Social Work
BA (Hons)

Consistently ranked highly in league tables (Guardian University Guide)

...enabling the service user find a way to life’s solutions
Do you have the qualities required to be a social worker?

Sometimes people find themselves in crisis situations and the role of a Social Worker is key to providing the right support at the right time to enable an individual or a family to improve the quality of their own lives. A crisis comes in many forms and can affect us all at some point in our lives. Social exclusion, poverty, health issues and abuse can all contribute to someone feeling in need of social support.

Social workers can provide that support to individuals, families and groups within the community. They also work in a wide variety of settings including service users’ homes, schools, hospitals and other public sector and voluntary organisations.

The BA (Hons) Social Work course offered by Oxford Brookes University has been identified as one of the best in the country. We will provide you with the detailed knowledge, skills and values to enable you to make a real difference in people’s lives.

We are committed to embracing diversity as well as to the rights and empowerment of service-users, by tackling injustice and inequalities in society. Once qualified, many social workers go on to secure employment in particular areas such as children and families, older people, mental health, disabilities, or work with offenders.

About the course

This General Social Care Council (GSCC) approved course is the qualification you need if you wish to become a social worker in England.

Your first year is designed to provide a common academic and skills foundation for all social work practice. Core modules include:

• human growth and development
• law and social policy
• professional communication
• professional practice.

In your second year you will study modules on specialist social work with children and families, adults, mental health and research methods.

In your third year you will take modules in professional development and write a dissertation on a social work-related topic.

To support the interprofessional working that is essential in contemporary practice, you will have the opportunity, throughout your course, to learn alongside students on other health care courses such as occupational therapy and nursing.

Work placements

You will be prepared for your work placements by undertaking a Fit for Practice module in the first year, where teaching takes place in our dedicated Communication Suite. This versatile environment can be adapted to simulate a range of scenarios that you will experience in a ‘real life’ practice location.

In both Years 2 and 3 you will undertake 100-day work-based placements.

Placements can include work with individuals, families or groups. Statutory, voluntary, private and independent organisations all offer opportunities to engage with service users in a very real and meaningful way. These settings include hospitals, agency teams, family centres, day centres and residential care. Your competence in practice is assessed by a suitably qualified and experienced practice assessor.
Teaching, learning and assessment

Oxford Brookes University continues to improve its position in the league tables thanks to good graduate prospects and strong student satisfaction ratings (The Times Good University Guide 2010). Our course is consistently ranked highly in league tables (Guardian University Guide).

The teaching team represents all aspects of social work with particular strengths in child care/child protection, disabilities and mental health. We have an extensive team of practitioners who work with us to help you link theory to practice.

The "Voices of Experience" are an invaluable team of service users and carers who help in many ways, from interviewing potential students, to teaching and assessing students work. The teaching and learning pattern includes an exciting blend of lectures, outside speakers, group work and use of multimedia. You will also have the opportunity to get actively involved and are empowered to contribute your own knowledge and experience. Our modules are assessed on the basis of coursework, which include assignments, portfolios and presentations.

Please note that computer literacy is essential for full participation in and completion of this course. Access to a home computer and the internet is highly desirable.

Specific entry requirements

- Five GCSEs at grade C or above including Mathematics and English Language.
- Three A-levels at grade BBC or equivalent level 3 studies. For example Access, BTEC or Advanced (14-19) Diploma.
- Experience of paid or voluntary work with vulnerable people. This experience should be sufficient to enable you to clearly demonstrate your commitment, motivation and understanding of social work’s knowledge, skills and values.

All applicants must be screened for fitness to practise and undertake an enhanced Criminal Record Bureau check.

Aged over 21 years

- Applicants who do not meet all of the academic entry criteria can still be considered if they have significant and relevant life or work experience with vulnerable people. However we would expect to see all applicants with a GCSE at C or above in Mathematics and English Language plus further studies at Level 3. For example, an A-level or Open University course in a relevant subject.

We also welcome applications from individuals who already have a related degree in another subject and may be suitable to study and opt for the fast-track route; MA or PGDip in Social Work.

Professional qualification

When you enrol on the course, you will register with the General Social Care Council (GSCC), as a student. Upon successful completion of the BA, you will have fully qualified social worker status with the GSCC.

Continuing Professional Development

We offer a range of continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities for qualified social workers including the Social Work BA/Graduate Diploma Post-qualifying Specialist Level Studies, MA/PGDip in Social Work, and the MSc/PGDip/PGCert in Children, Young People and Family Wellbeing.

More information

http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/courses/cpd
Open days

Please check our school website regularly where details of our open days. If you would like to have a tour of the university campus, please contact the enquiry centre on +44 (0) 1865 484848, to make the necessary arrangements.

Bursaries

Bursaries for social work students are available and are managed by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

Address: Sandyford House, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1BD
Telephone: +44 (0) 845 6101122
Email: swb@ppa.nhs.uk
Website: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students/825.aspx

How to apply

Applications for the course must be made through UCAS, unless you are applying for the part-time route, where applications must be made direct to the university.

If you are interested in applying for the part time route, please contact the Programme Administrator.

UCAS Codes
Single Honours: L500 BA/SK

International applicants

We are pleased to offer a number of places to international applicants. Applicants for whom English is a second language must be able to demonstrate that their level of English is of a standard that is sufficient for study at undergraduate level.

For more details, please contact us.

To obtain a large-print copy of (or sections of) this publication or to enquire about other formats please contact +44 (0) 1865 484848 or email query@brookes.ac.uk