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Guidance

Step up to social work

Applications for the 2024 programme are open.

From: [Department for Education](#)

Published 13 January 2023

Last updated 17 February 2023 — [See all updates](#)

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Applies to England

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Step up to social work is an intensive, 14-month, full-time programme. If you want to become a social worker but do not have a degree in social work, you can train through this programme.

What you'll need to apply

To apply to the programme, you'll need to have:

- a minimum 2:2 undergraduate degree qualification (level 6)
- 6 months' full-time (or equivalent) direct experience, either in a paid or voluntary capacity, of working with vulnerable children, young people and/or families, carers or vulnerable adults
- GCSEs in English or English language and mathematics at grade 4 (C) or above (or an approved equivalent)

! You must have completed your degree programme before applying. Final year students are not eligible to apply.

Training and funding

If your application is successful, you will:

- train through a combination of academic study and hands on social work experience in a local authority
- receive a bursary of £19,833 to support you during your training

What you'll get when you qualify

Once you successfully complete the programme, you will qualify with a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work. This will allow you to apply to register with [Social Work England](#) as a qualified social worker.

When to apply

You can [apply](#) now.

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