

Social Work in Singapore

Minimum Entry Requirement into Social Work Employment

A BA with a major in Social Work is minimum pre-requisite to employment as a Social Worker. What do Social Workers Do? Social Work encompasses working with families, individuals, organisations and the community on areas such as:

- Poverty
 - Relationship Problems
 - Domestic Violence & Abuse
 - Substance Addiction & Abuse
 - Family Life Education & Parenting
 - Interpersonal Communication & Social Skills Training
 - Mediation & Negotiation
 - Child Welfare
 - People with Special Needs
 - Youth Work
 - Clinical / Mental Health
 - Disability Services
 - Care of Older Persons
 - Social Work Administration & Policy
 - Social Work Education & Research
 - Consultancy Services
- Social Workers therefore must be versatile, knowledgeable and skilful in interpersonal communication skills when working with others and competent in networking skills so as to be able to enhance the lives and well-being of the people and the community they live in. They are found in direct practice, in administrative, management and policy planning positions in many organisations as well as in government ministries.

What are the Professional Development Opportunities? Post-graduate educational opportunities such as Masters, PhD, Post-graduate Diplomas and Specialist training are available locally and overseas. They can choose to specialise in different areas of work such as:

- Child Protection Services
- Counselling & Therapy
- Family Social Work
- School Social Work
- Youth Work
- Gerontological Social Work
- Medical Social Work
- Working with People with Disabilities
- Community Work
- Rehabilitation of Offenders
- Management of Social Services
- Policy & Planning Services
- Social Research & Programme Evaluation Service

What are the Earning Potentials of a Social Worker? Newly graduated Social Workers can expect a starting salary within the range of S\$1800 and S\$2400.

SASW FACTSHEET ON SOCIAL WORKERS' PAY INCREASE

- On 20 January 2007, MCYS announced that funding to VWOs will be increased, partly due to higher salary norms for social workers. This increase was intended to result in higher pay for social workers.
- The additional funds are channelled to VWO programmes that are already funded by MCYS and NCSS. Hence, the pay increase only applies to social workers in VWOs that offer MCYS- and NCSS-funded programmes.
- The increased funding was disbursed to VWOs in April 2007. In other words, additional government funding targeted at higher pay for social workers became available from April 2007.
- NCSS does not stipulate rules or regulations for VWOs to manage the additional funding. No VWO has been instructed to enact pay increments of any particular amount or withhold increments to existing staff. Instead, NCSS encourages VWOs to channel part of the additional funding towards social workers' pay, so as to promote the retention of professional manpower.
- We encourage social workers to speak to their management or human resource personnel if they wish to seek clarifications regarding the implementation of the pay increase in their individual agencies.
- SASW members may also seek clarifications or provide feedback on the pay issue by contacting us at president@sasw.org.sg.