

Welcome to BA (Hons) Social Care and Community Practice

Welcome

Congratulations on accepting your place on the Social Care and Community Practice Course at the University of Northampton. This welcome pack has been created to help you to prepare for joining us in September.



What's the course about?

The principal aims of the Social Care programme are to:

- To draw on theoretical perspectives from sociology and psychology and integrate these into an informed understanding of social behaviour and individual need.
- To develop an awareness of the principles of human rights and social justice that is fundamental to working in the global and local community and social care sector.
- To promote equality of opportunity, achieved via an approach that values student diversity and prior lived experiences, encourages self-directed learning and promotes a critical understanding of anti-discriminatory, anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in critical thinking, self-awareness and self-reflection in relation to their own learning and development.
- To provide students with the practical, personal and interpersonal skills for working in a variety of service settings across the social care sector e.g., community development, social housing, criminal justice, health and social care.
- To develop students for further learning, postgraduate study, training opportunities and employability.

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. 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.

Level 4

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| SWK 1061 | Contemporary Social Issues | 20 Credits |
| SWK 1062 | Understanding Diverse Communities | 20 Credits |
| SWK 1063 | Academic Skills | 20 Credits |
| SWK1064 | Introduction to Service User Groups | 20 Credits |
| SWK 1065 | Developing Professional Skills for Employment | 20 Credits |
| SWK 1066 | Understanding Social Development | 20 Credits |

Level 5

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| | Developing Research Skills | 20 Credits |
| SWK2063 | Applying Law and Policy to Social Change | 20 Credits |
| SWK2064 | Work-based Learning and Reflective Working | 20 Credits |
| SWK 2065P | Skills for Working in Mental Health | 20 Credits |
| SWK 2067 | Models and Experiences of Disability | 20 Credits |
| SWK 2068 | Effective Partnership Working | 10 Credits |
| SWK 2069 | Working with Addiction | 10 Credits |

Level 6

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| SWK 4011 Dissertation/Project Report | 40 Credits |
| SWK 3023 Housing and Community Living | 20 Credits |
| SWK 3028 Enhancing Leadership and Employability Skills | 20 Credits |
| SWK 3029 Advocating for and with Children and Young People | 20 Credits |
| SWK 3030 Working with an Ageing Population | 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.

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 –Monica Catelinet m.catelinet@northampton.ac.uk