

Social Work BA (Hons)

UCAS Code: L500 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027

Accredited | Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Social workers primarily support the most marginalised in society. The people we help face many challenges and traumas. Our job is to understand these traumas and provide support during tough times. Often, this means recognising the public reasons behind personal pain. The Social Work degree emphasises a strong commitment to social justice.

As a Social Work student, you'll study sociology, social policy, psychology, law, social theory, and methods. You'll explore barriers like poverty, disability, racism, and sexism that users face. These barriers negatively impact people, so it's vital to understand how society affects lives. In your second and third years, you'll complete 170 practice days in a social work setting.

The Social Work degree is taught by a team of published experts in social work. There are optional opportunities for national and international field trips, placements, and exchange programmes, which may vary each year.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2026/2027 are £9,790 for full-time undergraduate courses.

If you want to apply for membership of SWE once you graduate, there is an initial 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.



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Social Work BA (Hons) Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to Social Work

In the first year of the social work degree, there are two main teaching and learning themes, structured across four 30-credit modules. Together, these modules provide the foundation of the knowledge, skills, and competencies required of students at this level.

Social Work in Context

These modules are divided into two key areas, with content delivered through weekly lectures, seminars, and tutorials:

- Human growth and development from a life course perspective
- Sociological and policy context of social work

Social Work in Practice

These modules are divided into two key areas, with content delivered through interactive seminars:

- Social Work in Practice: Values and Social Justice
- Social Work in Practice: Skills and Professionalism

The content for these sessions includes:

- An introduction to key themes for social work, including values and ethics, anti-oppressive practice, identity, critical reflection, cultural competence, and social justice
- An introduction to key areas of practice – mental health; working with children and families; working with older people; supporting people with learning and/or physical disabilities; substance use; acquired brain injury; and domestic abuse
- Skills development, including communication skills, social work processes (assessment, care planning, reviews), counselling skills, critical thinking, report writing, using ecomaps and genograms, working with service users, and narrative approaches.

Year Two

Explorations in Social Work

Law and Ethics

Children and family law: These sessions cover key statutes including the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, Children and Families Act 2014, Adoption and Children Act 2002, and Children

and Social Work Act 2017, along with associated policies and guidance.

Mental health and adult law: Sessions focus on the Care Act 2014, Mental Health Act 1983, and Mental Capacity Act 2005, with associated policies and guidance. Teaching references the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010.

Theories and Methods

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

Methods topics usually include (but are not limited to): person-centred work and the recovery model; systems theory; strengths-based work; crisis intervention; task-centred work; groupwork; community work; communication skills; and working with looked after children.

Advanced Practice Seminars

The Advanced Practice Seminar (APS) series builds on introductory themes from the first year, exploring key aspects of social work with children, families, and adults in greater detail.

Practice Placement

In the second year of the social work degree, students complete a 70-day practice placement.

Year Three

Advanced Studies in Social Work

Professionalism, Partnership and Empowerment (PPE)

This allows students the opportunity to critically explore professionalism, partnership, and power/empowerment, applying theory to practice.

Contemporary Issues in Social Work

This strand critically reviews contemporary issues in social work and social welfare.

Research and Critical Thinking

The social work degree curriculum enables students to enhance critical understanding of social work research and develop skills in gathering, analysing, and evaluating information to inform practice.

Placement

Third year students complete a 100-day practice placement in the statutory sector.

A practice placement portfolio must be completed to demonstrate that students have met the required levels of the Professional Capabilities Framework.

Practice Project (Dissertation)

Third year students are required to complete an 8,000–10,000 word practice project before beginning their final year placements.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching in this degree is organised into lectures and seminars, where all students are taught together, and weekly tutorials. Throughout the three years of study, there are several field trips, and you also have the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with your tutor each week.

Each year of study includes approximately 12 teaching hours per week. In addition to these teaching hours, you are expected to spend time studying independently each week, as well as collaborating in groups to prepare for any group assessments.

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 case study work. In your final year you also complete a research project with the support of a supervisor.

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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