

General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) consultation on revised Registration and Standards Rules

(Response was submitted electronically using an online form)

This response is from the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). We are the regulator for the social services workforce in Scotland. Our work means the people of Scotland can count on social services being provided by a trusted, skilled and confident workforce.

We protect the public by registering social service workers, setting standards for their practice, conduct, training and education and by supporting their professional development. Where people fall below the standards of practice and conduct we can investigate and take action.

1. Do you have any comments on our proposal to require applicants who have qualified outside Scotland to have completed teacher education that is broadly comparable to what is required of a teacher qualified in Scotland?

We welcome the proposal that applicants who have qualified outside Scotland have qualifications that are broadly comparable to those gained by a teacher trained in Scotland.

The SSSC also registers social service workers with qualifications gained outwith the UK. We publish qualification assessment criteria to assist potential registrants: see footnote¹.

2. Do you have any comments on our proposal to re-introduce a provisional (conditional) category of registration?

We are strongly supportive of the GTCS's proposal to re-introduce a provisional (conditional) category of registration. We particularly welcome the proposal that the condition to remedy any qualifications shortfall should be remedied within a specified period of time.

The SSSC operates a system of conditional registration for the function-based parts of its Register (i.e. for applicants who are not social workers or social work students). Conditions are imposed in cases where applicants do not hold all the

¹ <http://www.sssc.uk.com/edocman/NonUKQualificationAssessmentCriteriaSSW300914.pdf> and <http://www.sssc.uk.com/edocman/SWInternationalQualifications-131014.pdf#destination3>

qualifications required for the role they are undertaking. Applicants normally have the first period of registration to gain the required qualifications².

3. Do you have any comments on our proposal to introduce a professional interview mechanism that may be used in some qualified outside Scotland applications that are more complex to assess and where we think having a face to face dialogue may be helpful in order to determine whether the applicant's qualifications meet requirements?

We can see merit in the GTC's proposal to introduce a professional interview mechanism to assess more complex qualified outside Scotland applications.

A critical aspect of this approach would be the publication of clear and comprehensive guidance to support this process. We note that guidance is referred to in the proposed revised Rules and we support the development of such guidance.

4. Do you have any comments on the other changes that we have proposed?

We have no specific comments on the other 'tidying changes' you have made but agree that they make the document clearer and more readable, which is to be supported.

Scottish Social Services Council
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² <http://www.sssc.uk.com/registration/what-qualifications-do-i-need/what-are-our-registration-conditions>