Why Social Work at UQ?

If you’re interested in a career where you will make a real difference to the lives of individuals, families and communities to address social issues and social policy, then Social Work is for you. Social work and social policy play a very important role in Australia where we face issues such as unemployment, the ageing population and uncertainty in the economy. Social workers play a vital role in developing a society based on social justice and identifying situations that disadvantage people, as well as helping people who need support in their personal lives. Study Social Work at UQ and you will learn from some of the leaders in the field who write the social work textbooks used by other universities around Australia. This means our teaching is founded on a wealth of experience, expertise and leading research which is adapted to meet the needs of our students. We’ve created this degree in consultation with industry, which means you will learn the most relevant, up-to-date theory and gain hands-on experience to make sure you’re job-ready when you graduate.

What you will study

The Bachelor of Social Work combines core knowledge and skills in social work, social policy and research practice. You will gain an understanding of the legal context of social work practice, human development, the moral and ethical foundations of social work, and the theories that guide what social workers do in the workplace. In your third and fourth years you will complete practical placements where you will gain hands-on experience in the social work industry from experienced practitioners. You can even do your placement in an overseas agency. These placements provide an excellent opportunity to apply the theory and knowledge you’ve learned during your degree to a real workplace environment.
You will also have the opportunity to specialise in a key area of practice in social work by choosing a minor in:

• Child, Youth and Family
• Health and Ageing
• Mental Health.

Your future in Social Work

Employment opportunities in social work are excellent, with the Department of Employment projecting job growth of 48.5 per cent over the next five years. Many social workers practise in a variety of areas during their careers, including government agencies, child protection, drug and alcohol support clinics, Indigenous health and welfare agencies, residential care, community organisations, private practice and many other organisations, in roles such as:

• advocates or negotiators acting for people facing discrimination or unable to act for themselves
• community workers in local government or community organisations to bring about change and develop community support services
• in hospitals to help patients and their families cope with and adjust to their health conditions
• with individuals and families facing personal distress or crisis associated with family and personal relationships
• with those experiencing the loss of health or employment due to disability
• planning and management of social and welfare services in local, State and Federal government departments
• family therapists.

Some of our more experienced graduates are CEOs of government and non-government organisations, policy officers, community development workers, international aid workers, family therapists, probation officers and juvenile justice workers.

Your postgraduate options

• Master of Counselling
• Research higher degrees (MPhil and PhD) in your area of interest are also available.

Who will recognise your qualifications?

• Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW): University of Queensland Bachelor of Social Work graduates are eligible for full membership on completion of the degree.

International students

This degree requires you to have a higher level of English language than the UQ minimum. The IELTS requirements are an overall score of at least 7.0, with a score of 7.0 in reading, writing, speaking and listening. You are required as an international student to complete the degree on a full-time basis.