

# Open University of Mauritius

## BSc (Hons) Social Work (Top Up) [OUbs031]

### 1. Introduction

#### Programme information

Social Work is a key area aimed at providing professional support to society's vulnerable citizens. Having an academic qualification in this field allows social workers to develop their skills and abilities to resolve problems with a professional approach. This Top Up programme is specifically designed for those who already have a Diploma in Social Work and want to upgrade their qualification in this area.

#### Aim of the Programme

The BSc (Hons) Social Work (Top Up) aims to enable learners acquire a set of skills that will be invaluable for those looking forward to a fulfilling career in the social services sector. Upon completion of the programme, learners will acquire the latest knowledge required by professional social workers. This programme covers a range of issues central in the understanding of social work and include social work practice, ethical issue, clinical social work, gender issues and abuse of vulnerable people. A degree in Social Work opens up avenues in areas such as national and local governments including child/family welfare agencies and departments of health and human services, the private sector or the possibility of higher studies.

### 2. Entry Requirements

Candidates must hold a Diploma in Social Work from a recognised institution  
Learners must submit all relevant documents. Application for exemption will not be entertained.

### 3. Mode of Learning

This Course is offered on the Blended Open Distance Learning mode.

### 4. Programme Duration

BSc (Hons) Social Work Top Up	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration
Blended Open Distance Learning	3 semesters/ 1 ½ year	3 Years

### 5. Minimum Credits Required for the Awards

Total: 60 credits

Each credit in the university's system is equivalent to a minimum of 20 hours of study including all learning activities (i.e. reading and understanding the print material, listening to audio, watching video, attending tutorials/counselling sessions, writing assignment responses and preparation for the examinations). Thus, a 4 credit course involves a minimum of 80 hours of study.

## 6. Assessment

Each module will be assessed over 100 marks (i.e. expressed as %) with details as follows (unless otherwise specified) :

Assessment, unless stated otherwise, will be based on a written examination of 2 hours duration which would account for 70% of the final module grade and continuous assessment would account for 30% of the final module grade.

For the module Social Work Practice II, assessment will be based on 50 % oral presentation and 50% on portfolio.

Written examinations for all modules, whether taught in semester 1 or in semester 2 or both, will be carried out at the end of the semester (unless otherwise stated).

## 7. Grading

Percentage Range	Description	Grade	Grade Point
$70\% \leq x \leq 100\%$	Excellent	A	5
$60\% \leq x < 70\%$	Very Good	B	4
$50\% \leq x < 60\%$	Good	C	3
$40\% \leq x < 50\%$	Satisfactory	D	2
$< 40\%$	ungraded	U	0

## 8. Award

BSc (Hons) Social Work (Top up)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Class with Honours	CPA $\geq$ 70
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class 1 <sup>st</sup> Division with Honours	$60 \leq$ CPA $<$ 70
2 <sup>rd</sup> Class 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division with Honours	$50 \leq$ CPA $<$ 60
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	$45 \leq$ CPA $<$ 50
Pass	$40 \leq$ CPA $<$ 45
No Award	CPA $<$ 40

For a student to pass a module, an overall total of 40% of combined continuous assessment (usually having a weighting of 30%) and written examination components (usually having a weighting of 70%) would be required without minimum thresholds within the individual continuous assessment and written examination.

## 9. Programme Plan

<b>BSc (Hons) Social Work Top Up</b>					
<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Credit</b>
OUs031111	Ethics and the Law in Social Work	√			4
OUs031112	Social Work Practice I	√			4
OUs031113	Sexuality and Health	√			4
OUs031114	Social Work Research	√			4
OUs031115	Clinical Social Work	√			4
OUs031121	Society, Social Issues and social work		√		4
OUs031122	Social Work Practice II		√		4
OUs031123	Assessment and intervention with Groups, Communities, Organisations & Institutions		√		4
OUs031124	Globalisation and Contemporary issues in social Work		√		4
OUs031131	Gender and Social Issues			√	4
OUs031132	Assessment and Intervention with vulnerable populations			√	4
OUs031133	Social Project Development & Management			√	4
OUs031134	Ageing and social work practice			√	4
OUs031135	Dissertation		√	√	8

## 10. Module Outline

### **Ethics and the Law in Social Work [OUs031111]**

Aim: Examining the need for values and ethics in social work practice, reviewing the relevant codes of ethics and practice standards that guide SW practitioners, and examining the roles in which they become involved.

Unit 1: Definition of concepts

Unit 2: Code of ethics (International and Local)

Unit 3: International laws and frameworks

Unit 4: Social work organisation and NGOs'

Unit 5: Social policy and Social work

Unit 6: Social work and the Legislative framework

### **Social Work Practice I [OUbs031112]**

Aim: Examining the key roles of social work standards and codes of practice with regards to intervention in the lives of vulnerable people and people in situation of crisis.

Unit 1: Introduction to social work practice

Unit 2: Codes of ethics and practice standards in social work practice

Unit 3: Professional roles of social workers

Unit 4: Theories and practice approaches informing social work practice

Unit 5: Structural and Anti-Oppressive Social Work Practice

Unit 6: Social Work and Practice with Diversity - Race, Age, and Ability

### **Sexuality and Health [OUbs031113]**

Aim: Exploring issues around sexuality and sexual health in social work practice

Unit 1: Sexuality: Perspectives, Practices and Behaviours

Unit 2: Sexual Education, Responsibility and empowerment

Unit 3: Sexual health interventions

Unit 4: Counselling and therapy support for sexually abused/ assaulted

Unit 5: HIV/ Aids

### **Social Work Research [OUbs031114]**

Aim: Providing students with the knowledge and understanding of a range of qualitative, quantitative and mixed research methods to be applied in social work research, as well as the techniques needed in analyzing same. It also includes consideration of ethical issues relating to research in the social work field.

Unit 1: When and how do Social Workers use research?

Unit 2: Qualitative Research instruments

Unit 3: Quantitative methods in Social Work Research

Unit 4: Action research and Reflexive Research

Unit 5: Mixed methods

Unit 6: Analysis techniques

Unit 7: Applying findings in Social Work Practice

Unit 8: Ethical issues in Social Work Research

### **Clinical Social Work [OUbs031115]**

Aim: To introduce different theories, methods, intervention techniques and considerations for clinical social work practice with various sections of population.

Unit 1: Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2: Introduction to Physical Illness

Unit 3: Introduction to Mental Illness

Unit 4: Theories and Methods in CSW

Unit 5: Intervention techniques and Skills for CSW

Unit 6: Organisational and Ethical Considerations in CSW

Unit 7: Clinical Practice with Individuals

Unit 8: Clinical Practice with Groups

### **Social Work Practice II [OUbs031121]**

Aim: applying skills (practical, critical and intellectual), knowledge and research acquired in the different modules to social-work practice, with the aim of improving opportunity and outcomes for service users and communities.

Part 1: Written portfolio on a given topic

## Part 2: Presentation of the portfolio

### **Society, Social Issues and Social Work intervention [OUbs031122]**

Aim: To introduce students to the different outlooks on the way society is organised and functions, analyzing critical social issues and the underlining the pertinence of social work intervention.

- Unit 1: Sociological Perspectives
- Unit 2: Critical Social Problems and issues
- Unit 3: Social Administration
- Unit 4: Working with Social Systems
- Unit 5: Social Work Interventions
- Unit 6: Social Work and Social Development

### **Assessment and intervention with Groups, Communities, Organisations & Institutions [OUbs031123]**

Aim: Thoroughly look at the assessment of and intervention with groups, community, organizational and institutional setting, covering the most important new and contemporary practice in meso and macro social work

- Unit 1: Assessment of Groups and intervention at Group level
- Unit 2: Communities: Assessment and Intervention
- Unit 3: Assessment and Intervention at Organisational level
- Unit 4: Assessment of institutions and intervention in the Institutional setting

### **Globalisation and Contemporary issues in social Work [OUIbs031124]**

Aim: Analysing the impact of globalization on social work practice, this module looks into the contemporary issues social workers have to address in an increasingly connected and interdependent world, such as people trafficking, environmental issues, as well as welfare policies, and poverty.

- Unit 1: Globalisation and Society
- Unit 2: The global society and Social Work Practice
- Unit 3: Oppression at Global level
- Unit 4: Poverty and Social Exclusion
- Unit 5: Human Right issues
- Unit 6: Social Work in a Globalised context

### **Gender and Social Issues [OUbs031131]**

Aim: Gender as a social construct is affected by social, environmental and cultural factors. This module analyses those influences and relates to the role of social work as an empowering agent.

- Unit 1: Social Work and Social Inequality
- Unit 2: Social Construction process of Gender
- Unit 3: Institutionalisation of Gender Inequality
- Unit 4: Significance of Gender relations in the field of Social Work
- Unit 5: The democratisation of Gender relations

## **Assessment and Intervention with vulnerable populations [OUbs031132]**

Aim: Examining risk and vulnerability factors in vulnerable populations, this module analyses the key role of social workers in developing resilience and protective strategies for managing and overcoming adversity.

Unit 1: Vulnerable populations: definition

Unit 2: Life Conditions

Unit 3: Life Circumstances

Unit 4: Resilience and Protective Strategies

Unit 5: The role of Stakeholders

Unit 6: Empowerment of Vulnerable populations

## **Social Project Development & Management [OUbs031133]**

Aim: Focusing on the economic/ financial aspects of social projects, covering key aspects such as the sources of financing, the cost and benefits analysis, as well as the sustainability issues linked to social projects

Unit 1: Budgeting

Unit 2: Financial Systems

Unit 3: Implementation

Unit 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

Unit 5: Resource Mobilisation

Unit 6: Social and Environmental issues

Unit 7: Reports to Funders

## **Ageing and social work practice [OUbs031134]**

Aim: The ageing of societies being a global phenomenon, this module draws from the theories, research, policy and practice to analyse the geriatric social Work competencies necessary to serve the older adult population in a variety of contexts

Unit 1: Social work with older people: Demographic and policy context

Unit 2: Perspectives on ageing

Unit 3: Health, disability and advocacy

Unit 4: Caring, networks and community care

Unit 5: Dementia

Unit 6: Housing and residential care

Unit 7: Risk and elder abuse

Unit 8: Meaningful ageing and End of life

## **Dissertation [OUbs031135]**

The research project will allow the learner to examine thoroughly an area or a problem related to social work. The project will draw upon significant concepts and techniques introduced during the taught part of the course and will look for to merge the theory and practice of social work through the achievement of a considerable and related in-depth piece of work. The review of the final year project will be based on the compliance of a report which should be in the range of 12,000–15,000 words.