

# **Additional information for applicants to the MA/PG Dip Social Work programmes at Middlesex University**

**For entry September 2021**

*Please note that while we endeavour to ensure that the information contained here is the most up to date, the dynamic nature of the course and external environment means that changes are likely. For the most current information, please visit [mdx.ac.uk](http://mdx.ac.uk)*

*There are also a series of Open days/evenings throughout the year that you can attend – see [here](#) for the dates.*

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## 1. What are the entry requirements?

We offer two post-graduate social work courses both of which lead to eligibility to apply for SWE registration:

- MA Social Work (£10,800)
- PG Diploma (PG Dip) Social Work (£8,650)

### The difference between the two courses

There is no 60-credit dissertation module for the PG Dip meaning the course fee is lower than that of the MA.

PGDip	120 credit points based on 120 taught credits
Masters	180 credit points based on 120 taught credits plus 60 dissertation credits

Both courses lead to eligibility to apply for SWE registration and both programmes take a minimum 14 months to complete. If you are studying for the PGDip and decide to complete the Masters, there will be an additional dissertation fee to cover the difference in price between completing the different courses.

### Qualifications required for PG Dip/MA in Social Work

In addition to the University's standard entry requirements, you should have:

- An uppersecond (2.1) class honours degree or above (we will consider applicants with a 2:2 on a case by case basis)

### Standard of English: reading, writing and spoken

All applicants must specify on the UCAS application form that they hold, or are in the process of taking, GCSE Maths and English grade C or above, or another English/ Maths qualification deemed by the University to be equivalent to GCSE Maths and GCSE English grade C or above (for example a Level 2 Functional Skills award). This is an SWE requirement. Shortlisted applicants will be tested on their standard of English during the Literacy Test interview.

### Experience of working with vulnerable people

It is highly desirable that you have experience in either a paid or voluntary capacity of working directly with vulnerable people normally within a social care, psychology, legal or health context. Successful applicants will be required to provide a reference from a current or previous employer/organisation in which the candidate gained the above-mentioned experience.

### Can I get credit for prior learning?

Students will not normally be exempted from any part of the Social Work programme, including the transfer of credits acquired by prior certificated learning and experiential learning due the extensive professional standards that must be met and the capabilities embedded across the whole course. For this reason it is not normally possible to offer credit for prior learning or transfer onto a Social Work programme from any other programme, including Social Work at another institution. However all

relevant prior learning should be carefully addressed in your UCAS application form and will be taken into consideration with regards to shortlisting.

## **2. Test and Interview Days**

Your UCAS application is reviewed and if you meet the requirements you will be shortlisted and invited to attend take a literacy test.

**Please note:** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is likely that interviews will be online unless the COVID-19 situation changes during the admissions round. Therefore, campus tours will be offered virtually. Please see link below:

The literacy test will consist of a short written test which is submitted online, to assess a) your literacy skills and b) your critical analysis skills. If you successfully complete the test and meet the required pass threshold, you will be invited to return to attend an interview which is likely to take place online.

Interviews are important opportunities for you to see whether you would enjoy spending the duration of your course with us, and for us to assess your suitability in a holistic way. You will have succeeded in passing the literacy test prior to interview – well done! However, it is a reality that there are more applicants for places than we can make offers to. In order to provide you with the very best possible opportunities to demonstrate your potential and actual ability, we have designed a rigorous, but fair process and all applicants will be assessed against the same standards.

**Individual interviews.** – applicants will be able to book times slot for an interview in the morning or afternoon. Individual interviews are carried out by panels comprised of university tutors, 'Involve' service users and carers, and local employers/practitioners. Each interview will last approximately 25 minutes.

**Applicants will also be asked to bring photo ID to show to the interview panel.**

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their interviews via UCAS within 7-10 working days. We are unable to provide feedback on the interview day itself because of the need to review all paperwork. A DBS check will also be carried out, please see the [next steps](#) section for more information.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you success with your application.

If you have any queries please contact the Admissions Tutor, Bola Ogunnaike at [b.ogunnaike@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:b.ogunnaike@mdx.ac.uk)

### **I've been offered a place - what next?**

Middlesex is a sought-after provider of social work education in London and we hope you will join us! If you feel Middlesex is the right place for you, you should accept your offer as soon as possible via UCAS and you need to ensure that all conditions are met by the time you enrol. We will keep in regular contact with you via our Admissions team right up to your enrolment and induction on the course.

### 3. How much does it cost to study?

The cost of the MA Social Work course for the 2019/20 academic year is £10,800, with the PG Dip course being £8,650. However, please visit the respective course webpage to check the most current course fee.

#### Postgraduate student loan

UK and EU undergraduate students who meet the eligibility criteria may get a [postgraduate student loan](#) (applicable to the MA Social Work course only and has to be repaid), of up to £11,222. Applications are made online directly to [Student Finance England](#). Please note you may not be eligible if you have already studied at Masters level.

#### Bursaries

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) is responsible for approving and administering bursaries (not requiring repayment) for Social Work courses. This line of funding is allocated annually to all universities offering Social Work courses. Middlesex University's role is to nominate candidates for a bursary based on how they performed across the application process (written test and interview). We are required to provide a ranked list of students' names to the NHSBSA in accordance with our allocated number of bursaries. If nominated, students make their own application to the NHSBSA providing they meet the eligibility criteria. There are deadlines for when students may apply and when Universities supply names to the NHSBSA. Please see the [NHSBA website](#) for details.

Bursaries are normally for the duration of the course (14 months) and paid pro-rata of a traditional 2-year Masters programme. They are usually paid approximately 6 weeks into the course, and can contribute towards a significant amount of the tuition fee. Award amounts vary and are based on means tested and non-means tested awards. **Any deficit between the total amount awarded and the course fee will need to be covered by the student.** See the [NHSBA website](#) for details.

**Please note that you are unable to apply for both an NHSBSA social work bursary and a post graduate student loan.**

It is important to weigh up the potential costs of studying **before** you start the course.

#### Childcare, Travel to placements and Disability Support

You need to be aware that there will be travel and other costs when in placements, this may include additional child care costs. The NHSBSA offers some assistance to students with the costs of travel to placement regardless if they have a bursary or not. There may also be some assistance towards childcare costs [subject to eligibility](#). There is also some support available to eligible students with a disability.

#### University scholarships and fee reductions

The University offers a number of schemes including fee reductions for postgraduate courses for Alumni -- please see [here for details](#).

#### 4. What you will study – an overview

##### Course design

The course reflects the required Social Work England Standards (SWE 2020) and is also aligned to the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW 2018). At the end of the course students who have completed and passed all their assessments will have met. SWE Standards. Research and evidence, current policy, practice and theoretical perspectives inform the modules. Experienced staff, service users, partners and practitioners all contribute to learning and teaching. You will learn in a dynamic way with considerable interaction.

##### Placements

We draw upon a wide range of London - based statutory, private, voluntary and independent placement agencies that are quality assured by us. Most are in North and Northeast London and you may have to travel from your home area for placement. You will be required to undertake two assessed practice placements, lasting a minimum of 170 days, with two different service user groups. The minimum number of days in the first placement is 70 day and in the second placement is 100. You will have a qualified Practice Educator who will guide and assess your progress, and a dedicated Placement Team who provide support and guidance when allocating placements.

We endeavour to take personal preferences and circumstances into account when placing students however **we cannot guarantee students will get a placement in the area of their choice and so students should be prepared to travel within the London area.** Placement hours are 9am – 5pm and are unpaid.

##### Study commitment

You will normally study 2 modules per day on the scheduled University days as indicated on the timetable below. Classes usually start at 10am but can start earlier exceptionally.

##### Indicative timetable (subject to confirmation and change)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	10am-12.30pm TEACHING/ PLACEMENT	10am- 12.30pm TEACHING/ PLACEMENT	STUDY DAY/ PLACEMENT	10am-12.30pm STUDY TIME/ TEACHING/ PLACEMENT	10am-12.30pm TEACHING/ PLACEMENT
	1.30pm-4.30pm TEACHING/ PLACEMENT	1.30pm- 4.30pm TEACHING/ PLACEMENT		1.30pm-4.30pm TEACHING/ PLACEMENT	1.30pm-4.30pm TEACHING/ PLACEMENT

## **5. What is expected of me?**

As indicated earlier, the course is intensive and interactive being designed to develop and test the knowledge, skills, capabilities and professional values required for the demands on a Social Worker. The following list indicates our general expectations of our Social Work students – you will be a student who:

- Undertakes study preparation
- Keeps the attendance requirements
- Seeks help and advice
- Participates in group work and role play
- Develops as an independent learner
- Is open, flexible and resilient
- Is able to give, seek and receive feedback
- Becomes a reflective practitioner

We will help students to develop and meet these expectations to the required standard throughout the course.

## **6. Career and employment opportunities**

### **Eligibility to apply for SWE registration**

On successful completion of your course you will be eligible to apply for [Social Work England](#) (SWE) registration to become a Registered Social Worker. 'Social Worker' is a protected title and only those registered can work in qualified Social Work roles.

### **Types of job roles**

As the course prepares you to be a generic Social Worker, you are not limited to any particular field of Social Work and our students take up posts in a variety of settings and with different service user groups, for example: children and families and adults (including mental health, working with older people and disabilities).