

SPECIAL REGULATIONS: SOCIAL WORKER (DEGREE) CONTAINING BA (HONS) SOCIAL WORK

INTRODUCTION

- 1 These Special Regulations relate only to the following programme:
 - Social Worker (degree) containing BA (Hons) Social Work - September 2019 apprenticeship validation

ADMISSION

- 2 The requirements for admissions are those set out in the General Regulations for the Conferment of Awards; the additional requirements are set out below.
- 3 All entrants are required to attend a selection day/event, and complete any assessments prescribed as part of the selection process aimed at assessing their ability and suitability to undertake social work education.
- 4 Selection activities include an observed group exercise, assessing ability to communicate verbally, their value base, ability to work with others and openness to alternative points of view, a timed written test, assessing the ability to communicate in written English, and an individual interview to assess that they meet the Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF) entry level and progression to final year level descriptors.

GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 All entrants are to satisfy the University in relation to health clearance (including occupational health requirements) following the prescribed procedures at the time of application.
- 6 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 on the programme must remain in good standing in relation to such requirements, including, where required, registration for the updating of certificates by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 7 In addition to the entrance requirements specified in the General Regulations for the Conferment of Awards and any additional requirements specified by professional or regulatory bodies entrants to the programme must have achieved at least level 2 in English and mathematics prior to taking their end point assessment.
- 8 For entrants with an education, health & care plan or a legacy statement, the apprenticeships English & maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3.
- 9 British Sign Language qualification are an alternative to English qualifications for whom this is their primary language.

- 10 In line with the Health and Care Professions Council standards of proficiency (2014) standard 8.8, applicants must meet communicating and comprehension skills to International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS) at level 7 with no element below 6.5.
- 11 All applicants must confirm prior to interview/offer decision making that they have the ability to use basic IT facilities, including word processing, internet browsing and use of email. The programme recognises these skills can be developed in year 1 of the programme.

PROGRAMME AWARD

- 12 The BA (Hons) degree must consist of 360 credits, 300 delivered on-programme and 60 through the End Point Assessment (EPA).
- 13 The award of BA (Hons) Social work is made upon successful completion of 360 credits over a period of 3 years full-time, with the EPA taken in the last six months.
- 14 The full BA (Hons) Social Work is the only award that infers eligibility to apply for registration with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC).

CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPRENTICESHIP DEGREE

- 15 Performance in the EPA will count towards the overall degree classification.
- 16 The EPA comprises two strands, with a total of four pieces of assessed work. In order to pass the EPA, both assessment strands must be at pass grades.
- 17 The grade boundaries for each piece of assessed work are:
 - Fail - under 40%
 - 3rd - 40 < 50%
 - 2.2 - 50 < 60%
 - 2.1 - 60 < 70%
 - 1st - 70% and over
- 18 The Lead EPA will award a final overall grade of Fail/3rd/2.2/2.1/1st based on the weightings above and marked according to the grading descriptors in the EPA plan.

DEFAULT EXIT AWARDS NOT LEADING TO PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

- 19 For an apprentice who passes the theory modules and the assessment of practice in years 1 and 2 but does not complete the final year, the Board of Examiners must consider recommending an exit award that does not lead to professional recognition.
- 20 The following exit awards are available to apprentices not recommended for an award leading to professional registration.
 - a) To qualify for a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Care students must:
 - Pass at least 60 credits at level 6 (not including the EPA)
 - Pass level 5
 - Pass level 4

b) To qualify for a Diploma of Higher Education in Social Care students must:

- Pass level 5
- Pass level 4

c) To qualify for a Certificate of Higher Education in Social Care students must:

- Pass level 4

- 21 Where an award cannot be recommended, the Board may recommend the award of institutional credits.
- 22 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.

CREDIT EXEMPTION ON ENTRY

- 23 Entrants may gain exemption from modules in line with the University's policy in the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- 24 Before the apprenticeship begins, the University, in collaboration with the employer, must assess the individual's prior learning to establish the 'starting point', or baseline, of the apprentice. This informs how much of the apprenticeship training content the individual requires.
- 25 In recognising prior learning, the following should be considered against the knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in the apprenticeship standard or framework:
- Work experience (this is particularly important if the apprentice is an existing employee);
 - Prior education, training or associated qualification(s) in a related sector subject area; and
 - Any previous apprenticeship undertaken
- 26 Where there is prior learning, the content and duration of the apprenticeship must be reduced to reflect this. The new (reduced) duration must still meet the minimum threshold of 12 months. At least 20% of the paid hours for the new (reduced) duration must be spent on off-the-job training.
- 27 For Social Work students requesting transfer from another institution, a transcript, reference, completed assessment of practice documentation and placement hours will be required. All applicants' past theory and practice learning will be mapped against the programme's modules.

MODULES

- 28 Students on this programme will not be able to choose starred modules as all modules are core and will have been approved by the Health & Care Professions Council as enabling the student to demonstrate achievement of the Standards of Education and Training (2014).

ASSESSMENT

- 29 All assessments must be passed in order to meet the HCPC standard for education and training 4.1 and 6.1. This includes theoretical assessments and those involved in the assessment of practice.
- 30 Students must pass the Readiness for Direct Practice requirements and the Holistic Assessment Report Template. These assessments will be graded as either 'Pass (P)' or 'Fail (F)'.

REASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 31 A student may be reassessed in a practice on one occasion only for each assessment of practice.

COMPENSATION

- 32 The programme is excluded from University regulations regarding compensation in order to meet the HCPC standards for education and training 4.1 and 6.1 – 6.5.
- 33 There can be no compensation for failure in the assessment of practice and there can be no compensation between theory and practice. Students must pass successfully all elements of practice learning.

PROGRESSION

- 34 A student may only progress from one year or one part of the programme to the next on successful completion of the required practice assessment.
- 35 The programme is excluded from University regulations regarding trail and progress.
- 36 The apprentice's employer, in consultation with the Higher Education Institute will confirm that the apprentice is eligible to progress to the end point assessment.
- 37 In order to progress to end point assessment, apprentices must meet the following criteria:
 - achieved a minimum level 2 English and maths as per the standard and general apprenticeship requirements
 - be able to communicate at Level 7 of the International English Language Testing System (with no element below 6.5) - Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency 8.8
 - successfully completed assessed work experience in at least two contrasting settings, one with a focus on statutory work
 - obtained 300 academic credits of the Social Worker degree, 120 at level 4, 120 at level 5 and 60 at level 6 with a provisional grade of English and maths qualifications at a minimum of level 2 as per general apprenticeship requirements

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND CONDUCT

- 38 Apprentices are required to make a formal declaration of good health and good character at the beginning of each year of the programme.

- 39 As a condition of a professional award, apprentices must successfully meet the requirements concerning attendance and professional practice, together with the requirements of the regulatory bodies relating to student conduct, good health and good character. Potential breaches of professional conduct will be subject to the fitness to practise procedures for the Faculty.

EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

- 40 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.

Approved by Academic Board, 17 June 2019.