



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

Social Care Workers Existing Practitioner Pathway to Registration - Guide

August 2025

Existing Practitioner Pathway to Registration

The legal protection of the title 'Social Care Worker' will commence 1 December 2025. The current transitional period for those seeking to apply under the Grandparenting provisions will close on the 30 November 2025.

For any person engaged in the practice of Social Care Work for a minimum total of 2 years out of the previous 5 years (or who will have this practice by 30 November 2025) the **Existing Practitioner Pathway to Registration** is for you.

It is recommended that you start your registration application with CORU as soon as possible.

Existing practitioners must provide evidence of engagement in the practice of Social Care Work for the minimum period (2 years out of the previous 5 years).

This is evidenced through submission of a

- ▶ Proof of **Professional Employment Form** and
- ▶ Job Specification for each role (this is set out by the employer, therefore no standard form available)

The above documentation should be **signed and stamped by the employer**.

If you rely upon multiple roles to evidence the minimum practice all must be provided.

Practice in scope includes that carried out in Ireland, the UK or EU.

In addition, an existing practitioner must provide evidence that they hold

- ▶ An Approved Qualification ([view](#)) **OR**
- ▶ A Schedule 3 Qualification (only those listed under Social Care Worker are relevant ([view](#)) **OR**
- ▶ A sufficiently relevant qualification to the listed social care Schedule 3 qualifications ([view](#)) **OR**
- ▶ An Employer Opinion of Competence ([view](#)) **OR**
- ▶ Undertake to complete the Assessment of Professional Competence ([view](#))

Detailed **guidance notes** on the above are available. Please also review the information for applicants, including the documentation required on the guidance notes.

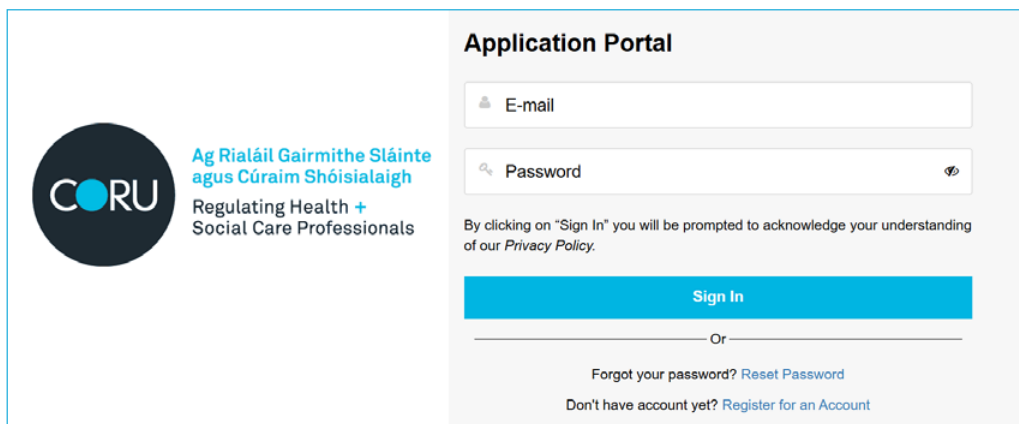
Note: International Police Clearance Certificates

An applicant who has resided outside of Ireland and/or Northern Ireland for one year and one day or longer, after the age of 18, is required to provide a certified copy* of police clearance certificate from the jurisdiction(s) or state(s) of previous residence which must post-date the time spent in each country. View more information on [international police clearances](#).

Applying to CORU

Step 1: Apply Online

Visit the CORU **Application Portal** and create your profile to start your registration application by entering your personal details.



The screenshot shows the CORU Application Portal login interface. On the left is the CORU logo and the text 'Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh' and 'Regulating Health + Social Care Professionals'. On the right, under the heading 'Application Portal', there are input fields for 'E-mail' and 'Password'. Below these fields is a 'Sign In' button. A note states: 'By clicking on "Sign In" you will be prompted to acknowledge your understanding of our Privacy Policy.' Below the button is an 'Or' separator, followed by links for 'Forgot your password? Reset Password' and 'Don't have account yet? Register for an Account'.

The application fee is €100.

Note: Apply as soon as possible to ensure timely processing!

Step 2: Prepare Your Supporting Documents and Upload

As you progress through the online application, you will need to upload various documents. Below is a list of the required documents. You can find these documents in the 'Document Library' on the left-hand side of the registration portal after logging in.

All applicants must submit the following documents:

- ▶ Certified Statutory Declaration (to state 'Social Care Worker' as profession to which you are seeking to register)
- ▶ Certified copy of proof of identify (Passport, Passport Card, Driving Licence)

Additionally, please include the following documents if they are applicable to you:

- ▶ Certified copy of police clearance from other jurisdiction(s) (if applicable)
- ▶ CORU Change of Name Request Form and certified evidence of name change (if applicable)
- ▶ Certified copy of qualifications transcripts or parchments or Employer Opinion of Competence or notification of your intention to complete the Assessment of Professional Competence (AoPC)

***Certified Copy Policy:** To certify a photocopy of an original document, a Solicitor, Commissioner for Oaths, Notary Public or Peace Commissioner must sight the original document and the photocopy of the document at the same time. The certifier will provide a signature, stamp and date on the photocopy which confirms that the photocopy is a true copy of the original document.

Step 3: Make Payment of €100 Fee and Submit Application Online

Note: Following the submission of your application and payment of fee, we will inform you of any outstanding or missing documents in your application or notify you that your file is complete. You will be contacted via the online application portal.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why should I register as a social care worker?

CORU is a multi-profession health and social care regulator, and Protection of Title is an essential part of CORU's function to protect the public. If you wish to be recognised as a 'social care worker' and use this title while practising in Ireland, you *must* register with CORU. The move to statutory regulation for 'social care workers' is a positive development that will undoubtedly enhance the profession's standing. Regulation will give reassurance to members of the public that registered social care workers meet the specified approved standards as set by CORU.

2. Do I have to submit my transcripts/parchment?

If applying with a qualification for review, you will need to upload the parchment or certificate you received when you graduated. The copy must be certified by an approved certifier and uploaded to the application. If your parchment is in Latin you will also need to provide a certified copy of your transcript of results.

3. Can I register without a qualification in Social Care?

Yes. The transitional arrangement in place for CORU registration recognises that existing practitioners who do not hold a schedule 3 or sufficiently relevant qualification can apply providing an employer's opinion of competence or complete an assessment of professional competence. If successful, the Social Care Workers Registration Board will grant registration to the applicant.

4. If I work in a social care setting, can I apply for registration?

In making an application to apply to register under the transitional/existing practitioner route, applicants must provide a proof of professional employment form, which is verification from the employer that the applicant has been engaged in practice of the profession for the required period. An employer can provide attestation that the applicant has been engaged in practice of the profession. While the Act does not specify limitations on professional title, the emphasis is on 'engaged in practice of the profession.'

5. My qualification is not listed, can I submit my qualification for review by the Board?

Yes. An applicant who has been engaged in practice for the minimum required period can apply under the Existing Practitioner application route on the basis of provision of a 'sufficiently relevant' qualification i.e. this is a qualification relevant to the listed social care schedule 3 qualifications. An applicant would select the Sufficiently Relevant option on the Eligibility section of their application and select 'Other' and free type in the title of the qualification to be presented. Note the Board may seek additional information on the qualification presented if required to determine its suitability under this option.

6. Will my employer support me with my registration?

While it is the responsibility of an applicant to organise their documents for registration and submit these to CORU, a current or former employer can support in the process also.

- ▶ An applicant to the register will be required to provide evidence of engagement in the practice of the profession for a minimum of two years out of five on the date of application. In this instance, the employer will be requested to complete a Proof of Professional Employment Form.
- ▶ If an applicant does not have a relevant qualification as approved by the Social Care Workers Registration Board, an employer can be requested to provide an opinion attesting to the applicant's competence to practise in the profession. This is called an Employer Opinion of Competence Form and this opinion will be based off whether an applicant meets the Standards of Proficiency for Social Care Workers.

Please note, an employer is not obliged to provide an opinion of competence. An applicant who does not hold a relevant qualification may undertake an Assessment of Professional Competence (AoPC) as a route to register instead.

7. What can I do to ensure that my application is processed promptly?

In order for your application to be processed promptly, you should:

- ▶ Apply online for registration as soon as possible.
- ▶ Upload all of your documents, ensuring that they are completed in full, as well as signed and certified (where applicable).

All documents should be appropriately certified.

8. What happens when I submit my application?

Once we receive your online application, we will check to see if you have included all the information required. If any information is missing, we will contact you via the applicant portal to request further details. When we have all the documents and the verification process has been completed, we will send your application to the Registration Board for decision.

The Registration Board may ask for further information from you or may ask you to clarify some information. If the Registration Board is satisfied that you have met the criteria, you will be granted registration. Your name will be entered on to the register for your profession and you will be visible on the public register on coru.ie.

9. What details are required for the Assessment of Professional Competence?

If you do not hold an approved, Schedule 3 or sufficiently relevant qualification or an employer's opinion of competence, you must undertake an Assessment of Professional Competence (AoPC) in order to apply for registration.

The purpose of the assessment is to prove that:

- ▶ You have been engaged in the practice of the profession
- ▶ You can meet the standards of proficiency for the profession

To qualify for an AoPC you must demonstrate that you have a minimum amount of practice (as specified by the Registration Board for your profession).

Please note, you must first submit in full an Existing Practitioner application, which must be assessed, before being eligible to register for an AoPC.

The AoPC is based on the standards of proficiency for your profession. You will find more information on the AoPC for Social Care Workers here - **Assessment of Professional Competence - Coru**.

10. If I don't submit my documentation in time what can happen?

An application for registration is not deemed to be complete and cannot be processed until CORU has received all your supporting documents. From 1 December the options to register will be the Irish Graduate Application which requires an approved qualification. The Existing Practitioner Application option will be closed from this time and will not be available again in future. If you have any questions at all, please email us at socialcareworkers@coru.ie.

Quick Links



Updated FAQs for Social Care Workers



Registration Guidance Notes: social-care-worker-guidance-notes-s91.pdf



Assessment of Professional Competence for Social Care Workers - Assessment of Professional Competence - Coru

The registration team at CORU are available to assist you should you have any further queries. You can reach us on



+353 1 293 3160 or



socialcareworkers@coru.ie



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

Infinity Building, George's Court, George's Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 E98Y

W: www.coru.ie T: +353 1 293 3160 E: registration@coru.ie