



Gofal Cymdeithasol **Cymru**  
Social Care **Wales**



## **Suitability for social work**

Guidance for social work  
programme partnerships  
about student social worker  
fitness to practise



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### **Other formats:**

This document is available in easy read, large text or other formats, if required. It's also available in Welsh.























## Section 3

### Post-qualifying programmes

HEIs approved to offer post-qualifying awards in social work must also have suitability procedures to address concerns regarding a social worker's fitness to practice. Many HEIs will be able to apply the suitability procedures they have developed for the social work degree. However, these processes will need to take account of the different status of post-qualifying students in that the majority are employed.

All post-qualifying students should be registered as a qualified social worker. This can be verified by the Register<sup>5</sup>. The status of their employment will vary. For example, they may be:

- employed by a local authority, an independent provider or a health board
- working as an agency worker through an employment agency
- working as an independent social worker.

Employers/sponsors should be advised of their responsibility to notify the HEI and Social Care Wales if the student is the subject of a serious disciplinary investigation and/or is suspended from work during the period of training.

If suitability concerns are raised through the student's participation on the course, the HEI should contact the employer and Social Care Wales to discuss the actions it will be taking.

If concerns are raised about a self-employed student's suitability, the HEI must let Social Care Wales know it is starting suitability proceedings. The HEI should also inform any employers involved in supporting the student's training.

Suitability procedures for post-qualifying students should follow the guidance set out in section 2 in relation to the principles underpinning suitability investigations and managing the decision-making process.

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5. You can search the Register of Social Care Workers at: [scwonline.wales/en/search-the-register](https://scwonline.wales/en/search-the-register)