School of Social Work and Social Policy

Master in Social Work

and

Post Graduate Diploma

Course Handbook 2015-2016

( Last Updated : 25/09/15 )
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**Assessment Schedule**

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Introduction

Welcome to the Master in Social Work Programme 2015/16, at the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College, Dublin. We hope this will be an interesting and rewarding year for you and that you enjoy your time with us at Trinity.

Through academic studies and practice-based learning the Master in Social Work programme will provide you with knowledge, skills and ethics integral to the social work profession. The curriculum is guided by the global definition of social work:

“Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledges, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing”.

(International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)2014)

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 domains:

Domain 1: Professional autonomy and accountability
Domain 2: Interpersonal and professional relationships
Domain 3: Effective communication
Domain 4: Personal and professional development
Domain 5: Provision of quality services
Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills

(www.coru.ie)
This Handbook aims to provide information in relation to the academic content of years one and two of the MSW programme, placement processes and assessment of modules together with course regulations and expectations.

Further information will be available on Blackboard, in class and by email throughout the year. Visit the School of Social Work and Social Policy website at http://www.socialwork-socialpolicy.tcd.ie for information about the School and links to sites of interest. Please check your college email account and the School noticeboards regularly for notices of timetable changes, assignments, examinations, meetings, jobs, post-graduate courses, scholarships, conferences and so on.

The MSW team is here to support you in your learning. Please contact us with questions and issues that arise for you. Your feedback on any aspect of the course is very welcome.

Wishing you every success on the Master in Social Work programme,

Dr. Erna O’Connor,

Course Director.
## Contact Details
Course Director: Dr Erna O’Connor  
Room 3056  
Arts Block, Main Campus  
Tel: +353 1 896 2627  
Email: erna.oconnor@tcd.ie

## Administration:
Ms Emma McConkey  
Room 3063  
Arts Block Main Campus  
Tel: +353 1 896 4579  
Email: Master.SocialWork@tcd.ie  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9.00am – 16.00pm

### MSW Teaching Team 2015/16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Eoin O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Professor, Social Policy &amp; Head of School of Social Work and Social Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Robbie Gilligan</td>
<td>Professor of Social Work, School Director of Research &amp; Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Erna O'Connor</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Social Work, Director Master in Social Work Programme, MSW Year 1 Head &amp; Fieldwork Coordinator.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Trish Walsh</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Social Work, MSW Year 2 Head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Stephanie Holt</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Social Work &amp; Director Online Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Studies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Maeve Foreman</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Social Work &amp; Director Bachelor Social Studies Programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Michael Feely</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Patrick O’Dea</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Social Work and Fieldwork Coordinator.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Gloria Kirwan</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Helen Buckley</td>
<td>Associate Professor &amp; Director Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Virpi Timonen</td>
<td>Professor of Social Policy and Ageing &amp; Director of Post Graduate Teaching and Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy O Shea</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Social Policy, Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Shane Butler</td>
<td>Associate Professor in Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Julie Byrne</td>
<td>Assistant Professor in Online Education and</td>
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<td>Development &amp; Course Coordinator</td>
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<td>Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Studies</td>
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**External Contributors**

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<tr>
<td>Ms Mary Kate Barry</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer</td>
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<td>Ms Margaret Beaumont</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Kirsten Byrne</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Noel O Driscoll</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Eileen Conway</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Helen Coughlan</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Diane Hanley</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Frank Mulville</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer &amp; Tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Pam McEvoy</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Kieran McGrath</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Sonya Bruen</td>
<td>Part Time Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Sandra Ratcliffe</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer &amp; Tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr David Williamson</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer &amp; Tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Kieran Stenson</td>
<td>Part-time Tutor</td>
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<td>Mr Frank Browne</td>
<td>Part-time Tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Jim Corbett</td>
<td>Part-time Tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Cormac Quinlan</td>
<td>Part-time Lecturer &amp; Tutor</td>
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**Course Committee**

The MSW programme is overseen by a course committee composed as follows:

- Dr Erna O’Connor, Assistant Professor Social Work, MSW Course Director (chair)
- Dr Eoin O’Sullivan, Head of School
• Professor Robbie Gilligan, Professor of Social Work & Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate)
• Dr Trish Walsh, Assistant Professor of Social Work
• Dr Virpi Timonen, Professor of Social Policy and Ageing & Director of Post Graduate Teaching and Learning
• Ms Maeve Foreman, Assistant Professor in Social Work & Bachelor in Social Studies Course Director
• Mr Paddy O’Dea, Assistant Professor of Social Work & Fieldwork Coordinator
• Ms Gloria Kirwan, Assistant Professor in Social Work
• Dr Michael Feely, Assistant Professor of Social Work
• Part-time social work tutor representative (Sandra Ratcliffe)
• Part-time lecturer representative (David Williamson)
• Student representatives (one from each year)

Staff – Student Liaison
In addition to student representation on course committees, there will be regular staff-student liaison through class seminars and additional scheduled meetings, to discuss matters of mutual interest or concern.

Master in Social Work 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 2015/16 members are:

• Mr John McDermott, Senior Social Worker, Beaumont Hospital (Chair)
• Mr Kevin Webster, Principal Social Worker, Child and Family Agency.
• Mr Ray Parkinson, Principal Social Worker, North Eastern Health Board.
• Ms Ciara O’Connor, Senior Probation Officer, Probation Service.
• Ms Aoife Farrell, Social Worker, St. Brendan’s Hospital.
• Ms Elizabeth Hamilton, Social Work Team Leader, Child and Family Agency.
• Ms Anne Marie Jones, Principal Social Worker, Temple Street Children’s Hospital
• Mr Peter Coghlan, Senior Social Worker, Lucena Clinic.
External Examiner
Professor Timothy Kelly, University of Dundee, Scotland.

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

In accordance with Irish statutory regulations this Masters in Social Work 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 domains:

Domain 1: Professional autonomy and accountability
Domain 2: Interpersonal and professional relationships
Domain 3: Effective communication
Domain 4: Personal and professional development
Domain 5: Provision of quality services
Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills

European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) - Credits and Modular Structures

The MSW programme is based upon a system of credits which is aligned with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Students are required to achieve 60 credits in the first year of the programme and 75 credits in the second year, leading to a total of 135 credits (120 credits for Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work). The programme is divided into four distinct modules in each year, which each module carrying a credit value.

Programme Level Learning Outcomes

Master in Social Work
Upon completion of the Master in Social Work/Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work successful candidates will have demonstrated that they have acquired the level of knowledge, skills, values, ethical awareness and understanding of social work necessary for the competent practice of social work in accordance with the CORU Criteria and Standards of Proficiency for Social Work Education and
Training Programmes and will have met the required standards to apply for professional registration.

Specifically, graduates will be able to:-

1. Integrate social science and social work perspectives in the critical analysis of social work topics, debates and practice issues.
2. Practice at newly qualified level as professional social workers within a range of contemporary fields of social work practice.
3. Work effectively within organisations as individual practitioners, team members, and contributors to intermulti-disciplinary service provision.
4. Employ clear fluent and effective written and oral communication, interpersonal and presentation skills in both academic and practice contexts.
5. Demonstrate competence in social work assessment, counselling, groupwork, community work, advocacy, case management, practice evaluation, policy analysis and other core social work skills and tasks.
6. Use supervision constructively and engage in critical reflection on their social work practice
7. Maintain professional standards of behaviour and accountability across a range of practice areas.
8. Uphold high ethical standards in their social work practice with reference to Irish and international codes of social work ethics
9. Engage in social work practice that promotes inclusivity, equality and social justice, and challenge practice that does not uphold these standards.
10. Engage in continuing professional development including supervision, critical self-reflection and further training/study.
11. Critically analyse research findings and apply them to both inform and evaluate practice and policy in social work
12. Undertake research or evaluation on social work or related social policy issues (for master students only)

Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work
Having achieved at least 40% in each graded assignment, and in addition to learning outcomes one to eleven above, students will be able to:-

- Demonstrate sufficient critical reflective skills to be a competent social worker, and identify and synthesise relevant literature and theories to aid this process.

Teaching and Learning Methods
As the programme intake is restricted to approximately 20-25 students, a range of teaching methods are used which maximise the opportunities offered by the
small class size. Methods will include online modules, micro skills teaching involving video and role-play, lecture, seminar and workshop formats and the use of discussion, small group exercises and student presentations. For skills workshops, the class group will be divided to allow for small group teaching. The different teaching methods to be used are identified in individual course outlines.

**Course Regulations**

**Coursework**

Students in the first instance will register for the Master in Social Work programme. To remain on the Master's route, a pass mark of 50% and above in all written work in both Year One and Year Two is required. Those students who, having had one opportunity to resubmit written work, still have not obtained a standard of at least 50% in all written work in Year One and passed their placement, will not be permitted to remain on the Master route (and to submit a dissertation for examination for the Master in Social Work at the end of Year Two). Instead, those who have obtained a pass mark of 40% in all written work and passed their placement and have therefore passed Year One, will be permitted to proceed to Year Two as a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work student, and submit a Postgraduate Diploma Project for examination for this award.

All successful graduates of the Master in Social Work and the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work will be eligible to apply to CORU (the Health and Social Care Professionals Council) for registration as a professionally qualified social worker.

**Assessment of Coursework**

Students will be permitted to resubmit written work that either fails, or does not reach the 50% standard, provided that they do so within two months of having received their mark on the original work, or as directed by the Course Director. Such resubmitted work will be marked out of a range of 0-50%. Supplemental examination papers will be set for students who do not reach the necessary grade in an examination paper. Supplemental examination papers will be marked out of a range of 0-50%. A student will have one opportunity to re-sit an examination paper, resubmit an assignment or proceed to a supplemental placement.

If a student fails to achieve the 50% grade necessary to remain on the MSW route, he or she will be required to transfer to the Postgraduate Diploma register. If a student fails to achieve, with supplemental examination, the 40%
mark necessary to remain on the programme, then his or her place on the course may be terminated. In exceptional circumstances, a student may be allowed the opportunity to repeat the academic year once but must apply to do so within one month of publication of examination results.

The Court of Examiners takes place in June and September of each academic year. In the case of students who need to either repeat an examination, or re-submit a piece of academic work, the Court of Examiners held in September may consider these results. Students must confirm in writing their intention to re-sit a supplemental examination and/or to re-submit assignments and/or to undertake a supplemental placement before August 1\textsuperscript{st} of the year in question. Both the Master’s dissertation and Diploma project in Year Two need to be submitted by the specified date in order to be considered by the Court of Examiners that year.

**Practice Placement Coursework Assessment**

Fieldwork placements must be passed for students to proceed from Year One to Year Two and to proceed to commencement in Year Two. There is no compensation between academic and practice performance. Guidance on the assessment of practice is contained in a later section.

The External Examiner oversees practice assessment reports, as well as academic assessments. She/he may interview a student, practice teacher and/or tutor at the request of student, tutor, practice teacher, or course staff, or may initiate this procedure herself/himself. The final decision as to whether or not to hold an oral interview rests with the External Examiner.

The Master in Social Work cannot be awarded to students who do not successfully complete all programme requirements. A student becomes eligible to apply to CORU to register as a professional social worker at the point when the student has graduated (either in person or in abstentia). As per CORU requirements, a list of graduated students is sent from the College to CORU.

In the case of students who are unable to complete the required supplemental placement over the summer months, they must go “off-books” for the following academic year during which time they must complete the supplemental placement. Students will not normally be permitted to take more than one year “off-books”.
Appeal Mechanisms
In the first instance, a student who is dissatisfied with the published results may request a review from the Course Director. The Course Director will bring such a request to the Course Committee to consider.

In the second instance, a student may avail of the College Appeals Procedures for postgraduate students, details of which are contained within the Graduate Students Handbook (Calendar Part Two) furnished to all students upon registration.

Students engaged in appeals or disputed outcomes are strongly advised to seek the advice and support of the Postgraduate Advisor in the Senior Tutors office and/or the Graduate Students Union.

Final Award
Having secured over 50% on all written work and successfully completed the two practice placements, students are eligible for the award of Master in Social Work. The award of a Master in Social Work with Distinction requires the achievement in Year Two of a distinction (over 70%) in the Dissertation, the Practice Project and an overall aggregate of over 70% across all assessed work.

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 which we will expect students to develop and demonstrate on the course.

The following are therefore course requirements:

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all components of the course consistently. Full attendance is considered essential for both academic (including tutorial) and practice components, and is a requirement of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU). In the case of sickness or exceptional personal circumstances, a limited amount of non-attendance may be allowed if the Course Committee (in consultation with tutor and practice teacher when on placement) is satisfied that the relevant course or practice work can be compensated for in other ways. Students must fill in an absence form for every class missed, attaching medical certificate if appropriate. (A copy of the absence sheet can be found at the back of this handbook.) This must be returned to the Course Executive Officer for review by the course director and committee. Attendance records will be retained on student files.
**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 fulfil these commitments. Similarly on placement, commitments should be honoured.

**Participation:** It is well established in educational research, especially regarding adult learners, 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 observe all published deadline dates, which are final and have the status of examination dates. Course work submitted beyond the final deadline may be penalised at the rate of 5% marks per week or part thereof, past the submission date. The Course Director will make the final decision on such sanctions. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy. If the student is away on placement, the assignment must be post marked by the due date.

Course Regulations and the **code of conduct** required of course participants are outlined on page 191, as are disciplinary procedures.

**Submission of Coursework:**

- All coursework must be submitted on www.Turnitin.com and Blackboard, no later than the deadline set by the lecturer.

- **Word Count:** Where a maximum and minimum word count is provided students will receive a 5% penalty on the overall assignment mark if their word count is not within this range.
Students are responsible for ensuring their coursework is submitted on time,

**Fieldwork Placements**
Each student is required to successfully complete two fieldwork placements of at least 500 hours each in order to fulfil the requirements of the Programme. The fieldwork education co-ordinators, in conjunction with the rest of the course team, take responsibility for identifying, co-ordinating and allocating placements to individual students. The primary criterion used for the allocation of available placements is the individual’s learning needs. While every effort will be made to provide placements in the sectors and locations which students have indicated a preference for, it cannot be guaranteed that student preferences can or will be catered for. Placements may be in Dublin or other parts of Ireland. Alternatively, placements abroad may be facilitated. In the case of a student who undertakes one placement outside Ireland, it is a course regulation that the other placement be undertaken in Ireland. Students’ first placement will usually be in Ireland.

**The Fieldwork Education Team**
The fieldwork 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 run practice teacher training and support courses; they also provide 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.

**The Tutorial System**
Each student will be allocated a social work tutor to support the student’s professional development across both placements. Tutors will be allocated towards the end of the first academic term and will meet with students during the academic terms. Group tutorials may also take place. They will in addition participate in placement meetings in both Years One and Two.

Tutors aim to:

- Offer support and mentoring to students
- Promote continuity of learning from academic to practice-based learning settings.
- Monitor the student’s progress, and jointly plan ways to meet educational needs.
- Act as the college representative in the placement, resourcing both student and practice teacher and ensuring quality of practice learning.
Inform decision-making regarding future placement allocation.

The Postgraduate Advisory Service
The Senior Tutor's office in college provides a post-graduate advisory service that is separate to the MSW's tutorial system. The PAS is a unique and confidential service available to all registered postgraduate students at Trinity College. It offers a comprehensive range of academic, pastoral, and professional supports dedicated to enhancing your student experience.

If you require specific advice, or would like to arrange a confidential meeting with the dedicated Student Support Officer, you can make an appointment by phoning 353 1 896 1417, or by e-mail at pgsupp@tcd.ie. For details of further sources of support and help in the College please go to http://www.tcdlife.ie/

The Graduate Students Union
Located on the second floor of House Six, in Front Square, the Graduate Students' Union is an independent body within College that represents postgraduate students throughout College. Upon registration, all postgraduates are automatically members. It is run by two full-time sabbatical officers; who are responsible for strategy and policy formulation and advise students on matters such as academic appeals and supervisor relationships. They are also there to help on more personal matters, such as financial concerns, illness and bereavement. Any discussions about such concerns are treated with the strictest confidentiality. Contact them at either president@gsu.tcd.ie or vicepresident@gsu.tcd.ie
**MSW: Year One 2015/16**

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<td><strong>Christmas Vacation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching Week</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Week</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Examinations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation for Placement Teaching Week</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Placement</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Placement Call-In Day</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching Weeks</strong></td>
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</table>

**Year One Programme Requirements (60 ECTS)**

**SS7012 Social Work Theory for Practice (10 credits)**

1.1 Introduction to Social Work (24 hours)

1.2 Introduction to Reflective Practice & Use of Self in Social Work (10 hours)

1.3 Social Work & Counselling Practice Approaches One (30 hours)

1.4 Groupwork (18 hours)

1.5 Community Development & Macro Social Work Practice (18 hours)

**SS7016 Foundations for Social Work Across the Lifespan (10 credits)**

2.1 Human Development in Social Contexts (24 hours)
2.2 Supporting Children and Families—Approaches to Prevention and Intervention (24 hours)
2.3 Child and Family Law (24 hours)
2.4 Equality, Rights, Identities & Power in Social Work Practice (18 Hours)

**SS7014 Social Work Practice (30 credits)**

3.1 Preparing for Practice (24 hours)
3.2 Placement (500 hours)

**SS7017 Social Policy, Critical Theory and Social Work Research (10 credits)**

4.1 Contemporary Discourses in Social Work (24 hours)
4.2 Contemporary Social Policy (24 hours)
4.3 Introduction to Social Work Research and Evaluation (24 hours)

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**Year One Assessment**

**SS7012 Social Work Theory for Practice (10 credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction to Social Work</th>
<th>Combined examination (50%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Work &amp; Counselling Practice Approaches</td>
<td>Group Assignment 15% Individual Assignment (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groupwork</td>
<td>Reflective Diary (not graded)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Reflective Practice Use of Self in Social Work</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development &amp; Macro Social Work Practice</td>
<td>Assignment (25%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SS7016 Foundations for Social Work Across the Lifespan (10 credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Development in Social Contexts</th>
<th>Child Observation study plus examination (65%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Children and Families—Approaches to prevention and Intervention</td>
<td>Full attendance &amp; Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child and Family Law</td>
<td>Assignment (35%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equality, Diversity and Social Work</td>
<td>Full attendance &amp; Class Participation</td>
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**SS7014 Social Work Practice (30 credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparing for Practice – A Reflective Practice Approach</th>
<th>Placement Project (100%) plus Pass Placement Grade.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skills Workshops</td>
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<td>Placement</td>
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</table>

**SS7017 Social Policy, Critical Theory and Social Work Research (10 credits)**

<table>
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<th>Contemporary Discourses in Social Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Social Policy</td>
<td>Examination (21%) and Seminar Presentation (9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Social Work Research</td>
<td>Dissertation Proposal (40%)</td>
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**Assessment Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date/Time Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Observation Study</td>
<td><strong>Monday 16th November 2015 at 1pm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Work</td>
<td><strong>Group Project Tuesday 15th December 2015 Individual Assignment due Mon 16th May 2015 at 9.30am</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Discourses Assignment</td>
<td><strong>Monday 14th December 2015 at 9.30 am</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and Child Law</td>
<td><strong>Monday 11th January 2016 at 9.30 am</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development &amp; Macro Social Work Practice</td>
<td><strong>Monday 25th April 2016 at 4 pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Placement Project</td>
<td><strong>Monday 16th May 2016 at 9.30 am</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation Proposal</td>
<td><strong>Concept Paper due Monday 7th December 2016 at 9.30 am</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Complete assignment due Monday 30th May 2016 at 9.30 am</strong></td>
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</table>
SS7012: Social Work Theory for Practice: (10 ECTS)

1.1 Introduction to Social Work

Ms. Maeve Foreman

Module Aims

In this module students begin their journey towards achieving the standards of proficiency required by CORU under the following domains:

Domain 1: Professional autonomy and accountability - students are introduced to the values and ethics of social work as well as to the concepts of anti-oppressive and anti-discriminatory practice, equality issues and working with diversity.

Domain 5: Provision of quality services - students are alerted to service users’ experiences and views of social work, are provided with an overview of the key role of assessment in social work, and an introduction to key issues in good report writing.

Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills specific to the profession of social work – students are provided with a general introduction to social work, including an overview of the multiple dimensions of the social work profession and an account of the history of social work in Ireland.

Module Content

- The module will critically examine definitions of social work to facilitate its consideration as an evidence informed, context-specific and socially constructed profession. Students will be challenged to question assumptions such as that of social work having uncontested and static knowledge and value bases.
- Recent studies of service users’ views of social work will be presented and discussed.
- The historical development of social work will be explored, with a particular emphasis on the evolution of social work within Ireland. An overview of the range of diverse settings in which social work is currently practiced and being developed will be provided.
- Students will be encouraged to critically review their own values in the context of social work values and ethics, and social work practice will be
considered from an ethical and value-based stance. Frameworks for addressing ethical dilemmas in practice will be examined.

- Assessment as a key social work skill and process will also be explored. Students will be made aware of professional standards and will be introduced to some concepts, theories and assessment frameworks in various social work settings.
- Frameworks for social work practice will be introduced and links made with students’ own practice experience to facilitate the development of a culturally sensitive and competent practice.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and development of social work in Ireland and the impact that this has on present day social work
- Articulate the value base of the social work profession
- Articulate the ethical standards and principles of the social work profession both nationally and internationally and be familiar with at least one model of ethical decision making which can be applied in practice
- Provide an outline of the basic theoretical and practice approaches in social work
- Demonstrate an understanding of the use of assessment in social work and some of the assessment tools available to social workers, as well as the basics of good report writing.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the skills and knowledge required of a beginning social worker by the Irish registering body, CORU.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Sixteen one and a half hour sessions, totalling 24 hours, will be held in seminar format, with class discussion welcomed and encouraged. Additional methods may include use of video and mini-assignments related to the course material. Course handouts will be available on class WebCT

**Assessment**

This module will be assessed by examination in January 2016. If a student fails or is unable to sit the exam, they can resit the examination during the Supplemental Examination period in August or September 2016.
Reading List

Essential Reading


Additional Reading

Introduction to Social Work


http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2006/02/02094408/0


**Learning from Service Users**


Fisher et al. (2000) 'Sharing the Care – the qualities sought of social workers by foster carers'. *Child and Family Social Work* 5:225-233


Pillinger, J. & Fagan, P. (2013) *LGBT Parents in Ireland - A study into the experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in Ireland who are parents or who are planning parenthood.* Ireland:LGBT Diversity


**Report Writing for Social Workers**


**History of Social Work**


Social Work Values and Ethics


Irish Association of Social Workers (2015) Code of Ethics [https://www.iasw.ie/attachments/8b37e75a-26f6-4d94-9313-](https://www.iasw.ie/attachments/8b37e75a-26f6-4d94-9313-
https://www.iasw.ie/attachments/2eb7f6f6-ca51-4f38-b869-


Public Interest Research Centre (2011) Common Cause Handbook
http://valuesandframes.org/


Journal of Social Work Ethic and Values – web based journal available on
Anti-Oppressive Practice, Equality Studies and Working with Diversity


Assessment


1.2 Introduction to Reflective Practice & Use of Self in Social Work

Mr Frank Mulville & Dr Erna O Connor

Module Aims

The importance of self-awareness and the ability to reflect critically on practice as a way to develop practice skills are central to CORU/SWRB Domain 4 Personal and professional development Further to this the use of self in social work is a key component of effective, sensitive social work practice. This module aims to promote self-exploration by students using a Reflective Practice approach. The module is delivered in parallel with Preparation for Placement- A Reflective Practice Approach. Students' developing awareness of the 'use of self' and
capacity for reflective practice will be reviewed prior to during and after placement in Year One, and the process will be continued in Year Two.

**Module Content**

This module will consist of workshops jointly facilitated by an external group leader and a member of the MSW course team which will focus on the use of self in social work and the linkages between personal and professional experiences. The class will be divided into two smaller groups for this exercise.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this module students will be better able to integrate the experiences they bring to the module together with their experiences of being part of a group process.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

This module is an experiential group where individuals can explore their life biographies to date and the personal attributes, talents, experiences and values that they bring to the course and to social work. There will be clear and explicit guidelines on the role of the group facilitators, confidentiality and feedback to the wider course team. Students will be encouraged to keep a Reflective Diary.

**Assessment**

There is no formal assessment for this module but attendance at, and engagement in, the group process is a course requirement. Students are also required to keep a Reflective Diary which they will analyse at the end of term as part of their preparation for placement.
Module Aims

The aim of the Year One module is to provide an overview of a range of social work theories, skills and methods for practice. It is envisaged that these combined theory/skills workshops will provide the opportunity for students to build on existing interpersonal skills and previous work experience and crucially build a strong understanding of the link between theory and practice. It is hoped that students will value the opportunity to reflect upon and learn from practice experience.

Module Content

The module will be taught over 12 three hour sessions comprising 60 minute teaching input on a particular practice approach in a large group setting, a 15 minute break and two 60 minute skills session with the class divided into two groups to explore and develop competence in use of the particular practice approach.

The counselling and practice approaches and techniques that will be covered in the module will include:

- Working with Involuntary Clients
- Motivational Interviewing
- Task Centred Casework
- Crisis Intervention
- Psychodynamic/Psychosocial approaches
- Humanistic/Person Centred Practice
- Cognitive-behavioural approaches

This module is designed to complement a range of other modules on the programme, particularly groupwork, community work and social work skills. It is followed in Year Two by a complementary module focusing on systems approaches; strengths-based practice; solution-focused social work & narrative work.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Explain and understand the link between social work theory and practice.
Identify the key values, knowledge and skills necessary for their social work practice
Recognise the philosophies, traditions and theories that underpin different counselling/practice methods.
Recognise and value the core conditions for engaging a client in case work or counselling.
Draw on at least five different counselling/practice methods when working in direct social work practice with individuals and families.
Critically consider and assess different counselling/practice methods as well as their suitability to different case scenarios.
Reflect upon their social work skills and practice and identify key learning objectives for placement.
Reflect on their use of self, their role as a social worker and begin to take responsibility for their own continuing professional development.
Have identified areas of strength and areas for development within their communication skills

Teaching and Learning Methods
The teaching methodology will seek to build on past experience. Full class participation is essential and students will be encouraged and supported to explore and develop skills in a safe learning environment. Teaching and Learning Methods will include: lectures; class discussion; applied classes; presentations; small group teaching; role play; video recording; review, feedback & discussion.

Assessment
This module will be assessed by examination in January 2016, and any supplemental will be assessed by examination.

Core Reading List

Mair, G (ed) 2004, What Matters in Probation, Collumpton, Willan


Other readings will be provided in class
Module Aims

This module offers students an overview of the major theories of groupwork and the various applications of groupwork in social work settings. The aims of this module are to provide students with:

- A knowledge of the basic theories of groupwork
- An understanding of group dynamics and processes
- The skills to identify the indicators for the effective use of groupwork
- The development of groupwork leadership and facilitator skills
- An appreciation of the significant potential of groupwork practice within social work.

Module Content

The areas covered in this module will include:

- Stage models of groupwork practice
- The various roles which participants perform in groups and strategies for facilitating these roles
- Preparation and formulation of groupwork interventions in social work practice
- The therapeutic potential of groupwork practice
- The use of self in a groupwork context
- Development of leadership and facilitation skills
- Group roles and dynamics in a teamworking context
- Models of evaluation of groupwork practice.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of group dynamics and processes, in particular as they relate to social work practice (Domain 6.1: Knowledge, understanding and skills).
- Recognise the potential of groupwork for effective social work practice (Domain 5.1: Provision of Quality Services).
- Recognise typical stages of a group process and the various roles which group members perform (Domain 3.1: Effective communication).
• Identify key techniques utilised to facilitate the various group stages and group roles (Domain 5.2.: Provision of Quality Services).
• Apply groupwork theory in practice (Domain 6.3: Knowledge, understanding and skills).
• Recognise the rewards and challenges of collaborative teamwork in multidisciplinary, inter-professional, multi-service and inter-agency teams (Domain 2.2: Interpersonal and professional relationships).
• Reflect on their own personal and previous work experiences of being in a group situation and how this may impact on their practice as a groupwork facilitator (Domain 4.1: Personal and professional development).
• Demonstrate a knowledge of culturally competent groupwork (Domain 1.2: Professional autonomy and accountability).
• Apply various methods of evaluation of groupwork (Domain 5.9: Provision of Quality Services).

Teaching and Learning Methods

The teaching methodology will allow the students to recognise and reflect on their past personal and employment experience of being in a group both as a participant and as a facilitator. Students will be expected to participate in classroom discussions and develop skills in a classroom setting. Teaching methods will include presentations, classroom discussion, small group teaching and role play.

Assessment

This module will be assessed by both a group work assignment and a written placement-related individual assignment.

Re-assessment will be by written assignment.

Reading lists

(a) Recommended reading


2013.


(b) Additional reading

Additional reading lists will be provided in class.
Kirsten Byrne

The MSW1 Community Development & Macro Social Work module introduces students to theories, models and approaches to community work as a method of social work, with a particular emphasis on interventions with communities and groups who have unequal access to, or use of, social goods and services or who experience stigma, discrimination and exclusion. The module equips students with relevant knowledge and foundation skills to plan, develop and evaluate community-based interventions.

Module Aims

The aims of this module are to introduce through participatory teaching methods:

- An appreciation of the importance of community work as a component of social work (Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills).
- To develop an understanding of the value base of community work and its relationship to social work values and principles (Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills)
- To encourage participants to consider the implementation of community initiatives in their own working lives (Domain 4: Personal and Professional Development)
- To provide students with an understanding of the core skills and principles of community work (Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills)
- To develop an understanding of the principles and practices of networking in the professional community (Domain 3: Effective Communication)
- To equip students to carry out a needs assessment using a Community Work approach (Domain 5: Provision of Quality Services).

Module Content

The module is organised through a series of lectures and workshops under themes, including:

- Definitions of community work.
- What is community?
- Profiling community and minority groups
Models and principles of community work.
Role of a community worker.
Community work skills, including group facilitation and conflict resolution.
Community work and social work.
Community Networking.
Community Fieldtrip.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Identify theoretical assumptions underlying community work (Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills).
- Identify principles and strategies for facilitating the participation of diverse minority and community groups in community work initiatives (Domain 3: Effective Communication).
- Plan and undertake a needs assessment of a community or minority group (Domain 5: Provision of Quality Services)
- Illustrate the common values and ethical basis of community work as a social work method (Domain 1: Professional Autonomy and Accountability)
- Differentiate contrasting practice approaches of community work and other social work methods (Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills)

Teaching and Learning Methods

Twelve 90 minute sessions are allocated to the community work part of this course included in these session is a community work field trip. The first session will include a course introduction and the first lecture. Thereafter course sessions will be structured to include a lecture in one part – in accordance with the main themes as outlined in the course content above – and a second part consisting of small workshops. Lectures will include examples of community work from Irish-based practice settings. Further details of teaching and learning methods will be made available during the first session.

Assessment

Students will undertake a placement-based written assignment (2,500 minimum to 3,500 maximum words) during which they identify a community or minority
group that has specific relevance to their practice setting. The student will profile this community or minority group and outline how a social worker, or social work agency, would use a community work approach in working with this group. The student will also provide an overall assessment of the benefits and limits of a community work approach to social work in this setting.

Students are expected to show a good understanding of their chosen community or minority group. Students should demonstrate knowledge of community work theory and be able to incorporate community work principles, values and methods into their assignment.

Re-Assessment

In the event that a re-assessment is necessary students will be required to identify an alternative community or minority group and demonstrate that they have a working knowledge of this group. The student must then complete the above stated profile and social work intervention using a community work approach to working with this group along with an assessment of the benefits and limits of the approach.

Core Reading


Community Workers Co-operative (2008). Towards Standards for Quality Community Work. (Online) Available at www.cwc.ie


SS7016 : Foundations for Social Work Across the Lifespan (10 Credits)

2.1 Human Development in Social Contexts

Mr. Noel O Driscoll

Module Aims

In this module students will be introduced to a range of theories relevant to social workers engaging with children, young people and adults experiencing developmental, emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties. These theories will look at development across the life span and help us to understand what constitutes “normal” development and so will support students to consider what falls outside of the normal range of development. This knowledge base will form an important part of social worker’s ability to assess individuals at whatever stage of the lifespan. Students will be encouraged to critically engage with a range of perspectives on human development across the life span with particular focus on attachment relationships. These theories will be considered in terms of their application in social work practice with particular attention to how individuals’ psychological difficulties and distress are identified, assessed, understood and some reference to intervention.

Module Content

• Theoretical approaches to human development and their application in social work practice across the lifespan;

• Child observation and assessment;

• Attachment theory and attachment based interventions;

• Introduction to recognising, understanding and responding to psychological distress.
Teaching and Learning Methods
This module will be delivered over eight three hour sessions commencing September 2014. Sessions will be in seminar format with class discussion and student participation encouraged. Students may be required to present material to the class in small groups.

Learning Outcomes
Students who complete this module should:

• Have developed a critical understanding of different theoretical approaches to human development and attachment relationships;
• Be able to apply these ideas to support their understanding of difficulties experienced by people coming in contact with social workers in practice;
• Have an awareness of the evolving needs of children, young people and adults across their lifespan;
• Be in a position to recognise when the emotional health and well-being of individuals is at risk and may require professional intervention;
• Have a conceptual framework within which they can begin to evaluate developmental, emotional and behavioural difficulties in children, young people and adults.

Assessment
This module will be assessed by a child observation study and by examination.

Reading


Useful websites and resources available online
http://www.rip.org.uk/
http://circleofsecurity.net/
http://www.chimat.org.uk/
http://www.headstrong.ie/
http://www.youngminds.org.uk/

Additional reading will be provided in class.

2.2 Supporting Children and Families- Approaches to Prevention and Intervention

Dr Stephanie Holt, Dr Helen Buckley, Mr. Cormac Quinlan and Ms. Mary Kate Barry

Course Aims & Content

This introductory twenty-four hour module explores the relevance of family work for social work practice, highlighting key social work tasks and good practice, focusing on the following:

- Understanding Families: Approaches to Mapping Family Lives and Contexts (Domain 1, 2, 5, 6);
- Understanding Child Protection & Welfare in accordance with the National Guidelines (Domain 1, 2, 3, 6);
- Understanding Families: Assessment Processes (Domain 1, 2, 3, 5, 6).

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will:

- Understand the complexity of modern families and be able to map a family using a selection of mapping tools;
- Have acquired knowledge of the national guidelines on child protection and welfare, and key terms and definitions of child abuse, prior to beginning their first practice placement;
- Be able to reach decisions with the support and supervision of their practice teacher on child protection issues based on Children First.
• Have a working knowledge of an Assessment Framework

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

• Will include formal input and class discussion.
• Supplementary material will be provided for each topic.

**Assessment**

Attendance and participation; Class presentations; Application of knowledge in Placement and Practice Projects

**Readings**

**Session 1 & 2. Conceptualising and Mapping Contemporary Families**

Rapid social change increases the diversity of families and households. Traditional ways of defining families, by structure, system, household composition, or life-cycle stage, though useful, tend to be normative, ethnocentric and fail to capture the diversity and flux of contemporary living arrangements or the complex links between family, household and personal support networks. More recent conceptualizations highlight the self-defining and socially constructed aspects of family, kinship and personal life.

Mapping tools, which build on self-definitions, can strengthen our understanding of, and our work with, individuals and their significant others. These tools include: Genograms, time-lines, eco-maps, culturagrams and personal social network maps.

**Recommended Reading: Families and Diversity**


Scanzoni J (2001) From the normal family to .... Journal of Family Issues 22: (Sage)


Weston K (1991) Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship. NY: Columbia U.P.


www.familydiversity.ie

**Families, Social Networks and Social Support**


**Mapping Families**


Tracy E & Whittaker J (1990) The social network map, Families in Society

www.familytiesproject.org

www.genopro.com

www.themulticulturalinstitute.org

Policy documents and review reports


HSE (2012) Reports of the National Review Panel (Serious incidents including the deaths of children in care and known to the child protection system) http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Publications/services/Children/nationalreviewpanelreports.html

General readings


### Useful web-based resources:

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<th>Resource</th>
<th>URL</th>
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<td>Child Law Reporting Project</td>
<td><a href="http://www.childlawproject.ie/">http://www.childlawproject.ie/</a></td>
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<td>England and Wales</td>
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<td>The California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare</td>
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<td>Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.scie.org.uk/">www.scie.org.uk/</a></td>
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<td>Child Welfare League of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Cochrane Collaboration</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cochrane.org">www.cochrane.org</a></td>
<td>UK/International</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

As well as conducting key word searches, students are advised to regularly review the websites of relevant journals such as:

- Child and Family Social Work (Wiley-Blackwell)
- Child Abuse Review (Wiley Blackwell)
- Critical Social Policy (Sage)
- Child Abuse & Neglect (Elsevier)
- Child Care in Practice (Routledge)
- Children and Youth Services Review (Elsevier)
- British Journal of Social Work (Oxford University Press)
- Irish Journal of Family Law (Round Hall)
2.3 Child and Family Law

Sonya Bruen

Module Aims & Content
This module provides an analysis of key legislation together with practical legal training in preparation for a range of Social Work Practice settings.

The module explores key aspects of Irish and International Child and Family Law relevant to Social Work Practitioners, with particular focus on Public Child Care Law and the statutory role of Social Work Practitioners. The module will also provide an overview of relevant aspects of Private Family Law, including marriage breakdown, domestic violence, custody and guardianship.

Case examples from practice and group discussions will provide students with the opportunity to critically consider the role of a Social Work Practitioner within the wider context of the domestic and International Legislative framework.

Learning Outcomes
This module specifically addresses CORU domains 1, 3 and 6. On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Apply key legal principles to Social Work Practice in a wide range of settings;
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the statutory role of Social Work Practitioners in a Child Protection and Welfare setting;
- Develop skills to manage their Social Work File in preparation for court applications with particular focus on minutes of meetings, case notes, records of Social Work Assessment and Risk assessment;
- Consider the inherent difficulty of balancing parent’s rights and children’s rights in Public Law matters;
- Have a good understanding of fair procedures for parents and families, including issues such as informed consent and the rights of parents to access legal representation;
- Apply key principles for effective report writing and communication in Child Care Proceedings;

Week One: Introduction to Child and Family Law in Ireland
- Overview of relevant aspects of Irish Child and Family Law; including key domestic legislation, statutory instruments / regulations, EU / International Law.
• Practical knowledge of the Irish Court Service for Social Work Practitioners.
• Introduction to the main provisions of the Child Care Act 1991; main functions and responsibilities of the Child and Family Agency.
• Analysis of key provisions of the Irish Constitution with focus on the balance of rights of parents with children’s rights.

Group Discussion;
• Statutory role of Social Work Practitioner in Child Protection and Welfare; understanding the wider context of practice within a legislative framework.
• Analysis of case studies from practice to explore the balance of parental rights and children’s rights.

Required Reading:


Louise Crowley, ‘Family Law’. 2013


Geoffrey Shannon, Child Law, 2nd ed., (Thomson Round Hall), Chapters 1 and 2.


Week Two: Child Protection Law, Part 1; Social Work Preparation for Court:
• Overview of the most common applications made by the Child and Family Agency under the Child Care Act 1991, as amended. (Detailed analysis of most relevant sections to be completed on subsequent dates).
• Examination of thresholds /evidence required for each application.
• Review of definitions of abuse as outlined in the Children’s First Guidelines and Practice Handbook, 2011.
• Social Work Report for court proceedings – (overview only).
• Relevant aspects of District Court Practice Direction for Public Law Child Care Cases.

Group Discussion;
• Analysis of case studies to ascertain main threshold / evidence for applications – reference to case examples from the Child Law Project will be circulated for review by students in advance.
• Consideration of issues to be addressed by Social Work Department before court proceedings are initiated.

Required Reading:


Children’s First Guidelines, 2011 and Practice Handbook for Practitioners; definitions of child abuse and neglect.

Child Care Reporting Project, www.childlawproject.ie; Case examples


Week Three: Child Protection Law: Part 2; Emergency Care Orders and Interim Care Orders
• Detailed analysis of grounds for Emergency Care Order and Interim Care Order applications; (Sections 12, 13 and 17 of the Child Care Act 1991) & thresholds of risk to be met for these applications.
• Practical preparation & evidence required for applications
• Social Work Report for Emergency Care Order and Interim Care Order applications.
• Reference to relevant research in Social Work Reports

Group Discussion;
• Review of real practice examples of Emergency Care Order and Interim Care Order applications – case studies to be circulated in advance to students for consideration.
• Common mistakes in Emergency Care Order / Interim Care Order applications; lessons for practice.

Required Reading:


Children’s First Guidelines, 2011 and Practice Handbook for Practitioners; definitions of child abuse and neglect.
Week Four; Child Protection Law; Part 3; Care Orders & Supervision Orders

- Detailed analysis of grounds for Care Order & Supervision Order applications; (Section 18 and 19 of the Child Care Act 1991) - review of thresholds to be met for these applications.
- Practical preparation & evidence required for applications under Section 18 and 19.
- Social Work Report for Care Order and Supervision Order applications.
- Proportionality in Care Order applications – duration of a Care Order.
- Reference to relevant research in Social Work Reports, with particular reference to Care Order Reports / booklets.
- Booklet of documents required from Social Work File for Care Order hearings.

Group Discussion;

- Review of real practice examples of Care Order and Supervision Order applications – case studies to be circulated in advance to students for consideration.
- Common mistakes in Care Order applications; lessons for practice.

Required Reading:


Children’s First Guidelines, 2011 and Practice Handbook for Practitioners; definitions of child abuse and neglect.

Week Five; Child Protection Law, Part 4; Children in Care

- Section 4 Child Care Act 1991- Voluntary Care
- Section 37 Child Care Act 1991- Access for Children in Care.
- Section 45 Child Care Act 1991 - After Care Provision for Children in Care.
• Section 47 Child Care Act 1991 – Applications for Court directions in respect of Children in Care.
• Regulations for Children in Care – Standards for foster care and residential care.
• Use of research and assessments to illustrate evidence in respect of children in care; attachment theory, impact of access for children in short term / long term care.

**Group Discussion;**
• Consent for medical treatment for children in care (Section 47 Child Care Act 1991) – case examples and guidance for practice.
• Regulations for children in care – the importance in Child in Care reviews and Care Plans in court proceedings.

**Required Reading**


Children’s First Guidelines, 2011 and Practice Handbook for Practitioners; definitions of child abuse and neglect.

Child Care Reporting Project, [www.childlawproject.ie](http://www.childlawproject.ie); Case examples


**Week Six: Accountability of Social Work Practitioners**
• Role of CORU, Social Service Inspectorate / HIQA in monitoring practice of Social Work Practitioners .
• Duties of the Social Work Practitioner to Court in Child Care Proceedings.
• Role of Guardian ad litem.
• Exploration of the relevance of Judicial Review for Social Work Practitioners.
• File management, communication with service users and file recording in statutory practice and other practice areas.
• Data Protection & Freedom of Information.

**Group Discussion;**
• Case examples of Judicial Review; practice learning for Social Work Practitioners.
• Preparing / maintaining your Social Work File.
Required Reading

Children’s First Guidelines, 2011 and Practice Handbook for Practitioners; definitions of child abuse and neglect.


**Week Seven: Private Family Law**
- The Law of Marriage, Civil Partnership and Cohabitation.
- Section 20 of the Child Care Act 1991; Social Work Report in private family law matters.
- Changes to Guardianship / custody; The Children and Family Relationships Bill 2015.
- Legal Representation for service users / families.

**Group Discussion:**
- Distinction between private and public law proceedings ; Social Work role
- Child’s parentage and guardianship – DNA testing and related issues for Social Work Practitioners.

**Required Reading:**


Louise Crowley, ‘Family Law’. 2013

**Week Eight: Criminal Justice System**
- Overview of the Irish Criminal Justice System
- Interagency co-operation between the statutory agencies in Child Abuse investigations
- Juvenile offences and detention
- Social Work Practitioners / Child and Family Agency role in respect of Juvenile criminal charges
Required Reading:
Chapter 16.


Children First Practice Handbook; Interagency Co-operation in criminal matters.

Week Nine: The Law of Adoption
- Domestic Adoption & Intercountry Adoption
- Permanency Planning for children; analysis of adoption / long term foster care in Ireland.

Required Reading:

Geoffrey Shannon, Child Law, 2nd ed., (Thomson Round Hall), Chapter 9

Chapter ‘10

Alan Shatter, Shatter’s Family Law 4th ed., (Butterworths, 1997), Chapters 12

Kerry O’Halloran Adoption Law and Practice 2nd ed., (Thomson Reuters Ireland Limited) chapters 6, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Louise Crowley, ‘Family Law’. 2013

Week Ten: EU / International Framework for Child Protection
- Child Abduction – Brussels II; Child Protection procedures and recognition of court orders between member states.
- Children’s rights and the Irish Constitution.

Required Reading:

Kilkelly, U (Ed) ECHR and Irish Law 2nd ed., (Bristol: Jordan’s).


*Social Work and the Rights of the Child*, International Federation of Social Workers (see also [http://www.ifsw.org](http://www.ifsw.org))


**Week Eleven The Law on Secure Care for minors in Ireland**

- The Legal Framework for Secure Care
- Social Work Practice with young people in Secure Care
- Case examples and lessons for practice from practitioners in this specialist area

**Required Reading:**

Kilkelly, U (Ed) *ECHR and Irish Law* 2nd ed., (Bristol: Jordan's).


**Week Twelve; Preparation for Practice; Case Analysis and Case Studies**

Further details and case studies to be provided in advance.

**General Reading**


Children's Rights Alliance (2006) *From Rhetoric to Rights: Second Shadow Report to the UN*


Publications


**Journals**

The Irish Journal of Family Law, Dublin: Sweet and Maxwell.

**Useful Legal Websites**

[www.childlawproject.ie](http://www.childlawproject.ie); Child Care Reporting Project,

[www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie)  **Website of the Irish Courts Service**

[www.bailli.org](http://www.bailli.org) - **Website of the British and Irish Legal Information Institute**

[www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Case-Law/Hudoc/Hudoc+database/](http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Case-Law/Hudoc/Hudoc+database/)  **Database of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.**

**Assessment**

Students are required to submit an assignment of between 2,500 and 3,500 words. Essay titles will be given in class.

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2.4 Equality, Rights, identities and Power in Social Work Practice

**Dr. Michael Feely**

**Module Aims and Content**

This module aims to offer a critical introduction to issues of equality, diversity and power in social work practice. It will encourage students to critically analyse and discuss:

- the concept of equality;
- human rights;
- radical and anti-oppressive approaches to social work practice;
- cultural competence in social work practice;
- how power operates in social work settings;
- how social work can function as a form of social control.

The module will also encompass presentations by guest speakers and aims to open up a space for direct dialogue between social work students and diverse client groups (e.g. self-advocates with disabilities; travellers; members of the LGBTQ community and so on)

Methods of Teaching and Student Learning
Lecture based-critical discussions, pre-class readings, and critical reflection.

Learning Outcomes
When students have successfully completed this module they should be able to:

- Understand how ideas concerning equality and human rights can affect social work practice.
- Be cognisant of how anti-oppressive practice, and cultural competence can inform contemporary social work practice.
- Be capable of meeting CORU’s standards of proficiency.

Syllabus
Indicative Content (Subject to change depending upon the availability of guest speakers)
1 - Tuesday, September 22th, Introduction to the radical social work tradition and the concept of equality.
2 - Tuesday, September 29th: Considering oppression and introducing anti-oppressive practice.
3 - Tuesday, October 13th: Can social workers be culturally competent?
4 – Tuesday, October 20th, How does power work in social work settings?
5 - Tuesday, October 28th, Reflecting on the ways critical thinking, anti-oppressive practice, and cultural competence can shape practice.

Essential reading to prepare for class discussion
Week 1
Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

Further Reading
Recommended Reading


**Additional Reading Part One**


**Additional Reading Part Two**

**Anti-Oppressive Practice & Intercultural issues**


Barnardo's (2011) ‘Separated Children in Foster Care’ seminar paper, available online [www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie)


Health Service Executive (2009) *Health Services Intercultural Guide. Responding to the needs of diverse religious communities and cultures in health care settings*. Dublin:HSE


Irish Social Worker (1998) *Special Issue on Social Work, Refugees & Racism.* 16(2)


**Ageism**


The Irish National Council on Ageing and Older People was dissolved in September 2009 but publications still available on http://www.ncaop.ie/research.html

**Disability**


HIV/AIDS


http://www.iol.ie/nexus/hv.htm


AIDS Care – quarterly journal on psychological & socio-medical aspects of HIV/AIDS and Journal of HIV/AIDS and Social Services – both ejournals in library

**Sectarianism**


**Sexual Orientation**
BeLonGTo (2013) *LGBT Youth & Social Inclusion Conference presentations* 17th June 2013 on youtube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vv7y1eTsfUg.


Health Service Executive (2009) *LGBT Health: Towards meeting the health care needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People* Dublin:HSE

Higgins, A., Sharet, D., McCann, E et al. (2011) *Visible Lives – identifying the experiences and needs of older lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in Ireland.* Dublin:GLEN


Pillinger, J. & Fagan, P. (2013) *LGBT Parents in Ireland - A study into the experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in Ireland who are parents or who are planning parenthood*. Ireland:LGBT Diversity

**Travellers and Roma**


All Ireland Traveller Health Study Team (2010) *All Ireland Traveller Health Study - Our Geels*. Dublin: School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science, University College Dublin


Irish Social Worker (1996) *Special Issue on Travellers*. 14. 2


**SS7014: Social Work Practice: (30 ECTS)**

### 3.1 Preparing for Practice-A Reflective Practice Approach.

**Overview**

This module resources students in planning for and undertaking the practice-based learning components of the MSW programme. Key concepts and processes of ‘Reflective Learning and Practice’ are introduced as an approach to achieve optimal learning from social work practice placements. The concepts introduced will be further integrated through the Reflective Practice and Use of Self in Social Work module.

**Module Content**

**Introduction to Reflective Learning**

**Session 1:** This session introduces the practice learning component of the MSW programme in accordance with the CORU/SWRB Criteria and Standards of Proficiency for Social Work Education and Training Programmes. Information is provided on placement planning and allocation processes.

A reflective learning approach to placement is introduced whereby students’ experiences and views of learning from practice in contrast to more traditional classroom-based learning are
explored. Learning Styles and their implications for practice learning are considered.

Session 2: A range of Reflective Learning tools are introduced in this session including Process Recording, Learning Logs, Critical Incidents, Reflective Journals and Direct Observation.

Session 3: This session focuses on Supervision as the structured opportunity for teaching and reflective learning each week during placement. A number of models of supervision are reviewed including a reflective practice model and a developmental model.

**Planning for Placement**

Session 4: An overview of social work sectors is presented drawing on research data. A range of possible placement opportunities are profiled by a panel of practice teachers from a range of social work settings including child & family, health-related, community/voluntary, probation & disability sectors. The presentation is followed by a Questions and Answers session with the panel.

Session 5 & 6: Individual student placement consultations.

**Practice-based Learning, Assessment & Evaluation**

Session 7: This session outlines the role of the tutor. Student ‘learning needs statements’ are introduced and students are encouraged to develop personal learning needs statements incorporating the six CORU/SWRB domains of proficiency, with support from their individual tutor. The Placement Learning Agreement is presented and integration of learning goals and placement based learning opportunities is discussed.

Session 8: This session focuses on processes of evaluation and assessment by the practice teacher. The student’s representation of learning through the placement project is addressed.

Session 9 & 10: These pre-placement sessions presented jointly with Practice Teachers consider theories, skills and ethical practice that are pertinent to students’ allocated placements. Barriers to constructive learning and practice are considered and approaches in learning from practice experience are reviewed.

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this module students will have fully engaged in the placement planning process and have identified their practice learning needs and goals.
informed by the CORU/SWRB Criteria and Standards of Proficiency for Social Work Education and Training Programmes. They will have developed reflective learning and practice skills and will have become familiar with the use of reflective teaching and learning tools, supports and processes to optimize learning from and in their social work practice placement and social work practice more generally.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Presentations, panel discussion with practitioners, reflective exercises, case studies, individual reflective journals and group process.

**Assessment**

Practice Project

**Essential Reading**


**Further Reading**

**Placements – An Overview**


**Learning in Practice**


Reflective Learning and Practice


**Supervision**


**Practice Contexts**


**Perspectives on Practice**


4.1 Contemporary Discourses in Social Work

Dr Trish Walsh

Module Aims and Content

In this module, students will be introduced to historical and contemporary critical discourses in social work. Through a combination of presentations, lectures and class-based exercises, students will consider the relevance of these ideas and perspectives and their application to fields of practice and theories of social work practice.

The aims of the module are to enable students:

- To develop an understanding of how our personal experiences and professional frameworks for practice evolve and interact and how to manage this in a professional and ethical manner.
- To examine the historical influence of movements such as feminism, anti-racism and radicalism on the development of social work.
- To identify and describe contemporary critical perspectives in social work and their uses as frames of reference and analysis for social work practice.
- To further develop an understanding of the relationships between social work theory, knowledge and practice, research and evidence.
- To explore the societal, organizational and ethical parameters of practice.

Learning Outcomes

After attending all lectures and successfully completing the relevant assignments, a student will be able to:
Describe the historical antecedents of at least two current critical perspectives (CORU Domain 1 and 4).

Describe the main features of at least one perspective relating this both to named theorists and its specific relevance to social work practice (CORU Domain 1 and 4).

Assess and critically evaluate one perspective in relation to both its benefits and disadvantages as a lens through which to view their own initial personal framework for practice (CORU Domain 4 and 6).

Identify how context, role and mandate impact on practice within different societal and organizational settings (CORU Domain 5 and 6).

Assessments

Students will be required to participate in class exercises and read selected articles, followed by the completion of a written assignment to be submitted in Dec 2015. Full guidance on the assignment will be given in class.

General Reading (** =Essential reading; Others = Recommended texts)


Recommended Journals

*British Journal of Social Work (BJSW)*

*Critical Social Policy*

*Qualitative Social Work*

1. Introduction

An overview of the module. Explanation and guidance on the assignment for the course.

- The distinction between practice theory, explanatory theory and perspective.
- A review of frameworks for analysing social work theory and practice.
- Distinctions between positivist and social constructionist perspectives.

Neoliberalism and marketisation


2. What is Theory? What is Evidence?


3. Modern and Post-modern Perspectives


4. Social Constructionist / Postmodernist Approaches to Practice


5. From radical to critical: what’s the difference?


6. Gender, Feminism and Social Work


**Journals:** Feminist Review; Feminist Studies; Feminist Theory.

7. Gender, Masculinities and Social Work


*Affilia,* 26 (4), 406-418.

15.


**Journals**: *Gender Issues; Men and Masculinities*

8. **Anti-racist social work in a transnational globalised world**


9. Social justice in a transnational globalised world: The Capabilities Approach


10. Review, Reflection and Action


Module Aims

The aim of this module is to introduce students to some of the key theories and debates about the contemporary welfare state and to apply these theories and debates to substantive areas of Irish social policy.

Module Content

Part 1 Comparative Social Policy

This section will review the key theories and debates in comparative social policy and situate Ireland within this literature.

Topics will include:

- Welfare state theories and debates
- Welfare state crisis and change
- The Irish welfare state in a comparative perspective

Part 2 Issues in contemporary Irish social policy:

This section will focus on the key issues / debates in Irish social policy and will situate these debates in selected policy sectors.

Topics will include:

- Income support - poverty, inequality and social exclusion in Irish society
- Equity / equality in Irish social service funding and provision
- A rights-based approach to social service funding and provision
- Diversity in Irish social policy
- Privatisation of social services in Ireland
- Institutional / community provision of social services in Ireland
- Accountability of Irish social services

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module students will be able to:

- Describe the main theoretical approaches in the comparative welfare state literature;
• Critically apply these theories to an analysis of the Irish welfare state;
• Demonstrate an understanding of the main principles used to analyse social policy – equity, rights, redistribution, accountability;
• Demonstrate an understanding of the key debates in comparative social policy – poverty and social exclusion, diversity, privatization;
• Critically analyse selected areas of Irish social policy using these principles and debates.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

The module will comprise a combination of lectures and seminar presentations from students.

**Assessment**

Students will be assessed in a prepared examination in January 2016 (70%) and on a seminar presentation during the module (30%); both elements have to be passed separately.

**Module Reading List**


**Seminar Reading Lists**

Detailed reading lists for each of the seminars will be provided.

### 4.3 Introduction to Social Work Research and Evaluation

**Dr Stephanie Holt**

In the first part of this module from September to December students will be introduced, to the theory, knowledge and skills of qualitative. While the lectures aim to cover a wide range of theoretical and methodological issues, the module is designed to equip students with the skills to carry out a research project and will cover the planning, data collection and analysis phases of the research process. Students will receive practical guidance on how to set up and manage their research project, collect data via individual in-depth interviews and other qualitative data collection methods, turn your data into meaningful findings, and write them up in a research report.

In the second part of this module, in May 2015, students will attend five skills workshops (15hrs) on applied research methods in order to refine their research proposal and fieldwork design in preparation for fieldwork. The following methods of data gathering and analysis will be covered in detail: research design, conducting a literature review, individual and focus group interviewing (structured/semi-structured/in-depth), survey design, participant and non-participant observation; single and mixed methods approaches (combining qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques). Intensive tutorial support is also provided.

The module is a prerequisite for students to undertake a minor research dissertation of between 15,000 -17, 000 words, which is undertaken and submitted in year two as a requirement of the Masters in Social Work. All
dissertations will require the approval of the School Ethics Approval Committee. Research projects may be quantitative (including documentary analysis), qualitative, mixed or evaluative. Students will be required to present their work in a research colloquium at the end of Year Two.

Overall, this module seeks to enhance students’ confidence as practitioner researchers and encourage individuals to explore further opportunities in program evaluation, practice based research and/or post graduate research.

Module Content

The main themes of this module include:

- Linking social work research to theory generation and evidence informed practice
- Exploring different research theories, methods and designs appropriate for practitioner research
- Evaluating social work interventions and outcomes
- Strategies for collecting data, evidence and service users feedback
- Presenting and disseminating research findings and evidence for promoting social change

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module the student will be able to:

- Undertake a crucial appraisal of social research and evidence so as to inform social work practice (research literacy);
- Reflect on personal, political and ethical issues inherent in social inquiry (research mindedness);
- Explain the key concepts and processes of research and evaluation processes;
- Develop a viable research or evaluation proposal based on current research literature;
- Apply fieldwork skills so as to undertake a small-scale research project (research active);
- Write a research report and present on the findings to the MSW research colloquium at the end of Year Two.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Lectures
- Workshops with applied exercises including group or individual presentations
- Tutorials
Assessment

Concept Paper: - Due December 2015 (Graded 10% of total marks; 1,200 minimum - 1,500 maximum word count). This brief paper is the first stage of a research proposal. Students will be required to identify a social problem or issue and a research question that is amenable to conducting research or evaluation. The discussion will involve the use of literature to specify the research question.

Research Proposal Paper - Due May 2016 (Graded 90% of total marks. Word Count 2,500 minimum-3,000 words maximum). A formal research proposal using a prescribed format will further build on the research question and outline the research methodology and design required for its investigation.

Participation in Research Workshops - May 2016 (Compulsory, not graded).

Essential Reading


Additional readings will be given in class.
MSW: Year Two 2015/2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Dates 2015/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching Weeks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14th September – 6th November 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Week</strong></td>
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<td>9th November – 13th November 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching Weeks</strong></td>
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<td>16th November – 11th December 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dissertation preparation</strong></td>
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<td>14th December – 18th December 2015</td>
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<td><strong>Christmas Vacation</strong></td>
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<td>21st December – 8th January 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Dissertation Completion</strong></td>
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<td>11th January – 22nd January 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation for Placement Week</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>25th Jan – 29th January 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Reading Week</strong></td>
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<td>1st February – 5th February 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Placement</strong></td>
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<td>8th February – 13th May 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Placement Call-In Day</strong></td>
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<td>15th March 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching Weeks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16th May – 27th May 2016</td>
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Year Two Programme Requirements
(75 ECTS – MSW; 60 ECTS – Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work)

1. **SS8012 Social Work in Diverse Settings A & B (10 credits)**

   **Social Work in Diverse Settings (A)(5 Credits)**
   1.1) Families and Children: Practicing in a Child Welfare Context (18 hours)
   1.2) Social Work and gender based Domestic Violence (12 hours)
   1.3) Criminology, Probation and Social Work (24 hours)
   1.4) Applied Law (12 hours)

   **Social Work in Diverse Settings (B)(5 Credits)**
   1.5) Mental Health (18 hours)
1.6) Addictions (12 hours)
1.7) Youth Mental Health (9 hours)
1.8) Health Related Social Work (24 hours)
1.9) Ageing (9 hours)
1.10) Disability (9 hours)

2. SS8013 Social Work Practice and Perspectives (35 credits)
2.1) Placement
2.2) Systemic and Social Constructionist Approaches with Children and Families (30 hours)
2.3) Professional Development (12 hours)
2.4) Special Seminars (12 hours)
2.5) Working in Human Service Organisations (24 hours)
2.6) Social Work in a Global Context (9 hours)

3. SS8014 Social Work Research (30 credits) (MSW Assignment)
Dissertation preparation under supervision of allocated supervisor. Research classes (6 hours)

or

4. SS8015 Personal Framework for 15 credits) (PGDip Assignment)
Personal Framework for Practice preparation under supervision of allocated supervisor Year Two Assessment

**Year Two Assessment**

1. SS8012 Social Work in Diverse Settings A & B (10 credits)

**Social Work In Diverse Settings A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practicing in Child Welfare</th>
<th>Child Care Project (25%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Work and gender based Domestic Violence</td>
<td>Full Attendance &amp; Class participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminology, Probation and Social Work</td>
<td>Assignment (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Law</td>
<td>Full attendance &amp; Class Participation</td>
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**Social Work In Diverse Settings B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Health</th>
<th>Mental Health Project (25%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addictions</td>
<td>Full attendance &amp; Class Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Mental Health</td>
<td>Full attendance &amp; Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Related Social Work</td>
<td>Class-based Assignments (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ageing</td>
<td>Full attendance &amp; Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>Full Attendance and Class Participation</td>
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</table>
2. SS8013 Social Work Practice & Perspectives (35 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement Plus Placement Report</th>
<th>Pass or Fail on Placement Performance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Systemic and Social Constructionist Approaches with Children and Families</td>
<td>Performance on Placement and Application of Theory in Practice represented in the Placement Project (100%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>Full attendance and class participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Seminars</td>
<td>Full attendance and class participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working in Human Service Organisations</td>
<td>Assessed within Placement Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Work in a Global Context</td>
<td>Full attendance and class participation</td>
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3. SS8014 Social Work Research (30 credits)
Research Dissertation (MSW) (100%)

Or

4. SS8015 Personal Framework for Practice (15 credits)
4. Practice Framework (Dip. SW) (100%)

**Assessment Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Related Social Work</th>
<th>Assessed and Videoed Class Presentations 28th &amp; 4th November 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Welfare Project</td>
<td>Due Mon 16th November 2016 at 11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health Project</td>
<td>Due Fri 4th December 2015 at 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminology, Probation &amp; Social Work</td>
<td>Due Wed 9th December 2015 at 9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Dissertation</td>
<td>Due Fri 22nd January 2016 at 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Framework for Practice</td>
<td>Due Fri 22nd January 2016 at 1pm</td>
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<td>Placement Project</td>
<td>Due Mon 16th May 2016 at 9.30am</td>
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Prof. Robbie Gilligan,

Module Aims

This module aims to equip students for practice in child welfare. It aims to equip beginning practitioners with an awareness of the main issues in this complex field of practice and to introduce them to the literature and conceptual frameworks of child welfare. There will be an emphasis on critical reflection of key propositions surrounding practice. Students will be encouraged to adopt a practice stance which is:

- Child Centred
- Family Focused
- Compassionate
- Ethically and Culturally Sensitive
- Evidence Led
- Informed by Selected Key Paradigms including:
  - The Strengths Perspective
  - Attachment Theory and Developmental Theory
  - The Ecological Framework
  - Social Justice.

While students will be sensitised to the importance of outcomes of interventions for clients (as opposed to professionals' initial intentions) they will also be asked to remember the primacy of process in the human encounter between social worker, child and family. Students will be challenged to value and question the professional knowledge and power that they apply in their professional role in the lives of children and families.

Learning Outcomes

The overall learning objectives of the module include:

- To stimulate conviction about the importance of child welfare as a field of practice, and the vital role of social work - in collaboration with other disciplines - within it.
- To imbue enthusiasm, optimism and enjoyment for this field of practice.
- To build a secure knowledge base for practice: child development, child care law, new practice developments, theoretical debates and research evidence.
• To reflect on minimum standards for ethical practice.
• To formulate a set of practice values and feasible goals for personal practice.

Course Content and Learning Outcomes
This course will be delivered in a series of four modules covering the different areas of practice in child welfare. These modules are as follows:

A. Children (Including Children in Care), Families and Social Support
B. Key Issues in Child Protection & Welfare
C. The Adoption Triangle

Teaching and Learning methods
Lecture format followed by discussion; small group or pairs exercises; use of case scenarios.

Assessment
Case study assignment requiring the integration of family law, national and agency policies and best practice principles to be submitted November, 2015

Social Work and Child Care Project
A case study involving childcare scenarios will be provided, and you will be asked to answer a series of set questions pertaining to this.

This exercise will require you to be both imaginative and realistic, and to research your answers. You should demonstrate appropriate use of theory, research evidence and relevant law. Support your arguments with evidence from research (books and journals) and from your practice experience.

Recommended word-length: Minimum 2,700 – Maximum 3,000 words.

Recommended Reading on Children in Care
Perspectives from the Irish Context
Daly, F. and Gilligan,R. (2005,) Lives in Foster Care – The educational and social support experiences of young people aged 13-14 years in long-term foster care Dublin: Children’s Research Centre.


Health Information and Quality Authority (2010) *National Quality Standards for Residential and Foster Care Services for Children and Young People* Dublin: Health Information and Quality Authority


**Good Practice Principles**


Stein, M., (2012) *Young People Leaving Care - Supporting Pathways to Adulthood* London: Jessica Kingsley

**Key overview / specific studies**


Berridge, D. (2012) *Educating young people in care: What have we learned?* Children and Youth Services Review 34, 6, 1171-1175


Daly, F. (2012). What do Young People Need When They Leave Care? Views of Care-leavers and Aftercare Workers in North Dublin. *Child Care in Practice*, 18(4), 309-324


97


Gilligan, R. (2007) ‘Spare Time Activities for Young People in Care: What can they contribute to educational progress?’ *Adoption and Fostering* 31, 1, 92-99


Robbie Gilligan: robbie.gilligan@tcd.ie

Overview

This 10-hour section of the module examines the case for commitment to prevention and family support. It reviews existing provision and ideas in the field of prevention and family support in child welfare, and explores the potential of the Child Care Act 1991 in this area.

Students may wish to contact / visit relevant services such as: Springboard Projects; Tusla funded Family Support Centres; Tusla Community Mothers’ Programme; Barnardo’s community based services etc

Recommended Reading on Children, Families, Services and Social Support

** Irish authored / related


[for text of whole book including this chapter: http://www.wosco.org/books/avaxhome/Pathwaysof.pdf]


**Practice Issues**


Debbonaire, T. (2004), An Evaluation of Intervention Programmes in Ireland working with abusive men and their partners and ex-partners, Bristol: Domestic Violence Responses


Kelleher and Associates with Monica O'Connor (1995) Making the Links, Towards an integrated strategy for the elimination of violence against women in intimate relationships with men, A study commissioned by Women's Aid


Peckover, S. (2003) 'I could have just done with a little more help': an analysis of women's help-seeking from health visitors in the context of domestic violence', Health and Social Care in the Community 11 (3), 275-282


1.2 Social Work and Gender Based Violence

Dr Stephanie Holt et al.

Module Aims

This module explores the various contexts within which domestic and gender based violence occurs, locating this exploration against the backdrop of best social work practice. The module begins with an overview of domestic and gender based violence including an examination of the prevalence, dynamics and different forms of violence and relationships in which it occurs. While the impact of this experience on all those who live with violence is explored (children, women and men), focused and specific attention is given to the child's experience, taking a systemic and child centred approach to understanding impact and informing practice responses in a holistic and community based setting. An appreciation of impact will take a life span approach, focusing on understanding how adverse childhood experiences (drawing on the ACE study) have cumulatively negative consequences for health and well-being in adulthood. Same sex partner violence, sexual exploitation and the particular nuances and implications for service provision will also be explored. The particular challenges and concerns for social work practice in the context of post-separation contact are also addressed. The relevance of domestic abuse for intimate partner homicide is also considered, with a critical appraisal of this phenomenon located within both a domestic and international context. The issues and dilemmas facing social work practitioners in responding to these complex issues will be explored throughout the module. These issues include the particular challenges social workers face in engaging abusive men and the role that disability can play in sustaining the presence of domestic abuse in families. The role of perpetrator programmes in the suite of service responses to both victims and perpetrators is addressed through the available empirical knowledge base.

Learning Outcomes

After attending the lectures and successfully completing the child welfare assignment, a student will be able to:
Articulate a theoretical understanding of the prevalence, dynamics and nature of domestic and gender violence (Domains 2, 5, 6);

Understand the relevance of domestic and gender based violence for social work practice in a child protection and welfare context (Domains 2, 5);

Appreciate the issues and debates social work encounters when responding to domestic and gender violence (Domains 2, 3, 5);

Describe the elements of good practice when responding to domestic and gender based violence (Domains 1 and 2 4, 5).

Recommended Reading

*General Overview, Trends, Patterns, Theoretical Perspectives*


Cronin, J. and O’Connor, M. (1993) *The Identification and Treatment of Women Admitted to an Accident and Emergency Department as a Result of Assault by Spouses/Partners*. Dublin: Women’s Aid and St. James Hospital


**Impact of Exposure to Domestic Abuse on Children**


**Impact of Domestic Abuse on Parenting**


**Post-separation Contact and Domestic Abuse**


**Intimate Partner Homicide**


**Practice Issues**


Kelleher and Associates with Monica O’Connor (1995) Making the Links, Towards an integrated strategy for the elimination of violence against women in intimate relationships with men, A study commissioned by Women’s Aid


1.3 Criminology, Probation and Social Work

Mr. David Williamson & Dr Eoin O'Sullivan

Module Aims

The module will introduce students to criminological theory and will explore key issues and discourses pertinent to the practice of social work within the criminal justice context. It will facilitate the students in gaining a broad understanding of the Irish criminal justice system along with considering some critical debates concerning the challenge of delivering equitable and humane criminal justice processes and role and position of the Social Worker within that system.

Module Content

This module explores current and emerging themes and key concepts in the area of Criminal Justice Social Work. It is designed to enhance and complement...
learning from other course modules including work with involuntary clients, legislation, courtroom skills, presentation skills, anti-oppressive practices, principles of effective interventions and social policy. Reference will be made to all the major relevant theories along with drawing on practice experience.

The module will cover the following areas:

- An overview of major criminological theories and their impact on ideas about punishment, rehabilitation and the development of social work in the criminal justice context.
- An overview of the historical development of the Probation Service in Ireland and its development into a Social Work Agency.
- An overview of the main areas of work of the Probation Service in both community and custodial settings and in partnerships with other agencies.
- Key current and emerging issues in Probation practice including a focus on risk and need assessment, offender risk management strategies, Restorative Justice, assessment, management and interventions with high risk offenders including sex offenders and perpetrators of domestic violence and Young People’s Probation.
- The evolution of principles of effective practice in Probation work with specific reference to the Irish context though drawing on comparative models.
- Some of the principles of one-to-one and group based interventions with offenders including approaches deemed effective with involuntary clients and practice methodology within specialized areas of Probation work – Young Peoples Probation, sex offenders, offenders with drug/alcohol related problems and women offenders.
- Some of the current debates informing and challenging social work in the criminal justice context including: Rehabilitation vs. Public protection, individual pathology approaches vs. social analysis and corrections versus rights based approaches.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this module students will be expected to be able to:

- Describe some theories of criminology and their relevance for social work.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of social work in Probation along with the development of a range of sanctions in response to offending behaviour with particular reference to the Irish context.
• Critically evaluate some of the current trends in sentencing and offender management policy.
• Outline some current key areas of work within the Irish Probation Service.
• Demonstrate an understanding of some methods of effective practice with offenders.
• Demonstrate an awareness of the relevance of concepts such as social inclusion, rehabilitation, partnership approaches, and rights based / anti-oppressive practice in criminal justice social work
• Critically evaluate the impact and place of social work values and principles in the context of current Probation practice.
• Demonstrate a cognizance of the links between material presented in the Social Work and Criminology Module and issues, concepts and discourses arising from learning from the rest of the course.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The overall approach will be consistent with an Adult Learning Model of education drawing and building on existing skills, knowledge and competencies of the participants. A variety of learning approaches will be used including: formal presentations, small group activities, case studies, role plays, class discussions, use of videos/DVDs and other resource material. Guest speakers with a range of experience and specialist knowledge and skills pertaining to different aspects of Probation work will contribute to some of the sessions. The module will be designed to complement learning from other aspects of the course including practice placements.

Assessment

This module will be assessed by means of an essay (3000 words max.) to be submitted by December 2015.

Essential Reading


**Recommended Reading**


**Websites**

Probation Service: [www.probationservice.ie](http://www.probationservice.ie)

Dept. of Justice Equality and Law Reform: [www.irlgov.ie/justice/default.htm](http://www.irlgov.ie/justice/default.htm)

Mr Kieran McGrath

Module Aims

On successful completion of this module students should be able to function as professional social workers within the legal context. They will know the legal duties and responsibilities of social workers, as accountable professionals, and what is required in terms of report-writing and the giving of oral evidence. They will also, however, be able to apply a Social Work critique to the legal system, particularly the adversarial aspects of the legal system and the ethical issues which it raises. They will also have had an introduction to the concept of Therapeutic Jurisprudence which, along with Social Work theory can be used a lens from through which the Law can be critically analysed.

Module Content

Specific issues addressed will include the nature of the adversarial legal system within which social workers are required to work and the process of preparing court reports in a variety of different contexts including: Child Care, Family Law, Guardian ad litem reports and Section 20 reports under the 1991 Child Care Act in the area of civil law. Giving oral evidence in court, as a professional witness, will also be a major element of the course. Special attention will be given to legal and practice issues of the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 & 2003. The case of P.D.P. v HSE (2012) IEHC 591 will also be considered in detail and its implications for Social Work practice in Ireland, especially with regard to the requirements of Natural Justice and Fair Procedure. The practice implications for Social Work and the ethical issues involved in interacting with the legal system will be examined within the context of the concept of Therapeutic Jurisprudence.

Learning Outcomes

The module provides students with the following learning outcomes:

- A structured, reflexive approach to their role as professionals interacting with the legal system.
- An understanding of the use of the concept of Therapeutic Jurisprudence and how it can be applied to the legal system.
- A framework for examining professional and legal accountability as it applies to social workers.
- An understanding of the adversarial nature of the Irish legal system and how it impacts on court procedures.
- An understanding of the importance of applying Natural Justice and Fair Procedure in all matters that have legal consequences for clients.
- A framework for preparing Court Reports
- Courtrooms skills and practical guidelines for giving oral testimony when appearing as a professional witness.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Lecture format and small group work

**Assessment - Full attendance and class participation.**

**Essential Reading List**


**Additional Reading**


List of legal cases:

Inre H (Minors) [1996] AC 563

In re S., M., and W. [1996] IFLR 87


P.D.P. v HSE (2012) IEHC 591


Re G (Child Abuse: Standard of Proof) [1987] 1 WLR 1461

R v Birmingham Juvenile Court, ex parte S [1984] Fam 93

Southern Health Board v CH [1996] IFLR 101

The State (D.) v G and others [1990] 7 Fam.L.J.


Thomson v Glasgow Corporation [1961] SLT 237
Dr. Shane Butler

Module Aims

The aims of this 28-hour module are to assist students to:

- develop a critical appreciation of changing trends in mental health policy and provision;

- sharpen their understanding of the major psychiatric disorders and the impact which these disorders have on sufferers, families and the wider society;

- look specifically at alcohol and drug-related problems, their management within the mental health system and their management by generic social workers;

- gain an understanding of what social work can contribute to formal mental health services and an understanding of how a mental health/addiction perspective may be applied in generic - and particularly in child welfare and protection - social work settings.

Teaching Methods

The module will be taught in seminar format during the first term of year two.

Assessment

The module will be assessed by means of an essay to be submitted at the end of first term. Essay titles and further details about this assignment will be circulated at the beginning of the teaching term.
Learning Outcomes

Students who attend and participate in these seminars and who do some reading on the main themes covered will, at the end of the module, have acquired:

- an understanding of the contentious nature of 'mental illness' as a concept, and of the difficulties involved in multidisciplinary work where different professionals operate from different ideological perspectives;
- an awareness of the ongoing stigmatisation and social exclusion of people labelled as 'mentally ill', despite the apparent acceptance and implementation of 'community care' policies in the mental health sphere;
- an appreciation of the complexity involved in the involuntary admission to hospital of psychiatric patients, and of the difficulties in balancing individual liberties against personal / communal safety;
- a basic grasp of how psychiatrists assess and diagnose patients;
- a knowledge of the signs and symptoms of the major illness categories, their putative causation and treatments of choice;
- an understanding of the contribution which social work can make to specialist mental health services, and an understanding of how social workers in generic settings can apply a mental health perspective in these settings;
- a knowledge of the main issues which arise in alcohol and illicit drug policy;
- a basic knowledge of addiction counselling models;
- an understanding of how parental addiction and mental health problems impact on children and on how social workers can intervene in such problems.

Useful Websites

Mental Health Commission  www.mhcirl.ie
Health Research Board  www.hrb.ie
Shine Ireland*  www.shineonline.ie
Aware  www.aware.ie
National Office for Suicide Prevention  www.nosp.ie
Alzheimer Society  www.alzheimer.ie
National Service Users’ Executive  www.nsue.ie
History of Irish Mental Health Services


Irish Mental Health Policy


Psychiatry as a Contested Domain


**Diagnostic Systems**


**Multidisciplinary Teams in Mental Health**


**Recovery and Service User Involvement**
'Listening to what we heard: Consultation with service users, carers and providers' (Chapter One); 'Partnership in care: Service users and Carers' (Chapter Three); ‘Belonging and Participating: Social Inclusion’ (Chapter Four); ‘Rehabilitation and recovery mental health services for people with severe and enduring mental illness’ (Chapter Twelve) – all in *A Vision for Change: Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy* (2006).


**Involuntary Hospitalisation**


Specific Mental Disorders

Schizophrenia


Hall, W. (2015), 'What has research over the past two decades revealed about the adverse health effects of recreational cannabis use?', Addiction, 110, 19-35.

Affective Disorders / Self-Destructive Behaviour


All Island Evaluation of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) (no date). National Office for Suicide Prevention, Dublin.


**Anxiety Disorders**


The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland (2012), *A consensus statement on the use of benzodiazepines in specialist mental health services.* (Dublin: College of Psychiatrists of Ireland).

**Organic Disorders of Older People**


**Drug and Alcohol Problems**

*Policy Issues*


*National Drugs Strategy (interim) 2009-2016.* (Dublin: Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs).


Social Work with Addictions


Motivational Interviewing


Working with Relatives/Family Members of Problem Drinkers and Problem Drug Users


Drugs: education, prevention and policy (Vol. 17, Supplement 1, 2010). The 5-Step Method: A Research-Based Programme of Work to Help Family Members Affected by a Relative’s Alcohol or Drug Misuse.
Module Aims

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is the latest terminology for services which over the twentieth century have been variously known by terms such as child and adolescent psychiatry, paediatric psychiatry, family psychiatry, and child guidance. The changing terminology is important, as the term CAMHS seemingly denotes a change from the medically-focused psychiatric field into a broader health-focused ‘service’. A distinction is necessary between clinic-based services for younger children and families; and those for adolescents. There are an increasing number of services internationally aimed at young people developing in a somewhat distinctive direction: towards community-based services, practising from a public health, outreach perspective. The development of a new youth mental health paradigm has challenged the structure of traditional CAMHS and AMHS services and this will be explored as part of the course.

The aims of this module are to

(i) explore the nature and extent of child and adolescent mental health problems and illnesses, drawing on different theoretical and professional perspectives, and
(ii) critically examine the policy and practice responses, with particular reference to the role of social work.
(iii) consider how the new youth mental health paradigm is challenging the structure of traditional CAMHS and adult mental health services.

Module Content

In six two –hour classes, the following topics will be covered:

1. What do we know about child and youth mental health problems, their causes and prevalence? Facts and figures, evidence and projection.
2. What works in treating child and youth mental health problems?
3. What are the longer-term outcomes of child and youth mental health problems?
4. What is the ‘right’ social work role to take in child and youth mental health services?
5. What is different or the same in working across class and culture in child and youth mental health?
6. The new youth mental health paradigm and best practice in youth mental health

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, you will:

- Be aware of the debates and issues relating to the provision of child and youth mental health services and the classification of child and youth mental health problems (Domain One, Four and Six)
- Be knowledgeable about the various causation theories and treatment modalities offered within CAMHS and Youth outreach services (Domain Five)
- Be able to identify and source some of the most rigorous theoretical and research work in this area, in Ireland and internationally (Domain One, Five and Six)
- Be sensitive to issues of class and culture and how an anti-oppressive approach can be best practised in child and youth mental health (Domain Three)
- Understand how multi-disciplinary approaches work in child and youth mental health services, and the specific contribution that social work makes (Domain One and Two)
- Have a working knowledge of the specific contribution of the youth mental health movement and its best practice principles in Irish services.

Teaching & Learning Methods

Sessions will be interactive in nature, combining some didactic input, prepared readings, group exercises, reflection and discussion.

Assessment

Full attendance, reading of required materials and participation in class discussions.

Initial reading list

Ms Maeve Foreman

Module Aims

This module aims to prepare students for social work in health care and to achieve the standards of proficiency required by CORU under the following domains:

Domain 6: Knowledge, understanding and skills – This module examines a selection of issues in health related social work and sets them in a theoretical context, with a view to developing students’ understanding of the nature of social work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, hospices and primary healthcare. Selected theories will be examined critically and their value in these settings demonstrated. Intercultural issues will also be addressed.

Domain 5: Provision of quality services – students are introduced to different forms of assessment used in health care

Domain 3: Effective communication – Through the use of problem based learning in groups students learn effective and appropriate skills for health related social work. Counselling and advocacy are emphasised as key social work skills necessary for practice in health care settings.

Domain 2: Interpersonal and professional relationships – multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and interagency teamwork are emphasised as core to social work practice in health care.

Module Content

- Students will examine essential theories for social work in health care, in particular attachment, loss and bereavement, crisis intervention, and an understanding of the nature of trauma. Cultural aspects of illness and death will be considered.
- Broader health related issues such as changes in the Irish health services, health promotion, health behaviour and behaviour change
and the role of community and service user organisations may also be explored.

- Models of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary teamwork will be critically examined in the light of students’ placement and prior work experience
- Some contemporary issues in health related social work practice will be explored through the use of case studies - possible areas include the impact of long term chronic illnesses, disability and terminal illness on families, HIV/AIDS, still birth/sudden infant death, suicide, self-harm, violence against women and the protection of vulnerable adults.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:-

- Demonstrate knowledge of some relevant theoretical approaches in health related social work, including theories of attachment, loss and bereavement
- Demonstrate knowledge of the role of the social work in health care and the importance and benefits of working with community and service user organisations
- Explain collaborative methods of multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and interagency teamwork, and have a working knowledge of effective practice in teams
- Assess and offer a social work service to people presenting with a variety of issues and problems typical of a health care setting
- Draw on available evidence and utilise social work theoretical and practice approaches acquired in other modules

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Lectures, class discussions, problem based learning in small groups and class presentations

**Assessment**

Assessment is based on peer assessed, group presentations of case studies during the last two sessions of the module. These will be video recorded. Should a re-assessment (supplemental) be necessary, or if a student is unable to take part in the group presentation, they may be required to submit a 1,500 word written assignment on a similar topic.
Reading List

Essential Reading


Additional Reading

Grief and Loss


Health Inequalities – Health Promotion


HSE (2009) *LGBT Health: Towards meeting the health care needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People* Dublin:HSE


Higgins, A., Share, D., McCann, E et al. (2011) Visible Lives – identifying the experiences and needs of older lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in Ireland. Dublin:GLEN


Social Work in Health Care


HSE (2010) *HSE Policy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence.* Dublin:HSE

Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) (2010) *Social Work in Disability – The Role of Social Work in Disability Services*
IASW (1995) Special Issue of Irish Social Worker on Health Related Social Work, 13 (2)


Suicide and Self Harm


Mann et al. (2005) Suicide Prevention Strategies – a systematic review. JAMA, 294(16):


**Trauma and Critical Incident Stress Management**


O'Driscoll, S. (2002) *Responding to Trauma and Bereavement in an Acute Hospital*. Eisteach


HIV/AIDS

*AIDS Care* – journal on psychological and socio-medical aspects of HIV/AIDS available as e-journal in library


Some useful HIV websites -; [www.aidsmap.com](http://www.aidsmap.com); [www.dublinaidsalliance.ie](http://www.dublinaidsalliance.ie); [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

**Interdisciplinary Teamwork**


O'Driscoll, S. (1995) Medical Social Workers and Doctors –Collaboration or Conflict in *Irish Social worker* 13(2)


Protection of Vulnerable Adults


The Irish National Council on Ageing and Older People was dissolved in September 2009 but their publications are still available on [http://www.ncaop.ie/research.html](http://www.ncaop.ie/research.html)

**Some Relevant Journals available in library**

Health and Social work; Health and Social Care in the Community; Social Work in Health Care; Death Studies; Palliative Medicine; Journal of Palliative Care

Journal of Social Work in Disability and Rehabilitation. Available on line at [http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t792306971~db=all](http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t792306971~db=all)
1.8 Ageing

The module will be taught over three sessions as follows:

Week 1: Dr. Virpi Timonen
Week 2: St James' Hospital Social Work Team
Week 3: Ms Maura McCrudden HSE

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary policy, social work practice, ethical and legal issues in this area
- Provide a social work service in the area of ageing

Assessment

Full Attendance and Participation in Class.

Readings - Social work and older people


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HSE (2010) Elder Abuse Policy. www.hse.ie/eng/services/Find_a_Service/Older_People_Services/Elder_Abuse/#policy


IFSW International Policy on Ageing and Older Adults. www.ifsw.org


Key Websites

Some Service User Organisations:
http://www.ageaction.ie
http://ageandopportunity.ie/
http://www/carersireland.com
http://www.disability-federation.ie
http://www.dublincil.org/ - Centre for Independent Living
http://www.inclusionireland.ie
http://www.olderandbolder.ie/

Research Centres
http://www.tcd.ie/niid/
http://www.nda.ie
http://www.ncpop.ie/ - includes presentations on various related topics
http://www.preventelderabuse.eu/european/default.aspx
http://www.elderabuse.org.uk (Action on Elder Abuse UK Org
http://www.socialwork-socialpolicy.tcd.ie/livingwithdementia/
http://www.sparc.tcd.ie/ - includes presentations from Dementia Seminar Series
http://www.dementia.ie/index.php
http://www.cardi.ie/
http://www.ncaop.ie/ - The National Centre on Ageing and Older people was dissolved in 2009 but the site remains as an active resource on research/publications

1.9 Disability and Social Work Practice

Dr. Michael Feely

Module Content

This module aims to introduce students to some important ideas and resources from disability studies and disability politics - including the social model, the Disability Act, and the importance of accessibility - and to consider how these ideas might affect social work practice. It will also explore the various roles social workers can, or could, play in disability service provision. Finally, it will encompass presentations by a variety of people who have a disability, care for someone with a disability, or work with people with disabilities.
Methods of Teaching and Student Learning
Teaching methods will include lecture based-critical discussions and presentations by self-advocates with disabilities and their supporters. Students are expected to complete pre-class preparatory readings and to participate in class discussions.

Learning Outcomes
When students have successfully completed this module they should be able to:

- Be conscious of some important ideas and resources from disability studies and disability politics and be cognisant of how these might affect social work practice
- Recognize some of the roles social workers can or could perform within disability settings
- Be more aware of – and, ideally, be able to empathise with – the perspective of people with disabilities and their supporters.
- Ascertain whether this is an area they would like to work in

Assessment
The module will be evaluated through attendance and participation in class discussions.

Reading for first class:

Additional Reading


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**SS8013: Social Work Practice and Perspectives**

**2.2 Systemic and Social Constructionist Approaches with Children and Families**

**Ms Diane Hanley & Dr Michael Feely**

**Introduction**

The core parameters of context and relationship within systemic thinking sit quite harmoniously with social work. A systemic informed approach can help provide a fuller understanding of the complexities of people’s lives. It provides
tools to make sense of and to engage with complex family, agency and societal systems.

In addition to systematic thought, social work has, over recent decades, been profoundly affected by social constructionist and poststructuralist ideas. In suggesting that social work knowledge may not be as “true” as we once presumed, and in proposing that we abandon certainty and embrace uncertainty, these ideas have posed a challenge to the legitimacy of our professional power. However, in forcing us to reassess what we thought we knew, these same ideas have also proved productive and have allowed new understandings of social work, and new approaches to practice, to emerge.

**Module Aims**

This module addresses CORU domains 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The aim is to build on the foundation Year one practice theory and skills course by providing students, through a combination of presentations, lectures and skills workshops, with a working knowledge of:

- The philosophical ideas underpinning social constructionist and systemic approaches.
- Family Life Cycle & Family Roles.
- Systemic Theory, tools and interventions for assessing and understanding family dynamics and patterns.
- Using a reflective approach in practice.
- Social GGRAAACCEES* & the Development of anti-discriminatory practice.
- Integration of Systemic Theory into therapeutic work using solution-focused, collaborative and narrative/dialogical approaches.
- Direct work and Communication with Children and Adolescents.
- Relationship – based practice with different service user groups.

*Refers to an acronym developed by Roper-Hall (1998) & Burnham (1992, 1993, 2012). It has evolved over the last twenty years and grown. It currently stands for Gender; Geography; Race; Religion; Age; Ability; Appearance; Class; Culture; Ethnicity; Education; Employment; Sexuality; Sexual Orientation; Spirituality
Module Content

The first part of the module aims to introduce students to the philosophical ideas underpinning social constructionist and systemic approaches. This section is primarily theory based but will attempt elucidate abstract ideas with reference to social work practice. Students will also be encouraged to explore, and play with, concepts through practical exercises.

It will cover:

Central ideas underpinning social constructionist and poststructuralist approaches

- Kant and the inaccessibility of "the thing in itself": can we have unfiltered access to external reality?
- Nietzsche’s perspectivism: troubling objective truth and introducing multiple truths.
- Saussure and the 'linguistic turn': how language works and how it shapes the reality it presumes to describe.
- Derrida and deconstruction: how hierarchical binaries work and how to trouble them.
- Introducing Foucault: discourse, power/knowledge and the reconfiguration of agency.
- The implications of these ideas for social work (Burr on how social constructionism has challenged traditional scientific approaches; Howe on postmodern social work and postmodern social work values)

Central ideas underpinning systemic approaches

- Systems theory
- What is a system?
- Introducing social systems
- The ecological perspective

The second part of the module will provide students with an opportunity to practice and develop the skills and processes of specified models and
interventions in order to develop a working knowledge of their use in social work practice. This module proceeds from Year one methods and skills course, to further develop students’ understanding of, and skills in, applying the most relevant systemic and social constructionist approaches for social work practice.

The module will consist of eleven one hour lectures followed by 90 minute skills workshops (for which the class is divided into two small groups) from September to December. This is then followed by a pre-placement revision workshop in February, followed by a review of practice methods in the final weeks of the course. The total number of taught hours each student receives is 36 hours.

The module covers:

- Construction of family and family life stages, using genograms and family maps
- The conceptual base for social constructionist approaches to practice.
- Early systemic thinking – Milan approaches to working with families.
- Narrative & Dialogical Approaches
- Collaborative & Solution-focused Social Work
- Family & Dyadic Interviewing – making sense of interpersonal dynamics
- Working with non-Voluntary Service Users
- Communication with Children & Adolescents; Direct Therapeutic work with Children & Adolescents.
- Relationship – based practice with different service-user groups.

**Learning Outcomes**

After attending all lectures and skills workshops and applying relevant knowledge and skills in their Year Two placement, a student will be able to:

Describe the philosophies and theories that underpin narrative/dialogical and collaborative/ solution-focused practice as they apply to social work practice, as evidence in their placement project [CORU Domain 6]
Implement the core conditions for relationship-based practice, engaging clients in direct work with an appropriate therapeutic focus, depending on the context as evidenced by their participation in skills workshops. [CORU Domain 1 & 2]

Name, describe and apply key techniques from each of these approaches and applied models, as evidenced by their participation in skills workshops and placement projects [CORU Domain 2 & 3]

Demonstrate the ability to review and accurately assess family videos, histories and identify critical themes and patterns, as evidences by their completion of in-class exercises. [CORU Domain 1 & 2]

Describe their use and understanding of social work skills and practice approaches as evidenced by their case studies in the placement project. [CORU Domain 2,3 & 5]

Appraise their own use of theory, method and skill as they prepare for qualification as evidenced by their self-reflection in their placement project. [CORU Domain 4 & 5]

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

The teaching methodology will build on students’ experiences on placement and related work settings. Class participation is essential and students will be encouraged to explore and develop skills in a safe learning environment. Teaching Methods include: review of DVD’s, lectures and class discussion; presentations and homework assignments; role play; video recording; review, feedback and discussion.

**Assessment**

This course will be assessed by class participation, homework assignments, performance on placement and practice project.

**Core Reading**
First part of the module (essential preparatory reading)

Lecture 1


Lecture 2


Full booklist to follow

Second part of the module


The Case for Social Constructionist Approaches


Social GRRAAACCEESS


Collaborative Work


Narrative/dialogical work


**Solution-focused Social Work**


**Working with children**


3. O'Reilly, M. & Parker, N. (2014) 'She needs a smack in the gob': Negotiating what is appropriate talk in front of children in family therapy. *Jr Family Therapy, 36*, 287-307
2.3 Professional Development

Various Lecturers

Module Aims 2015/2016

This module focuses on professional social work practice and continuing professional development. It builds on the theoretical material covered in the module on Working in Human Service Organisations.

Module Content

Seminars will cover topics such as:

- Researching and Evaluating Social Work Practice
- Use of Supervision
- Ongoing Professional Development
- Interdisciplinary Teamwork
- Stress Management and Welfare at Work
- Fitness to Practice
- Producing Curriculum Vitaes and Preparing for Social Work Interviews

Learning Outcomes

These seminars will provide students with an opportunity to:

- Reconnect with their motivation to be a social worker, and reflect on their professional and personal development
- Learn personal and organisational strategies to ensure sound professional practice and personal welfare at work
- Identify some of the factors to enable continuing professional development after qualification
- Plan future training and career goals

Teaching and Learning Methods
Seminars and Workshops

Assessment

Placement performance and, as in all classes, full attendance is required.

Recommended Reading

Reading lists will be available in class for some topics
2.4 Special Seminars

Various Presenters

Module Aims 2014/15 (15/16 TBC)

If timetabling allows, special seminars may be organised. These seminars or workshops address areas of interest identified in consultation with students. Previous topics have included:

- Issues in Leaving Care & After Care
- Human Trafficking
- Children’s Rights
- Responding to Sexual Abuse
- Internet & Communication Technologies in Social Work

Aims and Objectives

Students will have an opportunity to learn from practitioners in the field, non-governmental organisations and service users and to develop an awareness of different structures, services and intervention strategies useful to their professional development and practice as a beginning social worker.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Seminars and workshops

Assessment

Full attendance and participation is a course requirement.

Recommended Reading

Reading lists will be available in class for some topics

2.5 Working in Human Service Organisations

Dr. Julie Byrne

Overview

Social workers deploy their individual professional skills and judgment within human service organisations and understanding how these organisations are structured and managed bring a useful perspective to social work practice. Organisations operate within complex and evolving social and economic contexts. These external realities affect the organisational context and can
determine how organisations are structured and managed and the nature of the organisation's culture. During this module, students will be provided with the opportunity to develop their understanding of organisational contexts and to consider the impact of this context on their social work practice. To facilitate the application of the management and organisational theories students will draw on their work experiences including those from placement.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module students should be able to:

- Explain the nature of human services organisations and approaches to human service delivery
- Analyse the impact of economic and social contexts on human service organisations and those who work in them
- Apply an understanding of organisation structure, culture and power to their professional interactions
- Appreciate the role of management in human service organisations
- Evaluate the impact of managerialism on social work practice and identity

Teaching and Learning Methods

A combination of web based resources and seminar teaching with class discussion will be used through this module.

Indicative content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Social Work Registration Board Standards of Proficiency Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Nature of Human Service Organisations</td>
<td>Domain 6.4 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Discourses in Human Service Delivery</td>
<td>Domain 6.1 (g) (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Economic and Social Context of Human Service Organisations</td>
<td>Domain 6.1 (g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Organisation Structure</td>
<td>Domain 2.1(a), Domain 2.2 (a) Domain 6.1 (i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Organisation Culture and Power</td>
<td>Domain 2.1 (c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Management and Managerialism</td>
<td>Domain 4.1 (i)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading List

Essential Reading


Prof. Robbie Gilligan

Module Aims

The short Module addresses areas relevant to Domain 6 in the CORU Domains of Proficiency.
The module aims to:

- familiarise students with some of the key issues of social development in developing (majority world) countries,
- explore the relevance of different models of social work (Western and non-Western) to such issues, and
- consider the learning for Ireland and other 'developed' countries from social development and social work in widely differing contexts.

These issues will be explored mainly through the themes of poverty, disability and vulnerable populations, and mostly with reference to developments in Ethiopia, South Africa and Vietnam, as well as China and Eastern Europe.

Students can seek advice on additional sources relevant to their specific interests.

Illustrative Reading List


Some indicative web resources

Better Care Network: http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/

European Roma Rights Centre: errc.org

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada : fnccaringsociety.com
2.7 Conflict Management

Dr. Julie Byrne

This module aims to provide an introduction to conflict and approaches to managing conflict in work settings with particular reference to social work practice.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this module students will be able to:
- explain the nature of conflict and its advantages and disadvantages
- clarify why conflict arises in work settings
- identify the types of conflict in social work
- analyse their personal approaches to conflict
- evaluate the importance of conflict resolution in social work practice
- apply models of conflict resolution to real world and social work examples

Indicative Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Social Work Registration Board Standards of Proficiency Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The Nature of Conflict</td>
<td>Domain 3.1 (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Types of Conflict in Social Work</td>
<td>Domain 2.2 (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Responses to Conflict</td>
<td>Domain 1.6 (d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Self-Awareness and Professional Practice</td>
<td>Domain 1.7 (b), Domain 3.1 (d)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teaching and Learning Methods
A combination of web based resources and seminar teaching with class discussion will be used through this module.
**Reading List**

**Essential Reading**


SS8014 Social Work Research (30 ECTS)

**Dissertation / Personal Framework for Practice**

Students who have obtained a pass mark of at least 50% in each of their academic assignments in Year One, and who have passed their Year One placement (or completed a repeat placement which was passed) are permitted to submit a dissertation at the end of Year Two, for consideration for the award of Masters in Social Work.

The Master in Social Work dissertation is a piece of independent work of between 15,000 (minimum) and 17,000 (maximum) words length submitted during Year Two. The dissertation should demonstrate the student's ability to effectively carry out a piece of research on a social work subject, or on a policy issue with direct application to and explicitly applied to social work practice. This research study should be presented clearly and succinctly in the accepted written format.

**Personal Framework for Practice Project**

Students who have obtained a pass mark of at least 40% in each of their academic assignments in Year One and who have passed their Year One placement (or completed a repeat placement which was passed) are permitted to submit a lesser dissertation at the end of Year Two in the form of a Personal Framework for Practice, for consideration for the award of a Diploma in Social Work.

The Diploma project is a written project of between 8,000 – 10,000 words which is submitted during Year Two. It takes the form of a Personal Framework for Practice, in which the student will draw on both personal and professional experience to construct their own individual map for practice, and will analyse the implications of their map for their professional practice contrasting this with relevant research studies into the practice of social work. Precise guidelines for this Project will be issued to students at the beginning of Year Two. Two soft copies of the diploma project will be submitted for marking by an examiner. Projects are graded accordingly: pass with distinction; pass; pass with minor corrections prior to binding; or fail.

**Aim of the Dissertation**

The overall aim of the dissertation exercise is to provide social work students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of, and familiarity with, the knowledge, methods and skills necessary to conduct research and/or evaluation in the social work field.
Learning Outcomes of Dissertation (based on assessment criteria)

On successful completion of the dissertation, the student will be able to demonstrate:

- An understanding of, and ability to analyse the relevant literature relating to a specific policy, practice or theory which provides a rationale for the research/evaluation.
- A capacity to formulate a relevant and realistic research/evaluation question(s).
- A capacity to apply and defend a relevant research/evaluation methodology or methodologies to the research question(s).
- A capacity to undertake rigorous and ethical data gathering or work with participants in the research or undertake documentary or policy analysis.
- A capacity to discuss the findings from the research/evaluation in the context of the literature and limits of the research exercise.
- A capacity to analyse the findings from this research/evaluation exercise and relate it to social work practice, service delivery and policy.
- An ability to reflect appropriately on the research/evaluation exercise and identify key learning from it in an integrated way.
- A capacity to present a coherent, readable and academically acceptable piece of work which is relevant to social work theory, policy or practice.

Choice of Topic and Focus for Dissertation

In Year One, the student will submit a dissertation proposal as an assessed piece of work, in which he/she will outline the proposed topic and focus, the specific research question and methods, the rationale for this piece of work, and a short review of some of the most relevant literature to be reviewed. Provided that the proposal is, in the estimation of the assessor, a valid and appropriate proposal, the student can apply to the Ethics Committee for approval. If a refinement of topic, focus or research question is required, this will be done under guidance with the assigned dissertation supervisor.

Dissertation Supervisors and their Role

By the end of Year One, dissertation supervisors will be allocated to each student. The student will contract with the supervisor to meet for a specific number of sessions (a minimum of eight) during which the supervisor will act as guide and support for the student. It is the student’s responsibility to submit draft chapters as recommended by their supervisor. As the dissertation preparation period in Year Two is limited to the months June through to the
following January students will have to be disciplined and focused in their use of time and supervision during this period.

**Stages in the Dissertation/Project Preparation Process**

It can be useful to consider the preparation of your final project as a process which takes place in distinct stages. See flow charts.

**Ethics Committee Approval**

Students will require School of Social Work and Social Policy Ethics Committee Approval prior to commencing any data collection. Guidelines and application form can be obtained from the School website. The School Ethics Committee meets in June and September, October and November.

**Submission for Examination**

The completed dissertation/project must be handed into the MSW office by 1p.m. on the Fri 22nd January 2016. Two copies are required for examining and they should be softly bound.

**Examination of Dissertations**

Dissertations will be examined and marked according to College and School guidelines (Trinity College Calendar Part Two – Graduate Studies and Higher Diploma, [http://www.tcd.ie/calendar/part2/](http://www.tcd.ie/calendar/part2/)). Dissertations will be marked according to prescribed criteria and students will receive written feedback sheet from examiners. Dissertations are marked and graded accordingly: pass with distinction; pass; or fail. Where a fail grade is being considered, students are entitled to an oral examination. Students whose dissertations have been awarded a fail grade have two options: re-register on the course as a continuing student to resubmit a dissertation for consideration for the award of Master in Social Work; or re-register on the course and submit a Personal Framework for Practice for consideration for the award of a Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work.

**Final Submission of Passed Dissertations**

There are clear and explicit requirements made by the College in relation to the final submission of the passed research dissertation. The requirements in relation to binding, font size, title lettering, etc. are to be found in Section 1.31 of the Trinity College Calendar Part Two (Graduate Studies and Higher Degrees). Copies of this handbook are made available to all graduate students upon registration. **It is a requirement of this school that one hardcopy of the completed dissertation is submitted to the Research Coordinator at least one month prior to graduation.**
Year 1 & 2 Practice Placements

Practice-based education is an integral part of Masters/Postgraduate diploma in Social Work programmes. The Fieldwork Education Unit acts as the interface between the School of Social Work and Social Policy and social work professionals in generating and supporting social work placements. Placements are offered in partnership with agencies providing social work services in Ireland and abroad. We have strong and active links with social work practitioners, managers and employers within every social work sector to facilitate the required range of placement opportunities for our students annually. Most placements are provided within state agencies for example Tusla Child and Family Agency, Probation Service, HSE Mental Health Services, Health-related Social Work, (Hospital and Primary Care), Older Persons’ Services, Disability Services and Local Authorities. We also work in partnership with social workers in the Not for Profit and the emerging private sector. In general all social work sectors are represented in the cohorts of placements, secured each year.

Practice teachers are CORU/SWRB registered social workers who have a minimum of two years post qualifying social work experience and have successfully completed Practice Teacher training.

All placements are undertaken in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers. (Social Workers Registration Board, CORU.) Students will be required to successfully complete two fieldwork placements, of at least 1,000 hours duration combined, in order to fulfil the fieldwork requirements for the Masters in Social Work or Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work courses.

Students must pass the placement to the satisfaction of the College’s Court of Examiners to be awarded their MSW. The practice teacher holds a key role in ensuring standards of professional social work practice are attained and upheld by the student. The practice teacher’s evaluation of the student’s performance constitutes a key recommendation to the Court of Examiners, though other material may also be taken into account.

Satisfactory completion is contingent on two criteria being met:

(i) the first is a recommendation by the designated practice teacher that the student has reached required standards, confirmed by the external examiner for the course; and
(ii) the second is the submission by the student of a practice project which is deemed to be satisfactory both by an initial examiner and the external examiner.

As already outlined, the responsibility for the arrangement and approval of suitable fieldwork placements rests with the fieldwork team, in consultation with the Course Director and Course Team. The Fieldwork Unit and course team seek to develop students’ range of knowledge and skills through contrasting placement settings (e.g. child and family, adult, statutory [a setting where practice is set within statutory frameworks], nonstatutory, structured and less structured settings) drawing from the full range of available social work sectors. Decisions regarding placement allocation are taken on the basis of the student’s learning needs, prior experience and areas of interest. Placement planning is carried out in consultation with students, tutors and the course team and in the context of available placement opportunities.

The course team in conjunction with the designated tutor play an active role in the monitoring of and communication with the student on placement, whether it be in Dublin or further afield. Each student is allocated a tutor who undertakes liaison, mentoring and quality assurance roles. The tutor provides information and support to both the student and practice teacher and liaises with the course team for the duration of each placement. Students should maintain regular contact with their tutor throughout placement. In addition they should meet their tutor formally in advance of each placement, participate with their tutor and practice teacher in three placement reviews and have a post placement meeting with their tutor to review learning achieved and clarify continuing learning needs. When placements are undertaken abroad, liaison is maintained through email, telephone and Skype and where possible the student is also linked to a local university School of Social Work.

There is no automatic right to a fieldwork placement for registered students, as the college has a responsibility to fieldwork agencies to ensure a student’s fitness to practice-learn before sanctioning the placement.

**Objectives of Placement meetings/reviews**
Placement meetings/reviews are undertaken by the student’s social work tutor, or other person nominated by the Course Director, to visit the student on placement and meet with the student and practice teacher together. The aims of these meetings are:

**For the Tutor/Course Staff**
- To monitor the practice experience offered to students and its fit with their learning needs and stage in training.
- To ensure that students have sufficient opportunities to gain necessary experience and to establish their competence.
- To assess students’ learning needs for any future placements.
- To obtain feedback from practice teachers on the fit between the academic course and its arrangements, and the requirements of practice teaching.

**For Practice Teachers**
- To discuss students’ performance: to acknowledge progress and strengths, and to discuss any difficulties in time to identify any remedial action to be taken.
- To discuss the final assessment and any future learning needs.
- To discuss links between teaching on placement and in college.
- To obtain feedback on the placement as a learning environment, and evidence of the college's interest in and support for the practice teaching offered on placement.

**For Students**
- To review their learning
- To discuss feelings about the placement and the learning opportunities offered.
- To receive and discuss constructive feedback on their performance.
- To discuss difficulties or needs revealed on placement and ways of meeting them.
- To discuss future learning goals or, where relevant, additional placement needs.

**For all three parties**
- To allow material previously discussed by two of the parties to be raised and discussed by all three in a safe and constructive manner.
- To establish the outcome (Pass / Fail) of the placement.

**Guidelines for Placement meetings/reviews**
It is helpful to agree a broad agenda at the beginning of each visit, although this does not preclude discussion of other issues arising. The student should prepare and supply to their tutor before the visit a list of work in progress with sample case records, interview tapes or other material. These can be used as a guide for reviewing progress. The student should have placement agreements and assessment guidelines to hand during visits as a point of reference.

**Pre-placement / Initial Meeting/Review**
- Link previous experience and/or experience on last placement to current one
- Establish the student’s learning needs and expectations of all three parties
- Draw up a working agreement to include: facilities for the student; ways to meet learning needs; workload size & content; opportunities
to try out methods of intervention; access to meetings and other learning opportunities; methods of assessment to be used.

**Mid-Placement Meeting/Review**
- Establish whether the student is likely to pass the placement
- Review workload and any adjustment needed
- Identify what has been achieved so far and areas to be worked on

**Final Meeting/Review**
- Establish whether the student has passed the placement
- Check that Placement Report and Practice Project are in preparation
- Identify the student’s strengths and progress and learning needs yet to be met
- Review what will best meet learning needs in subsequent placement / work

**Practice Teaching and Learning Curriculum**

The curriculum for practice teaching and learning is informed by the CORU/Social Workers Registration Board’s Domains and Standards of proficiency for social work graduates. These domains are reflected in the college Learning Agreement to be completed at the beginning of placement by the student, practice teacher and tutor.

The individual learning needs of each student should also be established in the Learning Agreement and addressed throughout the placement. The Learning Agreement should be reviewed at regular intervals throughout the placement and reviewed formally at placement review meetings. It is submitted to college at the end of placement in conjunction with the student’s placement project and the practice teacher’s report.

Teaching and learning are ongoing processes throughout each placement. However it is a requirement of placement that each student receives 90 minutes per week of formal Supervision with their Practice Teacher. Supervision should include formal teaching and learning, critical reflection and case management. Arrangements for Supervision are agreed as part of the Learning Agreement.

**Evidence for passing the placement**

In order to facilitate student learning and an accurate all-round evaluation of student progress by practice teachers, it is important that a number of different forms of ‘evidence’ are both used in supervision and cited in the Evaluation Report. These may include: self-reports, process recordings, direct observation of student work by practice teacher or colleagues, audio or video recordings, client feedback, feedback from team/agency colleagues, and written or other materials produced by students in the course of their practice.
Supplementary placements
The regulations for Passing or Failing the Placement can be found in the following section: *Assessment of Social Work Practice*.

Situations may arise in which students are required to undertake a supplementary placement: for example, where:-

- For health or other pressing reasons, students start placement late or take time out of placement and are unable to complete the full number of placement days.
- A student’s performance at the end of placement is judged to be marginal, or has not clearly reached a passing standard by the end of placement (F1).

In these situations, students will normally finish the placement at the scheduled time and undertake a supplementary 14 week block placement either in the summer of Year One (in order to proceed to Year Two) or after the final examinations in Year Two. Students should not continue in placement after the scheduled end because of their academic workload in the next semester. In the case of students who need to complete an additional placement after the Summer Examination Boards, a supplementary examination board in the autumn will be held.

Health and safety

**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 immunization 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:

- the School will **require** Hepatitis B vaccination, after College Registration. The School recommends that students are protected against Tuberculosis (TB), Mumps, Measles & Rubella (MMR) and Varicella (Chicken Pox).
- A record must be submitted to the Course Executive, prior to commencing placements.
- Hepatitis B vaccination will be arranged ‘on block’ with College Health Service for BSS Junior Freshman students. Students of other BSS years & MSW students may arrange vaccination through their own GP or with College Health Service. Costs must be met by the students.
Critical incidents: If any incident occurs on placement which affects a student’s health or well-being, Student and Practice Teacher should notify the Social Work Tutor, Fieldwork Unit and the Director of the MSW programme 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 require students to undergo Garda vetting prior to commencing placement. Garda vetting is obtained by Trinity College on the student’s behalf some months in advance of placement. Students sign consent forms and provide background information to enable the Garda vetting process.

Information arising from the Garda vetting process is treated with the utmost confidentiality. Only details relevant to placement are forwarded to Practice Teachers.

Students will not be allowed to commence placement until they have submitted the signed consent form to College and Garda vetting has been completed.

Assessment of Social Work Practice: Guidelines for Placement Evaluation
Placement evaluation comprises three elements:

- Learning Agreement
- Practice Teacher’s Evaluation Report.
- Student’s Practice Project

Students should be evaluated in relation to the learning objectives agreed at the beginning of the placement and set out in the Learning Agreement, both in relation to the individual student’s learning needs and the CORU/Social Workers Registration Board’s Domains and Standards of proficiency for social work graduates.

Year one students should demonstrate awareness of and capacity to apply knowledge, skills and values pertaining to each domain of proficiency in their practice. They should be able to evaluate their learning and identify areas for further development.

Year two students should be able to integrate knowledge, skills and values pertaining to each domain of proficiency in their practice. They should recognize
and respond appropriately to complexities arising in practice and be aware of their ongoing continuing professional development needs. At the end of a Year two placement students must be ready for professional practice.

The student’s Practice Project is graded separately, but forms part of the overall placement evaluation. It should therefore be drafted before the Practice Teacher’s Report, to enable the practice teacher to cite specific examples of practice which illustrate student progress.

Both Practice Project and Practice Teacher’s Report should be signed by both parties and submitted, separately or together, to the Course Executive Officer by the last day of placement.

Two copies of each are required, but only one copy need be signed.

1. **Learning Agreement (see Appendix One)**

As already discussed the Learning Agreement sets the initial agenda for placements and the baseline for reviewing progress at the end. They should be attached to the placement report.

2. **Practice Teacher’s Evaluation Report**

The structure of the Practice Teacher's Evaluation Report is based on the CORU/Social Workers Registration Board’s Domains and Standards of proficiency for social work graduates.

Please discuss your student’s learning, knowledge, skills and ethical awareness as applicable in relation to each of the six domains of proficiency. The standards in relation to each domain are included. Please illustrate student’s performance, in each domain, with examples from more than one source.

A. **Please start by indicating Recommendation:**

*Pass / Fail*

The report should then read as evidence for this recommendation.

**Domain 1 Professional autonomy and accountability**

- Practise within the legal and ethical boundaries of their profession to the highest standard.
- Practise in an anti-discriminatory way.
- Understand the importance of, and be able to maintain, confidentiality.
- Understand the importance of, and be able to obtain, informed consent.
- Be able to exercise a professional duty of care/service.
• Be able to practise as an autonomous professional, exercising their own professional judgement.
• Recognise the need for effective self-management of workload and resources and be able to practise accordingly.
• Understand the obligation to maintain fitness to practise.

**Domain 2 Interpersonal and professional relationships**
• Work in partnership with service users and their relatives/supporters, groups and communities and other professionals.
• Contribute effectively to work undertaken as a member of a team (be it multi-disciplinary; interprofessional; multi-service or inter-agency).

**Domain 3 Effective communication**
• Demonstrate effective and appropriate skills in communicating information, listening, giving advice, instruction and professional opinion.
• Understand the need for effective communication throughout the care of the service user.

**Domain 4 Personal and professional development**
• Understand the role of reflective practice in relation to personal and professional development.

**Domain 5 Provision of quality services**
• Be able to identify and assess service users’ needs.
• Formulate and deliver plans and strategies to meet identified needs of service users.
• Use research, reasoning and problem-solving skills to determine appropriate action.
• Draw on appropriate knowledge and skills in order to make professional judgements.
• Formulate specific and appropriate management plans, including the setting of timescales.
• Use safe work practices at all times in the interest of service users and staff.
• Implement best practice in record management.
• Monitor and review the ongoing effectiveness of planned activity and modify it accordingly.
• Be able to evaluate audit and review practice.
Domain 6 Knowledge, understanding and skills

- Know and understand the essential knowledge areas relevant to social work.
- Have knowledge of how professional principles are expressed and translated into action through a number of different approaches to practice, and how to select or modify approaches to meet the needs of individuals, groups or communities.
- Be able to understand, explain and apply generic skills and methods appropriate to delivering a range of social work interventions to meet different needs within a variety of settings.
- Have knowledge and understanding of the skills and elements required to maintain service user, self and staff safety.

G. Summary

- Review of Learning Agreement and any issues arising from previous placement.
- Areas where progress has been made and skills acquired or consolidated.
- Any special strengths, gaps or weaknesses in student's performance.
- Priority learning goals for employment or, if relevant, further placement.

H. Confirming Recommendation

- Please state whether the student’s performance merits a Pass or Fail.

Grading Placement Performance: Pass / Fail

Practice teachers should state whether a Pass or Fail is recommended. This recommendation carries great weight with the Court of Examiners. Confirmation or modification of the recommendation will be based on evidence provided by practice teacher and student in their reports, but may also draw on evidence from the tutor and other relevant sources.

All placement reports are read by a Practice Panel, and are also available to the Extern Examiner, who may interview any student about whose performance there is doubt. The final responsibility for recommending social work qualification belongs to the Court of Examiners, after consultation with the External Examiner.

Pass Grade
Pass applies when a student has accomplished agreed placement tasks to a satisfactory standard for the relevant stage of training. On the Final Placement, Pass indicates fitness to practice as a professional social worker.

**Fail Grade**

There are two divisions in the fail grade: F1 & F2.

**F1** applies in any of the following situations:

1. Student has not *clearly* reached the required standard, but has demonstrated willingness and capacity to improve, and needs additional time to progress.
2. Placement did not afford the student sufficient opportunity to achieve and demonstrate the required standard of practice.
3. Performance has been deemed satisfactory, but the student's practice project has either not been submitted or has been failed.

**F2** applies in the following situation:

1. The student has not reached a satisfactory standard, and
2. Has demonstrated no obvious signs of being able to do so in the short-term.

Practice teachers may recommend either an F1 or an F2, but the Court of Examiners must ratify it.

**Regulations for 'Failed' Placements**

- If F1 is obtained, a supplementary placement will be offered as already outlined.
- If F2 is obtained, this is an Absolute Fail. No supplementary placement will be offered.
- Normal College Appeals procedures apply, as outlined in the College Calendar Part Two for graduate students.

**3. Student's Practice Project**

This project must be passed in order to pass the placement. A mark of 50% or above is required in the Year One Project in order to continue on the Masters Programme. It combines a summary of your practice and learning on placement with a focused analysis of one piece of work. It should aim to:
• Provide evidence of competent and thoughtful practice, knowledge gained, skills developed, and key learning from your practice experience.
• Apply relevant theory to practice in a detailed analysis of one piece of work and demonstrate linkage between theory, research and in a selection of pieces of work)

Please note that the format for the Year One and Year Two project outlines are different.

**Year One Practice Project**

**Section A: Agency and Community Context**

The assignment for the Community Work module is integrated with the Year One Practice Project. Please attach this assignment as an appendix to the project.

**Section B: Workload**

Table of all work undertaken, length of involvement/number and types of contacts in each intervention and an indication of the social work methods and tools used in each piece of work. This should be in a chart or table form, using a standardized template.

**Section C: Practice Study**

a) Describe and analyse one piece of work, in the following terms, though not necessarily in this order:

- Social history and profile of service user(s)
- Background to intervention, initial aims and rationale
- Relevant Legislation and Policies
- Assessment and analysis: describe what data you collected and why; also say which issues you focus on and why
- Chosen methods / frameworks & rationale for your choice
- Other relevant theory and knowledge used to analyse problems / issues
- Content and process of involvement, including examples of skills used
• Nature & impact of co-work / inter-disciplinary / inter-agency collaboration
• Key ethical, equality or professional issues raised and how you approached them.
• Outcome of involvement and indications for the future
• Evaluation: what was / not achieved; what you might have done differently & why; what you learnt from this intervention, from reading, from your client(s) and others about social work processes, interventions, inter-disciplinary work, and yourself as a practising social worker.

b) Taking one piece of work from your workload section (B. above) as a contrast to your practice study above, briefly describe the content and nature of your work demonstrating the different skills and approaches used, and evaluate the effectiveness of this intervention, drawing on relevant theoretical perspectives.

Section D: Placement Learning

Please provide a reflective summary of your learning from this placement (examples in bullet points below)

• understanding of social work within this setting, its potential and limits
• skills or methods you are using more confidently or in a new way
• difficulties or dilemmas confronted and how you see them now
• critical assessment of your overall learning and progress, bearing in mind your
• starting point on this placement

with reference to each of the CORU Standards of Proficiency

CORU Standards of Proficiency

Domain 1 Professional autonomy and accountability
Domain 2 Interpersonal and professional relationships
Domain 3 Effective communication
Domain 4 Personal and professional development
Domain 5 Provision of quality services
Domain 6 Knowledge, understanding and skills

Focusing on reflective practice under domain 4, please complete the following:
a) Reflection on a Critical Incident\(^1\) that occurred on placement, relating either to direct contact with a client or agency colleague or a colleague from another agency.

b) Example of Reflective Learning: Log of one day on placement and reflective learning from the day’s events.

The use of technology, including electronic recording and referral systems, use of email, Skype, text messaging and social network sites in direct client work is reflected in domain 3. Please make observations on both the advantages and possible dilemmas associated with the use of technology in this practice context.

**Word Count:** Minimum 6,000 – Maximum 7,000 words

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**Year Two Practice Project**

**Section A: Social Work Practice in Organisations**

The aim of this section which draws on the teaching and learning in the 'Working in Human Service Organisations’ module, is to undertake a critical analysis of the organisational context in which you are currently undertaking your placement. It will require you to reflect on how the organisation impacts on the social work role and your professional practice. Further guidance on this will be provided in class.

**Section B: Workload**

Provide a table of all work undertaken, length of involvement/number and types of contacts in each intervention and an indication of the social work methods and tools used in each piece of work. This should be in a chart or table form, using a standardized template.

**Section C: Practice Study**

a) Describe and analyse one piece of work, in the following terms, though not necessarily in this order:

- Social history and profile of service user(s)
- Background to intervention, initial aims and rationale

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\(^1\) A Critical Incident does not have to be a controversial or highly unusual event. It can be an ordinary, non-crisis situation. It can be either: ‘a) an incident in which the student’s intervention really made a difference in client outcome either directly or indirectly (eg: by helping other staff), b) an incident that went unusually well; c) an incident in which things did not go as planned; d) an incident which was very ordinary or typical; e) an incident that captured the essential nature of what social work is all about; f) an incident that was particularly demanding’ (Fook et al, 1994, p. 9).
• Relevant Legislation and Policies
• Assessment and analysis: describe what data you collected and why; also say which issues you focus on and why
• Chosen methods / frameworks & rationale for your choice
• Other relevant theory and knowledge used to analyse problems / issues
• Content and process of involvement, including examples of skills used
• Nature & impact of co-work / inter-disciplinary / inter-agency collaboration
• Key ethical, equality or professional issues raised and how you approached them.
• Outcome of involvement and indications for the future
• Evaluation: what was / not achieved; what you might have done differently & why; what you learnt from this intervention, from reading, from your client(s) and others about social work processes, interventions, inter-disciplinary work, and yourself as a practising social worker.

b) Taking one piece of work from your workload section (B. above) as a contrast to your practice study above, briefly describe the content and nature of your work demonstrating the different skills and approaches used and evaluate the effectiveness of this intervention, drawing on relevant theoretical perspectives.

Section D: Placement Learning

1. Personal Framework for Practice: Please review your initial Personal Framework for Practice as completed for CDSW assignment in Year One; briefly outline here any changes to it that you would now make in the light of practice experiences on placement. Describe the experiences (both personal and professional) that have influenced your choice.

2. Reflective summary of your gains from this placement with respect to each of the following CORU Standards of Proficiency. Please give a practice example in relation to each domain.

Domain 1 Professional autonomy and accountability
Domain 2 Interpersonal and professional relationships
Domain 3 Effective communication
Domain 4 Personal and professional development
Domain 5 Provision of quality services
Domain 6 Knowledge, understanding and skills

The use of technology, including electronic recording and referral systems, use of email, Skype, text messaging and social network sites in direct client work is reflected in domain 3. Please make observations on both the advantages and possible dilemmas associated with the use of technology in this practice context.

**Word Count:** Minimum 8,000 – Maximum 9,000 words

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**General Guidelines for completion of Practice Projects**

- Observe overall word-length. Overall word-length excludes contents page, tables, diagrams & appendices.
- Include a Contents page.
- Include a Bibliography.
- Ensure the project reads as an integrated whole (e.g.: introduction & conclusion.)
- Anonymity: Change all names and identifying information relating to service users and colleagues, and state in the text that you have done so. Give people fictitious names rather than numbers or initials, as this humanizes the narrative.
- Use clear, precise language throughout. Avoid jargon and slang except in direct quotes. Explain any technical terms or abbreviations you use.
- Reference correctly all texts cited in the Project. Aim to use recent publications.
- Appendices are not essential. If included, they should be brief, self-explanatory, relevant but not essential to the main text. (e.g.: agency diagrams; key extracts from process recordings). Do not include lengthy reports, case-notes, or letters.
- Explain with a key or notes any tables, diagrams, genograms or ecomaps and, if possible, insert them at the relevant point in the text rather than in appendices.
- The student is responsible for submitting the practice teacher report which must be signed by both practice teacher and student. The student must also give the Practice Teacher a copy of their Project to sign as a fair account of their work. At least one copy must be signed.
- Students must submit 2 copies of their project and two copies of the supervisor report to the Course Executive Officer.
Guidelines for the Presentation of Written Work

General Points

- Structure all written work, with Introduction and Conclusion framing your argument, separate paragraphs for new themes, and subheadings for sections.
- Use practice examples, where relevant, to illustrate arguments. This demonstrates your ability to integrate theory and practice and gains credit. Credit will also be given for work that shows breadth as well as depth, by drawing on relevant material addressed in other courses.
- Disguise all names and identifying information concerning service users and colleagues when using practice examples, and state that you have done so.
- Avoid vague generalisations such as "research shows". Refer to specific authors or sources to support your statements.
- Reference carefully. For direct quote, cite author's name, publication date and page number [e.g. (Skehill 1999: 37)] in brackets in the text. For general reference (Skehill 1999). Multiple references cited in the text should be referenced either chronologically or alphabetically and done so consistently.
- Detail all authors cited in your text in a comprehensive bibliography. Omit references not cited in the text. The bibliography should be presented alphabetically and in a consistent format, which includes: author's name, year of publication, title of book, or of article with its source book / journal, place of publication, and publisher. [e.g. Skehill, C. (1999) The Nature of Social Work in Ireland: a Historical Perspective. Lewiston, New York: Edwin Mellen Press.] Where available, primary source of your reference should always be used.
- Acknowledge any author or source, including unpublished and internet sources, whose ideas you cite or paraphrase. Plagiarism is unacceptable in academic work and is penalised. Please see further information on plagiarism in handbook. Mark quotations with quotation marks, page references, and appropriate indentation. Avoid using long or multiple quotations from any text.
- Use Appendices judiciously and sparingly.
- Observe word lengths and include word count on cover page. Work that is very short or exceeds the recommended length will be returned for resubmission and penalised.
- Word-process all written work - in 1.5 or double spacing - on one side of the page - with adequate margins on each side.
- Number your pages.
Proof-read carefully before submitting work. Careless spelling, grammar and referencing errors will lower your grade or result in resubmission and penalties.

Submit written work in duplicate (triplicate to facilitate double-marking and extern-examining when requested).

Observe published deadline dates, which have the status of examination dates.

Keep copies of all written work as it is retained by the School for the External Examiner.

You are required to submit every written assignment to TURNITIN to check for plagiarism.

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

Citations in the Text

References should include the author, (by surname only) followed by year of publication in brackets in the text. e.g. Butler (2002) states that ....."

Citations contain the name of the author and the year the information was published after the quote or paraphrase i.e. (Lucena & Fuks, 2000) or (Torode et al., 2001).

If a point has been made by several authors then they should be listed either alphabetically or chronologically i.e. (Clarke, 2000; Holt, 2002; Torode et al., 2001) or (Holt, 2002; Torode et al., 2001; Clarke, 2000).

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 (Torode et al 2001) notes that:

‘It is one thing to promote ethical principles of equality and inclusiveness but quite another to test and implement these principles in complex practice
situations, where there are conflicts of interest, and where the information and resources needed for good practice may be lacking’ (p.5).

Where there are more than two authors, the reference within the text should be cited as (Torode et al 2001), but include all the authors in the reference list:


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


Book with an editor and a revised edition:


Chapter in an edited book


Journal article - print

Conference Proceedings


Report/Government Reports


Thesis/Dissertation


Lecture


Electronic article


Newspaper article


Website


Use of EndNote

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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.
Marking Conventions

The following general guidelines are given to lecturers marking assessed work on the MSW. Lecturers may also have their own set of assessment criteria for their particular subject.

Marks for each assessment component are returned to the Court of Examiners and the final award will either be Pass, Fail or Pass with Distinction. To be awarded a ‘Pass with Distinction’ the student must have achieved over 70% on their dissertation and their practice project as well as an overall aggregate mark of over 70% in year 2. All graduates are provided with a transcript which details their results for each module. The university’s marking conventions are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fail 2</td>
<td>0 - 29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail 1</td>
<td>30 - 39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>40 - 49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Second</td>
<td>50 - 59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Second</td>
<td>60 - 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>70 - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+</td>
<td>First Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expectation: an excellent piece of work on all/almost all counts
Theoretically sophisticated, based on extensive reading/sources; very well developed discussion. Critical and reflective, issues explored in depth, with some appropriate originality. Stylistically polished and well presented (less important for exam scripts). Implications for practice explored. Analytical and theoretical skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Upper Second Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expectation: a polished piece of work with evidence of independent, critical thinking
Theoretically sound, solidly based on relevant readings, clear and developed discussion. Good content, accurate and well illustrated. Implications for practice explored. Stylistically good and fluent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>Lower Second Class – good average</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expectation: competent work, though not necessarily with much sparkle or originality. Theoretically reasonable although discussion could be more developed. Evidence of relevant reading and effort made to discuss implications.
for practice. Relevant content which is reasonably organised and stylistically acceptable.

40-49 Pass (students need 50% to remain on Masters Route)
Expectation: passable but weak. Theoretically thin with no developed argument.
Evidence of some or a little relevant reading but not much done with it or implications for practice included. Style and presentation may be weak, content thin or badly organised.

Below 40 Fail

Guidelines on Plagiarism

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is viewed as a form of academic dishonesty and may be defined as stealing or borrowing from the writings or ideas of others and passing them off as your own.

Any failure to acknowledge other people’s ideas and statements in an assessment is seen by the University as academic fraud. It is regarded as a major offence for which a student may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee of the University and may be expelled from the University.

Acts of plagiarism include copying parts of a document without acknowledging and providing the source for each quotation or piece of borrowed material. This applies whatever the source of the work, whether printed, stored on a compact disc or other medium, found on the World Wide Web or Internet.

Similarly, using or extracting another person’s concepts, experimental results or conclusions, summarising another person’s work or, where, there is collaborative preparatory work, submitting substantially the same final version of any material as another student without due acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism.

Avoiding Plagiarism

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. A guide to referencing is available on the College Library website at http://www.tcd.ie/Library/help/howtocite.php. 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 defence. 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


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

http://owl.english.purdee.edu


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

**Resources for Academic Staff**

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


**‘Ready, Steady, Write’**

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

**‘Turnitin’**

All written assignments must be submitted through ‘turnitin’ (plagiarism detecting software). Please go to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) to learn more about what constitutes plagiarism in an academic context.

Instructions on uploading work to ‘Turnitin’ website and enrolment password will be given in class.

The following is an extract taken from the College Calender, Part III

*University of Dublin Calendar Part III, 1.32*

**Plagiarism**

1. **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.*

2. **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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 at http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism.
6. If plagiarism as referred to in paragraph (1) above is suspected, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) will arrange an informal meeting with the student, the student’s Supervisor and/or the academic staff member concerned, to put their suspicions to the student and give the student the opportunity to respond. Students may nominate a Graduate Students’ Union representative or PG advisor to accompany them to the meeting.

7. If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) 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 noted above must be in agreement. If the facts of the case are in dispute, or if the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) 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 set out in Section 5 (Other General Regulations).

8. If the offence can be dealt with under the summary procedure, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) 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.

9. Provided that the appropriate procedure has been followed and all parties in (6) above are in agreement with the proposed penalty, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) 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 Dean of Graduate Studies must be notified and requested to approve the recommended penalty. The Dean of Graduate Studies will inform the Junior Dean accordingly. The Junior Dean may nevertheless implement the procedures as set out in Section 5 (Other General Regulations).

10. If the case cannot normally be dealt with under 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.
Course Regulations and Code of Conduct

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 which are 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 Master in Social Work/Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work course require that students:

- Attend all classes, tutorials and practice learning days, offering apologies and reasons for non-attendance at the earliest possible time, on the appropriate form, available from the MSW office, attaching medical certificate if needed.
- 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
  o Respecting the privacy and dignity of others;
  o Being open and honest in learning and working with others;
  o Demonstrating personal qualities of warmth, genuineness and trustworthiness
  o 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 Student’s place on the Master/Diploma in Social Work Course**

Social Work 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 Masters/Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work 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 Master in Social Work 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
- The 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 2 (Graduate Studies and Higher Degrees) make reference to students’ behaviour and discipline in Section 7.2. 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 and Senior Deans.

The Master in Social Work Course Committee reserves the right to report a student to the Junior or Senior 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 Studies and at least one experienced practice teacher or fieldwork representative.

The Course Director 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, will apply.

**Termination of a Student's place on the Master/ Diploma in Social Work course**

It may be possible for a student excluded from the Masters/Diploma in Social Work 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 Practice**

*College Calendar 2012-13, H6*

General regulations and information II; Academic Progress, Section 27

“Situations may arise where there are concerns regarding a student’s fitness to participate in clinical or other placements, which are an essential component of the student’s course. Such cases, not falling within the remit of Garda vetting or College disciplinary procedures may be considered by a school’s Fitness to Practice Committee. Where an alleged disciplinary offence comes before the Junior Dean, the Junior Dean may decide to refer the case to the Fitness to Practice Committee of the relevant school if the Junior Dean considers this to be a more appropriate way of dealing with the case. Where a fitness to practice issue arises in the context of an academic appeal, the relevant body hearing the
appeal may decide to refer the case to the Fitness to Practice Committee of the relevant school if it is considered to be a more appropriate way of dealing with the case.

Where the school’s Fitness to Practice Committee decides that the concern is well founded, it may take one of the following actions:

(i) Caution the student in relation to the matter.

(ii) Require the student to undergo testing, at College’s expense, in respect of suspected drug or alcohol addiction. A student failing to comply with this requirement or whose tests confirm continued drug or alcohol use may be required to withdraw from his/her course or to go off-books until such time as he/she is certified by an appropriately qualified person to be fit to proceed with his/her course of studies.

(iii) Require the student to undergo a medical examination or assessment, which may include psychiatric assessment, by a doctor or specialist nominated by the committee at the expense of College for the purpose of obtaining an opinion as to the student’s medical fitness to continue with his/her studies or as to his/her ability or suitability to participate in his/her course to the standards required by College. Where a student fails to comply with this requirement, or where he/she is assessed to be unfit to continue with his/her studies or unable or unsuitable to participate in his/her course to the standard required by College, he/she may be required by the committee to withdraw from his/her course or to go off books until such time as he/she is certified by an appropriately qualified person, nominated by College, to be fit to proceed with his/her course of studies.

(iv) Suspend a student until such time as he/she is certified by an appropriately qualified person, nominated by College, to be fit to proceed with his/her course of study.

(v) Require a student to withdraw from his/her course.

Where a student’s behaviour threatens the well-being of patients, students or staff, the head of school, head of department or other appropriate member of the work-based placement staff shall have the power to suspend the student with immediate effect, provided the case shall then be referred immediately to the Junior Dean, if misconduct is alleged, or, in all other cases, to the relevant school’s Fitness to Practice Committee. This is without prejudice to the powers of the Junior Dean as provided under the 2010 Consolidated Statutes, or the Disciplinary powers of the Junior Dean. If concerns are raised in relation to a student who is known to have a disability, consideration must first be given, in
conjunction with the College's Disability Service, to the level and types of support put in place to allow the student to participate as fully as possible in his/her chosen course. If the supports are deemed to be appropriate or if the student does not engage with the reasonable accommodations process to provide appropriate supports and concerns remain in relation to the student's fitness to participate in professional placements, the case may then be referred to the school's Fitness to Practice Committee. A decision of the school’s Fitness to Practice Committee may be appealed to the College Fitness to Practice Committee, which is vested with the same powers as a school Fitness to Practice Committee and will hear the case as new. A student appearing before either committee is entitled to be represented by his/her tutor, postgraduate student advisor or a Students’ Union representative. Appeals against decisions of the College Fitness to Practice Committee are made to the Visitors of the College". 
## MSW PLACEMENT LEARNING AGREEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Date:</th>
<th>End Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student:</td>
<td>Telephone:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice Teacher:</td>
<td>Telephone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency Name &amp; Postal Address:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutor:</td>
<td>Telephone:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Working Days/Hours:**
- **TOIL Arrangements:**
- **Sick Leave:**
- **Study Time:**
- **Office Accommodation:**
- **Transport:**
- **Expenses:**
- **Dress Code:**
- **Health & Safety Procedures:**

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

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

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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLAN FOR PLACEMENT

(AS PER CRITERIA AND STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES, THE SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD; see MSW Course Handbook AND www.coru.ie FOR A MORE IN DEPTH DISCUSSION OF THE SPECIFIED DOMAINS OF PROFICIENCY)

Domain 1 Professional autonomy and accountability

This domain addresses the ability to make and justify professional decisions, to take responsibility for one’s practice, to recognize own limitations, to consult appropriately, to act in accordance with relevant legislation, ethics and policy, to obtain informed consent and to work in an anti-discriminatory manner to uphold human rights and social justice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING GOALS</th>
<th>LEARNING PLAN IN RELATION TO THIS PROFICIENCY</th>
<th>INDICATORS/EVIDENCE OF PROFICIENCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify two goals in relation to this proficiency</td>
<td>Identify areas of practice or other opportunities that will enable learning in relation to each goal</td>
<td>At the end of placement the student will be able to…….</td>
</tr>
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Domain 2 Interpersonal and professional relationships

Capacity to build constructive relationships, to work collaboratively with service users, carers, other professionals and external agencies and to be an effective team member are addressed under this domain.

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Domain 3 Effective communication

Listening skills and skills in communicating information in a way that is understood are encompassed under this domain. This includes capacity to communicate across difference including age, ability, gender, ethnicity and discipline. The ability to communicate with involuntary clients should be considered together with capacity to communicate verbally, non-verbally, in writing and using I.T.

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Domain 4 Personal and professional development

The importance of self-awareness and the ability to reflect critically on practice as a way to develop practice skills are central to domain 4 as is the pro-active use of supervision and a commitment to continuing professional development.

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Domain 5 Provision of quality services

This domain addresses the ability to assess and identify needs, strengths and risk and plan appropriate interventions in collaboration with service-users and others, ability to implement plans, keep records, monitor and review progress, modify plans according to need and evaluate practice. Participation in quality initiatives and reviews and the use of reflective practice and supervision are included.

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Domain 6 Knowledge, understanding and skills

This domain includes the capacity to demonstrate a critical understanding and/or application of social work theory, methods and skills; social policy including issues and trends in Irish public and social policy development which relate to social
work practice; sociology, psychology, social research, law and the legal system including national guidelines and standards, findings of inquiries, investigations and associated reports influencing social work practice; economics; political science and other related social sciences

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### ADDITIONAL KEY PERSONAL LEARNING GOALS

*(identified in relation to previous experience, feedback and current areas of interest)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING GOAL</th>
<th>LEARNING PLAN TO MEET THIS STANDARD</th>
<th>INDICATORS/EVIDENCE OF PROFICIENCY</th>
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**WORKLOAD**
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 organizational and policy issues.

Note learning styles of student and practice teacher:

Supervision Arrangements:
Day: Time:
Other Student Supports:

STUDENT ASSESSMENT / SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

Discuss and note the methods of assessment used by Practice Teacher and evidence of learning, skill development and practice required.

Sources of evidence may include direct observation, self reports by student (verbal, written, process recording); feedback from colleagues, feedback from service users, preparation for supervision by student, recorded samples of work (audio/video), written reports/records by student on behalf of agency.

PERSONAL ISSUES

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

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

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

AGENCY-RELATED ISSUES

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

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

Signatures

We agree that this placement will be undertaken in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers. (Social Workers Registration Board, CORU.)

Student: _____________________________________________

Practice Teacher: _______________________________________

Tutor: ________________________________________________

Date: ____________

MID PLACEMENT MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

Date of Mid Placement Meeting: ______________________________

Time: ____________________________________________________

Student will provide the Tutor with a short summary of work in advance of the mid placement meeting.
MID PLACEMENT MEETING

Review Learning & Capacity In Relation to The Social Workers Registration Board

Standards of Proficiency:

- Professional Autonomy and Accountability
- Interpersonal and Professional Relationships
- Personal and Professional Development
- Effective Communication
- Provision of Quality Services
- Knowledge, understanding and skills
- Additional Personal Learning Goals
Establish whether student is likely to pass the placement and outline very clearly what objectives are set for the second half of placement.

Objectives / Plan for remainder of placement

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Student Issues/Concerns

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Practice Teacher Issues/Concerns

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

FINAL PLACEMENT MEETING

Date: __________________________________________________________________________________

Time: __________________________________________________________________________________

Issues Discussed:

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Areas of strength identified and recommendations for future development:

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
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## Absence Sheet

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL POLICY**

**MASTER IN SOCIAL WORK (YEAR 1/YEAR 2) 2015-2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>REASON FOR ABSENCE</th>
<th>MED CERT? (Y/N)</th>
<th>TOTAL DAYS ABSENT</th>
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**STUDENT SIGNATURE:**

**COURSE DIRECTOR SIGNATURE:**

**NB**: This form must be signed by the Course Director prior to the student handing it in to the Course Executive Officer.
Masters in Social Work
ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET

Complete this form every time you submit work

Work will not be marked without a completed cover sheet

******************************************************************************

Submit all assignments to the School's submission drop box facility which is located between Arts Room 3077 and Arts 3080.

Surname: First Name: 
Student No: College Tutor: 
Date Handed in: Word Count: 

******************************************************************************

Assignment:

Please submit TWO hard copies of each assignment.

Please Keep a Copy of All Work You Submit

I have read and I understand the plagiarism provisions in the General Regulations of the University Calendar for the current year, found at http://www.tcd.ie/calendar.

I have also completed the Online Tutorial on avoiding plagiarism 'Ready Steady Write', located at http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write