



# CAREERS IN SOCIAL WORK

Dr Sarah Donnelly, Assistant Professor of Social Work  
Head of Subject for Social Work and Co-Director of the Professional Masters in  
Social Work Degree



# What is Social Work?

- Profession that has its basis in the promotion of social justice
  - Aims to empower individuals, groups and communities to take charge of their own lives within their own environment and social context.
  - Working with individuals, families, groups and communities to try to improve their lives
  - A complex, challenging, but very rewarding profession
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- Source: [iasw.ie](http://iasw.ie)



# Is Social Work for you?

- Are you interested in working with people?
  - Are you interested in social justice issues?
  - Do you want a challenging but rewarding career?
  - Would you like to have the opportunity to play a part in helping people to change their lives for the better?
  - Do you want a job where no day is the same?
  - Do you want to be qualified to work in diverse roles with different client groups, giving you a wide range of job opportunities?
  - Do you want to be always learning about yourself, about others and about society?
  - Do you have empathy and good interpersonal skills?
- If yes, then maybe social work is for you!
  - Emotionally demanding job but very rewarding.
  - Increased emphasis placed on self-care both in training and in professional practice
- See: <https://www.theguardian.com/careers/careers-blog/reasons-to-join-social-care-2015>





# Where do Social Workers Work?

- **Child Welfare & Protection;**
- **Medical Social Work;**
- **Criminal Justice;**
- **Mental Health;**
- **Physical & Intellectual Disability Services;**
- **Older People's Services;**
- **Community Development;**
- **Adoption;**
- **Forced Migration;**
- **Local Authority Housing;**
- **Substance Misuse Services**
- **Adult Safeguarding**





1  
RECOGNITION  
OF THE  
INHERENT DIGNITY  
OF  
HUMANITY

2  
HUMAN  
RIGHTS

8  
USE OF  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND  
SOCIAL MEDIA

7  
TREATING  
PEOPLE AS  
WHOLE  
PERSONS

9  
PROFESSIONAL  
INTEGRITY

3  
SOCIAL  
JUSTICE  
AND  
EQUALITY

4  
SELF  
DETERMINATION

5  
PARTICIPATION

6  
CONFIDENTIALITY  
AND  
PRIVACY

- Numerous roles, including:
  - Advocate for change
  - Provide psychosocial support
  - Assess needs and link people with services
  - Empower people to make changes in their lives
  - Support parents
  - Protect children and vulnerable adults

## What do Social Workers Do?



# Careers in Social Work



- Our graduates employed across the island of Ireland and internationally
- Currently great demand for social workers to work in a variety of sectors, both statutory and non-governmental
- Starting salaries of c. €41,330 (from p.20 of: HSE [Consolidated Payscales 1st September 2019 - on foot of HR Circ 027 2019](#))





# UCD's 3 + 2 Pathway to Social Work

- **3 year undergraduate B Soc Sc (Social Policy and Sociology) (DN750) plus 2 year Professional Masters in Social Work**
- **DN700 does not make you eligible**
- **Second year DN750 students can apply for a place on the Masters programme, and if successful their place will be held for them until they have graduated from their degree.**
- **Professional Masters in Social Work is a two year degree, with each year involving a semester in college and a semester in a social work agency.**
- **Mix of students of different ages & ethnicities, including mature students.**



# Interested? Want to learn more?

- Find out more about social work through the Irish Association of Social Workers: [www.iasw.ie](http://www.iasw.ie), the International Federation of Social Workers [www.ifsw.org](http://www.ifsw.org) or the British Association of Social Workers [www.basw.co.uk](http://www.basw.co.uk)
- Volunteer in your local community or with NGOs to gain relevant experience (relevant experience that you gain now can be counted towards the eligibility criteria when applying for the Professional Masters in Social Work)
- Seek out Social Workers and ask them about their jobs.
- Read about what social workers do
- Contact us and ask questions!







More  
information?

- Website:  
[https://sisweb.ucd.ie/usis/!W\\_HU\\_MEN\\_U.P\\_PUBLISH?p\\_tag=PROG&MAJR=W426](https://sisweb.ucd.ie/usis/!W_HU_MEN_U.P_PUBLISH?p_tag=PROG&MAJR=W426)
- Or contact:
  - Dr Sarah Donnelly [sarah.donnelly@ucd.ie](mailto:sarah.donnelly@ucd.ie)
  - Dr Hilda Loughran [hilda.loughran@ucd.ie](mailto:hilda.loughran@ucd.ie)
  - Ms. Martina Reidy [martina.reidy@ucd.ie](mailto:martina.reidy@ucd.ie)



**THANK YOU**

**GO RAIBH MAITH  
AGAIBH**

 [www.ucd.ie/socialsciences](http://www.ucd.ie/socialsciences)

 [socialsciences@ucd.ie](mailto:socialsciences@ucd.ie)

@SocialPWJ

