

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Qualification Recognition Review on Master of Social Work

THE FINAL REPORT BY THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Executive Summary

The Assessment Team appointed by the Social Workers Registration Board (the Board) reviewed documentation and conducted site visit to the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) on 10 - 11 December 2024 for qualification recognition review of the Master of Social Work (MSW). The Assessment Team is of the view that the MSW qualification has met the basic requirements laid down in the Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work for Registration of Registered Social Workers (8th edition); and recommends the Board to recognize MSW qualification awarded by PolyU, thereby qualifying its holders for registration as Registered Social Workers, for a period of seven years from 2025/26 to 2031/32.

Commendations

1. AT is impressed by the quality of the teaching team of MSW programme. Teaching staff has demonstrated passion and enthusiasm in delivering their teaching. AT is particularly impressed by the quality of the fieldwork coordinating team which comprises coordinators who are familiar with the fieldwork arrangement and internal moderation procedures. Fieldwork supervisors, no matter experienced or less experienced, showed a caring attitude in fulfilling the learning needs and solving problems of students in placements. There is also a well-established supervisor support system in terms of induction, regular meetings, and staff training and development programmes.
2. AT appreciates PolyU's commitment to providing professional education programmes including the MSW programme by investing huge resources in campus infrastructure. The library is equipped with excellent facilities and contains ample spaces for self-directed study. The Professional Practice and Assessment Centre is well equipped for micro skills training and other learning activities, e.g., practice-related workshops. The state-of-the-arts Hybrid Immersive Virtual Environment (HiVE) facility offers an excellent opportunity for MSW students to apply innovative technology in understanding clients' needs.

Summary of Suggestions

1. PolyU is suggested to explore requiring students to take two elective subjects, instead of one, for meeting students' learning needs.
2. PolyU is suggested to revisit the curriculum and further strengthen the learning content on clinical and micro practice.
3. PolyU is suggested to reposition the subject "MSW Integrative Seminar in Social Work Studies" as a capstone learning element in the curriculum for students to integrate social work practice knowledge and skill.

4. PolyU is suggested to review all Subject Description Forms to ensure consistency in terms of the depth and comprehensiveness of learning content description.
5. PolyU is suggested to improve the teaching of “Advanced Human Behaviour and Social Environment” and “Social Problem, Policy Analysis and Accountability” by applying innovative pedagogical approaches to enhance students’ learning motivation in these subjects.
6. The subject “Principles and Methods of Social Service Administration” may include training of writing skills in funding application to address the need of employing agencies.
7. The elective subject “Information and Communication Technology for Psychosocial Interventions” may include not only the use of technology in service delivery but also the use of big data for addressing current trends in service provision.
8. PolyU is suggested to allocate more resources to support students’ learning, for example in the form of scholarship, sponsorship, or learning enhancement initiatives.

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 two commendations and eight suggestions for enhancement.