

Graduate Certificate in Child Counselling and Play Therapy



Upskilling social workers in different stages of their careers and helping them stay relevant in the complex social landscape to better serve their clients.

About the Graduate Certificate

In an increasingly complex and fast paced world, children face a myriad of emotional, behavioural and developmental challenges that can impact on their well-being and overall development. As such, there is a growing need for practitioners equipped with specialised knowledge and evidence-based approaches to effectively support children and their families.

The **Graduate Certificate in Child Counselling and Play Therapy** equips social workers, counsellors, psychologists, educators and mental health professionals with essential knowledge in child development, childhood psychopathology, trauma, family dynamics and child-centred communication, alongside hands-on training in an evidence-based therapeutic approach known as Play Therapy, to interact, build relationships, counsel children, and facilitate meaningful intervention.

Programme Structure

SWM5901 Counselling Children: Advanced Foundations and Practice (4 units)

TGS-2026064762

This course prepares learners to counsel children aged 4–12 through a developmentally informed, evidence-aware approach. Learners will build a strong knowledge base in child counselling and practise core clinical skills, including therapeutic relationship-building, case conceptualization, facilitating insight, and supporting meaningful change.

The course emphasises applied technique, with guided practice using somatic, symbolic/expressive, cognitive, and behavioural interventions tailored to children's needs and contexts. Critical professional issues are integrated throughout, including ethical decision-making, documentation standards, risk management, and safe practice when working with children and families across diverse settings.

SWM5902 Theory and Practice of Play Therapy with Children (4 units)

TGS-2026064761

The purpose of this course is to provide learners with play therapy theories, techniques used for effective play therapy and practice. The learners will learn the rationale behind the use of play therapy, the theoretical approaches, and the techniques used for effective play therapy.

*More information on the courses and instructors' profiles can be found on
<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/swk/gc-child-counselling-play-therapy/>



Mode of Teaching

The courses are each structured with a 42-hours contact time, over a 6-day period, in the day. The mode of teaching includes **in-person** classroom workshops, case studies, small group discussions, skills demonstration and skills practice in role-play scenarios. Learners are also expected to complete all given class assignments which form part of the course assessment.

Who Should Attend

Target Audience: Social workers and Counsellors from Strengthening Families Programme@Family Service Centre (FAM@FSC), School Counsellors, Psychologists, and any other allied health professionals who are working with children and families in their work settings.

Entry Requirements:

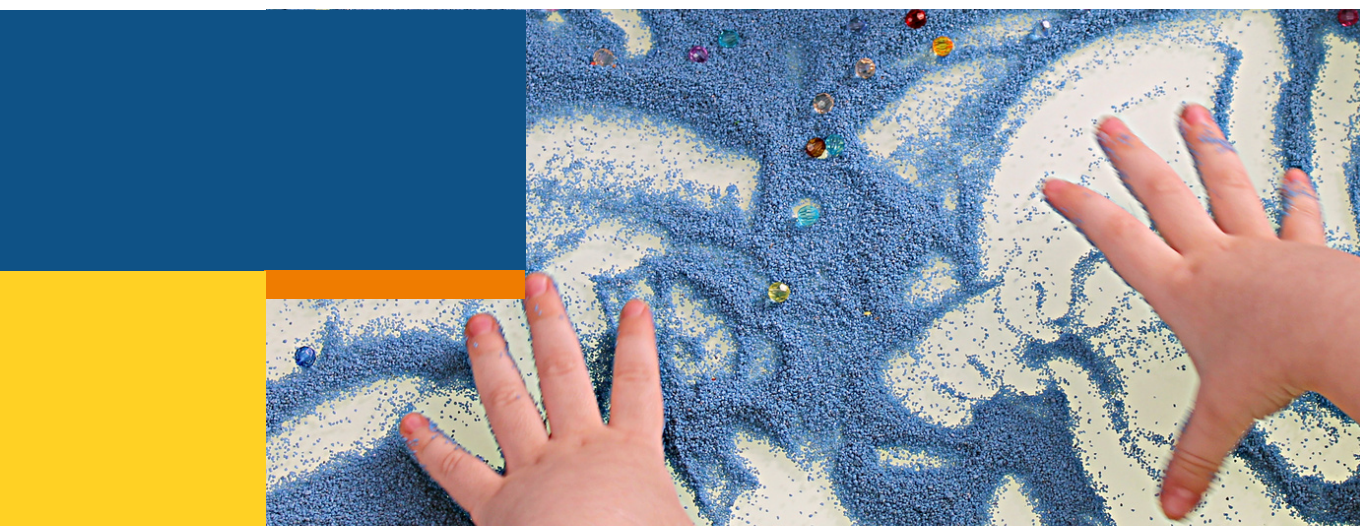
- A bachelor's degree or its equivalent in a related discipline;
- Candidates with a non-related bachelor's degree and relevant work experience may be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to the approval of the Department of Social Work; or
- Candidates with other qualifications and work experiences may be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to the approval of the Faculty.

Candidature

The maximum candidature period is 36 months

Graduation Requirement

To be awarded the graduate certificate, the learner must complete all 8 units of the relevant courses (SWM5901 Counselling Children: A Practical Introduction and SWM5902 Theory and Practice of Play Therapy with Children) and obtain at least a GPA of 2.5



Programme Fees

Course Titles	Full Course Fees, incl. GST	Pricing after SkillsFuture Funding*, incl. GST (Singapore Citizen below 40 years / Singapore Permanent Resident)	Pricing after SkillsFuture Funding*, incl. GST (Singapore Citizen aged 40 years and above)
SWM5901 Counselling Children: Advanced Foundations and Practice (TGS-2026064762) [4 units]	\$5,886	\$1,765.80	\$685.80
SWM5902 Theory and Practice of Play Therapy with Children (TGS-2026064761) [4 units]	\$5,886	\$1,765.80	\$685.80

*SkillsFuture Funding Information

Learners must achieve a 'Competent' grade in assessment, to be eligible for SkillsFuture funding. Please note that learners may have to bear the full course fee (incl. GST) if they fail to meet this requirement.

In addition, learners are also required to pay other miscellaneous student fees as decided by the University.

* GST is charged at a prevailing rate of 9% from the year 2024.

The University reserves the right to review and adjust the course fees and make changes to the programme structure and requirements as necessary without prior notice.

For enquiries, email to swkgradcert@nus.edu.sg





Terms and Conditions

1. Classes will be formed only when a minimum class size is being met. Organiser reserves the right to cancel or postpone any programme at short notice, or may change the modality of the class and at its absolute discretion without assigning any reason for such cancellations or postponements. Refund will be made if payment has been received.
2. There will be no makeup lesson if learners miss any class.
3. No withdrawal is allowed once the learner is being offered into the programme. Learners can either find a replacement to take his/her place or pay a penalty of 30% of the full course fees incl. GST.
4. Photographs and/or videos may be taken during our programme for audit and marketing purposes.
5. The University reserves the right to review and adjust the course fees and make changes to the programme structure and requirements as necessary without prior notice.

CPE Credits

Course participants are eligible for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits with the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW). One CPE credit will be awarded for each contact hour. Approval of CPE credits are to be submitted through the CPE Log Book under each accredited professional's account.