

# Internationally Qualified Social Workers Experiences

**Name:** Kristina

**Organisation:** Extern

**Country:** Lithuania

**Additional Learning  
and Development:**

130 Day placement in a  
social work role.

**"I appreciate the opportunity  
I was given by Extern. This  
placement has made me a  
more confident practitioner."**

## **What are your thoughts about the journey to meeting the Northern Ireland Social Care Council social work standards?**

I thought that I had all the experience that I needed. But soon after I started my placement and after supervision with my practice teacher, I realised how important it was for my professional development in Northern Ireland.

## **What do you enjoy about social work in Northern Ireland?**

Social Work in Northern Ireland provides a broad network of services within the geographical areas of diverse communities. The support services that are available are very much utilised by society and are easy accessed. I enjoy working within social work field, because it gives me an opportunity to engage with individuals and provide support to a wide variety of service users.

## **What challenges have you experienced in settling into your social work role?**

There have been a number of challenges. Initially I was not aware that I needed to be registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council to be able to practise in Northern Ireland and that this would mean completing the placement to add to my social work training. Next challenges will be keeping up with my professional development to meet the Northern Ireland Social Care Council requirements through the AYE (Assessed Year in Employment) and PiP CPD Framework (Professional in Practice).

