

Undergraduate Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Social Work

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION			
Programme Title	BA (Hons) Social Work		
Final Award	BA (Hons) Social Work		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	School of Health and Life Sciences		
Department	Department of Social Work		
Mode of Study	Full-time		
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus		
UCAS Code	L500		
Accreditations (PSRB)	Scottish Social Services Council		
Period of Approval	From:	September 2026	To: August 2031

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME
<i>Provide a brief introduction, which describes the overview and overall aims of the programme.</i> The overall aim of the BA (Hons) Social Work programme is to educate students as partners in the development of knowledge to become confident, research-informed, problem-solving graduates who can make a positive contribution to society. The MSc in Social Work aims to develop students' intellectual abilities and enable them to perform as confident practitioners or researchers. Critical thinking skills are key to this and are facilitated by providing sound academic challenges. Students are encouraged to explore these challenges creatively, through self-reflection and analysis of contemporary research and theoretical concepts. This underpinning framework allows students to move into professional practice or research with a deep and relevant body of knowledge, skills and values which prepare them to face the challenges of twenty first century social work as autonomous and critically reflective social work practitioners. The programme is regulated by the Scottish Social Services Council and meets the professional requirements for social work education in Scotland. Graduates of the programme are eligible for registration with the Scottish Social Services Council as a qualified social work practitioner.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES
The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

- A1 The role and functions of a professional social worker
- A2 Social work theory, concepts, values and ethics
- A3 Theoretical and empirical forms of knowledge that underpin practice
- A4 The interface of social work with other services
- A5 Processes that lead to marginalisation, isolation, disadvantage, injustice and exclusion
- A6 The impact of health and wellbeing issues upon the lives of individuals
- A7 The process and application of law and policy within a social work context
- A8 The lived experience of service recipients and carers
- A9 Assessment, intervention and planning
- A10 The complex relationship between justice, care and control
- A11 The nature of professional judgement, decision-making and risk assessment

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

- B1 Communication skills
- B2 Assessment, intervention and planning
- B3 Ethical management of information and data protection legislation and processes B4
Relational skills in working with clients, teams, other professionals and communities
- B5 Psychological, sociological and physiological theories of development
- B6 Applied research skills
- B7 Undertaking an extended research project

C: Generic cognitive skills;

- C1 Critical thinking, analytical thinking and problem solving
- C2 Intellectual skills commensurate with level of education and qualification
- C3 Analysis and interpretation of complex and diverse forms of information / knowledge
- C4 Capacity to make judgements and assess risk where information / knowledge is limited
- C5 Innovation and creativity in dealing with professional issues
- C6 Critical reflection on practice and the intended and unintended consequences of actions

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

- D1 Communication skills (written and verbal)
- D2 Digital literacy and the use of ICT to support social work practice
- D3 Basic statistical, resource management and budgetary procedures and techniques
- D4 Management, presentation and dissemination of information
- D5 Analysis of diverse sources of written and numerical information
- D6 Inter-professional communication

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

- E1 Practice as an autonomous, evidence informed practitioner
- E2 Accountability and transparency for own professional actions
- E3 Share knowledge and understanding with other professionals
- E4 Promote and safeguard the welfare and wellbeing of others
- E5 Recognise and manage complex tensions in intra/interpersonal relationships
- E6 Ensure that social work principles, codes of practice, ethics and values are applied

4. LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- • Face-to-face and online lectures, seminars, workshops and practical sessions
- • Practice learning placements
- • Written Assignments
- • Individual and group presentations
- • Self-directed learning
- • Research informed teaching materials and methods
- • Problem based and inquiry-based learning
- • Case study methods
- • Field visits
- • Simulation based learning activities
- • Skills development sessions

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

5. ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

A wide variety of assessment strategies and methods are used to allow students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, their application of knowledge in practice, the application of skills, generic cognitive skills, communication, numeracy and literacy skills and autonomy in working with others. Assessments are designed to ensure that students can evidenced that they have achieved the requisite knowledge, understanding, skills and competencies required to practice as a newly qualified social worker. Assessments may be formative or summative based on their alignment to the learning outcomes of modules and the learning outcomes of the programme.

Methods of assessment may include:

- Written coursework
- Individual and group presentations
- Online discussions/blogs/wikis
- Poster presentations
- Case studies
- Analytical studies
- Reports
- Dissertations
- Portfolios
- Skills based assessments
- Other relevant assessments

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The Course webpage specific to this Programme is: [BA \(Hons\) Social Work | Glasgow Caledonian University | Scotland, UK](#)

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

7. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQF Level	Credit Size	Coursework %	Examination %	Practical %
M1L522637	Exploring Self and Human Agency	Core	7	20	100		
M1B025798	Preparation for Professional Practice	Core	7	20	100		
M1L530928	Social Work in Scotland: Becoming Professional	Core	7	20	100		
M1524881	Social Policy for Social Work	Core	7	20	100		
M1L522636	Social Justice Values and Ethics	Core	7	20	70/30		
M1L526321	Sociology for Social Work	Core	7	20	100		
M2B130635	Community Centred Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice	Core	8	20	70/30		
M2L522641	Theorising for Social Work	Core	8	20	100		
M2L526322	Lifespan Development for Social Work	Core	8	20	100		
M2L530929	Assessment, Risk and Decision Making	Core	8	20	80/20		
M2L522643	Practising Law in Social Work	Core	8	20	100		
M2L524419	Practising Social Work Skills	Core	8	20	70/30		
M3L530930	Direct Practice One	Core	9	60	50/50		
M3B130638	Leadership and Collaboration in Interprofessional Teams	Core	9	20	70/30		
M3L530932	Ethical Practice in Social Work	Core	9	20	100		
M2B025800	Methodology and Research for Effective Practice	Core	8	20	100		
M3L530931	Developing Professionalism in Social work	Core	9	20	100		
MHL530933	Direct Practice Two	Core	10	60	50/50		
MHB925801	Honours Project	Core	10	40	100		

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/supportservices/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulations-and-policies>

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here: www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures/changesandcancellationtoprogrammes

In addition to the GCU Assessment Regulations noted above, this programme is subject to Programme Specific Regulations in line with the following approved Exceptions:

Case No: 222

Details: Preparation for Professional Practice: Module is not included in the set of modules used in the calculation of merit and distinction for the awards of Certificate of Higher Education and Diploma of Higher Education.

Case No: 207

Details: Update to current exceptions / case programme specific regulations to reflect the current assessment regulations. All reference to the 35% minimum attainment for undergraduate modules removed as the University Assessment Regulations incorporate this

Case No. 248

Case No. Direct Practice One: CW001 Portfolio Exempt from Fit to Sit; Direct Practice Two: CW001 Portfolio Exempt from Fit to Sit

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes) Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.			
<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Changes/Updates</i>	<i>Date Changes/Updates made</i>	<i>Date Effective From</i>
2.0	Updated January 2024	January 2024	January 2024
3.0	Updated October 2025; transferred to new proforma; exception 207 and 248 noted.	October 2026	September 2026