

What does it mean to be a Social Work Student?

Dr Eleni Skoura-Kirk

Part of Welcome Week

Wednesday, 1st October 2025

University of
Kent

Division for the
study of Law,
Society and
Social Justice

Session aims:

To understand the academic and professional requirements of studying social work.

To establish what constitutes professional conduct.

To have clarity on attendance requirements.

To understand and commit to creating an inclusive classroom.

Social Work student initiatives- STAND, Snack and Chat

Imagine...

You are on your first placement, and you have been asked to attend a meeting to discuss the care plan for a vulnerable individual. How will you present yourself and behave during this meeting?



Social Work England

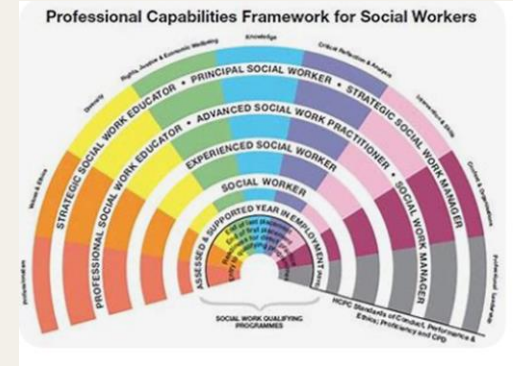


Professional Regulator for social workers in England

"Social work courses recruit students who have the capability and suitability towards developing the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the professional standards and become registered upon completion of the course."

5.2 [As a social worker I will NOT] Behave in a way that would bring into question my suitability to work as a social worker while at work, or outside of work.

Professional Capabilities Framework



As representatives of the profession, we safeguard its reputation. We are accountable to people using services, the public, employers and the regulator. Domain 1 Professionalism.

I am receptive to the views of others. Domain 3 Diversity and Equality.

I demonstrate an ability to reflect on and analyse my own experiences (educational, personal, formal and informal) Domain 6 Critical Reflection and Analysis.

I can communicate clearly, accurately and appropriately to the level of training applied for, in verbal and written forms.

I demonstrate an ability to engage with people with empathy Domain 7 Skills and Interventions.

Attendance requirements

- Attendance is closely associated with positive engagement and higher achievement for students. For Social Work programmes, attendance is also linked to requirements set by the professional regulator, [Social Work England \(SWE\)](#).
- Expectation of 100% attendance for 30 skills days, 170 placement days and recall days (if you miss a day you have to make it up).
- Expectations of minimum 80% attendance for academic, classroom-based learning.
- You need to ensure that you log in your attendance.
- If health or other extenuating factors affect attendance, relevant supportive measures will be explored on a case-by-case basis.
- Lateness is disruptive and can contribute to low attendance record or (where conduct issues are a concern) to questions around suitability.

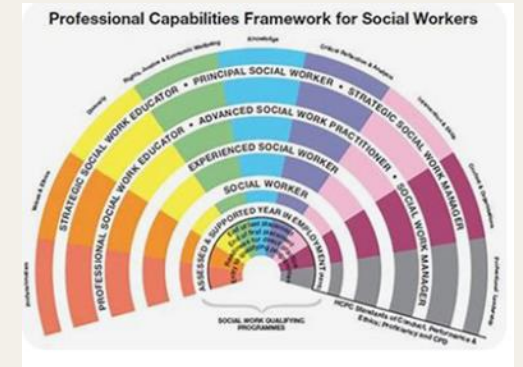
Suitability to Practice Policy

- All social work courses are required by Social Work England to have processes in place that deal with students' profession-related conduct throughout the course ([Education and Training Standards 5.3](#))
- Could relate to medical fitness, or student behaviour that is damaging or dangerous, creates unacceptable risk or brings into question the student's ability to demonstrate the values, attitudes and behaviours of the profession.
- Emphasis on supportive approach, informal stage as a first step, important to have open dialogue and reflect on issues.

Social Work values

- 1.6 Promote social justice, helping to confront and resolve issues of inequality and inclusion
- 2.4 Practice in ways that demonstrate empathy, perseverance, authority, professional confidence and capability
- 4.5 Contribute to an open and creative learning culture in the workplace to discuss, reflect on and share best practice.
- 4.8 Reflect on my own values and challenge the impact they have on my practice ([SWE Professional Standards](#))

Social Work values student level



recognise the impact my own values and attitudes can have on relationships with others

am receptive to the views of others.

identify how own learning (formal, informal and experiential) contributes to understanding and developing the social work role.

demonstrate an ability to reflect on and analyse my own experiences (educational, personal, formal and informal)

demonstrate an ability to engage with people with empathy

([Professional Capability Framework](#), Point of Entry to study)



##/##

Join at: **vevox.app**

ID: **150-361-436**

Question slide

What creates an inclusive classroom?





##/##

Join at: **vevox.app**

ID: **150-361-436**

Preparing Results

What creates an inclusive classroom?

RESULTS SLIDE



0/0

Join at: [Civox app](#)

ID: 150361436

Question slide

What do you need from us as a teaching team to feel comfortable in the classroom and benefit your learning?





0/0

Join at: [fevex app](#)

ID: 150-361436

Preparing Results

What do you need from us as a teaching team to feel comfortable in the classroom and benefit your learning?

RESULTS SLIDE



0/0

Join at: **vevox.app**

ID: **150-361-436**

Question slide

What do you need from each other to feel comfortable in the classroom and benefit your learning?





0/0

Join at: **vevox.app**

ID: **150-361-436**

Showing Results

What do you need from each other to feel comfortable in the classroom and benefit your learning?

RESULTS SLIDE

Social Work Student Initiatives

Student Action for Diversity (STAND)

Social Workers without Borders

Snack and Chat



22 SEPTEMBER - 10 OCTOBER

09:00 - 23:59

Welcome Beyond

📍 Medway



6 OCTOBER

12:00 - 14:30

Welcome Global Hangout

📍 Medway



Kent Welcome Fair

7 OCTOBER

11:00 - 14:00

Kent Welcome Fair

📍 Medway



Speed Friending

8 OCTOBER

14:00 - 16:00

Speed Friending



Game On

13 OCTOBER

12:00 - 16:00

Game On

Uni Ready: Mature Student Orientation

Online Version

Uni Ready

Mature Student Orientation - Online
Student Success



Dates and times

Thursday 9 October
17:00 - 19:00

Where

Online

Pricing

Free

A close-up of a dandelion seed head is centered in the frame. The background is a dark, blurred green. In the top-left corner, there is a light beige abstract shape. In the bottom-right corner, there is a pink abstract shape with several small red dots scattered near its edge.

Finally...

WELCOME TO THE
COURSE AND SEE YOU
NEXT WEEK!