SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

Social workers make a difference in peoples’ lives. They are not only concerned with helping individuals but also with broader social issues such as poverty, unemployment and domestic violence.

The School of Social Work at Carleton University offers an accredited Master’s and a PhD in Social Work. Our School is committed to a high standard of academic achievement and practice excellence, preparing students for leadership roles in their communities and in the profession. The programs encourage critical thinking and analysis of structural barriers that prevent people from reaching their full potential; promote values of respect, dignity and the worth of all people; and assist students in acquiring knowledge, skills and values to work in diverse and cross-cultural environments.

CAPITAL ADVANTAGE

As the nation’s capital, Ottawa is home to government departments, national and international associations, as well as research institutes and non-governmental organizations that involve themselves in social policies and programs. As a cosmopolitan city of about one million, the area offers a wide range of social services serving a diverse population in two languages.

Carleton students enjoy easy access to many national and international organizations involved in human rights and social justice as well as a range of archives and library resources. In a climate of global expansion and local restructuring, Ottawa offers a distinctive environment for the study of the social impact of these developments, equipping students with the tools necessary to promote social change that advances social justice.

Ottawa offers a variety of practicum opportunities to our students. Please check our website for details (carleton.ca/ssw). Our alumni work as social workers at many of these organizations and government departments, as well as pursuing successful social work careers all over the world.

“Carleton’s MSW program was a perfect match for my eclectic interests as it gave me the opportunity to gain practical counselling skills while exploring theoretical approaches to understanding social problems and structural conditions.”

— Amanda Watson MSW/10
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW) 
(two options)

One-year program for candidates who hold an accredited Bachelor of Social Work degree or who are in the final year of a Bachelor of Social Work program. Typically you will require a B+ average or higher.

Two-year program for candidates who hold an Honours bachelor's degree, or the equivalent. Typically you will require a B+ average or higher.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS — MSW
- Three letters of reference
- Transcripts from all post-secondary institutions you have attended
- A Statement of Intent (1,500 words in length)
- A CV/resumé
- Work Hours Summary (Portfolio)
- Preference Form
- If applicable, a copy of your English-language test scores

PHD PROGRAM

The PhD in Social Work at Carleton University is focused on social justice and human rights and is designed for students who are interested in contributing to the development of structural social work theory and practice. The program was developed to equip students for leadership positions in universities, colleges, government and non-governmental organizations.

Applicants are accepted based on the quality of their overall application. They must hold an MSW from a recognized accrediting body or BSW and a closely related graduate degree. Applicants must have: a grade point average of A- or higher at the graduate level; and a minimum of two years full-time post graduate work experience, or five years post-baccalaureate work experience in the social services and/or social policy fields.

Applicants who do not have an MSW or BSW degree, but hold a graduate degree in the Social Sciences or Humanities with at least an A-average at the master's level, may be considered in exceptional circumstances (e.g. several years of employment in the field of social policy design and implementation and/or human service delivery and/or management). Applicants with neither an MSW nor BSW may be required to take additional social work courses.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS — PHD
- Three letters of reference
- Transcripts from all post-secondary institutions you have attended
- A Statement of Intent
- A CV/resumé
- Writing Sample (for an academic or professional audience)
- Preliminary Research Proposal
- If applicable, a copy of your English-language test scores

Note: Official documents (transcripts, test scores) will be required if you are accepted into our program.

APPLICATIONS AND DEADLINES

For more information, please visit: carleton.ca/ssw.

Details about how to apply are available at: graduate.carleton.ca/apply-online.

You can access the online application at: graduate.carleton.ca/applynow.

All applicants must submit their completed application by December 1 (MSW) and January 15 (PhD). More detailed information is available on our website.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

For admission into Carleton's graduate programs you will need to demonstrate that your knowledge and use of English are strong enough for graduate studies at an English language university. For a listing of minimum requirements, please visit our website at graduate.carleton.ca/international.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

We provide our top-ranked students with substantial financial assistance in the form of teaching and/or research assistantships and scholarships based on academic excellence. Applications for the MSW received prior to December 1 will automatically be considered for financial assistance. For additional information on financial assistance and scholarships for both the MSW and PhD, visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research's website at graduate.carleton.ca/financial-assistance.