

Social Work BA (Hons)

UCAS Code: L500 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2025/2026

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 2025/2026 are £9,535 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

Social
Work
England

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

There are three main teaching and learning strands which together provide the foundation in respect of the knowledge, skills and competencies required of students at this level. These are:

Social Work in Context

This strand is divided into two key areas, with the content delivered through weekly lectures and seminars.

1. Human growth and development from a life course perspective.
2. Sociological and policy context of social work.

Social Work in Practice

These sessions include:

An introduction to key themes for social work including values and ethics; anti-oppressive practice; identity; critical reflection; cultural competence; social justice.

An introduction to key areas of practice - mental health; working with children and families; work with older people; working with people with learning and/or physical disabilities; substance use; acquired brain injury; domestic abuse.

Skills development, including communications skills; social work processes (assessment, care planning, reviews); counselling skills, and several more.

Small group tutorials

Tutorials take place weekly within small groups. Set readings are provided each week for the students to discuss within their groups - the readings are themed around key topic areas.

Year Two

Explorations to Social Work

The curriculum at Level I consists of four thematic strands, Law and Ethics; Theories and Methods of Social Work; Research & Critical Thinking; with a 70 day practice placement.

Law and Ethics

Children and family law. These sessions cover the key statutes: Children Acts 1989 and 2004; Children and Families Act 2014; Adoption and Children Act 2002; Children and Social Work Act 2017, with associated policies and guidance.

Mental health and adult law. These sessions focus upon the key statutes: Care Act 2014;

Mental Health Act 1983; Mental Capacity Act 2005 with associated policies and guidance.

Theories and Methods

Theory topics usually include (but are not limited to): Marx, alienation and social work; neoliberalism and social work; climate change, environmentalism and social work; values and ethics for social work; queer theory, feminisms; critical race theory; intersectionality and social work.

Advanced Practice Seminars

The advanced practice seminar (APS) series builds on introductory themes from Level C, exploring in further detail key aspects of social work with Children and Families, and with adults.

Practice Placement

During this second year of the programme, students are required to complete a 70-day practice placement. This will take place with an agency from the private, voluntary, independent or charity sectors and may be with any service user group.

Year Three

Advanced Studies to Social Work

Advanced Studies in social work comprises four main 'strands': Professionalism, Partnership and Empowerment (PPE); Contemporary Issues in Social Work; Advanced Research Seminars; and an Assessed Practice Placement (100 days).

Professionalism, Partnership and Empowerment (PPE)

The PPE Level H strand provides an opportunity for students to explore critically the concepts of professionalism, partnership and power/empowerment with the application of theory into practice.

Contemporary Issues in Social Work

This strand critically reviews a number of contemporary issues in relation to social work and social welfare.

Research and Critical Thinking

The curriculum has been designed to enable students to enhance their critical understanding of social work research, and to develop their skills in gathering, analysing and critically evaluating information and knowledge to inform practice.

Placement

Level H students must complete a 100-day practice placement that will take place in the statutory sector. They can request a

preferred service setting (such as mental health, or child protection) that will, in most cases, be provided.

Practice project (dissertation)

Level H students are required to complete an 8000 -10,000 word practice project (formerly dissertation) for submission before they begin their final year placements.

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 field trips 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.



LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY

1844

CONTACT

T: +44 (0)151 291 3000

E: enquiry@hope.ac.uk

www.hope.ac.uk