SPECIAL REGULATIONS: POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA/MA SOCIAL WORK (PRE-REGISTRATION PROGRAMME)

INTRODUCTION

1 These special regulations relate only to the following programme:

Postgraduate Diploma/MA in Social Work (Pre-registration programme

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

2.1 The requirements for admissions are those set out in the Regulation and Credit Framework for the Conferment of Awards with the exception that entrants are required to have one of the following:

(a) a good honours degree in a related subject;

(b) a good honours degree in an unrelated subject if they can demonstrate significant social work related experience at an appropriate level, gained either in a paid or voluntary capacity;

(c) a professional diploma, or equivalent, at an appropriate level in a relevant subject discipline together with a minimum of two years post qualification experience.

2.2 All entrants are required to:

(a) undertake an interview, and complete any assessments prescribed as part of the selection process;

(b) meet the entrance requirements in mathematics and English required at the time of admission;

(c) satisfy the University in relation to health clearance (including occupational health requirements) following the prescribed procedures at the time of application.

(d) All entrants must satisfy the requirements concerning clearance in relation to criminal convictions and any other requirements specified by the University, taking account of the requirements of the regulatory bodies, in relation to the protection of vulnerable persons. Students must remain in good standing in relation to such requirements, including, where required, continued registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

2.3 Regulatory bodies may specify additional specific profession requirements from time to time. Such requirements, and the extent of their effect, may be incorporated into Conventions on the agreement of the Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Care and the Chair of the Academic Planning Committee.

CREDIT EXEMPTION

3 Entrants may gain exemption from modules if they have accredited prior learning in line with the policy of the University, subject to the limitations set out in the following paragraph.

4 The requirements of the professional and regulatory bodies for credit exemption may lead to a restriction in the number of credits awarded for entry to the programme. It is not normally possible to gain exemption from the practice elements of the programme.

5 The University will consider each application for credit exemption on its merits.

PERIODS OF REGISTRATION

6 The periods of registration are as follows:

(a) Full time - minimum of two years maximum of four years

(b) Part time - minimum of three years maximum of six years

7 There is no right to transfer between modes of study. Where a student is permitted, on application, to transfer from one mode of study to another, the Academic Registrar shall determine, following consultation with those responsible for the management of the programme, the date of transfer and the end date for the programme. The principle should be that the end date be proportionate to the mode of study to which the student is transferring and taking account of the assessments completed.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY

8 All students must spend at least 200 days gaining required experience and learning in practice settings. Each student must have experience in at least two practice settings and of statutory social work tasks involving legal interventions and of providing services to at least two user groups.

9 All taught elements, including the research module, are integrated with practice. All students must undertake study for the research module.

10 There are no shared modules or open modules. No Level 6 modules are offered as part of the programme.

ASSESSMENT

11 All students are to be assessed prior to undertaking direct practice experience. To pass the assessed preparation for direct practice students must achieve a pass standard for the portfolio and gain satisfactory reports from their tutor and module leader.

12 All theoretical (that is to say non-placement) assessments must be passed.

13 Assessment of Practice will be assessed on a pass/fail basis. Students must pass all aspects of practice to be eligible for a final award enabling an application to be made for professional registration.

PROGRESSION

14 At the end of each academic year the professional progress of each student will be reviewed. A student may only progress from one academic year of the programme to the next on successful completion of the required practice assessment and having been deemed to have passed the theoretical assessments.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND CONDUCT

15 For continued professional registration on the programme the student's progress will be reviewed each academic year. Alleged breaches of professional conduct will be subject to the fitness to practise procedures for the Faculty of Health and Social Care.

AWARDS

16 To be awarded the MA in Social Work, students must pass the dissertation. Students who pass all elements of the programme without passing the dissertation will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work. These awards lead to professional recognition.

EXIT AWARDS NOT LEADING TO PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

17 A student who passes the theoretical elements of all modules, but fails the assessment of practice, will be eligible for one of the following awards that does not lead to professional recognition:

(a) Postgraduate Certificate in Social Welfare

(b) Postgraduate Diploma in Social Welfare

(c) Master of Arts in Social Welfare

18 The Board of Examiners will undertake a mapping of experience to be satisfied that the student being considered for an award not leading to enabling the student to apply for professional registration has been able to demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement within practice. The Board has the discretion to determine the means by which the mapping of experience is undertaken.

19 Where an award cannot be recommended, the Board may recommend such institutional credits as might be awarded through undertaking the mapping of experience set out above.

20 Aegrotat awards may be offered at the discretion of the Board of Examiners as outlined in the regulations; however such awards would not provide eligibility to apply for admission to the relevant professional register.

EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

21 At least one external examiner appointed to the programme must be appropriately experienced and qualified in the relevant area of practice and, unless other arrangements are agreed with the appropriate regulatory body, be from the relevant part of the Register.

ENTRY TO A MASTERS PROGRAMME FOLLOWING AWARD OF THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL WORK

22 A student who has been awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work of the University may enrol on a programme of study leading to the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Social Welfare provided the student's registration on the programme takes place no more than two years from the date of the award of the Postgraduate Diploma. In exceptional circumstances, the Academic Registrar may extend the period permitted for registration by a further three months.

23 The programme of study for the degree of Master of Arts in Social Welfare where the student has previously been awarded the Postgraduate Diploma will consist of 60 credits, and includes either a research module and a dissertation or a single extended research module of 60 credits.

24 The maximum period of study is two years part time from registration on the programme.

25 The student will not be required to surrender the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work.

26 The award of the degree of Master of Arts in Social Welfare does not lead to professional recognition.

Approved by Academic Board, 23 March 2011.