

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION, CONTENT & STRUCTURE

BA (Hons) Social Work (Employment Route)

UCAS code: L501

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group	Social Work
Faculty of	Social Sciences
Programme length	3 years full-time
For students entering Part 1 in	2007
Date of specification	April 2008
Programme Leader	Ann Quinn
Board of studies	Undergraduate Board of Studies
Accreditation	General Social Care Council

Summary of Programme Aims

Qualifying social workers must acquire, critically evaluate, apply and integrate knowledge in five core areas of study: social work services and service users; the service delivery context; values and ethics; social work theory and research; social work practice. In this programme students will have the opportunity to learn and be assessed in all these core areas.

Those who successfully complete the programme, which includes three periods of assessed practice, will be able to evidence that they can:

- Think critically about the social, legal, political and cultural contexts in which social work is located
- Work in a responsible way, balancing a concern for individual autonomy with legal and professional duties of care and protection.
- Make use of theory and research in guiding and critically evaluating practice.

Transferable skills

Students will have the opportunity to develop the generic transferable skills required of all undergraduate programmes at the University of Reading. These relate to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem solving, team working and use of information technology. A grid is attached in Appendix 2 which identifies specifically where these skills will be developed.

Programme content

The proposed programme allows completion of 120 credits at levels C, I and H over a 3 year period, with 120 credits being taken in each year. APL arrangements will be available for suitably qualified candidates

Part 1 (three terms)	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
HC1SW22 Preparation for Practice 1	20	C
HC1SW5 Preparation for Practice 2 - Law	10	C
HC1SW21 Social Work Theory & Practice 1	20	C
HC1SW24 Introduction to Social Sciences Theory	20	C
HC1SW12 European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)	10	C
HC1SW14 Social Values and Social Policy	20	C
HC1SW23 Social Justice & Inclusion 1	10	C
HC1SW20 Practice Placement 1	10	C

Part 2 (three terms)	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
HC2SW21 Social Work Theory and Practice 2	20	I
HC2SW3 Social Work Law	20	I
HC2SW9 Mental Health & Mental Illness	10	I
HC2SW22 Human Growth & Development in Childhood	20	I
HC2SW24 Human Growth & Development in Adult Life	10	I
HC2SW23 Social Justice and Inclusion 2	20	I
HC2SW20 Practice Placement 2	20	I

Part 3 (three terms)	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
<i>Compulsory modules</i>		
HC3SW22 Inter-professional Working	20	H
HC3SW3 Working in Organizations	20	H
HC3SW24 Social Work Research	20	H
HC3SW21 Social Work Theory and Practice 3	30	H
HC3SW23 Critical Reflection in Practice	10	H
HC3SW20 Practice Placement 3	20	H

Progression Requirements

All modules in each year must be passed at a minimum of 40% in order to progress to the following year. Progression from **Part 1** to **Part 2** requires a Pass Recommendation for the Practice Placement 1, and from **Part 2** to **Part 3** a Pass Recommendation for the Practice Placement 2. Completion of **Part 3** requires satisfactory completion of the final Practice Placement 3, and successful completion of a minimum of 200 days of assessed practice overall.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching involves lectures, seminars and practice based learning. Assessment includes course work, examinations and the Practice Portfolio.

Assessment criteria, documented within the guidelines for each assignment, reflect the assessable learning outcomes in the relevant module description.

Student social workers apply for entry to the Student Section of the GSCC Social Care Register on admission to the programme. Their suitability for practice is reviewed at least annually, before undertaking practice placements.

Admission requirements

A/AS levels	UCAS Tariff 280 points from 3 'A' Level subjects or 300 points from four subjects, which must include a minimum of two full 'A' levels. Total points exclude Key Skills and General Studies
International Baccalaureate	30 points
Scottish Higher	BBBB
Irish Learning Certificate	Grade BBBBC
GNVQ Advanced	12 units in relevant subjects and one grade C at 'A' level
NVQs	In Health and Social Care
Access Courses	Appropriate approved units (16 credits including at least 12 credits at level 3)
BTEC Higher National Diplomas and Certificates	A typical BTEC offer is 3 or 4 distinctions and remaining units at merit

In addition all candidates must:

- have an understanding of the roles and functions of a social worker;
- have a minimum age of 18 years on registration;
- have Grade C GCSE in English and Maths, or equivalent;
- complete a satisfactory interview
- be suitable to register with the General Social Care Council (on the student section of the Social Care Register)

International applicants should have a score of 7.5 or better in IELTS

For the employment route students must be sponsored by their employers, and the employing agency must be (or become) a partner agency of the programme

Admissions Tutor: Jackie Chrystal

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)

It may be possible, in the future, to offer APL against some Part One modules.

Support for Students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (*S@IL*) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution Wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. Students are supported and encouraged to become independent learners through feedback and discussion with tutors. Special emphasis is given to students learning 'by doing', in particular modules.

Career prospects

The BA (Hons) in Social Work is a professional and an academic award. There is a national and regional shortage of qualified social workers. Placements provide an excellent introduction to the local employment market.

Educational aims of the Programme

The programme is designed to enable students to:

- Recognise and work with the links between inter-personal factors and the wider social, legal, economic, political and cultural context of people's lives;
- Understand the impact of injustice, social inequalities and oppressive social relations;
- Challenge constructively individual, institutional and structural discrimination;
- Practice in ways that maximise safety and effectiveness in situations of uncertainty and incomplete information;
- Help people to gain, regain or maintain control of their own affairs in so far as this is compatible with their own and others' safety, well being and rights.
- Work with professionals from other services and agencies in an informed and respectful way.

Subject Benchmarking

Close attention has been given to the Social Work benchmark statement in designing the programme outcomes with a view to quality assurance.

Programme Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. the social processes that lead to marginalisation, isolation and exclusion and their impact on the demand for social work services
2. the key concepts used to understand human needs and social welfare: for example equity, poverty and diversity
3. the history and contemporary activities of U.K. welfare institutions and of some theoretical explanations of that development
4. the nature of social work in a diverse society (with particular reference to prejudice, empowerment and anti-discriminatory practices)
5. the nature and validity of different definitions of, and explanations for, the characteristics and circumstances for service users and the services required by them
6. the nature and application of social work values
7. some key concepts and theories of welfare, including theories of the state and of policy-making and implementation
8. how contemporary social problems have emerged and of social policy responses
9. social work law and its application to practice
10. relevant social work research and evaluation methodologies and critical appraisal of these
11. the contribution of other human services to meeting human needs

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Students will have the opportunity to gain and develop their knowledge and understanding of social work through lectures, seminars, independent study including project work. Placements in all three parts will offer the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding through participation and observation. Throughout the programme there will be an emphasis on adult learning principles.

Assessment

Assessment tends to be course and project based, largely because of the requirement to link all teaching to practice. However, there are examinations in all three parts. These include Law and an integrative final examination for Social Work Theory and Practice 3.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:

12. be evaluative and analytical
13. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought
14. show a critical awareness of social policy processes
15. be sensitive to the values and interests of self and others
16. think logically and systematically
17. gather information from a wide range of sources and for a range of purposes
18. take into account differences of viewpoint in gathering information
19. integrate theory and practice

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Students will be presented with models and theories which logically lead to different approaches to problem definition and social solutions. This will promote evaluative and critical thinking and demand independence of thought. Awareness of values in action will be stimulated by teaching and discussion and developed further through placements. Placements also offer opportunities to develop skills in gathering information, logical thinking and developing independence of thought.



Assessment

A variety of assessment methods will be used including examinations, essays, work studies and a Practice Portfolio. This will promote a range of approaches to learning including problem solving, awareness of values, and knowledge and understanding that needs to be committed to memory.

C. Practical skills – able to

1. demonstrate self awareness
2. show good communication skills
3. observe, record and interpret attachment behaviour in an infant or young child
4. to write reports to professional standards
5. organise and manage meetings
6. observe, record and give account of a social work organisation
7. use current IT to word process, retrieve and analyse data and use email and the web
8. work in teams and organizations

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Students need to be self motivated and have good communication skills on placements where they are also required to observe, record and give account. IT skills are especially required in H Level research module. Project work requires team work

Assessment

IT skills are formally assessed through ECDL.
A variety of assessment methods across the other modules – including the practice portfolios – assess practical skills

D. Transferable skills – able to

1. give oral presentations
2. communicate in writing
3. manage time
4. plan their career
5. work as part of a team
6. problem solve
7. apply basic numerical skills
8. use of IT

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Oral and written presentations are an important element in all three parts. Problem solving and team work exercises are present in all placements, whilst numeracy skills are developed specifically in ECDL. Time Management is emphasised throughout the programme especially on placement. There is scope to develop career management skills throughout the programme.

Assessment

Oral and written communication, team work and problem solving are assessed in all placements. Career planning is assessed, as is Time Management, in the Practice Portfolio and in the Social Work Theory & Practice 3 module.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably expect to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme handbooks.