Midwifery BSc (Hons)

What makes Midwifery at Worcester special?

Limited places are still available for February 2019 entry

Midwives enjoy the unique privilege of a career caring for mothers, their babies and the whole family. At Worcester you will not only gain the skills and experience needed to become a confident, competent and caring midwife, you will also develop the intellectual tools to help you shape the future direction of the profession by generating new ideas and evaluating innovative ways of working.

Key features

- Successful completion of the programme leads to the dual awards of a BSc Honours degree and professional registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council
- 50/50 mix of theory and practice gives you a wide range of academic and placement opportunities
- Supportive learning environment: on placement you will be assigned a mentor, whose shift patterns you will mirror
- Our lecturers are experienced midwives who are supported by professionals from across the maternity service. Giving you access to specialist knowledge in a range of areas, including perinatal mental health, bereavement, genomics and leadership.
- Study in a dedicated skills and simulation building

I loved the fact that the cohorts were small. This meant that you always had great access to the amazing, supportive and very knowledgeable tutors.

Claire Watson-Kemp, Midwifery graduate.

Entry requirements

What qualifications will you need?

120

UCAS tariff points

Entry requirements

September 2018 Entry

- Offers based on 120 UCAS points
- Typical offer is BBB
- Must include a minimum of one relevant subject e.g. Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, PE, Sociology, or Health and Social Care

OR

- Access to Higher Education Diploma: 45 level 3 credits - 24 at distinction and the remainder at merit

OR

- BTEC Diploma (Health & Social Care preferred)
- DDM

AND

- 5 GCSE passes to include English and Maths at grade C/4 or above. Functional skills level 2 Mathematics and Functional skills level 2 English are accepted as alternatives. Those applying via an Access course only need to meet the requirements for English and Maths.
- Evidence of contributing to the health/well-being of young people/adults, for example:
  - Duke of Edinburgh award scheme
  - Mentor/Leader in any young person’s organisation
  - Volunteering
  - Caring for vulnerable individuals in a community or hospital setting
  - Doula/antenatal educator

Other information
Key Information for Applicants

* All candidates are encouraged to attend a university open day or midwifery taster day
* Apply via UCAS between September and January.
* Midwifery is an over-subscribed course - applications received outside the UCAS cycle will not be considered
* Present a personal statement with a clear midwifery focus
* Successful applicants are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
* Find out more about the arrangements for health education funding
* Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview

There are a number of resources available to help you prepare an application to the Midwifery programme. Examples include the UCAS Guides and:


Book your place at an Open Day

Want to know why so many students love living and studying in Worcester?

Our open days are the perfect way to find out.

Book your place

Course content

What will you study?

Our courses are informed by research and current developments in the discipline and feedback from students, external examiners and employers. Modules do therefore change periodically in the interests of keeping the course relevant and reflecting best practice. The most up-to-date information will be available to you once you have accepted a place and registered for the course. If there are insufficient numbers of students interested in an optional module, this might not be offered, but we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative.

Year 1
- Lifelong learning 1 (30 Credits)
- Theoretical foundations of midwifery 1 (30 Credits)
- Midwifery practice 1 (60 Credits)

Year 2
- Lifelong learning 2 (30 Credits)
- Theoretical foundations of midwifery 2 (30 Credits)
- Midwifery practice 2 (60 Credits)

Year 3
- Lifelong learning 3 (30 Credits)
- Theoretical foundations of midwifery 3 (30 Credits)
- Midwifery practice 3 (60 Credits)

The midwifery curriculum is delivered using an enquiry based learning approach (EBL). This active learning method encourages students to work together to explore specifically designed clinical triggers. The EBL process develops collaborative working so students ask key questions and then locate the resources to answer them. Students challenge and question practice through the acquisition of skills that support personal and professional growth.

The knowledge generated by the EBL activities support the module learning outcomes. Three modules span each year of the course.

The Midwifery course runs during 45 weeks each year with seven designated annual leave weeks.

Student stories

Lindsay and Martha talk about their experiences of Midwifery at Worcester.

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Try watching this video on www.youtube.com, or enable JavaScript if it is disabled in your browser.
Teaching and Assessment

How will you be taught?

Teaching and Learning

The University places emphasis on enabling students to develop the independent learning capabilities that will equip you for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. A mixture of independent study, teaching and academic support through the personal academic tutoring system enables you to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will enable you to flourish and be successful.

Teaching

The midwifery curriculum is delivered using an enquiry based learning approach (EBL). This active learning method encourages students to work together to explore specifically designed clinical enquiries. These increase in complexity as you progress through the course moving from normal birth in year 1 to complex birth in year 2 and working towards being an autonomous practitioner in year 3.

The EBL process encourages students to identify key questions and locate the resources to answer them. Working in small groups students develop sophisticated teamwork and communication skills and, with tutor support, find that shared learning promotes personal and professional development. EBL helps students to apply theory to practice and to acquire the skills needed for development as evidence-based practitioners able to individualise the care that they give.

The knowledge generated by the EBL activities support the module learning outcomes. Three modules span each year of the course. The Midwifery course runs during 45 weeks each year with seven designated annual leave weeks.

The curriculum content supports students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes for safe and effective practice, as identified by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. You will learn how to:

- Care compassionately and competently for low risk women and their babies
- Care compassionately and competently for high risk women and their babies
- Make evidence based decisions to support high quality and sensitive care
- Promote health for the individual, family and community
- Identify and sustain your role as a professional
- Promote the values of the University and the NHS Constitution

In addition, meetings with personal academic tutors are normally scheduled on at least 5 occasions in each year.

You have an opportunity to discuss how you are settling into University life, adapting to the course and gain feedback and support to complete academic and practice assessments.

Contact time

In a typical week you will have around 3 days (18 hours) contact hours of teaching. The precise contact hours will depend on the timetable and in the final year you will normally have slightly less contact time in order to do more independent study.

Typically each year will involve approximately 400 scheduled study hours and approximately 270 independent study hours. In addition you will undertake 2448 hours over 3 years in clinical practice.

Typically class contact time will be structured around:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Resource locating – gathering information
- Group work
- Group tutorials

Independent self-study

In addition to the contact time, you are expected to undertake around 12 hours of personal self-study per week (see above). Typically, this will involve working in groups if you wish but most likely to involve self-directed study, either at home or in the library.

Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including The Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment, and extensive electronic learning resources.

Teaching staff
The majority of the teaching team is educated to Master’s level and have experience of carrying out primary research. About a third of the team has, or are working towards a PhD. Staff lecturers have a higher education teaching qualification and are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy. You can learn more about the staff by visiting our staff profiles.

Assessment

The course provides opportunities to test understanding and learning informally through the completion of practice or 'formative' assignments. Each module has one or more formal or 'summative' assessments which are graded and count towards the overall module grade. In order to support differing learning styles we incorporate a range of assessment approaches.

- Assessments each year are an unseen written examination, group presentation with individual paper, e-portfolio and clinical practice. An independent study replaces the e-portfolio in year 3.
- 50% of your learning takes place at university facilitated by the midwifery teaching team; 50% takes place in clinical practice supported by mentors.
- Clinical practice learning will take place in allocated placements that include labour ward, ante and post-natal wards, community and antenatal clinic. You should expect to gain practice experience in both Herefordshire & Worcestershire, therefore some travelling across these counties is required. There are a small number of practice placements in Gloucestershire.

Feedback

You will receive feedback on practice assessments and on formal assessments undertaken by coursework. Feedback on examination performance is available upon request from the module leader. Feedback is intended to support learning and you are encouraged to discuss it with personal academic tutors and module tutors as appropriate.

We aim to provide you with feedback on formal course work assessments within 20 working days of hand-in.

Careers

Where could it take you?

Students who complete this course successfully will become Registered Midwives. Employment opportunities exist locally, nationally and internationally. In most parts of the UK, midwives can expect to secure their first post within the NHS on a band 5 salary scale.

Once you have successfully completed the course, how you develop your career is entirely up to you. The work of the midwife is diverse and you could find work in a low risk free standing birth centre, consultant led unit or a community setting. You also have the opportunity to move into other areas of practice such as teaching, research or management.

Graduates can undertake further masters level study at the University of Worcester. Specialist modules include examination of the newborn.

Request or download a prospectus

Request now

Costs

How much will it cost?

Tuition Fees

The standard tuition fee for full-time UK and EU students registering in the 2019/20 academic year is £9,250 per year.

For more details, please visit our course fees page.

Tuition fees will cover the cost of uniforms, an enhanced DBS check, an occupational health screening and vaccination. New students in England on midwifery courses now have access to the standard student support package of tuition fee loans and support for living costs, rather than getting an NHS grant.

Funding for student midwives

If you already have a degree, and are planning to undertake midwifery as a second degree, you will have access to student loans.

The Council of Deans of Health have created a website with more information on the funding for student midwives. Every course has day-to-day costs for basic books, stationery, printing and photocopying.

Additional costs

Midwifery students are required to undertake clinical placement as 50% of each academic year. Travel costs for these placements are variable and may be reclaimed depending on the individual student circumstances. In the third year there is the option to undertake an elective placement, if you choose to do this you will be expected to cover the costs.
Accommodation

We have over 1,000 rooms across our halls of residence. With rooms to suit every budget and need, from our 'Traditional Hall' at £102 per week to 'En-suite Extra' at £165 per week (2019/20 prices).

For full details visit our accommodation page.

Apply

How do you apply?

Applying through UCAS

Midwifery BSc (Hons) B720 BSc/Mid

UCAS is the central organisation through which applications are processed for entry onto full-time undergraduate courses in Higher Education in the UK.

Read our how to apply pages for more information on applying and to find out what happens to your application.

Recruitment for this course considers not only the values of the specific profession you are wishing to join, but also the values outlined in the NHS constitution. You can expect to be shortlisted and interviewed based upon these values as well as course/profession specific requirements.

The 6 Cs document can be used to support your knowledge of these core values prior to submission of your UCAS/application form or interview.

UCAS CODE:

B720

Apply now via UCAS

Disability concerns

Are you worried that your disability or physical or mental health problem will affect your application to nurse/midwifery training?

The Disability Rights Commission (2007) identify that applicants to higher education have a statutory duty to disclose information about disabilities or long-term health conditions for entry to nursing courses across Britain. Although the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) says that “you may not be fit to practice for reasons of conduct, health or competence” (NMC 2008) it’s not straightforward and we would not want you to be deterred from applying.

If you have a disability, physical or mental health problem the above legislation and professional guidelines do not prevent you from applying to this University to undertake Nurse/ Midwifery training. In accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 reasonable adjustments can be considered and put in place, as appropriate, to support and enable you to undertake your studies effectively.

We would like to encourage you to contact us to discuss your individual concerns. For example, if you are wondering whether you would be suitable for selection or if you can cope with the programme or carry out the specific skills required in performing the job book an appointment to come and talk to us.

Please contact:

University admissions (01905) 855111 email admissions@worc.ac.uk

You could also contact the Disability and Dyslexia Service at the University of Worcester. If you suspect that your disability will impact on your learning experience we urge you to contact the Service to discuss the nature and range of adjustments that may be necessary for you. Please feel free to get in contact before or after your application.

Please note: This is an additional option to the requirement to disclose on the Pre-Enrolment Health Questionnaire

We have included an advice booklet written by a student nurse for students with Dyslexia on clinical placements

Please contact the Disability and Dyslexia Service on 01905 85 5531 email: disability@worc.ac.uk

Get in touch

If you have any questions, please get in touch. We're here to help you every step of the way.

Admissions office

01905 855111
admissions@worc.ac.uk

Admissions tutor

Lynne Mason
midwifery@worc.ac.uk

Similar courses

The cost of shoes and fob watches for placements should also be considered. Professional body membership is approximately £24 per year.

Finding the right accommodation is paramount to your university experience, and our welcoming student communities are great places to live and study.