

Internationally Qualified Social Workers Experiences

Name: Tino

Area of Social Work

Practice:

Children and Young
People's Services

Country: Zimbabwe

"I would like to urge all Social Workers that are keen on international Social work practice that Northern Ireland is an ideal and conducive diverse professional practice setting "

How did you experience the IQSW application process with the Social Care Council?

The application process with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council was a smooth and gradual journey. The Social Care Council professionals were quite responsive and really guided me through any queries that I had from the initial stages of the application process.

It was easier for me to enquire via emails and get feedback. I also found the guidance documents on the Social Care Council website, quite informative for me as a prospective IQSW registrant.

I was happy that the Social Care Council took time to scrutinize my prior international social work qualification and prior foreign experience alongside Northern Ireland professional and practice standards, and finally got registered as an IQSW. I would also like to express how patient the Social Care Council was at every stage and even liaised for an online interview schedule with the Social Care Council's professional adviser. This was a final interview session that culminated in exploring my prior experience and being considered for registration on condition of an Assessed Year in Employment, a typical requirement that Social work graduates would undertake in NI.

Therefore, I knew that I had been registered as an IQSW and was looking forward to the AYE, an opportunity for me to learn and adjust to a new practice setting, culture as well as learn policies and procedures in NI under direct supervision of a qualified Social worker.

What worked well?

1. The application process and system proved user friendly.
2. Made enquiries and got needed feedback.
3. As a distant prospective registrant, managed to get online interview schedules arranged making the application process user friendly.



Internationally Qualified Social Workers Experiences

What could be improved?

1. IQSW may benefit from a much easier application process if NISCC may consider online submission of certified certificates for prior scrutiny where possible rather than international applicants having to send these via post from another continent.
2. IQSW can also benefit if IQSWs if other foreign VISA cards can be used to make the initial registration payment online, if this is not the case.

Working in social work in Northern Ireland:

What area of social work are you currently employed in?

Children & Young People's Services

What are the positives?

1. rewarding a role.
2. services are available and accessible to service users.
3. in contrast too the countries were social work practice opportunities or jobs are very limited, the profession is how ever on a high demand in NI as there are some reasonable opportunities for practice.
4. sense of belonging to a team
5. room for continued professional development through supervision, training and learning

What are the challenges?

Relocation and settling in a new country is at times a challenging process, considering expenses involved and other general experiences of trying to setup a bank account from scratch and having a car access for the new post. However, it's a path within relocation that one may eventually see things falling in place in the process.

Any advice to potential IQSW's considering moving to Northern Ireland?

I would like to urge all Social Workers that are keen on international Social work practice that Northern Ireland is an ideal and conducive diverse professional practice setting hence advise them to consider registering with the commendable regulator the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

Internationally Qualified Social Workers Experiences

Tell us three things (or more) you love about living and working in Northern Ireland

1. The N.Irish community is known for a very good hospitality.
2. There is good team spirit and plenty opportunity for continued learning and professional development, key in social work practice.
3. Social work in NI is demanding and rewarding role.