Presentation pattern      January to October

Module description
This module is part of the Open University Degrees in Social Work in Wales. Students must be registered for the degree and be sponsored by their employing agency. The module helps students to understand critical social work practice, addressing key roles for social workers and relevant knowledge, values and skills for the social work process. The module includes a 90-day practice learning opportunity under the supervision of a practice assessor appointed by the student's sponsoring agency. This module, which is being delivered online, includes written, audio, DVD-ROM, CD-ROM, DVD and web-based resources, and communication through online forums, supported by tutors.

The module will support student social workers in becoming confident, critical, analytical and reflective practitioners. Students are guided towards sources of information to interrogate and evaluate. KZW315 identifies what critical reflection is, and supports its application across a range of knowledges and practices. It provides materials for reflection on practice, looking at historical and international exemplars. It encourages research literacy and explores how research can inform practice and be used by practitioners. The module examines the nature of organisations supplying social work services, exploring how they are changing and what this means for social work practice and practitioners.

Person specification
The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the generic person specification for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- a first degree in the social sciences or a relevant discipline
- a professional social work qualification and practice experience
- familiarity with the literature, policies and research in social work
- familiarity with current practice regarding the delivery of personal social services
- sensitivity to the needs of adult learners, and an understanding of how adults learn
- the ability to facilitate online discussions with your tutor group and the skills necessary to mark students' work submitted via the internet.

Additional information
- References must include at least one professional practice reference relating to social work practice or social work education from a current or recent employer.
- Students are registered in most OU regions. This module involves a higher than average amount of tutorial contact time and facilitation of online discussions at regular intervals during the presentation of the module. Tutors are expected to attend seven all-day workshops, six of which they lead, and mark three electronic TMAs. Assessment of KZW315 includes an end-of-module assignment marked by a team of script markers. The pass or fail recommendation of the practice assessor for the 90-day practice learning opportunity is an essential element in module assessment.
- If you are appointed to tutor on KZW315 the option of being appointed to tutor on the second level practice module KZW216 may also be open to you. This will be discussed with you at interview.

Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website
Credits awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module: 60
Number of assignments submitted by the student: 6
Method of submission for assignments: 1a
Level of ICT requirements: 2
Number of students likely to be in a standard group: 15
Salary band: 9
Estimated number of hours per teaching week: 7.5

There may be opportunities for ALs to undertake associated assessment work for which there will be additional payment and about which you will be contacted separately if applicable.