Programme Specification

University of Cumbria

Programme Title and Name of Award	BA (Hons) Social Work		
Academic Level	6	**Total Credits**	360
Professional Body Accreditation / Qualification	Successful completion of the BA (Hons) Social Work programme confers eligibility to apply to register with Social Work England Exit awards do not confer eligibility to apply for registration.		
Date of Professional Body Accreditation	May 2022	**Accreditation Period**	On-going
UCAS Code	L501		
HECoS Code	100503		
Criteria for Admission to the Programme	The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the Applicant Information pages of the University website for more information. For APL, please refer to the University website. Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage: https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/social-work/ The following additional requirements apply for entry to this programme: Applicants must have a minimum GCSE at grade C for English or equivalent prior to commencement of the programme. Prior to the offer of a place on the programme applicants will be interviews and undertake a written exercise and assessed against The British Association of Social Workers Professional Capabilities Framework at the point of entry for training level.		
Teaching Institution	University of Cumbria		
Owning Institute	Institute of Health		
Programme delivered in conjunction with	Placement providers e.g. Local Authorities, Schools, NHS, Voluntary and Independent Sector		

Principal Mode of Delivery	Blended Learning
Pattern of Delivery	Full time Total weeks of study: 24 weeks Delivery pattern: 2x 12 week semesters Standard semester dates: Yes
Delivery Site(s)	Fusehill Campus, Carlisle.
Programme Length	Standard registration period is 3 years, with a maximum of 7 years
Exit Awards	You may be awarded one of the following Exit Awards if you fail to achieve the requirements of the full programme. BA (Hons) Social Care Studies 360 points – **no** eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England BA Social Care Studies 300 points – **no** eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England DipHE Social Care Studies 240 points – **no** eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England CertHE Social Care Studies 120 points – **no** eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England
Period of Approval	August 2022

Cumbria Graduate Attributes
Throughout your studies, you will be provided with the skills and knowledge relevant to the global workplace. All successful graduates of the University of Cumbria will be: Enquiring and open to change Self-reliant, adaptable and flexible Confident in your discipline as it develops and changes over time Capable of working across disciplines and working well with others Confident in your digital capabilities Able to manage your own professional and personal development A global citizen, socially responsible and aware of the potential contribution of your work to the cultural and economic wellbeing of the community and its impact on the environment A leader of people and of places Ambitious and proud

Programme Features

Social work continues to be an exciting and vital profession in 21st Century Britain. Social Workers assist and support the most vulnerable people in society either by protecting children and vulnerable adults from abuse or through supporting people in overcoming addiction, illness or disability. Social Workers promote social inclusion and social justice, challenge discrimination and empower people to make positive changes in their lives to be able to fully participate in society. The Social Work role is challenging but extremely rewarding and there are a few careers that can provide so many opportunities to help other people to achieve their potential. The role of the social worker will suit anyone who wishes to make a positive contribution to society, challenge discrimination and who has the resilience and passion to make a difference to people's lives.

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you will be part of a programme that offers you the opportunity to engage with the complex issues that impact upon diverse communities and effect contemporary Social Work practice. The programme aims to build on your interest and enthusiasm for becoming a social worker by guiding you through 3 years of study and supervised practise, which will give you the knowledge, skills and understanding to join a vibrant, challenging and fulfilling profession. A unique selling point of the programme allows you to work with other professional disciplines in authentic ways to understand their roles and provide good opportunities to work as multi-agency teams. One way in which we do this is through experiential learning such as our court day experience. In addition, the learning outcomes of the professional skills modules assesses your abilities to work alongside students from other professional courses.

We aim to develop graduate social workers who are engaged, spirited, questioning, resilient, critical, enquiring, creative, solution focussed, self-aware, analytical, research minded, committed to social justice and future leaders in their field.

Our successful and well-regarded programme provides you with the education and training to meet the requirements of the professional regulator, Social Work England and confers eligibility for you to apply for registration as a social worker. We will, through our unique programme, assist and support you in meeting your aspirations and goals in social work. The programme is generic and covers working with adults and children with a range of needs. You can choose to specialise in working with particular groups of people once you qualify.

Applicants for places on the programme who are selected on the basis of their application form will be interviewed and must also complete a written assessment. Both the interview and the written assessment will be scored in reaching a decision about admission to the programme. Assessment of prospective students is in accordance with the requirements of the regulator Social Work England and we assess prospective students on the basis of whether they meet the level of the BASW Professional Capabilities Framework for "point of entry to training".
https://www.basw.co.uk/professional-development/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf/the-pcf/entry

From the moment you accept a place on our programme we will support you in the transition to University. We will offer you a day to visit the university prior to you starting the programme on one of our applicant days. Our Welcome Week provides ice-breakers and orientation activities to help you start to form working relationships with your peers and find your way around; become used to the technology used in teaching and gain insight to the workings of the University. We arrange workshops to help you with referencing, structuring assignments, preparing for placements and finding and using research evidence. We want you to succeed in your chosen career and will give you the support required to achieve this.

You choose the University of Cumbria to study Social Work due to its high numbers of graduates achieving employment upon qualifying. The whole programme is geared towards your employability and the development of such skills, values and knowledge to undertake the role effectively.

Your programme will be delivered in an engaging and immersive way to combine the necessary academic learning with practical skills for working effectively with people. This is achieved through

an experiential learning approach involving small group discussions, role-play, and simulations of situations such as home visits and giving evidence in court using real and realistic settings and with other professional disciplines. This will enable you to develop the discipline, professionalism and confidence to deal with these situations in your practise.

Our programme has adopted a transformative learning approach. This is an approach in which you will learn new perspectives about our society and its care services. Service users and carers are involved in the programme delivery and facilitate one module which is unique to our programme. Your experience will present you with many challenges to your previously held assumptions about human experience and the social and political structures of our society. You will also face the challenges of building a professional identity. You will make decisions about the type of work you want to specialise in and how you integrate the values and ethics of your new profession with your own world-view and personal identity. Transformative learning recognises that that this is a developmental journey which is at once challenging, exciting and ultimately fulfilling. Our programme will help to scaffold, shape and support that journey and help you recognise and understand the personal growth you have achieved and thereby best utilise it in the best interests of your future service users and your career.

The programme builds year on year in a logical progression that will make your learning journey clear. The first year will introduce you to the key theories underpinning Social Work and the values and ethics of the profession. You will learn the basic counselling, engagement and intervention skills needed to develop and maintain working relationships with service users and carers. You will get a background to the law and social policy underpinning Social Work in the UK and be introduced to theories about the nature of human development and society. You will be provided with opportunities to become more self-aware with Social Work professional values integrating with your own personal experience, philosophy and values.

In the second year of the programme the focus moves to developing skills in analysis, reflection and inquiry. You will gain a more detailed knowledge of social work. You will also gain an understanding of how research for Social Work practice is generated and the techniques for carrying out research. You will undertake your first 70 day Social Work placement. At the end of second year you should be beginning to establish an identity as a social worker and be integrating the values and ethics of the profession into your academic and placement work.

In the final year, you will be challenged to take your academic and practical skills to a higher level and to become 'career ready'. Amongst other learning opportunities, you will carry out an independently managed Social Work dissertation in which you will research a specialist topic of your choice. You will also undertake a module on Contemporary Issues in Social Work, which is informed by the research interests of the team. This will help to encourage you to be a research-minded practitioner when you go into employment. We aim to educate social workers who will be the leaders of the future. You will also undertake your final 100-day placement which will give you the chance to bring all your learning and development on the programme together and demonstrate that you are ready to complete your programme and apply and go forward into employment.

The new programme builds on over 10 years of successful Social Work education at the University of Cumbria and incorporates changes as set out by the regulator Social Work England and the latest QAA Benchmark Statement for Social Work. This includes a new emphasis on emotional resilience; a focus on leadership skills; authentic assessment; information governance and new technology; using evidence as a basis for practice; hypothesis development and testing; becoming a research-minded practitioner and having a commitment to life-long learning. These changes have been incorporated into the curriculum and assessment strategy to ensure that the programme fits with the demands of Social Work in the 21st century.

Your learning journey with University of Cumbria need not end with graduation and we hope that you will continue to be part of our community of practice. Many of our alumni return as delegates at our annual Social Work Conference or get involved in sharing their experiences in practice with our new

students as well as undertaking further study & research. Our interest in your career and achievements does not end when you graduate.

Absence Procedures

Any absence due to illness or other reasons that leads to lost days on both the practice placements will have to be made up to enable you to pass the qualificatory practice elements of the programme. There is an expectation that you will attend 100% of the programme. Sickness and absence procedures are outlined in more detail in the Programme and Placement handbooks. However, it is understand by the team that there may be times when absence is unavoidable and therefore through the student progress review process support and additional help will be offered to you to ensure that you can complete the programme.

Aims of the Programme

The overall aims of the Programme are:

To develop graduates who have a strong professional identity as social workers and have integrated the values and ethics of the profession into their practise.

To produce graduates who embrace complex, unpredictable situations and creatively apply knowledge and research for innovative responses to contemporary practice settings.

To develop graduates who can confidently demonstrate their professionalism in their interactions with service users, carers and other professionals across a range of formal and informal settings.

To ensure that graduates can communicate effectively, flexibly and appropriately in a variety of different media in a way that achieves the standards expected by the Social Work profession.

To develop the capability of graduates for autonomous professional practice in a changing and evolving society while continuing to embrace a commitment to social justice and life-long learning.

To produce graduates who are equipped with the knowledge, skills and values to enhance their own resilience whilst remaining professionally curious and open to different perspectives throughout their career.

Level Descriptors

Level Descriptors describe in general terms the expected outcomes you will achieve at each level of study as you progress through your programmes. They describe the relative demand, complexity, depth of learning and learner autonomy associated with a particular level of learning and achievement. The University's Level Descriptors are aligned to the national [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) (FHEQ) and are a key mechanism for ensuring the academic standards of the University's provision.

At Level 4: (Usually Year 1 undergraduate), you will be able to demonstrate that you have the ability:

To apply a systematic approach to the acquisition of knowledge, underpinning concepts and principles and deploy a range of subject specific, cognitive and transferable skills.

Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving well defined problems and communicate outcomes in a structured and clear manner.

Identify and discuss the relationship between personal and work place experience and findings from books and journals and other data drawn from the field of study.

At Level 5: (Usually Year 2 undergraduate), you will be able to demonstrate that you have the ability:

To apply and evaluate key concepts and theories within and outside the context in which they were first studied.

Select appropriately from and deploy a range of subject-specific, cognitive and transferable skills and problem solving strategies to problems in the field of study and in the generation of ideas effectively communicate information and arguments in a variety of forms.

Accept responsibility for determining and achieving personal outcomes.

Reflect on personal and work place experience in the light of recent scholarship and current statutory regulations.

At Level 6: (Usually Year 3 undergraduate), you will be able to demonstrate that you have the ability:

To critically review, consolidate and extend a systematic and coherent body of knowledge.

Critically evaluate concepts and evidence from a range of resources.

Transfer and apply subject-specific, cognitive and transferable skills and problem solving strategies to a range of situations and to solve complex problems.

Communicate solutions, arguments and ideas clearly and in a variety of forms.

Exercise considerable judgement in a range of situations.

Accept accountability for determining and achieving personal and group outcomes.

Reflect critically and analytically on personal and work place experience in the light of recent scholarship and current statutory regulations.

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 120 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

K1. A knowledge and understanding of how Social Work theory, core values, ethics and professional concepts and service user and carer perspectives facilitate understanding of individuals within the environment.

K2. A knowledge and understanding of a comprehensive range of sociological and psychological theories and the evidence base for Social Work practice, in order to demonstrate proficient practitioner and graduate skills.

K3. A knowledge and understanding of social policy, legislation, and guidance relevant to Social Work practice and leadership in local, national and global contexts, and relate this to broader social and political developments.

After 240 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to:

K4. Effectively analyse how Social Work theory, core values, ethics and professional concepts and service user and carer perspectives facilitate understanding of individuals within the environment.

K5. Effectively analyse a comprehensive range of sociological and psychological theories and the evidence base for Social Work practice, in order to demonstrate proficient practitioner and graduate skills.

K6. Effectively analyse social policy, legislation, and guidance relevant to Social Work practice and leadership in local, national and global contexts, and relate this to broader social and political developments.

After 360 credits of study (Degree) you will be able to:

K7. Reflect critically on how Social Work theory, core values, ethics and professional concepts and service user and carer perspectives facilitate understanding of individuals within the environment.

K8. Critically review a comprehensive range of sociological and psychological theories and the evidence base for Social Work practice, in order to demonstrate proficient practitioner and graduate skills.

K9. Critically evaluate social policy, legislation, and guidance relevant to Social Work practice and leadership in local, national and global contexts, and relate this to broader social and political developments.

Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes (including Employability Skills)

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 120 credits of study (CertHE) you will be able to demonstrate:

S1. An ability to apply assessment, research, intervention and evaluation skills to embrace local, national and more global priorities.

S2. An ability in the effective use of supervision whilst adopting and applying a critically reflective approach to practice in order to inform their Continuing Professional development (CPD) and Life Long Learning (LLL).

S3. An ability to apply the concepts of quality, leadership, change management and service improvement within the health and social care sector.

S4. The ability to design, implement and critically evaluate evidence based Social Work assessment and interventions with a range of service users whilst valuing diversity and human rights at the level of a newly qualified social worker.

S5. An ability in your professional role confidently and ethically within a range of practice contexts, in readiness to make the transition from student to newly qualified social worker.

S6. An ability to in the effective use of appropriate skills, values, encompassing the use of digital technologies, in critical enquiry, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, communication, problem solving and team working.

After 240 credits of study (DipHE) you will be able to:

S7. Critically evaluate and apply assessment, research, intervention and evaluation skills to embrace local, national and more global priorities.

S8. Apply, critically reflect on and develop the effective use of supervision whilst adopting and applying a critically reflective approach to practice in order to inform their Continuing Professional development (CPD) and Life Long Learning (LLL).

S9. Apply, critically reflect on and develop the concepts of quality, leadership, change management and service improvement within the health and social care sector.

S10. Apply, critically reflect on and develop to design, implement and critically evaluate evidence based Social Work assessment and interventions with a range of service users whilst valuing diversity and human rights at the level of a newly qualified social worker.

S11. Apply, critically reflect on, develop and articulate and justify your professional role confidently and ethically within a range of practice contexts, in readiness to make the transition from student to newly qualified social worker.

S12. Apply, critically reflect on and develop the appropriate skills, values, encompassing the use of digital technologies, in critical enquiry, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, communication, problem solving and team working.

After 360 credits of study (Degree) you will be able to:

S13. Critically evaluate and apply assessment, research, intervention and evaluation skills to embrace local, national and more global priorities

S14. Critically evaluate the effective use of supervision whilst adopting and applying a critically reflective approach to practice in order to inform their Continuing Professional development (CPD) and Life Long Learning (LLL)

S15. Critically evaluate and apply the concepts of quality, leadership, change management and service improvement within the health and social care sector

S16. Critically evaluate your ability to design, implement and evidence based Social Work assessment and interventions with a range of service users whilst valuing diversity and human rights at the level of a newly qualified social worker

S17. Critically evaluate, articulate and justify your professional role confidently and ethically within a range of practice contexts, in readiness to make the transition from student to newly qualified social worker

S18. Demonstrate effective and appropriate skills, values, encompassing the use of digital technologies, in critical enquiry, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, communication, problem solving and team working

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External and Internal Reference Points

The following Subject Benchmark Statements and other external and internal reference points have been used to inform the Programme Outcomes:

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Social Work

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-social-work-16.pdf?sfvrsn=1d95f781_10#

Professional Capabilities Framework –British Association of Social Workers

https://www.basw.co.uk/resources/professional-capabilities-framework-social-work-england-0

Social Work England Professional Standards

https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/standards/professional-standards/

Social Work England Education and Training Standards

https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/standards/education-and-training-standards/

Knowledge and Skills Statement for Social Workers in Adult Services –Department of Health

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/411957/KSS.pdf

Knowledge and Skills Statement for Approved Child and Family Practitioners –Department of Education
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/708704/Post-qualifying_standard-KSS_for_child_and_family_practitioners.pdf

UoC Vision, Mission and Values

https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/about/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/

UoC Strategic Plan

https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/about/publications/strategic-plan/

UoC Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/media/university-of-cumbria-website/content-assets/public/aqs/documents/LearningTeachingAssessmentStrategy.pdf

UoC Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes

https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/media/university-of-cumbria-website/content-assets/public/aqs/documents/academicregulations/Academic-Regulations.pdf

Graduate Prospects

Demand is very high for qualified social workers both regionally and nationally and the programme will prepare you well to gain your first Social Work position. Upon successful completion of the programme, including all the Qualificatory Practice Units, you will be eligible to apply for registration with Social Work England. Once you are accepted onto the Social Work England register for social workers you will be able to use the protected title of social worker and apply for jobs requiring the BA (Hons) Social Work degree. Within your first year of practice you will complete an Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) in which you will be given additional support and a protected caseload and work towards satisfying one of Knowledge and Skills Statements depending on what your specialism for either adults or children and family work. The majority of our Social Work graduates gain in employment with a local authority statutory team but many also work with a range of organisations in the voluntary and private sector.

Our graduates have been very successful in obtaining jobs all over the country, many gain employment through Cumbria County Council's Social Work Academy and with a range of employers both within Cumbria and neighbouring authorities and across the border in Scotland as well as further afield including Manchester, Liverpool and Wales to name but a few.

The Programme has close relationships with local employers and placements on the programme and will offer you a valuable opportunity to show your skills to employers and find out what different employment settings have to offer. This BA programme is accepted as a Social Work qualification throughout the UK for working with both children and adults. You may decide after graduation to specialise with a particular age group or type of service user, but the qualification is generic and will prepare you for any Social Work job which is appropriate for a newly qualified social worker.

In addition to social worker jobs, BA Social Work graduates can also find employment in a range of roles in the social care sector. The graduate transferable skills developed during the programme, and experience of working with people, can be utilised in other fields. Alternatively you may wish to go on to further study for a Masters degree or PhD.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies employed to enable the Programme Outcomes to be Achieved and Demonstrated

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you are part of an inclusive learning community that recognises diversity. You will have opportunities to learn by interacting with others in a collegiate, facilitative and dynamic learning environment. Teaching, assessment and student support will allow equal and equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy.

We seek to create a stimulating and innovative community of learning, whether encountered on campus or at a distance, on placement or in the workplace. Facilitated by experienced academic staff, you will experience a learning environment that is well equipped, flexible, and stimulating.

Learning and Teaching

The programme aligns closely with The University of Cumbria's Learning and Teaching Strategy 2017-22. The programme will support the vision of the institution *"To be recognised as a catalyst for individual and regional prosperity and pride with national and international relevance, reach and impact".*

The content, teaching and assessment approach of each of the modules that you undertake across all levels of the programme have been tailored to meet different outcomes and skills and knowledge required of a qualified social worker. As examples the professional skills modules teaches the practical skills of communication at a different complexity for each level. Each module assignment has been designed to be appropriate to the global learning aims and individual learning outcomes. This may mean that there is a difference in the types and lengths of assessments for different modules. This is a deliberate strategy to ensure you demonstrate your learning with the most appropriate assignment design.

The use of learning technologies are central to the programme, various online activities including discussion boards, Blackboard (our virtual learning environment) and online lectures are provided to you and supplement the face to face learning and encourage you to explore and reflect upon important concepts flexibly.

The programme embeds digital skills and promotes use of these through activities in which you can practice writing reports and other documents that are used in practice. The programme also uses web portfolios which records you learning and skills development over the duration of the programme to help you reflect on your achievement and be better able to demonstrate this to employers when seeking employment.

The teaching philosophy of the BA (Hons) Social Work programme is based upon a transformative learning approach. Transformative learning is grounded in human communication. The approach seeks to develop your understanding and self-awareness; re-evaluate your experiences through new knowledge and transform your view of society and what you can achieve as a developing social worker. This is facilitated in two ways; through task oriented learning and authentic learning and through the understanding of what others communicate in respect of values, ideals, feelings and morality. This approach is well suited to the core values of Social Work where we seek to understand the reality and experience of the people we work with. Much of our work is involved in empowering people to change aspects of their lives through our skills and expertise in a non-judgemental and anti-oppressive way.

Another important concept in transformative learning is undertaking problem-solving tasks and reflection upon how these have been achieved. You will have opportunities through your emerging knowledge and practice skills to find solutions to Social Work problems though a number of activities within the programme. These include: classroom discussions and debates; undertaking research focussed tasks within the literature review and dissertation module; casework within the practice

placements; and experiential learning within seminars and authentic role play scenarios. The experiential learning approach includes role-play, simulations of Social Work situations such as home visits and practicing giving evidence in court. These activities will enable you to develop the discipline, professionalism and confidence to deal with these situations in your practice. These skills are learned through the Professional Skills modules which occur each year of your degree and, which builds your assessment and intervention skills in an incremental way to build up your confidence in working as a highly skilled professional and also allows you to learn alongside others studying for other professional qualifications who you will work with once you have qualified.

Practice placements are an important part of your learning. Placements in social care agencies of 70 and 100 days in the second and third year respectively, are provided as part of the programme. The University works closely with both local authorities and voluntary sector agencies to provide a range of strong placement opportunities for you. Placements are in a range of different settings and with different service user groups. The first placement allows you to apply the theory and skills practiced in university in a real work environment and second placements are an opportunity to develop more advanced and specialist skills and undertake statutory Social Work tasks.

Formative Assessment

Formative assessment is an assignment that provides you with opportunity to practice a task that is similar or relevant to the actual assignment (summative assessment) that you will be set for the module. Each module has a set formative assignment is linked to the actual assignment. You will undertake a formative assessment task and will receive feedback upon this which will help you when you come to undertake your graded piece of work. We recognise that you will likely have diverse experiences and backgrounds and will be at different stages in your educational attainment. The formative assessments allows you opportunity to practice and receive feedback on your work before submitting your assessment for the module

Summative Assessment

Summative assessment refers to the graded assignment you will undertake which may contribute to your final degree classification. The summative assignments for each module have been designed to develop as aspect of the knowledge, skills and values required of you to be a social worker. As examples the professional Skills modules will assess either your verbal or written skills which are required for practice.

You will doubtless have diverse skills and knowledge and with this in mind we have developed an approach that will maximise student potential. We assess you by way of an incremental approach which allows you to build upon knowledge and skills at each level of study.   There are assessments that are based on skills in the workplace as well as more traditional methods of assessment to also ensure the academic robustness of your development. You will be assessed against the learning outcomes of the modules, which reflect the language of the attainment expected at each level as described here and with reference to the expectations of the University Grade Descriptors at the specified level.

The programme team have been commended on its good practice in relation to the variety of the assessments that we offer to students on the programme and from its external examiners. Social Work is a profession which utilises a range of knowledge, values and many differing skills to ensure effective working relationships are fostered with the public and other professionals. The assessment strategy recognises the need to assess your development in each of these areas. This blend of offering differing assessment tasks develops your all round skills and is an innovative feature of the programme.

Where possible great care is taken to ensure that assignments are spread throughout the year to avoid multiple assignments with similar submission deadlines. When appropriate we ensure assignments are marked anonymously and you are only identified after internal moderation has been

conducted. Most written assignments are submitted electronically the exception being exams; practical skills assessments and presentations.

Evidence of unsafe or practice that contravenes the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the regulators Code of Conduct may lead to suspension of the placement and initiation of the University's Fitness to Practice Procedure.

Student Support

We provide responsive learner support that promotes student success. Our approach to learner support is designed to support achievement and progression, champion inclusivity and accessibility, prepare you for opportunities beyond study, and promote independence and resilience, enabling you to achieve your potential.

As a student of the University of Cumbria, you will be taught by academics and expert practitioners who facilitate learning through structured inquiry. You will be provided with access to high quality academic resources through physical and digital libraries and will be supported to develop skills that enable you to become a critical, reflective, discerning and independent learner and researcher.

Induction

Students beginning the programme are provided with a range of activities that orientate students for higher education study, referred to as "welcome Week". Discipline specific activities as well as more general sessions help ease you through the transition into university life. The Programme Team organise several activities to assist the transition of new learners into the university. Discipline specific activities include a general welcome, course overview and an introduction to the staff team. In addition ice-breaker and team-builder activities to get to know each-other, allocation of a personal tutor and workshop session, navigation session on the virtual learning environment and a session on academic regulations and procedures follow with reference to expectations of students as guided by Social Work England.

Personal Tutoring

You will also be allocated a Personal Tutor. Your Personal Tutor will be proactively involved in the delivery of your programme and will have contact with you throughout your time at the University. Personal Tutors are allocated to assist you in your learning journey and additional time is incorporated in modules to offer support to you as a student. We pride ourselves on going the extra mile in supporting our students achieve in theory, practice and academic work. The small groups we cater for allow us to do this at an intensive level.

Personal Development Planning

The transformative teaching philosophy that we employ on the programme is aligned to you developing a self-awareness of oneself, one's skills and the how you have come to view the world as you do through ones one insight and from how we are become culturally attuned. The transformative approach encourages you to consider your own experiences in light of new knowledge and experiences and revaluate these through discussion with fellow students, tutors, service users and other professionals and most importantly through critical self-reflection of your values, knowledge and skills.

Throughout the programme you will be expected to, with the help of your personal tutor, create a personal development plan which is available through an e-portfolio. Within your e-portfolio you will chart the development of your skills, your values and your new knowledge. Not only will this help you to recognise how you are growing and developing, but it will also help you to present your skills to future employers with confidence and form the basis for planning your career development going forward.

Library Services and Academic Skills

The Library home page can be accessed here: https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning.

Module leaders will collaborate with Library Services to ensure that your online reading and resource lists are current and items are available via the library discovery tool OneSearch. In order to maximise access, availability and usefulness, ebooks and electronic journal titles will, in most cases, be prioritised. You can access a wide range of electronic and print content using OneSearch and you can find out more about key texts, databases and journals for your subject by accessing the library's subject resources webpages. Where appropriate, module reading and resource lists will be made available to you electronically on Blackboard using the University's online reading and resource list system.

Each campus library has a dedicated webpage. Check out local information about opening hours, reserving books, using self-service kiosks, printing and photocopying, booking study spaces and more. https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/

An Ask a Librarian service runs from 17:00 – 09:00 weekdays and round the clock on weekends and holidays. This means you can get professional help using about library services, finding information, referencing and searching, even when the library is closed. https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/Ask/

The Skills@Cumbria service can help support your academic, library and digital skills and success throughout your programme. It includes a suite of online self-help resources accessible 24/7 via the University's website and Blackboard site.

The Student Enquiry Point is a simple way to contact Library and Skills@Cumbria Services. Additional skills support for students is offered via:

- Workshops
- Appointments
- Webinars
- Learn Well at Cumbria
- Study from Home Webpage
- Digital Capabilities and LinkedIn Learning Pathways

Headstart: Head Start is a self-learning pre-entry module that is completed online and at your own pace. The module gives new undergraduate students an opportunity to prepare for your transition into university and to start to develop the academic skills that will help them become successful students. Library, academic and digital skills that will help you become successful students. Learning at university, academic writing and referencing are key topics introduced in the module and previous students have told us how useful they have found the online resources and activities.

The module is accessible via Blackboard on a self-enrol basis, where you receive badges and certificate of completion, or there is a non-certificated open access version available via the Head Start webpage.

Head Start Plus: Head Start Plus is also an online skills development course, designed to support students who are about or who have just started study at level 5 or 6 (2nd and 3rd year undergraduate). This course is particularly recommended to students who may not have studied at HE level for some time or who are transitioning into the higher HE levels. The course provides a useful refresh on academic skills and practice and an insight into the expectations of tutors at those levels.

The module is accessible via Blackboard on a self-enrol basis, where you receive badges and certificate of completion, or there is a non-certificated open access version available via the [Head Start webpage](#).

Student Support Services

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- [Careers and Employability](#)

- [Chaplaincy](#) for faith and spiritual wellbeing

- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

- [Digital Skills](#)

- [Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD](#))

- [International Student Support](#)

- [Library](#)

- [Money Matters](#)

- [Safeguarding](#)

- [Skills@Cumbria](#)

- [Sports and Fitness Facilities](#)

- [University Student Accommodation](#)

Further support and guidance, including EDI and Safeguarding: We are an inclusive community, committed to supporting and learning from each other, find out more about [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)](#). Depending on the nature of your course, you may well already know about or be learning about safeguarding in a professional context and to find out about the University of Cumbria's safeguarding policy and procedures visit: [Safeguarding](#).

Student Voice

As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me.

You can email at any time on studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk.

IT and Technical Support

Technology is an invaluable asset when it comes to studying, so it's important you know how to make the most out of the excellent [IT facilities](#) we have available. Our aim is to ensure you can access university electronic resources from anywhere or any device, whether on or off campus. The [Student Hub](#) is your one-stop gateway to all University systems, Outlook email, and OneDrive.

Whether you consider yourself a computer expert or you're not confident about your IT skills, we're always around to ensure you get the level of support you need. We have a wealth of information and support available on the [IT Services website](#) and have a dedicated IT Service Desk where you can talk to someone by phone or log your question online from anywhere, at any time.

University Cumbria Students' Union (UCSU) Student Support

UCSU offers a free, independent and confidential advice service to all students. They can help with things like academic appeals, extenuating circumstances or if you're considering a formal complaint. UCSU are also on hand to represent you in any formal meetings, for example in malpractice panels or fitness to practice meetings. Appointments are telephone based and can be booked at www.ucsu.me/support.

Programme Curriculum Map					
Academic Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Module Status***	**Programme Outcomes achieved**
4	HSWG4005	Law and Social Policy	20	Core	K3, S5
4	HSWG4006	Politics, Discrimination and Social Justice	20	Core	K1, K2, S4
4	HSWG4007	Professional Skills 1: Core Skills for Working with People	20	Core	S1, S2, S3 S4, S5, S6
4	HSWG4108	Development through the Life Course	20	Core	K1, K2
4	HSWG4009	Experts By Experience	20	Core	K1, S3, S4, S5
4	HSWG4010	Safeguarding Adults and Children	20	Core	K1, S5, S6
5	HSWG5005	Professional Skills 2: Applying Models of Assessment and Intervention in Practice	20	Core	K4, S7, S8, S9, S10, S11, S12
5	HSWG5006	Understanding and Developing Research and Evidence Based Practice	20	Core	K5, K6, S10, S11, S12
5	HSWG9005	First Placement	Qualificatory	Pass/Fail	K4, K5, K6, S7, S8, S10, S11, S12
5	HSWG5007	Reflection on Practice	40	Core	K4, K5, K6, S8, S10, S11, S12
5	HSWG5008	Working with Children	20	Core	K4, K5, k6
5	HSWG5009	Working with Adults	20	Core	K4, K5, k6
6	HSWG6105	Professional Skills 3: Specialist Skills for Social Work Practice	20	Core	K7, K8, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17, S18
6	HSWG6006	Dissertation	20	Core	K7, K8, K9, S13, S14, S18

6	HSWG6107	Critical Evaluation of Social Work Practice	40	Core	K7, K8, K9, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17, S18
6	HSWG6008	Organisational Factors and Leadership in Social Work	20	Core	K7, S15, S17
6	HSWG6109	Contemporary Issues in Social Work	20	Core	K9, S13, S15, S16
6	HSWG9006	Final Placement	Qualificatory	Pass/Fail	K7, K8, K9, S13, S14, S15, S16, S18, S19

Notes

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes with the following permitted exceptions due to the requirements of Social Work England:

Students must pass all modules (including qualificatory practice units for students aiming for the target award) before progressing to the next level of study

These requirements for BA (Hons) Social Work reflect a progression necessary to show successful progress through the different levels of professional development through the programme and are linked to the different levels the Professional Capabilities Framework.

https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/Detailed%20level%20descriptors%20for%20all%20domains%20wi%20digital%20final1.pdf

Pre-Requisites

Students must have demonstrated readiness for direct practise by passing HSWG4007 Professional Skills 1 before undertaking HSWG9005 BA First Placement. Students must successfully pass HSWG9005 BA First Placement module before progressing to take HSWG9006 BA Final Placement.

Reassessment and Progression

Students undertaking the BA (Hons) Social Work programme must successfully complete all Level 4 modules and before progressing to Level 5 and all Level 5 modules and Level 5 qualificatory practice unit before progressing to Level 6.

All modules must be passed at 40% which is the University pass mark for undergraduate modules. The majority of modules have one summative assessment but where there are two assessments both elements must be passed at 40%. Failure in one element will require resubmission of that failed element only; however, the module will only receive the maximum capped mark of 40%.

Students are normally allowed only one resubmission opportunities for a failed assessment (the exception to this is where Extenuating Circumstances are deemed valid). Students that do not successfully pass the placement modules at the first attempt will be offered one reassessment opportunity

Award Requirements

To achieve the target award of BA (Hons) Social Work all modules and qualificatory practice units must be completed and successfully passed. Failed modules are not eligible for compensation/condonement. Should a module or qualificatory practice unit be failed once all reassessment opportunities have been exhausted, the student must leave the programme with an exit award. Exit awards do not confer eligibility to apply for registration with Social Work England.

Students successfully completing 360 credits across all levels of the programme and both qualificatory practice units will achieve the BA (Hons) Social Work award. Only those students successfully completing the BA (Hons) Social Work award are eligible to apply for registration with Social Work England. A student who completes 360 credits across all levels of the programme but fails the final qualificatory practice unit at Level 6 will achieve the exit award of BA (Hons) Social Care Studies but will not be eligible to apply for registration with Social Work England .

A failed student will not be permitted to re-register on the same programme for the BA (Hons) Social Work programme. Refer also to the Academic Regulations http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/AcademicRegs.

* **Key to Module Statuses**	
Core Modules	Must be taken and must be successfully passed
Qualificatory Units	These are non- credit-bearing pass/fail components that are used to satisfy relevant professional, statutory or regulatory body professional requirements that are associated with the programme

Programme Delivery Structure: Full Time				
Module Code	**Module Title**	**Delivery Pattern** **Sept – Dec** **Jan – May** **June – Aug**	**Method(s) of Assessment**	**Approximate Assessment Deadline**
HSWG4005	Law and Social Policy	Sept – Dec	Written Assignment (100%)	End Semester 1
HSWG4006	Politics, Discrimination and Social Justice	Sept – Dec	Project Work (100%)	Mid Semester 1
HSWG4007	Professional Skills 1: Core Skills for Working with People	Sept – Dec	Practical Skills Assessment (40%) Portfolio (60%)	End Semester 1
HSWG4108	Development through the Life Course	Jan - May	Oral Assessment/Presentation (50%) Project Work (50%)	End Semester 2
HSWG4009	Experts By Experience	Jan - May	Portfolio (100%)	Mid Semester 2
HSWG4010	Safeguarding Adults and Children	Jan - May	Oral Assessment/Presentation (50%) Written Assignment (50%)	End Semester 2
Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive a CertHE Social Care Studies				
HSWG5005	Professional Skills 2: Applying Models of Assessment and Intervention in Practice	Sept – Dec	Practical Skills Assessment (30%) Portfolio (70%)	Mid Semester 1

HSWG5006	Understanding and Developing Research and Evidence Based Practice	Year	Written Assignment (100%)	End Semester 2
HSWG9005	First Placement	Year (From Sept - Feb)	Portfolio (Pass/Fail)	Mid Semester 2
HSWG5007	Reflection on Practice	Year (From Sept - Feb)	Written Assignment (100%)	Mid Semester 2
HSWG5008	Working with Children	Jan - May	Set Exercise (100%)	End Semester 2
HSWG5009	Working with Adults	Jan - May	Set Exercise (100%)	End Semester 2
Students exiting at this point with 240 credits would receive a DipHE Social Care Studies				
HSWG6105	Professional Skills 3: Specialist Skills for Social Work Practice	Sept – Dec	Report (60%) Practical Skill Assessment (40%)	Mid Semester 1
HSWG6006	Dissertation	Year	Dissertation (100%)	End Semester 2
HSWG6107	Critical Evaluation of Social Work Practice	Jan - May	Written Assessment (50%) Oral Assessment/presentation (50%)	End Semester 2
HSWG6008	Organisational Factors and Leadership in Social Work	Sept – Dec	Oral assessment/presentation (100%)	End Semester 1
HSWG6109	Contemporary Issues in Social Work	Sept – Dec	Written Assignment (100%)	End Semester 1
HSWG9006	Final Placement	Jan - May	Portfolio (Pass/Fail)	End Semester 2
Students exiting at this point with 300 credits would receive an Ordinary BA Social Care Studies. Students who have successfully completed and attained 360 credits but not passed or undertaken the practice placement modules would exit with BA (Hons) Social Care Studies				

Students who have successfully passed all qualificatory placement modules and passed all assessments and modules to attain 360 credits would achieve the target award of the BA (Hons) Social Work

Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Learning	
Mechanisms used for the Review and Evaluation of the Curriculum and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods	Module Evaluation Programme Validation and Periodic Review Annual Monitoring Peer Review of Teaching External Examiner Reports Student Success and Quality Assurance Committee Placement Meetings QAPL Feedback Placement Provider Meetings
Mechanisms used for gaining and responding to feedback on the quality of teaching and the learning experience – gained from: Students, graduates, employers, placement and work-based learning providers, other stakeholders, etc.	Student Staff Forum Module Evaluation Forms Programme Evaluation, DLHE, PTES Module/Programme/Personal tutorials Meetings with External Examiners Use of Mentimeter and similar 'apps' to gain ongoing feedback. Meetings on an annual basis with stakeholders & Practice Educators

Date of Programme Specification Production:	July 2018
Date Programme Specification was last updated:	March 2024
For further information about this programme, refer to the programme page on the University website	