

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
Named Exit Awards	BA Social Studies DipHE Social Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	Owing to the introduction of the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] Degree standards and the new entry requirements set by the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA). The entry requirements are set at GCSE Mathematics and English Language to be achieved prior to taking the 'End Point Assessment' (EPA - final piece of work in the 3rd year). Employers decide on the academic entry requirements for the programmes they wish to support. Specific action by the University has been taken to ameliorate the impact on the teaching and learning for new apprentices.
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk

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 students entering level 4 in the 2021-22 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

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 the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) is that students on the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] shall spend up to 20% of their working time in educational activities. The pattern of working for apprentice students, include them

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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attending teaching and learning modules, one day a week during semester one and two, in years 1, 2 and 3. They will attend the same lectures, on those days, as full-time students, and complete the same assignments (in year three apprentice students will have a slightly modified programme to accommodate the EPA requirements). The new apprenticeship model is employer funded and it is employers who identify potential candidates to attend the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] programme and decide on the academic entry requirements. The University of Suffolk has been working closely with Local Authorities (LA) to explore this model of provision and we have had regular meetings with the LA to critically tease out how this model might work.

Course Aims

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

1. At the point of completion of the course, to produce social work graduates who meet all fifteen SWE Standards of Proficiency and the nine 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 SWE.
2. 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.
3. 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, 2016); the Standards of Proficiency (SWE, 2019), the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW, 2018), the curriculum guides (TCSW/Higher Education Academy, 2012), the Standards of Education and Training (SWE 2019) and the Standards of Institute for Apprenticeships – social work (IfA 2018).
4. 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 Social Work England's Professional Standards mapped against the Professional Capabilities Framework.

1. Understanding of what the regulatory (SWE) and professional bodies require of them as qualified social workers.
2. Professional competence and accountability in safely undertaking social work duties, tasks and responsibilities (PS 3 and 6)

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

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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 (PS 3).
4. Subject-specific knowledge and understanding to inform professional practice to include application of appropriate legal frameworks (PS 3 and 4).
5. Practice that is based on social work principles and values as embodied in BASW's (2018) Professional Capabilities Framework and the SWE's (2019) Professional Standards (PS 1, 5 and 6).
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 (PS 4).
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 (PS 3).
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 (PS 2, 3, 4 and 5).
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 (PS 2, 3 and 6).
10. Have the knowledge and ability to share information within appropriate boundaries (PS 4 and 6)
11. Be able to effectively communicate in all areas of practice with people who use services, carers and other professionals both verbally and in written form (PS 2).
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 (PS 2).
13. Demonstrate an ability to review and reflect on practice, think critically and draw on appropriate knowledge to assure quality in practice (PS 2, 3 and 4).
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 (PS 2).
15. Act in a way to uphold safety and minimise risk for colleagues, people who use services and self by establishing and maintaining a safe environment for practice (PS 5 and 6).

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:

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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

- Social Work degree: (ST0510) Details of standard Occupation: Integrated Degree Apprenticeship for Social Worker (2017);
- Integrated Degree Apprenticeship for Social Worker Level 6 End point Assessment Plan (2018).

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			
	Psychological Approaches to Human Behaviour and Lifespan Development	20	M
	Social Change and Social Justice in Social Work	20	M
	Values, Ethics and Dilemmas in Social Work Practice	20	M
	Effective Communication for Social Work Practice	20	M
	Preparation for Social Work Practice	40	M
Level 5			
	Social Work with children and Families - Law, Policy and practice	20	M
	Social Work with Adults, Law, Policy and Practice	20	M
	Social Work Research	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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	Mental Health and Social Justice for Children and Adults	20	M
	Employment Based Assessed Practice Learning Year 2	40	M
Level 6			
	Critical Social Work Practice	20	M
	Employment Based Assessed Practice Learning (Year 3)	40	M
	EPA - Research Based Case Study Analysis	30	M
	EPA - Scenario Based Practice – Professional Judgement and Decision Making	30	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Social Work. Students 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 having successfully reached the gateway to the EPA; or a DipHE Social Studies on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying on the BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] are likely to have approximately 144 hours of tutor structured learning for level 4, 144 hours of tutor structured learning for level 5 and 144 hours of tutor structured learning for level 6. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activity and guided learning activities on campus and through our online learning environment, and students will also be required to participate in 2 hours/per week of tutorials. Placements will be arranged by the Employers. Students will normally be expected to undertake 3 hours of independent study including online learning in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and tutor assigned 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 approximately 60% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work), 40% practical assessments.

End Point Assessment

All students on the course undertake an End Point Assessment (EPA) to complete their degree. The EPA will be approximately 50% examination and 50% practical assessments.

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.

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

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specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the appropriate professional body (SWE).

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Social Work [degree apprenticeship] will not be charged tuition fees directly. Tuition fees will be agreed between the University and the student's employer. Students will be required to sign a commitment statement before starting their apprenticeship which will detail the student'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](#).