MA Social Work
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Welcome

The role of social worker is a position of privilege that enables you to collaborate with people who need your help, and to empower them to transform their lives. It therefore requires social work education of the highest standard to ensure you are fully prepared to register and practice when you graduate.

Our MA Social Work will give you a thorough preparation for a challenging yet enormously rewarding career as a social worker. Our teaching is provided through the Centre for Social Work, which has been delivering excellent social work education for more than 60 years. You will learn from academics with years of expertise as practising social workers, and who have first-hand experience of working on the front line of social care. Through our holistic approach, we offer a programme that not only gives you an essential broad-based, practical skillset, but also develops your deeper academic learning that will form the foundation of your practice.

We look forward to welcoming you to our learning family.

Cath Williams
Programme leader – MA Social Work

Why become a social worker?

Social workers make a genuine difference to people’s lives by enabling them to develop solutions to the challenges they are facing.

A catalyst for change

Social work is a rewarding and challenging career that will develop your own personal growth. Using your knowledge and awareness of major societal issues such as poverty, crime, injustice and inequality, you will work with individuals and their families to promote inclusion, protect human rights and provide essential help to the vulnerable. You will use your professional knowledge to promote social cohesion, and safeguard the physical and emotional wellbeing of individuals and families. Through your work, you will be in the rare position to make a valuable contribution to society and to affect tangible and worthwhile transformations.

A career as unique as you

If you are coming to social work following a career in a different sector, you will bring skills, experience and a different perspective to the role that will really enhance your practice. Perhaps you are looking for greater job satisfaction, or the opportunity to give something back. Or maybe you want to put your diverse skills to better use in a role that means more. In addition to the personal qualities of empathy, resilience, patience and compassion, a social worker requires specific abilities that you may have acquired and developed in your previous career. These include:

- Problem-solving
- Communication (particularly listening)
- Organisation and time-management
- Mediation
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Relationship building
- Professionalism

All of your skills, knowledge and life experience can enhance your practice and will enable you to be an effective and compassionate social worker.

3rd for social work in the UK
The Complete University Guide 2019

“"The essence of social work skill lies in some combination of reflective and practical work with and for the person in need of help.”
Professor Olive Stevenson
Centre for Social Work

nottingham.ac.uk/go/ma-social-work
Begin your social care career at Nottingham

As a member of the D2N2 Teaching Partnership we contribute to the establishment of a social work academy of excellence, which seeks to establish best practices in the sector of social work education.

This consortium is a trailblazing link between on-the-ground practice and in-depth academic knowledge. All the stakeholders collaborate to oversee the curriculum and ensure adherence to the highest possible standards. Social work is offered widely by universities and private providers but we believe that at Nottingham, you will receive a premiere learning experience that will enable you to flourish as a highly skilled social care professional.

Find out more: nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/adult-social-care/d2n2-teaching-partnership

In-depth learning
We have designed our curriculum to give you an in-depth yet broad knowledge base, which we believe will make you a more effective practitioner. Rather than limiting your opportunities by specialising from the outset, you will be able to progress in your career as a social worker who is equipped to tackle a range of social care issues affecting children and adults.

Comprehensive support
In your first week you will be introduced to your personal tutor, who will meet with you regularly throughout your first year. Whilst on placement you will also be closely supervised and mentored by your Practice Educator – a fully proficient senior social worker with years of experience in the sector, and who is specifically trained to enable your reflective practice in a safe environment.

Many of our alumni contribute to the course through giving guest lectures and talks, and some of them are themselves Practice Educators. When you choose to study MA Social Work at Nottingham, you are joining a learning family committed to ensuring your academic and personal development.

“You can achieve your goal of becoming a social worker if you put your mind to it – all things are possible.”
Muchaziva Mafuba
MA Social Work student
The majority of academic teaching takes place in the autumn semester of each year. Teaching methods include lectures, seminars, tutorials, case discussions and experiential exercises, designed to encourage the integration of theory and practice.

Assessment
Assessment includes written assignments, individual and group presentations, research projects and a seen exam.

Placements
In February of your first year you will begin your 80-day placement with a local social care agency, where you will be given a caseload appropriate to your level. You will also undertake a 90-day placement in your second year, where you can develop your experience, skills and analytical thinking to an even deeper level. Each placement will be assessed against the requirements of the Professional Capabilities Framework and the Knowledge and Skills Statements from the Chief Social Workers in England. You will also be fully supported throughout by your personal tutor, who will meet with you to monitor your learning development and wellbeing.

Funding your studies
The Government offers a bursary scheme for social work students. These will make a contribution towards your tuition fees, and are allocated on the quality of your application and performance at the assessment day and interview. Find out more: nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students

Assessment and interview days
We are appropriately rigorous in our selection process. Following your application you may be invited to attend an assessment day, where you will undertake a group discussion in the presence of service users, and a written exercise. If you are successful at this stage, you will then be invited for interview with an academic and social worker. You will also be given a role-play scenario designed to demonstrate your interpersonal and communication skills. If invited for assessment, you will need to sign a declaration regarding any criminal record, health condition or other matter which may affect your suitability. All students must then complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Although a criminal record or health condition will not necessarily be a barrier to acceptance, failure to disclose relevant information may subsequently result in your offer being withdrawn.

Entry requirements
- We require a minimum of a 2:1 (or international equivalent) for this course. In exceptional cases, however, applicants holding a 2:2 may be considered where there is evidence of extensive relevant work experience.
- GCSE/Equivalent - English and mathematics: 4 (C) or above.
- Three months/450 hours of appropriate social care experience.

English language requirements
For applicants whose first language is not English, we require IELTS 7.0 (no less than 6.0 in any element). If these grades are not met, English preparatory courses are available with our Centre for English Language Education: nottingham.ac.uk/cele.

Home from home
We guarantee all new postgraduate students University-arranged, single-occupancy accommodation for one year to help make your move to Nottingham as simple and stress free as possible. To qualify for the guarantee, you must accept a place on one of our postgraduate courses and apply for accommodation by a specified date. Find out more about our accommodation, including the latest up to date details of our guarantee at nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Equal opportunities policy
The University aims to create the conditions whereby students and staff are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, age, socioeconomic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

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This brochure has been drafted in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of publishing, but changes (for example to course content) are likely to occur given the interval between publication and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important to check our website for any updates before you apply for the course by following nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence.

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