

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Social Work
Awarding Bodies	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
Named Exit Awards	Certificate of Higher Education Social Studies Diploma of Higher Education Social Studies BA Social Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 120 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBB (A-Level), DDM (129) (BTEC), including A-Level (or equivalent) subjects in Sociology, Law or Psychology based subjects are preferred, or Access to HE Diploma – a minimum of 30 level 3 credits at merit grade or above. GCSE English or English Language at grade C/4 or above, or an approved equivalent such as level 2 functional skills. Subject to a written task and interview day comprising of different activities. Any offer of a place will be subject to a satisfactory health check and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	L501

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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This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Social Work course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The BA (Hons) Social Work Course is designed to prepare students 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. Relevant knowledge and theory for practice includes psychological and sociological theories applied to a range of practice contexts, approaches to research and evidence informed practice, knowledge and understanding of law and policy. Employers in statutory and private, voluntary and independent sectors provide practice-learning opportunities for levels 5 and 6. In addition, skills development is supported through practice workshops with people with lived experience (service participants) and practitioners, focusing on, for example, communication, direct and specialist work, and inter-professional practice. Study time is built into the programme for students to pursue their own increasingly independent learning and in Level 6; students are expected to develop this to produce a dissertation with individual supervision.

Course Aims

The aims of the BA (Honours) Social Work degree course are:

- 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 curriculum guides (TCSW/Higher Education Academy, 2012), and the Education and Training Standards (SWE, 2021).
- To work closely with key partners (external examiners, employers, social work managers and practitioners, people who use social work services, students 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.

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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- 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.
- Provide students 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 students graduating from the BA (Hons) Social Work 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 are mapped against Social Work England Professional Standards and the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW).

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

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

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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).

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**Course Structure**

The BA (Hons) Social Work comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6. 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			
	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			
	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			
	Contemporary Issues in Social Work Policy and Practice	30	M
	Supervised and Assessed Practice Learning (Year 3)	60	M
	Work Based Project	30	M

We regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Social Work and be eligible to apply for registration with Social Work England. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for BA Social Studies on successful completion of 300 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5 and 60 credits at level 6, 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 Social Studies on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 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. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Social Work are likely to have approximately 265 contact hours for level 4, 190 contact hours for level 5 and 97 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, skills workshops, tutor groups and personal academic coach sessions. In addition, students will undertake at least 170 days of learning in statutory, private, voluntary and /or independent sector settings. Placements will be arranged by the University in conjunction with Local Authority Teaching Partnership and other placement providers. Students will normally be expected to undertake between 5-12 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on number of days in placement, assignment deadlines and classroom based and on-line environment activities.

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 by coursework (for example vlogs, essays, case studies, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning accounts, research projects and portfolios).

Special Features

The BA (Hons) Social Work course is approved by Social Work England. 'Social Worker' is a protected title, on completion of this course graduates are eligible to apply for registration with Social Work England.

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 as Social Workers with SWE.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Social Work will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,790 per year
Part-time UK	£2,448 per 30 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£18,750 per year
Part-time EU/International	£4,680 30 credit module

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](#).