

MA Social Work Admissions Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently asked Questions about the Programme:

- What does this programme aim to do? **The MA Social Work programme aims to educate and train individuals to be reflective, research-minded Social Work practitioners who are able to work critically and professionally, in accordance with the principles of anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice.**
- Is the Programme full-time? **Yes – you will be expected to be available 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday to study in the University and attend placements.**
- How many days will I spend in practice learning? **There are 200 placement days (100 in both years), with the working week divided between time in the University and time on placement. While we aim to start these placements as early as possible, there are many constraints which mean that the start date will vary from placement to placement. The placement day is an 8 hour day (including a 1 hour lunch break).**
- Will the placements be close to Brunel or my home? **The placement team will try to locate a placement for you as close as possible to your home address. However, proximity needs to be balanced with other factors, such as the need to have experience in different settings. While most placements are located in London and the surrounding areas, you may have to travel up to 2 hours (each way) to attend your placement. The cost of this should be covered by the GSCC travel bursary, although occasionally travel costs may exceed the bursary.**
- What is the timetable for the Programme? **Unfortunately we don't know until September as it varies from year to year and depends on the University's timetable. You will be given your timetable as soon as you start your course.**
- How will I be assessed? **You will be assessed using a variety of assessment methods including written examination, essay, report and dissertation. Your practice learning will also be assessed by a portfolio, and you must pass these to pass the programme.**
- Can I apply for a bursary? **The General Social Care Council currently administers a postgraduate Bursary which is available to students ordinarily resident in England studying on an approved full-time postgraduate course. Brunel's MA course is approved. The Bursary consists of a non-income assessed basic grant that varies in value, a contribution towards practice learning opportunity related expenses (such as travel) and tuition fee support up to a capped amount. It also includes an income-assessed maintenance grant that varies in value and income-assessed allowances of various values to assist with certain costs of living.**
- How do I apply for a bursary? **You need to contact the General Social Work Council for full details on eligibility and to request an application pack. You should visit**

gsc.org.uk or email your enquiry to bursaries@gsc.org.uk or phone the Bursaries customer service team on 020 7397 5835 (weekdays 9am to 12.30pm).

Frequently asked questions about the admissions process:

- How do I apply for this programme? **You need to apply through UCAS (UCAS code: L508; Short form of course: MA/SW)**
- How do you select students? **This is a highly selective programme. We receive applications through UCAS. We invite those applicants who have satisfied our educational entry requirements to a selection day where they undertake a written test. Those passing the test are invited to stay on in the afternoon to take part in a group interview and group exercise. We take into account all aspects of the selection process including performance this day along with written references to make offers to the most suitable candidates.**
- What are the educational entry requirements? **A good honours degree (at least a 2:2) in a related subject (such as Social Work, Sociology, Social Policy, Politics, Psychology; Law; Health and/or Social Care). Holders of other degrees will require a minimum of a 2:1. All candidates must have GCSE Grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics, or an acceptable equivalent.**
- What do I need to include on my personal statement? **Your personal statement is used to give us an idea of how well prepared you are to undertake our course. In completing your personal statement you need to: demonstrate an understanding of the aims of Social Work; recognise the positive effects of Social Work intervention; show awareness of the multi-disciplinary nature of Social Work; comment on the personal qualities that make you suitable for the course – substantiated by relevant examples. You must comment on the insights you have gained into Social Work through your experiences and should demonstrate an understanding of the role of research in informing Social Work practice.**
- Do I need to have Social Work experience? **Yes. Before applying you must have experience commensurate with the demands of the programme – typically at least one year's full-time experience (or part-time equivalent) in paid employment or structured voluntary work with a relevant organisation.**
- Do I need to have a CRB check, even if I already have one? – **Yes, you will need to have a check specific to your time studying at Brunel which you will need to pay for. You must declare all criminal convictions on this.**
- When will I hear if my application has been successful or unsuccessful: **You should receive our decision within two weeks of attending an interview.**
- What happens if you have all the information you need other than the second reference? Will I still be made an offer if I have been successful in all the other aspects of the selection process? **We may still be able to make you an offer, but it will be a conditional offer until we receive a satisfactory second reference.**