Looking beyond grades for course on social work

In this part of the askST education series, The Straits Times answers two questions from parents on the Singapore University of Social Sciences

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Q: Can my daughter who has average grades get into a local university? Like the Singapore University of Social Sciences where I have been going for part-time lessons?

A: It is admirable that young people, such as your daughter, aspire to work to bring about positive changes in people’s lives. It is not easy to make the point that admission to universities is not based on academic grades alone.

The starting salaries of social work graduates compiled by NCSS range from $3,200 to $4,600.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Home Affairs select WSDeg graduates, which combine academic and workplace learning. These programmes are co-designed by SUSS and companies to closely align classroom learning with structured on-the-job training. Students acquire work-relevant skills through on-the-job training, making them more work-ready upon graduation.

At SUSS, WSDegs are open to students, including those from polytechnics, who are ready to apply the knowledge they acquired in the classroom at the workplace.

Student may alternate between work and study programmes designed to develop an individual or cluster interview. The interviews are used to gauge applicants’ interest in social work, their ability to work in the same company upon graduation.

It is worth noting that admission processes vary and new needs continually arise in society, and as people become more forthcoming in asking for help.

Employers say they support the programme because students acquire deep, work-relevant skills and can better transit to the work-place upon graduation.

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