

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Graduate Programmes



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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



DREAM, DARE, DO.

SUSS is a powerhouse of change, unleashing the potential within individuals and propelling them to be impactful change-makers.

Fueled by a deep sense of purpose, their transformations transcend personal growth, enriching not only their lives but also the lives of those around them.

Their unwavering commitment empowers them to conquer challenges, embodying the unstoppable '**Dream, Dare, Do**' spirit of SUSS.

United in action, we dream big, dare greatly, and do what it takes to leave an indelible mark on our learners, industry, and community.



Welcome to the School of Social Work and Social Development (SWSD).

We are a vibrant community dedicated to advancing the mission of social betterment, service to the community, and transformative change for our society. In SWSD, we offer holistic and rigorous academic programs that are supported by strong partnerships in field practice.

Here, we foster a culture of empathy, social responsibility, critical thinking and advocacy so that our graduands are well prepared to address the complex issues the world is facing today. Students can look forward to exciting careers in the field of social work and related care-economy professions. SWSD aims to become the Centre of Excellence and Thought Leadership in social development in Singapore."

Associate Professor

VINCENT NG

Dean

School of Social Work and
Social Development



Our School combines rigorous academic training with real world applications where your passion and conviction to build a better future for humanity can come true!

10

Good Reasons to Study at Singapore University of Social Sciences



ONE OF THE SIX
AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITIES
IN SINGAPORE



HIGH ACADEMIC
STANDARDS



LIFELONG EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES



FLEXIBLE AND
SELF-PACED LEARNING



WELL-DESIGNED ONLINE
LEARNING RESOURCES



OVER 47,000
ALUMNI



EXPERIENCED FACULTY
MEMBERS AND
INDUSTRY EXPERTS



FOCUS ON REAL-
WORLD LEARNING



INDUSTRY-RELEVANT
CURRICULA



PRACTICE-ORIENTED
APPROACH

SOCIAL WORK

(Graduate Diploma | Master's)



Find out
more

Programme Overview

Evolving societal, community and individual needs have led to heightened expectations of contemporary social workers from both clients and employers. To meet these challenges of the new era, leaders in the social service sector are required to play a vital role in guiding and mentoring fellow social workers as well as possess a wealth of knowledge in specific fields.

The graduate programmes in social work at SUSS provide a pathway to fulfilling this essential role, and are practice-based programmes designed to prepare social workers aspiring to take up leadership positions in the social service sector. They aim to equip graduates with clinical social work skills, administrative competencies, and supervision skills to function at management positions in the sector.

All courses are taught by established academics and professionals in leadership positions with vast real-time experiences, ensuring that issues discussed are always kept current and relevant for practical application.

Whom is this for?

The Graduate Diploma programme is tailored for individuals who do not hold a social work degree but are interested in pursuing a career in the field of social work.

The Master of Social Work programme is open to individuals holding a social work degree (either undergraduate or graduate diploma degree).

Career Prospects

Graduates from these programmes will be acknowledged as social work professionals equipped with administrative and supervisory competencies, in addition to specialised knowledge for those who complete the master's degree, as recognised by the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW). The primary employers of social workers encompass the government agencies, specifically the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), and the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), along with Social Service Agencies, Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs), and healthcare institutions.

Programme Structure

Graduate Diploma in Social Work (GDSW)

Students are required to complete eight core courses, a total of 40 credit units (CU) with a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.5 to graduate.

Students who graduate from this GDSW are recognised as a 'social worker' by the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW).

Master of Social Work (MDSW)

Students are required to complete a total of 60 CU with a minimum CGPA of 3.0 to graduate. The breakdown of the CU to be completed is:

- 30 CU of Core courses
- 20 CU of Elective Courses in Specialisation Track¹ (Advanced Clinical Practice² and Social Impact Leadership³)
- 10 CU of General Elective Courses⁴

¹ Students have the opportunity to select a track that allows them to tailor their educational journey in alignment with their career aspirations.

² This track provides advanced training for students to deliver high-quality clinical interventions to individuals and families, positioning them to emerge as leaders in the field of clinical social work.

³ This track is specifically designed to equip students aspiring to hold leadership positions with the necessary skills and expertise needed to address the current challenges facing social service organisations, as well as those anticipated in the future.

⁴ Students will need to select a Research Methodology course (5 CU) as part of the Graduate Unrestricted Electives requirement if they do not have relevant research knowledge to embark on their Applied Project.

Graduate Diploma in Social Work (GDSW)

Core Courses (Total 40 CU)

- Human Lifespan and Social Ecology
- Social Work Practice I: Casework and Family Intervention
- Social Work Practice II: Groupwork and Community Organisation
- Social Welfare Policy and Delivery Systems
- Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work
- Social Research and Programme Evaluation
- Social Issues and Social Services in Singapore
- Social Work Practicum and Field Seminar



Graduate Diploma in Social Work¹

Explanatory Note:

¹ Need a min. cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.5 to be awarded Graduate Diploma in Social Work.

Important Notes:

- All courses are 5 CU unless stated otherwise.
- The courses listed are subject to change.

Master of Social Work (MDSW)

Core Courses (Total 30 CU)

- Theories and Principles of Supervision for Social Work
- Professional Development and Resilience
- Advanced Integrated Practice for Social Work
- Social Mobility and Assets Building Approaches
- Social Service Applied Project (10 CU)



Specialisation Electives (Total 20 CU)

(Choose one track from the three below)

Track 1

Social Impact Leadership

- Social Policy Analysis and Development
- Social Administration and Planning
- Social Impact Design Thinking and Analytic
- Strategic Leadership and Stewardship
- Advocacy and Communication in Social Work
- ICT and Social Work

Track 2

Advanced Clinical Practice

- Advanced Clinical Practice with Individuals and Family Intervention
- Rehabilitation and Protection of Individuals and Families
- Integrated Social Health Practice
- Mental Health, Illness and Addiction
- Theory and Practice in Gerontological Social Work
- Theory and Practice of Youth Work

Track 3

Generic MDSW

Students have the option to not choose either Track 1 or Track 2, but can select courses from both baskets to complete 20 CU.



Elective Courses (Total 10 CU)

- Choose two courses from Graduate Unrestricted Electives (10 CU)¹



Master of Social Work²

Explanatory Notes:

¹ Students will need to select a Research Methodology course (5 CU) as part of the Graduate Unrestricted Electives requirement if they do not have relevant research knowledge to embark on their Applied Project.

² Upon completion of 60 CU of courses, students will need a min. cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0 to be awarded Master of Social Work.

Important Notes:

- All courses are 5 CU unless stated otherwise.
- Students need to maintain a min. CGPA of 3.0 in their coursework as part of the fulfilment of the master's programme.
- The courses listed are subject to change.

JOIN US

Applicants must possess an undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification from a recognised institution.

For SUSS graduate programmes that are conducted in the English Language, you must meet the English Language Proficiency Requirement (ELPR)* **if** your undergraduate degree is not awarded by an English-medium university, **or** your undergraduate degree is awarded by an English-medium university but the language of instruction was not English.

** at least an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5, or a TOEFL score of 580 (paper-based) or 85 (internet-based), or a PTE Academic score of 58, or C1 Advanced score of 180 [score must be obtained within the last 2 years at point of application].*

Applicants with an undergraduate degree that was conducted in English but awarded by a non-English medium university must produce an official letter from the university to certify as such in order to seek waiver of the ELPR requirement.

Some programmes may have additional requirements. Please refer to the individual programme pages for details.

Shortlisted applicants may be required to undergo one or more interviews and/or take written admission or other evaluation tests as may be prescribed by SUSS from time to time.

All applications are considered individually on merit, and the offer of admission is dependent on the number of places available in individual programmes. Admission is solely at the discretion of SUSS and the decision is final and binding. SUSS reserves the right to refuse admission and is not obliged to offer an explanation for the non-admission of unsuccessful candidates.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Applications are to be made online via suss.edu.sg/apply.

You must submit all the required documents together with your admission application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.



Find out more

TUITION FEES

The amount of course fees you pay in each semester depends on the number of courses you take in that semester. The course fees cover all study materials, classes, tutor supervision, assignments and examinations. They do not include fees for textbooks, and other additional items specified by SUSS from time to time.



Find out more

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Committed to the promotion of lifelong learning, SUSS offers a number of scholarships and sponsorships to new and continuing students in recognition of their excellent academic achievements, leadership qualities and special talents and contributions.



Find out more

Please visit suss.edu.sg for more details.

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Email:
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Information is accurate as of June 2026. For the most updated information, please refer to our website.