

For new students, details of the DHSSPS Degree in Social Work (NI) Student Incentive Scheme for 2006 are available on request from the SSI Administration Section (see address below). The Notes of Guidance include the detail of eligibility criteria.

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

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.

Further Information

Social Work Student Incentive Scheme: Social Services Inspectorate, DHSSPS, Room C4.22, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast. BT4 3SQ Tel: 02890 520517 Web: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Social Work Training: NISCC, 7th Floor, Millennium House, 19-25 Great Victoria Street, Belfast. BT2 7AQ
Tel: 02890 417600 Web: www.niscc.info

Department of Employment and Learning
Web: www.studentfinancenico.uk

Degree in Social Work Student Incentive Scheme

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

Information for new students from
SEPTEMBER 2006

Issued May 2006

Social Work – What's Involved?

The job

Social workers operate at the very frontline of society's efforts to support the needs of communities, families and individuals. They provide services for children, families, older people, people with mental health problems, physical or learning disabilities, sensory impairment, those who experience homelessness, and those whose lives are adversely affected by drugs, alcohol and HIV/AIDS. At times they may also exercise formal legal powers, for example to protect children who are at risk, to support people with mental ill health or in the rehabilitation of offenders.

Social work often involves working with vulnerable people in sensitive situations. A social worker needs a range of personal qualities such as patience, determination and the ability to help people face painful and distressing problems. They may need to support service users to deal with racism and other forms of discrimination. Social workers must be open-minded and prepared to examine and even change their own attitudes and possible prejudices.

Career Opportunities in Social Work

Social workers practise in a wide range of settings and work for various employers both in statutory and voluntary sectors. Health and Social Services Trusts in Northern Ireland, which deliver statutory sector social services, employ the majority of social workers.

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 across sectors.

Key features of the degree include:

- Three year honours degree level qualification

- Fast-track option for relevant graduates
- Significant proportion of professional training spent in the workplace
- Recognition of applicant's previous social work experience and/or relevant qualifications
- Registration as social work students on the 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

Please see details of the revised DHSSPS Degree in Social Work Student Incentive Scheme for 2006 below. **Please note continuing social work degree students benefit from the previous scheme launched in 2004.**

Social Work Incentive Scheme (DHSSPS) 2006/07, for students starting study on the Degree in Social Work in N.I. in September 2006. (please see Notes of Guidance for detailed eligibility criteria)

The DHSSPS offers an Incentive Scheme to attract students domiciled in Northern Ireland to remain in Northern Ireland to study for the Degree in Social Work. Students who are eligible for this scheme in September 2006 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 study; and
- A contribution of £500 towards expenses related to work-based learning.