



International Perspectives on Children's Play



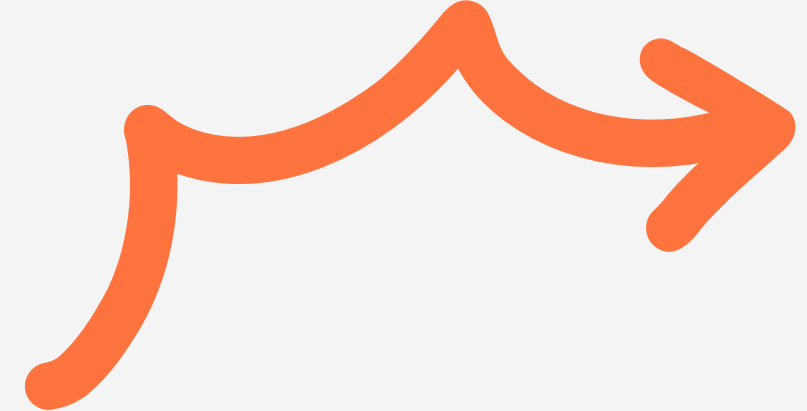
Blended Intensive Program (BIP) for undergraduate students

Hosted by the University of Ioannina 19-23 April 2027





The Consortium



Coordinating University

- Department of Early Years Learning and Care, University of Ioannina, Greece

Erasmus Partner Universities

- Boğaziçi University, Türkiye
 - Tallinn University, Estonia
 - Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain
 - Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood Education, Norway
 - Università di Foggia, Italy
 - Vilniaus kolegijos, Lithuania
 - Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary
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Cooperating University

- UC Blue Ash College, University of Cincinnati
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Background

Although children's play is synonymous with childhood and has been extensively researched as a phenomenon, there are still significant gaps in both research and practice. At a practical level, international research shows that children's play is at risk and that preschool programs, curricula, parents, and society in general emphasize children's academic skills, while significantly limiting the space and time available to children for play. This trend has led to "play deprivation," with devastating consequences for children and their development.



Objectives of the BIP

Given that the views and attitudes of educators and future educators influence how they will use play in their classrooms and the types of playful experiences they will offer children, this Blended Intensive Program (BIP) aims:

1. to support participants in identifying and discussing issues related to the role, importance, and place of play in their country and in the education system, as well as the challenges that arise.
2. to empower and support them to learn about and utilize strategies that can support high-quality playful experiences for preschool children.



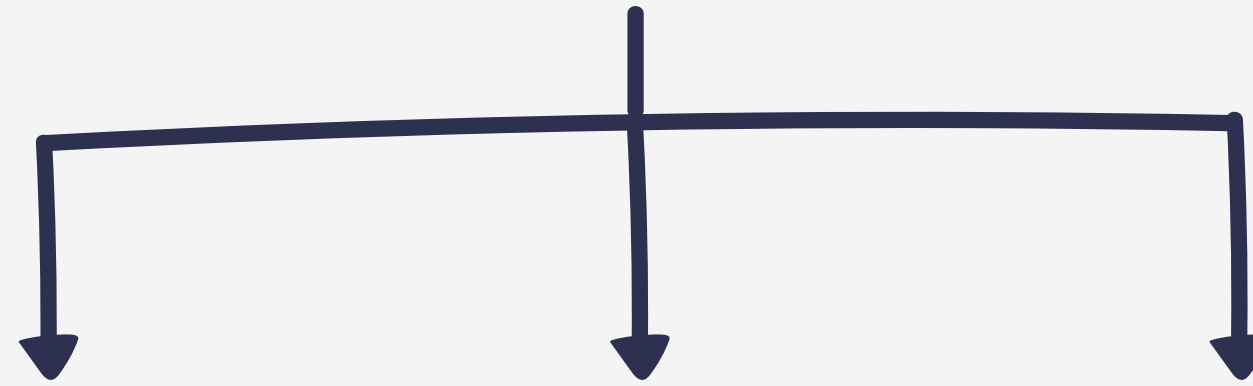


Learning outcomes

The BIP aims to help undergraduate students identify and discuss issues of play across different countries, while also empowering and supporting participants to:

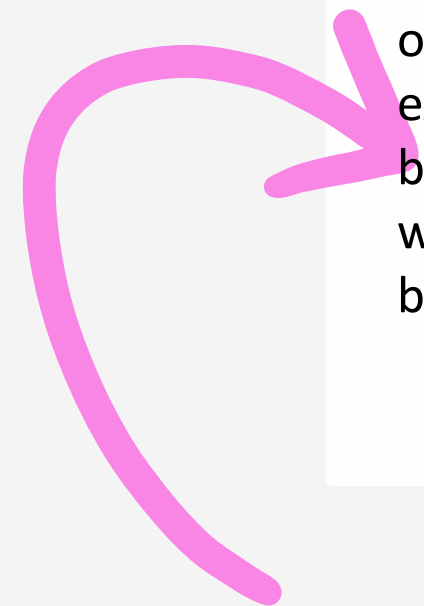


Activities



4 two-hour online seminars

Renowned academics and experts from different countries will present the latest research and a wide range of approaches based on classroom experience. Small group discussions, breakout rooms and interactive workshops will stimulate dialogue between students and teachers



International Online Conference May 10 2027

The conference will host invited speakers from partner universities, as well as academics from the universities participating in the BIP



Physical Phase 19 - 23 April 2027

- Seminars
 - Visits to preschool programs (kindergartens and nurseries) in Ioannina
 - Cultural programme, including visits to monuments in the city of Ioannina and the wider region of Epirus
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Certificate

Attendance of the BIP will be certified upon successful participation in all stages of the virtual phase including seminars and the Conference, according to the regulations of their university.
Students will be awarded with 3 ECTS.





Project Team

Dr. Konstantina Rentzou, University of Ioannina, Greece

Dr. Jesus Paz – Albo, Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain

Dr. Mine Gol – Guven, Boğaziçi University, Türkiye

Dr. Maire Tuul, Tallinn University, Estonia

Prof. Oliver Thiel, Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood
Education, Norway

Dr. Ramūnė Motiejūnaitė, Vilniaus kolegijos, Lithuania

Dr. Carmen Petruzzi, Università di Foggia, Italy

Dr. Alessandra Altamura, Università di Foggia, Italy

Dr. Fenyődi Andrea, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

Prof. Ilfa Zhulamanova, UC Blue Ash College, University of Cincinnati,
USA