

Programme Specification for Postgraduate Programme Leading to: MSc Social Work

Applicable for all postgraduate students starting on or after 1st September 2021

Version No.	Date	Notes – QA USE ONLY	QA
1	July-20	New MSc Social Work for 2021/22 replacing MA Social Work	RJC
2	Dec-20	Part-time mode of study added	RJC
2.1	Feb-21	HCPC removed from section 5 as accreditation body is SWE and College and Department names updated	RJC
2.2	Apr-21	Route code and HECoS codes updated	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, Medicine and Life Sciences, Department of Health Sciences, Division of Social Work
4. Contributing college/department/division/associated institution	N/A
5. Programme accredited by	Approved by Social Work England for the purpose of providing eligibility to apply for registration as a social worker in England. Endorsed by the College of Social Work (TCSW).
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	MSc Social Work (FHEQ Level 7) Conferring eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England
7. Programme title	MSc 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 48 months PT
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) Part-time (PT)
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles and FHEQ Level of Award	MSc Applied Social Studies (FHEQ Level 7) This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England (SWE) Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work (FHEQ Level 7) Conferring eligibility to apply for registration with SWE Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Studies (FHEQ Level 7) This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with SWE. Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Social Studies (FHEQ Level 7) This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with SWE.
15. UCAS Code	N/A

16. HECoS Code	100503 - Social Work
17. Route Code	1D93PSOCIWRK
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design	<p>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</p> <p>Social Work England (SWE) Qualifying Education and Training Standards (2020) Social Work England Curriculum and Assessment Guidance (2020)</p> <p>Social Work England Professional Standards (2019)</p> <p>British Association of Social Workers Professional Capabilities Framework (2018)</p> <p>Social Work England (SWE) guidance on Admissions (2012)</p> <p>British Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (2014) Quality Assurance Agency Benchmark Statement for Social Work (2019)</p> <p>Internal Brunel 2030</p> <p>Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the 'Managing Higher Education Provision with Others' page.</p> <p>Brunel University Student Plan</p> <p>Brunel University Widening Participation Strategy</p> <p>Brunel Experts by Experience Committee (BEC), Division of Social Work</p>
19. Admission Requirements	<p>All applications are made through UCAS.</p> <p>Further information on admission requirements and the selection process can be found at:</p> <p>http://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/Social-Work-MA</p> <p>APEL Transfer from other MSc Social Work programmes will be considered individually on the basis of academic achievement and programme compatibility.</p>
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bursaries may be available to eligible students (Department of Health and Social Care). • Successful applicants must obtain a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service 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 MSc 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Social Work England prior to commencing employment in social work; only the awards of MSc Social Work and the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work permit SWE registration.
<p>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.</p>	<p>The award of the MSc Social Work gives eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England. In accordance with the requirements of SWE, a number of variations to Senate Regulation 3 apply and are given below.</p> <p>Attendance Since the award of MSc Social Work also confers eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England, 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.</p> <p>Re-assessment MSc 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).</p> <p>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 Professional Practice (MA1) Assessment, in order to continue to Year 2 of the programme.</p> <p>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 <u>on one occasion only</u> in any assessments where s/he has failed to achieve a grade of D- or better.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>

Masters

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 SWE (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 SWE.

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 MSc Social Work aims to prepare students to graduate as competent social workers eligible to apply for registration with Social Work England and for membership of the British Association of Social Workers 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	Learn, apply and integrate 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 SW5801 SW5802 SW5806 SW5807	SW5705 SW5701 SW5702 SW5706 SW5707	SW5618 SW5619 SW5623 SW5624
5	*K	Differentiate and assess theoretical perspectives of life span development, and causes and impact of social disadvantage and vulnerability.				SW5621 SW5620
5	*K	Identify and describe the political, social, economic, historical and other structures in which social and health policy is developed and applied.				SW5620 SW5618 SW5623 SW5624
5	*K	Interpret and synthesise 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 SW5801 SW5802 SW5806 SW5807	SW5700 SW5701 SW5703 SW5706 SW5708	SW5623 SW5624
5	*K	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of evidence-based underpinnings to social work practice		SW5803	SW5705	SW5622 SW5600
5	*K, C	Demonstrate ethical use of research methodology, and employ research governance				PN5604 SW5600

Masters

		<p>over a research dissertation project. Research project will be standard or film-making option.</p> <p>Identify and develop a research question, conduct a literature review, recruit participants or conduct secondary analysis, analyse the data, write up results/findings and discuss the impact of the study for practice, policy, or research as well as limits.</p> <p>Be able to adhere to ethical standards for research</p>				
5	*C	Critically analyse, evaluate and synthesise complex material, and make sound judgements in problem-solving and decision-making processes		SW5803 SW5801 SW5802 SW5806 SW5807	SW5705 SW5704 SW5701 SW5702 SW5703 SW5706 SW5707 SW5708	SW5618 SW5623 SW5624
	*C	Independently identify, reflect on and analyse ideological assumptions, feelings and actions in relation to direct practice, research activities and professional development		SW5803 SW5801 SW5802 SW5806 SW5807	SW5705 SW5701 SW5702 SW5703 SW5706 SW5707 SW5708	SW5618 SW5623 SW5624
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 SW5802 SW5806 SW5807	SW5701 SW5703 SW5706 SW5708	SW5619 SW5622
5	*C	Critically review research literature, research methods, research ethics, user involvement in research, programme evaluation and evidence-based practice				SW5618 SW5619 SW5622 SW5623 SW5624 SW5600
5	*S	Practise social work consistent with SWE Professional Standards and BASW Professional Capabilities Framework		SW5801 SW5802 SW5806 SW5807	SW5701 SW5702 SW5703 SW5706 SW5707 SW5708	
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 SW5802 SW5806 SW5807	SW5701 SW5703 SW5706 SW5708	
5	*S	Select and justify appropriate approaches and intervention skills for delivering effective social work practice within current legislative frameworks		SW5801 SW5802 SW5806 SW5807	SW5701 SW5703 SW5706 SW5708	
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 SW5802 SW5806 SW5807	SW5701 SW5702 SW5703 SW5706 SW5707 SW5708	
5	C,S	Develop skills to conceptualise and develop an idea, conduct the research and present it	X			SW5600

		formatively to others. Dissertation to be written using the student's own words				
--	--	---	--	--	--	--

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, team and 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 and engage in their own research project to completion.
- 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	
<p>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>SW5800 Legal Frameworks for Social Justice Assessment – 15 credits</p> <p>SW5801 Practice Learning (MA1) Assessment– 20 credits</p> <p>SW5802 Professional Practice (MA1) Assessment – 0 credits</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>SW5803 Assessing Risk and Complexity Assessment – 20 credits</p> <p>SW5806 Practice Learning (MA2) Assessment– 20 credits</p> <p>SW5807 Professional Practice (MA2) Assessment – 0 credits</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
<p>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>SW5700 Legal Frameworks for Social Justice – 10 credits</p> <p>SW5701 Practice Learning (MA1) – 10 credits</p> <p>SW5702 Professional Skills Development (MA1) – 20 credits</p> <p>SW5703 First Placement (MA1) – 35 credits</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>SW5704 Assessment and the Management of Risk and Complexity – 10 credits</p> <p>SW5705 Effective Practice with Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Substance Misuse – 10 credits</p> <p>SW5706 Practice Learning (MA2) – 10 credits</p> <p>SW5707 Professional Skills Development (MA2) – 10 credits</p> <p>SW5708 Final Placement (MA) – 50 credits</p>	<p>Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>

Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits
<p>Year 1</p> <p>SW5618 Foundations of Social Work Practice – 10 credits</p> <p>SW5619 Social Work Theories and Perspectives – 10 credits</p> <p>SW5620 Social Policy and Sociology – 20 credits</p> <p>SW5621 Life-span Behaviour & Development – 20 credits (Core: All, Block)</p> <p>PN5604 Applied Research for Health and Social Care - 15 credits</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>SW5622 What Works in Social Work? – 10 credits</p> <p>SW5600 The Dissertation – 60 credits (Core: All, Block)</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>-</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>Students must choose one of the following pathways:</p> <p>SW5623 Social Work with Children and Families (MA) – 20 credits (Core: All, Block)</p> <p>SW5624 Social Work with Adults (MA) – 20 credits (Core: All, Block)</p>
<p>Level 5 Progression and Award Requirements</p>	
<p>As per Senate Regulation 3 with the following award-specific additions:</p>	
<p>Continuation</p> <p>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 Professional Practice (MA1) Assessment in order to continue to Year 2 of the programme.</p>	
<p>MSc Social Work Award Profile</p> <p>For the award of MSc 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 Professional Practice (MA2) Assessment and achieve a grade C- or above in SW5600 (The Dissertation).</p>	
<p>MSc Award Profiles for the Award of Merit or Distinction</p> <p>Although the MSc 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.</p>	
<p>MSc Applied Social Studies Award Profile</p> <p>For the award of MSc 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 (The Dissertation); Professional Practice Assessments are not taken into consideration.</p>	
<p>Interim Awards</p> <p>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 Professional Practice (MA1) Assessment and SW5807 Professional Practice (MA2) Assessment.</p>	
<p>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 Social Work England (SWE) as a qualified social worker:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
<p>A Postgraduate Diploma may not be awarded by substitution of the dissertation (SW5600 for modular or assessment blocks in the taught part of the programme.</p>	

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.