

- **What financial support is available to complete the course?**

A bursary is available through Social Care Wales. A new bursary has been agreed for students starting the course in 2022 onwards which provides financial support towards the tuition fees and costs of living. A contribution is also given through the bursary towards placement costs such as mileage. Further details can be found here: <https://socialcare.wales/learning-and-development/social-work-degree-funding>

Many students choose to continue to work throughout their course to support themselves financially, and the condensed timetable supports students in being able to do this.

- **Who can apply for the course?**

There are specific entry requirements which are noted here: <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-taught/social-work-ma#entryrequirements>

Social work students have a wide range of backgrounds and experience. We welcome applications from anyone who feels that they would like to make a difference and become a professional social worker.

We have places for 21 students each academic year.

- **What is the interview process?**

When the application for the course meets all the requirements, applicants are invited for an interview in order to further assess suitability to join the course at this time.

The interview panel consists of a member from the university teaching team, a staff member from the local authority partners and a community representative. Interview dates are arranged at a mutually convenient time for all, and applicant will be supported to prepare for their interview. In recent times, interviews have been held over Microsoft teams.

- **What is a practice learning opportunity or placement?**

The practice learning opportunity is time spent out on placement within social care teams. It is required that at least one of these placements is within a statutory setting within a Local Authority.

The placements on the course are 100 days in length in both year 1 and year 2 and typically take place during the second semester. The local authorities have designated placement coordinators that are responsible for organising placements for students, which are carefully planned in order to match students to suitable placements. Each student is 'hosted' by a local authority partner which provides continuity of support across the 2 years.

- **What skills or experience will be useful for me when applying to the course?**

Social Care Wales require that applicants have at least 3 months (full time equivalent) worth of experience to be accepted onto the course. This can consist of paid, voluntary, or personal experience.

Social Work is a relationship-based profession and as such any skills that support this will be useful to you at the point of application. Communication skills, the ability to empathise, a non-judgemental approach, an understanding of oppression and inequality are some key factors that are discussed and developed during the course.

- **What support is available to me whilst studying at Bangor?**

All students at Bangor University are assigned a personal tutor. On the social work course this will be a member of the MA Social Work teaching team.

As the intake is a maximum of 21 students each year, the opportunity to develop peer support networks within the course is strong.

Bangor University place a high priority on caring for and supporting our students. Further information is available here: <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/student-life/support>

- **How is the course delivered?**

Based on feedback from current and previous students, the social work course has taken a blended approach to teaching and learning. This means that some teaching takes place face to face and some teaching takes place online. This is reviewed annually in line with the requirements and the guidance given by the University.

The practice learning element of the course takes place within the workplace. Each local authority has individual guidance for office based or hybrid working.