

# Programme Specification

Post Graduate Diploma Advanced Social Work Practice



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| <b>1. Programme title</b>  | Post Graduate Diploma Advanced Social Work Practice |
| <b>2. Awarding institution</b>   | Middlesex University                                |
| <b>3. Teaching institution</b>   | Middlesex University                                |
| <b>4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body</b> |   |
| <b>5. Final qualification</b>  | PG. Dip.  |
| <b>6. Year of validation</b><br><b>Year of amendment</b>                     |   |
| <b>7. Language of study</b>  | English   |
| <b>8. Mode of study</b>  | Taught modules                                      |

## 9. Criteria for admission to the programme

The entry requirement for the programme is a relevant previous degree or equivalent at level 6, and previous professional qualification, preferably with a minimum of two years post qualifying experience. Certain modules require a specific number of years of post-qualifying experience.

## 10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

1. Enhance the skills of professionals enabling them to develop their capacities in critical reflection, resilience and effectiveness, so that they can practice at a specialist level and improve outcomes for users of services.
2. Offer students (who are professionals) stimulating post qualifying (PQ)

masters level study which has a coherent curriculum and related methods of assessment.

3. Work in partnership with employers, carers and service users, and practitioners to ensure the efficacy and currency of the programme.
4. Further develop the research practice skills and critical thinking of practitioners so that they are able to evaluate research and scholarship in the field and apply it sensitively and systematically.
5. To develop students' clinical and professional leadership, and enable them to demonstrate mastery of social work skills within their specialist area.

## 11. Programme outcomes

### A. Knowledge and understanding

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

1. The legal, policy and practice framework within which social work practice takes place.
2. Advanced application of theories, models and methods of social work interventions and related research in social work practice.
3. Knowledge and research that helps practitioners to understand the lives and experiences of people who need social work services.
4. Values and ethics relevant to social work practice.
5. The social work role within multi-professional contexts and in the student's specialist

### Teaching/learning methods

The programme is designed to build upon the student's knowledge and practice experience which they have acquired in social work. Students gain systematic knowledge and understanding through attending seminars and workshops used for the exposition of theoretical material and factual information. This will enhance critical analysis and debate, and will further the application of knowledge base in social work practice. Students are expected to undertake self-directed study to supplement and consolidate their learning in both academic and practice arenas.

In practice students will be assessed on a number of occasions as a vehicle for facilitating learning and teaching.

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| <p>area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Professional authority related to the care and control dimensions of social work practice.</li> <li>7. The knowledge required to meet the requirements of PCF for social work at an advanced level.</li> </ol>  | <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by the use of a variety of methods including: observations, case studies, portfolios, self evaluative reports and practice assessor reports.</p> <p>Students are able to prepare for formative and summative assessments via seminar support. Formative opportunities are integrated into each of the modules.</p> |
| <p><b>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integrate the knowledge base of social work within social work practice in a complex, comprehensive and creative fashion.</li> <li>2. Critically analyse and synthesise theoretical and</li> </ol> | <p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn cognitive skills through preparing reasoned creative and informed arguments developed through the teaching and learning programme. Each module, whilst differing in curriculum content, involves discussion of key concepts, ideas and ethical issues underpinning</p>   |

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| <p>research material relevant social work practice.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Understand the complex nature of values and ethics as applied to social work practice.</li> <li>4. Reflect upon and articulate the impact of themselves upon the work and the work upon themselves.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems.</li> </ol>                                    | <p>effective social work practice in social work. Seminars develop skills in analysing, summarising, synthesising and evaluating information. Workshops encourage the development of awareness by emphasising the intellectual and emotional components of social work practice.</p> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by a variety of methods designed to test students' breadth and depth of relevant knowledge, their ability to grasp concepts and their inter-relationships, demonstrate their understanding of the relationship between values, ethics and practice, focus evidence and sustain arguments, and present literate, fluent and accurate work. Formative feedback as described above helps students with the development of these abilities.</p> |
| <p><b>C. Practical skills</b></p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate that they have consolidated and extended their practice in a social work setting and in accordance with the appropriate requirements of the PCF at an advanced level.</li> <li>2. Work in accordance with the relevant Knowledge and Skills Statement (KSS)</li> </ol> | <p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn practical skills through workshops, assessed practice observations and seminars. Detailed guidance on the skills needed to meet the requirements for the award is integrated within each of the modules.</p>   |

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| <p>and the social work regulatory body's policies and guidance.</p> <p>3. Plan their continued development of knowledge, understanding, research and skills in social work.</p> <p>4. The skills required to meet the requirements of PCF for social work at an advanced level.</p>  | <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Academic assignments will evidence students' ability to critically reflect upon and apply their specialist practitioner skills in the interest of service users and carers. There are a number of ways this is assessed including: case studies, observations, self-evaluative reports, etc.</p>   |
| <p><b>D. Graduate skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collect, collate, analyse and synthesise materials for specific academic and practice purposes.</li> <li>2. Evidence their numeracy relevant to their academic study and their practice requirements.</li> <li>3. Effectively make use of ICT for both academic study and in practice.</li> <li>4. Communicate effectively in written and oral forms.</li> <li>5. Work effectively within a group or organisation.</li> <li>6. Demonstrate a capacity to be reflective and evaluative of their own work.</li> <li>7. Identify their own learning needs, and be able to seek out the means for those needs</li> </ol> | <p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through both the academic and practice components of the programme. Academic modules are assessed via case studies, observations and portfolios. Written feedback is provided to each student in relation to skills in communication, data collection, power of analysis and synthesis, and self-reflection. Seminars and workshops offer opportunities for the development of skills in relation to team working, and becoming an autonomous self-directed practitioner in social work practice. Students access a variety of information technology resources for social work by linking to the University's Learning Resource Services. This programme also uses UniHub and Moodle as platforms to promote learning outside of the classroom.</p> |

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| to be met through continuing professional development activities. | <b>Assessment methods</b><br><br>Students' graduate skills are assessed via: formal academic assignments (see above), and in practice. |
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## 12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

### 12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The PG Diploma Advanced Social Work Practice award is aimed at building on practitioners' specialist knowledge and skills in social work practice and to prepare practitioners for research.

The entry requirement for the programme is a previous degree or equivalent at level 6, and previous professional qualification, and preferably with two years post qualifying experience. Students may achieve the PG Diploma if they have successfully completed 120 academic credits from amongst the following modules:

| Module Name  | Module Code | Level | Academic Credits |
|--|-------------|-------|------------------|
| Best Interest Assessor                                     | SWK4440     | 7     | 30               |
| Relationship Based Practice: Advanced Intervention Skills  | SWK4002     | 7     | 30               |
| Leadership in the Public and Community Services            | NSA4100     | 7     | 15               |
| Professional Supervision for Public and Community services | SWK4080     | 7     | 30               |
| Service Development in the Public and Community Services   | NSA4200     | 7     | 15               |
| Practice Education (Stage 1)                               | SWK4011     | 7     | 30               |
| Practice Education (Stage 2)                               | SWK4420     | 7     | 30               |
| Critical thinking and Analysis in                          | SWK4331     | 7     | 30               |

|  |         |   |    |
|--|---------|---|----|
| Social Work                                      |         |   |    |
| Strengthening Mental Health Practice             | SWK4414 | 7 | 30 |
| Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) | SWK4010 | 7 | 30 |

After completing the requirements for the PG Dip. students may choose to complete an additional module in order to achieve enough credits for an MA. The students may choose to complete NSA4050 Developing Research Capability module for 60 academic credits. Such students, having completed a minimum of 180 academic credits as specified above and within five (5) years from the date they first started their programme of study, may receive an MA Advanced Social Work Practice. For more information about the MA award, please see the MA programme handbook.

There will be opportunity for students to APL prior learning, and/or APEL their prior workplace experience. For example, APEL may be granted where a student has carried out significant work or undertaken a project within a social work setting at an advanced specialist level. Such previous work should be documented and submitted in a portfolio to be evaluated by the university based on the PCF, and based on the student being able to evidence that they have achieved the learning outcomes of a given module as well as the currency of their knowledge. The University may require the student to submit or undertake additional work or examination in order to verify the students' capabilities.

The students may APL/APEL relevant academic credit gained at level 7 at other higher education institutes toward the PG Dip. Such \*APL can be granted for a maximum of half of the total credits required for each award, in specific:

- Maximum of 60 academic credits for PG Dip.

Each previous study module and/or portfolio reflecting the practitioner's experience that is APLeD should meet the learning outcomes of the corresponding module in the programme for which it is being APLeD.

| 12.2 Levels and modules |   |                          |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Level 7                 |   |                          |
| COMPULSORY              | OPTIONAL  | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS |
|                         | <p><b>Students must successfully complete 120 credits from any of the following:</b></p> <p><i>Best Interest Assessor (SWK4440) 30 credits level 7.</i></p> <p>Practice Education (Stage 1) (SWK4011) 30 credits level 7</p> <p>Practice Education (Stage 2) (SWK4420) 30 credits level 7</p> <p><i>Relationship Based Practice: Advanced Intervention Skills (SWK4002) 30 credits at level 7.</i></p> <p><i>Leadership in the Public and Community Services (NSA4100) 15 credits at level 7.</i></p> <p><i>Professional Supervision for Public and Community services (SWK4080) 30 credits at level 7.</i></p> <p><i>Service Development in the Public and Community Service (NSA4200) 15 credits level 7.</i></p> <p><i>Strengthening mental health practice (SWK4414) 30 credits level 7.</i></p> <p><i>Critical thinking and Analysis in Social Work (SWK4331) 30 credits level 7.</i></p> <p><i>ASYE (SWK4010) 30 credits level 7.</i></p> |                          |

| <b>12.3 Non-compensatable modules</b> (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels) |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Module level</b>  | <b>Module code</b> |
| Level 7  | SWK4420            |
| Level 7  | SWK4011            |
| Level 7  | SWK4002            |
| Level 7  | NSA4100            |
| Level 7  | SWK4080            |
| Level 7  | NSA4200            |
| Level 7  | SWK4414            |
| Level 7  | SWK4331            |
| Level 7  | SWK4010            |
| Level 7  | SWK4440            |

### **13. Curriculum map**

See attached.

### **14. Information about assessment regulations**

The social work programmes abide by the assessment regulations outlined in Middlesex University's Guide and Regulations. Owing to the professional nature of this programme, however, there are a number of additional regulations:

- Students enrolled on social work programmes are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the University's 'Rules on Student Conduct and Discipline', alongside the Health and Care Professions Council's 'Standards of Proficiency' and 'Standards of conduct, performance and ethics'.
- In line with the above, a student's training will be ended if their behaviour:
  - is confirmed to be damaging or dangerous to other people who use services, other students or programme providers;
  - creates unacceptable risk for themselves or others; or
  - shows a serious failure to follow any relevant Code of Practice.
- Students are usually allowed to defer once only in each module.
- Fail grades are not compensated for on any module.

A minimum of 80% attendance is required for all Social Work modules.

**15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)**

n/a

**16. Future careers (if applicable)**

Graduates from this programme will have developed knowledge and skills to enable them to apply for specialist practitioner roles and/or more advanced social work/ welfare positions such as those within leadership and practice management.

**17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)**

Where necessary, tutors encourage and signpost students to relevant [services within the university](#) in order to support students to successfully complete their course.

**18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)**

L500

Programme Code:

**19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)**

Social Work

**20. Reference points**

- BASW (2012 (TCSW)) Professional Capabilities Framework
- Department of Health (2015) Knowledge and Skills Statement for [Social Workers in Adult Services](#)
- Department of Health (2014) Knowledge and skills statements for [approved child and family practitioners](#)
- Department of Health (2015) Knowledge and skills statements for [practice leaders and practice supervisors](#)
- Health and Care Professions Council (2012) *Standards of Proficiency for Social Workers in England*, <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10003B08Standardsofproficiency-SocialworkersinEngland.pdf>
- Health and Care Professions Council (2016) Standards of conduct, performance

and ethics. available at: <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/publications/standards/index.asp?id=38>

- Health and Care Professions Council (2012) *Standards of education and Training*, London, HCPC

## 21. 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.

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.

## Curriculum map for PG Diploma Advanced Social Work Practice

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 |  | Practical skills |   |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------|---|
| A1                          | To critically appraise the legal, policy and procedural frameworks within social work practice.  | C1               | Demonstrate that they have consolidated and extended their practice in a social work setting and in accordance with the appropriate requirements of the PCF at an advanced level. |
| A2                          | Advanced application of theories, models and methods of social work interventions and related research in social work practice.                        | C2               | Work in accordance with the relevant Knowledge and Skills Statement (KSS) and the social work regulatory body's policies and guidance.  |
| A3                          | Critical awareness of knowledge and research that helps practitioners to understand the lives and experiences of people who need social work services. | C3               | Plan their continued development of knowledge, understanding, research and skills in social work.   |
| A4                          | Integration of value and ethics relevant to the student's specific area of practice.   | C4               | The skills required to meet the requirements of PCF for social work at an advanced level.   |
| A5                          | A critical analysis of the social work role within multi-professional contexts and in the student's specialist area.                                   |                  |   |
| A6                          | The effective use of professional authority related to the care and control dimensions of social work practice.  |                  |   |
| A7                          | The knowledge required to meet the requirements of PCF for social work at an advanced level.   |                  |   |

| Cognitive skills |  | Graduate Skills |   |
|------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| B1               | Integrate the knowledge base of social work at a complex, comprehensive level and in a creative fashion. | D1              | Collect, collate, analyse and synthesise materials for specific academic and practice purposes.   |
| B2               | Critically analyse and synthesise theoretical and research material relevant to social work practice.    | D2              | Evidence their numeracy relevant to their academic study and social work practice requirements.   |
| B3               | Understand the complex nature of values and ethics as applied to social work practice.                   | D3              | Effectively make use of ICT for both academic study and in practice.  |
| B4               | Reflect upon and articulate the impact of themselves upon the work and the work upon themselves.         | D4              | Communicate effectively in written and oral forms.  |
| B5               | Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems.                             | D5              | Work effectively within a group or organisation.  |
| B6               |  | D6              | Demonstrate a capacity to be reflective and evaluative of their own work.   |
| B7               |  | D7              | Identify their own learning needs and be able to seek out the means for those needs to be met through continuing professional development activities. |

| Programme outcomes                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A1                                      | A2 | A3 | A4 | A5 | A6 | A7 | B1 | B2 | B3 | B4 | B5 | B6 | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 |  |  | D1 | D2 | D3 | D4 | D5 | D6 | D7 |
| Highest level achieved by all graduates |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 7                                       | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  |    | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  |  |  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  |

