Credit Transfer Factsheet

MA IN SOCIAL WORK (F80)

If you have previously studied elsewhere and your studies were completed at the same academic level as OU modules, we may be able to award you credit transfer towards an OU qualification: this will reduce the number of OU modules you have to study to complete your OU qualification. You need to decide which OU qualification you wish to study for with us before you can apply for credit transfer.

This factsheet tells you about transferred credit from elsewhere into this particular OU qualification.

Please note that:

- We can only confirm how much credit you can be awarded once you have made a formal Credit Transfer application which has been considered by an OU assessor.

- Your previous studies must be at master's level (or higher) and carry at least as many Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CATS) points, as the OU study from which you are to be exempted. Master's level in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is level 7, Scotland level 11, and in the Republic of Ireland, level 9. More details about CATS points and levels can be found on our website at https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk.

- We will award you as much credit transfer as possible, but this may be less than the maximum available towards this OU qualification. This is because the amount of credit transfer you can be awarded depends on several factors (such as the number of credits you achieved and how closely your previous study matches the OU modules).

- If you intend to apply for postgraduate funding, it is your responsibility to ensure that the inclusion of credit transfer towards your qualification will not affect your eligibility. Please visit our website for more information. http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/postgraduate-loans

Credit transfer towards the MA in Social Work (F80)

Maximum credit transfer available towards this qualification
The maximum number of credits that can be transferred towards this qualification are shown in the table below.

Degree component	**Type and amount of possible credit transfer**
60 credits – Compulsory module K832	60 credits of module exemption
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Maximum credit transfer towards this qualification	**120 credits**

Types of credit transfer
There are two types of credit transfer: **module exemption** and **general credit exemption**. The table above shows which type/s can count towards this qualification.

Module exemption means that you have been exempted from a particular OU module in recognition of your previous study. Your prior study must be at, or equivalent to, the UK academic level of the OU module/s you are being exempted from and considered to be broadly in-line with the learning outcomes of your chosen OU qualification. Your Credit Transfer Award will specify which OU module/s you have been exempted from studying towards your chosen OU qualification.

General credit exemption means that you have been exempted from studying the specified amount of credit at the given academic level towards this OU qualification. This type of credit transfer is awarded if your previous study is at, or equivalent to, the UK academic level of the OU module/s concerned and is considered relevant to this OU qualification in terms of subject and/or skills development. This type of credit transfer differs from module exemption in that it does not exempt you from any particular OU module/s. Your Credit Transfer Award will indicate the number of credits you have been exempted from, and at what level/s, towards specific components of the qualification.

Time limits towards this qualification
There are time limits on the counting of credit towards this qualification:

The credit required from OU modules or any permitted credit transfer towards this qualification must be obtained during a period not exceeding 9 years. This period commences from the completion date of the study for which credit transfer is given, or your first OU module (whichever is the earliest). If you have more than one period of previous study for which you are awarded credit transfer, we will use the date of the earliest study.

Age of previous study
The maximum age of previous study which can be considered for an award of credit toward this qualification is 4 years. We will calculate the age of your previous study using the date we receive your completed application with all required supporting documentation.

Study for which you could be awarded credit transfer
You can apply for credit transfer towards this OU qualification if you have a qualifying Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work which meets the requirements of the relevant social work regulator. It must have been completed within the last 4 years and equate to at least 120 credits at Masters level (FHEQ Level 7/SCQF Level 11).

If your previous qualification is a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Care or a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Studies, these are not acceptable towards this qualification.

When we assess your application for credit transfer, we will look at how similar the study you completed is to the OU modules in this qualification. How much credit you are awarded is likely to depend in part on how closely the subjects of your previous studies match those of the modules in this qualification. If your previous study is in an unrelated subject area, we will not be able to award you credit transfer towards this qualification. To read about the subjects covered in this qualification please visit the qualification description at:
https://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/qualifications/f80

What do I need to provide with my application?
Every application must be supported by official evidence, usually in the form of an academic transcript and a certificate. Please see the application form and the FAQs on our website for more information about the evidence you will need to provide.

For applications towards this qualification, you will also need to provide syllabus information/learning outcomes from the time of your study in order that the academic expert can map how closely your previous study matches that of the OU modules in the qualification. Your academic transcript will provide a list of the modules or units you completed, but syllabus information/learning outcomes

provides a detailed description of the content of each of those modules, often about a paragraph per module/unit. If you do not provide syllabus information/learning outcomes, we will be unable to assess your previous study towards this qualification.

Unique study rule

For each OU qualification, you must include an amount of OU study that is unique to that particular qualification (credit from study completed at the OU which has not previously been counted towards another OU qualification). Full details are given in the degree regulations, in the Qualification Regulations section of the qualification description:
https://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/qualifications/f80

Further information you will need

To find out more about credit transfer, and to download a Credit Transfer application form, please visit our Credit Transfer website: https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk. This site also tells you what previous study can be used for credit transfer and explains in detail how the application process works.

You should read this Credit Transfer Factsheet in conjunction with the qualification description which can be found at:
https://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/qualifications/f80 which

- Contains the qualification regulations and associated time limits
- Contains the University regulations
- Gives information on the structure of your chosen OU qualification

If you require a version of these notes in an alternative format, such as large print, please contact us.
This factsheet has been prepared by the Credit Transfer Centre at
The Open University.

You are welcome to contact us regarding your application for credit transfer. However, please note that we are unable to advise you how much credit transfer you could be awarded before we have assessed your formal application.
You may find that your query has already been answered at
https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk.

Email: credit-transfer@open.ac.uk
Website: https://credit-transfer.open.ac.uk

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this publication may change in the light of altered regulations, policy, or other constraints.

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