

Social work

Apryl's career perspective

'The decision to study Social Work at Sussex was an easy one for me to make. With access to a wealth of resources, and lectures led by professionals at the forefront of contemporary social work research, what more could I have wanted? I found the talks from Service Users and Carers particularly eye-opening, bringing to life just how important social workers are in our society. This – coupled with thought-provoking lectures covering topics across the social work spectrum – has provided me with a strong professional knowledge base. Since graduating I've been employed by Brighton & Hove City Council as a social worker in the Long-Term Children and Families Team, working with children subject to Child Protection Plans as well as with court cases. The demands of social work are great, especially for someone just starting out, but the support of the Department, my peers and also during two diverse and valuable placement experiences, has fully prepared me for my current job.'

Apryl Golding
Social Worker,
Brighton & Hove
City Council



Essentials

What social work degrees are there?

Social Work (3 years full time)
Social Work (4 years part time)
Working with Children and Young People

Post-qualifying social work programmes

We also offer post-qualifying (PQ) programmes in social work for those already holding a social work qualification. For more information on our PQ programmes and admissions requirements, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/prospectivestudents/pqstudy

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer range: ABB-BBB

Typical IB diploma offer range: 32-34 points

We also welcome applications from students taking a QAA-recognised Access to Higher Education diploma

For other non-school leavers, we look for evidence of recent study and/or wider relevant experience and may require you to produce a piece of written work in order to assess your academic level. Initial selection, however, is based on the strength of the original UCAS application, especially your personal statement

You are invited to contact the admissions tutor to discuss any queries you may have about your eligibility

What else do I need?

BA in Social Work

All applicants will need to have GCSE grade C or above in Mathematics and English or a recognised equivalent. All applicants who meet the programme requirements will be invited to complete a brief 'intermediate stage' piece of work, which includes writing an extended personal statement in response to set questions. Applicants completing this stage satisfactorily will then be invited to attend a selection day. Candidates are currently required to take part in a group exercise as well as an individual interview. Selection panels usually include a combination of academic staff, social work practitioners and service-user and carer representatives

To be assessed throughout the selection process: written and spoken English; initial awareness of the realities of social work; appropriate personal and intellectual qualities; and commitment to the values and ethics of social work and social care

All candidates offered an interview will be required to complete a declaration of previous criminal convictions, cautions, warnings or reprimands, including those that are 'spent' or 'pending', and will be asked about these at interview. All candidates offered a place on a programme will then be required to satisfactorily complete a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check (including a check of all cautions and warnings as well as convictions) before their place on the programme is confirmed. Failure to divulge any relevant issue at this point will result in automatic disqualification

All candidates offered a place on the course are currently required by the General Social Care Council to satisfy a health check prior to admission. Appropriate support will be offered to candidates who identify a disability, including dyslexia, both at selection stage and throughout the degree

BA in Working with Children and Young People

Selection decisions will be taken on the basis of your UCAS application. There will be no mandatory interviews. In addition to any academic requirements, offers will also be subject to receipt of satisfactory CRB checks

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

Additional Government funding

For details, visit www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

How do I find out more?

For further information, contact:

E eswenquiries@sussex.ac.uk

T +44 (0)1273 872595

Social Work Admissions, Essex House,
University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QQ, UK
www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours. Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787

Why social work?

Social workers work with people in difficulty, sometimes in crisis. This work requires a three-year degree-level professional qualification for those without a prior degree, or a two-year fast-track route at Masters level for those who already have a degree. Only those qualified and registered with the General Social Care Council (GSCC) are able to use the title 'social worker'.

Why social work at Sussex?

- Social work at Sussex scored 92 per cent in the teaching category of the 2010 National Student Survey (NSS).
- Social work at Sussex is ranked 4th in the UK in *The Times Good University Guide 2011* and 6th in *The Times Complete University Guide 2010-11*.
- Rated 14th in the UK in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 95 per cent of our research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and 60 per cent rated as internationally excellent or higher.
- Social work at Sussex has experienced a major period of growth, investment and success. Our enthusiastic staff are committed to enhancing social work teaching and research in the region and to maintaining a national and international reputation.
- Our programmes are run in collaboration with a range of stakeholders including East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, and voluntary and independent sector employers, together with representatives from a number of service-user and carer organisations.
- We enable you to explore key issues relevant to the well-being of families, children and young people at time of national and international focus on these areas.
- Our degrees build on the best of a long and successful tradition of providing social work education at qualifying and post-qualifying levels.
- The excellent quality of teaching is evident from the number of staff receiving Sussex and national teaching awards over recent years.
- Teaching is informed by research being undertaken by top-rated researchers in the social work staff team.
- Teaching provides the opportunity for inter-professional education. Shared learning workshops take place with education and medical students.

Core courses

Courses currently include:

BA (Hons) in Social Work

Year 1

(NB: for those studying on a part-time basis, modules for Year 1 will be taken over two years)

Contexts of Social Work • Human Growth and Development

- Introduction to Professional
- Learning and Development
- Law and Policy for Social Workers
- Preparing for Professional Practice • Values, Ethics and Theories

Year 2

90 days' practice learning

- Partnership and Interprofessional Practice
- Research Methods • Social Work with Children, Young People and Families • Working with Vulnerable Adults

Year 3

110 days' practice learning

- Advanced Skills for Practice
- Dissertation

BA (Hons) in Working with Children and Young People

Years 1-3

In addition to the core courses, you take three options each year, selected from a range of options to suit your interests and chosen career path. For example, those primarily interested in social care, social work, law or youth work may select options on youth offending, communication with children, the experiences of looked-after children (children in care) or education in non-school contexts. Those interested in teaching may choose options designed to enable them to develop specialist subject knowledge in English or mathematics in preparation for Initial Teacher Education at Primary or Secondary level

Year 1

Child Development • Childhood: Perspectives and Debates

- Policy and Legal Frameworks
- Working with Children, including observational placements

Year 2

Interprofessional Practice

- Introduction to Research Methods • Youth, Adolescence and Transition • Youth: Perspectives and Debates

Year 3

Care and Parenting • Experiences of Looked-After Children

- Dissertation • Families: Perspectives and Debates
- Social Exclusion

What sort of career could I have?

The demand for social workers remains high and employment prospects in many areas of practice, policy formation or research are excellent both locally and nationally. The Government's personalisation agenda is changing the pattern of service provision in relation to social work, health and education, and interprofessional practice is developing fast, bringing new exciting prospects:

- social work with local authorities: with children in need, in family centres, or on a youth offenders team
- social work with older people, disabled people, or people with mental health needs
- voluntary sector: working with organisations for service users with substance or alcohol misuse problems, or people who are homeless or marginalised in other ways
- beyond direct practice, there are opportunities in management, specialist consultancy, training, planning and strategic roles, as well as possibilities for further academic study and research.

How will I learn?

We provide a variety of learning opportunities throughout the degree, including workshops, seminars and lectures, led by academic staff, researchers, practitioners, service users and carers. You will be encouraged to develop the skills of learning independently and learning in a group, both essential for professional practice.

Social Work

You will undertake a range of different kinds of assessment tasks, including reflective journals, essays, report writing, placement portfolios and, in Year 3, a short project that focuses on the integration of theory and practice. Academic work is regularly assessed and University staff provide regular and constructive feedback to enable you to develop your practice. Work in placements is assessed by practice assessors supported by University staff. To be awarded the BA, competence must be assessed as satisfactory on both the academic and practice-based parts of the programme.

Working with Children and Young People

There will be essays, 'open book' examinations, presentations, and writing to reflect the different academic, personal and pre-professional skills this programme enables you to develop. Our faculty, together with local employers and services across the University, pay careful attention to your employment needs.

What will I achieve?

You will achieve the required learning outcomes set out by the General Social Care Council (GSCC) for registration as a qualified social worker. For details of registration procedures, visit www.gsc.org.uk

Fees and funding

A non-means-tested bursary is currently available for almost all England-based social work students who are not funded throughout their training by their employer. This will incorporate a contribution towards practice-placement travelling costs.

Further information about bursaries and eligibility is available at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students

What to do next

You need to apply via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and details on how to do this can be found on pages 133-136. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, you can contact Social Work Admissions at the address in Essentials, or Undergraduate Admissions (details on back cover). Employees of East Sussex Council, West Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove Council hoping for secondment will need to apply through separate procedures in addition to applying via UCAS; details are available from the respective training sections. There will be a mix of independent and seconded students within each year group.

We aim to recruit a diverse intake of students each year and welcome applicants from all backgrounds.



Degrees

Social Work

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: L500

BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: L501

We are keen to develop innovation in learning and teaching. In Year 1, we develop the use of problem-based learning and learning from practice-based scenarios, which set the scene for a continuing emphasis on the integration of theory and practice in Years 2 and 3. We also develop the use of IT in learning, and its application in supporting learning on and off campus. You will have the opportunity to develop your computer literacy and by the end of the BA will have reached the level required by the GSCC.

In Year 1, you have the opportunity to learn directly from service users and carers and to develop a greater understanding of their experience. You will shadow an experienced social worker and reflect on the experience via assessed work and seminar discussions.

In Years 2 and 3, there is currently a minimum of 200 days of learning in practice settings, where you will gain experience of providing services to a range of service user groups. Our placements build on our excellent partnerships with local social work agencies and our collaboration with groups of users and carers, allowing you to experience stimulating and rewarding placement opportunities in a range of settings.

Working with Children and Young People

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: L520

This BA focuses on learning about, and working with, children and young people. It is a multidisciplinary and forward-looking programme and includes the study of child and adolescent development, legalisative frameworks, parenting, professional roles, social exclusion and research methods appropriate to the discipline.

Opportunities will be provided to develop insights in to policy and practice, with observational placements. Your learning will take place within a framework of lectures, seminars, workshops, and observational placements in a variety of settings such as schools, residential care homes and voluntary organisations.

Taught by leading researchers and expert practitioners within education, social work and social care, this BA is suitable for those wishing to enter into the children's workforce whether in the UK or elsewhere, and also for those wishing to consider professional training as social workers or teachers at postgraduate level as well as being of interest to those interested in carrying out further study in this fascinating field.

This programme is under development and subject to validation.