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## 9. Criteria for admission to the programme

[http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/social\\_work/Social\\_Work\\_MA.aspx](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/social_work/Social_Work_MA.aspx)

- A first degree at higher second class honours classification or above (i.e. 2:1 or above). Exceptionally, applicants may be admitted with a 2:2, if they have strong, relevant experience of work in the social care sector.
- GCSE Grade C/4 or above in English and Maths or certificated equivalences.
- Relevant paid or voluntary work experience of at least three months.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must meet communication and comprehension skills to International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a score of 7 (with 6.5 in all elements).
- Successful performance in an individual interview.
- An assessment of the applicant's suitability and fitness for practice through completion of a self-declaration, appropriate references, a satisfactory check on their criminal record and background including the safeguarding register; Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and any further information gathering as indicated via other professionals or further interview and assessment.
- RPL is not permitted for admission to this programme.

## 10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

MA and PGDip Social Work:

1. Produce post-graduate, qualifying-level social work students who, at the point of completion of their Social Work MA or PGDip, meet all Social Work England Professional Standards and associated Professional Capabilities Framework domains enabling students to apply for professional registration as a social worker with SWE.
2. Develop graduates with leadership capacity able to actively contribute to working in organisations; through offering students an intellectually rewarding and stimulating post-graduate, qualifying-level programme where theory and practice are integrated throughout both academic and practice modules.
3. Equip graduates with an evidence-informed knowledge-base and embed skills for life-long learning.
4. Ensure that graduates are critical, analytical and reflective thinkers and are able to critically evaluate knowledge, to problem-solve, research and develop scholarship through debate and analysis.
5. Promote a collaborative, ethical and transformational approach to working in partnership with the programme's stakeholders, including employers, students, practitioners and service users and carers; integrating equal opportunities and awareness of diversity at every stage.
6. Provide a coherent and creative curriculum incorporating learning, teaching and assessment strategies that are mapped against Social Work England Professional

Standards (2019), linked to the Professional Capabilities Framework and the Benchmark Statement for Social Work (QAA, 2019).

7. Contribute to and champion the mission of the University by working closely within its structures and processes, to ensure that student support is maximised and valued to enable them to successfully achieve their ambitions.

MA and MA Social Work (Top Up):

8. Equip MA Social Work and MA Social Work (Top Up) graduates with skills and knowledge to plan and carry out research on themes relating to contemporary social work policy and practice.

## 11. Programme outcomes\*

### A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. How to conceptualise, analyse and critically appreciate key social work theories, methods and interventions.

2. The complex and contested interplay of contextual knowledge of sociological, psychological, organisational, political, economic and cultural perspectives which underpin social work.

3. The conceptual links between social work values and professional codes of ethics and

### Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through

- Engaging research-based exercises in practitioner enquiry within the classroom and via VLE.
- Engagement in peer and individual led classroom presentations which demonstrate synthesis and interrogation of different sources of knowledge.
- Practice tutorials in placement.
- Debate and discussion in small and large groups and through reading and critical reflection on learning materials, with a focus on evidence-


6. Identify and take into account multiple perspectives and contexts present within the social work domain, through reflection and analysis; showing an awareness of the contested and changing world of social work practice and awareness of equality, inclusion and diversity.

7. Conduct analysis in professional practice that identifies knowledge gaps leading to the development of pertinent hypotheses and research questions.

8. Show the ability to sustain a reasoned debate and exploration of a key topic of relevance to the profession via their research skills.

9. Demonstrate a competent use of information technology.

- Written assignments and presentations demonstrating critical understanding of theories and knowledge and their application.

## **12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)**

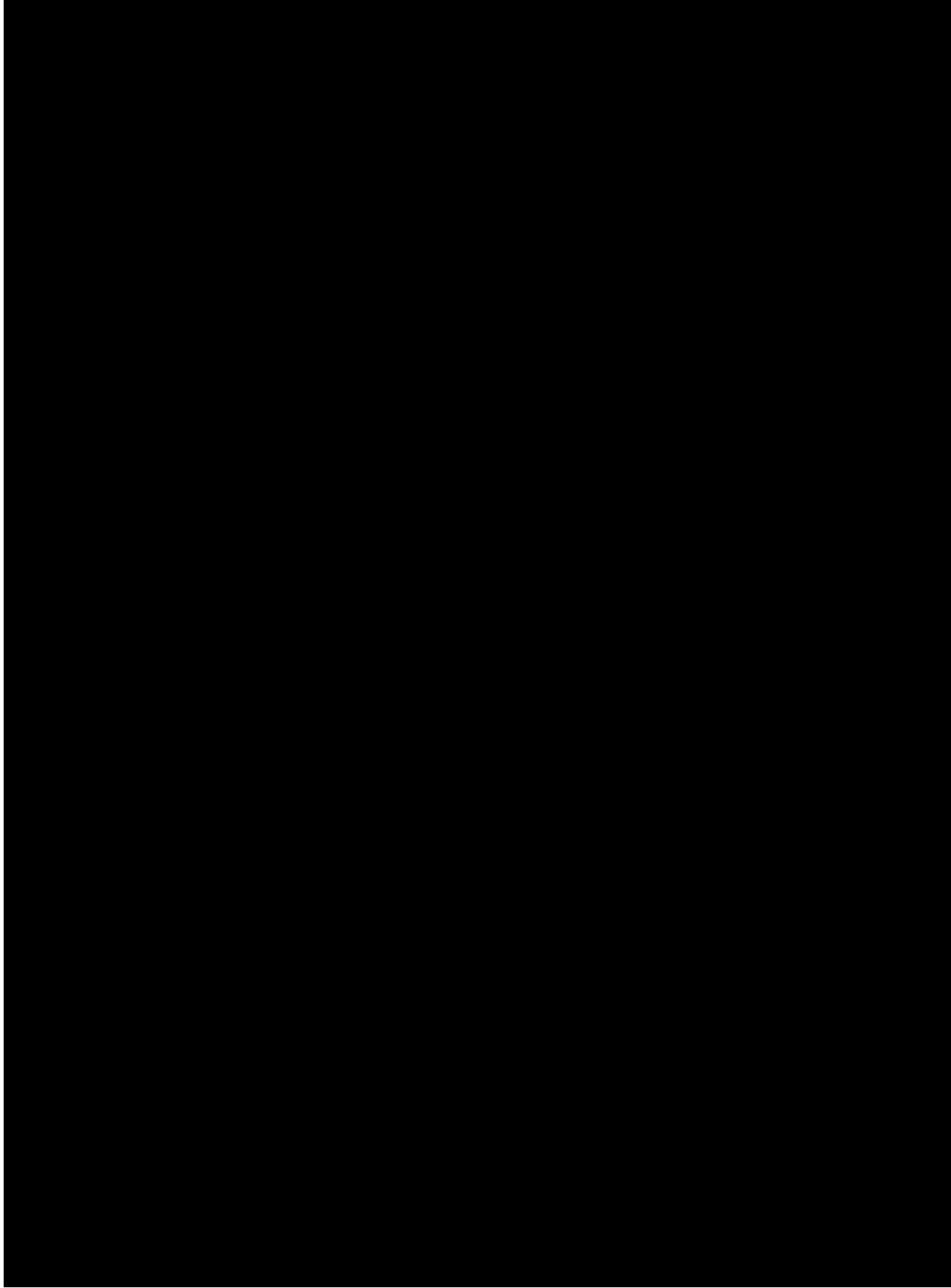
### **12.1 Structure of the programme**

See diagram below:

Exit awards:

- a) MA exit awards:  
PGDip Social Work (Qualifying)  
PGDip Applied Social Studies (non-qualifying)  
PGCert Applied Social Studies (non-qualifying)

- b) PGDip Social Work  
PGCert Applied Social Studies (non-qualifying)



## 12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

Compulsory	Optional	Progression requirements
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SWK4800: Readiness for Direct Social Work Practice.</p> <p>SWK4801: Social Work Theory</p> <p>SWK4710: Initial Professional Practice Placement</p> <p>SWK4711: Final Professional Practice Placement</p> <p>SWK4900: Social Work Law</p> <p>SWK4902: Contemporary Issues in Social Work Practice</p> <p>SWK4604: Social Work Research</p> <p>SWK4605: Understanding the Life Course</p>	<p>There are no optional modules</p>	<p>Students must pass their readiness for direct practice interview and assignment from SWK4800 RDP module before progressing to their first placement.</p> <p>Students must pass SWK4710 before progressing to SWK4711 Final placement module</p> <p>Students must pass SWK4900 before progressing to SWK4711 Final placement module</p>

SWK4720: Social Work  
9M



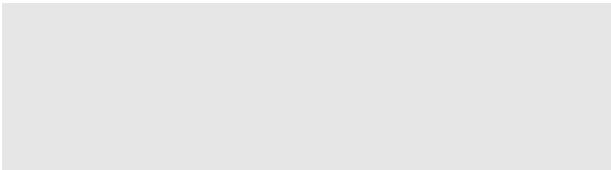
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<b>14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)</b>
<p>With MA and PGDip Social Work, practice learning takes place in organisations and settings centred on the provision of social work and social care. Our placements are all quality assured and the learning opportunities are identified in accordance with the thresholds of learning in the Professional Capabilities Framework (BASW 2018) and SWE Education and Training Standards (2021). For example, students can expect to typically have their first placement in a community-</p>

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The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher  
Education Subject Benchmark Statement for

## 21. Curriculum map for MA & PGDip Social Work & MA Social Work (Top Up)

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

### Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	Conceptualise, analyse and critically appreciate key social work theories, methods and interventions.
A2	The complex and contested interplay of contextual knowledge of sociological, psychological, organisational, political, economic and cultural perspectives which underpin social work.
A3	The conceptual links between social work values and professional codes of ethics and their impact on practice.
A4	The interplay of social work law, social policy, and human-rights frameworks, and their complexity, enhanced through advanced practice [and dissertation research- <u>MA level only</u> ]
A5	The significance of equality, inclusion and diversity and service user and carer perspectives for social work practice.
A6	Advanced and proficient research mindedness and an ability to engage in sophisticated evidence-based practice.
A7	Advanced competency in leadership and organisational theory, professional authority and boundary-setting.
A8	International/global perspectives on social work and the ability to engage in debates concerning these issues.
A9	How to produce an advanced and extended research dissertation exploring a key area of relevance to contemporary social work ( <u>MA level only</u> )
Skills	
B1	Demonstrate proficiency in a wide range of problem-solving skills, critical reflection, analysis, reasoning and evaluative skills.
B2	Make use of advanced practice skills in communicating, engaging and intervening through their work with service



MA level only