



**8 What types of supports are available to students to help them succeed?**

Everyone has their own challenges as they move through life, including their university studies. You will want to know before you begin your Social Work studies that the program you choose is there to support you when you need it. Make sure the program that you choose has clear supports in place just in case you need them.

At King's, we are committed to your success. To support you during your Social Work studies, you will have access to:

**ACADEMIC SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS:**

- › Dedicated Academic Counsellor
- › Career Services
- › Write Place
- › Learning Skills
- › Indigenous Services
- › Personal Counseling
- › Services for Students with Disabilities

**FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS:**

- › Scholarships – Entrance and Continuing
- › Bursaries
- › Work Study and First Generation programs

King's University College is an affiliated university college of Western University. Graduates of the King's School of Social

Work programs receive a Western University degree. In addition to the supports available through King's, our students are also able to access a wide variety of programs and services on the Western University campus giving you the "best of both worlds."

**9 Are there opportunities to get involved in activities to help build your resumé while you study?**

A university education must include the acquisition of leadership and team skills as well as a commitment to volunteerism and service. Today's employers are looking for more than just an academic or professional qualification – they are looking for a well-rounded individual that stands out from the crowd.

My King's Experience - Western's Co-Curricular Record allows you to document all of the other experiences and leadership opportunities in which you chose to engage during your studies at King's. Your co-curricular record is an invaluable addition to your resume, portfolio, or grad school application, and will demonstrate how well-rounded your undergraduate experience has been.

In addition to the practicum, the School of Social Work offers its students a variety of

opportunities to build their resumé. There are a number of committees that students can participate in that facilitate the governance of the School, including the Social Work Student's Association. In our MSW program, students are required to participate in 3 of 5 professional development workshops offered throughout the academic year that are open to all of our students, community partners, and allied professionals.

**10 Are your graduates successful in securing jobs after graduation?**

Attending university today requires a significant investment of both time and money. As a result, graduates hope they will be able to secure stable and meaningful employment upon graduation.

Given the reputation of our program in the community, our graduates are highly employable. In our 2015 BSW alumni survey, 79% of respondents indicated they were employed within six months of graduation and 88% indicated they were employed at the time of the survey. Approximately 76% of BSW grads said their King's BSW prepared them well or very well for their current positions. Our 2014 MSW employment survey found that 85% of respondents were employed within 4 months of completing program requirements.



# 10 Questions

to ask so you can choose the best Social Work program for you!



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We welcome applications from all qualified individuals. Our diversity has many different faces and expressions including, but not limited to: age, colour, culture, disability/non-disability status, ethnic or linguistic origin, gender, health status, heritage, immigration status, geographic origin, race, religious and spiritual beliefs, political orientation, gender and sexual identities, and socioeconomic status.



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DEDICATED TO GROWTH



# So you want to be a Social Worker...

Social Work is a unique profession rich with meaning, action, and the power to make a difference. Social Workers pull communities together, help individuals and families find solutions, advance changes in social policy, promote social justice, and foster human well-being.



## Now that you've decided

Earning a degree in Social Work is a long-term commitment – not only does it require years of education and training, there is also an emotional commitment and a financial obligation. Before embarking on such an important step and making a personal investment, it's important to find the right program that will serve you best in a future career. In Canada, there are over 40 Social Work programs to choose from. Knowing the right questions to ask and areas to evaluate can help you in making an informed choice.

### 1 Does this program have a good reputation?

*We all have heard stories at some point in our lives about bad experiences with goods we have purchased or services we have received. These bad experiences often turn into negative reputations or perceptions of the individuals or companies providing these goods and services, whether true or not.*

*The opposite is also true; a positive reputation can create opportunities for you. Think about what having a program with a great reputation looks like on your resumé. Your future employer may not know you, but they will know the School you went to!*

King's University College has been involved in the delivery of Social Work education for almost 50 years. King's School of Social Work is a wonderful place for learning: a place where you can push conceptual boundaries, explore new territory, and enhance your skills. Our program is well regarded, not only locally but nationally.

### 2 Is the program accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education?

*Graduating from a program accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) is important. Accreditation assures both the public and potential employers that you have graduated from a program that provides a curriculum that meets core Social Work learning objectives.*

*Many provinces and territories are establishing licensing or certification requirements for individuals who want to use the title of Social Worker and perform certain Social Work tasks. Graduating from a CASWE-accredited program is increasingly a part of meeting these standards.*

The BSW program at King's has been accredited since 1979 and our MSW program has been accredited since 2010. In 2016, the School received a full eight-year re-accreditation of both its BSW and MSW programs - this is currently the longest period of accreditation possible under the current CASWE procedures.

### 3 What are your class sizes?

*While class size does not always reflect the quality of Social Work education you will receive, it is certainly a good indicator of the level of engagement and attention you will receive from your course instructors.*

*Instructors in small and medium classes are more likely to involve students in hands-on projects and real-life activities, assign projects that require original or creative thinking, form teams or discussion groups to facilitate learning, and ask students to help each other understand concepts or ideas.*

## Finding the right fit

We have developed a series of questions and a checklist to help you find the program that not only "makes the grade," but best meets your needs and supports your growth. We hope this information will be helpful to you in your decision-making process. Don't forget to use the checklist we have provided so you can write notes, compare answers, and grade the programs you are considering.

At King's we pride ourselves on maintaining class sizes of between 20 and 30 students. This allows our students to really get to know each other as well as their instructors – you will never just be another student number or nameless face in a crowd. Our small class sizes and the quality and commitment of our faculty to teaching will provide you with a warm and stimulating environment.

### 4 Is the faculty highly qualified?

*A thoughtful and well-developed curriculum is only one piece of the puzzle in the quality of the Social Work education you receive. Central to your educational experience are the people involved in the delivery of the program – "higher-quality" teachers promote better educational outcomes.*

The School's faculty members are highly productive scholars, with a focus on university/community collaborations. This is a result of the strong connection our School, faculty, and students maintain and nurture with our community.

School of Social Work faculty members have received awards from national research funding bodies including SSHRC and NIHR, and continue to be funded by a variety of governmental and charitable foundations.

The School is also home to some of the College's most innovative and recognized teachers. A sizeable number of our faculty, both full and part-time, are on the Dean's Teaching Honour Roll each year.



### 5 What approach to Social Work education does your program subscribe to?

*Every Social Work program has a particular approach to how it delivers its curriculum. Some programs are based on a particular philosophical underpinning (structural, anti-oppressive), some on a particular level of practice (direct practice with individuals, families and groups, community organizing, social policy and planning) and some focus on particular segments of the population (older adults, children and youth). Different programs offer different experiences, and what is right for one individual, may not be right for another, so it is important to understand what your program will be able to offer you.*

At Kings, our BSW program includes education for Social Work practice with individuals, families, groups and communities. The opportunity to develop practice skills is provided through direct experience in a variety of social service and health organizations under professional supervision.

Our MSW program is designed to develop and enhance the knowledge and practice skills of Social Work professionals. Our

expanded MSW program includes a greater selection of practice oriented courses and more opportunities to apply theory in real life situations.

Both our BSW and MSW programs are constantly evolving in response to current practice trends and feedback from our constituents.

### 6 Is the curriculum challenging?

*All accredited Social Work programs in Canada have good curricula, but you want to make sure that your program offers a curriculum that reflects current practice realities and has a reputation for innovation.*

The Social Work Program at King's provides a learning environment characterized by excellence in Social Work education directed towards developing and fostering principled and competent professional practitioners who recognize the interrelatedness of human needs, social structures and oppressive conditions in their work with diverse populations.

As part of its ongoing commitment to offering graduate and undergraduate programs of high quality, Western has adopted the Quality Assurance Framework of the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance. As an affiliate of Western, all programs at King's are subject to the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP).

### 7 Are there a variety of high quality field placement opportunities?

*Practicum (experiential learning) is an integral component of all BSW and MSW programs. Find out what Social Work field placement options your program offers. Your field placements will offer some of the best experiences of your Social Work studies, so making sure you have opportunities to land a great placement in a setting that interests you may be essential to your growth as a Social Worker.*

Our students are placed in a variety of agencies and settings in London and the surrounding area. King's School of Social Work is connected to over 300 social service agencies and organizations where you will gain practical Social Work experience. At King's, students and field instructors can expect individualized placement planning with every student. In our BSW program students complete two different placements, maximizing your learning in a variety of settings.

## 10 KEY QUESTIONS CHECKLIST

NAME OF UNIVERSITY	1 Reputation?	2 CASWE Accredited?	3 Small Classes?	4 Desired Program Approach?	5 Highly Qualified Faculty?	6 Challenging Curriculum?	7 Placement Opportunities?	8 Student Supports?	9 Resumé Building Activities?	10 High Job Placement?
KING'S School of Social Work	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓