UNIVERSITY OF YORK

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in: July 2016	
Awarding institution	**Teaching institution**
University of York	University of York and UCLAN
Department(s)	**Board of Studies**
Social Policy and Social Work	Social Policy and Social Work
Award(s) and programme title(s)	**Level of qualification**
MA Social Work Practice (Think Ahead)	Level 7 (Masters)

Award(s) available *only* as interim awards (i.e. not available for direct entry)
PG Cert in Applied Social Welfare[+]
PG Dip in Social Work Practice (Think Ahead)*
[+] This is an exit award and is not approved by the HCPC as providing a professional qualification in social work
* The Postgraduate Diploma element of the programme (i.e. the first year) was approved by the HCPC in 2016. Students who have successfully completed the first year of the programme have completed an HCPC-approved Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work (although they will not receive the award if continuing to the MA) and can make application to the HCPC to join the register of social workers in England.

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 must: • Hold or achieve at least a 2:1 degree;   • Have GCSE Maths and English at grade c or equivalent;   • 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;   • Show a passion for improving the lives of people with mental health problems; and.   • Demonstrate key social work attributes including resilience, empathy, and intelligence.   In all cases the offer of a place is subject to satisfactory clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service 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 Social Work Practice (Think Ahead)	2 years full time	July 16 and 17	Face to face off campus with additional practice learning in NHS Mental Health Trusts and Local Authorities		

Language of study	English

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

The Postgraduate Diploma element of the programme (i.e. the first year) was approved by the HCPC in 2016. Students who have successfully completed the first year of the programme have completed an HCPC-approved Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work (although they will not receive the award if continuing to the MA) and can make application to the HCPC to join the register of social workers in England.

Educational aims of the programme(s)

This programme is designed for career-switchers and those wishing to study a fast-track route to a social work qualification, with a specialism in mental health social work. It is designed for those who do not have a qualification in Social Work but have obtained a good 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)

b) further develop their academic skills (critical reasoning and research) in the complex context of modern mental health 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 (particularly mental health social work) informed by current practice, scholarship and research;

(additionally at Diploma level)

- provide, through experience on placement, an opportunity for students to develop valuable generic skills (communication; problem-solving; decision-making; independent learning; taking responsibility)
- allow students to develop deeper knowledge, skills and critical awareness in mental health 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 or
- equip students with the expertise to practice systemic social work practice and influence the practice of others

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	
Students will have knowledge and understanding of: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 1. the location of social work and mental health services within historical and comparative perspectives 2. the range of social work and mental health services and their location within the contemporary arena	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • lectures (all) • group work, including online groups (all) • workshops and presentations (5,6) • individual study, including online study tasks (all) • tutorial support (all)

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 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 9. biological, psychological and social models which are used to understand mental health problems *Additionally for the Diploma:* 10. the nature of social work practice with a variety of service users, in different organisational (including inter-disciplinary) contexts 11. models for social work processes, including assessment, planning,	Domains of the Professional Capabilities Framework (relating to numbered outcomes): • professionalism (1, 12) • values and ethics (4) • diversity (6) • rights, justice and economic wellbeing (7, 8) • knowledge (3, 5, 6, 11, 13,14, 16) • critical reflection and analysis (all) • intervention and skills (2, 9, 10,11,12) • contexts and organisations (1, 2, 3, 10) • professional leadership (15, 16)
	HCPC Standards of Proficiency (relating to numbered outcomes): • Legal and ethical boundaries (3, 4, 5) • Autonomous professional judgement (10, 11, 12) • Culture, equality, diversity (1, 6) • Working with others (2, 10) • Knowledge (all) • Use of knowledge (14, 15, 16)

intervention and evaluation 12. the needs and issues that confront clients in the areas of mental health, physical health, disability, learning difficulties and child care 13. accountability within complex organisations 14. research-based theory and alternative perspectives 15. current social work research and the relevance of such research to practice *Additionally for the Masters:* 16. the evidence base for social work practice, and critiques of evidence-based practice	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • Open essays – various types (1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, • Critical reflections (4, 10, 11, 12, 13) • Group presentation (12) • Open book examination (3, 5) • Research paper or in-depth analysis (14,15,16)

B: (i) Skills – discipline related	
Students will be able to: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 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 and evaluate, and bring working relationships to a close 4. analyse and synthesise information, and weigh competing evidence, theories	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • practice learning (all) • case-based exercises (1) • communication skills training groups (2)

and explanations *Additionally for the Diploma:* 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. work effectively with families and communities 9. challenge unacceptable practice 10. reflect on personal and professional development *Additionally for the Masters:* 11. critically evaluate current research and research methodologies in social work 12. conduct information searches through a variety of means to support knowledge-based analysis and action. 13. conduct a piece of independent research or extended study into a specialist area of social work practice	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • Practice placement portfolios (1-10) • Research paper or in-depth critical analysis (11-13)
	Domains of the Professional Capabilities Framework (relating to numbered outcomes): • professionalism (all) • values and ethics (1, 5, 9, 10) • 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, 11, 12, 13)
	HCPC Standards of Proficiency (relating to numbered outcomes): 1. Safe and effective (5,6,9) 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, 10) 12. QA (4) 14. Use of knowledge and skills (4) 15. Safety (6, 9)

B: (ii) Skills - transferable	
Students will be able to: *For the Masters, Diploma and Certificate:* 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 *Additionally for the Diploma:* 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 *Additionally for the Masters:* 8. address complex issues systematically	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): • Practice learning (all)
	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) • Practice placement portfolios (1-8) • Research paper or in-depth critical analysis (8)
	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	
Students will undertake: *For the Masters and Diploma:* 1. 200 days of practice learning in social work, under the supervision of an approved practice educator, plus 40 skills days. The placement days are divided into a 70 day first placement and a 130 day second placement. 2. Students will have different practice experiences during their placements 3. In the last placement students will undertake tasks to prepare them for statutory interventions 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	Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes): - practice learning (all) - communication skills training groups (all)
	Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes) Practice placement portfolios (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.
	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
HCPC Standards of Education and Training
HCPC Standards of Proficiency
HCPC Standards of conduct, performance and ethics
Knowledge and Skills Statement for Child and Family Social Work
Knowledge and Skills Statement for Social Workers in Adult Services

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

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

Masters – Year 1 – all core modules

Summer school	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Readiness for Social Work Practice (20M)	Placement 1 (20M)		Placement 2 (40M)	
Social Work Knowledge and Intervention (20M)				
Social Work Law, Policy and Practice (20M)				

Masters – Year 2 – option modules

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Practice Research (60M)			
Effective Practice in Systemic Social Work (60M)			

Postgraduate Diploma – all core modules

Summer school	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Readiness for Social Work Practice (20M)	Placement 1 (20M)		Placement 2 (40M)	

Social Work Knowledge and Intervention (20M)	
Social Work Law, Policy and Practice (20M)	

Postgraduate Certificate – all core modules

Summer school	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Readiness for Social Work Practice (20M)				
Social Work Knowledge and Intervention (20M)				
Social Work Law, Policy and Practice (20M)				

Summer school	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
Year 1:					
Readiness for Social Work Practice (20M)					
Social Work					

Knowledge and Intervention (20M)				
Social Work Law, Policy and Practice (20M)				
	Placement 1 (20M)			
		Placement 2 (40M)		
Year 2:				
	Practice Research (60M) or Effective Practice in Systemic Social Work (60M)			
				Final award board: September

Progression Point
The Postgraduate Diploma element of the programme (i.e. the first year) was approved by the HCPC in 2016. Students who have successfully completed the first year of the programme have completed an HCPC-approved Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work (although they will not receive the award if continuing to the MA) and can make application to the HCPC to join the register of social workers in England.

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 Social Work Practice	SPY00092M	7/Masters	20	None	NC	• Summer school week 4 – communication skills practical • Summer school week 6 – two essays and one audio/visual critical reflection • 2 weeks prior to start of AuT – one essay	No
Social Work Knowledge & Intervention	SPY00090M	7/Masters	20	None	NC	• Summer school week 5 – group presentation • AuT week 3 – one essay • AuT week 8 – one essay	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.

Social Work Law, Policy & Practice	SPY00091M	7/Masters	20	None	NC	• Summer school week 5 – examination • AuT week 10 – one essay	No
Placement 1	SPY00093M	7/Masters	20	Pass Readiness for Social Work Practice	NC NR P/F – some elements only	• SpT week 5 – practice portfolio	No
Placement 2	SPY00095M	7/Masters	40	Pass Placement 1	NC NR P/F – some elements only	• SuVac 10 weeks after end of SuT – practice portfolio	No

Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
Practice Research	SPY00099M	7/Masters	60	None	NC	• SuVac 11 weeks after end of SuT – research paper, lay summary, conference presentation and knowledge exchange and impact plan	Yes
Effective Practice in Systemic Social Work	SPY00098M	7/Masters	60	None	NC P/F – some elements only	• SuVac 11 weeks after end of SuT – practice portfolio including in-depth critical analysis	Yes

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**

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/

Date on which this programme information was updated:	9.9.15
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.