UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:	26th September 2016
Awarding institution	**Teaching institution**
University of York	University of York
Department(s)	
SPSW	
Award(s) and programme title(s)	**Level of qualification**
MA in Social Work	Level 7 (Masters)
Award(s) available *only* as interim awards	
Postgraduate Certificate in Social Welfare*	
Postgraduate Diploma in Social Welfare*	
Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work [*Note that only the PG Dip in Social Work and the MA Social Work are validated by the HCPC]	
Admissions criteria	
According to the Professional Capabilities Framework for Social Work (PCF), applicants must demonstrate awareness of the social context for social work practice, awareness of self, ability to develop rapport, and the potential to develop relevant knowledge, skills and values through professional training. Full details of the entry level requirements across the 9 domains of the PCF are at: http://www.tcsw.org.uk/uploadedFiles/PCFNOVEntryLevelCapabilities.pdf	

Applicants will normally have an **upper second class (2.1) honours degree** (or equivalent) or higher grade. They must have GCSE Maths and English at grade C or equivalent, such as adult numeracy and literacy skills at Level 2.

Applicants must be able to communicate in English to the standard equivalent to level 7 of the International English Language Testing System, with no element below 6.5.

Candidates will usually have the equivalent of one year's full time work experience in social care, health care or in related voluntary settings. Having undertaken a caring role in a personal capacity may also be accepted as relevant experience.

Applicants who declare a disability will be offered an interview if they meet the academic criteria.

In all cases the offer of a place is subject to a satisfactory disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and a satisfactory health declaration. Having either a criminal conviction or a health condition is not an automatic bar to entry, but failure to disclose relevant information may result subsequently in termination of training.

Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study					
Programme	**Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)**	**Start dates/months** (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	**Mode**		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	**Distance learning**	**Other**
MA	2 years full time	October	Yes, but with additional practice learning placements in social work agencies.		

Language of study	English

Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)

The Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work and the MA in Social Work are validated by the HCPC. Students who gain these awards are eligible to apply to the HCPC for registration as a Social Worker.

Educational aims of the programme(s)

This programme is designed for students who but do not have a qualification in Social Work but who have studied successfully for a previous undergraduate degree. Therefore, the programme aims to provide such students with the opportunity to

a) achieve HCPC Standards of Proficiency, meet the PCF descriptors at qualifying level and therefore become eligible to apply to the HCPC for registration as social workers; *(professional knowledge and competence to practice).*

and

b) further develop their academic skills (critical reasoning and research) in the complex context of modern social work
(further development of academic ability)

and

c) develop abilities which will support their continuing professional development and career progression *(generic employability skills)*

To achieve these main aims, the programme will

(at Certificate level)
- equip students with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the Social Work profession, informed by current practice, scholarship and research;

(additionally at Diploma level – non accredited)
- provide, through experience on placement, an opportunity for students to develop valuable generic skills (communication; problem-solving; decision-making; independent learning; taking responsibility)

(additionally at Diploma level - accredited)
- allow students to develop deeper knowledge, skills and critical awareness in specialist areas of Social work;
- provide, through experience on a more extended placement, an opportunity to develop a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the profession;

(additionally at Masters level)
- equip students with the skills to use a range of techniques and methods to conduct research in a professional setting
- provide, through experience of conducting independent research, an opportunity to develop critical and leadership skills related to evaluation of practice and change management.

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes	
This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:	*The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:*

A: Knowledge and understanding	
Knowledge and understanding of: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 1. the location of social work services within historical and comparative perspectives 2. the range of social work services and their location within the contemporary arena 3. the legislation and policy which guides and governs social work practice 4. the moral nature of social work as an activity, and of the ethics and values which underpin social work practice 5. the statutory basis for social work and the duties and responsibilities invested in social workers, including the legal principles underpinning them 6. sociological, psychological and physiological perspectives on human development	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • lectures (all) • group work, including online groups (all) • workshops and presentations (6) • individual study, sometimes including online study tasks (all) • tutorial support (all)
7. the impact of social inequalities on individuals, families and collectives 8. the social processes which lead to social exclusion, and contrasting explanations for these *Additionally for the Diploma (non-accredited) and the Diploma (accredited):* 9. modern information systems and their relevance and utility in practice 10. the international context for social work	Domains of the Professional Capabilities Framework (relating to numbered outcomes): • professionalism (1, 9, 14) • values and ethics (4) • diversity (6) • rights, justice and economic wellbeing (7, 8) • knowledge (3, 5, 6, 13,15) • critical reflection and analysis (all) • intervention and skills (2, 9, 12, 13) • contexts and organisations (1, 2, 3, 11) • professional leadership (10, 11, 16, 17)

Additionally for the Diploma (accredited): 11. issues and trends in current social policy 12. the nature of social work practice with a variety of service users, in different organisational (including inter-disciplinary) contexts 13. models for social work processes, including assessment, planning, intervention and evaluation 14. the needs and issues that confront clients in the areas of mental health, physical health, disability, youth justice, learning difficulties and child care 15. accountability within complex organisations 16. research-based theory and alternative perspectives 17. current social work research and the relevance of such research to practice **18. understanding of the Chief Social Workers' Knowledge and Skills Statements for social work, and their role as an assessment benchmark for post-qualifying practice** *Additionally for the Masters:* 19. the evidence base for social work practice, and critiques of evidence-based practice	HCPC Standards of Proficiency (relating to numbered outcomes): Legal and ethical boundaries (3, 4, 5) Autonomous professional judgement (11, 12 ,13,14) Culture, equality, diversity (1, 6) Working with others (2, 11) Knowledge (all) Use of knowledge (16, 17, 18) Types/methods of assessment • open essays – various types • a workbook • a literature review • a multiple-choice examination • a dissertation

B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
Able to: *For the Diploma(non-accredited):* 1. work respectfully, transparently, effectively and responsibly with a range of service users, colleagues and organisations, including interdisciplinary team working 2. communicate with a wide range of people, including children, adults and those with communication difficulties, orally, in writing, and taking account of non-verbal behaviour 3. assess, plan, intervene, monitor	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • practice learning (all) • case-based exercises (1) • communication skills training groups (2)
	Types/methods of assessment • a placement report
and evaluate, and bring working relationships to a close 4. analyse and synthesise information, and weigh competing evidence, theories and explanations *Additionally for the Diploma (accredited):* 5. exercise authority in complex social situations 6. manage risk to self, service users and colleagues 7. enable people to develop support networks and advocate for themselves 8. challenge unacceptable practice 9. reflect on personal and professional development	Domains of the Professional Capabilities Framework (relating to numbered outcomes): • professionalism (all) • values and ethics (1, 5, 8, 9) • diversity (1, 2) • rights, justice and economic wellbeing (4, 5) • knowledge (3, 4, 5, 6) • critical reflection and analysis (all) • intervention and skills (2, 3) • contexts and organisations (1, 5, 6,) • professional leadership (8, 9)

Additionally for the Masters: 10. critically evaluate current research and research methodologies in social work 11. define a research question and design a suitable research method to address that question 12. conduct information searches through a variety of means to support knowledge-based analysis and action. 13. assess and manage the ethics and values inherent in the undertaking of social work research 14. conduct a piece of independent research	HCPC Standards of Proficiency (relating to numbered outcomes): 1. Safe and effective (5,6,8) 3. Fitness to practice (6) 4. Autonomous professional judgement (4, 5) 6. Non-discriminatory practice (1, 7) 7. Confidentiality (1) 8. Communication skills (1, 2) 9. Working with others (1) 10. Record keeping (3) 11. Reflection (3, 4, 9) 12. QA (4) 14. Use of knowledge and skills (4) 15. Safety (6, 8)

B: (ii) Skills – transferable

Able to: *For the Diploma(non-accredited):* 1. effectively use ICT to access and disseminate relevant information 2. work co-operatively with others 3. communicate effectively to a wide range of audiences	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • practice learning (all)
Additionally for the Diploma (accredited): 4. take the initiative and make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations; 5. handle conflict 6. undertake self-evaluation and reflection 7. define personal professional learning needs and continue to advance knowledge, understanding and skills	Types/methods of assessment • a placement report
Additionally for the Masters: 8. address complex issues systematically	Domains of the Professional Capabilities Framework (relating to numbered outcomes): • professionalism (all) • values and ethics (all) • knowledge (1) • critical reflection and analysis (6, 8) • contexts and organisations (2, 8) • professional leadership (7, 8)

	HCPC Standards of Proficiency (relating to numbered outcomes):
	1. Safe and effective (2, 6)
	3. Fitness to practice (7)
	4. Autonomous professional judgement (4, 8)
	8. Communication skills (2, 3)
	9. Working with others (2)
	10. Record keeping (8)
	11. Reflection (6)
	14. Use of knowledge and skills (4)
	15. Safety (2, 6)

C: Experience and other attributes	
For the Diploma (non-accredited): Will undertake a 70 day first placement. *For the Masters and Diploma (accredited):* Will undertake: 1. 170 days of practice learning in social care, under the supervision of an approved practice educator, plus 30 skills days. The placement days are divided into a 70 day first placement and a 100 day second placement. 2. Students will have different practice experience in the first and last placement 3. In the last placement students will undertake tasks to prepare them for statutory interventions	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • practice learning (all) • communication skills training groups (all)
Additionally students will: 4. Develop skills for self-managed life long learning 5. Develop an adaptable and flexible approach to study and work 6. Identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • a placement report (all)
	Domains of the Professional Capabilities Framework (relating to numbered outcomes): Placements are designed to enable students to meet the relevant level in all nine of the PCF domains.
7. In the last placement, identify how own practice relates to the Chief Social Workers' Knowledge and Skills Statement for social work, in preparation for their first year in employment	HCPC Standards of Proficiency (relating to numbered outcomes): Placements are designed to enable students to demonstrate proficiency in all the relevant areas.

Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Social Work
Professional Capabilities Framework for social work (TCSW)
HCPC Standards of Education and Training
HCPC Standards of Proficiency
HCPC Standards of conduct, performance and ethics
The Chief Social Workers' Knowledge and Skills Statements

University award regulations
To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.

Departmental policies on assessment and feedback
Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website: http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/
Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website: http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/

Are electives permitted?	No
Can a Languages For All (LFA) module be taken ab initio (i.e. beginner level) in Stage 1?	No

Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

Postgraduate Certificate Social Welfare – year 1

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Readiness for Practice 20M		
Knowledge for Social Work 20M		
Context for Social Work 20M		

Postgraduate Diploma Social Welfare

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Readiness for Practice 20M		Placement 1 60H
Knowledge for Social Work 20M		Developing Practice 20M
Context for Social Work 20M		International Context for Social Work 10M

Postgraduate Diploma Social Work – year 1

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Readiness for Practice 20M	Placement 1 60H	
Knowledge for Social Work 20M	Developing Practice 20M	
Context for Social Work 20M	International Context for Social Work 10M	

Postgraduate Diploma Social Work – year 2

Final 5 weeks of summer vacation	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Placement 2 60H			Current Debates in Social Work 10M
	One of: Health & Disability Social Work 20M Social Work with Children & Families 20M Social Work & Mental Health 20M Youth Social Work 20M		

MA Social Welfare – year 1

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Readiness for Practice 20M	Placement 1 60H	
Knowledge for Social Work 20M	Developing Practice 20M	
Context for Social Work 20M	International Context for Social Work 10M	

MA Social Work – year 2

Final 5 weeks of summer vacation	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Placement 2 60H			Current Debates in Social Work 10M
	One of: Health & Disability Social Work 20M Social Work with Children & Families 20M Social Work & Mental Health 20M Youth Social Work 20M		
Independent Study Module 60M			

Overview of modules

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level[1]	Credit value[2]	Prerequisites	Assessment rules[3]	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment[4]	Independent Study Module?[5]
Readiness for Practice	SPY00068M	7/Masters	20		NC	1. Communication skills wk7 or wk8 Practical skills audit 2. Communication skills wk7 SpT Essay 3. Preparation for practice wk7 SpT Workbook	No
Knowledge for Social Work	SPY00069M	7/Masters	20		NC	1. Examining knowledge wk10 AuT Essay 2. Theories and models wk7 SpT Essay 3. Human development wk 7 SpT Essay	No
Context for Social Work	SPY000708M	7/Masters	20		NC	1. Ethics wk8 AuT Essay 2. Law wk 7 SpT Examination	No

[1] The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

[2] The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

[3] **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

[4] AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

[5] **Independent Study Modules** (ISMs) are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
						3. Social policy wk7 SpT Essay	
Placement 1	SPY00047H	6/Honours	60	Pass Readiness for Practice	NC P/F NR	SuT yr1 w10 report	No
Developing Social Work Practice	SPY00072M	7/Masters	20		NC	1. Reflective practice wk minus 5 AuT yr2 Essay 2. Assess/intervention AuT yr2 wk minus 5 Case study 3. ICT AuT yr2 wk minus 5 Essay 4. Interagency work AuT yr2 wk minus 5 Case study	No
International Context for Social Work	SPY00073M	7/Masters	10		NC	Wk minus 5 AuT yr2 Essay	No
Placement 2	SPY00048H	6/Honours	60	Pass Placement 1	NC P/F NR	Wk6 SpT yr2 Report	No
Research Dissertation	SPY00074M	7/Masters	60		NC	Wk3 SuT yr2 Dissertation	Yes
Current Debates Social Work Practice	SPY00080M	7/Masters	10		NC	Wk7 SuT yr2 Essay	No

Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
Social Work with Children & Families	SPY00077M	7/Masters	20		NC	Wk10 SpT yr2 Essay	No
Health & Disability Social Work	SPY00076M	7/Masters	20		NC	Wk10 SpT yr2 Essay	No
Mental Health Social Work	SPY00079M	7/Masters	20		NC	Wk10 SpT yr2 Essay	No
Youth Social Work	SPY00078M	7/Masters	20		NC	Wk10 SpT yr2 Essay	No

Transfers out of or into the programme	
The need to cover all the HCPC requirements for social work means that transfers in from other programmes are not possible.	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	**Date approved**
No compensation allowed for failed modules Placement modules NR Credits required for awards as follows: • PG Dip Social Welfare 90M and 60H – where this is all first year work • PG Dip Social Work 120M and 120H – where this is all modules except the ISM • MA Social Work 180M and 120H • (PG Cert in Social Welfare is not exceptional and requires 60M) Some assessment timings – see table above	2009 June 2013
To meet the validation requirements of the HCPC 1. the external examiner for the MA Social Work must be appropriately experienced and qualified and registered as a Social Worker with the HCPC. 2. Any aegrotat award is not validated by the HCPC and will not provide eligibility to apply for admission to the Register of Social Workers	19/12/13

Quality and Standards
The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced. Quality assurance and enhancement processes include: - The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation   - The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector   - Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes   - The acquisition of feedback from students by departments.   More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/
Departmental Statements on Audit and Review Procedures are available at: http://cms.york.ac.uk/terminalfour/SiteManager?ctfn=publish&fnno=30&sid=32825

Date on which this programme information was updated:	August 2016
Departmental web page:	http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/

Please note
The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided. Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions. The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.