with a final 60-credit dissertation, studied online with the University of Chester
- This is the only cost – just £3,210, compared with the usual £10,000+ Master's fee.
- You'll be fully supported with:
 - 1:1 dissertation supervisor
 - Personal tutor for pastoral and academic support
 - Study Skills & Library Services Teams: webinars, 1:1 sessions, assignment and referencing support, and digital resource training

3. Graduate with a Master's in Educational Leadership

- Earn a respected Master's degree for a fraction of the standard cost.
- Minimal extra study required – the dissertation builds on your apprenticeship work.
- Open doors to senior leadership, consultancy, and new opportunities across early years

A fully funded apprenticeship + a low-cost dissertation = a clear, supported, and affordable pathway to a Master's degree.