

UOW College Hong Kong

Qualification Recognition Assessment on Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) in Social Work

THE FINAL REPORT BY THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Executive Summary

The Assessment Team appointed by the Social Workers Registration Board (the Board) reviewed documentation and conducted site visit to UOW College Hong Kong (UOWCHK) on 27 - 28 February 2024 for qualification recognition assessment of the Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) in Social Work (Part-time conversion) (BSocScSW).

Assessment Team's Recommendation

Assessment Team is of the view that the BSocScSW qualification has met the basic requirements laid down in the *Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work for Registration of Registered Social Workers (8th edition)*; and recommends the Board to recognize BSocScSW qualification awarded by UOWCHK, thereby qualifying its holders for registration as Registered Social Workers, for a period of *three* years from 2024/25 to 2026/27, with annual intake quota of 60.

Summary of Suggestions

1. To review research elements in the curriculum by strengthening evaluation research in the core research course and incorporating such elements throughout the whole curriculum to inform practice in the local context.
2. To enrich students' learning experience by providing non-formal or extra-curricular activities for students to cultivate personal and professional growth.
3. To revisit the composition of the Fieldwork Coordinating Team by clearly differentiating the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Fieldwork Coordinator and the Fieldwork Coordinator.
4. The Fieldwork Coordinating Team should be familiarized with UOWCHK's existing mechanism on 'grade review', 'grade moderation', and 'grade appeal' in relation to fieldwork placement. Such mechanism should be clearly stated in the fieldwork handbook so that students and fieldwork supervisors are well informed. Students should also have the right to know their fieldwork recommended grades which are subject to review by relevant assessment panel.
5. To review whether existing institutional policy on using AI can be applied to fieldwork placement. If AI is considered applicable and allowed in fieldwork, clear guidelines should be provided in the fieldwork handbook.
6. To explore modes of placement other than the 3-day-per-week concurrent arrangement. This can allow more flexibility to cater for the needs of part-time students who work full-time.

7. To explore the possibility of offering students placement opportunities in the Social Welfare Department or some special projects so as to widen students' exposure to different service settings and innovative service provisions.
8. To employ more academic staff so as to build up the faculty's research profile and support future manpower development.
9. To closely monitor its financial situation so as to maintain financial viability in operating the BSocScSW programme for the first period of recognition.
10. To develop a more concrete plan of collaborating with UOW in Australia and UOW global network for the benefit of student recruitment, student learning experience, and staff development.
11. To make better use of existing mechanism of collecting student feedback, such as the Joint Staff/Student Consultative Committee, to engage students to voice out their opinions.

THE FINAL DECISION OF THE BOARD

The Board has resolved to accept the recommendations of the Assessment Team to recognise the qualification for a period of 3 years from the academic year 2024/25 to 2026/27 with annual intake quota of 60 and 11 suggestions for programme enhancement.