

Programme Specification: BSc (Hons) Social Work

1. Awarding Institution/Body	University of Gloucestershire
2. Teaching Institution	University of Gloucestershire
3. Recognition by Professional Body.	General Social Care Council. This award entitles students to apply for entry to the Social Care Register as registered social workers
4. Final award and level of qualification	Bachelor of Science Degree (with Honours) in Social Work (Single Honours)
5. Modular Scheme or other	UMS
6. Programme title (name on certificate)	Social Work
7. UCAS code	L502
8. JACS code	
9. QAA subject benchmark statement(s) where relevant	Social Policy and Administration and Social Work (2008) National Occupational Standards for Social Work (2002); GSCC Code of Practice for Social Care Employees (2002). Department of Health Requirements for Training for Social Work (2002)
10. Date of initial validation	May 2007
11. Date of revision	June 2012

12. External and Internal reference points

The educational aims and outcomes of the programme have been written with reference to the following reference points:

12a) External

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ);
- The QAA Benchmark statement for Social Policy and Administration and Social Work (2008);
- National Occupational Standards for Social Work (2002);
- The GSCC Code of Practice for Social Care Employees (2002);
- The Department of Health Requirements for Training for Social Work (2002);
- The IFSW International Definition of Social Work (2000)

Further details for the above are available at the relevant website(s).

12b) Internal

- University of Gloucestershire Academic Regulations for Taught Provision;
- University of Gloucestershire TLA policy including PDP and Skills; AWP and Student Charter.

Further details for the above are available at the University website

13. Main educational aims of the programme

A degree in social work is now the recognised professional qualification for social workers in the UK and successful completion of this degree enables students to apply for registration with the General Social Care Council (GSCC) (transferring to the HCPC) as a professionally qualified social worker.

The educational aims of the programme are underpinned by the definition of social work adopted by the International Federation of Social Workers in 2000

'The social work profession promotes social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being. Utilising theories of human behaviour and social systems, social work intervenes at the points where people interact with their environments. Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental to social work.'

The main educational aims of the BSc (Hons) Social Work are to provide you, the student, with opportunities to:

- develop the knowledge base, academic abilities and practice skills required to be a competent professional social worker
- develop a critical understanding of the theoretical underpinning and evidence base of social work practice and the ability to look critically at your own practice
- develop a knowledge and understanding of the society and context in which you hope to practice
- help you develop a knowledge and understanding of all forms of discrimination and to foster a commitment to anti-oppressive practice
- enable you to acquire the skills that are central to effective social work practice and continuing professional development (PDP/CPD)

14. Programme outcomes – the programme provides opportunities for you, the student, to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

14a) Knowledge and understanding:

1. The legal, social, economic and [ecological](#) framework of social work practice, including:
 - a. Country, UK, EU legislation, statutory codes, standards, frameworks and guidance relevant to social work practice and related Courses, including multi-disciplinary and multi-organisational practice, data protection and confidentiality of information
 - b. Social policy, including policy on social care, criminal justice, education, health, housing, welfare rights
 - c. Demographic and social trends
 - d. Theories of poverty, unemployment, health, impairment and other sources of discrimination and disadvantage and their impact on social exclusion
 - e. Policies on diversity, discrimination and promoting independence/autonomy of adults, children, families, groups and communities, and research on their effectiveness
2. The context of social work practice, including:
 - a. Historical perspectives of social work and social welfare
 - b. International law and social policy, in broad terms, for the purpose of comparison
 - c. Contemporary issues and trends in social work
 - d. Understanding of why people use social work and social care services

- e. Psychological and sociological explanations of:
 - human growth and development and the factors that impact on it
 - mental health and well being
 - social interactions and relationships
 - discrimination and oppression
 - human behaviour
 - f. Knowledge of the range of local, and appropriate national, resources and services
 - g. Theories about how systems work
 - h. Organisational structures, policies and procedures for referral
 - i. Policies, procedures and legal requirements for the security and confidentiality of information
 - j. How to access and use information and communications technology (ICT) and other electronic systems that may help in the collection of information
- 3. Values and Ethics, including:**
- a. Awareness of your own values, prejudices, ethical dilemmas and conflicts of interest and their implications for your practice
 - b. Respect for, and the promotion of:
 - each person as an individual
 - independence and quality of life for individuals, whilst protecting them from harm
 - dignity and privacy of individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
 - c. Recognition and facilitation of each person's use of the language and form of communication of their choice
 - d. Valuing, recognition of and respect for the diversity, expertise and experience of individuals, families, carers, groups and communities
 - e. Maintaining the trust and confidence of individuals, families, carers, groups and communities by communicating in an open, accurate and understandable way
 - f. Understanding, and making use of, strategies to challenge discrimination, disadvantage and other forms of inequality and injustice
- 4. Social work theories, models and methods for working with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities, including:**
- a. Principles, theories and methods of social work practice
 - b. Theories about the impact of authority and power in the social work role
 - c. Theories about the impact of discrimination, and methods of working with diversity
 - d. Theories and methods about working with the main groups of people using services. These include children, mental health, learning difficulties, older people, minority and ethnic groups, drug and alcohol use, disability and impairment
 - e. Principles about balancing the rights of individuals, families, carers, groups and communities with the interests of society and the requirements of practice
 - f. Lessons learned from both serious failure of service and practice, and from successful interventions

- g. Approaches to evidence and knowledge based practice
- h. Theories of organisations, group behaviour and organisational change
- i. Theories and methods of promoting personal, social and emotional well being

14b) Intellectual/ thinking skills – the ability to:

1. critically analyse the knowledge base underpinning social work practice and resolve the tensions caused by differing perspectives;
2. evaluate research findings, social policies and practice interventions;
3. formulate arguments based on evidence and relevant concepts and values to promote individual, family, group and community changes;
4. use creative processes to inform the improvement of service delivery and to manage change;
5. synthesise data from a range of sources to inform assessment and decision making.

14c) Subject specific skills/practical and professional:

Problem solving skills: the ability to problem solve in ways that inform thinking, decision-making and action, including the ability to:

1. Manage problem-solving activities
2. Gather relevant information
3. Analyse and synthesise information and evidence
4. Intervene effectively and
5. Evaluate the use of specific practice skills and knowledge

Communication Skills: the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and precisely (both orally and in writing) with individuals and groups in a range of formal and informal situations, that is to:

1. Make effective contact with individuals and organisations for a range of objectives, by verbal, paper-based and electronic means;
2. Clarify and negotiate the purpose of such contacts and the boundaries of their involvement;
3. Listen actively to others, engage appropriately with the life experiences of service users, understand accurately their viewpoint and overcome personal prejudices to respond appropriately to a range of complex personal and interpersonal situations;
4. Use both verbal and non-verbal cues to guide interpretation;
5. Identify and use opportunities for purposeful and supportive communication with service users within their everyday living situations;
6. Follow and develop an argument and evaluate the viewpoints of, and evidence presented by, others;
7. Write accurately and clearly in styles adapted to the audience, purpose and context of the communication;
8. Present conclusions verbally and on paper, in a structured form, appropriate to the audience for which these have been prepared;
9. Make effective preparation for, and lead meetings in a productive way; and
10. Communicate effectively across potential barriers resulting from differences (for example, in culture, language and age).

Skills in working with others - the ability to collaborate and to be able to work effectively with others, that is to:

1. Involve users of social work services in ways that increase their resources, capacity and power to influence factors affecting their lives;

2. Consult actively with others, including service users, who hold relevant information or expertise;
3. Act co-operatively with others, liaising and negotiating across differences such as organisational and professional boundaries and differences of identity or language;
4. Develop effective helping relationships and partnerships with other individuals, groups and organisations that facilitate change;
5. Act with others to increase social justice by identifying and responding to prejudice, institutional discrimination and structural inequality;
6. Act within a framework of multiple accountability (for example, to agencies, the public, service users and others); and challenge others when necessary, in ways that are most likely to produce positive outcomes.

Skills that underpin a values perspective and ethical principles in practice – that is, the ability to:

1. Apply ethical principles and practices critically in planning problem-solving activities;
2. Identify the moral concepts of rights, responsibility, freedom, authority and power inherent in the practice of social workers as moral and statutory agents;
3. Identify conceptual links between codes defining ethical practice, the regulation of professional conduct and the management of potential conflicts generated by the codes held by different professional groups.

14d) Transferable/key skills – the ability to:

1. Communicate effectively and accurately verbally and in writing, including effective reading of body language
2. Application of appropriate numerical techniques to the analysis of data and the management of budgets ;
3. Solve problems;
4. Work and learn independently;
5. Work with others in large and small, formal and informal groups, teams and networks ;
6. use of information & communications technology.

15. Teaching, learning and assessment – the teaching, learning and assessment strategies and methods used in the programme to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated by you, the student.

15a) Teaching and learning methods

All teaching and learning is based on the following principles in relation to the transferability of knowledge, skills and values across different contexts. Transferability is focussed around nine core themes:

1. critical thinking, reflection (reflexivity), critical analysis and evidence based practice
2. social causation and social construction
3. 'use of self' (knowledge applied to self)
4. law and social policy in relation to practice
5. assessment skills
6. A relationship based approach to teaching, learning and social work practice.
7. location of teaching within an anti-oppressive framework
8. a central role for the specific contributions of practitioners, service users and carers
9. regular updating to take account of recent developments in social work and social work education

Specifically:

Knowledge and understanding and cognitive skills (14a 1 – 4; 14 b 1 – 5) are promoted through the use of discussion and problem based learning techniques that challenge students to be critical of the quality of information and argument as well as to be creative in

negotiating agreed solutions. Cognitive skills are further developed by practice assessors who facilitate reflective and evidence-based practice during practice-based modules.

Subject specific and transferable skills (14 c 1 – 31 and 14 d 1- 6) are developed through problem-based learning approaches, discussion and presentations within the University environment and on practice placements. Much of the learning occurs within practice, which involves the application of advanced communication, problem solving, accountability in the provision of a professional service, the use of ICT and information gathering to inform evidence-based practice.

15b) Assessment

The assessment strategy for the programme is based on the five core principles of that underpin assessment at the University of Gloucestershire:

- promotion of learning
- transparency
- equity
- validity
- reliability

In addition, the programme aims to ensure that students have the specific opportunities necessary to demonstrate the skills and knowledge required of a qualifying social worker.

As a professional programme, successful completion not only results in the award of a degree but also a licence to practice professionally. As a consequence, the assessment framework of the programme seeks to do the following:

- incorporate formative assessment as well as summative assessment into module design
- allow for multiple assessment points to enable timely feedback to students
- deliver a range and variety of assessment tasks to enable students to demonstrate a range of academic and practical skills
- enable students to make effective links between theory and practice
- enable clear and equitable decisions about student progression and suitability to practice professionally to be made.

Assessment of knowledge and understanding and cognitive skills (14a 1 – 4; 14 b 1 – 5) is varied and includes:

- written assignments, which require students to apply concepts and research findings to reflections on their practice
- case studies which require students to reflect in detail on their practice utilizing appropriate theoretical frameworks and research evidence
- closed examinations and time – constrained assignments that require students to demonstrate learning and the application of knowledge under pressure
- individual and group presentations which require students to synthesise complex ideas and skills and communicate them in an effective manner
- a dissertation, which requires students to research a topic in depth, analyse and critique published research, and reflect in detail and at length on their practice appropriate theoretical frameworks and research evidence
- portfolios, which require students to collect evidence of competence, seek independent confirmation of competence, reflect conceptually on their competence and undertake critical self-assessment.

Assessment of professional and transferable skills (14 c 1 – 31 and 14 d 1- 6) is also varied and includes: observation of presentations, products, portfolios of evidence and the

evaluation and observation of practice by practice assessors and service users. These skills are demonstrated in complex contexts.

16. Current Programme Map

See below.

17. Programme Overview

The programme is offered in the following modes of study: Full-time and part time (in accordance with the University regulations).

The language of study is English.

17a) Structure, key features and modules

This programme offers a professional education in social work and will normally lead on to a professional career in social work (although the knowledge and skills learned would suit a range of human service careers). It is intellectually demanding and requires the development of interpersonal skills at a high level. Central to the award is 200 days supervised practice in at least two social work agencies in Years 2 and 3 of the programme. Students will be assessed in practice against the National Occupational Standards for Social Work and the Code of Practice for Social Care Employees. Year 1 is a Foundation Year where you will develop the initial skills, knowledge, values and attitudes appropriate to a professional social worker. Year 2 includes 100 days in practice, usually in a voluntary or independent sector placement, and modules that aim to build on the placement experience and extend your knowledge and skills base. Year 3 applies your developing knowledge and skills to specific areas of practice before you complete the award with a further 100 days in the Course, usually in a statutory social work agency. All modules on this award are compulsory (with the exception of the ones identified in the 3rd year) and successful completion of Years 1 and 2 are required for progression to Year 3. Other prerequisites for individual modules also apply.

17b) Entry, credit and award requirements

The BSc (Hons) Social Work is full-time. Some credit can be transferred, but not for practice modules. Specialist transfer arrangements have been for students on the University's social care Foundation degrees and details are available on request.

- Applicants under 21 should have 240 points under the UCAS Tariff Points System. No specific AS or A2 subjects are required and applicants studying for AVCE and NVQ3 awards are welcome to apply.
- Applicants over 21 are not required to have formal educational qualifications but should provide evidence of an ability to study in higher education. Successful study on Access to Social Work courses or similar Access to HE programmes, including study with the Open University, can be considered evidence of ability
- All applicants should have GCSE Maths and English at grade C (or higher) (or equivalent). Students who do not have this can undertake appropriate tests at the University as an alternative
- Formal work experience is not always required but applicants should have undertaken some paid or voluntary work experience in a setting that is relevant to social work
- hold a satisfactory and current Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) enhanced disclosure and health declaration

In addition, when enrolled students must continuously:

- Be registered as a student social worker with the GSCC
- hold a satisfactory and current Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) enhanced disclosure and health declaration

- It is noted that the BSc (Hons) Social Work is a 360 credit award consisting of 8 modules in each year. With the exception of optional modules at Year 3 all modules are compulsory.

For the award of the BSc (Hons) Social Work, students should:

- Meet the entry and on going enrolment requirements above
- Take and pass all compulsory and optional modules to a total of 360 CAT points.

The (ordinary) Degree BSc Social Care Studies is offered as a fallback award for students not completing the requirements of the BSc (Hons) Social Work.

18. Additional information

Further information on Assessment, Quality Assurance including Evaluation, Disability and Learning support provision, Criteria for Admission/Recruitment and Careers can be found at the University website.

The National Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) provides details of comparative information on all Higher Education programmes.

Course Map

All modules are compulsory in years I and II. In year III SWU301, SWU 306 and SWU307 are compulsory. Students can then choose 2 modules from SWU302, SWU303 and SWU304.

Year I Modules:

Code and Title	CAT Points
SWU102: Social Work In Context: Law And Social Policy Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only	30
SWU103: Social Work Skills Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only	30
SWU105: Human Growth And Development Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only	15
SWU106: Social Work Values Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only	15
SWU108: Introduction To Professional Social Work Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only. Cannot be counted with SWU101 or SWU160.	15
SWU109: Applied Social Sciences Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only. Cannot be counted with SWU104 and SWU107.	15

Year II Modules:

Code and Title	CAT Points
SWU201: Practice Placement (100 Days) Restrictions: Available only to BSc (Hons) Social Work students with a satisfactory enhanced CRB check Prerequisites: Pass SWU102, SWU103, SWU105, SWU106, SWU108	45
SWU202: Risk Prevention, Risk And Protection Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only Prerequisites: Pass SWU103	15
SWU203: Evidence Based Practice Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only Prerequisites: Pass SWU103	15
SWU204: Managing Practice Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only Prerequisites: Pass SWU103	15
SWU206: Social Work, Criminal Justice And Youth Offending Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only Prerequisites: Pass SWU103	15
SWU207: Substance Use And Misuse Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only. Cannot be counted with SWU305. Prerequisites: Pass SWU103	15

Year III Modules:

Code and Title	CAT Points
SWU301: Practice Placement (100 Days) Restrictions: Available only to BSc (Hons) Social Work students with satisfactory enhanced CRB check Prerequisites: Pass SWU102, SWU103, SWU105, SWU106, SWU108, SWU109, SWU201, SWU202, SWU203, SWU204, SWU206, SWU207	60
SWU302: Children And Families Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work students only Prerequisites: Pass SWU102, SWU103, SWU105, SWU106, SWU108, SWU109, SWU201, SWU202, SWU203, SWU204, SWU206, SWU207	15
SWU303: The Vulnerable Older Person Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work and Post-Qualifying Social Work Awards only Prerequisites: Pass SWU102, SWU103, SWU105, SWU106, SWU108, SWU109, SWU201,	15

SWU202, SWU203, SWU204, SWU206, SWU207	
<p>SWU304: Disability And Social Work</p> <p>Restrictions: Available to BSc (Hons) Social Work and Post-Qualifying Social Work Awards only</p> <p>Prerequisites: Pass SWU102, SWU103, SWU105, SWU106, SWU108, SWU109, SWU201, SWU202, SWU203, SWU204, SWU206, SWU207</p>	15
<p>SWU306: Professional Identities</p> <p>Prerequisites: Pass SWU102, SWU103, SWU105, SWU106, SWU108, SWU109, SWU201, SWU202, SWU203, SWU204, SWU206, SWU207</p>	15
<p>SWU307: Social Work And Mental Health</p> <p>Restrictions: Available only to SWU students. Cannot be counted with SWU205.</p> <p>Prerequisites: Pass SWU102, and SWU103, and SWU105, and SWU106, and SWU108, and SWU109, and SWU201, and SWU202, and SWU203, and SWU204, and SWU206, and SWU207</p>	15