

**Statement of Scholarly Interest Cover Sheet**  
**Master of Social Work Degree**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please choose one. I'm applying for the MSW program via:**

\_\_\_\_ BSW Entry, for the Distance option (available part time basis only)

\_\_\_\_ BSW Entry, for the Campus option, full time

\_\_\_\_ BSW Entry, Campus option, part time

\_\_\_\_ Non BSW Entry, available on campus, full time basis only

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

The School of Social Work has an affirmative action policy for applicants who are Acadian, Aboriginal, Black, members of other racially – visible groups, persons with disabilities, and for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirit, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) people.

Aboriginal\_\_\_\_\_ Acadian\_\_\_\_\_ African Nova Scotian\_\_\_\_\_ African Canadian\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Other Racially Visible Group: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Person with a disAbility

\_\_\_\_ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirit, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) people.

The school is committed to admitting and graduating the highest possible number of students who qualify under this policy.

***All applicants are required to attach this Cover Sheet to their Statement of Scholarly Interest.***

***Please be sure to sign your Statement of Scholarly Interest!***

## **STATEMENT OF SCHOLARLY AND PRACTICE INTEREST**

The Statement of Scholarly Interest is an important component of the MSW application for assessing the candidate's admissibility to graduate study.

It should be of sufficient length to provide a formal, well-developed, and thoughtful response to the topics presented in the guidelines below. Suggested length is eight double spaced pages in total, including answers to all questions.

### **PURPOSE OF THE STATEMENT OF SCHOLARLY INTEREST**

As part of the admissions process, the Statement of Scholarly Interest is an initial proposal. Accepted students can further develop their focus of study in relation to their learning needs as they participate in the program. Please note this is not intended to be a proposal for research.

Importantly, The Dalhousie School of Social Work emphasizes the development of critical reflection skills that require the engagement of the head, heart, and hand to be present in relationship with others. As we respond to calls from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, engaging in decolonizing work, these skills are increasingly relevant.

The Statement of Scholarly Interest assists the Admissions Committee in assessing the applicant's:

- Readiness and suitability for graduate study in Social Work;
- Ability to conceptualize, prepare, and present a well-developed piece of writing that demonstrates the applicant's academic writing capacity, critical thinking skills, and knowledge of the profession of Social Work;
- Social work knowledge, experience, commitment, and rationale for the chosen area
- interests for potential field placement;
- Alignment with the student's learning goals and the mandate of the School vis-à-vis social justice and decolonization.
- Ability to engage in meaningful self-reflection.

### **GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING THE STATEMENT OF SCHOLARLY INTEREST (below 1 to 4)**

In the Statement of Interest, applicants are asked to address all questions below in an essay format:

1. What made you decide to pursue a graduate level degree in Social Work at Dalhousie University, and how do your goals align with the School's vision statement and mandate?
2. What skills, experiences, and training do you bring to your prospective studies at Dalhousie? (These can be from your personal experience, work experience, different kinds of community involvement and engagement, and volunteer experience.)

3. Identify and discuss an area of interest relevant to social work which you would like to explore further through your studies at Dalhousie. In so doing,
  - Identify and discuss the analytical lens or theoretical framework you bring to your understanding of this issue;
  - Identify and discuss the structures and histories that contribute to this social issue, and how systemic inequality figures in it, drawing on relevant scholarship, research, and policy documents as necessary.
  
4. Discuss social work's potential in redressing or remedying the issue you've identified, and how you imagine your social work practice working toward this objective.