

Social Work Subject Area
COURSE SPECIFICATION (2022-2023)
BA(Hons) Social Work



Course Aim and Title	BA(Hons) Social Work (Professional award for social work in England)
Intermediate Awards Available	Certificate in Applied Social Studies DipHE in Applied Social Studies BA Applied Social Studies Intermediate/Exit awards do not lead to eligibility to register as a social worker with the 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	Cass School of Education and Communities
UCAS Code	L501
Professional Body Accreditation	Social Work England (SWE) – Approved with Conditions (2023)
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Social Work (2019)
Additional Versions of this Course	N/A
Date Specification Last Updated	May 2023

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

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 the 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 (SWE 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 Professional Standard, 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

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

Assessment

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 learning and assessment within the course.

Work or Study Placements

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 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.

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

The module structure of this Course:

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
5	SK5002	Professional Practice Placement: I (70 Days)	40	Core	N
5	SK5003	Contemporary Issues for Social Work Practice: I	20	Core	N
5	SK5004	Social Policy, Welfare, and Law I	20	Core	N
5	SK5005	Contemporary Issues for Social Work Practice: II	20	Core	N
5	SK5006	Social Policy, Welfare, and Law II	20	Core	N
6	SK6002	Professional Practice Placement: II (100 Days)	40	Core	N

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6	SK6003	Advanced Social Work Theory: Applying Critical Thinking and Analysis to Practice	20	Core	N
6	SK6006	Knowledge and Skills Integration: Social Work Practice with Children and Families:	20	Core	N
6	SK6004	Research Minded Practice for Social Work	20	Core	N
6	SK6005	Knowledge and Skills: Integration Social Work Practice with Adults	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 module. All modules must be passed at 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

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- For admission to the BA (Hons) Social Work course candidates are required to have the following qualifications and skills:
- 280 UCAS tariff points from: A/AS levels (including 2 A2 passes), BTEC, SCOTEC Diploma, GNVQ, AVCE, Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate, European Baccalaureate.
- We also accept students with Access to HE Diploma, NVQ Level 3 and a variety of other pre-university level qualifications.
- 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).

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- GCSE English and Maths (Grade A–C) or certified equivalences such as Key Skills Level 2, Functional Skills Level 2 or Adult Literacy/Numeracy Level 2.

Additional professional entry requirements are listed below:

- Applicants are required to complete an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check 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.
- Applicants 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 are assessed through a written test and individual interview.
- All entrants must demonstrate their suitability for social work training showing they possess the appropriate personal and intellectual qualities with the capability of meeting the required professional standards by the end of their training.
- All shortlisted applicants must confirm prior to offer that they have the ability to use basic IT facilities, including word processing, internet use and use of email, and will be asked to specify how these skills have been obtained.
- Social work at UEL does not accept direct transfers from other programmes.
- 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

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

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (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

UEL on campus and placement (various).