



**University of
East London**

Pioneering Futures Since 1898

**The School of Education and Communities
Department of Social Sciences and Social Work**

BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses

**Admissions Guidebook
(Prospective Students)**

Academic Year:
2023 - 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in studying Social Work at the University of East London (UEL).
The guidebook is meant to:

Inform prospective students about the nature of the BA (Hons) Social Work Course offered through The School of Education and Communities and MA Social Work Course offered through The School of Education and Communities jointly with the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust.

Provide information to help prospective students decide whether to apply for Admission to their chosen Course.

Outline the process by which students are selected for the BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses.

The processes and the procedures outlined in this document work in conjunction with the general guidelines provided by the University and any divergences are attributable to adherence to professional body requirements. It is suggested that you also consult UEL Student Admissions, who can provide further information and support with regard to the University's general admissions procedures or admissions to other Courses.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

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For Admissions Queries:
Raise a ticket via the applicant portal

Please ensure that you include your Course of interest and the relevant Admissions Tutor in the Subject Line of any correspondence. We may not be able to reply to you if this information is not included.

2. OVERVIEW

Social work is a challenging profession that is centred on people. Practitioners are required to build solid professional relationships with a variety of individuals, groups, and organisations. Often this means working with people who have been socially excluded or who are experiencing crisis. Social workers are expected to be able to help people cope with challenges while also enabling them to maximise control over their own lives. In order to do this, social workers need to be able to assess and deliver information, 'think on their feet' and evaluate their own practice. All while remaining committed to social justice and equality. It is therefore essential that social workers not only have good intentions, but also possess the appropriate practice knowledge and professional acumen. At UEL, these requisite social work skills are developed through intensive education, training, and practical experience.

The BA (Hons) and the MA Social Work Courses share a reputation of producing competent, confident, and effective social work professionals who are well regarded and prepared for the rigours of practice. The student selection process is crucial to achieving these outcomes. The information herein should assist prospective students with engaging in the selection process for either the BA (Hons) or MA Social Work Courses.

The dynamic nature of higher education along with the on-going evolution of the social work profession means that there are regular updates with regard to best practices in applicant selection. Therefore, the screening procedures of the BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses are continuously assessed to ensure the selection of students meet the standards and thresholds set by social work's professional and regulating bodies (Social Work England). Please continue to re-visit the UEL website or contact the BA (Hons) and MA Social work Courses directly for further details.

Quick Facts		
Course	BA (Hons)	MA
Duration:	3 years (full time)	2 years (full time)
University Course Code	E28	E28
UCAS Code	L501	L512
Places Available	65	45
Start date	September	September

3. TERMINOLOGY:

Please find below a list of terms commonly used during the UEL admissions process.

Admissions Selection Committee: The group that formally reviews Applications, Entrance Exams, and Interview results. The committee is chaired by the relevant Admissions Tutor and includes employers, people with lived experience of receiving social work services, and academic staff.

Applicant: Anyone who formally submits an application to UEL to be considered for either the BA (Hons) or MA Social Work Courses.

Application: The UCAS form that is received and reviewed by the UEL Social Work Admissions team. Based on your application, you will be invited to complete an online **Entrance Examination**.

BA (Hons): Bachelor of Arts with Honours available.

Carer: A carer is a person of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends who could not otherwise manage without this help. Many local authorities and health and social service provide their own definition of who they consider to be 'carers'.

Conditional Offer: An offer made by UEL, whereby you must fulfil certain criteria before you can be accepted on the relevant course.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS): On 1 December 2012 the Criminal Records Bureau and Independent Safeguarding Authority merged to become the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). All Offer Holders **MUST** apply for an up-to-date enhanced criminal conviction checks (DBS check) for Regulated Activity (adults and children) before they enrol on the program for which they have an offer.

Enrolment: The process by which those with **Unconditional Offers** sign up to UEL's conditions and regulations, pay tuition fees and obtain a student identity card. Please note that module registration is done separately.

Entrance Examination: The written examination that an **Applicant** is required to pass in order to be invited for an **Interview**.

Social Work England: Since 1 December 2019 Social Work England has been the statutory regulator of social workers in England (taking over from the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)).

Interview: The interview that an **applicant** must successfully complete in order to receive an **Offer**.

MA: Master of Arts degree.

Offer: An offer to enrol and register for study on the Course, for which you submitted an application, passed the **Entrance Examination** and successfully completed **Interview**.

Offer Holder: Anyone who has been given either a **Conditional** or **Unconditional Offer** to enrol in one of the Social Work Courses.

Practice Learning Opportunity: Sometimes referred to, as 'Field Placement', 'Practice Placement' or simply 'Placement' is where students are placed in social service organisations to practice and learn skills under the supervision of experienced practitioners.

Prospective Student: Anyone who has or demonstrates an interest in attending the BA (Hons) or MA Social Work Courses.

People with lived experience of receiving social work services: A term often applied to anyone who is a patient or other user of health and / or social services. Though the term is widely accepted and used, it is important to remember that not everyone who falls into this category may appreciate being called a 'person with lived experience in social work'.

[Social Work England](#) is the new regulatory body that has taken over from the HCPC.

Stakeholders: People or organizations that have an interest or concern in how the Social Work Courses function and perform (e.g., people with lived experience of receiving social work services, carers, employers)

Student: Anyone who has enrolled and is eligible to attend classes.

UCAS: The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

Unconditional Offer: An offer given to you by UEL if you have satisfied the criteria and can attend the course.

Unsuccessful Applicant/Application: Anyone who applies to the Course and does not receive an **Offer** due to having been screened prior to the **Entrance Examination**, not passing the Entrance Examination or not successfully completing an **Interview**.

Withdrawal: Either the **Applicant** or UEL cancels a choice before a decision has been made - a reason will be included if the withdrawal was issued by UEL.

4. MAKING THE DECISION TO APPLY:

The decision to attend university is quite significant and should only be made following the careful consideration of multiple factors. The sections below offer some of the information that prospective students may find useful in deciding whether or not to submit an application for entry to one of the UEL Social Work Courses. While the questions and answers cover many different considerations, they are by no means exhaustive. Prospective students are therefore strongly encouraged to put sufficient time and consideration into any decision regarding the submission or non-submission of an application.

4.1 What do Social Workers do?

Social work is a profession focused on working with people (often referred to as ‘people with lived experience of receiving social work services’ and ‘carers’) from infants to older adults who are often experiencing significant personal difficulties and may also be vulnerable or at risk of encountering harm. Social workers help people with lived experience of receiving social work services remain safe and resolve their difficulties through offering support, advocacy and protection. A key social work role is enabling people to live fulfilled lives as independently as possible. Fundamental to good practice is the ability of social workers to be reflective, quick thinking, emotionally resilient and pro-active in seeking to work with others to problem-solve. Social workers often work closely with a variety of people including other professionals from fields such as education, health, and probation services. Therefore, excellent communication skills are crucial.

There are many other aspects of social work practice, and it is suggested that all applicants have a reasonable understanding of both the social work profession and the particular Course to which you are applying (particularly the MA). You may want to conduct research prior to completing your application and throughout the admissions process to remain abreast of developments. Some ways to do this might be:

- Access professional websites e.g., British Association of Social Workers and Social Work England.
- Read relevant newspapers, textbooks, and journals e.g., *British Journal of Social Work*.
- Arrange to meet and talk with a practising social work professional.
- Speak to family and friends who may have had experience with social work professionals.

- Arrange voluntary placements or work experience in a care setting or agency.
- Attend open days at universities.

4.2 Will I enjoy being a Social Work student?

The preparation undertaken to become a social worker is challenging yet potentially rewarding. Many students find that they love the course while a small number of others ultimately decide that it is not for them. In either event the course encourages 'self-awareness' and nurtures 'self-reflection', two crucial abilities required to be a competent professional social worker.

A number of applicants to the Social Work Courses have at one time helped friends and family or 'been in previous contact with social workers' themselves. While these examples demonstrate potentially valuable life experience and may offer some insight into the profession, they alone should not form the basis of your decision to apply to a Social Work Course. Nor should simply wanting a 'change of career'. You need to develop a good understanding of what the Social Worker/Social Work student role will involve and be highly motivated in order to cope with all aspects of being a full time Social Work student. This includes taking into account the duration (3 years BA/2 years MA) and the nature (academic/practice) of your social work training.

4.3 Where does teaching take place and what are the facilities like?

Teaching for the BA (Hons) Course takes place at the University of East London's Docklands Campuses. The campus has good leisure and culture facilities and excellent transport links. The campus is located near London City Airport and there is an internal bus service between the Docklands and Stratford campus. The campus has undergone an extensive course of refurbishment and provides impressive facilities,

The MA Course runs in collaboration with the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust – a world-renowned institution specialising in training professionals in clinical practice. This collaboration is the only one of its kind in the UK and therefore offers students a unique opportunity. Teaching for the MA takes place jointly at the UEL Dockland Campus and at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, which is located in Swiss Cottage.

Students from either course are also invited to use the facilities located in and around the UEL Docklands campus.

4.4 How does UEL address equality and diversity?

The University of East London aims to create an intellectual community and workplace that welcomes and promotes diversity and equality in and through relationships involving all staff and students: learning and teaching; research and scholarship; outreach and other University activities and practices. All guests and members of the UEL community are entitled to be treated with courtesy according to these consensual norms of mutual respect and understanding. The School of Education and Communities is fully supportive of the Students' Union and University's Equal Opportunities and anti-harassment policy, insisting that members of the student community 'treat all staff and students in a polite and mature way.'

During the admissions process, no applicant should be disadvantaged due to matters of 'race', class, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Where reasonable, we will attempt to accommodate the special needs of applicants provided we are given the relevant information in a timely manner to allow the necessary arrangements to be made. Should you have questions or need to request aids/modifications during the admissions process, please contact the Social Work Administrator. In most cases some form of written evidence will be required to support any special requests.

4.5 What are the basic entry criteria for the BA (Hons) Course?

In addition to the UEL's general undergraduate entry requirements, applicants to the BA (Hons) Course should typically be able to evidence the following on their UCAS/Application Form and during the selection process:

- 1) English at grade GCSE grade C or level 4 (or a certified equivalent e.g., Key Skills Level 2 in Communication; Adult Literacy; IELTS 7.0 overall and with 6.5 in all 4 components (reading writing, speaking and listening etc)**
- 2) Minimum of 120 UCAS points or equivalent**
- 3) Evidence of work with vulnerable people in a volunteer or paid capacity (recommended) and or relevant life experience that you can relate to an understanding of the social work role**
- 4) Evidence in the personal statement of:**
 - good standard of written English.**
 - relevant level understanding about the social work context and role.**
 - understanding the relevance of previous work experience to your application.**

- clear and convincing explanation of why they want to do an BA (Hons) Social Work Course at this particular time.
- 5) Applicants are required to be proficient in IT skills, including word processing, internet browsing, online platforms like Microsoft Teams and use of email.
 - 6) An acceptable reference is required at the application stage. Applications without an acceptable reference will be rejected.

**** If you already in receipt of a first degree at 2.2 or above then please consider applying for the MA in Social Work rather than apply for the BA (Hons) Social Work. You are unlikely to be eligible for a student loan on the BA (Hons) Social Work course if you already have a first degree, whereas funding opportunities on the MA are available and a link is provided under the MA Social Work Course**

4.6 What are the basic entry criteria for the MA Course?

In addition to the UEL's general postgraduate entry requirements, applicants to the MA Course should typically be able to evidence the following on their UCAS/Application Form and during the selection process:

- 1) **First degree in any subject (2:1 classification, or if applicant has significant experience in social care, plus a strong personal statement, then a 2:2 is acceptable; further, a 2:2 and a post graduate qualification, can also be considered). English at grade GCSE grade C or level 4*, (or a certified equivalent e.g., Key Skills Level 2 in Communication/ Literacy; IELTS 7.5 overall and with 7.5 in all 4 components (reading, writing, speaking and listening) etc).**

(*For applicants who have a UK first degree at 2.1 or 2.2 and are not in receipt of their English Qualification at grade GCSE grade c or level 4 the admissions team in consultation with the Course lead have the discretion to waiver the English requirement. The decision will be based on the applicant's ability to demonstrates a good command of English in the different facets of the selection process (e.g., interview, test, etc).

- 2) **Applicants are also required to have sufficient experience of social care or working with vulnerable people in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes having an understanding of the social work role.**
- 3) **Evidence in the personal statement of:**

- **good standard of written English.**
- **relevant level of understanding about the social work context and role.**
- **understanding the relevance of previous work experience to your application.**
- **clear and convincing explanation of why they want to do an MA Social Work Course at this particular time.**

4) Applicants are required to be proficient in IT skills, including word processing, internet browsing, online platforms like Microsoft Teams and use of email.

5) An acceptable reference is required at the application stage. Applications without an acceptable reference will be rejected.

4.7 How do I apply for a place on the course?

Applications for the BA (Hons) Course are only accepted via the UCAS system – full details about the application process are available on the UEL and UCAS websites.

Applications for the MA are accepted via the UCAS system. Full details about the application process are available on the UEL and UCAS websites.

You should apply as early as possible as the BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses at UEL are very popular. It is also important to ensure that your application is completed thoroughly and that you provide all the relevant information needed to make an informed decision as to whether or not you should be invited for an Entrance Exam.

4.8 How are students selected for the Social Work Courses?

Prospective students first submit an application to their Course of choice via the UCAS website. Once an application has been submitted, there are 3 or 4 points of assessment in the selection process:

1. UCAS/Application form.
2. Entrance Examination.
3. Interview.

All three/four components must be successfully completed in order to receive an Unconditional or Conditional Offer. The selection process is covered in more detail in the section headed: Selection Process.

4.9 How much will my studies cost and how do I fund them?

Both Social Work Courses are full-time (3 years BA (Hons) and 2 years MA) for which fees are charged on an annual basis. The fees for full-time undergraduate and graduate Courses can be found on the UEL website.

The number of bursaries is capped for both the BA (Hons) Social Work and MA Social Work, so not all students will receive a bursary.

Social Work bursaries are administered by The NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of the Department of Health. All students should liaise with them directly with any queries about how to apply for a bursary and any questions regarding eligibility for the bursary.

Additionally, for the BA (Hons) Course you may, according to your individual circumstances, be eligible for financial support through a student loan towards student fees, maintenance/living costs, and some may also be eligible for an additional UEL loan. All Home students are eligible for a student loan from the Student Loans Company, which does not have to be repaid until you are earning a sufficient salary.

For detailed information about fees and funding please visit the following websites (you should check them regularly for updates):

Fees and Funding:

Email: feeassess@uel.ac.uk

Funding Education:

<http://www.fundingeducation.co.uk>

NHS Business Services Authority (Social Work Bursaries):

<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students>

Skills for Care:

http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/funding/sourcesofskillsfunding/other_sources_of_funding.aspx

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA):

<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk>

4.10 How will I be taught on the Social Work Courses?

Both the BA and MA Social Work Courses have developed a subject-specific social work pedagogy drawing on a number of teaching methods informed by adult learning theory and models. We deploy a variety of methods to facilitate student learning. These involve lectures, seminar discussions, seminar presentations, group-work, simulation exercises to teach specific skills and knowledge e.g., court-room skills, skills development through reflective feedback, communication skills teaching using actors and video feedback, group tutorials, individual tutorials and dissertation supervision (MA). We also work with people with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers so that learning is informed by their experiences of using services. In developing skills teaching and workshops for practice we also work closely with social workers from our partner agencies.

Your lectures, seminars and tutorials will be delivered by knowledgeable academic staff who are experienced practitioners with specialisms in a variety of areas. Guest speakers with specialist expertise, including people with lived experience of receiving social work services will also contribute to various modules.

Students also have the opportunity to develop professional skills via presentations based on both academic and practice-based work throughout the Course. As well as time spent in class, you will need to develop knowledge and understanding via focused and guided reading. You will also need to read preparatory material in advance of taught sessions. The library is very well stocked with appropriate reading, while sometimes materials will be provided or made available via the Virtual Learning Environment.

The structure of both Courses, and their provision, within an intellectually stimulating and satisfying environment, is geared to ensuring that you develop both academic and practice-based skills that will be useful both in your future work as a practitioner, or in other fields you might choose to enter.

4.11 What is “practice learning” and when does it begin?

Practice Learning is where students attend work-based placements to apply theory and skills under the supervision of experienced social work practitioners. This provides students with the opportunity to integrate classroom learning with practice.

All students on the BA (Hons) and MA Courses attend a total of 200 days of practice learning. For both Courses’ placements run concurrently with teaching. The majority of our placements are in North East London, with other placements being in London, you will be required to be available for placement between 9am – 5pm, this is exclusive of the travel time. Pls be

mindful that you might be required to travel between 1 – 2 hours if you lived in areas surrounding London, like Kent and Surrey to mention a few.

BA (Hons)

- 30 Skills Days (Developing Skills for Practice) – undertaken in Year 1
- 70 Practice Placement Days - Year 2
- 100 Practice Placement Days - Year 3

MA

- 30 Skills Days (Developing Skills for Practice) – integrated into Years 1 and 2
- 70 Practice Placement Days - Year 1
- 100 Practice Placement Days - Year 2

4.12 How will I be assessed?

Most modules are assessed through written assignments, which are usually essays or portfolios. You will also prepare group and individual oral presentations and there are computer-based tests on some modules. You will complete both formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments provide an opportunity for you to develop your academic skills by completing work and receiving informal feedback. Summative assessments are formal and designed to determine whether learning outcomes are being met. Additionally, Practice Placements are assessed through direct observation by a trained 'Practice Educator'.

4.13 What type of support is available to students?

You will be assigned an Academic Advisor to support your engagement with academic study and with your practice placements. Your Academic Advisor is there to support you in your studies and on placement and will be able to provide help on the following key features:

- helping you to develop your own academic and preparation skills.
- balancing your commitment to study, your employment and any home life issues.
- managing the transition relevant to each level of study.
- support during your two practice placements.
- understanding any relevant university regulations.

Your Academic Advisor will also be able to offer you advice on the support services available and refer you to additional support such as counselling, financial support.

4.14 Are there any age restrictions regarding who may study on the Social Work Courses?

You must be at least 18 years old to commence study on any of the Social Work Courses. Other than this specification, age has no bearing on your application or selection. We welcome people from a variety of walks of life to apply as we believe a diverse student body enriches learning and represents society at large.

4.15 Do I have to be a UK resident to apply for study on the Social Work Courses?

No, both the BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses accept applications from overseas applicants. You will be eligible to apply for registration as a Social Worker with Social Work England if your intention is to work within England. To practise as a social worker in Northern Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, you will need to register with the relevant regulatory body. Each social work regulator has their own requirements, and you should read their guidance carefully. For further information in practicing outside of England, ensure you do the necessary research to obtain all information which will be required of you to register with the regulatory body and practice in the country of your interest. A good starting place is to consult [Social Work England webpage](#)

The level of tuition fees will be based on:

- your nationality.
- your immigration status in the UK.
- where you have been living and;
- what you have been doing for the three years prior to the start of your Course.

Admissions staff at the University of East London are the only persons permitted to determine an applicant's fee status for the purpose of tuition fees. It is therefore advisable to contact the admissions office to determine how you will be assessed for fees:

<https://www.uel.ac.uk/sites/default/files/6463.pdf>

4.16 Where can I get more information?

In the first instance, you should consult the websites highlighted in the Useful Links section of this guidebook. The University of East London also holds open days throughout the year, and it is advisable that prospective students attend at least one to obtain information about any Courses of interest. Information regarding Open Days is also available on the UEL website. Additionally, Admissions Tutors and Course Leaders are able to provide information and are contactable through email.

4.17 Useful Links

About UEL:

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/contact/>

British Association of Social Work (BASW):

<http://www.basw.co.uk>

University of East London: Student Policies*

www.uel.ac.uk/terms

Student Services:

<https://www.uel.ac.uk/study/students>

Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS):

<https://www.gov.uk/crb-criminal-records-bureau-check/overview> (Email address for transgendered applicants: sensitive@dbs.gsi.gov.uk)

Equality and Diversity Strategy:

<https://www.uel.ac.uk/about/professional-services/hr-services/office-institutional-equity>

Fees and Funding:

<https://www.uel.ac.uk/study/fees-funding/scholarships-bursaries>

International Office:

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/international/>

NHS Business Services Authority (Social Work Bursaries):

<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students>

Social Work England

<https://socialworkengland.org.uk>

Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust:

<http://www.tavistockandportman.nhs.uk/>

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA):

www.ukcisa.org.uk

Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS):

<http://www.ucas.com>

*Please note: The UEL Admissions Policy provides general guidance and best practices for all of the programs offered throughout the university. As Courses which lead to a professional qualification including potential registration the Social Work England, the procedures for Social Work may vary in certain areas.

4.18 Timescales

Teaching on the BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses takes place from September until May of the UEL academic calendar. Practice Placements are also completed during this time. Below are some general timeframes that you may want to note. You will, however, want to consult the UCAS and UEL websites for a full list of admissions dates and deadlines.

September: UCAS begin taking applications. This may be a good time to narrow your choices and make a final decision about whether or not you intend to apply to university.

November/December: Entrance Examinations and interviews commence for the BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses.

January: First deadline for most applications. Entrance Examinations and Interviews continue for the UEL BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses

March: Entrance Examinations and Interviews continue.

April: Entrance Examinations and Interviews continue.

June/July: Social Work Offer Holders Day (all Offer Holders are invited to the University for an introductory day).

September/October: Enrolment and registration for courses. Teaching commences.

5. SELECTION PROCESS:

BA (Hons) AND MA SOCIAL WORK COURSES

This section highlights the process undertaken to select students for the BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses. Throughout the process decisions are made in a holistic manner; taking into account the many facets of the person who is applying. Each component of the selection process is designed to help select students who are capable of completing study at university level and developing into competent practitioners. All aspects of the selection process are underpinned by the stated entry-level Professional Capabilities as outlined by the British Association for Social Work and Social Work England's Professional Standards. People with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers also have key roles in the admissions process.

OVERVIEW

Below is a brief outline of the steps in the selection process.

5.1 What are the steps in the selection process?

Once your application has been submitted, there are 4 points of assessment in the selection process:

1. Application Form
2. Entrance Examination
3. Interview

All three components must be successfully completed in order to receive an **Unconditional** or **Conditional Offer** to join the Social Work Course. The Entrance Examination and Interview will normally take place on different days. You will need to pass the Entrance Examination in order to be eligible for an Interview.

Following either an Unconditional or Conditional Offer, all offer holders are required to apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check for Regulated Activity (for both adults and

children). Having a criminal conviction does not automatically bar people from studying social work or becoming social workers. Social work is exempted from certain provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (as amended from time to time), and information about all previous convictions, cautions, warnings or ongoing police matters must be provided (there are some exceptions – for more information on this look at DBS website or consult the interview team). A conviction does not automatically debar an applicant and the Course will seek further information about the circumstances to make an informed and considered judgement about an applicant's suitability in such instances.

The expectation is that you will declare criminal convictions as well as cautions, bind over's, fines etc. in your initial application as well as at interview. All social work students are required to have an enhanced criminal conviction checks DBS Check for Regulated Activity (for both adults and children) carried out and anything which later comes to light that was not declared at the interview stage may result in your immediate withdrawal from the Course. Therefore, as above, it is advisable that you disclose all relevant information as early as possible in the admissions process. It is also advisable to check directly with [Social Work England](#) to see if they can advise you as to whether your offence(s) would likely to bar you from being registered once you complete the Course.

The Application form:

Below is some information about the Application screening process.

5.2 How does my application get to you?

Application Forms are initially processed and screened by the Admissions Unit to ensure that the basic entry criteria are evidenced. The Application Form is then forwarded it to the Social Work Administrator for processing and distribution to the appropriate Social Work Course Admissions Tutor.

5.3 What happens after you receive my application?

Once your application has been forwarded to the relevant social work Course, it is reviewed by one of the members of the selection committee, who will determine whether or to invite you to undertake the Entrance Examination or not.

5.4 What are you looking for in the application?

Completing your application is arguably the most important part of the process. It is usually

the first opportunity that you will have to represent yourself to the selection committee. We look for applicants who not only honest, professional, and reflective, but who also demonstrate academic potential. In short, your application needs to evidence that you are ready to successfully undertake study at the university level. This includes confirming that you are proficient in the use IT facilities, including, word processing, Internet browsing, use of email and access to devices which will enable you to participate in online teaching platforms like Microsoft Teams

5.5 Which sections are most important?

Every section of the application is important and should be completed thoroughly. You will want to ensure that all your personal details are accurate and list any and all relevant experience in the correct section(s). If you have received low marks in the past you may want to explain the reasons for these and outline how you have developed and will manage at university.

5.6 What is the 'Personal Statement'?

The Personal Statement is an opportunity for you to explain why you want to study social work at UEL and to demonstrate something of your knowledge of the subject. It is also a chance to provide more information about yourself – including relevant personal/professional experiences, interests and skills, and what you might contribute the UEL Social Work Courses. You should try to convey a 'sense' of who you are a person and provide some evidence of how your personal characteristics align with what is expected of social work students and professionals.

Here are some tips:

Tell the truth - It may be that there was a situation where you did not achieve as well as you hoped but took away some learning that you were able to apply to other situations. Be honest about yourself including your abilities, qualifications, failures, and successes. If you misrepresent your experiences early on (e.g., work experience criminal history, etc.) you are not likely to perform well in the later stages of the admissions process. Also, your application may be withdrawn if it is discovered at a later date to contain inaccurate information.

Establish your commitment and motivation to study - A 'change of careers' or 'a good/bad experience with social workers' alone are not enough reasons to apply to study social work. You need to demonstrate that you have thought about your decision to apply and will remain committed throughout your course of study.

Emphasise your academic interests - Social work is not simply a vocation where practitioners 'care for' people with lived experience of receiving social work services. There are complex issues that impact practice and inform the daily decisions that practitioners have to make. A general awareness of the research and debates that inform social work practice will strengthen your application.

Describe how your experiences will help you on the course and as a practitioner - Being able to reflect is a crucial aspect of social work practice. You should demonstrate an ability to learn and incorporate this learning into your growth and development.

Show your awareness of the broader context/Demonstrate an understanding of current affairs and that you have read around the subject- Many of the complexities that social workers deal with relate to the shifting global environment. It is important to understand the impact that global issues have on national and local practice.

Demonstrate what kind of student you might be - Your personal statement is the first opportunity you have to demonstrate your academic ability. If it is poorly written (e.g., poor grammar, poor structure, etc.) you are not likely to be invited to complete an online Entrance Examination.

Write about your outside interests and achievements - Demonstrate your different skills and how they might be relevant to social work study/practice.

Make sure you give a final summing up statement - You will want to ensure that your statement does not end abruptly instead is wrapped up nicely. Provide a closing statement and/or some final words about your suitability.

5.7 Do I need a reference?

Yes. The reference is a key part of your application as it provides a third person perspective of your suitability for the Course.

Applicants to the BA (Hons) Course need to have 1 reference included with the application.

Applicants to the MA Course should submit one with the application and be able to provide 2 references upon request.

References should be professional and/or academic. Personal references (e.g., from a spouse or friend) are unacceptable. **An acceptable reference is required at the application stage. Applications without an acceptable reference will be rejected.**

The Entrance Examination:

Below is some information about the Entrance Examination.

5.8 What does the Entrance Examination for?

The primary purpose of the exam is to assess whether your written English proficiency meets the required standard and to assess how far you meet the professional body entry threshold standards and can go on to meet Social Work England's Professional Standards and the Professional Capability Framework (PCF) by the British Association for Social Work at the point of completing your studies. You will need to write at a standard appropriate for undergraduate level and must write, coherently, logically and fully comprehend the tasks. The Entrance Exam also provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate how well you articulate your views and opinions in written form. It is important to show your analysis and reasoning and express this clearly and accurately to the reader.

5.9 How long is the Entrance Exam?

The Exam lasts 45 minutes.

5.10 Where does the Entrance Examination take place?

The Exam is held online. You will be advised in plenty of time, the date and time when you will receive the entrance examination. Clear instructions will be forwarded with the entrance examination, and you will need to return the entrance examination in the set time as indicated in the joining instructions. This is normally 45 minutes. **Please note that if you are unable to participate you will need to let us know and you will be invited to a future online entrance examination.** Please quote your full name and Course for which you have applied when you contact us.

5.11 How should I prepare for the Entrance Examination?

You should ensure that you have access to IT equipment and a good internet connection. Ensure that you are in an environment with as little distraction as possible as you will have a limited period to return the entrance exam. The exam is designed to assess your English and grammar so it would be in your best interest to make sure that you are comfortable evidencing this in written form.

If you consider that you have special needs in order to undertake this, you must inform the social work administrator at least 3 days before the date of the entrance examination. If

given notice, the social work administrator can arrange additional time, access to a computer or whatever else you might reasonably need. However, you must understand that we will be unable to meet your request if we do not receive your request by the deadline.

5.12 What happens after the Entrance Exam?

Following the Entrance Examination, your paper will be marked, and you will be informed as to whether you have successfully passed via the UEL admissions portal. Successful applicants will be invited to participate in an Interview via Microsoft Teams call on a different day.

The Interview:

Below is some information about the Interview:

5.13 Who will I be interviewed by?

Social work academics and stakeholders conduct interviews via Microsoft Teams. Stakeholders include people with lived experience of receiving social work services, carers, practitioners and employers. All Interviewers are briefed on the selection process and have a thorough understanding of the relevant entry criteria.

5.14 What is the purpose of the Interview?

The Interview is designed to assess the applicant's suitability to commence a social work training Course in line with professional body requirements. More specifically, it provides a chance to observe interpersonal communication, spoken English, professionalism and other characteristics that are not readily detectable from the other components of the selection process. The Interview also allows provides applicants with an opportunity to pose questions to the interviewer regarding the nature and structure of the relevant Course.

5.15 How long is the interview?

Interviews are usually 30 minutes long though in some cases this may vary.

5.16 Where does the Interview take place?

The Interview takes place via Microsoft Teams call.

5.17 How should I prepare for the Interview?

You should have a clear understanding of why it is that you would like to join your chosen Course and be able to reflect upon the factors that have contributed to your decision. It is vital that you are able to discuss social work practice and how you apply your understanding of social work principles, including anything relevant you have read on the subject. It is also important to remember that the interview is a chance for you to demonstrate what type of practitioner/professional you might be. In preparation for the interview, you might like to read up about the Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF) found on the website for the British Association for Social Work. You should also be prepared to discuss any disciplinary matters that you have noted on your disclosure form. Lastly, the Interview is an opportunity for you to pose any questions that you might have about your chosen Course.

Some possible sources of information:

BASW (2012) Professional Capabilities Framework (<https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-development/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf/the-pcf/readiness>) (accessed 1/11/2023)

Social Work England (2019) Professional Standards (<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/standards/professional-standards/>) (accessed on 3/11/2023)

Collins, P. H. & Bilge, S. (2016). Intersectionality. John Wiley & Sons

Davies, K. Jones, R. (2016) Skills for Social Work Practice London: Palgrave

Thompson, N. (2015). Understanding social work. 4th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Thompson, N. (2016). Anti-discriminatory practice: equality, diversity and social justice. 6th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Maclean, S. Finch, J, and Tedam, P. (2017) Share: A New Model of Social Work. Kirwin Maclean Associates

Megele, C. (2015) Psychosocial and Relationship Based Practice. Northwich: Critical Publishing

Parker, J. (2020). Introducing Social Work. London: SAGE Learning Matters

Quality newspapers, for example, The Guardian, The Times

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)- www.scie.org.uk

MA in Social Work applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with literature and information of relevance to contemporary social work and can consider the abovementioned resources

Receiving an Offer:

Below is some information about Offers.

5.18 Who decides whether or not I receive an Offer?

Following your Interview, the interviewer(s) will make one of the following three recommendations to the Selection Committee:

1. Extend an Unconditional Offer
2. Extend a Conditional Offer
3. Do not extend an Offer (Reject Application)

At this stage, the recommendation will be based on your performance during the Interview. Where an applicant performs marginally, the Application and Entrance Examination are also considered along with the Interview.

5.19 How will I know if I have received an offer?

You will be notified through the UCAS portal as to whether or not you receive an offer. This usually occurs 1-2 weeks following the interview. Offers are either Conditional or Unconditional. Following any offer your eligibility will remain subject to satisfactory DBS enhanced criminal conviction checks (for both adults and children). Social work is exempted from certain provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (as amended from time to time), and information about all previous convictions, cautions, warnings or ongoing police matters must be provided (there are some exceptions – for more information on this

look at DBS website or consult the interview team). A conviction does not automatically debar an applicant and the Course will seek further information about the circumstances to make an informed and considered judgement about an applicant's suitability in such instances.

5.20 What are the funding arrangements?

Details of the NHS bursary, how to apply and any recent changes are available from <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/825.aspx>.

The UEL Student finance office should also be able to help you identify possible undergraduate funding options.

Bursary nominations for the BA (Hons) in Social Work at the completion of the first year

Bursary nominations for the MA in Social Work at the beginning of the Course

Nominations for BA only:

Performance and attendance in the first year of the Course will contribute to the nominations for the NHS bursary from year 2 and 3.

Nominations for the MA only:

Applicants are being nominated for a bursary drawing on the NHS BSA guidance taking account of the allocation of bursaries made to this University for each cohort. We are prioritising applicants who:

- Entrance exam and admissions interview score
- Receive unconditional offers or conditional offers, and
- Accept early in the admissions process. It is important that you use the online portal to let us know your decision, it will this be date that is used as part of the ranking process. Emailing the admissions team your decision will mean that it might take few days before the decision is recorded and this can significantly influence where you are ranked in the nomination list

We will take a decision on the first group of nominees from all those who applied before January UCAS deadline date and have accepted their offer by the May UCAS deadline date.

We will notify any further nominees before the deadline set by NHS BSA for the University to submit its ranked list.

Further Information:

5.21 *Open days*

You are very welcome to attend an open day for further information – these will be held throughout the year and further information is available on the UEL website:

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/openday/>

6. **PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF RECEIVING SOCIAL WORK SERVICES AND CARER INVOLVEMENT:**

Ultimately people with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers are at the heart of social work practice. It is widely recognized that the ideas, skills, and knowledge of individuals who have first-hand experience of receiving support from health and social services have crucial role to play in preparing students for social work practice. To this end, UEL ensures that all stakeholders are able to provide significant contributions to the development of our Social Work Courses.

The involvement of people with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers allows students to gain insight from a variety of perspectives while also challenging common assumptions and/or stereotypes. Their involvement also provides an opportunity for people with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers to voice opinions about social work education including practitioner development and Course delivery. UEL involves people with lived experience of receiving social work services (current and former), carers and other stakeholders in multiple facets of the social work Courses' development and delivery.

6.1 *How do you involve people with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers in your Courses?*

People with lived experience of receiving social work services, carers and other stakeholders are directly involved in various aspects of the design and delivery of the Social Work Courses including:

- Admissions
- Course design
- Contribution to teaching
- Assessment of practice
- Quality Control

6.2 Will I be taught by people with lived experience of receiving social work services and/or carers?

People with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers assist in the delivery of both practice and academic modules. Throughout the course of each Course there will be sessions in which someone other than a UEL faculty member may deliver teaching (e.g., registered people with lived experience of receiving social work services, social workers, medical professionals). This is done to enhance learning by provided variety perspectives and experiences. All modules, however, are ultimately led by UEL and/or Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust staff.

6.3 Are the people with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers qualified/trained teachers?

People who support in the delivery of the BA (Hons) and MA Social Work Courses have varying qualifications and experience. It is not a requirement that they have a teaching qualification. All are provided with an overview of the Course and referred to the relevant induction/documentation to support their involvement.

6.4 Do people with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers have access to my confidential information?

As a general rule only the relevant UEL staff has access to any information that you provide to the university, and it is treated with the strictest of confidence. All people with lived experience of receiving social work services, carers and stakeholders involved in Course delivery are briefed on issues of confidentiality and adhere to guidelines provided by the relevant Course for the selected activity.

6.5 What areas of social work practice do people with lived experience in social work and carers have experience with?

People with lived experience of receiving social work services and carers involved in the Courses have experiences of involvement in a range of social work practice settings including children and family work and adult mental health. Some have not accessed services for quite some time while others may be actively engaged. Most importantly each brings with them the experience of being a person who has experienced the input of a social worker.

7. FAQs–BA (Hons) SOCIAL WORK

What is a Social Work degree course?

The Social Work degree course is a professional course leading to eligibility to register as a social worker with Social Work England

How many places are available?

We have an annual intake of 65 students

What are the Entry Requirements?

- English at grade C or above (or a certified equivalent e.g., Key Skills Level 2 in Communication; Adult Literacy; IELTS 7.0 overall and with 6.5 in all 4 components (reading writing, speaking and listening etc)
- The UCAS tariff point minimum required for acceptance on to the BA (Hons) degree Course is 120.
- If you are applying/entering via Access routes, you will need to demonstrate the ability to succeed at university level.
- Prior to any offer, you need to confirm your ability to use basic IT facilities, including word processing, internet browsing and email.
- Successful applicants must meet communication and comprehension skills to International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS) Level 7.
- Evidence of work with vulnerable people in a volunteer or paid capacity (recommended) and or relevant life experience that you can relate to an understanding of the social work role

When should I apply?

We receive a high volume of applications, so it is recommended that you apply as early as possible. Applications are made through UCAS. Please remember to complete your application in full, giving details of **all** your qualifications, (including GCSEs), employment and any relevant experience.

Can I study part-time?

No, the BA (Hons) Social Work Course is full time.

Can I work and study at the same time?

We recommend working during holiday periods only due to the demands of undertaking a professional qualification where academic study and practice placement is combined

How long is the Course?

The BA (Hons) Social Work Course is three years in duration.

Can I transfer from another course?

No, this is not possible. You will need to make an application through UCAS for entry into **Year 1** of the Course.

What are the funding arrangements?

In addition to student loans available for undergraduate study, there is currently an NHS bursary available for the second and third year of study for BA Social Work. Bursaries are limited in number and students will be nominated at the end of the first year.

Details of the NHS bursary, how to apply and any recent changes are available from <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/825.aspx>.

The UEL Student finance office should also be able to help you identify possible undergraduate funding options.

What will I be studying?

Social work Courses are required to teach a number of key areas to ensure students understand the law, social policy, human growth and development, safeguarding practice, theory and research, communication skills and interventions plus ensure you have two practice-based work placements. These subject areas and more will form part of your studies.

What is the applicant selection process?

Academic staff assesses all UCAS applications. Short-listing decisions are made on the basis of how the academic entry requirements are met as well as on the quality of the personal statement and references. Short-listed applicants are invited to attend an online **written exam** to ensure that a key requirement for social work applicants (i.e. the ability to communicate clearly in written English) is met. All written examinations are marked using standardised criteria equivalent to Grade C GCSE English. Applicants who successfully pass the written examination are invited to an Interview via Microsoft Teams call on a different day to the entrance examination. If you are offered a place, it is conditional on your meeting all the requirements including those stated by Social Work England

Please note that if you are unable to participate you will need to let us know and you will be invited to a future online entrance written exam. Please quote your full name and Course for which you have applied when you contact us.

If you consider that you have special needs in order to undertake this, you must inform the social work administrator at least 3 days before the date of the entrance examination. If given notice, the social work admissions administrator can arrange additional time, access to a computer or whatever else you might reasonably need. However, you must understand that we will be unable to meet your request if we do not receive your request by the deadline.

The interview will take place with an academic and/or representative from practice and/or a people with lived experience of receiving social work services or carer. You need to demonstrate some understanding of the social work role and so it is suggested that you carry out some background reading on social work prior to your interview. We need to assess your potential to manage the demands of the Course and the demands of the job. To prepare for the interview you might like to consult the following resources:

Davies, K. Jones, R. (2016) Skills for Social Work Practice London: Palgrave

Thompson, N. (2015). Understanding social work. 4th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Thompson, N. (2016). Anti-discriminatory practice: equality, diversity and social justice. 6th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

BASW (2012) Professional Capabilities Framework (<https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-development/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf/the-pcf/readiness>) (accessed 27/10/2022)

SWE (2019) Professional Standards

(<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/standards/professional-standards/>) (accessed on 27/10/2022)

Parker, J. (2020). *Introducing Social Work*. London: SAGE Learning Matters

How is the course structured?

The course runs for three years and each year is divided into 2 terms. Teaching takes place during both terms as do practice placements (years 2-3). All teaching happens at the Dockland Campus of the university.

What are the teaching hours?

Teaching takes place anytime from 9pm until 6pm – up to five days a week. You will also undertake two practice placements in the second and third years of the Course and will be expected to work the usual hours of the particular agency, this could include shift work, starting earlier and evening work.

When do I go on placement?

The second and third year practice learning opportunities (placements) commence during the first term of the respective year.

Who will select my placements and where will they be located?

The Practice Learning Team sources placements and students are not permitted to find their own. Placements can be in a variety of settings, both statutory and voluntary, and also other agencies including schools and prisons for example. The majority of our placements are in North East London, with other placements being in London, you will be required to be available for placement between 9am– 5pm, this is exclusive of the travel time. Pls be mindful that you might be required to travel between 1 – 2 hours if you lived in areas surrounding London, like Kent and Surrey to mention a few. Our placements cover a range of organisation who work with people with lived experience of receiving social work services groups including children and families, mental health, learning disability, physical disability and youth work.

Can I study social work if I have a criminal conviction?

Having a criminal conviction does not automatically bar people from studying social work or becoming social workers. Social work is exempted from certain provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (as amended from time to time), and information about all previous convictions, cautions, warnings or on-going police matters must be provided (there are some exceptions – for more information on this look at DBS website or consult the interview team). A conviction does not automatically debar an applicant and the Course will seek further information about the circumstances to make an informed and considered judgement about an applicant's suitability in such instances

The expectation is that you will declare criminal convictions as well as cautions, bind overs, fines etc. in your initial application as well as at interview. All social work students are required to have an enhanced criminal conviction checks DBS Check for Regulated Activity (for both adults and children) carried out and anything which later comes to light that was not declared at the interview stage may result in your immediate withdrawal from the Course. Therefore, as above, it is advisable that you disclose all relevant information as early as possible in the admissions process. It is also advisable to check directly with the [Social Work England](#) to see if they can advise you as to whether your offence(s) would likely to bar you from being registered once you complete the Course.

N.B. - If you have any convictions that have occurred during the past 5 years, you should contact the admissions tutor of your chosen Course for further discussion.

Readiness for practice Social Work England guidelines:

Students have to pass readiness to practice **before** the first practice placement commences in Year 2 of the Course. Students not meeting this requirement will be exited from the Course.

Will I be a fully qualified Social Worker on completion of the course?

You will be eligible to apply for registration as a Social Worker with the Social Work England if your intention is to work within England. To practise as a social worker in Northern Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, you will need to register with the relevant regulatory body. For further information in practicing outside of England, ensure you do the necessary research to obtain all information which will be required of you to register with the regulatory body and practice in the country of your interest. A good starting place is to consult [Social Work England's webpages](#)

Where could I gain experience to become a social worker?

Social work has vocational element to it so it helps if you are familiar with the roles undertaken by its practitioners as well as the values that shape the profession and how they are applied. Having some prior work experience is not a requirement of the BA (Hons) Course but is strongly recommended. If you would like to gain further experience volunteer agencies are good places to start. You may also want to explore this website is [Skills for care webpages](#) :

8. FAQs--MA SOCIAL WORK

How many places are available?

We have an annual intake of 45 students.

What are the Entry Requirements?

- 1) First degree in any subject (2:1 classification, or if applicant has significant experience in social care, plus a strong personal statement, then a 2:2 is acceptable; further, a 2:2 and a post graduate qualification, can also be considered). English at grade GCSE grade C or level 4*, (or a certified equivalent e.g., Key Skills Level 2 in Communication/ Literacy; IELTS 7.5 overall and with 7.5 in all 4 components (reading, writing, speaking and listening) etc).

(*For applicants who have a UK first degree at 2.1 or 2.2 and are not in receipt of their English Qualification at grade GCSE grade c or level 4 the admissions team in consultation with the Course lead have the discretion to waiver the English requirement. The decision will be based on the applicant's ability to demonstrates a good command of English in the different facets of the selection process (e.g., interview, test, etc).

Applicants are also required to have sufficient experience of social care or working with vulnerable people in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes having an understanding of the social work role.

When should I apply?

We receive a high volume of applications, so we recommend that you apply as early as possible. Applications are made through UCAS. Please remember to complete your application in full, giving details of **all** your qualifications, including GCSEs and any previous employment.

Can I study part-time?

No, the MA Social Work Course is full time.

How long is the Course?

The duration of the Course is two years.

Can I transfer from another course?

No, this is not possible. You will need to make an application through UCAS.

What are the funding arrangements?

Details of the NHS bursary, how to apply and any recent changes are available from <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/825.aspx>.

Bursary nominations

Applicants are being nominated for a bursary drawing on the NHS BSA guidance taking account of the allocation of bursaries made to this University for the cohort beginning in September. We are prioritising applicants who:

- Entrance exam and admissions interview score
- Receive unconditional offers or conditional offers, and
- Accept early in the admissions process. It is important that you use the online portal to let us know your decision, it will this be date that is used as part of the ranking process. Emailing the admissions team your decision will mean that it might take few days before the decision is recorded and this can significantly influence where you are ranked in the nomination list

We will take a decision on nominees from all those who applied and accepted the offer by the May UCAS deadline date.

Can a local authority or other employer sponsor me?

Yes, you can but your employer who has agreed to sponsor you to train to be a social worker needs to contact the MA Social work Admissions Tutor, Dawn Ludick (d.ludick@uel.ac.uk)

What will I be studying?

Social work Courses are required to teach a number of key areas to ensure students understand the law, social policy, human growth and development, safeguarding practice, theory and research, communication skills and interventions plus ensure you have two practice-based work placements. All of these subject areas and more will form part of your studies.

What is the selection process?

Academic staff assesses all applications. Short-listing decisions are made on the basis of how the academic entry requirements are met as well as on the quality of the personal statement and references. Short-listed applicants are invited to attend the University for a **written exam** to ensure that a key requirement for social work applicants, i.e., the ability to write and communicate clearly in the English language is met. All written examinations are marked using standardised criteria equivalent to Grade C GCSE English. Applicants who successfully pass the written examination are invited to participate in via Microsoft Teams call on a different day to the entrance examination. If you are offered a place it is conditional on your meeting all the requirements including those stated by Social Work England.

Please note that if you are unable to attend, we will only be able to re-invite you to another written examination session if there is availability of places on your chosen Course. Please quote your full name and Course for which you have applied when you contact us. It is important that you inform us of your non-attendance, as places are limited.

If you consider that you have special needs in order to undertake this, you must inform the social work admissions administrator at least 3 days before the date of the entrance examination. If given notice, the social work administrator can arrange additional time, access to a computer or whatever else you might reasonably need. However, you must understand that we will be unable to meet your request if we do not receive your request by the deadline.

How can I prepare myself for interview?

The interview may take place with an academic and/or representative from practice and/or people with lived experience of receiving social work services or carers. You need to demonstrate some understanding of the social work role and so it is suggested carry out some background reading on social work prior to your interview. We need to assess your potential to manage the demands of the Course and the demands of the job. You should arrive in good time for your interview.

MA in Social Work applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with literature and information of relevance to contemporary social work.

Some possible sources of information:

BASW (2012) Professional Capabilities Framework (<https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-development/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf/the-pcf/readiness>) (accessed 27/10/2022)

Collins, P. H. & Bilge, S. (2016). Intersectionality. John Wiley & Sons

Davies, K. Jones, R. (2016) Skills for Social Work Practice London: Palgrave

Thompson, N. (2015). Understanding social work. 4th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Thompson, N. (2016). Anti-discriminatory practice: equality, diversity and social justice. 6th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Maclean, S. Finch, J, and Tedam, P. (2017) Share: A New Model of Social Work. Kirwin Maclean Associates

Megele, C. (2015) Psychosocial and Relationship Based Practice. Northwich: Critical Publishing

Parker, J. (2020). Introducing Social Work. London: SAGE Learning Matters

Quality newspapers, for example, The Guardian, The Times

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)- www.scie.org.uk

Social Work England (2019) Professional Standards (<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/standards/professional-standards/>) (accessed on 27/10/2022)

Can I work and study at the same time?

We recommend working during holiday periods only due to the demands of undertaking a professional qualification where academic study and practice placement is combined

How is the course structured?

For the first term of year 1, (September to January) the Course runs from the University of East London, Docklands campus. From January, you are taught at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust in Hampstead. Year 2 teaching all takes place at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust.

What are the Teaching hours?

Teaching can anytime from 9pm until 6pm – up to five days a week. You will also be expected to undertake two practice placements in each year of the Course and will be expected to work the usual hours of the particular agency, this could include shift work, starting earlier and evening work.

When do I go on placement?

Placements are usually either 3 or 4 days a week. The year 1 practice learning opportunity (placement) commences in January and continues until June. The first placement is 70 days. The second-year practice learning opportunity commences in October and runs until June (depending on pattern of days worked).

Placement: who will find my placements and where will they be?

The Practice Learning Team sources placements and students are not permitted to find their own. Placements can be in a variety of settings, both statutory and voluntary, and also other agencies including schools and prisons for example. The majority of our placements are in North East London, with other placements being in London, you will be required to be available for placement between 9am– 5pm, this is exclusive of the travel time. Pls be mindful that you might be required to travel between 1 – 2 hours if you lived in areas surrounding London, like Kent and Surrey to mention a few. Our placements cover a range of organisation who work with people with lived experience of receiving social work services groups including children and families, mental health, learning disability, physical disability and youth work.

Can I study social work if I have a criminal conviction?

Having a criminal conviction does not automatically bar people from studying social work or becoming social workers. Social work is exempted from certain provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (as amended from time to time), and information about all previous convictions, cautions, warnings or on-going police matters must be

provided (there are some exceptions – for more information on this look at DBS website or consult the interview team). A conviction does not automatically debar an applicant and the Course will seek further information about the circumstances to make an informed and considered judgement about an applicant's suitability in such instances. The expectation is that you will declare criminal convictions as well as cautions, bind overs, fines etc. in your initial application as well as at interview. All social work students are required to have an enhanced criminal conviction checks DBS Check for Regulated Activity carried out and anything which later comes to light that was not declared at the interview stage may result in your immediate withdrawal from the Course. Therefore, as above, it is advisable that you disclose all relevant information as early as possible in the admissions process. It is also advisable to check directly with [Social Work England](#) to see if they can advise you as to whether your offence(s) would likely to bar you from being registered once you complete the Course.

N.B. - If you have any convictions that have occurred during the past 5 years, you should contact the admissions tutor of your chosen Course for further discussion.

Readiness for Practice Social Work England guidelines:

Students have to pass readiness to practice **before** the first practice placement commences in Year 2 of the Course. Students not meeting this requirement will be exited from the Course.

Will I be a fully qualified social worker on completion of the course?

You will be eligible to apply for registration as a Social Worker with the Social Work England if your intention is to work within England. To practise as a social worker in Northern Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, you will need to register with the relevant regulatory body. For further information in practicing outside of England, ensure you do the necessary research to obtain all information which will required of you to register with the regulatory body and practice in the country of your interest. A good starting place is to consult [Social Work England's webpage](#) which will be required of you to practice in the country of your interest.

Thank you

Again, thank you for your interest in the course and for taking for taking the time read this guidebook. Please feel free to contact us with any further questions.