



The Northern Ireland Degree in
Social Work Partnership

Applicants to the Undergraduate and Relevant Graduate Social Work Degree Programmes at University of Ulster and Queen's University Belfast: Frequently asked questions – June 2014

1. I have a caution; spent caution/conviction; current criminal conviction. Can I apply to the NI Degree in Social Work course?

A criminal conviction; caution; spent cautions/convictions are not a bar to making an application. An application will be processed in line with the admissions procedure and entry criteria to the course. However all criminal convictions/cautions will be considered by the academic institution in line with its policy, and procedures before a final decision is made.

2. Is the NI Degree in Social work recognised as an appropriate qualification to practise in Europe and internationally?

The Honours Degree in Social Work is the recognised professional qualification for all social workers in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales and Republic of Ireland.

Europe and international countries may have specific requirements which must be met before one can practise.

The regulatory body for social work, if one exists, can usually provide details of the requirements.

3. Is Essential Skills Level 2 in Application of Number equivalent to Maths GCSE?

No. Essential Skills Level 2 in Application of Number is **not accepted** by University of Ulster or Queens University, Belfast as entry to non- graduate or relevant graduate programmes.

4. Is Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication equivalent to GCSE English Grade C?

Yes, Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication is accepted in lieu of a pass in GCSE English Grade C.

5. What is meant by ‘Fitness for Practice’?

If you are successful and accept a place on the Degree in Social Work Course, in doing so you are signing up to the Regulatory Body’s Code of Conduct. The Northern Ireland Social Care Council is the regulatory body for social care workers in NI.

In the interests of service users and as representatives of the social work profession, social work students are required at all times to adhere to the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (2002) Code of Practice for Social Care Workers which states:

‘Social care workers are responsible for making sure that their conduct does not fall below the standards set out in this code and that no action or omission on their part harms the wellbeing of service users’

This applies across an individual’s personal and professional lives. In applying to study social work you are signing up to the Code of Conduct.

Under code 5 of the Code you are required to *‘uphold public trust and confidence in social care services whether you are in work or outside of work’* - this includes the use of social networking sites.

6. What qualifications do I need in order to be eligible to apply for the NI Degree in social work?

All applicants must meet the criteria set by each academic institution. For further details on entry criteria check the course provider's website

- Queens University of Belfast(QUB)
Website: www.qub.ac.uk
- University of Ulster ,Magee(UUM)
Website: www.ulster.ac.uk
- Belfast Metropolitan College(BMC)
Website: www.belfastmet.ac.uk
- South West College, Dungannon (SWC)
Website: www.swc.ac.uk

Information is also available in the NISCC booklet 'Honours Degree in Social Work – Advice for Applicants'

7. What does the application process involve?

Stage 1.Completion of an application through UCAS

Further details can be found on the Universities/Colleges websites.

Stage 2. If all documentation is appropriately completed and applicant meets academic criteria, applicant will be invited to submit a 600 word personal statement.

Applicants who are reapplying are encouraged to build upon and update their personal statement.

Applications for the part-time route are made directly to the University and applicants must also meet experience criteria.

Stage 3. If successful at personal statement stage, applicants will be invited to attend an interview. Interviews will be held from mid-February until the first week of May.

Interview panels normally consist of one University/College Tutor and one Social work Practitioner/ Practice Teacher.

Stage 4. Post Interview

If unsuccessful at interview, a decision will be processed via UCAS, normally within 10 working days.

Decision for Applicants who pass the suitability interview will not be processed until the interview process has been completed in May.