

# Welcome to Applied Social Care BSc (Joint Honours)

## Welcome

Congratulations on accepting your place on the Joint Honours Applied Social Care Course at the University of Northampton. This welcome pack has been created to help you to prepare for joining us in September. You are in the exciting position of studying two disciplines at the same time, which will provide you with knowledge and skills in two academic fields increasing your career options in the future.



## What's the course about?

The programme aims to engage you in developing your knowledge and understanding of the role of community development in a range of social and political contexts, taking into account the emerging global knowledge. You will be supported to develop a critical and analytical approach to knowledge and its application to social issues and social systems. It is expected that you will emerge as innovative, self-directed and self-motivated learners with an ability to critique theoretical perspectives and research findings. Through this course you will be able to identify and offer challenges to the issues of inequality, oppression and discrimination through a sound grasp of the role of community development in providing social interventions to social problems.

## What will I be studying?

The course runs over three years. At University the years are called Levels. The first year is Level 4, the second year is Level 5, and the final year is Level 6.

In each year you will be studying a range of modules. Each module has a credit value, you will study a total of 120 credits in each year. The modules shown below are **compulsory for the Applied Social Care** aspect of your course only and will be studied alongside modules from your chosen subject area. At level 4 there are 3 compulsory modules, which includes the opportunity to gain some work-based learning. At each stage employability runs concurrently to the theoretical underpinning of the teaching to ensure that you are fully prepared for employment when you complete the course. At Level 5, there is the option to major or minor in either subject you are studying. You will continue with a

minimum of 2 compulsory or a maximum of 4 compulsory and designated modules to complete the necessary credits. There are a variety of designated modules that you can choose from at Level 5 and Level 6. More details of this can be found on the award map and you will be offered advice and guidance in selecting your modules at each level..

#### **Level 4**

- SWK1061 Contemporary Social Issues (20 credits)
- SWK1065 Developing Professional Skills for Employment (20 credits)
- SWK1066 Understanding Social Development (20 credits)

#### **Level 5**

- SWK2063 Developing Research Skills (20 credits)
- SWK2064 Applying Law and Policy to Social Change (20 credits)
- SWK2065P Work Based Learning and Reflective Learning (20 credits)

#### **Level 6**

- SWK4011 Dissertation/Project Report (40 credits)
- SWK3028 Enhancing Leadership and Employability Skills (20 credits)

#### **How is the course taught?**

The course is taught using Active Blended Learning. Instead of simply attending lectures, you will be guided to a rich and varied set of learning materials. Then, when you meet for taught sessions, the focus will be on applying these materials to specific problems and topics.

For more details on this, have a look at this [YouTube video](#).

One important point to note, compared to pre-university study, you will be expected to be a self-directed learner. This means that tutors will not routinely chase you for work and you will need to set aside time to reflect and study either on your own or with a group of other students from the course. We cannot stress this highly enough. Success on this course is strongly related to how hard students study, and in particular the breadth and depth of their reading.

#### **How will my learning be assessed?**

Each module will have one or more items of assessment. These will vary greatly, from an essay to group presentation. Some methods of assessing your work may be new to you, for example a poster or a social venture canvas. Do not worry, you will get plenty of support in how to complete these.

### When will I need to be in University for Applied Social Care?

At Level 4, the main university days for Applied Social Care are Wednesdays and Fridays. The timetable for the first teaching block (October to December) looks like this. **Please be advised that the timetable is subject to change and are to be confirmed.**

**PLEASE NOTE, you will be required to attend University on other days for your other discipline**

	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4
<b>Wednesday</b>			Module 1				
<b>Friday</b>	Module 2		Module 3				

### What can I do to prepare for the course?

There are a number of ways to prepare for the course.

#### Join our Facebook Group

One of the easiest ways to prepare for the course is to join our [Facebook Group](#), Social Care and Community Practice/Joint Honours Applied Social Care Group. This has a lively mix of staff, students, and alumni who are all prepared to answer questions and share their experiences of the course.

#### Read Course Related Books and webpages

The key way to prepare for the course is to read. There are three types of reading that are likely to help. The first, is to read books or reliable on line resources related to the course. We would particularly recommend the following.

**Transforming Adult Social Care** - by Ann Marie Gray and Derek Birrell

**Analysing Community Work** - by Keith Popple

**Understanding Health and Social Care** - by Jon Glasby

**Social Care** - Joseph Rowntree Foundation - <https://www.jrf.org.uk/people/social-care>

**Social Care Online** - <http://www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/>

### **Read Study Skills Books**

The second is to read books related to academic skills. This is because many students have told us that the 'step-up' from pre-university to university level is a major challenge. We would particularly recommend the following.

**The Study Skills Handbook** – by Stella Cottrell

**The Good Study Guide** – by Andrew Northedge

### **Read for Pleasure**

Finally for reading, we also recommend that you read for pleasure. One way to develop your writing skills is to read the work of a variety of writers. What you read is up to you, but you are likely to find short stories easiest to fit into your schedule. If you have not read it before, I would recommend the following.

**The Thing around Your Neck** – by Chimamanda Adichie

### **Keep an Eye on the Media**

At the moment Social Care is frequently mentioned in the media. It is important to keep in touch with what is going on in your local community, nationally, and globally. So make sure you watch the news, read newspapers – such as the Guardian, The Times or The Telegraph. You may be fascinated to see what each source reports, what they ignore, and how they present the same facts differently. The better informed you are, the easier you will find the course.

### **Watch Educational Videos**

A final thing that might be useful in helping you prepare for the course is to look at some of the TED talks on YouTube. If you have never seen a TED talk before, here are a few you might find interesting.

New Experiments in self-teaching – by Sugata Mitra ([link](#))

What Makes a Community? – by Roger Kitchen ([link](#))

### **What should I do if I have any concerns or questions?**

If you have any concerns or questions about the course, please email the Programme Lead – Kelly Smith [Kelly.smith@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Kelly.smith@northampton.ac.uk)