

How to apply

Information and advice about applications to register with us, including guidance for those who wish to return to the Register and social workers who qualified outside of the UK.

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Go to <https://socialcare.wales/registration/how-to-apply> for the latest version.

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Who can register

[The Register](#) is open to the following groups of workers:

- social workers
- social work students

Social care managers

- adoption service managers
- adult care home managers
- adult placement managers
- advocacy managers
- domiciliary care managers
- fostering service managers
- residential child care managers
- residential family centre managers
- secure accommodation service managers
- special school residential managers.

Social care workers

- adult care home workers
- domiciliary care workers
- residential child care workers
- residential family centre workers
- secure accommodation service workers
- special school residential workers (can apply for registration from 1 April 2025. Registration will be mandatory on 30 September 2026).

All social workers and social care managers must register once they have completed their qualification or they start in their post.

All other employed social care workers must register within six months of starting in post.

Applying for the first time

If you're applying for the first time you'll need to create a [SCWonline account](#) to manage your registration with us.

SCWonline will allow you to:

- apply for registration
- pay your [registration fees](#)
- [renew your registration](#) after three years
- manage your details and log information

Information you will need to apply

- a personal email address
- your national insurance number
- employment details (including address, job title and start date or future start date if it's a new job)
- your employment history for the past five years
- your bank details to setup a Direct Debit to [pay your fees](#)
- the date of your most recent criminal records (DBS) check
- confirmation that you intend to practise in Wales
- [verified copies](#) of your ID documents, unless you have had DBS check within the last three years or are on the DBS update service (not required for students).

Details of your route to register

You will need:

- a qualification certificate (accepted qualifications can be found on our [qualification finder](#))
- or if you don't yet have the required qualification, evidence for one of the other ways to register. You can find out about other ways to register on our [qualifications](#) page.

Disciplinary record and criminal offences

You must tell us if you:

- have a disciplinary record
- are currently the subject of an investigation
- have a criminal record.

Endorsing your application

Applications to register must be endorsed to confirm your good character and that there aren't any reasons why you shouldn't be on the Register. On your application you will be asked to select a person, from a list of [approved people \(signatories\)](#) for your organisation, to endorse your application.

Your endorser will be able to view all information on your application apart from your health and equality and diversity answers.

Your endorser must be a professional individual who isn't a relative and doesn't have a personal relationship with you.

If you're qualifying in social work in Wales, select a signatory from the degree course provider or current social care employer. If you get employment by the time we receive confirmation of your qualification, we'll contact your new employer. This happens before we complete your registration.

Read our guidance on [endorsing an application](#).

Your health

You must tell us if you have any physical or mental health conditions that may affect your ability to work in social care.

Your documents

Send us copies of the original documents.

To send us your documents you'll need to log into your [SCWonline account](#). Select your profile, then click on your name and select 'upload a document'.

Read [our guidance](#) on sending us documents.

Social work degree students

If you've been offered a place on a social work degree course in Wales you will receive an email from us to create an [SCWonline account](#) that will allow you to apply to register.

You must be registered with us before starting your social work degree in Wales.

If you're thinking of studying a social work degree at a Welsh university, there is a [social work bursary](#) available.

Social workers returning to practice

If you've not been registered as a social worker or haven't been practising as a social worker for a while, you might need to provide us with extra evidence that you're fit to practise if you want to return to work as a social worker.

This applies if you're:

- a social worker who's had experience of social work since qualifying, but hasn't been registered for three years or more
- a social worker who hasn't practised since qualifying over three years ago.

If you're a qualified [social worker returning to practice](#) you will need to demonstrate current knowledge and understanding of social work practice to apply for registration.

Please see our [Return to social work practice](#) guidance for further information.

Social workers who have qualified outside the UK

[Read our guidance for social workers who qualified outside the UK](#) and want to register to work in Wales.

Removal from the Register

If you've been removed from the Register by a fitness to practise panel (removal order) you can apply to come back onto the Register five years after the date you were removed.

To re-apply for registration, you will need to [complete an application on SCWonline](#). A panel will then decide if your registration should be granted.

Working outside Wales

If you decide to work outside of Wales, you will need to contact the regulatory body for that country.

In the UK these are:

- [Social Work England](#)
- [Northern Ireland Social Care Council \(NISCC\)](#)
- [Scottish Social Services Council \(SSSC\)](#).

Guidance videos

We have produced some [guidance videos](#) to tell you more about registration.

Contact us

If you have a question or if you can't find what you are looking for [get in touch with us](#).