



General Overview about Practising Social Work in Malta

The Social Work profession in Malta is regulated by the Social Work Profession Act, Cap 468 of the Laws of Malta. The Social Work Profession Board is the regulatory body enacted by this Act of Law to ensure professional standards of Social Work practise in the Maltese Islands and adherence to obligations enacted. A detailed outline of the functions of the Board is enlisted in Article 5 of the Act.

A person can practise social work, as long as one holds a recognised degree in social work. This means the Honours Degree in Social Work and the Master of Social Work issued by the University of Malta, and foreign qualification in Social Work which is of the same academic level. This qualification recognition would require liaison with the Malta Qualification Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC). It is advisable that one presents a translated (by a certified professional translator) transcript of academic social work qualification issued by the awarding institution along with the MQRIC certificate to the Social Work Profession Board before applying for work in Malta.

Upon start of employment, one's employer is to forward a complete form of the document entitled Application for Employed Social Workers to be forwarded by Employing Organisations. Moreover, if a social worker does not hold a recognised Social Work warrant, they must complete the Register of Unwarranted Social Workers form and forward it to the Board.

Anyone in possession of a recognised social work qualification can apply for a Social Work Warrant in Malta after 2 years practicing under supervision in Malta becoming a Registered Social Worker. A complete Social Work Warrant Application needs to be forwarded to the Board. A reply shall be communicated to the applicant by not later than four (4) months. A fee of €25 applies for the processing of this application. A list of Registered (warranted) Social Workers in Malta is published on the Government Gazette in April of every year. This list is also available on the Board's website. If a social worker has a recognised social work warrant from another country, one is to forward details to the Board so that a confirmation of such recognition is offered to the respective professional and a Maltese warrant number is issued.

There are no specific language requirements for the practice of the Social Work Profession in Malta. It is to be noted, however that the majority of clients assisted by social workers in the Maltese Islands would be able to effectively communicate only in the Maltese language. Notwithstanding, a good command of the English language, written and spoken, is recommended.

The Board is also responsible to inquire into any allegation of professional misconduct, negligence, or incompetence by social workers in Malta. The Board adheres to the Inquiry Procedure – Social Work Profession Board, in order to attend to such arising situations. Any person can forward such a complaint to the Board, and the necessary communication will be attended to on a case-by-case basis.

A copy of all documents enlisted in this overview are available on the Board's website, addressed at <https://swpb.gov.mt>

If there are any queries, please contact the Social Work Profession Board.