

Hong Kong Nang Yan College of Higher Education

Qualification Recognition Review on Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)

THE FINAL REPORT BY THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Executive Summary

Conclusion of the Assessment Team:

Subsequent to examining all data in the programme documentation and the information collected from the two-day on-campus visit, and with the affirmative response from the College to the Interim Review Report concluded thereafter, the Assessment Team confirms that the Programme has met all basic requirements stipulated in the *Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work (8th edition)* of the Board for social work degree training. Continual qualification recognition is recommended to be approved to its graduates for a period of five years, from the academic cohort of 2024/25 to that of 2028/29, with no specific condition attached.

Commendations on the Programme:

1. The Assessment Team salutes the teaching team for their hard work and selfless commitment to providing flexible class hour choices for the students to facilitate their study, devoting extra effort and time. Their understanding, support and sacrifice for the benefit of the students are much appreciated.

(Paragraphs 3.3.1, 3.3.2 & 3.3.3)

2. The Assessment Team congratulates the Programme Team for their success in delivering a well-recognized Programme with overwhelmingly positive comments expressed by all parties during the on-campus interviews. Obvious enhancements in the students' understanding of social work theories and their application in practice after the training were reported. The commitment and devotion of the teachers deserve loud applause.

(Paragraph 5.5.2)

3. The Assessment Team was amazed and touched by the repeated gratitude expressed by the students and graduates to their teachers. The Programme Team's hard work, student-centred approach, and individual concerns given to the students throughout their study journey and beyond are highly acknowledged. They are the role models for the students and graduates when they continue to move forward in the human service profession.

(Paragraph 5.5.3)

Suggestions for Programme Enhancement:

1. To ensure the inclusion of the following knowledge of social work professional ethics in the curriculum: (i) Social Workers Registration Ordinance, (ii) SWRB Code of Practice, and (iii) Guidelines on Code of Practice, to have them more explicitly stated in the syllabuses and listed in the references of relevant courses, with appropriate assessments to ensure the students' understanding of them.

Knowledge of significant professional bodies should also be incorporated to support students' tuning into the professional environment.

(Paragraphs 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4 & 2.2.5)

2. To review the General Education courses to update their contents and references, particularly GES402 "China in the Modern World", to ensure up-to-date knowledge is delivered to the students.

(Paragraphs 2.2.8 & 2.2.9)

3. To acquire additional fieldwork placements in family services and other settings suitable for degree holders' training, for wider choices of placement and future job opportunities of the students.

(Paragraphs 2.2.11, 2.2.12 & 2.2.13)

4. To devote extra effort to identify and recruit additional scholars to join the teaching team, for sustainable and long-term development of the Programme, and for bringing in updated elements of social work education and practice methods. The same applies to increasing the pool of fieldwork supervisors.

(Paragraph 3.3.3)

5. To have a committed plan for staff recruitment and retention, attracting and retaining talents to join the College, to maintain a stable teaching force for the benefit of students, for consolidation and continuous development of the College and the Programme.

(Paragraphs 3.3.4 & 3.3.5)

6. To have an assurance mechanism in place for managing fieldwork quality, which includes reference checks before hiring fieldwork supervisors, training and staff development plans, and a performance appraisal policy to evaluate the quality of fieldwork teaching, for the benefit of the students and the Programme.

(Paragraphs 3.3.6 & 3.3.7)

7. To revisit the current practice of having different external examiners evaluating different courses and submitting only course-based reports. Advice from external examiners on the overall performance of the students and the Programme is also important and highly recommended.

(Paragraphs 5.3.2 & 5.3.3)

8. To have formal feedback from fieldwork agencies collected in the middle of the placement period, making timely intervention or re-arrangement possible to ensure the quality of fieldwork and student learning.

(Paragraph 5.3.4)

9. To review the function and composition of the Fieldwork Committee and consider including members outside the Programme Team, such as representatives from placement agencies, fieldwork supervisors and Programme graduates, to monitor, support and advise on the operation of fieldwork.

(Paragraphs 5.3.5 & 5.3.6)

10. To allocate designated administrative support to the Discipline of Social Sciences to relieve Programme staff's workload, sustain the impressive quality and reputation of the Programme, and enhance the public image of the College. Additional clerical backing is also essential to support the planned developments.
(Paragraphs 5.5.4, 5.5.5, 5.5.6 & 5.5.7)

11. To have proactive and aggressive marketing plans to enhance the visibility and image of the College and the Discipline of Social Sciences in the public, the district, the community, as well as within the social work profession, to support current Programme operations and for long-term development of the College, the Discipline and the Programme.
(Paragraphs 5.5.8, 5.5.9 & 5.5.10)

12. To improve the campus facilities, furnishing and decorations, to make it a caring, comfortable and facilitative campus for students, to enhance their sense of belonging and affection to the College, and to build a better campus of higher education.
(Paragraphs 6.3 & 6.4)

The next qualification review for the Programme will be conducted in the academic year 2028/29. NYC should notify the Board formally in writing as soon as possible of all major changes related to the Programme, which include curriculum design and contents, fieldwork arrangements and admission quota, for necessary endorsement.

THE FINAL DECISION OF THE BOARD

The Board has resolved to accept the recommendations of the Assessment Team to recognise the qualification for a period of 5 years from the academic year 2024/25 to 2028/29 with 3 commendations and 12 suggestions for programme enhancement.