Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session	2025/26	**Last Modified**	
Named Award Title	MSc Social Work (Conversion)		
Award Title for Each Award	MSc Social Work (Conversion) PgC Social Studies PgD Social Work (Conversion)		
Date of Approval			
Details of Cohort Applies to	All new cohorts		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland n/a	**Teaching Institution(s)**	University of the West of Scotland n/a
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by		Scottish Social Services Council	
Maximum Period of Registration		3 years	
Duration of Study			
Full-time	2year	**Part-time**	
Placement (compulsory)	Yes		
Mode of Study	☒ Full-time ☐ Part-time		
Campus	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Divisional Programme Board	**Psychology Social Work**		
Programme Leader	L Nutall		

Admissions Criteria
Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualifications:
Applicants will typically possess a degree or equivalent. In the absence of a degree, where entry requirements do not conform to the general entry requirements, other evidence can be considered on an individual basis in line with Regulations 2.13 – 2.36 (Recognition of Prior Learning – RPL / Recognition of Credit).

Appropriate undegraduate qualifications (minimum 2:2 classification) include an honours degree in any subject area, a non-accredited psychology degree, or an ordinary degree with significant and relevant work experience. Where candidates do not meet the standard entry requirements, they must demonstrate that they have sufficient relevant professional or practice-based experience to undertake their chosen programme of study.

Other Required Qualifications/Experience
For applicants whose first language is not English, Regulation 2.12 sets out the English Language Requirements in terms of IELTS. See details at English Language Requirements | UWS | University of the West of Scotland.

Admission based on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is limited to a maximum of 60 credits. Credit transferred into the programme through Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) must have been subject to reliable and valid methods of assessment at a recognised HEI. Accredited Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) entry is not permitted. The amount of credit transferred through RPL (APL) will comply with the maxima set out in the Regulatory Framework. Candidates should note that transferred credit does not carry a grade, therefore, award with Distinction cannot be granted for awards where credit is transferred in at level 11.

Further desirable skills pre-application
Applicants to the social work programme are required to successfully obtain registration as a social work student with the Scottish Social Services Council. Any applicant who has not successfully obtained registration with the Scottish Social Services Council may be declined enrolment. In exceptional circumstances, an applicant may be permitted to enrol if they have made an application for registration for which the outcome is pending. In no circumstances, will any student be able to proceed beyond trimester one of year one, without successfully obtaining registration with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). It is the responsibility of registrants to maintain their registered status with the SSSC throughout their period of study. Any student that allows their registration to lapse or has their registration suspended by the SSSC, will be immediately suspended from this programme and may be withdrawn from this programme if their registration is not promptly reinstated.

PG SPEC TEMPLATE 2023-24 3 The SSSC requires that applicants have numeracy skills that are at least equivalent to a minimum SCQF level 5 Core Skills Numeracy at Grade C. Core Skills level 5 numeracy is a component of National 5 -Applications of Mathematics and National 5 -Mathematics. English language proficiency is also a requirement, also at SCQF 5. This requirement is deemed to have been met for students who have a first degree that is taught and assessed in the English language. The SSSC requires that international students achieve an IELTs score of 7.0 in all sub-components.

General Overview
Social work is located within the School of Education & Social Science (ESS) at UWS: this programme is accredited by the Scottish Social Services Council. The programme benefits from strong links with placement providers across the West and South of Scotland. The Student's Learning Journey Professional registration with the Scottish Social Services Council requires students to achieve enough credits to be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in

Social Work. Upon successful completion of the Post Graduate Diploma element of this degree, graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the SSSC or other social work regulators throughout the United Kingdom. This MSc offers a challenging and stimulating range of learning opportunities that will equip graduates with the key attributes necessary to work effectively in an increasingly globalised and pluralistic working environment. This MSc is based on two years of study culminating in a dissertation that allows students to explore their chosen area of social work practice in considerable depth. Research methods are not specifically taught within this MSc programme; consequently, students are advised not to enrol for the dissertation module unless they have previously completed a research methods module as part of their first degree.

Typical Delivery Method

In Terms 1 and 2, full-time students will typically attend weekly on-campus learning events (approximately 10 hours across 2 consecutive days) and be given additional, weekly, asynchronous learning activities to complete before and after the events. In Term 3, while working their dissertation project, the on-campus learning events will be reduced to 1 or 2 hours each week.

Any additional costs

n/a

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

The MSc Social Work programme is fully aligned with institutional priorities such as the development of graduate attributes and personal development planning. The mapping of programme and module learning outcomes graduate attributes. Personal development is embedded within the curriculum: students have regular opportunities to capture, reflect and evaluate their progression, thereby stimulating their development. It is recognised that personal development planning is an essential component of lifelong learning and continuing professional development. Continuing professional development is a requirement of a registered social worker; hence the preparation for this that students receive during this programme will be of significant help to them in their future employment.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

This is not a work-based learning programme; however, the programme does contain two substantive practice placements.

Attendance and Engagement

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

The university is committed to providing a supportive learning environment that actively facilitates student success. This programme offers a high degree of student-led flexibility. Students are academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with scheduled live sessions on campus, including engaging with online learning activites in their own time, course-related learning resources, and with timely completion and submission of assessments.

Whilst we understand that there may be times when conflicting priorities make participation challenging, in order togain the most from this programme, it is recommended that students

participate in all scheduled live classes and complete self-directed learning activities in a timely manner.

It may be difficult to pass the assessments associated with this module if students are not regularly engaging with the module work and live classes. The programme team may reach out to students to check how things are going and offer support if they observe that the students have not been attending sessions or completing online activities.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Where modules require practical and/or laboratory-based learning or assessment required to meet accrediting body requirements the University will make reasonable adjustment such as adjustable height benches or assistance of a 'buddy' or helper.

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards (Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework)

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a critical knowledge and understanding of most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of social work theory and practice..
A2	Demonstrate a critical knowledge and understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles that underpin effective social work practice.
A3	Demonstrate a research-led, in-depth knowledge and understanding in one or more specialist practice areas some of which are informed by or at the forefront of current social work theory and practice.
A4	Demonstrate a critical knowledge and understanding of how social work has developed; including, a range of established techniques of inquiry or research methodologies.
A5	Demonstrate a critical knowledge and understanding of the relationship between law and social work practice and how to source relevant case law and other guidance.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Demonstrate competence in communicating following professional and academic conventions, using a range of formats including the ability to deliver formal presentations;.
B2	Demonstrate a range of the principal skills, practices and / or materials associated with social work to assess and manage need and risk;.
B3	Demonstrate an appropriate range of skills, practices and / or materials which are specialised, advanced, or at the forefront of understanding social work theory and practice.
B4	Demonstrate a commitment to social justice, the promotion of human rights and ethical practice.
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Demonstrate the ability to use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established social work practices.
C2	Demonstrate proficiency in making formal presentations about specialised social work topics to informed audiences;.
C3	Demonstrate the ability to communicate with social work peers, senior colleagues and specialists;
C4	Demonstrate the ability to interpret, use and evaluate a wide range of numerical and graphical data to set and achieve goals/targets.
C5	Demonstrate an ability to make effective use of ICT skills to be able to analyse data to inform action plans, measure progress and evaluate outcomes
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	

D1	Synthesise and present, in both written and verbal format, complex information concerning the application of social enquiry methods, theory and research across a range of contexts.
D2	Demonstrate proficiency in offering professional level insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues.
D3	Demonstrate proficiency in critically reviewing and consolidating social work knowledge, skills, practices;.
D4	Demonstrate some originality and creativity in dealing with social work issues
D5	Demonstrate proficiency in making judgements where data / information is limited or comes from a range of sources;
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Self and peer evaluation: Critical reflection on own, and others' work.
E2	Demonstrate the ability to effectively manage time and resources.
E3	Work effectively under guidance in a peer relationship with qualified practitioners;.
E4	Work with others to bring about change, development and / or new thinking.
E5	Demonstrate the ability to work with complex ethical and social work issues following current professional /ethical codes of practice and the law;

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	SWPG11010	Foundations of Social Work Practice (PG)	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	SWPG11001	Social Work Law	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	SWPG11009	Research Methods in Social Work Practice	20	☒	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

Footnotes for Core Modules

Students may not undertake their first placement i.e., Social Work Practice 1 (PG), unless they have passed all other trimester one modules. A subject panel will be convened to record results from trimester one modules that commence in September, so that students who have passed these may commence their placement in January of the same academic year.

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

Students may not undertake their first placement i.e., Social Work Practice 1 (PG), unless they have passed all other trimester one modules. A subject panel will be convened to record results from trimester one modules that commence in September, so that students who have passed these may commence their placement in January of the same academic year.

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a critical in-depth knowledge and understanding of most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of social work theory and practice..
A2	Demonstrate a critical in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles that underpin effective social work practice.
A3	Demonstrate a research-led and in-depth knowledge and understanding in one or more specialist practice areas some of which are informed by or at the forefront of current social work theory and practice.
A4	Demonstrate a critical in-depth knowledge and understanding of how knowledge about social work has developed, including a range of established techniques of inquiry or research methodologies
A5	Demonstrate a critical in-depth knowledge and understanding of the relationship between law and social work practice and how to source relevant case law and other guidance.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Demonstrate competence and sophistication in communicating following professional / academic conventions with peers and senior colleagues using a range of formats including the ability to deliver formal presentations.
B2	Demonstrate a range of advanced skills, practices and / or materials associated with social work to assess and manage need and risk.
B3	Demonstrate to an advanced level an appropriate range of skills, practices and / or materials which are specialised, advanced, or at the forefront of understanding social work theory and practice. .
B4	Demonstrate a commitment to social justice, the promotion of human rights and ethical practice.
B5	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Demonstrate the ability to use a wide range of routine skills and some advanced and specialised skills in support of established social work practices.
C2	Demonstrate proficiency in making formal presentations about specialised social work topics to informed audiences.
C3	Demonstrate the ability to interpret, use and evaluate a wide range of numerical and graphical data to set and achieve goals/targets.
C4	Demonstrate an ability to make effective use of ICT skills to be able to analyse data to inform action plans, measure progress and evaluate outcomes
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Demonstrate the ability to critically identify, define, conceptualise, and analyse complex social work problems and issues..
D2	Demonstrate proficiency in offering professional level insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues.

D3	Demonstrate proficiency in critically reviewing and consolidating social work knowledge, skills and practices.
D4	Demonstrate some originality and creativity in dealing with social work issues.
D5	Demonstrate proficiency in making judgements where data / information is limited or comes from a range of sources
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Exercise appropriate autonomy and initiative in social work activities..
E2	Practice in ways which show a clear awareness of one's own and others' roles and responsibilities.
E3	Work effectively under guidance in a peer relationship with qualified practitioners..
E4	Work with others to bring about change, development and / or new thinking.
E5	Demonstrate the ability to work with complex ethical and social work issues following current professional /ethical codes of practice and the law

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	SWPG11008	Social Work Practice 1	40	☒	☒	☒	
11	SWPG11007	Social Work Practice 2	40	☒	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules Please note this second and final placement module often begins in August i.e., before the commencement of trimester 01.							

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

				☐	☐	☐	

Footnotes for Option Modules

Level 11- Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

Students who have achieved 140 credits will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work, at the exam board which typically sits in trimester 02; usually in June each year. This will constitute an exit award for those students who will not be completing the dissertation; however, it will not constitute an exit award for those students that have enrolled to complete the dissertation in trimester 03. It should be noted that eligibility to register as a Newly Qualified Social Worker is dependent upon a student successfully obtaining the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work. Students are not eligible to enrol for the Masters dissertation in social work unless they have passed all other modules in the programme. Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations and no imported credit can be use.

SCQF LEVEL 11 – Masters Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate a critical in-depth knowledge and understanding of most of the principal areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of social work theory and practice to an advanced level.
A2	Demonstrate a critical in-depth knowledge and understanding of the principal theories, concepts and principles that underpin effective social work practice regarding a range of practice scenarios.
A3	Demonstrate a research-led and led in-depth knowledge and critical understanding in one or more specialist practice areas, some of which are informed by or at the cutting edge of current social work theory and practice.
A4	
A5	
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Demonstrate competence in communicating complex information following professional / academic conventions with peers and senior colleagues using a range of formats including the ability to deliver formal presentations to an advanced level..
B2	Demonstrate a range of advanced skills, and practices associated with social work to assess and manage need and risk..
B3	Demonstrate an appropriate range of advanced knowledge and skills to conceptualise alternative models of social work theory and practice.
B4	Demonstrate the ability to conduct a detailed investigation into an area relevant to social work practice and identify and implement relevant outcomes concerning best practice in a defined area..
B5	Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to social justice, the promotion of human rights and ethical practice.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Demonstrate the ability to use a range of advanced and specialised skills in support of established social work practices.
C2	Demonstrate proficiency in making formal presentations about specialised social work topics to informed audiences.
C3	Demonstrate the ability to communicate to a very high standard with social work peers, senior colleagues and specialists.
C4	Demonstrate the ability to interpret, use and evaluate a wide range of numerical and graphical data to set, achieve goals / targets and evaluate interventions.
C5	
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Demonstrate the ability to critically identify, define, conceptualise, and analyse complex social work problems and issues to formulate appropriate action plans and interventions.
D2	Demonstrate proficiency in offering professional level insights, interpretations and solutions to problems and issues..

D3	Work effectively under guidance in a peer relationship with qualified practitioners by demonstrating the ability to seek and utilise feedback and support.
D4	Demonstrate originality and creativity in dealing with social work issues that have arisen during practice.
D5	Demonstrate proficiency in making critically important judgements where data / information is limited or comes from a range of sources
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	
E1	Exercise significant levels of autonomy and initiative in social work activities.
E2	Practice in ways that show a critical awareness of one's own and others' roles and responsibilities.
E3	Work effectively under guidance in a peer relationship with qualified practitioners by demonstrating the ability to seek and utilise feedback and support.
E4	Work in partnership with others to bring about change, development and / or new thinking.
E5	Demonstrate the ability to work in a sophisticated manner with complex ethical and social work issues based upon a critical understanding of current professional/ethical codes of practice and the law.

Masters Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	SPWG11003	Masters Dissertation: Social Work	60	☐	☐	☒	1
11				☐	☐	☐	
11				☐	☐	☐	
11				☐	☐	☐	
11				☐	☐	☐	
11				☐	☐	☐	
11				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules All other core modules have to be completed to gain the MSc qualification.							

Masters Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	

				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules							

Level 11- Masters **Criteria for Award** ***Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations***
Those students who achieve 180 credits by passing all modules in the MSc social work programme shall be eligible for the MSc Social Work (Conversion). Distinction will be awarded in line with University Regulations and no imported credit can be used..

Regulations of Assessment
Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the University Regulatory Framework. An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework. To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

Combined Studies
There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School. Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61). For students studying at Level 11, they will normally be eligible for an exit award of PgCert / PgDip / Masters in Combined Studies.

Version no: 1

Change/Version Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Specification transferred to the new template	20/03/254	A Muir & C O'Donnell
