

HCPC Registration – UK Qualified Social Worker

The Health and Care Professionals Council was set up to regulate and to protect the public. They maintain a register of health and care professionals who meet their standards for training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

If you trained as a Social Worker in the UK, and you have completed and passed an approved programme, you will need to apply via the 'approved qualification' route.

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

If you are not sure if your approved programme qualifies you for registration, you can check here

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/>

How to Apply

You will need to download the application pack from the HCPC website. All applicants must read the standards of proficiency, standard of conduct, performance and ethics and standards of continuing professional development.

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

Character Reference

All applicants 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/uk/character/>

Readmission

If you were registered by the HCPC in the past, and now wish to be re-registered, you need to apply for 'readmission' to the Register. If you have been out of practice for over 2 years you will need to update your skills and knowledge before you can become re-registered (see below). You can download the forms here:

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

Historical qualifications

If you hold a qualification which is more than five years old and you have not been registered before, this is called an 'historical qualification'

If you have been out of practice for more than two years you will need to undertake a period of updating your skills and knowledge before you can become re-registered.

In order to return to the Register, health and care professionals will need to meet the following requirements, depending on how long you have been out of practice:

- **0-2 years** - no requirements
- **2-5 years** - 30 days of updating your skills and knowledge
- **5 years or over** - 60 days of updating your skills and knowledge

These requirements also apply to someone who has never been registered with the HCPC and who has never practised (or who has not practised in the last two years) but who holds an approved qualification which is over five years old. You can find more information by clicking here:

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/registrants/readmission/>

Application Fees

HCPC registration for Social Work professionals applying through the 'approved qualification' route must be submitted with a **one off non-refundable fee of £56**. This is called a **scrutiny fee** and applications will not be considered without this payment.

You must also pay your registration fee at the point you apply for registration. The registration fee for the two-year registration cycle is **£160** (£80 per year). The registration fee is reduced by 50% if you graduated from a UK approved course within the last two years..

Your registration cycle is biennial (two-yearly) and is made up of two 'professional years'.

More information on payment terms can be found here:

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

Registration Timescale

Registration takes around 10 days from the date your application is received. Once your application is processed, the HCPC on line Register is immediately updated. It is the best way for you to check you are registered and for your employer to verify your registration status.

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/check/>

Queries/FAQs

A selection of frequently asked questions can be found on the HCPC website by clicking below.

<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/registrants/faqs/>

Contact the HCPC

For renewals, applications, CPD queries, fees, online account activation or general queries about your registration, please contact:

Registration Department

Tel: 44 (0)845 300 4472*

Email. registration@hcpc-uk.org

Registration Department
Health and Care Professions Council
Park House,
184 Kennington Park Road London,
SE11 4BU

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.