

## **Advice for social workers with qualifications gained abroad who are applying for Registration as a social worker in Wales**

Under the Care Standards Act 2000, to practise as a social worker in Wales, or call yourself a social worker while working in Wales, you must be registered as a social worker in the UK.

All applicants to the Register of Social Care Workers must provide evidence of the following:

- good character, as it relates to their fitness to practise in a way expected of a social worker;
- their good conduct;
- physical and mental fitness to practise in social work;
- competence in social work practice.

The Care Council for Wales wants to enable social workers who are not currently registered, to be able to apply for registration and enter the social work workforce with up to date knowledge and understanding of current practice. This is to ensure applicants meet the Care Council standards required for registration. Employers will also want to be confident of an applicant's suitability for a post before making an appointment and that applicants have met the registration requirements listed above. This means the Care Council must ensure all registrants hold an appropriate qualification and have relevant experience in practising social work that will enable them to work effectively in a social work role in Wales.

In making a judgement about someone's qualification and competence in social work practice we will:

- Compare the content of the qualification with that expected of a social work qualification in the UK;
- Assess the level of supervised and assessed social work practice undertaken as part of the qualification;
- Take account of the applicant's post-qualifying experience and learning in social work.

Social work experience declared by an applicant needs to be relevant to social work as it is practised in Wales, where it is a distinct professional activity within the broad range of social care functions. It includes utilising a range of skilled interventions with individuals and families that may include risk assessment, using legislative powers appropriately to support and protect people, attending court, and working with individuals to change their behaviours and outcomes.

Other social care functions include residential and domiciliary care managers and care workers who provide specific services and who may work with social workers but who have different responsibilities to those of social workers. The knowledge,

skills and qualifications required for each post in the social care sector are set out in the Qualification Framework for the Social Care Sector in Wales. Social work is defined by the National Occupational Standards for Social Work and the Subject Benchmark Statements for Social Work. The Practice Guidance for social workers published by the Care Council which is based on the Code of Professional Practice for Social Care sets out in more detail the standards of professional practice expected of social workers.

To understand more fully the knowledge, skills and standards expected of social workers you may wish to refer to:

1. The NOS for social work and the Subject Benchmarks for the Social Work professional qualification.

[National Occupational Standards](#)

[Subject Benchmark Statements](#)

2. The Care Council's *Criteria for Assessing Social Work Qualifications* available on the right of this webpage

[www.ccwales.org.uk/register-as-a-social-worker-qualified-outside-the-uk/](http://www.ccwales.org.uk/register-as-a-social-worker-qualified-outside-the-uk/)

3. The Appendices in the Care Council's Framework for Degree in Social Work (2012) at [Regulation of Training](#)
4. The practice guidance for social workers published by the Care Council sets out what is expected of social workers working in Wales at [Practice guidance for social workers](#)
5. Information on the impact of the new Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act, 2014 which can be found at [Learning Hub - Care Council for Wales](#)

Registration is not required to practice in all social care sector roles in Wales. The roles where it is mandatory are listed at <http://www.ccwales.org.uk/registration-1/> under 'Who must register to practise?'

The qualifications required in Wales are set out in the Qualification Framework for the Social Care Sector in Wales: <http://www.ccwales.org.uk/qualification-framework/>