

SOCIAL WORK TRAINEE SCHEME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2009-2010

The social work trainee scheme began in 2005 and advertises annually for social work trainees at graduate and undergraduate level.

General

- 1 Is the course open to anybody?**
Yes, irrespective of whether you live in the borough.
- 2 Do I get paid a wage whilst in the scheme?**
Yes. Students studying at undergraduate level get paid between £23,733 - £25,203 and students studying at graduate level get paid between £26139 - £27753.
- 3 Do I have to pay my university fees?**
No. Your fees will be paid by Haringey Council who is your sponsor. In addition to your fees being paid, you will receive a book allowance for each academic year.
- 4 Do I receive support whilst in the scheme?**
Yes. You are supported throughout the programme by the Head of Practice Learning (joint appointment with Middlesex University and Haringey Council) and a Project Officer.
- 5 What will my role be?**
You will be placed in a social work team supporting children or vulnerable adults. The type of work you will be engaged in is detailed in the job description. Once appointed, trainees work for approximately six to nine months in a social work team during which time they are supported in applying for a place on the Social Work Degree Programme with our partner, Middlesex University.
- 6 How does the scheme work in terms of studying and working?**
Those undertaking the BA degree will complete three years of study. Year 1 involves three days at university and two days in a social work team. Years 2 and 3 involve two days at university and three days per week undertaking an assessed 100-day practice learning placement.

Those studying the MA will complete two years of study. Both years will involve two days at university and three days of practice learning placements.

Practice learning placements could be in Haringey, in a private or voluntary sector or in another Local Authority.

- 7 Which University will I attend?**
You will attend Middlesex University, Archway Campus.
- 8 When and how can I apply?**
Vacancies will be advertised on 1 September 2009 when you will be able to complete an online application.
- 9 What happens once I submit my application?**
Applications are screened on the information provided. You would need to ensure you follow the instructions on the application form, detailing your experience, skills and other information outlined in the candidate specification. It is important you give examples to evidence your skills and experience.
- 10 What happens if my application is short listed?**
You will be invited to sit a written and numeracy test. If you are successful in both, you will be asked to attend a Group Interview usually on the same day. If you are successful at the Group Interview you will be invited to attend a formal interview which will involve a presentation.
- Please refer to the dates on the advert when applying for the vacancy to ensure you are available to attend.
- 11 I don't have GCSE qualifications in Maths and English, what sort of tests will I sit?**
If you are short-listed for interview you will sit two short tests in each subject equivalent to GCSE grade C standard. Each test will last approximately 30 minutes. GCSE revision guides are available from most bookshops and on the internet.
- 12 What happens if I am successful at the formal interview?**
You will be notified by telephone and invited to attend a form filling exercise with Human Resources in early November. During this session you will be asked to complete a health questionnaire and your Criminal Records Bureau check. References will be collected and subject to checks and references you will be sent a contract to sign and return. The contract is a legally binding document which states that you agree to work in Haringey for an additional period post qualification.
- 13 When would I start employment as a Social Work Trainee?**
It would be during the first two weeks in February 2010. You will begin with a 2-week induction programme.
- 14 What would happen if I start on the social work trainee scheme and then find that I cannot continue?**
You will be required to pay back all or a proportion of the training costs. The actual amount will depend on the length of time you have worked as a social work trainee. For example, less than 1 year you will repay **full** costs of training; worked for between 12-18 months you will repay **half** the

costs of training; worked for between 18-24 months you will repay **quarter** of the costs of training.

15 When I qualify, where will I be working?

You will be required to return to work in Haringey for two years (MA students) or three years (BA students) as a qualified social worker within the Children & Young People's Service.

16 Where in Haringey will I be working?

You could be based in any social care setting within Haringey depending on where you are placed. You will be deployed in two or three placements over the course of your trainee contract in different locations. Upon qualifying, you may be required to work in any team within the Children & Young People's service.

17 Once I qualify, will I continue to receive support?

Yes you will. You will be developed in your role as a social worker and be required to undertake the post qualifying award.

When you qualify you will be part of the Newly Qualified Social Work scheme which means you will have a closely managed and protected caseload that reflects your newly qualified status, be allocated a mentor and receive regular supervision.

Undergraduate Social Work Trainee Scheme

1. I don't have 2 A' levels or equivalent or a recognised Access to Social Work qualification or equivalent, but I have other qualifications, can I still apply?

Sorry, all applicants for the Undergraduate Trainee Social Work Scheme must have one of the identified qualifications in order to gain a place on the social work degree at Middlesex University.

2. I don't have any social work experience. Can I still apply?

You need to demonstrate that you have either previous paid or voluntary work experience in a social care setting for a period of 2 years demonstrating an aptitude to a profession in social work as well as some understanding of the role of a social worker.

3. I don't have GCSE qualifications in Maths and English, what sort of tests will I sit?

If you are short-listed for interview you will sit two short tests in each subject equivalent to GCSE grade C standard. Each test will last approximately 30 minutes. GCSE revision guides are available from most bookshops and on the internet.

4. Where in Haringey will I be working?

You could be based in any social care setting within Haringey depending on where you are placed. You will be deployed in two or three placements over the course of your trainee contract in different locations. Upon qualifying, you may be required to work in any team within the Children & Young People's service.

Graduate Trainee Social Work Scheme

- 1. I don't have a degree but I have other qualifications, can I still apply?**
Sorry, all applicants for the Graduate Trainee Social Work Scheme must have a first degree with a minimum classification of a lower second-class honours or above. If you do not meet this criterion please do not apply for the undergraduate scheme as this is reserved for people without a first degree.
- 2. I have a first degree in a subject not directly related to social work (e.g. Applied Physics or Marketing) can I still apply?**
Yes, a first degree in any subject with a 2:2 or above is acceptable.
- 3. I have a degree but I'm not a recent graduate. I graduated some years ago and want a career change. Can I still apply?**
Yes, your application is welcome regardless of when you graduated, whether you are a more recent graduate, a more 'mature' graduate, or returning to work following caring responsibilities.
- 4. I have very little experience in work with children and families or with vulnerable adults, should I still apply?**
You must have two years' full time equivalent experience in social care in order to obtain a place on the social work degree at Middlesex University.