

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	FdA Social Welfare, Advice & Guidance Practice
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 5
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	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 & Guidance Practice
Named Exit Awards	CertHE Social Welfare, Advice & Guidance Practice
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 80 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent) Any offer of a place will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check Students will need to be working in an appropriate setting in either a voluntary or paid capacity for 10 hours per week
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Great Yarmouth)
UCAS Code	L500

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the FdA Social Welfare, Advice & Guidance Practice course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2024-25 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

This course has been developed to meet the education and training requirements of a range of individuals employed within the statutory, voluntary and not-for-profit welfare, advice, guidance and social care sectors. It offers students the opportunity to enhance their work-based skills and achieve a recognised academic qualification. The course has been developed in liaison with employers and employees in the social care sector, including agencies who deliver information, advice and guidance support and has been tailored to meet the specific training requirements of the sector. The students study a range of modules, all of which they are able to shape to their own practice and interests. These include: Personal & Professional

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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Development, Supporting Lifespan Development, Guidance & Counselling Skills in Practice, Safeguarding, Understanding Mental Health, Application of Research, Advocacy & Negotiation Skills, Practice Values & Dilemmas, Welfare & Social Care in Society.

Course Aims

- 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
- To enable students to recognise the scope, depth and breadth of their knowledge and skills to work inclusively within an inter-professional team
- To provide students with an appropriate understanding of the regulatory and legislative framework for welfare, guidance or social care pertinent to their role
- To provide opportunities for students to develop key skills to prepare for further study and / or employment and life-long learning
- To encourage students to become active learners, thus learning through practice, rather than learning to practice
- To provide the students with the opportunity to explore methods of research relevant and appropriate to work settings
- To enhance the students' communication and interpersonal skills
- To develop students' enthusiasm for higher education
- To provide opportunities for reflection and development of personal and professional skills whilst working within the welfare, advice, guidance and social care sectors
- 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 FdA Social Welfare, Advice & 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 5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).⁶

1. Develop strategies to improve their practice through critical reflection & evaluation.
2. Contribute to the well-being of service users as part of a team and in partnership with other agencies using effective communication.
3. Appreciate how their own values, beliefs and attitudes influence their practice.
4. To demonstrate evidence of independent thinking and developing innovation in practice.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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5. Apply and justify appropriate methods of enquiry relevant to practice.
6. Critically reflect on their professional development needs and plan for future training and acquisition of skills and knowledge.
7. To apply strong academic skills of inquiry, critical evaluation, analysis and reasoned argument and incorporate an awareness of the stances of others.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following national and Professional Standards:

- Social Work Professional Competency Framework (2012)
- National Occupational Standards Health & Social Care (2012)
- National Occupational Standards for Learning Development Support Services (2009)
- National Occupational Standards: Career Development (2014)
- Department for Education: SEND Code of Practice (2014)
- Gatsby Benchmark indicators for schools and colleges (2018)
- QAA Foundation Degree Benchmarks
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Youth & Community Work (2017)
- QAA Subject benchmark Statement Social Work (2016)

Course Structure

The FdA Social Welfare, Advice & Guidance Practice comprises modules at levels 4 and 5.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Supporting Lifespan Development	20	R
	Personal Professional Development	20	M
	Safeguarding in Practice	20	M
	Guidance & Counselling Skills in Practice	20	M
	Advocacy & Negotiation Skills in Practice	20	R
	Welfare and Society	20	R
Level 5			
	Understanding Mental Health & Wellbeing	20	R
	The Skilled Helper Practitioner	20	M
	Practice Values and Dilemmas	20	R
	Integrated & Collaborative Practice	20	R
	Effective Supervision and Reflective Practice	20	R
	Application of Research to Professional Practice	20	M

⁷ 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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Awards

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

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Great Yarmouth). Students studying full-time on FdA Social Welfare, Advice & Guidance Practice are likely to have approximately 9-12 contact hours per week. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, presentations and tutorials as well as via the online learning environment (Brightspace). Students are expected to already be working in the sector. Students should expect to do at least 10 hours per week of work either in employment or a voluntary role. Support can be provided in finding work placements when necessary. Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 20 hours of independent study per week.

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 100% coursework (including essays, presentations and work-based project tasks). Filmed evidence will be used for formative assessments and reflections, in some of the modules.

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.

Course Costs

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

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£8,220 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£14,610 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

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](#).