Bachelor of Social Work

Social workers are passionate about working with individuals, families, and communities to identify strategies that can facilitate progressive change. They understand how social, political, economic, environmental and cultural factors can impact wellbeing. Human rights and social justice are at the heart of social work; advocating to eliminate inequality and discrimination is a key role. Social workers respond to a wide range of social issues including family conflict, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, poverty and financial difficulties, homelessness, mental health issues, substance use, grief and loss, disability and eco-social work.

Why choose this course?
You will develop the knowledge, skills and values to work towards social justice and social change in complex environments. You will graduate job ready, with a total of 1,000 hours of professional placement that allows you to explore career paths that include direct support services, advocacy services and policy development. Our students also have the unique opportunity to work alongside health professionals at QUT Health Clinics to deliver important services to the local community who are accessing the low-vision optometry clinic. Placements may also be completed in rural and remote communities, or overseas.

During this course, you will have the flexibility to choose five elective units in key areas of practice. Options include domestic violence, Indigenous health, child protection and family practice, and international social work practice. You may also be able to complete electives in complementary areas such as public health or psychology and counselling.

You will be taught by experienced social workers and human services professionals who have a proud history of providing services to vulnerable communities from a foundation of respect, social justice and human rights. They have distinguished careers in clinical work, political activism and advocacy, education and research.

Assumed knowledge
Before you start this course we assume you have sound knowledge in these areas

- English

We assume that you have knowledge equivalent to four semesters at high school level (Years 11 and 12) with sound achievement (4, SA).
Honours pathway
At the end of the second year of study in this course you will have the option to apply for the Bachelor of Social Work (Honours). This allows you to complete an honours research project that extends your knowledge of the professional field, offering a competitive advantage in your career. Entry to the program is competitive, based on grade point average. On entry to the course you will retain all of the credit you have successfully completed in the Bachelor of Social Work and will complete a further two years of full-time study.

Careers and outcomes
This is an internationally recognised qualification and graduates may find employment locally, nationally, or overseas. Social workers may work in hospitals and community health care, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ health and social services, disability, child protection, youth work, criminal justice, family support and counselling, employment and legal services, and refugee wellbeing.

Double degrees
Combine two bachelor degrees into a single course of study. A double degree allows you to specialise in two fields and pursue different interest areas, gaining a broader range of skills and knowledge, and giving you a competitive advantage and greater career flexibility.

Consider a double degree with the Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology) if you would like to work in community services, counselling and family-centred intervention, mental health services, drug and alcohol intervention, or disability services.

Professional recognition
This is an Australian Association of Social Workers accredited qualification. It is an entry qualification into the social work profession and has been determined to meet the Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards.

Fees
HECS-HELP
You may be eligible for HECS-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your course fees, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the HECS-HELP information.

Student Services and Amenities Fee
You’ll need to pay the student services and amenities fee as part of your course costs. You may be eligible for SA-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your student services and amenities fee, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the SA-HELP information.

Additional Costs
There are requirements that you will need to meet as a student in this course. Some of these requirements have associated costs. Information is available from the Additional course requirements and costs website.

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There are requirements that you will need to meet as a student in this course. You will need to identify these requirements and ensure you allow sufficient time to meet them. Some of these requirements have associated costs.

Blue card: You must undergo a criminal history check for working with children and be issued with a suitability card (blue card) before commencing clinical placement/practicum in an organisation where they may work with children or young people.

The processing of your application may take several months so you must submit your blue card application to HiQ as early as possible to ensure you have your card before you begin any unit that requires contact with children. There is no charge for student blue cards. Students who already have a blue card must register it with QUT.

Information is available from the Additional course requirements and costs website.

Alternative entry
If you have already completed a bachelor degree which includes the equivalent of one year (8 units) of full-time studies in social science, the Master of Social Work offers an alternative pathway to becoming a registered social worker.