**Do you have what it takes to ‘Step Up’ to social work?**

Through our successful 14-month Step Up to Social Work programme you will receive intensive, hands-on experience of working in a real-life social work role through placements in Durham County Council Local Authority. Once you’ve successfully completed the course, you’ll be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work enabling you to register and practice as a social worker.

This is a unique opportunity to earn while you learn, as the Department for Education provides funding via a tax-free bursary payment of £19,833, over the duration of the programme, and payment of University fees for successful applicants. This will allow you to change or start a new career in social work and be able to continue to pay your bills and fund your living costs while you are studying. The programme runs once every two years, dependent on government funding, so if you are interested, make sure you don’t miss out on your chance to apply now.

Durham County Council is one of the 12 Local Authorities in the North East Regional Partnership offering placements in Cohort 7 of this well-established programme.

**Eligibility criteria:**We are looking for strong graduates who have experience of working with vulnerable children, young people, families or adults and who can demonstrate their maturity and emotional resilience.

This is a postgraduate programme, so you will need to have either a minimum 2:1 level 6 degree qualification, for example an honours degree or a graduate certificate (can be in any subject), or a minimum 2:2 honours degree plus a postgraduate qualification (level 7 or above), for example a Master’s degree or a Postgraduate Certificate / Postgraduate Diploma, in a discipline other than social work.

You should also have GCSEs in English or English Language and Mathematics at grade C or above, or the new grade 4 and above (or an approved equivalent). You will need to show all of your original certificates to us as part of the application and assessment process. If you cannot find these, you can [order replacements online](https://www.gov.uk/replacement-exam-certificate).

We are particularly interested in applications from men and from BAME candidates, as these groups are under-represented in this area of social work.

For more information about the North East Regional Partnership visit:

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/social-care-and-social-work/step-up-to-social-work/>

For more information and to apply for the programme visit:

[Step Up to Social Work: information for applicants](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/step-up-to-social-work-information-for-applicants)

Online applications will open from 15 February to 7 April 2021, followed by regional assessment centres for candidates successful at the initial application stage. Students can expect to start the programme in January 2022, completing their training in March 2023.

If you would like to speak to a Durham County Council representative for the programme, please contact Glynis Barron, email: glynis.barron@durham.gov.uk