



Course Specification

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Produced By:	Oliver Jones
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	The Institute of Community and Society		
Course Code(s):	SO016P01UV	Full-time	2 Years
UCAS Code:	L508		
Course Title:	MA Social Work		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Arts Social Work Postgraduate Diploma Social Work University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	03/May/2017		
Last Review:	2014/5		
Course Specification valid from:	2012/3		
Course Specification valid to:	2020/1		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Ms Anthea Murr
Head of Department:	Mrs Clair Jenkins

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

2017 Entry

- All candidates must hold an Honours degree (Bachelor) at 2:1 or above
- Candidates must have a GCSE grade C+ / 4 (or equivalent) in Maths and English.
- All candidates must have substantial prior experience in the field of Social Care, Health or Education (this can be either paid or voluntary work and must be verifiable by a manager).
- If you've got other qualifications or relevant experience, please contact [The Gateway](#) for further advice before applying
- International entry requirements and application guidance can be found [here](#)

Other Requirements

Applicants will also be required to provide satisfactory personal statement and two references (academic and employer).

Those meeting the entry requirements may be invited for interview where they will be assessed in comprehension, verbal ability and suitability for social work. Interview panels will include, whenever possible, employer and service-user/carer representatives.

Due to the professional nature of this course you are also required to complete a Declaration of Health and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check.

Those who do not meet the entry requirements may be offered an alternative course

Distinctive Features of the Course:

This course leads to an academic award and a qualification as a social worker. With this students are eligible to register with the HCPC and to practise as a qualified and registered social worker.

The social work course is developed around national requirements, whilst incorporating a cross-national perspective for some modules. The course at the University of Wolverhampton has some excellent features including:

- Opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning
- Approved placement opportunities across a range of settings.
- Opportunities to hear visiting lecturers from Germany, France and Sweden and the Netherlands. It may be possible for students to visit EU countries and gain experience as 'value added'.
- There is a commitment to International Social Work on the award and staff members have interests and publications in this area.

There is a strong staff and service-user interest in disability and this is embedded into academic modules and workshops.

Ethical and engaged practice is a core element of the award, which is enhanced by skills days relating to values and critical reflection. Some of the staff team have relevant publications in this area and are also members of the Social Work Action Network, an organisation of social workers committed to equality and social justice.

Core members of staff on the course have a strong record of social work publications and/or conference presentations across a range of areas of interest.

There are also excellent campus facilities (catering, libraries and well equipped social learning spaces) which contribute to an enjoyable learning experience.

Educational Aims of the Course:

This graduate entry level course is designed to equip social work students with the knowledge, skills and values necessary for qualification. Upon successful completion of the course students will have met published professional standards and be ready to begin their first year in practice. Successful students will be able to register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) as a qualified and registered social worker.

The MA Social Work is an academic award dependent upon successful completion of a Masters level dissertation, as well as demonstrating capable practice. There is an 'exit award' of PgD, which allows successful students to qualify and register with the HCPC. Students, who take this route, will be eligible to complete a Masters' dissertation in social work studies.

The specific educational aims of the course are to enable student to meet:

- The required levels of the Professional Capability Framework (PCF) and HCPC Standards of Proficiency (SoPs)

and, to develop

- a knowledge base to underpin capable and effective practice
- core social work values as identified by professional and regulatory bodies (e.g. British Association of Social Workers)
- the necessary intellectual skills of critical thinking, inquiry and problem solving as applied to academic learning and to practice ethical, research minded and critically engaged practice
- to develop a social work practice committed to social justice, which recognises structural inequality and which seeks to counter-act this.

These feed into and support the 5 course learning outcomes.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

HE FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND (HEFCE)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2017/8	H	Full Time	£3010.00
2017/8	EU	Full Time	£3010.00
2017/8	Overseas	Full Time	£6223.00
2018/9	HHQ	Full Time	£3075.00
2018/9	Overseas	Full Time	£6350.00
2018/9	EU	Full Time	£3010.00

PSRB:

SO016P01UV (Full-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)

Accrediting Body:
Health and Care Professions Council, the (HCPC)

Accreditation Statement:
Approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) for the purpose of providing eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC as a social worker in England.

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
27/Mar/2014	27/Mar/2014		

Course Structure:

September (Full-Time)

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7SO002	Placement 1	20	YEAR	Core
7SO001	Theories and methods for Social Work Practice	20	IN YR	Core
7SO004	Law for Social Work Practice	20	SEM1	Core
7SO007	Social work with Adults, Children, Families and Carers	20	IN YR	Core

September (Full-Time)

Year 2

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7SO005	Critical Perspectives for Social Work	20	SEM1	Core
7SO003	Placement 2	20	YEAR	Core
7SO025	MA Social Work Dissertation	60	CRYRA	Core

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

Section 1.2.3 - To meet the requirements of the Professional Body, for practice components, the course follows a customised calendar outside of the standard University Academic Calendar.

Section 4.5.7 - Students must pass all modules before they can continue to next level of study (compensation is not allowed). HCPC Standards of Proficiency and the Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF) are met through completion of core modules leading to PgD Social Work which can be awarded upon completion of 120 credits (taken from the prescribed diet for MA Social Work excluding the Dissertation module). Those graduating with the PgD Social Work are eligible, along with those successfully completing 180 credits for the MA Social Work, to apply for Social Worker registration with the Professional Body. If students exit, and wish to return to the University in order to complete a Masters qualification, they will be able to study a 60 credit project module for the MA Social Work Studies or the MA Health and Social Care.

APPROVED by AFRSC (17/11/2011).

Section 3.4.2 - Exemption to extend the maximum period of registration for full time students from 2 years to 4 years. Progression regulations for this programme do not allow students to progress to the second year until they have successfully completed all modules timetabled for the first year. Furthermore, additional time may be required by students who fail their placement and are required to retake this element of the course. Approval granted for publication of normal and maximum periods of registration. Students should be informed that it is our expectation that progression will be within the normal period and anything other is an exception.

APPROVED by AFRSC (9/5/2013).

Section 4.3.3 & 4.3.5 - Exemption with no right to repeat practice modules (7SO002 and 7SO003) in accordance with Professional Body (Health and Care Professions Council) requirements. There is also no automatic right to a second attempt for the practice component (a 0% weighted Placement) at the discretion of the Assessment Board. Exception agreed to permit second and third attempts for a non-practice component (the 100% weighted Case Study) which is not required in order to demonstrate professional competencies on;

7SO002 Placement One (70 days).

APPROVED by AFRSC (12/1/2017).

Reference Points:

Academic

University of Wolverhampton Strategic Plan

University of Wolverhampton learning teaching and assessment sub strategy

University of Wolverhampton examination regulations

University of Wolverhampton post-graduate taught regulation

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

QAA The Quality Code

QAA Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality & Standards in Higher Education & SEEC Level Descriptors

Masters level study is grounded in the principles of Enquiry Based Learning <http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/ceeb/eb/> and subsequent weblinks.

[HCPC Standards for Education and Training](#)

[HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Social Workers in England](#)

Department for Education

Social Work Reform Board especially in relation to Master level study & placements. <http://www.education.gov.uk/swrb/>

PSRB

[The British Association of Social Work Professional Capability Framework](#)

[Health and Care Professions Council standards of conduct](#)

Skills for Care, [Quality Assurance in Practice Learning \(QAPL\)](#)

Other External References

Equality Act (2010).

Learning Outcomes:

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGDCLO1)

Demonstrate capability in social work practice, as specified by the HCPC, Requirements for Social Work Training and the PCF ensuring that social works core values are central. (PCF 1-9).

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGDCLO2)

Be able to reflect critically on evidence and information, apply and synthesise this knowledge to social work processes and interventions to become an engaged social worker, committed to social justice. (PCF 5, 6, 7).

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGDCLO3)

Confidently and consistently apply intra-personal and inter-professional skills and knowledge when working with professions, agencies and service-users to promote best practice with people, who are often vulnerable. (PCF1, 2, 8, 9).

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGDCLO4)

Demonstrate a critical commitment to a service-user and carer centred approach in practice, focused upon social works core values.(PCF 1, 2, 3, 4).

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGDCLO5)

Be able to engage in and demonstrate a critical analysis of the legal, political and social influences impacting on social work practice in a complex and changing environment, often characterised by ethical dilemmas or

conflict of interests. (PCF 4, 5, 7).

Masters Course Learning Outcome 1 (MACLO1)

Demonstrate capability in social work practice, as specified by the HCPC, Requirements for Social Work Training and the PCF ensuring that social works core values are central. (PCF 1-9).

Masters Course Learning Outcome 2 (MACLO2)

Be able to reflect critically on evidence and information, apply and synthesise this knowledge to social work processes and interventions to become an engaged social worker, committed to social justice. (PCF 5, 6, 7).

Masters Course Learning Outcome 3 (MACLO3)

Confidently and consistently apply intra-personal and inter-professional skills and knowledge when working with professions, agencies and service-users to promote best practice with people, who are often vulnerable. (PCF 1, 2, 8, 9).

Masters Course Learning Outcome 4 (MACLO4)

Demonstrate a critical commitment to a service-user and carer centred approach in practice, focused upon social works core values.(PCF 1, 2, 3, 4).

Masters Course Learning Outcome 5 (MACLO5)

Be able to engage in and demonstrate a critical analysis of the legal, political and social influences impacting on social work practice in a complex and changing environment, often characterised by ethical dilemmas or conflict of interests. (PCF 4, 5, 7).

Masters Course Learning Outcome 6 (MACLO6)

Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
7SO001	Theories and methods for Social Work Practice	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3
7SO002	Placement 1	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5
7SO003	Placement 2	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5
7SO004	Law for Social Work Practice	MACLO1, MACLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO5
7SO005	Critical Perspectives for Social Work	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO4, MACLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5
7SO007	Social work with Adults, Children, Families and Carers	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO3, MACLO4, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4
7SO025	MA Social Work Dissertation	MACLO2, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Learning activities on the award include;

- formal lectures
- workshops
- individual and group tutorials
- seminar group discussions
- on-line electronic support for learning through CANVAS (Wolverhampton On Line Framework), which is the University's virtual learning environment. CANVAS provides you with a forum in which to engage in dialogue with other students and your lecturers
- formative assessment

Service-users and carers will contribute to the teaching across a range of modules.

Placements represent 50% of the course and students will be given the opportunity to practice skills and apply knowledge in a variety of settings.

During the placements students will be encouraged and enabled to reflect critically on their learning, and personal & professional development, synthesising academic and practice modules.

Through a variety of approaches to learning the course team seeks to develop students into capable, critical and analytical social work practitioners, who are able to respond in an engaged manner to the changing face of social work practice within the statutory, voluntary and independent sector settings.

Student Support:

Students and their learning will be supported through a variety of ways;

Student Advisors

The Institute of Community and Society has two student advisors to offer help and advice on a range of issues that may affect studies. This can be accessed by telephone and e-mail or the website <http://www.wlv.ac.uk/default.aspx?page=9182>.

Tutorial Support

- Each student will be allocated a personal tutor – who will maintain an overview of their progress throughout the course.
- A tutor will be allocated from within the university to enhance experiential learning and reflection and to 'troubleshoot' any difficulties on the placement.
- Each student will be allocated a qualified practice teacher during placements.
- Each student has an entitlement to academic support on taught modules – this may be face-to-face or through e-mail.

Other support

- Counselling offers a confidential space in which students can talk to a counsellor about their concerns. Personal appointments are available on all campuses; there is a drop-in service every weekday at City Campus and on online counselling is available via CANVAS.
- The student financial support unit can help students with advice on funds available to students.
- The student enabling service centre provides a comprehensive range of support for D/deaf, Dyslexic and Disabled students including; screenings and assessments, guidance on gaining financial support, various support services and enabling technologies.

The inter-faith Centre is also available to those requiring spiritual guidance and support.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Employment

The course enables successful students to begin practice as a qualified and registered social worker. The English qualification is accepted throughout the UK, the EU and is recognised Internationally.

Further training and education opportunities

Graduates may return to the University of Wolverhampton (or any Higher Education Institution (HEI)) to undertake courses as part of their continuing professional development, which is a requirement to maintain social work registration with the HCPC.

It is a condition of continuing HCPC registration that qualified and registered social workers maintain a record of CPD.

There is also the opportunity for candidates to enrol on a programme of doctoral study – either a Professional Doctorate or a more conventional PhD.



THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY