Social workers make a difference in peoples’ lives. They are concerned both with helping individuals and social issues such as poverty, unemployment, addictions, mental health, and domestic violence.

Our accredited master’s programs prepare students for leadership roles in their communities and in the profession. They encourage critical thinking and analysis of structural barriers that prevent people from reaching their potential by promoting values of respect, dignity and the worth of all people. The program prepares students to acquire knowledge, skills and values to work in diverse and cross-cultural environments. Carleton offers a one-year MSW for candidates with a Bachelor of Social Work and a two-year MSW for candidates with an honours degree in a discipline other than social work.

The PhD in Social Work is focused on social justice and human rights and is designed for students who are interested in contributing to the development of structural social work theory and practice. The program was developed to equip students for leadership positions in universities, colleges, government and non-governmental organizations. A specialization in Political Economy is also available at the doctoral level.

DEGREES OFFERED
MSW, PhD

CAREER OPTIONS
Ottawa offers a variety of practicum opportunities for our students, some of which lead to full-time careers. Details about practicums are on the social work website. Graduates work as social workers at municipal, provincial, and national service organizations and government departments, as well as internationally.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
December 1 (MSW)
February 1 (PhD)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Applicants are accepted based on the quality of their overall application.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
One-year Program: for candidates with an accredited Bachelor of Social Work degree or who are in the final year of a BSW program. Applicants normally require at least a B+ average from the final 10 full credits of university courses; 1500 hours of social work-related work experience (paid and/or volunteer).

Two-year Program: for candidates who hold an honours bachelor’s degree, or the equivalent. Applicants require at least a B+ average from the final 10 full credits of university courses; 3500 hours of social work or related work experience (paid and/or volunteer).

PhD: Applicants must hold an MSW from a recognized accrediting body or BSW and a closely related graduate degree. Applicants must have a grade point average of A or higher at the graduate level; and a minimum of two years full-time post-graduate work experience, or five years post-baccalaureate work experience in the social services and/or social policy fields.

Applicants who do not have an MSW or BSW degree, but hold a graduate degree in the social sciences or humanities with at least an A- average at the master’s level, may be considered in exceptional circumstances (e.g. several years of employment in the field of social policy design and implementation and/or human service delivery and/or management). Applicants with neither an MSW nor BSW may be required to take additional social work courses.