

BA Social Work

Programme Specification



1.	Programme title	BA (Hons) Social Work
2.	Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a	Teaching institution	Middlesex University
3b	Language of study	English
4a	Valid intake dates	September
4b	Mode of study	Full-time
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA (Hons) Social Work • BA in Social Studies (ordinary)* • Certificate of Higher Education in Social Studies* • Diploma of Higher Education in Social Studies* <p>*These are not qualifying awards in Social Work</p>
8.	Academic year effective from	2024/25

9. Criteria for admission to the programme
Details on admissions to the programme can be found at: https://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/social-work

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

1. Produce professionally capable, graduate social work students who at the point of completion of their social work degree meet all of the Professional Standards (Social Work England (SWE) 2019) and The Professional Capabilities Framework domains (BASW 2018). This will enable students to be critically reflective, confident, effective and resilient social workers who are fit for professional practice and employment in the sector.
2. Equip students with the appropriate levels of knowledge, values and skills enabling them to understand and work within a professional social work context. Students will be enabled to analyse, undertake casework interventions, manage and lead the process of change necessary to achieve quality outcomes for service users/carers and to actively promote their needs.
3. Promote a collaborative approach to working in partnership with the Programme's Stakeholders, including employers, students and service users and carers to ensure the efficacy and currency of the programme and that all participants work safely and accountably.
4. Provide a coherent curriculum in its management, learning, teaching and assessment. Also, ensuring that it is relevant to contemporary practice and underpinned by the Benchmark Statement for Social Work (QAA, 2019), the Professional Standards for Social Work (SWE, 2019), the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW, 2018), and the Education and Training Standards (SWE, 2021).
5. Integrate the programme learning, teaching and assessment strategies with the key requirements for contemporary practice and utilise the knowledge, research and evidence from both theory and practice. Offering students an intellectually rewarding and stimulating three-year undergraduate programme where theory, practice, skills and values are integrated throughout both academic and practice modules.
6. Contribute 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 students to be successful in achieving their ambitions.

11. Programme outcomes*

B. Knowledge and understanding

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

A1 The diverse and complex range of disciplines contributing to social work knowledge, including new models of social work delivery (eg. Social enterprises) and how these inform models of intervention used in social work.

A2 Contextual sociological, psychological, political, economic and cultural perspectives and their interaction with social work interventions.

A3 Expectations of what it means to be a professional and the regulatory framework determining

social work behaviour and conduct.

A4 The policy and legislative framework of social work including human rights, safeguarding and protection.

A5. Diversity and service-user perspectives based on research and evidence in relation to issues impacting on different groups in society and the debates in relation to the effectiveness of interventions and practice, in the UK and internationally.

A6 Research mindedness and research and evidence-based methodologies.

A7 Theories about communities, professional authority and boundary setting including how these interact with theories of co-production, participation and power imbalances in society.

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- Research-based exercises in practitioner enquiry
- 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 larger groups and through reading and critical reflection on learning materials.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

- Research-based exercises in:
- Practitioner enquiry, particularly summatively in the final year project
- Peer and individual presentations which demonstrate synthesis and interrogation of different sources of knowledge
- Debate and discussion in small and larger groups
- Practice learning portfolios bringing knowledge and practice together analysis of case studies
- Web-based inquiry to collect demographic information about community populations
- Observational of professional social work practice

B. Skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

B1 Analyse, critically reflect on, challenge and advocate in situations of diversity and inequality using research and evidence, from the UK and beyond.

B2 Analyse and critically reflect on their own experiences and values and how they challenge and

advocate in situations of diversity and inequality using research and evidence.

B3 Articulate and demonstrate a commitment to social work values and their own value base. Manage the dilemmas inherent in statutory work and critically reflect on power dynamics taking into account the strengths and relationships with service users.

B4 Apply multiple perspectives to areas of social work and formulate lines of enquiry and research interests

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn skills through:

- Reflective activities solely or in groups
- Interrogating and debating learning materials
- Recording and evaluating students' own development and progress through the programme via the placement and their professional development plan.

Assessment methods

Students' skills are assessed by:

- Tutor-based exercises through debates, discussion
- Research evaluation activities and drawing out implications for practice
- Written assignments demonstrating understanding of theories and knowledge and their application.

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

12.1 Structure of the programme

Year 1 – 120 credits at Level 4

All modules are one semester long

Semester 1

- **SWK1023:** Preparation for Professional Practice: Foundation Knowledge and Skills (30 credits)
- **SWK1005:** Community Project (30 credits)

Semester 2

- **SWK1004:** Life Course Development (30 credits)
- **SWK1024:** Preparation for Practice: Professional Development and Communication Skills (30 credits)

[Exit Award at end of year one: Higher Education Certificate in Social Studies- 120 credit points at FHEQ level 4 or above]

Year 2 – 120 credits at Level 5

All modules are one semester long apart from SWK2400 which is year-long

Semester 1

- **SWK2404:** Social Work Theories, Interventions and Practice (30 credits)
- **SWK2405:** Law for Social Workers (30 credits)

Semester 1&2

- **SWK2400:** Initial Professional Placement (30 credits)

Semester 2

- **SWK2203:** Approaches to Health and Social Care Research (30 credits)

[Exit Award at end of year two: Higher Education Diploma in Social Studies- 240 credit points at FHEQ level 4 or above including at least 90 at FHEQ level 5 or above]

Year 3 – 120 credits at Level 6

All modules are one semester long apart from SWK3491 which is year-long

Semester 1

- **SWK3408:** Social Work Knowledge: Application and Critique (30 credits)

Semester 1&2

- **SWK3491:** Final Professional Practice Placement (30 credits)
- **SWK3332:** Specialist Knowledge for Professional Practice (Social Work with Adults) OR **SWK 3334:** Specialist Knowledge for Professional Practice (Child and Family Social Work) (60 credits)

[Award at end of year three: BA (Hons) Social Work. An ordinary degree of BA Social Studies (non-qualifying) may be awarded if at least 300 are gained by the end of year 3].

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 4

Compulsory

Students must take all of the following:

- SWK1004
- SWK1005
- SWK1023
- SWK1024

Optional

There are no optional modules at Level 4

Progression Requirements

Students must pass all components and modules to progress.

Level 5

Compulsory

Students must take all of the following:

- SWK2203
- SWK2400

- SWK2404
- SWK2405

Optional

There are no optional modules at Level 4

Progression Requirements

Students must pass all components and modules to progress.

Level 6

Compulsory

Students must take all of the following:

- SWK3408
- SWK3491

Optional

Students must also choose one from the following:

- Either: SWK3332 OR SWK3334

Progression Requirements

Students must pass all components and modules to gain BA (Hons) Social Work

*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

12.3 Non-compensatable modules

Module level: No compensation of modules is permitted on this programme.

Module code: All modules

13. Information about assessment regulations

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations:

For Validated partners, please insert the link to the regulations you follow

The Social Work Programme abides by the assessment regulations outlined in Middlesex University's guide and regulations. Owing to the professional nature of this programme, there are a number of additional regulations. The University is required to abide by the entry threshold criteria and standards of conduct, performance and ethics of Social Work England.

Students' fitness for practice is essential for BA Social Work, in line with Social Work England requirements. Fitness for practice issues are considered within the University's Care and Concern processes, details of which will be found in the Programme Handbook and Placement Handbook.

Students must pass all components of assessment for each year of their studies for them to progress to the next academic year. All components of the Programme must be successfully completed before the BA (Hons) Social Work can be awarded. Named exit

awards are given if students exit the programme at key points. Please read the Module Narratives for further, detailed information about module content and assessment requirements.

Fail grades are not compensated for on any social work module.

A minimum of 75% attendance is required for all BA (Hons) social work modules for students to be entered for assessment. Practice learning must have a 100% attendance through completing the number of days required, which are 170 days overall. This comprises 70 days in the first placement in year 2 and 100 days in the second placement, year 3.

Students will also complete the equivalent of 30 days of practice skills in relation to readiness for direct practice and throughout the programme.

Two attempts are provided to students for each component of assessment on every module. Placements are the exception to this where a second attempt at placement is only given following scrutiny of the circumstances of the placement fail, termination or contested ending of placement.

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

Practice opportunities are a core element of the BA Social Work programme and these are offered within two specific modules of study. In year two, students will undertake a 70-day professional practice placement and in year three, a 100-day placement. All students will receive support from a University placement tutor who will offer classroom-based teaching in tutor groups and one to one, to plan and review progress. Practice Educators support students' learning in quality assured organisations and settings centred on the provision of social work and social care and they are offered training prior to and during their work with students.

Placements will be provided in contrasting settings, so that students learn across a breadth of practice contexts. These may be in local authority or NHS settings, or in the private and voluntary sector.

Provision of placements is quality assured by the University Practice Advisory Panel, with stakeholder and staff membership.

15. Future careers / progression

There are a wide variety of career opportunities for qualified social workers in the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors and Middlesex University graduates are sought-after by

local and nationally based employers. Social Work is a highly desirable professional qualification, which enables graduates to develop their career in many different potential directions into management, advanced practitioner status, clinical roles, educator roles, research and service/policy development. Post-qualifying career opportunities are available to work with different service user groups in different models of social welfare. The University organises annual career fairs for students to enable students to network with potential employers and to learn about different opportunities. Tutors support students' preparation through their tutor groups and professional development planning as well as linking them to the central university services. MDXWorks, provide bespoke employability advice and support to students, integrated into their programme. Once qualified, graduates from BA Social Work may return to study at the University on postgraduate CPD programmes, work-based learning programmes or research degrees.

16. Particular support for learning

Students have an allocated academic advisor throughout the programme, who oversees the academic and professional development of the student. The social work programme makes effective use of the University Student Support Services and the Information and Learning Resource Services. There are embedded sessions led by the Learning Enhancement Team threaded throughout the programme, from the early stages of year one and then, at each stage of progression through the programme.

17. HECos code(s)

L500

18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)

Social Work (November 2019)

19. Reference points

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

20. Other information
N/A

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 rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

21. Curriculum map for *BA Social Work*

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: The diverse and complex range of disciplines contributing to social work knowledge including new models of social work delivery (eg. social enterprises) and how these inform models of intervention used in social work.
A2: Contextual sociological, psychological, political, economic and cultural perspectives and their interaction with social work interventions.
A3: Expectations of what it means to be a professional and the regulatory framework determining social work behaviour and conduct.
A4: The policy and legislative framework of social work including human rights, safeguarding and protection.
A5: Diversity and service-user perspectives based on research and evidence in relation to issues impacting on different groups in society and the debates in relation to the effectiveness of interventions and practice, in the UK and internationally.
A6: Research mindedness and research and evidence-based methodologies.
A7: Theories about communities, professional authority and boundary setting including how these interact with theories of co-production, participation and power imbalances in society.
Skills
B1: Analyse, critically reflect on, challenge and advocate in situations of diversity and inequality using research and evidence from the UK and beyond.
B2: Analyse, critically reflect on their own experiences and values and how they challenge and advocate in situations of diversity and inequality using research and evidence.
B3: Articulate and demonstrate a commitment to social work values and their own value base. Manage the dilemmas inherent in statutory work and critically reflect on power dynamics taking into account the strengths and relationships with service users.

B4: Apply multiple perspectives to areas of social work and formulate lines of enquiry and research interests.

BA Social Work Curriculum Mapping

Programme Outcomes	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4
Highest level achieved by all graduates	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4
Life Course Development	SWK1004	X			X							X
Community Project	SWK1005	X	X		X					X		
Preparation for Professional Practice: Foundation Knowledge & Skills	SWK1023	X		X		X					X	X
Preparation for Practice: Professional Development & Communication Skills	SWK1024	X		X							X	X
Initial Professional Placement	SWK2400	X				X	X		X	X	X	X
Social Work Theories, Interventions and Practice	SWK2404	X		X					X	X	X	X
Approaches to Health and Social Care Research	SWK2203			X						X		X
Law for Social Workers	SWK2405		X	X	X				X	X		X
Final Professional Practice Placement	SWK3491	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Social Work Knowledge: Application and Critique	SWK3408	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Specialist Knowledge for Professional Practice (Social Work with Adults)	SWK3332	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Specialist Knowledge for Professional Practice (Child and Family Social Work)	SWK3334	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X