



Module Descriptor

Title	Social Work Law (GA)		
Session	2025/26	Status	
Code	GASW08002	SCQF Level	8
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	Scott Grant		
Summary of Module			
This module contributes to helping students prepare for assessed practice by introducing them to key aspects of policy and legislation in Scotland, which underpin contemporary social work practice. The module covers contemporary policy and legislation relevant to social work practice in Scotland, specifically the fields of community care, justice and children and families social work. Human rights are also explored. Practical applications throughout the module illustrate the ethical dimensions of applying policy and legislation. The module will be delivered in a hybrid mode with a combination of synchronous / live online learning opportunities including learning materials, resources and learning activities through a virtual learning environment. Students will be expected to draw from their current practice and use examples within all learning activities, including summative assessment.			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹ ☐	Hybrid² ☒	Online³ ☐	Work -Based Learning⁴ ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London	☐ Online / Distance Learning	

¹ Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

² The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

³ Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

⁴ Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

		☒ Paisley	☐ Other (specify)
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2 ☐ Term 3 ☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3 ☐ Term 3 – Term 1 ☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate contextual knowledge and understanding of policy and legislation relevant to social work practice.
L2	Demonstrate applied knowledge of relevant policy and legislation, to aid professional social work decision-making, including professional assessment.
L3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant policy and legislation to enhance professional identity, specifically in relation to anti-oppressive requirements.
L4	
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	SCQF 8 Students will develop a robust understanding of the legal basis for social work interventions in Scotland.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 8 Students will develop the ability to apply their knowledge to a range of professional practice contexts.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 8 Students will develop the ability to critically evaluate and synthesize ideas, concepts and information relevant to social work process and practice and to develop and present reasoned opinions and coherent arguments.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 8 Students will develop a range of professional communication and ICT skills as a result of engagement in this module. These will include developing competence in the use of a variety of online platforms used in professional social work practice.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 8 Students will take responsibility for significant elements of their own learning as well as working in groups and teams.

Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other	
Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours. The module will be delivered in a hybrid mode with a combination of synchronous / live online learning opportunities including learning materials, resources and learning activities through a virtual learning environment. Students will be expected to draw from their current practice and use examples within all learning activities, including summative assessment.	
Learning Activities	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	36
Work-based Learning	100
Independent Study	64
n/a	
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Maclean, S., and Shiner, M. (2018) Social Care and the Law in Scotland 11th edition Farrer, A. (2026 - forthcoming) Social Work Law in Scotland (Fifth Edition), Edinburgh: Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. Guthrie, T. (2018) Social Work Law in Scotland. Edition 4, Bloomsbury Professional Davis, G. and Gordon, J. (2021) Social Work and the Law in Scotland, Open University Press (N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
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 module, academic engagement equates to the following: This module is subject to SSSC requirements regarding student attendance for scheduled teaching. Students are required to attend 80% of all timetabled activity to meet programme specific SSSC requirements.

Engaging in all learning tasks as directed, being prepared for all scheduled learning, including module reading, engaging in all module learning materials, submitting academic assessment within the specified deadlines.

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 adjustments made 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 assessments 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 adjustments as necessary.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	Psychology Social Work
Overall Assessment Results	☐ Pass / Fail ☒ Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ Yes ☒ No If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.
School Assessment Board	Ug/Pg Social Work & CDAS
Moderator	TBC
External Examiner	TBC
Accreditation Details	Scottish Social Services Council
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ Yes ☒ No
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1

Written assignment - 100%.

Assessment 2

Assessment 3

(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Case Study	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	100	36

Component 2							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	36 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
Adapted for GA delivery	13-07-25	Scott Grant