**BA (Hons) Social Work**

**Interview instructions for applicants (online)**

**These guidelines are for applicants who, as part of the application process for BA (Hons) Social Work, have been invited to attend an interview day.**

**This will take place online via MS Teams.**

The online interview has two main components: a group task at 09.15 and an individual interview at the time noted on your email invitation. A member of the Course Team will send you the MS Teams links, to join both the task and your individual interview, prior to your scheduled interview date.

The interview will be conducted by an Academic Tutor who is a member of the Social Work Course team, the panel may also consist of a service participant (someone who has experience of receiving social work services) and a social work practitioner.

During your individual interview you are welcome to refer to any personal notes and show evidence of recent reading material.

* The group task takes place initially and you will have the opportunity to discuss with other applicants, a topic related to social work.
* After this you will be scheduled for an individual interview with a panel, which may consist of a service participant (someone who has experience of receiving social work services), a university tutor and a social work practitioner. This is designed to enable you to maximise the demonstration of the knowledge, skills and values relevant to social work.
* If you would like the opportunity to tour the campus, meet other applicants, ask questions of the team/university and service participants and practitioners and potentially meet current or past students, please attend one of the University open days, the dates of which can be found on the University website or by contacting the Student Centre.

**Important Information**

It is important that all applicants acknowledge this is a formal interview, facilitated by registered Social Workers, who are required by law to respond to Safeguarding and Public Safety concerns. Essentially the interview is confidential on the day. However, should information be disclosed relating to a previously undisclosed safeguarding need, for a child or vulnerable adult, or any concern about criminal activity; the information may be passed to the relevant Safeguarding Officer or Criminal Justice agency.

We understand that some applicants can be vulnerable in interview situations, and should any distress occur, or if there is an underlying concern about the interview, the Academic Tutor will follow this up with the applicant and notify any relevant agencies, if this is deemed necessary or appropriate. Initially this will always be with the applicant's knowledge and agreement unless a third-party safeguarding issue is evident, or the applicant is considered to be a vulnerable adult in their own right and lacking the capacity to make a specific decision about their safety. This is highly unlikely, but we are duty bound to notify applicants of this possibility. In all cases the Academic Tutors will keep the applicant notified of any actions they intend.

**Suggested Reading and Resource List:**

You may find the resources below useful in preparing for the interview:

<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/standards/professional-standards/>

[Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF) | BASW](https://basw.co.uk/training-cpd/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf)

[Point of entry to training | BASW](https://basw.co.uk/training-cpd/professional-capabilities-framework/point-entry-training)

<https://www.theguardian.com/society>

<https://www.scie.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>

Note: These links are suggested as a general guide only and are not specifically endorsed or published by the University of Suffolk; this is also not an exhaustive list, and you should ensure that you prepare for your interview fully through wider reading.

The following questions and answers provide further support towards preparing for the interview and deciding to study at the University of Suffolk.

**Why is Social Work a good career to choose and why study at the University of Suffolk?**

**1.** **You make a positive impact on individuals and groups**

Social Work is about understanding and striving to improve the lives of people in

society. Social Workers listen to people’s experiences and needs, including young

children, teenagers, people struggling with addictions, disabled people, people being

neglected and harmed by carers, and social workers can support people to be safe

and improve their quality of life. Studying BA (Hons) Social Work at the University of Suffolk can enable you to understand how to bring about positive change in someone’s life.

**2.** **There are lots of job options**

A degree in Social Work provides you with the skills and ability to undertake a variety of different professional roles. These roles include working in child protection and safeguarding, supporting older people to live independently, quality assuring services.

**3. You will study and work with like-minded people, who share your values and vision**

The course attracts people who want to make a difference and who want to speak up against injustice and support people’s rights. Social Work England’s Professional Standard one, is to promote rights and this is unique to the profession of social work

and something we are proud of.

**4. Service participants are at the heart of what we do**

Many lectures and learning activities at University of Suffolk include people from Social Work Voices (SWV), a group of people with personal lived experience of receiving social work services, referred to as ‘service participants. As well as student admissions interviews, SWV help to plan the content and learning activities and are involved in assessments of student knowledge, skills and values. SWV are also involved in supporting, coaching and training newly qualified social workers and sit on the interview panels of social work lecturers.

**5. Lectures and lecturers keep up-to-date and are committed to social justice**

University of Suffolk lecturers are helpful and supportive and try and answer any questions you may have. Lecturers usually have many years of practice experience before becoming educators (as detailed in the lecturers’ biographies to be found on the course web page). They keep ‘research active’ and ‘close to practice’ which means that new knowledge is incorporated into teaching. Scholarship activities, such as research, writing books and articles, show commitment to the field and this in turn enhances students’ learning. Social Workers who are currently practising contribute significantly to teaching and learning which means you can be confident that learning is contemporary and applied to practice.

**Outcomes from the interview process could be:**

Offer: Conditional/Unconditional | Alternative Course Offer | Reject

Feedback to those unsuccessful candidates is available on request via the Admissions office only.

Please email [admissions@uos.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@uos.ac.uk) and your request will be forwarded to the Admissions Tutor for reply.

We hope that you will find this information useful. However, if you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Student Centre who will be able to direct you to the relevant person or team to help answer any questions you may have:

Telephone: 01473 338833

Email: [studentlife@uos.ac.uk](mailto:studentlife@uos.ac.uk)

Finally, we look forward to speaking with you soon and wish you well in interview. Please give yourself the best chance of success, by ensuring that you are well prepared.

Best wishes on behalf of the Course and Admission teams

**Garfield Hunt**

**Admissions Tutor**