

UOW College Hong Kong

Qualification Recognition Assessment on Higher Diploma in 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 UOW College Hong Kong (UOWCHK) on 12 - 13 November 2024 for qualification recognition assessment of the Higher Diploma in Social Work (Full-time & Part-time) (HDSW). The Assessment Team is of the view that the HDSW 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 HDSW qualification awarded by UOWCHK, thereby qualifying its holders for registration as Registered Social Workers, for a period of three years from 2025/26 to 2027/28.

Summary of Suggestions

1. The course “Ethics, Law and Society” should cover not only theoretical concepts of ethics but more legal knowledge related to social work practice and professional code of practice, although these topics are also covered in pre-placement activities and practice-related courses.
2. The course “Social Work with the Mentally Challenged” should include more updated references related to social work with people with mental health problems in addition to general references on abnormal psychology.
3. The course “Understanding Research Studies in Social Work” should include more learning content on programme evaluation in addition to basic statistical analysis and related research tools.
4. UOWCHK is to develop a plan of retaining quality full-time and part-time teaching staff and fieldwork instructors, and to ensure part-time staff are well trained and supported to provide quality teaching and fieldwork supervision.
5. UOWCHK is to provide clear information on the difference between a Higher Diploma and an Associate Degree in terms of professional recognition and future prospects to employers, potential students and their parents in the promotion of proposed HDSW.

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 three years from the academic year 2025/26 to 2027/28, with five suggestions for enhancement.