

# A CAREER IN JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK

## ROUTES INTO SOCIAL WORK IN SCOTLAND

Social work is a rewarding profession focused on supporting individuals, families, and communities. In Scotland, becoming a qualified social worker involves gaining an accredited qualification and registering with the **Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)** and joining the **Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme**.

### 1. Undergraduate Route (BA Hons Social Work)

- **Duration:** 4 years full-time
- **Entry Requirements:** Typically 4 Highers; HNC/HND with relevant experience may allow entry into Year 1 or 2

### 2. Postgraduate Route (MSc/MSW Social Work)

- **Duration:** 2 years full-time
- **Entry Requirements:** Usually a 2:1 degree in a relevant subject; some flexibility for 2:2 with experience

### 3. Alternative Entry Routes

- **HNC/HND Pathway:** Entry into undergraduate programmes with relevant qualifications and experience
- **International Qualifications:** Must be assessed by the SSSC for equivalency
- **Transfer from Other UK Nations:** Degrees from England, Wales, or Northern Ireland are recognised under a UK-wide agreement

Justice social workers play a vital role in Scotland's criminal justice system, supporting individuals at every stage, from court reports and sentencing to rehabilitation and reintegration.

They help reduce reoffending, promote community safety, and offer tailored interventions such as Community Payback Orders, Drug Treatment and Testing Orders, and Throughcare support.

No two days are the same—justice social work demands innovative and creative approaches to engage individuals, address complex needs, and build safer communities.



Justice social work works. It reduces reoffending, protects the public, and helps people rebuild their lives—whether in court, prison, or the community

Source: [Scottish Social Services Council](https://www.sssc.org/)

**“It’s a diverse, dynamic field that brings together housing, health, and social care to tackle the root causes of offending.”**



[www.moray.gov.uk](http://www.moray.gov.uk)

<https://morayprotects.co.uk/about/reducing-crime/>