

Master in Social Work Suggested Pre-Course Reading

Welcome to Social Work, a dynamic, multi-disciplinary subject. Prior to commencing your studies at the University of Edinburgh it might be useful to begin by considering the definition of social work provided by the International Federation of Social Workers (2014):

Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.

Reflecting the complexity of this definition, our Social Work course examines theories, methods, models and research evidence from a variety of disciplines including: psychology, sociology, social policy, history, counselling, and criminology. However, it is useful to begin with some basic Social Work texts. The following list includes some which you may find useful. It is not intended to be exhaustive – as the course begins, we will provide you with more targeted reading. We would also recommend that you begin to identify relevant online resources...we have recommended a few to get you started. Happy reading and see you soon!

Books:

- Beckett, C., Maynard, A. and Jordan, P. (2017) *Values and Ethics in Social Work* (3rd Edition). London: Sage Publications. <https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/values-and-ethics-in-social-work/book248952>
- Cree, V. and Smith, M. (Eds) (2018) *Social Work in a Changing Scotland*. Oxford: Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Social-Work-in-a-Changing-Scotland/Cree-Smith/p/book/9781138295032>
- Healy, K. and Mulholland, J. (2019) *Writing Skills for Social Workers* (3rd Edition). London: Sage (<https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/writing-skills-for-social-workers/book236097>).
- Lishman, J., Yuill, C., Brannan, J. and Gibson, A. (Eds) (2018) *Social Work: An introduction* (2nd Edition). London: Sage Publications. <https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/social-work/book249759>
- Thompson, N. (2016) *Anti-Discriminatory Practice* (6th Edition). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan (<https://www.macmillanihe.com/page/detail/AntiDiscriminatory-Practice/?K=9781137586650>).

Websites:

British Association of Social Workers <https://www.basw.co.uk/>

International Federation of Social Workers: <http://ifsw.org/>

The Scottish Social Services Council - <http://www.sssc.uk.com/>

Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services - <http://www.iriss.org.uk/>

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) - <http://www.scie.org.uk/>

Community Care - <http://www.communitycare.co.uk/>

The Guardian - Social Care Network – <http://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network>