

Template C4



Programme Specification

Title of Course: *MA Advanced Social Work*

Date first produced	01/02/2013
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Version number	4
Faculty	Faculty of Health, Science, Social Care & Education
School	School of Education, Midwifery and Social Work
Department	Department of Social Work and Social Care
Delivery Institution	Department of Social Work and Social Care, Kingston University, and St George's University of London

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each module can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Award(s) and Title(s): <i>Up to 10 pathways</i>	MA Advanced Social Work
Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s): <i>There are 4 Intermediate awards for each pathway</i>	PG Certificate in Professional Development in Social Work PG Diploma in Professional Development in Social Work
Course Code <i>For each pathway and mode of delivery</i>	L500
UCAS code <i>For each pathway</i>	N/A

RQF Level for the Final Award:	7
Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Department of Social Work and Social Care, Kingston University, and St George's University of London
Location:	Kingston Hill
Language of Delivery:	English
Modes of Delivery:	Part-time
Available as:	
Minimum period of registration:	Part-time - 1 Year
Maximum period of registration:	Part-time - 3 Years
Entry Requirements:	<p>The minimum entry qualifications for the programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A professional qualification in Social Work and substantial current or recent experience in a relevant setting for the course. "Substantial" experience may be considered in the light of the applicant's qualitative rather than quantitative experience. Students applying for the Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma or MA are expected to show academic potential to study at Master's level. Students holding other professional qualifications can access modules as free-standing modules as appropriate to their professional roles. • A minimum IELTS or equivalent of 7 is required for those for whom English is not a first language

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applicants must normally be working in settings which will allow them to undertake the practice elements of the programme. • Applicants are normally expected to be registered with their professional body. Unregistered professionals may be required to undertake a Home Office Disclosure and Barring Service Check before undertaking modules with professional practice components <p>In exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Programme Director, applicants who are not able to meet the academic entry requirements may be permitted to join the programme provided that they demonstrate the capacity to complete the course successfully, as evidenced by professional references, examples of previous academic work or personal interview. Such applicants will be registered as module students in the first instance for the first module of their programme.</p> <p>Admission with Advanced Standing (RPL/RPEL): Applicants offering prior qualifications and learning may be exempted from appropriate parts of a course in accordance with Kingston University's mechanisms and policies for the recognition and assessment of prior learning.</p>
Programme Accredited by:	Social Work England (SWE) – Professional Standards.
QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:	Social Work
Approved Variants:	None
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	

For Higher or Degree Apprenticeship proposals only

Higher or Degree Apprenticeship standard:	n/a
Recruitment, Selection and Admission process:	n/a

**End Point
Assessment
Organisation(s):**

n/a

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

The MA in Advanced Social Work offers a structured professional development pathway to assist qualified social workers in meeting capabilities and standards of practice that are consistent with the role of experienced and advanced practitioners. It incorporates important recent changes in social work education and professional regulation, such as the introduction of the Professional Capabilities Framework for Social Work (PCF) and professional standards set by Social Work England and the Chief Social Workers' Knowledge and Skills Statements. The programme seeks to support students in pursuing personal and career ambitions, including research and scholarship potentially leading to doctoral studies, drawing on the established academic standing and expanding research profile of the Department of Social Work and Social Care. "Research mindedness", awareness of international perspectives, achievement of high academic and professional practice standards are hallmarks of the programme.

The underlying philosophy at the heart of the programme is the conviction, born out of extensive experience of delivering post-qualifying programmes, that busy practitioners working in stressful conditions benefit from structured spaces for critical reflection within a well resourced and research- informed learning community. Postgraduate post-qualifying education can motivate, energise and inspire student colleagues to make significant improvements in the quality of social work services, through changes in their own and others' day to day practice as well as in broader strategic thinking. The programme is designed to enable social workers to take relevant modules at different stages in their career and progress incrementally to gain a post graduate certificate, post graduate diploma or a Master of Arts degree

The course has been designed and will be managed in consultation with local and regional employers, partner agencies, people with lived experience representatives and students. These arrangements will help to ensure that the programme is relevant to current and future service requirements and complements the range of other development opportunities available to social workers (including in-house training and personal career planning).

The generic scheme will allow students to construct a programme of study suitable to their own professional profile and areas of developing expertise, while benefiting from exchange with practitioners occupying other specialist roles. This feature will enable participants to gain a broader perspective on contemporary social work and promote connectivity across service areas.

Whilst tailored to the requirements of professional social work, the programme will draw on inter-professional and multi-disciplinary perspectives, consistent with policy and practice strategies for integrated service delivery. Social work is increasingly practiced within the context of multi-professional teams and the programme will draw on a range of models for service delivery both nationally and internationally. As previously, there will be joint inputs linked to multi-disciplinary and multi-professional work taking place within the Faculty.

There is a clear expectation in the field that experienced social workers will contribute to the learning of other colleagues within and beyond their organisations. This expectation is given formal recognition in post qualifying programmes through the existence of a shared suite of modules across the two postgraduate pathways, namely, the PG Cert Practice Education and the MA in Advanced Social Work. Students will be able to combine modules, for example, in specialist practice and research, coaching and mentoring, and professional education.

This adaptable scheme is attuned to the vision of the Professional Capabilities Framework for Social Workers (PCF) which anticipates that experienced social workers can pursue multiple routes to progression including Advanced Practitioner, Professional Educator and Social Work Manager. The reality is that many students straddle these roles as an effective means of contributing to service improvement.

The programme is flexible, modular, supports accreditation of prior learning (credit accumulation and transfer) and enables students to tailor a programme of study that is suitable to their personal and professional needs. Modules can be taken as free-standing short courses. Credit gained from participation in short courses may also be carried forward into study for one of the programme awards (MA, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate), should a participant decide to join the programme at a later date.

The overarching aim of the MA in Advanced Social Work is to enable students to improve standards of professional service in social work through a structured programme of academic study that meets both the requirements of contemporary practice and students' goals and aspirations.

The specific aims of the MA in Advanced Social Work are:

1. To promote excellence in professional practice in social work by providing imaginative, high quality learning opportunities which stimulate and support students to achieve excellence in their field;
2. To enable students to achieve the requirements for professional capability and continuing professional development consistent with experienced and advanced social work;
3. To engender among students a critical and reflective approach to professional practice, which is informed by research and scholarship, including the expertise of people who are affected by social work services;
4. To promote collaborative learning and the acquisition of skills in supporting the professional development of others, through mentoring, supervision and management;
5. To facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, values, skills and capability in complex and specialist areas of practice appropriate to experienced and advanced social workers;
6. To facilitate the development of skills in effective leadership and decision making, through individual initiative and teamwork;
7. To enhance students' skills of critical enquiry and to support the delivery of creative and original research and scholarship in the field of social work and related areas of practice.

At Masters level, it is expected that these aims will be met in full.

At PG Diploma, it is expected that aims 1-6 will be met.

At the level of PG Certificate in Professional Development, it is expected that aims 1-6 will be met.

In addition, at the PG Diploma and PG Certificate levels, the programme aims:

To enhance students' skills of critical enquiry and to support scholarship in the field of social work and related areas of practice.

B. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the areas listed (see table below). The

programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA subject benchmarks for Social Work and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2018), and relate to the typical student.

At Masters level, it is expected that all of the listed outcomes will be met in full.

At **PG Diploma level**, it is expected that outcomes A1-4, B1-4 and C 1-2 will be met

At the level of **PG Certificate in Professional Development**, it is expected that outcomes A 1-3, B1-3 and C1 will be met.

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They must align to the levels set out in the ['Sector Recognised Standards in England'](#) (OFS 2022).

Programme Learning Outcomes					
	Knowledge and Understanding		Intellectual Skills		Subject Practical Skills
	On completion of the course students will be able to:		On completion of the course students will be able to		On completion of the course students will be able to
A2	Theories and research in the social and human sciences relevant to professional roles and responsibilities in complex and specialist social work assessment and intervention, including evidence from the perspectives of people who access services	BK3	Actively listen and respond appropriately to ideas of others	C1	Assess, plan, implement and review social work interventions effectively in complex cases, informed by relevant research and critical analysis.
A3	Values and ethics for Advanced Social Work (including moral concepts, rights, ethical dilemmas, the pursuit of social justice, ethics, power, authority and decision making)	EK1	Collect data from primary and secondary sources and use appropriate methods to manipulate and analyse this data	C2	Demonstrate skills in supporting the learning and professional development of peers and colleagues, including the use of presentational skills.
A4	Leadership, management and promotion of innovative social work practice, including the judgements about the allocation of limited resources, project management, strategic planning and creative approaches to problem solving at individual, team and organisational levels.	EK2	Present and record data in appropriate formats	C3	Design and conduct a research project to investigate a chosen topic related to social work, using a range of research methods;
A5	Research concepts, methodology and data analysis techniques and demonstrate through an independent study project the achievement of knowledge and understanding outcomes of the course in relation to a topic area of each student's own choice	EK3	Interpret and evaluate data to inform and justify arguments	C4	Prepare and deliver a formal presentation on the findings of their research project and report on and their findings in article form.

A1	Professional, legal, policy and organisational frameworks for Advanced Social Work	EK4	Be aware of issues of selection, accuracy and uncertainty in the collection and analysis of data	C5	Maintain and develop a professional development plan to develop their practice in advanced social work
		BK2	Present, challenge and defend ideas and results effectively orally and in writing	CK1	Work well with others in a group or team
		BK1	Express ideas clearly and unambiguously in writing and the spoken work	CK2	Work flexibly and respond to change
		B5	Plan, conduct and report on an individual research project;	CK3	Discuss and debate with others and make concession to reach agreement
		B4	Demonstrate the ability to be independent, autonomous learners and solve complex problems	CK4	Give, accept and respond to constructive feedback
		B1	Critically analyse and appraise both primary and secondary sources; evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in social work, evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, challenge existing value positions and assumptions and propose new hypotheses	CK5	Show sensitivity and respect for diverse values and beliefs
		B2	Assemble data from a variety of sources and discern and establish connections and synthesise. Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in	FK1	Determine the scope of a task (or project)

			professional practice and that may enhance ethical practice		
		B3	Reflect critically on their practice, evidencing ability to link theory to practice, to consider alternative interpretations and propose solutions	FK2	Identify resources needed to undertake the task (or project) and to schedule and manage the resources
				FK3	Evidence ability to successfully complete and evaluate a task (or project), revising the plan where necessary
				FK4	Motivate and direct others to enable an effective contribution from all participants

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop the following range of Graduate Attributes:

1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness

C. Outline Programme Structure

The programme is delivered at level 7 (leading to the Post Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Post-Qualifying Professional Development and the MA in Advanced Social Work). The structure is indicated in the following tables.

Increasingly, there is an expectation that post-qualifying studies in social work will be pursued at level 7. Students may exit the Advanced Social Work Programme at one of three levels. In order to exit with PG Certificate, students should normally complete two modules each worth 30 credit points at Level 7. However, in order to facilitate entry onto the programme and to assist in the transition from qualifying studies at level 6 and post-qualifying studies at level 7, the postgraduate scheme allows students to carry forward 15 credits at level 6 gained from completion of Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE).

The programme is designed to support continuing professional development in social work and enables students to select modules which support their career aspirations and work role. Students are permitted to select four programme modules to reach postgraduate diploma stage. Students must complete the SW7016 Capstone project to gain the MA. All students will be provided with the University regulations. Full details of each module are provided in module descriptors and student module guides.

In order to be eligible for a PG Certificate a student must complete 60 credits. For a post graduate diploma 120 credits are required. To gain the MA (180 credits) students must complete a final research project.

MA Advanced Social Work

Level 7							
MA Advanced Social Work							
Core modules	Module code	Credit Value	Level	Teaching Block	Pre-requisites	Full Time	Part Time
Final Research Project	SW7016	60	7	1 and 2			
Practice Education Stage 1	SW7010	30	7	1 and 2			

Practice Education Stage 2	SW701 1	30	7	1 and 2			
Optional Modules							
Applying Systemic Leadership Principles to Social Work Practice	SW704 6	30	7	2			
Applying the Vanguard Method to People Centred Services	SW703 7	30	7	1 and 2			
Best Interests Assessor	SW703 5	30	7	1 and 2			
Individual Work-Based Learning Project	SW702 5	30	7	1 and 2			
Mentoring and Coaching in Professional Practice	SW704 4	30	7	Year long			1
Restoring Social Work Practice	SW704 5	15	7	1 and 2			
Safeguarding Adults At Risk	SW703 6	15	7	1 and 2			

Level 7 information

Students exiting the programme with 60 credits from SW7010 and SW7011 at Level 7 are eligible for the award of Post Graduate Certificate in Practice Education.

Students exiting the programme with 60 credits from any other listed modules at Level 7 are eligible for the award of Post Graduate Certificate in Professional Development.

Students exiting the programme with 120 credits are eligible for the award of Post Graduate Diploma.

D. Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The curriculum has been designed in close consultation with current stakeholders, including employers, representatives of people with lived experience, and students and with reference to Kingston University's Curriculum Design Principles. The overall design plots a logical and progressive path towards Advanced Social Work, enabling students to build on early post-qualifying experience and to develop increasingly sophisticated approaches to the critical appraisal of practice.

Curriculum content reflects the diversity of backgrounds and experiences within this professional group and learning and teaching strategies (see below) take account of the fact that students on the programme are most likely to be engaged in full- or part-time employment.

The programme components recognise the variety of roles occupied by qualified and experienced social workers (for example, in relation to specialist practice, management, supervision and professional education), enabling students to select modules that are most pertinent to areas of professional responsibility.

Academic skills at this level are developed incrementally with a research strand embedded as a feature in all modules. In addition, there are specific opportunities to acquire and apply research skills prior to engagement in the capstone project during the latter stages of the programme.

The learning and teaching strategy recognises that experienced practitioners engaging in academic study at this level appreciate and benefit from a wide variety of learning opportunities that include, for example, research informed exploration of theoretical and practice issues (delivered through lectures, seminars and via online resources), individual and group based research and enquiry learning, formative presentations with feedback from tutors and peers, individual tutorials and structured critical analysis of current professional practice experience.

The formal assessment regime mirrors this approach to learning and teaching by identifying strategies that are related to learning content and process (such as, for example, group-based enquiry learning leading to assessed presentation). 'Feed forward' is facilitated by formative assessment opportunities as well as through the relationship of programme components.

E. Support for Students and their Learning

Students are supported in the following ways:

Individual tutorials with a personal tutor to assist them in planning their programme of study, to consider career development options and to support them in developing and achieving their personal and professional development plans

- Email contact with module leaders and the course leader
- Fellow students
- Employers who work in partnership with the programme
- Service user and carer representatives working with the programme
- Information advisors in the Library, who offer individual help sessions for students
- Professional Support Staff and the Faculty Post Graduate Office
- Former graduates of the programme: Students are networked with former graduates and this often provides students with support in accessing practice opportunities and career guidance.
- Technical support to advise students on IT use of software and data base searching
- Formative assessment throughout each module
- VLE Study Space – a versatile on-line interactive intranet and learning environment
- Subject specific supervisors
- Regular research seminars
- Student staff consultative committee and opportunities to undertake a range of representative roles to put forward student views.
- The student union

Kingston University offers a wide range of student services which can be accessed through the Student Hub. Services include dyslexia and disability support. Details can be found on <https://mykingston.kingston.ac.uk/mysupport/Pages/StudentHUB.aspx>

F. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External examiners
- Boards of study with student representation
- Annual review and development
- Periodic review undertaken at the subject level
- Student evaluation
- Moderation policies

In this programme:

- Practice Assessment Panels with representatives of service users and carers and employers meet to review and standardise assessment of all practice related work.
- The programme/ modules may be subject to any relevant professional review processes

G. Employability and work-based learning

During their period on the programme, students are actively engaged in employment or other experience in the field. There are further opportunities to pursue new roles and activities through the network of partner organisations, staff and students and representatives of employers and service users and carers.

The programme is designed to assist students in current or recent employment to develop their professional profile and skills portfolio, initially in the role of 'Experienced Social Worker' but subsequently moving on to 'Advanced Social Worker' positions.

The latter will increasingly encompass specialist roles such as Advanced Practitioner (for example in Safeguarding Adults), Professional Educator and Social Work Manager. Programme design enables students to develop these areas of expertise through the design of their own route to completion of the MA. Individual tutorials will be used to support personal and professional development planning and to explore career options.

Employer organisations are increasingly likely to commission specific components of the programme in line with particular aspects of workforce strategy such as, for example, the need for first line managers with in-depth practice experience to develop managerial and leadership skills.

Work-based learning, including sandwich courses and higher or degree apprenticeships

Several modules require reflective analysis and assessment of current practice. Students are normally in employment and often supported by their employers to engage in the programme. It is the responsibility of individual students to source and secure practice experience and settings in which to meet the learning outcomes of their programme of study.

H. Other sources of information that you may wish to consult

SWE Professional Standards: <https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/standards/professional-standards/>

BASW Professional Capabilities Framework for Social Work:

<https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-development/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf/the-pcf>

I. Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules

This table maps where course learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

Module Code		Level 7									
		SW7046	SW7045	SW7025	SW7035	SW7037	SW7036	SW7016	SW7044	SW7011	SW7010
Knowledge & Understanding	A2	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
	A3	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
	A4	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
	A5							S			
	A1	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
Intellectual Skills	BK3	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	EK1	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	EK2	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	EK3	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	EK4	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	BK2	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	BK1	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	B5			S				S			
	B4	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
	B1	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
	B2	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
	B3	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
Practical Skills	C1	S	S		S	S	S			S	
	C2	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
	C3							S			
	C4							S			
	C5	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	
	CK1	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	CK2	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			

	CK 3	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	CK 4	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	CK 5	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	FK 1	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	FK 2	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	FK 3	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			
	FK 4	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F	S/F			

Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.