



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Degree in Social Work In Northern Ireland Student Incentive Scheme

Training Tomorrow's Professionals
Study for an Exciting and Rewarding Career

Information for new students

The Degree in Social Work

The Degree in Social Work provides the necessary skills, knowledge and values to allow successful graduates access to a variety of social work posts in different settings.

Key features of the degree include:

- Three year honours degree qualification
- Fast-track option for relevant graduates
- Significant proportion of professional training spent in the workplace
- Registration as social work students on the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC) Register.

Following successful completion of the Degree in Social Work, graduates, on entering employment as a social worker in Northern Ireland, will be supported and assessed during their first year as part of continuing social work registration requirements.

Incentive to study social work in Northern Ireland

The DHSSPS offers an Incentive Scheme to attract students domiciled in Northern Ireland to remain in Northern Ireland to study full-time for the Degree in Social Work here.

In the years leading up to the introduction of the Degree in Social Work, there were fewer students applying to university social work courses in Northern Ireland. For this reason, an Incentive Scheme was devised to attract Northern Ireland domiciled students to stay here in Northern Ireland to study social work full-time. Evidence suggests that such students are more likely to remain here to work thus benefiting social services in Northern Ireland.

Eligibility

The Incentive Scheme is available to students who are:

- domiciled in Northern Ireland;
- undertaking a full-time NISCC approved programme of study in Northern Ireland leading to the Degree in Social Work from September 2006 onwards;
- currently registered with NISCC on the relevant part of the Register; and
- who are **not** employed as Regional Social Work Degree Trainees.

Students who are eligible for this scheme from September 2006 onwards may benefit from:

- a non-means-tested Incentive Grant of £4,000 for each year of the agreed duration of the course towards the costs of full-time study; and
- a contribution of £500 towards expenses related to work-based learning.

How do you apply for the Scheme

You must have been accepted on one of the 6 courses available in Northern Ireland. Your chosen course will send you application forms for the Incentive Scheme at the same time as you are sent enrolment instructions. Simply complete the form and return it to the Office of Social Services (OSS) in the envelope provided. OSS will provide Notes of Guidance which will give all necessary information regarding your award.

It is usually November before the first of the 2 annual instalments is paid. You should therefore approach your local Education and Library Board at an early stage regarding student support arrangements.

Education and Library Board

Education and Library Board student support arrangements are separate from the Incentive Scheme offered by DHSSPS. Access www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk for more information.

Further Information

Social Work Student Incentive Scheme:

Office of Social Services, DHSSPS, Room C4.22, Castle Buildings,
Stormont, Belfast. BT4 3SQ

Tel: (028) 9052 0517

Web: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Training for a career in Social Work and information about registration with NISCC:

NISCC, 7th Floor, Millennium House, 19-25 Great Victoria Street,
Belfast. BT2 7AQ

Tel: (028) 9041 7600

Web: www.niscc.info

Department of Employment and Learning

Web: www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk

Please note DHSSPS reserves the right to make changes to the Social Work Student Incentive Scheme and will provide courses and students with reasonable notice of future changes.