

NATIONAL TRAINEESHIP FAQS

Q

I have supported friends and family members with their substance use, but never had any issue with this personally, can I still apply?

A

Whilst SDF recognise the huge value and experience you have supporting a friend or family member, our National Traineeship applicants must have their own personal lived or living experience to apply. Organisations such as Scottish Families Affected by Drugs and Alcohol could prove to be a useful service to gain experience for your professional development, as well as SDF's free suite of training and e-learning.

Q

I have personal lived experience, but currently work, can I still apply?

A

SDF's National Traineeship is designed for people who have personal experience of substance use and who also experience multiple employment barriers such as a criminal convictions, experience of homelessness or history of long-term unemployment. If you are currently in paid work and cannot show us that you have employment barriers, your application will not be successful.

Q

I currently work in the health and social care sector, but I want to work in substance use services, can I still apply?

A

We recommend considering some Continual Professional Development, allowing you to take your transferrable skills and knowledge to work in drug and alcohol services, rather than applying for the National Traineeship. A Professional Development Award, in combination with SDF's free suite of e-learning or signing up for some of our training could help that!

Q

I have an SVQ Level 2 in Social Services and Healthcare already, can I still do the course?

A

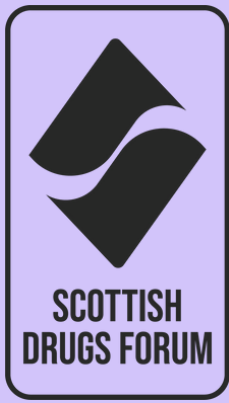
No - the SVQ is a key part of the traineeship - if you already have this qualification (or a practice based qualification above this) your application will not be successful.

Q

I am currently living in supported accommodation and receive a support package. Should I still apply?

A

SDF would highly recommend you speak to a specialist benefit advisor before applying for the National Traineeship. Everyone's circumstances are different; however, in our experience if you live in supported accommodation, it is highly likely that you will be financially worse off. We would recommend applying when your circumstances change.



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I'm worried I'll be worse off financially if I do the National Traineeship. What benefits can I still get whilst doing the project?

A

SDF would always recommend speaking to a specialist benefit advisor such as a local advocacy service or Citizen's Advice, before applying for this role. Many people's in-work benefit situation is personal to their own circumstances, and we would never recommend anyone to apply if they or their dependents would be financially worse off. Trainees are paid the real Living Wage of £12.60 an hour, and work 27.5 hours week. The [Turn2Us benefit calculator](#) can help show the workplace benefits you could still receive whilst doing the traineeship.

Q

I'm worried about discussing my convictions with an employer, what support will I receive to do this?

A

A lot of people we recruit to the traineeship have convictions and we are very used to discussing these – we do this sensitively, but openly. This discussion takes place after we offer you a place on the programme, and we offer support to apply to become a member of the PVG Scheme. This is managed by Disclosure Scotland, who are responsible for assessing the suitability of people to work in social care, based on their convictions. We understand that it can be difficult to talk about any convictions you might have, but we are here to support you through this and provide you with advice to help you move forward.

Q

I've been volunteering at a local service to me, if I'm offered a place on the project can I do my placement there?

A

The SDF's Project Support Team collaborates with a variety of placements across Scotland and will help explore practical options for your placement during the National Traineeship. They'll work closely with you to find a placement that best suits your needs.

Q

I feel uncomfortable working in certain services, can I request not go to certain services, or areas of my city/town?

A

Yes – before starting the programme we have a conversation with you that supports us to allocate you a suitable work placement – we work with you to make sure you get the most out of your experience with SDF, and a big part of that is checking the area your placement in is safe, and suitable for you.

Q

Do I need to have internet access to do the traineeship?

A

Yes – many parts of the traineeship involve online work (peer support, SVQ work, training etc). Having reliable internet access is essential to successfully completing the traineeship.