

UK Update on Post Qualifying Education and Training for Social Workers

UK Matrix

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Governance	<p>Care Standards Act 2000</p> <p>Rules:</p> <p>GSCC Approval of post-qualifying courses Rules, November 2005</p>	<p>Health & Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001)</p> <p>Rules:</p> <p>Rules for the Approval of PQ Education and Training in Social Work in NI</p>	<p>Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001</p> <p>Rules/Guidance: All new approved course will fall under, "Rules and Requirements for Specialist Training for Social Service workers in Scotland 2005</p> <p>The SSSC has developed rules for specialist training course. The first course to be approved under these Rules will be the Practice Learning Qualification (Social Services)</p>	<p>Care Standards Act 2000</p> <p>Rules:</p> <p>CCW Council approval in July 2006. (Awaiting Welsh Assembly approval)</p> <p>Further development of 'Specified Named Course Requirements'</p> <p>Post-Qualifying Social Work award in mental health (approved social worker) agreed in November 2006</p>
What is the new provision for PQ social work training?	<p>Key document outlining the framework: Post-qualifying framework for social work education and training – February 2005</p>	<p>Northern Ireland Post Qualifying Education and Training Framework in Social Work 2006.</p>	<p>SSSC is introducing a continuum of professional development model, within which social work post qualifying education can be approved.</p> <p>Advanced standards are currently being developed</p>	<p>A 'Modular Framework for PQ Learning & Development in Social Work' agreed by CCW in March 2005</p>

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<p>Links to Post Registration Training and Learning? (PRTL)</p>	<p>At the point of renewing registration, individual registrants are required to produce evidence of post-registration learning achieved Learning gained through PQ awards provides positive evidence of PRTL. PQ awards are not a specific requirement for PRTL</p>	<p>By 2010, career structures in social work and social care will be linked to agreed accredited training and/or qualifications linked to continuing registration. (PSS Development and Training Strategy 2006-2016)</p>	<p>All post qualification learning and development will be relevant to PRTL. Registered social workers are required to complete 15 days over the 3 year period of registration. 5 days must focus on working effectively with colleagues and other professionals to identify assess and manage risk to vulnerable people. Primary responsibility of social workers e.g risk assessment interviewing in a suitable manner All newly qualified social workers from summer 06 will be required to complete 24 days or 144 hours within the first 12 months from date of registration. Re registration on or before 14 month anniversary</p>	<p>PRTL - and other links under ongoing review – proposal to link to induction. However, it is not expected that PRTL requirements will form part of the new PQ framework.</p>
<p>How will training be commissioned?</p>	<p>Skills for Care and the Children’s workforce development council, are developing employer driven partnerships with universities, set up as Regional Planning Networks. Arrangements to meet the needs of national organisations are being developed.</p>	<p>NI PSS Development and Training Strategy has set priorities. Employers and Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) will develop programmes to meet priorities. Commissioning will move to Regional Authority under the review of Public Administration (RPA)</p>	<p>Any future training will be placed within the Rules and Requirements. Any commissioning process would be agreed in consultation with the Scottish Executive The Sector Skills Agreement and the process re skills gaps should enhance the potential for employers to commission what they feel are the gaps outwith those courses that the SSSC might approve.</p>	<p>Employers in partnership with HEIs will commission, develop and provide training.</p>

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<p>What closing date has been set for been set for closure of existing arrangements?</p>	<p>31 March 2007 -final registrations with Award programmes for all current awards. 27 September 2008 - final date for registering awards achievement with the GSCC</p>	<p>Registrations will stop on 31 March 2007, except for PQ1 which will continue for another year. The final date for awards is 30 September 2010.</p>	<p>March 08 No new registration from June 05</p>	<p>December 2009</p>
<p>Will PQ consortia continue to operate after this date?</p>	<p>No consortia or award programmes will continue after September 2008. It is envisaged that business will cease for many before this date. Action plans to be produced to reflect QA activity after 31 January 08.</p>	<p>Yes. See below</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>What form do the new arrangements take?</p>	<p>HEI in partnership with employers and stakeholders through Regional Planning Networks. GSCC approves HEIs to offer awards, sets specialist standards and approves courses that meet the requirements. GSCC annual monitoring and review system is a requirement.</p>	<p>NISCC will be the awarding body and the N I PQ Education and Training Partnership (NIPQETP) will determine and manage the PQ arrangements.</p>	<p>Employer led, continuum of professional developments. New specialist training courses may be delivered through the Learning Networks These may become a conduit for provision.</p>	<p>Employers in partnership with HEI, programmes approved by CCW.</p>

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<p>What academic level has been set?</p>	<p>3 levels: PQ Award in Specialist Social Work (Hons degree/Graduate Diploma (H level)) Higher Specialist and Advanced Award Programmes (Post Graduate Diploma (M level)); PQ Award in Advanced SW Minimum Level (M level-Masters)</p>	<p>The entire Framework is at M level. There will be opportunities for both academic and professional awards.</p>	<p>Specialist Training will be available from SCQF 7 – SCQF 11 (M Level). The SCQF 7 – 11 is relevant to the PI (SS). The levelling of the new MHSW has still to be determined</p>	<p>Level 6 (Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma) & Level 7 Post Grad diploma (Equates to Level H and M Level of England, Wales & Northern Ireland FHEQ. (Framework for Higher Education Qualifications)</p>
<p>Is there a module that provides for consolidation of practice?</p>	<p>Yes. Consolidation must be demonstrated against generic and specific award requirements at Specialist Social Work Award level, as a first module.</p>	<p>No. This should be covered during the Assessed Year in Employment (AYE) before candidates enter the NI PQ Framework.</p>	<p>No. All Course that are approved under the Rules will need to ensure that all candidates will be assessed in practice in such a way as to demonstrate that they are able to carry out the following to the required level Contribute to the learning and development of others and work in a way that actively promotes and values diversity</p>	<p>Guidance is being produced on 1st year in employment for both social workers and employers (the latter to be inspected by Social Services Inspectorate). There is still discussion on entry requirements for some programmes such as approved Mental Health Programmes.</p>

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<p>Can other social service/care and professional groups access the framework?</p>	<p>Yes. Access is a key principle and modular basis widens access to learning and academic achievement but not to a professional award in social work. IPE is a key principle and joint courses are likely to take place between professional groups.</p>	<p>Enrolment for a PQ award will be restricted to Registered Social Workers. There will be arrangements for the accreditation of multi disciplinary programmes so the social workers attending those programmes can obtain a PQ award</p>	<p>Any new specialist training courses will encourage access by other social service workers, e.g. the MHSWA will allow modular access for those not pursuing the full award. In the new Practice Learning Qualifications the rules allow for access by other professionals although the award that they receive will have a different title. This is due to the legislation only allowing SSSC to approve courses for social service workers who are either registered or for whom the register is open.</p>	<p>Yes. This will be encouraged, but Council will not be approving courses other than for qualified social workers.</p>
<p>AP(E)L Accreditation of prior (experience) Learning</p>	<p>Creative and flexible use of AP(E)L is encouraged to promote relevance to practice contexts and access. All current GSCC awards and PQ1 certificates must be fully recognised. PQSW is equivalent to new specialist award for progression to higher level awards</p>	<p>AP(E)L will be an essential element of the NI PQ Framework. Guidance has been developed by the PQ Partnership.</p>	<p>As above, the SSSC has no plans to develop a new PQ framework. In Scotland any new developments under the Rules will need to fit within SCQF and also needs to include RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning)</p>	<p>Required by Rules for Approval. Link to Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales</p>

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<p>What standards will awards be based on?</p>	<p>UK National Occupational Standards for Social Work, Codes of Practice, QAA guidance, nationally agreed standards for specialist areas and specialist standards produced by the GSCC for Practice Education, Mental Health, Adult Social Care, Children, Young People, their families and carers, and for Leadership and Management.</p>	<p>The NI PQ Framework has requirements that must be met for 3 professional awards. There will be requirements for accreditation of training provision and Standards for the Approval of the PQ Partnership. The rules allow for other standards to be developed.</p>	<p>As previously mentioned generic advanced standards are currently being developed. For SSSC approved awards specialist standards will be written</p>	<p>Generic Rules and Specified Named Course Requirements, National Occupational Standards for Social Work and the Codes of Practice for social care workers.</p>
<p>How will UK agreed national occupational standards be used?</p>	<p>NOS for social work underpin learning outcomes and course curriculum building -</p>	<p>There is a requirement to develop competence to agreed national, occupational or recognized agency standards</p>	<p>SiSWE based on the NOS form the basis of the social work degree. Reference to NOS will be made where appropriate when approving new specialist training courses</p>	<p>Rules will require indication of which NOS are relevant at modular level</p>
<p>Arrangements for Practice Assessment?</p>	<p>Assessment must always be based on actual practice. Registered social workers must be part of the overall assessment. GSCC Code of Practice, relevant specialist standards and 'Guidance on the assessment of practice in the workplace' are vital to practice assessment.</p>	<p>Practice Assessors will be trained to assess at M Level</p>	<p>This will be dependent on the course that is being undertaken. We would expect all provision to have a strong emphasis on assessment of practice</p>	<p>Rules will require a statement showing how assessment is relevant to practice modules.</p>

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Practice Education	Practice education and enabling others is integral to the framework and must be demonstrated at all levels of the award.	The Practice Teacher Award is being reconfigured to meet the requirements of the NISCC Practice Learning Standards 2006, and the NI PQ Framework.		Consultation Autumn 2006.
External Examiners	PQ programmes must appoint at least one external examiner who has a GSCC recognised social work qualification. Annual QA monitoring will include scrutiny of external examiners reports and HEI actions on their recommendations.	The External Assessment Model will continue to apply. The PQ Partnership will set criteria for external assessors.	As identified in the Rules and Requirements. Examiners acceptable to the SSSC will be professionally qualified and have expertise and experience relevant to the course provision	Required as part of HEI & QAA requirements. QA will replicate the requirements established for the social work degree.
Making PQ courses relevant - User Involvement	Integral to regional planning networks, programme design and delivery including teaching, assessment and course planning.	Broad statement included in Rules. NISCC Accreditation requirements will ensure programmes include all stakeholders appropriately.	All relevant stakeholders will be involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of course provision. The role of service users is particularly important and this can be evidenced in the design of the PLQ that has been structured to enable access and achievement by users of services and carers	Required by Rules

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<p>End of course recording - transcripts</p>	<p>Students must be given annual transcripts of learning, and for each module completed. On leaving a programme all students must be provided with a full transcript identifying modules passed and credit acquired. Learning is certified by means of transcripts, essential for mobile workforce</p>	<p>Transcripts will be an important element of the framework. They will record all accredited learning. New database being developed will enable transcripts to be issued.</p>	<p>In respect of the Practice Learning Qualification this will be supplied by the provider</p>	<p>Candidates required Learning Plan at beginning of courses & required at both modular and end of course levels</p>
<p>International recognition of social work qualifications and PQ</p>	<p>The PQ framework is for all registered social workers including holders of SW qualifications gained overseas.</p>	<p>IRS equivalency issues will have been considered at the registration stage</p>	<p>Needs to recognise the statutory differences whilst taking this into account for e.g. MHSWA IRS equivalency issues will have been considered at the registration stage. Anyone registering for a course approved by SSSC either needs to be registered or currently eligible for registration in terms of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 section 44</p>	<p>Anyone enrolling for a PQ award must be registered with the Council</p>

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Review and redefinition of social work	The government 'Options for excellence' reported in October 2006, and involves a GSCC led review of the roles and tasks of social workers – out for consultation in Spring 2007.	There has been a review of public administration and the Board/Trust structure will be changed fundamentally in 2007. Social workers in HSS Trusts are included in the Agenda for Change and the Knowledge and Skills Framework will apply. PSS Development and Training Strategy 2006-2016 is a key document for social work education and training.	The Scottish Executive Report Changing Lives from the 21 st Review of Social Work identifies future direction under five change programmes: Performance Improvement Service Redesign Practice Governance Leadership Workforce Development	Welsh Assembly Government 10year strategy for social services 'fulfilled Lives: supportive communities'
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Contacts for PQ in the four care councils are:

Bryan Healey, Scottish Social Services Council
 Ian Thomas, Care Council for Wales
 Alison Kavanagh, Northern Ireland Social Care Council
 Cyndy Whiffin, General Social Care Council
 Cathrine Clarke, General Social Care Council

email: Bryan.Healy@sssc.uk.com;
 email: ian.thomas@ccwales.org.uk;
 email: alison.Kavanagh@niscc.n-i.nhs.uk;
 email: cyndy.whiffin@gsc.org.uk;
 email: cathrine.clarke@gsc.org.uk;

If you are reading this UK matrix after a six month period from this version of the (insert the date it goes on the website), then please do e-mail the contacts above for an update on developments.

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