

Hong Kong Baptist University College of International Education

Qualification Recognition Assessment on Higher Diploma in Social Work

THE FINAL REPORT BY THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Executive Summary

The Qualification Recognition Assessment was conducted for the Higher Diploma in Social Work programme (full-time) (HDSW, the Programme) proposed by Hong Kong Baptist University College of International Education (HKBU CIE, the College). The Programme is a two-year full-time self-funded programme proposed by the College to commence in academic year 2026/27.

Assessment Team's Recommendations

The Assessment Team (AT) reviewed the submitted documents and visited the College on 22-23 January 2026 to meet and discuss with various internal and external stakeholders of the Programme. Upon cautious deliberations of all information collected, including clarifications and findings from the on-site interviews, AT concluded in an Interim Report that the Programme meets the standards and requirements laid down by Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB, the Board) in its *Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognising Qualifications in Social Work (8th edition)* (PCS8), thereby qualifying its award holders for registration as Registered Social Workers for a period of three years starting from the first cohort admitted in 2026/27. AT also proposed 16 suggestions for enhancement of the Programme in the Interim Report. The College provided affirmative response to the suggestions of AT and relevant updated documents and information for AT's review.

AT reviewed and cautiously deliberated the response and recommended qualification recognition be approved to graduates of the Programme for three academic cohorts covering the academic years 2026/27 to 2028/29 under the following conditions:

1. The College is to cautiously select the appropriate organisations/agencies for fieldwork placement to ensure effective learning of students, and submit to the Board the list of confirmed organisations/agencies for the "Fieldwork Placement I" to be conducted in Summer 2027 on or before 1 March 2027 with the following details:
 - Written agreement or confirmation with the listed organisations/agencies;
 - Agreed or defined scope of work/duties/tasks of students in each organisation/agency; and
 - Number of social workers available for mentoring students in each organisation/agency.
2. The College is to submit the updated syllabus of the course "Hong Kong Landscape and Buildings" to the Board on or before 1 March 2027, with clear elaboration on how the indigenous knowledge covered in the course will be linked to social work practice in Hong Kong, including but not limited to the content, learning and teaching, with

consideration on the alignment of the course title.

In addition, AT proposed two additional suggestions for further enhancement of the Programme. The next review of the qualification is scheduled for the 2028/29 academic year.

The College should notify the Board formally in writing as soon as possible of all major changes related to the Programme, which include curriculum contents and design, for necessary endorsement.

THE FINAL DECISION OF THE BOARD

The Board has resolved to accept the recommendation of the Assessment Team to recognise the qualification for a period of three years from the academic year 2026/27 to 2028/29 with two conditions, 18 suggestions for enhancement and three commendations.