



2022

Graduate Programmes

**S R NATHAN SCHOOL OF  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

# MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
SOCIAL WORK



## Programme Overview

Evolving societal, community and individual needs bring about heightened expectations of contemporary social workers, from both clients and employers.

To meet these challenges of the new era, leaders in the social services sector are required to play a vital role in guiding and grooming fellow social workers as well as to possess a wealth of knowledge in a specific field. This programme offers the key to satisfying this new role.

The Graduate Diploma and Master of Social Work programmes 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, administration skills and supervision skills to function at management positions in the sector.

## Unique Features of the Programme

- A special feature of this programme is the option of exiting with a graduate diploma or graduating with a master's degree. Upon completion of the six compulsory core courses plus three pre-requisite courses and practicum, if applicable, students may choose to exit with a graduate diploma. Re-entry to the master's programme may be allowed within the maximum candidature of 4 years.
- 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.

The programme offers a specialisation track in Couple and Family Therapy which will train students to work with couples and families having relational issues. The various models of family therapy like systemic, structural, strategic, experiential and others will be covered.

## Whom is this for?

The programmes are specially designed both for graduates with a social work degree and those with other degrees. For graduates without prior social work training, pre-requisite courses will equip you with the basic social work knowledge and skills so as to ease you into the master's programme.

## Career Prospects

Graduates from these programmes will be recognised social work professionals with administrative and supervisory abilities as well as domain specialists, as accepted by the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW) and the main employers of social workers, namely the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and the National Council of Social Service (NCSS).

Those who proceed to complete the master's programme will become domain specialists as well.

## Programme Structure

Three pre-requisite courses are designed to prepare the non-social work degree holders for entry into the master's programme. A supervised practicum (400 hours) is also required for graduates to apply their knowledge in an actual social service setting.

To graduate with the Master of Social Work, students are required to complete 60 credit units (cu) consisting of ten courses (six core and four electives) and an applied research project. However the project may be substituted with two additional elective courses offered. The electives included in the programme are identified to enhance the expertise of social work professionals by allowing for specialisation in specific settings and with specific client groups.

To graduate with a Graduate Diploma in Social Work, 30 cu consisting of six core courses must be completed. All courses are 5 cu unless stated otherwise.

### **Pre-requisite Courses<sup>1</sup>**

- Social Work Practice I: Social Casework and Family Intervention
- Social Work Practice II: Groupwork and Community Organisation
  - Social Welfare Policy and Service Delivery Systems
- Social Work Practicum and Field Seminars (400 hours)



### **Core Courses (Total 30 cu)**

- Human Lifespan and Social Ecology
- Social Policy Analysis and Development
  - Social Administration and Planning
- Theories and Principles of Supervision for Social Work
  - Social Research and Programme Evaluation
- Contemporary Social Work Issues and Practice



### **Graduate Diploma in Social Work<sup>2</sup>**



### **Elective Courses (Choose 30 cu)<sup>3</sup>**

- Advanced Clinical Practice I: Working with Individuals
  - Advanced Clinical Practice II: Family Intervention
    - Addiction Intervention I: Substance Abuse
    - Addiction Intervention II: Behavioural Addictions
  - Theory and Practice of Gerontological Social Work
    - Mental Health and Illness
    - Strategies for School Social Work
- Professional and Personal Development and Resilience
  - Theory and Practice of Youthwork
- Rehabilitation and Protection of Individuals and Families
  - Independent Study in Social Welfare
    - International Social Welfare
    - Statistics and Data Analysis<sup>4</sup>
  - Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis<sup>4</sup>
  - Applied Research Project in Social Work (10 cu)<sup>4</sup>



### **Master of Social Work<sup>5</sup>**

#### Explanatory Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Only for students without a social work degree.

<sup>2</sup> Need a min. cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 2.5 to be awarded Graduate Diploma in Social Work; need a min. CGPA of 3.0 to proceed to Master of Social Work.

<sup>3</sup> Students can choose to take up to 10 cu of Graduate Unrestricted Electives in lieu of elective courses.

<sup>4</sup> The Applied Research Project must be taken with EITHER Statistics and Data Analysis OR Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis.

<sup>5</sup> Need a min. CGPA of 3.0 to be awarded Master of Social Work.



# MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

## SPECIALISING IN COUPLE AND FAMILY THERAPY

### Programme Overview

Relational problems are rising among couples, children and their families in Singapore. These problems are often presented at Family Service Centres, Child Guidance Clinics, and Psychological Medicine Departments in hospitals. Given the increasing clinical demands for trained counsellors in this area, the specialisation track in Couple and Family Therapy (CFT) will be offered within the existing Master of Social Work programme.

The Master of Social Work-CFT programme will focus on achieving a higher quality of training and clinical competency of its therapists.

### Unique Features of CFT Specialisation Track

- Emphasises on the robust and systematic training of students to be clinically competent therapists. Students will develop clinical values, skills and knowledge that are grounded in evidence-based practices
- Equips graduates with clinical skills that will effectively address, manage and treat relationship problems in couples, as well as parent-child issues, arising from childhood developmental problems
- It is the first and only programme in Singapore to systematically train competent CFT therapists at a tertiary institution for the mental health sectors

### Whom is this for?

- Professionals who are seeking to enhance their career in social work
- Individuals interested to specialise in clinical work with couples, children and their families

### Career Prospects

Graduates can look forward to career opportunities in Family Service Centres, Social Service Agencies, hospitals, schools and private clinics, helping families and children with behavioural and/or developmental issues.

### Programme Structure

Three pre-requisite courses are designed to prepare the non-social work degree holders for entry into the master's programme. A supervised practicum (400 hours) is also required for graduates to apply their knowledge in an actual social service setting.

To graduate with the Master of Social Work Specialising in CFT, students are required to complete 60 credit units (cu) of social work and CFT courses and obtain a minimum CGPA of 3.0. All courses are 5 cu unless stated otherwise.

### **Pre-requisite Courses (PRSWK)<sup>1</sup>**

- Social Work Practice I: Social Casework and Family Intervention
- Social Work Practice II: Groupwork and Community Organisation
  - Social Welfare Policy and Service Delivery Systems
  - Social Work Practicum and Field Seminars (400 hours)



### **Core Courses (Total 30 cu)**

- Human Lifespan and Social Ecology
- Social Policy Analysis and Development
  - Social Administration and Planning
- Theories and Principles of Supervision for Social Work
  - Social Research and Programme Evaluation
- Contemporary Social Work Issues and Practice



### **Graduate Diploma in Social Work<sup>2</sup>**



### **Core Courses for CFT (Total 20 cu)**

- Advanced Couple and Family Therapy
- Emotion-Focused Therapy for Couples
  - Minuchin Family Therapy
- CFT Supervision for Practice



### **Elective Courses (Choose 10 cu)**

- Narrative Therapy
- Medical Family Therapy
- Gottman Couples Theory
- Sexual Issues in Couple Therapy
- Integrative Systemic Therapy
- Clinical Supervision in Counselling & Systemic Therapy
- Special Topics in Systemic Therapy: Person-of-the-Therapist (POTT)



### **Master of Social Work Specialising in Couple and Family Therapy<sup>3</sup>**

#### **Explanatory Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Only for students without a social work degree.

<sup>2</sup> Need a min. CGPA of 2.5 to be awarded Graduate Diploma in Social Work; need a min. CGPA of 3.0 to proceed to Master of Social Work Specialising in Couple and Family Therapy.

<sup>3</sup> Need a min. CGPA of 3.0 to be awarded Master of Social Work Specialising in Couple and Family Therapy.

# ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

## Admission Criteria

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.

For Couple and Family Therapy specialisation track, applicants should have good individual counselling skills, with at least one year of working experience with couples and families.

Shortlisted applicants will be required to undergo one or more interviews and/or take such 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.

## 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.

## Funding Scheme

The Graduate Diploma and Master of Social Work enjoys the support of the VCF Professional Capability Grant and NCSS initiatives as stated in the Professionalisation Package. To apply for VCF Funding, please visit the NCSS website.

✉ student\_recruitment@suss.edu.sg

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