MSc Social Work
Centre for Social Work – School of Law

The Centre for Social Work has a long tradition of successful social work education and research. We aim to deliver high quality teaching and research outputs and to support research informed practice. We attempt to break down traditional barriers between academics, practitioners and policy makers to ensure the best learning experience for our students. Our diverse staff and students reflect our commitment to inclusion and participation in social work education. We are committed to developing critically reflective practitioners who can provide effective social work provision for the most vulnerable in our society within an anti-oppressive and critical social work framework.

As an MSc student you will benefit from the extensive professional, academic and research experience of the academic team, the expertise and knowledge of our Insight network of service users and carers and our extensive partnership with local authorities and voluntary sector agencies. We are part of the West London Teaching Partnership and our excellent links with agencies ensure high quality placement opportunities for students.

Social Work is a challenging but very rewarding profession. Students need to develop skills and knowledge in working with complex and challenging situations, drawing on a range of theories and methods to work with children and adults. You will be offered diverse learning opportunities through problem-based learning, skills development, critical reflection and the development of a sound knowledge of social work theories, human behaviour, law, policies, ethics and values.

Our supportive learning environment receives excellent feedback from students, many of whom return to continue their advanced training and research. Over 95% of MSc Social Work students are in full time employment within 6 months of qualifying.
Admissions guidance

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a selection day with academics, service user and carer representatives and agency partners. This will include an individual interview, a group exercise focused on communication and a written test. Applicants are assessed against the Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF) entry level criteria.

The selection process will focus on:
- Why you are interested in social work
- Your understanding of the role and context of social work
- Your capacity to reflect on your own life and work experiences and the factors that might challenge or support your learning and development
- Your understanding of the factors that impact on people’s lives and experience of social work
- Your capacity to communicate clearly in written and verbal English

Award: MSc Social Work, includes eligibility to register with the social work regulatory body on qualification.

Location: Central London, 11 Bedford Square, WC1B 3RF

Commences: September

Entry requirements: Upper second class (2.1) honours degree in any discipline. Grade A - C in GCSE Maths and English (or equivalent e.g. Key Skills Level 2). Lower second class degrees are considered if applicants have substantial relevant professional experience and demonstrate a strong aptitude for social work. Minimum 6 months full-time or 12 months part-time relevant professional experience at the time of application.

Annual tuition fees: £7,700 (2019-20 entry). Fees are subject to annual review. Information on fees can be found via our Course Finder, visit royalholloway.ac.uk/courses

Please note that Royal Holloway alumni benefit from a 15% fee reduction.

Bursaries: We offer a number of bursaries* to students who accept an offer of a place on the programme. * Allocation is based on performance during the selection process and is subject to Department of Health eligibility criteria. * Bursary numbers are subject to change.

All applicants are advised to read the additional advice on funding and admissions. As social work bursaries are limited some students undertake the programme without a bursary either by self-funding or employer funded. Read more at nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students

Overseas applications: Overseas applicants with equivalent qualifications and experience are welcomed. Students with English as a second/additional language require IELTS Level 7 qualification. Information on fees can be found via our Course Finder, visit royalholloway.ac.uk/courses

Apply through UCAS (code L508)

What our students say

“The two years studying at Royal Holloway were at times challenging, both intellectually and personally, but choosing to complete the MSc was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I feel very grateful to the department for preparing me so well for my career in social work.”

Emma

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