

POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Social Work MA

US

UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

Social Work and Social Care at Sussex

Our partnerships with a wide range of local employers and placement providers enable a fantastic range of learning opportunities. 90% of our graduates find employment or undertake further study within six months of graduating (DLHE 2017).

SOCIAL WORK

The Social Work MA at Sussex is a 22 month full-time route to a professional social work qualification. It is practice-based and informed by the very latest research in the social work field - some of which is carried out by Sussex staff.

You will benefit from a range of stimulating learning opportunities led by university tutors, expert practitioners, Practice Educators, Practice Supervisors and representatives from our service user/carer network.

Working within a supportive study environment, you'll develop crucial skills for independent and collaborative learning. You will complete 200 practice development days, drawing on our excellent partnerships with local service users, carers and social work, social care and health agencies. Specialist placements and learning pathways will give you experience of both children's and adults' social work.

EMPLOYMENT

Social Work MA graduates go on to work in the field of professional social work, and are highly sought after by employers working with children and families and in adult social care.

The majority of those seeking employment do so through our local authority partners: Brighton & Hove City Council and East Sussex County Council.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- An upper second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree or above. *Those with a lower second-class degree (2:2) but with substantial practical experience in social care or a related field may be considered.*
- At least six months' relevant practice experience (voluntary or paid)
- Your undergraduate degree can be in any subject but you must have GCSE Mathematics and English (or equivalent) at grade C (grade 4) or above.
- A certificate of proficiency in English Language if English is not your first language (an overall IELTS score of 7.0 with at least 6.5 in each component, or Internet TOEFL with a score of at least 95 overall with at least 22 in Listening, 23 in Reading and Speaking, and 24 in Writing).

Applications must be submitted via UCAS.

Candidates who are successful at this stage will be asked to provide additional documentation (including a longer personal statement about your motivation to study social work, and a sample of written work) and invited to attend a selection day. On this day, you will take part in a group exercise, as well as being interviewed individually. You will be assessed by a panel usually comprising a university tutor, a social work practitioner, and a service user or carer.

Those offered a place on the Social Work MA course following a selection day, will be required to satisfactorily complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, including a check of all cautions, warnings and convictions. You are additionally required to make a declaration regarding your health and fitness to study and practice social work.

You must complete at least four days' shadowing of a Registered Social Worker in any agency setting or social work role. You can arrange this yourself if you already work within a social work environment or know a social worker. What is important is that this experience is **recent**.

Self-assessment and independent verification of learning resulting from the workplace shadowing is normally required before you can start the course.

PRACTICE LEARNING

You will complete 170 practice learning days on two professional practice placements. 30 additional days are spent at practice development workshops at the University.

Your practice placements will take place in two different settings with at least two different groups of service users to ensure an appropriately broad skill base for your social work career. Practice opportunities and skills teaching draw on our excellent partnerships with local service users, carers and social work, social care and health agencies. In recent years, students have been placed within mental health services; prison services; advocacy organisations; homeless services; school social work; drug and alcohol services; and fostering and adoption groups, among many others.

A specialist learning pathway in your second year linked to your placement will consolidate particular knowledge and skills relating to social work with either children and families, or with adults.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Teaching on the Social Work MA is distinctive in that it combines group learning methods with personalised support.

Assessment methods include essays, an examination, oral and visual presentations, a viva voce, placement reports, case studies, and a 12,000 word dissertation.

FEES AND FUNDING

For information about what funding may be available that is specific to Social Work, see www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/pgstudy/bursaryinfo

More information on fees and scholarships can be found in the University's Postgraduate Prospectus.

NOTE: It is only possible to accept one bursary to support your studies, ie. receiving the social work bursary precludes you from receiving any additional bursaries.



SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL CARE

POST-OFFER / PRE-COURSE COMMITMENTS:

- Undertake 4 days' shadowing with a Registered Social Worker (*can be arranged by self if currently working in a social work setting or know a social worker*)
 - Obtain a DBS check
- Both are required before you are assessed for the 'Readiness for Practice Learning'*

Course structure

AUTUMN TERM

SPRING TERM

SUMMER TERM

YEAR 1

In the autumn term, you will undertake university-based study 4 days per week and 1 independent study day.

In the spring term, you will combine practice and university-based learning for 5 days per week.

In the summer term (and during the summer break), you will undertake independent study with supervisor support.

Law and Social Policy

Practice Learning (1)

Research Methods & Dissertation

Human Development and Social Relationships

Social Adversity, Risk and Resilience

Theory, Methods and Values in Practice (1)

Practice Development Workshops

YEAR 2

In the autumn and spring terms, you will combine practice and university-based learning for 5 days per week.

AUTUMN TERM

SPRING TERM

Practice Learning (2)

Theory, Methods and Values in Practice (2)

Organisations and Interprofessional Practice

Practice Development Workshops

NOTE: Teaching and assessment occurs during January of both Years 1 and 2, before the official start of term.

NOTE: So that we can keep our curriculum fresh and driven by the most current research, we review it every year. The modules shown above are based on subjects studied in 2019. The University may run different modules for 2020 entry. For a full list of modules offered in 2020, visit <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/masters/courses/education-and-social-work/social-work-ma>