



**Graduate Diploma in Work
with Children & Families
(with Specialist Award in Social Work)**

Royal Holloway
University of London





This programme has been specifically designed to assist qualified social workers and other professionals to meet the complexities of working with service users and carers in Children Services.

All social workers working with children and families will be encouraged to undertake post-qualifying training that seeks to promote the specialist knowledge, skills and values required to work at this level. The Graduate Diploma in Work with Children & Families (with Specialist Award in Social Work) is made up of five courses:

- Consolidation of Practice course
- Three specialist courses
- Enabling the Learning of Others course

The three specialist courses seek to balance formal teaching with learning processes that facilitate the application of ideas and critical reflection to complex and advanced professional issues. Formal teaching seminars will enable practitioners to engage with research and theoretical frameworks and Child Observation, Group Work and Case Presentation Seminars will enable these ideas to be applied to the practice context. The linking of research evidence with case material, particularly cases drawn from candidate's caseloads will assist the development of research mindedness.

Specialist courses

The three specialist courses are:

- **The Developing World of the Child.** This course gives a comprehensive overview of current child development theory and research. It will look at theories of emotional and identity development, attachment, childhood resilience and how direct work and child observation can be used to support effective assessment and interventions with children and their families. It is taught in partnership with the Tavistock Centre.
- **Legal, Theoretical and Policy Frameworks.** Post-qualifying child care social workers are working in a fast evolving policy and organisational context in which they will need to have a strong sense of their professional identity that transcend traditional social work roles. This course will update candidates' knowledge of relevant law and look at themes emerging from child welfare policy and their relationship to theoretical frameworks that underpin their practice. Key areas examined in this module will include significant harm and reflective practice when working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.





- **Promoting Positive Outcomes for Children with Additional and Complex Needs.** This course will build on the previous two courses and apply the knowledge to children with specific needs. This will include children whose parents have difficulties such as substance misuse and mental health difficulties, as well as work with unaccompanied asylum seekers and children at risk of sexual exploitation. Areas of practice such as supporting adoptive and fostering placements, permanency planning and youth offending will be considered in this module with the aim of helping candidates develop both a cohesive and comprehensive exploration of child care social work practice

Assessment

The three courses will be assessed through essays. Candidates will also be required to produce an assessment of practice, completed with a practice assessor who will seek to test their capacity to integrate theory, values and practice.

Location

The programme will take place at Royal Holloway's central London teaching venue: 11 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3RF.

Recruitment

Candidates will normally be nominated to the programme by their agency Training Manager and complete the required application form. Self-funding candidates must have employer permission for the practice elements of the programme.

Admission requirements

Students would normally have a social work or other professional qualification in a relevant discipline at degree or Masters level. However, students with a DipHE (e.g. DipSW) and at least two years practice experience are able to apply. All students must be currently involved in practice or management work in a social care or health setting.

For further information and an application form, please contact Liz Hudson at l.hudson@rhul.ac.uk or 01784 443379, or your training manager





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