



East Park Terrace
Southampton
SO14 0YN
UK
Tel: +44(0)23 8201 3000
www.solent.ac.uk

MA & PGDIP SOCIAL WORK

The Social Work team at Southampton Solent University are delighted to extend a warm welcome to you and we hope you have a rewarding and memorable time while studying with us. This document will provide you with advance information on joining your course, so you arrive informed with some basic information. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying ***Social Work Student Guide***, which provides more detail on many aspects of studying social work at Solent.

Reading List

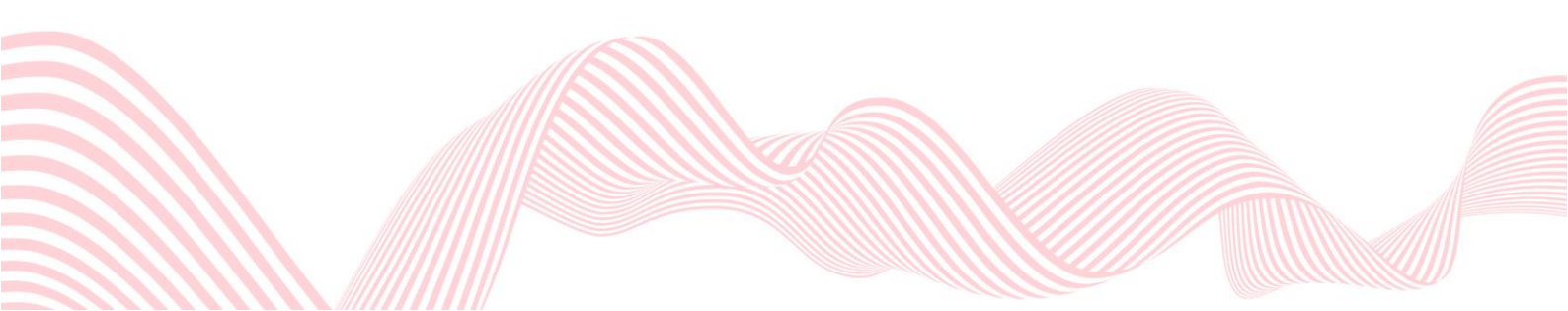
We appreciate that you may be keen to begin gaining an insight into social work before you join the course and we have therefore identified some recommended reading for you. The book by Hilary Walker is perhaps the best guide concerning what to expect during your social work degree. We have also provided links to some websites which we know you will also find valuable.

We recommend you review the following texts prior to your arrival:

- Horner, N. (2019). *What is social work?* (5th ed.). London: Sage.
- Payne, M. (2005). *The Origins of Social Work: Continuity and Change*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Thompson, N. (2009). *Understanding Social Work: Preparing for Practice*. (3rd ed.). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Walker, H. (2011). *Studying for your Social Work Degree*. (2nd ed.). Exeter: Learning Matters.

Website Links:

- [About BASW](#)
- [BASW Professional Capabilities Framework \(PCF\)](#)
- [Community Care](#)
- [Social Care Institute for Excellence](#)
- [Social Work England](#)





East Park Terrace
Southampton
SO14 0YN
UK
Tel: +44(0)23 8201 3000
www.solent.ac.uk

Bursaries

Information about social work student bursaries can be found on the [NHS Business Service Authority website](#).

You can apply for the bursary in your first year of study, which is designed to meet any extra expenses involved in travelling to and from your practice placement. Decisions to award the bursary rest with the NHS Business Service Authority and we have no control over these decisions. Part of the decision for bursary awards however is based upon your attendance, grades and timely submission of work.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

You will need to apply for an enhanced DBS disclosure upon enrolment to the course, even if you currently have one. This is a mandatory requirement due to the nature of the work you will be engaged in as part of your studies.

As part of the social work course/programme you will work with vulnerable people. Social Work England, the regulator for education and training standards for social work, require all social work students to have a full-disclosure DBS in place as part of your confirming your place on the course/programme. We recognise that once a DBS has been applied for it can sometimes take some time to come through.

However, if this is not in place by the end of semester 1 of the first year, you will not be eligible to proceed into semester 2. Please use the following links to start your DBS application:

Self Registration

You can register to access our online application service if you have been given an Organisation ID and Access Code.

Organisation ID

ORG-TT7B7819

Access Code

Social1

Email

☐ I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

Next

[MA Social Work DBS – click here](#)

Organisation ID: ORG-ORVSJPB6

Access Code: Nursing

[PgDip Social Work DBS – click here](#)

Organisation ID: ORG-TT7B7819

Access Code: Social1



East Park Terrace
Southampton
SO14 0YN
UK
Tel: +44(0)23 8201 3000
www.solent.ac.uk

*You then need to add your personal email address and click **next***

For international students:

Due to potential delay in your background checks being available to the UK DBS system prior to your first substantive placement, please ensure that upon enrolment you can provide a police check from your home nation, dated within the last 6 months.

Your specific needs

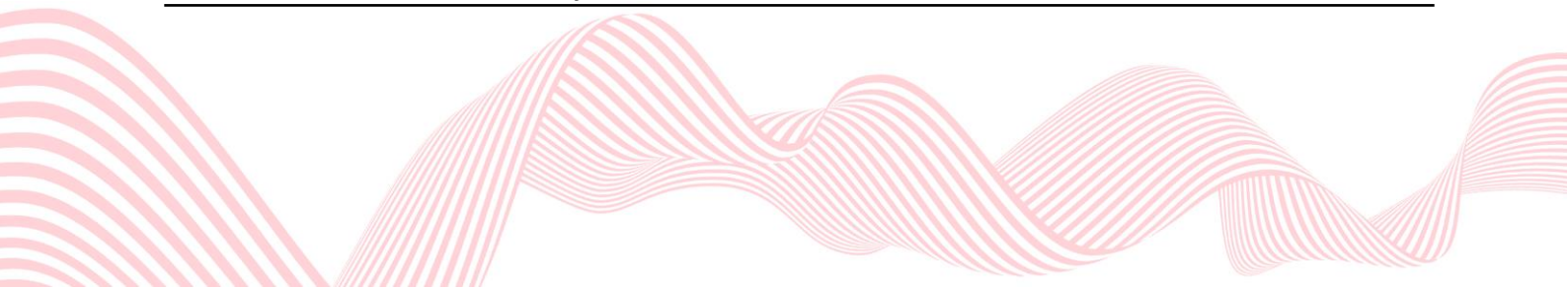
If you declared specific needs on your Supplementary Application, you should seek an early meeting with the University's Disability Advice team, and the level 4 lead to discuss how best we can support you in your academic and practice learning. Please mail them at: disability@solent.ac.uk

Your attendance

You will be reading for the PG Dip/MA Social Work degree full-time over eighteen months or two years, depending on your chosen route. Research demonstrates, and our experience shows that your attendance and engagement with lectures and other scheduled activities are some of the keys to achieving your degree. Academic scheduled activities will usually take place between 9am and 5pm and the course begins with 'Welcome Week' on 21st September 2026. Although usually you will only be required to attend scheduled activities a few days a week, there is an expectation that you will use the rest of the week for substantial individual study. Please note that the start of the course, 'Welcome Week' requires your attendance over those days where information provided is also applicable to post-graduate students. Please bear in mind the timetabled schedules should you need to make childcare arrangements.

Your full timetable will be released on Solent Online Learning (SOL) once you formally enrol during welcome week. At this time, you will also be given a university email address which you should check regularly and from then on, be the only email address you use to contact the university and teaching team.

Practice Placements and 'Skills Days'





East Park Terrace
Southampton
SO14 0YN
UK
Tel: +44(0)23 8201 3000
www.solent.ac.uk

Your attendance on Practice Placements and Skills Days form 50% of the social work degree and are a mandatory requirement of the curriculum as laid down by Social Work England, the regulator for social work.

Practice Placements are arranged by Solent and are offered via partnership arrangements between us and various local agencies in Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight. During these practice learning opportunities, it is essential you continue to set aside substantial time every week for individual study.

Over the course of the degree, you will need to evidence your learning from 30 'Skills Days'. Skills Day sessions usually count for half or a whole day but will need to add up to 30 days by the completion of your degree. Skills Days are designed to give you specific insight into an area connected with social work practice.

Support before you enrol

For some, coming to university can be quite a daunting prospect. So that you can find out what support will be available to you, please explore the weblinks below:

Study Skills

Supporting you throughout your time at university

Support and information for international students

Welcome to Solent!

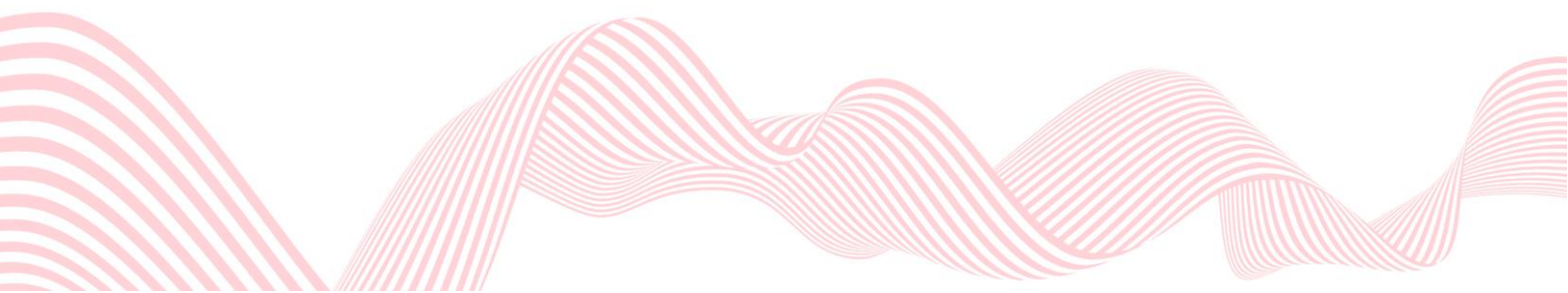
So once again welcome to Solent! We look forward to meeting and working with you to achieve your social work degree. All the lecturers on the course are qualified and registered social workers, passionate about the profession and we hope you will walk with us in a journey of learning and development.

If you have any questions at this point that are not covered here, within the weblinks or in the **Social Work Student Guide**, please don't hesitate to contact one of us:

Debs Muir

Admissions Tutor

E: debs.muir@solent.ac.uk





East Park Terrace
Southampton
SO14 0YN
UK
Tel: +44(0)23 8201 3000
www.solent.ac.uk

Marietjie Joubert
Level 4 (first year) Leader
E: marietjie.joubert@solent.ac.uk

