

## MA Social Work

### Programme Specification

**Awarding Institution:**

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

**Teaching Institution:** Goldsmiths, University of London

**Final Award:** MA

**Programme Name:** MA Social Work

**Total credit value for programme:** 180

**Name of Interim Exit Award(s):**

Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Social Studies

Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work

MA Social Work

**Duration of Programme:** 2 years Full Time

**UCAS Code(s):** Not applicable

**HECoS Code(s):** (100503) Social Work

**QAA Benchmark Group** not applicable

**FHEQ Level of Award:** Level 7

**Programme accredited by:** Social Work England

**Date Programme Specification last updated/approved:** May 2024

**Home Department:** Department for Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies

**Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:**

Not applicable

### Programme overview

The MA Social Work programme prepares you to become a social worker according to the professional and academic standards frameworks as set out in the Professional Standards for Social Work by Social Work England, the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) subject benchmark for social work and the BASW Professional Capabilities Framework.

The MA Social Work draws on current research and knowledge across the social sciences, government guidance, and legislative frameworks to focus upon key knowledge, core values and skills that are applicable for equipping students to be eligible to apply to register as a social worker with Social Work England. It prepares you for social work practice and in line with the Knowledge and Skills Statements for social workers, both in adult services and in children and family services.

The current format and design of the programme enables you to have an understanding of the organisational, policy and legislative frameworks of social work, while it emphasises on practical skills, increasing the likelihood of employability. The programme is co-designed with employers and placement providers ensuring the latter. Further, the programme enables you to develop key interpersonal and communication skills, as well as exercise those in practice in order to improve their overall capacities in social work. Another strength of this programme is that it enables you to exercise skills of theory integration into practice, as well as highlights evidence-based practice, giving you the space to explore research and evaluation skills and their applicability.

The programme is underpinned by the core values of social work, including social justice, human rights and professional integrity. That said, the programme in its delivery and content maintains those values and prepares you to both recognise diversity, social injustices and challenge discrimination. This is coupled with the focus on anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory practice, which is highlighted across the modules, but also with the teaching consultants' input – i.e., social work practitioners contributing to the delivery and assessment of the programme. The latter has a significant impact on the quality of the programme, ensuring that practical skills are taught, while you enjoy the chance to appreciate real-life circumstances and scenarios vicariously and through the social work practitioners.

Another key aspect of the programme is that of receiving input from people with lived experience. This group of associates to the programme contribute at all stages, from selection to final assessment as they support your understanding regarding the perspectives of users of services in social work, the power dynamics in those relationships, and act as an evaluative measure for your capacities and knowledge in relation to your effectiveness with people with lived experience.

Through placement opportunities (the programme is offering two; a total of 170 days) you will benefit from working in an interdisciplinary environment and through multi-agency work.

The programme is 2 years full time.

### Why study MA Social Work at Goldsmiths?

- This programme is ideal if you are a graduate, with experience of working with children and families and you are interested in pursuing a professional career in social work.
- It prepares you according to Social Work England's Professional Standards <https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/standards/professional-standards/>
- Social work education at Goldsmiths has a long and distinguished record – we house one of the most respected social work units in the UK, and you will be taught by established social work academics and associate lecturers who have considerable research and/or practice experience in their fields.

- You will cover areas of theory, policy and social work practice, theories of individual development, social work skills and methods, law and social work, multidisciplinary research and research methods.
- Our graduates have gone on to work in local authority children's services departments, adult services departments, and independent and voluntary sector agencies such as the NSPCC, Family Action and Mind.

## **Programme entry requirements**

The procedures for recruitment and selection of students adhere to the College's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Criteria for admissions:

- Students will typically have a first or an upper second-class honours degree or lower second-class honours, or appropriate professional qualification equivalent to a first degree.
- A minimum of one-year full time/part-time equivalent social work/care experience; 6 months experience at the point of application and a further 6 months at the point of entry to the programme. Students must have demonstrable relevant experience and must be able to show in an interview how they interpret and understand that experience.
- Have the understanding and personal, intellectual, and professional qualities to become a social worker and can demonstrate this through relevant social work experience.
- Have achieved key skills level in English and Mathematics. This would typically be equivalent to Grade C or 4 in the GCSE examinations.
- Non-native English speaker applicants must provide evidence that they meet communication and comprehension skills to IELTS at level 7.0.

### **Additional Entry Requirements:**

**A satisfactory Enhanced Check with the Disclosure and Barring Service or equivalent for international students.**

**Satisfactory completion of a health questionnaire to assess their fitness to undertake the programme.**

The admissions process consists of:

- A written test exploring social work values,
- A group discussion based on a case example.

To be accepted for the degree, applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the personal qualities necessary to undertake the complex and demanding role that will be required of them as a social worker. Applicants will also be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the experiences of service users and to show a commitment to, or to have pursued opportunities to gain some experience in a social care situation either as a paid worker and/ or a volunteer.

## Selection Process:

Applicants who meet the entry requirements described above will be invited to an assessment panel comprised of a written test and a group discussion. This panel will be facilitated and assessed by members of the academic staff, an Expert by Experience, and a practicing social worker from the community.

The assessments explore some aspect of social work and assesses your ability: to interpret and understand written information, your commitment to the core social work values, your capacity for critical reflection, your ability to express your own views and to respond appropriately to the expressed views of others, and your awareness of your own values.

The selection process not only allows us to assess students' readiness for social work education, but also to gauge their potential and capacity for working with service users in complex situations. You are required to demonstrate that you have a good level of self-awareness, sound interpersonal skills and the capacity to reflect critically on the place of personal and social work values as they shape professional interventions. The assessment criteria are based on the Social Work England Professional Standards.

## Programme aims

This programme will prepare you to qualify as a social worker under the Professional Standards – Social workers in England, (SWE, 2020) the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW, 2018), and the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) subject Benchmark for social work. In addition, the degree aims to prepare you in line with the Knowledge and Skills Statement for Social Workers in Adult Services (DH 2015) and the Knowledge and Skills for Child and Family Social Work (DfE 2014).

- <https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/standards/professional-standards/>
  - [www.basw.co.uk/professional-development/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf](http://www.basw.co.uk/professional-development/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf)
  - <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-social-work.pdf>
- [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/411957/KSS.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/411957/KSS.pdf)

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/338718/140730\\_Knowledge\\_and\\_skills\\_statement\\_final\\_version\\_AS\\_RH\\_Checked.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/338718/140730_Knowledge_and_skills_statement_final_version_AS_RH_Checked.pdf)

In so doing, the programme draws on current research and knowledge across the social sciences, government guidance, and legislative frameworks to focus upon key knowledge, core values and skills that are applicable for equipping students to be eligible to register as a social worker with Social Work England. The programme addresses each of Social Work England's Professional Standards through its coursework and field placement, as shown below:

The programme therefore aims:

- To enable students to have a sound critical understanding of the organisational, policy and legislative frameworks of social work (PS3);
- To enable students to have a sound and critical understanding of the policy context of social work services and implications for people with lived experience (PS1, PS3);
- To provide students with the underpinning theory, research and interpersonal skills necessary to assess, plan, intervene and review (PS1, PS4, PS5, PS6);
- To introduce students to a range of users of services, provider settings and the skills associated with working with people with lived experience and other professionals (PS2, PS5, PS6);
- To enable students to develop problem solving skills using logic and critical analysis in order to plan and manage change (PP1, P4);
- To enable students to use reflection in order to be critically aware of practice leading to new and innovative ways of promoting welfare (PS1, PS6);
- To develop students' understanding of the pervasive influence of oppression and discrimination both at an individual level and a structural level (PS2, PS3, PS5);
- To explore methods of working with adults or children and families within a multi-agency and interdisciplinary framework (PS1, PS3);
- To provide students with a critical understanding of the application of research in the field of social work (PS3);
- To promote students use of information and communication technology skills (PS4).

## **Programme learning outcomes**

a) Knowledge and Understanding;

b.) Cognitive and Thinking Skills;

c.) Subject Specific Skills and Professional Behaviours and Attitudes;

d.) Transferable Skills.

The 9 key domains of the Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF) frame the nature of the learning students are expected to demonstrate:

- Professionalism
- Values and Ethics
- Diversity
- Rights, Justice and Economic Well-being
- Knowledge
- Critical Reflection and Analysis
- Intervention and Skills
- Contexts and Organisations
- Professional Leadership

Students who successfully complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Social Work will be able to:

**Knowledge and understanding**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
A1	Comprehensively understand different theories and models of direct practice with recipients of social care, deploying originality in the application of knowledge to systematically and creatively deal with complex issues.	Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II)
A2	Evaluate the application of social policies, their relationship to social justice and their effects on defining social need	Theories of Individual Development; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II)
A3	Systematically identify the different theoretical perspectives on welfare and the implications for social care practice	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration

## Cognitive and thinking skills

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
B1	Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the professional and ethical responsibilities of social workers, critically assessing and acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks with a high degree of ethical consideration.	Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
B2	Comprehensively identify, evaluate and understand the impact of personal values on their intellectual and emotional responses	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
B3	Deploy originality in the application of knowledge to develop core communication skills, such as active listening, empathy, questioning styles and service-user self- determination	Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
C1	Initiate and systematically establish clear tasks and set comprehensive objectives of practice	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
C2	Demonstrate critical awareness and empathy in working sensitively with individuals, families, and groups from different racial, cultural, ethnic, and religious background, including where issues of sexuality, gender, disability and age may be pertinent	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C3	Demonstrate the ability to gather information from a range of sources to inform assessment and decision making, deploying originality in the application of knowledge and critical analysis.	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Manage to communicate effectively in writing and verbally as relevant to different settings and engage in effective teamwork	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
D2	Devise strategies to problem solve and conduct presentations to different groups	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
D3	Act autonomously in planning and utilising a range of information technology competently	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II) Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration

Students who successfully complete the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work will be able to:

## Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Establish sound understanding of the roles and responsibilities of social workers and other professionals and the theories underpinning their practice	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II)
A2	Demonstrate the ability to systematically how to apply law to practice and to locate their work within a clear legal and policy framework	Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design



Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II)
A3	Develop a critical awareness of values and beliefs about such issues as race, faith, culture, class, gender, disability, sexual orientation and age, and their implications for practice	Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice Integration
A4	Critically assess and demonstrate the capacity to review and evaluate applied research	Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice Integration

## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the professional and ethical responsibilities of social workers	Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
B2	Comprehensively identify and critically assess the impact of personal values on their intellectual and emotional responses	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
B3	Initiate and systematically develop sound communication skills, such as active listening, empathy, questioning styles and service-user self- determination	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
B4	Deploy originality and comprehensive understanding in using the cognitive and analytical skills necessary for managing complex situations	Theories of Individual Development; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration;
B5	Critically assess the role of self-reflection on the use of self as an agent of change	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation) Introduction to Law and Social Work;

**Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
C1	Initiate and systematically establish tasks, set comprehensive objectives, and critically evaluate practice interventions in relation to research evidence, demonstrating the ability to deploy originality and a comprehensive understanding of the impact of evidence-based practice.	Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Integration;
C2	Systematically and creatively deal with complex issues, demonstrating the capacity to work effectively and sensitively with individuals, families, and groups from different racial, cultural, ethnic, and religious background, including where issues of sexuality, gender, disability and age may be pertinent	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice;
C3	Systematically identify and deploy originality in gathering information from a range of sources to inform assessment and effective problem solving, ensuring comprehensive analysis and interpretation for informed decision-making	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice;
C4	Initiate and effectively manage collaboration with other professionals on joint tasks, demonstrating the capacity to work as an integral member of a team,	Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice;
C5	Commence to systematically acquire skills in information sharing and demonstrating comprehensive understanding and effectiveness in teamwork dynamics	Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C6	Demonstrate the ability to gather information from a range of sources to	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work 70-

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	inform evidence based practice and decision making	day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Initiate and develop the ability to communicate effectively in writing and verbally as relevant to different settings and engage in effective teamwork	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D2	Devise and implement strategies to problem solve and conduct presentations to different groups	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation); .
D3	Systematically acquire and demonstrate competence in using a range of information technology competently	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D4	Initiate and systematically apply research skills to underpin their practice interventions, demonstrating comprehensive understanding of research methodologies and critical analysis to inform evidence-based practice	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D5	Initiate and conduct presentations to different professional groups	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies;

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D6	Initiate and effectively collaborate in inter-agency and interprofessional settings and make use of supervision	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);

By the end of the MA Social Work students should have developed and be able to demonstrate learning in the following areas:

## Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Systematically develop a sound knowledge of different social work theories and models of practice	Theories of Individual Development; Theory, Policy, and Politics; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);
A2	Comprehensively acquire an advanced understanding of social work and other professional roles and responsibilities	Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);
A3	Initiate and critically appreciate the application of social policies, their relationship to social justice and their effects on defining social need	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);
A4	Critically evaluate the core knowledge, skills and values for social work practice	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
A5	Identify the different theoretical perspectives on welfare and the implications for social work practice	Theory, Policy, and Politics; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);
A6	Comprehensively acquire an advanced understanding of how to apply law to practice and to locate their work within a clear legal framework	Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);
A7	Acquire knowledge of inter-professional and multi- disciplinary work across organisational boundaries	Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
A8	Develop evidence-based approaches to social work	Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation); Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);
A9	Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the relationship between information gathering, analysis and decision-making	Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
A10	Demonstrate a critical appreciation of the social policy context of social work practice with different service user groups	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation); Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);
A11	Critically develop, demonstrate and apply an advanced understanding of complex issues, values and beliefs about such issues as race, faith, culture, class, gender, disability, sexual orientation and age, and their implications for practice	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
A12	Demonstrate the capacity to critically review and evaluate applied research	Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);

## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of the professional and ethical responsibilities of social workers	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration Social Work Practice Learning 1
B2	Systematically and comprehensively identify and understand the impact of personal values on their intellectual and emotional responses	Theories of Individual Development; Theory, Policy, and Practice;  Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
B3	Reflect on issues of power as this relates to the development of anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory practice	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development;  Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
B4	Develop communication and relationship skills, such as active listening, empathy, questioning styles and service- user self-determination	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development;  Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
B5	Systematically and creatively deal with complex issues using the cognitive and analytical skills necessary for managing complex situations	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work



Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
B6	Act autonomously and demonstrate professional judgments in complex situations	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development;  Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration
B7	Critically reflect on the use of self as an agent of change	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Practice; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
B8	Systematically and creatively deal with complex and conflicting circumstances and with strong emotions	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
B9	Critically assess and reflect on the emotional impact of the work on them	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
B10	Reflect on the place of social work values within risk assessment, particularly the balance between rights and risk, and care	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	and control within an anti-oppressive framework	Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
B11	Demonstrate capacity for reflexivity	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Initiate and devise tasks and set objectives	Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C2	Evaluate policy and practice interventions in relation to research evidence	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C3	Systematically understand key aspects and demonstrate critical awareness in working effectively with individuals, families, and groups from different racial, cultural, ethnic, and religious background, including where issues of sexuality, gender, disability and age may be pertinent	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C4	Systematically propose, plan and carry out complex assessments	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C5	Express comprehensive understanding of techniques to communicate clearly and accurately in written English, adhering strictly to conventions of grammar, spelling and punctuation. Students should be able to write clear and accurate reports and letters and assessments for a range of legal and inter-professional contexts	Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C6	Systematically identify and utilise relevant policy and Government guidance documents appropriately to underpin practice interventions, and decision-making	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C7	Initiate and effectively present assessment and evaluation reports in a range of legal and procedural contexts	Theory, Policy, and Practice; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C8	Derive from different social work methods of intervention	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C9	Initiate and effectively collaborate with other professionals on joint tasks and work in teams	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C10	Initiate and systematically Draw up care plans	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C11	Acquire advanced skills in information sharing and working together	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;
C12	Develop the ability to systematically to gather information from a range of sources	Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice; Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;

## Transferable skills

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
D1	Initiate the development of effective communication skills in both written and verbal forms	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D2	Systematically apply advanced problem-solving skills, deploying originality in analysing complex situations, generating innovative solutions, and critically evaluating outcomes within social work practice	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Practice; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D3	Propose and apply research skills to underpin their practice interventions	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D4	Initiate and apply different social work models of intervention at an advanced level	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development; Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D5	Develop and conduct presentations to different professional groups	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D6	Manage resources effectively	Social Work Skills and Methods I & II); Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D7	Initiate and effectively collaborate in inter-agency and interprofessional settings and use professional supervision	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D8	Facilitate and manage meetings	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D9	Develop a professional development plan	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D10	Propose, develop and systematically undertake a small-scale evaluative piece of research	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Theory, Policy, and Practice; Theories of Individual Development; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);
D11	Initiate and develop effective teamwork	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work;

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
		Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation); Social Work Skills and Methods I & II);
D12	Deploy originality in the application of knowledge to Use a range of information technology	Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice; Introduction to Law and Social Work; Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies; Social Work Dissertation/Research Methods (Dissertation);

## How you will learn

The programme will be delivered using a model of problem-based learning, which provides significant opportunities for in-depth development of students' competence and capacity for critical reflection for developing effective professional competence.

The programme will seek to balance formal teaching with learning processes that facilitate the application of ideas and critical reflection. Students on the programme will be provided with a variety of learning opportunities to enable them to develop appropriate knowledge, skills and professional values. Formal teaching through lectures and seminars, self-managed and facilitated groupwork, private study, reading, reflection and practice placements are all used to contribute to students' learning about the knowledge, skills and values that underpin social work practice. The teaching will be practice-led, using action sets and problem based learning, lecture, and workshop formats. This will be particularly important for students engaged in learning about complex professional issues where they need to reflect on complex dilemmas and ethical problems. Lectures and seminars will enable students to engage with research and theoretical frameworks. Study Groups, Action Learning Sets and Case Presentation Seminars will enable these ideas to be applied to the practice context. The linking of research to case material, particularly drawn from students' practice learning will assist the development of research mindedness and critical reflection.

## ICT competency

The programme is fully committed to ensuring that students are able to satisfy the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Social Work Subject Benchmark Statement (2016) relating to ICT

(5.18 and 6.5). Students will therefore be required demonstrate their ability to use ICT effectively for presentations, professional communication, data storage and retrieval and information searching. Students are also required to submit all documents for assessment using the Moodle e-learning platform.

Guidance will be given to students on use of ICT with people with lived experience (e.g. confidentiality issues, use of mobile phones and social networking) as part of the 'preparation for practice' teaching, prior to the 1st placement. Students will demonstrate skills in information collection, recording and data management whilst on their assessed practice placements.

## **How you will be assessed**

### **General Assessment Criteria for Assignments**

The award of the MA Social Work is conditional upon the student attaining a satisfactory standard of performance in both academic and practice components of the modules. There is no compensation between academic work and practice component, or between academic assignments.

The general criteria for assessment apply to all assignments and represent the range of abilities that students are expected to demonstrate by the end of the module. Please see marking criteria which outline the features of different grade descriptors for all graded assignments. The headings for the general criteria are 1) presentation and organisation, 2) coverage and use of the literature and other available evidence, 3) coverage of Issues, 4) discussion; 5) Anti-discriminatory and Anti- Oppressive Practice Issues. Please note that assignments usually contain specific areas which need to be addressed by students.

### **Assessment of Practice Learning**

Prior to starting the first placement in term 2 of year 1, students must demonstrate they are functioning at the Readiness to Direct Practice Level of the PCF (namely sound basic communication skills, ability to engage with users, capacity to work as a member of an organisation, demonstrate basic social work values, knowledge and skills). This requirement will be assessed against the PCF.

Students will undertake practice-learning placements in years one and two of the masters programme. Students' performance in practice learning is assessed against the Social Work England Professional Standards and the Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF) in the



form of a portfolio of evidence, including an evaluative account reflecting on the learning process. The decision as to whether or not a student has reached a satisfactory standard of practice performance is taken by a qualified and experienced social worker who makes a recommendation to the Practice Assessment Panel, which is subject to the Programme Assessments Board. The practice-based modules are professional body requirements and students must pass all practice learning components in order to gain the MA Social Work.

At the end of Year 1 students will have:

- At an intermediate stage prepared for and worked with individuals, families, carers and groups and communities to assess their needs and circumstances.
- At an intermediate stage planned, carried out, reviewed and evaluated their social work practice with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities and other professionals.
- At an intermediate stage supported individuals to represent their needs, views and circumstances.
- At an intermediate stage managed risk to individuals, families, carers, groups, communities, self and colleagues.
- At an intermediate stage managed and been accountable, with supervision and support, for their own social work practice within the practice learning organisation and within a multi-professional network.
- At an intermediate stage demonstrated professional competence in social work practice, including managing ethical issues.

At the end of Year 2 students will have-

- Prepared for and worked with individuals, families, carers and groups and communities to assess their needs and circumstances.
- Planned, carried out, reviewed and evaluated their social work practice with individuals, families, carers, groups and communities and other professionals.
- Supported individuals to represent their needs, views and circumstances.
- Managed risk to individuals, families, carers, groups, communities, self and colleagues.
- Managed and been accountable, with supervision and support, for their own social work practice within the practice learning organisation and within a multi-professional network.
- Demonstrated professional competence in social work practice, including managing ethical issues.

## Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	Work marked at 80 and above clearly demonstrates originality and is considered to be of publishable standard. Students meet all the criteria for an “excellent”. This would typically involve insights in relation to theories, research or the student’s own practice that demonstrates that the student has engaged with the required work at an unusually excellent level. This might involve students demonstrating an ability to synthesise different aspects of the social work module to an outstanding degree.
70-79%	Distinction	The work demonstrates all of the criteria for a pass with merit as given below. In addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the academic argument is compelling.</li> <li>• there is recognition of the assumptions and nuances underpinning the essay question and thus of alternative arguments which might have been made.</li> <li>• there is sophisticated conceptual analysis.</li> <li>• there is evidence of an extensive review of the literature including research as well as a variety of other kinds of literature such as policy documents, good practice guidance and social theory. Relevant specialist social work literature is included as well as relevant literature from other disciplines where appropriate. there is creative and critical use of the literature, such as an attempt to use.</li> <li>• literature from a related field to cast light on an under-researched aspect of social work.</li> <li>• reflections on practice (own or social work practice generally) show considerable sensitivity, subtlety and (where appropriate) self-awareness.</li> <li>• there is in-depth engagement with the social work context and current debates in social work, evidenced by the quantity and quality of references to them.</li> <li>• the writing is fluent and there are virtually no errors in spelling, grammar, paragraphing, presentation or referencing (which is in line with the handbook).</li> </ul>
60-69%	Merit	The work demonstrates all of the criteria for a pass as given below. In addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the academic argument is easy to follow, with all points following in a logical sequence towards a clear conclusion.</li> </ul>

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is some analysis of key concepts as well as description.</li> <li>• the literature used goes beyond that included in reading lists and includes some sources other than social work textbooks (e.g. research, legislation policy, good practice guidance and social theory).</li> <li>• there is evidence of a general grasp of the overall body of literature relevant to the essay title (although no expectation of a systematic literature review). For example, the student identifies gaps in the overall body of literature.</li> <li>• reflections on own practice, or on social work practice generally, demonstrate an anti-oppressive stance and (where appropriate) self-awareness.</li> <li>• understanding of the social work context should be up-to-date. There should be some reference to areas of contention / current debates in social work.</li> <li>• referencing style should be mostly in line with the guide in the course handbook there should be no errors in spelling, grammar, paragraphing or presentation which obscure meaning.</li> </ul>
50-59%	Pass	<p>The work demonstrates most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the ability to produce an academic argument, including to focus on the essay title and to make a series of points relevant to the argument in a mostly logical sequence.</li> <li>• the ability to describe key concepts relevant to the essay title, supported by references.</li> <li>• knowledge of relevant literature included in reading lists and in social work textbooks.</li> <li>• ability to evaluate literature referred to in the essay either with reference to other literature or with reference to practice (own and/or social work practice generally).</li> <li>• references to anti-oppressive practice.</li> <li>• a general understanding of the social work context relevant to the essay title.</li> <li>• referencing which allows all sources to be traced, even if sometimes inconsistent or not in line with the guide in the course handbook clear academic English. Where there are errors in spelling, grammar, paragraphing or presentation, these rarely obscure meaning.</li> </ul>

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
30-49%	Fail	A fail at 40-49 will demonstrate some, but not most, of the criteria for a pass at Masters level. A fail at 30-39 will demonstrate none of the criteria for a pass.
10-29%	Bad fail	10-29% is awarded when your work shows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That it may not be without merit but is not of Masters standard. The concepts are realised inappropriately or under developed.</li> <li>• Reference to relevant reading and use of sources is limited with little interpretation or analysis; lacking breadth or awareness of contextual framework.</li> <li>• Weak organisational structure lacking in discussion and commentary; unfocused or lacking coherent argument.</li> </ul>
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

## Programme structure

The academic and practice content of the programme in year 1 will consist of lectures, seminars, workshops, and study units on Theory, Policy and Practice: organisational and institutional theories and structures , Individual theories of development across the lifespan, Values: the origin, justification, meaning and implication of values of social work; including Social Work Skills and Methods 1, Law: statutory duties, powers and legal principles; Research mindedness including Multidisciplinary research methods in social work.

Practice learning is viewed as a complex and intellectually skillful task and learning opportunities available in practice and college settings should fully be integrated. The Practice Curriculum will consist of a combination of college-based workshops, seminars, and agency-based practice learning. The preparation for practice component of the curriculum in year one will provide relevant learning opportunities to be able to assess students' attitudes to service users, motivation for, and understanding of, social work, as well as students' future learning needs. In year one of the programme students will be required to undertake 70 days practice-based learning in either a statutory, voluntary or independent setting.

The academic and practice content of the curriculum in year 2 will consist of Law and the organisational context of social work: Community Care: Assessment, Care Management,

policy frameworks and legal interventions for work in adult services; Mental Health: including mental health and child protection. Statutory work with Children and Families; Assessment and Communication Skills; Social Work Skills and Methods 2; Interprofessional practice and multi-disciplinary teamwork, and Research Methods/ Social Work Dissertation

In year 2 of the programme students will undertake 100 days of practice learning involving direct practice in an agency-based placement. Practice learning in the second year allows students to build on the skills acquired in the first placement to transfer to another setting or with another user group and demonstrate the expectations in relation to the Professional Capabilities Framework. The second practice placement will involve legal or statutory interventions. In addition to the above, a total of 30 advanced skills days are covered in the duration of the two years, which complement practice-based learning.

### Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Theories of Individual Development	SW71026A	15	7	Compulsory	1
Multidisciplinary Research Design and Methodologies	CO71009C	15	7	Compulsory	1
Social Work Skills and Methods 1	SW71020B	15	7	Compulsory	2
Introduction to Law and Social Work	SW71025A	15	7	Compulsory	1
Social Work 70-day Placement and Practice Integration	SW71021E	30	7	Compulsory	2-3
Theory, Policy, and Practice	SW71023A	15	7	Compulsory	1

### Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Social Work Skills and Methods II	SW71027A	15	7	Compulsory	1
Research Methods/Social Work Dissertation	SW72011C	30	7	Compulsory	1 - 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Social Work 100-day Placement and Practice Integration	SW72012E	30	7	Compulsory	1 - 3

## Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least twice a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the [Library](#) and information available on [Learn.gold \(VLE\)](#) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the [Goldsmiths website](#) and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The [Disability](#) and [Wellbeing](#) Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The [Careers Service](#) provides central support for skills enhancement, running [The Gold Award](#) scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report ([HEAR](#)).

The [Centre for Academic Language and Literacies](#) works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

## **Placement opportunities**

Social work students engage with a 170-day practice placement divided into two separate experiences that complement the development of intellectual curiosity on different levels. Students benefit from working in an interdisciplinary environment and through multi-agency work.

Students, during their first year of study, are matched with an agency providing social work services, either in the public, private or third sector. This opportunity is for 70 days and invites student to receive support from a small team dedicate to their learning and progress. The team includes an academic tutor, a practice educator, and at times a practice supervisor. Similarly, during their second year of studies, students are matched with a different agency and service for an opportunity of a 100-day placement, with similar support systems in place. During those periods, students are provided with interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary learning opportunities which meet the learning outcomes of the programme.

Furthermore, before each placement, students are required to complete a placement profile which details their experience, strengths and learning needs. The personal tutor plays a key role in this process. The placement profile gives students the opportunity to express their interests and preferences. They also discuss any additional needs that should be taken into account during the placement. The document helps to match students with relevant placement opportunities that can meet the student's identified learning needs. The first placement aims to complement the student's experience and strengths. The final placement reflects the pathway chosen by the student and the areas of social work they wish to practice in.

The student learning journey on placement is supported through a specific learning agreement. It is the responsibility of the Practice Educator to ensure that a Practice Learning Agreement is in place within four weeks of the placement starting. All students must have a practice learning agreement in place. Students have responsibility for identifying their learning needs and Practice Educators have responsibility for identifying the learning opportunities by which those needs will be met.

The programme runs in two academic sessions, divided into Years 1 and 2, both of which are at Level 7.

The two years are split into three main phases of practice progression, including Readiness for Direct Practice, First Placement, Second Placement. During the first part of the first year of studies, students are invited to evidence their preparedness for practice while engaging with different learning material from first year modules, group exercises, an assessed role play exercise with people with lived experience, as well as evidence of developing understanding of the role of a social worker. If these criteria are met, they progress to the first placement, where they meet the respective requirements set out by the Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF) domains facilitated by the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and the professional standards stipulated by Social Work England, the current social work regulator in England. Similarly, and if students meet practice criteria in the first placement, they progress to the second and final placement, where they need to meet standards suggesting their preparedness for registration as a Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW).

As a vocational programme which prepares students for social work the MA in Social Work provides student with the range of skills, particularly within practice placements where they learn to work creatively and effectively with complex individual and family situations. Students also learn to collect relevant information and ensure that analysis and decision-making in relation to service users is evidence based.

While on placement students are also required to use different social work platforms for information recording and sharing. In addition many of the placement providers have adopted a hybrid model of working. Virtual three-way placement meetings have also been used and are increasingly a preferred option for placement agencies and students.

## **Employability and potential career opportunities**

As a vocational programme which prepares students for social work the MA in Social Work provides a student with the range of skills, particularly within practice placements where they learn to work creatively and effectively with complex individual and family situations. Students also learn to collect relevant information and ensure that analysis and decision-making in relation to service users is evidence based.



The programme has a strong element of employability in its structure. This is demonstrated through the teaching of social work approaches that is embedded in evidence-based practice, the emphasis on experiential learning and inclusion of practical skills. In addition, students have the opportunity to receive support and supervision from a qualified social worker through the practice placement modules.

The programme is professionally qualifying and students will graduate ready for employment in professional practice. Our students have been successful in a range of areas, from postgraduate research to employment in local authority children's services departments, adult services departments, independent sector and voluntary sector agencies. Many of our students are offered a job while completing their final placement.

In relation to showcasing talents, there are various elements across the programme which provide students with the opportunity to present and share their knowledge, skills and values. The most prominent opportunity to showcase talent is in during the two practice placements, where students work with a wide range of professionals, including social workers, police officers, teachers, health professionals etc. In order to meet one of the Professional Capabilities they have to contribute to the development of others. This often means that they are asked to present their learning to others. Throughout the programme students are required to deliver presentations to Teaching Consultants, Practice Educators, managers, Principal Social workers and on one occasion Directors of Children Services. Other experiential modules, such as the skills labs provide students with an opportunity to share their ongoing experience in class as well as their intervention and reflective skills..

The programme incorporates extensive workplace learning and prepares students fully for professional employment.

Strengthening our employability potential even further, we have established specifically tailored career events. We work closely with Careers Service to organise two careering ahead event (one in March and one in May). These are well attended by employers who are very interested in coming to speak to our students and share information on the job opportunities they offer. The second event aims to help students prepare for job applications and interview. Previous students are invited to share their experiences and advice on how to manage the first year in employment. The most recent available data show the programme benefits from an excellent employment rate (close to 100%).

## **Programme-specific requirements**

### Progression

A Student will not be permitted to proceed to the second year of the degree unless they have passed a minimum of 45 credits and have successfully completed the 70-day Social

Work Practice Learning, including passing the Critical Self Evaluation assignment (as an academic assignment and for the Practice Assessment Panel). If any module on the programme fails on three occasions, the student will not be able to proceed with the programme. If a student fails on two occasions when completing the first placement, they will not be able to proceed with the programme.

Students failing one or two assignments at the end of year one may, at the discretion of the Examiners, be offered the opportunity of resitting before the start of the next academic year of the programme. Students who pass all year one module assignments may proceed to the second year.

In order to be eligible for the award of the degree, students must successfully complete all elements of the programme, including both the 70-day and the 100-day Social Work Practice Learning.

Under certain circumstances it may be necessary to dismiss students from the MA in Social Work on the grounds of their unsuitability for Social Work, following the Goldsmiths Suitability for Social Work Policy. The grounds for this are as follows:

The student's behaviour:

- Is confirmed to be damaging or dangerous to other people who use services, other students or programme providers;
- Creates an unacceptable risk to themselves or others;
- Shows a serious failure to adhere to the Social Work England's Professional Standards.

If this behaviour occurs while on placement the following applies:

- In the case of a student enrolled on a programme of study which leads to an entitlement to practice as a member of a profession, conduct which might call into question their suitability to practise that profession.

Students failing a placement will only be permitted to retake at the discretion of Programme Assessment Board to be awarded the MA Social Work a student is expected to:

- a. have attended 80% of timetabled classes (including timetabled group work classes) for each college-based module
- b. attend all placement days
- c. passed all assessment at 50% or above

Students can be considered for exit with credit with the following awards, with the permission of the

Examinations Board:

180 credits (but NOT practice learning modules SW72012C AND SW71021C) - MA Social Work

120 credits (but NOT practice learning modules SW72012C AND SW71021C AND NOT research methods/dissertation SW72011B) – PG Diploma in Social Work 60 credits (any two credit-accruing modules in year one) – PG Certificate in Social Work

### Attendance

It is the responsibility of students to attend and to notify any unavoidable absences. The social work masters programme is a professional training programme and students are required to attend punctually for all parts and satisfactorily complete all elements of it. No parts of the University based or placement based curriculum are optional.

Students are required to contact their tutor or programme convenor in advance of any absence. The programme convenor will determine if such absences are authorised. Students whose attendance falls below 80% in any part of the programme, including each module, may result in the matter being referred to the Academic Progress Committee, the College's Fitness to Study process or Fitness to Practice process. The College reserves the authority to take action in relation to unsatisfactory attendance, up to and including, withdrawal from Goldsmiths.

The University is under an obligation to inform sponsors including the NHS Business Authority if you are absent for more than 28 days. Students who absent themselves totally for more than four weeks from their programme and have not supplied a medical certificate or other evidence acceptable to Goldsmiths to cover such an absence shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the University.

Any days missed while on placement, even due to unavoidable reasons, have to be made up. While on placement, students will be treated as student social workers and are subject to the agency's usual procedures and standards of conduct.

## **Tuition fee costs**

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/>

## **Specific programme costs**

You will be expected to pay travel costs getting to/from Goldsmiths and your practice placements. For those students receiving an NHS Social Work Bursary award, the social work bursary includes a contribution towards your placement travel costs. If your placement provider also contributes towards your travel costs, this will not affect your bursary entitlement. During your academic programme at Goldsmiths, there may be social work field visits in the London area, for which you would be expected to pay travel costs.