

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Qualification Recognition Review on Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Work

THE FINAL REPORT BY THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Executive Summary

The on-campus visit and review meeting for the qualification recognition review (QRR) of the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Social Work (Full-time) Programme (the Programme or BASW) offered by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) was conducted on 7 - 8 December 2022. Prior to the meeting, the Assessment Team (AT) appointed by the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) examined the documentation submitted and met with various stakeholders of the Programme to support the following conclusion and suggestions for enhancement.

The AT concludes that the Programme meets the standards and requirements laid down by SWRB in the 7th edition of *Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognising Qualifications in Social Work for Registration of Registered Social Workers* (PCS 2014). The AT recommends that the Programme be recognised for a period of seven years from AY2023/24 to AY2029/30. The following three commendations and six suggestions for enhancement are made to the Programme:

Commendation 1

The AT commends the Programme teaching team for their dedication and concerted efforts in providing students with the necessary and timely academic counselling, innovative pedagogy and pastoral care, thereby enabling an enriched learning experience to help students grow and progress through the study.

Commendation 2

The AT commends the fieldwork team for the enthusiasm and commitment of members in creating a collegial atmosphere with much peer support for the sessional fieldwork supervisors. The sharing of best practices among team members facilitates dynamic interactions with students for a stimulating and reflective field practicum experience.

Commendation 3

The AT commends the Department of Applied Social Sciences for developing a Programme which features the integration of theory and practice, sensitivity to societal needs, promotion of research-informed teaching, and integration of technology across the curriculum. The Department's efforts and input of resources in institutional collaborations with international partners are also commended for widening students' perspectives in the social work profession.

Suggestion for Enhancement 1

[The Board, after having considered the Final Report, has decided to remove this suggestion.]

Suggestion for Enhancement 2

To ensure reading lists and references in the course syllabi, including those of APSS4610 *Integrative Seminar*, are updated to reflect the latest research from the frontiers of the discipline.

Suggestion for Enhancement 3

To ensure the number of Programme teaching staff be maintained in compliance with the respective requirements stipulated by SWRB in the light of the heavy workload of the teaching team and the increasing student intake over the past years. Formal recognition should be given to staff for the extracurricular and informal activities undertaken to support students through the course of study.

Suggestion for Enhancement 4

To strengthen communication with employers of the Programme graduates, other than the University-initiated graduate employment survey, there should be a Programme-based employers' survey to be conducted yearly for soliciting feedback of employers on graduates' performance so that Programme leaders and developers are well-informed of the needs and expectations of the employers and be kept abreast of the latest development of the social work profession.

Suggestion for Enhancement 5

To set up a formal mechanism, dedicated at the Programme level, to facilitate innovative pedagogy, sharing of best practices and standardisation of practices (e.g., in the teaching and assessment of courses) among the Programme teaching staff.

Suggestion for Enhancement 6

To consider using examination as an alternative form of assessment, where appropriate, so that there can be a variety of assessment strategies to gauge students' knowledge, competence and attainment of the respective intended learning outcomes.

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 seven years from 2023/24 to 2029/30 with 3 commendations and 5 suggestions for enhancement.