



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

SUMMARY ACCREDITATION REPORT

UOW College Hong Kong

Learning Programme Accreditation

Higher Diploma in Social Work

APRIL 2024

1. Terms of Reference

1.1 Based on the Service Agreement (No.: AA940), the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), in the capacity of the Accreditation Authority as provided for under the Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications Ordinance (AAVQO) (Cap. 592), was commissioned by UOW College Hong Kong to conduct a Learning Programme Accreditation with the following Terms of Reference:

- (a) To conduct an accreditation test as provided for in the AAVQO to determine whether Higher Diploma in Social Work of UOW College Hong Kong ("UOWCHK" or "the Operator") meets the stated objectives and QF standards and can continue to be offered as an accredited programme; and
- (b) To issue to the Operator an accreditation report setting out the results of the determination in relation to (a) by HKCAAVQ.

2. HKCAAVQ'S Determination

2.1 HKCAAVQ has determined that, subject to the fulfilment of and compliance with the restriction set out below, the Higher Diploma in Social Work (HDSW) meets the stated objectives and QF standards at Level 4, and can be offered as an accredited programme, with a validity period of three years.

2.2 Validity Period

2.2.1 The validity period will commence on the date specified below. Operators may apply to HKCAAVQ to vary the commencement date of the validity period. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2.2.2 The maintenance of the accreditation status within the specified validity period is subject to the compliance with the restriction set out in the accreditation report by the specified deadline.

2.3 The determinations on the programme are specified as follows:

Name of Operator	UOW College Hong Kong 香港伍倫貢學院
Name of Award Granting Body	UOW College Hong Kong 香港伍倫貢學院
Title of Learning Programme	Higher Diploma in Social Work 社會工作高級文憑
Title of Qualification (Exit Award)	Higher Diploma in Social Work 社會工作高級文憑
Primary Area of Study and Training	Social Sciences
Sub-area (Primary Area of Study and Training)	Social Services
Other Area of Study and Training	Not applicable
Sub-area (Other Area of Study and Training)	Not applicable
Industry	Not applicable
Branch	Not applicable
QF Level	Level 4
QF Credits	377 credits
Mode of Delivery and Programme Length	Full-time: 2 years Part-time: 3 years
Start Date of Validity Period	1 September 2025
End Date of Validity Period	31 August 2028
Number of Enrolment	One enrolment per year
Maximum Number of New Students	Full-time: 100 per year Part-time: 60 per year
Specification of Competency Standards-based Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Address of Teaching / Training Venue(s)	18 Che Kung Miu Road, Tai Wai, New Territories, Hong Kong

2.4 Restriction

Throughout the validity period, the Operator is to ensure that before enrolling students on a mode of study of the Programme, the professional recognition by the Social Workers Registration Board is successfully granted or maintained for that mode of study.

2.5 Requirements

- (a) The Operator is to review and revise the mapping between Programme Objective 3 and Programme Intended Learning Outcomes to ensure proper alignment.

For the fulfilment of the requirement, the Operator is to submit to HKCAAVQ on or before **1 October 2025** a revised mapping showing proper alignment and the corresponding QA record on the revision.

- (b) The Operator is to devise relevant policy to ensure that clear stipulation of sound factors of consideration and proper approval procedure is in place when granting reduction in the total fieldwork hours required in the Programme.

For the fulfilment of the requirement, the Operator is to submit to HKCAAVQ on or before **1 October 2025** relevant documents demonstrating the approval procedure of application for a deduction in the 60 additional fieldwork hours is supported by appropriate guidelines.

2.6 Recommendations

HKCAAVQ offers the following recommendations for continuous improvement:

- 2.6.1 The Operator should increase its publicity and brand awareness through enhancing branding strategies and engaging with local communities. These could build the academic reputation of the programme and enhance the competitiveness of the programme.
- 2.6.2 The Operator should keep a record of regular reviews of “the other equivalent qualifications” and track the record of the academic performance of entrants with these alternative qualifications and offer additional support where necessary.

- 2.6.3 The Operator should ensure consistent contact hours of the Self-understanding and Development Laboratory course in full-time mode and part-time mode.
- 2.6.4 The Operator should reconcile the fieldwork hours of block placement and concurrent placement to facilitate students' planning and arrangement.
- 2.6.5 The Operator should provide clear information to the students regarding the structure of the Placement Preparation Activities (PPA) including compulsory and self-selected activities.
- 2.6.6 The Operator should adopt strategic staffing and workload allocation to ensure sustainability and job satisfaction of the teaching team.
- 2.6.7 The Operator should review the operation hours of student facilities and library to accommodate learning needs of part-time students.
- 2.6.8 The Operator should ensure a smooth transition in the conversion of the existing Associate Degree programme to the new Higher Diploma programme.

2.7 **Advice**

HKCAAVQ also offers the following advice for continuous improvement:

- 2.7.1 The Operator is advised to emphasise and promote its connection with UOW Australia in academic activities to amplify the unique advantage of the programme.
 - 2.7.2 The Operator is advised to regularly review the component of the professional practice of Fieldwork I and how it can be strengthened, and consider pedagogical revision when necessary.
- 2.8 HKCAAVQ will subsequently satisfy itself on whether the Operator remains competent to achieve the relevant objectives and the programmes continue to meet the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator by reference to, amongst other things, the Operator's fulfilment of any conditions and compliance with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report. For the avoidance of doubt, maintenance of accreditation status is subject to

the fulfilment of any condition and compliance with any restriction stipulated in this Accreditation Report.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 UOW College Hong Kong (UOWCHK), formerly known as the Community College of City University (CCCU), was a company limited by guarantee registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622). Under a strategic alliance with City University of Hong Kong (CityU), the University of Wollongong (UOW) assumes stewardship of CCCU over a five-year transitional period from June 2015 to June 2020. Following the end of the five-year transition, CityU resigned from the membership of the company and UOWCHK became wholly-owned by UOW.
- 3.2 UOWCHK was registered as an approved post-secondary college with degree-granting status under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320). According to the Qualifications Register, UOWCHK is offering 11 Bachelor Degree programmes, 33 Associate Degree programmes, 6 Higher Diploma programmes and 2 Diploma programmes. In addition, UOWCHK and UOW are jointly offering 3 non-local top-up Bachelor Degree programmes that lead to UOW awards.
- 3.3 UOWCHK commissioned HKCAAVQ to conduct this Learning Programme Accreditation of the Higher Diploma in Social Work (HDSW). HKCAAVQ formed an expert panel for this exercise (Panel Membership in [Appendix 1](#)). HKCAAVQ's Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (Version 1.2, November 2020) was the guiding document for the Operator and the Panel in conducting this exercise. A site visit took place at UOWCHK's campus in Tai Wai, New Territories, from 18 to 19 January 2024.

4. Programme Details

The following programme information is provided by the operator.

- 4.1 Programme Objectives (POs)

PO 1	Develop students to become competent practitioners who can perform various roles and tasks as qualified front-line social workers with adequate standards in a variety of human service settings;
PO 2	Provide students with a foundation in social work practice knowledge and skills and prepare them for further studies;
PO 3	Equip students with a solid foundation in generic skills for acquiring, constructing and applying knowledge; cultivate in students a spirit of lifelong learning; and encourage students to pursue active citizenship.

4.2 Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)

Upon successful completion of the programme, graduates should be able to:

PILO I	Uphold social work values and ethics and apply the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice to working with individuals, groups and communities;
PILO II	Apply knowledge of social welfare systems and social policies, human behavior and social environments, and social administration and management to social work practice and service delivery;
PILO III	Exercise appropriate judgement and take responsibility for planning, implementing, and evaluating social work practice and programmes;
PILO IV	Examine major socio-political, cultural and economic issues and their implications for social policies, services and social work practice;
PILO V	Communicate in Chinese and English proficiently in professional and academic contexts;
PILO VI	Apply interpersonal, information technology, critical thinking, problem-solving and self-directed lifelong learning skills to their personal and professional life.

4.3 Programme Structure

The programme consists of (i) Programme Core (including discipline-specific courses and elective courses), comprising 82% of the

curriculum, and (ii) Generic Skills and Knowledge (including English, Chinese and Generic courses), comprising 18% of the curriculum:

Component	Category (no. of courses)	% of Curriculum
Programme Core	Discipline-specific (15-FT, 17-PT)	82%
	Electives (2)	
	Professional Practice (e.g. PPA*)	
Generic Skills and Knowledge	English (2)	18%
	Chinese (1)	
	Generic (2)	

*PPA: Placement Preparation Activities

4.4 Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate, students enrolled in the Programme must have satisfactorily completed 74 credit units including two Fieldwork Placements with a minimum of 700 hours, fulfilled the Generic Skills and General Education requirements, and achieved a CGPA of 1.7 or above.

4.5 Admission Requirements

The minimum admission requirements for HDSW as follows:

(a) Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)

Level 2 or above in five HKDSE subjects¹ including Chinese Language² and English Language;

1. If one of the five HKDSE subjects is Citizenship and Social Development, the minimum entrance requirement would become "Attained" for Citizenship and Social Development and Level 2 in four other HKDSE subjects including Chinese and English; Applied Learning subjects with a result of "Attained" and a grade E in a Category C subject are accepted.

2. For applicants who have either (i) learned Chinese Language for less than 6 years while receiving primary and secondary education or (ii) learned Chinese Language for 6 years or more in schools but have been taught an adapted and simpler Chinese Language curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools, alternative Chinese Language

qualifications including ApL Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students), GCE AL/AS Chinese grade E, GCSE/IGCSE Chinese grade C/4, or grade E in HKDSE “other languages” can replace Chinese Language level 2. Only those applicants fulfilling conditions (i) or (ii) can use ApL Chinese (for non-Chinese speaking students) as an alternative qualification for Chinese Language.

- (b) Other equivalent qualifications, such as:
- i. International Baccalaureate Diploma;
 - ii. Diploma in General Studies / Foundation Studies / Applied Education, or Pre-Associate Degree offered by a local or non-local higher education institution;
 - iii. Grade E or above in one GCE A-level / International Advanced Level (IAL) or two Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level subjects;
 - iv. A National College Entrance Examination (普通高等學校招生全國統一考試) score above the cut-off lines set for entry into non-government universities (本科二批分數綫) and a minimum English score of 100;
 - v. BTEC Level 3 Diploma, OTHM Level 3 Diploma / Foundation Diploma, and QUALIFI level 3 Diploma or above, SAT, ACT, AP, Canadian High School Diploma, or Australian Tertiary Admission Rank.
- (c) Mature applicants aged 23 or above by September 1 of the year of admission.

4.6 Teaching and Learning Activities

The course delivery including lectures, tutorials, laboratories, and workshops is designed differently according to the nature of the courses. Guest lectures will also be arranged in some courses in which students can learn from seasoned professionals and updated knowledge of the industry. The medium of instruction for the Programme is English, except for CGE1200 Practical Chinese and the fieldwork courses.

4.7 Learner Support Services

- 4.7.1 The HDSW would be delivered at UOWCHK's new campus located in Tai Wai, New Territories. Most teaching and activities of the Programme would take place in the lecture theatres, classrooms and Social Work laboratory.
- 4.7.2 All 4 lecture theatres equipped with high-speed network, Wi-Fi, audio visual equipment and document camera have a seating capacity between 100 and 125 whilst all 32 classrooms can accommodate a seating capacity from 15 to 30. The Social Work laboratory has an audio-visual recording system with multiple cameras, microphones and speakers to enable HDSW students to record their practical work sessions from differing perspectives.

5 IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ACCREDITATION REPORT

5.1 Variation and withdrawal of this Accreditation Report

- 5.1.1 This Accreditation Report is issued pursuant to section 5 of the AAVQO, and contains HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding the accreditation, including the validity period as well as any conditions and restrictions subject to which the determination is to have effect.
- 5.1.2 HKCAAVQ may subsequently decide to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report if it is satisfied that any of the grounds set out in section 5 (2) of the AAVQO apply. This includes where HKCAAVQ is satisfied that the Operator is no longer competent to achieve the relevant objectives and/or the Programme no longer meets the standard to achieve the relevant objectives as claimed by the Operator (whether by reference to the Operator's failure to fulfil any conditions and/or comply with any restrictions stipulated in this Accreditation Report or otherwise) or where at any time during the validity period there has/have been substantial change(s) introduced by the Operator after HKCAAVQ has issued the accreditation report(s) to the Operator and which has/have not been approved by HKCAAVQ. Please refer to the '*Guidance Notes on Substantial Change to Accreditation Status*' in seeking approval for proposed changes. These Guidance Notes can be downloaded from the HKCAAVQ website.
- 5.1.3 If HKCAAVQ decides to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, it will give the Operator notice of such variation or withdrawal pursuant to section 5(4) of the AAVQO.

- 5.1.4 The accreditation status of the Operator and/or Programme will lapse immediately upon the expiry of the validity period or upon the issuance of a notice of withdrawal of this Accreditation Report.

5.2 Appeals

- 5.2.1 If the Operator is aggrieved by the determination made in this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of this Accreditation Report.
- 5.2.2 If the Operator is aggrieved by a decision to vary or withdraw this Accreditation Report, then pursuant to Part 3 of the AAVQO the Operator has a right of appeal to the Appeal Board. Any appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the receipt of the Notice of Withdrawal.
- 5.2.3 The Operator should be aware that a notice of variation or withdrawal of this Accreditation Report is not itself an accreditation report and the right to appeal against HKCAAVQ's substantive determination regarding accreditation arises only from this Accreditation Report.
- 5.2.4 Please refer to Cap. 592A (<http://www.legislation.gov.hk>) for the appeal rules. Details of the appeal procedure are contained in section 13 of the AAVQO and can be accessed from the QF website at <http://www.hkqf.gov.hk>.

5.3 Qualifications Register

- 5.3.1 Qualifications accredited by HKCAAVQ are eligible for entry into the Qualifications Register ("QR") at <https://www.hkqr.gov.hk> for recognition under the Qualifications Framework ("QF"). The Operator should apply separately to have their quality-assured qualifications entered into the QR.
- 5.3.2 Only learners who commence the study of the named accredited learning programme during the validity period and who have graduated with the named qualification listed in the QR will be considered to have acquired a qualification recognised under the QF.

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