COURSE SPECIFICATION

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| Course Aim and Title | BA(Hons) Social Work (Professional award for social work in England) |
| Intermediate Awards Available | Certificate in Applied Social Studies (1 year) Diploma in Applied Social Studies (2 years) BA Applied Social Studies (3 years)Intermediate/Exit awards do not lead to eligibility to register as a social worker with Social Work England |
| Teaching Institution(s) | UEL on campus |
| Alternative Teaching Institutions(for local arrangements see final section of this specification) | N/A |
| UEL Academic School | School of Education and Communities |
| UCAS Code | L501  |
| Professional Body Accreditation | Social Work England (SWE) – Course 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 | July 2021 |

**Course Aims and Learning Outcomes**

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| **This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:*** Experience an intellectually rewarding and stimulating three-year undergraduate course that integrates theory and practice 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 students will have knowledge, skills and understanding:*Knowledge* * To recognise what is expected of social worker students and practitioners at different levels across the profession (SWE Professional Standard, 1-6).
* To demonstrate the professional standards necessary for safe and effective social work practice in England (Professional Standard, 1-6).
* To work in respectful partnership with stakeholders across multidisciplinary and integrated settings (e.g. people with lived experience of social work, employers of social workers) (SWE Professional Standard, 1, 2, 5, 6).

*Thinking skills** To critically reflect on your own practice and engage in professional supervision (SWE Professional Standard, 3, 4).
* To account for the quality of your own practice by incorporating feedback from a range of sources and managing competing priorities (SWE Professional Standard, 1, 3, 4, 6).
* To critique and apply a range of theories, models and methodologies in order to understand the lives and experiences and support people who need social work services (SWE Professional Standard, 1-6).

*Subject-Based Practical skills** To practise as an autonomous professional according to the legal, ethical and procedural frameworks that guide social work in the UK and wider European and International contexts (SWE Professional Standard, 1-6).
* To undertake assessments of risk that recognise and respond to signs of abuse and neglect .
* To adapt to new ways of working, including skills in information and communication technology (SWE Professional Standard, 1, 4).

*Skills for life and work (general skills)** To work independently and demonstrate initiative, self-organisation and time management (SWE, 3, 4).
* To collaborate with others to achieve common goals (SWE Professional Standard, 1, 2, 3).
* To drive a sustainable and inclusive future by promoting social justice (SWE Professional Standard, 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
* Computer based examinations and exercises

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
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**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 BA(Hons) 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. In the first year, students undertake 30 days skills training. In the second year there is a 70-day assessed practice placement and an extended 100-day practice placement in the third year. During each placement, you will work with a qualified social work practice educator who will help you apply theoretical approaches introduced during your structured-on campus learning to 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** |
| 4 | SK4013 | Mental Wealth and Professional Fitness: Readiness for Social Work Practice | 40 | Core | N |
| 4 | SK4010 | Communication Skills | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | SK4012 | Introduction to Theory | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | SK4011 | Human Growth and Development Across the Lifespan | 20 | Core | N |
| 4 | SK4014 | Social Contexts and Social Policy | 20 | Core | N |
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| 5 | SK5002 | Mental Wealth and Professional Fitness: Professional Practice Placement I | 40 | Core | N |
| 5 | SK5005 | Contemporary Issues for Social Work Practice: I | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | SK5004 | Social Policy, Welfare, and Law I | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | SK5003 | Contemporary Issues for Social Work Practice: II | 20 | Core | N |
| 5 | SK5006 | Social Policy, Welfare, and Law II | 20 | Core | N |
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| 6 | SK6002 | Mental Wealth and Professional Fitness: Professional Practice Placement II | 40 | Core | N |
| 6 | SK6003 | Advanced Social Work Theory: Applying Critical Thinking and Analysis to Practice  | 20 | Core | N |
| 6 | SK6006 | Social Work Practice with Children and Families: Knowledge and Skills Integration  | 20 | Core | N |
| 6 | SK6004 | Research Minded Practice for Social Work | 20 | Core | N |
| 6 | SK6005 | Social Work Practice with Adults: Knowledge and Skills Integration | 20 | Core | N |
| *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 three-year full-time course. Each year you will take four 20 credit modules and one 40 credit module over two semesters. Teaching begins in September and is delivered throughout the academic year. Assessments take place throughout the academic year and are typically completed by May. To be awarded an honours degree in social work, you must complete a total of fifteen modules with a value of 360 credits. This comprises 120 credits at Level 4, 120 at Level 5 and 120 at Level 6. There is no pass compensation on BA (Hons) Social Work modules. All modules must be passed at least a threshold mark of 40% to ensure students meet the requirements of the professional bodies for professional qualification. |

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 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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| None |

**Typical Duration**

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| The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-time. This course is not available part time. A student cannot normally continue study on a course after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply, and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is 7 years from first enrolment.  |

**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 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: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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| UEL on campus and placement (various).  |