

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL WORK STUDIES

Overview

NFQ Level 9, Major Award

The Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work Studies is a professional training programme running for 21 months over two academic years from the date of first registration for the programme.

Students take 60 credits in each year of the programme (a total of 120 credits). The programme is divided into six thematically-based combinations.

Transfer to MSW (Year Two)

The pass standard for modules on the Postgraduate Diploma is 40%. Students who achieve an aggregate of 50% in the First Year of the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work Studies and pass the Fieldwork Placements element of SS6112 may be permitted to transfer to the Second Year of the MSW (<https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/mswk/>) programme.

Exit Award from the MSW (NFQ Level 9, Major Award)

Candidates on the MSW (<https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/mswk/>) who fail to achieve an aggregate of 50%, but who have not fallen below 40% in any module in **Year 1**, and who have passed the Fieldwork Placement element (SS6112), will progress to the Second Year of the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work Studies.

Candidates who fail to achieve an aggregate of at least 50% across all taught modules in **Years 1 and 2**, but who have not fallen below 40% in any module, and who have passed the Fieldwork Placement element (SS6112), may also be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work Studies.

Programme Requirements

For information about modules, module choice, options and credit weightings, please go to Programme Requirements (p. 1).

Programme Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Students take 120 credits.		
Year 1 - Core Modules		
Students take 60 credits as follows:		
<i>Social Work, Counselling and Development Issues</i>		
SS6101	Social Work Approaches 1: Theory and Practice	10
SS6102	Human Growth and Development	5
SS6108	Child and Family Welfare I	5
<i>Social Work Practice and Fieldwork Placement I</i>		
SS6112	Practice Skills and Fieldwork Placement 1	20
<i>Social Science, Law and Social Work Settings</i>		
LW6005	Social Work and the Law (Child Law)	5
SS6105	Social Policy and Social Exclusion	5
SS6106	Applied Social Research	5
SS6107	User Experiences in Diverse Contexts I	5
Year 2 - Core Modules		
Students take 60 credits as follows:		

Social Work, User Groups and Law

LW6003	Social Work and the Law (The Rights of Vulnerable Persons)	5
SS6200	Social Work Approaches II: Theory and Practice	5
SS6201	Child and Family Welfare II	5
SS6202	User Experiences in Diverse Contexts II	5
<i>Social Work Practice, Counselling Skills and Fieldwork Placement II</i>		
SS6207	Practice Skills and Fieldwork Placement II	20
<i>Long Essay and Practice Presentation</i>		
SS6205	Practice Project	20
Total Credits		120

Programme Learning Outcomes

Programme Learning Outcomes for Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work Studies (NFQ Level 9, Major Award)

On successful completion of this programme, students should be able to:

- Apply knowledge of social systems and human behaviour to promote social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment of people to enhance their well-being;
- Apply knowledge of social policy to critically examine and respond to the impact of social and political contexts on service users and social work;
- Reflectively evaluate and implement the values and ethics of the profession of social work as embodied in the Irish Association of Social Workers, CORU and International Federation of Social Workers codes;
- Promote principles of social justice, human rights and anti-oppressive practice as intrinsic elements of social work practice;
- Demonstrate core social work practice proficiencies in the areas of: professional autonomy and accountability; communication, collaborative practice and teamworking; safety and quality; professional development; professional knowledge and skills;
- Demonstrate knowledge of theory, legislation, policy, official inquiry reports and international conventions, and apply this to assessment and intervention planning in social work practice;
- Illustrate a reflective approach to learning that is self-directed, strengths-based and reflective;
- Engage in a process of self-awareness, self-monitoring and continuous professional development;
- Develop as 'research minded' practitioners who will continue to update their knowledge and engage in systematic evaluation of their practice;
- Respond reflectively and reflexively as social workers in a variety of social work settings, including multi-disciplinary contexts;
- Complete a practice project that demonstrates their use of professional knowledge, values and skills in social work practice related situations.