

HCPC registration for International Social Workers

Before making an application to register with the HCPC as a Social Worker, you must ensure you are eligible to apply. If you are unsure whether your qualification relates to one of the professions on the Social Work Register, you may find it useful to contact a professional body (see below).

Please note you can only apply via the international route if you have completed your professional training outside of the UK.

Your application will be assessed on your understanding of the Standards of proficiency for Social Workers in England so you must also ensure that you read and understand these.

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/publications/standards/index.asp?id=569>

Qualifications

Applicants are strongly advised to give as much detail in their application as possible as the HCPC assessors make their determination based on all of the information you provide. You are advised to get your university/college to complete the course information form.

An applicant must satisfy the Registration Assessor in their application how they meet the benchmark Standards of proficiency.

To check whether your qualification allows you to work as a Social Worker in England, you may find it useful to contact a professional body.

[The British Association of Social Workers](#)

16 Kent Street, Birmingham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 8411
england@basw.co.uk

[The College of Social Work](#)

30 Euston Square
London
NW1 2FB
Tel: 020 8453 2929
collegeinfo@tcsw.org.uk

Application timescales

The HCPC will send you a letter confirming receipt of your application and payment as soon as they are received. An initial processing of your application, including background checks, takes around 4 weeks and the assessment of your education, training and experience takes approximately another 12 weeks. You will be contacted in writing once the assessors have considered your application.

Translations

Documents submitted in another language must be supported with certified English translations. For overseas applications, the British Embassy, Consulate or High Commission may be able to assist you with finding a translator.

English Proficiency

Your ability to use English is critical in order to work effectively as a health professional in the UK. You must be able to provide a language test certificate with the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). All test certificates must be dated within two years of the date your application is received. Please note the HCPC cannot accept any TOEFL test score undertaken in the UK. For further information visit the IELTS website or contact the British Council offices in your own country.

<http://www.ielts.org/>

Professionals References

To support your application you are asked to provide up to two professional reference forms to support your application. At least one professional reference form is required. The professional reference should be given by someone who has been your supervisor/line manager or otherwise responsible for you in a professional capacity.

Character reference

Before being registered under the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001 an applicant must satisfy the HCPC that they are of good character. A character reference needs to be provided by a person of standing in the community who is not one of your relatives and has known you for three years or more. A professional person (eg a doctor, solicitor or accountant) will be recognised as a person of standing in the community as will other professions; please visit the HCPC website for more information.

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/apply/international/character/>

EEA (European Economic Area) Mutual Recognition Rights

HCPC registration advisors will decide whether you have provided sufficient evidence of EEA mutual recognition status when they assess your application. For more information click here

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org.uk/apply/eeaandswitzerland/>

Application Forms and Guidance Notes

The following link will take you to the HCPC application forms page for international applications. Please note that in order to apply for registration, you will need to download the corresponding application as well as the additional supporting forms.

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/apply/international/forms/>

Payment

HCPC registration for international professionals must be submitted with a one off non refundable payment of £440. This is called a **scrutiny fee** and applications will not be considered without this payment. The HCPC will advise you of the registration fee when your application has been processed and approved. Once registered, your registration cycle is biennial (every two years) and you will need to re-register with the HCPC.

Appeals Process

If your application is rejected, you have the right to appeal the decision. You have 28 days to appeal against an assessment decision starting from the date of the letter rejecting your application.

The above information provides only a brief overview of the HCPC registration process. For full advice and detailed information please visit the Health and Care Professionals Council website.

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/apply/international/>