

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (L5K380)

1. Programme offered at: Durham
2. Mode of study: full-time (22 months)
3. Before application, candidates must be interviewed and satisfy the Admissions Tutor that they are fit to attend the programme.
4. Programme of study:

Module	Code	Credits	Core (C) or Optional (O)	Level
YEAR 1				
Foundations for Social Work	SOCI30340	40	C	3
Preparation for Social Work Practice	SOCI40230	30	C	4
Social Work Practice 1	SOCI40030	30	C	4
YEAR 2				
Research in Social Work	SOCI40245	45	C	4
Advanced Social Work	SOCI40115	15	C	4
Social Work Practice 2	SOCI40130	30	C	4

5. Modes of assessment include long essays, individual and group presentations, a law exercise, reports, and case studies. As part of Social Work Practice 1 and 2, students will be required to undertake in each module a 100-day supervised Social Work Practice Learning Opportunity and meet the National Occupational Standards for Social Work in order to gain the MSW and qualify as professional Social Workers. Students must pass this element in order to qualify as professional Social Workers. Students must also provide evidence of their computer and IT Skills to the level of the European Computer Driving Licence. Opportunities for providing this evidence are given throughout the programme of study and a portfolio of evidence must be deemed satisfactory in order for students to gain the MSW and qualify as professional social workers.
6. Students are required to attend practice modules between the dates specified in their learning agreement, including any associated teaching. A student's performance in either Social Work Practice 1 or 2 will not be deemed satisfactory if attendance falls below 100 days.
7. Students must normally pass all Year 1 modules before progressing to Year 2.
8. A student whose general conduct and/or performance in practice indicates unsuitability for qualified professional practice may be required to withdraw from the programme at any time. Such conduct includes behaviour that is inconsistent with the Codes of Practice for Social Work and confirmed to be damaging or dangerous either to service users, other students or programme providers, or creates unacceptable risk to the student or others. Where such concerns are raised, the matter will be addressed, wherever possible, by the Tutor, and/or Programme Coordinator and/or the Programme Director. In the case of an allegation of serious misconduct or behaviour thought to be damaging or dangerous to service users, other students or programme providers, or creating an unacceptable risk to the student or others, the following procedure will be instigated:
 - i) a report detailing the evidence will be made immediately by the Programme Director to the Chair of the Board of Studies or deputy;
 - ii) if, in the view of the Chair of the Board of Studies, the report provides sufficient detailed evidence of serious misconduct, damaging or dangerous behaviour, a Panel shall be formed to consider the case. The Panel will comprise the Chair of the Board of Studies, a member of the Board of Examiners and a senior representative from a programme partner agency. In the event of the Chair being previously involved in the case, the deputies will act in his/her place. Where allegations relate to practice in a placement setting, the partner agency representative on the Panel shall be from an agency other than the agency where the student has been on placement;
 - iii) the student shall be invited to attend the Panel by the Chair of the Board of Studies. The student should normally receive five working days' notice of the meeting;
 - iv) at the time of receiving notice of the meeting the student will be informed of the purpose of the meeting, and presented with the evidence of serious misconduct, behaviour or any other information indicating unsuitability for social work (see <http://www.gsc.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/CC3D2AC4-79FB-4A6B-B36F-47A7456C444F/0/SuitabilitydocumentPDF.pdf>). This will normally be a copy of the report to the Chair of the Board of Studies or deputy;
 - v) the student may be accompanied at the meeting by a member of staff (if willing) or by a member of the Durham Students' Union (if willing);
 - vi) at the meeting, the student must be asked to respond to the allegations;
 - vii) if the student fails to attend, the Panel may proceed in the student's absence provided that it is satisfied that failure to attend represents refusal to do so;
 - viii) the Chair of the Board of Studies is responsible for ensuring that a written record of the Panel meeting is made;
 - ix) in the light of the evidence, the Panel must come to a view as to whether the student is judged to be unsuitable for qualified professional practice;

ix) if the student is judged to be unsuitable for qualified professional practice, the Chair of the Board of Studies may recommend to the Graduate School Committee that the student be required to withdraw from the programme;
x) after the Panel has reported to the Graduate School Committee and where termination of training is being considered, the Chair of the Graduate School Committee may suspend the student's programme of study at the time when the student is informed that the Graduate School Committee will be considering termination of study;
xi) where the Graduate School Committee, acting on the recommendation of the Panel, requires the student to withdraw from the programme, the student may appeal against the decision in accordance with the Academic Appeals Regulations contained in Section VII of the General Regulations.

9. A student who fails to satisfy the Board of Examiners in the practice competencies of either Social Work Practice 1 or 2 may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, be permitted either an extension to that module, or to repeat the module (at a time and location approved by the Programme Director). Social Work Practice 1 may only be repeated if the student has successfully completed Foundations for Social Work.
10. Candidates must submit a dissertation (a component of the module Research in Social Work [SOCI40245](#)) of not more than 10,000 words (including footnotes and appendices, but excluding the bibliography), by a date during the final term to be specified by the Programme Director. The overall mark for this module (comprising all components of assessment) should be that taken into account when determining the award of distinction in line with the core regulations for Taught Masters Programmes.
11. This programme is accredited by the General Social Care Council until 2009.