

Social Worker Degree Apprenticeship

BA (Hons) Social Work Level 6

"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 definition of social work, 2014

The University of Wolverhampton has a long established history of delivering validated social work programmes at pre and post registration, undergraduate and postgraduate level. Our Apprenticeship has been specifically designed alongside employers to provide 'non-traditional' students with flexible routes to professional training and employers with an opportunity to enhance their own recruitment and retention strategies by using Apprenticeship levy funding to offer career development and progression to members of their workforce.

The BA (Hons) Social Work Degree Apprenticeship is both an academic and practice-led programme that combines practice learning and development throughout key modules, enabling the Apprentice to consolidate and apply new knowledge and concepts as they progress throughout the three year programme.

Apprentices will meet standards comprising specified requirements for behaviours, skills and knowledge across nine areas of work:

- Professional values and ethics
- Views of people who use the services, carers, their families and communities
- Evidence-based decision making and analysis
- Personal and professional development
- Safe professional practice and safeguarding
- Communication
- Working with others
- Recording and reporting
- Use of technology

Job roles/Occupations

The Social Work Apprenticeship route enables you to work as a qualified social worker within statutory, private/independent and voluntary sector organisations. The generic nature of the course means that, on qualification, you can choose your preferred area of practice and, as a qualifying degree, it is recognised both nationally and internationally. One of the benefits of a career in social work is the range of opportunities available. Whether you choose a career working with children and families, with older adults, people with learning or physical disabilities or in mental health services you will find a range of career paths available.

How it works

Degree Apprentices will be employed **for a minimum of 30 hours a week**. The Apprentice will attend University for taught learning one day per week during the academic year (which contributes to the minimum apprenticeship requirement of 20% off the job requirement of an Apprenticeship), splitting their time between academic and work-based learning, and will be employed throughout, gaining a degree from the University while earning a wage and getting real on-the-job experience.

Apprentices will typically spend three years on the programme working towards the Apprenticeship standard, with the end point assessment taken in the last six months. Further development opportunities may include skills simulation, group tutorials, signposting for academic support, individual tutorials and IPE (interprofessional education/experience).

Apprentices and their line manager will be supported by a skills coach. The skills coach will meet the apprentice, practice educator and line manager four times per year to support and monitor progress towards meeting the apprenticeship standard.

Apprentices will need to have placements equal to at least 200 days (including up to 30 skills days) gaining different experiences and learning in practice settings. These settings must be contrasting and in a different setting to the normal employed work base. Each apprentice will have placements in at least two practice settings providing contrasting experiences and a minimum of one placement taking place within a statutory setting, providing experience of sufficient numbers of statutory social work tasks involving high risk decision making and legal interventions.

Modules will include:

- Introduction to Social Policy
- Law and Safeguarding
- Social Work Evidence: Theory and Methods
- Mental Health across the Life Course
- Research and Evidence-Based Social Work
- The Reflective and Accountable Practitioner
- Contemporary Social Work Practice (Adults and Children)
- Roles, Processes and Responsibilities of the Social Worker 1 & 2
- Roles, Processes of the Critical Social Worker
 - End Point Assessment

Qualifications

On successful completion of this Apprenticeship, apprentices will be awarded BA (Hons) Social Work and their Apprenticeship Certificate. At the end of the course, once all modules, placement hours and end point assessment have been passed and completed you will be eligible to apply for registration as a social worker on the register via Social Work England (SWE). The apprenticeship standard has been mapped to the Social Work England Education and Training Standards, the Professional Capability Framework, Social Work England Professional Standards and the Knowledge Skills Statement (KSS).

Entry requirements

As a minimum, candidates will have (and be able to evidence) a GCSE grade C+ / 4 (or equivalent) in Maths and English and will typically have three A-levels at grade C or above or have completed a BTEC in a relevant subject at D*D (or equivalent).

Potential candidates will need to demonstrate fluency in spoken English, complete a mandatory enhanced DBS and undertake a BKSB (Basic and Skill Builder) assessment. They must also complete a Occupational Health Assessment form to disclose any health issues or requirements. In addition, candidates will be required to complete either a written test, discussion or group discussion (aligned to University requirements) which will further support the Social Work England's Education and Training standards (2021).

This course is approved by Social Work England (SWE) who are the Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) for Social Work. Apprentices qualifying from this programme are eligible to apply to join the Social Work England register as a qualified social worker.

Fees and funding

For employers with a payroll below £3 million:

The Government will pay 95% of the cost of the Apprenticeship training and assessment for Apprentices of any age, for employers who will not be paying the Apprenticeship Levy. Employers may also be eligible for extra incentives.

For employers with a payroll above £3 million:

Employers will be able to use their Apprenticeship Levy contributions towards the cost of the Apprenticeship using their digital account.

We will agree a payment schedule and discuss funding availability with each employer before starting any Apprenticeships to ensure the cost to a business is clear upfront.

Register your interest today!

Call: 0800 953 3222

Email: apprenticeshiphub@wlv.ac.uk
wlv.ac.uk/apprenticeships