

## **Hong Kong Baptist University**

### **Qualification Recognition Review on Bachelor of Social Work (Hons)**

#### THE FINAL REPORT BY THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

##### Executive Summary

The on-campus visit and interviews for the qualification recognition review (QRR) of the Bachelor of Social Work (Hons) (Full-time) (the Programme or BSW) offered by Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) were conducted on 7 and 8 January 2025. The Assessment Team (AT) appointed by the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB or the Board) reviewed the submitted documentation and met with various stakeholders of the Programme during the visit to support the following recommendation.

The AT is of the view 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 (PCS7). The AT recommends that the Programme be recognised for a period of seven years from AY2025/26 to AY2031/32. Four commendations and seven suggestions for enhancement are made to the Programme.

##### Commendations

The AT commends the Programme for:

1. its cultivation of social work values in students. The dedication of the course instructors and fieldwork supervisors, coupled with the purpose-designed curriculum, enhances students' self-awareness as well as identification with the social work profession. These social work values are aligned with the code of practice promoted by SWRB.
2. the tremendous support received from the University's senior management in terms of encouragement in research and investment in human resources.
3. having forged strong strategic partnerships with a wide range of service sectors which can be a true champion of the Programme and help achieve the University's strategic goals.
4. having developed strong bonds among its students, graduates and teaching staff. Leveraging the extensive alumni network, the much-valued mentorship, expert advice, advocacy, professional connections, and career opportunities benefit both academic staff and students.

##### Suggestions for Enhancement

The following suggestions for enhancement are proposed to improve the Programme.

1. Given the high turnover rate of faculty in the past few years and that manpower is an invaluable asset to a social work programme, step up efforts to retain talented faculty and administrative staff for the sustainable development of the Programme and the Department.

2. Develop clear guidelines and policies for timely feedback on students' assessments and assignments to reinforce motivation and effective learning in students.
3. Continuously solicit support from the University's senior management, for increasing the quota of first-year first-degree intake in response to the manpower needs of society.
4. Increase stringency in the mechanism for admitting students through internal programme transfer as well as senior-year entry. This can ensure the same level of competency as their first-year first-degree counterparts upon graduation.
5. At the Departmental level, develop strategic objectives to align with the University's core goals. Such strategic objectives can foster cohesiveness across the Department for a unified sense of direction and priorities among staff.
6. Consider setting up a mechanism for the appointment of an external examiner or an equivalent role, with expertise in social work education, as part of the quality assurance process at the programme level. This can also facilitate benchmarking of programme standards against those of similar institutions.
7. Enhance communication with external advisors, including Members of the Advisory Committee, on any strategic development and planning of the Department, for a more effective advisory system.

#### HKBU's Response to the Interim Report and the AT's Recommendation

Following consultation with the Committee on Qualification Recognition, an Interim Report was prepared. HKBU responded to the Interim Report, acknowledging the suggestions for enhancement and explaining measures being taken and to be implemented to address the suggestions. The AT reviewed the response document and the additional information subsequently submitted on 30 April 2025 by HKBU and confirmed its recommendation to the Board to recognise the respective BSW qualification for a period of seven years from AY2025/26 to AY2031/32.

#### THE FINAL DECISION OF THE BOARD

The Board has resolved to accept the recommendation of the Assessment Team to recognise the qualification for a period of seven years from the academic year 2025/26 to 2031/32, with four commendations and seven suggestions for enhancement.