



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

**Academic Session
2026 / 2027**

“Social Science Matters!”

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BACKGROUND

“Social Science Matters!”

Introduction

The School of Social Sciences at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has been at the forefront of advancing the social sciences in Malaysia. As one of the university's oldest faculties and among the first social sciences schools in the country, the School was established in 1970 with a core mission: to advance knowledge and facilitate desirable social transformation within Malaysian society. Over the decades, this mission has evolved, but our commitment remains steadfast to delivering quality education and conducting impactful research that contributes to national development.

Today, we offer three undergraduate programmes: the Bachelor of Social Sciences, the Bachelor of Economics, and the Bachelor of Social Work. At the postgraduate level, we provide five dynamic programmes: the Master of Public Administration (coursework), the Master of Economic Management (coursework), the Master of Social Work (mixed-mode), the Master of Social Sciences (research mode), and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). Our Master of Social Sciences (research mode) and Ph.D. programmes enable students to pursue advanced research across a wide range of social science disciplines.

The School is home to 56 dedicated academic staff and a vibrant community of approximately 1,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students. We are actively engaged in global academic collaborations and maintain strong partnerships with local industries, public sector agencies, civil society organisations, policymakers, and practitioners.



ADMINISTRATION & ORGANIZATIONAL

“Social Science Matters!”

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION



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SECTION CHAIRPERSON



Dr. Masarah Mohamad Yusof

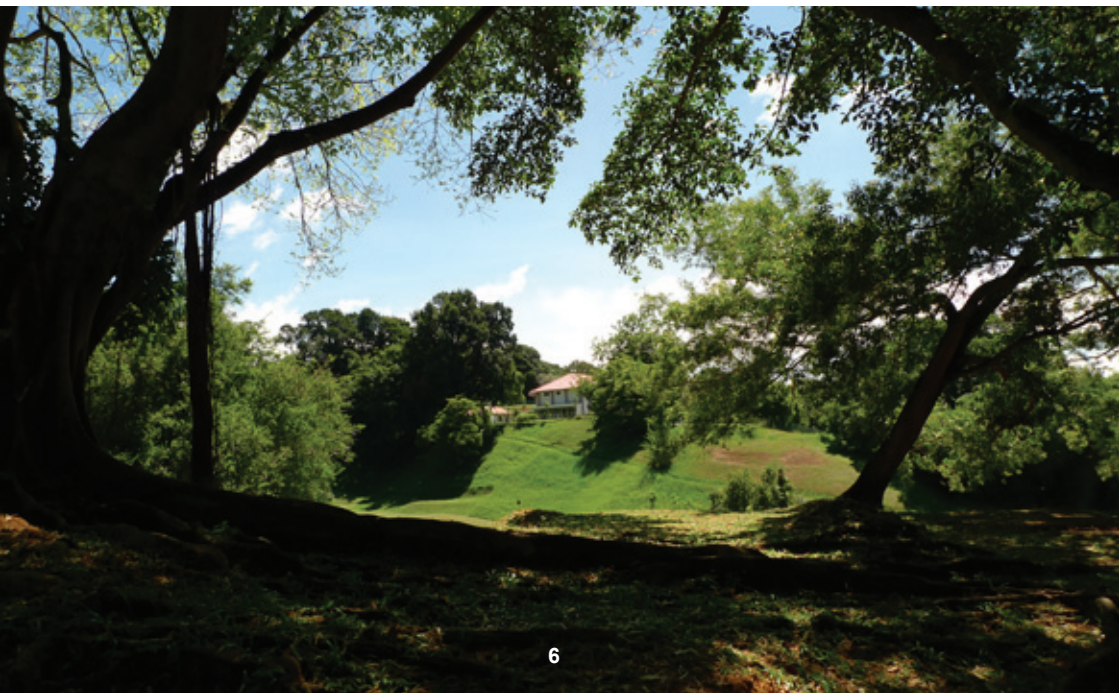
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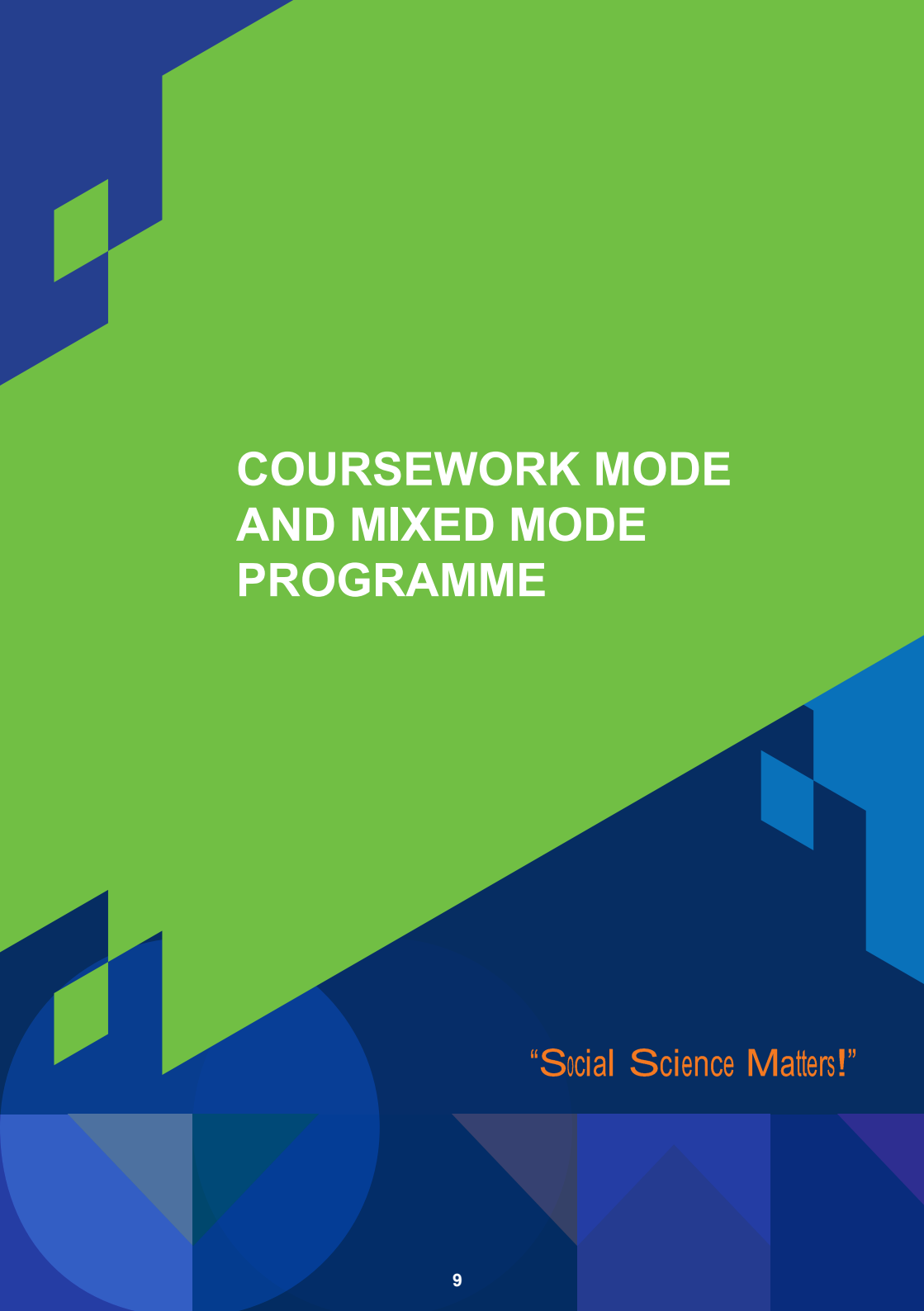
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COURSEWORK MODE AND MIXED MODE PROGRAMME

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Our **COURSEWORK /** **MIXED MODE PROGRAMMES**

COURSEWORK

1

The Master of Public Administration (MPA)

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) programme is designed for those serving in the public sector and those planning a career in the public service. It is also open to those from other sectors for whom knowledge of the public sector is important. The basic entry requirement is a bachelor's degree from a recognized university.

2

Master of Economic Management (MEM)

The Master of Economic Management Programme (MEM) is a unique programme that combines practical economic knowledge with an issue-oriented approach. It is designed to train innovative economics practitioners. The programme provides an interesting blend of essential theory and practical application-skills that are necessary for those involved in economic management and are likely to be confronted by a wide range of economic issues.

3

MIXED MODE

Master of Social Work (MSW)

The Masters of Social Work Programme is a programme that combines social work knowledge and field practice (practicum). It is designed to train social work practitioners from government and non-governmental organizations. This programme helps students to work in the social work field at both micro (individual and groups) and macro (organization and community).



MIXED MODE PROGRAMME - MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

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OVERVIEW POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES: **MIXED-MODE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)**

Introduction

The MSW Programme combines social work knowledge and field practice (practicum). It is designed to train social work practitioners for both government and non-governmental organisations. This programme prepares students to work in the field of social work at both the micro level (with individuals and groups) and the macro level (with organisations and communities).

The programme aims to enhance the quality of social work services by strengthening theoretical knowledge and advancing professional practice. It is designed to produce holistic, competent, and skilled practitioners capable of addressing complex social issues. Given the growing social challenges in the country, the MSW programme responds to the urgent need for well-trained professionals in social institutions and NGOs, where the shortage of qualified personnel is a pressing concern. By developing a stronger cadre of Master's-level social workers, the programme contributes to improving the effectiveness and professionalism of the social work sector.

Objective

The MSW programme aims to develop a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce to address complex social issues and enhance the quality of social services in Malaysia. Specifically, the objectives are to:

- (a) The MSW programme will help fulfil the need for a human workforce to cope with various social problems in line with the context of a caring society. In addition, it aims to produce students who are innovative, motivated, competent, and committed to the field of social work practice.
- (b) To expand and increase the number of Master's students with knowledge and specific skills in order to offer effective services as social workers.
- (c) To produce more trained social work graduates, who are needed by many governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as in the industrial and private sectors.
- (d) To enhance research and expand social work knowledge by assisting the country in establishing quality social policies and human services.

Programme Educational Objectives (PEO)

The MSW programme aims to develop competent and reflective social work professionals who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundation necessary to contribute effectively across diverse practice settings. The specific educational objectives are as follows:

- PEO 1: Graduates possess comprehensive knowledge (PLO1) in the field of Social Work and are able to propose scientific recommendations or solutions (PLO2) to address social issues.
- PEO 2: Graduates apply relevant research procedures (PLO3) and utilise digital information and technology (PLO6), as well as quantitative information (PLO7), to make effective decisions.
- PEO 3: Graduates lead collaborative efforts (PLO4) with relevant stakeholders as effective leaders (PLO8) and communicate information professionally (PLO5) to stakeholders.
- PEO 4: Graduates adhere to ethical codes of practice (PLO11), demonstrate an entrepreneurial mindset (PLO10), and engage in lifelong learning (PLO9) for personal development and career advancement.

Programme Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon completion of the MSW programme, graduates have the following:

PLO1 – Knowledge and Understanding

- Analyse advanced knowledge in the field of Social Work within national and international contexts.

PLO2 – Cognitive Skills

- Evaluate theories to propose scientific recommendations or solutions to social issues in the field of Social Work.

PLO3 – Practical Skills

- Demonstrate practical work skills confidently in the field of Social Work.

PLO4 - Interpersonal Skills

- Apply interpersonal skills in collaborative teamwork across diverse social, cultural, and relational contexts.

PLO5 – Communication Skills

- Communicate ideas effectively through verbal and non-verbal means to diverse audiences in various contexts.

PLO6 – Digital Skills

- Utilise digital technology and information confidently in various contexts within the field of Social Work.

PLO7: Numeracy Skills

- Critically analyse and evaluate economic issues and challenges in the public sector by applying numeracy and quantitative analytical skills to support evidence-based decision-making.

PLO8: Leadership, Autonomy and Responsibility

- Integrate leadership qualities and autonomy when working within diverse groups in the field of Social Work.

PLO9 – Personal Skills

- Prioritise lifelong learning skills for personal development and professional growth in the field of Social Work.

PLO10 – Entrepreneurial Skills

- Demonstrate an entrepreneurial mindset and apply entrepreneurial knowledge to develop innovative ventures in the field of Social Work.

PLO11 – Ethics and Professionalism

- Integrate ethical codes of practice into decision-making processes in the field of Social Work.

Programme Duration

The is a mixed-mode programme that integrates coursework, practicum, and research components. For the full-time mode, the minimum duration of study is three semesters (18 months), while the maximum duration is six semesters (36 months).

Degree Requirement and Assessment

Students will be awarded the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree upon successfully completing 44 credits from core courses. Academic performance is assessed using the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) system, as outlined in the university's grading scale.

The minimum passing grade for each course is C+, and students must attain a minimum CGPA of 3.00 out of 4.00 to be eligible for graduation. In line with university regulations, students are permitted to repeat any course in which they obtain a grade of B- or below.

Grade	Grade Point	Explanation
A	4.00	Pass
A-	3.67	
B+	3.33	
B	3.00	
B-	2.67	
C+	2.33	
F	0	Fail

Programme Structure

The MSW programme consists of 44 credit hours, combining theoretical knowledge, specialised practice, applied methods, and research. The structure of the programme is as follows:

Courses	Credits	%
Core Theories: (SSW501, SSW502, SSW503, SSW504)	12	48
Specialisation: (SSW505, SSW506, SSW507)	9	
Methods: (SSW591)	3	52
Dissertation: (SSW599)	20	
Total	44	100

Below is the list of courses offered in the MSW programme, which includes core theoretical foundations, specialised areas of practice, research methodology, and an independent dissertation component designed to equip students with both academic and practical competencies in social work.

Code and Course Title

Code	Course Title	Course Hour	Course Type
SSW501	ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK THEORIES WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES	3	C
SSW502	ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK THEORIES WITH GROUP AND COMMUNITY	3	C
SSW503	SOCIAL POLICY & SOCIAL SERVICES	3	C
SSW504	INTEGRATED SOCIAL WORK SEMINAR	3	C
SSW505	SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION	3	C
SSW506	HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3	C
SSW507	SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT	3	C
SSW590	INDEPENDENT STUDIES	3	C
SSW591	ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH	3	C
SSW599	DISSERTATION	20	C

Notes: SSW591/3 and SSW599/20 will be evaluated as PASS/FAIL.

Course Registration Structure (Full-Time)

Full-time candidates in the MSW programme are required to register for courses according to the following structured schedule:

Year 1		Year 2	
Semester I	Semester II	Session Break	Semester I
SSW501/3	SSW504/3		
SSW502/3	SSW505/3		
SSW503/3	SSW506/3		
SSW507/3	SSW591/3		
	PRACTICUM	PRACTICUM	
← -----			SSW599/20

COURSE SYNOPSIS

SSW501 - ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK THEORIES WITH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Synopsis:

Students analyse issues affecting the well-being of individuals and families and design appropriate intervention processes. They apply relevant theoretical approaches and models at the micro, meso, and macro levels to understand clients' problems and develop effective social work interventions that are responsive to the needs of target groups.

Course Objectives:

This course will enhance students' capacity to manage and deliver services to individuals in a wide range of situations (capacity to handle varied problematic situations) that require diverse intervention approaches.

SSW502 - ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK THEORIES WITH GROUP AND COMMUNITY

Synopsis:

This course enables students to understand and apply advanced theories, methods, and models of group and community work in social work practice. Students develop the ability to design, implement, and evaluate effective interventions across diverse group and community settings.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to expose students to advanced theories, methods, and models of group work and community work in social work practice, enabling them to provide direct interventions to groups and communities.

SSW503 - SOCIAL POLICY & SOCIAL SERVICES

Synopsis:

This course discusses the process of formulating, functioning and implementing welfare and social services policies. Disclosure of social, economic and cultural background analysis of society is also important for effective and relevant welfare and social services policies in issues and community inclusion in Malaysia and globally.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the formulation, functions, and implementation of social welfare policies and social services, as well as the integration of key stakeholders in addressing social issues and problems in Malaysia and globally. Students will acquire knowledge of social work, the socio-economic context, social welfare policies, social services, and the roles and functions of relevant stakeholders.

SSW504 - INTEGRATED SOCIAL WORK SEMINAR

Synopsis:

This course enables students to critically analyze current social issues within social work practice. Students examine how these issues affect individuals, families, and communities. It emphasizes applying social work values, ethics, theories, and skills to evaluate professional capabilities throughout the intervention process.

Course Objectives:

This course enables students to examine and critically analyse contemporary social issues within the context of social work practice. Students will identify and analyse the relationship between current social issues and the social environments of individuals, families, groups, and communities in depth. The application of social work values, ethics, theories, methods, and skills acquired throughout their studies will be discussed comprehensively, particularly in the context of conducting assessments and implementing effective interventions for related social issues.

SSW505 - SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Synopsis:

This course enables students to critically understand and apply the core principles of professional social work education grounded in democratic values. It examines key components of philosophy, rationale, and curriculum development, preparing students to design effective learning approaches that contribute to the development of competent, ethical, and practice-ready social workers.

Course Objectives:

This course explores the core principles of professional social work education. Emphasis is placed on the fundamental components that underpin the philosophy, rationale, and development of a comprehensive and professional social work education curriculum. The course prepares prospective social work educators with the knowledge and competencies required to educate and develop competent social workers.

SSW506 - HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Synopsis:

This course explores health and wellbeing issues from a social work perspective. Students will understand local and global public health issues, analyse current global situations, and collaborate with public agencies, NGOs, and international organisations to address health and wellbeing challenges.

Course Objectives:

This course focuses on health and well-being issues at the national and global levels. It emphasises knowledge of health policies, health promotion, and global public health issues. The course also examines the role of social workers in collaborating with government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other key stakeholders to address health and well-being issues within communities. Students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to assess, analyse, and address global health and well-being issues by considering socio-economic backgrounds, beliefs, and cultural diversity across local and global communities.

SSW507 - SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT

Synopsis:

This course enables students to identify various management theories, their strengths and weaknesses, and their application in the local context. Students will have the opportunity to identify relevant management approaches for different types of human service agencies. Topics will focus on developing management and evaluation skills that can lead to appropriate and realistic innovations.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to prepare and train social workers to perform leadership and managerial roles as managers or heads of social service organisations or human service agencies.

SSW590 - INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Synopsis:

This course allows students to research a selected social issue under academic supervision. Students conduct a comprehensive study, including preparing a research proposal, collecting and analyzing data, and discussing findings. This process integrates social work knowledge to produce a detailed and systematic investigation.

Course Objectives:

This course provides students with the opportunity to conduct an in-depth study of a specific social issue under the supervision of an academic staff member or faculty supervisor.

SSW591 - ADVANCED SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Synopsis:

Students explore research methods used in the context of social work. They develop skills in identifying research problems, selecting sampling and measurement methods, and applying data collection procedures. Students also analyze data using statistics to understand and interpret research findings systematically.

Course Objectives:

The aim of this course is to develop a deeper understanding of research methods that can be applied within the context of social work.

SSW599 - DISSERTATION

Synopsis:

This dissertation is closely linked to the practicum, designed to provide candidates with real-world research experience based on their field placements. It integrates social work theory with practice. The practicum begins at the end of the second semester of the first year.

Course Objectives:

All candidates are required to conduct research and practical work that enables students to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired. Candidates are free to select their own issue and target group, which may include individuals, families, groups, or communities.





ACADEMIC STAFF, RESEARCH INTEREST AND EXPERTISE

“Social Science Matters!”

Social Work

HIV and AIDS, Harm Reduction, Drug Addiction, Social Work with Families



Paramjit Singh Jamir Singh
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Violence in Family, Gender Equality, Culture and Gender Role, Social Development, Elderly



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Social Work in School, Community Health, Community Development, HIV & AIDS



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Social Work in Housing Settings, Social Policy, Social Development, Urban Poverty, Social Welfare, Social Well-being



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Health, Bereavement and Dying, Spirituality



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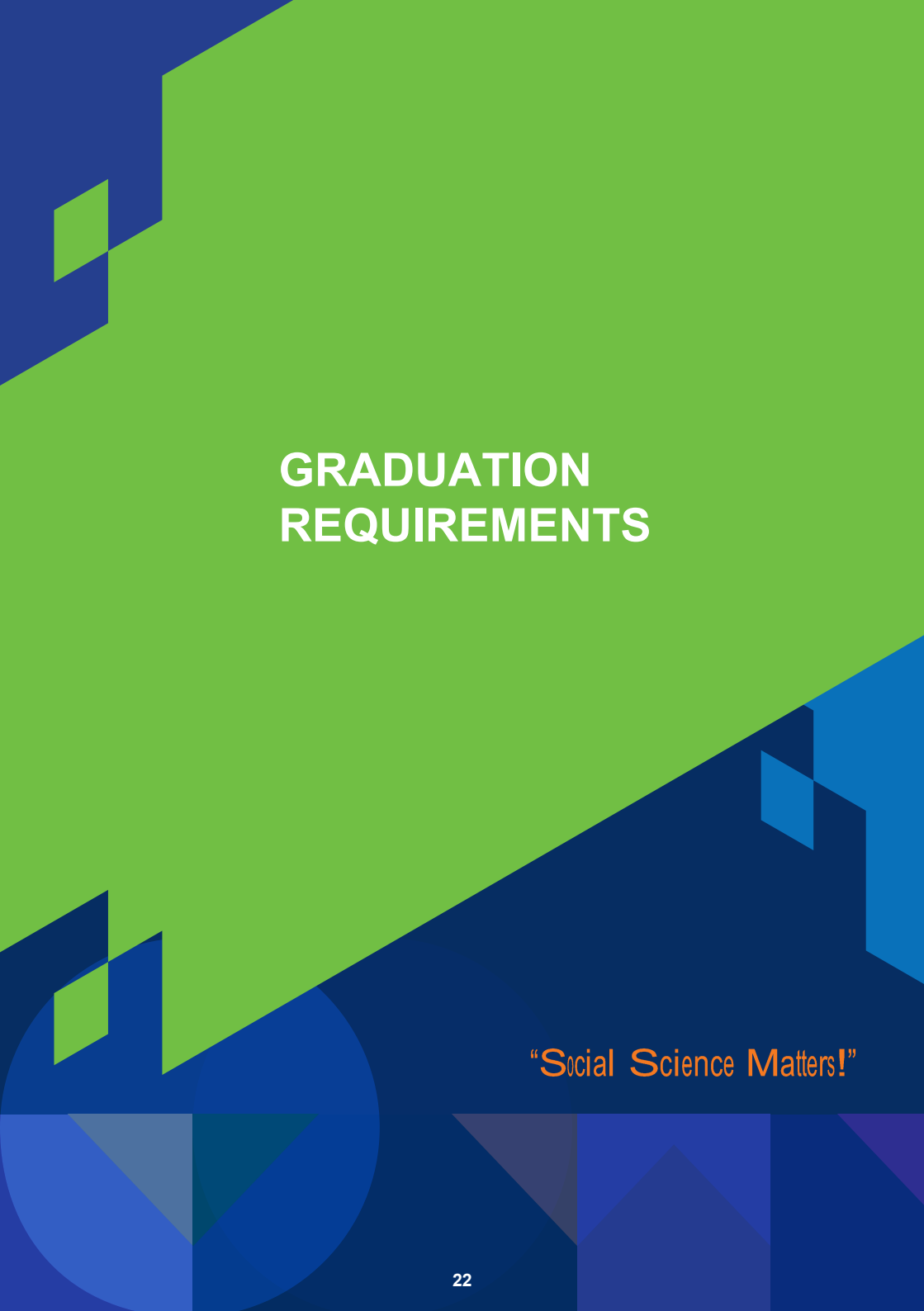
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Area of Specialisation: Migration, Gender and Development, Sexual and Reproductive Health



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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

“Social Science Matters!”

To graduate from the MSW programme, students must fulfil the following requirements:

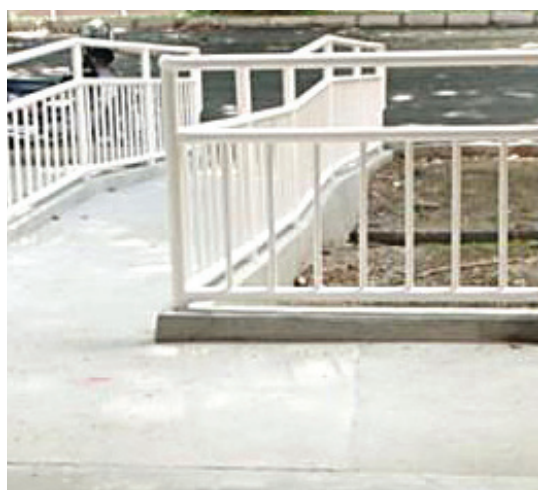
- (a) Fulfil the minimum duration of candidature
- (b) Achieve a CGPA of at least 3.00 out of 4.00.
- (c) Complete a minimum of 600 hours of practicum.
- (d) Pass a dissertation comprising 20,000 to 25,000 words.
- (e) Accumulate a total of 44 credits.
- (f) Obtain a minimum grade of C for Malaysian Culture and Malay Language (LKM111).

This course is compulsory for all international students.

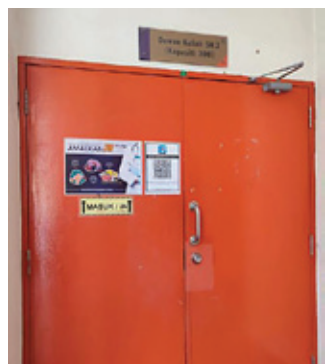
PTJ FACILITIES

“Social Science Matters!”

Facilities



Building C 23



Computer Lab

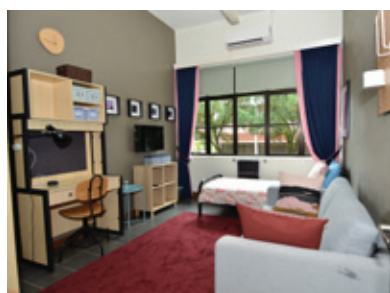
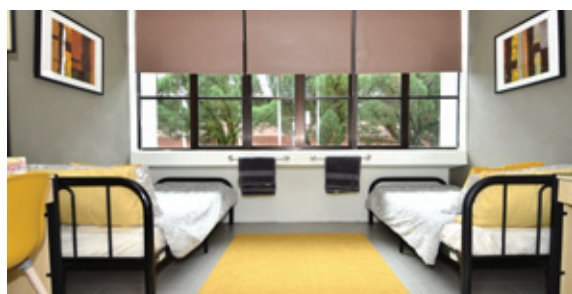




Sport Facilities



Accommodation



ACADEMIC CALENDAR

“Social Science Matters!”



ACADEMIC CALENDAR - ACADEMIC SESSION 2026/2027

FOR ALL SCHOOLS (EXCEPT FOR SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND SCHOOL OF DENTAL SCIENCES)

Main Campus : Registration for New Student (18 - 20 September 2026) / **Orientation Week (21 - 26 September 2026)

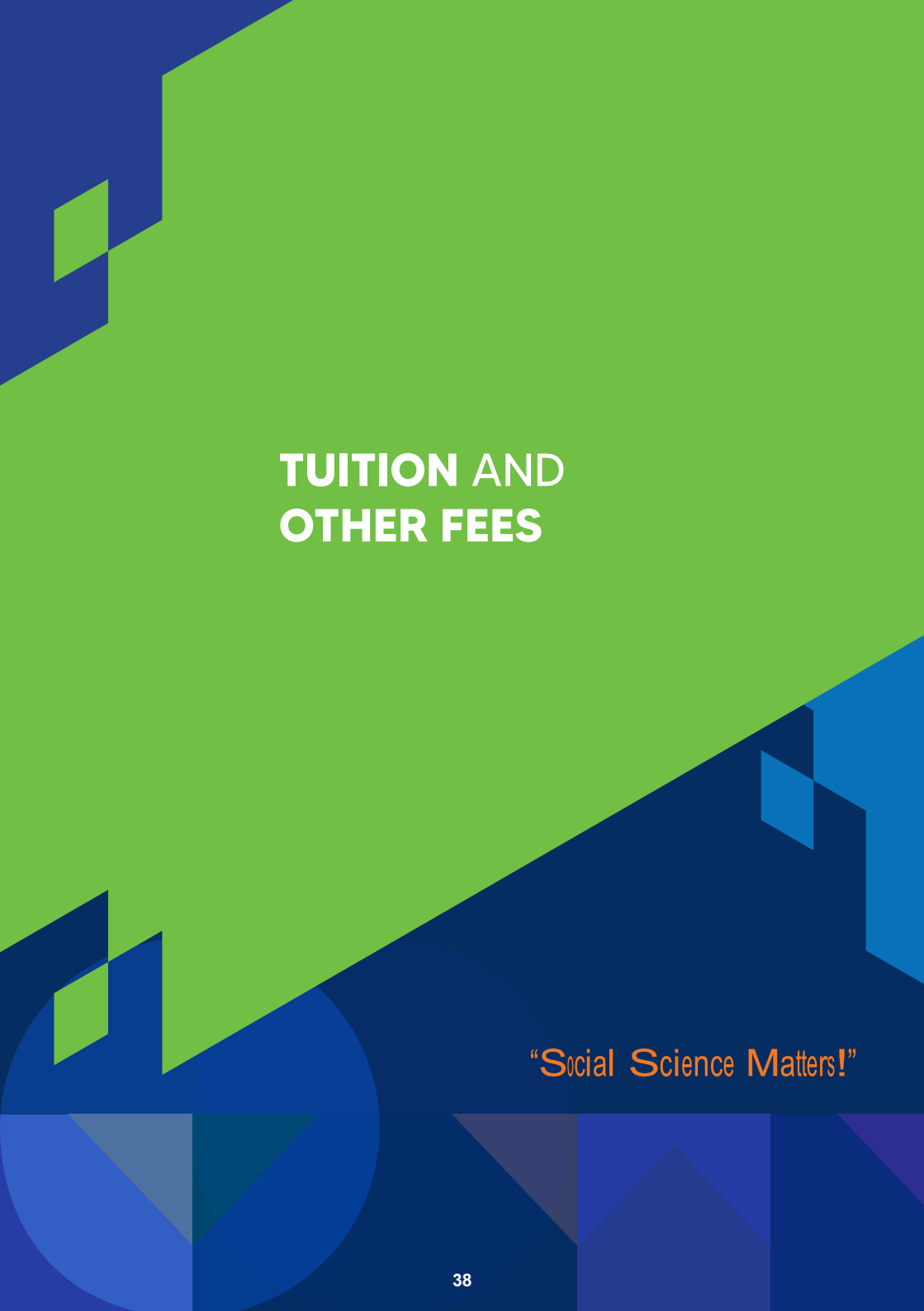
Engineering Campus : Registration for New Student (20 September 2026) / **Orientation Week (21 - 26 September 2026)

Health Campus : Registration for New Student (19 September 2026) / **Orientation Week (21 - 26 September 2026)

SEM	WEEKS	ACTIVITIES	DATES	REMARKS
ONE	1	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 28.09.2026 - Sunday, 04.10.2026	29 & 30.09.2026, Tuesday & Wednesday - Sultan of Kelantan's Birthday (Health Campus)
	2		Monday, 05.10.2026 - Sunday, 11.10.2026	
	3		Monday, 12.10.2026 - Sunday, 18.10.2026	
	4		Monday, 19.10.2026 - Sunday, 25.10.2026	
	5		Monday, 26.10.2026 - Sunday, 01.11.2026	
	6		Monday, 02.11.2026 - Sunday, 08.11.2026	08.11.2026, Sunday - Deepavali**
	7		Monday, 09.11.2026 - Sunday, 15.11.2026	
	8	Mid-Semester Break (Sem I) (1 Week)	Monday, 16.11.2026 - Sunday, 22.11.2026	
	9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 23.11.2026 - Sunday, 29.11.2026	
	10		Monday, 30.11.2026 - Sunday, 06.12.2026	
	11		Monday, 07.12.2026 - Sunday, 13.12.2026	
	12		Monday, 14.12.2026 - Sunday, 20.12.2026	
	13		Monday, 21.12.2026 - Sunday, 27.12.2026	25.12.2026, Friday - Christmas Day
	14		Monday, 28.12.2026 - Sunday, 03.01.2027	01.01.2027, Friday - New Year 2027
	15		Monday, 04.01.2027 - Sunday, 10.01.2027	
	16	Revision Week (1 Week)	Monday, 11.01.2027 - Sunday, 17.01.2027	
	17	Examination (3 Weeks)	Monday, 18.01.2027 - Sunday, 24.01.2027	22.01.2027, Friday - Thaipusam
	18		Monday, 25.01.2027 - Sunday, 31.01.2027	
	19		Monday, 01.02.2027 - Sunday, 07.02.2027	06 & 07.02.2027, Saturday & Sunday - Chinese New Year
	20	Mid-Semester Break / Industrial Training (4 Weeks)	Monday, 08.02.2027 - Sunday, 14.02.2027	08.02.2027, Monday - First Day of Ramadan
	21		Monday, 15.02.2027 - Sunday, 21.02.2027	
	22		Monday, 22.02.2027 - Sunday, 28.02.2027	24.02.2027, Wednesday - Nuzul Al-Quran
	23		Monday, 01.03.2027 - Sunday, 07.03.2027	
TWO	24/1	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 08.03.2027 - Sunday, 14.03.2027	10 & 11.03.2027, Wednesday & Thursday - Eid al-Fitr**
	25/2		Monday, 15.03.2027 - Sunday, 21.03.2027	
	26/3		Monday, 22.03.2027 - Sunday, 28.03.2027	
	27/4		Monday, 29.03.2027 - Sunday, 04.04.2027	
	28/5		Monday, 05.04.2027 - Sunday, 11.04.2027	
	29/6		Monday, 12.04.2027 - Sunday, 18.04.2027	
	30/7		Monday, 19.04.2027 - Sunday, 25.04.2027	
	31/8	Mid-Semester Break (Sem II) (1 Week)	Monday, 26.04.2027 - Sunday, 02.05.2027	01.05.2027, Saturday - Labour Day 02.05.2027, Sunday - Substitute Holiday for Labour Day (Health Campus)
	32/9	Teaching & Learning (T&L 7 Weeks)	Monday, 03.05.2027 - Sunday, 09.05.2027	
	33/10		Monday, 10.05.2027 - Sunday, 16.05.2027	
	34/11		Monday, 17.05.2027 - Sunday, 23.05.2027	17.05.2027, Monday - Eid al-Adha** 18.05.2027, Tuesday - Substitute Holiday for Eid al-Adha** (Health Campus) 20.05.2027, Thursday - Wesak Day
	35/12		Monday, 24.05.2027 - Sunday, 30.05.2027	
	36/13		Monday, 31.05.2027 - Sunday, 06.06.2027	06.06.2027, Sunday - Islamic New Year
	37/14		Monday, 07.06.2027 - Sunday, 13.06.2027	07.06.2027, Monday - Substitute Holiday for Islamic New Year (Main Campus & Engineering Campus) 07.06.2027, Monday - Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday
	38/15		Monday, 14.06.2027 - Sunday, 20.06.2027	
	39/16	Revision Week (1 Week)	Monday, 21.06.2027 - Sunday, 27.06.2027	
	40/17	**Examination (2 Week)	Monday, 28.06.2027 - Sunday, 04.07.2027	
	41/18		Monday, 05.07.2027 - Sunday, 11.07.2027	07.07.2027, Wednesday - Georgetown World Heritage City Day 10.07.2027, Saturday - Penang Governor's Birthday
	42/19		Monday, 12.07.2027 - Sunday, 18.07.2027	
COURSES DURING SEMESTER BREAK	43/20	Semester II Break / Industrial Training (10-11 Weeks)	Monday, 19.07.2027 - Sunday, 25.07.2027	
	44/21		Monday, 26.07.2027 - Sunday, 01.08.2027	
	45/22		Monday, 02.08.2027 - Sunday, 08.08.2027	
	46/23		Monday, 09.08.2027 - Sunday, 15.08.2027	15.08.2027, Sunday - Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
	47/24		Monday, 16.08.2027 - Sunday, 22.08.2027	16.08.2027, Monday - Substitute Holiday for Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
	48/25		Monday, 23.08.2027 - Sunday, 29.08.2027	
	49/26		Monday, 30.08.2027 - Sunday, 05.09.2027	31.08.2027, Tuesday - National Day
	50/27		Monday, 06.09.2027 - Sunday, 12.09.2027	
	51/28		Monday, 13.09.2027 - Sunday, 19.09.2027	16.09.2027, Thursday - Malaysia Day
	52/29		Monday, 20.09.2027 - Sunday, 26.09.2027	

**This Academic Calendar is subject to change

HEBAHAN BPA BIL. 1/2026 (13 FEBRUARI 2026)
SENAT KEB-207 (20 JANUARI 2026)



TUITION AND OTHER FEES

“Social Science Matters!”

One-Off Fees				
	Malaysian (MYR)		International (USD)	
Registration fee	330.00		225.00	
Personal Bond	N/A		1000.00	
Convocation Fee	200.00		50.00	

	Malaysian (MYR)		International (USD)	
	Full Time/sem	Part Time/sem	Full Time/sem	Part Time/sem
Master of Social Work	22,000.00		9,240.00	

Disclaimers:

- 1) The above rates are effective from Academic Session 2026/2027.
- 2) Fees are subject to change.
- 3) Final fees should be confirmed before any commitment to be made.
- 4) Any discrepancies on the fees, the correct amount by USM Bursary are to be used.

Please direct all enquiries regarding postgraduate programmes to:

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