



# CAREERS FOR SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES

## SOCIAL WORK AT UCC

Are you interested in working with people and making a difference in society? Social work is primarily concerned with supporting, helping and empowering people in a variety of situations and settings. It is also about working in solidarity with socially excluded people and groups in meeting the challenges created by social inequalities and adversity. Social work can span a wide variety of roles including counselling, group work, family work, advocacy and political activism. Ultimately, social work aims to support people to live more fulfilling and valued lives within their local communities by helping them to find solutions to their problems.



**UCC**  
University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

School of  
**Applied Social Studies**

# WHAT CAN SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES OFFER EMPLOYERS?

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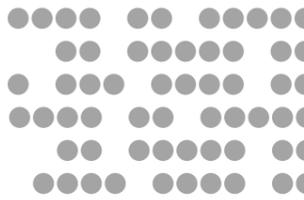
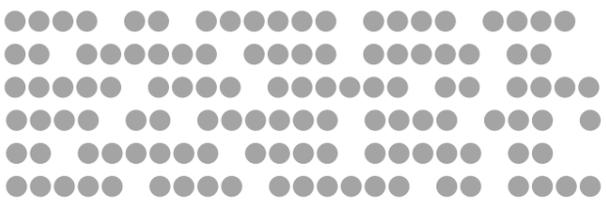
The Bachelor of Social Work is both a degree and professional qualification all in one. Studying social work at UCC will build on your existing capabilities and qualities by developing key knowledge and skills that you will take with you into your future career. You will gain:

- A deep understanding of society and social issues affecting marginalised groups.
- Well-developed skills in order to support and work effectively with those needing social work services. These include counselling, advocacy, groupwork, and community engagement skills.
- An in-depth understanding of social work theoretical frameworks and an ability to apply these in practice.
- A well-developed understanding of professional practice, social policy and legal frameworks, and ethical standards in social work.
- An ability to use social justice and human rights approaches to your practice.
- A strong ability to work in professional teams.
- Strong writing and presentation skills needed for professional practice.

# GRADUATE OUTCOMES FOR SOCIAL WORK

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Each year UCC Careers Services produces a Graduate Outcomes Report based on an annual survey of graduates six months after graduation. Our most recent figures demonstrate a 100% employment rate for Bachelor of Social Work graduates. You can see the trend for all BSW graduates here from the Careers Service website.



## GRADUATE STUDIES

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Your BSW degree is complete in terms of gaining employment as a social worker, however it also can provide a foundation for further study at Masters or PhD level. There is a wide range of options in this regard such as the Master of Social Policy (1 yr), MA in Women's Studies (1yr), and MA in Criminology (1 yr). For those interested in studying at PhD level we offer a number of programmes which can be taken on a full-time or part time basis. These include a PhD in Social Work, Doctor of Social Sciences (DSocSc), and PhD (Social Science).

# AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES

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Social work is an internationally recognised area of professional employment leading to excellent job prospects with very good terms and conditions. Social workers are employed in a wide variety of contexts such as:

The Child and Family Agency (TUSLA) employ social workers in the assessment and protection of children at risk or in care in Child Protection and Foster Care and Adoption.

01

Social workers are employed with the HSE in a variety of hospital and community based settings working with all age ranges in areas such as safeguarding older adults, supporting children and adults with mental health, and in drug or alcohol addiction services.

02



Local Authorities employ social workers in the assessment and provision of housing support.

03

Voluntary agencies employ social workers to work as part of a team providing assessment, support and respite services to children and adults with intellectual, physical disability and autism.

04

Social workers can work as Probation Officers with the Probation Service and as Guardian ad Litem's representing the interests of children involved in the court system.

05

Graduates of BSW can also apply to be registered as social workers in Europe, UK, Australia, the USA and Canada.

06



Graduate Profile 1

**PADRAIG O'DRISCOLL**  
**CHILD PROTECTION TEAM LEADER**

Since graduating from the BSW course I have been working as a child protection social worker with Tusla. My role as manager of a front line child protection team is to work with care givers, family members and professionals to ensure child safety, while supporting parents to achieve the best for their family regarding safety and well-being of their children. Studying at UCC prepared me for practice with rewarding work placements along with theory to support my professional development. A career in social work is incredibly diverse and interesting - I can guarantee you no two days are the same!



Graduate Profile 2

**HALIMA RUTH SALIM**  
**SOCIAL WORKER, NATIONAL  
ADOPTION SERVICES (TUSLA)**

As an adoption social worker my responsibilities include tracing for birth parents and families, and facilitating the adoption process through assessments and support work. This includes Intercountry, step-parents, and domestic adoptions. This work is both rewarding and challenging and it allows me to make an enormous positive difference in the lives of both adopted children and adoptive parents. The BSW course equipped me with the academic knowledge, skills and values needed to fulfill my commitment to helping others and improving the lives of those I work with.



Graduate Profile 3

## **CATHERINE WHITE**

**PRINCIPAL CHILD AND  
ADOLESCENT MENTAL  
HEALTH SOCIAL WORKER**

I have worked in the area of youth mental health for over a decade. Initially, in an in-patient unit dealing with complex mental health difficulties. The past 2 years I have been Clinical Manager to Jigsaw, a Youth Mental Health Service and I have recently returned to my role as Principal Social Worker with C.A.M.H.S. in the community. Undertaking the BSW has been one of the best decisions of my life, allowing me the opportunity to work in a variety of settings, to reach my potential, but more importantly the opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives.



Graduate Profile 4

## **DEIRDRE MURPHY**

**FOSTERING SOCIAL WORKER**

I work in the Fostering Resource Unit as a Link Social Worker. I support foster families to provide stable, secure placements for children requiring alternative care. I also facilitate training for foster carers. Currently we provide a 7 week training, "Fostering Connections" which is a Trauma Informed approach to children who have experienced a significant trauma history. This is important to maintain placements and promote the social, educational, physical and emotional development of children. I love seeing the difference adopting a trauma lens makes in the lives of the families I work with.



**WHERE CAN I  
FIND OUT MORE?**

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**THE IRISH  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SOCIAL WORKERS**



**SOCIAL WORK JOBS  
IN TUSLA (CHILD AND  
FAMILY AGENCY)**



**CAREERS IN THE  
PROBATION SERVICE**



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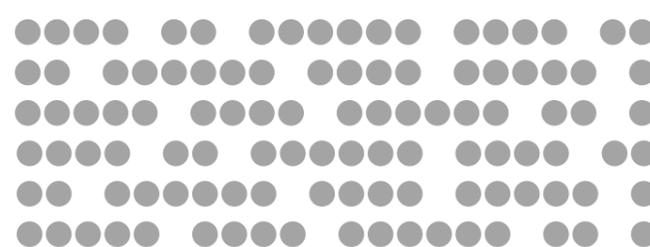
**SOCIAL WORK  
POSITIONS IN THE HSE**



**A WEEK IN THE LIFE  
OF A SOCIAL WORKER**



**MORE SOCIAL  
WORK JOBS**



# 10 WAYS TO PUT YOUR SOCIAL WORK DEGREE TO WORK

01

Participate fully in the professional training and fieldwork placement on our degree.

02

Gain practical experience through summer or part-time employment in relevant organisations.

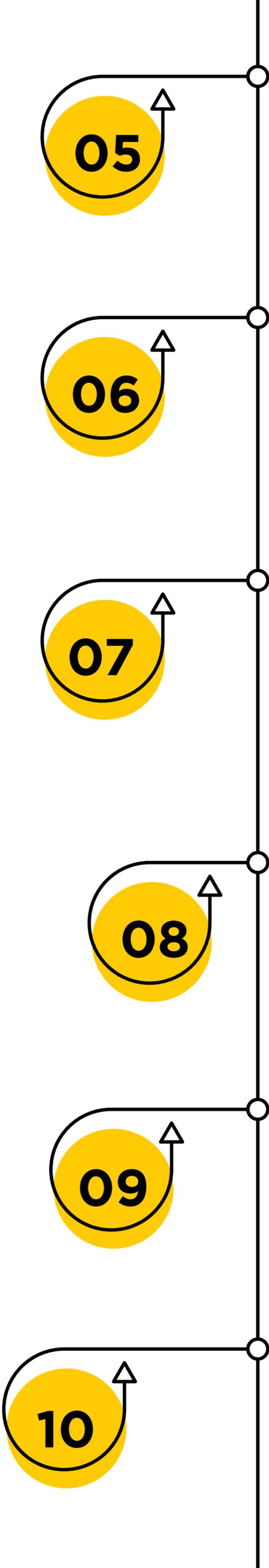
03

Gain relevant skills and experience through volunteering – find out more by attending the annual UCC volunteering fair.

04

Network with professional social workers while your fieldwork placement to build relationships with potential employers.





**05**

Join your professional body and sector networks in Ireland and abroad (eg. Irish Association of Social Workers).



**06**

Gain relevant skills and experience by taking an active role in a UCC club/society that interests you.

**07**

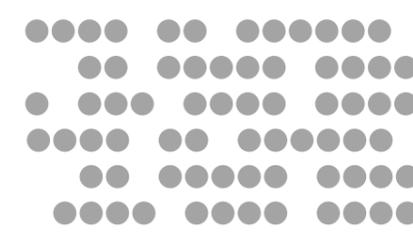
Avail of university wide modules and skills training with the UCC Skills Centre that will equip you with professional skills, such as presentation skills.

**08**

Attend careers workshops and talks given by past graduates and qualified professionals in your field.

**09**

Create and up to date CV and professional social media profile and presence (eg. LinkedIn).



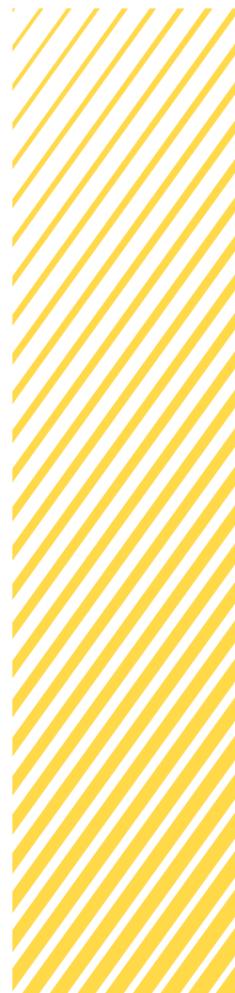
**10**

Avail of professional confidential and impartial careers advice at UCC Careers Service.

# DID YOU KNOW?

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Employers really want you! There is currently **100% EMPLOYABILITY** in Social Work with a starting salary of 40,619 rising to 59,053 (2019) and great opportunities for career progression and promotion.



# CONTACT US



**UCC Career Services,  
3 Brighton Villas,  
Western Road, UCC**



**021 4902500  
021 4903202**



**Email Careers**



**Email Graduate  
Recruitment**



**Book an  
appointment  
to meet a  
careers advisor**



**Work  
Placement**





## UCC Works Award Programme



Connect with  
your job

## UCC Careers



## MyStudentJob



## Employability Events

Careers Fairs, Roadshows,  
Employer Presentations



## Volunteering Opportunities

