

Postgraduate Programme Specification

MSc Social Innovation with Professional Practice

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	Master of Science in Social Innovation with Professional Practice		
Final Award	Master of Science in Social Innovation with Professional Practice		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	Glasgow School for Business and Society		
Department	Management		
Mode of Study	Full-time		
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus		
UCAS Code	Full-time at Glasgow City Campus		
Accreditations (PSRB)			
Period of Approval	From:	September 2023	To: August 2028

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME
The MSc Social Innovation with Professional Practice programme aims to prepare and /or continue the development of those intending to develop a career or currently working within the social innovation field; political institutions and NGOs supporting social innovation initiatives; social enterprises; organisations aiming to invest and/or developing in social innovation initiatives; and for students of a more academic vocation seeking to develop knowledge and critical understanding of fast emerging concepts in business and management and political studies. The curriculum is designed to equip students with a critical understanding of global socio-economic shifts, past and present; global and local societal challenges and ways that communities around the world are attempting overcome them. The MSc Social Innovation is a generalist conversion programme that aims to develop students' understanding of the tools and techniques available to managing, developing and encouraging innovation. The programme is designed to enhance students' international and intercultural perspectives - the knowledge, skills and self-awareness they need to participate as citizens and professionals in a global society characterized by rapid change and increasing diversity – and develop students' capacity to think creatively and critically, moving beyond traditional (business, government and non-governmental) boundaries and dominant paradigms in order to encourage them to think about the kind of world they would like to co-create. By encouraging exposure to the diverse ways in which social innovation is thought of and practiced in different contexts, the programme aims at developing the skills necessary to students to recognise the benefits of intercultural differences and questions 'taken for granted' assumption that often stem from colonised views of the world.

A key aspect of the programme is the development of the student's professional and academic skillset, which is seen to be essential to securing fulfilling careers as proficient, ethical managers and change leaders in increasingly diverse contexts in the public, private and third sectors. In addition, a further key aspect of the programme is globalisation and the challenges and opportunities this presents to governments and (for example) social entrepreneurs and social finance practitioners. In achieving this, the programme strives to engage, enthuse and support students in their learning. In doing so, the programme team endeavour to keep abreast of current developments within their subject expertise whilst, at the same time, taking responsibility for being informed about learning and teaching developments including the use of digital technology to enhance student learning. In addition, external learning opportunities are an important element of the programme making use of visits to those practicing social innovation locally, including social enterprises and social investment institutions and capitalising upon strong ties with communities of practitioners and policymakers locally, nationally and internationally. Professional practice provides students with work-related experiences to add value to your programme. Completing a professional practice placement should allow students to:

- draw connections between this work and theoretical issues and industry/sector practices examined in the first year of their MSc programme;
- operate confidently and professionally, demonstrating effective self-management and providing value for the experience provider;
- learn from these experiences to achieve professional growth;
- reflect on their own personal attributes and be able to articulate the skills and abilities that they possess, or need to acquire, for their further career development;
- Construct a personal development plan that sees them take ownership of their continuous professional development.

The primary aim of this programme is to equip students with a contemporary understanding of social innovation, in order to help them achieve social change. It is intended that future graduates will be able to perform as professionals applying their knowledge, analytical and personal skills and competences in order to successfully achieve jobs within a wide range of sectors locally and internationally. Specifically, the educational aims are stated as follows:

- To develop students' intellectual skills, grasp of relevant theories and the understanding of principles and practices of social innovation;
- To encourage students to engage in critical analysis of the global and local environments in which social innovations operate;
- To explore contemporary and emerging themes in social innovation;
- To develop transferable skills such as problem solving, ICT, inter-personal communication, confidence and self-awareness appropriate to obtaining a career in the public, private or third sectors;
- To prepare and equip students with the appropriate academic knowledge to enable students to communicate effectively;
- To facilitate development of critical thinking and analytical skills to enable students to comprehend and select appropriate methodologies and research techniques for independent research;

- To encourage students to become independent learners, with a high degree of motivation and self-confidence to enable them to successfully complete an independently designed research project.

The programme is offered on a full-time basis and welcomes applications through the Flexible Entry route involving Credit Transfer and RPL.

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 Identify the range of contexts in which social innovation can take place, and understand the global and local factors accounting for difference
- A2 Work with and apply knowledge that integrates the main areas of the social innovation subject
- A3 Critical understanding of the nature of social science research philosophies, methodologies and techniques to advance scholarship and research in social innovation, social justice and ethical decision making
- A4 Analytical tools and frameworks for strategic and financial analysis and ethical decision making within an international context
- A5 Contemporary issues, policies and practices relating to the principles of responsible leadership and sustainable organisational performance
- A6 Analyse and understand how to stimulate ethical changes

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

- B1 Critically review, synthesise and develop knowledge relevant to social innovation.
- B2 Analyse, evaluate and synthesise qualitative and quantitative secondary information.
- B3 Critically analyse current thinking, research and business practice in social innovation initiatives.
- B4 Utilise relevant information sources in an appropriate manner to generate decision alternatives and formulate creative solutions upon investigation of social problems
- B5 Demonstrate originality, insight and innovativeness in tackling and solving social problems.
- B6 Reflect on personal learning and development.

C: Generic cognitive skills;

- C1 Identify, conceptualise and define new and abstract problems and issues
- C2 Develop original and creative responses to problems and issues
- C3 Deal with complex issues and make informed judgements in situations in the absence of complete or consistent data/information.
- C4 Professionalism in the use of a range of oral communications techniques when articulating ideas and concepts.
- C5 Report and project writing skills.
- C6 Numeracy and quantitative skills in interpreting financial and statistical data.
- C7 Effective leadership and team working skills, including cross-cultural sensitivity, team building, collaboration and project management in group work situations.
- C8 Enhance digital skills through a variety of MS software packages and social media applications.

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

- D1 Presentation skills: written communication in a variety of formats; visual communication and oral presentational skills.
- D2 Planning and time-management; organising and planning work; self-management and independent working.
- D3 Inter-cultural awareness: understanding different perspectives, multi-cultural sensitivity and appreciation and development of a global mindset.
- D4 Inter-personal and group working skills including questioning and listening, influencing and persuading, advising others and giving feedback.
- D5 Research skills: information retrieval and collection; data analysis and synthesis.
- D6 Effective use of communication and information technologies to present ideas, analyse problems and develop clear and concise conclusions and recommendations to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge/expertise

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

- E1 Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in professional and equivalent activities
- E2 Take responsibility for own work and/or significant responsibility for the work of others
- E3 Ability to apply the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ethical decision making and responsible leadership to professional practice
- E4 Demonstrate leadership and/or initiative.
- E5 Manage complex ethical and professional issues and make informed judgements.

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:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Placements
- Simulation experiences
- Groupwork
- Flipped classroom approaches
- Online learning

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.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, VIVA, Laboratory work)
- Group work
- Blogs and Wikis
- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests

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:

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 %
MMN430180	Ethics, Sustainability & Governance **	Core	11	15	70/30	0	0
MMN230782	Postgraduate Research Methods **	Core	11	15	40/60	0	0
MMN630209	Developing Leadership for the Common Good **	Core	11	15	100	0	0
MMN225845	Social Innovation and Alternative Economic Forms *	Core	11	15	100	0	0
MML326670	Transformative Social Science *	Core	11	15	100	0	0
MMN130218	Social Innovation Solutions *	Core	11	15	50/50	0	0
MMN224967	Applied Social Marketing *	Core	11	15	30/70	0	0
MMN326526	Social Finance *	Core	11	15	100	0	0
MMN230178	Project Management **	Core	11	15	100	0	0
MMN230182	Masters Research Project	Core	11	45	100	0	0
MMN230183	Professional Practice	Core	11	60	100	0	0

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above. This may be subject to variation for students commencing the programme at other times of year (e.g. January) and/or undertaking the programme on a part-time or distance learning mode of delivery.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

Postgraduate Certificate in Social Innovation - achieved upon successful completion of 60 credits which must include the modules asterisked * above

Postgraduate Diploma in Social Innovation - achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits which must include the modules asterisked ** above

Master of Science in Social Innovation - achieved upon successful completion of 180 credits which must include the modules asterisked above plus Developing Leadership for the Common Good and Masters Research Project

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

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

Master of Science in Social Innovation with Professional Practice - *achieved upon successful completion of 240 credits which must include the modules asterisked above plus Developing Leadership for the Common Good, Masters Research Project and Professional Practice*

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/services-and-facilities/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulations-and-policies>

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>
1.0	Module code change for Postgraduate Research Methods	09/12/2025	September 2025