

Current MA Student Profiles:



Kim Ainsworth

I am a graduate (1989) of the UVIC Child and Youth Care Bachelors program and a current student in the MA program. Before returning to school for graduate studies, I worked in family resource programs and early years settings, as an early childhood educator, coordinator and program facilitator. I chose the UVIC CYC graduate program because I was interested in the cutting-edge early years research that was taking place in the School. The MA program seemed a good fit to allow me flexibility to explore my own interests in the field, and to critically reflect upon practice.

As a student I have received invaluable support from the CYC faculty. Their academic interests and backgrounds are varied and reflect the wide spectrum of our field. I completed my practicum at Camosun College working with second year students in the Early Learning and Care program. My current research is focused on reimagining practicum in the CYC undergraduate program.

I credit my MA studies with helping me to land my current position as Manager of UVIC Child Care Services—a job that I love. Being an MA student in the CYC program has really pushed me and has been an extremely rewarding and life-changing experience.



Amarens Matthiesen

After completing one year of the undergraduate program in Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria, I became interested in enrolling in a program that would allow me to tailor the course work to my particular research interests. The Master of Arts in Child and Youth Care has allowed me to do just that, but has also provided the opportunity for considering children and youth within broader, global contexts that are directly practice-oriented. After growing up in Brussels, Belgium, I obtained my undergraduate degree in Psychology with German language from the University of Dundee in Scotland, UK.

My research interests have been shaped by my experiences of living and studying in various countries, coupled with my dual nationality as a Dutch/Canadian citizen. Currently, I am interested in the influences of ethnic culture in health care contexts. In particular, how families whom do not identify with the dominant culture experience the care they receive in paediatric hospital settings. As it is my aim to become a Child Life Specialist, I am currently volunteering in the Child Life department at the BC Children's Hospital so as to gain as much experience as possible in order to complete a Child Life internship (practicum) in the near future.