

MA, PGDip Social Work & MA Social Work (Top Up)

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	MA Social Work PGDip Social Work MA Social Work (Top Up)
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a Teaching institution	Middlesex University
3b Language of study	English
4a Valid intake dates	September
4b Mode of study	FT
4c Delivery method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended <input type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body	Social Work England
6. Apprenticeship Standard	N/A
7. Final qualification(s) available	<p>a) MA Social Work Exit awards: PGDip Social Work (Qualifying) PGDip Applied Social Studies (non-qualifying) PGCert Applied Social Studies (non-qualifying)</p> <p>b) PGDip Social Work Exit award: PGCert Applied Social Studies (non-qualifying)</p> <p>(See diagram of programmes below)</p>
8. Academic year effective from	2023-24

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/social_work/Social_Work_MA.aspx

- A first degree at higher second class honours classification or above (i.e. 2:1 or above). Exceptionally, applicants may be admitted with a 2:2, if they have strong, relevant experience of work in the social care sector.
- GCSE Grade C/4 or above in English and Maths or certificated equivalences.
- Relevant paid or voluntary work experience of at least three months.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must meet communication and comprehension skills to International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a score of 7 (with 6.5 in all elements).
- Successful performance in an individual interview.
- An assessment of the applicant's suitability and fitness for practice through completion of a self-declaration, appropriate references, a satisfactory check on their criminal record and background including the safeguarding register; Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and any further information gathering as indicated via other professionals or further interview and assessment.
- RPL is not permitted for admission to this programme.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

MA and PGDip Social Work:

1. Produce post-graduate, qualifying-level social work students who, at the point of completion of their Social Work MA or PGDip, meet all Social Work England Professional Standards and associated Professional Capabilities Framework domains enabling students to apply for professional registration as a social worker with SWE.
2. Develop graduates with leadership capacity able to actively contribute to working in organisations; through offering students an intellectually rewarding and stimulating post-graduate, qualifying-level programme where theory and practice are integrated throughout both academic and practice modules.
3. Equip graduates with an evidence-informed knowledge-base and embed skills for life-long learning.
4. Ensure that graduates are critical, analytical and reflective thinkers and are able to critically evaluate knowledge, to problem-solve, research and develop scholarship through debate and analysis.
5. Promote a collaborative, ethical and transformational approach to working in partnership with the programme's stakeholders, including employers, students, practitioners and service users and carers; integrating equal opportunities and awareness of diversity at every stage.
6. Provide a coherent and creative curriculum incorporating learning, teaching and assessment strategies that are mapped against Social Work England Professional

Standards (2019), linked to the Professional Capabilities Framework and the Benchmark Statement for Social Work (QAA, 2019).

7. Contribute to and champion the mission of the University by working closely within its structures and processes, to ensure that student support is maximised and valued to enable them to successfully achieve their ambitions.

MA and MA Social Work (Top Up):

8. Equip MA Social Work and MA Social Work (Top Up) graduates with skills and knowledge to plan and carry out research on themes relating to contemporary social work policy and practice.

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. How to conceptualise, analyse and critically appreciate key social work theories, methods and interventions.

2. The complex and contested interplay of contextual knowledge of sociological, psychological, organisational, political, economic and cultural perspectives which underpin social work.

3. The conceptual links between social work values and professional codes of ethics and their impact on practice.

4. The interplay of social work law, social policy, and human-rights frameworks, and their complexity, enhanced through advanced practice [and dissertation research- MA level only].

5. The significance of equality, inclusion and diversity and service user and carer perspectives for social work practice.

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through

- Engaging research-based exercises in practitioner enquiry within the classroom and via VLE.
- Engagement in peer and individual led classroom presentations which demonstrate synthesis and interrogation of different sources of knowledge.
- Practice tutorials in placement.
- Debate and discussion in small and large groups and through reading and critical reflection on learning materials, with a focus on evidence-informed practice.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by

- Research-based exercises in practitioner enquiry [culminating in the writing of a dissertation- MA level only].

<p>6. Advanced and proficient research mindedness and an ability to engage in sophisticated evidence-based practice.</p> <p>7. Advanced competency in leadership and organisational theory, professional authority and boundary-setting.</p> <p>8. International/global perspectives on social work and the ability to engage in debates concerning these issues.</p> <p>9. How to produce an advanced and extended research dissertation exploring a key area of relevance to contemporary social work- <u>[MA level only]</u>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer and individual presentations which demonstrate synthesis and interrogation of different sources of knowledge, employed during research and practice- related teaching and learning • Focused debate and discussion in small and large groups • Practice learning portfolios connecting knowledge (formal & informal) and placement practice skills • Presentation, discussion and analysis of case studies • Online searches and critiques of findings.
<p>B. Skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate proficiency in a wide range of problem-solving skills, critical reflection, analysis, reasoning and evaluative skills. 2. Make use of advanced practice skills in communicating, engaging and intervening through their work with service users, carers, other professionals, teams, organisations and multi-agency settings. 3. Show highly competent professional written communication skills (including case-notes, assessment reports, genograms & ecomaps). 4. Put into practice in a wide range of appropriate professional assessment approaches. 5. Show the ability to apply ethical reasoning and decision-making in practice to an enhanced degree and deliver targeted professional interventions (including counselling, advocacy, crisis-intervention and safe-guarding). 	<p>Teaching/learning methods</p> <p>Students learn skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflective activities, such as reflective diaries and group discussion. • Communication skills and theory/intervention workshops. • Interrogating and debating learning materials, individually, in seminar settings and on-line. • Recording and evaluating student's own overall development and progress through the programme via the placement planning documents. <p>Assessment methods</p> <p>Students' skills are assessed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutorial-based exercises through debates, discussion and communication /intervention assessment activities. • Research evaluation activities and drawing out implications for practice [including the production of a dissertation- <u>MA level only</u>].

6. Identify and take into account multiple perspectives and contexts present within the social work domain, through reflection and analysis; showing an awareness of the contested and changing world of social work practice and awareness of equality, inclusion and diversity.

7. Conduct analysis in professional practice that identifies knowledge gaps leading to the development of pertinent hypotheses and research questions.

8. Show the ability to sustain a reasoned debate and exploration of a key topic of relevance to the profession via their research skills.

9. Demonstrate a competent use of information technology.

- Written assignments and presentations demonstrating critical understanding of theories and knowledge and their application.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12.1 Structure of the programme

See diagram below:

Exit awards:

a) MA exit awards:
PGDip Social Work (Qualifying)
PGDip Applied Social Studies (non-qualifying)
PGCert Applied Social Studies (non-qualifying)

b) PGDip Social Work
PGCert Applied Social Studies (non-qualifying)



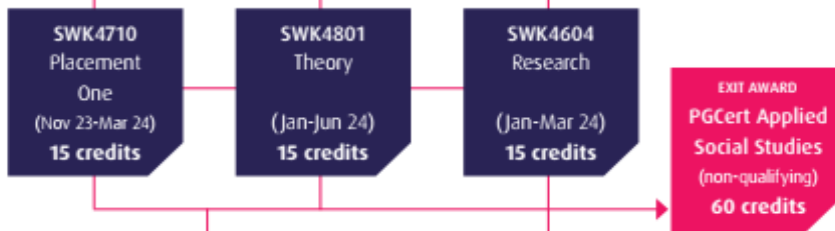
MA/PGDip/TOP-UP SOCIAL WORK PATHWAYS

Term 1



SWK4800 must be passed to progress to initial placement module SWK4710. Exit point if SWK4800 failed (no named award).

Term 2



SWK4900 SW Law must be passed to progress to final placement module SWK4711.

Term 3



*MA and MA Top Up only

Term 4



To graduate with a social work qualifying award, all modules must be passed. Students enrolled on MA Social Work may however exit with PGDip Social Work (qualifying), if they pass all modules apart from SWK4720 dissertation module. All modules are core apart from SWK4720 Dissertation.

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12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 7		
Compulsory	Optional	Progression requirements
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SWK4800: Readiness for Direct Social Work Practice.</p> <p>SWK4801: Social Work Theory</p> <p>SWK4710: Initial Professional Practice Placement</p> <p>SWK4711: Final Professional Practice Placement</p> <p>SWK4900: Social Work Law</p> <p>SWK4902: Contemporary Issues in Social Work Practice</p> <p>SWK4604: Social Work Research</p> <p>SWK4605: Understanding the Life Course</p>	<p>There are no optional modules</p>	<p>Students must pass their readiness for direct practice interview and assignment from SWK4800 RDP module before progressing to their first placement.</p> <p>Students must pass SWK4710 before progressing to SWK4711 Final placement module</p> <p>Students must pass SWK4900 before progressing to SWK4711 Final placement module</p>

SWK4720: Social Work Dissertation (MA level only)		
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*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
All modules on this programme are non-compensatable	

13. Information about assessment regulations
<p><i>This programme will run in line with general University Regulations:</i></p> <p>These programmes will run in line with general University Regulations.</p> <p>Additional information for MA and PGDip Social Work programmes:</p> <p>Owing to the professional nature of these programmes, there are a number of additional regulations. The University is required to abide by the entry threshold criteria set by the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW 2018) and Social Work England Education and Training Standards (2021). In addition, students must pass the SWK4800 readiness for direct practice assessment in term one before they can commence their first placement. Prior to commencement of the final 100-day placement students must also have passed the Law module SWK4900. Fitness for Practice is assessed continuously throughout and complies with the University Fitness for Practice Framework. Breach of these procedures may lead to an investigation and subsequently the student may be asked to leave the programme.</p> <p>All components of the programme must be successfully completed before MA or PGDip Social Work can be awarded. Fail grades are not compensated for on any social work module.</p> <p>A minimum of 75% student attendance is required for all MA and PGDip Social Work academic modules in order for students to be entered for assessment. Professional regulatory requirements are that students must complete the full 70 days of the first placement and 100 days in the second. Students must also complete 30 days of direct practice skills throughout their programme.</p> <p>Only two attempts are normally given to students for each module, in line with the University Regulations. Placements are the exception to this where a second attempt at placement is only given following an independent investigation into the circumstances by a member of the academic team, with the recommendation for another attempt endorsed by the external examiner.</p>

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

With MA and PGDip Social Work, practice learning takes place in organisations and settings centred on the provision of social work and social care. Our placements are all quality assured and the learning opportunities are identified in accordance with the thresholds of learning in the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW 2018) and SWE Education and Training Standards (2021). For example, students can expect to typically have their first placement in a community-based setting within the private, voluntary or statutory sector where they will gain experience of direct work with service users and carers, in undertaking assessments and interventions and of working with other professionals within inter-professional networks. In the final placement students will gain experience of undertaking statutory tasks and are likely to be placed in a local authority or health trust providing adult or children's services. Placements are matched to students' learning needs.

15. Future careers / progression

There are a wide variety of career opportunities for qualified social workers in the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors. These are with different user groups in different models of social welfare.

The University organises annual career fairs for students. On MA and PGDip Social Work programmes, tutors support students' preparation through their Tutor Groups and professional development planning as well as linking them to the central university services. Employability workshops are offered to students, by MDXworks, staff and employers, drawing on the excellent partnerships in place between the university and employers.

16. Particular support for learning

On MA and PGDip Social Work programmes, students have an allocated personal tutor (Academic Advisor) throughout the programme, who oversees the academic and professional development of students. While on placement, they will have a Practice Educator who will deliver their practice learning and assessment in the workplace in a supportive manner.

We recognise that students on the postgraduate qualifying programmes may be returning to study after period, so support is integrated into the curriculum, by effective use of the University Student Support Services and the Information and Learning Resource Services.

17. HECos code(s)

100503

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Subject Benchmark Statement for Social Work (2019).

19. Reference points

British Association of Social Work, The Code of Ethics for Social Work (2021)
British Association of Social Work, The Professional Capabilities Framework (2018).
The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Subject Benchmark Statement for Social Work (2019).
Social Work England Professional Standards (2019)
Social Work England Qualifying Education and Training Standards Guidance (2021)

20. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the programme handbook and the University Regulations.

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21. Curriculum map for MA & PGDip Social Work & MA Social Work (Top Up)

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	Conceptualise, analyse and critically appreciate key social work theories, methods and interventions.
A2	The complex and contested interplay of contextual knowledge of sociological, psychological, organisational, political, economic and cultural perspectives which underpin social work.
A3	The conceptual links between social work values and professional codes of ethics and their impact on practice.
A4	The interplay of social work law, social policy, and human-rights frameworks, and their complexity, enhanced through advanced practice [and dissertation research- <u>MA level only</u>]
A5	The significance of equality, inclusion and diversity and service user and carer perspectives for social work practice.
A6	Advanced and proficient research mindedness and an ability to engage in sophisticated evidence-based practice.
A7	Advanced competency in leadership and organisational theory, professional authority and boundary-setting.
A8	International/global perspectives on social work and the ability to engage in debates concerning these issues.
A9	How to produce an advanced and extended research dissertation exploring a key area of relevance to contemporary social work (<u>MA level only</u>)
Skills	
B1	Demonstrate proficiency in a wide range of problem-solving skills, critical reflection, analysis, reasoning and evaluative skills.
B2	Make use of advanced practice skills in communicating, engaging and intervening through their work with service users, carers, other professionals, teams, organisations and multi-agency settings.
B3	Show highly competent professional written communication skills (including case-notes, assessment reports, genograms & ecomaps).
B4	Put into practice in a wide range of appropriate professional assessment approaches.
B5	Show the ability to apply ethical reasoning and decision-making in practice to an enhanced degree and deliver targeted professional interventions (including counselling, advocacy, crisis-intervention and safe-guarding).

B6	Identify and take into account multiple perspectives and contexts present within the social work domain, through reflection and analysis; showing an awareness of the contested and changing world of social work practice and awareness of equality, inclusion and diversity.
B7	Conduct analysis in professional practice that identifies knowledge gaps leading to the development of pertinent hypotheses and research questions.
B8	Show the ability to sustain a reasoned debate and exploration of a key topic of relevance to the profession via their research skills.
B9	Demonstrate a competent use of information technology.

Programme outcomes														
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
Highest level achieved by all graduates- ALL MODULES ARE LEVEL 7														

		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9*	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9
Social Work Research	SWK4604		x	x	x	x	x		x		x					x	x	x	x
Understanding the Life Course	SWK4605	x	x	x		x			x							x			x
Initial Professional Practice Placement	SWK4710	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Final Professional Practice Placement	SWK4711	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Readiness for Direct Social Work Practice.	SWK4800	x	x	x		x					x				x	x			x
Social Work Theory	SWK4801	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Social Work Law	SWK4900			x	x	x	x				x					x			x
Contemporary Issues in Social Work Practice	SWK4902	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Social Work Dissertation (MA level only)	SWK4720	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x

MA level only*