

SOCIAL WORKERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Social workers provide support, advice and counselling to their clients and can arrange protection and accommodation where necessary. Social workers work in the community assessing clients' needs and planning and implementing action to help meet these needs.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

A social worker requires an accredited honours degree or postgraduate degree in social work followed by registration with the General Social Care Council in England, the Care Council for Wales, the Northern Ireland Social Care Council or with the Scottish Social Services Council.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

On 1 April 2005, protection of the title 'Social Worker' was introduced in England and Wales. On the 1 June 2005, it was introduced in Northern Ireland and then for Scotland on 1 September 2005. Protection of title means that it is an offence for workers to describe themselves as a social worker with intent to deceive. **After 1 September 2005, if a worker is not registered with one of the four care councils in the UK they should not use the job title of social worker**

To fulfil the qualification criteria for registration, the worker will have to show how they meet the requirements of the Diploma in Social Work; they may refer to their relevant social work qualification, education, training and work experience. This will be replaced in 2007 with a 3-year degree in social working.

The International Recognition Service (IRS) of the GSCC will administer this process on behalf of the four care councils and will inform the registering Council of the DipSW equivalency assessment. The registering Council will make the final decision on all overseas social workers registration applications. The registering council may make one of three possible assessment recommendations:

- (1) The worker meets the requirements and their application for registration may continue.
- (2) The worker has a shortfall in their experience, which needs to be gained in the UK before registration can be considered.
- (3) The worker's professional skills do not meet the requirements and the applicant will need to undertake professional social work training in the UK. This will involve training as a student, not as a worker.

If the applicant is required to do additional training, the applicant will NOT be granted registration with conditions in the UK.

Registered Students

Students who are studying for a Social Care Work degree may register with the GSCC as a Registered Student. This registration is not statutory and provides links between the four regulatory bodies and educational institutes in the United Kingdom. Registered Students **cannot** undertake work in the UK as a Social Worker.

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C

To meet the work permit criteria the applicant must be registered with one of the statutory bodies and hold a registration number to verify this registration. Where this information is not provided caseworkers should assume that the social worker is not GSCC registered. Caseworkers should always check the relevant GSCC Register to confirm that a social worker holds the required registration before approving an application.

For pre-registration overseas trained social workers applications must be accompanied by a letter from the GSCC outlining what further training the OSN requires to gain registration. The training period can be anything from 80 days to 2 years. Caseworkers should conditionally approve the work permit using the P70H template, pending the submission of the social workers registration number on completion of the supervised learning period.

Caseworkers should ensure when checking the GSCC Register that the applicant appears on the register as a **Registered Social Worker** and not as a Registered Student.

Please check for registration details on the relevant registering council website. If any anomalies are found, please raise these as an issue with the relevant registering council. **Please note** that registration is always in the name by which they are known by at work, which is not necessarily the worker's passport name.

As the stage 1 application letter previously issued by the GSCC has been phased out please refer to the GSCC if one appears with the application. Any correspondence from the GSCC that is not a registration letter does not signify acceptance to the register.

TWES

Training

This occupation is not suitable for TWES Training.

Work Experience

This occupation is not suitable for TWES Work experience as only qualified and registered social workers will be allowed to work in the UK.

SALARY INFORMATION

Social Workers – starting grade	£19,800 to £28,000
Social Workers – 2-3 years experience	£21,000 to £35,000
Senior Social Workers – 10-15 years experience	£50,000 plus

This is a national salary scale, but variations exist between jobs and regions.

ADVERTISING

The occupation of qualified, GSCC registered social worker is a shortage occupation.

Caseworkers should note, social worker jobs may be advertised in relevant sections of national newspapers, for instance the Guardian newspapers “Guardian Society” section, which is published on a Wednesday. Jobs may also be advertised in specialist publications such as:

Community Care Magazine, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.
Tel: 0208 661 3500. E-mail www.community-care.co.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

GSCC, Goldings House, 2 Hays Lane, London SE1 2HB. Tel: 020 7397 5100, Fax: 0207 397 5101, Website: www.gsc.org.uk. GSCC IRS, Tel: 0207 645 3464, Fax: 0207 645 3469 or E-mail: irs@gsc.org.uk.

Not for public disclosure

Contact for registration anomalies is Rachael Ratcliffe, Applications Manager, Tel: 01788 532431. (If unavailable, ask to speak to one of her section leaders)
Diane Smith is the lead liaison with WPUK on behalf of all four care councils, Tel 0207 645 3453.

Not for Public Disclosure

Cyngor Gofal Cymru - Care Council for Wales: South Gate, Wood Street, Cardiff CF10 1EW. Tel: 0292 022 6257, e-mail: info@ccwales.org.uk, website:

Not for public disclosure

Contact Dr Ruth Geuter, Cofrestrydd or Registrar Ffon, tel 029 2078 0656

Not for public disclosure

NISCC, 7TH Floor, Millennium House, Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AQ. Tel: 0289 041 7600 E-Mail: info@niscc.ni.nhs.uk, Website: www.niscc.info.

Not for public disclosure

Contact Ann Crawford, Registration Manager – 028 904 17626

Not for public disclosure

Internal Caseworker Guidance

SSSC, Compass House, Discovery Quay, 11 Riverside Drive, Dundee DD1 4NY. Tel: 01382 207 101, Fax: 013 8220 7215, website: www.sssc.uk.com, emails: enquires@sssc.uk.com

Not for public disclosure

Contact Debra Costello, Registration Manager or Melanie Taylor on 01382 207253

Not for public disclosure