



**2022**

**Undergraduate Programmes**

**S R NATHAN SCHOOL OF  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**BACHELOR OF  
SOCIAL WORK**

(PART-TIME PROGRAMME)



## **Programme Overview**

Social work as a profession is becoming more attractive for those looking into joining the helping profession. With accreditation now in place, the profession has moved several notches up the recognition ladder and with that comes the benefit of more comparative remuneration. Many more are now considering upgrading into or switching to the social work profession.

Social work is a challenging but fulfilling profession and this programme prepares you to meet that challenge.

## **Our Programme**

The Bachelor of Social Work (BSWK) programme emanates from the key foundational components of social work theory and practice. The focus is on the mastery and integration of an eclectic knowledge base and a broad spectrum of skills. A wide range of theoretical knowledge and practice skills underlying social work practice will be covered.

All these will prepare graduates in utilising a common helping process on multiple levels - with individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities - and in implementing a variety of intervention roles including advocate, broker, case manager, counsellor, group educator and mediator.

The programme will also prepare graduates to practise in a variety of settings and with diverse populations.

## **Our Edge**

To ensure that graduates are well-trained to handle clients upon graduation, field experience is highly emphasised in these programmes. Graduates would have undergone at least one supervised practicum of 400 practice hours at a social work agency.

All courses are taught by established academics and professionals in the various social work fields, with vast real-time experiences in the real world, ensuring that issues discussed are always kept current and relevant for practical application.

This programme is recognised by the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW) and is supported under the VCF Professional Capability Grant. Graduates are eligible to register with SASW as registered social workers after completing the required number of practice hours.

## **Why is the Singapore University of Social Sciences Unique?**

Studying in the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) means that working adults are able to enrich themselves academically without compromising their careers, families and social lives. All our classes are conducted in the evenings and during weekends. To supplement the classes, study guides are provided so that self-study is possible to complement classroom learning.

Application of gained knowledge and skills is immediate as the curriculum is designed to be practical for working adults, resulting in greater knowledge retention and assimilation.

## **Whom is this for?**

This programme would appeal to those who are interested to pursue a career as a professional social worker in the various social services settings.

## **Career Prospects**

Graduates of the basic degree in social work can register with the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW) after they have met the requirements of supervised practical work. Graduates with the honours degree will qualify for registration immediately.

Social workers can practise in a variety of settings:

- Government Ministries
- National Council of Social Service
- Family Services Centres
- Community Development Centres
- Prisons and other rehabilitation agencies
- Hospitals, hospices and other health agencies

## **Programme Structure**

This programme is built around strong social work competencies and adopt an academic-practitioner approach to the social worker education. The electives included in the programme are identified to allow for specialisation in desired settings and clientele groups.

Students are required to complete a total of 130 credit units (cu) of courses, inclusive of 10 cu of SUSS Core courses to graduate with a basic degree.

This programme has an honours option. Students who achieve a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.5 and above upon completion of their basic degree will be invited to enrol in the honours programme, which will be offered only if the requisite number of students is met. Students who accept the invitation will need to complete another 40 cu of courses to achieve 170 cu in total and have to satisfy all university requirements in order to graduate with an honours degree.

All courses are 5 cu unless stated otherwise.

### **Year 1**

#### **Semester 1**

- Introduction to Psychology 1
- Introduction to Psychology 2
- Human Growth and Life-Span Development (Birth to adolescence)
- Human Growth and Life-Span Development (Adulthood to Old Age)

#### **Semester 2**

- Living Sociology
- Singapore Society
- Introduction to Social Work
- Introduction to Social Services

### **Year 2**

#### **Semester 1**

- Legal and Ethical Issues in Helping Professions
- Biological Influences on Human Behaviour
- Social Work Practice and Skills Lab I: Working with Individuals and Families (10 cu)

#### **Semester 2**

- Research Methods for the Social and Behavioural Sciences
- Programme Evaluation
- Social Work Practice and Skills Lab II: Working with Small Groups (10 cu)

### **Year 3**

#### **Semester 1**

- Social Work Practice and Skills Lab III: Working with Organisations and Communities (10 cu)
- Choose 2 Elective Courses\*

#### **Semester 2**

- Social Work Practicum and Field Seminar I (400 hrs) (10 cu)
- Choose 2 Elective Courses\*

### **Year 4 - Honours Level**

#### **Semester 1**

- Statistics
- Globalisation and Social Change
- Capstone Social Work Project (stretches across 2 semesters) (10 cu)
- Choose 2 Elective Courses\*

#### **Semester 2**

- Capstone Social Work Project (10 cu)
- Social Work Practicum and Field Seminar II (400 hrs) (10 cu)

#### **\* List of Elective Courses**

- Children and their Issues
- Families and their Issues
- Social Work in Healthcare
- Eldercare
- Introduction to Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- Introduction to and Assessment Framework for Youth Issues
- Interventions for At-Risk Youths
- Approaches to Community Development
- Community Development: Practice and Strategies

#### **Important Notes:**

- Students are strongly advised to take the courses listed in each semester/year as specified in the curriculum above.
- The curriculum plan shown is a general guide and courses may be subject to changes.

# ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

## Admission Criteria

Applicants must be a Singapore citizen, a permanent resident or a resident in Singapore, and need to meet the following minimum requirements:

- GCE 'A' Level with two passes (prior to 2006) or two H2 passes (from 2006); or local Polytechnic Diploma; or International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma; or NUS High School Diploma. Applicants with a Diploma from ITE, or other Diploma qualifications plus an acceptable SAT or ACT (with Writing) score may be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis;
- Two years of full-time work experience, or currently employed on a full-time basis; and
- At least 21 years old.

Applicants with a SSI Higher Diploma in Social Service or a WSQ Diploma in Social Service will be considered for admission.

Shortlisted applicants may be required to undergo one or more interview(s) 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.

## How to Apply

Applications are to be made online via [suss.edu.sg](http://suss.edu.sg). You must submit all the required documents together with your admission application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

## Tuition Fees and Government Subsidy

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.

The Tuition Fee Subsidy (TFS) from the Singapore Government comes in the form of a tuition grant administered by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and is offered to all eligible admitted students studying for part-time undergraduate programmes at SUSS. Singapore Citizens aged 40 and above who are pursuing MOE-subsidised undergraduate programmes with SUSS and who are eligible for the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy will enjoy a higher subsidy.

All Singaporeans aged 25 and above can use their \$500 SkillsFuture Credit from the government to pay for a wide range of approved skills-related courses. Visit the SkillsFuture Credit website ([www.skillsfuture.sg/credit](http://www.skillsfuture.sg/credit)) to choose from the courses available on the SkillsFuture Credit course directory.

Please visit [suss.edu.sg](http://suss.edu.sg) for current tuition fees and eligibility criteria for the government subsidy and SkillsFuture Mid-Career Enhanced Subsidy.

## Internet Access

All SUSS students must have access to a computer/ laptop and the Internet in order to use the electronic and website facilities which allow access to course, academic and administrative information.

