



The Open  
University

SCOTLAND

# Postgraduate Diploma and MA in Social Work

## Information for student enquirers in Scotland

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## Structure and content

The postgraduate programme will be in two stages:

### Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work

*K832 Developing social work practice + K833 Advancing social work practice*

A Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work, which will be the qualifying award to apply for entry to the SSSC register as a social worker. 120 academic credits studied over 17 months, including two practice learning placements.

### MA in Social Work

*KXK829 Transforming professional practice*

A Masters project/dissertation module, which will enable you to extend your skills in research and analysis. 60 academic credits studied over 9 months. This will involve a small-scale research project, which will normally be relevant to setting in which you are located and have the potential to benefit the development of practice within that area.

Completion of all three modules leads to the award of MA in Social Work.

### Module content

Relevant teaching has been integrated into *K832 Developing social work practice* and *K833 Advancing social work practice* to provide a thematic approach to exploring law; digital and information literacy; values and ethics; safeguarding practices; theories and approaches in social work intervention; and research methods and evidence-based practice. There are study pathways in each of the practice-related modules, so that you can study relevant learning guides alongside your placement, to support your practice learning with particular service user groups.

#### K832 Developing social work practice

*Start date:* late January

*End date:* early-September

*Credits:* 60

*Practice-based learning:* 80-day placement (normal attendance pattern 4 days per week for 20 weeks)

#### *Content:*

- Foundations for social work practice
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Social divisions and diversity
- Human growth and development
- Social work practice with children and families OR Social work practice with adults  
(*you will take both pathways, one on K832 and one on K833*)

#### *Teaching, learning and assessment:*

- Supported by two OU tutors, a module tutor and a programme (practice) tutor
- Residential weekend
- Three face-to-face workshops
- A range of online collaborative activities and discussion seminars
- Online self-directed learning, accessible 24/7
- Two tutor-marked assignments and an end-of-module assignment related to practice learning

### K833 Advancing social work practice

*Start date:* early October

*End date:* late May/early June

*Credits:* 60

*Practice-based learning:* 90-day placement (normal attendance pattern 4 days per week for 23 weeks)

*Content:*

- Research-based practice
- Social work practice with children and families OR Social work practice with adults (*you will take both pathways, one on K832 and one on K833*)
- Mental health
- Professional development

*Teaching, learning and assessment:*

- Supported by two OU tutors, a module tutor and a programme (practice) tutor
- Three face-to-face workshops
- A range of online collaborative activities and discussion seminars
- Online self-directed learning, accessible 24/7
- Two tutor-marked assignments and an end-of-module assignment related to practice learning

### KXK829 Transforming professional practice

*Start date:* October

*End date:* June

*Credits:* 60

*Practice-based learning:* no

*Content:*

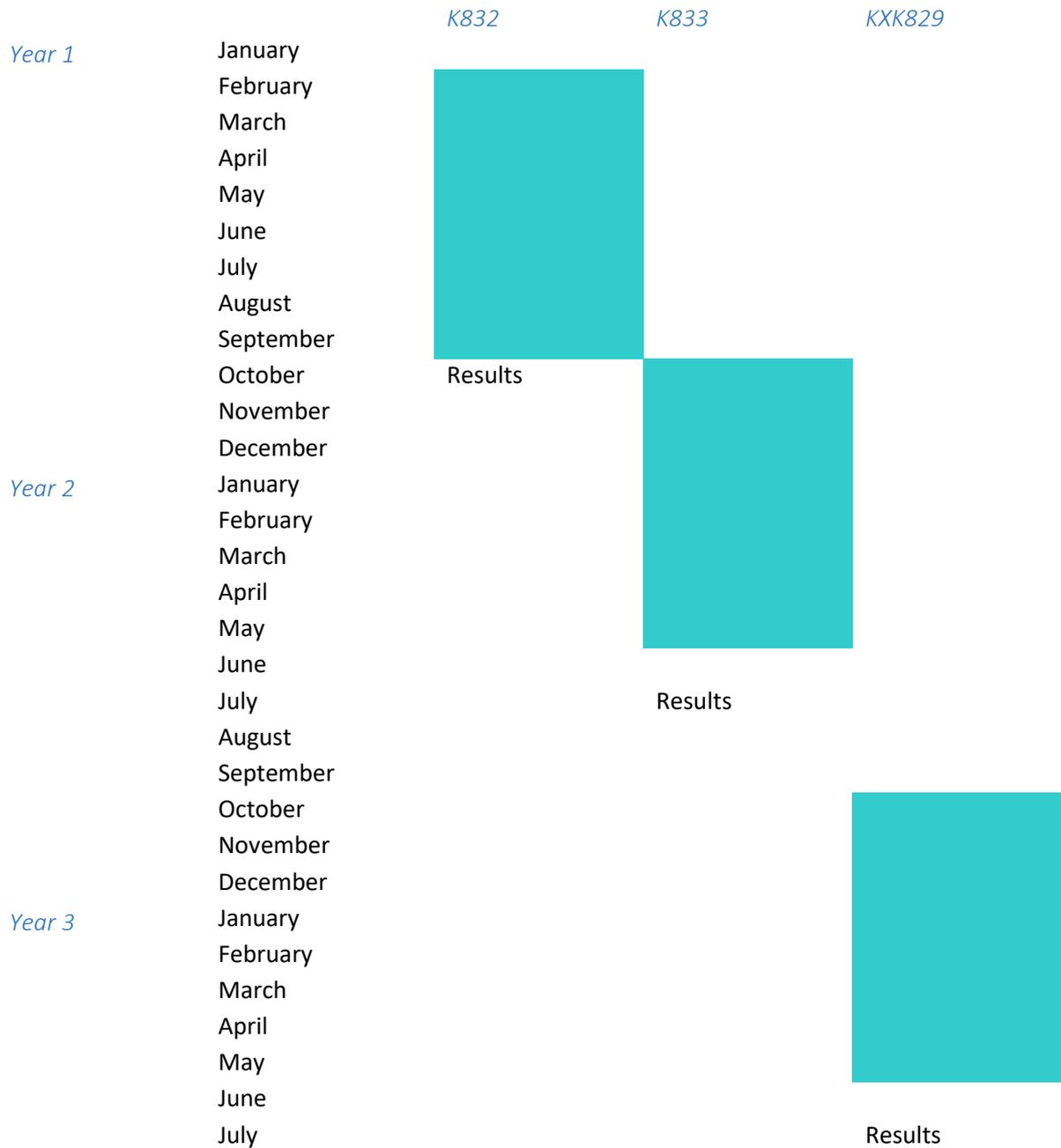
- A guided enquiry into advanced social care/ social work practice leading to recommendations for improvement in a practice setting
- Includes an investigation of both evidence and experience and explores different means for dissemination of best practice

*Teaching, learning and assessment:*

- Project/dissertation
- Supported by an OU module tutor
- Online group tuition and individual contact
- Online self-directed learning, accessible 24/7
- Four tutor-marked assignments and an end-of-module assignment

## Time to complete

The presentation pattern will allow students to complete the PG Dip within 18 months, and the MA within 30 months. The maximum time allowed is 5 years for the PG Dip and 9 years for the MA.



## Entry requirements

All candidates must meet minimum entry requirements before applying for the postgraduate social work programme.

- You must have a minimum of a 2:2 classification in a relevant subject. Each application will be considered individually.
  - You may also have vocational qualifications which demonstrate your understanding of the context for social work.
1. The combination of an applicants' academic and vocational record will be considered together with a proven record of experience of engaging directly with Service Users in a professional setting. Candidates' experience will be considered individually on application but we would normally expect a **minimum** of one year's experience – either paid or voluntary – in a setting such as a local authority or a health or social care provider in the private, voluntary or independent sector.
  2. In addition, you must:
    - Demonstrate your ability to understand and communicate in written and spoken English
    - Demonstrate that you have appropriate personal and intellectual qualities to train as a social worker
    - Be part of a selection process (see below)
    - Register as a student social worker with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), which includes a check under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.
    - Provide evidence of Standard Grade Two in mathematics, or a recognised equivalent or be willing to undertake a numeracy test.
    - Be able to provide evidence of 30 days' prior professional practice; this does not necessarily need to be undertaken before applying for a place, but must be completed by the end of December 2018 for the January 2019 start.

## Selection process

There is a formal admissions process, requiring applicants to:

- Complete an OU application form, which will include a personal statement, references, employer endorsement and a declaration of suitability for social work.
- Take part in an interview process, which will include a written test.

For further information see 'How to apply' below.

**Any offer of a place on the programme will be subject to Recognition of Prior Professional Practice (RPPP) equivalent to 30 days of practice-based learning;** further information about this requirement will be provided with the application form.

## How to apply

This course includes two compulsory periods of assessed practice learning, which must be undertaken in a suitable work environment. To be eligible, students must already be working in a social care environment.

For students commencing their studies in January 2019, we can accept applications from sponsoring employers and from individual students who do not have sponsorship.

Sponsoring employers and individual students wishing to apply should contact the Social Work Co-ordinator, Scotland by emailing [Scotland@open.ac.uk](mailto:Scotland@open.ac.uk) to request an application pack.

These are the steps to making an application:

What	When	Who
<p>If you are being sponsored, you should speak to your employer to find out whether they would be willing to support you to train as a social worker. If they are not currently supporting students on the OU programme and would like to find out more about what's involved, they can contact the social work team directly by email or phone: <a href="mailto:scotland@open.ac.uk">scotland@open.ac.uk</a> or 0131 226 3851.</p> <p>We can arrange for a member of the OU social work team to meet with your employer, to explain and discuss the programme in more detail and to ensure that they are able to provide practice learning opportunities that meet the requirements for social work students.</p>	At any time	Applicant and Employer
<p>If you are not being sponsored and are making an individual application, you should contact the social work team directly by email or phone: <a href="mailto:scotland@open.ac.uk">scotland@open.ac.uk</a> or 0131 226 3851 to request an application pack</p>		OU
<p>If your employer agrees to support you, they complete and return a Provisional Booking Form, available from the Social Work Co-ordinator, Scotland (contact details as above).</p>	<p>No later than:</p> <p>Mid August for January 2019 start.</p>	Employer
<p>If you are making an individual application, the Social Work Co-ordinator, Scotland will request your module booking for you if you are interviewed successfully</p>		
<p>We will send you or your employer an application pack for you to complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application form</li> <li>• Recognition of Prior Professional Practice (RPPP) requirements and proforma</li> </ul>	Return completed application forms by <b>3 Sept 2018</b>	OU
<p>If you are being sponsored, you should pass your completed application form to your employer, who needs to sign it to confirm their support before returning to OU by the due date.</p>	Deadline by arrangement between your employer and the Social Work Co-ordinator, Scotland	Applicant and Employer
<p>If you are making an individual application, you will be required to obtain a line manager's/supervisor's reference which takes the form of a supportive statement, asking them to provide their opinion on your personal qualities and suitability to undertake training as a social worker.</p>		

You will need to provide evidence that you meet the academic entry requirements (normally your examination/degree certificate(s)) – we need to see the originals and you will be asked to bring these with you if invited to interview.	In advance of the selection interview	Applicant
Interview process	<b>October 2018</b>	
If successful in the interview process, you will be asked to submit your RPPP evidence	No later than:  <b>30 November 2018</b>	
After RPPP, if your place is confirmed you will be sent a Student Registration Agreement to complete and pass to your employer if you are being sponsored. They will return it to the OU by the due date. Please ensure you allow sufficient time for your employer to process the form, particularly in view of public holidays at this time of year.	No later than:  <b>10 January 2019</b>	Applicant and Employer
If you have made an individual application you should complete and return the Student Registration Agreement to the Social Work Co-ordinator, Scotland		

## Fees

*The fee information provided here is valid for modules starting before 31 July 2018. Fees normally increase annually in line with inflation and the University's strategic approach to fees.*

<i>Module</i>		<i>Credits</i>	<i>Fee</i>
K832	Developing social work practice	60	£3,580
K833	Advancing social work practice	60	£3,580
KXK829	Transforming professional practice	60	£2,040

## Contact us

Go to:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/qualifications/e85> for the PG Dip or

<http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/qualifications/f80> for the MA in Social Work

Phone: **0131 226 3851** to speak to a member of the social work team

Email: [scotland@open.ac.uk](mailto:scotland@open.ac.uk)