MSc/PGDip/PGCert
Applied Professional Studies

Be Stirling
BE THE DIFFERENCE
The course is designed to support professional learning which can enhance best practice. Part-time modular study provides flexibility and allows students to build credit as they progress. The modular structure enables students to design an individual course of study or to follow one of the specialist pathways.

**RELEVANCE TO PRACTICE**
Direct teaching by experienced practitioner-academics supports strong links to contemporary practice. Professionals studying together from a range of disciplines and settings provides depth and breadth in learning. Assessment is focused on application of learning in practice. Modules are constantly updated to reflect new directions in policy and practice and emerging thinking from the field.

Modules within the MSc Applied Professional Studies have been developed in partnership with key organisations to ensure that they meet the learning requirements of contemporary practice. For example, together with NSPCC Scotland, we have developed a certificate focusing on advanced practice skills.

**RECOGNITION BY PROFESSIONAL BODY**
The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) recognises modules within the course as appropriate continuing professional development for qualified staff working in health and social care.

**STRONG LINKS TO ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH**
The teaching team includes academics with a strong track record of research. This includes active involvement in practitioner research and projects involving people who use services as co-researchers. The team promotes innovation and excellence to transform social work care practice at personal, local, national and international levels to improve the lives of people using services and those who support them.

**PATHWAYS**
Part-time study:
- **Postgraduate Certificate:** one year of study (60 credits)
- **Postgraduate Diploma:** two years of study (120 credits)
- **MSc:** three years of study (180 credits)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON COURSE CONTENT VISIT:**
stir.ac.uk/1kf
MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN SOCIAL SERVICES
This pathway is suitable for social services managers in Scotland keen to pursue their professional development and work towards a formal management qualification. This pathway supports critical analysis and the development of reflective supervision, leadership and management of people and resources. It also addresses the complex array of organisational and human issues that need to be balanced when supervising and managing front-line staff.

ADULT SERVICES, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION
This pathway is suitable for frontline staff working in adult services who need to understand and work with the array of policy and legislation aimed at supporting and protecting adults who are at risk of harm. The pathway also addresses the shifting balance of power within a vision of adult social care which sees service users and professionals as co-producers.

Contemporary research points to the importance of bringing together rather than separating the dual agendas of self-directed support and protection from harm. The dilemmas involved in balancing risk, rights and autonomy and the inherent tensions of personalisation in the context of cuts in public services are central to this course.

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE EDUCATION
This pathway is suitable for experienced social workers who want to develop their knowledge and skill base in order to take on the Practice Education role with social work students. Nominated by their employing agency, candidates will be mentored by an agency-based practice assessor and supported by an academic tutor. Candidates will develop foundation knowledge and skills for effective practice education before going on to enhance their understanding of how people learn and explore the role of professional supervision. Candidates will also undertake the role of Practice Educator with a student social worker on placement and will demonstrate their learning around evidence-informed assessment of practice.

CHILD WELFARE AND PROTECTION
This pathway is suitable for frontline staff working in child welfare and protection including those in social work, health, education, the police and associated disciplines. With a focus on improving outcomes for children, this course tackles core challenges in practice including assessment, planning and effective intervention. It also builds professional knowledge and competence sequentially through consideration of key frameworks (such as attachment theory and resilience), critical reflection on multi-professional judgement and decision-making, through to examination of the latest research and practice developments in care planning and intervention.

ADVANCED PRACTICE SKILLS
Delivered by the University of Stirling, the NSPCC and a range of experts from across Scotland, this pathway has been introduced to enable students to develop advanced skills in child welfare and protection practice with children and families. Unlike most other postgraduate courses in the field, this pathway has an emphasis on gaining practical skills and experience. In particular, it is designed to bridge an existing gap in practice skills development, and students will gain knowledge, skills and experience for working within the most challenging settings.

“The University of Stirling is great for students who are studying part-time or undertaking distance learning in Applied Professional Studies. There are loads of e-books available and the staff are very helpful. Completing the course has increased my professional competence and confidence.”

LORNA CANAVAN
PGDip Applied Professional Studies - Child Welfare and Protection
Top Reasons
YOU SHOULD CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1. We’re ranked 1st in the UK for Social Work (Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020).

2. Study part-time to fit your Masters coursework around your personal and professional commitments.

3. Follow different study pathways tailored to your professional ambitions.

YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AT: stir.ac.uk/scholarships
Choose an area of study which matches your interests and practice experience. Successful completion of 60 credits equates to a Postgraduate Certificate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult Services, Support and Protection</th>
<th>Child Welfare and Protection</th>
<th>Management and Leadership in Social Services</th>
<th>Social Work Practice Education</th>
<th>Advanced Practice Skills (entry requirements)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship and Self–Directed Support (20 credits) APSPG12</td>
<td>Understanding Children and Young People’s Needs (20 credits) APSPG01</td>
<td>Leadership and Management (40 credits) APSPG07</td>
<td>Foundations for Effective Practice Education (20 credits) APSPG14</td>
<td>Knowledge and Skills for Understanding Parent/Child Relationships (20 credits) APSPG04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Support and Protection (40 credits) APSPG11</td>
<td>Understanding Children and Young People’s Experiences (20 credits) APSPG02</td>
<td>Professional Supervision (20 credits) APSPG08</td>
<td>Pedagogy and Supervision in Practice Education (20 credits) APSPG15</td>
<td>Evidence-Informed Interventions (20 credits) APSPG05</td>
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<td>Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People (20 credits) APSPG03</td>
<td></td>
<td>Evidence-Informed Assessment of Practice (20 credits) APSPG16</td>
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<td>Working with Complex Families and Systems (20 credits) APSPG06</td>
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Progress to Postgraduate Diploma level study and complete a further 60 credits, either continuing within a specialist pathway or choosing alternative modules. In addition to the options detailed above, you can also select from designated second-year modules:

- Working with Risk and Uncertainty (40 credits) APSPG13
- Leading in Partnership and Collaboration (20 credits) APSPG09
- Leading Change, Innovation and Improvement (40 credits) APSPG10
- Evidence-Informed Assessment of Practice (20 credits) APSPG16
- Working with Complex Families and Systems (20 credits) APSPG06

To complete an MSc Applied Professional Studies students undertake a final dissertation module which will include teaching on research methods.

- Dissertation module (60 credits) APSPG18

**NB:** Students with relevant previous study may be awarded credit for recognised prior learning (RPL) and should, in the first instance, discuss options with the Course Director. This can include an RPL award for post-qualifying study at SCQF Level 10 (Graduate Certificate) when this is combined with completion of a Professional Portfolio.
Or choose your own pathway for a Masters, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Professional Studies:

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<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Children and Young People's Needs (20 credits) APSPG01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding Children and Young People's Experiences (20 credits) APSPG02</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year Two</th>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding Children and Young People's Needs (20 credits) APSPG01</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People (20 credits) APSPG03</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year Three</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation module (60 credits) APSPG18</td>
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