

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	PgC Social Work Practice Education
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	60 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	11 months
Intended Award	Postgraduate Certificate in Social Work Practice Education
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Participants must hold a recognised social work qualification, be registered with Social Work England (SWE) and have held this qualification for at least 2 years.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the PgC Social Work Practice Education course (SWPE). The information provided is accurate for participants entering level 7 in the 2023-24 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The PgC SWPE is a practice-based, research-informed programme at Level 7 Masters (FHEQ, 2015) for Social Workers who hold a recognised social work qualification and are registered with the Health and Social Care Professions Council and have held this qualification for at least 2 years. The course is a professional development programme for participants to develop their social work practice. The PgC SWPE encourages participants to integrate and build their knowledge, skills, understanding, and demonstrate expert and effective practice in line with Stage 2 Practice Educator Professional Standards for social work (PEPS) requirements. The course offers a discursive and critically reflective learning environment in which participants are supported to develop their supervision, teaching and assessment of student social workers and become highly skilled social work practice educators. Participants will recognise the significance of their role in assuming responsibility and accountability for the practice of others and value the reciprocity of feedback and assessment between practice educator and student. Participants will critically evaluate contemporary social work models, methods and theories, and model good practice in their commitment to anti-racist, anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive social work practice.

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 Taught Postgraduate 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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Course Aims

1. Improve the quality of social work education and increase the number of highly skilled qualified practice educators within both local authorities and the third sector who demonstrate critically reflective, expert and effective practice.
2. Equip practice educators with the knowledge, skills and value base required for the effective supervision, teaching and assessment of social work participants.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what participants graduating from the PgC Social Work Practice Education 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 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. Demonstrate a consistent ability to critically apply knowledge and understanding that underpins adult learning theory within a practice context, integrating theory into practice (Linked to Domain A, PEPS).
2. Create a teaching and learning environment that is based on social work values, anti-oppressive, anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice to provide and evaluate a range of learning opportunities (Linked to Domain B, PEPS).
3. Demonstrate the ability to undertake holistic assessments, and make and utilise professional judgements to produce evidence-informed reports (Linked to Domain C, PEPS).
4. Further develop a range of analytical, critical and reflective skills, including evidence-informed teaching and learning (Linked to Domain D, PEPS).

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards / Competency Frameworks:

- UK Quality Code for Higher Education, The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies, October 2014
- BASW England Practice Educator Professional Standards for social work (PEPS) 2020 Professional Capabilities Framework for Social Work in England, BASW, June 2018

Course Structure

The PgC Social Work Practice Education comprises of one module at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to participants on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
7	Social Work Practice Education	60	Mandatory (M)

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

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

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Awards

On successful completion of the course, participants will be awarded a PgC Social Work Practice Education.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at the University of Suffolk. Participants studying part-time on the PgC Social Work Practice Education are likely to have approximately 60 contact hours. The contact hours will be a mix of creative and practice-based sessions using a variety of teaching, learning and assessment strategies, including face-to-face, online and blended learning approaches to provide an engaging, immersive learning experience for participants. These will be delivered through 8 face-to-face days within the University which will provide participants with their core teaching and support their independent study. Participants will also be required to participate in supervising a 70/100 day participant social work placement. Placements will be arranged by the employing organisation, however should a participant be employed in the third sector or independently, arrangements will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Participants will normally be expected to undertake 8 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable participants 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 30% academic poster and presentation, 40% assignment, 30% podcast and critical reflection, and a pass/fail portfolio.

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 with the appropriate professional body.

Course Costs

Participants undertaking the PgC Social Work Practice Education will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	Not applicable
Part-time UK	£972 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	Not applicable
Part-time EU/International	£1,555 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.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).