

Research programmes  
Post-qualifying programmes  
Pre-qualifying programmes  
Introductory programme

# PACE Social Work

Goldsmiths  
Students'  
Union

Shop



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This booklet deals with the programmes for **Social Workers and other Social Welfare Professionals** offered at Goldsmiths, University of London. Please this booklet in conjunction with our PACE Prospectus; further information is available from Admissions at the contact details on page 39.

**We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment or dyslexia. Please contact Admissions on +44 (0)20 7078 5300 or e-mail [admissions@gold.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@gold.ac.uk).**

# Introducing the Department

The Department of Professional and Community Education (PACE) offers a broad range of programmes and courses ranging from vocational and professional training, undergraduate and postgraduate, certificate and diploma programmes, as well as courses designed to encourage returning to study.

Subjects include:

- Community and Youth Work
- Cultural and Social Studies including Anthropology, Computing, Creative Writing, Design and Technology, Historical Studies, Literary Studies, Media and Communications, Politics, Psychology, Research Study Skills and Sociology
- Languages and Language Studies including English as a Foreign Language
- Performing Arts, including Drama, Theatre and Music
- Psychotherapeutic Studies including Art Psychotherapy, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Dance Movement Therapy, Counselling, Group Psychotherapy, and Psychodynamic Studies
- Social Work

At Goldsmiths, we aim to work closely with local communities. For over a hundred years we have been committed to lifelong learning and to bridging the gap between theory and practice, through professional and continuing studies. PACE was formed to provide a focus for this work. With its emphasis on lifelong learning and professional development, the Department offers a lively environment for postgraduates.

## **Social Work at Goldsmiths**

The Goldsmiths Social programmes believe that they can best prepare students by recognising: the unique contribution that all students bring as individuals to the programme in terms of their personal qualities and life experiences; that professional training builds on the uniqueness of each individual by facilitating the student's exploration of the values, knowledge base and skills of Social Work practice; that it is the student's responsibility not only to develop a technical acquaintance with the framework of Social Work practice but also to demonstrate competence through its application in practice; that Social Workers are at the interface of society's attempts to promote welfare. They have a dual responsibility to act within the state's welfare framework and also to recognise the pervasive influence of oppression and discrimination at an individual and a structural level in most of the situations in which they work.

## **Teaching**

The Goldsmiths Social Work programmes are internationally regarded as both practice-focused and critical, with strong regard for the need for anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice.

Our academic staff have extensive experience in a wide range of Social Work settings with a diverse cross-section of service user groups. Teaching in Social Work at Goldsmiths actively encourages and promotes opportunities to reflect on experience in the field, and for academic, professional and personal growth.

Action and reflective learning is increasingly regarded as critical in the education and training of professionals. Social Work at Goldsmiths pioneered these methods of adult learning in the early 1990s.

Our programmes are taught by established staff and visiting tutors who have considerable experience in teaching. Further information about staff and their research interests can be found on page 37.



GOLDSMITHS COLLEGE

Equipment



# Introducing the programmes

Goldsmiths offers the following programmes for Social Workers and other Social Welfare Professionals:

## Research programmes

MPhil and PhD

## Post-qualifying programmes

### Practice Education programmes

- MA/PgDip/PgCert in Practice Education
- Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Specialist Social Work: Practice Education
- MA in Advanced Social Work: Practice Education

### Graduate Diploma in Specialist Practice

- Graduate Diploma in Specialist Social Work with Children and Families or Adults
- Graduate Diploma in Specialist Social Welfare Practice with Children and Families or Adults

## Pre-qualifying programmes

MA in Social Work

BA in Social Work

## Introductory programme

Access to Social Work

## Entrance requirements

Please refer to individual programme entries for further details on specific entrance requirements.

## English Language requirement

If English is not your first language, you must obtain evidence of your English Language competence. Tests considered appropriate include:

- International English Language Testing System [IELTS] – pass with at least 6.5 overall and a minimum of 6.0 in the written element
- TOEFL score of at least 580 including 4.5 in the Test of Written English [TWE], or 237 in the Computerised test [CT] including 4.5 in the essay component, or 92 in the Internet-based test [IBT] with a minimum of 23 in the written element

- International GCSE (IGCSE) English as a second language at Grade C
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency of English [CPE] Level 5 at Grade C or above
- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English [CAE] Level 4 at Grade B or above

For further information, please see the PACE Prospectus. International candidates may be accepted without an interview.

## Fitness to train

Certain types of criminal convictions and medical conditions may have implications for entry to study BA or MA Social Work as well as practice placements and subsequent employment. Please see page 33 in this booklet for further information.

## Application and admission

Please refer to individual programme entries for specific information.

## Open Days

College-wide Open Days for all programmes across the university are usually held three times a year in Spring, Summer and Autumn. For further information on these, please visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk) or contact Nick Holmes, Recruitments Events Manager, on 020 7717 2997.

## Fees and funding

For up-to-date information on fees, please see the PACE Prospectus, or visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk).

**Please note:** fees are quoted per year.

## Students with higher education qualifications

If you are applying to university with existing higher education qualifications, please note that proposed government changes may affect you. For more information please visit our website at [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs).

# Research programmes

## MPhil and PhD in Social Work

We welcome enquiries from appropriately qualified applicants with research interests in Social Work. The MPhil/PhD programme offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the interface between policy, law and practice for vulnerable children and adults in the Social Care field. Our postgraduate research programme is open to both full-time and part-time students, and we welcome enquiries from appropriately qualified applicants with research interests in Social Work.

Supervision is currently available in: child protection; parenting programmes, adoption and fostering, mental health; the interconnections between domestic violence and child abuse; and explorations of race, gender and sexuality in Social Care. You will receive training in research methods and a broad range of research and enquiry skills as well as your subject-specific area.

### Entrance requirements

The normal entrance requirement for a research degree is a good honours degree and/or Masters degree from a UK University in a subject area directly relevant to the research programme.

### Application and admission

Please visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/apply](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/apply) to download an application form, or see the Postgraduate Prospectus for application details. Application forms are also available from, and should be returned to, the Admissions Office. Contact details are given on page 39.

We recommend that you apply as early in the academic year as possible; there are also fixed deadlines for specific funding sources. Admission is normally by interview, or for international students, a telephone interview can be arranged. With your application, please submit a research proposal that outlines your topic and methodology together with a short bibliography.

### Fees and funding

Please visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs) or see the Postgraduate Prospectus for up-to-date information on fees and funding currently available at Goldsmiths. International students can apply to the Overseas Research Student Award Scheme. Your initial contact for the ORSAS is the Goldsmiths Graduate School Office: Diana Lockyer on 020 7919 7770, e-mail [orsas@gold.ac.uk](mailto:orsas@gold.ac.uk).

### Registration and study

Initially, you register for a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programme to train you in the research methods you will need to complete a PhD. You can apply to upgrade to PhD registration when you have satisfactorily completed an agreed part of the research and training programme; this usually happens before 18 months if you are studying full-time, or before 36 months if part-time. You should aim to complete and submit your PhD thesis within an agreed period, usually three to four years for full-time students, and four to six years for part-time. If you decide not to upgrade to PhD registration, you can submit your thesis for an MPhil after two years if you are studying full-time, or after three years if part-time. With the agreement of your supervisor, you can change your registration from full to part-time or vice versa; the necessary form is available from the Registry Programmes Office.

North American applicants especially should note that the British system does not include preparatory taught classes or examinations as part of the MPhil/PhD programme, except for an initial course in research methods.

**Research supervision**

You will be assigned a supervisor whose current active research interests and expertise is compatible with your chosen topic of research. You will receive advice and support from your supervisor on:

- The nature of the research and the standard expected
- The planning of the research
- Literature and sources
- Attendance at taught classes.

**Assessment**

Research leading to a written thesis requires a text of not more than 60,000-words for an MPhil and 100,000-words for a PhD. The University of London's normal regulations apply. Examination includes a viva voce.

**Teaching**

For information about staff and their research interests, please see page 37 in this booklet.

**Find out more**

If you have specific programme queries, once you've read this booklet and the PACE Prospectus, or if you would like to discuss your proposal for research before you apply, please contact Dr Claudia Bernard on 020 7919 7837 or e-mail [c.bernard@gold.ac.uk](mailto:c.bernard@gold.ac.uk).



# Post-qualifying programmes

The post-qualifying programmes are open to both qualified and non-social work qualified applicants who meet the entrance requirements. Individual courses on the programme may be taken separately and used for credit transfer to another university or to accumulate credit flexibly towards a whole award. Arrangements are in place to offer advanced standing for previous certificated learning that matches the learning outcomes of the courses. If you are an experienced practitioner you may be able to have this accredited through our AP(E)L arrangements by the submission of a portfolio. For further information please contact the Programme Convenor.

## Practice Education programmes

### Introduction

This set of qualifications will enable you to extend and develop your initial competence in supporting the professional learning of others. Practice education is the teaching, mentoring, supporting and assessing of Social Work students, social care staff, qualified Social Workers and other allied professionals for the purposes of developing competence and raising the quality of service for users and carers.

### Accreditation

The programme has the following exit points:

- **Postgraduate Certificate in Practice Education** (qualified and non-qualified Social Workers)
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Specialist Social Work: Practice Education** (qualified Social Workers)
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Practice Education** (non-Social Work qualified staff)
- **MA in Advanced Social Work: Practice Education** (qualified Social Workers)
- **MA in Practice Education** (non-Social Work qualified staff)

This programme enables professionals working in Social Work and allied professional roles to access flexible and progressive qualifications, which give credit to prior learning experiences.

Successful completion of the first four courses of the framework will give you 60 M level credits and the **Certificate in Practice Education**. If you already hold the General Social Care Council validated Practice Teaching Award you can claim advanced standing for the first two courses (30 credits) of the Certificate.

If you are a qualified and registered Social Worker, successful completion of the next four courses will give you a further 60 M level credits and the **Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Specialist Social Work - Practice Education**. Non-Social Work qualified staff will gain the **Postgraduate Diploma in Practice Education**.

If you are a qualified and registered Social Worker, successful completion of the final 60 credits of the programme will give you the **Post-qualifying Award in Advanced Social Work - Practice Education**. Non-Social Work qualified staff will gain the **MA in Practice Education**.

### Entrance requirements

You should normally hold a degree level professional qualification in Social Work (eg Diploma in Social Work) or one of the caring professions and be registered, or be in the process of registering, with the GSCC as a Social Worker. If you are not qualified as a Social Worker, you should be registered or in the process of registering with the appropriate professional body, if applicable, and have developed and consolidated your practice in a specific area of welfare practice. You should have obtained initial competence in teaching and assessing the practice of professional students and mentoring and supporting students or colleagues, be able to demonstrate that you can meet the academic requirements of a postgraduate programme, and be working or intending to take up employment (usually in a paid, but exceptionally in a voluntary capacity) in a setting that will enable you to demonstrate competence in practice education at the required level.

In exceptional circumstances applicants who do not hold a recognised qualification, but who are very able and experienced practitioners, may be admitted to the programme. In these circumstances you will need to demonstrate that you can meet the academic demands of the programme.

### **Application and admission**

We strongly recommend you apply as early as possible in the academic year. Application forms are available from the contact details on page 39. Downloadable forms are also available at [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/apply](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/apply). Applications should be returned by the end of June; please contact the Programme Convenor if you have any questions about completing the application form.

In the majority of cases you will be selected and sponsored by your employing agency. However, you are welcome to apply even if you are not being sponsored by your employing agency, provided that you are in a position to demonstrate competence in practice at the required level.

### **Supporting information**

When you apply you will be asked to:

- Give details of your professional and academic qualifications and experience
- Supply a 750-word personal statement in which you: describe the specialist area of practice that you are currently working in; evaluate the existing skills, knowledge and values that you bring to your specialist area of professional practice; discuss what knowledge, skills and expertise you hope to gain from attending the programme
- Supply a reference from a line manager or equivalent recommending you for the programme
- Give evidence to demonstrate competence in practice at the level that is required to complete the programme
- Supply an agency commitment form undertaking to pay the necessary fees (where applicable)
- If you do not hold a recognised qualification in Social Work or in one of the other caring professions, you will need to provide an additional 1,500-word statement showing how your experience makes you eligible for the programme.

In order to progress onto the MA in Practice Education you will need to pass all eight courses of the Diploma in Practice Education. Additionally, you will need to provide a proposal for a substantial practice or research-based dissertation which demonstrates that you can meet the practice requirements for advanced practice.

The post-qualifying Programme Convenor will assess and make decisions on all applications. A standard assessment schedule will be used to ensure transparent and consistent decision-making. Interviews will not normally be held. Exceptionally you may be asked to provide further information or attend an interview.

## **What do you study?**

The Postgraduate Certificate in Practice Education consists of the following four courses, each bearing 15 credits. This will enable you to develop your skills and knowledge in the assessment and teaching of practice in the workplace. If you already hold the Practice Teaching Award you may claim advanced standing for courses one and two. If you have passed the course 'Enabling the learning of others' in the Graduate Diploma in Specialist Social Work you may claim advanced standing for course one. The programme may be taken part-time over one or two years.

### **1. Enabling the learning of others**

This course provides you with the tools to assess professional practice in the workplace. The course is designed for practitioners who do not already hold relevant professional qualifications in practice teaching, assessing or mentoring. It will be taught alongside the 'enabling others learning' module for the Graduate Diploma in specialist practice with children and families or adults, however the learning outcomes are at M Level. It provides teaching on: organising opportunities for the demonstration of assessed competence in practice; enabling learning and professional development in practice; and managing the assessment of learners in practice. You will be helped to consider and apply in practice the professional values required in enabling the learning of others: through the integration of the relevant professional codes of practice or ethical principles; respecting the uniqueness and diversity of learners; and assessing in a manner that does not stigmatise, disadvantage or unjustifiably discriminate against any learner. You will be supported in the development of your portfolio in the half-day workshop. A required element of the course is that you provide work-based learning and assessment for a recognised professional award to a social work or other social care or human services professional student or member of staff.

### **2. Assessing and teaching**

#### **the adult professional learner**

The course will build on the course 'enabling the learning of others' by allowing you to enhance your initial learning and competence in practice education. Further teaching on key principles of theoretical frameworks relating to and relevant research about experiential and adult learning and practice assessment will be offered. Reflection on the use of service user feedback in contributing to the assessment of the student's practice will be an important component of this course. Teaching on making professional decisions on readiness to practice is also included. A required element of the course is that you provide work-based learning and assessment for a recognised professional award to a Social Work or other social care or welfare services professional student or member of staff.

### **3. Developing and planning the evaluation of a practice learning intervention**

This module aims to help you develop and evaluate an intervention designed to support practice learning. Building on the learning achieved in modules one and two you will design a plan for the implementation and evaluation of this intervention. These interventions may be for learners who are students; practice assessors or qualified workers who are undertaking post qualifying training. The intervention could either be a piece of direct teaching, support or consultation to individuals or groups (eg a support group for students or practice assessors), the development of a process (eg procedures for developing practice learning within a team or agency) or a product (eg practice learning curricula materials). A wide range of activities would be appropriate, however they must be capable of being evaluated and of generating transferable models of practice. The module offers you the opportunity to learn about and apply appropriate frameworks and methods for evaluating interventions designed to support practice learning. You will learn about current debates about evaluating learning, be introduced to different approaches to evaluation, consider different qualitative and quantitative methods and appraise their use in practice.

#### **4. Implementing and evaluating a practice learning intervention**

This course aims to support you to implement and evaluate the practice learning intervention designed in course three. The project presentation and discussion sessions will promote reflective dialogue between candidates and the lecturer and facilitate the application of theory to practice. They will provide opportunities to review and revisit the intervention and evaluation plan while the project is being implemented, to consider ethical and data collection issues as they arise and to analyse and make sense of the emerging data. The practice assessment will support you to implement your intervention and evaluation in practice and to ensure that relevant standards and requirements are met.

In order to gain the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Specialist Social Work Practice Education you need to pass the four courses described above and undertake four more 15-credit courses. If you are currently working on an academic contract for a minimum of ten hours per year for Goldsmiths you may gain these credits by undertaking the Postgraduate Certificate in Management of Learning and Teaching. This is a programme of study, validated by Goldsmiths, University of London for academic staff in all departments. This programme is normally taken part-time over two to four years. For further information about this route, please contact the Programme Convenor.

Alternatively you may take courses five, six, seven and eight. These are grouped around the theme of developing the learning organisation and will enable you to extend your skills and knowledge in developing practice education with individuals, teams and groups and within and across organisations. These courses may be taken over one or two years.

#### **5. Developing the learning organisation – working with individuals**

This course aims to introduce you to the key characteristics of the learning organisation in terms of: organisational structures, organisational cultures, information systems, human resource management and leadership. Critical appraisal and application of the theories and research introduced in this course are developed throughout courses 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this route of the Postgraduate Diploma in Practice Education. Throughout these courses the importance of actively seeking service user and carer feedback, participation and the application of knowledge-based and reflective practice is stressed. In this module you will consider how the principles of the learning organisation can be promoted through your work with individual learners and staff members. Key principles of good practice in supervision, post-qualifying assessment, coaching and mentoring will be explored and you will be enabled to reflect critically on your practice and interpersonal skills.

#### **6. Developing the learning organisation – working with teams and groups**

This course aims to build on the learning achieved in course 5 on the organisational structures and cultures, information systems, human resource management and leadership that best promote the learning organisation. In this course you consider how the principles of the learning organisation can be promoted through your work with teams and groups. Key principles of good practice in establishing teams, work or other learning groups, developing standards, utilising team or group members' expertise, supporting change and innovation and promoting evidence-based practice are examined and used to critically support the development of your practice. You will be given the opportunity to deepen and extend your group facilitation skills.

### **7. Developing the learning organisation – working within and across organisations**

This course aims to build on the learning achieved in courses 5 and 6. In this course you consider how the principles of the learning organisation can be promoted through your work within and across organisations. You will critically explore employers' training and development frameworks and workforce planning needs and strategies. You will evaluate your practice in contributing to local, regional, national or international networks designed to promote learning within and across organisations. Working across professional boundaries will be a particular focus of this module.

### **8. Developing the learning organisation – practitioner research**

This course aims to build on the learning achieved in courses 5, 6 & 7. In this course you will formulate an original small-scale research project relating to an area of practice in developing the learning organisation. You will formulate an approved action research proposal with appropriate research methodology. This project will draw on specialist knowledge of a particular area of practice (this could either be an area of specialist professional practice or practice education or management). You will also reflect on your own research practice.

In order to gain the MA in (Advanced Social Work) Practice Education you need to pass courses leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in Practice Education and to pass course nine. This is a 60-credit course that will support you in developing your strategic leadership in practice education and requires you to write a 12,000-word dissertation on a topic related to practice education. This will normally be in the form of an action research project. If you choose a more conventional research dissertation you must also provide evidence of how you have disseminated the results of your research and played a leading role in considering how the recommendations arising from the research could be implemented. As a part of this course you will

receive teaching on research methodology and individual supervision and mentoring to help you design and implement your research and practice. This course would normally be taken in one year.

### **9. Leadership and research in practice education**

The course will offer teaching on the research skills and methods necessary to evaluate and research advanced level practice education. There will be a particular focus on applying action research strategies and methods to practice in your own practice. Individual supervision, mentoring and practice assessment will support you in designing, implementing and evaluating or researching strategic developments in practice education. Reflection on your own capacity to innovate and lead change is integral to this course.

#### **Teaching**

For further information on staff and their research interests, please refer to the section at the end of this booklet.

#### **Fees**

For information about fees, please see the Postgraduate Prospectus or visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs). **Please note:** fees are quoted per year of study.

#### **Find out more**

If you have any specific queries about this set of qualifications, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Anna Fairtlough, Programme Convenor, on 020 7919 7832 or e-mail [a.fairtlough@gold.ac.uk](mailto:a.fairtlough@gold.ac.uk).



## Graduate Diplomas in Specialist Practice

- **Graduate Diploma in Specialist Social Work with Children and Families or Adults**
- **Graduate Diploma in Specialist Social Work/  
Graduate Diploma in Specialist Social Welfare  
Practice with Children and Families or Adults**

Offered two years part-time, this programme is designed in collaboration with partner agencies to ensure that having acquired a range of generic Social Work skills, knowledge and values you are able to deepen your understanding and competence within their specialist area of work with adults or children and families. Qualified Social Workers will be awarded the Graduate Diploma in Specialist Social Work in their specialist area of practice. Non-Social Work qualified professionals will be awarded the Graduate Diploma in Specialist Welfare Practice.

The programme is aimed at qualified Social Workers and allied welfare professionals working with the following service users and carer categories: children and families, older people, younger adults with physical and sensory impairments, adults with learning difficulties, people with chronic and/or terminal illness, people who have a drug dependency, users of mental health services, and people who are HIV positive or have AIDS. The programme is two years part-time with a combination of college-based teaching and work-place learning.

### Programme aims

- To maintain and improve standards of social work practice by developing specialist practitioners
- To enable you to critically examine their professional practice in the light of relevant legislation and policy relating to adult services and child social care services
- To enhance your appreciation of the contribution of research to the development of reflective evidence based practice
- To enable you to work effectively in the context of risk, diversity, uncertainty and conflict
- To promote user and carer rights and participation in the design, delivery and evaluation of service provision
- To enable you to apply knowledge skills and values in ways that promotes anti-discriminatory practice
- To develop a strong grounding in multi-agency and inter-professional working
- To develop an understanding of the social work relationship as a tool in assessment and an agent of change in work with adults or children and families
- To increase your knowledge and understanding of the professional ethics and the role of the Social Worker.

### **Entrance requirements**

You should normally hold a recognised professional qualification in Social Work (eg CQSW, DipSW, or a Social Work Degree) or be working in one of the caring professions (eg nursing, occupational therapy, work with parents). Applicants also may be registered or be in the process of registering with the GSCC as a Social Worker, or if you are not qualified as a Social Worker, be registered or in the process of registering with the appropriate professional body if applicable. You should be able to demonstrate that you can meet the academic requirements of a graduate programme and be working or intending to take up employment (usually in a paid, but exceptionally in a voluntary capacity) in a setting that will enable you to demonstrate competence in practice at the required level.

In exceptional circumstances, applicants who do not hold a recognised qualification, but who are very able and experienced practitioners, may be admitted to the programme. In these circumstances you will need to demonstrate that you can meet the academic demands of the programme.

### **Application and admission**

We strongly recommend you apply as early as possible in the academic year. Application forms are available from the contact details on page 39.

Downloadable forms are also available at [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/apply](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/apply). Applications should be returned by the end of June; please contact the Programme Convenor if you have any questions about completing the application form.

In the majority of cases you will be selected and sponsored by your employing agency. However you are welcome to apply even if you are not being sponsored by your employing agency, provided that you are in a position to demonstrate competence in practice at the required level.

### **Supporting information**

When you apply you will be asked to:

- Give details of your professional and academic qualifications and experience
- Supply a 750-word personal statement in which you: describe the specialist area of practice that you are currently working in; evaluate the existing skills, knowledge and values that you bring to your specialist area of professional practice; discuss what knowledge, skills and expertise you hope to gain from attending the programme
- Supply a reference from a line manager or equivalent recommending you for the programme
- Give evidence to demonstrate competence in practice at the level that is required to complete the programme
- Supply an agency commitment form undertaking to pay the necessary fees (where applicable)
- If you do not hold a recognised qualification in social work or one of the other caring professions, you will need to provide an additional 1,500-word statement showing how your experience makes you eligible for the programme.

The post-qualifying Programme Convenor will assess and make decisions on all applications. A standard assessment schedule will be used to ensure transparent and consistent decision-making. In some situations you may be asked to provide further information. Interviews will not normally be held but exceptionally you may be asked to attend an interview.

## What do you study?

### 15-credit core courses for all candidates

#### Consolidation of Practice

The course intends to provide you with opportunities to embed your post-qualifying learning within the workplace. The course is designed as the first phase of post-qualifying study, for those who have relevant professional qualifications, and intends to focus on the embedding of generic skills, knowledge and values. You will be helped to consider how your professional practice has become embedded since qualification (or over the previous two years, for more established practitioners, who have not previously undertaken post-qualifying study). You will be supported in the development of written pieces for assessment by mentoring/tutoring. If you are social work qualified and already hold the PQ 1, gained in your specialist area of practice from the previous PQ framework, you will be awarded advanced standing for this course.

#### Enabling the Learning of Others

The course provides you with the tools to assess professional practice in the workplace. It provides teaching on: organising opportunities for the demonstration of assessed competence in practice; enabling learning and professional development in practice; and managing the assessment of learners in practice. You will be helped to consider and apply in practice the professional values required in enabling the learning of others: through the integration of the relevant professional codes of practice or ethical principles; respecting the uniqueness and diversity of learners; and assessing in a manner that does not stigmatise, disadvantage or unjustifiably discriminate against any learner. You will be supported in the development of your portfolio in the half-day workshop. A required element of the course is that you provide a substantial contribution to the practice learning of a Social Work degree student or for a student on an equivalent professional qualification. If you hold the Practice Teaching Award will be given advanced standing for this course.

### 30-credit core courses for the Adult Pathway

#### Care Planning, Commissioning and Multi-disciplinary Working

The aim of this course is to enhance your knowledge and skills in planning care for adults in complex situations of need in a range of agency settings and with a variety of client groups. It will explore the skills and values required to consult and inform service users and carers and work with advocates; knowledge and skills for negotiating, linking, brokering and commissioning services; skills and knowledge for multi-disciplinary work.

#### Risk Assessment and Adult Protection

The aim of this course is to enhance your knowledge and skills of working in situations of risk and uncertainty, applying the law to safeguard and protect vulnerable adults from harm, maximising choice and enabling positive risk taking. The module will draw on your experience with a range of client groups and settings. Themes within this module include: the state of knowledge in risk assessment and management; analysis of the strengths and limitations of current law.

#### Direct Work with Adults, Carers and Families

The course is designed to enable you to enhance your knowledge and micro-skills in effective communication and relationship building (including advocacy and partnership working) in order to bring about positive outcomes for adult service users. The course will draw on research findings into what service users want from service professionals and explore how these findings can be integrated into practice, taking into consideration, life stages and transitions; experiences of loss and bereavement and issues of difference and diversity. Through fortnightly professional practice seminars you will be helped to analyse and address "live" concerns and dilemmas, drawing on the pool of expertise within the group. You will also be supported in the planning, execution and evaluation of a piece of direct work.

## **30-credit core courses for the Children and Families Pathway**

### **Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children**

The course provides you with the conceptual and practice tools to assess professional practice in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable children. It is designed to enable you to develop your understanding and reflect on roles and responsibilities to identify barriers and challenges to safeguard the welfare of at-risk children. You will be provided with learning opportunities to address the key legislative and policy framework for understanding roles and relationships necessary for achieving the best outcomes for children in the multi-agency safeguarding arena.

### **Direct Work with Children**

This course aims to enable you to develop and enhance your ability to work directly with children and young people. The focus of this course will be on the knowledge base of child development in the context of observation and direct work with children as well as the skills necessary for undertaking direct work with children and young people within diverse populations. This course will draw on a range of theoretical frameworks including psychodynamic, cognitive and humanistic approaches applicable to working with children during times of separation, loss or transition.

### **Specialist Work Based Practice Portfolio**

This course aims to provide opportunities for you to reflect on and enhance your knowledge base and practice in their area of specialist practice. Social workers and allied professionals will be enabled to critically reflect on their practice and develop further theoretical frameworks and methods of intervention to enhance their practice. The emphasis within this course will be the assessment of complex needs and difficulties and the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be an effective practitioner.

### **Teaching**

For further information on staff and their research interests, please refer to the section at the end of this booklet.

### **Fees**

For information about fees, please see the PACE Prospectus or visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs).

**Please note:** fees are quoted per year of study.

### **Find out more**

If you have any specific queries about this qualifications, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Adam Dinham, Programme Convenor, on 020 7919 7839 or e-mail [a.dinham@gold.ac.uk](mailto:a.dinham@gold.ac.uk).





# Pre-qualifying programmes

A degree in Social Work is both an academic and professional qualification. The General Social Care Council registers all graduates as professional Social Workers. The two pre-qualifying programmes offered at Goldsmiths (the MA and the BA in Social Work) are designed to produce high quality, reflective Social Work practitioners, who are fit for practice in the rapidly changing and developing world of social care.

The degree in Social Work is a new development, some of the key features include:

- More extensive opportunities for practice learning
- A strong emphasis on inter-professional learning
- An emphasis on the involvement of service users and carers
- Critical practice-based on evidence and research in the field.

## MA in Social Work 2 years full-time

### Introduction

The MA in Social Work provides the opportunity for graduates to achieve the Social Work qualification in the shorter time of two years. This programme's primary objective is to equip you with the values, knowledge and skill-base you will need to practice as a Social Worker.

### Entrance requirements

To be accepted to do the MA in Social Work you must have a first or second class degree or degree equivalent, preferably in the Social Sciences. You should also have a minimum of one year's full-time/full-time equivalent Social Work employment; we require a minimum of 6 months experience at the point of application and a further 6 months at the point of entry to the programme.

You should also have Grade C in GCSE Mathematics and a Grade C in GCSE English (or an equivalent – please contact the Admissions Office, if in doubt. They can organise a test for those without either qualification after other parts of the admissions process are completed).

We welcome applicants from a wide range of practice backgrounds. In our experience, applicants make best use of the MA when their professional background has been in a Social Work role or one that has equivalent responsibilities. You should have the understanding, personal and professional qualities to become a Social Worker and demonstrate this through relevant Social Work experience.

### **Application and admission**

Application is via UCAS. You need to register on-line at the UCAS website where you complete a secure web-based application. For more information, please visit the website at [www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply).

You can pay by credit/debit card when you submit your on-line application (£7.00 for a single entry, £17.00 to apply to two or more universities).

We strongly recommend you apply as early as possible in the academic year and certainly by the early application deadline of 15th January. We begin the process of selecting prospective students in December and this process continues for several months, so it may be some time before you receive a decision.

You are selected for interview based on your experience, academic qualifications and the quality of your personal statement and references. Once selected, the admissions process consists of a written test and a mathematics and/or english test for those without a qualification. To be accepted for the MA, at interview you need to demonstrate that you have the personal qualities necessary to undertake the complex and demanding role that would be required of you as a Social Worker. You are also expected to demonstrate an understanding of the experiences of service users and to have pursued opportunities to gain experience in a Social Work role either as a paid worker or a volunteer.

We are looking for experience that demonstrates your interest in, and commitment to Social Work. This experience should include:

- Direct work with service users either through face-to-face work on an individual or group basis, or telephone work
- Working with people who need emotional and/or practical support or help
- Using a range of people skills, such as listening, counselling and problem-solving
- Some understanding of the legal and policy framework in that area of practice
- Some understanding of the Social Work role with that service user group.

For more detailed information on the kind of experience we are looking for, please visit the MA Social Work Entry Profile at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).

### **What do you study?**

The College curriculum aims to provide you with the value, knowledge and skill base for practice and is organised around study units, workshops, lectures/seminar courses, projects and private study.

The teaching and learning opportunities centre on key areas of the social sciences and their application to Social Work practice, as well as developing your intellectual capacity and the skills necessary to prepare you for practice. The structured college learning includes specific learning in human growth, development, mental health and disability; Social Work theories and methods; assessment, planning, intervention and review; communication skills with children, adults and those with particular communication needs; Law, and partnership working across professional disciplines and agencies. Practice is central to the MA, and there are placements in two practice settings and with different service user groups (eg child care and mental health). You are expected to demonstrate competence across a range of standards and this ability is formally assessed. The learning on the MA builds over the two years and prepares you to apply your knowledge to practice situations.

## Practice Placements

You undertake two assessed practice placements, the first placement (of 85 days) in the second and third term of Year 1, the second placement of (115 days) in the first, second and third terms of Year 2. These placements are arranged through the allocation system devised by the College. You have an identified Practice Assessor for each of the two practice placements.

## Assessment

The programme's objectives are to prepare you for professional practice in Social Work, in accordance with the professional and academic standards framework as set out in the National Occupational Standards for Social Work, the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) subject Benchmark for Social Work, and the Department of Health's requirements for Social Work training.

Assessment of the College programme takes place through written assignments. The course has a strong commitment to the development of anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory practice, and all assessed work is expected to show an awareness, understanding and application of an anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory framework.

Assessment of practice will take place through reports by Practice Assessors. This includes direct observation of your work with service users, as well as your practice portfolio and a narrative giving your own account of your work.

**Please note:** entry to Year 2 of the programme will depend on successful completion of Year 1.

## Course-units

### Year 1

#### Professional Development for Practice (PDP)

This course-unit addresses the interaction between the personal and professional in developing a Social Work identity. It aims to investigate the relationship between personal and professional values and its impact on professional roles and to explore the nature, historical development and application of Social Work values in practice.

Additionally, the course-unit aims to develop and understand the significance and nature of your own identity and apply this understanding in developing a reflective sense of your professional role. Anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice is explored and you are made aware of the theory underpinning these approaches. You work on agreed exercises with a seminar facilitator to explore issues such as personal and professional values; the significance of racial, cultural, gender, sexual and class identity; learning styles, and roles in groups. **Assessment by:** one 3,000-3,500-word professional development assignment.

#### Human Growth and Development

This course-unit addresses issues of life-span development focusing on child development, adolescence and work with older people. It includes the study of key theories and approaches to human growth and development as well as considering discrimination and oppression. You observe a child under the age of five in a home or group care setting for one hour a week for ten weeks. The observations are accompanied by a weekly seminar in which you and your fellow students take it in turns to present a detailed written narrative of an observation and discuss the issues generated. **Assessment by:** portfolio, including two 1,250-1,500-word records from a minimum of six of your Infant Child Observations.

### Community Needs and Services

This course-unit considers a range of key concepts such as the nature of need, community, Social Work services and the significance of the service user perspective. You are expected to develop a basic understanding of the contested nature of the concepts and the difficulties associated with their application in policy and practice through a combination of formal teaching and a small-scale research project. This course-unit also introduces key methods and debates in research within the social sciences in general and Social Work in particular.

**Assessment by:** 3,500-4,000-word assignment.

### Social Work Methods and Skills 1

The Social Work Methods and Skills 1 course-unit addresses the skills and methods of intervention that Social Workers use in practice, and incorporates a general introduction to Social Work Skills and Methods with a focus on assessment. It comprises of a series of workshops on particular theoretical approaches to practice and study units focusing on assessment. **Assessment by:** 4,000-word Case Study.

### Social Work Practice Learning Year 1

This course-unit aims to enable you to practice as a Social Worker at an intermediate level within a multi-professional context and to meet the professional requirements for Social Work training. It consists of 85 days practice under the guidance of a practice assessor. All practice learning opportunities offer the possibility for you to develop your communication and Social Work practice skills with service users and to work in partnership across professional disciplines and agencies. The placement offers opportunities to apply learning, including reading, from all the course-units in this year. **Assessment by:** portfolio of evidence to show you have met the practice standards at the required level.

### Year 2

#### Law and the Organisational Context of Social Work

This course-unit aims to provide you with a critical understanding of the welfare and legal context of Social Work and its nature and scope within your own chosen area of practice, whilst exploring the impact of the law and policy frameworks in Social Work on service users. You explore the tensions between statute policy and practice in Social Work and investigate the complex relationship between organisational, legal and professional perspectives. The course-unit also provides you with an understanding of the law in relation to discrimination, and the application of the law within the context of anti-discriminatory practice.

**Assessment by:** seen paper, for which you write a 4,000-word answer over a period of three weeks. The paper is not written under normal supervised examination conditions.

#### Social Work Methods and Skills 2

The Social Work Methods and Skills 2 course-unit looks at skills and methods as applied to a particular area of practice, working with adults or children and families. The course-unit focuses on the following areas: inter-disciplinary and inter-agency working; planning, intervention and review; the nature of risk within social care. **Assessment by:** 5,500-word Practice Placement Case Study.

#### Research Methods

The Research Methods course-unit builds on the introduction to research in the Community Needs and Services course-unit. You consider in greater depth a range of research methods within the social sciences, including ethical and theoretical issues. You then apply these methods through your own research within one area of relevance to Social Work. This is supported through workshops and individual dissertation supervision. You are expected to demonstrate knowledge at the cutting edge of current Social Work developments in their chosen area. **Assessment by:** 12,000-word Dissertation.

### Social Work Practice Learning Year 2

This course-unit aims to enable you to practice as a Social Worker at newly qualified Social Worker level within a multi-professional context, and to meet the professional requirements for Social Work training. It consists of 115 days practice under the guidance of a practice assessor. All practice learning opportunities offer the possibility for you to develop your communication and Social Work practice skills with service users and to work in partnership across professional disciplines and agencies. The Year 2 practice learning offers opportunities for you to work in a different setting and with a different service user group to the practice learning undertaken in Year 1. You undertake statutory Social Work tasks involving legal interventions. The placement offers opportunities to apply learning, including reading, from all the course-units in Year 1 and Year 2. **Assessment by:** portfolio of evidence to show you have met the practice standards at the required level.

**Please note:** the award of the MA will depend on attainment of the required standard in both Year 1 and Year 2 assignments.

### Tutorial System

You are allocated to an identified tutor who provides tutorial consultation and support. In addition, in Year 2 you are allocated a supervisor for your Dissertation.

### Course Monitoring

The College is particularly keen to monitor the delivery of the Social Work programme to the highest standards. So, you are involved in evaluating the different components of the programme, contributing to the Student Advisory Group (STAG) – a staff/student consultative body – and feeding into policy making at different levels.

### Teaching

For further information on staff and their research interests, please refer to page 37 in this booklet.

### Fees

For information about fees, please see the Postgraduate Prospectus or visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs). **Please note:** fees are quoted per year of study.

A bursary is generally available for British applicants. For further details, please visit see [www.gscg.gov.uk](http://www.gscg.gov.uk).

### Find out more

If you have any specific queries about the MA in Social Work, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Dr Perlita Harris, Admissions Tutor, on 020 7919 7838 or e-mail [p.harris@gold.ac.uk](mailto:p.harris@gold.ac.uk).

# BA (Hons) in Social Work

## 3 years full-time

### Introduction

This degree is for people wanting to pursue a professional career in Social Work. It draws on current research and knowledge across the social sciences, government guidance, and legislative frameworks to focus on key issues that are important for facilitating your professional and academic development as a Social Worker.

We prepare you according to the professional and academic standards framework as set out in the National Occupational Standards for Social Work, the Quality Assurance Agency, and the Department of Health's requirements for Social Work training.

### Entrance requirements

To be accepted on to this programme you must have at least 2 A Levels (Grades B and C in any subject) or 1 A Level and 2 AS Levels or other equivalent Level III qualification - such as a BTEC National Diploma or GNVQ (Advanced level) - in a relevant area, or have successfully completed an Access to Higher Education Diploma (usually a minimum of 60 credits of which 45 will be at Level 3 and the remaining 15 at Level 2 or 3). You should also have Grade C in GCSE English and Mathematics (or an equivalent - please contact the Admissions Office if in doubt. They can organise a test for those without either qualification after other parts of the admissions process are completed).

You must be able to show that you can make use of written material and are able to communicate clearly and accurately in spoken and written English, and have a minimum of 3 months Social Work-related work experience gained in a paid or voluntary capacity.

**Please note:** if you do not have the formal qualifications listed above, then you may consider applying for the Access to Higher Education Diploma in Social Work programme offered at Goldsmiths. For further information, please refer to the PACE Prospectus; available from the contact details at the end of this booklet.

### Application and admission

For full-time study, you need to register on-line at the UCAS website where you complete a secure web-based application. For more information, please visit the website at [www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply).

You can pay by credit/debit card when you submit your on-line application (£7.00 for a single entry, £17.00 to apply to two or more universities).

**Please note:** full-time applications can only be made on-line at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com). We strongly recommend you apply as early as possible through UCAS. We begin the process of selecting prospective students in December and this process continues for several months, so it may be some time before you receive a decision.

After applications are received at Goldsmiths, candidates are then selected for a written test on the basis of having demonstrated the necessary experience and academic qualifications, as well as the quality of the personal statement and references on the UCAS form. Those with a high level of achievement in the written test are invited for interview.

To be accepted for the degree, at the interview you need to demonstrate that you have the personal qualities necessary to undertake the complex and demanding role that would be required of you as a Social Worker. You are also expected to demonstrate an understanding of the experiences of service users and to show a commitment to, and have pursued opportunities to, gain some experience in a social care situation either as a paid worker or a volunteer. For further information, please contact Dr Perlita Harris, Admissions Tutor, on 020 7919 7838 or e-mail [p.harris@gold.ac.uk](mailto:p.harris@gold.ac.uk).



## Work experience

To be accepted on to the BA in Social Work you must have a minimum of three months full-time/full-time equivalent Social Work-related experience when applying to the course and a further three months at the point of entry to the course. This can be gained in a paid and/or voluntary capacity. We are looking for experience which demonstrates your interest in and commitment to Social Work combined with the practical experience that you have gained in this field. The experience should include:

- Direct work with service users either through face-to-face work on an individual or group basis, or telephone work
- Working with people who need emotional and/or practical support or help
- Using a range of people skills, such as listening, counselling and problem-solving
- Some understanding of the legal and policy framework in that area of practice
- Some understanding of the social work role with that service user group.

Further guidance on relevant work experience can be found under the Goldsmiths' BA in Social Work entry on the UCAS website.

## What do you study?

The College curriculum aims to provide you with the value, knowledge and skill base for practice and is organised around study units, workshops, lectures/seminar courses, projects and private study. The teaching and learning opportunities centre on the key areas of the social sciences and their application to Social Work practice, as well developing your intellectual capacity, and the skills necessary to get you ready for practice.

The structured college learning includes specific learning in human growth, development, mental health and disability; Social Work theories and methods; assessment, planning, intervention and review; communication skills with children, adults and those with particular communication needs; Law, and partnership working across professional disciplines and agencies. Practice is central to the degree, and there will be practice placements in two settings and with different service user groups (eg child care and mental health).

You are expected to demonstrate competence across a range of standards and this is formally assessed. The learning on the degree builds over the three years and prepares you to apply that knowledge to practice situations.

## Course-units

### Year 1

#### Introduction to Social Work

This course-unit provides an introduction to the nature of Social Work as a professional activity and an academic discipline. It outlines the historical background to the development of Social Work and introduces key Social Work theories and issues. This includes an introduction to the theoretical basis for anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive approaches and consideration of the perspectives of the users of Social Work services. **Assessment by:** essay.

### Community Needs and Services

This course-unit considers a range of key concepts such as the nature of need, community, Social Work services and the significance of the service user perspective. You are expected to develop a basic understanding of the contested nature of the concepts and the difficulties associated with their application in policy and practice through a combination of formal teaching and a small-scale research project. This course-unit also introduces key methods and debates in research within the social sciences in general and Social Work in particular. **Assessment by:** essay.

### Introduction to Social Sciences

This course-unit introduces you to some major theoretical approaches within the social sciences, to consider its relevance to Social Work. You are introduced to broad schools of thought in psychology as they apply to human growth and development, different ideological traditions in social policy; and sociological approaches to key concepts such as class, gender, race, sex, the family, socialisation and role theory to enable them to understand human behaviour and the social context of the world service users inhabit. The course-unit provides some of the underpinning social science knowledge for examining Social Work theory and practice. **Assessment by:** seen examination.

### Professional Development for Practice

This course-unit aims to prepare you for undertaking professional practice in Years 2 and 3 of the programme. The course-unit offers you an opportunity to further your understanding of the experience of service users through workshops, reading, discussion, and audio-visual material. You have the opportunity to shadow an experienced and qualified Social Worker and are also expected to undertake direct work with service users either on a voluntary or paid basis. Seminars enable you to reflect on your personal and professional experiences and to link this with the theoretical and skills-based teaching on the programme. **Assessment by:** portfolio.

In addition, there is teaching on IT skills and workshops covering a number of specific issues.

### Year 2

#### Human Growth and Development

This course-unit addresses issues of life-span development focusing on child development, adolescence and work with older people. It includes the study of key theories and approaches to human growth and development, as well as considering discrimination and oppression. You observe a child under the age of five in a home or group care setting for one hour a week for six weeks. The observations are accompanied by a weekly seminar in which you and fellow students take it in turns to present a detailed written narrative of an observation and discuss the issues generated. **Assessment by:** case study.

#### Social Work Skills and Methods

This course-unit provides a grounding in key skills and methods of intervention for professional Social Work. It builds on the Professional Development for Practice course-unit in Year 1 and leads into the Social Work Theory and Practice course-unit in Year 3. It considers these in relation to the Department of Health requirements for Planning, Intervention and Review. It provides opportunities for you to practice some of the core skills and learn some core methods of intervention prior to your first assessed placement. **Assessment by:** seen examination.

#### Assessed Practice

This course aims to enable you to practice as a Social Worker at an intermediate level within a multi-professional context and to meet the professional requirements for Social Work training. It consists of 85 days practice under the guidance of a practice assessor. All practice learning opportunities offer the possibility for you to develop your communication and Social Work practice skills with service users and to work in partnership across professional disciplines and agencies. **Assessment by:** placement critical self-evaluation.

### Assessment in Social Work

The Assessment in Social Work course-unit aims to provide you with an introduction to assessment in Social Work and to the links between Social Work theory and practice. It consists of a study unit in which you work in small groups to carry out guided reading, role-play and exploration of a simulated assessment task, plus a series of case discussion seminars concurrent with the practice placement. The course-unit aims to equip you with assessment skills to be applied in the initial period of Assessed Practice. **Assessment by:** 3,000-word report.

### Year 3

Law and the Organisational Context of Social Work  
This course-unit provides an overview of the legal and organisational context of Social Work. You explore tensions, dilemmas and competing demands of practice within this context.

**Assessment by:** unseen examination.

### Specialist Area of Practice

This course-unit introduces you to one of the two main specialist areas of Social Work practice, work with children and families or work with adults in need, enabling you to extend your knowledge and skills in one specialist area. It provides the opportunity to examine aspects of theory and practice in some depth and to explore evidence-based and research-based practice. It enables you to analyse and critically evaluate some methods of intervention or policies and practices in the chosen topic area. It provides a foundation for the application of knowledge, values and skills in the final placement. **Assessment by:** extended essay on practice topic of your choice.

### Social Work Theory and Practice

The Social Work Theory and Practice course-unit looks at method of intervention and theories as applied to a particular area of practice, working with adults or children and families. It focuses on the following areas: inter-disciplinary and inter-agency working; planning, intervention and review; the nature of risk within social care. **Assessment by:** case study.

### Assessed Practice

This course-unit aims to enable you to practice as a Social Worker at a newly qualified Social Worker level within a multi-professional context and to meet the professional requirements for Social Work training. It consists of 115 days practice from November to June, under the guidance of a practice assessor. All practice learning offers opportunities for you to develop your communication and Social Work practice skills with service users and to work in partnership across professional disciplines and agencies. The Year 3 practice learning enables you to work in a different setting and with a different service user group to during the practice learning undertaken in Year 2. You undertake statutory Social Work tasks involving legal interventions, where you have not had the opportunity to do this in the previous year. **Assessment by:** placement critical self-evaluation.

### Practice Placements

You undertake a number of assessed practice placements. The Department of Health requires you to spend at least 200 days in practice settings. In Year 1, you are expected to complete a week shadowing an experienced Social Worker as well as a period of voluntary work. In Year 2 there is a practice placement lasting 85 days and in Year 3 the practice placement lasts 115 days. These placements are arranged through the allocation system devised by the College. You have an identified Practice Assessor for each of the two practice placements.

### Assessment

The programme is assessed by a range of methods including formal written papers, examinations, project work, practice based case studies, extended essays, and production of a practice portfolio for each placement. Assessment of practice is by reports by your Practice Assessor. This includes direct observation of your work with service users as well as your practice portfolio, and narrative giving an evaluation of your work.

### **Learning and Student Support**

You are allocated a personal tutor throughout your degree who provides academic and personal support. Additionally, you have access to a range of learning support, including Practice Assessors, help with essay writing, study skills and research skills.

### **Course Monitoring**

The College is particularly keen to monitor the delivery of the Social Work programme to the highest standards. So, you are involved in evaluating the different components of the programme, contributing to the Student Advisory Group (STAG) – a staff/student consultative body – and feeding into policy making at different levels.

### **Teaching**

For further information on staff and their research interests, please refer to the section at the end of this booklet.

### **Fees**

For information about fees, please see the Undergraduate Prospectus or visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/costs). **Please note:** fees are quoted per year of study.

A bursary may be available. For further details, please contact the General Social Care Council at [gsc.org.uk](http://gsc.org.uk).

### **Find out more**

If you have any specific queries about the BA in Social Work, once you've read this booklet and the Undergraduate Prospectus, please contact Dr Perlita Harris, Admissions Tutor, on 020 7919 7838 or e-mail [p.harris@gold.ac.uk](mailto:p.harris@gold.ac.uk).



# Fitness to train for BA and MA Social Work

Certain types of criminal convictions and medical conditions may have implications for entry to study Social Work as well as practice placements and subsequent employment.

If your application to study BA or MA Social Work is successful, you will be required to satisfy us of your fitness to work and train with children and vulnerable people. As part of this process you will need to apply for an enhanced disclosure certificate from the Government's Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The enhanced disclosure certificate provides details of any criminal offences, cautions, warnings and other issues which might be on your record.

Please note: the process of disclosure and fitness to train is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, and as such no convictions, cautions or other relevant information are ever considered spent. We will provide you with further details when we offer you a place.

You will need to complete a Declaration of Suitability for Social Work form. If you have a criminal conviction and are not sure whether this will debar you from practicing Social Work, or from working with young or vulnerable people, please ask the General Social Care Council (tel 020 7397 5100) for advice before you apply. Goldsmiths cannot advise you on this at this stage.

Goldsmiths, University of London, has a responsibility not to admit students who would be debarred from undertaking clinical work-based placements.

**Please note:** satisfying the College of your fitness to train will not in itself guarantee that a potential employer will take the same view of a conviction.

## How we determine fitness to train

1. When you attend for an interview, we will ask you to complete a Declaration of Suitability for Social Work form. If you declare any convictions, cautions or other relevant information, we may ask you for further information or supporting evidence eg a character reference or report from a Probation Officer.
2. If we offer you a place on the BA or MA Social Work programme we will ask you to complete an application form for an enhanced disclosure certificate from the CRB.

**Please note:** there is currently a fee of £36.00 to apply for an enhanced disclosure certificate. We will give you further information about how to make this payment when we offer you a place. If you have lived overseas we may also ask you to obtain the equivalent of the UK enhanced disclosure certificate from the relevant overseas authority.

3. Once we receive our copy of your enhanced disclosure certificate we will compare this with your Declaration of Suitability for Social Work form.
4. Once we have this additional information we make a judgement on your fitness to train, including whether we would be able to organise suitable placements for you, which are integral to the programme.
5. If we determine that you do not satisfy the fitness to train conditions then any offer of a place or provisional enrolment will be rescinded by Goldsmiths.
6. All information provided is maintained in a confidential manner.

### **Fitness criteria**

In order to assess your health, we need to find out if:

- you are physically able to cope with the day-to-day duties of your job
- you can communicate effectively with children, parents, clients and colleagues
- you have sound judgement and insight and can remain alert at all times
- you are able to respond to clients' or pupils' needs rapidly and effectively
- you can manage classes or groups
- you do not constitute any risk to the health, safety or well-being of those in your care
- you can, where impairments exist, meet all these criteria through reasonable adjustments made by the College.

The decision we make on your occupational fitness will be based on your ability to satisfy these criteria, taking into account all the duties that you will undertake as part of your job and any health problems you have.

**Please note:** you may be asked to attend a medical examination. You will receive comprehensive guidance and instructions with the occupational health questionnaire.

### **Fitness classifications**

On the basis of your questionnaire (and evidence from a medical examination and specialist advice if appropriate) the College Medical Officer will classify you in one of three categories:

- A. Those in good health or with a condition, which is unlikely to interfere with their efficiency in teaching, social work or the arts therapies.
- B. Those in good health but with a condition which may interfere to some extent with their efficiency in teaching some or all subjects social work or the arts therapies. The condition is not serious enough to make them unfit for a career in teaching, social work or the arts therapies.
- C. Those with a condition, which makes them, unfit for working in teaching, social work or the arts therapies. Applicants should not normally be included in this category unless they have a psychiatric or physical disorder which is likely to interfere seriously with regular and efficient work duties.
- D. 'C' classification will be given to an applicant who is not in a satisfactory state of health at the time of the examination but who may, after appropriate medical treatment, make a good recovery. In this case, they will be able to make a fresh application once they are able to provide a satisfactory medical report following treatment.

### **Appeals**

You will not be able to appeal to either the College or the relevant government authorities against the decision we make on your occupational fitness. However, you can give the College Medical Officer additional medical specialist advice for them to use to reconsider their decision. For further information, please contact the Admissions Office on 020 7919 7050 or e-mail [admissions@gold.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@gold.ac.uk).

## **Policy on the recruitment of students**

### **who are ex-offenders:**

- As an organisation using the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure service to access applicants' suitability for positions of trust, Goldsmiths complies fully with the CRB Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed.
- Goldsmiths is committed to the fair treatment of its students, potential students or users of its services regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background.
- We have a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which is available upon request to all Disclosure applicants at the outset of the recruitment process.
- We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applicants from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience.
- A Disclosure is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a Disclosure is required all application forms and recruitment materials will contain a statement that a Disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position.
- Where a Disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover to a designated person within Goldsmiths (Matthew Lake, c/o the Admissions Office) and we guarantee that this information is only seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.

# Introductory programme

## Access to Social Work 1 year part-time

This programme will provide you with the skills necessary to achieve at degree level. The theory and practice of Social Work are the core areas of study. Themes and topics include theories of social deprivation; Social Work and the law; ethical issues in Social Work; advocacy and empowerment; the history and organisation of social policy.

Throughout the programme there are study skills classes in essay writing; reading and research techniques; information technology and maths. Both English and Maths are taught to GCSE level. You will receive individual tutorial support and Goldsmiths has facilities for language support and for supporting dyslexic students.

Successful completion of the programme will make you eligible to progress on to degree programmes in Social Work and related studies at Goldsmiths and other institutions.

There are no formal entrance requirements. You will be asked to complete an application form, including a short piece of writing, and to attend a brief informal interview. If English is not your first language, please see the English Language requirement on page 5 of this booklet.

### **Find out more**

If you have any specific queries about Access to Social Work once you've read this booklet and the PACE Prospectus, please contact James Souter, the Programme Convenor, on 020 7919 7210 or e-mail [j.souter@gold.ac.uk](mailto:j.souter@gold.ac.uk).

# Staff and their research interests

## **Claudia Bernard, Senior Lecturer in Social Work and Director of Social Work Studies**

My principal responsibilities are providing academic leadership and the day-to-day management of the Social Work team. I have extensive experience as a children and families Social Worker in the statutory sector. My practice experience has included child protection work and direct work with children, including children “looked after” in the London Borough of Camden. I have held teaching posts at the University of Portsmouth and the Open University. I joined the teaching staff at Goldsmiths College in October 1994.

My main teaching and research lies in children and families Social Work, and has particular emphasis on the links between child abuse and domestic violence. I have published widely in the field of child sexual abuse, including a book entitled *Constructing Lived Experiences: Representations of Black Mothers in Child Sexual Abuse Discourses*. My current research activity is exploring how narratives of racism and gender oppression affect the way trauma ensuing from familial maltreatment is experienced, understood and named.

## **Lee Clark, Lecturer in Practice Learning (Social Work)**

I had ten years practice experience before joining the staff team in 2004. I worked in several London Boroughs, specialising in child protection, complex family assessments and court work. I have contributed to good practice guides and procedures manuals. I also hold qualifications for working therapeutically with children. I have long standing involvement in Practice Learning. I hold the Practice Teaching Award and have worked with several university programmes in the role of Practice Teacher/Assessor. At present, my research interests are concerning domestic violence and comparative Social Work in Europe. I have had several short articles published on a wide variety of current Social Work issues, including in 2007 *Le Systeme Pour La Protection Des Enfants A Londres – Les Lecons De L'autre Cote De La Manche* – an exploration of the pan-London child protection procedures for a French-speaking audience.

## **Dr Adam Dinham, Reader in Social Work**

I am Director of the Faiths and Civil Society Unit, which conducts policy research about the role of faiths at the public table. I have practiced as a Social Worker and as a Community Development Worker, am Co-Director of the FaithNetEast, a faith-based community development initiative in the East of England, and Special Advisor to the Faith Based Regeneration Network. I have written on faiths and community development, social enterprise and public policy, combining my varied backgrounds in Social Work, Theology and Political Science. I am a Visiting Tutor at the University of Calgary where I am pursuing a programme of comparative research about public faith and social action.

## **Anna Fairtlough, Lecturer in Social Work and Practice Education Convenor**

I joined Goldsmiths in June 2001 after many years at Lewisham Council as a Social Worker, Senior Social Worker and latterly as the Co-ordinator of Practice Teaching. I have generic Social Work experience, though I have specialised in children and families work. I have had responsibility for Social Work policy and practice development in the areas of child sexual abuse and domestic violence. I have published in the fields of Social Work policy and practice with children affected by domestic violence, developing practice learning in organisations and qualitative approaches to evaluating learning. I have recently undertaken evaluations of an innovative training programme for practitioners working with parents and a pan-European project designed to transfer knowledge and approaches to the training of practitioners in this field. I am currently working on a number of research and practice development projects including a Department of Health funded study on diversity and progression among Social Work students, an evaluation of a community-based project to train parents to act as consultants for other parents and a Skills for Care funded project on workforce development in Practice Education.

**Joan Fletcher, Lecturer in Social Work and Assessment Tutor**

My Social Work career spans several years spent working as a generic Social Worker, then as an approved Mental Health Social Worker and Team Manager, before moving into Social Work education in the mid-1980s. For the past twenty years I have worked as a Social Work Lecturer at the University of East London, alongside undertaking training and accreditation as a psychotherapist. Throughout my time in higher education, I have maintained close links with practice by working as a psychotherapist and consultant, specialising in the areas of working with difference and diversity; internalised oppression; conflict management and group work with survivors of sexual abuse. My current research relates to relationship-based Social Work, service users' experiences of change moments in therapeutic encounters, and a Department of Health funded study into diversity and progression on Social Work programme. I joined Goldsmiths in Autumn 2005.

**Dr Perlita Harris, Lecturer in Social Work and Admissions Tutor**

My practice background is in Social Work with children and their families specialising in adoption and adoption support. In September 2007 I joined Goldsmiths having previously lectured in Social Work at the University of Bristol. My teaching interests lie mainly in Social Work with children and their families. My research interests encompass service user views and experiences particularly Black perspectives as well as looked after children, adoption, adoption support, transracial and transnational adoption. In 2007 I worked on the Department for Education and Skills-funded study, Pathways to Permanence for Children of Black, Asian and Mixed Parentage: Dilemmas, Decision Making and Outcomes, along with colleagues at the University of Bristol. I am currently researching transnationally adopted adults experience of searching for information on their background and birth family. I edited, *In Search of Belonging: Reflections by Transracially Adopted People* (BAAF, 2006) and *The Colours in me: Writing and poetry by adopted children and young people* (BAAF, 2008).

**Tom Henri, Lecturer in Social Work**

My practice experience is in Social Work with children and families. I have practiced in the areas of child protection, children and families in need, youth offending and youth crime prevention. I joined Goldsmiths in 2008, previously I was a Visiting Tutor and practice assessor at the University of Leeds. My research interests are in the policy and practice of working with young people involved in racially motivated offending, and the role of the emerging field of community cohesion in Social Work.

**Visiting Tutors**

A number of visiting tutors also contribute to the programme.

# Contact us

We hope you have found this booklet informative. If you have any specific questions, please contact the Department as follows:

Social Work  
Department of Professional and Continuing  
Education (PACE)  
tel +44 (0)20 7919 7828 (Social Work Office)  
e-mail [socialwork@gold.ac.uk](mailto:socialwork@gold.ac.uk)

If you have any questions about how to apply, or any other questions, or would like a prospectus, please contact us as follows:

Admissions Office  
telephone +44 (0)20 7078 5300  
fax +44 (0)20 7919 7509  
e-mail [admissions@gold.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@gold.ac.uk)  
Prospectus hotline: 020 7919 7537 (24 hours)

We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment. Please contact the Admissions Office for further details.

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