

MISSION

To help create the excellent policies, services and practices that improve the lives of children, youth and families through research, education and service development.

EXPERTISE

Founded in 2007, the UCFRC is uniquely positioned to advance theory and practice and to facilitate knowledge transfer across research, policy and services for children, young people and families.

PARTNERSHIPS/ NETWORKS



UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre

RESEARCH

Strongly linked to practice across the thematic areas of **FAMILY SUPPORT** and **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**.

Research and evaluation activities incorporate a broad spectrum of areas including:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Youth Mentoring
- Empathy and Social Values
- Children in Care
- Youth Civic Engagement
- Child Welfare Systems Change
- Child, Youth & Parental Participation
- Community-Based Youth and Family Interventions
- Parenting Support
- Educational Disadvantage
- Youth Mental Health & Well-Being

EDUCATION

- PgDip / MA in Family Support Studies
- PhD in Child and Youth Research
- BA in Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice
- Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action

See overleaf for details.

UNESCO Chair Children, Youth and Civic Engagement *Professor Pat Dolan*

A platform to inform and influence global policy for children and youth, supported by Patron, actor Cillian Murphy.

THE UCFRC ENGAGES IN RESEARCH, EDUCATION, POLICY AND PRACTICE ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE THEMATIC AREAS OF FAMILY SUPPORT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Family Support

The Centre is widely recognised as being at the forefront of research, education and training in the area of Family Support. As a broad-based paradigm, Family Support policies and services:

- Strengthen family, friends and community support networks;
- Emphasise children's and families' strengths;
- Are attentive to the wider environment in which the child and family live;
- Promote intervention that is needs-led, flexible, accessible, delivered in partnership and promotes social inclusion.

The Centre's Family Support orientation reflects a commitment to generating knowledge on prevention and early intervention approaches for children and young people experiencing adversity.

Youth Agency, Inclusion and Development

The UCFRC has conducted extensive research on themes related to youth civic engagement and participation. We also work with services on interventions that enable young people to thrive and engage fully with their own development as well as that of their communities. A number of activities aimed at promoting youth leadership and youth participation are undertaken in both formal and non-formal settings. The UNESCO Youth as Researchers (YAR) programme works with young people to engage in research on community and global issues.

Supporting Innovation in Policy, Services & Practice

The changing nature of the lives of children and families demands policies, services and practices that are dynamic and flexible. The UCFRC has established strong credibility in supporting policy makers, service managers and practitioners to develop and implement new ideas in their work. Central to this objective is the application of research to inform practice and policy and the translation of knowledge into an evidence-informed approach to children's services. Alongside this, an ethos of reflective practice underpins a culture of stakeholder engagement in using and learning from evidence.

EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

The UNESCO CFRC has an evolving programme for education and training:

The PgDip/MA in Family Support Studies is a two year part-time programme which offers a postgraduate qualification for professionals working in state and voluntary services on behalf of children, young people, families, people with a disability and older people.

The PhD in Child and Youth Research is a four year full-time or six year part-time structured PhD programme delivered as part of a collaboration between the School of Psychology and the UCFRC at the School of Political Science and Sociology. This interdisciplinary programme responds to an identified need for researchers with the requisite, high level and wide-ranging experience and skills to undertake the kind of work that is needed in an evidence-informed policy environment.

The BA in Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice is a four year full-time programme with a strong emphasis on child and family policy and research. The programme offers foundational preparation for work with children and young people, across a range of settings. The core strengths of the programme include small group teaching, a full year of placement experience in year three and teaching that is research-led and supported by the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre.

A Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action is run in association with youth work partner organisation Foróige and the Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development at NUI Galway. Delivered off campus by youth workers in Foróige clubs, projects and schools, the course is designed to equip youth with the required skills and confidence to take on positive leadership roles today and in the future.