



Department of Social Work & Social Administration
The University of Hong Kong

Master of Social Work (FT & PT) Information Session 2025-2026

09:30-11:00; October 5, 2024
(ZOOM)





Today's Content

- **Introduction to the MSW Programme**
- **Career Prospects of Social Workers**
Prof. Terry Lum, Professor & Director, MSW Programme
- **My Journey in the MSW**
MSW Graduates
- **Fieldwork Placement**
Ms. Lydia Lam, Director of Fieldwork Instruction
- **Admission Procedure**
Dr. Ben Law, Senior Lecturer & Deputy Director, MSW Programme
- **Q & A**



Introduction

Prof. Terry Lum
*Professor & Director of
MSW Programme*





What is social work (BASW)

- ✓ Social workers work with **individuals and families** to help **improve outcomes** in their lives. This may be helping to protect vulnerable people from harm or abuse or supporting people to live independently. Social workers **support people, act as advocates and direct people to the services** they may require. Social workers often work in **multi-disciplinary teams** alongside health and education professionals





What is social work (AASW)

- ✓ Social work is a **practice-based profession** and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing





What is social work (NASW)

- ✓ Social work practice consists of the **professional application of social principles, and techniques to one or more of the following ends**: helping people obtain tangible services; counseling and psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services, and participating in legislative processes. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior; of social and economic, and cultural institutions; and the interaction of all these factors.





What is social work (CASW)

- ✓ Social work is a profession concerned with helping individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance their individual and collective well-being. It aims to help people develop their skills and their ability to use their resources and those of the community to resolve problems. Social work is concerned with individual and personal problems but also with broader social issues such as poverty, unemployment, and domestic violence.





Three levels of social work intervention

- ✓ **Micro-level** social work: working with individuals and families to address their needs and challenges. E.g. school social workers, caseworker, medical social workers.
- ✓ **Mezzo-level** social work: working with groups and communities to address social issues and promote social change. E.g. community development, implementing pilot projects, center in-charge,
- ✓ **Macro level** social work: working with government and community for policy and system changes. E.g. policy researchers, services directors, etc.





Social worker's impacts

- ✓ Enhance access to resources (e.g. housing, finance, job opportunity)
- ✓ Enhance coping skills (e.g. mental health, chronic disease self-management)
- ✓ Enhance belief and value systems (e.g. parenting, toward services utilization)
- ✓ Enhanced knowledge (e.g. mental health literacy)
- ✓ Promote community and system change (e.g. asset-based community development)
- ✓ Promote social justice (e.g. against age or racial discrimination)





Social work as a profession

- ✓ Profession value (respect individual, social justice, services, etc.)
- ✓ Professional knowledge (social system, human development, etc.)
- ✓ Professional skills (assessment, conceptualization, evidence-informed intervention, etc.)
- ✓ Code of ethics.





About the HKU-MSW Programme



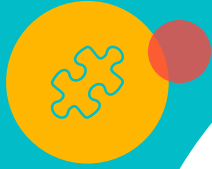
Established in 1972


Provide professional and internationally
recognized training for non-social work
first-degree holders

Mode of Study:
2-year FT & 3-year PT



Vision and Mission






-> Develop students with generalist knowledge, values, and skills and to prepare competent professionals for social work practice with diverse systems

Become a Registered Social Worker

- > Advance knowledge and practice relevant to social work and social administration
- > Enhance students' cultural awareness, sensitivity and respect for the influence of human diversity in shaping life experiences across the lifespan, locally as well as globally




Becoming a Registered Social Worker



HKU-MSW is an accredited qualifying program under
Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB)
Recognition to be reviewed in 2025/26



HKU-SWSA is the member of the
International Association of Schools of Social Work
(IASSW)



HKU uniqueness

- **Global acclaim and recognition**



51

HKU academics have been named
“**Highly Cited Researchers 2023**”

by Clarivate as the most influential in the world



2nd

QS Asia University
Rankings 2024

17th

QS World University
Rankings 2025



HKU-MSW uniqueness

- **Local, Non-local, and those with/without a social science background are welcome** to apply for our MSW programme.
- **Comprehensive and flexible curriculum:** Covering various aspects of social work practice, theory, research, and policy. Students gain a solid foundation in social work knowledge and skills. Elective courses cover different areas widely. Flexibility to choose 4 electives from over 20 options, allowing the student to customize their learning journey.
- **Strong Field Placement Support:**
We prioritize the importance of fieldwork education and have invested in a dedicated team of full-time experienced fieldwork supervisors, a rarity among many universities/institutions. Additionally, we have a team of part-time experienced fieldwork supervisors.





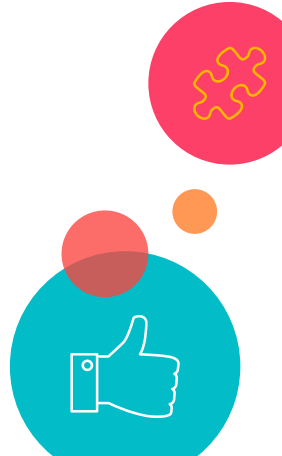
HKU-MSW uniqueness

- **International Training Opportunities:**
 - 1) **Instruction in English**, with HKU being one of the institutions in Hong Kong accredited by overseas universities and associations.
 - 2) **Strong global network** enables diverse overseas placement and exchange programmes in countries like Australia, Canada, India, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, the U.K., and the U.S.A. Also, an exchange study tour in Finland. Eligible students receive a Department subsidy and Alumni Fund for international opportunities.
 - 3) **Competent teaching team with renowned international and local faculty members** in social work research, education, and clinical practice.
- 

HKU-MSW uniqueness

- **Outstanding Career Prospects**

- 1) Graduates are awarded with a Professional Qualification and registered as a Registered Social Workers in Hong Kong
- 2) Recognized by leading overseas social work associations
- 3) Exceptional employment rate, with over 93% of graduates securing full-time graduates securing full-time positions in the Public sector
- 4) A small percentage of graduates pursue further study





Your Road Map...

1 Foundation Courses



1. Social policy and administration
2. Social work research
3. Human behaviour and the social environment I
4. Human behaviour and the social environment II
5. The Law, ethics and social work
6. Social services management
7. Social science theories for social work
8. Theory and practice of social work – Casework
9. Theory and practice of social work – Group work
10. Theory and practice of social work – Community Development



2 Generalist Stream



4 elective courses

Or

2 elective courses + *Dissertation

Students are eligible to apply for taking Dissertation if they have obtained **a minimum CGPA of 3.6 or above in their first year of study.*



3 Field Education



100 hours
Pre-placement
training programme

450 hours
Foundation fieldwork
placement

450 hours
Advanced fieldwork
placement



MSW Full-time Curriculum Structure 2025-26

Year 1			Year 2	
First Semester	Second Semester	Summer Semester	First Semester	Second Semester
Pre-placement workshop		Field placement I	Field placement II	
Social work research	Social policy and administration		Social services management	The law, ethics and social work
Human behaviour and the social environment I	Human behaviour and the social environment II		<u>Generalist Stream</u> 4 Elective Courses or 2 Elective Courses + 1 Dissertation	
Theory and practice of social work – Casework	Theory and practice of social work – Groupwork			
Theory and practice of social work – Community Development	Social science theories for social work			

*Remarks: Curriculum structure is subject to adjustments.



MSW Part-time Curriculum Structure 2025-26

Year 1			Year 2			Year 3
First Semester	Second Semester	Summer Semester	First Semester	Second Semester	Summer Semester	Full year
Pre-placement workshop		Social policy and administration	Field placement I		Social services management	Field placement II
Human behaviour and the social environment I	Theory and practice of social work – Groupwork	Human behaviour and the social environment II	Social work research		The law, ethics and social work	
Theory and practice of social work – Casework	Theory and practice of social work – Community Development	Social science theories for social work	<u>Generalist Stream</u> 4 Elective Courses or 2 Elective Courses + 1 Dissertation			

*Remarks: Curriculum structure is subject to adjustments.





Career Prospects of Social Workers



Master of Social Work : A professional degree

- Upon graduation, you will be awarded with a **Professional Qualification** and registered as a Registered Social Worker (RSW).



Work Opportunity

- **Public sector** (e.g. Social Welfare Department, Hospital Authority)
- **Nonprofit sector** (e.g. NGO, Kindergarten, School, Church, HK Housing Society, University, Public Charity Foundation, etc.)
- **Private sector** (e.g. Social enterprise, Private or Family Philanthropic Foundation, Corporate Social Responsibility program)
- Policy or Clinical Research work in University, Political Parties, or other organizations



Work Nature

- Family and Child Welfare
- Children and Youth Development
 - Kindergarten SW, OPRS..
- Student Development
 - School counselor from primary to tertiary education
- Elderly Service
 - Community Care
- Medical Social Work
 - Rehabilitation Service (disabled, SEN)
 - Hostel, community service
 - Services for Ethnic Minorities
 - Services for Offenders/Ex-offenders, Substance Abusers
 - Community organizing and advocacy





Sharing by MSW Graduates

*Mr. Simon Ng (MSWFT graduate)
Mr. Marcus Sun (MSWPT graduate)*





Fieldwork Placement

Ms. Lydia Lam

Director of Fieldwork Instruction



Fieldwork Placement

- The distinctive pedagogy of social work education
- An integral part of social work education with the emphasis on “ **Learning through doing**”;
- Student will be placed at diverse social service settings to **experience the real social work practice**
- Students are required to undertake **two** placements in **accumulating 900 placement hours**




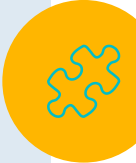
Fieldwork Modules

SOWK 6300

100 Hours of Pre-placement Workshop (Required by HKSWRB)

These include: Lectures, the use of self workshops, professional writing, special social work front-line sharing, and placement briefing and orientation etc.

**To prepare students familiar with what is social work, the operation of NGOs and the roles of social worker in Hong Kong*



Fieldwork Modules



SOWK 6225 Field Placement I

Full-time

- Summer Block after the first year of study
- First week of June to mid-August, consecutive for 10 weeks
- 5 or 5.5 days per week, work for 450 hours

Part-time

- Concurrent Placement during the second year of study
- Late September to April of the following year
- 28 weeks, 4 sessions per week, work for 450 hours

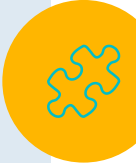





Fieldwork Modules

SOWK 6231 Field Placement II

Full-time and Part-time

- Concurrent Placement
 - Late September to April in the following year
 - **Full time:** 28 weeks, 2 days (Tue and Wed), work for 450 hours
 - **Part time:** 4 sessions per week, work for 450 hours
- 
- 



Placement Settings

- Community Development Services
- Family Services
- Medical Social Work Services
- Multicultural Social Work Services
- Rehabilitation Services
- School Social Work Services
- Services for the Elderly
- Services for the Children & Youth





Collaborating Partners

More than 140 agencies (including local and overseas), which include:

- Hospital Authority (HA),
- Social Welfare Department (SWD) ,
- Correctional Services Department (CSD)
- NGOs
- Kindergartens, Primary and Secondary schools
- Etc.



Overseas Fieldwork Placement

- Since 1986, HKU SWSA started to arrange overseas placement for social work students in different countries
- **15-30 students (BSW + MSW)** will go for overseas placement each year
- Eligible students will get **Department subsidy** and **1978 Alumni Fund** in undertaking the overseas placement

Overseas Placement Sites (2024)



Australia (Melbourne)

Canada (Vancouver and Toronto)

India (Mumbai)

Singapore

Taiwan (Taipei)

United Kingdom (Manchester)

United States (Michigan)

*Exchange program with the University of Michigan, National Taiwan University and National University of Singapore

Distinctive Features

- Full range of placement settings for students to choose
- Over 75% of students can be matched with their first placement preferences
- A team of full-time and Part time experienced fieldwork supervisors
- 900 placement hours: more compatible for overseas' recognition of Social Work training



● **Fieldwork Placement
is demanding
and challenging,
but very rewarding.**





Admission Procedure

Dr. Ben Law

Senior Lecturer


Deputy Director, MSW Programme





Admission - Must Do's

Note: latest updates on the department website
<http://www.socialwork.hku.hk/msw>

 Department of Social Work and Social Administration
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學社會工作及社會行政學系

Home About Admission Programme Research News and Events Alumni

Home » Master of Social Work » Admission

Master of Social Work

- Master of Social Work
- Curriculum
- Career Development Scheme
- Students' Voices
- Admission
- FAQ
- Fellowships and Awards

Important Dates for 2025 Intake

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Registration
Information session via Zoom	Oct 5, 2024 (Sat)	09:30-11:00	Online	Register now
Main round				
Online application	Oct 4 to Nov 4 (12:00nn), 2024	-	-	
Written test (for local applicants)	Nov 16, 2024 (Sat)	PM	TBC	
Written test via Zoom (for overseas applicants)	Nov 19, 2024 (Tue)	AM	Online	
Interviews (for local applicants)	Dec 13, 2024 (Fri) Dec 16, 2024 (Mon)	TBC	TBC	
Interviews via Zoom (for overseas applicants)	Dec 17, 2024 (Tue)	TBC	Online	
Announcement of Results (Provisional Offer)	Dec 23, 2024 (Mon)	After 17:00	-	
Second round (Clearing round applications may be invited after the main round if there are study places left.)				

Contact Info

Enquiries
(852) 3917 5014
mswhku@hku.hk

Mon – Fri 9:00A.M. – 7:00P.M.





Admission procedures

Online application period

Oct 4 – Nov 4(noon), 2024 (*Main Round*)

Nov 4, 2024 – Feb 24, 2025 (*2nd Round*)

Written test (*only shortlisted applicants*)

Nov 16, 2024 (*Hong Kong*)
Nov 19, 2024 (*Overseas*)

Mar 14, 2025 (*Hong Kong & Overseas*)

Interview (*only shortlisted applicants*)

Dec 13,16 (*HK*) or Dec 17, 2024 (*Overseas*)

Apr 2 (*Overseas*) or Apr 3, 2025 (*HK*)

Announcement of Results (Provisional Offer)

Submission of supporting documents for Vetting



English Requirements

For applicants graduating from universities not using English as a teaching medium



Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):

- A score of 550 or above (paper-based test) or
- 80 or above (internet-based test)

The logo for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), featuring the acronym 'IELTS' in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS):

- A minimum overall band of 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5

Overseas General Certificate of Education

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education

The Cambridge Test of Proficiency in English Language

- Grade C or above

Checklist of Uploaded Documents

<input type="checkbox"/>	Identity Documents (i) Local applicants: Hong Kong ID Card (ii) Non-local applicants from Mainland China: Mainland ID Card/Passport (iii) Non-local applicants from other countries/regions: Passport Please refer to the Admissions Office for the categorisation of local and non-local applicants.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Official Transcript(s) * <input type="checkbox"/> Completed transcript with award/conferment information of your Undergraduate studies <input type="checkbox"/> Completed transcript(s) of Taught Postgraduate / Associate Degree / Higher Diploma programme <i>(Only for applicants who have also obtained Master's degree / Associate Degree / Higher Diploma programme.)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Latest available transcript of current Undergraduate / Taught Postgraduate studies <i>(Only for applicants who are expected to obtain the Bachelor's degree/Master's degree programme on/before August 31, 2025)</i> Transcript legends, keys or grading scales which are normally available on the back of the transcript. Otherwise, you are required to provide other documents e.g. student handbook.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Degree certificate(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate certificate of undergraduate studies <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate certificate of Taught Postgraduate / Associate Degree / Higher Diploma programme <i>(Only for applicants who have also obtained Master's degree / Associate Degree / Higher Diploma programme.)</i> <i>(For applicants whose qualifications were awarded by universities or comparable institutions in Mainland China)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (教育部學歷證書電子註冊備案表), in both Chinese and English versions, issued by the China Higher Education Student Information (學信網); and <input type="checkbox"/> Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (中國高等教育學位在線驗證報告), in both Chinese and English versions, issued by China Higher Education Student Information Please set the validity period of the above-requested reports to six months or the longest available duration. <i>(For non-local applicants from Mainland China whose qualifications were awarded by overseas universities /institutions)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas Credentials Evaluation Report (國外學歷學位認證書) issued by the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) (教育部留學服務中心); or <input type="checkbox"/> Given the processing time required by CSCSE, if the Report is not yet available by the document submission deadline, an email or a text message sent by CSCSE after payment, confirming that the application of the Report has been successfully initiated. Upon receipt of the Overseas Credentials Evaluation Report, applicants should upload the document to the application system.

Checklist of Uploaded Documents

<input type="checkbox"/>	English Language Requirements <i>(Only for applicants with qualification from public examination)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Public Examination Results (HKALE/HKDSE, NJCEE, IB, SAT/AP, GCE-AL, etc) <i>(Applicants with qualification from a university outside Hong Kong where the language of teaching and examination is not in English must provide the relevant score report. Otherwise, the application might not be considered by the reviewing panel.)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> TOEFL (University's TOEFL code is 9671) / IELTS / GCE / IGCSE / Cambridge Test of Proficiency in English Language official score report (if appropriate)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confidential Reference Report by two referees <input type="checkbox"/> Two referees had been nominated on the online application system. Two referees' contact information had been filled in the system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other relevant documents (if appropriate, please specify) Maximum 10 pages

* Confirmation of award date of qualification shall be effective on or before 31 August 2025.

A checklist of the required supporting documents is available at
<https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>



Submission Procedure

1. After submitting the online application, applicants are required to upload the supporting documents in PDF format within 7 working days starting from the date of receipt of the email notification.
2. The hard copies of supporting documents are NOT REQUIRED at the application stage.
3. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to the admission assessment (e.g. written test and/or group interview assessment) by email.
4. Should you be given a Provisional Offer by MSW Programme, you will receive an email notice requiring you to submit the hard copy of the required supporting documents with submission details.
5. Vetting procedure by Registry and Faculty of Social Sciences (FOSS).
6. An Official Direct Offer/Conditional Offer will be given directly by FOSS.





Admission procedure (for non-local students)

Can apply for Full-time Programme only

Student Visa (<https://www.studentvisa.hku.hk>)

- Mainland China
- Macao / Taiwan
- Overseas

HKU Mainland Affairs Office (<https://mainlandaffairs.hku.hk>)

HKU Centre of Development and Resources for Students
CEDARS (<http://wp2.cedars.hku.hk/nonlocal/>)





Mode of Study and Tuition Fee *

2-Year Full-time Programme (Local and Non-local)

- HK\$332,800 (HK\$161,400/year)

3-Year Part-time Programme (Local)

- HK\$332,800 (HK\$107,600/year)

** Subject to the University's approval*



Enquiries

E: mswhku@hku.hk

T: (852) 3917 5014 | (852) 3917 4979

W: www.socialwork.hku.hk/msw





Apply Now!



*Download
the Pamphlet of MSW
Admission*



HKU
SWSA

Department of Social Work and Social Administration
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學社會工作及社會行政學系

Admission
2025/26

Master of
**Social
Work**

2-Year Full-time /
3-Year Part-time





Questions & Answers

