

Children Young People, their Families and Carers / Social Work with Adults or GradDip. Helping Professions

This programme is No Longer Recruiting.

Final award	GradDip. Post Qualifying Specialist Social Work or Helping Professions:
Intermediate awards available	Graduate Certificate
UCAS code	General Social Care Council (GSCC) Specialist level Post Qualifying (PQ) awards:
Details of professional body accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children Young People, their Families and Carers;• Social Work with Adults• Social Work in Mental Health Services
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Social Work (2008)
Date specification last updated	May 2008

Profile

The summary - UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

Whether you work with children and young people, adults or in mental health settings, this programme provides all that you need to achieve the crucial first level GSCC PQ award in your area of specialist social work practice as well as the academic award of the Graduate Diploma in Post Qualifying Specialist Social Work. For other professionals this programme offers you a Graduate Diploma in the Helping Professions.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For Graduate Diploma PQSSW

Social workers - a social work qualification. This is usually a GSCC approved award at Degree or Masters level or equivalent.

For Graduate Diploma Helping Professions

Other applicants - an equivalent professional qualification and 120 credits at Level 2/3.

All applicants need to be located within a health/education/social care setting.

The following requirements apply:

- The PQ candidate has the agreement of their employer to participate in the programme
- The PQ social work employer appoints a PQ work-based mentor who can verify that the student's practice meets the GSCC requirements and report on this to the UEL Practice Assessment Panel
- The candidate has the opportunity to supervise and assess a student social worker/or equivalent
- The practice of the PQ social work candidate will be directly observed by the line manager and PQ work-based mentor
- The candidate has the employer's permission to bring anonymised case material into the classroom for exploration and analysis.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is a Graduate Diploma PQSSW/Helping Professions?

After qualifying, social workers formally register with the professional body. The GSCC requires you to engage in continuing professional development and expects you to register for further training within the Post Qualifying framework. This Graduate Diploma PQSSW enables PQ social work students to achieve the first level of PQ award. From this programme you can then proceed to Post Graduate/Higher Specialist and MA/Advanced Awards all the way to the Professional Doctorate in Social Work. UEL (with our collaborative partner the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust) offers the full range of PQ academic and professional awards.

For other health/education/social care professionals, you can achieve the academic qualification Graduate Diploma Helping Professions. From this programme you can then proceed to any Post Graduate and MA programmes.

Graduate Diploma Post Qualifying Specialist Social Work/Helping Professions at UEL

At UEL, you can gain a Graduate Diploma and the relevant GSCC PQ award whether you work with Children and Young People, Adults or in Mental Health Services. You will work in supportive groups with social work teachers who have particular knowledge in your specialist practice area.

Programme structure

You will be taught in groups of various shapes and sizes sometimes including large field-wide lectures and always with smaller seminar groups in which you focus on the specific requirements of the modules that comprise the awards. You will have the opportunity to consolidate your practice since qualifying and learn how to supervise and assess others. You will be taught how to integrate theory and practice and how to develop your specialist competence. The programme is within the academic framework of the third year of an honours degree and the professional Post Qualifying framework of the GSCC.

Learning environment

The Enfield training facilities are modern and inclusive. The taught module is seminar-based. The programme involves you linking theory to your practice and vice versa. You undertake formative assessments in the form of classroom quizzes that help you to check knowledge of the mental health law which you need to demonstrate in your practice and practice based assignments.

Assessment

The assessment methods vary according to the module. As well as more traditional written assignments, PQ students will make presentations to their peers for some modules. Some students will make mixed media products for use by service users (with learning difficulties). PQ social work students will also submit a portfolio from your practice settings with a brief report from your PQ work-based mentor and direct observations of their practice with clients.

Work experience/placement opportunities

PQ students will be located in relevant health, education and/or social care settings. All aspects of the programme will involve the integration of practice and classroom learning. For PQ social work students, PQ work-based mentors will contribute to the practice learning assessment and verification process and aspects of the professional award will be assessed via the Practice Assessment Panel.

Project work

A central feature of this level 3 programme involves you in developing competence in depth in relation to the client group that you work most closely with. You will develop your library skills and understand how to use contemporary data bases to conduct a literature review focussed on your area of specialist practice. You will also have the opportunity to contribute to the thinking and strategies of others in your group who, like you, will be working at bringing together their learning about theory and policy with considering new approaches to practice. Our students (from PQ programmes under the previous framework) tell us how much they enjoy this experience of being part of an academic and focussed professional community.

Added value

Health, education and social care employers increasingly look for Graduate Diploma and PQ qualifications at specialist level as a base line for appointment to specialist posts and for promotion. This will be an evident asset to the development of your career. We know, from student and employer feedback, that completion of PQ awards entails the development of professional confidence that increases work satisfaction. Members of our service experience advisors' group tell us of the importance from their own lives of practitioners being skilled, thoughtful and open in the approaches they take to individuals, groups and communities.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in...

Consolidating your practice from the point of your initial qualification.

Enabling others by learning about adult learning, giving supervision and assessing student practice.

Developing your knowledge values and skills in your area of specialist practice whether that is with children and young people, their families and carers (including children with disabilities; work with adults (including people with learning disabilities) or in mental health services.

Learning how to select a research question suitable for a small scale research project that you develop as a dissertation.

If you enjoy...

Reflecting on your practice and that of your colleagues; using relevant and topical research material in your professional role and organisational context; making a difference in the lives of your service users through your knowledgeable thoughtful and skilful interventions in inter-professional practice contexts.

If you want...

To contribute actively to strategies and practice which promote service users' and carers' rights and participation in line with goals of choice, independence and empowerment

To work more effectively in contexts of risk, uncertainty, conflict and contradiction

To teach and assess the practice of student social workers and mentor and support students or colleagues

To take responsibility for the effective use of supervision to identify and explore issues, develop and implement plans and improve your own practice.

Your future career

Successful completion of this programme opens the door to all relevant post graduate courses. It offers PQ social work students both an academic and a professional qualification, recognised nationally by employers and colleagues alike. It leads to higher academic and professional awards as well as strengthening your confidence in your current professional role and context.

How we support you

For each individual module, you will have access to the module leader for advice and assistance about the module. You will have access to the professional award leader for specialist advice. You will have access to the UEL PQ programme leader for programme issues. PQ social work students will link with your employer-selected PQ work-based mentor for matters related to workplace mentoring, verification and assessment. You will be inducted into the UEL library services with the help of the specialist social work librarian. You will be supported in your studies by the UEL virtual learning environment: UEL Plus. As a

registered PQ student you will have access to all of the UEL student support facilities including financial advisors. The GSCC supports and promotes the PQ framework which this programme is located within. Skills-for-Care, the employer-led Sector Skills Council, endorses this programme and encourages employers to recognise its value and facilitate your involvement in it.

Bonus factors

Engaging with this programme will extend your academic and professional qualifications and credentials. Your clients will benefit from your renewed confidence in negotiating and employing the professional and role authority you will develop within your organisational context. You will become more aware of the depth and breadth of interventions available within your specialist context. You will extend your vocabulary and vision and be enabled to participate in fora across the sector to promote the interests of service users and begin to influence related policy and practice.

Outcomes

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Achieve an integrated academic and professional qualification by gaining a Graduate Diploma. For PQ social work students, this is at the same time as you successfully meet the requirements for one of three possible GSCC Post Qualifying professional Awards.
- Engage with the underpinning principles of the GSCC PQ framework through this learning process. These principles include consultation with service users in all aspects of learning and assessment; recognising and working with the inter-professional context of the work; working closely with health, education and social care employers to develop a work force that meets the complex needs of individual clients, groups and communities.

What will you learn?

Knowledge

- Consolidating and extending practice from the point of initial qualification in relation to relevant national occupational standards
- Supervising and assessing the practice of another
- Recognition and application of key policy and legislation within a specific client context

'Thinking' skills

- Reflective and analytic approaches to your own practice and the practice of your peers

- Use of adult learning and supervision theory to guide the interventions made by your supervisee in the interests of the client
- Recognition of the ethical dimensions of policy and practice and the implications these have for you as a specialist practitioner

Subject-Based Practical skills

- The ramifications of inter-professional and inter-agency practice and the possible points of intervention
- Client specific approaches to working with risk and uncertainty
- Integration of key principles for contemporary practice within your own professional approach

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Developing an enabling and facilitative style to your work with and for clients and carers
- Integrating a reflective approach into your every day practice
- Consolidating an analytical attitude to theory and knowledge

Structure

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is 1.5 years. Students will attend this programme on one or one and a half days per week (depending on the Semester) and take one or two modules per day/half day. The rest of the time students on this programme will generally be in their work role in their work setting.

How the teaching year is divided

This three semester programme begins in February, Semester B (two 20 credit modules), then September, Semester A (1 half 40 credit module) then February, Semester B (the remaining half 40 credit module).

What you will study when

The structure of this programme is an adaptation of the modular degree scheme. It is not generally possible to bring together modules from one field with modules from another to produce a combined programme. This is because each module is undertaken in part fulfilment of both the academic and the professional award and for those registering for the graduate diploma in fulfilment of the Graduate Diploma Helping Professions. Other modules would not be mapped against the academic/professional award requirements in the same way.

TITLE	CREDITS	STATUS	SINGLE	GSCC Award
PS3321 Consolidating Social Work Practice	20	Core		All Awards
PS3322 Enabling Others	20	Core		All Awards
PS3324 Developing, innovating and evaluating effective practice with children and young people, their Families and Carers	40	Option (with PS3325) for Children and Young People Award		Children and Young People
PS3325 Disabled Children and Young People, their Families and Carers	40	Option (with PS3324) for Children and Young People Award		Children and Young People
PS3326 Specialist Working with Adults in Social Care	40	Option (with PS3327) for Social Work with Adults Award		Social Work with Adults
PS3327 People with Learning Difficulties/Learning Disabilities: policy and practice - a social perspective	40	Option (with PS3326) for Social Work with Adults Award		Social Work with Adults
PS3328 Specialist Mental Health Policy and Practice	40	Core for Social Work in Mental Health Services Award		Social Work in MH Services

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher - Year 1 of DipSW or equivalent
- minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher - Year 2 of DipSW or equivalent
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher - This programme

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an Associate Certificate you will need to obtain a minimum of 20 credits at level one or higher

Graduate Diploma Classification

The award classification is determined by calculating the mean mark:

70% - 100% Distinction

55% - 69% Merit

40% - 54% Pass

0% - 39% Not passed

Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Lectures and seminars introducing PQ students to key policy and legislative developments relevant to the specialist roles that characterise work with the different client groups
- Lectures and seminars to enable PQ students to develop their specialist communication and intervention skills in the interests of service users and their carers
- Skills workshops and workplace learning that focuses on the development and integration of new aspects of specialist roles including supervising others.

'Thinking' skills are developed through

- Analytic analysis of case study presentations
- Reflective presentations of work place interventions in practice and supervisory roles
- Consideration of the contribution that structured supervision makes to developing reflective practice

- Ethical considerations of the implications of any and all proposed approaches to work with different clients as individuals, groups and communities.

Practical skills are developed through

- The integration of classroom and workplace learning in achieving each of the academic and GSCC award requirements
- Direct observation of PQ social work students' practice by employer appointed PQ work-based mentors
- Presentation of by PQ social work students of a portfolio of work place assessment and verification to the UEL Practice Assessment Panel.

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Reflecting, analysing and evaluating policy and practice as a member of each seminar group
- Specialist skills relating to the particular client groups eg working with people with learning difficulties involves learning about 'Multimedia Advocacy' including : Audio-visual literacy - Use of symbols, images, video, sound and multimedia technologies as communication tools.
- Placing the client and carer at the centre of practice whatever the role or client group.

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Evidence in the written assignments that the PQ student has achieved the learning outcomes of the individual modules
- Written assignments will evidence that the skills learned by the PQ student on the programme include: consolidating their practice with reference to the national occupational standards; developing the capacity to supervise and assess the practice of others including student social workers; working effectively with the clients in their setting with reference to relevant policy and legislation and an understanding of inter-professional context.

Thinking skills are assessed by

- the integration of a reflective approach to the learning, teaching and assessment of each module
- formative assessment through the submission of the project proposal and summative through the completed dissertation
- PQ social work students are required, with the help of academic tutors and workplace mentors, to integrate their practice based and classroom learning in relation to the academic and professional award requirements.

Practical Skills are assessed by

Evidence of the ability to manage time to achieve the learning outcomes of each module and the ability to prepare assignments using appropriate resources.

Practical skills of PQ Social work students are assessed by

- Direct observation of practice with service users
- Verification by the PQ work-based mentors that the PQ student's practice meets the requirements of the specialist GSCC awards
- Submission of a portfolio (to the UEL Practice Assessment Panel) that includes a brief report on the student's practice by the PQ work-based mentor, completed reports from line-managers and others based on direct observation of practice and PQ student's reflection on the feedback they have sought and received from service users.

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- The organisation required to attend a level 3 academic and professional programme and achieve its outcomes whilst also working effectively in a social work setting
- The confidence acquired from thinking analytically about one's own role and task and assisting others to do like-wise
- The sense of perspective that is possible when recognising that in consolidating, extending and developing specialist practice knowledge, values and skills, the service user and carer, who is at the centre of the work is likely to benefit.

Quality

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years, an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment and award boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Programme committee meetings. All students in the year are invited to these meetings (meeting 2 times year). Feedback is gained from the students about their experience of all aspects of the programme at these meetings. They are the occasion for staff to convey the action plan that has formed part of the Review and Enhancement Process for the programme
- Student/Staff consultative committee. These are meeting between staff and student representatives that may be called by either side in response to matters arising between Programme Committee meetings

- Social Work Programmes' Management Board (3 times per year). This is chaired by the Head of Social Work and attended by stakeholders including employer representatives, service experience advisors to the programme, staff members and student representatives.

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- at any and all of the fora listed above ie Programme Committee Meetings, Student/Staff consultative committee and Social Work Programmes' Management Board
- Minutes of these meetings are circulated via UEL Plus.

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Post hoc surveys of former students
- Practice Assessor feedback, including at the Practice Assessment Panel and during Student selection events (for the qualifying programmes) and Practice Assessor induction and raining events
- Through discussion at the North East London Skills for Care: PQ Sub-Group meetings
- Through Discussion at the London-wide Skills for Care: Regional Planning Group
- Through Discussion at the Service Experience Advisors to the Programme meetings and annual workshop/review

Further Information

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
-	-	-	-	-

Where you can find further information

Further information

This is one of two specialist level programmes at UEL and is specifically intended for those whose initial social work qualification is a degree or masters in social work or other professional equivalent. Other social work applicants who may not (yet) have an undergraduate degree may wish to refer to the Programme Specification for the BA (Hons) in Post Qualifying Specialist Social Work As with this programme, PQ social work students may achieve one of the three client-based GSCC awards through successful completion of the UEL BA (Hons) PQSSW.

Applicants from the health, education and social care field with diploma level qualifications may apply for the BA (Hons) Helping Professions.

Further information about this programme is available from:

- [The UEL web site](#)
- [The programme handbook on UEL Plus](#)
- [Module study guides on UEL Plus and Contained in the handbook](#)
- [UEL Manual of General Regulations and Policies](#)
- [UEL Quality Manual](#)
- [Regulations for the Academic Framework](#)
- UEL Guide to Undergraduate Programmes
- www.tavi-port.org.uk