Social Work
Undergraduate Degrees
2023
We are proud of our standing as one of the best places to study Social Work in the UK, highly rated for the quality of our teaching, our outstanding track record for graduate employment, and for the impact of our research and engagement. We are also proud to have been commended by Social Work England as an example of best practice for supporting student placements during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whilst providing an exceptional student experience is our priority, we also have a very real involvement in influencing policy and practice. Our aim is to inspire a new generation of qualified professionals to engage with and steer future social policy and practice.

Underpinning everything we do is our founding principle of valuing people, and promoting human rights and social justice.

At Lancaster, you will learn alongside enthusiastic lecturers, practitioners, service users and carers (people with lived experience rather than service users and carers). We aim to enable you to develop a critical but reflective approach to understanding social work in contemporary society, and your practice learning placements are an excellent way of getting to know the role of a social worker and gaining hands-on experience.

We look forward to welcoming you to the positive environment that we provide at Lancaster, and supporting you in achieving your career goals.

Jane Pye
Director of Social Work
“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.”

International Federation of Social Workers, 2021

A Social Work degree that is reflective and critical

Whether you are looking to become a social worker, or want to be engaged in continuing professional development after working in the field, we support you in developing and using your professional judgment in the complex situations that social workers face.

1st for Social Work
Times Good University Guide 2022

1st

Joint 1st for Social Work Graduate Prospects
Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022

Approved by Social Work England, the specialist regulatory body
In our Children and Families module we have had really good, in person, honest advice from people who have used social work. They have talked about what their experience was with social work, in the past where it has gone wrong, and how it’s developed since then. I think that’s really important because you need to know how it went wrong for one person so you can make it right for another instead of making the same mistakes. Having interviews with service users breaks down stigma as well, which I think is really important in social work and makes you feel more aligned. It’s not professionals separate from services users, you’re all on one level. It made me realise the importance of partnership working.

Kerrie Watson
BA (Hons) Social Work

In our Children and Families module we have had really good, in person, honest advice from people who have used social work. They have talked about what their experience was with social work, in the past where it has gone wrong, and how it’s developed since then. I think that’s really important because you need to know how it went wrong for one person so you can make it right for another instead of making the same mistakes. Having interviews with service users breaks down stigma as well, which I think is really important in social work and makes you feel more aligned. It’s not professionals separate from services users, you’re all on one level. It made me realise the importance of partnership working.

### Entry requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
<th>Apply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Social Work</td>
<td>3 years Full time</td>
<td>L500</td>
<td>A level BBB, BTEC DDM</td>
<td>Via UCAS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the academic entry requirements listed above, all applicants should have some direct experience of social care; there is no minimum or maximum required number of hours and learning about relevant services can substitute where the pandemic has affected opportunities for work or volunteering. It is important to explain what you have learned from your experience and how this has shaped your decision to apply for a degree in social work.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to take part in a student recruitment event.

During the event you will participate in a number of activities, including an individual interview. The event is a great opportunity to get to know our friendly department and chat to our current students.

### Qualifying programme

Our programme is approved by Social Work England, the social work regulator, which means that our graduates are eligible to apply to join the professional social work register.

Visit our website for more information on degree options, entry requirements and scholarships [www.lancaster.ac.uk](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk)
Our programme takes a blended approach to teaching and assessment including:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Group work
- Action learning
- Skills development workshops
- Practitioner-led sessions
- Social work placements
- Independent research study
- Written assignments (essays/blogs/case studies)
- Compilation of a practice portfolio
- Presentations
- Exams
- Practice assessment

What is your ideal social worker?

This photograph captures some of the vibrant representations that were developed in a session designed to stimulate thinking and reflection about "the ideal social worker". The session was fun and creative but encouraged important considerations about the values, skills and knowledge needed to be an effective and ethical social work practitioner.
My first placement was at a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), where I worked with children between the ages of 11-16 who were attending the PRU as they required more direct support in meeting their educational, emotional, and behavioural needs. This placement involved lots of direct work with young people, especially providing emotional support. I had the chance to develop my own skills, such as emotional resilience and managing challenging behaviour. I gained a lot of knowledge about the responsibilities of educational providers, and the different ways that looked-after children can be supported in education.

I recently completed my final placement for my degree. I have been working in the Children in Our Care Team for Lancashire County Council. I have been co-allocated a case load, working with children who are currently under a full Care Order and are being looked-after by the Local Authority. My placement tasks are varied and interesting - I complete assessments, update care plans and also get to visit the children, to complete direct work such as life story work. I have thoroughly enjoyed my placements at both provisions and am now looking forward to starting my career as a Children’s Social Worker.

Ria Muhamad
BA (Hons) Social Work, Year 3

The placements that I have been matched with were tailored to my own developmental needs and career progression. I have truly loved the organisations that I have worked within, and felt part of the team.

The work has been dynamic and, at times, unforeseeable; representing the unique persons that we encounter in social work. My practice educators have been outstanding – I could not fault the level of support I have been offered and consider it a privilege to have learnt important skills from them.

Moreover, the University team provided exceptional assistance and support, specifically when I reached out over a concern. Overall, I have found my personalised learning opportunities incomparable, and leave placement as a much more competent and confident practitioner.

Amber Greenhalgh
BA (Hons) Social Work, Year 3
Degree structure
BA (Hons) Social Work, Full Time

This degree is the route into professional social work for applicants without a first degree. It is both an academic undergraduate degree and a professional qualification in social work, awarded by Lancaster University.

Year 1

Contemporary Social Problems
Explores broad historical and contemporary responses to social problems. In particular, you will seek to understand how contemporary social problems reflect and reproduce economic and social inequalities, and how these inequalities are constructed through different welfare ideologies and approaches.

Social Work Practice 1
Introduces you to a variety of social work settings and areas of practice with individuals, families, groups and communities, and familiarises you with established and innovative social work processes.

Minor Subject Module
You will be able to choose one module from a choice of subjects that are complementary to Social Work. After you register for your degree we will confirm which minor subject modules are available and how to register for your preferred option.

Year 2

Social Work Practice 2
Introduces you to key methods and theories of social work, and the use of self, reflexivity and critical thinking.

The Research-minded Practitioner
Enables you to demonstrate the value of research evidence for practice, critically appraise different forms of evidence and interpret complex findings.

Social Work with Children and Families
Introduces you to child care law, policy and statutory guidance, and exposes you to the latest research and analysis of serious case reviews.

Social Work and Young People
Discusses contemporary challenges facing young people in the UK today, and introduces theories of adolescence that encourage critical thinking about the reasons why young people are referred to agencies that offer support and safeguarding.

Social Work in Adult Social Care
Develops your understanding of the contribution that social work can make to the lives of disabled and older people who use adult social care services.

Practice Learning 1
This 70 day placement in the private, voluntary or independent sector provides professional learning, personal development and assessment, complemented by three additional days focused on skills development.

Year 3

Mental Distress and Health
Enables you to develop a critical understanding of the nature of contemporary mental health services and the associated legislative, policy and practice context.

Social Work Practice 3
Underpinning transitions work is acknowledgement that at times we all experience uncertainty. You will explore your transition as a student into the profession of social work and reflect on how that learning will enable you to support others going through transitions.

Dissertation
You will explore in some depth a social work related topic of your choice by undertaking a coherent and logical review of relevant literature.

Practice Learning 2
This 100 day statutory placement prepares you for the statutory aspect of the social work role, and gives you the opportunity to gain practical insight into the legal context of social work.

Information contained in this booklet with respect to modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer modules as advertised. In some cases changes may be necessary and may result in some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies’ (PSRB) requirements, staff changes and new research. Please check our website for the latest information: www.lancaster.ac.uk
As a registered social worker, I am dedicated to research that makes a difference to the way in which vulnerable children and adults can keep safe. I have conducted research aimed at improving children’s participation in services designed to safeguard them and informed policy development on young people and gambling in the UK.

More recently my research has focused on online safety, including projects on how to utilise new forms of social media to empower children and young people and an analysis of internet-facilitated child abuse and exploitation.

I bring my research expertise to my teaching. I also supervise undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations as well as PhD students.

Corinne May-Chahal
Professor in Social Work
Alison’s career inspiration

Wow! My first placement in a children’s setting was a massive learning opportunity and leap into the unknown. The best part was meeting children (from newborn babies right through to older teenagers). This placement was a profound experience which I will never forget.

My practice tutor was an absolute blessing. He took time to visit me, and was a great support, keeping in touch and being easy to contact.

My placement opportunity allowed me to see some of the lectures and theories in action. I knew well before the end of the placement that I wanted to be a children’s social worker and it was great to get the team manager’s feedback that she would be happy to have me on her team in the future.

Alison Hetherington
Former student, BA (Hons) Social Work

Your career in social work

Modern social work is a fast-paced, dynamic profession that encompasses many different organisational and practice contexts, including:

- Statutory and non-statutory practice
- Independent, charitable and voluntary sector work
- Children and families intervention
- Child protection
- Adult and older adult social care
- Criminal justice and youth offending
- Mental health and safeguarding adults
- Substance use
- Work with refugee, asylum seekers and immigrant communities

Additional opportunities are available for social workers in broader contexts including:

- Management
- Fundraising
- Campaigning and advocacy
- Policy development and analysis
- International development and aid
- Research and teaching

Entering the profession

Most of our graduates go on to careers in social work; some undertaking the The Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) in adults or children’s social work and some specialise in areas such as mental health.

A head start

The benefit of completing your degree after your final placement is that you’ll be undertaking statutory work and managing a case load whilst you’re applying for jobs. This works as a great boost for your confidence, competence and employability.

Professional accreditation

Our Social Work degree is approved by the regulatory body, Social Work England.

Specialist careers support

Each year we typically hold a social work careers event for final year students. This is a great opportunity to meet with local employers and alumni, who can help you prepare for applying for jobs and commencing your careers.
Our research: engaging, influencing, leading

The Centre for Child and Family Justice Research

Members of this group share a common interest in state intervention and questions of social justice. A major programme of work currently focuses on the impact of the family courts on the lives of children and their families.

Members of staff are engaged in testing alternative court models, such as the Family Drug and Alcohol Court, as well as designing and evaluating new initiatives to help parents whose children have been removed from their care through court-order.

From the study of legal advice given to pregnant women in prisons in England, through to the study of migrant populations in Europe; the centre provides a rich and lively space for academic research and debate.

Annual flagship events, together with seminars, provide Social Work students with direct access to cutting-edge research which is regularly featured in the media and has a direct influence on national and international policy and practice.

The Centre for Disability Research (CeDR)

This Centre provides a network for teaching and research staff across the University concerned with disability and disablism. It hosts a biennial international disability studies conference that brings together over 250 academics, researchers, policy makers and activists from around the world; to share and debate research, ideas and developments in disability studies. Together they consider the ways in which disability studies is practised in the academy and as activism, the formation of disability policy and the impact of this on disabled people’s lives and professional practice. A central theme is interrogating the role social work can play in promoting the human rights of disabled people.

Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2023–24 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2022). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University’s reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University’s liability can be found in the Student Contract at www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice