

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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Award titles

Programme Title

BA (Anrh) Gwaith Cymdeithasol: Statws Cymwysedig

BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status

Internal Programme Title(s) (if different to the title on the certificate)

n/a

Programme to be included in Graduation Ceremonies

Yes

Delivery period

Sept 2023 – Sept 2027

Intake points

September

Regulatory details

Regulatory details
Awarding body Glyndŵr University
Programme delivered by Wrexham University
Location of delivery Plas Coch Campus,
Faculty/Department Faculty of Social and Life Sciences Social Work
Exit awards available BA (Hons) Social Welfare BA (Ord) Social Welfare DipHE Social Welfare CertHE Social Welfare
Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation Social Care Wales (SCW) is the body that regulates professional social work education and training in Wales. Successful completion of the programme leads to Qualified Social Worker status and adheres to Social Care Wales' expectations for the training and

Regulatory details

education of Social Workers in Wales as expressed in their Framework for the Degree in Social Work in Wales (SCW, 2021). The framework includes the Welsh Government requirements for the award of a degree in social work and the SCW requirements. The award in Wales is based on the National Occupational Standards for Social Work (2011), the Code of Professional Practice for Social Care and the Subject Benchmark Statement. Programmes are delivered through partnerships between universities and local authority employers and comprise equal amounts of academic and practical learning. Social work degrees in Wales must be informed by contemporary legislation, social policy and regulatory developments relevant to Wales, and the relationship to the UK-wide context. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 sets standards for public bodies in relation to the Welsh language which apply to the delivery of social work services and education.

This information is correct at the time of validation, please refer to the PSRB register for current accreditation status.

The framework for the degree in social work in Wales (2021), available from:

<https://socialcare.wales/resources/the-framework-for-the-degree-in-social-work-in-wales>

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, available at:

www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/1/contents/enacted

Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/contents>

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, available at:

<https://www.futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>

Code of Professional Practice for Social Care (2017), available at:

<https://socialcare.wales/resources/code-of-professional-practice-for-social-care>

National Occupational Standards for Social Work (2011)

<https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/early-years-and-childcare/national-occupational-standards-nos/social-work>

Please add details of any conditions that may affect accreditation (e.g. is it dependent on choices made by a student?) e.g. completion of placement.

Students successfully completing the BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status programme will be eligible for accreditation. As part of this, students must complete at least 1400 hours of Practice Learning Opportunities (PLO) within the 3 work-based learning modules.

The various Social Welfare awards exclude the PLO modules and do **not** lead to professional accreditation.

HECoS codes

100503

UCAS code

L500

Relevant QAA subject benchmark statement/s

Social Work (2019)

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-social-work.pdf?sfvrsn=5c35c881_8

Regulatory details
Mode of study
Full time
Normal length of study for each mode of study
Three years – full time
Language of study
English
Transitional arrangements for re-validated provision if applicable
The existing programme will end, and the new programme will start at all levels on the commencement of the programme. Continuing level 4 and 5 cohorts will transfer to the new programme. This is because the programmes are sufficiently similar and therefore allow existing students who have successfully completed Level 4 or Level 5 of the old programme, to progress directly to the next level of the new replacement provision. These students will therefore carry all successfully completed modules and marks over to the new programme. The student transcript will reflect the actual modules taken. The programme team will provide full details of the programme changes to all students. They will therefore outline any consequent changes to study and assessment requirements. In accordance with the Protocol for Transferring Existing students, they will be asked to sign a record of student agreement to transfer to the revalidated programme.
The following University Award Regulations apply to this programme (<i>highlight the appropriate ones and delete the others</i>)
General Regulations and Definitions Regulations for bachelor's degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and Foundation Degrees

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date of validation event:	30/05/23
Date of approval by Academic Board:	16/08/23
Approved Validation Period:	5 Years from Sept 2023
Transitional arrangements approved (if revalidation)	Students will transfer to the new programme at all levels.
Date and type of revision:	Enter the date of any subsequent revisions (Detail the type of revision made and the implementation date)

Criteria for admission to the programme

Standard entry criteria

Entry requirements are in accordance with the University's admissions policy, please click on the following link for more information. [Admissions policies](#)

The University's general entry requirements are;

Qualification	Entry requirements
Foundation Year	48-72 Tariff points
Foundation Degree	48-72 Tariff points
3-year Bachelor degree	80-112 Tariff points

These figures are intended as a general guide. Each application is considered individually.

International entry qualifications are outlined on the UK National Information Centre for global qualifications and skills (UK ENIC) as equivalent to the relevant UK entry qualification.

In addition to the academic entry requirements, all applicants whose first language is not English or Welsh must demonstrate English language proficiency.

European students are able to provide this evidence in a number of ways (please see [academic-entry-requirements](#) for details), including IELTS.

International students are required to provide an English Language Certificate which meets the requirements of the University (*please see [English-language-requirements](#) for details*).

Non-Standard entry criteria

The Approval and Inspection of Degree Courses in Social Work (Wales) Rules 2018 set specific criteria for selection onto social work programmes. The rules also require higher education institutions (HEIs) to have clear procedures for determining the suitability of students and termination of training should a student be found unsuitable for social work. Therefore, in addition to the University's standard requirements for entry, the University is obliged to meet the standards set out by SCW in paragraph 3 (1) of SCW's Criteria for the Approval and Quality Assurance of Degree ('The Framework for the degree in Wales', SCW, 2021, p. 27).

These are:

- a) The applicant has the potential to attain the required standard of proficiency in relevant social work (Rule 6) upon completion of the course:
Explanation - This refers to the academic standards required, and these are met within GU entry criteria (see above) which can include qualifications attained or to be attained prior to enrolment on the programme.
- b) The applicant has sufficient relevant experience of social care that they can demonstrate the values and basic skills that correspond to those generally expected of social workers
Explanation - Candidates must demonstrate an understanding of social work, and have relevant experience (employed, voluntary or personal) in social care, or a closely related field. This must be demonstrated as meeting the SCW minimum requirement of 360 hours.
- c) The applicant has read and understood the Code of Professional Practice for Social Care issued by Social Care Wales under Section 112 of the Act.
Explanation - Candidates are sent a copy of the COPP and are required to answer questions at interview.
- d) The applicant has communication and application of number skills equivalent to Level 2 or higher as specified by the Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales;

Explanation – Candidates are required to have a level 2 numeracy qualification attained or to be attained prior to enrolment on the programme.

- e) The applicant is able to understand and communicate effectively in written and spoken English or Welsh.

Explanation - This refers to the academic standards required at level 2 in English or Welsh attained or to be attained prior to enrolment on the programme, as well as the ability to conduct an interview in English – candidates can indicate a preference to receive information in Welsh on the UCAS form and can choose to be interviewed in English or Welsh.

The Interview

The interview panel comprises representatives of the programme team, practising social workers and individuals who use services or their carers (Outside In). Panel members are expected to undertake annual training in interviewing provided by GU. The interview includes a written test in English or Welsh, a discussion focused on reading material sent in advance, and an individual interview. Candidates must meet a minimum standard of 'satisfactory' for all answers to questions which test for each of the SCW Selection Criteria.

Post-Interview:

There are three potential outcomes from the interview – the interview panel, following a scoring system and taking into account the written test and performance in the group discussion, will recommend the candidate receives *a conditional offer, a reserve conditional offer, or a rejection.*

Rejections

Candidates who are rejected will be offered the opportunity to contact the representative of the programme team who was on their interview panel for feedback, including advice about developing their understanding of social work knowledge, skills and values should they wish to re-apply.

Conditional Offers and Reserve Conditional Offers

NB - The function of the Reserve Offer is to allow scope for the programme team to meet the 33 (+3) firm accept target set in line with SCW and confirmed in the Memorandum of Understanding with local authority partners. It also allows any candidate interviewed before mid-January to be considered on an equal basis which is a UCAS requirement. Those offered Reserve places will be notified of a confirmed offer as soon as possible.

Offers

All post-interview offers of a place on the BA (Hons) Social Work are conditional on the completion of the following:

- a) *Conditions relating to Academic Qualifications*

Candidates will be required to provide evidence of the successful completion of any academic programmes required for entry and not completed at the time of application.

- b) *Conditions relating to Suitability and Fitness for Practice*

In addition, SCW makes a requirement ('Criteria for the Approval and Quality Assurance of Degree' in 'The Framework for the degree in Wales', 2021, section 3 (3a) p. 27) that a university approved to deliver the social work degree:

"Must satisfy itself as to an applicant's medical fitness and character in terms of their suitability to work in social work".

The following conditions are therefore set for all candidates successful at interview who are offered a place:

c) *DBS Checks*

An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check which will be administered by GU. Students will be working with vulnerable children, young people and adults, and as such, the completion of a DBS check is an element of good safeguarding practice. GU will pay the fee for the enhanced check, but should students wish to register for the update service, they must meet the additional costs of this themselves.

Where a matter is listed on a candidate's DBS, this will be noted and referred to the Programme Leader or Admissions Tutor. A risk assessment process will then be carried out. This process can be found in the University's Suitability Policy.

d) *A Satisfactory reference*

Usually this will be the reference included on the original UCAS application form. If this is missing, it will be requested within the conditions of the offer. The reference must be from an employer, former employer, education professional, or volunteer coordinator. It cannot be a personal reference.

e) *Occupational Health Screening*

The SCW requirement cited above in relation to medical fitness means that all candidates will be referred for Occupational Health screening with an approved provider, initially through a questionnaire. This relies on candidates disclosing any issues regarding their mental and physical health so that reasonable adjustments can be made. The nature of social work means that students will need to be able to work with the psychological issues of others. If a candidate does not disclose something that later becomes apparent, which they were already aware of and should have disclosed, this then would go through the GU suitability for practice process.

f) *Registration with Social Care Wales*

All student on the programme must be registered on the SCW register as a social work student. Candidates are responsible for making an application to SCW to join the register and paying the fees necessary. If students subsequently take a break in studies, they will be de-registered and required to re-register.

Please note that all conditions outlined above in 2 a-d are ongoing and progression onto subsequent levels of study is dependent on continued registration with SCW and an annual personal declaration of continued suitability.

Record of Prior (Experiential) learning

Applicants may enter the programme at various levels with Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or Recognition of Prior Experiential learning (RPEL) in accordance with the University General Regulations. Any programme specific restrictions are outlined below.

Candidates applying to transfer from other approved social work programmes in the UK must complete Wrexham University's admissions procedures as outlined above, and submit a full RPL (recognition of prior learning) claim: this includes a curriculum mapping which demonstrates that they have met equivalent standards and covered equivalent subject areas to those they would have achieved at Wrexham University, evidence such as certificates or transcripts related to their previous study, and appropriate currency of prior learning (normally prior learning must have been achieved within the previous 5 years). Wrexham University will need to be satisfied that the candidate:

- a) Successfully meets all selection criteria for the programme
- b) Successfully meets all requirements of the University's RPL procedures:
 - can demonstrate prior learning across all modules in the preceding level;
 - provides appropriate evidence of prior study;
 - and can demonstrate currency.

Note:

- Candidates cannot enter the programme from degree subjects other than social work.
- Candidates from non-Welsh universities may only enter the programme at level 5 (i.e., not level 6) subject to meeting a) and b) above.
- The candidate's record of prior learning must demonstrate compliance with the SCW's Practice Assessment Guidance
- Candidates may apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) up to a maximum of 180 credits.

DBS Requirements

As mentioned above all applicants successful in being offered a place on the programme must have an enhanced DBS clearance. Then each new academic year, re-enrolling students are required to sign a declaration to notify the University of any changes which would affect their DBS status. This means that students are required to disclose a criminal record acquired while they are enrolled on the programme and not just at the point of entry to the University. If the University receives information, from the DBS that the applicant has not disclosed, the University will notify SCW and investigate the matter. SCW will then suspend its registration processes until the University investigation has finished. This means that failure to declare a conviction is a suitability to practice concern which can result in exclusion from the programme, University and SCW register. The nature of declared convictions is taken into consideration following our Consideration of Criminal Convictions Policy & Procedure and in line with the Universities Suitability to Practice Policy.

Suitability for Practice Procedure

Suitability to practice applies to this programme and this is made clear in the Suitability Guidance for Social Work Degrees in Wales (2019)

<https://gofalcymdeithasol.cymru/cms-assets/documents/Suitability-guidance-1612.pdf>

The Code of Professional Practice for Social Care (2017 p.11) clarifies suitability requirements:

‘...behave in a way inside and outside work, which would call in to question your suitability to work in the social care profession.’

Professional conduct and practice during the period of academic study is a key element of a social work students satisfactory progress toward the award and toward professional recognition. It is the Universities responsibility to investigate any concerns about a student’s suitability to train and practise as a social worker. The process of investigation is clarified in the university Suitability to Practice Procedure. This procedure deals with cases where there is reasonable concern that a student might be unsuitable for the profession for which their studies provide entry. Concerns relate to issues regarding the student’s behaviour and professional practice as well as the student’s health. Suitability concerns on this programme are communicated through to SCW as required by their guidance (SCW2019). Once the proceedings have been concluded SCW and the placing authority will be told the outcome of the investigation. SCW will then consider the question of the student’s registration.

Aims of the programme

The overall aim of the BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status programme is to provide students with the opportunity to meet the academic, practice and value requirements of the professional regulatory body in Wales, Social Care Wales, in order to graduate and be awarded qualified Social Worker status, thus becoming eligible for registration as social workers. More broadly, the programme aims to meet the requirements of employers within statutory and third sectors, and communities in North Wales and beyond, for social workers who, in their knowledge base and practice, meet the National Occupational Standards for Social Work and the Code of Professional Practice for Social Care Workers.

In addition, the programme aims to represent social work at a wider national and international level through research and scholarly activity. Social Work is a values-based profession, and so in addition to the functional aims of the programme, the programme also seeks to embody the ideals of social work as defined by the International Federation of Social Work (IFSW):

Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.”

IFSW (2014)

<https://www.ifsw.org/what-is-social-work/global-definition-of-social-work/>

The exit awards in Social Welfare aim to provide academic recognition (commensurate with how far they have progressed) for students who, having started the programme, become aware that they do not wish to qualify as social workers and / or for whatever reason become unable to complete the required Practice Learning Opportunity.

Distinctive features of the programme

Excellent learning experiences particularly through the participation of people who use services and their carers

The programme features the support of the award-winning focus group known as Outside In. In 2020, the group won a Social Care Accolade in the category 'Developing and Inspiring the Workforce of Tomorrow'. In the same year, they won an 'Above and Beyond Award' from Wrexham University. This group are an established part of the programme and are actively involved in developing and delivering aspects of the programme. Outside In members come from a wide range of background and experiences. They bring their expertise through experience so that students receive an understanding of the perspectives of individuals and carers who receive social work, health and other services. This provides a unique learning opportunity for students to gain an understanding of the social work role, and to practise skills of engagement, from the very first week of their studies.

There are two awards (The Emmett Roberts Award and the Outside In Award) that are made annually to graduating students showing particular commitment to the participation of people who use services and their carers during their studies.

Also to note is that tutors bring their own original research contributions and always ensure that their teaching provides a window onto research to support student learning. A key feature in this regard is the (soon to be published) book:

Livingston, W., Redcliffe, J., Quinn Aziz, A. (eds.) (2023), *Social Work in Wales*.
Bristol: Policy Press.

Team members (Wulf Livingston, Liz Lefroy, Helena Barlow and various members of Outside In) contributed to some of the writing and development of it. The book is particularly important because it is the first to offer an in-depth study of what accounts for the unique nature of current Welsh Social Work practice. This book is therefore being adopted as a core text on the programme and an important resource to support student experience and learning.

Excellent employability post qualification

The social work qualification has equal amounts of academic and practical learning. Therefore the model for social work education delivery is based on a partnership with local authority employer partners who take a lead role in managing practice learning arrangements. These strong relationships between the programme and local authority partners lead to good quality student experiences in terms of placement matching and support. To this end there are good rates of employability post qualification. This is evidenced as we are ranked 1st in Wales for graduate prospects (Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023).

Of note is that the programme is part of a subject area ranked first in Wales for student satisfaction and fifth in the UK for student satisfaction in the Social Work subject league tables, (Complete University Guide 2023). It is part of a CHA3 subject group ranked 1st out of Welsh universities for overall satisfaction as well as 3rd in the UK as part of the Social Work subject league table for Teaching Quality and 1st in Wales, including rankings for Teaching Quality and Student experience, in the Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide (2023).

Credit Accumulation and exit awards

Exit Awards

Successful completion of 120 credits at Level 4 entitles the student to the exit award of Certificate of Higher Education Social Welfare

Successful completion of 240 credits at Level 5 entitles the student to a Diploma of Higher Education Social Welfare

Successful completion of 300 credits at Level 6 entitles the student to a Bachelor's degree Social Welfare (Ordinary) – The substantive module being SWK602 Dissertation.

Successful completion of 360 credits at Level 6 entitles the student to a Bachelor's degree Social Welfare (Hons)

Programme Structure Diagram, including delivery schedule

Full-time delivery: BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/Option	Delivery (i.e., semester 1,2)
Level 4	SWK411	Foundations of Coproduction	40	CORE	1
Level 4	SWK417	Entering the Profession	20	CORE	1/2
Level 4	SWK412	Values and Ethics	20	CORE	1/2
Level 4	SWK418	Introduction to Social Policy and Poverty	20	CORE	1/2
Level 4	SWK419	Life Course Perspectives	20	CORE	1/2
Level 4	SWK416	Practice Learning Opportunity 140 hrs	Pass/Fail	CORE	2
Level 5	SWK519	Conflicts and Dilemmas	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK520	Law and Social Work	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK521	Interpersonal Dispositions	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK511	Exploring Skills for Practice	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK522	Social Work in Wales	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK523	Research for Social Work Practice	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK524	Practice Learning Opportunity 560 hrs	Pass/Fail	CORE	1/2
Level 6	SWK608	Integrating Social Work Theories	20	CORE	1
Level 6	SWK615	Dissertation	40	CORE	1
Level 6	SWK605	Safeguarding in Context	20	CORE	1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/Option	Delivery (i.e., semester 1,2)
Level 6	SWK609	Creative Practice	20	CORE	1
Level 6	SWK616	Practice Learning Opportunity 700 hrs	20	CORE	2

Exit / Alternative Award

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Value	Core/Option	Delivery (i.e., semester 1,2)
Level 4	SWK411	Foundations of Coproduction	40	CORE	1
Level 4	SWK417	Entering the Profession	20	CORE	1/2
Level 4	SWK412	Values and Ethics	20	CORE	1/2
Level 4	SWK418	Introduction to Social Policy and Poverty	20	CORE	1/2
Level 4	SWK419	Life Course Perspectives	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK519	Conflicts and Dilemmas	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK520	Law and Social Work	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK521	Interpersonal Dispositions	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK511	Exploring Skills for Practice	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK522	Social Work in Wales	20	CORE	1/2
Level 5	SWK523	Research for Social Work Practice	20	CORE	1/2
Level 6	SWK608	Integrating Social Work Theories	20	CORE	1
Level 6	SWK615	Dissertation	40	CORE	1
Level 6	SWK605	Safeguarding in Context	20	CORE	1
Level 6	SWK609	Creative Practice	20	CORE	1
Level 6	SWK610	Negotiated Learning	20	CORE	2

Intended learning outcomes of the programme

Knowledge and Understanding

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6 BA (Ord) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 (Hons) BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status
	On completion of Level 4, students will have	On completion of Level 5, students will have	On completion of Level 6, students will have	On completion of the BA (Hons) Social Welfare requirements:	On completion of the BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status requirements:
A1	Knowledge of a historical, philosophical and sociological understanding of social work values and ethics, particularly as demonstrated in the Code of Professional Practice for Social Care	Detailed knowledge and understanding of how values and ethics and the theories underlying them are used to determine responses in situations involving conflicts and dilemmas, discrimination, social injustice and crisis.	Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the impact of inequality and disadvantage on wellbeing and an ability to understand individuals from a diversity of backgrounds within the framework of social work values and ethics.	the ability to relate the general theories and ideas learnt to a specific group of people who use services / carers of people who use social care or health services	the ability to relate the general theories and ideas learnt to a specific group of people who use services / carers of people who use social work services
A2	Broad knowledge and understanding of psychological, sociological and biological theories of human growth and development from birth to death, and the way that these viewpoints inter-relate.	Knowledge and understanding of the Wales context in terms of education, legislation, political structures, economics, public service structures, language, culture, immigration, geography and history, and an ability to set this within the context of UK and international social work.	Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the way people behave and interact in families, communities and organisations: understanding grounded in evidence from research and in established and evolving theories from social science, psychology and related disciplines.		
A3	Broad knowledge and understanding of the context for social work,	Knowledge and understanding of methods of social work intervention, their	Detailed knowledge and understanding of theories, interventions, policies and		

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6 BA (Ord) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 (Hons) BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status
	and in particular of marginalised groups, in relation to history, social policy and law, with specific reference to the Welsh context.	validity according to the evidence available, and the role of the social worker in different and changing service and community contexts.	risk management strategies in relation to safeguarding in work with children and adults, and the impact of these processes on all involved.		
A4	Knowledge and understanding of the fundamental social work theories which underpin social work tasks, and of the types of social work and social care activities in which these are used.	Knowledge and detailed understanding of the legal and policy context of practice in work with children, families and adults in a variety of practice situations including safeguarding and risk management.	Comprehensive understanding, analysis and evaluation of the demands of working in contemporary organisations employing social workers, and strategies for sustainable practice, self-management and resilience.		

Intellectual Skills

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6 BA (Ord) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 (Hons) BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status
	On completion of Level 4, students will have	On completion of Level 5, students will have	On completion of Level 6, students will have	On completion of the BA (Hons) Social Welfare requirements:	On completion of the BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status requirements:
B1	an ability to carry out fundamental research, such as listening, reading, use of the virtual learning environment, and then	an understanding of research methods both qualitative and quantitative used in social sciences, which informs analysis of	the ability to integrate complex ideas and empirical findings, extrapolating and applying higher level knowledge	the ability to sustain a substantial piece of academic, self-directed secondary research.	the ability to sustain a substantial piece of academic, self-directed secondary research which draws on social work-

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6 BA (Ord) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 (Hons) BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status
	description, analysis and evidencing of ideas	ideas and the evidence used as a basis for practice.	within social work / social welfare.	(Dissertation)	specific research and literature. (Dissertation)
B2	comprehension and links with the experience of a variety of people who use services of fundamental theoretical ideas within social work and social welfare.	comprehension and application to practice settings of fundamental theoretical ideas within social work, social justice and social welfare.	the ability to analyse critically evidence and theories underpinning practice and to make recommendations based on this reasoning.	the ability to contribute to the body of knowledge for social welfare – health, housing, social care, for example - through secondary research. (Dissertation)	the ability to contribute to the body of knowledge for social work through secondary research. (Dissertation)
B3	reflective thinking which incorporates the notion of modifying ideas, attitudes and practices in response to learning.	understanding of reflective and reflexive practice and an ability to translate this into clearly written analysis of self-development.	the ability to manage personal learning and development, making use of the resources available for this, including supervision, peer support and contemporary and peer-reviewed scholarly research.		
B4	an ability to consider and to express the reasons for the validity of differing points of view.	an ability to analyse and provide an explanation for the reasons for differing viewpoints of individuals who use services and their carers in the context of the impacts of social inequality and injustice.	the ability to understand, and where appropriate integrate, viewpoints of individuals who use services into the body of knowledge which informs practice, whilst holding the tensions and uncertainties that come from an understanding that this knowledge belongs with the individual.		

Subject Skills

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6 BA (Ord) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 (Hons) BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status
	On completion of Level 4, students will have	On completion of Level 5, students will have	On completion of Level 6, students will have	On completion of the BA (Hons) Social Welfare requirements:	On completion of the BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status requirements:
C1	a fundamental understanding of the role of individuals who use services and their carers in social work education.	an ability to negotiate, plan, co-produce and review projects and interventions with individuals who use services and their carers.	the ability to negotiate the complexities of working with individuals who are resistant to service provision through creative and flexible practice.	the ability to generate and explore advanced knowledge, in particular demonstrating depth of understanding of a particular aspect of practice in a social welfare-related field such as housing, social care or health.	the ability to generate and explore advanced knowledge, in particular demonstrating depth of understanding of a particular aspect of social work practice.
C2	the ability to gather information about individuals and communities sensitively and in a variety of ways, whilst maintaining values of respect, non-judgement, partnership and confidentiality	management of complex information about people, including own emotional responses to information. Understanding theories and application of techniques in maintaining professional boundaries and managing interpersonal transactions.	the ability to manage complex information about individuals and communities, thinking logically, systematically, creatively, critically and reflectively to achieve high quality holistic assessments, interventions and evaluations grounded in social work values.	N/A	
C3	skills in communication and building relationships: listening to a variety of people, checking information, asking questions, co-operating in group learning, providing feedback, presenting ideas	extended skills in communication for engagement: employing linguistic sensitivity; awareness of individuals' rights for e.g., translation services; skills in complex writing, making informal and	Advanced skills in verbal and written communication for engagement with people, colleagues and professionals from other disciplines, including the ability to write complex reports for example reports, to make	N/A	

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6 BA (Ord) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 (Hons) BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status
	to others in person or by communicating in a clear and succinct way in writing.	informal presentations, working in groups and teams.	presentations to colleagues, and to chair meetings, including case reviews.		
C4	An understanding of the role of knowledge, skills and values in all social work activities at the personal, cultural and structural levels.	An ability to take knowledge evidence, social work values and agency strengths and limitations to explain and justify decisions made in relation to social work practice.	The ability to generate and approach practice questions from experience and supervision and to investigate these within ethical frameworks to build resilience and professional competence.		

Practical, Professional and Employability Skills

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6 BA (Ord) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 (Hons) BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status
	On completion of Level 4, students will have	On completion of Level 5, students will have	On completion of Level 6, students will have	On completion of the BA (Hons) Social Welfare requirements:	On completion of the BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status requirements:
	Fitness to Proceed in Social Work Practice According to SCW requirements, on completion of level 4	Applying Knowledge, Skills and Values in Social Work Practice According to SCW requirements, on completion of level 5	Development and Confirmation of Competence in Social Work Practice According to SCW requirements, on completion of level 6		
D1	students must have the interpersonal skills and values required in order for him or her to be suitable and safe to work	students should be applying social work knowledge, skills and values including research findings in their practice	students will have built on the knowledge, skills and values attained at level 5.		

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6 BA (Ord) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Level 6 (Hons) BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status
	with individuals who use services and their carers;				
D2	students must demonstrate an understanding, directly from individuals who use services and their carers, of the impact of social work practice upon them	students will need to demonstrate the development of critical, analytical and reflective practice. Evidence is required for each of the twenty NOS at this level. Practice Educators will need to be alert to any contra evidence for each standard	students should be demonstrating professional judgement, intervention and critical reflection across their practice. Evidence is required for each of the twenty NOS at this level. Practice Educators will need to be alert to any contra evidence for each standard	N/A	
D3	students must have described, illustrated and applied the Code of Professional Practice through their practice, conduct and academic work.	students must evidence analysis and evaluation of their application of the Code of Professional Practice through their practice, conduct and academic work.	students must evidence full integration and critical analysis of their application of the Code of Professional Practice through their practice, conduct and academic work.		
D4	Students must demonstrate a level of skills in information and communication technology commensurate with the demands of social work practice.	Students must demonstrate ICT skills in the context of practice learning opportunities	Students must demonstrate ICT skills in the context of practice learning opportunities with increasing levels of independent self-management.		

Learning and teaching strategy

The learning and teaching strategy for supporting student learning and achievement is based upon the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) CAST (2018). This is a way of thinking about teaching and learning that helps give all students an equal opportunity to succeed. Central to this approach is the Active Learning Framework (ALF) which offers flexibility in the way students access material, engage with it and show they know. Therefore, learning focuses on facilitating critical dialogue with learners. This means that teaching and learning strategies foster self-development, autonomy, critical reflection and self-awareness. As such, learners are enabled to become independent, autonomous and reflective, whilst also developing collaborative and professional capacities that will enhance their communication, analytical and organisational skills.

A key learning and teaching characteristic of the programme is the involvement of individuals who use services and their carers. This means that participation is embedded in the curriculum providing students with experiential learning opportunities which enhance the development of social work practice skills and understanding. Our approach to learning therefore operates on the premise that greater understanding of a person's own context can be gained from understanding through the lens of another. This is why learning sessions and formative and summative assessment regularly include the involvement of Outside In members. This strategy also relates to inter-professional learning and teaching which is integral to programme delivery, for example joint sessions with Occupational Therapists (OT) students, Policing students and with Art students. Additionally guest speakers from social work practice settings contribute to the student learning experiences. Likewise public and joint lectures are timetabled, some examples include Welsh language lecture, The Neil Thompson lecture, The Local Authority lecture. Topics covered are current social work-related issues for example issues of race, racism and decolonisation. Additionally, for some modules, there will be opportunities for field trips e.g., to Liverpool to explore history of discrimination and marginalization.

Knowledge and understanding on this programme are developed through synchronous learning mainly on campus and is supported with a range of asynchronous learning activities and resources via the module Moodle VLE. In line with ALF there is a variety of teaching and learning approaches employed each week. Learning content will cover theory, research and encourage critical reflection. This means that as well as lectures and interactive tasks, each session is a 'window' onto the much fuller information and learning available to students through Resource Finder, and other sources of information. Students early on in the programme are encouraged to find out more about their own preferred way of learning and work on their individual strengths and academic development points. Promoting students to think about themselves as learners, develop their skills on an individual, peer and strategic level. This will subsequently contribute towards the graduate's employability status and cultivate entrepreneurial thinking.

Practical, professional and employability skills are a core aspect of teaching and learning on the programme. Students are supported to develop their knowledge base and practice in order to meet the National Occupational Standards for Social Work and the Code of Professional Practice for Social Care Workers. This means that in addition to learning opportunities through academic study, students must complete at least 1400 hours of

assessed social work practice. Students have access to high quality Practice Learning Opportunities (PLO) provided by hosting Local Authorities, one of which must take place within a statutory setting in line with the requirements of SCW. PLOs increase in complexity over the three years, in the sense that the expectations of what students must demonstrate in terms of competence increases. These expectations are measured against the National Occupational Standards for Social Work in Wales. This is formalised through a range of programme structures: Strategic Partnership meetings, Programme Management Board, Practice Assessment Panel.

The theoretical modules are fully integrated with the practice element of the programme and gives confidence that on completion the student will be well prepared to begin their new role as a qualified social worker within their chosen field of practice. Importantly too, the educational ethos of the programme will have prepared them as lifelong learners, well able to meet the demands of continuing professional development in the ever-changing world of social work.

CAST (2018). Universal Design for Learning Guidelines version 2.2. Retrieved from <http://udlguidelines.cast.org>

The University Skills Framework

At Wrexham University we aim to help students develop and enhance key employability skills and capabilities during their study. There are three key areas with different attributes, attitudes and skillsets and the aim is to help students have the opportunity to enhance and develop skills such as resilience, adaptability, confidence, team working, emotional intelligence and communication, creativity and acting ethically and sustainably. Programmes are designed to enable students to develop and enhance these skills via module content, module learning outcomes and assessment opportunities. Each module will help provide different opportunities for developing and enhancing these capabilities.

The BA Social Work (Hons): Qualified Status in Wrexham University is underpinned by the Degree Framework for the Degree in Social Work in Wales (2021) produced by Social Care Wales which sets out key principles and aims for each level that student social workers should achieve before progressing to qualification which link closely to the employability descriptors. Please see the table from page 17-21 regarding the statements that students should achieve at each level of study.

The programme has been designed using an Employability Level Descriptor in collaboration with the Careers and Employability team. The Employability Level Descriptor document is reviewed as part of validation and following approval will be published in the student programme handbook.

The Careers and Employability team are available to provide additional careers education activities for all programmes as well as individualised information, advice and guidance. Learners gain access to self-directed learning resources by logging into our [careers portal](#).

Here students can book professional careers guidance appointments and make employment and volunteering applications and learn to build and develop their CV and applications.

The Careers team are available to provide information, advice and guidance and access to resources for potential students, current students and graduates. WGUConnect provides students with access to an online directory of vacancies.

Work based/placement learning statement

Practice Learning Opportunities (PLO) are organised through local authority partners in Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire. Students must complete 1400 PLO hours. Currently on this programme the spread is L4 – 140hrs, L5 - 560hrs, L6-700 hrs. PLOs increase in both hours and complexity over the 3 levels. This means that the expectations of what students must demonstrate in terms of competence increases. Each student is allocated a Practice Educator (PE) who supports their PLO experience and assesses their competence level. Competence expectations are measured against the National Occupational Standards for Social Work in Wales (SCW, 2012). Students produce a portfolio of evidence that map across to these occupational standards. Assessment of PLOs at each Level is undertaken by means of the student completing this Portfolio with the Practice Educator (PE) making a pass/fail recommendation in a final Report. The content of the portfolio is determined by guidance given by SCW. The placement modules at Level 4 and 5 are non-credit bearing, while the final Level 6 PLO module is credit bearing. All assessment of portfolios are through the Practice Assessment Panel (PAP) which is an independently chaired group facilitated by Local Authority partners and the University. The aim of PAP is to moderate and confirm on behalf of the Exam Board the result of the PLO modules. Also to quality assure the practice assessment process.

The PLO begins with a pre-placement meeting between the Student, Practice Educator, On-site Supervisor (where relevant) and the Personal Tutor. The purpose of this meeting is to construct a written placement agreement (PLOA). There is also a mid-placement review meeting. In year one, this takes place between student and Practice Educator, in years 2 and 3, between all those involved in the PLOA. At the end of the PLO students submit their portfolios to the university where they are then allocated to a Reader to verify the evidence provided meets the required standards for the appropriate level. Reader is an experienced Practice Educator and Registered Social Worker who has provided Final Reports for a minimum of two PLOs of durations of 80 days or more within the past five years. Readers cannot consider a portfolio from a student placed in the agency/local authority that employs them or if there appears to be a conflict of interest. Finally, the views of the Reader are passed on to the Practice Assessment Panel (PAP), a subgroup of the University Exam Board who make a final decision regarding the portfolio demonstrating sufficient evidence to pass. The PAP are formed of members of the University, individuals accessing services and representatives of the partner Local Authorities with an independent chairperson.

As there may be a range of different circumstances that can affect the successful completion and outcome of the PLO, the Degree Partnership uses a process of Resolution Meetings as a way of addressing these issues. The key aim of these meetings is to

intervene early to resolve circumstances that may compromise the PLO, rather than wait for the Mid-Point Review or the summative assessment of the Practice Educator's Final Report. Resolutions meetings can be requested by student, on-site supervisor, practice educator or personal tutor. They are chaired by a Training Officer from a partner local authority, who is responsible for chairing and making a record of the meeting's outcomes. Although the Resolution Meeting Process has been designed to ensure that all parties are given opportunities to discuss issues that arise during the PLO and to participate in the Action Plans that result, students can also access the University Complaints Process at any time, and appeal Exam Board decisions within specified time limits.

Welsh medium provision

The programme will be delivered through the medium of English, but particular attention is given to the place of Welsh language and culture in recruitment, selection, curriculum content and assessment with students having the following opportunities:

- Written and oral assignments may be submitted and assessed in Welsh
- Personal tutoring is made available in Welsh where possible
- Welsh medium practice learning opportunities will be made available where possible
- Selection interviews will be available in Welsh
- A level 5 module, (SWK505 Social Work in Wales) is dedicated to social work in the Wales context and will include considerations of language
- The number of Welsh-speaking students is monitored
- The programme has a Welsh Action Plan which is regularly updated
- Welsh language resources, in addition to those held at Wrexham University are available from the Bangor university library through the inter-library loan scheme
- The Skills module at level 5 provides an opportunity for students to access the MOOC – Social Work, Language Awareness (Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol). This is free of charge to students,
- Access to a Welsh in the Workplace short course is available for all students at both entry level Welsh and Foundation level. For further details please contact Elen Mai Nefydd (e.m.nefydd@glyndwr.ac.uk) or the module tutor Sian Owen (sian.owen@glyndwr.ac.uk)

Assessment strategy

Assessment will ensure that standards are reached in line with professional body requirements (SCW 2021), QAA's UK Quality Code for Higher Education (QAA 2018), and QAA's Subject benchmark statement Social Work (QAA 2019). The University's regulations will be adhered to and this includes any derogation of regulation that may exist. The programme's assessment tasks are designed to promote, develop and test cognitive skills, self-evaluation/appraisal, and to enhance students' abilities to conceptualise, compare and analyse issues in a variety of contexts of practice. Assessment within the programme has been designed to measure and develop student performance in a variety of contexts. This not only includes assessment in the context of what they have learnt (summative), but also to use assessment as a process of learning, providing the student with the opportunity to

improve their performance. Assessment of the programme takes place in both University and social care settings during PLOs, and to this end, the programme has an equal weighting of 50% in each.

Students will receive information on the overall assessment strategy in the programme handbook and information about university regulations. For example, the procedure to follow for any difficulties that may be encountered and how to either avoid or manage these (academic integrity or extenuating circumstances). Assessment will be made clear, and module leaders will provide assignment briefs in written electronic format, with clear links to module learning outcomes. Assessment criteria/briefs will be discussed face to face and in electronic format through Moodle™ (virtual learning environment), to enable the student to clarify the nature of the assessment and raise any concerns/areas for clarification.

A wide range of assessment strategies have been adopted in the programme to meet diverse learning styles. Therefore, to enable students to meet modular and programme requirements a variety of assessment types are included. For example, through either individual assessment or group assessment, and students will be informed as to whether assessment is of a formative or summative nature. Assessment modes include written assignments, case studies, reflective accounts, audio and visual role play recordings, presentations and so on.

Tutorial meetings are provided by the module tutor and support is provided on both an individual and group basis during assignment preparation sessions. Reasonable adjustments will be made in relation to student individual needs in relation to assessment. This will be considered on an individual level using the formal University procedures for assessment of needs, while maintaining professional body requirements. Students who are struggling academically will be encouraged to self-refer to University Academic Skills tutors. Whereby depending on the individual needs, various resources will be put in place and reasonable adjustments made.

To reduce the risk of academic integrity concerns students are introduced to Turnitin as this can be used as a developmental tool in line with the University position. Students are able to access this resource through Moodle™ to assess their ability to paraphrase work, avoid plagiarism and develop their academic writing skills. Following the assessments, students are provided with feedback within three weeks to enable them to identify development points and improve their future performance.

As a professional course there is a strong emphasis on student engagement and participation, student attendance is therefore particularly important and so two modules per level includes an element of assessed attendance. The assessments for each year have been designed to avoid overloading the student with assessments at any given time in that year. This also allows the student to receive feedback on assessed work, and progressively develop and improve.

Module code & title	Assessment type and weighting	Indicative submission date
SWK411 Foundations of Coproduction	Coursework 100% Group Project – pass/fail Attendance - pass/fail	Week 8, Semester 1
SWK417 Entering the Profession	Coursework 100% Attendance - pass/fail	Week 13, Semester 1
SWK412 Values and Ethics	Written Assignment 100%	Week 18, Semester 2
SWK418 Introduction to Social Policy and Poverty	Written Assignment 100%	Week 26, Semester 2
SWK419 Life Course Perspectives	Written Assignment 100%	Week 23, Semester 2
SWK416 Practice Learning Opportunity – 140 hrs	Portfolio of evidence pass/fail	Week 42, Semester 2
SWK519 Conflicts and Dilemmas	Presentation 100%	Week 42, Semester 2
SWK520 Law and Social Work	Written Assignment 100% Attendance - pass/fail	Week 31, Semester 2
SWK521 Interpersonal Dispositions	Audio/visual recording accompanied by Written Assignment. 100% Attendance - pass/fail	Week 13, Semester 1
SWK511 Exploring Skills for Practice	Practical 40% Written Assignment 60%	Week 8, Semester 1 Week 39, Semester 2
SWK522 Social Work in Wales	Written Assignment 100%	Week 35, Semester 2
SWK523 Research for Social Work Practice	Written Assignment (Critical appraisal) 70% Written Assignment (Research Proposal) 30%	Week 9, Semester 1 Week 42, Semester 2
SWK524 Practice Learning Opportunity – 560 hrs	Portfolio of evidence pass/fail	Week 29, Semester 2
SWK608 Integrating Social Work Theories	Coursework (court report) 80% Oral Assessment 20%	Week 10, Semester 1 Week 10, Semester 1
SWK615 Dissertation	Dissertation 100%	Week 14, Semester 1
SWK609 Creative Practice	Written Assignment (reflective essay) 100% Attendance - pass/fail	Week 12, Semester 1
SWK605 Safeguarding in Context	Written Assignment 100% Attendance - pass/fail	Week 16, Semester 1
SWK616 Practice Learning Opportunity 700 hrs	Portfolio of evidence pass/fail	Week 45, Semester 2
(Social welfare award only) SWK610 Negotiate Learning	Negotiated learning project 100%	Week 40, Semester 2

Assessment and award regulations

Derogations

- Two attempts only at each assessment for all modules
- All academic elements must be passed at 40% or above and no compensation is allowed.
- Students are not permitted to trail; each level must be successfully completed including the Practice Learning Opportunity module before progressing to the next level
- An applicant or student may apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) up to a maximum of 180 credits.

Non-Credit Bearing assessment

The Level 4 module SWK416 Practice Learning Opportunity is not credit bearing. Students are required to successfully complete 140 social work practice placement hours in order to continue on the qualifying award.

The Level 5 module SWK524 Practice Learning Opportunity is not credit bearing. Students are required to successfully complete 560 social work practice placement hours in order to continue of their qualifying award.

Borderline Classifications (Undergraduate programmes)

In considering borderline cases the Assessment Board shall raise the classification to the next level if all the following criteria are met:

- At least 50% of the credits at level 6 fall within the higher classification.
- All level 6 modules must have been passed at the first attempt.
- The mark achieved for the SWK615 dissertation module is within the higher classification.

Ordinary Degrees

The SWK602 dissertation module must be completed in order to achieve the BA (Ord) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award).

Accreditation

The social work degree is the professional qualification for social workers in Wales. 'Social worker' is a protected title and you cannot practise as a social worker unless you are qualified and registered.

Quality Management

All provision is expected to comply with the University processes for quality assurance, the QAA Quality Code and any specific PSRB requirements to ensure the quality of the learning and teaching on the programme. The University uses the following mechanisms to help evaluate, enhance and review programmes delivery;

Student Evaluation of Module Questionnaire
Student Voice Forum
Individual student feedback
Student representatives
Continuous Programme Monitoring and Enhancement reports
Periodic review and re-validation process
External Examiner reports
PSRB requirements and accreditation activities
National Student Survey (NSS)

Support for Students

The University has a range of departments that offer support for students such as:

- Library & IT Resources
- Inclusion Services
- Careers Service
- Chaplaincy
- Counselling & Wellbeing
- Student Funding and Welfare
- Student Administration

Please access the University website at www.glyndwr.ac.uk to find out more about the Departments.

The Student Union offers support for students, please access their website at to find out more. <https://www.wrexhamglyndwrsu.org.uk/>

All students at Wrexham University are allocated a Personal Tutor whose main responsibility is to act as the first point of contact for their personal students and to provide pastoral and academic support throughout their studies at the University. The relationship between student and personal tutor is informed by the underlying principles of the Code of Professional Practice for Social Care Workers. As a vocational degree students have access to professional development support through the work of Outside In. They also have professional development support from local authority partners and their training officers who form detailed opinions about students' learning needs and aspirations which also inform placement choices.

Equality and Diversity

Wrexham University is committed to providing access to all students and promotes equal opportunities in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 legislation. This programme complies fully with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy, ensuring that everyone who has the potential to achieve in higher education is given the chance to do so. Please click on the following link for more information about [equality and diversity](#)

The pursuit of equal opportunities in all aspects of the programme is a central tenet to which all of the partners are fully committed. This commitment to provide equality of opportunity informs every aspect of the programme from its management to recruitment and selection and curriculum content, assessment and practice learning opportunities.

The programme continually strives to develop the basis for anti-discriminatory practice by ensuring that all students:

- develop an awareness of the inter-relationship of the processes of structural oppression, race, class and gender;
- understand and counteract the impact of stigma and discrimination on grounds of poverty, age, disability and sectarianism;
- demonstrate an awareness of both individual and institutional racism and ways to combat both through anti-racist practice;
- develop an understanding of gender issues and demonstrate anti-sexism in social work practice;
- recognise the need for and seek to promote policies and practices which are non-discriminatory and anti-oppressive;
- have knowledge and awareness of the cultural and linguistic factors which affect individuals who use services and their carers needs, individually and in relation to social, community and family structures;
- receive practice teaching which is committed to ethnically sensitive practice and prepares students to combat institutional oppression;

The Social Work programme specifically offers the following:

- A Practice Learning Opportunity matching process which takes accounts of students' preferences to practise in Welsh / English, caring responsibilities, ability to drive / car ownership, health issues, disabilities, previous experience, involvement with social services, etc.
- As with all programmes within Wrexham University where a student requires additional support with learning for reasons of impairment or disability, provision will be made.