SOCIAL WORK
STUDY AT ONE OF THE WORLD’S BEST UNIVERSITIES

WE’RE GOING PLACES
UOW is one of the best modern universities in Australia. We connect over 30,000 students from more than 130 nations to learn and discover. We’re young, we’re smart and we work hard enough to be ranked in the top 2% of universities in the world. Join us and see how far you can go.

YOU'RE IN CONTROL
Take control of your life like never before at UOW. Choose your degree. Choose a major. Choose elective subjects, and make exactly the study program you want.

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE
Study where the brightest people take the time to learn your name. You’ll be more than a number at UOW, and be taught by world famous educators and researchers. Outside of class, you’ll be part of a campus culture defined by fun and friendship.

OUR GRADS GET JOBS
UOW graduates have the skills employers want. We’ve been rated in the top 100 in the world by employers for nearly a decade. You’ll learn how to learn, how to turn theory into practice, and how people with different skills work together.

BE SOMEONE YOU'RE PROUD OF
Challenge yourself and come out on top at UOW. Tackle big ideas in your degree, push yourself and travel the world on international exchange, bring your learning to life with a UOWx program such as mentoring local students.

STUDY AT ONE OF THE WORLD’S BEST UNIVERSITIES

FIVE REASONS TO STUDY SOCIAL WORK AT UOW

1. EARN A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED QUALIFICATION
Accreditation is being sought from the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW), so you can join and take advantage of ongoing professional development, social work journals, and enjoy better job mobility. The AASW will review our programs annually, which means staff are constantly working to ensure our courses meet the evolving needs of students and the national standards of social work.

2. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
Social work is about helping real people and at UOW you will practice your skills with real people, in the real world. Professional experience is an integral part of our program — you’ll undertake 1,000 hours over two placements during the last two years of your degree. During this time you’ll develop your professional skills and learn about different fields of practice and work opportunities.

3. EMPLOYABILITY
Social work is an industry that is increasing in demand both within Australia and internationally, and an accredited degree in social work from UOW can open doors to a range of careers in management, policy development, education, human resources, and politics. You will have other employment opportunities in health, human services, governmental, and community agencies.

4. DIVERSITY OF PRACTICE
We know that no two communities, families or individuals are the same, that’s why our students learn various methods of social work, including counselling, group work, community work and various social change strategies. They do this while engaging with diverse communities. As part of Social Work at UOW, our students learn specifically about working in mental health, child protection and family services, and for Indigenous people and their communities to prepare them for a range of career opportunities upon graduation.

5. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
At UOW we are committed to enhancing connections to community. That’s why we engage with people and organisations within the Illawarra to improve the services of the community, learn how to work collaboratively to achieve common goals, and appreciate the diversity and complexity of the region.

Bachelor of Social Work

ATAR
80

STARTS
Autumn (March)

LOCATION
Wollongong - UAC755340
Shoalhaven - UAC755341

CRICOS
081143C

ACCREDITATION
Accreditation is currently being sought from the Australian Association of Social Workers.

Social work is a professional training program undertaken by students seeking skills, theoretical and practical knowledge that will enable them to work with individuals, families, groups and communities towards the goal of enhancing their individual and collective safety, welfare and security. In doing this, social work builds on theories of social work, social sciences, health and the humanities. The first two years of the course are interdisciplinary, with social work students engaged in social science subjects to develop a sound understanding of human behaviour and society.

The latter part of the course focuses on professional subjects. Social workers assist people to develop their capacity and strengths to solve problems and issues in their daily lives. Social workers explore and address social issues confronting communities to change and improve the lives of citizens by using research and evaluation skills, social policy analysis, social planning, and community development strategies.

In their practice, social workers are influenced by values that include respectful relationships, social justice, human rights and social inclusion of at-risk communities.

FIELD EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
All social work courses involve placements in a variety of institutional and community settings and may involve work with vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and communities.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
Professional experience of 1000 hours over two placements is compulsory and integrated into the last two years of the degree and will usually occur in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Southern Highlands and Southern Sydney area. During this experience, students are supervised by qualified social workers. Students must make themselves available for professional experience at the locations specified at negotiated times. It is an expectation that students who participate in the course are capable of meeting the demands of travelling to and from Professional Experience locations. Some agencies require that students hold a driver’s license.

Many agencies in which students are placed require that individuals have a criminal record clearance prior to placement. This includes State and Federal Government agencies as well as organisations in the not for profit sector. The cost of the police check is borne by the student.

CHILD PROTECTION
Under the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012, and the Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013 students enrolled in UOW degrees where their studies require them to engage in activities that involve children or young people, may be required to complete a Volunteer / Student Declaration and/or to undergo a Working With Children Check (WWCC).

NSW HEALTH REQUIREMENTS
The NSW Health Department requires all students undertaking clinical placements at NSW Health hospitals and facilities to:
• undergo a national criminal record check; and
• comply with NSW Health’s immunisation requirements prior to employment or placement in any capacity in the NSW health system.

This criminal record clearance will be conducted by the NSW Police and/or the Australian Federal Police. Students are required to arrange for this check to be undertaken following enrolment, and the cost of the check will be their responsibility.

Social work empowers individuals, families, groups and communities to make positive changes in their lives and their environments.

The core of social work is to improve social, psychological, and interpersonal wellbeing of people. It does this by alleviating pain and distress; by addressing inequality and injustice in social and community problems through improvements in social policy; and by working collaboratively to change social circumstances.

Social workers use many tools to do this, drawing on social work theory and multidisciplinary knowledge to overcome barriers and help people become independent and prosperous.

In their practice, social workers are influenced by values that include respectful relationships, social justice, human rights and social inclusion of at-risk communities. In Australia, the knowledge and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional owners of the land are promoted and held in high esteem.

The UOW Bachelor of Social Work will give you theoretical and practical knowledge to pursue your passion, while working with leading experts in the field who share your passion.
GRADUATE OUTCOMES

A graduate from the Bachelor of Social Work will:

- have a demonstrated sense of identity as a professional social worker
- have a sound understanding of and commitment to social work values and ethics to guide professional practice
- have the ability to apply social work knowledge and interventions to respond effectively in meeting the needs of individuals, groups and communities in diverse settings, client groups and geographic locations
- have the ability to apply knowledge of human behaviour and society, as well as the social, cultural, political, legal, economic and global contexts of practice to respond effectively within a human rights and social justice framework
- have the ability to review, critically analyse and synthesise knowledge and values and apply reflective thinking skills to inform professional judgement and practice
- have the ability to apply research knowledge and skills to understand, evaluate and use research to inform practice and to develop, execute and disseminate research informed by practice
- demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills
- have the ability to work with diversity and demonstrate respect for cultural difference
- understand the importance of and commit to ongoing professional development.

Beyond these there are specialised areas of practice such as child protection, mental health, work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and across cultures with migrants and refugees. The community services sector is the largest employer in the region and the two required placements will link students to these opportunities.

UOW Social Work staff look forward to meeting you, connecting you to other students and ensuring your learning is stimulating, challenging and rewarding.

PROFESSOR LESLEY COOPER
Professor of Social Work
Faculty of Social Sciences, UOW

CAREERS

UOW’s Bachelor of Social Work will prepare you for a range of careers in the following areas:

- Health
- Disability
- Aged care
- Child protection
- Family services
- Community development
- Migrant and refugees services
- Social planning
- Mental health
- Social policy
- Homelessness
- Youth services

Beyond these areas there are specialised areas of practice such as child protection, mental health, work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and across cultures with migrants and refugees. The community services sector is the largest employer in the region and the two required placements will link students to these opportunities.

UOW Social Work staff look forward to meeting you, connecting you to other students and ensuring your learning is stimulating, challenging and rewarding.

PROFESSOR LESLEY COOPER
Professor of Social Work
Faculty of Social Sciences, UOW

OTHER DEGREES YOU MAY LIKE

This booklet is just a sample of the degrees on offer at UOW. Here are a few more from different study areas that may interest you.

**Bachelor of Social Science**

Students learn to understand, explain and change human behaviour to positively transform the lives of individuals, families and communities. This degree involves a common foundation of social science subjects in first year before selecting a major study area.

go.uow.edu.au/bsocsci

**Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)**

This degree provides comprehensive training in the scientific study of human behaviour and experience, the physiological, sensory and cognitive processes that underpin it, and how the profession applies this knowledge to practical problems.

go.uow.edu.au/bpsych

**Bachelor of Public Health**

Public Health improves the health and quality of life of a population by working to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote health. You will learn the basics of the health sector and develop an understanding of the problems involving health, illness, treatment and welfare.

go.uow.edu.au/bpubhlth

**Bachelor of Primary Education**

A primary teacher educates children from Kindergarten to Year 6 (ages 5 to 12 years) and teaches all areas of the Australian primary curriculum. UOW Bachelor of Primary Education students learn by doing, spending up to 16 weeks teaching in early childhood education and care centres.

go.uow.edu.au/bprimed
LEARN MORE

SEE US FOR YOURSELF
This book is just a part of who we are and what we do. Come and meet us face to face, and we’ll show you why UOW is the place for you.

2015 UOW OPEN DAY Saturday 15 August
FREE CAMPUS TOURS Every Friday, 10am and 3pm

GET IN BRIGHT AND EARLY
Would you like to secure your place at UOW before you sit your HSC exams? Our Early Admission program can help you get there.
uow.edu.au/future/early-admission

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Student Services
+61 2 4221 3981
ssc@uow.edu.au
uow.edu.au/study/social-work
socialsciences.uow.edu.au

GENERAL ENQUIRIES
uow.edu.au/future
Within Australia: 1300 367 869
International: +61 2 4221 3218
futurestudents@uow.edu.au
facebook.com/uowfuture