Master in Social Work
Suggested Pre-Course Reading

Welcome to Social Work, a dynamic, multi-disciplinary subject. Prior to commencing your studies at the University of Edinburgh it might be useful to begin by considering the definition of social work provided by the International Federation of Social Workers (2014):

> *Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.*

Reflecting the complexity of this definition, our Social Work course examines theories, methods, models and research evidence from a variety of disciplines including: psychology, sociology, social policy, history, counselling, and criminology. However, it is useful to begin with some basic Social Work texts. The following list includes some which you may find useful. It is not intended to be exhaustive – as the course begins, we will provide you with more targeted reading. We would also recommend that you begin to identify relevant online resources. We have recommended a few to get you started. Happy reading and see you soon!

Books:
- Banks, S. (2012) *Ethics and Values in Social Work, 4th edition.* Basingstoke: Macmillan Education (https://www.macmillanihe.com/page/detail/Ethics-and-Values-in-Social-Work/?K=9780230300170).
- Cree, V.E. and Myers, S. (2008) *Social Work: Making a Difference*, Bristol, Policy Press (https://policypress.co.uk/social-work).
- Davies, M. (ed.) (2013) *Blackwell Companion to Social Work*, 4th edition. Oxford: Blackwell (https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/The-Blackwell-Companion-to-Social-Work-by-Martin-Davies-editor/9781118451724).
- Doel, M. and Best, L. (2008) *Experiencing Social Work. Learning from Service Users.* London: Sage (https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/experiencing-social-work/book227665).
- Dominelli, L. (2018) *Anti-Racist Social Work.* London: Macmillan. https://www.macmillanexplorers.com/social-work-practice/anti-racist-social-work/15874098
- Healy, K. and Mulholland, J. (2012) *Writing Skills for Social Workers.* London: Sage (https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/writing-skills-for-social-workers/book236097).
- Thompson, N. (2016) *Anti-Discriminatory Practice*, 6th edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan (https://www.macmillanihe.com/page/detail/AntiDiscriminatory-Practice/?K=9781137586650).
- Wilson, K., Ruch, G., Lymbery, M., and Cooper, A. (2011). Social Work: An Introduction to Contemporary Practice. Essex: Pearson (http://catalogue.pearsoned.co.uk/educator/product/Social-Work-An-Introduction-to-Contemporary-Practice/9781408244708.page).

Websites:
Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services - http://www.iriss.org.uk/

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) - http://www.scie.org.uk/

British Association for Social Work (BASW) - https://www.basw.co.uk/

The Scottish Social Services Council - http://www.sssc.uk.com/

Community Care - http://www.communitycare.co.uk/

The Guardian - Social Care Network – http://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network

The Scottish Government – Social Work Services Strategic Forum http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/social-services-workforce

International Federation of Social Workers: http://ifsw.org/