University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**BA (Hons) Social Work [Degree Apprenticeship]**
Awarding Body	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 6**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**Social Work England**
Credit Structure[2]	**360 Credits** **Level 4: 120 Credits** **Level 5: 120 Credits** **Level 6: 120 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time and part-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**3 years full-time**
Intended Award	**BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship**
Named Exit Awards	Certificate of Higher Education Social Studies Diploma of Higher Education Social Studies BA Social Studies
Entry Requirements[4]	• GCSE English or English Language at grade C/4 or above, or an approved equivalent such as level 2 functional skills. • Nationally accredited qualification at level 3 or above e.g.,3 A levels, BTEC diploma, NVQ, Access to Higher Education • At least 12 months direct experience of working with children, young people and families, or adults with care and support needs • Satisfactory DBS check • Satisfactory Health check **Employers decide on the work experience required for the programmes they wish to support and recruit to the (employed) position of an apprentice. Applications are made directly to the Local Authority (Suffolk County Council).**

[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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Delivering Institution(s)	**University of Suffolk**
UCAS Code	

This definitive course record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] course. The information provided is accurate for apprentices entering level 4 in the 2027-28 academic year[5].

Course Summary

The BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] is designed to prepare apprentices for the constantly changing and challenging environment of social work and social care practice. Underpinned by a strong commitment to social justice, the programme combines a clear academic focus on the theoretical underpinnings of social work with careful attention to practice skills, knowledge, values and personal and professional development. The BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] is based on a model in which apprentices are employed full-time by their employers and spend part of their working week undertaking social work studies. The requirements of Skills England (formerly the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) is that apprentices on the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] programme spend up to 20% or 6 hours of their working time in educational activities. The pattern of working for apprentices includes attending learning and teaching activities and modules, one day a week across the year in Levels 4, 5 and 6. Programme delivery involves non-integrated and integrated aspects with undergraduate students, with similar and bespoke assessments that diversify dependent upon the learner pathway. The apprenticeship model is employer funded and employers identify potential candidates to attend the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] programme, with support and collaboration from UoS.

Course Aims

The following statements define what apprentices graduating from the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award.

- At the point of completion of the course, produce social work graduates who meet all six SWE (2019) Professional Standards, nine domains of the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW 2018) at qualifying level, and who are therefore eligible to apply for professional registration as social workers with SWE.

- To deliver a coherent curriculum that is relevant to contemporary social work practice, which is evidence-informed including by up-to-date research, theory, knowledge, social work values and practice developments.

- To utilise diverse teaching, learning and assessment methods which support the development of competent, thoughtful and reflective practitioners, committed to personal and professional development with a sound ethical base, in line with: the Subject Benchmark Statement for Social Work (QAA, 2019); the Professional Standards (SWE, 2019), the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW, 2018), the Institute for Apprentices Standards (2023), the curriculum guides (TCSW/Higher Education Academy, 2012), and the Education and Training Standards (SWE, 2021).

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

- To work closely with key partners (external examiners, employers, social work managers and practitioners, people who use social work services, apprentices and other professionals) to ensure that the course is informed by their views and responsive to their knowledge and experiences in order to ensure the relevance of the course for contemporary social work practice and to promote graduates' employability.

- Deliver the prescribed curriculum for the degree based upon documentation provided by Social Work England and the Quality Assurance Agency's benchmark statement for social work (QAA, 2019), the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (SHEQ), SWE Professional Standards (2019) and the Professional Capabilities Framework, managed by BASW (2018). Modules are also mapped against the Knowledge Skills Statements (KSS) for children and families and adults and Institute for Apprentices (IfA, 2023) Duties and SKBS.

- Provide apprentices with an opportunity to develop a broad range of practice skills, knowledge and understanding of key subject areas and acquire a clear sense of social work values.

Course Learning Outcomes
The following statements define what apprentices graduating from the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] 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 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6] and the Social Work England's Professional Standards mapped against the Professional Capabilities Framework.

1. Critically evaluate and apply the regulatory requirements of Social Work England (SWE), demonstrating accountability and competence in undertaking professional duties and responsibilities.

2. Apply advanced cognitive, analytical, critical, and reflective skills to utilise assessment frameworks, undertake risk assessments, and recognise and respond appropriately to abuse and neglect.

3. Critically synthesise subject-specific knowledge, including legal frameworks, to inform sound professional practice in complex contexts.

4. Practise in a critically reflective and values-led manner, consistent with the BASW (2018) Professional Capabilities Framework and SWE (2019) Professional Standards.

5. Demonstrate resilience, self-awareness, and effective strategies for managing professional boundaries, challenges, and change to maintain fitness to practise.

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

6. Critically apply a positive, professional approach that reflects high standards of competence and capability within demanding social work contexts.

7. Exercise autonomy and professional judgement in assessment, decision-making, and recommendations, drawing on a range of knowledge sources in uncertain and complex environments.

8. Critically analyse the impact of cultural factors, equality, and diversity, practising in an anti-discriminatory way that promotes social justice, inclusion, and equity.

9. Demonstrate critical knowledge of how to share information appropriately within legal and professional boundaries.

10. Communicate effectively and with professional confidence, both verbally and in writing, with people who use services, carers, colleagues, and other professionals.

11. Build and sustain appropriate professional relationships, working collaboratively within teams, networks, and multi-disciplinary/inter-professional contexts.

12. Consistently review, evaluate, and critically reflect on practice, drawing on relevant knowledge and evidence to assure quality and effectiveness.

13. Critically apply the knowledge base of the profession—including theories of understanding and intervention, values, legislation and policy, research, and organisational/societal contexts—to respond to change and complexity in practice.

14. Act proactively to uphold safety and minimise risk for self, colleagues, and service users, establishing and maintaining safe environments for practice.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Subject Benchmark Statement, SWE Professional Standards and BASW Professional Capabilities Framework:

QAA Benchmarks:

- Social Work (2019)

Professional Standards:

- Social Work England (SWE) Professional Standards (2019)
- Social Work England (SWE) Qualifying Education and Training Standards (2021)
- British Association of Social Workers (BASW) Professional Capabilities Framework (2018)
- British Association of Social Workers (BASW) Code of Ethics for Social Workers (2014).

- Institute for Apprenticeship Standards (2023) Social Worker (Integrated degree)

Course Structure
The BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

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[7]
Level 4			
	Apprenticeship Academic Skills Development 1	0	M
	Human Behaviour and Lifespan Development	30	M
	Fundamentals of Social Work Practice	30	M
	Values, Ethics and Dilemmas in Social Work Practice	30	M
	Introduction to Law Policy and Practice	30	M
Level 5			
	Apprenticeship Academic Skills Development 2	0	M
	Social Change and Social Justice in Social Work	30	M
	Social Work with Adults, Law, Policy and Practice	30	M
	Social Work with Children and Families, Law, policy and practice	30	M
	Supervised and Assessed Practice Learning Year 2	30	M
Level 6			
	Academic Skills development 3	0	M
	Contemporary Issues in Social Work Policy and Practice	30	M
	Supervised and Assessed Practice Learning (Year 3)	60	M
	Work Based Project	30	M

Awards
On successful completion of the course, apprentices will be awarded a BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship]. Apprentices who leave the course early may be eligible for a BA Social Studies on successful completion of 300 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5 and 60 credits at level 6 or a Diploma of Higher Education Social Studies on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a Certificate of Higher Education on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

[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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Course Delivery
The course is delivered at Ipswich. Apprentices studying full-time on BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] are likely to have approximately 204 contact hours for level 4, 195 contact hours for level 5 and 130 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, workshops, tutor groups and personal academic coach sessions. In addition, apprentices will undertake at least 200 days of supervised and assessed practice learning in a statutory setting as identified by their employer. The rotations will be arranged by the employer. Apprentices will normally be expected to undertake on average, between 5-12 hours of independent study per week, which can include Online Learning Environment (OLE) activities, reflection, project supervision, assessment writing and other Off-the-Job-Hours (OTJH) learning activities. Apprentices should be prepared for the hours of independent study to vary based on the number of days on rotation, study days assignment tasks and deadlines, guided-directed study and classroom based and on-line learning environment activities.

Course Assessment
A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable apprentices 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, research projects and portfolios).

Special Features
The BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] course is approved by Social Work England and meets the requirements of the Social Worker (degree) apprenticeship standard. Social worker is a protected title, on completion of this course graduates are eligible to apply for registration with Social Work England.

End Point Assessment
All apprentices will be required to achieve 360 credits to achieve the degree. An End Point Assessment (EPA) will take place with formal ratification of the results and completion of the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship].

Course Team
The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. Staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered as Social Workers with SWE.

Course Costs
Apprentices undertaking BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] will not be charged tuition fees directly. Tuition fees will be agreed between the University and the apprentice's employer. Apprentices will be required to sign a commitment statement before starting their apprenticeship which will detail the apprentice's, employer's, and University's expectations under the apprenticeship agreement.

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.