

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MSc Social Work
2	BCU Course Code	PT1235
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	Social Work England

6	Course Description
	<p>We have over 45 years' experience in educating and training people to become social workers in the super-diverse and cosmopolitan city of Birmingham. If you already have a degree and want to become a professional social worker, successful completion of this generic course will enable you to apply for registration with the regulator to obtain the protected title of social worker and work with children and adults in a variety of areas.</p> <p>Once you are registered, you will be immediately ready and able to engage in social work practice with any vulnerable citizen group in any setting. This includes working with children and families, adults, disabled people, older people and/or people with mental health problems in the local authority, health, or private, independent or voluntary sectors.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>You will experience student-centred academic learning on campus and practice-based learning in a service delivery setting in the community.</p> <p>Academic learning will include a carefully blended mix of face to face lectures, workshops and seminars, complemented by online resources. In addition to practitioners and academics from other relevant disciplines, teaching staff include experienced social work academics, practitioners, and service users and carers, who are experts by experience. They will assist you to obtain the knowledge, skills, values and professional capabilities you need for successful social work practice in today's world. This includes legal, theoretical and research knowledge, the core skills of reflection, assessment, communication, resilience, report writing and leadership, and the values of being empowering, person-centred, strengths-based, and results and outcomes focused.</p> <p>Half of the course involves gaining invaluable direct practice experience through placements, provided by our practice partners and overseen by our dedicated practice tutors. You will experience two placements: one in year 1 and the second in year 2. Whilst on placement you will be supported by a qualified practice educator who will always be a registered social worker. Our practice partners include Local Authorities and established private, independent and voluntary sector agencies. There are also a number of innovative projects that allow you to experience social work in the growing area of educational settings.</p>

	<p>Our experienced academic staff have worked in a variety of social work teams and settings including child and adult safeguarding, foster-care, physical and learning disabilities, sensory impairment, older people, mental health teams and hospital social work.</p> <p>You will be taught at our modern City South Campus and have access to the Mary Seacole library, Personal Development Department (PDD), careers support, disability services, accommodation services, financial advice, student counselling services, students union, study spaces, laptops, skills rooms, and a variety of shops and cafes.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Science Social Work	7	180
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Certificate Social Studies	7	60 ¹
	Postgraduate Diploma Social Studies	7	120 ²
	Postgraduate Diploma Social Work	7	120
	Master of Science Social Studies	7	180 ³

* None of the awards titled 'Social Studies' will confer eligibility to apply for registration with the regulator and use the legally protected title 'Social Worker'.

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For modules with more than one item of assessment, all items of assessment must be passed in order to pass the module 2. Compensation of marginally failed modules is not permitted 3. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted 4. Students must pass the zero-credit rated placement modules and successfully complete 120 / 180 credits respectively to be eligible for the award of PG Dip or MSc Social Work

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time	City South	2 years	PT1235

¹ Students who achieve 60 Level 7 credits are eligible for the award of PG Cert Social Studies.

² Students who achieve 120 Level 7 credits but fail any of the Level 5 or 6 professional practice requirements are eligible for the award of PG Dip Social Studies.

³ Students who achieve 180 Level 7 credits but fail any of the Level 5 or 6 professional practice requirements are eligible for the award of MSc Social Studies.

10	Entry Requirements
<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.</p>	

11	Course Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course a successful student will:	
1	have a comprehensive, systematic and critically aware understanding of the theoretical knowledge base and legal and policy frameworks of contemporary social work, including the drive to engage in advanced scholarship, exercise initiative, demonstrate research mindedness, creativity and original thinking and study and act autonomously, enabling them to meet the requirements of the regulator at a highly effective level, and stay at the forefront of the social work discipline.
2	be able to apply, during direct work-based practice, and management of practice, in a critically reflective, evidence-informed, person centred, culturally competent, empathetic, empowering and anti-discriminatory manner the knowledge, methods, skills and values of their profession. This involves using human growth, psychological and sociological perspectives, research and other sources of evidence to meet the professional capabilities, whilst safeguarding people at risk, advancing human rights, social justice and wellbeing and engaging in asset-based approaches and ethical decision making about social problems in complex, conflicting, uncertain and unpredictable situations.
3	have integrated learning from the disciplines of Law, Social Policy, Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Epistemology, Business, Politics, Economics, Philosophy and Health related disciplines, and have the willingness and ability to collaborate, work in partnership and learn from and with service users, carers, employers, other learners and a range of social work and other relevant agencies, organisations and professionals.
4	be professional and work-ready, results and outcome focussed, with current knowledge, clear communication, ICT, assessment, risk management, leadership, resilience, relationship building, problem solving, team and independent working skills, and the ability to be politically and self-aware, taking personal responsibility, seeking appropriate guidance and negotiating sometimes contradictory accountabilities; supported by a commitment to continuing professional development and lifelong learning.
5	have a global outlook that enables access to, understanding, valuing, and learning from cultural diversity, including international exemplars and perspectives, and transnational social, political, legal, economic and research developments.

12	Course Requirements																																					
12a	<p>Level 7:</p> <p>The MSc Social Work course is run over two years.</p> <p><u>Year 1:</u></p> <p>In order to progress from Year 1 to Year 2, students must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits) and the two professional practice modules Core Skills for Practice, and First Placement.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SOW7009</td> <td>Core Skills for Practice</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOW7007</td> <td>Law and Social Policy</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOW7008</td> <td>Ethics, Values and Anti-Discriminatory Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOW7010</td> <td>Theories and Methods for Social Work Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LBR7339</td> <td>Research Methods of Enquiry</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOW7013</td> <td>First Placement</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Year 2:</u></p> <p>In order to complete this course, a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits) during the second year, and the professional practice module Last Placement:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SOW7011</td> <td>Safeguarding Law and Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LBR7337</td> <td>Dissertation</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOW7012</td> <td>Enhancing Transformative Capabilities in Professional Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOW7014</td> <td>Last Placement</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Core Skills for Practice, First Placement and Last Placement are professionally required modules that have 0 credit value. These modules must be successfully completed in order to achieve either the MSc Social Work or the PG Dip Social Work awards, leading to eligibility to apply to register with the regulator.</p>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	SOW7009	Core Skills for Practice	0	SOW7007	Law and Social Policy	20	SOW7008	Ethics, Values and Anti-Discriminatory Practice	20	SOW7010	Theories and Methods for Social Work Practice	20	LBR7339	Research Methods of Enquiry	20	SOW7013	First Placement	0	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	SOW7011	Safeguarding Law and Practice	20	LBR7337	Dissertation	60	SOW7012	Enhancing Transformative Capabilities in Professional Practice	20	SOW7014	Last Placement	0
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12b Structure Diagram
Level 7
Year 1

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core SOW7007 Law and Social Policy (20 credits) SOW7008 Ethics, Values and Anti-Discriminatory Practice (20 credits) SOW7009 Core Skills for Practice (0 credits)	Core SOW7010 Theories and Methods for Social Work Practice (20 credits) LBR7339 Research: Methods of Enquiry (20 credits) SOW7013 First Placement (0 credits)

Year 2

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core SOW7011 Safeguarding Law and Practice (20 credits)	Core SOW7012 Enhancing Transformative Capabilities in Professional Practice (20 credits)
Core LBR 7337 Dissertation (60 credits) SOW7014 Last Placement (0 credits)	

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

12% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	417
Directed Learning	1374
Private Study	1624
Total Hours	3415

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	55%
Exam	9%
In-Person	36%