Transforming Social Work education

The Apprenticeship in Social Work is committed to fostering diversity in the field of Social Work and believe that a diverse group of social workers better reflects and serves our community.

Employers and the education provider work closely together to provide you with training and learning opportunities tailored to your individual needs, learning style and life situation.

Programme Overview

This two-year apprenticeship combines academic learning and workplace practice. More than half of the learning takes place in the workplace, supported by experienced social work mentors.

The Social Work Apprenticeship is an exciting dual programme that enables apprentices to gain fully paid, on-the-job practical experience while studying towards a Master of Social Work (Level 9) or a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work Studies, both approved by CORU.

How to Apply

To become a Social Work Apprentice, you must meet the eligibility criteria for the programme, apply for an apprenticeship vacancy with a SOLAS-approved employer, and successfully complete each stage of the recruitment process. The apprenticeship combines paid employment with academic study at University College Cork, leading to a professional qualification in Social Work.

Find Us Here



apprenticeship@ucc.ie

021 490 1919

Go to the Social Work Apprenticeship website @ www.ucc.ie/en/apprenticeships/sw/



Apprenticeship in Social Work

UCC
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

What is an Apprenticeship?

An apprenticeshipis a structuredprogramme of education and training that blends learning in the workplace with formal instruction in an educational setting. This dual approach integrates practical, employer-based experience with academic learning to create a skilled and educated employee, in this case, a qualified Paramedic.

Participants benefit from an ‘earn while you learn’ model, which includes a formal contract of employment. Small class sizes at university ensure focused attention, and a variety of teaching methods—such as small group activities, role-plays, student presentations, and report writing—allow apprentices to put their knowledge into practice.

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GENERATION APPRENTICESHIP
www.apprenticeship.ie

What will I learn?

The Apprenticeship in Social Work prepares apprentices for professional practice through a combination of workplace learning and university study. Apprentices develop the knowledge, skills and values required to support individuals, families and communities.

Key areas of learning include:

- Social Work theory and practice
- Child and family welfare
- Safeguarding and protection
- Law and social policy
- Research and evidence-informed practice
- Human rights, social justice and advocacy
- Professional ethics and reflective practice
- Apprentices apply their learning in real-world settings while being supported by experienced Social Workers, workplace mentors and UCC academic staff.

Employers

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP OFFICE
GENERATION APPRENTICESHIP

SOLAS
learning works

Five Rivers Fostering
Care Today, Change Tomorrow

HSE

TUSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants must meet the academic requirements for entry to the Apprenticeship in Social Work and satisfy the programme's eligibility criteria. The apprenticeship offers multiple entry routes, including opportunities for individuals with previous qualifications and those with relevant paid or voluntary experience.

Applicants must:

Meet the programme's academic entry requirements.

Demonstrate relevant work or voluntary experience.

Secure an apprenticeship position with an approved employer.

Successfully complete the employer recruitment process.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be considered for applicants with substantial relevant experience.