

### Teaching Methods and Assessment

Teaching methods are varied and interactive, ranging from lectures and seminars to small group exercises and role-play. Modules are assessed by essays, projects and examinations. In final year 60%+ of marks derive from continuous assessment.

### Professional Practice

BSS provides generic training in social work and prepares students to work in most settings. So, in each of the four years, students have a placement in a different agency. Placements provide practice experience and an opportunity to apply skills and knowledge gained in college. The first two placements take place in summer vacations. The final two placements are 14 weeks in duration and take place partly in vacation and partly in term. There are opportunities for placements outside Ireland for students with an interest in gaining international experience.

### Tutorial Support

All students in TCD have an academic tutor to advise them. From third year, social work students also have a social work tutor to support their professional development.

### Age

There is no age requirement for the BSS degree. It is the case that social workers have to deal with difficult situations and the degree is designed to provide students with a range of practice learning opportunities before qualifying.

## Sources of Further Information

**Trinity College Dublin**  
**[www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie)**

### Admissions and Entry Requirements

Admissions Office,  
Trinity College,  
Dublin 2  
Telephone: 01 896 4444  
Email: [admissions@tcd.ie](mailto:admissions@tcd.ie)

### BSS programme

School of Social Work and Social Policy,  
Arts Building,  
Trinity College,  
Dublin 2

Telephone: 01 8962001  
Fax: 01 6712262  
Email: [social.studies@tcd.ie](mailto:social.studies@tcd.ie)  
[www.socialwork-socialpolicy.tcd.ie](http://www.socialwork-socialpolicy.tcd.ie)

### Social Work

Irish Association of Social Workers  
[www.iasw.ie](http://www.iasw.ie)  
CORU (Health & Social Care Professionals Council)  
[www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie)

## Bachelor in Social Studies (Social Work) TR 084



## Bachelor in Social Studies (BSS)

The four-year BSS social work degree, offered by the School of Social Work and Social Policy, combines an academic social science degree with professional social work training. BSS degree graduates are eligible to apply for registration with CORU (Social Work Registration Board) and once registered can access employment in a wide range of professional social work posts in Ireland, the UK and internationally.

### Social Work in Ireland

Social work education has been provided in Trinity College since 1934. Since then, the number of social workers employed and the scope of social work in Ireland have been transformed. There are currently over 2000 social workers in practice and many others in social work management, research and training posts.

Social workers are employed in a wide variety of services - medical, mental health, criminal justice and probation, child protection and welfare, family support, community development, services for people with disabilities, or those facing homelessness, alcohol and addiction problems. As a result, social workers work with a wide range of people and situations - from foster parents to refugees - and their tasks are diverse too, including counselling, mediation, assessment, advice, advocacy, coordinating support services, court work, research, and facilitating training and personal development groups.

Qualified social workers command a good starting salary and can develop their careers through in-service and postgraduate training and job mobility.

## Choosing the BSS Degree

As the BSS degree is a vocational degree, it is wise to ask yourself two questions:

### 1) Is social work the right career for you?

Meeting with social workers to find out what they do, reading widely about social issues and problems, and doing voluntary work are all helpful steps in reaching this decision. It is also useful to think about your personal style and talents to see if they fit with social work; for example, whether you are a good listener and communicator, can cope with stressful situations, and can be flexible and patient in helping other people to find their own solutions.

### 2) Is now the right time to commit yourself to a social work degree?

The BSS is an excellent choice for those who want to become social workers and who are ready to take on an intensive programme right away. For others, taking a social science degree first, gaining some work experience, and then training as a social worker on a postgraduate course, is a sensible alternative career path.

## Applying for the BSS Degree

Please see details on the back of this leaflet

### BSS Structure and Content

The BSS degree is quite intensive. In first year, students can expect to spend 15-20 hours per week in classes, similar time in private study, and 2 hours per week in volunteer work. BSS introduces social science subjects in first year, combines social science and social work subjects in second and third year, and concentrates on social work issues in final year.

### Year One:

Introductions to: Social Work, Social Policy, Psychology, Sociology, Economic Policy and Political Science. There is an optional Language module.

### Year Two:

Social Work, Social Policy, Psychology, Family Law, Crime and Social Policy, Social Research, and one further Social Science module, or a Broad Curriculum option or a Language module. Social Work modules include: Skills, Ethics and Values, Community Work, Social Work in a Medical setting and in a Probation setting.

### Year Three:

Social Work, Social Policy, Mental Health and Sociology options. Social Work modules include Family Studies, Child Protection, Social Work Methods and Skills Workshop.

### Year Four:

Social Work Practice, Practice Workshop, Groupwork, Mental Health, Critical and Human Rights Perspectives on Social Work, Equality Issues, Child Care, Social Work Systems and Social Policy Analysis.