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# Social Worker

More information can be found at

[Social Worker \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/social-worker)



Gyrfa Cymru  
Careers Wales



# Qualifications Required

**HNC/HND, NVQ 4 or 5 up to Degree, NVQ 6**

For entry to a degree in social work, the usual minimum requirements are:

- 3 A levels or equivalent
- 5 GCSEs at grade C/4 or above including maths and English

To join a MA or MSc in Social Work, you'll need:

- an undergraduate degree in any subject graded 2:2 or higher
- GCSE English and maths at C/4 or above

Relevant vocational qualifications can help you to get onto a suitable degree course.

Some universities accept the Welsh Baccalaureate as equivalent to 1 A level.



# Skills and Qualities

To become a Social Worker, you will need to:

- listen carefully and empathise when necessary
- ask the right questions to find out about clients' needs
- gain the trust of people from all kinds of backgrounds
- be flexible and adaptable
- assess needs and circumstances
- communicate clearly, both orally and in writing
- gather, analyse and understand information
- be observant, read situations and identify problems
- be non-judgemental and avoid imposing solutions
- act quickly and calmly, eg, if a child is at risk from abuse or neglect
- work through conflict sensitively and come up with effective solutions
- work well under pressure
- have a positive attitude when you are faced with difficulties
- make difficult decisions at times

Travel throughout the local area is usual, therefore a full driving licence can be a requirement of the job.



# Entry Routes

If you want to become a Social Worker, you'll need a degree in Social Work. Some universities offer combined Social Work and nursing degrees, enabling you to qualify for both professions.

To get onto a relevant degree you will usually require 3 A levels or equivalent (such as a BTEC, City & Guilds or Cambridge Technical level 3 qualification). Studying a subject such as health and social care would be a great help.

The Frontline graduate programme is another great route into the profession for high-achieving graduates. It consists of a five week summer school followed by two years on-the-job training. Find out more at [www.thefrontline.org.uk](http://www.thefrontline.org.uk)

Completion of a relevant Social Work degree or Master's degree entitles you to register with the relevant Care Council for your country as a Social Worker.

If you find work as a Social Work Assistant or similar role, your employer may support you to study for the degree on a part-time basis.

An apprenticeship is also great place to start. Take a look at our information article 'Apprenticeships - How do I apply?' for more details.





# Salary

The pay rates given below are approximate.

- Starting: £24,000 - £31,000
- With experience: £31,000 - £40,000
- Senior Social Workers earn £35,000 - £50,000



**For more information please use the QR code**



**For entry to the Sixth Form, some schools require that students need 5 A\*-C at GCSE:**

Most A-level qualifications would prove beneficial to considering following this career.





# For more information or help with your career planning

Please Contact your school-based careers adviser

**Deb Smith**

Careers Adviser

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