



Social Work: A growing and rewarding profession

Master of Social Work (MSW)

Department of Social Work
Melbourne School of Health Sciences





We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our campuses are situated.

We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who have made a contribution to the life of the University community.



Our information session

- Welcome!
- Introduction to professional social work
- Features of Social Work at Melbourne
- Overview of the Master of Social Work (MSW)
- Selection processes
- We invite your questions

Our Panel



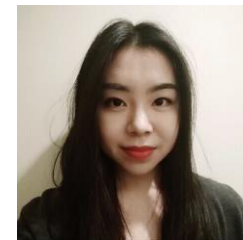
Nicole Hill
Program
Coordinator



Jen Davidson
Year-level
Student Coordinator



Judi Brewster
Field Education
Coordinator



Lily Mei
Student Recruitment
and Admissions Officer



Social work: The challenges ahead... ... and the opportunities

‘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.’

(Global Definition of Social Work, International Federation of Social Workers [IFSW], 2014)



Social work: Professional definition

The social work profession promotes:

- Social change
- Problem solving in human relationships
- Empowerment and liberation of people to enhance wellbeing

Social work's mission:

- To assist individuals, families and communities to develop their full potential, enrich their lives, and prevent dysfunction

Social work's values:

- Based on respect for the equality, worth and dignity of all people.



Why study social work?

- **Strong international degree recognition**
 - **A multi-faceted profession**
 - Collaborative, challenging, rewarding, and inspiring!
 - **Employment opportunities across a wide variety of service organisations and specialisations**
 - Graduate employment pathways (e.g. health, mental health, child protection)
 - **A profession in demand**
 - **Potential for further accreditation**
 - Mental Health Accredited Social Worker
- 
- A word cloud graphic in the bottom right corner. The words 'Soci' and 'Work' are the largest and most prominent, rendered in a blue, sans-serif font. Other smaller words visible include 'community', 'interactions', 'inter', 'program', 'systematic', 'relational', 'interpersonal', 'ecological', 'social', 'work', 'life', 'and', 'the', 'human', 'environment'. The words are arranged in a cluster, with some overlapping.





Why Social Work at University of Melbourne?

Accredited by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) as a two-year full-time qualifying degree

- A career with projected workforce growth and high employability
- Strong staffing profile
 - Experienced, diverse fields, research-led teaching
- Partnerships with industry
 - Diverse range of placement opportunities, and involvement of industry partners in teaching
 - Rural, interstate and international placement opportunities
- Resources & esteem of the School, Faculty & University





The year ahead –COVID-19 considerations

While many uncertainties continue, we know that:

- International travel is gradually resuming
- There may continue to be COVID-19 impacts (staff/students needing to self-isolate etc.)
 - Timetabling will continue to be as **flexible** as possible throughout 2022
 - Students will be able to participate in course work in 2022 regardless of location
 - Lectures on Mondays (delivered via Live Stream and recorded)
 - Tutorials offered throughout the week, including evening classes offered online

In line with our University's strong emphasis on campus-based learning and our Australian Association of Social Workers accreditation requirements, we will be resuming campus-based teaching as soon as practicable

- All accredited Master of Social Work courses in Australia have an **on-campus requirement**.
- Under the COVID-19 lockdowns, alternative measures have been permissible.
- While some lecture and tutorial offerings will be online in the future, all students will need to be able to access campus and their placements at some points during their course, in order to meet these requirements.



Year 1

Semester 1 – (Feb-May)

8 weeks of classes

Professional Identity 1
Lifespan Risk &
Resilience
Counselling &
Interviewing Skills
Social Work Theory
and Practice

Mid-year – (May to August)

Full-time, approx. 14 weeks**

- 500 hours of Supervised Field Placement 1A and 1B

** Variations possible for part-time students

Semester 2 – (Sept-Nov)

8 weeks of classes

- Assessing Risk and Vulnerability
- The Legal and Ethical Contexts of Practice
- Researching Social Work Practice 1
- Social Work Practice: Indigenous Peoples



Year 2

Semester 1 – (Feb-May)

8 weeks of classes

Engaging with Families
Working with Groups
and Communities
Social Policy for Social
Work Practice
Researching Social
Work Practice 2

Mid-year – (May to August)

Full-time, approx. 14
weeks**

- 500 hours of Supervised Field Placement 2A and 2B

** Variations possible for part-time students

Semester 2 – (Sept-Nov)

8 weeks of classes

- Program Planning & Evaluation
- Working in Human Service Organisations
- Professional Identity 2
- An elective subject



Recommended enrolment in Semester 1, 2022

A recommended full-time enrolment includes these subjects:

- SCWK90064 Lifespan Risk and Resilience*
- SCWK90072 Professional Identity 1*
- SCWK90053 Counselling and Interviewing Skills
- SCWK90066 Social Work Theory and Practice

*A part-time plan includes the first two subjects listed here

Full time students: Please also enrol in the Supervised Field Placement subjects

- SCWK90048 Supervised Field Placement 1A (May offering)
- SCWK90049 Supervised Field Placement 1B (July offering)



Room for specialization

Subject content is required by Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS 2020).

Elective subject provides specialist area of practice:

- Mental health
- Child and Family Welfare
- Ageing, Health and Human Services
- Advanced Trauma Perspectives
- Suicide Prevention
- Psychosocial Oncology
- Domestic and Family Violence
- Disability in Context

Varied assessments also allow a degree of choice in focus and specialization

Two placements.



Our field education program

Two placements during the degree

- Planned as fulltime with adjustments possible by negotiation
- Primary placement period runs from May-August
- Advanced Standing (Recognized Prior Learning - RPL) available for first placement only

Some exciting options in our Program

- Strong industry partnerships (Metro, rural, interstate, overseas)
- Placement models (focus and mode of delivery):
 - Practice, practice-based research projects, policy or community development-focused placements
 - Agency-based or virtual online-based placements





Post-qualifying pathways

By completing 25 credit points of research* students are eligible to apply for the PhD directly following completion of the MSW

** within the MSW this is Researching Social Work Practice 1 and 2*





Advanced Standing

Students who have previously studied at a **graduate** (University) level may be eligible to apply for advanced standing for one or more coursework subjects:

- Please first refer to the MSW subject descriptions in the Handbook: <https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/2022/courses/mc-socw/course-structure>
- If you have completed studies **equivalent in both level of study and subject content**, you may submit an application for consideration: <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/how-to-apply/advanced-standing>
 - Please include evidence of the previous study completed (e.g., official transcripts)
 - Please include information about the Subject Intended Learning Outcomes & assessments completed

Different process for Field Education subjects (SCWK90048/49):

This will be discussed at the Orientation in February.

In addition to previous study, previous work experience is relevant here



Supporting your study

Graduate Access Melbourne:

- the University's special entry and access scheme for graduate study.
- By submitting a Graduate Access Melbourne application, you can be assured that any circumstances that have affected your tertiary study will be considered when we assess your course application.
- Graduate Access Melbourne could help you be accepted into the course and receive a scholarship or bursary

Eligibility:

- Be an Aust/NZ citizen or permanent resident
- Demonstrate the capacity to successfully undertake graduate coursework
- Apply for a place in the relevant graduate coursework degree.

https://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/access_melbourne_and_equity_programs/graduate-access-melbourne



Support for Indigenous Australians

You are eligible if you:

- Identify as a person of Australian Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander heritage and are accepted as such by an Indigenous community.

No documentation is required but your status will be verified by staff from Murrup Barak

Visit: <http://www.murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/>



Selection Criteria: A Summary

1. an undergraduate degree with equivalent of at least one year of full-time studies in social sciences
 - i.e. 100 credit points of social science subjects across 1st, 2nd or 3rd year enrolment
 - We define a ‘social science’ subject on the next slide
2. at least 40 hours of documented relevant work experience
 - Paid or unpaid
 - Full-time or part-time
3. a professional referee contact
4. a personal statement of up to 500 words by the applicant.

Note: The Selection Committee may conduct interviews to elucidate any of these matters



What is a ‘social science’ subject?

‘Social science refers to the academic disciplines concerned with the society and the relationships of individuals within a society, which primarily rely on empirical approaches.

It is commonly used as an umbrella term to refer to anthropology, economics, political science, psychology and sociology. In a wider sense, it may often include humanities such as archaeology, area studies, communication studies, cultural studies, folkloristics, history, law, linguistics and rhetoric’.

According to the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia:

- Accounting
- Anthropology
- Demography
- Economics
- Economic History
- Education
- Geography
- History
- Law
- Management
- Marketing
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Social Medicine
- Sociology
- Statistics



How to apply and FAQs



Applying for the Master of Social Work

All Applicants

- Check that you meet the course eligibility requirements here: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/p7y6>
- If you're a current student at Melbourne, you can apply **through your student account**
- If you're a new student, you can apply online here: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/ww6a>.

My.unimelb

International Applicants

Overseas representatives can help you lodge an application, accept your offer and apply for a student visa. Find an overseas representative here: <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/pwy6>





How to apply

You will need:

- all previous academic transcripts, including the key/legend (typically found on the reverse side of the transcript) that explains the grading system
- Your testamur (if you have graduated)
- Evidence of volunteer/work hours
- Personal statement
- Referee details
- Evidence of meeting English language requirements.

University of Melbourne students do not need to include their transcripts as staff can access them from the student system.

If you have not completed your degree, you can apply your current academic record.



Application and offer timelines

Application Dates

- Closing date for Round 1 applications **5 September 2021 (closed)**
- Closing date for Round 2 applications **21 November 2021**

Applications will be accepted there after permitting places remain in the course

Offer Timelines

- Offers are sent out on a **rolling basis**
- Offer lapse date: **Refer to your offer letter**
- MSW Orientation: **7-8 February 2022**
- MSW Semester 1 Commencement in 2022 **Week commencing 14 February 2022**



Getting Started – Accepting your offer

Congratulations on your offer. You can accept your offer, enrol in your degree and choose your subjects before you come onto campus.

Accept your offer

<http://go.unimelb.edu.au/5our>

Defer your offer

Tell us what type of student you are, then follow our step-by-step guides.

Student type *

Domestic student



Course level *

Graduate Coursework



Get started



<http://go.unimelb.edu.au/hk5r>



Leading research that impacts locally, nationally and internationally.

Working with others to make a difference.

We invite you to join our Alumni



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

We welcome your questions

Please type your questions
in the Q and A





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Thank You

Contact Us

Email: socialwork-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au

Placement questions: sw-placements@unimelb.edu.au

Applications – Information and application portal
<https://study.unimelb.edu.au/find/courses/graduate/master-of-social-work/#apply-now>

