



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

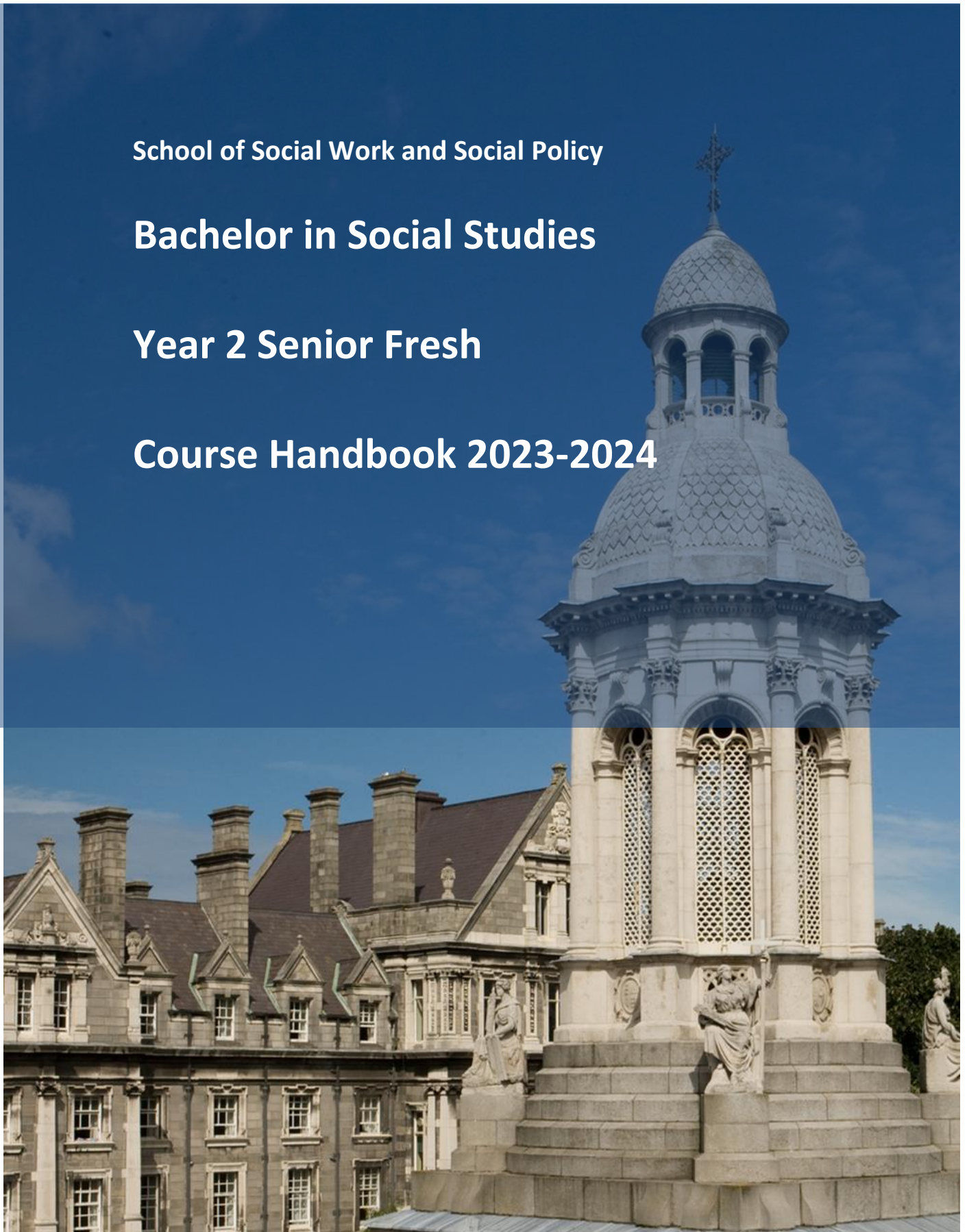
The University of Dublin

**School of Social Work and Social Policy**

**Bachelor in Social Studies**

**Year 2 Senior Fresh**

**Course Handbook 2023-2024**



## Table of Contents

Welcome.....	5
Dr Joe Whelan, .....	5
Course Director, Bachelor of Social Studies .....	5
Welcome to International Students .....	6
General Information .....	7
Emergency Procedure.....	7
Data Protection for Student Data .....	7
Student Feedback and Evaluation .....	7
Student Supports .....	8
College Tutor.....	8
Supports within School of Social Work and Social Policy .....	8
Practice Education Team .....	8
Placement Cluster Leaders .....	8
Trinity College Dublin Students Union (TCDSU).....	9
Student Counselling Services .....	9
Support Provision for Students with Disabilities .....	9
Student Learning Development .....	11
Library Facilities .....	11
Financial Assistance .....	11
General Programme Information .....	12
Course Director .....	12
Professional Staff.....	12
Head of School .....	12
Director of Undergraduate and Learning (Undergraduate) .....	12
Practice Education Team .....	13
School Office Location and Opening Hours .....	13
BSS Course Committee .....	14
Staff – Student Liaison .....	14
BSS Student Representatives .....	15
Bachelor in Social Studies Practice Panel.....	15
External Examiner .....	15
Overview of the Bachelor in Social Studies Degree (BSS).....	16

Regulatory Body - Health and Social Care Professionals Council/ Social Workers Registration Board (CORU).....	16
Aims and Objectives.....	16
Programme Learning Outcomes .....	18
Teaching and Learning Methods.....	19
Timetable .....	19
Bachelor in Social Studies Regulations and Conventions Booklet .....	19
School of Social Work and Social Policy Marking Scale .....	20
Course Expectations.....	23
Attendance.....	23
Punctuality .....	23
Reliability.....	24
Participation.....	24
Peer Support and Respect .....	24
Deadlines for Assignments.....	24
Non-submission of coursework and absence from examinations.....	25
Students' expectations of staff .....	25
Online Student Code of Conduct .....	26
BSS Senior Freshman Academic Year Structure 2023/24 .....	29
BSS Senior Freshman Course Structure 2023/24.....	31
Module Outlines .....	31
Module Leads and Role Description for Module Lead on the BSS .....	31
European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) .....	32
Workload related to ECTS.....	32
BSS Senior Freshman Course Assessment .....	33
SOU22011: Introduction to Social Research 1: (5 ECTS).....	35
SOU22012: Introduction to Social Research 2: (5 ECTS).....	35
SSU22112: SF Practice Placement (15 ECTS) .....	36
Placement .....	36
Readiness for placement Process .....	36
Preparing for the Placement.....	36
Placement Aims, Learning Outcomes, Structure and Issues .....	37
Learning Objectives.....	38
Choice of Placement .....	38

Placement duration .....	39
Placement Supervision, Tutorial Support and Practice Project .....	39
Student's Practice Project.....	40
Reading Time .....	40
Assessment of SSU22112 SF Placement .....	40
Student Placement Project Format.....	41
Learning Agreement .....	45
Health and safety .....	46
Vaccination Policy .....	46
Critical incidents.....	47
Health Concerns.....	47
Garda Vetting.....	47
Access to Agency Held Information .....	48
Foundation Scholarship Examinations.....	49
Guidelines for the Presentation of Written Work .....	50
Guidelines on Plagiarism.....	57
Detection of Plagiarism.....	57
College Regulations on Plagiarism .....	57
BSS Course Code of Conduct.....	62
Fitness to Practise .....	66
Fitness to Study.....	67
BSS Prizes .....	68
Appendix I: Learning Agreement for BSS SF Students .....	69
Appendix II: Supervisor's Report on Senior Fresh 50 Day Block .....	76
Appendix III : BSS Attendance Policy.....	80
Appendix IV : Placement Log.....	83
Appendix V : Student Consent Protocol when Acting as a Service User in Learning Activities .....	84

***Alternative formats of this handbook can be made available on request***

## Welcome

Welcome to the Senior Freshman year of your Bachelor in Social Studies (Hons) degree which is placed at level 8 on the National Framework of qualifications (NFQ). We hope you will find it enjoyable and rewarding.

As the timetable is quite full, you will need to be well organised and to keep to deadlines for written work. As this is a professional course, you are required to attend all classes throughout the year.

You should find that more of your classes are interactive this year, and the more you participate, the livelier the year will be for everyone. Please note that Senior Freshman year is the year in which you can sit Scholarship examinations and we encourage you to consider this option. In recent years, BSS students have been successful in achieving the distinction and rewards of a college scholarship.

This Handbook<sup>1</sup> aims to give you the basic information you need to find your way about the BSS course this year.

You should also check your Student Portal regularly for changes to the timetable.

The School website can be found at: <https://www.tcd.ie/swsp/>

Your timetable can be found at: <https://www.tcd.ie/swsp/timetables/>

Good luck and enjoy the year.



Dr Joe Whelan,

Course Director, Bachelor of Social Studies

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<sup>1</sup> This Handbook aims to be as accurate as possible, but College Regulations always have primacy over the information contained here

## Welcome to International Students

We are delighted to welcome International Students to the School of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. As Ireland's leading university, ranked 81<sup>st</sup> in the world (QS World University Rankings 2024) and 16<sup>th</sup> most International University in the World (Times Higher Education World University Ranking, 2023), we at Trinity pride ourselves on being a global research-led university with a diverse and vibrant university community.

Trinity Global provide a [Welcome Guide](#) for all international students that includes useful information on how we will support you and guidance on visas, immigration, finance and accommodation which we hope you find useful. The Trinity Global Experience team invite you to email any questions you have to the Global Room team at [TCDGlobal@tcd.ie](mailto:TCDGlobal@tcd.ie) or visit the Global Room's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Within the School, [Dr Catherine Conlon](#) is the Director for Global Engagement and [Erin Paullin](#) is the Global Officer. We are both here for any queries you have and to help you settle in and navigate your way through your time in the School. Key resources for international students at Trinity, we encourage you to connect with are:

- [The Global Room](#), a welcoming student support hub and event space on campus for all Trinity students, managed by the International Student Liaison Officer. We encourage you to visit the space and engage with the lively community there.
- The Global Room service is supported by a team of [Global Ambassadors](#), students trained to help students with a wide range of queries ranging from immigration and accommodation practicalities to the basics of settling into life in Dublin and at Trinity. Check out the [Global Ambassador Blog](#)

Our Vice President for Global Engagement invites you to view her welcome message to all international students at the links below:

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfyDTM-OadY>

Bilibili (China): [www.bilibili.com/video/BV1wq4y187U1](http://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1wq4y187U1)

We wish you an enriching experience as an international student here in the School and look forward to engaging with you during your time with us.



Catherine Conlon



Erin Paullin

## General Information

### Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, dial Security Services on extension 1999.

Security Services provide a 24-hour service to the college community, 365 days a year. They are the liaison to the Fire, Garda and Ambulance services and all staff and students are advised to always telephone extension 1999 (+353 1 896 1999) in case of an emergency.

Should you require any emergency or rescue services on campus, you must contact Security Services. This includes chemical spills, personal injury or first aid assistance.

It is recommended that all students save at least one emergency contact in their phone under ICE (In Case of Emergency)

### Data Protection for Student Data

Trinity College Dublin uses personal data relating to students for a variety of purposes. We are careful to comply with our obligations under data protection laws and we have prepared a guidance note to ensure you understand how we obtain, use and disclose student data in the course of performing University functions and services. The guidance note is available to view via [https://www.tcd.ie/info\\_compliance/data-protection/student-data/](https://www.tcd.ie/info_compliance/data-protection/student-data/) and is intended to supplement the University's Data Protection Policy.

### Student Feedback and Evaluation

The feedback students provide about BSS course content and teaching methods are valuable in helping to continuously improve both the course and student experience. The School will request student feedback via in-class feedback forms and online surveys. We would strongly encourage students to participate in the evaluation surveys.

### College Maps

The College Maps website is a great resource for finding your way around the Trinity campus. The website also includes information about gate access times, lecture theatres and computer rooms

Web: <https://www.tcd.ie/Maps/>



## Student Supports

### College Tutor

All registered undergraduate students are allocated a College Tutor when starting in College. Your Tutor is a member of the academic staff who is appointed to look after the general welfare and developments of all students in his/her care. Your College Tutor can advise you on course choices, study skills, examinations, fees, represent you in academic appeals, in application for 'time off books', readmission, course transfer applications, and any other matter which may require an official response from College.

Your College Tutor can also advise you if personal matters impinge on your academic work, and tell you about relevant services and facilities in college. It is helpful to keep your College Tutor informed of any circumstances that may require his / her help at a later stage, especially in relation to examinations. Details of your tutor can be found on your TCD Portal.

### Supports within School of Social Work and Social Policy

There are many sources of support and advice available to BSS students. Course-related matters can be discussed, as appropriate, with the BSS Course Director, BSS Course Coordinator, individual Lecturers, Practice Education Coordinators, Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning or the Head of School, all of whom will arrange to meet with students. Another key support is your College Tutor.

### Practice Education Team

The practice education team co-ordinates the provision and development of practice-based education for social work students. They manage the selection, training and support of practice teachers for both the Bachelor in Social Studies (BSS) and MSW/P.Dip.SW programmes. They provide practice teacher training and support courses; they also offer guidance to tutors and develop initiatives to promote practice teaching at agency and team levels. Using a reflective learning approach, they prepare students for placements and help them develop their learning objectives through scheduled class seminars prior to placement.

### Placement Cluster Leaders

In your Senior Freshman year (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) you will be assigned a Placement Cluster Leader, who is the person primarily concerned with your progress during the Senior Freshman Placement. **Tutorial** meetings will be held with your Cluster Leader and other members of your student group prior to and during the placement.



The Group tutorials aim to:

- promote and support your learning during placement.
- provide a link between practice & academic courses, placement & College
- afford you group support of fellow students.

### **Trinity College Dublin Students Union (TCDSU)**

The Students' Union is run for students by students. The Students' Union website is a vital resource for Trinity students, it has information on accommodation, jobs, campaigns, as well as information pertaining to education and welfare.

**Web:** <https://www.tcdsu.org/>

### **Student Counselling Services**

The SCS offer free, confidential and non-judgmental support to registered students of Trinity College Dublin, who are experiencing personal and/or academic concerns.

**Web:** [https://www.tcd.ie/Student Counselling/](https://www.tcd.ie/Student_Counselling/)

**Phone:** (01) 8961407

**Email:** [student-counselling@tcd.ie](mailto:student-counselling@tcd.ie)

### **Support Provision for Students with Disabilities**

Trinity has adopted a [Reasonable Accommodation Policy](#) that outlines how supports are implemented in Trinity. Any student seeking reasonable accommodations whilst studying in Trinity must apply for reasonable accommodations with the Disability Service via their student portal my.tcd.ie. Based on appropriate [evidence of a disability](#) and information obtained from the student on the impact of their disability and their academic course requirements, the Disability Staff member will identify supports designed to meet the student's disability support needs. Following the Needs Assessment, the student's Disability Officer will prepare an Individual [Learning Educational Needs Summary \(LENS\)](#) detailing the Reasonable Accommodations to be implemented. The information outlined in the LENS will be communicated to the relevant School via the student record in SITS.

## Examination accommodation and deadlines

Students should make requests as early as possible in the academic year.

## Student responsibilities for departmental assessments/course tests

- Students are required to initiate contact with the School/Department and request reasonable accommodations as **per their LENS report, or email received following their needs assessment** for particular assessments for School/ Department administered assessment. Students are advised to make contact **at least two weeks prior** to the assessment date to enable adjustments to be implemented.

## Professional Learning Education Needs Summary - PLENS

Students with disabilities on the BSS programme in receipt of reasonable accommodations should meet with the College Disability Service prior to placement, to discuss the need for a Placement [Learning Educational Needs Summary \(PLENS\)](#) to clarify any Reasonable Accommodations that may be required on placement.

In the background section of the PLENS the following text is included:

Student is encouraged to discuss any disability supports required on professional course and placement with the Academic contact and/or Placement Co-ordinator of their course. Student can be referred back to Disability Service for placement planning supports - Level 2 - Placement Planning, if and when required.

Students are encouraged to speak with the placement co-ordinator if they are unsure of any needs for placement supports. Students can be referred back to Disability Service for placement planning supports, if and when required. More Information on placement supports offered are linked [here](#)

Please note: no reasonable accommodation can be provided outside the procedures outlined in the Trinity [Reasonable Accommodation Policy](#).

**More detailed text on placement planning and supports can be found at the following link:**

<https://www.tcd.ie/disability/services/placement-planning.php>

### **Student Learning Development**

In addition to the guidance offered to students in lectures and tutorials, the college also provides additional student supports to any student who is in need of assistance with their written work, examinations and other course assessments. The webpages of SLD (Student Learning Development) list a variety of workshops and events on a range of academic skills to help you achieve your academic potential. Web: <http://student-learning.tcd.ie/>

### **Library Facilities**

Advice on how to find, borrow, reserve books, access periodicals and search computerised catalogues is provided by library staff. If your efforts to locate reading material fail, consult the Social Work Librarian Caroline Montgomery

Office Location: Ground Floor, Berkeley Library

Telephone: +353 1 8962985

Email: [cmontgom@tcd.ie](mailto:cmontgom@tcd.ie)

### **Financial Assistance**

All undergraduate students can apply for financial assistance once they are a registered student. The only exception is a student who enters through HEAR/TAP, as they will receive financial assistance from the Trinity Access Programme. There are a number of different financial assistance schemes which you may qualify for. Further information on these is available via

<https://www.tcd.ie/seniortutor/students/undergraduate/financial-assistance/>

## General Programme Information

The Staff of the School of Social Work and Social Policy are available to meet with students online via MS Teams, by phone or by email. To view a complete list of staff members in the School of Social Work and Social Policy please go to:

<https://www.tcd.ie/swsp/people/>

### Course Director

Title	Name	Email
Course Director of Bachelor's in Social Studies	Dr. Joe Whelan, (Years 1,2, 3 & 4)	<a href="mailto:jwhelan9@tcd.ie">jwhelan9@tcd.ie</a> Tel (01) 896 3241

### Professional Staff

Title	Name	Email
Executive Officer BSS Years 1 & 2 i.e., Junior and Senior Freshman	Karen Edmonds	<a href="mailto:karen.edmonds@tcd.ie">karen.edmonds@tcd.ie</a>
Senior Executive Officer BSS Years 3 & 4 i.e., Junior and Senior Sophister	Mairead Pascoe	<a href="mailto:pascoem@tcd.ie">pascoem@tcd.ie</a>

### Head of School

Title	Name	Email
Head of School of Social Work and Social Policy	Dr. Stephanie Holt	<a href="mailto:sholt@tcd.ie">sholt@tcd.ie</a> Tel (01) 8963908

### Director of Undergraduate and Learning (Undergraduate)

Title	Name	Email
Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate)	Dr. Phillip Curry	<a href="mailto:pcurry@tcd.ie">pcurry@tcd.ie</a>

### Practice Education Team

Title	Name	Email
Practice Learning Development and Placement Co-ordination Executive Officer Practice Education	Dr. Erna O'Connor	<a href="mailto:erna.oconnor@tcd.ie">erna.oconnor@tcd.ie</a>
	Dr. Sinead Whiting	<a href="mailto:sinead.whiting@tcd.ie">sinead.whiting@tcd.ie</a>
	Ms Jen Kelly	<a href="mailto:swpractice.ed@tcd.ie">swpractice.ed@tcd.ie</a>

### School Office Location and Opening Hours

Address: School of Social Work & Social Policy Room 3063, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin. Dublin 2	Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm Closed - 1pm – 2pm
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## **BSS Course Committee**

The BSS Programme is overseen by a course committee composed as follows:

BSS Course Director: Dr Joe Whelan

(Chairperson)

Director of curriculum and development for BSS: Dr Simone McCaughren

- Head of School, Dr Stephanie Holt,
- Director of Teaching & Learning (Undergraduate), Dr Philip Curry
- Junior Freshman Coordinator: Dr Leigh-Ann Sweeney,

### **Social Work lecturing staff including:**

- Dr. Ruth Elliffe
- Dr Michael Feely
- Dr Susan Flynn
- Dr Eavan Brady

### **Social work placement coordination staff including:**

- Assistant Professor in Social Work & Practice Education Coordinator, Dr Erna O Connor
- Assistant Professor in Social Work & Practice Education Coordinator, Dr. Sinead Whiting

### **All other representatives:**

- Social Policy lecturing representative
- Social Work tutor representative
- External lecturer representative
- Student representatives (BSS Years 1-4)

## **Staff – Student Liaison**

In addition to student representation on course committees, there will be regular staff-student liaison through our open door policy for all students, the class representative system and additional scheduled meetings as required to discuss matters of mutual interest or concern.

## BSS Student Representatives

Position	Name
BSS Junior Freshman (Year 1)	Charlotte Orme <a href="mailto:corne@tcd.ie">corne@tcd.ie</a>
BSS Senior Freshman (Year 2)	Ciara Gallagher <a href="mailto:gallac37@tcd.ie">gallac37@tcd.ie</a> James Carey <a href="mailto:careyj5@tcd.ie">careyj5@tcd.ie</a>
BSS Junior Sophister (Year 3)	Ellen Thornton <a href="mailto:thorntel@tcd.ie">thorntel@tcd.ie</a>
BSS Senior Sophister (Year 4)	Tara Wright <a href="mailto:wrightta@tcd.ie">wrightta@tcd.ie</a> Joshua Kineen <a href="mailto:kineenj@tcd.ie">kineenj@tcd.ie</a>
Undergraduate School Convenor	Aisling Dillon <a href="mailto:adillon1@tcd.ie">adillon1@tcd.ie</a>

## Bachelor in Social Studies Practice Panel

A Practice Panel exists, consisting of experienced practitioners with a commitment to, and interest in, practice teaching. The panel members review placement reports and projects submitted by students with a view to providing advice to the course team both on the maintenance of standards in relation to placement performance and on the quality of practice teaching and teacher's reports. Their annual report is made available to the External Examiner.

The Practice Panel 2023/24 members are:

- Lavina Temple, TUSLA Child & Family Agency
- Shauna Heron, TUSLA Child & Family Agency
- Michelle Richardson, The Probation Service
- Kevin Ryan, Social Work Department, St James's Hospital

## External Examiner

Professor Michelle Lefevre, Department of Social Work & Social Care, University of Sussex. Bio available <https://profiles.sussex.ac.uk/p28733-michelle-lefevre>



## **Overview of the Bachelor in Social Studies Degree (BSS)**

### **Regulatory Body - Health and Social Care Professionals Council/ Social Workers Registration Board (CORU)**

In accordance with Irish statutory regulations this Bachelor in Social Studies Programme is reviewed and approved by the national regulatory body for health and social care professionals (CORU). The academic and practice curricula are designed and delivered in accordance with the CORU Criteria and Standards of Proficiency for Social Work Education and Training Programmes as specified in relation to the following standards of proficiency:

- 1: Professional Autonomy and Accountability
- 2: Communication, Collaborative Practice and Teamworking
- 3: Safety and Quality
- 4: Professional development
- 5: Professional Knowledge and Skills

([www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie))

### **Aims and Objectives**

The BSS programme aims to provide students with the necessary knowledge, skills and value base to enter social work as competent beginning practitioners, to work professionally and accountably with service users and colleagues in diverse settings, and to use the guidance and support of senior colleagues effectively.

BSS graduates are not finished social workers but rather - in the language of Trinity's conferring ceremony - at the commencement of their professional careers. New graduates begin a process of continuing education, and their professional development will depend on commitment to continuing practice, training, up-to-date reading, post-qualifying study and research.

### **Knowledge Base**

Social workers need a knowledge base from which to formulate, practice and critically review a variety of social interventions into the lives of service users. Students need to understand multiple factors which may impact on service users, influencing their health, circumstances, behaviour, perceptions and resilience. Such understanding derives from social work and the social sciences.

In social work theory courses, skills workshops, placement experience and tutorials, students enhance their self-knowledge, gain understanding of the principles, theories and methods of social work intervention, and develop their practice competence.

In psychology, sociology and applied social work courses, students become familiar with theories of human growth and development, behaviour, cognition, responses to stress and to social support, social interaction and group processes.

Social policy, sociology, law, economics and politics courses provide frameworks for understanding social-structural forces acting on individuals, families, communities and welfare organisations and a grasp of their local and global impact and context. Students are also introduced to social research and supported to apply small-scale research methods in project work.

Social work practice requires this wide range of knowledge to be grounded in research evidence, well theorised and integrated, applied critically and sensitively, and to be informed by professional ethics and values.

### **Value Base**

Social work practice is inextricably bound up with ethical questions. Each intervention introduces a variety of possible tensions between personal and professional values, service users' values and the implicit and explicit agenda of the agency. Working ethically with such tensions requires the worker to demonstrate sensitivity, clarity, ability to question received wisdom, commitment to social justice and commitment to practice in an inclusive, anti-discriminatory and respectful manner. Students will have ongoing opportunities to address ethical questions in college and on placements.

### **Skills Base**

Professional training builds on students' communication, social and analytical skills to develop a firm base in counselling, groupwork and community work skills. These skills are developed through exercises, role-play, seminars and workshops in college, and through supervised practice on placement.

### **Challenges**

Social work practice challenges practitioners in many ways.

The knowledge, values and skills used in social work practice are not unique to social workers. Other practitioners subscribe to and use many of them. It is the combination of these elements - the ethical base, the social context, and the empowerment purposes for which they are used - which characterise the field of social work. The BSS programme aims to offer students a critical understanding of the scope of social work, a positive social work identity, and opportunities to practice creatively in a climate of social and professional change.

Social workers frequently work in multi-disciplinary agencies and must meet the challenge of maintaining their professional identity whilst actively helping to develop shared understandings and common purpose with colleagues from other disciplines.

Social workers face other challenges too if they are to develop the highest standards of practice. These include the need to innovate and avoid stock responses to situations, to challenge institutionalised and internalised discrimination and inequality, to be reflective, open and explicit about their practice, to maintain professional integrity and confidence in the face of conflict and controversy, and to strive to work in genuine partnership with service users.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes**

In the context of the aims and objectives as well as the challenges outlined above, the BSS programme is designed around a set of Learning Outcomes which are key learning objectives that the BSS programme aims to offer students who undertake this degree.

On successful completion of this programme, students will have acquired and demonstrated the necessary knowledge, skills and ethical base for professional social work, and will have satisfied the requirements for an Honours social science degree and for professional social work qualification in Ireland.

Specifically, graduates will be able to:

1. apply social science theories and social research evidence to the critical investigation, analysis and evaluation of contemporary social issues and social policies.
2. integrate social science and social work perspectives in the analysis of social work topics, debates and practice examples, and in the identification of best practice in these areas.
3. adopt a comparative, research-informed approach to academic project work.
4. practice at newly qualified level within all contemporary fields of social work practice, and work effectively as individual practitioners, as team members, and within multi-disciplinary settings.
5. employ effective interpersonal skills and communication skills in both academic and practice contexts.
6. demonstrate competence in social work assessment, counselling, groupwork, community work, advocacy, case management, practice evaluation, and other core social work skills and tasks.
7. use professional and peer supervision constructively and engage in critical reflection on their social work practice.
8. maintain personal accountability and professional behaviour in academic and practice contexts.
9. uphold high ethical standards in their social work practice, with reference to Irish and international codes of social work ethics.

10. engage in social work practice that promotes inclusivity, equality and social justice, and challenge practice that does not.
11. engage in continuing professional development including further study.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

We would ask all students to adhere to the safety protocols when on campus for in-person teaching activities or student club and society events, i.e., mask wearing, hand washing, cough etiquette and to maintain social distancing. When term starts on 12 September (or 26 September for first years), students will be permitted on campus for any in-person events that they are involved in. Access to campus will be via a valid student ID card.

### **Timetable**

Your timetable can be found on your my.tcd.ie portal and on the School website at: <https://www.tcd.ie/swsp/timetables/>

There will be two timetables for Senior Freshman, a Semester 1 timetable which will run from 11 September – 17 December 2023 and a Semester 2 timetable which runs from 22 January – 21 April 2024.

There may be occasions where lecturers will need to cancel or rearrange their lectures, students will be given as much notice as possible and will be notified via an email alert to their TCD email.

### **Bachelor in Social Studies Regulations and Conventions Booklet**

The BSS Examination Regulations and Conventions Booklet 2023 - 2024 contains information about the regulations governing examinations, as well as the conventions determining the award of grades in examinations, in the Bachelor in Social Studies degree programme.

This Booklet is available to download from the School of Social Work and Social Policy Website via <https://www.tcd.ie/swsp/undergraduate/social-studies/structure-content.php>

## School of Social Work and Social Policy Marking Scale

### First class Honours

I

70-100

First class Honours in the School of Social Work & Social Policy is divided into grade bands which represent excellent, outstanding and extraordinary performances.

*A first class answer demonstrates a comprehensive and accurate answer to the question, which exhibits detailed knowledge of the relevant material as well as a broad base of knowledge. Theory and evidence will be well integrated, and the selection of sources, ideas, methods or techniques will be well judged and appropriately organised to address the relevant issue or problem. It will demonstrate a high level of ability to evaluate and integrate information and ideas, to deal with knowledge in a critical way, and to reason and argue in a logical way.*

**70-76**

**EXCELLENT**

First class answers (excellent) demonstrate a number of the following criteria:

- comprehensiveness and accuracy;
- clarity of argument and quality of expression;
- excellent structure and organization;
- integration of a range of relevant materials;
- evidence of wide reading;
- critical evaluation;
- lacks errors of any significant kind;
- shows some original connections of concepts and theories;
- contains reasoned argument and comes to a logical conclusion.

This answer does not demonstrate outstanding performance in terms of independence and originality.

**77-84**

**OUTSTANDING**

In addition to the above criteria, an outstanding answer will show frequent original treatment of material. Work at this level shows independence of judgement, exhibits sound critical thinking. It will frequently demonstrate characteristics such as imagination, originality and creativity.

This answer does not demonstrate exceptional performance in terms of insight and contribution to new knowledge.

This answer is of a standard far in excess of what is expected of an undergraduate student. It will show frequent originality of thought, a sophisticated insight into the subject and make new connections between pieces of evidence beyond those presented in lectures. It demonstrates an ability to apply learning to new situations and to solve problems.

What differentiates a first class piece of work from one awarded an upper second is a greater lucidity, a greater independence of judgement, a greater depth of insight and degree of originality, more evidence of an ability to integrate material, and evidence of a greater breadth of reading and research.

----- 0 -----

### Second Class Honours, First Division

### II.1

60-69

*An upper second class answer generally shows a sound understanding of both the basic principles and relevant details, supported by examples, which are demonstrably well understood, and which are presented in a coherent and logical fashion. The answer should be well presented, display some analytical ability and contain no major errors of omissions. Not necessarily excellent in any area.*

Upper second class answers cover a wider band of students. Such answers are clearly highly competent and typically possess the following qualities:

- accurate and well-informed;
- comprehensive;
- well-organised and structured;
- evidence of reading;
- a sound grasp of basic principles;
- understanding of the relevant details;
- succinct and cogent presentation; and
- evaluation of material although these evaluations may be derivative.

One essential aspect of an upper second class answer is that it must have completely dealt with the question asked by the examiner. In questions:

- i) all the major issues and most of the minor issues must have been identified;
- ii) the application of basic principles must be accurate and comprehensive; and
- iii) there should be a conclusion that weighs up the pros and cons of the arguments.

----- 0 -----

**Second Class Honours, Second Division****II.2****50-59**

*A substantially correct answer which shows an understanding of the basic principles.*  
Lower second class answers display an acceptable level of competence, as indicated by the following:

qualities:

- generally accurate;
- an adequate answer to the question based largely on textbooks and lecture notes;
- clearly presentation; and
- no real development of arguments.

----- 0 -----

**Third Class Honours****III****40-49**

*A basic understanding of the main issues if not necessarily coherently or correctly presented.*

Third class answers demonstrate some knowledge of understanding of the general area but a third class answer tends to be weak in the following ways:

- descriptive only;
- does not answer the question directly;
- misses key points of information and interpretation
- contains serious inaccuracies;
- sparse coverage of material; and
- assertions not supported by argument or evidence.

----- 0 -----

**Fail - 1st Division****F1****30-39**

*Answers in the range usually contain some appropriate material (poorly organised) and some evidence that the student has attended lectures and done a bare minimum of reading. The characteristics of a fail grade include:*

- misunderstanding of basic material;
- failure to answer the question set;
- totally inadequate information; and
- incoherent presentation.

----- 0 -----

**Fail – 2nd Division****F2****0-29**

Answers in this range contain virtually no appropriate material and an inadequate understanding of basic concepts.



## Course Expectations

The Programme is a professional training course. Part of that training entails adopting standards of behaviour and practice that denote sound professional practice. *Reliability, punctuality, participation, peer support and respect for colleagues* are not only expectations of employers and colleagues in work settings but are also our expectations of students on this programme. Time management and organisational skills are also important survival skills in the field of social work that students are expected to develop and demonstrate on the course.

The following are therefore course requirements:

### Attendance

Attendance at lectures, tutorials and other teaching inputs is a vital component of a holistic approach to education and professional development. The School of Social Work and Social Policy must ensure that the Bachelor in Social Studies, as an accredited programme, implements a robust attendance policy. Therefore, attendance is monitored on modules which the School is directly responsible for delivering and minimum attendance of 80% is required to pass a module.

This is a minimum requirement which allows for absences in the event of significant life events and students should make every effort to attend 100% of all modules. Students who have not satisfied this attendance requirement may be returned as non-satisfactory for the term and may be required by the Senior Lecturer to repeat their year.

In cases where a student has a genuine, mitigating and documented unavoidable reason or reasons for missing a lecture, tutorial or other teaching input, the Course Director(s), in conjunction with the relevant lecturer or instructor, may require the student to meet the learning outcomes via an additional piece of written work in lieu of the missed session or sessions. In cases such as this, the Course Director(s) will adjudicate, and the decision of the School will be final.

### Punctuality

Students are expected to attend lectures, tutorials and placement days on time. While on placement, students should also be on time for appointments with clients and colleagues.

## **Reliability**

Students will be required to make class presentations or prepare material for specific classes and should ensure that they fulfill these commitments. Similarly on placement, commitments should be honoured.

## **Participation**

It is well established in educational research that members of a group learn a great deal from their peers. Participation in group discussions, sharing experiences, being proactive and taking responsibility for your own learning will enhance both your own and your class-group's learning.

## **Peer Support and Respect**

Along with academic staff, every student shares the responsibility to help create a supportive and respectful learning environment. This involves accepting that there will be different learning needs in every group, allowing peers to contribute and treating colleagues and lecturers with respect.

## **Deadlines for Assignments**

Students must complete and submit all assessment components for each module by the deadline set by the lecturer. Completion includes the submission of continuous assessment and attendance at examinations and other tests.

No hard copies will be accepted by the School Office. All submissions made to blackboard must be in PDF format in order to retain the original format submitted by the student. Students are responsible for ensuring their coursework is submitted on time and that the correct version is submitted.

Where a maximum and minimum word count is provided students may receive a 5% penalty on the overall assignment mark if their word count is not within this range.

Any modules which do not belong to this School (i.e. Modules SOU22011 and SOU22012) are not subject to the above regulations and instead must be submitted in line with the advice from the relevant department.

### **Non-submission of coursework and absence from examinations**

Students must complete and submit the assessment components specified for the modules that constitute their programme of study. This includes the submission of continuous assessment and attendance at examinations and other tests.

Students who are experiencing difficulties that are affecting their ability to complete their assessment components should contact their College Tutor at the earliest opportunity to discuss the nature of the difficulties and the possible options available in Trinity. Depending on the specific details of a case, options can range from a request for a short extension from a module coordinator to a formal request for a deferral made to the Senior Lecturer.

Where the difficulties are serious, a student may need to make a Student Case, through their Tutor, to the Senior Lecturer. During teaching terms, requests for permission to defer to the reassessment period should be made through the Student Cases process. A valid medical certificate should be forwarded to the School within 3 days of the missed exam or assignment deadline.

There are penalties for late submission of written coursework without an agreed extension.

- Up to one week's lateness incurs a penalty of 5 marks;
- One to two week's lateness incurs a penalty of 10 marks;
- After 2 weeks a mark of 0 will be awarded.

### **Students' expectations of staff**

Likewise, the staff of the School have a role to play in maintaining a rewarding and ethical learning and working environment.

Should include the following:

- Providing an enriching learning environment which is stimulating challenging and involves students as active participants in teaching and learning.
- Linking theory / research to real world /practice situations.
- Supporting practice - education links.
- Providing timely, fair and constructive responses to students' work.
- Rewarding effort and encouraging students to achieve their potential.
- Being accessible to students and responsive to their concerns and feedback.

- Combining support for students in difficulty with fairness to other students.
- Transparency about rules and procedures.
- Returning individual feedback on assessed coursework no later than twenty working days after the assessment submission deadline or agreed extension. In cases where this is not logistically possible, or academically appropriate, the lecturer will inform the class in advance, and provide an alternative date for when the feedback will be provided, as well as clear reasons for the delay.

## Online Student Code of Conduct

As a student on a professional course in Trinity College, you are expected to behave appropriately when communicating and interacting with colleagues and staff. This expectation applies to all students, including those completing their courses via a blended model. That is, through online and face to face methods. As social workers, and social workers in training, online is just one more social context where we are all trying to learn to be social in respectful and sensitive ways.

While the standards set out below will not be onerous for most students, those who exhibit inappropriate behaviours when interacting with colleagues and staff are liable to face disciplinary measures. For information about the College's Dignity and Respect Policy please see <https://www.tcd.ie/hr/assets/pdf/dignity-and-respect.pdf>.

Two key elements to keep in mind when studying online are netiquette and privacy.

### Netiquette

Netiquette is a term coined to describe the commonly accepted norms and behaviours used when communicating in online environments.

At one level, the same rules of regular communication apply when communicating online. By adopting the same respectful manner that you would expect in all communications, you are unlikely to encounter many issues.

That said, it should be recognised that the online environment lacks the face-to-face element of regular discussions and interactions, where people can rely on body language and tone of voice to capture the full meaning. In the online environment, without these visual cues, miscommunications and misunderstandings can occur and some extra care when interacting can be warranted.

Netiquette has slowly developed into an informal standard that helps transmit tone and emphasis when online and helps to address many of these communication issues.

Keeping the few simple rules of netiquette in mind will help ensure that what you say will be better understood by those listening and reading.

1. Typing in 'all caps' (all upper case letters) denotes anger when communicating online. A message delivered in all caps is likely to be read as if sent in an aggressive tone. When possible, refrain from using all caps, even when emphasising certain words in sentences (italics may be used as an alternative for emphasis).
2. Emoticons, also known as emojis, are commonly used in online communication to transmit the tone in which the message was sent. Emoticons/emojis can take the form of a series of characters or be little images of faces which aid in the transmission of the sender's facial expression when communicating. For example:
  - 'I got a great result in my first assignment. Yay! 😊'
  - 'I am unable to attend this evening due to work commitments, sorry. :-(

These can be more useful than it first seems to ensure messages are received in the spirit in which they were sent.

3. Be careful when using irony and sarcasm online. This can be easily misinterpreted by those receiving your message.
4. Conduct debates and discussions in a respectful manner. Do not attempt to provoke personal debates and remember that it's better to reply when calm should you ever feel provoked. If you feel angry it is often best to take a moment to think about what you are posting online. Keep all messages on the topic and aim never to get personal. Healthy disagreement can be very informative and lead to key learning but be constructive in any criticism you give and always aim to be respectful.

### **Other tips for effective online communication**

Some tips for engaging with other students online to have a healthy and engaging online classroom experience include:

- Turn on your microphone and camera during online sessions – this helps students to connect, helps the lecturer to get feedback and shape the session accordingly, and will enrich your learning experience.
- Participate! Interact with other students and don't just 'lurk' in the background. This helps create a community of learners and allows you to better get to know your class. This will be very useful in terms of support as you progress through your course.

- Thank other students for their comments. Be mindful of the time and effort that has gone into posting comments.
- Acknowledge other students before disagreeing with them.
- Help other students. Some students may not have as much experience in communicating online.
- Comment using your own perspective (i.e. It is my opinion) rather than being dogmatic ('it is a fact that').
- Quote other messages when replying to them. This helps other students follow the thread of conversation.
- Stay on topic. Don't post irrelevant links, comments or pictures.
- Read all the comments in the discussion before replying. This helps avoid the same questions or comments being repeated.
- Write full sentences with correct spelling and grammar when communicating with other students and lecturers.
- Remember that online comments will shape how other students and lecturers will perceive you. Think about what you are going to post before submitting.

### **Privacy considerations**

Considerations of privacy are critical when completing your course online. Remember the permanence of online communications. It is for that reason and your own protection that we employ a strict line on privacy and anonymity. It is best practice to anonymise all those who you mention in any tasks or assignments that you complete. Please do not mention any real company names or disclose the names of any real individuals in your course. Be mindful that you do not know the personal histories of all your classmates, and all your academics who may be in view of your communications.

Note that information presented or shared throughout the course, from the academics and fellow students, should not be used for any purpose other than the course itself. Do not present others' opinions as your own and also make sure not to present content shared on the course for any other purpose outside of the course. Those deemed to have transgressed these privacy measures are liable to be disciplined by the School.

## BSS Senior Freshman Academic Year Structure 2023/24

Cal. Wk.	Dates 2023/24	2023/24 Academic Year Calendar	Term / Semester
	(Week Beginning)		
1	28 Aug-23	Reassessment of Semesters 1 & 2 (2022/23)	←Michaelmas Term begins / Semester 1 begins
2	04-Sep-23	Marking / results	
3	11-Sep-23	Teaching and Learning	
4	18-Sep-23	Teaching and Learning	
5	25-Sep-23	Teaching and Learning	
6	02-Oct-23	Teaching and Learning	
7	09-Oct-23	Teaching and Learning	
8	16-Oct-23	Teaching and Learning	
9	23-Oct-23	Study Week	
10	30-Oct-23	Teaching and Learning	(Monday, Public Holiday)
11	06-Nov-23	Teaching and Learning	
12	13-Nov-23	Teaching and Learning	
13	20-Nov-23	Teaching and Learning	
14	27-Nov-23	Teaching and Learning	
15	04-Dec-23	Revision	
16	11-Dec-23	Assessment*	←Michaelmas term ends Sunday 17 December 2023/Semester 1 ends
17	18-Dec-23	Christmas Period - College Closed 22 Dec 2023 to 1 Jan 2024 inclusive	
18	25-Dec-23		
19	01-Jan-24		
20	08-Jan-24	Assessment*	
21	15-Jan-24	Marking/Results	←Hilary Term begins / Semester 2 begins
22	22-Jan-24	Teaching and Learning	
23	29-Jan-24	Teaching and Learning	
24	05-Feb-24	Teaching and Learning	(Monday, Public Holiday)
25	12-Feb-24	Teaching and Learning	
26	19-Feb-24	Teaching and Learning	
27	26-Feb-24	Teaching and Learning	
28	04-Mar-24	Study Week	
29	11-Mar-24	Teaching and Learning	
30	18-Mar-24	Teaching and Learning	(Monday, Public Holiday)
31	25-Mar-24	Teaching and Learning	(Friday, Good Friday)
32	01-Apr-24	Teaching and Learning	Monday, Easter Monday)
33	08-Apr-24	Teaching and Learning	
34	15-Apr-24	Revision	←Hilary Term ends Sunday 21 April 2024



35	22-Apr-24	Trinity Week BSS SF 5 day Pre Placement Planning Week	←Trinity Term begins
36	29-Apr-24	Assessment*	
36	29-April – 3 May 24.	BSS SF Placements start Monday 29th April. 45 day placement on site.	
37	06-May-24	Marking / Results	(Monday, Public Holiday).
37	07 May-5 July 24		Marking / Results
38	13-May-24		Marking / Results
39	20-May-24	BSS SF Placements continue until Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024.	Marking / Results
40	27-May-24		←Trinity Term ends Sunday 2 June 2024 / Semester 2 ends.
41	03-Jun-24		
42	10-Jun-24		
43	17-Jun-24		
44	24-Jun-24		
45	01-Jul-24		
46	08-Jul-24		
47	15-Jul-24		
48	22-Jul-24		
49	29-Jul-24		
50	05-Aug-24		
51	12-Aug-24		
52	19-Aug-24		
*Note: additional/contingency days may be required outside of the formal assessment / reassessment weeks.			
^Reassessment may be scheduled within the Summer Period.			

## BSS Senior Freshman Course Structure 2023/24

BSS Senior Freshman students must take the following modules totaling 80 ECTS:

Module	Course	ECTS
SSU22112	Senior Freshman Placement	15
SSU22070	Social Work Theory and Practice	10
SSU22111	Poverty, Welfare and Justice	10
SOU22011	Introduction to Social Research 1	5
SOU22012	Introduction to Social Research 2	5
SSU22041	Inclusive Disability	5
SSU22101	Introduction to Child Protection	5
SOU22151	Groupwork	5
SSU22091	Introduction to Family Law	5
SSU22092	Psychology for Social Workers	5
SSU22162	Global Health Policy	10
Total ECTS =		80

### Module Outlines

A brief description of each module is available via the Module Outline section of the Schools Website <https://www.tcd.ie/swsp/undergraduate/social-studies/structure-content.php>;

### Module Leads and Role Description for Module Lead on the BSS

The primary responsibility of the module lead is to ensure that the module is coherent and integrated, and that its design and delivery provides high quality learning opportunities for students.

Module Leads are identified within the module outline booklet, available via the Schools Website <http://www.tcd.ie/swsp/undergraduate/social-studies/structure-content.php>

The module outline booklet also provides a full description of the role of the Module Lead on the BSS.

## **European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)**

The BSS programme is based upon a system of credits that is aligned with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), an academic credit system based on the estimated student workload required to achieve the objectives of a module or programme of study.

The programme is divided into distinct modules in each year, which each module carrying a credit value. BSS Students are required to achieve 70 credits in the first year of the programme, 80 credits in the second year, 75 in the third year, and 75 in the fourth year leading to a total of 300 credits.

## **Workload related to ECTS**

The ECTS weighting for a module is a measure of the student input or workload required for that module, based on factors such as the number of contact hours, the number and length of written or verbally presented assessment exercises, class preparation and private study time, laboratory classes, examinations, clinical attendance, professional training placements, and so on. There is no intrinsic relationship between the credit volume of a module and its level of difficulty.

1 credit represents 20-25 hours estimated student input, so a 10-credit module will be designed to require 200-250 hours of student input including class contact time and assessments.

ECTS credits are awarded to a student only upon successful completion of the programme year. Progression from one year to the next is determined by the programme regulations. Students who fail a year of their programme will not obtain credit for that year even if they have passed certain components.

## BSS Senior Freshman Course Assessment

Module	Course	Assessment Type
SSU22070	Social Work Theory and Practice  Semesters 1 and 2	<p><b>Semester 1:</b> Essay (50%). 2000 words.</p> <p><b>Semester 2:</b> Project, (50% of overall mark), which takes the form of either a Community Area profile or a Community Project Profile.</p> <p><b>Groupwork</b></p> <p>Group 1: Arts Room 3074 – Shelia O’Flaherty</p> <p>Group 2: College Green Room 2.03 – Michael Feely</p> <p>Group 3: Foster Place Room 2.16 – Simone McCaughren</p>
SOU22011	Introduction to Social Research 1  Semester 1	<p>Tutorial presentation – 30%.</p> <p>Interview project – 70%.</p>
SSU22041	Inclusive Disability  Semester 1	Group essay (50%) and an accessible group presentation based on the essay (50%).
SSU22101	Introduction to Child Protection  Semester 1	2000 word written essay (100%), examining the role of Child Protection social work.
SSU22091	Introduction to Family Law  Semester 2	Written assignment (100%).

SOU22012	Introduction to Social Research 2 Semester 2	4 online quizzes and a tutorial presentation.
SSU22092	Psychology for Social Workers Semester 2	Child Observation Study (100%).
SSU22152	Global Health Policy Semester 1	2 Hour exam (100%).
SSU22151	Groupwork	Group Presentation(100%).
SSU22112	Senior Freshman Placement Semesters 1 and 2	Practice Project and Supervisors Report  Due date – 1st July 2024.
SSU22111	Poverty, Welfare and Justice Semester 2	2000 word essay.  Due date - 12 April, 2024, at 12 noon.

BSS SF Students may be required to sit examinations at the end of Semester 1 for module SOU22011 however should not be required to sit examinations at the end of Semester 2, because the BSS SF Placement may overlap with the College Semester 2 Assessment Week.

Instead, in the Semester 2, SF BSS students should be assessed by written assessment. The end of year result is based on continuous assessment of coursework and examinations completed during the academic year and the outcome of the Practice Placement which is completed after the annual placement in the summer.

## Non Compensatable Modules

All modules taken by Senior Freshman students are central to the achievement of the programme learning outcomes and this academic year a selection, are Non Compensatable.

The non Compensatable modules are SSU22070 Social Work Theory and Practice and SSU22112 Senior Freshman Placement. Students must attempt and pass all components of assessment to pass these two modules overall. Failure of a non Compensatable module cannot be compensated by achievement in other modules.

### SOU22011: Introduction to Social Research 1: (5 ECTS)

**Module Description available via:**

<https://www.tcd.ie/sociology/undergraduate/modules/sf/intro-social-research/>

<b>CORU domains of proficiency addressed</b>	3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.9, 5.2, 5.20, 5.22, 5.26.
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### SOU22012: Introduction to Social Research 2: (5 ECTS)

**Module Description available via:**

<https://www.tcd.ie/sociology/undergraduate/seniorfreshman/introduction-to-social-research-b/index.php>

<b>CORU domains of proficiency addressed</b>	3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.9, 5.2, 5.20, 5.22, 5.26.
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## **SSU22112: SF Practice Placement (15 ECTS)**

### **Placement**

The Senior Freshman placement offers experience of working in a community-based service or voluntary agency alongside service-users, volunteers and workers from the social professions. It is a 45 day (10 week) block Placement which runs from the end of teaching. Placements start on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April until the 28th June 2024. It comprises 5 days placement preparation, based in college (22 –25 April 2024), and then 45 days Placement practice on site.

Placement settings have included School Completion Projects, Youth projects, Drug Projects, Disability settings, services for new communities and some international settings.

### **Readiness for placement Process**

To ensure each student's readiness for their community placement which takes place at the end of SF year, and their JS social work practice placement which commences early in the next academic year, a Readiness for Placement form will be circulated shortly before the Christmas break, for completion and submission by the first day of Semester 2.

Each student will be allocated a time to meet with social work lecturers to discuss their completed form and what they might still need to do in readiness for placement. These individual meetings will take place prior to reading week, allowing the student time to address any issues or shortfalls raised. Being familiar with core texts as recommended in Introduction to Social Work (JF) and Social Work Theory and Practice (SF) is considered an essential element of this process.

Further details will be provided in class during the Social Work Theory and Practice module.

### **Preparing for the Placement**

The college works in conjunction with placement agencies to ensure that your placement is appropriate, meets your learning needs and provides sufficient opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate practice competence.

The main preparatory tasks are as follows:

- Full attendance at the Placement Preparation Module.
- Complete a Placement Planning Form to guide the Practice Education team in allocating an appropriate placement setting to each student. Placement planning is informed by: students' learning needs & areas for development,



previous experiences & location. The practice education team allocate placements from within the pool of available placement offers, bearing in mind students' information & interests, provided on Placement Planning Form.

- Update your Curriculum Vitae following guidelines of TCD Careers Advisory Service, <http://www.tcd.ie/Careers/students/international/CVs.php>
- Once a suitable placement has been identified for student, a suite of placement documentation, including your CV will be sent to the prospective Placement Supervisor.
- Preparation: Meet your placement Cluster Leader who will guide you and other students going to similar placements to research and plan for the placement. This is likely to include:
  - Exploring relevant policy and debates (e.g.: re youth services)
  - Researching the placement agency and similar services.
  - Contacting your Placement Supervisor.
  - Visiting the agency and beginning to link into its work
  - Making a group presentation on your research to your class.
- Enjoy your placement and keep your School Cluster Leader informed fortnightly about your progress by phone or email. This will ensure that, should you have any concerns, they can be dealt with promptly. Attend group meetings with your Cluster Leader.
- Develop (with your Placement Supervisor, Cluster Leader and through reflection in your Practice Project) a learning agenda for your next placement in JS year.

### **Placement Aims, Learning Outcomes, Structure and Issues**

The Practice Placement and Practice Project must be passed for you to proceed to BSS Junior Sophister year.

#### **Aims of Senior Freshman Placement**

- To participate in a community-based social service
- To understand how that service fits with other services
- To understand the links between social policy and the agency service
- To work collaboratively with service users and to learn from them about the issues that affect the quality of their lives
- To develop beginning practice skills
- To begin to identify links between social work theory and practice.
- To understand the goals, ethos and practices of the placement agency.
- To acquire a working knowledge of relevant community resources and services

- To begin to develop professional standards of behaviour.
- To develop your self-awareness and reflection in practice
- To establish your readiness to proceed with social work education & training.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this placement, you should be able to:

- Outline the role of the placement agency and it's fit with related services
- Identify key aspects of social policy which impact on the agency;
- Outline the circumstances and needs of service users in this agency and the challenges they face;
- Grasp the goals, ethos and procedures and the main roles of practitioners in the agency
- Demonstrate appropriate beginning practice skills in e.g.
  - Engagement and communication with service users, volunteers, colleagues and others
  - Involvement in individual or group support / facilitation
  - Involvement in data gathering, assessment and planning
  - Implementing agreed tasks
  - Regular consultation with your supervisor
  - Recording and evaluating your work
- Identify one social work framework relevant to your work
- Demonstrate knowledge of community resources and services
- Demonstrate professional standards of behaviour, including respect for confidentiality, inclusive and respectful approach to others, ability to work collaboratively, reliability, time-keeping
- Demonstrate your progress towards self-awareness and reflection in practice e.g.: through reading, use of supervision, illustration of key learning in your practice project and class presentation
- Establish, by achieving the above, your readiness to proceed with social work education and training.

## Choice of Placement

Placements are available in a wide variety of settings and locations. When arranging placements, the practice education coordinators take your interests and circumstances into account while giving priority to the potential value of the placement as an introduction to community-based practice. The practice education co-ordinators are always interested to hear of new agencies or practice teachers willing to accept students, but responsibility for arranging placement rests with the practice education team.

### **Placement duration**

The BSS SF placement is undertaken over a 50-day (10 week) block starting at the end of teaching in the second semester of Senior Freshman year. It comprises one week of college-based preparation and 9 weeks on site. The placement cannot be split; it must be continuous. Days lost through illness or other circumstances must be made up.

As the Junior Sophister year begins in early September, this placement should begin in late April or early May, in order to leave time at the end to submit written assignments and to take a break before the JS induction week and placement.

### **Placement Supervision, Tutorial Support and Practice Project**

You will be assigned a Cluster Leader, who is responsible for supporting your learning in relation to this placement and related sector of social services. Contact with your Cluster Leader and fellow group members will be arranged in advance of the placement.

During placement, you should have regular supervision sessions with your placement supervisor, as well as opportunities to consult informally at other times. If your placement supervisor is absent for a number of days, a colleague should be identified to support and supervise your work temporarily.

Attend meetings with your Cluster Leader and contact them fortnightly by phone or email throughout placement to inform of your progress on placement. This will facilitate your Cluster Leader to support you and your supervisor should any difficulties arise.

At the end of placement, you and your placement supervisor jointly review the placement and your progress, and your supervisor prepares a placement evaluation under the headings set out on Page 43/44.

You should both sign this document.

Ensure that you receive a copy of your Supervisor's Evaluation for your own records. The placement supervisor will also submit the report to the School. A copy of the evaluation will be sent to your next Practice Teacher to help set the learning agenda for your JS Practice Placement.

Your Practice Project should be started during the placement and will provide additional evidence for your passing this placement. You must submit the Practice Project by **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**.

## Student's Practice Project

Placement supervisors may support you in preparing your Placement Project, through discussion and reference to relevant data, but responsibility for the project and its presentation remains with you.

## Reading Time

As the practice project is an integral part of the placement - designed to help you process your learning and link theory and practice - time should be set aside during placement days to research and work on your project. The recommended time allowance is one half-day per week. This reading time should be used throughout the placement rather than accumulated, as reading should inform your work at the time, rather than retrospectively.

## Assessment of SSU22112 SF Placement

A Placement Project must be completed in order for students to satisfactorily pass this placement.

### Aims of Assessment:

- To assess the student's strengths and key learning needs displayed in practice and
- To confirm the student's suitability for continued social work education and training at this time.

### Guidelines for Placement Evaluation

Placement evaluation comprises 3 elements:

- Learning Agreement (prepared at start of placement)
- Placement Supervisor's evaluation
- Student's Practice Project

The Student's Practice Project should be signed by the Placement Supervisor as a fair account of the student's work on placement.

Both the Student Placement Report and the Placement Supervisor's Evaluation should be signed by both the student and the Placement Supervisor.

**An electronic copy of the student's Practice Project should be submitted to blackboard by Monday 1st July 2024.**

**1 electronic copy of the Placement Supervisor's Evaluation Report is also due by Monday 1st July 2024. Please submit this by e-mail to [swpractice.ed@tcd.ie](mailto:swpractice.ed@tcd.ie)**

## **Student Placement Project Format**

### **Introduction**

Placement setting, any relevant skills and experience you brought to it, what you hoped to gain from it, and any key questions that emerged during your preparatory research.

### **Agency and Community Setting**

- Community context: brief profile of catchment area and service users; implications for your work
- Agency context: brief overview of service offered, statutory / voluntary status, structure, staffing, resources; levels of engagement with service users; key social policies affecting the service; your role in the agency.

### **Work undertaken**

- Brief overview: Table of your workload (service users / issues/interventions: time commitment; theories used; outcome; reflective learning).
- Summary of 2 main pieces of work: tasks / issues presented; nature & duration of involvement; goals; action taken; outcome; framework / theory/approaches used; key learning.

### **Case Study (of one piece of work)**

- Social History or profile of service user / group / project participants and their social networks.
- Summary outline of activity in which you were involved
- If Individual work: reason for involvement; aims; theory or method used; content and process; outcome.
- If Groupwork: aims, theory or method used, group activities, content and process, outcome.
- If Community Work: project aims, nature of activity: theory used: participation: process: outcome.
- Your working relationship with the service user/s.
- Collaboration with other workers/volunteers
- Evaluation: what was / not achieved; indications for future learning;
- Theoretical and other literature which proved helpful and why.
- Any ethical or professional issues raised
- Key learning from this piece of work about you and social services

### **Learning**

- The potential and limits and challenges of practice in this setting
- Learning opportunities (agency visits etc) and what you gained

- Supervision: frequency; main learning points
- Any special features of the placement which contributed to or limited learning
- Main gains from the placement, questions raised and any learning needs identified for your next placement.

## **Bibliography**

### **Guidelines:**

- Recommended word-length: 5000 words.
- The earlier you start reading about the agency and issues raised, the more this reading will support your learning. Draw also on relevant reading you have completed for other modules. Demonstrate in the project that you are starting to integrate your reading of theory and research with practice experience and observation.
- Follow the main headings in the project outline, but if necessary, reorder or modify subheading elements in order to avoid repetition and to fit your particular placement.
- Adopt an appropriate style. This is an academic assignment which requires you to use clear, precise and non-conversational language, to be analytical as well as descriptive, and to support statements with relevant evidence and accurate referencing. It is not an agency report which requires purely factual information. It is a practice project which also requires you to reflect on your personal and professional learning from the placement. Therefore, write in the first person (say 'I', not 'the author' or 'the student').
- Confidentiality: Change all names and identifying details of service-users and colleagues about whom you write, and state clearly that you have done so. Use fictitious names to represent them, rather than initials or numbers and do not accidentally include a real name. Use job titles rather than names for workers.
- Submit an electronic copy to blackboard by **by Monday 1st July 2024**. Instructions for submission of the electronic copy through turnitin.com will be issued during the summer.

## **Supervisor's Assessment of Student's Placement Performance**

Supervisors' reports should be completed on the report form included in Appendix II which is circulated to supervisors in advance of placement. Reports should be discussed with students before they are finalised and should be signed by both student and supervisor. The report from the placement supervisor will be stored on the student's file and may be shared with future placement supervisors and with future social work tutors.

Reports will address the following:

### **Personal Organisation & Functioning in the Agency**

- Grasp of Agency functions, procedures and limits
- Working relationships with colleagues & team members
- Quality of relationship with other disciplines, agencies & services
- Capacity for taking decisions, initiative & responsibility
- Knowing when to consult & take advice
- Personal organisation; punctuality, reliability: use of time & resources
- Report & letter writing

### **Communication & Engagement Skills**

- Making & sustaining positive relationships with service users & colleagues
- Accurate listening & observation
- Clear, sensitive, respectful & appropriate communication
- Avoidance of discriminatory language & behaviour

### **Other Practice Skills**

- Ability to gather & relay relevant information accurately & purposefully
- Ability to assess & define problems/needs
- Awareness of social/cultural/material influences on service users
- Ability to make & negotiate realistic plans for intervention
- Ability to carry through planned work and to evaluate it realistically

### **Development Towards Professional Standards**

- Ability to use supervision constructively to develop understanding & skills
- Constructive & proactive approach to learning
- Development of self-awareness; ability to reflect on and handle feelings in practice
- Ability to start assuming a professional role

## **Summary of Areas in Which Progress Has Been Made**

Issues for further development and specifically for next placement, any special strengths or weakness not already noted, should be addressed. Confirmation that student has/has not reached a standard to merit Pass and is suitable and ready to proceed with social work training is a key element of this section.

## **Recommendation**

On the basis of placement performance, would you recommend this student as suitable for and ready to continue social work training? **One** electronic copy of the Report should be sent by **Monday 1st July 2024**.

## **Grading Placement Performance: Pass / Fail**

Placement Supervisors are asked to indicate clearly in their Evaluation whether or not they are recommending a Pass. This recommendation carries great weight with the Court of Examiners. Confirmation or modification of the recommendation by the Court of Examiners is based primarily on evidence provided by supervisor and student in their reports but may also draw on evidence from the School Cluster Leader and other relevant sources.

### **Pass Grade**

A Pass grade is merited when there is sufficient evidence that a student has accomplished agreed placement objectives to a satisfactory standard for the relevant stage of training.

### **Fail Grade**

A Fail grade is recommended where there is insufficient evidence that a student has accomplished agreed placement objectives to a satisfactory standard for the relevant stage of training. The grade must be ratified by the Court of Examiners.

Regulations when a Fail grade is obtained

- If Fail grade is obtained, a repeat placement may be provided subject to the student's readiness to proceed to another placement (see section on Fitness to Practice).
- If a student wishes to contest a placement grade, they should notify their Social Work Cluster Leader, the Practice Education Team and the Course Director as soon as possible. The Course Director refers the placement documents i.e., the student practice project and the supervisor's report to the External Examiner for review. The External Examiner may also meet with the Student, Social Work Cluster Leader. The recommendation of the External Examiner in relation to the placement grade is presented at the BSS Court of Examiners for ratification.
- Normal College Appeals procedures apply, as outlined in the College Calendar Part Two for Undergraduate Studies. Should a repeat placement be required, the repeat placement



and project must be completed successfully in order to progress on the BSS programme. Only one attempt to repeat a failed placement is permitted.

### **Learning Agreement**

Learning Agreements are drafted and agreed by student and placement supervisor in consultation with the School Cluster Leader. They set the initial agenda for placements and the baseline for reviewing progress at the end.

The Learning Agreement, which is included in Appendix I, should be attached to the placement report.

It includes:

- Names of Student and Placement Supervisor
- Name of Agency and address of placement
- Name of Group Tutor / Cluster Leader
- Placement dates
- Working hours / days for student and time-in-lieu arrangements
- Transport, travel, expenses, accommodation, dress code etc
- Student's skills and experience to date
- Learning Objectives: personal, professional and agency specific goals.
- Learning opportunities on this placement
- Workload
- Induction arrangements and recommended preparatory reading
- Supervision frequency and duration; preparation required
- Student assessment (direct and indirect evidence)
- Any personal issues that might impact on the placement

**The Learning Agreement and a completed Student Placement Log (recording the student's attendance on placement) should be submitted as appendices to the student's Practice Project.**

## Health and safety

Students should adhere to the health and safety guidance of the agency where they are on placement. Students will be required to submit a signed declaration in advance of placement confirming that they will adhere to the college policies and guidance while on placement. All students MUST adhere to all TCD and local agency Covid-19 protocols. Failure to do so will be taken very seriously and will result in disciplinary procedure.

## Immunisation

The policy and practice of some agencies may require staff and students to be tested for, or immunised against, specific infectious diseases (e.g.: Hepatitis B or TB). In advance of placement, students are advised to seek medical advice, from their GP or the Student Health Service in college, on immunisation requirements. The Student Health Service offers both an information and immunisation service to students.

## Vaccination Policy

The School of Social Work and Social Policy is obliged to exercise responsibility to the health of individual students and our duty of care to the public, with whom students are in close contact on placement. With this in mind:

- It is expected that students will be vaccinated against Covid-19 in line with public health recommendations. Many placement sites require students to be vaccinated against Covid-19 and failure to have a Covid-19 vaccination may impact upon your ability to undertake placements, including mandatory professional placements at this time. If you do not intend to have a Covid-19 vaccine you should contact the course directors and placement coordinators to discuss the implications of this.
- Hepatitis B vaccination is required.
- It is recommended for the academic year 2023-24 that all students receive the Flu vaccine, when it becomes available.
- The School recommends that students are also protected against Tuberculosis (TB), Mumps, Measles & Rubella (MMR) and Varicella (Chicken Pox).

Hepatitis B vaccination is arranged *en bloc* with College Health Service for Junior Freshman students. Students of other BSS years may arrange vaccination through their own GP or with College Health Service. Costs must be met by the students.

A record of vaccinations must be submitted to the Practice Education Team, prior to commencing placements.

The School reserves the right to refuse permission for a student to proceed to placement if there are concerns about immunization or any other relevant health-related issue.

### **Critical incidents**

If any incident occurs on placement which affects a student's health or well-being, Student and Practice Teacher should notify the Practice Education Unit as soon as possible. The primary concern will be to ensure the student's safety and welfare and access to any necessary services.

### **Health Concerns**

If students have personal or health difficulties which impact negatively on their placement practice and / or professional behaviour, they may be required to submit a medical / psychological report certifying their fitness to continue or repeat placement.

### **Garda Vetting**

Agencies serving children and vulnerable people require staff and students to have Garda clearance. College will request the Garda Vetting Bureau to vet all students for criminal convictions and your Clearance should be available in time for your summer placement, though possibly not for your Volunteer Work.

If clearance is required for your Volunteer work, the agency may need to apply for Garda Clearance on your behalf. Be aware that this process takes time and may delay the start of your volunteering.

If you have lived in a different jurisdiction at any time, remember to request, well in advance, police clearance from the relevant police authority to cover that period as the Garda Vetting Bureau does not cover other jurisdictions. Police clearance certificates from other jurisdictions should be submitted to the Admissions Office. Please remember to keep a copy for your records.

The School reserves the right to refuse permission for any student to proceed to placement where the Garda Vetting process is incomplete or where the Garda Vetting report raises concerns about the student's suitability for placement. In such circumstances, permission for the student to proceed to placement will be considered in

the first instance by the Course Director(s) in consultation with the Course Advisory Committee.

### **Access to Agency Held Information**

On placement, you may have access to confidential information about residents.

**Do not** take notes containing confidential or identifying information out of the unit, as the risk of losing this material can have serious implications for residents, for their families, and for unit staff. Your project should preserve **absolute confidentiality and anonymity** by disguising all identifying information about staff or residents and will be treated as a confidential document by the School.

If you write about a resident or family member in your project, use a pseudonym for them and do not reveal information such as their address.

## Foundation Scholarship Examinations

Foundation scholarship is a College institution with a long history and high prestige, and is a distinctive feature of student life at Trinity. It involves a searching examination, set and assessed so as to select students of outstanding ability. The objective of the foundation scholarship examination is to identify students who, at a level of evaluation appropriate to the Senior Freshman year, can consistently demonstrate exceptional knowledge and understanding of their subjects.

The examination requires candidates to demonstrate: skill in synthesizing and integrating knowledge across the full range of the set examination materials; rigorous and informed critical thought; and, in appropriate disciplines, a highly-developed ability to solve problems and apply knowledge. The award is based solely on the performance in the scholarship examination, and past performance in other examinations is not taken into account.

All Senior Freshman undergraduate students may compete for the Scholarship provided that their previous conduct has been satisfactory and that they have paid the current annual fee for their registered course of study.

The scholarship examinations begin on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 however please note that it may be necessary to schedule some examinations in the preceding week. Candidates must give notice of their intention to take the examination on the prescribed form available on the College website at

<https://www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/exams/scholarship/>;

Social Studies candidates are examined in the following subjects of their course up to the end of Michaelmas term of the Senior Freshman year.

The examination consists of four 2¼-hour papers as follows:

Social work I, Social work II, Social Work III (General Paper) and Social policy I.

All papers carry equal marks.

**All candidates must confirm their attendance to sit the exams, by 5pm on 20th November, 2023**

Recommendations for scholarship will be subject to all four papers being passed. The names of those elected are announced in public by the Provost from the steps of the Examination Hall on the Monday of Trinity Week (Trinity Monday) which is Monday 22 April 2024.

Foundation Scholars are entitled to free Commons (meals in the Dining Hall) and free rooms in College. They also receive a salary (allowance) and do not have to pay fees. The

entitlements of Scholars can continue for some years after graduation if they are engaged in further academic research or study.

An information Session will be scheduled for Senior Freshman Students early in Michaelmas Term.

## Guidelines for the Presentation of Written Work

### General Points

The following advice refers to *essay-type assignments*:

- Presentation of academic work is very important and affects grades. Good presentation includes clarity in meaning, argument and structure, and accuracy in terms used, numbers, spelling, grammar and referencing. Use feedback on your written work to help you improve presentation. Look out for study skills courses that are provided to all students free of charge in college and, if you need it, approach the College Learning Support Service for assessment and tuition.
- Blackboard module ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR SUCCESSFUL LEARNING is an online resource designed by Student Learning Development available to all students from <http://mymodule.tcd.ie/>. It is highly recommended that you visit this website and use the resources that are available there when you are preparing written work and assignments.
- **Plan:** Answer the question and address a specific topic. Don't put down everything you know, unless it is clearly relevant. A good outline plan is vital. If you want to take a specific approach, say so, but show you are aware of other angles too.
- **Structure:** Structure your answer clearly, so that an argument emerges. Introductions and conclusions are important to outline and pull your argument together. New points or topics should be marked by a new paragraph. Avoid long paragraphs. Use sub-headings to signpost your argument.
- **Plagiarism** of any kind is unacceptable in academic work and is penalised (see next section for more details). Acknowledge every author or source that you quote or paraphrase, including text that is unpublished or from the internet. Signal quotations with quotation marks, page references, and indentation. Don't quote long passages. When paraphrasing, give the precise source and page reference.
- Each piece of work that you submit for marking must be original. You are not permitted to repeatedly submit the same piece of work for different assignments.

**Unacknowledged reproduction of your own personal work is unacceptable so please avoid it.**

- Enjoy and benefit from working together in study groups, but do not produce 'clone like' essays. **All work must be your own.**
- In an effort to ensure that students are submitting their own work and that they are appropriately referencing the work of other authors, students will be required to submit all assignments through **Blackboard** which has software that detects plagiarism by comparing the work that is being submitted to previously submitted work and to internet-published material. Failure to submit through Blackboard will result in your assignment not being corrected or marked.
- Evidence: Be specific. Avoid vague generalisations such as "research shows". Refer to a named author or source to back up your statements.
- Reference carefully. Give each author's name, publication date, and page numbers which refer to the specific point or quotation, either in brackets after the reference e.g.; (Davies, 2002: 3) or in a numbered footnote.
- Bibliography: List all authors you have cited in a comprehensive bibliography. Do not include books you have read but not mentioned in your main text. The bibliography should be in alphabetical order by first author's name and in a consistent format which includes: author's name, year of publication, title of book, or title of article and journal, place of publication, and publisher - for example:
- Davies, M. (ed) (2002). *The Blackwell Companion to Social Work*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Carroll, J. (2002). Play Therapy: the children's views. *Child and Family Social Work*, 7(3): 177-187.
- Presentation: Keep to recommended word lengths and state your word count on the front page of your assignment submission.
- Word-process all written work, print on one side of the page, and use margins that allow for the lecturer to insert short comments if they need to do so when marking.
- Proof-Read: Always check your work before handing it in, so you can correct mistakes in spelling, grammar and referencing. Run a spell-check and grammar-

check. Careless presentation can spoil the impact of what you have written and lose you marks.

- Put your name on all pages, unless specifically told to do otherwise.
- Number the pages.
- State word count on front page of submission.
- Deadlines: Hand work in on time. If you are ill, tell the lecturer or your college tutor, and arrange an agreed extension. Mark penalties will be applied if work is submitted late without an agreed extension.
- Keep copies of all course work.

### **Referencing Guidelines**

In general, all assignment at third level must be referenced. Some lecturers may request that you use a particular style of referencing; however different versions of the Harvard Reference style are commonly used in college. A Study skill Web Seminar on referencing is available to students on the Trinity Website:

[http://www.tcd.ie/Student\\_Counselling/Seminar/Referencing/rdf2.shtml](http://www.tcd.ie/Student_Counselling/Seminar/Referencing/rdf2.shtml)

### **Citations in the Text**

References should include the author, (by surname only) followed by year of publication in brackets in the text. e.g. Maddock (2015) states that .... “

Citations contain the name of the author and the year the information was published after the quote or paraphrase i.e. (Øverlien & Holt, 2021) or (Feely et al. 2021).

If a point has been made by several authors, then they should be listed either alphabetically or chronologically i.e. (Flynn, 2021; Maddock et al. 2019; Whelan, 2020) or (Flynn, 2021; Whelan, 2020; Maddock et al. 2019).

### **Quotes in the Text**

Direct quotes of less than three lines can be included as part of the text as above but if direct quotes are three lines or longer, they must be indented.

e.g., One such text (Mc Caughren & Lovett, 2014) notes that:



'It was portrayed as an act of kindness as it furnished 'illegitimate' children with good homes and loving Catholic families, while providing a solution to couples who could not conceive children themselves. Their desire to parent a child was met, their anonymity protected, and their autonomy preserved. In turn, birth mothers could get on with their lives and put their past 'mistakes' behind them' (p.239).

Where there are more than two authors, the reference within the text should be cited as (Maddock et al. 2021), but include all the authors in the reference list:

Maddock, A., Blair, C., Ean, N. & Best, P. (2021) 'Psychological and social interventions for mental health issues and disorders in Southeast Asia: a systematic review', *International Journal of Mental Health Systems*, 15: Article 56.

## **Reference Lists**

A reference list should appear at the end of the piece of work and should include **only** those references cited in the text. References should be double-spaced, arranged alphabetically by author, and chronologically for each other. Publications for the same author appearing in a single year should use a, b, etc. To create a reference list you will need, for each item you include, the following information:

Book: author or editor; year of publication; title; edition; place of publication and publisher

### **Journal article:**

Author; year of publication; title of article; journal title; volume/issue number; page numbers of the article

### **Electronic information:**

Author/editor; year of publication; article title; journal title; web URL,/name of database; date accessed

Book with multiple authors:

Davidson, G., Campbell, J., Shannon, C., & Mullholland, C. (2016) *Models of Mental Health*. London: Palgrave.

### **Book with an editor and a revised edition:**

Lishman, J. (ed) (2009) *Communication in Social Work 2nd ed*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

### **Chapter in an edited book**

Devaney, J., Holt, S., Øverlien, C., Bradbury-Jones, C., Macy, R. (2021) 'Concluding Thoughts', Chapter 50 in J. Devaney, C. Bradbury-Jones, R. Macy, C Øverlien and S Holt (Editors) (2021) *The Routledge International Handbook of Domestic Violence and Abuse*. London, Routledge, pp785-789.

### **Journal article - print**

Carter-Anand, J. & Clarke, K. (2009) 'Crossing borders through cyberspace: A discussion of a social work education electronic exchange pilot project across the Atlantic' *Social Work Education*, 28(6): 584-597.

### **Conference Proceedings**

Donnelly, S. (2009) 'Participation of older people in family meetings in a hospital' Proceedings of the sixth International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health Conference, Dublin, Ireland, pp. 152-168.

### **Report/Government Reports**

*Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone* (2020). Dublin: Stationary Office.

### **Thesis/Dissertation**

May, S. (2008) 'Cocaine use and homelessness' Unpublished MSW Dissertation, University of Dublin.

### **Lecture**

Foreman, M. (2009) Lecture presented on (state date) to Equality Studies, Master in Social Work Course, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

### **Electronic article**

Foreman, M. (2009) 'HIV and Direct Provision – Learning from the Experiences of Asylum Seekers in Ireland' *Translocations, Migration and Social Change* (online), 4(1) pp.67-85 Available : <http://www.translocations.ie/volume 4 issue 1/index.html> (Accessed 14 Sept 2009)

## **Newspaper article**

O'Brien, C. (2009) 'Social workers unsure of children rights' *Irish Times*, 5th May, p.16.

## **Website**

'Research Ethics' (2009) School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College (online). Available at URL: <http://www.socialwork-socialpolicy.tcd.ie/rsarch/ethics.php> (Accessed 8 Feb 2010).

## **Use of EndNote**

EndNote is a widely used bibliographic reference software tool for publishing and managing bibliographies. EndNote allows users to: create a personalised database of references; type the references or import them from a database; and create a bibliography for a thesis, assignment or journal article in the reference style required, and easily change the reference style. Trinity College Dublin has a site license for EndNote and current staff and students are permitted to install a copy of the software on College-owned machines.

EndNote is also installed on PCs in College Computer Rooms. Staff and students who wish to use EndNote on non-College-owned PCs may register to use the free EndNote Web version or purchase the full version at a substantial discount. Tutorials on the use of Endnote are available to post graduate students.

### **Guidelines for Essay- Type Examinations**

- Allow time to answer the required number of questions. Leaving one out loses you many marks.
- Base your answers on a clear plan and structure them with sub-headings.
- Include specific references to literature, not just the author's name.
- Avoid writing in note form, but if you are short of time, make your notes as full and explicit as possible, and remember to write a brief conclusion.
- Do not bring any material into the examination that is forbidden. Cheating in examinations is a serious offence in Trinity College.
- Be informed about and adhere to rules regarding the use of mobile phones or other electronic devices during examinations.
- If you feel unwell during an examination alert the invigilator.
- If you are unable to attend on the date and time of a scheduled examination, contact your college tutor immediately.
- If you are unable to attend an examination due to illness or health-related issues you will be required to produce a medical certificate to certify that you were not fit to attend the examination.

## Guidelines on Plagiarism

Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable in academic work and is penalised. To ensure that you have a clear understanding of what plagiarism is, how Trinity deals with cases of plagiarism, and how to avoid it, you will find a repository of information at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism>

We ask you to take the following steps:

- (i) Visit the online resources to inform yourself about how Trinity deals with plagiarism and how you can avoid it at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism> You should also familiarize yourself with the 2022-23 Calendar entry on plagiarism and the sanctions which are applied which is located at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar> (also set out below)
- (ii) Complete the 'Ready, Steady, Write' online tutorial on plagiarism at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write> Completing the tutorial is compulsory for all students.
- (iii) Familiarise yourself with the coversheet declaration that you will be asked to sign at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/declaration>;
- (iv) Contact your College Tutor, your Course Director(s), or your Lecturer if you are unsure about any aspect of plagiarism.

## Detection of Plagiarism

In an effort to ensure that students are submitting their own work and that they are appropriately referencing the work of other authors, students will be required to submit some assignments electronically, such as through Blackboard. For further information see <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/detecting-plagiarism>

## College Regulations on Plagiarism

The college regulations on plagiarism are clearly set out in the official College Calendar. The School of Social Work and Social Policy follows the college policies on dealing with plagiarism as set out in the College Calendar.

All students are required to familiarise themselves with these regulations. Any query regarding the regulations or any query regarding how to avoid plagiarism in one's work may be directed to the BSS Course Directors by written email.

The following is a direct extract from the General Regulations section of the College Calendar regarding the issue of plagiarism and the college response to an act of plagiarism. (Please note that the College Calendar regulations will always take precedence over any information contained in this handbook).

You are asked to read and familiarise yourself with the college regulations on plagiarism and to take all necessary steps to avoid any act of plagiarism in your academic work.

## ***University of Dublin Calendar Part II, 82 - 91***

### ***“Calendar Statement on Plagiarism for Undergraduates - Part II, 82-91***

#### ***82 General***

*It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work and ideas of others. It is commonly accepted also, however, that we build on the work and ideas of others in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement.*

*Plagiarism is the act of presenting the work or ideas of others as one’s own, without due acknowledgement.*

*Plagiarism can arise from deliberate actions and also through careless thinking and/or methodology. The offence lies not in the attitude or intention of the perpetrator, but in the action and in its consequences.*

*It is the responsibility of the author of any work to ensure that he/she does not commit plagiarism.*

*Plagiarism is considered to be academically fraudulent, and an offence against academic integrity that is subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University.*

#### ***83 Examples of Plagiarism***

*Plagiarism can arise from actions such as:*

- (a) Copying another student’s work;*
- (b) Enlisting another person or persons to complete an assignment on the student’s behalf;*
- (c) Procuring, whether with payment or otherwise, the work or ideas of another;*
- (d) quoting directly, without acknowledgement, from books, articles or other sources, either in printed, recorded or electronic format, including websites and social media;*
- (e) Paraphrasing, without acknowledgement, the writings of other authors.*

*Examples (d) and (e) in particular can arise through careless thinking and/or methodology where students:*

- (i) fail to distinguish between their own ideas and those of others;*
- (ii) Fail to take proper notes during preliminary research and therefore lose track of the sources from which the notes were drawn;*

(iii) *Fail to distinguish between information which needs no acknowledgement because it is firmly in the public domain, and information which might be widely known, but which nevertheless requires some sort of acknowledgement;*

(iv) *Come across a distinctive methodology or idea and fail to record its source.*

*All the above serve only as examples and are not exhaustive.*

#### *84 Plagiarism in the context of group work*

*Students should normally submit work done in co-operation with other students only when it is done with the full knowledge and permission of the lecturer concerned. Without this, submitting work which is the product of collusion with other students may be considered to be plagiarism.*

*When work is submitted as the result of a group project, it is the responsibility of all students in the group to ensure, so far as is possible, that no work submitted by the group is plagiarised.*

#### *85 Self plagiarism*

*No work can normally be submitted for more than one assessment for credit. Resubmitting the same work for more than one assessment for credit is normally considered self-plagiarism.*

#### *86 Avoiding plagiarism*

*Students should ensure the integrity of their work by seeking advice from their lecturers, tutor or supervisor on avoiding plagiarism. All schools and departments must include, in their handbooks or other literature given to students, guidelines on the appropriate methodology for the kind of work that students will be expected to undertake. In addition, a general set of guidelines for students on avoiding plagiarism is available on <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism>.*

*87 If plagiarism as referred to in §82 above is suspected, in the first instance, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or their designate, will write to the student, and the student's tutor advising them of the concerns raised. The student and tutor (as an alternative to the tutor, students may nominate a representative from the Students' Union) will be invited to attend an informal meeting with the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or their designate, and the lecturer concerned, in order to put their suspicions to the student and give the student the opportunity to respond. The student will be requested to respond in writing stating his/her agreement to attend such a meeting and confirming on which of the suggested dates and times it will be possible for them to attend. If the student does not in this manner agree to attend such a meeting, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate, may refer the case directly to the Junior Dean, who will interview the student and may implement the procedures as referred to under conduct and college regulations §2.*

*88 If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate, forms the view that plagiarism has taken place, he/she must decide if the offence can be dealt with under the*

*summary procedure set out below. In order for this summary procedure to be followed, all parties attending the informal meeting as noted in §87 above must state their agreement in writing to the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate. If the facts of the case are in dispute, or if the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate, feels that the penalties provided for under the summary procedure below are inappropriate given the circumstances of the case, he/she will refer the case directly to the Junior Dean, who will interview the student and may implement the procedures as referred to under conduct and college regulations §2.*

*89 If the offence can be dealt with under the summary procedure, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate, will recommend one of the following penalties:*

*(a) Level 1: Student receives an informal verbal warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. The student is required to rephrase and correctly reference all plagiarised elements. Other content should not be altered. The resubmitted work will be assessed and marked without penalty;*

*(b) Level 2: Student receives a formal written warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. The student is required to rephrase and correctly reference all plagiarised elements. Other content should not be altered. The resubmitted work will receive a reduced or capped mark depending on the seriousness/extent of plagiarism;*

*(c) Level 3: Student receives a formal written warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. There is no opportunity for resubmission.*

*90 Provided that the appropriate procedure has been followed and all parties in §87 above are in agreement with the proposed penalty, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate) should in the case of a Level 1 offence, inform the course director and where appropriate the course office. In the case of a Level 2 or Level 3 offence, the Senior Lecturer must be notified and requested to approve the recommended penalty. The Senior Lecturer will inform the Junior Dean accordingly. The Junior Dean may nevertheless implement the procedures as referred to under conduct and college regulations §2.*

*91 If the case cannot normally be dealt with under the summary procedures, it is deemed to be a Level 4 offence and will be referred directly to the Junior Dean. Nothing provided for under the summary procedure diminishes or prejudices the disciplinary powers of the Junior Dean under the 2010 Consolidated Statutes."*

When using the work of others you must either

- i) quote their words directly in quotation marks and provide page numbers, or
- ii) paraphrase them.

Either way, an explicit citation of the work being referred to must be given. To fail to do this is to risk being accused of plagiarism. In order to support students in understanding what plagiarism is and how they can avoid it, the University has created an **online central repository** to consolidate all information and resources on plagiarism. Up to now, information has been spread across many sites, which can lead to confusion. Through the provision of a central repository, it is hoped to communicate this



information to students in a clearer and more coherent manner. The central repository is being hosted by the Library and is located at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism> .

Proceed on the general assumption that any work to be submitted for assessment should in fact be your own work. It ought not to be the result of collaboration with others unless your lecturer gives clear indication that, for that assignment, joint work or collaborative work is required or acceptable. In this latter situation, you should specify the nature and extent of the collaboration and the identity of your co-workers.

It is important to understand that stating that your intention was not to cheat and that you did not understand what constituted plagiarism will not be accepted as a defense. It is the action and not the intention that constitutes plagiarism.

The University has established regulations in relation to suspected cases of plagiarism and other forms of cheating. The University's full statement on Plagiarism is set out in The University of Dublin Calendar, Part 1 and Part 2. Students are strongly advised to read these documents carefully and follow all conventions described.

The Student Counselling Service provides seminars to help students in referencing, using information ethically, avoiding plagiarism and time management.

### **Resources for Students**

<http://www.cite.auckland.ac.nz/>

<http://www.coventry.ac.uk/caw>

[http://cad.auckland.ac.nz/index.php?p=quoting\\_and\\_paraphrasing](http://cad.auckland.ac.nz/index.php?p=quoting_and_paraphrasing)

### **Websites that help with English and grammar include**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

<http://unilearning.uow.edu.au/main.html>

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/awe>

### **Resources for Academic Staff**

<http://www.learnhigher.ac.uk/learningareas/referencing/resourcesforstaff.htm>

Angelil-Carter, S. (2000). *Stolen Language? Plagiarism in Writing*. Harlow: Person education

Neville, C. (2007). *The Complete Guide to Referencing and Avoiding Plagiarism*

### **'Ready, Steady, Write'**

All students **must** complete the online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism, located at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write>

## **Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures**

*In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the general regulations (of the College) and school handbooks (such as this one), the provisions of the general regulations shall prevail.*

### **Introduction**

It is rarely the case that codes of conduct on professional courses need to be invoked on a formal basis. The code and related disciplinary procedures are outlined here as a measure of extreme last resort. In virtually all instances where there is a concern about a student's behaviour, informal approaches, premised on a desire to help a student through difficulties are seen as the most appropriate to the situation. The priority of the course team and the teaching staff is to enable any student experiencing difficulty or coming into conflict with this code of conduct to be helped in a manner which overcomes the difficulty successfully while remaining on the course. It is only as a last resort that formal procedures would be invoked.

### **Expectations of Students**

In order to protect the interests of service users and carers and to assume sound professional relationships with colleagues, students are required to conduct themselves in accordance with established professional standards.

Students are assessed in relation to professional values (as outlined by the Health and Social Care Professionals Council - CORU) as part of their practice. However, students need to demonstrate their value base consistently not just in face-to-face contact with service users/carers.

This document therefore sets out the course's expectations of students' conduct in college and on placement in relation to colleagues, academic staff, managers and fellow students.

The Bachelor in Social Studies course requires that students:

- Attend all classes, tutorials and practice learning days, offering apologies and reasons for non-attendance at the earliest possible time. See Appendix IV.

- Contribute to group discussions, practice simulations, supervision, tutorials, self and peer evaluations and any other group activity deemed appropriate by the programme.
- Take responsibility for their own learning. This includes seeking appropriate support from tutors, practice teachers, dissertation supervisors and colleagues;
- Take responsibility for contributing to a climate of adult learning by offering support to and sharing learning resources with other students
- Handle information about others (including peers, agency and university staff) in a sensitive and confidential manner;
- Treat every person as a unique human being. This should include
  - Respecting the privacy and dignity of others;
  - Being open and honest in learning and working with others;
  - Demonstrating personal qualities of warmth, genuineness and trustworthiness
  - Behaving in an anti-oppressive manner
- Present themselves in a manner appropriate to the specific professional different context. This includes dress codes and appearance, for example, when appearing in court it would generally be the expectation that more formal attire is worn such as trousers with jackets, suits or skirts and jackets.
- Seek to promote policies and practices which are anti-oppressive.

A student whose behaviour does not meet the standards outlined above will be advised by the Course Director in the first instance of these concerns and given support and guidance in addressing them to a satisfactory standard. Should these concerns persist, the Course Committee will be consulted with a view to invoking internal disciplinary procedures.

## **Termination of a Student's place on the Bachelor of Social Studies Course**

Social Studies students are expected to uphold the value base of social work throughout the course. The diversity of experiences and beliefs which students bring with them to the course is to be welcomed, but recognition also needs to be given to the fact that students are likely to face tensions and dilemmas between personal values, social work values and organisational values. This is part of becoming a professional social worker.

However, there are certain kinds of behaviours or activities which are not acceptable within the social work profession. In circumstances where students are found to have engaged in such behaviour or activities, the course committee reserves the right to terminate the students' study for the Bachelor in Social Studies or to introduce penalties, e.g. require the student to repeat a complete year.

In order to safeguard both the student and the social work profession, the Bachelor in Social Studies course has defined a list of behaviours/activities, which could warrant investigation if initial informal action does not successfully deal with the situation. Outlined below are the procedures to be followed if such behaviours/activities are formally alleged.

### **Unacceptable Behaviours or Activities**

The list below is not exhaustive and may apply to behaviour/activities within both the University/College and Agency.

- Willful negligence or neglect of duty which endangers others.
- Incapacity for duty/study through alcohol/drugs
- Harassment, assault or bullying on the placement or in college
- Defiance of reasonable instructions/orders
- Dishonesty (including the belated disclosure of criminal offences)
- Deceit e.g., failure to disclose personal relevant or material facts
- Fraud or corruption, including the deliberate falsification of travel claims and/or theft of money
- Unprofessional conduct or action which would bring the profession into disrepute
- Violent or threatening behaviour (including outstanding charges of a violent or sexual nature)
- Serious breach of confidentiality
- Conviction of a sexual offence or an offence of violence whilst undertaking the programme
- Public expression of hostile and demeaning behaviour to a service user, carer, fellow student or member of University/College or Agency staff

Professional and ethical practice requires that social workers and social work students respect the confidentiality of service users, carers, family members, colleagues and anyone encountered in the course of their work. Students are instructed not to upload any confidential material, comments or remarks about anyone connected with their placement work onto social media such as Facebook, Twitter or any other electronic media. It is necessary for students to understand that breaching the confidentiality of others or remarking (in conversation, on social media or in any other format) in any way about people you meet in the course of your work is unacceptable whether it happens during placement hours or in your spare time.

### **Disciplinary Procedures**

University Regulations as outlined in the Trinity College Calendar, Part II (Undergraduate Studies) make reference to students' behaviour and discipline in Part B 'Conduct and College Regulations'. In cases where students are alleged to be in breach of these regulations the College can institute disciplinary procedures through the offices of the Junior Dean.

The Bachelor in Social Studies Course Committee reserves the right to report a student to the Junior Dean and to invoke such regulations, if it is deemed necessary to do so.

In addition, the Course Committee may feel it is necessary to invoke internal disciplinary procedures if a student's behaviour is considered to be unethical or to be damaging or dangerous to service-users, colleagues, students or lecturers, or to create an unacceptable risk to themselves or others.

In such situations, the following procedures will be followed:

The student's behaviour is brought to the attention of the Course Director, normally by the practice teacher, social work tutor or lecturer.

The Course Director, in consultation with the Head of School, will instigate a formal review process by appointing a Review Team to investigate the allegation. The Review Team shall number at least three and consist of at least two members of staff from the School of Social Work and Social Policy, and at least one experienced practice teacher or practice education representative.

The Course Director(s) shall advise the student in writing of the allegations relating to their behaviour.

A formal review meeting will be convened, and the student's attendance will be requested in writing. The notice to the student shall give a brief statement of the alleged offence. The student will be entitled to bring a representative to the meeting.

The review team will consider all relevant evidence and will interview the student. The student will be able to respond to any allegation both in writing and in person at the meeting.

Following the investigation, the review team will consider the following options:

If serious threat or indication of professional misconduct is established, immediate suspension from the programme will follow, leading to termination of the student's place on the course. A formal report of this will be entered on the student's file and will be included in any reference requested from the School.

If the student's behaviour is considered to be of concern but not deemed to be such that termination of the student's place is necessary, possible consequences to be considered may include: the student being required to undertake additional studies (for example, repeat a year), to withdraw from the programme for a specified period of time, or a formal warning is issued. Students whose behaviour has led to disciplinary proceedings may be prevented from or delayed from going on their practice placement. A formal report of the complaint will be entered on the student's records and will be included in any reference requested from the School.

If it is decided that there is no case to answer, the matter will be dismissed, no further action will be taken and no formal record will be entered on the student's file.

The student shall be informed in writing of the outcome of the review meeting.

### **Appeals Procedures**

The normal appeals procedures, as outlined in the College Calendar Part II, will apply. Students should seek support from their College Tutor.

### **Termination of a Student's Place on the Bachelor in Social Studies course**

It may be possible for a student excluded from the Bachelor in Social Studies programme to apply for admission to another academic course within the College. It is the student's responsibility to investigate such possibilities and make any necessary applications.

### **Fitness to Practise**

The full text of the Fitness to Practise Policy can be found on the College website and can be accessed here <https://www.tcd.ie/about/policies/fitness-to-practise-policy.php>. All students are expected to read the College policy as it applies to matters relating to students' fitness to practice trades or professions during their courses of study and after graduation, and in particular, applies to matters relating to students' fitness to participate in clinical or other placements which are an essential component of their course of study.

## **Fitness to Study**

The full text of the Fitness to Study Policy can be found on the College website and can be accessed here

[https://www.tcd.ie/about/policies/assets/pdf/Fitness to Study Policy 2018.pdf](https://www.tcd.ie/about/policies/assets/pdf/Fitness_to_Study_Policy_2018.pdf) All

students are expected to read the College policy as it applies to matters relating to students' fitness to perform activities associated with attending and participating in College; this includes students' ability to function in College, to perform activities associated with attending College, to proceed with their courses of study (including placements), and to participate in their courses (including placements) to the standards required by the College.

## **BSS Prizes**

### **Pauline McGinley Prize**

This prize was instituted in 2013 to honour the memory of Pauline McGinley, Bachelor in Social Studies graduate of 1996 who died in 2012. The prize is to be awarded, on the recommendation of the Director of the BSS programme, to the BSS Student in the Sophister years who achieves the highest mark in Mental Health Social Work.

**Value: c €100**

### **Marian Lynch Medal**

This plaque was commissioned in 2006 by classmates of Marian Lynch, a Junior Sophister BSS student who died in May of that year. Marian greatly enjoyed her course, in particular the Community Work module which reflected her deep affection for and commitment to her own community, the Liberties. This plaque will be presented annually at the start of Junior Sophister year to the group who achieved the highest mark in the Senior Fresh Community Work project.

### **Anne Williams Memorial Prize**

This prize was instituted in 1988, to honour the memory of Anne Williams, a BSS student who graduated in 1987 and died in the same year. It is awarded to the Junior Sophister BSS student who achieves the highest aggregate mark over all written assignments and examinations during the year.

**Value: c €172**

### **Mary Lynch Prize**

This prize was instituted in 1983, by friends and colleagues of the late Mary Lynch to commemorate her outstanding work in the development of this Department and its courses and of social work generally in Ireland. It is awarded to the Senior Sophister BSS student who achieves the highest aggregate mark over all written assignments and examinations during the year.

**Value: c €381**

### **Vivienne Darling Prize**

This prize was instituted in 1992-3, by friends, colleagues and students of Vivienne Darling to mark her retirement after 41 years in College. During that time, Vivienne steered and supported dynamic developments in Social Studies, and made a major contribution to Irish childcare policy and practice in the field of adoption. The prize is awarded to the Senior Sophister BSS student who achieves the highest mark, over 65%, for the final placement Practice Study.

**Value: c €127**



## Appendix I: Learning Agreement for BSS SF Students

### LEARNING AGREEMENT FOR BSS SF STUDENTS

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Students on placement must strictly adhere to School of Social Work and Social Policy, place and Public Health protocols in relation to COVID-19 pandemic.

Student: Telephone: email:

Supervisor: Telephone: email:

Agency: Telephone: email:

Group Tutor: Telephone: email:

Working Days:

TOIL Arrangements:

Sick Leave:

Study Time:

Accommodation:

Transport:

Dress Code:

Health & Safety:

#### SUMMARY OF STUDENT'S RELEVANT SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE TO DATE

(as identified through previous work/life/ placement experience)

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## LEARNING GOALS

Learning (to encompass skills, knowledge and values) should be identified in relation to previous experience, feedback from previous placements (if relevant) and current areas of interest

### Professional Learning Goals

(pertain to approaches and skills common to professional practice e.g. relationship building, reflective practice, organizational skills) that may be learned in this agency and are applicable in other settings)

PROFESSIONAL SPECIFIC LEARNING GOALS	LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ON PLACEMENT TO MEET THIS GOAL	EVIDENCE OF DEVELOPMENT

### Agency Specific Learning Goals

(pertains to area of practice of the agency in which the student is based)

AGENCY SPECIFIC LEARNING GOALS	LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ON PLACEMENT TO MEET THIS GOAL	EVIDENCE OF DEVELOPMENT

### Personal Learning Goals

(pertains to student's uniqueness as an individual and changes s/he would like to make that would help in the role of a practicing social worker e.g., active listening skills or assertiveness)

PERSONAL LEARNING GOALS	LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ON PLACEMENT TO MEET THIS GOAL	EVIDENCE OF DEVELOPMENT

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### STUDENT WORKLOAD

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### INDUCTION PLAN

- **Orientation to placement**

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- **Recommended Reading/ Research**

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- **Confidentiality Policies**

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- **Health and Safety**

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- **Other**

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### STUDENT SUPERVISION

It is a course requirement that formal supervision takes place weekly and 90 minutes duration is advised.

Components of supervision include reflective learning and practice, support, case management and organisational and policy issues.

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**Supervision Arrangements:**

**Day:**

**Time:**

**Other Student Supports:**

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### STUDENT ASSESSMENT / SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

Discuss and note the methods of assessment used by the Placement Supervisor and evidence of learning, skill development and work required.

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#### PERSONAL ISSUES

Are there any personal issues that may have an impact on the placement? Discuss and note if appropriate:

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#### AGENCY-RELATED ISSUES

Are there any agency-related issues that may have an impact on the placement? Discuss and note if appropriate:

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#### Signatures

Student:

Supervisor:

Date:

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## MID PLACEMENT REVIEW

### Review Progress & Student Capacity In Relation to

- Learning Goals:

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- Skills Development:

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- Integration of Theory and Practice:

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- Ethical Practice:

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- Workload:

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- Supervision / Practice Teaching:

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- Agency and Team:

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Establish whether student is likely to pass the placement and outline objectives set for remainder of placement.

#### Objectives / Plan for remainder of placement

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#### Student Issues/Concerns

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#### Practice Teacher Issues/Concerns

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[illegible]

**Areas of strength identified and recommendations for future development:**

**Areas of strength identified and recommendations for future development:**

## Appendix II: Supervisor's Report on Senior Fresh 50 Day Block

<b>SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL POLICY</b> <b>SUPERVISOR'S REPORT ON SENIOR FRESHMAN PLACEMENT</b>
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Name of Student:

Name of Supervisor:

Job Title:

Name of Agency:

Address of Unit:

Tel:

Email:

Dates of Placement:

Date for Submission of this report:

**Please Note:**

This report form is completed by the person who supervises the student's work and the student should have an opportunity to discuss the content of the report before the end of placement.

The form uses a 6 point scale for most items:

*VG = very good*

*W = weak/inconsistent*

*G = good*

*VW = very weak/unacceptable.*

*OK = acceptable*

*A = not applicable/don't know*

Please email completed form to: [Fieldwork.Unit@tcd.ie](mailto:Fieldwork.Unit@tcd.ie)

Please provide your student with two hard copies of this report.

**THANK YOU**

School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College, Dublin 2  
Room 3063, Arts & Social Science Building, Tel: 01 896 4579.



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**Pass/Fail Recommendation**

(See Section 11.D. Handbook)

Please start by indicating your recommendation- e.g. Pass/Fail:

\_\_\_\_\_

Your report can then be read as support for this recommendation. Please assess and illustrate the student's performance under the following 5 headings:

**Personal Organisation & Functioning in the Agency**

	VG	G	OK	W	V W	NA
Grasp of Agency functions, procedures and limits						
Working relationships with colleagues & team members						
Quality of relationship with other disciplines, agencies & services						
Capacity for taking decisions, initiative & responsibility						
Knowing when to consult & take advice						
Personal organisation; punctuality, reliability: use of time & resources						
Report & letter writing						

Comments/ Examples:

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**Communication & Engagement Skills**

	VG	G	OK	W	V W	NA
Making & sustaining positive relationships with service users & colleagues						
Accurate listening & observation						
Clear, sensitive, respectful & appropriate communication						
Avoidance of discriminatory language & behaviour						

Comments/ Examples:

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#### Other Practice Skills

	VG	G	OK	W	V W	NA
Ability to gather & relay relevant information accurately & purposefully						
Ability to assess & define problems/needs						
Awareness of social/cultural/material influences on service users						
Ability to make & negotiate realistic plans for intervention						
Ability to carry through planned work & to evaluate it realistically						
Comments/ Examples:						

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#### Development Towards Professional Standards

	VG	G	OK	W	V W	NA
Ability to use supervision constructively to develop understanding & skills						
Constructive & proactive approach to learning						
Development of self awareness; ability to reflect on & handle feelings in practice						
Ability to start assuming a professional role						

Comments/ Examples:

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Summary of Areas in Which Progress Has Been Made

(Issues for further development & specifically for next placement, any special strengths or weakness not already noted. Confirmation that student has/has not reached a standard to merit Pass & is suitable and ready to proceed with social work training.)

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Recommendation:

On the basis of placement performance, I recommend / do not recommend (Please cross out what is not relevant) \_\_\_\_\_ as suitable for and ready to continue social work training?

Signed:

Date:

Supervisor

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Comment by Student

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I have discussed this report with my supervisor

Yes

No

Signed:

Date:

## Appendix III : BSS Attendance Policy

Attendance at lectures, tutorials and other teaching inputs is a vital component of a holistic approach to education and professional development. The School of Social Work and Social Policy must ensure that the Bachelor in Social Studies, as an accredited programme, implements a robust attendance policy. Therefore, attendance is monitored on modules which the School is directly responsible for delivering and minimum attendance of 80% is required to pass a module. This is a minimum requirement which allows for absences in the event of significant life events and students should make every effort to attend 100% of all modules. Students who have not satisfied this attendance requirement may be returned as non-satisfactory for the term and maybe required by the Senior Lecturer to repeat their year.

In cases where a student has a genuine, mitigating and documented unavoidable reason or reasons for missing a lecture, tutorial or other teaching input, the Course Director(s), in conjunction with the relevant lecturer or instructor, may require the student to meet the learning outcomes via an additional piece of written work in lieu of the missed session or sessions. In cases such as this, the Course Director(s) will adjudicate, and the decision of the School will be final.

**The BSS Attendance Policy applies to the following modules in 2023/24.**

SSU22041	Inclusive Disability
SSU22101	Introduction to Child Protection
SSU22091	Introduction to Family Law
SSU22092	Psychology for Social Workers
SSU22151	Group Work
SSU22070	Social Work Theory and Practice
SSU22112	Senior Freshman Placement

## **How Attendance is Monitored**

Attendance is monitored using the SEAtS software application (see below). Any student unable to log their attendance at a lecture or tutorial using SEAtS software must instead log their attendance via a sign in sheet available from the lecture at the start or end of the class.

It is important that students actively take responsibility for logging attendance and reporting absences.

Roll calls will also form part of attendance monitoring. Any attempt to falsify an attendance record (for example, checking in via SEAtS for a class you did not attend or signing in for a fellow student who was not present) is unacceptable behaviour and will constitute a breach of the BSS Course Code of Conduct for students and the ethical code of the social work profession.

In circumstances where students are found to have engaged in such behaviour, the course committee reserves the right to terminate the students' study for the Bachelor in Social Studies or to introduce penalties, e.g., require the student to repeat a complete year.

## **SEAtS software**

As noted above, the school utilises SEAtS software to monitor student attendance at social work lectures. A blue tooth signal device called an iBeacon has been installed in all teaching venues. Students are required to download the latest version of the SEAtS app on their phone and check in on arrival at social work lecture and tutorial. A separate SEAtS user guide is available to all BSS students.

## **Reporting Absences**

If a student is absent from social work lecture or tutorial, they are obliged to record the reason for this absence via the SEAtS application no later than 24 hours from the missed event. If absent for 3 or more consecutive days, students must provide a medical certificate. In the event students foresee a difficulty with further attendance, they should contact their College Tutor and and discuss options and supports.

## **Absences on placement**

Absences can also occur when students are on practice placement. If the need for an absence from placement arises, the student's first obligation is to their Supervisor who must be notified as early as possible on the first day of absence to explain the reason for his/her absence and, if absences are likely to continue beyond the initial absence, to give an estimate of probable duration. If absent for 3 or more consecutive days, students

must provide a medical certificate to both Supervisor and the Cluster Leader. Absences of 2 or more days must be made up in a purposeful manner and will be negotiated with the Supervisor and the Cluster Leader. If necessary, students may use some of their Reading Time allotment. If absence seems likely to be prolonged the student, their supervisor, and their cluster leader should discuss the implications for the continuation of the placement at the earliest possible time and liaise with the college Practice Education coordinators.

## Appendix IV : Placement Log

All students must complete this log each day of placement, including reading/study days.

You should specify hours on placement each day and the total number of placement hours completed that week. Please provide a brief outline of the work undertaken, indicating if the work was undertaken on-site or off-site.

Students should share this log with their supervisor at each supervision session and forward completed logs to their Cluster Leader every fortnight. It should be attached as an appendix to your Practice Project.

It is recommended that during supervision you plan your on-site and off-site work for the week ahead.

### Weekly Placement Log

Student Name	Supervisor	Placement	Cluster Leader	Total Placement Hours

	Date	Hours on Placement	Location Morning	Location Afternoon	Tasks & Outcomes
Monday					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li></ul>
Tuesday					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li></ul>
Wednesday					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li></ul>
Thursday					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li></ul>
Friday					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li><li>• ...</li></ul>

Student Signature:

Supervisor Signature:

Date:

## **Appendix V : Student Consent Protocol when Acting as a Service User in Learning Activities**

### **Purpose**

This document sets out the protocol for obtaining student consent to participate in learning activities where students act as service users on the professional education programme, Bachelor in Social Studies (BSS).

### **Scope**

The document applies to all students and academic staff on the programme

### **Background**

Participation in learning activities, such as role plays, are proven to be an effective learning method for social work students as a means of preparing for social work practice. Academic staff are encouraged to use appropriate learning activities which support the achievement of learning outcomes and students are encouraged to participate in such activities.

Consent to participate in such activities is sought from students at the beginning of each academic year and will apply to all learning activities, both in class and practice based, in a given academic year. Students will be supported to fully partake in all learning and assessment activities.

### **Procedure**

Each student's consent to participate in such activities is sought in writing at the beginning of each academic year.

The student consent form should be submitted to the Course Administrator (link to Consent Form).

A class list indicating each student's consent decision is collated by the Course Administrator and shared with relevant academic staff.

If students choose to either not give consent or withdraw consent, this may have implications for their learning progression.

Lecturers and course staff will explore the issues impacting on a student's reluctance to engage with the particular learning activity.

Lecturers and course staff may consider referrals to student supports such as Disability Services, Counselling and or Teaching and Learning supports.