University of the West of Scotland

Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session: 2024-25
Last Modified: 22 March 2024
Status: Published

1	**Named Award Title:**	MSc Social Work (Conversion)
2	**Award Title for Each Award:**	MSc Social Work (Conversion) PG Diploma Social Work PG Certificate Social Studies
3	**Date of Validation / Approval:**	May 2019
4	**Details of Cohorts Applies to:**	2024 intake and year one students moving into year two.
5	**Awarding Institution/Body:**	**University of the West of Scotland**
6	**Teaching Institution(s):**	**University of the West of Scotland**
7	**Language of Instruction & Examination:**	English
8	**Award Accredited By:**	Scottish Social Services Council
9a	**Maximum Period of Registration:**	To ensure currency of knowledge, the maximum completion time for this programme will normally be three years. Any exceptions to this must be negotiated and agreed with the programme leader. If a student does not pass the practice element of their placement, only one further attempt will be permitted; this will take the form of placement re-attendance i.e., an alternative placement will need to be completed of the same duration as the original placement. Authorised Interruption Guidance notes (uws.ac.uk)
9b	**Duration of Study:**	Full Time 2 years
10	**Mode of Study:**	Full-time

11	**Campus:**	Paisley
12	**School:**	Education and Social Sciences
13	**Programme Board:**	Psychology and Social Work
14	**Programme Leader:**	Dr L. Nuttall

15. Admission 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:

An Honours degree in a social science discipline of 2:1 or above. The programme admissions officer has the discretion to interview applicants as they determine to be appropriate for the requirements of the programme and any regulatory considerations.

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

Applications may be considered from applicants who have extensive practice experience and an honours degree in a relevant discipline, not less than 2:2, who can demonstrate that they can study at the requisite level.

Further desirable skills pre-application (i.e. to satisfy additional PSRB requirements or other)

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.

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.

16	**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.
17	**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.

18	Work Based Learning/Placement Details
	This is not a work-based learning programme; however, the programme does contain two substantive practice placements.
19	Attendance and Engagement
	In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on the VLE, and complete assessments and submit these on time. For this programme, academic engagement equates to the following: Engagement with taught modules and completion of all assessments. In addition, students are required to complete 200 days of practice learning under the supervision of a practice teacher.
20	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. Every effort will be made to make reasonable adjustments are made within this programme. The University is reliant upon placement providers to provide placement opportunities for our students; we will work with those placement providers to ensure as far as we can that all reasonable adjustments are made. Equality and diversity are further enhanced by the involvement of service users and carers in the programme induction. Service users and carers will also provide direct input to students in at least one taught session in trimester 01 of year one.

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

21	Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)	
	SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) **Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**	
	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.
	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	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, 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;

Learning Outcomes – Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	SWPG 11005	Foundations of Social Work Practice (PG)	20	x			
11	SWPG 11001	Social Work Law (PG)	20	x			
11	SWPG 11006	Understanding and Learning Lessons from Service Failures	20	x			

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.

22a	Level 11 – Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Criteria for Progression and Award
	In line with the Regulatory Framework, for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate (PgC), at least 60 credit points must be achieved of which a minimum of 40 are at SCQF Level 11 and none less than SCQF Level 10. Those students who achieve 60 credits shall be eligible for the Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Social Studies. No Distinction is awarded at PgCert level (Regulation 3.25). Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

	Level 11 – Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) 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.
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.
	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	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.

Learning Outcomes – Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	SWPG11008	Social Work Practice 1	40	x	x	x	
11	SWPG11007	Social Work Practice 2 (PG)	40	x	x		

Footnotes for Core Modules:

Please note this second and final placement module often begins in August i.e., before the commencement of trimester 01.	
22b	**Level 11 - PgDip** **Criteria for Progression and Award**
	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 used. (Regulations 3.35 & 3.26) Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

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	Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of how knowledge about social work is developed, including a range of established techniques of enquiry or research methodologies.
A5	Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of the relationship between law and social work practice and how to source and interpret relevant case law and other guidance.
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.

Learning Outcomes - MASTERS Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	SWPG11003	Masters Dissertation: Social Work				x	

Footnotes for Core Modules:

Please note, dissertation modules are not taught modules; rather than teaching, each enrolled student will be allocated a dissertation supervisor to provide guidance.

22c	Level 11 MASTERS Criteria for Award
	Those students who achieve 200 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 3.35 & 3.26) Links: UWS Regulatory Framework; and Student Experience Policy Statement.

23	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 from the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

24	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.

Change/Version Control

Changes made to the programme since it was last published: None.

What	When	Who
Updated Links: • Academic Engagement Procedure • Equality and Diversity • University Regulatory Framework • Removed invalid links	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 2023-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections and addition of links and some specific guidance. Addition of Duration of Study and some other text – for CMA.	12/12/23	D Taylor