

## Programme Specification

<b>Programme title:</b>	Diploma in Higher Education in Social Work
<b>Awarding Institution:</b>	The University of Reading
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	The University of Reading
<b>Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group</b>	Social Work
	Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences
<b>Programme length</b>	3 years for students entering C level in 2002
<b>Date of specification</b>	November 2001
<b>Programme Director</b>	Viola Nzira
<b>Programme Adviser</b>	Dr W P Gothard
<b>Board of studies</b>	DipHE in Social Work
<b>Accreditation</b>	General Social Care Council

### Summary of Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Qualifying social workers are required to acquire, critically evaluate, apply and integrate knowledge in five core areas of study: social work services and service users; the service delivery context; values and ethics; social work theory and research; social work practice. In this programme students will have the opportunity to learn and be assessed in all core areas.

Those who successfully complete the programme, which includes two periods of assessed practice, will be able to evidence that they can:

- Think critically about the social, legal, political and cultural contexts in which social work is located
- Work in a responsible way, balancing a concern for individual autonomy with legal and professional duties of care and protection.
- Make use of theory and research in guiding and critically evaluating practice.

### Transferable skills

Students will have the opportunity to develop the generic transferable skills required of all undergraduate programmes at the University of Reading. These relate to career management, communication (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem solving, team working and use of information technology. A grid is attached in Appendix 1 which identifies specifically the module(s) where these skills will be developed.

### Programme content

The proposed programme allows completion of 120 credits at levels C & I over a 3 year period, with 80 credits being taken in each year. In the second year half the credits are at level C & half at level I. APL arrangements are proposed for suitably qualified candidates to enter year two of the programme.

### *Year One*

		<b>Credits</b>
HC1SW1	Social Work Theory and Values	40
HC1HS1	Introduction to Human Services	20
HC1HS2	Social Values and Social Policy	20
	<b>Total</b>	80

### *Year Two*

		<b>Credits</b>
HC1SW2	Social Work Theory and Practice (50 day placement)	20
HC1SW3	Social Work Law	20
HC2HS1	Psycho-social studies of the individual and family	20
HC2HS2	Social Justice and Inclusion	20
	<b>Total</b>	80

### *Year Three*

		<b>Credits</b>
HC2SW1	Social Work Theory and Practice (80 day placement)	40
HC2HS3	Social Policy and Social Welfare	20
HC2HS4	Social Research and Human Services	20
	<b>Total</b>	80

### **Progression Requirements**

All modules in each year must be passed at a minimum of 40% in order to progress to the following year. Progression from Year Two to Year Three also requires a Pass recommendation for the 50-day placement. Satisfactory completion of Year Three also requires satisfactory completion of the 80-day placement.

### **Summary of teaching and assessment**

Teaching involves lectures, seminars and practice based learning. Assessment includes both course work and examinations. Students obtaining an average of 60-90% in level I modules will be eligible for a Merit and those averaging 70+% in level I modules will be eligible for a Distinction.

## Admission requirements

English GCSE Plus A/AS levels	Grade C or equivalent CCC
International Baccalaureate	30 points
Irish Learning Certificate	Grade BBBBC
GNVQ Advanced	12 units in relevant subjects and one grade C at 'A' level
Scottish Higher	BBBB
Access Courses	Appropriate approved units at level 3
Advance standing (APL) for GNVQ/Social Care Level 4 (80 credits) Open University K100 (60 credits)	

## Support for Students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning ([S@IL](#)) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution Wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union. Students are supported and encouraged to become independent learners through feedback and discussion with tutors. Special emphasis is given to students learning 'by doing', in particular modules.

## Career prospects

All students on this programme will already be in employment and have chosen a career in social work. The selection process begins with employers identifying candidates who they are willing to sponsor. There is a national and regional shortage of qualified social workers, and employers currently have financial incentives from Department of Health to sponsor part-time students onto social work courses.

## Educational aims of the Programme

The programme is designed to enable students to:

- Recognise and work with the links between inter-personal factors and the wider social, legal, economic, political and cultural context of people's lives;
- Understand the impact of injustice, social inequalities and oppressive social relations;
- Challenge constructively individual, institutional and structural discrimination;
- Practice in ways that maximise safety and effectiveness in situations of uncertainty and incomplete information;
- Help people to gain, regain or maintain control of their own affairs in so far as this is compatible with their own and others' safety, well being and rights.

- Work with professionals from other human services and agencies in an informed and respectful way.

# Programme Outcomes

## The Programme Provides:

### Knowledge and Understanding

<p><b>A. Knowledge and understanding of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the social processes that lead to marginalisation, isolation and exclusion and their impact on the demand for social work services</li><li>2. the key concepts used to understand human needs and social welfare: for example equity, poverty and diversity</li><li>3. the history and contemporary activities of U.K. welfare institutions and of some theoretical explanations of that development</li><li>4. the nature of social work in a diverse society (with particular reference to prejudice, empowerment and anti-discriminatory practices)</li><li>5. the nature and validity of different definitions of, and explanations for, the characteristics and circumstances for service users and the services required by them</li><li>6. the nature and application of social work values</li><li>7. some key concepts and theories of welfare, including theories of the state and of policy-making and implementation</li><li>8. how contemporary social problems have emerged and of social policy responses</li><li>9. social work law and its application to practice</li><li>10. relevant social work research and evaluation methodologies and critical appraisal of these</li><li>11. the contribution of other human services to meeting human needs</li></ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</b></p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to gain and develop their knowledge and understanding of social work through lectures, seminars, independent study including project work. Placements in the second and third year will offer the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding through participation and observation. Throughout the programme there will be an emphasis on adult learning principles.</p> <p><i>Assessment</i></p> <p>Assessment is generally divided between examinations and course work on a 50-50 basis. Exceptions are social work practical in years 2 and 3 and research methods in year 2, which are assessed entirely by course work.</p>
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## Skills and other attributes

### **B. Intellectual skills – able to**

12. be evaluative and analytical
13. demonstrate and exercise independence of thought
14. show a critical awareness of social policy processes
15. be sensitive to the values and interests of self and others
16. think logically and systematically
17. gather information from a wide range of sources and for a range of purposes
18. take into account differences of viewpoint in gathering information
19. integrate theory and practice

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Students will be presented with models and theories which logically lead to different approaches to problem definition and social solutions. This will promote evaluative and critical thinking and demand independence of thought. Awareness of values in action will be stimulated by teaching and discussion and developed further through placements. Placements also offer opportunities to develop skills in gathering information, logical thinking and developing independence of thought.

#### *Assessment*

A variety of assessment methods will be used including examinations, essays, work studies and a placement portfolio. This will promote a range of approaches to learning including problem solving, awareness of values, and knowledge and understanding that need s to be committed to memory.

## Knowledge and Understanding

### C. Practical skills – able to

1. demonstrate self awareness
2. show good communication skills
3. to write reports to professional standards
4. organise and manage meetings
5. observe, record and give account of a social work organisation
6. use current IT to word process, retrieve and analyse data and use email
7. work in teams

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Students need to be self motivated and have good communication skills on placements where they are also required to observe, record and give account. IT skills are especially required in I Level research module. Project work requires team work

### *Assessment*

IT skills are not formally assessed in C and I. Observing, recording and giving account is assessed in I Level inter personal skills are assessed thoroughly in placement and in project work.


## Knowledge and Understanding

### **D. Transferable skills – able to**

1. give oral presentations
2. communicate in writing
3. manage time
4. plan their career
5. work as part of a team
6. problem solve
7. apply basic numerical skills

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Oral and written presentations are an important element in C and I. Problem solving and team work exercises are present in both parts of the programme whilst numeracy skills are developed progressively. Time Management is emphasised throughout the programme especially on placement. There is scope to develop career management skills throughout the programme.



### *Assessment*

Oral and written communication, team work and problem solving are assessed in C and I. Career planning is assessed in I Level Time Management and numeracy are not assessed separately.