



Social Work

Department of Social Work

Professional Doctorate

Royal Holloway's Professional Doctorate equips practising health and social care professionals with leadership skills appropriate to their particular field. It will enable you to advance professionally by undertaking and supporting original research to inform advanced practice.



Kingston University London



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Aims and philosophy

The programme aims to develop critical and reflective research practitioners. It utilises adult learning models and is underpinned by social science perspectives.

The focus of the programme is interprofessional. It aims to provide transferable knowledge and skills which underpin health and social care professions broadly.

Is it right for me?

The programme is suitable for health and social care practitioners who want to pursue an academic career whilst maintaining a practice focus, for instance nurses, social workers and allied health practitioners who may be working in a variety of clinical, educational, development or managerial roles.

Course structure

The programme is available part time* over six years with six year-long course units of 30 CP plus a thesis of 360 CP (taught component years 1-2, thesis years 3-6).

The taught components are offered in three day blocks (Thursday – Saturday) over one academic year. You are able to opt for an exit award after successful completion of taught components.

* Full time study may be considered on an individual basis. Please contact the Programme Director for more information.



Curriculum outline

Six taught course units are organised into three streams:

- research for practitioners (includes introduction to social research, research design, qualitative and quantitative methods, innovative methods for the practice base of research) – two units
- professional and interprofessional practice (includes global and national contexts of professions; policy contexts, contemporary issues facing professions, professionalism and reflexivity, professional expertise) – two units
- portfolio (may include electives, personal learning plans, application of research learning to specific topics) –equivalent of two units

Plus

- 50,000 word thesis

Unit assignments

Each unit requires the equivalent of one major assignment, but this may be made up of a series of smaller assignments/exercises. Where possible, assignments will be related to your own current workplace or professional concerns. Your assignments will be designed to dovetail with each other, and to feed directly into work required for the thesis. In most instances the work required for each assignment may be used as a basis for other assignments.

The Thesis

The thesis will be based on original research of direct relevance to your own practice or workplace. Academic supervisors with specific expertise will be appointed, and consideration will also be given to the appointment of practitioner mentors where appropriate. Separate assignments required for other units may constitute the basis of literature reviews or methodological chapters of the thesis.



Contact information

For further information visit

royalholloway.ac.uk/socialwork

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For a specific query on the course, please contact:

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