

Course Information Form (CIF)

The CIF provides core information to students, staff teams and others on a particular course of study.

| Section 1 - General Course Information | |
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| Course Title | MA International Social Work and Social Development |
| Qualification | Masters of Arts (MA) |
| Intermediate Qualification(s) | |
| Awarding Institution | University of Bedfordshire |
| Location of Delivery | University Square Campus AA and Putteridge Bury, AP |
| Mode(s) of Study and Duration | Full-time over one year Part-time course over two years |
| FHEQ Level | Level 7 |
| Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation or endorsement | Not Applicable |
| PSRB Renewal Date | |
| University of Bedfordshire Employability accreditation | |
| Route Code (SITS) | |
| Subject Community | Postgraduate Social Professional Studies |
| UCAS Course Code | Not Applicable |
| Relevant External Benchmarking | QAA Quality Code section A1 (The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications) Master's Degree characteristics QAA Social Work Benchmark Statements Global Standards for Social Work |

Section 2 - Published Information

Material in this section will be used on the course web site to promote the course to potential students. The text should be written with this potential audience in mind.

Course Structure

The Units which make up the course are:

| Unit Code | Level | Credits | Unit Name | Core or option |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------------|---|--------------------|
| | 7 | 30 | International Social Work and Social Development | Core |
| | 7 | 30 | Comparative Social Work and Cultural Competence - Approaches, Policy & Practice | Core |
| | 7 | 30 | Models and Methods of Investigation | Core |
| | 7 | 60 | Dissertation | Core |
| | | 0 | 4 x Skills for Practice Workshops | Scheduled Learning |
| | 7 | 15 | Human Rights | Option |
| | 7 | 15 | Complexities of Forced Migration: Human Displacement, Trafficking & Refuge | Option |
| | 7 | 15 | Humanitarian Aid, Non-governmental Organisations and Social Work in Disasters | Option |
| | 7 | 15 | Gender in International Social Work and Social Development | Option |
| LNG022-6 | 7 | 15 | International Relations - Globalization, Conflict and Reform | Option |
| | | | Part- time | |
| Part-time route Year 1 | 7 | 30 | International Social Work and Social Development | Core |
| | 7 | 30 | Comparative Social Work and Cultural Competence - Approaches, Policy & Practice | Core |
| | 7 | 2x 15 or 1x 30 | Optional Units (outlined above) | Option |
| | | | 4 x Skills for Practice Workshops | |
| Part-time route Year 2 | 7 | 30 | Models and methods of social investigation | Core |
| | 7 | 60 | Dissertation | Core |

Why study this course

This MA offers global perspectives, theoretical foundations, ethics and practice skills equipping social work and social development professionals to respond effectively in diverse country contexts and make global-local connections.

Course Summary – Educational Aims

Social work is a global profession practiced by a range of actors in different contexts. This course will give students comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the theoretical, ethical and political underpinnings of social work and social development around the world. It will develop cultural competence and the ability to work effectively in different global contexts. The course will enable students to develop and use skills of critical thinking, enquiry and evaluation in response to human need, encouraging reflectiveness, increasing self-awareness and questioning of models of practice. It aims to develop team working skills and expose students to multi-disciplinary, and culturally diverse working, both through collaboration with other students, and through observing practice in community based projects. The course aims to equip students with the skills to carry out research and to understand the implications of research for practice. It also provides the opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge of a specialist subject of your own choosing.

The practice skills element of the course enables students to apply theory to practice and to develop the core skills, initiative and professionalism necessary to carry out direct work with clients in a range of settings; for example working for NGOs, government or voluntary organisations.

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| Entry requirements |
| Either a professional social work qualification or a good Honours Degree in a relevant subject. For candidates without a degree, equivalent academic ability can be evidenced through work or voluntary activity. International students should have an IELTS score of at least 6.5 in written and spoken English. |
| PSRB details |
| Not applicable |
| Graduate Impact Statements |
| <p>The course is designed to develop graduates who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can apply theoretical knowledge of international social work and social development to their practice and, as a result can work effectively with service users and colleagues in a variety of settings including NGOs, government services and community projects. Graduates have demonstrated core skills for social work and social development; including interpersonal skills, evaluation, effective budget and project management and training skills. • Can work well in teams and collaborate with others, contributing specialist knowledge and understanding of social work and social development within multi-disciplinary and specialist teams, operating effectively in complex and challenging circumstances. • Draws on clear ethical frameworks and is able to use initiative, skills and knowledge to respond appropriately, and with professionalism to the needs of service users. |
| Higher Education Achievement Report - Additional Information |
| Learning and Teaching |
| Teaching and learning methods include lectures, seminars, individual and group work and case studies and video. Learning is structured in such a way as to allow you to develop increasing autonomy and ownership of the direction of your learning, and to support you in developing areas of specialist interest. You will be taught by staff who are highly experienced practice educators and by members of the award winning, internationally recognised Institute for Applied Social Research, winners of the 2013 Queen's anniversary prize for pioneering research. The course features a series of practice skills workshops linking theory to practice, with expert trainers in each skills-set, these will be highly participatory events, including simulated practice examples, group work and practical exercises. Learning will be supported by a tailored programme of academic study skills workshops available throughout the course; and through access to online resources and face to face support for study skills. |
| Developing your employability |
| <p>Enhancing your career prospects is a key focus in the design of this MA. Feedback from NGOs, specialists in humanitarian intervention and international social work academics has been incorporated in the development of the course to ensure you acquire key skills and knowledge.</p> <p>The Practice Skills workshops are a distinctive feature of this MA which aims to equip students with the core skills needed to practice in various roles across the globe. The workshops will complement provision across the programme, by offering you the opportunity to consolidate your learning with practical, skills based activities. The MA also offers a range of student experiences and volunteering opportunities designed to provide insight into evidence-based, internationally disseminated programmes and community-based activities.</p> <p>You will also be encouraged to make use of online tools such as Jobsavvigrad, as a student of the University you will have lifetime membership of this unique career development tool.</p> |
| Department (s) |
| Applied Social Studies; Business School - Department of Marketing, Tourism and Hospitality (for One Optional Unit) |
| Assessment |
| A range of assessments will enable you to practice and demonstrate your acquisition of knowledge and skills. The assessment methods used across the course include: |

- Case studies to demonstrate in-depth synthesis and evaluation of broader topics to evidence your ability to provide written evaluation and synthesis of the study topic.
- Reflective accounts of student experience in volunteering contexts
- Individual and group presentations using different techniques including oral presentations and video, demonstrating the ability to critique and contextualise as well as communicating complex and challenging issues to others
- Design of a training package suitable for a specialist audience
- Analysis of qualitative and/or quantitative data
- The Dissertation which allows you to undertake a research project and communicate knowledge, findings and recommendations demonstrating your ability to implement and deliver a self-directed, in-depth and solution focused professional task.

The assessments will develop incrementally across the programme allowing you to gain skills and acquire knowledge, receive feedback on your performance enabling you to apply the knowledge gained and feedback into subsequent assessments. A small number of non-graded formative assessments are also used in the Core Units of the course to enable you to receive feedback and further supporting your learning.

At the end of the course the assessments will demonstrate your ability to analyse, evaluate and synthesise knowledge and communicate this in both written and other presentational formats, and to demonstrate a range of high level transferable skills, attractive to prospective employers and evidenced in the course learning outcomes.

After Graduation

There is growing demand in both developed and developing countries for the skills of social work and social development professionals.. A wide range of job opportunities are available in both the statutory and non-statutory sector, these include specialist roles in NGOs and various humanitarian organisations. Job titles for typical postgraduate occupations for Masters students include:

Social Worker, Child Protection worker, Community Worker, Animator, Project Worker, Women's Worker, Gender based Violence Specialist, Advocacy worker.

Roles in policy and research in the public, private and NGO sector are also open to graduates.

Further study options - PhD or the Professional Doctorate for Home/EU Students

Student Support during the course

There will be a number of induction sessions before formal classes begin. These will cover areas such as administrative arrangements, academic study in the UK, financial regulations and personal safety. For international students there is a dedicated International Students support team to help you settle into University life. They can advise on a range of practical issues including how to open a bank account. There is also an international student induction programme designed to enrich your time of study at the University as well as helping students settle in. A welcome event will also be organised for students of this MA , providing inopportunity for students to meet lecture staff and other students in an informal setting.

The Department of Language and Communication will provide a tailored programme of academic study skills workshops specifically adapted to meet the needs of students attending this MA programme. This will focus on key skills such as academic writing, reading and note-taking and on language improvement for those who need support in developing their English language abilities. These classes are especially helpful to support the transition to studying at Master's level from a range of backgrounds including professional work, an undergraduate degree or returning to study after a significant gap.

Students will also have access to study skills support and online resources from the Professional and Academic Development Team whose offering includes face to face drop-in sessions and additional flexibility in attendance times which is likely to be particularly valuable for part-time students. Other sources of information and advice such as the Academic Librarian will be introduced to students on a regular basis, particularly at the start of the programme.

All students will be allocated a personal academic tutor at the start of the Masters. The tutor will provide students with personal tutorials to give academic support and monitor academic and professional

development through a portfolio and support for option unit choices. The tutorials will contribute to reflection on performance and professional development. Feedback given to students will enable self-assessment and development and promote progress to overcome any learning problems identified. Tutors will also refer students onto appropriate services in the event of issues that lie outside the boundaries of the tutor relationship.

Students with disabilities

The MA will be open and accessible to students with disabilities. All elements of the course will be open. The Department of Applied Social Studies is pro-actively working with the Disability team and Bedfordshire Students' Union by undertaking an audit of facilities in order to ensure open access to all of its courses. The majority of the course will be taught in the new and accessible Post-graduate Centre. Students with known disabilities will be supported and assessed as appropriate and we will make reasonable adjustments as required.

Summative Assessment Overview

| Unit | Semester 1 | Semester 2 | Semester 3 |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| International Social Work and Social Development - Core | Weeks 5, 9,15 | | |
| Comparative Social Work and Cultural Competence - Core | | Weeks 9/10 15 22 | |
| Models and Methods of Social Investigation - Core | Week 4 Week 6 Week 10 | | |
| Dissertation - Core | | | Week 37 Week 39 |
| Option Units | | | |
| Human Rights | | Weeks 7- 15 | |
| Complexities of Forced Migration | | Week 8 Week 14 | |
| Humanitarian Aid, NGOs and Social Work in Disasters | | Week 8 Week 15 | |
| Gender in International Social Work and Social Development | | Week 7 Week 15 | |
| International Relations, Globalization, Conflict and Reform | | Week 9 Week 13 | |

Section 3 - Academic Information

This section will be used as part of the approval and review process and **peer academics** are the target audience.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students undertaking this course will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive and critical understanding of the knowledge, theoretical and ethical underpinnings and approaches to international social work and social development in diverse global contexts.
- Demonstrate an in-depth and critical understanding, knowledge and awareness of global-local connections in international social work and social development and the ability to make sense of complex situations in diverse practice contexts within a framework of ethics and social justice
- Critically compare and evaluate different welfare regimes and indigenous responses to human need within a framework of equality and social justice.
- Develop and apply reflective skills, consider ethical aspects of practice including attention to power and anti-discriminatory practice.
- Demonstrate comprehensive understanding, knowledge and critical awareness of Option subject specialisms and an understanding of how to apply this knowledge in different global contexts, maintaining self-awareness and professional standards.
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and critical appreciation of research models and methods and a high level of skill in evaluating and undertaking research, acting within a robust ethical framework.
- Demonstrated a critical appreciation of evidence-based practice and the ability to apply this to their own practice contexts.

Course-specific regulations

Proposed Variation to University Policy

IELTS 6.5 in spoken and written English is proposed on the grounds that this standard is line with the sector and compares with the standard (IELTS 7) for the university's social work programmes. Given the academic demands of this course a lower language requirement may lead to significant difficulties for students and the risk of drop-out. The University's pre-sessional language training provision will be promoted, where appropriate, in recruitment to the course.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The course has been designed to achieve coherence and comprehensiveness of coverage and to give students a wide degree of choice which they can tailor to suit their own practice and organisational interests. The International Social Work and Social Development and Comparative Social Work compulsory units are designed to deliver strong foundational learning in the core tenets of international social work and social development, they cover theory, comparative practice and policy and the theoretical, ethical and political underpinnings of the subject.

The elective units offer students the opportunity to specialise in areas linked to their practice. The subjects offered are acutely relevant to the issues and vulnerabilities of the world's populations and include; human rights, forced migration, gender, international relations and the humanitarian aid and NGO landscape. Students will be encouraged to link their choice of Optional Units to their dissertation topic to increase the depth of learning.

The Research unit (Models and Methods of Social Investigation) will equip students with the skills to undertake independent research, including the core skills of developing research questions and hypotheses, data analysis and ethics. Students will draw on these skills in undertaking the Dissertation where they will demonstrate knowledge, analytical skills and the ability to synthesise and evaluate different sources of knowledge. Also, in so doing they will evidence the ability to undertake independent work. The Practice Skills workshops are explicitly informed by the needs of service users and employers for professionals who have developed and tested their skills.

Teaching styles will encourage discussion and debate and the sharing of knowledge and experience between students. A large degree of initiative and independent study is expected from all students as well as the ability to collaborate with others. Students will be encouraged to form small study groups to facilitate their learning.

Case studies and presentations and tools for reflective learning are used extensively in assessment to ensure a depth of knowledge is evidenced and the ability to communicate complex information in a variety of formats to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. In addition to traditional written and oral formats, media such as video posters will be used to ensure students can also draw on different media to communicate their ideas. Overall the assessment methods adopted provide a comprehensive test of intellectual capabilities and practice skills.

Additional Academic Information

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| <p>Peer-assisted learning (PAL)</p> |
| <p>Initial Assessment</p> <p>Models and Methods of Social Investigation – Understanding and Using Evidence – Week 4</p> <p>This assessment will require submission of a report outlining the rationale and methodology for a literature review. This will assess contextual understanding and information handling.</p> |
| <p>Improving students' learning</p> <p>Students will build a portfolio reflecting on learning and personal development planning (PDP) and maintained across the whole course. Portfolios encourage reflectiveness and independence with self-monitoring of performance and training needs.</p> <p>A tailored programme of academic study skills workshops will run alongside the taught units, supporting students in applying these study skills to their subject. Language skills training is provided for those who require it. Generic academic study skills support and online resources are also available.</p> <p>The practice skills workshops provide structured opportunities to apply theory to practice, reinforcing knowledge and understanding acquired in the units.</p> |
| <p>Academic Integrity</p> <p>During induction, within the Course Handbook and; at the start of each Unit, students will be reminded of the University's expectations and standards for academic integrity and professional conduct. Guidance will be provided on the university's referencing systems and what constitutes academic plagiarism. Questions and discussion will be encouraged to help check understanding. This will be reinforced in tutorials. The Models and Methods of Social Investigation unit will address how to embed academic and ethical issues in the research project. Ethics is a fundamental concern for the whole course and students will have many opportunities to reflect on this in relation to their own practice. Students will be able to express views and clarify understanding of professional standards throughout the MA, including informally with tutors and the Course Co-ordinator.</p> |
| <p>HEAR implementation</p> |
| <p>Internationalisation</p> <p>The MA is international both in terms of curriculum content, course delivery and recruitment. It aims to recruit a significant proportion of international students (two-thirds) to the full-time pathway. Recruitment strategies will target overseas institutions, NGOs and other networks to help reach this audience and the Course Leader will work with the International Office to promote the course.</p> <p>The curriculum is designed to reflect global perspectives in international social work and social development, this is reflected across the units. The course aims to enable students to gain the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to undertake social work and social development in diverse global and local contexts.</p> |
| <p>Sustainability</p> <p>N/A – Further guidance to be issued by the University</p> |

Section 3 - Administrative Information

This section will be used as part of the approval and review process and peer academics are the target audience.

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| Faculty | Health & Social Sciences |
| Portfolio | Social Professional Studies |
| Subject Community | Postgraduate Social Work Professional Studies |
| Department/School/Division | Department of Applied Social Studies |
| Course Coordinator | Roma Thomas |
| Version Number | 1/17 |
| Approved by (cf Quality Handbook ch.2) | FTQSC |
| Date of approval (dd/mm/yyyy) | 20/07/2017 |
| Implementation start-date of this version (plus any identified end-date) | 2017/18 |

Form completed by:

Name: Roma Thomas..... Date: 4th March 2014.....

Authorisation on behalf of the Faculty Teaching Quality and Standards Committee (FTQSC)

Chair: Date:

| Course Updates | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Date (dd/mm/yyyy) | Nature of Update | FTQSC Minute Ref: |
| 20/07/2017 | Human rights unit reduced from 20 to 15 credits to align with other optional units. | |
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