



**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

The interview process for the Bachelor of Social Work will be conducted face-to-face.

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 invited to 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 the Approval of the Degree in Social Work](#). The face-to-face 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 their UCAS Hub. 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 are outlined in the Timeline below (Appendix 1).

Deadline for Applications

Applications submitted by the normal closing date of 14 January 2026 (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 those completing Level 3 qualifications. The starting GCSE threshold for applicants last year applying for the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) programme was a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at grade B/6 or better (English Language and Mathematics are required at grade C/4 or above). However, 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 be taken into account.

A-levels

Offers are normally made based on 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/OCR/ Level 3 Qualifications

Applicants offering two A-levels and one BTEC Subsidiary Diploma/National Extended Certificate or OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma/Extended Certificate (or equivalent qualification acceptable to the University), or one A-level and a BTEC Diploma/National Diploma or OCR Cambridge Technical Diploma (or equivalent qualification acceptable to the University) will also be considered. Offers will be made in terms of the overall grade(s) achieved in the BTEC/OCR. The normal GCSE profile will be required.

Please note that a maximum of one BTEC Subsidiary Diploma/National Extended Certificate or OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma/Extended Certificate (or equivalent qualification acceptable to the University) 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 (QCF)/National Extended Diploma (RQF) and Higher National Certificates and Diplomas, Irish Leaving Certificate, Access Diploma or a Foundation Degree will also be considered.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (QCF)

The same GCSE profile is required of those applicants taking a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma qualification. Offers are made based on 'Successful completion of the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (180 credits at Level 3) with overall grades D*DD'.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (RQF)

The same GCSE profile is required of those applicants taking a BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma qualification. Offers are made based on 'Successful completion of the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (1080 Guided Learning Hours (GLHS) at Level 3) with overall grades D*DD'.

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/Higher Merit 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 an Access Diploma are welcomed and each is considered individually on its merits. Applications from students who have been away from full-time education for a sustained period of time (minimum two consecutive academic years) prior to

commencing the Access Diploma will be considered. 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 Diploma 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 based on '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 based on '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.

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

Open University Credit

For those offering Open University (OU) Credits, a minimum of 120 OU credits is required with 60 credits at Level 1 Pass and 60 credits at Level 2 with a Grade 2 Pass.

NB: 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

All applicants are required to submit a Personal Statement as part of their UCAS application. However, the Personal Statement is not used to shortlist applicants for interview.

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 event for offer holders, which is usually held in mid-May, following the publication of offers. If you have not already done so, this will provide you with 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.

Applying for Deferred Entry (Point of application)

Due to the demand for places and the lengthy selection process applicants applying for deferred entry are **not** considered or those who are made an offer and request deferred entry are **not** considered.

Requests for Deferred Entry (In receipt of an offer)

Applicants should be aware that if they are in receipt of an offer requests for deferred entry are not normally considered.

Transfer- Requests (Internal within Queen's University or from another University)

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 qualification(s) acceptable to the University) and must have passed any exams taken at university.

Applications for advanced entry are not considered.

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.

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](#)

STAGE 1	<p>Following receipt of your UCAS application the admissions team will complete an assessment of your application including your academic qualifications. If you meet/can meet the academic entry requirements for social work your application will progress to Stage 2.</p> <p>Please Note: If the Admissions and Access Service contacts an applicant requesting further information e.g. Confirmation of GCSE English Language and Mathematics grades/Irish Junior Certificate, these should be provided by the deadline specified in our email as failure to do so may delay the application progressing to the next stage.</p>
STAGE 2	<p>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 University (Queen's) and Ulster University (Ulster), you <u>must</u> complete each pro forma (tick box) and return to the relevant institution by following the instructions in the email received. Once a final check of your qualifications is complete your application will move to Stage 3, if eligible for an interview.</p> <p>Please Note: The Admissions and Access Service may request applicants to forward copies of their official certificates for previous qualifications e.g. Confirmation of GCSE English Language and Mathematics grades or Degree certificate/transcript.</p>
STAGE 3	<p>If you have met/can meet the academic entry requirements and returned the Consent & Declaration, you will receive an email inviting you to participate in a face-to-face interview. It is anticipated that interviews will run from early/mid-February right through to mid/late-March.</p> <p>The interview process:</p> <p>On attending for interview, applicants will be issued with a short Case Scenario and will be allowed time to read it. One question at interview will focus on the Case Scenario. The remaining three questions will concentrate on your motivation to pursue a career in social work and your understanding of different aspects of social work practice. It is important that you draw upon any life or work experience, and you consider skills, knowledge and values important to social work.</p> <p>Please Note: It is assumed that if an applicant presents for interview that they are fit to undertake this. If unwell on the day, a request should be made for an alternative appointment and this will be accommodated, if at all possible.</p>
STAGE 4	<p>Social Work Offers via UCAS late April – early May: 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 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 your UCAS Hub.	