



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Admissions and Access Service

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Queen's University Belfast
Bachelor of Social Work (L500)
3 year full-time Degree

How we choose our students

Applications are dealt with centrally by the Admissions and Access Service rather than by individual University Schools. Once your on-line form has been processed by UCAS and forwarded to Queen's, an acknowledgement is normally sent within two weeks of its receipt at the University. All the information on your application is important and you should ensure that full details are given about qualifications completed or still to be completed. Applicants are advised to have some experience in employment or voluntary work of a social work nature.

Applicants who meet the initial selection criteria are asked to provide a further 600 word personal statement regarding their reasons for wishing to pursue a career in social work and this is assessed. Applicants who are reapplying are encouraged to build upon and update their personal statement. Those who meet the required standard will then be called for interview to assess their suitability for Social Work training. This is a requirement of the professional body i.e. The Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC), as set out in its 'Rules for Approval of Degree in Social Work courses'. The interview is organised on a regional basis enabling applicants to have a single interview for all Northern Ireland Social Work programmes.

Decisions on applicants who have been unsuccessful following academic assessment, in the personal statement or interview will be made on an ongoing basis and notified to the applicant via UCAS. Offers are not made until all applicants who are eligible have been interviewed, normally late April/early May. This is an extremely high demand degree programme and therefore not all applicants deemed suitable for Social Work training will receive an offer. Thresholds vary from year to year. Further details on the 'Application and Selection Process Timeline' are outlined in Appendix 1.

Deadline for Applications

All applications submitted by the normal closing date of 15 January (18:00 hours) are given equal consideration. Applications received after this deadline will **not** be considered.

In addition to the factors outlined above, GCSE performance is important. For last year's entry, applicants for the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) programme must have had a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at grade B or better (English Language and Mathematics are required at grade C or above), though this profile may change from year to year depending on the demand for places. Performance in any AS or A-level examinations already completed would also have been taken into account.

A-levels

Offers are normally made on the basis of 3 A-levels i.e. ABB. Two subjects at A-level plus two at AS would also be considered. The offer for repeat applicants is set in terms of 3 A-levels and is the same standard as for first time applicants. Grades may be held from the previous year.

Combination of A-level plus BTEC Level 3 Qualifications

Applicants offering two A-levels and one BTEC Subsidiary Diploma/National Extended Certificate (or equivalent qualification), or one A-level and a BTEC Diploma/National Diploma (or equivalent qualification) will also be considered. Offers will be made in terms of performance in individual BTEC units rather than the overall BTEC grade(s) awarded. The normal GCSE profile will be expected.

Please note that a maximum of one BTEC Subsidiary Diploma/National Extended Certificate (or equivalent) will be counted as part of an applicant's portfolio of qualifications.

NB: A-level General Studies and A-level Critical Thinking would not normally be considered as part of a three A-level offer and, although they may be excluded where an applicant is taking 4 A-level subjects, the grade achieved could be taken into account if necessary in August/September.

Other Qualifications

Applicants offering other qualifications, such as Edexcel BTEC Extended Diploma and Higher National Certificates and Diplomas, Irish Leaving Certificate, Access Course or an Foundation Degree will also be considered.

Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma

The same GCSE profile is usually expected of those applicants taking an Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma qualification. Offers are made on the basis of 'Successful completion of the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (180 credits at Level 3) with 120 credits at Distinction and 60 credits at Merits.

Irish Leaving Certificate

Irish Junior Certificate performance is important. For last year's entry, applicants for the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) programme must have had a minimum of 5 Irish Junior Certificate passes at grade B or better, though this profile may change from year to year depending on the demand for places. Offers are normally based on 6 Highers in the Irish Leaving Certificate i.e. grades H3, H3, H3, H3, H3, H3. If not offered at Higher Level, English and Mathematics are required at Ordinary Level minimum grade 04.

Access Courses

Applications from those offering Access Diploma/Certificate in Foundation Studies courses are welcomed and each is considered individually on its merits. Access Courses are designed for adults who left formal education without the qualifications needed for entry to higher education, who did not progress beyond Level 3 qualifications, e.g. A-levels, and who are returning to study after a significant break (normally a minimum of two years). Where offers are made, these are based on completion of the full qualification, which is normally available on a one-year, full-time or two-years, part-time basis. For last year's entry, the standard set was 'Successful completion of the Access Course with an average of 70% (Level 3 Units)'. Applicants studying the two-year part-time course require an average of 60% in Year 1.

Applicants who have progressed beyond A-level (or equivalent Level 3 qualification)

Higher National Certificate (HNC)/Higher National Diploma (HND)

For those offering a Higher National Certificate/Diploma, some flexibility may be allowed in terms of GCSE profile but, to be eligible for an offer, modules completed in the first year of the HNC/ HND must average Merit level. For applicants completing an HNC/HND over two years offers are made on the basis of 'Successful completion of the Edexcel HNC/HND with 3-4 Distinctions plus a Merit in each remaining unit in the final year of the HNC/HND. For applicants completing a one year full-time HNC offers are made on the basis of 'Successful completion of the Edexcel HNC with 4 Distinctions plus a Merit in each remaining unit.

Foundation Degree

Applications from those offering a Foundation Degree are welcomed and each is considered individually on its merits. Where offers are made, these are based on completion of the full qualification, which is normally two-years full-time. For last year's entry, the standard set was an average of 50% in Year 1 and 'Successful completion of the Foundation Degree with an average of 60%'.

Graduates

This course is open to graduates with a minimum of a Lower Second Class Honours degree. **Applicants with a Third Class Honours degree will not be considered.**

NB: ALL APPLICANTS

All applicants require GCSE Mathematics minimum Grade C or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University. Essential Skills, Level 2 in Application of Number is not acceptable in lieu of this requirement.

Personal Statement and Academic Reference

The information provided in the personal statement should demonstrate a commitment to social work. The academic reference together with predicted grades are noted but, in the case of the Bachelor of Social Work degree, are not the final deciding factors in whether or not a conditional offer can be made. However, they may be reconsidered in a tie break situation in August. All applications must contain a reference otherwise they may not be considered.

Applicants in Receipt of an Offer

Applicants who are made an offer are normally invited to an information evening, which is usually held in the May following the publication of offers. The event will be held on the 9 May 2018 for entry in September 2018. This will allow you the opportunity to visit the University and to find out more about the degree programme of your choice and the facilities on offer. It also gives you a flavour of the academic and social life at Queen's.

Deferred Entry

Due to the demand for places and the lengthy selection process applicants applying for deferred entry are not considered.

All applications submitted by the normal closing date of 15 January (18:00 hours) are given equal consideration. Applications received after this date will **not** be considered.

Transfers

Because of the intense competition for places to study Social Work and the nature of the course structure, transfers are not considered. However, candidates who commence another course of study may submit a fresh application via UCAS for consideration. All applicants must have the same entry requirements as those applying direct from A-level (or other acceptable qualification) and must have passed any exams taken at University.

Finally

If you cannot find the information you need here, please contact the Admissions and Access Service [here](#), giving full details of your qualifications and educational background.

APPENDIX 1

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK - APPLICATION TIMELINE

STAGE 1	Following receipt of your UCAS application the admissions team will assess your academic qualifications. If you meet/can meet the academic entry requirements for social work your application will progress to Stage 2.
STAGE 2	A Consent & Declaration letter and pro forma will be sent to you. If you receive a Consent & Declaration letter and pro forma from both Queen's and Ulster you must complete each pro forma (tick box) and return to the relevant institution, to the email/address indicated.
STAGE 3	You will receive an email asking you to provide (type) a 600 word Personal Statement based on three set questions. You will be given two weeks to complete the Personal Statement and to return it to the email address provided. Failure to provide the Personal Statement within the agreed timescale may result in your application being withdrawn via UCAS.
STAGE 4	<p>If you achieve the required benchmark score in the 600 word Personal Statement you will receive an email inviting you to attend for interview. Interviews run from mid/late February right through to late April.</p> <p>The interview is a two-stage process:</p> <p>Stage One – Case Scenario On attending for interview, applicants will be issued with a short Case Scenario and will be allocated 10 minutes, under supervision, in preparation for their formal interview.</p> <p>Stage Two – Formal Interview The first 2 questions at interview will focus on the Case Scenario. The remaining questions will concentrate on your ability to demonstrate your knowledge of social work, your ability to use your life experience and work experience to make links with social work, and your ability to reflect on yourself and your learning about social work practice.</p>
STAGE 5	<p>Social Work Offers: Following completion of the interview process applicants who pass the 'suitability interview' are ranked by interview score. Offers are processed in early May however, not all applicants who are deemed suitable for 'social work training' will receive an offer at this stage. This is due to the government quota for social work at both Queen's and Ulster. You should note that, if you have applied to both Queen's and Ulster, it is possible to receive an offer from one institution and not the other.</p> <p>After the initial round of offers Queen's and/or Ulster will email/write to eligible applicants asking if they wish to be retained on a 'reserve list' if additional places become available. This may not be until August following receipt of all examination results. You should note that there is no guarantee that additional places will become available.</p>
Please note if you are unsuccessful at any of the above stages we will notify you as soon as possible, via UCAS, normally within 10 working days.	