Course Title | BA (Hons) Social Work
---|---
Awarding Bodies | University of Suffolk
Level of Award\(^1\) | FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition | Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)*
*On Monday 2 December 2019, all HCPC approved social work programmes will be transferred to Social Work England. Social Work England will recognise these programmes (and the institutions delivering them) as approved.
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 | DipHE Social Studies
Entry Requirements\(^4\) | Typical Offer: 120 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 2019-20 academic year\(^5\).

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

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\(^1\) 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.
a range of practice contexts, approaches to research and evidence informed practice, knowledge and understanding of law and policy and of inter-professional learning and practice across the programme. Employers in the statutory and private, voluntary and independent sectors provide practice-learning opportunities for levels 2 and 3. In addition, skills development are supported through practice workshops and other module based activities, focusing on, for example, communication, networking, advocacy, welfare rights and inter-professional learning and practice. 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 supervision.

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

- At the point of completion of the course to produce social work graduates who meet nine Professional Capabilities Framework domains (owned by the British Association of Social Workers) and all fifteen HCPC Standards of Proficiency at qualifying level, degree apprenticeships standards 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, 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 Benchmark Statement for Social Work (QAA, 2008); the Standards of Proficiency (HCPC, 2017), the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW, 2018), the Degree Apprenticeships Standards the curriculum guides (Higher Education Academy, 2012) and the Standards of Education and Training (HCPC, 2017);

- To work closely with key partners (external examiners, employers, social work managers and practitioners, people who use services, students and other professionals) 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 (BASW).

- Understanding of what the regulatory (HCPC) body requires of them as qualified social workers;

- Professional competence and accountability in safely undertaking social work duties, tasks and responsibilities (SOP 1);
University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

- 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 (SOP 1);

- Subject-specific knowledge and understanding to inform professional practice to include application of appropriate legal frameworks (SOP 2);

- Practice that is based on social work principles and values as embodied in BASW’s (2018) Professional Capabilities Framework and the HCPC’s (2017) Standards of Proficiency and the supporting guidance for students (Guidance on conduct and ethics for students) (SOP 2);

- 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);

- 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 (SOP 3);

- 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);

- 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);

- Have the knowledge and ability to share information within appropriate boundaries (SOP 7);

- 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 (SOPs 8 & 10);

- 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);

- Demonstrate an ability to review and reflect on practice, think critically and draw on appropriate knowledge to assure quality in practice (SOPs 11 & 12);

- 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);

- 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 (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:

QAA Benchmarks:

Professional Standards:
- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Education and Training (2017);
- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Guidance on Conduct and Ethics for Students (2018);
- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Performance, Conduct and Ethics (2018);
- British Association of Social Workers (BASW) Professional Capabilities Framework (2018);

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Module Type*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for Social Work Practice</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological Approaches to Human Behaviour and Lifespan Development</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Change and Social Justice in Social Work</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Values, Ethics and Dilemmas in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective Communication and Social Work Practice</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work with Adults: Law, Policy and Practice</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work with Children and Families: Law Policy and Practice</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work Research</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health and Social Justice for Children and Adults</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards
University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 6</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessed Practice Learning – (supported by Professional Practice Workshops)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Social Work and Social Justice (Route 1)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Dissertation (Route 1)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessed Practice Learning – (supported by Professional Practice Workshops)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for 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 full-time on BA (Hons) Social Work are likely to have approximately 252 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, skills workshops and tutorials. In addition, BA (Hons) Social Work 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. 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 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 approximately 100% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, poster presentations, reflective learning accounts, research projects and portfolios).

**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 the HCPC.

**Course Costs**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Group</th>
<th>Tuition Fees</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time UK/EU</td>
<td>£9,250 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time UK/EU</td>
<td>£1,454 per 20 credit module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time International</td>
<td>£13,330 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time International</td>
<td>£2,220 per 20 credit module</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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.