SOCIAL WORK

BA (Hons)
Department of Sport, Health Sciences and Social Work

Enabling vulnerable people to find a way to life’s solutions.
DO YOU HAVE THE QUALITIES REQUIRED TO BE A SOCIAL WORKER?

Sometimes people find themselves in crisis situations and the role of a social worker is key to providing the right support at the right time to enable an individual or a family to improve the quality of their own lives.

A crisis comes in many forms and can affect us all at some point in our lives. Social exclusion, poverty, health issues and abuse can all contribute to someone feeling in need of social support.

Social workers can provide that support to individuals, families and groups within the community. They also work in a wide variety of settings including service users’ homes, schools, hospitals and other public sector and voluntary organisations.

The BA (Hons) Social Work course offered by Oxford Brookes University will provide you with the detailed knowledge, skills and values to enable you to make a real difference in people’s lives.

We are committed to embracing diversity as well as to the rights and empowerment of service-users, by tackling injustice and inequalities in society. Once qualified, many social workers go on to secure employment in particular areas such as children and families, older people, mental health, disabilities, or work with offenders.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This approved course is the qualification you need if you wish to become a social worker in England.

Your first year is designed to provide a common academic and skills foundation for all social work practice. Core modules include:

- human growth and development
- law and social policy
- professional communication
- preparation for professional practice.

In your second year you will study modules on specialist social work with children and families, adults, mental health and research methods.

In your third year you will take modules in professional development and write a dissertation on a social work-related topic.

To support the interprofessional working that is essential in contemporary practice, you will have the opportunity, throughout your course, to learn alongside students on other health care courses such as occupational therapy and nursing.

PRACTICE PLACEMENTS

You will be prepared for your work placements by undertaking a skills development module in the first year, where teaching takes place in our dedicated Communication Suite. This versatile environment can be adapted to simulate a range of scenarios that you will experience in a ‘real life’ practice location. In both Years 2 and 3 you will undertake two work-based placements. Placements can include work with individuals, families or groups. Statutory, voluntary, private and independent organisations all offer opportunities to engage with service users in a very real and meaningful way. These settings include hospitals, agency teams, family centres, prisons, day centres and residential care. Your progress in practice is assessed by a suitably qualified and experienced practice educator.

96% of students on placement rated their practice learning experience as either good or excellent.

- I have rated this placement as excellent as it has met all my learning needs, I have broadened my knowledge and learnt new skills. I have been supported while on placement and I have developed my confidence.

- Placement was excellent with many multidisciplinary experiences. I was able to make good use of theory and social work law including care act and mental capacity act. Lots of opportunities to chair meetings including best interest meetings which supported my learning. Very supportive team to contact for advice.

I chose to become a social worker in order to be an advocate; to safeguard rights and promote choices in the lives of marginalised groups in society. When I came for my interview I immediately felt a sense of belonging - coming to Brookes will be the best decision you will ever make.

Grace Bridgewater
BA (Hons) Social Work

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the BA, you will be eligible to apply for registration with the Social Work regulatory body, currently the HCPC but due to change to Social Work England.
TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Oxford Brookes’ BA (Hons) in Social Work has been consistently ranked highly in league tables, and has been validated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and endorsed by The College of Social Work.

The teaching team represents all aspects of social work with particular strengths in child care/child protection, disabilities and mental health. We have an extensive team of practitioners who work with us to help you link theory to practice.

The “Voices of Experience” are an invaluable team of service users and carers who help in many ways, from interviewing potential students, to teaching and assessing students’ work. The teaching and learning pattern includes an exciting blend of lectures, outside speakers, group work and use of multimedia. You will also have the opportunity to get actively involved and are empowered to contribute your own knowledge and experience. Our modules are assessed on the basis of coursework, which include assignments, portfolios and presentations.

Please note that computer literacy is essential for full participation in and completion of this course. Access to a home computer and the internet is highly desirable.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We offer a range of continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities for qualified social workers at Post Graduate and Masters level. For more information, please go to: www.brookes.ac.uk/hls/cpd/

WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES?

- Top-quality teaching: our lecturers are experienced in their specialist practice area and maintain excellent links with those areas locally or across the region. Many of our lecturers also have extensive national and international links.

- A large, dedicated building in Oxford (Marston Road) with first-rate facilities, including a communication suite.

- Interprofessional learning with students from a broad range of health and social work professions, providing opportunities for shared learning and allowing the development of teamwork skills.

- Varied placement learning opportunities working alongside experienced professionals in some of the UK’s leading social work settings.

- There are excellent sports facilities at Oxford Brookes with more than 40 sports clubs and six dedicated sports of excellence.

- The opportunity to work overseas: UK-trained health and social work professionals are highly valued throughout the world.

- A huge variety of career opportunities; working in the National Health Service (NHS), social services, the independent or voluntary sectors.

- Excellent graduate employment: graduates from Oxford Brookes are highly regarded by employers and the majority of our graduates gain their first choice of post in their chosen field.

- Many graduates go on to further study or enter health management, education or research roles.

Social Work is a great subject to study, there are so many different directions you could take with this degree.

Oxford Brookes has a very good reputation for Social Work; it is a place where there is a nice balance of being supported and being empowered to go out and find answers and solutions for yourself. The staff here want us to do well and the student experience really matters - so our opinions really do count.

Work placements are fun, it is good to be able to put what we learn into practice. It is a supportive environment where it is ok to try new things, while having the opportunity to reflect on what went wrong or what went right and why. It can be quite challenging sometimes but when I rise to that, I generally feel fantastic.

Ash Santini
BA (Hons) Social Work
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
For course specific information on our academic entry requirements, see our website:
www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/social-work/

All applicants must be screened for fitness to practise and undertake an enhanced Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check.

Aged over 21 years
- Applicants who do not meet all of the academic entry criteria can still be considered if they have significant and relevant life or work experience with vulnerable people. However we would expect to see all applicants with a GCSE at C or above in Mathematics and English Language plus further studies at Level 3. For example, an A-level or Open University course in a relevant subject.

We also welcome applications from individuals who already have a related degree in another subject and may be suitable to study Social Work at PGDip or MA level.

HOW TO APPLY
Applications for the course must be made through UCAS, unless you are applying for the part-time route, where applications must be made direct to the university. If you are interested in applying for the part time route, please contact the Enquiry Centre.

UCAS Codes
Single Honours: L500 BA/SK

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS
We are pleased to offer a number of places to international applicants. Applicants for whom English is a second language must be able to demonstrate that their level of English is of a standard that is sufficient for study at undergraduate level.

For more details, please contact us.

OPEN DAYS
Please check our website where details of our Open Days will be advertised. www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/contact/opendays

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING
At the time of publication Home & EU students may be eligible for a non-means tested Social Work Bursary from the Department of Health or a Placement Travel Allowance from year 2. There is a cap on the number of bursaries available for each University.

For up to date information regarding social work bursaries please go to www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students

VALUES BASED RECRUITMENT
All Oxford Brookes University Health and Social Care Programmes conduct Values Based Recruitment (VBR). We recognise that values and attitudes have the greatest impact on an individual’s care.

VBR is a way of helping our Programme recruitment teams to assess the values, motives and attitudes of those who wish to work with people in health and social care settings.

VBR focuses on “how” and “why” an applicant makes choices in how they act and seeks to explore reasons for their behaviour.

www.hee.nhs.uk/work-programmes/values-based-recruitment

All information is correct at the time of going to press. Please refer to the University’s website for the most up-to-date details.

Oxford Brookes University actively supports equality in education and welcomes applications from all people representative of our diverse community. For more details please visit www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod or phone +44 (0) 1865 485929.