

Social work and social care

Essentials

Taught programmes

MA degrees

Childhood and Youth Studies
Effective Practice in Integrated Children's Services
Leadership and Management in Integrated Children's Services
Social Work

MSc degree

Social Research Methods (for details, refer to page 14)

Postgraduate diplomas

Childhood and Youth Studies
Effective Practice in Integrated Children's Services
Leadership and Management in Integrated Children's Services

Postgraduate certificates

Childhood and Youth Studies
Effective Practice in Integrated Children's Services
Leadership and Management in Integrated Children's Services
Practice Education

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/pgstudy/pqprogrammes

Research programmes

PhD Social Work and Social Care
Doctor of Social Work (DSW)

Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

MA in Childhood and Youth Studies

A first- or second-class undergraduate honours degree; exceptionally other candidates may be accepted who demonstrate ability to study at the appropriate level

MA, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Effective Practice in Integrated Children's Services; MA, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership and Management in Integrated Children's Services

A first- or second-class undergraduate honours degree; exceptionally other candidates may be accepted who demonstrate ability to study at the appropriate level. Candidates must hold a professional qualification relevant to integrated children's services and be employed in a relevant position in an integrated children's services setting

MA in Social Work

A first- or second-class undergraduate honours degree; six to nine months of relevant practice experience; GCSE grade A-C Mathematics and English (or equivalent). Early application is advised. All applications for the MA are made via UCAS (refer to Admissions procedure, below)

MSc in Social Research Methods

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in any relevant social sciences subject, but applicants from other backgrounds may be considered. You are also welcome to apply if you hold a Masters qualification that did not include research training. Applicants should submit an outline (two to three pages) of their research interests and state how studying for the MSc will help develop those interests, possibly for further research

Postgraduate Certificate in Practice Education

A first- or second-class undergraduate honours degree; exceptionally other candidates may be accepted who demonstrate ability to study at the appropriate level. Candidates must be employed in a relevant position involving student or staff supervision or mentoring

PhD

A Masters degree (with a dissertation at grade B+ or equivalent) in either Social Research Methods or in a relevant discipline which includes significant research methods training

DSW

A first- or second-class undergraduate honours degree and a Masters degree in a social science discipline; additionally successful applicants will need at least three years of relevant professional experience

English language requirements

IELTS 7.0, with not less than 6.5 in each section. Internet TOEFL with 100 overall, with at least 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading and 27 in both Speaking and Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

Admissions procedure

MA in Social Work

All applications must be submitted online via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The course code is L508 and the initial deadline for applications is 15 January 2012. Details about the UCAS Apply service can be found at www.ucas.com
All programmes in Effective Practice in Integrated Children's Services, Leadership and Management in Integrated Children's Services, and Practice Education
Applications for these programmes are submitted directly to the Department of Social Work and Social Care. Contact our Admissions Coordinator at the address above right for an application form

MA in Childhood and Youth Studies, MSc, PhD and DSW

Applications for these programmes are made via the University's postgraduate application system (refer to pages 154-155)

Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

Further information

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- Social work at Sussex was ranked 3rd in the UK in *The Times Good University Guide 2012*, 5th in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2011-12*, and 13th in the UK in *The Guardian University Guide 2012*.
- Our core research themes are pedagogy of professional education, policy and practice across the life-course, and professional knowledges and methodologies.
- There is a developing portfolio of flexible study opportunities for practitioners from a wide range of disciplines, and for those interested in pursuing research qualifications. The MSc in Social Research Methods offers ESRC-recognised research training in social work research methods. Our thriving DSW and ESRC-recognised PhD programmes provide excellent opportunities for disciplinary and interdisciplinarity doctoral-level study.
- Relationships with local social welfare agencies are excellent. Joint projects include development, training and research initiatives.

Taught programmes

MA in Childhood and Youth Studies 1 year full time/2 years part time

This is an interdisciplinary and interprofessional MA offered in collaboration with anthropology, education, law, psychology and sociology. It will enable you to bring a range of contrasting disciplinary and professional perspectives to bear on policy, practice and research with children and young people.

New research in developmental, psychological, sociocultural, sociolegal, social work and educational domains will be used to scrutinise the differing political and ethical claims upon childhood and youth that inform contemporary policy and practice. Two core courses will introduce the distinctive field of childhood and youth studies and explore key aspects of policy, practice and research from these contrasting perspectives. Options will be offered in a range of topics, enabling you to tailor learning to your individual interests. A research methods course and a research dissertation or work-based project will provide the opportunity for the application of in-depth scholarship to professional practice.

Career opportunities

This MA will be attractive to advanced practitioners, leaders and managers, project development and policy officers, and others working with children and young people in national and international agencies in the statutory and non-governmental sectors. The programme provides an excellent step into doctoral-level study in any academic discipline or profession concerned with childhood and youth.

Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Childhood and Youth Studies

A 120 M-level-credit Postgraduate Diploma and a 60 M-level-credit Postgraduate Certificate are available. These programmes allow candidates not wishing to take the corresponding Masters programme as a whole to take core courses of the MA (Certificate) with relevant options (Diploma).

MA in Effective Practice in Integrated Children's Services**Completion within 5 years**

With the move to Integrated Children's Services it is recognised that practitioners from a range of disciplines need to learn together to develop effectiveness in their new role and multi-disciplinary configuration. This programme will offer such opportunities, based on key interdisciplinary frameworks such as the DfE Common Core of skills and knowledge for the children's workforce.

An in-depth critical inquiry project will provide an opportunity for candidates to develop and demonstrate a leading role in their field. A modular framework will enable you to select the modules most relevant to your professional role and learning needs.

There is flexibility of progression too, with a five-year period within which the programme must be completed. The frequency and availability of modules will be related to workforce needs locally. For this reason, it is not pre-determined exactly which modules should be taken in which year of the programme, although a selection of some core modules should be taken.

Career opportunities

This programme is aimed at experienced practitioners in Children's Services (health, education, or social care) who wish to further develop their knowledge and skills. It will enable you to develop advanced skills and comprehensive knowledge, rooted in recent research evidence, for highly specialised and complex roles in Children's Services.

Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Effective Practice in Integrated Children's Services

A 120 M-level-credit Postgraduate Diploma and a 60 M-level-credit Postgraduate Certificate are available for students who do not wish to undertake a full Masters degree. These shorter programmes of study will still support students' continuing professional development.

MA in Leadership and Management in Integrated Children's Services
5 years part-time

Key developments in national policy have led to the reconfiguration and integration of public services at central and local government level. A new set of challenges has emerged for those now managing multidisciplinary integrated Children's Services.

Work-based learning (including action learning sets and mentoring) will be a significant feature of the programme, enabling you to ground your learning in emergent management practices. The programme will run on a modular basis, enabling you to select the most relevant modules for your professional role and to take them in the order most useful for your development and your other professional commitments. An extended project in the final part of the programme enables you to undertake an in-depth critical inquiry related to your professional role.

Career opportunities

This programme will enable leaders and managers within children's health, education and social care services to develop the knowledge and skills needed for these new roles as set out in *Championing Children* (DfE, 2006): to build teams competent and confident in this new means of service delivery; to put the child and family first; to lead those from outside their own area of expertise; to manage resources in new ways; and to reconcile team members' different working practices and expectations.

Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership and Management in Integrated Children's Services

A 120 M-level-credit Postgraduate Diploma and a 60 M-level-credit Postgraduate Certificate are available for students who do not wish to undertake a full Masters degree. These shorter programmes of study will still support students' continuing professional development.

MA in Social Work
2 years full time

This programme is a fast-track route to professional qualification, completed within two academic years (21 months). It provides a range of stimulating learning opportunities, led by faculty members who are at the forefront of research in their field.

It provides you with the opportunity to consider critically the roles, knowledge and values of social work, with particular reference to effecting personal and social change.

Working within a supportive learning environment, you develop the crucial skills of independent and collaborative group learning, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and the involvement of service users and carers.

200 days are devoted to learning in practice settings, drawing on our excellent partnerships with local social work, social care and health agencies.

Additional admissions requirements

All applications must be submitted via UCAS. Refer to Essentials for more information. During the selection process for this popular programme, applicants will need to demonstrate high standards of written and spoken English, appropriate personal and intellectual qualities and a commitment to the values of social work and care. Selection currently takes place in three stages. Those passing initial screening of the UCAS application form are invited to complete further documentation including an extended personal statement. Those successful at this stage are invited to attend a selection day, including an interview.

Assessing suitability for professional study

Prior to interview, all applicants are required to disclose any criminal convictions, cautions, warnings and reprimands, even if 'spent', and any issues of concern will be explored. Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) enhanced checks are

required for all successful applicants prior to programme entry. Failure to divulge relevant information relating to suitability (offences or other) at any stage, or the receipt of an unsatisfactory CRB check, will usually result in any offer being withdrawn.

All candidates accepting places on the programmes are currently required to satisfy a health check prior to admission, undertaken by the Occupational Health service.

Funding

Bursaries are available for most MA students who are normally resident in England. Fees are paid in part by the NHS Business Services Authority. Visit www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students/825.aspx for more information and eligibility criteria.

Some students seek secondment from a local authority, and grants are then payable by the seconding authority. Contact the relevant training section of the local authority for further information.

Career opportunities

Our graduates go on to work in the field of professional social work and are highly sought after by employers, working with children and families and in adult social care. Many continue their professional development through post-qualifying programmes and go on to take leadership roles in the profession.

Programme structure**Year 1**

Dissertation work • Human Development and Social Relationships • Law and Social Policy • Partnership and Interprofessional Practice • Practice Placement • Research Methods • Theory, Methods and Values.

Year 2

Dissertation • Practice Placement • Situating Social Work • Theory, Methods and Values in Children's/Adult Services Settings.

Assessment

Assessment methods include essays, presentations, placement reports, case studies and a 15,000-word dissertation.

The information for this programme is currently under review. For the most up-to-date information, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg

Other awards associated with the MA in Social Work

The MA in Social Work is the primary programme, combining credit for both M-level academic work and level 3 credit for social work practice. The Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work will be awarded to students on the MA programme who do not complete a dissertation at pass level. Both the MA and the Postgraduate Diploma are approved routes to qualified social work.

The MA in Applied Social Care may be awarded to candidates who meet the requirements for an academic award only, not a professional qualification. The Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Care may be awarded to students not achieving practice requirements and not achieving sufficient M-level credits for the award of a Masters degree.

MSc in Social Research Methods
1 year full time/2 years part time

Refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on page 14 for more information about this programme, including structure and assessment.

Postgraduate Certificate in Practice Education

Half a year

The programme comprises three core modules building on knowledge of adult learning theories and work-based learning and assessment, exploring the management of learning and assessment, facilitating critical reflection on practice education and supervision of literature and research, and ensuring critical reflection on the candidate's own role as a practice educator. Together they facilitate an in-depth understanding of the discipline of teaching and assessment, and a growing awareness of the student's/supervisee's learning experience.

Career opportunities

This programme is for practitioners and managers in any setting in education, health and social care who are involved in the supervision, mentoring and teaching of others. It is designed to enable the development of a full range of knowledge and skills in facilitating the learning of others.

Programme structure

The modules Enabling Work-Based Learning, and Supervision of Professional Learning will normally be taken first. Together they equip you to undertake the full role of practice educator. Teaching the Practice Curriculum is for more experienced practice educators and supervisors who wish to develop their expertise. You must be involved in practice education or supervision of another while undertaking aspects of the programme.

Research programmes

The School of Education and Social Work provides a vibrant interdisciplinary research community. Our core research themes are pedagogy of professional education, policy and practice across the life-course, and professional knowledges and methodologies.

Full-time or part-time research student registration is possible; Sussex particularly welcomes applications from those with an existing professional interest in social work who may wish to combine their studies with continuing work in relevant agencies.

For full-time research students we provide access to computing facilities supplementing those available through University IT Services. There are also research student workrooms, equipped with some PCs.

Routes into doctoral study

Two doctoral routes are available in Social Work and Social Care: the PhD (+3 and 1+3) and the DSW.

The PhD (+3 and 1+3) benefits from research training within the MSc in Social Research Methods (refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on page 14). This is provided by the ESRC-recognised University of Sussex Doctoral Training Centre.

PhD research at Sussex has ESRC recognition.

Funding

For details of ESRC studentships within the School of Education and Social Work, refer to www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/pgstudy/pgffa

Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to work across the public and independent sectors as professional practitioners, managers, policy makers, consultants, or researchers.

PhD in Social Work and Social Care (+3) 2-4 years full time/3-6 years part time

(1+3) 2-5 years full time/5-8 years part time

This programme provides you with the support and resources necessary to complete an original and substantial piece of research, usually but not invariably with a significant empirical component.

You are normally required to take courses offered within the MSc in Social Research Methods (+3 PhD), or to complete the MSc as the first year of the 1+3 PhD. Refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on page 14. The MSc courses are supplemented by social work-specific inputs, including individual tutorial support, open research seminars and student self-support groups.

Applicant profiles

Research students come from a wide variety of contexts and backgrounds, including social work practice and management, social and health care policy and practice fields, criminal justice, youth and community services, and Higher Education. Those undertaking part-time doctoral research are often in current employment in professional practice.

Assessment and progression

The research proposal developed in the first year of the PhD is reviewed by academic faculty before permission to undertake fieldwork is granted. Annual reviews of progress and training needs are conducted. The research is written up as an 80,000-word thesis, judged by an internal and an external examiner. Their examination includes an oral defence.

Recent PhD thesis titles

Secondary traumatic stress: social workers' experiences of hearing stories of trauma

Social work decision-making at the threshold of children's social services

Doctor of Social Work (DSW)

Normally 5 years of part-time study with a minimum registration of 4 years

The part-time DSW suits senior and mid-career professionals in social work, social care or related fields such as health, criminal justice, substance misuse, or youth and community work wanting to take a research-oriented approach to their professional concerns and interests. People who move from practice into Higher Education also find this doctoral degree provides a bridge into a research environment.

The DSW is provided jointly with the Doctor of Education (EdD). It is distinguished from the traditional doctoral route (PhD) by including a structured taught research training programme in Years 1 and 2, designed for part-time professional students.

Additional admissions requirements

Applicants may be considered for admission with advanced standing to the second year of the programme if they have successfully completed appropriate courses on research design and methodology, as part of a comparable doctoral programme or on a Masters-level research programme associated with doctoral studies (eg the MSc in Social Research Methods). Such admission will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Programme structure and assessment

Year 1

Six weekend workshops (Friday evenings and Saturdays over three terms) during which you work in a group to develop research skills. There are two supervised assessed projects designed to develop research skills in context: a critical review of research (8,000 words) and a small-scale research project (10,000 words).

Year 2

Developing critical perspectives. Six weekend workshops (Friday evenings and Saturdays over three terms) designed to raise awareness of significant theoretical and methodological positions. You undertake a critical analytical study of an area related to practice and are assigned a supervisor to help shape this project (18,000-20,000 words).

Successful completion of Years 1 and 2 entitles those participants not continuing to complete the doctorate to be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate (following Year 1) or Masters (following Years 1 and 2) in Social Work Research and Evaluation.

Years 3, 4 and 5

Research component. A research-based dissertation, normally completed over nine terms with a minimum of six terms (35,000-45,000 words). Working mainly with an individual supervisor, doctoral candidates in Years 3, 4 and 5 also meet on three Saturdays per year to sustain the peer networks and informal learning opportunities established in Years 1 and 2.

The information for this programme is currently under review. For the most up-to-date information, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/study/pg

Recent DSW dissertation titles

Social work registration and the reframing of conduct

The assessment of marginal, borderline or failing students in practice learning settings

Faculty research interests

Research interests are briefly described below. For more detailed information, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/people

Professor Suzy Braye Social work law; adult safeguarding.

Hengliu Lisa Chen Care policies and practice for older people and carers; cross-national comparison.

Cath Holmström Social work with adolescents; social work in voluntary sector.

Sharon Lambley Leadership and management; risk and decision-making.

Michelle Lefevre Communication and direct work with children; therapeutic approaches.

Barry Luckock Social work with children's services.

Elaine Sharland Researching interprofessional practice, policies and issues; research ethics.

Professor Imogen Taylor Education and training for health and social care professions.

Russell Whiting Religion and social work; history of social work; residential social work.