UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Health and Society		
Course Code(s):	SO015H01UV	Full-time	3 Years
UCAS Code:	L500		
Course Title:	BA (Hons) Social Work		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Social Work Bachelor of Arts Social Care Studies Diploma of Higher Education Social Care Studies Certificate of Higher Education Social Care Studies		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	03/May/2017		
Last Review:	2021/2		
Course Specification valid from:	2012/3		
Course Specification valid to:	2027/8		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Mr Warren Smith
Head of Department:	Francine Masson

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership - Standard Provision
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

You will need to have 120 UCAS tariff points equivalent for example BBB to A-level or Pearson BTEC Extended Diploma (QCF)

You also will have attained GCSE at grade C+ / 4 (or equivalent) in English and Mathematics.

If you have other qualifications and/or relevant experience, please contact The Gateway for further advice before applying.

International entry requirements and application guidance can be found here

You will need to demonstrate at least 50 days of work experience, in either a paid or voluntary capacity in a social care or health setting.

Applicants will also be required to provide satisfactory personal statement and two references (academic and employer). We also consider life experience for example, if you are or have been a carer or if you have experience of the care system and are able to reflect on these experiences, we will consider your application.

Those meeting the entry requirements may be invited for interview where they will be assessed in comprehension, verbal ability and suitability for social work. Interview panels will include, whenever possible, employer representatives and representatives from people with lived experience of social work (service-users/carers).

Due to the professional nature of this course you will also be required to complete a Declaration of Health and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check.

Due to nature of social work, you are likely to be expected to travel to placement. Having a driving licence and your own transport is advantageous.

Those who do not meet the entry requirements may be offered an alternative course

Distinctive Features of the Course:

Successful completion of the BA Honours Social Work course leads to an academic award and to eligibility to apply for registration as a Social Worker with the Regulatory Body, i.e. Social Work England, in order to practise as a qualified and registered social worker.

The Social Work Department at the University has Practice Learning Units in two Local Authorities providing increased opportunities for students to access high quality placement opportunities. It also directly employs eight qualified practice educators ensuring consistent and high-quality practice education for students.

The Marches Centre for Excellence in Health and Social Care, developed on the Telford Campus, offers students opportunity to prepare for practice using cutting edge technology, such as immersive reality, in simulated

practice settings.

The practice relevance of the course is sustained by good communication with social work employers and collaboration with other education providers through our active engagement in the government funded West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership.

The course uses assessment methods which seek to replicate practice skills, such as report writing, observational skills and care planning.

The course is supported by SUCCESS (Service Users and Carers Contributing to Educating Students for Services) group are actively involved in the course from admissions to graduation. This reflects the value placed by the programme on the involvement of people with live experience in the programme.

In the first year of the BA programme students will be provided with academic support from an Academic Coach who will meet with each student three times in the year. The Academic Coach supports the student in semester one to set goals, in January to reflect on their grades and feedback and at the end of the academic year to prepare for the second year

The course is informed by our internationally, nationally and/or regionally respected research, including research into violence against women and girls, the treatment of informal carers, the concept of social risk, systematic reviews including around psychosocial interventions to sexual abuse, crime & community safety, domestic violence, and practice education. Core members of staff on the course have a strong record of publications and/or conference presentations across a range of areas of interest.

The course offers opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning.

There are excellent campus facilities (libraries, well equipped social learning spaces, catering) that contribute to a productive and enjoyable learning experience.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The BA Hons course aims to equip social work students with the knowledge, skills and values necessary for qualification. Upon successful completion of the course students will have met the published professional standards and be ready to begin their first year in practice. Successful students will be able to apply for registration with the Regulatory Body, Social Work England. In addition, the University will confer the academic award of the BA (Hons) Social Work.

The specific educational aims of the course are to enable student to:

Meet Social Work England's Professional Standards for Social Work;

Meet required levels of professional capability as they progress toward Social Work England's Standards;

Develop a knowledge base to underpin capable and effective practice and core social work values as identified by professional and regulatory bodies (e.g. British Association of Social Workers and Social Work England);

Develop the necessary intellectual skills of critical thinking, inquiry and problem solving required for academic learning and for ethical, research minded and critically engaged practice;

Develop as social work practitioners committed to recognising and responding to inequality and discrimination.

Year 1 (Level 4)

The primary focus of the first year of the course is to provide students with the foundational knowledge skills and values to successfully complete the readiness to practice interview and proceed into first placement at the beginning of year two. The first year focuses upon:

- Achieving a clear understanding of what social work is
- Understanding the values and ethics underpinning social work practice

- Developing the key interpersonal skills to be able to build relationships and engage in a meaningful way with a wide range of people accessing social work services
- Having a foundational understanding of law relating to safeguarding children and adults, equality, human rights, and data protection legislation
- Achieving an understanding of child development, life course stages and the impact of the environment on the human condition
- Beginning to develop reflective practice skills

Year 2 (Level 5)

After completing a 70-day practice placement, where the focus will be upon implementing the interpersonal skills, values, and knowledge from the first year of study, the focus of year two shifts towards the structures which influence social work practice, primarily within a UK context. The teaching in year two will focus upon:

- Developing knowledge of the key UK legislation relating to practice with adults, children, and families
- Understanding how social policy and its implementation impacts upon social work and those who access social work services
- Achieving confidence in reading research, extracting practice knowledge from it, and utilising it in practice
- Understanding the key practice theories which underpin the main practice models used in social work, adopting a focus on models used in the West Midlands region.

Year 3 (Level 6)

After a completing a 100-day practice placement, where the focus will be upon delivering social work in a statutory context, the focus upon the third year of study will be upon developing students into independent practitioners. By the end of the year and course, students will be able to bring together learning from all three years of study, (classroom, practice placement, skills days, guest speakers & independent study) and demonstrate an ability to understand complexity within social work practice. The teaching on year three will focus upon:

- Understanding the current challenges in social work practice, developing understanding of the need to remain engaged in learning in order to maintain a currency in their practice
- Engaging students in looking forward to what type of social worker they wish to be, developing their own personal interests in social work areas of practice and current issues.

Developing students to become more independent in their studying, taking responsibility for their learning and professional development, and starting to imagine themselves as social workers in the final year

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2021/2	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2021/2	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12950.00
2022/3	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2022/3	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£13450.00
2023/4	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2023/4	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14450.00
2024/5	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2024/5	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14950.00
2025/6	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9535.00
2025/6	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£15995.00

PSRB:

SO015H01UV (Full-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Social Work England

Accrediting Body:
"Health and Care Professions Council, the (HCPC)"

Accreditation Statement:
Approved by the Social Work England for the purpose of providing eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England as a social worker in England.

Additional Notes:
Added HDN 11/07/24

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
02/Dec/2019	02/Dec/2019		

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4SO019	Preparing for Social Work Practice	40	YEAR	Core
4SO021	Working with People Ethically	20	SEM1	Core
4SO023	Life Course Development	20	SEM1	Core
4SO020	Responding to Harm and Neglect	20	SEM2	Core
4SO022	Communities in Context	20	SEM2	Core
4SO028	Practice Skills	0	CRYRA	Core

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5SO020	70 Day Practice Placement	40	INYR	Core
5SO013	Law for Social Work Practice	20	SEM2	Core
5SO016	Social Policy for Social Work	20	SEM2	Core
5SO014	Research in Practice	20	SEM2	Core
5SO015	Methods, Models & Approaches	20	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6SO048	100 Day Practice Placement	60	INYR	Core
6SO045	Contemporary Debates in Social Work	20	SEM2	Core
6SO046	Developing Social Work Practice Knowledge	40	INYR	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

Section 1.2.3 - Exemption for delivery outside the standard University Academic Calendar, including Year Long modules, to enable students to complete the required hours for practice.

Section 1.3.1 - Exemption to exceed normal module credits within the standard University Framework allowing for the use of 60 credit practice modules.

Section 2.3.1 - Exemption in accordance with the standards of the Professional Body. Students are not permitted advanced standing or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) upon entry given that all modules relate to practice and must be studied and passed.

Section 4.4.3 - No compensation will be allowed within these awards, but attention is drawn to Section 4.4.4. of the Academic Regulations which covers additional attempts where PSRBs do not permit compensation.

Section 4.5.1 - Students must pass all modules in order to progress to the next level of study.

APPROVED 18/11/21 Effective date: September 2022.

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act (2010)

Social Work England Professional Standards

British Association of Social Workers Professional Capability Framework

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with your area(s) of study, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study	
CERTHE02 Demonstrate an ability to present, evaluate and interpret different types of knowledge, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of your subject(s) of study.	
CERTHE03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work	
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE05 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility	
DIPHE01 Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of your area(s) of study, and of the way in which those principles have developed with an understanding of the limits of your knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.	
DIPHE02 Demonstrate the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context	
DIPHE03 Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject(s) relevant to the named award, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study	
DIPHE04 Demonstrate a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis	
DIPHE05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively	
DIPHE06 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment, requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making and undertake further training, developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.	
BHONSN01 Appreciate the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge in the field of social care.	
BHONSN02 Manage own learning and make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources.	
BHONSN03 Critically evaluate arguments assumptions to make judgements	
BHONSN04 Communicate information ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	
BHONSN05 Demonstrate understanding and ability to establish and maintain the trust and confidence of people.	
BHONSN06 The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring • The exercise of imitative and personal responsibility • Decision making in complex and unpredictable contexts • The leaning ability needed to undertake further training of a professional or equivalent nature.	
BHONS01 Capacity to deal with the management of risk while practising safely and with professional integrity.	
BHONS02 Critical understanding of and demonstrable ability to promote the rights, strengths and wellbeing of people, families, and communities	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONS03 Critical understanding of professional social work ethics, accountability and decision making including the importance of reporting concerns.	
BHONS04 A comprehensive understanding and demonstrable ability to establish and maintain the trust and confidence of people.	
BHONS05 A systematic understanding of key aspects of knowledge and of current problems in social work.	
BHONS06 The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring; • The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility • Decision making in complex and unpredictable contexts • The learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional nature.	

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Teaching Activities

The course uses a wide range of learning activities including:

- Formal lectures.
- Seminar groups (discussions, practice skills, discussions/debates)
- Laboratory work, where students can develop practice skills using role play and simulated activity
- Whole days workshops (Skills Development Days)
- Practice placements
- Tutorials
- Guest speakers, including practitioners, people with lived experience, local service providers and social work leaders
- Independent study
- On-line electronic support for learning through CANVAS (Wolverhampton Online Framework), which is the University's virtual learning environment. CANVAS provides you with a forum in which to engage in dialogue with other students and your lecturer's formative assessment Service-users and carers will contribute to the teaching across a range of modules.

Placements represent a sizable proportion of the course and students will be given the opportunity to practice their skills and apply knowledge in a variety of settings. During the placements students will be encouraged and enabled to reflect critically on their learning, and personal & professional development, synthesising academic and practice modules.

Through a variety of approaches to learning, the course team seeks to develop students into capable, critical, and analytical social work practitioners, who can respond in an engaged manner to the changing face of social work practice within statutory, voluntary, and independent settings.

The course encourages students to access a wide range of learning materials and activities including podcasts, TV programmes, radio programmes, webinars, and regional social work professional groups such as BASW.

Finally, the course encourages and supports students' learning by providing a range of different extra curricula activities which support students to develop confidence, academic skills and build knowledge. These activities include a webinar series, a book & film club and a 'shut up and write' group.

Attendance

The course has an attendance requirement of 80% for taught content in an academic year and 100% for all placement days and skills days. This reflects the professional nature of the course and the importance of students being able to demonstrate a professional approach to practice. In the event students drop below 80%

of the taught content students will potentially be referred to Fitness to Practice if it is believed poor attendance as impacted upon their ability to practice. Students will not be able to pass the course without attending 100% of placement days and skills days.

Assessment

Students are assessed using a wide variety of methods during the course. There is an overall approach within the department to develop assessment methods which reflect the skills needed in social work practice, we hope this ensures students find assessment methods engaging, interesting and supportive in developing confidence around practice skills.

Assessment methods include report writing, observations, reflective case studies, portfolios, in class tests, care planning assignments, presentations & individual research. In addition, there is formative assessment in the form of practice skills feedback from peers, people with lived experience and practicing social workers. Within Canvas students will have access to summative quizzes and activities which will enable students to test their own knowledge.

Whilst engaged in practice placements all students are supported by a Practice Educator who will provide supervision in which formative feedback on practice will be given and in which there will be discussions supporting the student to successfully link practice and theory.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

General University support

The University Library is a key source of academic information for students. The Library provides access to a wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, e-Journals and subject databases as well as printed material. A range of study spaces are available in each of our libraries, including social, quiet and silent areas. In addition to our day to day 'on campus' support, our online 'Ask the Library' chat service, ASSIST is staffed 24 hours a day.

The University Library also provides students with academic skills support via the Skills for Learning programme. Students can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help on a range of skills such as academic writing and referencing. Support is available both on campus and virtually via the VLE, and a range of online skills material is also available at: www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills

The University Student Support website offers advice on a variety of matters (careers, counselling, student union advice, etc.) Students can also access these services by booking appointment with the SU, careers, counselling services, etc.

Course Specific Support

Each student is allocated a personal tutor who will meet with them at least three times every year, contact

them by email on a monthly basis. The personal tutor will provide;

- pastoral role (growth, progression, social and wellbeing)
- data informed guidance and timely intervention for retention and progression
- advice on University regulations and procedures
- advocacy for the student where required
- a point of contact for keeping in touch during long-term periods of sickness / Leave of Absence
- promoting work placements, job opportunities, Graduate Attributes Framework and the Employability Framework

Personal tutors also take on the role of practice tutor for social work students who are on placement (the personal tutor and practice tutor is a combined role). The practice tutor role supports students by,

- Attending the practice learning agreement (PLA) and mid-point review meetings
- Providing support to both student and other members of the placement-based practice learning team
- Ensuring that a discussion takes place in the PLA meeting about the student's specific learning requirements and their implications for the student, and the student's practice.
- Supporting students on placement who have a specific learning requirement
- Ensuring compliance with the regulation and guidance that govern social work practice learning
- Ensuring that the criteria for both the 70 day and 100 day practice placements are understood, and that there are sufficient work opportunities to enable the student to achieve the practice learning outcomes
- Monitoring student progress and informing the module leader of any concerns
- Being the first point of contact on any matters relating to the management of assessment and student progress in practice; and progress the matter to a conclusion
- Attending action plan meetings and working with all parties towards a resolution of any issues raised
- Providing academic advice to the students about any tutor marked elements of the practice assessment
- Liaising with the practice learning coordinator on matters (including concerns) relating to the quality of a practice placement

There is a level 4 Academic Coach who supports students during their first year of the BA (Hons) Social Work course. The academic coach supports students in

- Completing their Individual Leaner Profile
- Monitoring attendance and meeting with students whose attendance drops below 85%

Meeting individually with students three times across the academic year

Employability in the Curriculum:

Employment

The course enables successful students to apply to Social Work England (or equivalent bodies in Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland) to register as a qualified social worker; registration with SWE allows students to practice as a social worker in England. The English qualification is accepted throughout the UK, the EU and is recognised Internationally.

Students will undertake two placements during the course, a 70- and 100-days practice placement. Students will be guaranteed at least one placement which involves statutory social work practice.

Students will undertake at least one skill development day in the final year of the course focused on supporting them to make the transition to becoming newly qualified social workers, including support to complete applications to local employers once they have completed the course.

The course invites practising social workers and relevant social care practitioners in to support the curriculum speaking to students about their work where appropriate. This is intended to ensure that students get a realistic picture of social work practice.

The Institute for Society & Community runs a free online seminar series. This series is aimed at practising

social workers, but students are encouraged to attend to support their understanding of the value of continuing professional development and support the development of a good mindset for being a qualified social worker.

Further Training and Education Opportunities

Graduates may return to the University of Wolverhampton (or any Higher Education Institution (HEI)) to undertake courses as part of their continuing professional development, which is a requirement to maintain social work registration with Social Work England.

