

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	FdA Social Welfare, Advice and Guidance Practice
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 5
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	120/240 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	2 years full-time
Intended Award	FdA Social Welfare Advice, and Guidance Practice
Named Exit Awards	CertHE Social Welfare, Advice and Guidance Practice
Entry Requirements ⁴	Paid or voluntary work in an appropriate care or educational setting. Level 2 English Language, 80 UCAS points (or above) This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University on the student route)
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Great Yarmouth Campus)
UCAS Code	L500

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Social Welfare, Advice and Guidance Practice course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026/27 academic year.

Course Summary

This course allows student to combine study with employment. Students are supported to gain experience in paid or voluntary employment in a welfare, educational, advice or care setting in roles such as educational welfare, social care, assistant practitioners, family support work, mental health support workers, learning disability support, school behaviour support, employment support, benefits advice, housing support work, youth justice and community development work.

Advocacy, equality, diversity, and rights are fundamental themes that run through the entire programme. The course places a significant emphasis on work-based learning, providing students with the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings. The

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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reflective aspect of this practice ensures that students can connect their learning experiences to their specific contexts, personalizing their educational journey. Students are encouraged to broaden their expertise, reflecting on its application and potential utilisation within their respective sectors.

Graduates are likely to have increased job satisfaction, better career prospects and opportunities for promotion and career development. This course offers a new route into and through higher education. On completion of the course graduates can progress to an appropriate progression route, such as the BA (Hons) Applied Care Practice (Progression Route) degree at University of Suffolk.

Course Aims

1. To provide students with the knowledge, understanding and associated skills that will enable them to work effectively, flexibly and responsively with Children, Families and Adults in welfare, advice, guidance and social care sectors
2. To provide students with opportunity to develop knowledge and a critical understanding of the regulatory and legislative framework for working in inclusive welfare, guidance or social care pertinent to their role
3. Engage in work-based learning to develop skills and knowledge to support professional practice and enhance employability
4. To encourage students to become active learners, learning through practice, rather than learning to practice by exploring methods of research relevant and appropriate to work settings
5. To enhance the students' communication and interpersonal skills and key transferable employability skills.
6. To provide opportunities for reflection and development of personal and professional skills and values to work within the welfare, advice, guidance and social care sectors
7. To provide students with a recognised higher education qualification which provides the opportunity to access an honours degree and / or a professional qualification

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the Social Welfare Advice and Guidance Practice course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁵.

1. Understand the impact of national and local policies, ethical and legislative frameworks pertinent to their role.
2. Demonstrate understanding of and ability to evaluate principles and theories underpinning the study and practice of welfare, advice, guidance and social care services for service users in a range of settings
3. Transfer and apply previous knowledge, skills and understanding to new situations and contexts relevant to the well-being of service users.
4. To apply strong academic skills of inquiry, critical evaluation, analysis and reasoned argument and incorporate an awareness of the stances of others relevant to practice
5. Demonstrate and evaluate appropriate advice & guidance practice individually, as part of a team and in partnership with other agencies

⁵ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)
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6. Demonstrate evidence of independent thinking and developing innovation in practice through critical reflection.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / Competency Frameworks:

- Social Work Professional Competency Framework (2019) (in conjunction with the planned review due Feb 2025)
- National Occupational Standards Health & Social Care (2021)
- National Occupational Standards for Learning Development Support Services (2021)
- Department for Education: SEND Code of Practice (2015)
- Department for Education: SEND Code of Practice (update 2020, 2024)
- Gatsby Benchmark indicators for schools and colleges (2024)
- QAA Foundation Degree Benchmarks (2024)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Youth & Community Work (2019)
- QAA Subject benchmark Statement Social Work (2019)

Course Structure

The FdA Social Welfare, Advice and Guidance Practice comprises modules at levels 4 and 5. Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁶
Level 4			
1	Personal Professional and Academic Development	20	M
2	Foundations of Mental Health and Wellbeing Across the Lifespan	20	R
3	Safeguarding Adults and Children in Practice	20	R
4	Guidance & Counselling Skills – Using the Skilled Helper Approach	20	R
5	Empowerment and Social Justice: Advocacy in Practice	20	R
6	Society, Individualism and Social Welfare	20	R
Level 5			
7	Public Health Promotion for Mental health and wellbeing	20	R
8	Building Sustainable, collaborative and Integrated Services	20	R
9	Enhancing Leadership Skills through Reflective Supervision	20	R
10	Ethical Decision Making: Practice Values and Dilemmas in Professional Practice	20	R

⁶ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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11	Advancing Professional Practice: Digital and Technological Developments	20	R
12	Application of Research to Professional Practice	20	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a FdA Social Welfare, Advice and Guidance Practice. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a CertHE Social Welfare, Advice and Guidance Practice on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Great Yarmouth Campus. Students studying full-time on FdA Social Welfare Advice and Guidance Practice are likely to have approximately 300 contact and tutor directed hours for level 4 and level 5. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, simulation, tutorials and practical activities, students will also be required to participate in 10 hours per week of work placement in an appropriate setting (e.g., education, social care, health etc), students will be expected to find their own placement. Students will normally be expected to undertake 15 hours of independent study per module in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mainly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the appropriate professional body, e.g., SWE, HCPC.

Course Costs

Students undertaking FdA Social Welfare, Advice and Guidance Practice will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£8,472 per year
Part-time UK/EU	N/A
Full-time International	N/A
Part-time International	N/A

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).