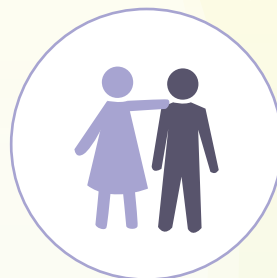


SOCIAL WORK

This is a detailed profile of the social work field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.



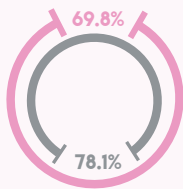
SOCIAL WORK

Courses in social work teach you to understand and analyse the circumstances of people facing a variety of problems and challenges. If you enjoy helping others deal with personal and social problems, you might consider a career in social work.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

UNDERGRADUATE **POSTGRADUATE**

Proportion of students who have secured a full-time job within four months of graduating.



MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY



\$60,000
UNDERGRADUATE

\$67,800
POSTGRADUATE

NUMBER OF STUDENTS



393

UNDERGRADUATE
INTERNATIONAL

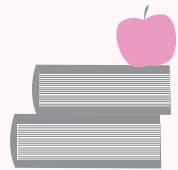
10,582

UNDERGRADUATE

4,918

POSTGRADUATE

WHAT CAN I DO?



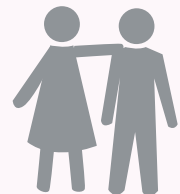
School Counselling



Hospital Work



Community Work



Health Work



Government Work

Data has been sourced from the Graduate Outcomes Survey. Results are pooled to represent graduates who completed the survey in 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014. Graduate complete the Graduate Outcomes Survey approximately four month post graduation.



FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES

SOCIAL WORK

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

NOTRE DAME	96.2%
CURTIN	92.3%
GRIFFITH	89.0%
SUNSHINE COAST	88.3%
NEWCASTLE	88.0%
ECU	87.0%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 82.2%

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

CDU	89.4%
CURTIN	88.9%
CSU	82.5%
SYDNEY	80.0%
UNE	79.2%
LA TROBE	79.0%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 69.8%

LEARNER ENGAGEMENT

NEWCASTLE	80.9%
MONASH	78.4%
NOTRE DAME	76.9%
CURTIN	74.9%
LA TROBE	72.8%
TASMANIA	72.7%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 63.1%

LEARNING RESOURCES

NOTRE DAME	96.0%
WOLLONGONG	94.8%
CURTIN	91.9%
DEAKIN	91.5%
GRIFFITH	90.4%
SUNSHINE COAST	90.4%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 83.3%

MEDIAN STARTING SALARY

ECU	\$68,300
SWINBURNE	\$68,000
CSU	\$65,000
CURTIN	\$65,000
CDU	\$64,000

NATIONAL AVERAGE = \$60,000

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

NOTRE DAME	96.2%
CURTIN	92.0%
GRIFFITH	90.8%
WESTERN SYDNEY	90.4%
CQUni	89.3%
VU	88.1%
RMIT	87.9%
ECU	87.6%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 85.4%

STUDENT SUPPORT

NOTRE DAME	96.2%
WOLLONGONG	85.6%
ECU	82.9%
GRIFFITH	81.8%
NEWCASTLE	81.8%
CURTIN	81.4%
DEAKIN	80.5%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 75.1%

TEACHING QUALITY

NOTRE DAME	100.0%
CURTIN	94.0%
GRIFFITH	91.7%
RMIT	91.5%
SUNSHINE COAST	91.4%
QUEENSLAND	91.0%
ECU	90.7%

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 85.0%

WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN? The ratings above represent the top 20 per cent of results for each measure in this particular field of study. For overall institution results, see the ratings section at the front of the guide.

SOCIAL WORK

If you enjoy helping others deal with personal and social problems, you might consider a career in social work. Courses in social work teach you to understand and analyse the circumstances of people facing a variety of problems and challenges, as well as to develop strategies that will help to improve these circumstances or reduce their impact. Sometimes the problem is short term, such as supporting a family where a parent has died or is seriously ill, or settling in newly arrived migrant families. But often the focus is on people who are in for a long struggle — the poor, Indigenous communities, the aged, the chronically ill, families who are 'dysfunctional' and many others. Other roles in social work are very proactive and involve projects like helping to establish leisure, recreation or social services in new suburbs or building the infrastructure for people to gather and develop a sense of community.

If you are interested in this field, you should also look into courses in education and training, health services and support, humanities and social sciences, law, nursing, paralegal studies, psychology, and sport and leisure studies.

COURSES AND SPECIALISATIONS

Courses in this field fit into one of two groups — an undergraduate degree with no prior study (which may take four

years, or less under a trimester system) or a two-year course taken after completing two years of related tertiary study (with certain prerequisites). Some providers also offer postgraduate programs. In recent years, there has been a move to expand the skills of social work graduates by offering the courses combined with related fields such as psychology, social science and law. The diverse areas of specialisation that social workers can choose from may include family, youth and child welfare services; medical and health services; psychiatric and general mental health services; disability services; juvenile and family law courts; aged care; income support; and mediation.

For more information, visit:

- Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) — www.aasw.asn.au

WHERE TO STUDY

Note that there are relevant occupations at paraprofessional level, which require the completion of a diploma course (available mostly through TAFE institutes), and at the professional level, which require a bachelor degree. Social work degrees are offered at numerous universities and campuses in all states and territories, and typically involve four years of full-time study. They are not difficult to get into at many institutions, but some may have stricter criteria for entry than others.

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL - ROSEMARY

Bachelor of Social Work/Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)



Why did you choose to study social work?

I'm passionate about social justice, so I'm hoping that the course will give me the skills to be an effective practitioner as well as allowing me to help those most disadvantaged in our society. In this course we're trained to see the broader structural problems that people face in society and, with some luck, help them to overcome these through critical and reflective practice. Combining social work with psychology adds a really interesting dimension to my understanding of social issues.

What does your course involve?

The course is four years long, with placements in the field in third and fourth year (70 days each). There are lectures and tutes for each subject and the option to pick up a few electives as well.

What are your job prospects after graduating?

Job prospects after graduation seem pretty good but, as in most social service fields, are heavily reliant on continued government funding. That being said, I think the double degree will be an advantage once I graduate, as social workers and psychologists often work together in multidisciplinary teams. Being able to relate to both fields will be very useful.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

FEATURES

This section:

- Contains a detailed profile of Social Work
- lists specialisations available
- rates and compares institutions that offer degree-level courses
- introduces the kinds of jobs you could obtain after graduating
- shows which institutions get the best ratings from graduates
- shows how well institutions do in retaining graduates to a second year of study
- shows which institutions produce the best results for their graduates

UNIVERSITIES COMPARED

The “Five-Star Universities” graphs show the institutions whose results place them in the top 20 per cent of universities in each field of study. These ratings are based on the proportion of students in a given field of study who were satisfied with their institution’s performance in six student experience categories: Overall Quality of Educational Experience, Teaching Quality, Learner Engagement, Learning Resources, Student Support and Skills Development.

The graphs also look at universities in the top 20 per cent for employment outcomes, including the proportion of graduates who gained full-time employment and the median salaries of graduates.

Data has been sourced from the Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching (QILT) and is based on the results from the Student Experience Survey and Graduate Destination Survey.

WANT MORE INFO?

- To find out more, head to www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au
- Learn all about career paths and potential jobs at www.goodcareersguide.com.au



TEACHER EDUCATION



This is a detailed profile of the teacher education field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.