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| Course Aim and Title | MA Social Work (Professional award for social work in England) |
| Intermediate Awards Available | CertHE in Applied Social Studies  PGDip in Higher Education Applied Social Studies  MA in Applied Social Studies (non-social work awards)  Intermediate/Exit awards do not lead to eligibility to register as a social worker with the Social Work England |
| Teaching Institution(s) | UEL and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust |
| Alternative Teaching Institutions  (for local arrangements see final section of this specification) | Tavistock Centre at The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust |
| UEL Academic School | Cass School of Education and Communities |
| UCAS Code | L512 |
| Professional Body Accreditation | Social Work England (SWE) - Programme originally approved by the Health and Care (HCPC) and endorsed by The College of Social Work (TCSW) in August 2013 (approval transferred to SWE in 2019) |
| Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements | Social Work (2019) |
| Additional Versions of this Course | N/A |
| Date Specification Last Updated | May 2020 |

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

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| This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:   * Experience an intellectually rewarding two-year postgraduate course delivered in both the university setting and a specialist mental health trust, that integrates a variety of theoretical perspectives throughout both academic and practice modules. * Work in partnership with stakeholders (e.g. people with lived experience of social work, employers of social workers) to ensure the course meets stakeholder needs and promotes safe effective practice and employability. * Demonstrate the British Association of Social Work’s Professional Capabilities for newly qualified social workers and, upon completion, meet the threshold standards set by Social Work England. * Achieve a professional social work qualification that leads to eligibility to apply for professional registration as a social worker in England.   What you will learn:  Upon successful completion of this course you will have knowledge, skills and understanding in the following areas:  Knowledge   * Safe practice, risk assessment frameworks and how to recognise and respond to signs of abuse and neglect (SWE, 1, 2). * Current legislation, safeguarding practice and how to use authority (SWE, 1, 2). * The professional requirements of the regulator (SWE, 1-6). * Understand confidentiality (SWE, 2, 5). * The impact of culture identity and diversity on practice and be able to reflect on you own values and identity (SWE, 1-5). * Knowledge of communication resources (SWE, 1, 5). * Knowledge of theory, models, methods, legislation, policy and practice relevant to contemporary practice (SWE, 1, 2, 3, 6). * Knowledge of the legal, policy and procedural frameworks within which social work takes place (SWE, 1, 2, 3, 6). * Knowledge of a range of research methodologies and understanding of how to use research to support understanding of the lives and experiences of people who need social work services (SWE, 1-6)     Thinking skills   * + Ability to maintain fitness to practice (SWE, 1-6).   + Reflect on practice and use appropriate knowledge, theory and skills to work with people (SWE, 1-6).   + How to reflect on their own practice and contribute to critical evaluation and engage in professional supervision (SWE, 3, 4).   Subject-Based Practical skills   * + Maintaining professional boundaries (SWE, 2, 3, 5)   + Managing the physical and emotional impact of their practice (SWE, 3, 4, 5).   + Practise as an autonomous professional exercising professional (SWE, 2, 3, 4, 5).   + Practising in a non-discriminatory manner and promoting social justice (SWE, 1-6)   + Effective Inter-personal communication skills and knowledge and skills in the ability to communicate with people with varying communication needs (SWE, 1, 2, 3)   + Be able to work appropriately with others (SWE, 1, 2, 3).   + Ability to maintain records (SWE, 3, 4).   + Ability to engage in evidence informed practice (SWE, 1-6).   + Ability to draw on a range of practice skills and knowledge (SWE, 1-6).   + Be able to establish and maintain a safe practice environment (SWE, 1-6).   Skills for life and work (general skills)   * Managing the physical and emotional impact of practice (SWE, 3 4). * Ability to draw on a range of practice skills and knowledge (SWE, 1-6) * Knowledge of health and safety legislation (SWE, 1-6).   The above stated outcomes reflect the Professional Standards of Social Work (Social Work England) and the Professional Capabilities Framework (British Association of Social Work). |

Learning and Teaching

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| Knowledge is developed through   * Integrated lectures and seminars * Guided reading and private study * Preparation for seminars, essays and presentations. * Knowledge-based activities with feedback * Fieldwork including, young child observation, professional observation and practice placements * Visiting lecturers   Thinking skills are developed through   * Linking conceptual and empirical research to social work policy and practice * Structuring essays and other written assignments * Reflective activities with feedback * Case Studies   Practical skills are developed through   * Undertaking practice placements, including preparation for practice * Analysis and application of practice theories and the formal theories and people with lived experiences social work * Workshops, seminars, other kinds of group work, practice learning opportunities and teamwork, theory lectures   Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through   * Workshops, seminars, other kinds of group work, practice learning opportunities and teamwork, theory lectures * Professional and academic writing * Preparation for practice and managing individual workloads |

Assessment

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| Knowledge is assessed by   * Coursework * Essays * Examinations   Thinking skills are assessed by   * Coursework * Practice placement portfolios * Examinations * Project work   Practical skills are assessed by   * Practice placement portfolios * Project work * Mock interviews and role plays   Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by   * Undertaking two practice placements; * Project work * IT exercises.   **Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.** |

Work or Study Placements

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| Study placements are an integral element of the MA Social Work degree and the social work course balances classroom learning with practice learning opportunities. When in the classroom, students consider the relevance of theoretical material, research and social policies to the practice of professional social work. Two practice placements are also undertaken during the programme (SK7104 and SK7107). In the first year, students undertake a 70-day assessed practice placement and an extended 100-day practice placement in the second year. During each placement, you will work with a qualified social work practice educator who will help you integrate theoretical approached from your structured-on campus with your agency-based practice and assess your progress towards meeting the Social Work Professional Capabilities (BASW) and Professional Standards (SWE). A Personal Tutor /Academic Advisor will support you on placement and help you with any unforeseen difficulties and your experience while on placement feeds directly into our quality monitoring processes. |

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.

4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.

5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.

6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.

7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this Course:

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| **Level** | **Module**  **Code** | **Module Title** | **Credit Weighting** | **Core/Option** | **Available by Distance Learning?**  **Y/N** |
| 7 | SK7101 | (Mental Wealth) Fundamentals of Social Work | 30 | Core | No |
| 7 | SK7102 | Social Work Law | 30 | Core | No |
| 7 | SK7103 | Human Growth and Development | 30 | Core | No |
| 7 | SK7104 | Professional Practice Placement 1 (70 days) | 30 | Core | No |
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| 7 | SK7105 | Professional Development | 30 | Core | No |
| 7 | SK7106 | Dissertation | 30 | Core | No |
| 7 | SK7107 | Professional Practice Placement 2 (100 days) | 60 | Core | No |
| *Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the Course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, in order to create the best learning experience.* | | | | | |
| Additional detail about the Course module structure:  This is a two-year, full time course. The teaching year is divided into two semesters. The teaching year begins in September and ends in June. Students undertake 90 credits in Year 1 and 90 credits in Year 2. Students undertake the dissertation in Year 2 of the programme. Two practice placements are also undertaken during the programme (SK7104 and SK7107). The course emphasises relationship-based approaches to social work, utilising small work discussion groups. All modules listed are core module for the course. A core module for a Course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. There is no pass compensation on MA Social Work module. All modules must be passed at a threshold mark of 50% to ensure students meet the requirements of the professional bodies for professional qualification.  You will be taught at both UEL and The Tavistock Centre. We integrate a wide range of teaching pedagogies on the programme, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, work discussion groups and practice placements. There is also an opportunity to undertake a child observation in year 1 of the programme as well as preparing for practice, which includes a five-day shadowing experience of a social worker. Students’ practice placement portfolios will document students’ learning and development of knowledge and skills when undertaking social work placements. Experiences of different approaches to researching the social world are taught and students will be supported to develop a proposal and undertake a dissertation in year two of the programme. Student learning is also supported by lecture notes, module handbooks and suggested reading, information about which is available online. Learning resources include IT facilities, access to electronic databases and specialist library facilities. | | | | | |

The overall credit-rating of this course is 180 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

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| **Entry Requirements**  Applicants must be graduates in any discipline who can demonstrate a clear commitment to social work. Applicants should normally have at least six months' (full-time equivalent) experience of social work at the time of application, with preference to those who are sponsored by employers. There is a great demand for the Course and so applicants are normally only accepted if they have 2.1 degree or higher (i.e. first or a post-graduate award). Occasionally where applicants already have several years’ experience of social work, they may be accepted with a 2.2. degree. In exceptional circumstances applicants may be accepted with other equivalent qualifications, for example where someone has a qualification from abroad that does not count as an honours degree, but also has substantial practical experience and clear evidence of attainment through other means of academic standards equivalent to the level of a UK honours degree.  **Additional professional entry requirements are listed below:**  Applicants are required to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) for  Regulated Activity.  We are required by Social Work England, social work’s statutory regulator to consider applicants’ potential health needs and the possible impact on fitness to practice. We therefore encourage all applicants to complete a health and wellbeing self- declaration form at the interview relating to health conditions that will affect their practice.  Entrants must demonstrate their suitability for social work training, i.e. their potential to meet the required Social Work England’s Professional Standards, the threshold standards necessary for safe and effective practice, by the end of their training and possess the appropriate personal and intellectual qualities to be social workers. Candidates will need to outline on their application form and during interview, the knowledge, skills, insight and experience gained through related work experience and personal life experiences.  Entrants must demonstrate that they can understand and make use of written material and be able to communicate clearly and accurately in spoken and written English. These requirements will be assessed through a written test and individual interviews.  Applicants whose first language is not English must meet communication and comprehension skills to International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a score of 7 (with 6.5 in all elements). International Qualifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education postgraduate programmes.  Social work at UEL does not accept transfers from other programmes. Aegrotat awards do not lead to registration with the HCPC  At UEL we are committed to working together to build a learning community founded on equality of opportunity - a learning community which celebrates the rich diversity of our student and staff populations. Discriminatory behaviour has no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Within a spirit of respecting difference, our equality and diversity policies promise fair treatment and equality of opportunity for all. In pursuing this aim, we want people applying for a place at UEL to feel valued and know that the process and experience will be transparent and fair, and no one will be refused access on the grounds of any protected characteristic stated in the Equality Act 2010 |

Typical Duration

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| The expected duration of this course is 2 years full-time. As this is a professional course involving full-time study, additional courses of study should not be undertaken concurrently. |

Further Information

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| More information about this course is available from:   * The UEL web site ([www.uel.ac.uk](http://www.uel.ac.uk)) * The Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust (<http://www.tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/>) * The Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust course specific site (<http://www.tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/mainsocialwork>) * The course handbook * Module study guides * UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website) * UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website) * School web pages * Social Work England (<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk>) * British Association of Social Workers (<https://www.basw.co.uk>) * QAA (<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>)   All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors. |
| Additional costs:  The MA Social Work course is two years full-time and fees are payable annually for each of the two years of study. All students are required to obtain and provide an up to date Enhanced DBS report which carries an additional cost. Where applicable there may be additional cost for travel to and from practice placements. |

Alternative Locations of Delivery

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| The MA Social Work course is run in collaboration with the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, a world-renowned institution specialising in the treatment of, and training in mental health. Your induction and enrolment will begin at UEL in semester one and this will be followed by an induction session at the Tavistock. In year one, semester one you will be based at UEL and from semester B of year one you will be based at the Tavistock, Hampstead, until you complete your studies at the end of year two. This is the only social work course in the UK that collaborates with the NHS in this way. UEL and The Tavistock Centre have had a long history of training social workers. Our graduates are well placed to gain employment in social work posts in a range of settings. The opportunity to study both at UEL and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust gives students the opportunity to experience university culture as well as a working clinic. |