Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for MA Social Work Programme

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| **1. Programme title** | MA Social Work |
| **2. Awarding institution**  | Middlesex University |
| **3. Teaching institution**  | Middlesex University |
| **4. Programme accredited by**  | Health and Care Professions Council |
| **5. Final qualification**  | MA Social Work |
| **6. Academic year** | 2013 – 14 |
| **7. Language of study** | English |
| **8. Mode of study** | Attendance |

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| **9. Criteria for admission to the programme**Details on admission to the programme can be found at:<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/social_work/Social_Work_MA.aspx>* A first degree a higher second class honours degree or above (i.e. 2:1 or above).
* GCSE Grade C or above in English and Maths or certificated equivalences.
* For those entering via Access routes, we are looking for evidence in your application that you are expecting to obtain a merit in your award and in the reference from your tutor.
* Six months full-time direct work experience within a social care setting at the time of applying. Voluntary experience may be credited at an equivalent level (e.g. two years of one day per week voluntary service) as well as other relevant life experiences (e.g. informal care-giving) which may also be counted towards this experiential requirement. Relevant social care experience may be undertaken with a wide range of people that have increased support needs and who may have need of social care services. These groups may include disadvantaged children and adolescents, people with disabilities or mental health issues, older people and people from diverse and minority communities.
* The ability to use IT facilities including word processing, internet browsing and use of e mail.
* We also welcome applicants with a wide variety of educational experience including equivalent qualifications from international and overseas.
* Successful completion of a written test which demonstrates the applicants’ ability to write clearly and coherently in the English language. We use two testing instruments to test literacy as well as the applicants’ potential to develop reflective, analytical and conceptual thinking through an essay on a topical social issue.
* Successful performance in an individual interview which tests the applicant’s communication skills, motivation and commitment, their understanding of how social work and evaluation of their life and work experiences is relevant to their training to be a social worker.
* Successful performance in a group discussion which is observed by an academic with a service user/carer and /or practitioner.
* An assessment of the applicant’s suitability and fitness for practice through a self-declaration, appropriate references, a satisfactory check on their criminal record and background including the safeguarding register and any further information gathering as indicated via other professionals or further interview and assessment.
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| **10. Aims of the programme** |
| The programme aims to:* 1. Produce fit for practice critically reflective, confident, resilient, effective, ethical, professionally capable social workers.
	2. Develop graduates with leadership capacity able to actively contribute to organisational practice and development.
	3. Equip graduates with an evidence-informed knowledge-base and embed skills for life-long learning.
	4. Ensure that graduates are critical thinkers in both theory and practice and are able to critically evaluate knowledge and research and develop scholarship through debate and analysis.
	5. Promote a collaborative and transformational approach to working in partnership with the Programme’s Stakeholders, including service users and carers.
	6. Provide a coherent curriculum incorporating management, learning, teaching and assessment strategies that are underpinned by the Benchmark Statement for Social Work (QAA, 2008), the Professional Capabilities Framework (TCSW, 2011) and which meets the requirements of the standards required by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC, 2012).
	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.
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| **11. Programme outcomes** |
| **A. Knowledge and understanding**On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :1. A broad range of social work theories, methods and interventions
2. Contextual sociological, psychological, political, economic, cultural and spiritual perspectives.
3. Social work values and professional codes of practice.
4. Social work law, social policy, and human-rights frameworks.
5. Diversity, equality and service-user perspectives.
6. Research mindedness and evidence-based practice.
7. Leadership and organisational theory, professional authority and boundary-setting.
 | **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 large groups and through reading and critical reflection on learning materials

**Assessment Method**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 large groups
* Practice learning portfolios connecting knowledge (formal & informal) and placement practice skills
* Analysis of case studies
* Online searches and critiques of findings.
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| **B. Cognitive (thinking) skills**On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to demonstrate:1. Critical reflection, analysis and reasoning.
2. Ethical reasoning and ethical decision-making.
3. Application of multiple perspectives within analysis of complexity in practice
4. Analysis of professional practice that identifies knowledge gaps leading to the development of pertinent hypotheses and research questions.
 | **Teaching/learning methods**Students learn cognitive skills through:* Reflective activities solely or in groups
* Interrogating and debating learning materials
* Recording and evaluating students own overall development and progress through the programme via the Personal and Professional Development Plan (PPDP)

**Assessment Method**Students’ cognitive 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
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| **C. Practical skills**On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to apply:1. Verbal communication and interviewing skills.
2. Written communication skills (including case-notes, reports, genograms & ecomaps).
3. Appropriate professional assessment approaches.
4. Targeted professional interventions (including basic-counselling, advocacy, crisis-intervention, safe-guarding and ethical decision-making).
5. Group-work skills and processes.
6. Inter-professional & multi-disciplinary working skills.
7. Skills in practice-based enquiry and research.
 | **Teaching/learning methods**Students learn practical skills through:* 30 days workshops in direct practice skills
* Practice learning placement

**Assessment Method**Students’ practical skills are assessed by:* Development of specific portfolios
* Holistic PPDP
* Practice learning assessments
* Student presentations
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| **D. Graduate Skills**On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to demonstrate:1. Independence and self-management.
2. Teamwork and partnership-working.
3. Life-long learning and professional development planning.
4. Assertiveness and appropriate use of professional authority.
5. Resilience.
6. Community awareness.
7. Leadership skills and abilities.
 | **Teaching/learning methods**Students acquire graduate skills through:* Team work, group work in the classroom and practice.
* Working with their tutor on their PPDP
* Study skills support
* Writing assignments, reports and critical reflection

**Assessment method**Students’ graduate skills are assessed by:* A range of administrative tasks integrated in practice learning and learning and teaching.
* Timely hand in of assessments and written assessments
* Module specific portfolios
* Tutor group and PPDP
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| **12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)** |
| **12. 1 Overall structure of the programme** |
| **See *Programme Structure Diagram* in earlier *Your Programme* section** |

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| **12.2 Levels and modules** **Starting in academic year 2010/11 the University changed the way it references modules to state the level of study in which these are delivered. This is to comply with the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. This implementation will be a gradual process whilst records are updated. Therefore the old coding is bracketed below.** |
| Level 6 (3) |
| COMPULSORY | OPTIONAL  | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS |
| Students must take all of the following:**Year 1**SWK3401**Initial Professional Practice Placement and Social Work Skills****Year 2**SWK3492**Final Professional Practice Placement** | There are no optional modules in year one of the MA Social Works | Students must pass SWK3401 to progress to year 2 alongside three Level 7 modules (SWK 4407, IPL 4401, SWK 4247).Students must complete 16 days of assessed direct practice skills before progressing to SWK 3401 |
| Level 7 (4) |
| COMPULSORYSWK4407**Social Work Knowledge and Application** IPL4001 **Research in the Social Sciences**SWK4247**Law and Social Policy for Social Workers**SWK3490**Year 2** SWK4248**Critical Approaches to the Lifecourse Epistemology**SWK4330**Specialist Knowledge for Professional Practice (Dissertation)** | OPTIONAL There are no optional modules in year one of the MA Social Work Programme | PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTSSee above Students must also complete 30 days of assessed direct practice by the end of their programme. |

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| ***12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)*** |
| ***Module level*** | ***Module code*** |
| *N/A* |  |