Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)

JUPAS Code: JS 6731

Department of Social Work and Social Administration
The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Programme is one of the most established first degree social work training programmes in Hong Kong. It is designed to develop students into professional social service leaders who are committed to serve and empower the underprivileged in society, as well as to cater to the ever-changing social needs in Hong Kong and Greater China.

### Curriculum Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1 (1st Sem)</th>
<th>Year 1 (2nd Sem)</th>
<th>Year 2 (1st Sem)</th>
<th>Year 2 (2nd Sem)</th>
<th>Year 3 (1st Sem)</th>
<th>Year 3 (2nd Sem)</th>
<th>Year 3 (Summer Sem)</th>
<th>Year 4 (1st Sem)</th>
<th>Year 4 (2nd Sem)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAES 1000</strong></td>
<td>Core University English</td>
<td><strong>CAES 9925</strong></td>
<td>Academic and Professional literacies in social work</td>
<td><strong>CSSC 9001</strong></td>
<td>Practice Chinese for Social Sciences Students</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 3015</strong></td>
<td>Social Work practice laboratory (I)</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 4006</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 Common Core Courses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2-3 Common Core Course(s)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>0-1 Common Core Course</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SOWK 3016</strong></td>
<td>Social Work practice laboratory (II)</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 4002</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PSYC 1001</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td><strong>AND</strong></td>
<td><strong>SOCI 1001</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td><strong>SOCI 1003</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to Anthropology</td>
<td><strong>SOCK 4003</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOWK 1002</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to Social Work</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 2107</strong></td>
<td>Foundation of Social Work Practice(I) - Casework</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 2008</strong></td>
<td>Human Behaviour and the Social Environment(I)</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 2085</strong></td>
<td>Social Service Research (I)</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 4007</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOWK 1004</strong></td>
<td>Human Behaviour and the Social Environment (I)</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 3108</strong></td>
<td>Foundation of Social Work Practice(I) - Group Work</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 3109</strong></td>
<td>Foundation of Social Work Practice(II) - Community Development</td>
<td><strong>SOWK 3030</strong></td>
<td>Law and Social Administration</td>
<td><strong>2 Elective Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOWK 1009</strong></td>
<td>The Reflective Practitioner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 Elective Course</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1 - 2 Elective Course(s)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4 - 5 Elective Courses</strong></td>
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### Special Features of the Programme

- **From Self to Others**
- **From Passive to Active Learning**
- **From Theory to Practice**
- **From Local to International**

The curriculum covers various disciplines, including social welfare and social policy, specialized social work theory and practice, human behaviour and social environment, social research, law, sociology and psychology.

Flexibility would be given to students to complete the following core courses from Year III to IV:

- SOWK 2085 Social Service Research (I)
- SOWK 3030 Law and Social Administration
- SOWK 4055 Management in Social Service Organizations
Expertise of our teachers includes:

- Child, Youth and Family Studies
- Community Building and Urban Renewal
- Creative media and expressive arts
- Gerontology
- Death and dying
- Holistic body-mind-spirit intervention
- Information Technology and Social Welfare
- Mental and Physical Health
- Marriage and sex
- Prevention of suicide, domestic violence, indulgence
- Special education and rehabilitation
- Social Welfare in China
- Social Welfare Service Research and Development

Our staff members are core members of the three HKU research centres:

- Centre on Behavioral Health
- Sau Po Centre of Ageing
- HK Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention.

With a strong commitment to the mission of becoming the leading educational and research social work institution in the region, the Department has actively worked to create a multidisciplinary and intellectually inspiring environment to train competent social workers, conduct high-quality research, and accumulate professional knowledge. We firmly believe students’ learning and career development will benefit from our internationally renowned and distinguished teaching team.
In-house skills teaching and demonstration help students gain the mastery of basic communication and social work practice skills. Students are also encouraged to participate actively in the design and implementation of field projects in a variety of social service settings. Via action-learning approach, students develop intervention skills in casework, group work and community work, and get prepared for the fieldwork placement.
The practice laboratory is a fruitful learning journey. With the guidance and support of seasoned teachers, and the collaboration with peers, students will be able to acquire and experiment social work knowledge at different practice levels, and gain a better understanding of self. Students also have the opportunity to serve different agencies to understand and work with various clientele. All in all, the laboratory enables us to flourish, to integrate theory into practice, and to be prepared for practice in the field.

LAU Yuk Kwan (BSW IV)

Employing an experiential learning approach for nurturing the competences in casework, group work and community development comprehensively, the Practice Laboratory has creditably facilitated my integration of knowledge, skills and values in professional social work practice. This action-oriented course, along with intensive training, supervisions, and collective reflections on projects in a spectrum of fieldwork settings among lecturers and students, has appreciably equipped myself with theoretically driven competence for the forthcoming placements.

LEUNG CHIN CHING Mason (2018 Graduate)

Since small-class teaching approach was adopted in Practice Lab, I highly involved in the in-class discussion and gained a lot of insightful ideas from it. Besides, my social work knowledge, skills and values were greatly enhanced by means of active participation in planning and implementing the casework, the group work and the community development projects. Practice Lab was definitely a fruitful learning experience to prepare myself for the upcoming placement!

YU Lee Man Adela (2018 Graduate)
Field work placement provides students with first-hand on-site learning which is entirely indispensable for a professional training. We currently have the most extensive coverage of overseas countries and the largest number of students undertaking international placements among local social work training institutes. Our students have left footprints all over the world, including Australia, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan and Mainland China.

Students’ participation in a wide array of fieldwork settings provides them plenty of opportunities for value bombardment, creative problem-solving and adaptive adjustments. All are conducive to their personal and professional development.
The 10 weeks’ social work placement in Taiwan had been a very fruitful one, helped not only in my social work professional development but also in my personal growth. The various kind of services being provided in the Taipei City Hospital has given me a chance to broaden my horizons in the medical settings, as the services are all-rounded both including in-patient and out-patient services. I was so glad to have the chance to come across most of the services, especially for the home care schemes that the Taipei City Hospital have been actively developing on.

LI Wang Hin (2018 Graduate)

In 2017 Summer, I had the chance to have my overseas social work placement at the Chinese Family Services of Ontario in Toronto. This was a great opportunity for me to explore the profession of social work in a different setting, my cultural sensitivity and independency has also been sharpened through this experience. I have understood more about the social system in Toronto and their comprehensive services especially for youth and elderly. This allows me to have critical reflection in social work aspect and further widen my social work perspective. This experience is not only eye-opening, but also memorable for life.

LI Wing Yan Flora (2018 Graduate)

During the summer in 2016, I was very blessed to be placed at the Chinese Community Social Services Centre in Melbourne. I worked mainly with the older people while applying the reminiscence approach in facilitating a teleconference group and case work. I was so thankful, for these eye-opening experiences including the challenges adapting into the overseas culture and lifestyle had reconstructed me with a stronger self.

FUNG Hiu Ying Melody (2016 Graduate)
The Department encourages students to participate in exchange programmes, so that they can be cultivated as global citizens with international exposure. Students can explore social work and social welfare from a global perspective.

With the 4-year BSW curriculum structure, students have the room to apply for exchange programmes provided by the University and the Faculty of Social Sciences. They can undertake either full or half year exchange opportunities in the second year of study without extending their total year of study in HKU.

The Department also encourages students to participate in the Finland Study Tour which aims to promote global citizenship through international exposures. Students from around the world can explore social work and social welfare system from a global respective through lectures, small group discussions, agency visits, cultural events, and field trips during the tour.
I had one-semester exchange study at Lund University in Sweden where the professors facilitated us to do lots of discussion in the in-class activities. In the classes, the European students were very eager to raise different questions and exchange their views without any hesitation. Influenced by such lively atmosphere, I have become more confident in discussion with my classmates from different countries and made lots of friends there!

The field-visits to government authorities, municipal organizations, refugee children NGOs, volunteering agencies and retirement homes in my social work courses taken in Sweden definitely broadened my horizons. Though experiential learning, I also know more about their social work and social welfare system.

YIP Ching Lam (Year III student)
The Department encourages students to organize and participate in different student activities. They are important not only for students’ academic development, but also critical for students’ personal growth and community participation.
Ying De Group

Yingde Group, a non-governmental organization, was founded by a group of HKU Social Work students in 1993 to provide academic support for students in Yingde, a remote province in China. We believe that knowledge can change destiny, therefore, subsidies are provided to financially needy students in remote areas. In order to raise people’s awareness on the situation in Yingde, the Group organizes several fund-raising programs and service trips for students.

Social Work and Social Administration Society

The Society organizes an array of activities throughout the year, both within and beyond campus. To enhance Social Work students’ unity and sense of belonging to the Department, we organized the orientation camp and “Open Semester Dinner”. Outdoor activities, such as community works, lunch time salon on social issues and the June Forth memorial event etc., were also held to encourage SW students to dedicate effort to the community. It is the ultimate goal to contribute towards a better world through our social work profession.
Our students exemplify the Department’s vision, “To serve we care; To strive we dare” through their community services.
A number of prizes and scholarships have been endowed for BSW students on the basis of academic merits and financial needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Type</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Work Entrance Scholarships</td>
<td>Awarded to BSW Year I students who obtained a total score of at least 28 in best 5 HKDSE subjects among category A or C (excluding Mathematics extended modules 1 and 2), or obtained outstanding results in recognized international qualification examination</td>
<td>HK$20,000 - HK$50,000 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSBC Social Work Scholarships</td>
<td>Awarded to 10-20 academically outstanding BSW students from all years of study</td>
<td>HK$25,000 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madam Lui Chui Sau Chun Memorial Scholarships</td>
<td>Awarded to one BSW Year II student on the basis of academic merits and financial needs</td>
<td>HK$20,000 each per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madam Lo Ng Kiu Ying Memorial Scholarships</td>
<td>Awarded to 6 academically outstanding local BSW students in their penultimate year</td>
<td>up to 6 awards of HK$10,000 each per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madam Lo Ng Kiu Ying Memorial Prizes</td>
<td>Awarded to BSW students with outstanding performance in fieldwork placement</td>
<td>up to 5 awards of HK$5,000 each per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>HKU Social Work 1978 Alumni Travel Award</td>
<td>Awarded to BSW students in any year of study in support of international placement*</td>
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* Students who have been selected for overseas placement will receive around 40% of the total expenses subsidy.
* For local placements, students could also be supported by travelling allowances if the placement settings are located far from home.
SW graduates are qualified for registration as Registered Social Workers with the Social Workers Registration Board. Many of our graduates have experienced a very good career development in the social work profession. Some are now the directors and senior executives of social welfare agencies or non-government organizations, while some are employed overseas.

Graduates can start their career as Assistant Social Work Officer (ASWO) of the Social Welfare Department with starting salary over HK$31,000. Recent graduates have diversified into human services, public relations, and educational settings including:

- **Community, Social & Personal Services:**
  - Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
  - Caritas Hong Kong
  - Hong Kong Christian Service
  - Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
  - Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council
  - Heep Hong Society
  - National University Hospital of Singapore
  - Po Leung Kuk
  - St. James’ Settlement
  - The Boys’ & Girls’ Club Association of Hong Kong
  - The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
  - The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
  - The Salvation Army
  - Tung Wah Groups of Hospitals
  - Yan Chai Hospital
  - YMCA of Hong Kong

- **Civil Service:**
  - Hong Kong Police Force
  - Immigration Department
  - Social Welfare Department
Social workers are change makers in the society. The BSW program in HKU has not only equipped me with appropriate values, skills and knowledge, but also the practical placement experiences working in different social work fields. Most importantly, I have learnt how to empower individuals, families and communities to identify and develop strengths and resources to address personal problems and foster changes in the society. It has been a very rewarding learning experience!

LAM Tsz Wing Jovel (2017 Graduate)

During the 4-year time in BSW programme, I have acquired knowledge and skills to equip myself to be a competent and professional social worker. I am also inspired to broaden my horizons, to view the society and the world through both macro and micro perspectives. Most importantly, I am encouraged to reflect; to reflect on my good and bad, thoughts and behaviours, and the meaning of my life. All these have made me a better person.

CHEUNG Wing Kai Tony (2017 Graduate)

The BSW curriculum was very structured as it enabled me to comprehend essential theory, policy and research knowledge. Practice laboratory and placement successfully blended a wealth of academic learning and practical components with guidance. Students were always well supported when facing challenges in the workplace. HKU BSW is like a family to me, I have a trusting relationship with teaching and department staff, and I make lifelong friends here. Not only is it a place for knowledge acquisition and career development, but also for personal growth and reflection.

TSUI Long Ying Shirley (2017 Graduate)
To serve we care
To strive we dare

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HKU SWSA

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