

## Education quality assurance – Course change review report

Report date:

04/10/2024

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### Documentary review details

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Inspection ID                  | GUL1741                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Course provider                | Goldsmiths College, University of London                                                                                                                                                       |
| Validating body (if different) | <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>                                                                                                                                               |
| Course name                    | BA (Hons) Social Work<br>MA Social Work                                                                                                                                                        |
| Mode of study                  | Full time                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Proposed first intake          | 01/09/2024                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Maximum student cohort         | BA (Hons) Social Work – 20<br>MA Social Work – 12                                                                                                                                              |
| Review type                    | Course change                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Review team                    | Debbie Brown, Registrant Inspector<br>Priscilla McGuire, Lay Inspector<br>Gill Nixon, Education Quality Assurance Operations Manager<br>Nikki Steel-Bryan, Education Quality Assurance Officer |
| Review team recommendation     | Approved                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Regulator decision             | Approved                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### About the review

1. The course provider undertook a portfolio review in 2023-24 with a focus on small programmes and modules to consider their viability. The course provider reported that they used the review to consider opportunities for shared teaching across programmes to future-proof the courses and to develop more enriching, and innovative, curriculums for students offering opportunities for interdisciplinary learning.

2. The BA (Hons) Social Work underwent curriculum development to provide some shared teaching alongside BA (Hons) Social Science, BA (Hons) Community Development and Youth Work, and BA (Hons) Social and Community Work as well as offer a limited amount of shared teaching alongside BA (Hons) Psychosocial and Psychotherapy Studies students.

3. The MA Social Work underwent curriculum development to provide some shared teaching alongside programmes in social work, community and youth work, and psychosocial and psychotherapy studies.

## Findings

4. For the BA (Hons) Social Work and the MA Social Work the course provider identified that the changes may impact the following standards:

- Standard 1
  - 1.1
  - 1.2
  - 1.4
- Standard 3
  - 3.1
  - 3.6
  - 3.8
- Standard 4
  - 4.1
  - 4.2
  - 4.3
  - 4.4
  - 4.5
  - 4.6
  - 4.9
  - 4.13
- Standard 5
  - 5.3

### Standard 1.1

5. The course provider submitted programme specification documents (PSDs) for both courses and included a link to the BA (Hons) Social Work programme webpage, which detailed the revised entry requirements. A link to the MA Social Work programme webpage was supplied in response to a request for secondary evidence.

6. The inspection team queried the IELTS level reported in the evidence (level 6 for the BA and level 6.5 for the MA) as it appeared to be lower than recommended in the Education and Training standard guidance. This was subsequently updated by the course provider who submitted additional evidence to demonstrate that the IELTS level had been revised to level 7.

7. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met for both courses.

## Standard 1.2

8. The course provider submitted PSDs for both courses and the inspectors also considered the information provided to students on the course webpages. The inspectors noted that detailed information was provided on the website regarding the type, and length, of prior experience applicants needed to demonstrate. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met for both courses.

## Standard 1.4

9. The course provider submitted the institutional Support to Study and Fitness to Practice Policy and procedures and links to the university's fitness to train requirements, and the student conduct regulations.

10. The inspectors noted that applicants were required to be signed as fit to train by their GP and queried whether this was proportional. The course provider explained that the policy was applied across the institution, and that it supported the university to confirm that a student's health would not be compromised through their placement, or that clients would not be compromised by a student being unfit to work. The inspectors acknowledged that clear information on this process was provided to applicants and as a result the requirement for GP clearance was transparent.

11. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met.

## Standard 3.1

12. The course provider reported that there had been a change to the Social Work Partnerships lead role which was considered by inspectors to not impact the standard. The inspectors reported no change to standard 3.1 and confirmed that the standard remained met.

## Standard 3.6

13. The course provider wished to increase their student numbers to a target of 20 for the BA, and 12 for the MA. The inspectors requested assurance that placement capacity had been considered. The course provider explained that capacity was considered across the academic year with placement providers, and it was noted that both of the courses already had approval for 20 students. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met.

## Standard 3.8

14. The inspectors understood that this standard has been subject to an inspection condition to increase the range of staff able to provide more opportunities for multi-disciplinary teaching.

15. The course provider submitted staff CVs in support of this standard, noting that they had included only those additional staff that met the condition. Inspectors noted that the CVs provided indicated involvement from staff outside of social work specific disciplines and agreed that this standard was met.

### Standard 4.1

16. The course provider submitted PSDs for both courses. For the BA course the PSD included clear mapping of modules to the professional standards and a separate mapping document was provided for the MA which mapped modules to the professional standards. The inspectors noted that the standard was previously met, and that the changes to the curriculum had not impacted this.

### Standard 4.2

17. The course provider submitted minutes of a stakeholder meeting which included employers, people with lived experience of social work and practitioners. The inspectors highlighted the appointment of a new people with lived experience coordinator and a people with lived experience representative as being notable improvements. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met.

### Standard 4.3

13. The inspectors understood that the standard had previously been met and noted that, for the BA programme, the course changes enhanced the ways that the curriculum delivered equality, diversity and inclusions (EDI) teaching and learning activities through the addition of the following new modules:

- SW(new code) – Social Justice and Social Work
- CU51050A, Introduction to Social Work, Community Development and Youth Work
- CU51047A, Race, Racism, and Professional Practice
- CU51037C, Theories of Individual Development

14. The module mapping document submitted in support of this standard for the MA programme mapped the following modules to the relevant professional standards:

- SW71025A, Introduction to Law and Social Work
- SW71026A, Theories of Individual Development

15. The inspectors agreed that the standard was met, however, recommended that the course provider proofread the module outlines as some inconsistencies between the module specification pre-requisites and follow on modules were noted.

## Standard 4.4

16. The inspectors acknowledged that the standard had previously been met and that the changes to the curriculum had incorporated additional research-based modules as follows:

### BA (Hons) Social Work

- CU51049B, Introduction to Applied Social Science Research Methods
- CU52049B, Applied Social Research Methods

### MA Social Work

- CO71009C, Multidisciplinary Research
- SW72011C, Research Methods Social Work Dissertation

17. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met.

## Standard 4.5

18. The course provider submitted module specification documents (MSDs) in support of this standard. The inspectors noted that the standard has previously been met and identified the following modules as being examples within the curriculum which focussed on the integration of theory and practice:

### BA (Hons) Social Work

- CU52045A, Theory, Policy and Practice
- SW52030A, Theories of Individual Development

### MA Social Work

- SW71026A, Theories of Individual Development
- SW71023A, Theory, Policy and Practice

19. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met.

## Standard 4.6

20. The course provider submitted staff CVs and PSDs for both courses in support of this standard.

21. For the BA course the inspectors reported that the revised structure provided additional shared content with allied programmes in other disciplines (for example youth work) which increased the opportunities for students to learn with and from each other. Moreover,

academic staff from other disciplines were included in the teaching of social work students. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met.

22. For the MA course the inspection team requested additional clarification regarding where the opportunities to work with and learn from other professions were provided. The course provider identified 3 modules which included shared teaching alongside students training to be therapists, community workers and youth workers.

23. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met.

## Standard 4.9

24. Documentary evidence submitted in support of this standard included PSDs for both courses and the module mapping document for the MA programme. As part of a secondary submission of evidence the course provider also submitted the institutional Assessment Feedback Policy, Assessment Policy and Procedures, and the BA and MA assessment schedule. The inspectors reported that the assessment schedule indicated a range of assessment types which were spaced across the academic year for both courses and that the institutional policies detailed how reasonable adjustments, or extenuating circumstances could be applied where appropriate and agreed that this standard was met.

## Standard 4.13

25. For the BA course the inspectors noted that the PSD and the MSDs demonstrated that research awareness was integrated through the courses. Within the BA the inspectors highlighted modules with research specific content in year 1 and year 2. They further reported that the year 3 module SW53009B, Social Work Skills and Methods, required students to demonstrate an ability to research and synthesise relevant literature.

26. For the MA course the inspectors reviewed the PSD and MSDs and reported that research awareness was integrated through the course with modules in each year, with the year 2 module requiring students to demonstrate an ability to critically analyse and evaluate the application of research to practice.

27. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met.

## Standard 5.3

28. The university submitted the institutional student conduct policy in support of this standard. It was understood that the student conduct policy referred to university regulations that governed the expectations around a student's conduct, and the steps taken should a student be investigated under criminal law. Within the mapping document, and through the secondary evidence submission, the university explained that the Practice Assessment Panel (PAP) reviewed placements where the student had failed, or other concerns relating to fitness

to practice. The inspectors agreed that this standard was met with the recommendation that the course provider consider implementing an annual declaration of suitability from students.

## Conclusions

The inspectors are recommending that the course change be approved. Two recommendations are embedded within the findings for standard 4.3 and 5.3.

## Regulator decision

Approved.