Programme Specification for Postgraduate Programme Leading to:
MA Social Work

Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after 1st September 2018

Version No.	Date	Notes – QA USE ONLY	QA
v1	Jul-17	Programme specification for 2018/9 created. SW5600 changed from Core: Block to Core: All for 2018/9	RJC

Postgraduate Taught Programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home college/department/division	College of Health and Life Sciences, Department of Clinical Sciences, Division of Social Work
4. Contributing college/department/division/associated institution	N/A
5. Programme accredited by	Health and Care Professions Council
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	MA Social Work (FHEQ Level 7) Conferring eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
7. Programme title	MA Social Work
8. Programme type (single honours/joint)	N/A
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	24 months FT
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	Standard duration plus 2 years
11. Variation(s) to September start	None
12. Modes of study	Full-time (FT)
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles and FHEQ Level of Award	MA Applied Social Studies (FHEQ Level 7) This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work (FHEQ Level 7) Conferring eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Studies (FHEQ Level 7) This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Social Studies (FHEQ Level 7) This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC
15. UCAS Code	N/A
16. JACS Code	L500

17. Route Code	L500PSOCWORK

18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design	**External**
	QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education which includes the English Framework for Higher Education Qualifications within Part A on Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards
	
	Department of Health: Creating an inter-professional workforce – an education and training framework for health and social care in England (2007)
	
	HCPC Standards for Education and Training (2009, updated to include SW, 2012)
	
	HCPC Standards of Proficiency (2012)
	
	HCPC guidance on Admissions (2012)
	
	Documentation from The College of Social Work (2012):
	    Professional Capabilities Framework
	    Curriculum guides for qualifying social work courses
	    Reform of Education – the social work degree
	    Better partnership working
	    Assessed and supported year in practice
	    Endorsement
	
	British Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (2012)
	Quality Assurance Agency Benchmark Statement for Social Work (2008)
	
	Internal
	Brunel 2030
	
	Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the 'Managing Higher Education Provision with Others' page.
	
	Brunel University Student Plan
	
	Brunel University Widening Participation Strategy (2009-2012)
	
	Brunel Experts by Experience Committee (BEC), Division of Social Work

19. Admission Requirements	All applications are made through UCAS. Further information on admission requirements and the selection process can be found at: **http://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/Social-Work-MA** **APEL** Transfer from other MA Social Work programmes will be considered individually on the basis of academic achievement and programme compatibility.
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	• Bursaries may be available to eligible students (Department of Health, July 2013). • Successful applicants must obtain a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring check to be able to join and remain in the programme. • Successful applicants must complete a Health Check questionnaire on entry to the programme. • Students must successfully complete a minimum of 170 days of supervised practice education in order to complete the programme

	and be eligible for the award of MA Social Work. The two practice placement modules (First Placement and Final Placement) are a vital part of the programme but do not attract M level credit. There is one 70 day placement in the first year, and one 100 day placement in the second year.
	• All students must demonstrate Readiness for Direct Practice prior to undertaking 170 days of practice learning (appropriate skills development days must be attended, and all associated assessment passed before a student embarks on the 170 days of placement).
	• Students must attend all practice days and there is an expectation that they will attend all skills development days. Failure to attend skills development days without mitigating circumstances may result in failure of the associated module.
	• All practice placements are normally undertaken in England.
	• All successful graduates must register with the HCPC prior to commencing employment in social work; only the awards of MA Social Work and the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work permit HCPC registration.
21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 3. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 3 must be stated here and approved by Senate.	The award of the MA Social Work gives eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). In accordance with the requirements of the HCPC and the College of Social Work, a number of variations to Senate Regulation 3 apply and are given below. **Attendance** Since the award of MA Social Work also confers eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council, attendance on campus and practice placements is considered essential to facilitate safe practice. Students are therefore required to attend 100% of placement days and are expected to attend all skills development days. In the case of skills training days, students must account for any absence and may be deemed to have failed to meet the attendance requirement if they fail to do so and/or show poor attendance (to be determined according to circumstances): this may result in failure of that element of the programme. **Re-assessment** MA Social Work contains 180 taught credits; the maximum permitted volume of re-assessment of taught credits will be 90 credits in total over the two Years of the programme, in line with the principles set out in SR3 (cf SR3.60). **Continuation from Year 1 to Year 2** Students must achieve a satisfactory profile over all Year 1 blocks, with no credits below grade D- and no more than 45 credits in Grade Band D (Grades D-,D,D+), and must successfully complete SW5802_CN Professional Practice (MA1) Assessment, in order to continue to Year 2 of the programme. A student in Year 1 who at first assessment does not meet the above minimum requirements for satisfactory completion of Year 1 is entitled to reassessment on one occasion only in any assessments where s/he has failed to achieve a grade of D- or better. Students requiring to be reassessed in assessment blocks totalling more than 45 credits will be required to retake the relevant parts of Year 1 of the programme on a part-time basis for reassessment in the next academic year, before being permitted (subject to then meeting the above Year 1 requirements) to continue to Year 2 of the programme. In all assessment and modular blocks with more than 1 element of assessment, students who do not achieve at least grade D- in each element will fail the assessment or modular block (grade F). **Assessment of Practice Placement Modules** The purpose of the degree is to prepare students to practise as social workers; therefore failure on a practice placement is viewed as a serious matter. In order to meet the professional requirements of the degree and

protect the students' rights to reassessment, students failing one practice placement will be permitted to be reassessed in that module on one further occasion only except where mitigating circumstances are accepted. However, if students fail any subsequent practice placement, they will only be permitted reassessment in that module with the permission of the Board of Examiners.

All students are required to undertake specified periods of placement. Every attempt is made to match students' placement needs. Students may not unreasonably reject the offer of a placement setting nor are they permitted to unilaterally discontinue a placement setting once commenced. The University and the placement provider may terminate a placement setting only with good cause. Students who wish to discontinue a placement setting must gain the agreement of the University before they may discontinue the placement setting; relevant procedures are defined in the placement handbook.

Where, after due process as defined in the relevant placement handbook, a student's progress in a placement setting is judged as irredeemable, the placement setting may be terminated early by the University and placement provider. An 'irredeemable' judgement will be made only where the student's progress in the placement setting is such that it will not be possible for the student to meet the assessment requirements of the placement module/block within the remaining standard period of the current placement setting.

Aegrotat awards
Aegrotat awards are not acceptable for eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC (SR3.A9).

Professional Suitability
Certain behaviours may indicate that a student is professionally unsuitable. Where the professional suitability of a student is questioned the suitability procedures of Senate Regulation 14 will be followed.

External Examiners
External examiners are appointed to the programme, generally for 4 years plus 1 additional optional year. Further to the criteria for recruitment of external examiners detailed in SR4.85-4.132, external examiners must also be appropriately experienced and qualified, and at least one external examiner will be a social worker registered with the HCPC.

22. Further information about the programme is available from the College website.	http://www.brunel.ac.uk/shssc/postgraduate-study/social-work-ma

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- The MA Social Work aims to prepare students to graduate as competent social workers eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council and for membership of the British Association of Social Workers/The College of Social Work, as well as conferring a Master's Degree.
- To enable graduates to develop a generic, detailed and advanced understanding of social work knowledge, values and intervention skills.
- To equip graduates to be competent to practise ethical, innovative and effective social work in a diverse society, able to undertake critical and professional practice with service users, carers and providers that actively promotes social justice, and make professional decisions and perform professional functions that are informed by a critical understanding of inequality, disadvantage and discrimination;
- To enable students to develop a capacity for independent learning at an advanced level;
- To inculcate in students research-mindedness through their capacity to critically evaluate social work research, understand and apply a range of relevant qualitative and quantitative research methods, and independently undertake and manage a research project.

24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (K) cognitive (thinking) skills (C) and other skills and attributes (S) in the following areas:

Signifies achieved in the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work

Level	Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills and attributes)	Learning Outcome	Masters Award Only	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
5						
5	*K	Critically understand core values, ethical principles, and social work theory, methods and intervention skills, applicable across a range of social work settings and/or service user groups.		SW5803_CN SW5801_CN SW5802_CA SW5806_CN SW5807_CA	SW5705_SB SW5701_SB SW5702_SB SW5706_SB SW5707_SB	SW5618_CN SW5619_CN SW5623_CA SW5624_CA
5	*K	Systematically understand theoretical perspectives of life span development, and causes and impact of social disadvantage and vulnerability.				SW5621_CA SW5620_CN
5	*K	Conceptually understand the political, social, economic, historical and other structures in which social and health policy is developed and applied.				SW5620_CN SW5618_CN SW5623_CA SW5624_CA
5	*K	Practically understand the relevant legislative frameworks and the organisational contexts in which social work services including statutory, voluntary, private and other sectors, are governed and delivered.		SW5800_CN SW5801_CN SW5802_CA SW5806_CN SW5807_CA	SW5700_SB SW5701_SB SW5703_SB SW5706_SB SW5708_SB	SW5623_CA SW5624_CA
5	*K	Demonstrate in-depth		SW5803_CN	SW5705_SB	SW5622_CN

Masters

						Masters
		understanding of evidence-based underpinnings to social work practice				SW5600_CA
5	*K	Research methodology and research governance				HH5609 SW5600_CB
5	*C	Critically analyse, evaluate and synthesise complex material, and make sound judgements in problem-solving and decision-making processes		SW5803_CN SW5801_CN SW5802_CA SW5806_CN SW5807_CA	SW5705_SB SW5704_SB SW5701_SB) SW5702_SB SW5703_SB SW5706_SB SW5707_SB) SW5708_SB	SW5618_CN SW5623_CA SW5624_CA
	*C	Independently identify, reflect on and analyse ideological assumptions, feelings and actions in relation to direct practice, research activities and professional development		SW5803_CN SW5801_CN SW5802_CA SW5806_CN SW5807_CA	SW5705_SB SW5701_SB SW5702_SB SW5703_SB SW5706_SB SW5707_SB SW5708_SB	SW5618_CN SW5623_CA SW5624_CA
5	*C	Critically examine and utilise relevant social work theory and research evidence in the analysis of practice with service users and the context in which practice is delivered		SW5801_CN SW5802_CA SW5806_CN SW5807_CA	SW5701_SB SW5703_SB SW5706_SB SW5708_SB	SW5619_CN SW5622_CN
5	*C	Critically review research literature, research methods, research ethics, user involvement in research, programme evaluation and evidence-based practice				SW5618_CN SW5619_CN SW5622_CN SW5623_CA SW5624_CA SW5600_CB
5	*S	Practise social work consistent with the National Occupational Standards, HCPC Standards of Proficiency and The College of Social Work's Professional Capabilities Framework		SW5801_CN SW5802_CA SW5806_CN SW5807_CA	SW5701_SB SW5702_SB SW5703_SB SW5706_SB SW5707_SB SW5708_SB	
5	*S	Develop and implement effective and culturally competent social work interventions to promote social justice in an environment that is characterised by change and uncertainty		SW5801_CN SW5802_CA SW5806_CN SW5807_CA	SW5701_SB SW5703_SB SW5706_SB SW5708_SB	
5	*S	Select and justify appropriate approaches and intervention skills for delivering effective social work practice within current legislative frameworks		SW5801_CN SW5802_CA SW5806_CN SW5807_CA	SW5701_SB SW5703_SB SW5706_SB SW5708_SB	
5	*S	Effectively communicate with service users, service providers and other professionals in a range of settings using clear, logical and accurate written, verbal and IT skills		SW5801_CN SW5802_CA SW5806_CN SW5807_CA	SW5701_SB SW5702_SB SW5703_SB SW5706_SB SW5707_SB SW5708_SB	
5	C,S	Conceptualise, design and carry out a research project and write a dissertation using the student's own words	X			SW5600_CA

Learning/teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments

- The programme utilises a variety of learning and teaching methods. Knowledge is gained through lectures, seminars, film/video/DVD projection & discussion, role plays, problem-based learning, case study presentations, critiques of research papers and guided study. Blackboard Learn is also used to facilitate learning.

- Reflective and critical skills are developed both in the academic and practice placement environment by seminars, tutorials, observations and practicals. The research modules encourage the students to critically evaluate research,

reflect and refine their analytical skills.

- Practical and professional skills are key aspects of a professional programme and occur in both years in academic modules studied at University and practice placement modules with the link between them constantly emphasised. This includes inter-professional workshops run within the Department.

- Transferable skills are covered in a variety of modules and are developed by group work, seminars, presentations, and practicals, and on practice placements.

Summative assessment strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated.

- A variety of assessment methods are used to assess knowledge and understanding, for example - unseen examinations are used to assess knowledge, however, essays, practicals, and practice placement reports are utilised to assess the depth of knowledge and applied understanding of the student. A fully-referenced written dissertation is also required to be submitted.

- The assessment of cognitive skills is achieved by the use of case studies, oral presentations, observations, practice studies, portfolios, written reflective commentaries and essays. The students in the second year are facilitated to direct their own learning by following a research pathway and submitting their own dissertation.

- Professional skills and attributes are assessed through a variety of methods including written reflective commentaries, presentations and on practice placements through the practice studies & portfolios.

- Reflective practice and transferable skills are assessed in essays, assignments and the compilation of a portfolio as well as practical presentations within the modules and practice placement reports.

25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements

- **Compulsory block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of study. These will be listed in the left hand column;

- **Optional block:** one which students choose from an 'option range'. These will be listed in the right hand column;

- A **core assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade C- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

  Where students are expected to pass the block at C- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.
    e.g. AB5500 Project (40)
    Core: Block

  Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at C- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core
    e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)
    Core: 1 & 4

  Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:
    e.g. ABXXXX Title (XX credits)
    Core: All, Block

- A **non-core assessment** does not have to be passed at grade C- or better, but must D- or better in order to be eligible for the final award.

Level 5	
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit	**Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits**
Year 1 SW5800_CN Legal Frameworks for Social Justice Assessment – 15 credits SW5801_CN Practice Learning (MA1) Assessment– 20 credits SW5802_CA Professional Practice (MA1) Assessment – 0 credits **Year 2** SW5803_CN Assessing Risk and Complexity Assessment – 20 credits SW5806_CN Practice Learning (MA2) Assessment– 20 credits SW5807_CA Professional Practice (MA2) Assessment – 0 credits	- -
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume	**Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume**
Year 1 SW5700_SB Legal Frameworks for Social Justice – 10 credits SW5701_SB Practice Learning (MA1) – 10 credits SW5702_SB Professional Skills Development (MA1) – 20 credits SW5703_SB First Placement (MA1) – 35 credits **Year 2** SW5704_SB Assessment and the Management of Risk and Complexity – 10 credits SW5705_SB Effective Practice with Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Substance Misuse – 10 credits SW5706_SB Practice Learning (MA2) – 10 credits SW5707_SB Professional Skills Development (MA2) – 10 credits SW5708_SB Final Placement (MA) – 50 credits	- -

Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits
Year 1 SW5618_CN Foundations of Social Work Practice – 10 credits SW5619_CN Social Work Theories and Perspectives – 10 credits SW5620_CN Social Policy and Sociology – 20 credits SW5621_CA Life-span Behaviour & Development – 20 credits HH5609_CN Approaches to Research - 15 credits **Year 2** SW5622_CN What Works in Social Work? – 10 credits SW5600_CB The Dissertation – 60 credits (Core: <u>All,</u> Block) In all assessment and modular blocks with more than 1 element of assessment, students who do not achieve at least grade D- in each element will fail the assessment or modular block (grade F).	**Year 1** - **Year 2** **Students must choose one of the following pathways:** SW5623_CA Social Work with Children and Families (MA) – 20 credits SW5624_CA Social Work with Adults (MA) – 20 credits

Level 5 Progression and Award Requirements

As per Senate Regulation 3 with the following award-specific additions:

Continuation
Students must achieve a satisfactory profile over all Year 1 modules, with no credits below grade D- and no more than 45 credits in Grade Band D (Grades D-,D,D+), and must pass SW5802_CA Professional Practice (MA1) Assessment in order to continue to Year 2 of the programme.

MA Social Work Award Profile
For the award of MA Social Work students must achieve a 180 credit minimum grade profile (in the taught part) as defined in SR3 with a maximum of 45 credits permitted in Grade Band D (Grades D-,D, D+), pass SW5802_CA Professional Practice (MA1) Assessment and SW5807_CA Professional Practice (MA2) Assessment and achieve a grade C- or above in SW5600_CB (The Dissertation).

MA Award Profiles for the Award of Merit or Distinction
Although the MA Social Work has a non-standard 180 taught credits, the grade profile requirements for the award of Merit or Distinction will be the standard requirements as set out in SR3.

MA Applied Social Studies Award Profile
For the award of MA Applied Social Studies students must achieve a 180 credit minimum grade profile (in the taught part) as defined in SR3 with a maximum of 45 credits permitted in Grade Band D (Grades D-,D,D+), and achieve a grade C- or above in SW5600_CB (The Dissertation); Professional Practice Assessments are not taken into consideration.

Interim Awards
For the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work, students must achieve a 180 credit minimum grade profile (in the taught part), with a maximum of 45 credits permitted in Grade Band D (Grades D-,D,D+), and pass SW5802_CA Professional Practice (MA1) Assessment and SW5807_CA Professional Practice (MA2) Assessment.

For award of Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Studies and Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Social Studies, Professional Practice Assessments are not taken into consideration. Neither award confers eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) as a qualified social worker:

- Students who achieve the normal minimum profile over 120 credits of assessment as defined in SR3 will be eligible for the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Studies.

- Students who achieve the normal minimum profile over 60 credits of assessment as defined in SR3 will be eligible for the Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Social Studies.

A Postgraduate Diploma may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation (SW5600_CB for modular or assessment blocks in the taught part of the programme.

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found

in the modular block, assessment and study block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a modification occurs.