



# SOCIAL WORK

[gold.ac.uk/social-work](http://gold.ac.uk/social-work)

Undergraduate  
& Postgraduate

**Goldsmiths**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Goldsmiths' Department of Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies - known as STaCS - has human relationships at its heart. And as a social worker, you'll be making a positive difference in the community.

Your route to becoming a qualified social worker includes the three-year BA (Hons) Social Work or, for graduates, the two-year MA Social Work, both of which are approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). We also offer postgraduate programmes that enable you to develop your practice or gain higher qualifications if you're already working in the profession.

## Why choose Social Work at Goldsmiths?

Goldsmiths is leading the country in offering 'gold standard' social work education, which equips you to deliver high quality, empathic, and authoritative social work.

In 2015, three London boroughs (Greenwich, Southwark and Lewisham) entered into a formal partnership arrangement with Goldsmiths as their 'social work education provider of choice'. We formed the South East London Social Work Teaching Partnership (SELTP), one of only four such government-funded, 'accredited' Teaching Partnerships in England. The partnership means you'll be taught by social work practitioners as well as academics. The boroughs also provide 50% of our statutory social work placements.

You'll be actively encouraged to explore and manage the tensions, ambiguities and uncertainties that exist in social work practice. By using an action and reflective learning approach, we bridge the gap between theory and practice, facilitating your critical thinking.

As a qualified social worker your job will be to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds and be able to gain their trust, in order to help them. Often you'll be put in situations where your tact, patience and understanding will be needed and you'll need to assess and cope with these situations in a sensitive and non-judgmental way - this is something that the teaching team at Goldsmiths will fully prepare you for.



South East London Social Work Teaching Partnership (SELTP)



# OUR DEGREES

## Pre-qualification

BA (Hons) Social Work

MA in Social Work

## Post-qualification

MPhil and PhD in Social Work

MA/PGDip/PGCert in Advanced Social Work: Practice Education (for qualified Social Workers)

MA/PGDip/PGCert in Practice Education

Continuous Professional Development Framework: Practice Education

## BA (Hons) Social Work

3 years full-time  
[gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-social-work](http://gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-social-work)

On this degree you'll gain invaluable real world experience during practice placements. You'll work in two settings and with two different service user groups, for example children and families, and mental health. The placements will give you the critical understanding of what it means to be a social worker.

You'll be encouraged to think deeply about human rights and social justice, and to embed these values in your practice.

You'll cover areas of human growth and development, community, needs and services, law and organisational contexts of social work, and research methods.

You'll learn specifically about mental health and disability, and the social work processes of assessment, planning, intervention and review.

You'll develop your communication skills with children, adults and those with particular communication needs, and cover social work theories and methods.

Social workers have a dual responsibility to act within the state's welfare framework and also to recognise the pervasive influence of oppression and discrimination at an individual and a structural level. This is a professional responsibility that you'll be fully prepared for.

# TYPICAL MODULES

## Year 1

### Compulsory modules:

Introduction to Social Work  
 Community Needs and Services  
 Introduction to Social Sciences  
 Professional Development for Practice

## Year 2

### Compulsory modules:

Human Growth and Development  
 Social Work Skills and Methods  
 Assessed Practice  
 Assessment in Social Work  
 Law and the Organisational Context of Social Work 1

## Year 3

### Compulsory modules:

Law and the Organisational Context of Social Work 2  
 Skills and Methods in Social Work: Specialist Area of Practice  
 Assessed Practice

## MA in Social Work

2 years full-time  
[gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-social-work](http://gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-social-work)

This programme is ideal if you're a graduate with relevant experience, and you're interested in a professional career in social work.

Like the BA (Hons) Social Work, you'll be eligible to apply for registration as a social worker with the Health and Care Professions Council upon successful completion.

The curriculum aims to provide you with the value, knowledge and skill base for practice, and is organised around study units, workshops, lectures/seminar modules, projects and private study. The teaching and learning opportunities centre on the key areas of the social sciences and their application to Social Work practice, as well as developing your intellectual capacity, and the skills necessary to get you ready for practice.

You'll learn about growth and development, assessment and intervention, inter-professional and interdisciplinary working, and the values of social work.

You'll be taught in conjunction with voluntary agencies and six London boroughs, and you'll spend about half the programme at Goldsmiths and half in practice placements.

You'll undertake two practice placements. The first, of 70 days, in Year 1, and the second, of 100 days, in Year 2.

See typical modules to the right.

## TYPICAL MODULES

### Year 1

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Human Growth and Development  
Community Needs and Services  
Social Work Skills and Methods 1  
Assessed Practice

### Year 2

#### *Compulsory modules:*

Law and the Organisational  
Context of Social Work  
Research Methods  
Assessed Practice  
Social Work Skills and Methods 2

## MPhil and PhD in Social Work

3-4 years full-time, or 4-6 years part-time  
[gold.ac.uk/pg/mphil-phd-social-work](http://gold.ac.uk/pg/mphil-phd-social-work)

If you'd like to complete a research degree, Goldsmiths offers a vibrant environment in which to pursue your interests.

You'll receive training in research methods and a broad range of research enquiry skills appropriate to your subject-specific area.

The research interests of our staff in the department vary widely, and include, but are not limited to:

- Child protection
- Learning disabilities
- Mental health
- The interconnections between domestic violence and child abuse
- Adoption, transracial adoption and children in care



# MA/PGDip/PGCert in Advanced Social Work: Practice Education

Part-time only. MA: 4-6 years, PGDip: 3-4 years, PGCert: 1-2 years  
[gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-advanced-social-work](http://gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-advanced-social-work)

# MA/PGDip/PGCert in Practice Education

Part-time only. MA: 4-6 years, PGDip: 3-4 years, PGCert: 1-2 years  
[gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-practice-education](http://gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-practice-education)

# Continuous Professional Development Framework: Practice Education

Individual modules per term  
[gold.ac.uk/pg/cpd-practice-education](http://gold.ac.uk/pg/cpd-practice-education)

## Support the professional learning of others

Do you see yourself moving into a more experienced, advanced or strategic social work role? If so, these programmes can support you in developing your professionalism by enhancing your skills, expanding your knowledge and reflecting on values. They offer a whole range of modules designed to further your capabilities in all domains, but they focus especially on practice education and professional leadership. Modules 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are also mapped against the Chief Social Worker's Knowledge and Skills Statement for Practice Supervisors.

If you want to take individual modules then the Continuous Professional Development Framework is best for you. If you want to achieve the MA or exit with a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma, then you should apply to one of the MA programmes. Contact the programme convenor, via the degree web page, for more information.

The MA/PGDip/PGCert in Advanced Social Work: Practice Education is ideal for qualified social workers, and the MA/PGDip/PGCert in Practice Education is aimed at staff working in social welfare roles but who aren't qualified social workers. It will enable you to extend and develop your existing competence and prepare for leadership and research in practice education. All modules, except the dissertation, can be taken as standalone MA-level CPD modules.

Your first two modules will see you providing work-based learning and assessment for a recognised professional award. You'll develop the skills and knowledge in supporting and assessing learners. In your third and fourth modules, you'll develop your practice education skills through designing and implementing a practice learning intervention. If you successfully complete these four modules on one of the MA programmes you can leave at this stage with a Postgraduate Certificate in Practice Education.

In modules five to seven you'll focus on developing the learning organisation. You'll extend your skills and knowledge in developing practice education with individuals, teams and groups, and within and across organisations. If you successfully complete these modules on one of the MA programmes you can leave the programme at this stage with a Postgraduate Diploma.

To gain your MA qualification, you'll complete a dissertation on a topic related to practice education. You'll develop your strategic leadership in the field through your research, which will normally take the form of an action research project. You may also choose a more conventional dissertation, through which you'll play a leading role in how the recommendations arising from your literature review could be implemented. Throughout your dissertation, you'll learn research methodologies, and receive individual supervision and mentoring to help you design your research or literature review.

# TYPICAL MODULES

## PGCert

Enabling the Learning of Others

Assessing and Teaching the Adult Professional Learner

Developing and Planning the Evaluation of a Practice Learning Intervention

Implementing and Evaluating a Practice Learning Intervention

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## PGDip

Developing the Learning Organisation:  
Working with Individuals  
Working with Teams and Groups

Working Within and Across Organisations - Reflective Practice

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## MA

Leadership and Research in Practice Education

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## Optional CPD modules

The Care Act and Social Work: Practice, Policy and Law

Interpersonal Skills for Direct Work with Adult Service Users

# OUR STUDENTS



**Jennifer**  
MA in Social Work

“When you work with children and families, you think you know a certain amount, but you need that experience. I enjoy the academic side of things, and the opportunity to do a dissertation on something really useful was great. Some people think you don’t use theory very much in practice, but it goes through everything we do. In my statements now I always use evidence, and looking through other people’s statements, they don’t - and as we move to an evidence base we should be doing that as matter of course. The programme definitely gave me that theoretical foundation that still influences my work

today. The group work was incredibly useful too. Today at work I had four meetings, and the smallest of those was with seven people. That is the reality of this line of work. There is one-to-one work, but a lot happens within a network, and working with people in this way is crucial.”

**Koren**  
BA in Social Work

“The BA Social Work course has been very pleasurable. I always had the support of my tutor and the social work lecturers at Goldsmiths. I was fortunate to experience two statutory placements based in diverse South East London Teaching Partnership (SELTP) teams. My first placement was in a Child

In Need team. This placement prepared me to undertake Child In Need assessments, and support children and families in need.

My second placement was in a statutory adoption team. I supported looked after children to achieve permanence by finding adoptive families who were able to meet each child’s needs. I undertook direct work with children, to prepare them for their move. I feel a great sense of achievement finishing this course. I have learnt a wealth of knowledge and skills and have been fortunate to secure a social work ASYE [Assessed and Supported Year in Employment] job.”

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I feel a great sense of achievement finishing this course. I have learnt a wealth of knowledge and skills, and have been fortunate to secure a social work ASYE job.”

**Julian**  
MA/PGDip/PGCert in Advanced Social Work: Practice Education (for qualified Social Workers)

“I qualified as a social worker in 1990 and have always worked in the mental health field in voluntary sector organisations. After about 13 years in social work I decided to take on a student and did a practice teaching course at Goldsmiths. Since then I have always had students and it was this experience that inspired me to carry on with the programme. After the first course I had a taste of practice education skills, but knew there was much more that I could learn.”



## Your role as a social worker

You'll be providing advice and support to vulnerable individuals, families, and those living on the margins of society.

You'll help them get access to the services they need and improve their situation and well-being.

You will be prepared well for working with service users and carers in the voluntary and statutory sectors. Over 95% of social work students who graduated in 2016 had two statutory practice placements.

Our students have been successful in a range of areas, from employment in local authority children's services departments, adult services departments, independent sector and voluntary sector agencies such as the NSPCC, Family Action and Mind, to postgraduate research.

Many of our students have secured a job before graduating from their degree programme.



Jacqueline Walker,  
guest lecturer

"Goldsmiths provides practical and emotional insight into what students' practice as social workers should be."



Jennifer Skirrow, MA  
Social Work and Newly  
Qualified Social Worker of  
the Year in 2014

"Some courses are built around lectures, but Goldsmiths' programme was around group work - which is much more fitting with the job we end up doing - and it was a great thing to learn. One of the biggest pluses was the placement, with at least one statutory placement guaranteed."

## Career journey

Sarah, BA Social Work

"Since qualifying in 2010, I have worked in a variety of posts while waiting for registration as a social worker - a support worker in a children's centre, a drug project worker, and a support broker working with individuals to create viable individualised packages of care. I'm now employed in a central London Community Mental Health Team where my placement experience in the areas of mental health and substance misuse are invaluable assets."

I really enjoyed my years at Goldsmiths, and continue to value the experience and learning gained there; so much so that I am enrolled on the MA in Advanced Social Work: Practice Education paid for by my employer. I am now a qualified Practice Educator for the next generation of Goldsmiths social work students, and looking towards furthering my career in social work as well as branching out into training and adult education."

**Watch Goldsmiths graduates talk about how their experiences at university have given them a real advantage in their career:**  
[vimeo.com/channels/career](https://vimeo.com/channels/career)

Find out more about the  
department and degrees at:  
[gold.ac.uk/social-work](http://gold.ac.uk/social-work)

Watch our departmental film at:  
[vimeo.com/goldsmiths/socialwork](http://vimeo.com/goldsmiths/socialwork)

Find out about funding your  
studies at: [gold.ac.uk/fees-funding](http://gold.ac.uk/fees-funding)  
and [nhsbsa.nhs.uk/  
social-work-students](http://nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students)

Get in touch with our  
Enquiries team:  
+44 (0)20 7078 5300  
[course-info@gold.ac.uk](mailto:course-info@gold.ac.uk)

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The information in this booklet reflects the 2017-18 programme specifications and was correct at the time of print in June 2017. It is intended as a guide only and the information here is not intended to be binding. You can download the most up-to-date programme specifications from our degree pages by visiting [gold.ac.uk/course-finder](http://gold.ac.uk/course-finder)

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