



## Applications

Applicants require an undergraduate degree such as Arts, Social Sciences, Psychology, Health Sciences (including Medicine, Nursing, Public Health and Physiotherapy), Education and Law.

All prospective students, including graduates from The University of Western Australia, need to submit applications to the Student Office, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Details of the application procedure can be found at [www.socialwork.arts.uwa.edu.au](http://www.socialwork.arts.uwa.edu.au)

## Further Information

Further information on the Master of Social Work (by Coursework or by Coursework and Dissertation) (MSW) is provided in the 2009 Handbook, available online from [www.handbooks.uwa.edu.au](http://www.handbooks.uwa.edu.au). Prospective students requiring further information regarding admission, enrolment or advanced standing should contact the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences on 6488 2091 or 6488 2078. Course enquiries should be directed to the Discipline of Social Work and Social Policy on 6488 2990 or email [catalano@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:catalano@cyllene.uwa.edu.au)

Information in this publication is correct as at October 2008, but is subject to change from time to time. The University reserves the right to withdraw any unit of study or programme which it offers, to impose limitations on enrolment in any unit or programme, and/or to vary arrangements for any programme.



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Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

## Master of Social Work

(by Coursework or by Coursework and  
Dissertation) (11550) 2 Year Course



### Social Work and Social Policy Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

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CRICOS Provider Code: 00126G

# Master of Social Work

**The Master of Social Work, which will be offered for the first time in 2009, is designed for students who have an undergraduate degree in a relevant field and who wish to obtain a professional qualification in Social Work.**

## Social Work

Social Workers are committed to social justice and human rights. They work with individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities to create positive outcomes and to empower marginalised or disenfranchised members of society. Social Workers also seek to promote change at community and policy levels. It is a challenging, but potentially rewarding profession, which attracts dedicated and inspiring professionals who desire to make a difference to the lives of others.

## Career Opportunities

Social Workers are employed in a variety of settings: government departments, hospitals, community health centres, mental health facilities, community organisations, private industry, aged cares facilities, child and family welfare agencies, local government, migrant resource centres, church agencies, schools, counselling agencies, planning and research units, policy centres, and so on. Social Work graduates gain employment in fields as diverse as politics, overseas aid programmes, the trade union movement, activist organisations, religious groups, journalism, management and training and social research. The employment market for social workers has been excellent in recent years, with most graduates able to find work within a few months of finishing the course. The degree is well-recognised internationally, and many graduates obtain employment overseas.

## Recognition

The process leading to provisional accreditation of The Master of Social Work (by Coursework or by Coursework and Dissertation) (11550) by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is underway and provisional accreditation may be awarded in the near future.

## Learning to be a Social Worker

Social Work is a unique blend of knowledge, skills and values. These three components are integrated across the entire professional education programme.

Students can expect to learn:

- key theoretical models of Social Work
- practical and interpersonal skills for working with individuals, groups and organisations
- community development skills
- Social Work values and ethics

## Fieldwork

Social Work students undertake two fieldwork placements during the course. The first is 12 weeks in Year 1 and the second is 16 weeks in Year 2. Placements are completed in two contrasting agency settings under the supervision of an experienced social worker. These applied learning settings provide students with an opportunity to integrate their knowledge and skills and to begin to develop a sense of themselves as professional social workers. Students can negotiate their final placement in an approved rural, interstate or international setting. The fieldwork placement units will normally be undertaken on a full-time basis (normal office hours, Monday to Friday). In exceptional circumstances, fieldwork placements may be undertaken on a part-time basis.

## The MSW (by Coursework and Dissertation) Option

Social Work students whose academic record has been above average may choose to enter the MSW (by Coursework and Dissertation) research stream. These students undertake a research project as part of their fieldwork placement in Year 2, and complete a 15,000-word dissertation. Students completing the research stream may be awarded the degree with a pass, distinction or higher distinction.

## Credit for Previous Study

Students may apply for advanced standing to credit previous studies undertaken in an accredited Social Work course.

## Standard Course Structure\*

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Summer Unit</b>       |   |
| SWSP8206                 | Indigenous People and Social Work                 |
| <b>Year 1 Semester 1</b> |   |
| SWSP8301                 | Social Work Knowledge, Theory and Values          |
| SWSP8303                 | Interpersonal Practice                            |
| SWSP8305                 | Social Policy and Community Practice              |
| <b>Year 1 Semester 2</b> |   |
| SWSP8309                 | Field Education One: First Placement              |
| SWSP8302                 | Counselling, Law and Advocacy                     |
| SWSP8304                 | Organisational Practice and Ethics                |
| <b>Year 2 Semester 1</b> |   |
| SWSP8429                 | Field Education Two: Final Placement              |
| <b>Year 2 Semester 2</b> |   |
| SWSP8404                 | Social Work in Public Welfare and Health Settings |
| SWSP8406                 | Policy, Community and Research                    |
| SWSP8421                 | Social Work Elective                              |

\* This is the recommended pathway for full-time students in the coursework stream.