



The Open
University

SCOTLAND

Postgraduate Diploma and MA in Social Work

Information for employers 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 students to extend their 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 the setting in which the student is located and have the potential to benefit the development of practice within the 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 students working with particular service user groups can study relevant learning guides alongside their placement, to support their practice learning.

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
(*students 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 (*students 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.

- Applicants must have a minimum of a 2:2 classification in a relevant subject. Each application will be considered individually.
 - Applicants may also have vocational qualifications which demonstrate their 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, all candidates must:
 - Demonstrate their ability to understand and communicate in written and spoken English
 - Demonstrate that they 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. A numeracy test can be administered if necessary.
 - 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 to request an application pack.

These are the steps to making an application:

What	When	Who
If you are an employer who is not currently supporting students on the OU programme and would like to find out more about what's involved, you can contact the social work team directly by email or phone: scotland@open.ac.uk or 0131 226 3851	At any time	Employer
We can arrange for a member of the OU social work team to meet with you to explain and discuss the programme in more detail, and to ensure that you are able to provide practice learning opportunities that meet the requirements for social work students.		OU
Complete and return a Provisional Booking Form, available from the Social Work Co-ordinator, Scotland (contact details as above).	No later than: 15 August 2018	Employer
	if you wish to put forward candidates for January 2019 start.	
We send an application pack for candidates to complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • Recognition of Prior Professional Practice (RPPP) requirements and proforma 		OU
Applicant or student returns completed application form to the employer, who signs it to confirm support before forwarding to the OU in Scotland.	Deadline by arrangement with the Social Work Co-ordinator, Scotland	Applicant and Employer
Applicants will need to provide evidence that they meet the academic entry requirements (normally their examination/degree certificate(s)) – we need to see the originals and candidates will be asked to bring these with them if invited to interview.	In advance of the selection interview	Applicant
Applicant interviews.	October 2018	
Applicants who are offered a conditional place, submit their RPPP evidence.	No later than: 30 November 2018	

After RPPP, applicants whose places are confirmed will be sent a Student Registration Agreement to complete and pass to their employer. Employers will be sent a Corporate Sponsorship Form to set up payment arrangements.		OU and Applicant
Employer completes a Corporate Sponsorship Form and returns it to the OU with the student's Registration Agreement.	No later than: 10 January 2019	Employer

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