

Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for the MA in Social Work (Top-up)



1. Programme title	MA Social Work (Top-up)
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	Social Work England
5. Final qualification	MA Social Work (Top-up)
6. Academic year	2020-21
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Part-time Distance Education/Blended Mode

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

- Applicants must have a PG Diploma in Social Work and must be currently registered with Social Work England as Social Workers to be eligible to apply.
- 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 online individual interview which tests the applicant's readiness to undertake study at master's level.
- An assessment of the applicant's suitability and fitness for practice through completion of a self-declaration, appropriate references, a satisfactory check on their criminal record and background including the safeguarding register; Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and any further information gathering as indicated via other professionals or further interview and assessment.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- To provide social workers, qualified to PGDip level, with the opportunity to extend and develop their learning to master's level
- To enable them to develop their research-mindedness, including their ability to understand and to critique research and knowledge underpinning social work practice and undertake their own research project, leading to the writing of a master's dissertation.
- Equip graduates with an evidence-informed knowledge-base and embed skills for life-long learning.
- Ensure that graduates are critical, analytical and reflective thinkers and are able to critically evaluate knowledge and research and develop scholarship through debate and analysis.
- 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.

11. MA Social Work (Top-up) Programme Outcomes

11. Programme outcomes	
<p>A. Knowledge and understanding On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mastery in conceptualisation, analysis and critical appreciation of key social work theories, methods and interventions 2. Understanding of complex interplay of contextual knowledge of sociological, psychological, organisational, political, economic and cultural perspectives. 3. Ability to apply conceptual links between social work values and professional codes of ethics and their impact on practice. 4. Understanding of complex interplay of social work law, social policy, and human-rights frameworks enhanced through advanced practice and dissertation research. 5. Able to apply awareness of diversity, equality and service-user perspectives. 6. Advanced & proficient understanding of international/global perspectives on social work and the ability to engage in debates concerning these issues. 7. Ability to produce an advanced and extended research dissertation exploring a key area of relevance to contemporary social work. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students gain knowledge and understanding through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging research-based exercises in practitioner enquiry within the classroom and/or via VLE • Engagement in peer and individual led virtual and/or face to face classroom presentations which demonstrate synthesis and interrogation of different sources of knowledge • Debate and discussion in small and large groups and through reading and critical reflection on learning materials, with a focus on evidence-informed practice. <p>Assessment method Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-based exercises in practitioner enquiry, culminating in the writing of a dissertation. • Peer and individual presentations which demonstrate synthesis and interrogation of different sources of knowledge, employed during research and practice-related teaching and learning • Focused debate and discussion in small and large groups • Presentation, discussion and analysis of case studies • Online searches and critiques of findings.

<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proficiency in a wide range of problem-solving skills, critical reflection, analysis, reasoning and evaluative skills 2. The ability to sustain a reasoned debate and exploration of a key topic of relevance to the profession via their research skills. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflective activities, such as reflective diaries and group discussion • Interrogating and debating learning materials, individually, in seminar settings and on-line • Recording and evaluating student's own overall development and progress through the programme via the placement planning documents. <p>Assessment method Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutorial-based exercises through debates, discussion • Research evaluation activities and drawing out implications for practice including the production of a dissertation • Written assignments demonstrating critical understanding of theories and knowledge and their application.
<p>C. Practical skills On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proficient skills to engage in practice-based enquiry and research 2. The ability to sustain and complete a dissertation research project over a period of time. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students learn practical skills</p> <p>Assessment method Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student presentations. • Production of a master's dissertation
<p>D. Graduate skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to demonstrate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Independence and self-management. 2. The ability to engage in life-long learning and 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students acquire graduate skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teamwork, group work in the classroom and practice • Study skills support • Writing assignments, reports and critical reflection.

<p>3. professional development planning. The ability to organise a workload and to self-manage to an appropriate degree</p>	<p>Assessment method Students' graduate skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely hand in of assessments and written assessments
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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.18

12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 7		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>APEL of a UK recognised, SWE accredited PGDip Social Work award, comprising 120 credits at Level 7 prior to joining the programme. Student must be a SWE registered Social Worker.</p> <p>IPL4095: Dissertation module</p>	<p>There are no optional modules</p>	

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

13. Curriculum map
See Curriculum Map attached

14. Information about assessment regulations

The social work programmes abide by the assessment regulation 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 SWE. Fitness for Practice is assessed continuously throughout and complies with the Fitness for Practice Procedures in the Appendices of this Handbook. Breach of these procedures may lead to an investigation and subsequently the student may be asked to leave the programme.

The dissertation module must be successfully completed before the MA Social Work (Top-up) can be awarded. Fail grades are not compensated for on any social work module.

A minimum of 75% student attendance is required for all MA social work modules in order for students to be entered for assessment.

Only two attempts are normally given to students for this module unless there are exceptional circumstances with clear evidence, at the discretion of the Director of Programmes.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support

There is no placement requirement for this award.

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 this student.

The social work programme makes effective use of the University Student Support Services and the Information and Learning Resource Services.

18. JACS code

L500

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

Social Work (QAA 2016)

20. Reference points

British Association of Social Work (2018) *Professional Capabilities Framework for Social Work in England*

Department of Education (DfE) (2018) *Knowledge and Skills for Child and Family Social Work*
Department of Health (DoH) *Knowledge and Skills Statement for Social Workers in Adult Services* (2015)

Quality Assurance Agency (2019) *Subject Benchmarks for Social Work*, QAA

Social Work England Professional Standards (2019)

Social Work England Qualifying Education and Training Standards (2020)

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.

Curriculum Map for MA Social Work (Top-up)

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 outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Mastery in conceptualisation, analysis and critical appreciation of key social work theories, methods and interventions.	C1	Proficient skills to engage in practice-based enquiry and research
A2	Understanding of complex interplay of contextual knowledge of sociological, psychological, organisational, political, economic and cultural perspectives.	C2	The ability to sustain and complete a dissertation research project over a period of time.
A3	Ability to apply conceptual links between social work values and professional codes of ethics and their impact on practice.	Graduate skills	
A4	Understanding of complex interplay of social work law, social policy, and human-rights frameworks enhanced through advanced practice and dissertation research	D1	Independence and self-management.
A5	Able to apply awareness of diversity, equality and service-user perspectives.	D2	The ability to engage in life-long learning and professional development planning.
A6	Advanced and proficient understanding of international/global perspectives on social work and the ability to engage in debates concerning these issues	D3	The ability to organise a workload and to self-manage to an appropriate degree
A7	Ability to produce an advanced and extended research dissertation exploring a key area of relevance to contemporary social work.		
Cognitive skills			
B1	Proficiency in a wide range of problem-solving skills, critical reflection, analysis, reasoning and evaluative skills		

