

**ASSESSMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIALS**  
**COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**1) Are social workers required to be licensed by a regulatory body in order to work or practice in Canada?**

Even though it is not compulsory to be registered in every province and territory, we suggest that you consider registration as more and more employers require it.

**2) What are the requirements and credentials I would need to practice as a social worker in Canada?**

In Canada, the social work profession is regulated by the provinces. As a result, you should inquire with the regulatory body of the province in which you will be working. Please refer to our website (<https://www.casw-acts.ca/en/node/21/policy-and-regulations/regulatory-bodies>) for a list of regulatory bodies. The title, Registered Social Worker (RSW), is a professional designation in Canada and it is the employer who determines whether or not the RSW designation is required for a position/job.

The successful evaluation of foreign-trained social work credentials for equivalence to Canadian educational standards does not guarantee you a social work position/job in Canada.

**3) Is work experience taken into consideration in assessing qualifications?**

The evaluation is purely academic in nature, and does **not** consider work or volunteer experience.

The assessment is based on documents that provides for a comparison with the Canadian social work curriculum and taking into consideration some standards in terms of social work credits and the number of hours of field work practice or practicum. CASW cannot take into consideration work experience as it cannot be assessed. Volunteer and work experience cannot compensate for a lack of field work hours because it is not part of an educational process.

**4) Does CASW assess degrees obtained through distance education?**

CASW does **not** assess degrees obtained through distance education or self-study/correspondence course work.

**5) What is the standard for practicum or field placement in Canada?**

Field placement or practicum is an integral part of the curricula of both the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) programmes in Canada. Under the guidance of experienced, qualified field instructors, field placements are designed to integrate classroom theory with on-site procedures in social service organizations. In order to proceed with an evaluation, you are required to provide CASW with descriptions of social work field practice from your university syllabus or other official documents.

Please ensure that you list the social service agency(s) from your field placement experiences, including an overview of the type of setting, hours of practicum per semester (as applicable) and a general description of your on-site experiences, including the methods of supervision and evaluation by the agency and by the university. The Canadian standards of social work education and field placement are based on the accreditation standards of the Canadian Association of Schools for Social Work Education (CASWE). CASWE standards of accreditation can be accessed by visiting their website at <https://caswe-acfts.ca/commission-on-accreditation/coa-standards/>.

**6) Is the social work program at the university I attended recognized by CASW?**

CASW does not recognize any particular social work program. Each request is assessed on its own merit based on the program completed. Thus, it cannot be determined in advance of an assessment whether the program you attended will be recognized by CASW. The assessment is undertaken **only** once all required documentation and the fee have been submitted. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the necessary documentation.

**7) My degree may not be at par with a Canadian social work degree. If so, are there any courses or training that I can acquire to become an accredited social worker in Canada?**

The CASW assessment is not structured for making academic recommendations. Some Canadian universities provide additional training to students from foreign countries so that they can qualify to become registered social workers in Canada. For a listing of accredited Canadian schools of social work, please go to [www.caswe-acfts.ca/](http://www.caswe-acfts.ca/) or contact the Canadian Association for Social Work Education at 613-792-1953 ([admin@caswe-acfts.ca](mailto:admin@caswe-acfts.ca)).

**8) Do all documents need to be submitted at the same time?**

Once CASW receives a document, a file is opened in the applicant's name. All further correspondence and documentation received is added to the file. As stated, the assessment begins **only** once we have received all required documents and the fee.

If your name is not the same on all documents, documentation indicating the name change (for instance, a marriage certificate) should be included.

**9) Can you send the results of my assessment to a Canadian regulatory body or a provincial/territorial social work association?**

If you know the province or territory where you would like to practice, please complete the Waiver Form (found in your application package). If your credentials are found equivalent to Canadian standards, your results will be forwarded to the appropriate social work organization.

**10) How do I become a member of CASW?**

CASW is a federation of provincial and territorial social work organizations with direct affiliate memberships available for social workers in provinces without Partner

organizations in the federation (Ontario and Québec). It is by joining CASW directly or a provincial or territorial professional Partner organization that they become affiliated with CASW. A list of the organizations can be found [here](#)

**11) I am interested in coming to Canada. Please tell me how to apply for emigration to Canada?**

The Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) does not have any direct involvement with the immigration process in Canada. Contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada ([www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)) or the nearest Canadian embassy for the specifics about immigrating to Canada that applies to you.

It may be necessary for you to have your non-Canadian social work credentials assessed for Canadian equivalency as part of the emigration process. Before sending CASW the completed application package, contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada to determine if you are eligible for emigration to Canada.

**12) Does CASW arrange job exchanges in Canada?**

CASW does not maintain a list of Canadian social work organizations or employers who have job exchange opportunities for social workers residing outside of Canada. Social workers interest in job exchanges should contact employers directly.

**13) What are the employment opportunities for social workers in Canada?**

CASW does not track Canadian social work employment trends or maintain a list of social work job openings in Canada. There are a number of web-based resources that are helpful in exploring social work employment trends and opportunities in Canada.

**Useful Websites**

<http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/> - Job Bank is Canada's one-stop job listing web site. Each year we help hundreds of thousands of Canadian workers, job seekers and employers connect online, and free of any service charges.

<https://www.casw-acts.ca/en/job-listings> - CASW website has a job opportunity section. Refer to the list of provincial/territorial member organizations and check out their websites, as well, for job opportunities.

[www.monster.ca](http://www.monster.ca) - general employment site that includes social work positions.

[www.workopolis.com](http://www.workopolis.com) - employment listings from Canadian newspaper chains.

[www.charityvillage.com](http://www.charityvillage.com) - positions available in Canada's non-profit sector.

[www.gc.ca](http://www.gc.ca) - website of the Canadian government which also links to provincial and territorial governments