Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for the BA Social Work Programme

1. Programme title	**BA (hons) Social Work**
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
5. Final qualification	BA (Hons) Social Work
6. Academic year	2015/2016
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Details on admission to the programme can be found at:
http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/social_work/social_work_ba.aspx

- Minimum UCAS points threshold of 300 or equivalent applied to applicants applying with tariff bearing awards such as 'A' levels. This is equivalent to grades BBC where three A-levels are taken and should be made up from level 3 qualifications rather than non-academic qualifications.
- GSCE 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.
- The ability to use IT facilities including word processing, internet browsing and use of email.
- 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 testing instruments to test literacy as well as the applicants' potential to develop reflective, analytical and conceptual thinking through an essay on a current social issue.
- 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 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.

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 Health and Care Professions Council, Standards of Proficiency and the associated College of Social Work Professional Capabilities Framework domains. Thus, enabling 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 and 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, 2008), the Standards of Proficiency (HCPC, 2012), linked to the Professional Capabilities Framework (The College of Social Work, 2012), the curriculum guides (The College of Social Work/Higher Education Academy, 2012) and the Standards of Education and Training (Health and Care Professions Council, 2012).

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 successfully achieve their ambitions.

11. Programme outcomes

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A. 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 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	**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

impacting on different groups in society and the debates in relation to the effectiveness of interventions and practice. **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.	• bringing knowledge and practice together • Analysis of case studies • Web-based inquiry to collect demographic information about community populations • Observational visits.
B. Cognitive (thinking) 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. **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.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students learn cognitive 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 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.
C. Practical skills On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to: **C1** Complete skilled verbal communication (including interviewing, debating, verbal-reasoning, mediation, conflict resolution, communicating with children, effective use of supervision, court-room and case presentation). Communicate effectively with a wide range of users and carers in accordance with their needs. **C2** Written communication (including process-recording, case-notes, case-histories, case-summaries, court reports, genograms, and eco-maps). Work within policies and procedures and undertake administrative tasks around finance, recording and writing	**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 placement portfolios • Practice learning assessments • Student presentations.

for different audiences.	
C3 Professional assessment (including observation, hypothesis setting & testing, risk assessment, mental-state & capacity). Implement a range of interventions with service users including interviewing, assessment and review, based on research evidence.	
C4 Professional interventions (including basic counselling, advocacy, life-stories, crisis-intervention, safe-guarding, ethical decision-making, personalisation). Build appropriate relationships with service users, by implementing a co-productive approach to interventions where possible and develop skills of observation (of people and practice).	
C5 Work effectively with different groups in different settings and be able to describe the different roles pare undertaken within the multi-disciplinary team.	
C6 Work collaboratively with the ability to communicate with different professionals and stakeholders in care settings.	
C7 Undertake searches for research evidence and interrogate sources of knowledge to improve practice.	
D. Graduate Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to: **D1** Present themselves professionally and confidently and demonstrate leadership and self-management. **D2** Work well in a team or organisations and with a range of developed collaborative skills. **D3** Plan, review and evaluate own development of knowledge and skills and direct learning in partnership with academic and practice staff. Undertake competent writing in a range of different formats including reports, assignments, presentations summaries and analysis **D4** Communicate verbally in a sophisticated and engaging way which can adapt itself to a range of audiences. Actively use feedback to improve own practice.	**Teaching/learning methods** Students acquire graduate skills through: • Team work, group work in the classroom and practice • Working with their tutor and Practice Educator on their placement portfolios and Professional Development Plan • 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 • Portfolio development • Tutor group and presentations.

D5 Time management skills and ability to manage stress.

D6 Synthesise different sources of knowledge to understand and respond to community needs.

D7 Work within the boundaries of an organisation and conduct oneself in a way that acknowledges accountability within professional practice and learning environment**.**

D8 Demonstrate competence in the use of IT such as word processing, databases, virtual learning tools, as well as the use of IT in designing creative approaches to practice.

D9 Demonstrate competence in numeracy and its relevance to understanding research and the management of resources in social work.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)
12.1 Overall structure of the programme
See *Programme Structure Diagram* within earlier *Your Programme* section p.13

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 4

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: SWK 1004 SWK 1005 SWK 1023 SWK 1024	There are no optional modules at Level 4	The student must pass all of the modules to progress.

Level 5

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: SWK 2400 SWK 2404 SWK 2203 SWK 2405	There are no optional modules at Level 5	The student must pass all of the modules to progress.

Level 6		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
Students must take all of the following: SWK 3491 SWK 3408 SWK 3331 (adults or child and family social work)	SWK3332 Specialist knowledge, Adults SWK3334 Specialist knowledge, children and families	The student must pass all of the modules to be awarded the BA (hons) Social Work

12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	Module code
n/a	n/a

13. Curriculum map
See Curriculum Map attached

14. Information about assessment regulations

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 the Health and Care Professions Council.

Fitness for Practice is a key part of this programme; details of our Fitness for Practice Procedures are outlined in the Appendices of this Handbook and in the 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.

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 in order 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 is comprised of 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.

Only two attempts are normally given to students for each module unless there are exceptional circumstances with clear evidence, at the discretion of Director of Programmes and Programme Leader. Placements are the exception to this where a second attempt at placement is only given following an

investigation by the Practice Advisory Panel into the circumstances of the placement fail, termination or contested ending of placement and endorsement.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support
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. For example, you can expect to typically have your first placement in a community-based setting within the private or voluntary sector where you will gain experience of direct work with service users, in undertaking assessments and interventions and of working with other professionals within inter-professional networks. In your final placement you will gain experience of undertaking statutory tasks and you are likely to be placed in a local authority or health trust providing adult or children's services. Placements are also matched to students' learning needs.

16. Future careers
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. Tutors support students' preparation through their Tutor Groups and professional development planning as well as linking them to the central university services.

17. Particular support for learning
Students have an allocated personal tutor 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.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)
L500

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)
Social Work and Social Policy

20. Reference points
Health and Care Professions Council (2012) *Standards of Education and Training*, London, HCPC

Health and Care Professions Council (2012) *Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics,* London, HCPC

Health and Care Professions Council (2012) *Social Workers in England*, London, HCPC

The College of Social Work (2012) *The College of Social Work Endorsement Scheme, Overview Guide,* London, TCSW

Quality Assurance Agency (2008) *Subject Benchmarks for Social Work*, QAA

Quality Assurance Agency (2008) *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*, QAA

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 module handbooks and the University Regulations.