



Frequently Asked Questions – Social Work Traineeship Opportunity

I work in Children's social care currently. Can I be considered to train as a social worker in Adult services? / I work in Adult social care currently. Can I be considered to train as a social worker in Children's services?

At the present time the offer to undertake qualification training for social work is linked to the sector where you are currently employed (i.e. working with adults or working with children). You cannot apply for a traineeship in a different service area.

During the qualifying training you will be able to request and arrange placements in different service areas. When qualified, you will also be able to apply for roles in other areas, as long as any social work role you undertake is within the DCC workforce during the two year period immediately following qualification.

What commitment will DCC require from me on completion of the Social Work qualification?

You will have to work for two years following the successful completion of the Social Work Degree.

Is there a backfill to cover my Practice Placement?

There is no backfill for practice placements. Social Work Education Team endeavours to swap practice placements between students on the scheme if the learning requirements are met.

What counts as relevant work experience?

You need to demonstrate an appropriate level of previous experience of working with people within social care settings. This would include paid and unpaid roles.

For instance: having experience in Care Direct Plus, working in residential units with children or adults, day care services, etc. Each situation would be looked at within its own individual merits.

Do trainees need to remain with the service that has sponsored their training or can they move to other service areas?

In children's services there is an ASYE scheme that you access upon qualification. These posts are within children's services but can be at a different team or service area.

In adult services, again, you may move to another service area, but it will depend on where the vacancies are at the point of qualification.

How does it work in terms of applying for Social Work jobs at the end of the qualification?

At point of qualification you will have priority status for ASYE positions; however, you will need to have demonstrated that you have met the criteria necessary for that post.

Do I get any study time?

Yes, you will get 18 days per module. Most students complete two modules per year. There are six modules that you can complete in a three year period which will lead to a social work degree.

I do not meet A level qualification / UCAS points requirement, can I apply?

Yes, you can apply. However, you will be initially registered through Open Access degree. Progression to Social Work degree will be subject to a successful completion of module K101 - An introduction to health & social care.

I do not hold Maths GCSE certificate or equivalent, can I apply?

Yes, you can apply. However, you will be initially registered through Open Access degree. Progression to Social Work degree will be subject to a successful completion of GCSE course (or equivalent). The OU can accept certain modules of its own as equivalent as well. Please contact the Social Work Admissions Manager to confirm the details (01908 654 229 or hsc-sw-enquiries@open.ac.uk).

What opportunities are there for career development and/or further post qualifying education?

For more information about the social work career structure, visit: www.devonsocialwork.co.uk. Information about post-qualifying further education will be made available shortly, but in the meantime please contact Julie Statton to discuss.

What happens if I don't pass the course?

We have a very high success rate on this course. The candidates have been of a high calibre and practice placements in years two and three are very well supported by both Devon County Council and the Open University. Candidates who pass, have moved in to social work roles, and make an excellent contribution to the social work workforce.

However, in the unlikely event that you are not successful, you will remain in your substantive post.

Source: Human Resources