



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

**Admissions and Access Service**

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**Queen's University Belfast  
Bachelor of Social Work (L501)  
(Relevant Graduate Route)**

2-year full-time

**Introduction**

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 who meet the initial selection criteria will then be contacted regarding completion of a virtual 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 virtual interview is organised on a regional basis enabling applicants to submit a single interview for all Northern Ireland Social Work programmes applied for.

Decisions on applicants who have been unsuccessful following academic assessment or interview will be processed as soon as possible and notified to the applicant via UCAS. Offers are not made until all applicants who are eligible have been interviewed, normally late April. This is a 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**

Applications submitted by the normal closing date of 25 January (18:00 hours) are given equal consideration. Applications received after this deadline will **not** be considered.

**All Applicants**

In addition to the factors outlined above:

1. All graduate applicants (Hons, PGT, PhD) must have GCSE Mathematics grade C/4 or above or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University. Essential Skills, Level 2 in Application of Number is not acceptable in lieu of this requirement.
2. All applicants for the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree, two-year graduate route must have or be able to achieve a minimum of a Lower Second Class Honours degree in a cognate subject. A relevant degree is deemed to be an Honours degree where at least one-third of the course passed at Honours level comprises one or more of the following: Sociology, Psychology, Social Policy/Social Administration;

and degrees in Law, Teaching, Nursing, Community Work, Youth Work, Early Childhood Studies, Criminology, Health and Social Care, Occupational Therapy, Human Communication/Counselling, Social Anthropology, Housing Studies or other cognate subjects.

**Please Note: Applicants with a Third Class Honours degree or Non Honours degree will not be considered.**

### **ALL APPLICANTS**

**All applicants must have GCSE Mathematics minimum Grade C/4 or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University.**

**Please Note: Essential Skills, Level 2 in Application of Number is not acceptable in lieu of this requirement.**

### **Personal Statement and Reference**

The information provided in the UCAS personal statement should demonstrate a commitment to social work training.

The 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 an offer can be made. However, they may be reconsidered in a tiebreak situation in August.

All applications must contain a recent suitable reference otherwise they may not be considered. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that a reference is included with their UCAS application at the point of submission. It is preferable if the referee is aware of the applicant's academic background in order to provide an informed assessment of their suitability for further study and social work training. For those applicants who left education some years ago and may currently be in employment, we acknowledge that it may be difficult to obtain a recent academic reference and therefore we would accept a recent reference from a professional person (not a family member) or employer who can comment on the applicant's suitability for university study and social work training.

### **Applicants in Receipt of an Offer**

Applicants who are made an offer are normally invited to an offer holders event, which is usually held in May, following the publication of offers. If you have not already done so, this will allow you the opportunity to visit the University and to find out more about the Social Work degree 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 or those who are made an offer and request deferred entry are **not** considered.

All applications submitted by the normal closing date of 25 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 University Admissions Service [here](#), giving full details of your qualifications and educational background.

Those considering applying to Social Work can find additional information on the Degree in Social Work on the NI Social Care Council (NISCC) website at:

[Degree in Social Work](#)

<b>STAGE 1</b>	Following receipt of your UCAS application the admissions team will complete an assessment of your application including academic qualifications. If you meet/can meet the <b>academic entry requirements</b> for social work your application will progress to Stage 2.
<b>STAGE 2</b>	A <b>Consent &amp; Declaration</b> letter and <b>pro forma</b> will be sent to you. If you receive a Consent & Declaration letter and pro forma from both Queen's University (Queen's) and Ulster University (Ulster), you <u>must</u> complete each pro forma (tick box) and return to the relevant institution, to the email address indicated. Once a final check of your qualifications is complete your application will move to Stage 3, if eligible for an interview.
<b>STAGE 3</b>	<p>If you have met/can meet the academic entry requirements and returned the Consent &amp; Declaration, you will receive an email inviting you to participate in a virtual interview. It is anticipated that <b>interviews</b> will run from early-February right through to mid/late-March.</p> <p><b>Please Note:</b> It is assumed that if an applicant submits a virtual interview for assessment that they were fit to participate in the interview process. If unwell on the nominated date for submission, a request should be made for an alternative date and this will be accommodated, where possible.</p>
<b>STAGE 4</b>	<p><b>Social Work Offers via UCAS late April – early May:</b> Following completion of the interview process applicants who pass the 'suitability interview' are ranked by interview score. Decisions are normally processed via UCAS in late April/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 'waiting list', providing they have passed interview, 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.	