

Programme Specification for BSc (Hons) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Top-Up

This document applies to Academic Year 2025/26 onwards

Table 1 programme specification for BSc (Hons) CAMH Top-up

1.	Awarding institution / body	University of Worcester
2.	Teaching institution	University of Worcester
3.	Programme accredited by	N/A
4.	Final award	BSc (Hons)
5.	Programme title	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Top-Up
6.	Pathways available	Single Honours
7.	Mode and / or site of delivery	Standard taught programme at University of Worcester
8.	Mode of Attendance and duration	Full-time (1 year), part-time (2 years)
9.	UCAS Code	B736
10.	Subject Benchmark statement and / or professional body statement	Guidance has been sought from: Subject Benchmark Statement Health Studies (QAA 2019) National Occupational Standards (NOS) Health and Social Care (Skills for Care 2012)
11.	Date of Programme Specification Preparation / Revision	June 2015 May 2016 IQC changes to module CAMH3007 June 2017 approval of programme to add TLI and removal of requirement for interview. January 2019 updates to template (mapping of learning outcomes reformatted, sections 19 and 21 removed, section renumbering) July 2019 minor updates following periodic review August 2019 AQU amendments to Section 19. August 2020 QAA subject benchmark statement links updated August 2020 – AQU amendments to Section 19. April 2021 – Independent Study renamed to Dissertation. August 2021 – AQU amendments including reference to TLI removed. August 2022 – template updates. AQU amendments (section 19). July 2023 – annual updates July 2025 – updates to award map/other sections following reapproval of APhS modules (which are optional on this course).

12. Educational Aims of the Programme

This Course aims to develop the learner's understanding of the mental health and well-being of children and young people. It seeks to develop core competencies and knowledge appropriate to those who are currently working or who plan to work in the field of child and adolescent mental health. It is expected that students will either be progressing Foundation Degree students from University of Worcester courses, especially, but not exclusively, the [FdSc Child and Adolescent Mental Health](#) course, or from other Institutions where study has been evidenced up to Level 5. It is also expected to be of particular appeal to workers from universal settings, such as schools, early years settings and Children's Centres, who have direct experience of working with children young people and families, and who wish to increase their Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) specialist knowledge and their core competencies.

This course aims to:

- Increase knowledge and critical awareness of factors influencing mental health and well-being of children and young people;
- Enable students to consider and critique the promotion of child and adolescent mental health and for those working in universal settings to be able to recognise mental health problems, make sound judgements and appropriately plan to meet the mental health needs of children and young people, in association with their family, carers and other professionals;
- Provide students with the opportunity to build on existing knowledge and experience of children and young people and further critically develop specific knowledge and competencies relevant to the context of child and adolescent mental health;
- Engage students in critical debate regarding the social, cultural, moral, legal and political context of child and adolescent mental health;
- Develop students' appreciation and critical application of the core values and competencies underpinning working with children, young people and their families or carers;
- Develop students' interpersonal and therapeutic communication skills and enable students who are in the workplace to critically identify, use and communicate relevant information effectively in a range of universal settings;
- Provide opportunities for students to critically develop and enhance key skills to prepare for further study and/or employment and lifelong learning;
- Enable students to identify, acknowledge and analyse personal professional development needs and critically implement appropriate development strategies;
- To enhance employability and understanding of roles and responsibilities in the workplace through reflective learning experiences and the development of critically reflective practice.
- Give students the necessary skills, knowledge and potential to confidently problem solve in a range of universal settings.

13. Intended Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods*Table 2 Knowledge and understanding*

Knowledge and Understanding		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Critically reflect on the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to promote mental health and work effectively with children and young people with mental health problems	CAMH 3005 CAMH 3007
2.	Respect the rights, and promote the interests, dignity and independence of all children and young people with mental health problems, whilst protecting them from danger or harm	CAMH 3008 CAMH 3005

Table 1 cognitive and intellectual skills outcomes for module code/s

Cognitive and Intellectual skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Critically evaluate relevant theoretical frameworks and concepts and critically apply these to practice in child and adolescent mental health in a variety of contexts	CAMH 3006 CAMH 3005
2.	Establish and maintain trust and confidence in children and young people, carers and the public by demonstrating, analysing and taking responsibility for maintaining and improving knowledge and skills	CAMH 3005/6/7/8
3.	Critically reflect upon own and others' ideas, beliefs and values and demonstrate an appreciation of difference and diversity	CAMH 3005/6/7/8
4.	Evaluate appropriate evidence and research to underpin practice and decision making.	CAMH 3005/6/7/8 APHS 3102

Table 2 skills and capabilities related to employment outcomes for module code/s

Skills and capabilities related to employability		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Identify the needs and effectively support and assist children and young people who may have emotional or mental health problems	CAMH 3005 CAMH 3006
2.	Respect difference and diversity and demonstrate anti-oppressive and inclusive practice	CAMH 3005/6/7/8
3.	Work in collaboration and partnership with others across a range of different agencies and disciplines within children & young people's services	CAMH 3005/6/7/8
4.	Empower children and young people with emotional and / or mental health problems as active participants	CAMH 3006 CAMH 3008
5.	Engage in, and disengage from, professional relationships using appropriate and sensitive communication and interpersonal skills	CAMH 3005 CAMH 3006
6.	Communicate effectively to promote partnerships in the planning and delivery of care.	CAMH 3005 CAMH 3006

Table 3 transferable/key skills outcomes for module code/s

Transferable/key skills		
LO no.	On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:	Module Code/s
1.	Use reflective practice to develop knowledge and skills	CAMH 3005 CAMH 3006
2.	Recognise own learning needs, draw up personal action plans and take responsibility for personal development and learning	CAMH 3005/6/7/8 APHS 3102
3.	Effectively manage self (time, planning, motivation, and initiative) and prioritise own work	CAMH 3005/6/7/8 APHS 3102
4.	Communicate appropriately and effectively through a variety of mediums, including oral and written communication.	CAMH 3005/6/7/8

Learning, teaching and assessment

Teaching

Most teaching sessions are face to face on campus. A blended learning approach will be taken. Lectures or lecture workshops for some modules will be delivered online either 'live' or pre-recorded. Individual and small group tutorials will be arranged online or face to face. APHS3002, Dissertation, will be taught online as per recent changes to the module specification.

The principles of inclusive, Universal Design for Learning (UDL) underpin our commitment to offer flexible ways of learning. This includes innovative teaching methods; flexible study resources, electronic teaching materials so you can modify the font and background colour; and flexible ways of assessing learning. Examples of learning, teaching and assessment methods used:

- A programme of structured lectures, interactive seminars, group work sessions, individual tutorials and Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) support
- The planning, researching and writing of assignments and subsequent oral and written feedback is fully supported by the use of formative [preparatory] assessment
- Work-based scenarios and case studies from CAMHS and universal settings.
- Practical, experiential assignments – e.g., Video and practice of communication and interpersonal skills and group work, intervention plans, case studies, health promotion posters
- Use of VLE to encourage discussion, shared learning and development and assessment of attitudes and values
- A variety of assessment strategies including essays, oral presentations, reports, group work, critiques, evidencing practice and research related tasks
- The dissertation requires students to select, research and relate theory to a CAMH based topic or issue
- All modules encourage learners to engage in discussion and application of key concepts to a work-based context
- Higher order independent learning and critical skills at level 6 (with additional tutor support in line with UW's Intended Learning Outcomes policy).
- Reflection and case study work offers students the opportunity to engage in problem solving and decision making and demonstrate awareness of own strengths, limitations, responsibility

and accountability

- Evidence-based research informed knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation is assessed throughout modules
- Practical, experiential, role play and group work sessions to develop assessment, communication and interpersonal skills
- Use of case studies
- Reflective papers and summaries on self-development of knowledge, skills and attributes.
- Subject librarian contributes to study skills sessions on accessing and searching for information sources, using databases and Web-based sources
- All modules are focussed on learning for professional practice and include opportunities for group discussions and sharing experiences. Some modules include group assessments.
- Development of skills for critical reflection throughout the course and additionally through assignments in a number of modules
- Opportunities in modules and additional support sessions to develop skills in using PowerPoint, word processing, e-mailing, Excel
- Completion of a range of different assessment items throughout the course to develop written, oral and other communication skills.

In addition, meetings with Personal Academic Tutors are scheduled on at least three occasions within the year. The University places emphasis on enabling students to develop the independent learning capabilities that will equip them for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. A mixture of independent study, teaching and academic support from Student Services and Library Services, and also the Personal Academic Tutoring system enables students to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will help them to flourish and be successful.

Contact time

In a typical week students will have around 9-10 contact hours of teaching. The precise contact hours will depend on the optional modules selected and in the final year there is normally slightly less contact time in order to do more independent study.

Typically, class contact time will be structured around:

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Assessment workshops

Independent self-study

In addition to the contact time, students are expected to undertake around 22 hours of personal self-study week. Typically, this will involve preparation study required for lectures, reading and post lecture work requested by lecturers, reading, and preparing for assessments and dissertation, progressing study skills to improve grades/engagement with learning and the course.

Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including the Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment, and extensive electronic learning resources.

Teaching staff

Students will be taught by a teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. Teaching is informed by research and consultancy, and 4 lecturers on the course have a higher education teaching qualification or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

Assessment

The course provides opportunities to test understanding and learning informally through the

completion of practice or 'formative' assignments. Each module has one or more formal or 'summative' assessment which is graded and counts towards the overall module grade.

Assessment methods include essays, presentations, dissertation, case study analysis, child/young person observations, viva voce.

The precise assessment requirements for an individual student in an academic year will vary according to the mandatory and optional modules taken, but a typical formal summative assessment pattern for each year of the course is:

Year 1 – assessment methods as detailed above are spread throughout the year, specific information about exact assessment and submission date are detailed within Course handbook and module outlines.

14. Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy is designed to help students develop the knowledge, skills and competence to practice as competent professional workers in the arena of child and adolescent mental health on completion of the program. The modules and their assessments use UDL approaches and are designed to enable students to demonstrate their achievement of the course aims and outcomes. Assessments provide opportunities to analyse and evaluate evidence and current practices and to apply this knowledge within their own developing practice.

The Course Team are committed to developing and enhancing students' competence by providing them with on-going opportunities to demonstrate skills of self-reflection, evaluation of existing evidence and application of new learning. Assessment arrangements are in-line with the [Inclusive Assessment Policy](#) offering alternative options to support individualised learning and making provision for reasonable adjustments. Students will be assessed in a variety of ways that promote deep learning including oral and poster presentations, case study analysis, observational studies and reflective writing.

Each assignment has specific marking criteria contained in the relevant module outline which are available to students at the beginning of the module. These are based on the generic assessment criteria contained within the University's [Generic Grade Descriptors](#)

A grid showing assessment methods and weightings mapped to modules at each level is included in the assessment section of the Course Handbook.

Submission dates are module specific and located in the module outline provided at the beginning of each module.

15. Programme Structures and Requirements

The course is designed to be studied, full or part-time. A detailed schedule for the course showing how modules are delivered over the academic year and further information regarding full time and part time delivery is detailed within the course handbook. The modules for the BSc (Hons) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Top-Up degree are presented in the table below:

AWARD MAP BSc (Hons) CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH Top Up

Table 6 award map for BSc (Hons) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Top-up

MODULE CODE	TITLE	CREDITS	STATUS Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)
CAMH 3005	Understanding CAMH & Core Competencies for working with Children, Young People and Families	30	M
CAMH 3006	Therapeutic Ways of Working with Children, Young People and Families	30	M
CAMH 3007	Promoting CAMH in Universal Settings	15	O
APHS 3102	Dissertation	30	M
CAMH 3008	Empowering & Involving Children & Young People; Children & Young People's Rights	15	O
APHS3109	Substance Misuse	15	O
APHS3110	Domestic Abuse	15	O

Single Honours Requirements at Level 6

Single Honours students must take 120 credits in total to include CAMH 3005, CAMH 3006 and APHS 3102 plus 30 credits from 2 optional modules.

16. QAA and Professional Academic Standards and Quality

This award is located at Level 6 of the [OfS sector recognised standards](#). Additionally, a number of key policy documents have informed the development of this programme:

- [Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Programme](#)
- [No Health without Mental Health](#) A cross-government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages (DfH 2011).
- [Future in Mind: Promoting, Protecting and Improving our Children and Young People's Mental Health and Well-being](#) (DH 2015).
- [Every Child Matters](#) (2003) and the [Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Childrens Workforce](#) (DfES, 2005);

- [The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services \(2004\) Standard 9: 'The Mental Health and Psychological Well-being of Children and Young People'](#)
- [The Five Year Forward for Mental Health \(2016\)](#)
- [Transforming children and young people's mental health provision: a green paper \(2017\)](#)
- [NHS Long Term Plan \(2019\)](#)
- [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education \(2019\)](#)
- [Government Response to the Consultation on *Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision: a Green Paper and Next Steps* \(2018\)](#)
- [Covid-19 Mental Health & Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan 2021](#)

17. Support for Students

To enhance the student experience and to ensure that students are aware and have access to the full range of academic and welfare support available a comprehensive range of measures are in place.

Within the course support includes:

- All students will be allocated a Personal Academic Tutor on commencement of the course. In addition, module tutors will provide specific educational guidance.
- Personal Development Planning (PDP) will be facilitated within action learning sets or learning groups operating in conjunction with supervision and support.
- Students will develop a personal development record in which they will record and reflect on their personal development through learning activities, assignments and through the use of a reflective learning journal and practice recordings.
- Students will be supported by module tutors responsible for individual modules. Critical reflection and application of theory to practice will be an essential component of all modules.
- Blackboard, a feature of the University's eLearning provision, will be useful for students off campus to access a virtual learning environment and maintain contact with tutors and peers.
- [Library Services](#) provide library, IT support and an Information and Enquiry Desk and Study Guides.
- Student Services provide a range of support including programme advisers, finance, welfare and accommodation advice, and additional Study Guides.

Further useful support links for students:

<https://www2.worc.ac.uk/firstpoint/>

<https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/services-for-students/home.aspx>

<https://www2.worc.ac.uk/disabilityanddyslexia/>

18. Admissions

Admissions policy

The University of Worcester seeks to admit students who have the capacity to benefit from study at higher education level, and Admissions Tutors seek to identify applicants who can demonstrate their

potential to succeed at this level.

The admission of students is based on the reasonable expectation that the applicant will be able to fulfil the objectives and achieve the standard required for the award for which they are registered.

The University is committed to widening access to and participation in HE by raising awareness and expectations in the pre-university community in order to increase the pool of qualified candidates who can benefit from the provision on offer.

No student will be subjected to less favourable treatment on grounds of race, ethnic or national origins, colour, gender, sexuality, parental status, marital status, disability status, creed, political belief or social or economic background.

Support for disabled students can be negotiated through the Disability Co-ordinator who works from the [Disability & Dyslexia Support Service](#). Early contact is advisable to ensure appropriate levels of support from the outset of the student's course.

The University recognises the importance of the provision of accurate and appropriate pre-entry information and support to prospective students in order to ensure that all applicants are given every opportunity to choose courses in an informed manner and to be admitted to a suitable course.

Entry Requirements

The current entry requirements for the BSc (Hons) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Top Up are published on the University website: <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/courses/child-adolescent-mental-health-bsc-hons-top-up.html>

Students must have a Foundation Degree, DipHE, HND or equivalent qualification in health, care, welfare or related subject. A supportive academic reference is also required. Students applying to progress to the top-up from other areas of study than the FdSc Child and Adolescent Mental Health will also have to evidence experience of working with children and young people. Please see the University's [Admissions Policy](#) for other acceptable qualifications.

International Students

Applications from international students are welcomed. International students must hold:

- A qualification equivalent to a UK Diploma worth 240 credits: 120 credits at level 4 and 120 credits at level 5.
- An appropriate or relevant professional qualification.
- If English is not the first language students are required to achieve IELTS 6.0 or equivalency according to the University's admission criteria.
- An appropriate visa.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Details of acceptable level 4 & 5 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages. Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available from the University webpages or from the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111). Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

Admissions Procedures

Full-time applicants apply through UCAS (B736) Completing University of Worcester Foundation degree students can apply via an internal UW application on their Student Sole page.

Admissions/Selection Criteria

The University of Worcester welcomes applications from candidates from all social and ethnic backgrounds and is committed to the promotion of equal opportunities for all. Applicants will need to have previous experience of working with children and young people as well as academic qualifications to Level 5. They will be expected to demonstrate the knowledge and values required for working with children and young people. All suitable applicants will be invited for an applicant information session.

19. Regulation of Assessment

The course operates under the **University's Taught Courses Regulatory Framework**

Requirements to pass modules:

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

Submission of assessment items:

- Students who submit course work late but within 7 days (one week) of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 7 days (one week) will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations see University's Taught Courses Regulatory Framework

Retrieval of failure:

- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or in some circumstances take an alternative module) the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student will be notified of the reassessment opportunities in the results notification issued via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and comply with any reassessments.

Requirements for Progression:

- A student who, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, has failed 90 credits or more (after exhausting all reassessment opportunities) during the academic year, will have their registration with the University terminated.
- If a student has not passed at least 90 credits by the reassessment Board of Examiners, the student will be required to retake the failed modules in the following academic year. Students will be able to carry forward any passed modules.

Requirements for Awards:

Table 7 requirements for awards

Award	Requirement
Top up Degree (non-honours)	Passed a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6 as specified on the award map, including mandatory modules CAMH 3005 (Understanding CAMH & Core Competencies for Working with Children, Young People and Families) and CAMH 3006 (Therapeutic Ways of Working with Children, Young People and Families) and not including the Independent Study module.
Top up Degree with Honours	Passed a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6 as specified on the award map, including mandatory modules CAMH 3005 (Understanding CAMH & Core Competencies for Working with Children, Young People and Families) and CAMH 3006 (Therapeutic Ways of Working with Children, Young People and Families), plus APHS3102 (Dissertation Independent Study) as specified on the award map.

Classification

Classification is determined on the profile of the 120 credits attained at Level 6 only.

Classification will be based on the weighted average grade together with a requirement for at least half of the Level 6 grades to be in the higher class.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

Please Note: The above method of classification applies to students entering the Top-up degree from September 2022 onwards.

20. Graduate Destinations, Employability & Links with Employers

Graduate Destinations

Universal settings and communities where children and young people are a focus; including education, early year's, children's social care or health are now recognising the importance of focussing on their emotional health and well-being within those individual contexts. There is a 'window of opportunity' to help, support and improve health outcomes for children and young people. It is now recognised by HM Government that a core set of competencies and child and adolescent mental health knowledge are necessary skills for workers in these communities and settings.

Students will benefit from the strong links to practice already established across the academic unit and will engage with specialist professionals from practice in the classroom. They will also have the opportunity to develop networks across universal settings.

Students will locate themselves within the policy and strategic contexts shaping child and adolescent mental health. Successful graduates will have access to a range of employment opportunities in child and adolescent mental health contexts. As an example previous students have gained employment within; inpatient CAMHS settings, Community Development Worker, Mental Health & Wellbeing Education/Pastoral Lead.

Opportunities for Further Study

On completion of this award students may also consider further study at Masters Level. Relevant Masters Programmes at the University of Worcester include:

- MA Social Work
- MSc Public Health
- Postgraduate Cert in Education PGCE Primary (QTS)
- MSc Counselling
- Early Years Initial Teacher Training
- MA Education

Student Employability

Graduate employability remains a high priority which reflects both university aspirations and the vocationally focused nature of the course. The course will be constantly reviewed to ensure that it is fit for purpose and capable of equipping students to meet employment challenges.

Evidence suggests that students graduating from similar programmes are competing favourably for employment and that a wider range of employers than ever before are recognising the contribution that effectively trained and knowledgeable practitioners can make to the improvement of children and young people's emotional health and well-being in universal settings. This course will also add value and career change opportunities for existing professionals from nursing and education.

Graduate employability will be tracked and monitored through Higher Education Statistics Agency data generated from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey.

Links with Employers

Close working relationships with employers exist through the delivery of the FdSc CAMH. Colleagues from the statutory, voluntary and independent sector have assisted and influenced the development of this course. They continue to maintain an ongoing relationship which will ensure the contemporaneous nature of dynamic conditions in practice and combined with research and feedback from students.

Students and graduates of the course will benefit from the strong links to practice, already established; experienced CAMH practitioners contribute to both taught aspects of the course and to a range of on-going quality assurance arrangements.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation eg course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.