

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	Approved by the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC)
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	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 110 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent) A-level (or equivalent) subjects in Sociology, Psychology or Law based subjects are preferred GCSE Maths and English at grade C or above (or equivalent) Subject to a selection day 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

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 2017-18 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. It combines a clear academic focus on the theoretical underpinnings of social work with careful attention to practice skills, knowledge and values and personal and professional development. Relevant knowledge and theory for practice includes psychological and sociological theories applied to the range of practice contexts, approaches to research and evidence informed practice, knowledge of law and policy and inter-professional learning opportunities across the three

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](#)

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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years. Practice experience for the required 170 days across Years 2 and 3 is offered through a range of placement opportunities provided by employers in the statutory and private, voluntary and independent sectors. The required 30 days skills training supports readiness for practice through a range of relevant skills such as communication, networking and advocacy, as well as reflection and self-management, and these are supported by module teaching too. Study time is built into the programme for students to pursue their own increasingly independent learning and in Year 3 students are expected to develop this to produce a dissertation with individual tutor support.

Course Aims

- At the point of completion of the course, to produce social work graduates who meet all fifteen HCPC Standards of Proficiency and the eight domains of the Professional Capabilities Framework (formerly managed by the College of Social Work and now by the British Association of Social Workers) at qualifying level, and who are eligible to apply for professional registration as social workers with the HCPC
- To deliver a coherent curriculum that is relevant to contemporary social work practice, which is evidence-based and clearly informed by up-to-date theory, knowledge 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 Benchmark Statement for Social Work (QAA, 2008); the Standards of Proficiency (HCPC, 2012), the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW, 2015), the curriculum guides (TCSW/Higher Education Academy, 2012) and the Standards of Education and Training (HCPC, 2012)
- To work in partnership with key stakeholders (employers and service users) to ensure that the course is informed by their views and responsive to their needs in order to ensure the relevance of the course for contemporary social work practice and to promote graduates' employability

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 the Health and Care Professions Council's Standards of Proficiency (SOPs) mapped against the Professional Capabilities Framework.

1. Understanding of what the regulatory (HCPC) and professional bodies require of them as qualified social workers.
2. Professional competence and accountability in safely undertaking social work duties, tasks and responsibilities (SOP1).
3. Development in a range of cognitive, analytical, critical and reflective skills so that they can utilise assessment frameworks and undertake risk assessments, recognising and responding to abuse and neglect (SOP1).

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

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4. Subject-specific knowledge and understanding to inform professional practice to include application of appropriate legal frameworks (SOP 2).
5. Practice that is based on social work principles and values as embodied in the British Association of Social Worker's (BASW) Professional Capabilities Framework and in the HCPC's Standards of Performance, Conduct and Ethics and the supporting guidance for students (Guidance on conduct and ethics for students) (SOP 2).
6. Development of appropriate boundaries, resilience and of strategies to manage challenges and change within the increasingly complex and demanding social care context to maintain fitness to practice (SOP 3).
7. Development of a strong and positive approach to social work which emphasises the high standards and achievements that competent and capable social workers who are fit to practice can accomplish (SOP3).
8. Development as an effective and autonomous professional whose assessment and decision-making skills and recommendations reflect sound professional judgements within an uncertain and complex professional context (SOP 4).
9. Demonstrate understanding of the impact of cultural factors, equality and diversity in practice contexts and be able to practice in an anti-discriminatory way, promoting social justice, equality and inclusion (SOPs 5 & 6).
10. Have the knowledge and ability to share information within appropriate boundaries (SOP 7)
11. Be able to effectively communicate in all areas of practice with service users, carers and other professionals both verbally and in written form (SOPs 8 & 10).
12. Be able to make and maintain appropriate professional relationships with others, networking and working in partnership with individuals and teams including a commitment to multi-disciplinary/inter-professional practice (SOP 9).
13. Demonstrate an ability to review and reflect on practice, think critically and draw on appropriate knowledge to assure quality in practice (SOPs 11 & 12).
14. Demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge base of the profession (theories for understanding and theories for intervention, values, legislation and policy, research for practice, and multi-disciplinary roles and organisational contexts and wider societal contexts) and use these to inform and respond to changes in practice (SOP 13 &14).
15. Act in a way to uphold safety and minimise risk for colleagues, service users and self by establishing and maintaining a safe environment for practice (SOP 15).

Course Design

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

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QAA Benchmarks:

- Social Work (2008)

Professional Standards:

- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Education and Training (2012)
- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Guidance on Conduct and Ethics for Students (2012)
- The Former College of Social Work (TCSW) Code of Ethics for Social Workers (2013)
- The Former College of Social Work (TCSW) Process Curriculum. Enhancing the professional nature of social work education.
- The Former College of Social Work (TCSW) Curriculum Guidance

HCPC standards and BASW Professional Capabilities Framework:

- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Performance, Conduct and Ethics revised (2012)
- The College of Social Work (TCSW) Professional Capabilities Framework (2012) now managed by BASW

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			
	Introduction to social work and social care	20	M
	Human behaviour and lifespan development	20	M
	Values, ethics and dilemmas in social work practice	20	M
	Applied social sciences for social work	20	M
	Preparation for social work practice	20	M
	IPL – Working with others	20	M
Level 5			
	Law, policy and practice	40	M
	Effective communication in social work practice	20	M
	Introduction to Research in Social Work	20	M
	Assessed Practice Learning (70 days of assessed practice learning) supported by Professional Practice Workshops	40	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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	IPL – The Service User – integrated into the practice placement portfolio	0	M
Level 6			
	Mental health perspectives and social work practice	20	M
	Research dissertation	40	M
	Practice Learning (100 days of assessed practice learning) supported by Professional Practice Workshops	40	M
	IPL – The Professional in the Team	20	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Social Work and be eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Social Work are likely to have approximately 244 contact hours for level 4, 150 contact hours for level 5 and 80 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, group work and tutorials and students will also be required to participate in 170 days of work placement in Years 2 and 3 across statutory, private, voluntary and independent sector organisations. Placements will be arranged by the University. Students will normally be expected to undertake approximately 32 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 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 100% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, poster presentations, 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.

Course Costs

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

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£11,580 per year
Part-time International	£1,930 per 20 credit module

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

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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](#).