

Qualifications criteria for phase two registrants – all workers in housing support services

The Register for Social Service Workers opened on 1 April 2003. Registration is part of the drive to raise standards and strengthen the professionalism of social services to ensure that people who use services and carers can rely on a workforce that is properly trained, appropriately qualified and effectively regulated.

The SSSC will begin registering:

- managers of housing support services from December 2010.

Other groups of workers in housing support services include:

- supervisors of housing support services
- housing support workers.

More detailed timescales for registering all groups of workers in housing support services will be announced in due course.

If you require copies of any of the above qualification criteria or would like to request these documents in another format or language please contact the Scottish Social Services Council on 0845 60 30 891.

This version was last updated on 30.06.10. However, the SSSC adds to the criteria from time to time. Please go to our website www.sssc.uk.com to make sure you have the latest copy.

Qualifications criteria for phase two registrants – all workers in housing support services

The Scottish Social Services Council consulted widely on the qualifications criteria required for workers in phase two of registration. The comments and feedback received were taken into consideration and the qualifications have been set. This information sheet sets out the qualifications required by housing support workers in housing support services. Qualification requirements will be contained in the Registration Rules which are subject to Scottish Ministers' consent.

Workers in housing support services are employed in the provision of a housing support service as defined by section 2(27) of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001. Workers deliver general advice, assistance, counselling and support to enable clients and tenants to move into and/or remain in their homes.

It is recognised that it will take time for workers to achieve required qualifications and that employers will have to phase access to registration in order to allow sufficient time for workers to achieve required qualifications.

Applicants for registration who do not hold required qualifications may, if they meet all of the other eligibility criteria for registration eg evidence of 'good character', be granted registration subject to the condition that they achieve the required qualifications within a specified period – normally their first three year period of registration.

These are the Requirements for qualifications referred to in the SSSC's registration rules.

The SSSC will work with employers to phase in access to registration.

Principles

There is a set of general principles governing the qualifications required.

- Integration of practice and learning.
- Recognition within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).
- Importance of underpinning knowledge and a value base that is consistent with the Code of Practice for Social Service Workers.

Qualifications for housing support workers

Housing support workers are defined as workers who are employed in the provision of a housing support service as defined by section 2(27) of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001. Workers deliver general advice, assistance, counselling and support to enable clients and tenants to move into and/or remain in their homes.

Persons registering as housing support workers must hold one of the following:

- S/NVQ Level 2 in Housing, Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Joint Award
- S/NVQ Level 3 Housing CIH Joint Award

Plus

- S/NVQ Level 2 Principles of Care Unit – HSC24

or one of the following

- S/NVQ level 2 in Care or Direct Care
- S/NVQ level 3 in Care
- S/NVQ level 2 in Health and Social Care
- S/NVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care
- SVQ level 3 in Community Justice (Work with Offending Behaviour) or Community Justice (Work with Victims, Survivors and Witnesses)
- NVQ level 3 in Community Justice (Work with Offending Behaviour) or Community Justice (Work with Victims, Survivors and Witnesses) to include or with the addition of a value base unit ('O' unit or Principles of Care)
- S/NVQ level 3 in Promoting Independence
- Higher Education Certificate in Care (Queen Margaret University College)
- Higher Education Certificate in Person Centred Approaches for Social Care Workers (Queen Margaret University College)
- HNC Social Care (all awards)
- HNC/HND Supporting Learning Needs
- S/NVQ level 3 in Care with HNC Social Care (Combined Award)
- S/NVQ level 4 in Care
- S/NVQ level 4 in Health and Social Care
- Any qualification as defined in the category "supervisor practice qualification"
- BA (Hons) in Learning Disability Studies (University of Manchester)
- A qualification meeting the corporate membership requirements of the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)
- Degree or Diploma in Community Education or equivalent, as recognised by the Standards Council for Community Learning and Development for Scotland Approvals Committee
- Diploma in Social Work or equivalent qualification
- A qualification meeting the registration requirements of the General Teaching Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, General Medical Council, the following professional groups regulated by the Health Professions Council:
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Arts, Music and Drama Therapists
 - Physiotherapists
 - Speech and Language Therapists
- A qualification meeting the requirements for chartered registration with the British Psychological Society in the divisions listed in appendix 1
- Degree or Diploma in Curative Education
- Diploma in the Training and Further Education of Mentally Handicapped Adults
- Certificate in Deafblind Studies with the Diploma in Deafblind Studies and the Practice Unit in Deafblind Studies.

Qualifications for supervisors in housing support services

Supervisors are defined as housing support workers who have responsibility for the supervision of other workers. Workers in the 'supervisors' category must hold one of the following:

- S/NVQ level 3 Housing, CIH Joint Award

Plus

- S/NVQ level 3 Principles of Care Unit – HSC35

or one of the following qualifications:

- S/NVQ level 3 in Promoting Independence
- S/NVQ level 3 in Care
- S/NVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care
- SVQ level 3 in Community Justice (Work with Offending Behaviour) or Community Justice (Work with Victims, Survivors and Witnesses)
- NVQ level 3 in Community Justice (Work with Offending Behaviour) or Community Justice (Work with Victims, Survivors and Witnesses) to include or with the addition of a value base unit ('O' unit or Principles of Care)
- Higher Education Certificate in Care (Queen Margaret University College)
- Higher Education Certificate in Person Centred Approaches for Social Care Workers (Queen Margaret University College)
- HNC Social Care (2005 revised award G7ME15)
- HNC Social Care (all other awards pre 2005) with the SVQ Health and Social Care units DK4R04; DK4K04; DK5704
- S/NVQ level 3 in Care with HNC Social Care (Combined Award)
- BA (Hons) Learning Disability Studies (University of Manchester)
- Diploma in the Training and Further Education of Mentally Handicapped Adults
- Diploma in Domiciliary Care Management
- Certificate in Deafblind Studies with the Diploma in Deafblind Studies and the Practice Unit in Deafblind Studies

plus

An additional supervisory or management qualification containing supervision or management theory and practice suitable for a supervisor of a care service with a minimum of 15 credits at SCQF level 7 or above.

or one of the following qualifications:

- S/NVQ level 4 in Care
- S/NVQ level 4 in Health and Social Care
- SVQ level 4 in Community Justice (Work with Offending Behaviour) or Community Justice (Work with Victims, Survivors and Witnesses)
- NVQ level 4 in Community Justice (Work with Offending Behaviour) or Community Justice (Work with Victims, Survivors and Witnesses) to include or with the addition of a value base unit ('O' unit or Principles of Care)
- Any qualifications as defined in the category "manager practice qualification"
- A qualification meeting the corporate membership requirements of the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)
- Degree or Diploma in Community Education or equivalent, as recognised by the Standards Council for Community Learning and Development for Scotland Approvals Committee
- Diploma in Social Work or equivalent qualification
- A qualification meeting the registration requirements of the General Teaching Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, General Medical Council, the following professional groups regulated by the Health Professions Council:
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Arts, Music and Drama Therapists
 - Physiotherapists
 - Speech and Language Therapists
- A qualification meeting the requirements for chartered registration with the British Psychological Society in the divisions listed in appendix 1
- Degree or Diploma in Curative Education.

Qualifications for managers in housing support services

The following information is only relevant to persons wishing to apply to register with the SSSC.

A Manager is a worker who is responsible for the overall professional management of the direct provision, supervision, and quality assurance of care and support provided in a housing support service.

Workers in the 'managers' category must hold one of the following:

- S/NVQ level 4 in Care
- S/NVQ level 4 in Health and Social Care
- SVQ level 4 Community Justice (Work with Offending Behaviour) or Community Justice (Work with Victims, Survivors and Witness)
- NVQ level 4 Community Justice (Work with Offending Behaviour) or Community Justice (Work with Victims, Survivors and Witnesses) to include, or with the addition of a value base unit ('O' or Principles of Care)
- Diploma or degree in Community Education or equivalent, as recognised by the Standards Council for Community Learning and Development for Scotland Approvals Committee
- Diploma in Social Work or equivalent qualification
- A qualification meeting the registration requirements of the General Teaching Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, General Medical Council, the following professional groups regulated by the Health Professions Council:
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Arts, Music and Drama Therapists
 - Physiotherapists
 - Speech and Language Therapists
- A qualification meeting the requirements for chartered registration with the British Psychological Society in the divisions listed in appendix 1
- Degree or Diploma in Curative Education
- Diploma in Domiciliary Care Management.

Plus one of the following:

- CIH Undergraduate Professional Diploma /SCQF level 9 and 10
- CIH Professional Diploma – Postgraduate /SCQF level 11
- A qualification meeting the corporate membership requirements of the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)
- any award in management that is certificated at or above SCQF Level 8* (minimum of 60 credits) showing evidence the award has been mapped against the National Occupational Standards(NOS): Leadership and Management for Care Services. Institutions wishing to confirm that their management programmes leads to an award that fulfils this criteria are required to provide evidence to the Council that this programme is recognised within their own institution as a management programme and that it fulfils the criteria of mapping outlined above. This evidence may be in the form of a grid showing where the institution's course maps to the required NOS.
The evidence should be accompanied by a letter from the Academic Registrar, Dean or Head of Faculty confirming the course meets the criteria outlined above and the quality assurance standard set by their own institution, QAA or the appropriate awarding body.
- Registered Managers Award
- SVQ Leadership and Management for Care Services level 4
- S/NVQ level 4 Management
- an assessed programme of study (either through a taught programme or by portfolio) where a minimum of 60 credit points covers management, at post-qualifying or advanced level, awarded by the PQ Consortium for Social Work in Scotland
- The Diploma in Public Administration.

*Please refer to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework overleaf.

Appendix 1

Chartered Registration with the British Psychological Society

A qualification meeting the requirements for Chartered Registration with the British Psychological Society in any of the following divisions:

- Chartered Clinical Psychology
- Chartered Counselling Psychology
- Chartered Forensic Psychology
- Chartered Educational Psychology (including full membership of either the division of Educational and Child Psychology for England, Northern Ireland and Wales or the Scottish Division of Educational Psychology for Scotland)
- Chartered Health Psychologist
- Chartered Occupational Psychologist or
- Neuro-psychologists and Sports and Exercise Psychologists who have attained chartered status with the British Psychological Society.

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

The table below shows the respective levels of the different types of Scottish qualifications from school to university.

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
12				Doctorates	
11				Masters Post Graduate Diploma Post Graduate Certificate	SVQ5
10				Honours Degrees Graduate Diploma	
9			Professional Development Awards	Ordinary Degree Graduate Certificate	SVQ4
8		Higher National Diploma		Diploma of Higher Education	
7	Advanced Higher	Higher National Certificate		Certificate of Higher Education	SVQ3
6	Higher				
5	Intermediate 2 Credit Standard Grade				SVQ2
4	Intermediate 1 General Standard Grade	National Certificates	National Progression Awards		SVQ1
3	Access 3 Foundation Standard Grade				
2	Access 2				
1	Access 1				

- i. The new Skills for Work courses are National Courses available as Access, Intermediate and Higher Qualifications (SCQF levels 3 – 6).
- ii. Ongoing work to credit rate SVQs shows that SVQ units range from SCQF level 4 to level 12. SVQs at 3 and 4 can be placed at different SCQF levels.

More information about this framework can be found on the SCQF website www.scqf.org.uk

Further information

For more information about registration or the qualifications criteria please contact:

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