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School of Applied Social Studies

A TRADITION OF CRITICAL EDUCATION & REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

Master of Social Work **(MSW)**

Postgraduate Dip. in Social Work Studies **(PDSWS)**

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
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Eligible Courses for Direct Entry to the Master of Social Work (MSW) and Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work Studies (PDSWS) programmes at University College Cork

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Eligible Programmes for Direct Entry to the MSW and PDSWS programmes at UCC

The following programmes have been deemed to be equivalent to the Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSc) at UCC for purposes of being eligible to apply **directly** to study for the Master of Social Work (2H1 or higher) or the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work Studies (PDSWS, pass or 2H2 grade in your degree).

While this list is not exhaustive, it is important to note that requests for equivalency applications MUST be completed by the School of Applied Social Studies to the College of CACSSS for candidates without a Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSc), BA Hons in Social Care, or a Higher Diploma in Social Policy/Social Studies or one of the approved programmes listed below. For example, applicants with undergraduate social work programmes (e.g. BSW) from other countries **can apply directly**, but an equivalence check must be undertaken if your application is successful.

If your programme is not listed, you may still be able to apply to the PDSWS programme under the Recognition of Prior Learning pathway (RPL). See www.ucc.ie/en/msw for further information on eligibility criteria for the RPL pathway.

Institution	Programme
All CORU-approved programmes (Republic of Ireland)	Honours (NFQ Level 8) social care degrees approved by the Social Care Workers Registration Board, including BA (Hons) Applied Social Studies / Social Care / Social Care Practice. See Section 3.
International universities	Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), subject to College approval case by case
Atlantic Technological University	BSc (Hons) in Health and Social Care (CORU-approved)
Dublin Business School	BA (Hons) Social Science
Kampala University	Bachelor of Social Work and Administration
Maynooth University	BSocSc (Hons)
Maynooth University	BA Community and Youth Work (MH116 full-time; MH117 part-time)
Maynooth University	BSocSc Community and Youth Work (part-time, in-service; MUB11, formerly MH802)
Munster Technological University (formerly CIT)	BA (Hons) Community Development
Munster Technological University (formerly CIT)	Bachelor (Hons) Early Years Education
South East Technological University (formerly IT Carlow)	Higher Diploma in Applied Social Studies
South East Technological University (formerly WIT)	BA (Hons) Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSc)
South East Technological University (formerly WIT)	Honours Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Studies
Technological University of the Shannon (formerly LIT / Tipperary)	Bachelor (Hons) Social and Community Studies
Trinity College Dublin	Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Studies
Trinity College Dublin	BA (Hons) Joint Honours Social Policy & Economics (TR214)

Trinity College Dublin	BA (Hons) Joint Honours Social Policy & Political Science (TR758)
Trinity College Dublin	BA (Hons) Joint Honours Sociology & Social Policy (TR759)
University College Cork	Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSc)
University College Cork	BSocSc Youth and Community Work
University College Cork	BA (Hons) Early Years and Childhood Studies
University College Cork	BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies
University College Cork	MA in Women's Studies
University College Cork	MSocSc Voluntary and Community Sector Management
University College Cork and Munster Technological University	BA (Hons) in Social Care (Apprenticeship) (CORU-approved April 2026)
University College Dublin	BSocSc, including BSocSc Social Policy and Sociology (DN750)
University of Galway (formerly NUIG)	BA Children's Studies
University of Galway (formerly NUIG)	BA (Hons) Community, Youth and Family Studies
University of Galway (formerly NUIG)	BA (Child, Youth and Family: Policy and Practice) (GY137)
University of Galway (formerly NUIG)	BA (Hons) in Social Care (renamed from Honours BA (Social Care); CORU-approved)
University of Galway (formerly NUIG)	Higher Diploma in Community Development

2. Higher Diploma in Social Policy (conversion programmes)

Institution	Programme
Maynooth University	Higher Diploma in Social Policy (NFQ Level 8, 60 credits)
University College Cork	Higher Diploma in Social Policy (campus)
University College Cork	Higher Diploma in Social Policy (online)
University College Dublin	Higher Diploma in Social Policy (W050)

3. CORU-approved social care qualifications

Honours (Level 8) qualifications on this list meet the academic requirement. Ordinary (Level 7) qualifications do not on their own, but may support an RPL application. List as published by CORU, Social Care Workers approved qualifications, accessed 9 October 2026 (49 qualifications). Check CORU for later additions.

Institution	Programme
Atlantic Technological University	BA (Hons) in Social Care Practice
Atlantic Technological University	BA (Hons) in Applied Social Care
Atlantic Technological University	BA in Applied Social Care
Atlantic Technological University	BSc (Hons) in Health and Social Care
Institute of Technology, Sligo	BA (Hons) in Social Care Practice
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	BA (Hons) in Applied Social Care

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	BA in Applied Social Care
Dundalk Institute of Technology	BA (Hons) in Social Care
Munster Technological University	BA in Social Care
Munster Technological University	BA in Social Care Work
Cork Institute of Technology	BA in Social Care Work
Institute of Technology, Tralee	BA in Social Care
National University of Ireland, Galway	Honours BA (Social Care)
University of Galway	BA (Hons) in Social Care
QQI (delivered by Carlow College, St. Patrick's)	BA in Applied Social Studies (Professional Social Care)
QQI (delivered by The Open Training College)	BA in Social Care
South East Technological University	BA (Hons) in Professional Social Care Practice
South East Technological University	BA in Professional Social Care Practice
South East Technological University	BA (Hons) in Applied Social Studies in Professional Social Care
South East Technological University	BA in Applied Social Studies in Professional Social Care
South East Technological University	BA (Hons) in Social Care Practice
South East Technological University	BA in Applied Social Care
Institute of Technology, Carlow	BA (Hons) in Professional Social Care Practice
Institute of Technology, Carlow	BA in Professional Social Care Practice
Institute of Technology, Carlow	BA (Hons) in Applied Social Studies in Professional Social Care
Institute of Technology, Carlow	BA in Applied Social Studies in Professional Social Care
Waterford Institute of Technology	BA (Hons) in Social Care Practice
Waterford Institute of Technology	BA in Applied Social Care
Technological University Dublin	BA in Applied Social Studies in Social Care
Technological University Dublin	BA (Hons) in Applied Social Studies in Social Care
Technological University Dublin	BA (Hons) in Social Care
Technological University Dublin	BA in Applied Social Care
Technological University Dublin	BA (Hons) in Applied Social Care
Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown	BA in Applied Social Studies in Social Care
Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown	BA (Hons) in Applied Social Studies in Social Care
Dublin Institute of Technology	BA in Social Care

Institute of Technology, Tallaght	BA (Hons) in Social Care Practice
Institute of Technology, Tallaght	BA in Social Care Practice
Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest	BA in Applied Social Care
Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest	BA in Applied Social Studies in Social Care
Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest	BA (Hons) in Social Care Practice
Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest	BA in Social Care Work
Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest	BA (Hons) in Social Care Work
Athlone Institute of Technology	BA in Applied Social Care
Athlone Institute of Technology	BA in Applied Social Studies in Social Care
Athlone Institute of Technology	BA (Hons) in Social Care Practice
Limerick Institute of Technology	BA in Social Care Work
Limerick Institute of Technology	BA (Hons) in Social Care Work
University College Cork and Munster Technological University	BA (Hons) in Social Care (Apprenticeship)

4. Examples of Programmes assessed as not meeting the equivalence standard

Institution	Programme
University of Limerick	BA History, Politics, Sociology and Social Studies
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	BEd plus 30 credits of non-degree flexi options from BA (Hons) Social Care
—	MA in Criminology