

Social Work

BA (Hons)

BA (Hons) Social Work is the professional qualification for social work throughout the UK. The course aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills and values appropriate for work in a variety of social work settings. The theoretical components of the course are delivered by staff actively engaged in research, consultancy and publication. A General Social Care Council bursary is available to support successful applicants during their course of study. Following qualification, students will be eligible for admission to the General Social Care Council register of social workers and to hold the title of social worker.

Course content

Social workers deal with some of the most vulnerable people in society at times of greatest stress. By the end of the programme students will have been assessed against the National Occupational Standards for Social Work and be deemed fit to practice at a qualifying stage. Competent practice is essential for the award and students will undertake 200 days of practice learning (placement) during the course, including practice experience in a statutory setting and with at least two service user groups. Practice learning (placement) makes up 50% of the programme content, with students undertaking their practice learning experience in blocks of 40 days, 60 days and finally 100 days. For students to undertake practice learning experiences that meet the requirements of the General Social Care Council, students must be able to travel. Having a current UK driving licence is desirable but not mandatory.

Stage one

Stage one offers foundation knowledge for social work practice. The value base of social work is emphasised and students will develop their understanding of anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice within a model that promotes social justice and relationship based practice. Students will also undertake mandatory breakaway training to prepare them for practice. A 40-day assessed placement is completed in a social work setting.

Stage two

At stage two, students develop their understanding of



Course level

Undergraduate

Modes of study

Part time, Full time

UCAS or UKPASS details

UCAS code: L500

UCAS description: BA/SocWork

Length of study

Three years full-time. A part-time route is available for applicants who are supported by partner agencies.

School

School of Health

Location

Park Campus

Course contact

study@northampton.ac.uk

Avenue Campus

St George's Avenue
Northampton
NN2 6JD

Park Campus

Boughton Green Road
Northampton
NN2 7AL

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different service user groups. The modules explore issues that are relevant to practice and develop students practice skills through experiential learning in small learning sets. A module on Gender develops students understanding of the interconnectedness of oppression, discrimination and inequality and how gender shapes organisations and service delivery. A 60-day assessed placement is completed in a social work setting.

Stage three

At stage three, students undertake a 100-day assessed placement in a social work agency and complete a dissertation on an aspect of practice. There is also a module on working with service users with complex problems. By the end of stage three students will have demonstrated their readiness for professionally qualified practice.

Special course features

- Prepares students for professional social work practice
- Enables students to develop their practice skills, both on placement and by using the customised social work Skills Studio at the University
- Develops students' skills and knowledge in working with other professions
- Raise political awareness and encourage students to be creative, critical and reflective thinkers
- The Social Work Division sign up to and hold the International Federation of Social Work definition of social work

Typical modules

- Direct work with children and families
- Social policy and law
- Social work models and methods
- Social work skills
- Understanding human behaviour

Types of assessment

Students are assessed both in theory and practice. Coursework as well as a law exam in year one assess all compulsory modules.

Methods of study

The programme promotes an approach to learning that engages students as active participants. This includes group work; individual skill development, inquiry based learning, seminars and lectures. Students link academic learning to three supervised practice placements. Over the three stages they experience a range of social work settings and service user groups.

Entry requirements

In addition to standard entry requirements, applicants must demonstrate that they possess the personal and intellectual qualities to be social workers. Applicants would normally have had some experience of working in a welfare setting. Applicants must have grade C GCSE Mathematics and grade C English or equivalent. A typical offer would be 260-300 UCAS tariff points. Acceptance on the course is subject to a health declaration and enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure.

Application notes

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Courses for progression

- [Leadership for Health and Social Care PgCert](#)

Career opportunities

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Employment prospects are excellent and graduates secure social work posts across the country.

Work placement opportunities

Students undertake 200 days practice learning experiences (placement) over the three years of study. The practice learning experiences are assessed and graded. Students have a wide range of placement opportunities with employer providers across statutory and third sector settings.

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