

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.



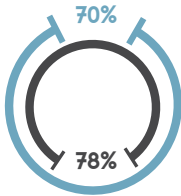
SOCIAL WORK

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.



NUMBER OF STUDENTS



454
UNDERGRADUATE
INTERNATIONAL

10,998
UNDERGRADUATE

5,389
POSTGRADUATE

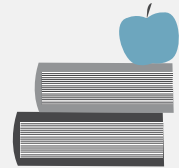


MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY

\$62,600
UNDERGRADUATE

\$69,6400
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 2018, 2017 and 2016. Graduates complete the Graduate Outcomes Survey approximately four months post-graduation.



FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES

SOCIAL WORK

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE	GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT	LEARNER ENGAGEMENT	LEARNING RESOURCES																																																		
<table> <tr><td>CURTIN</td><td>90.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>SOUTHERN CROSS</td><td>89.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>QUEENSLAND</td><td>89.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>CSU</td><td>88.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>QUT</td><td>85.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>UNE</td><td>85.6%</td></tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 81.5%</p>	CURTIN	90.2%	SOUTHERN CROSS	89.0%	QUEENSLAND	89.0%	CSU	88.2%	QUT	85.9%	UNE	85.6%	<table> <tr><td>FEDERATION</td><td>92.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>UNE</td><td>90.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>CSU</td><td>85.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>CURTIN</td><td>83.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>CDU</td><td>83.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>LA TROBE</td><td>83.0%</td></tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 70.4%</p>	FEDERATION	92.3%	UNE	90.5%	CSU	85.2%	CURTIN	83.9%	CDU	83.3%	LA TROBE	83.0%	<table> <tr><td>NEWCASTLE</td><td>81.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>CURTIN</td><td>74.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>MONASH</td><td>73.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>VU</td><td>72.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>TASMANIA</td><td>68.9%</td></tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 61.6%</p>	NEWCASTLE	81.2%	CURTIN	74.5%	MONASH	73.2%	VU	72.3%	TASMANIA	68.9%	<table> <tr><td>SOUTHERN CROSS</td><td>98.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>CURTIN</td><td>90.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>SUNSHINE COAST</td><td>90.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>UNE</td><td>89.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>WOLLONGONG</td><td>89.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>GRIFFITH</td><td>89.0%</td></tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 83.9%</p>	SOUTHERN CROSS	98.1%	CURTIN	90.7%	SUNSHINE COAST	90.3%	UNE	89.6%	WOLLONGONG	89.3%	GRIFFITH	89.0%				
CURTIN	90.2%																																																				
SOUTHERN CROSS	89.0%																																																				
QUEENSLAND	89.0%																																																				
CSU	88.2%																																																				
QUT	85.9%																																																				
UNE	85.6%																																																				
FEDERATION	92.3%																																																				
UNE	90.5%																																																				
CSU	85.2%																																																				
CURTIN	83.9%																																																				
CDU	83.3%																																																				
LA TROBE	83.0%																																																				
NEWCASTLE	81.2%																																																				
CURTIN	74.5%																																																				
MONASH	73.2%																																																				
VU	72.3%																																																				
TASMANIA	68.9%																																																				
SOUTHERN CROSS	98.1%																																																				
CURTIN	90.7%																																																				
SUNSHINE COAST	90.3%																																																				
UNE	89.6%																																																				
WOLLONGONG	89.3%																																																				
GRIFFITH	89.0%																																																				
MEDIAN STARTING SALARY	SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	STUDENT SUPPORT	TEACHING QUALITY																																																		
<table> <tr><td>ECU</td><td>\$69,500</td></tr> <tr><td>CSU</td><td>\$69,000</td></tr> <tr><td>SWINBURNE</td><td>\$68,000</td></tr> <tr><td>CURTIN</td><td>\$67,900</td></tr> <tr><td>CDU</td><td>\$66,800</td></tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = \$62,600</p>	ECU	\$69,500	CSU	\$69,000	SWINBURNE	\$68,000	CURTIN	\$67,900	CDU	\$66,800	<table> <tr><td>CURTIN</td><td>93.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>QUEENSLAND</td><td>92.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>GRIFFITH</td><td>90.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>SWINBURNE</td><td>89.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>WESTERN SYDNEY</td><td>88.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>UniSA</td><td>88.6%</td></tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 85.6%</p>	CURTIN	93.2%	QUEENSLAND	92.0%	GRIFFITH	90.0%	SWINBURNE	89.5%	WESTERN SYDNEY	88.9%	UniSA	88.6%	<table> <tr><td>SOUTHERN CROSS</td><td>87.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>UNE</td><td>84.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>NEWCASTLE</td><td>84.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>CSU</td><td>83.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>SUNSHINE COAST</td><td>83.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>SWINBURNE</td><td>82.7%</td></tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 76.2%</p>	SOUTHERN CROSS	87.5%	UNE	84.5%	NEWCASTLE	84.4%	CSU	83.5%	SUNSHINE COAST	83.4%	SWINBURNE	82.7%	<table> <tr><td>CURTIN</td><td>93.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>QUEENSLAND</td><td>93.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>SUNSHINE COAST</td><td>89.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>CSU</td><td>89.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>SOUTHERN CROSS</td><td>89.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>GRIFFITH</td><td>87.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>QUT</td><td>87.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>ECU</td><td>86.6%</td></tr> </table> <p>NATIONAL AVERAGE = 84.3%</p>	CURTIN	93.2%	QUEENSLAND	93.1%	SUNSHINE COAST	89.9%	CSU	89.4%	SOUTHERN CROSS	89.0%	GRIFFITH	87.1%	QUT	87.0%	ECU	86.6%
ECU	\$69,500																																																				
CSU	\$69,000																																																				
SWINBURNE	\$68,000																																																				
CURTIN	\$67,900																																																				
CDU	\$66,800																																																				
CURTIN	93.2%																																																				
QUEENSLAND	92.0%																																																				
GRIFFITH	90.0%																																																				
SWINBURNE	89.5%																																																				
WESTERN SYDNEY	88.9%																																																				
UniSA	88.6%																																																				
SOUTHERN CROSS	87.5%																																																				
UNE	84.5%																																																				
NEWCASTLE	84.4%																																																				
CSU	83.5%																																																				
SUNSHINE COAST	83.4%																																																				
SWINBURNE	82.7%																																																				
CURTIN	93.2%																																																				
QUEENSLAND	93.1%																																																				
SUNSHINE COAST	89.9%																																																				
CSU	89.4%																																																				
SOUTHERN CROSS	89.0%																																																				
GRIFFITH	87.1%																																																				
QUT	87.0%																																																				
ECU	86.6%																																																				

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.

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER!

Find information on TAFE and VET courses in Australia at gooduniversitiesguide.com.au.

