

Social Work BA (Hons)

UCAS Code: L500 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2024/2025

Accredited | Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Social workers overwhelmingly work with the most marginalised and oppressed within society. The people we work with in our professional lives face a range of difficulties and traumas. As social workers our task is to understand such traumas and offer support, help and guidance to those in need during times of trouble. Very often this means understanding the public causes of individual private pains. The Social Work degree is shaped by a very strong commitment to social justice.

As a Social Work student, you will study aspects of sociology, social policy, psychology, law, social theory and social work methods, skills and practices. You will explore barriers such as poverty, disability, racism and sexism that service users often face in society. Such barriers impact on people in a range of negative ways and it is important we understand the nature of the society in which we live and the way it can affect people in their lives. You will spend half a day a week (in your first year) at the new Liverpool Hope Settlement – working in the community and engaging in good social work practice. In your second and third years, you will undertake a total of 170 days in a social work setting.

The degree is taught by a teaching team who are all published in the field of social work and are experts in particular fields of the discipline. The School of Social Science plays an important role in the Social Work Action Network (SWAN). SWAN is a national organisation within social work comprising practitioners, students, academics and service users. During your second year you will have the opportunity to undertake a social work placement in either India or Gambia, or a four-week mental health Summer School that includes an exchange trip to Michigan, USA. We are the only social work course in England that offers you these options.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2024/2025 are £9,250 for full-time undergraduate courses.

If you want to apply for membership of SWE once you graduate, there is an initial subscription fee, plus a biennial subscription fee – full details of costs can be found on the SWE website.

If you opt for an international placement or fieldtrip, there will be additional costs for travel and accommodation.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.

Entry Requirements

The standard offer level is 120 UCAS tariff points. In addition, you need a GCSE Grade C or above in English (Grade 4 or above in the new grading system). Offers will be subject to a successful interview, a satisfactory Health Check Statement and application to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Please note that this professional qualification can be greatly oversubscribed so applicants are advised to apply early.



**LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY**

1844

CONTACT

T: +44 (0)151 291 3000

E: enquiry@hope.ac.uk

www.hope.ac.uk

Social Work BA (Hons) Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to Social Work

The first year of study provides you with the basic tools required to practice as competent student social workers. There are lectures in social policy, sociology, the life-course, initial social work skills and practice and preparation for practice. There will be input from service users and local agencies. You will have the opportunity to attend a field trip to the annual SWAN conference.

Year Two

Explorations in Social Work

In the first term you will study social theory, social work methods, law for social workers and research methods for practitioners. In the second term, you go out onto full-time placement. Placements last 70 days and run from 9am - 5pm for five days a week. In the second year, placements are in local private, voluntary or charity sector organisations. You may also attend a field trip to the annual SWAN conference.

Year Three

Advanced studies in Social Work

In your final year, you will further develop your knowledge about social work historically, nationally and internationally, practice knowledge and skills, your understanding of contemporary social work issues, working with service users and current research issues within social work. You choose a range of advanced social work seminars delivered by staff to reflect their academic interests and publishing schedules. Your third year also includes a placement in a statutory setting. Placements last 100 days and run from 9am - 5pm for five days a week between May and September. You may also attend the fieldtrip to the annual SWAN conference.

Our Single Honours Social Work Degree is accredited by Social Work England (SWE). Upon successful completion of the degree you will be eligible to register with SWE as a professional social worker.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, seminars, and tutorials which typically have no more than 10 students. There are a number of fieldtrips throughout your three years of study, and you also have the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

In your first year of study, there are approximately 12 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 10 teaching hours in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend a number of hours studying independently each week, as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments you may have.

Work Placement Opportunities

Studying Social Work at Liverpool Hope University includes 170 days on placement in professional settings. These placement opportunities provide you with the skills and knowledge to begin your successful career as a social worker.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Throughout your three years of study you will have a number of assessments, including written exams, essays, posters, practice portfolios, and portfolios. In your final year you also complete a dissertation research project.

You will be given written feedback on your assessments, and you will have the opportunity to discuss this with your tutor in more detail.



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