

Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

Programme Title:	
BSc (Hons) Midwifery with NMC Registration	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	BN1MID1
UCAS Code:	B720
Name of Final Award:	Bachelor of Science with Honours, BSc (Hons)
Level of Qualification:	Level 6
Regime of Delivery:	Attendance
Mode(s) of Delivery:	Full Time
Typical Length of Study (Years):	3 years
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	Nursing and Midwifery Council

Brief Description of the Programme

This programme has been designed through collaboration between practice partners, service users and the university. It embraces a student-centred curriculum supporting the acquisition of knowledge, development of skills and demonstration of professional values required to provide compassionate, safe and sensitive midwifery care.

Students cover the continuum of care, optimising physiological processes, supporting safe physical, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual situations, working to promote positive outcomes and to anticipate and prevent complications.

The programme will consist of at least three years of study, completing a minimum of 4600 hours as stipulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Students will spend approximately half of their learning in clinical practice working in local placements with trust partners exposed to a diverse demographic of maternity service users. The other half comprises of academic study designed to employ a wide range of teaching and learning strategies which are underpinned by a contemporary research base.

The aim of the programme is to produce confident, autonomous, reflective Registered Midwives at academic level 6 who can take accountability for their own actions, lead and co-ordinate care whilst utilising a contemporary evidence base to provide compassionate person-centred care. On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to practise as a Registered Midwife.

Programme Aims

1	Produce registered midwives who meet the requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards for the pre-registration midwifery programme (NMC; 2019) and the Standards of proficiency for Midwives (NMC; 2019), including the European requirements, as set out in Annex 1 (Article 40, 41, 42) Standards for Pre-Registration Midwives.
2	Produce registered midwives who can work autonomously taking responsibility and accountability for their own actions whilst playing a vital role in providing, leading and coordinating compassionate and evidence based person-centred care.
3	Produce registered midwives who consistently adhere to the precepts of the Code (NMC 2019).

Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
On successful completion of the programme a graduate will be able to:	
Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)	
K1	Apply up to date systematic knowledge and detailed understanding of the physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual safety of women and newborn infants to provide evidence-based care in your role as a midwife.
K2	Demonstrate a detailed and coherent understanding of contemporary research processes that underpin evidence based, professional midwifery practice.
K3	Using evidence-based practice, work to promote and optimise the normal processes of reproduction and early life, providing holistic person-centred care, working in partnership to ensure women, partners and families are equipped with all the information needed to fully inform their decisions.
K4	As lead professional and coordinator of care, respond appropriately to complications and additional care needs in women and newborn infants whilst working collectively with interdisciplinary and multi-agency to ensure a seamless and safe maternity journey.
K5	Perform competently and with confidence a range of midwifery skills to underpin proficiency and demonstrate best practice.
Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)	
C1	Work as a critically reflective, resilient and autonomous practitioner, demonstrating an ability to learn from experience, solve problems and develop as a professional.
C2	Employ a diverse range of culturally sensitive communication and relationship management skills to build relationships working in partnership with women and their families to provide safe compassionate maternity care demonstrating sensitive and systematic knowledge and detailed understanding of the physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual factors that may affect the maternity journey.
C3	Work across the whole continuum of care and in all settings, understanding and facilitating the woman and newborns whole maternity journey by providing Continuity of Care and Carer to all women, newborn infants and their families.
Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)	

S1	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the influence of pregnancy, labour, birth and the postpartum period on the early weeks of life and the longer-term health and well-being of society.
S2	To promote, protect and advocate for the public health needs of women, newborns and their families using evidence-based practice to mitigate health and social inequalities.
S3	Work in partnership with key stakeholders and service users to enable and advocate for the human rights of women, partners and their families, enabling views, preferences and decisions to be heard.
S4	Demonstrate and role model professional values in the protection and safeguarding of the public applying duty of candour, assuring confidentiality where appropriate.
S5	Support all aspects of infant feeding and understand the long-term implications on infant development, and the wider health of society.
Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)	
L1	Take personal responsibility for continual learning and development, utilising reflection to support a holistic approach to self-care as a midwife.
L2	Demonstrate leadership in the support and development of colleagues acting as a role model for junior staff, students, maternity support workers and the wider healthcare team.
L3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the processes, resources and policies influencing organisational change, within the contemporary healthcare arena, utilising developments in digital health technology.

Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Some modules will be run over a shorter period of time, for example 12 weeks, and some will be run over longer, for example 19 weeks. This is to allow for the integration of placement blocks into your programme. This does not affect the overall hours required for each module, only how the module is delivered.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

Level Four

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
MW401	Introduction to Universal Care for Women, Newborns and Families	30	C	No
MW402	Becoming an Accountable, Autonomous, Professional Midwife	15	C	No

MW403	Midwifery Practice 1	30	C	No
MW404	Fundamentals of the Midwife's Role in Public Health	30	C	No
MW405	Introduction to the Additional Needs of Women, Newborns and Families	15	C	No

Level Five

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
MW501	Inclusive Midwifery Care for Women, Newborns and Families	45	C	No
MW502	Midwifery Practice 2	30	C	No
MW503	Developing the Midwife to Meet the Additional Needs of Women, Newborns and Families	30	C	No
MW504	Systematic Examination of the Newborn	15	C	No

Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
MW601	The Midwife as a Colleague and Lead Professional	30	C	No
MW602	Preparing the Midwife as Scholar	15	C	No
MW603	Midwifery Practice 3	30	C	No
MW604	The Midwife as scholar: SIP or Research Proposal	30	C	No
MW605	The compassionate Midwife as the Coordinator of Care	15	C	No

Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

The philosophy of the Buckinghamshire New University BSc (Hons) Midwifery programme is founded upon a community of practice, with students situated firmly at the heart of learning. The programme is inclusive and celebrates diversity in the student population; the School is committed to supporting a diverse range of students with different academic needs.

This is a full-time undergraduate programme that utilises a variety of blended learning and teaching methods in the University including: seminar-based teaching; lectures; authentic scenarios and case studies; presentations; on-line learning resources; peer learning; reflection; role modelling and simulation. Students are required to engage in independent study, guided through their modules, which will include further wider reading to support the learning in University and practice. They will utilise a variety of resources: The University Virtual Learning Environment (Blackboard™); professional websites; academic databases and library resources.

Simulation is recognised within the school as essential in disseminating the required knowledge, skills and behaviours for student midwife learning. It will incorporate the use of high and low fidelity simulation for an immersive training environment. Within this learning environment, real-time evolving clinical situations can be simulated, repeated and evaluated using reflection and debriefing. This enables students to be an active participant in their learning, promoting confidence, developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills with the potential to gain proficiency in essential midwifery skills. The simulation areas are equipped to a high standard, offering a range of equipment that is endorsed by PROMPT™, in line with local trust partner training requirements. The essential element of de-brief in simulation is undisputed; audio/visual technology (smots™/CCTV) is available and widely used by the teaching teams to enhance feedback to students.

The design of the curriculum embraces intra/inter-professional education and collaborative practice and promotes the need for collaboration within and between healthcare teams across diverse settings. The intention of the curriculum is to scaffold student learning, supporting the development of knowledge, skills and behaviours throughout the programme meeting the required standards for the midwifery profession.

The curriculum includes midwifery specific learning and teaching across all three years of the programme, but also embraces learning opportunities from nursing and other allied health placements. Teaching and learning may also be facilitated by field specific/interprofessional academics, and other specialist roles. This supports students to benefit from specific experiences and expertise allowing them to benefit from their individual experiences, to share insights and to offer competing perspectives. Inter-professional learning will occur both in the practice and theoretical environment. Consequently, students will demonstrate their awareness of and competence in working within the multi-disciplinary teams to reflect the standards and proficiencies required by their regulatory body.

This innovative curriculum reflects the university's core values of creating a learning environment that is inclusive, challenging and promotes collaboration, professionalism and confidence in students. Quality Assurance mechanisms are embedded in the school through course Committees, student representation, module and programme evaluations, practice audit and evaluation, module and subject assessment boards and subject annual monitoring processes.

The programme espouses an integrated theory/clinical approach, utilising appropriate theory and placement block length to enable students to apply and reflect on clinical practice within their academic studies. The first year of the programme considers the increased theoretical needs of the student, which is reflected in the theory/practice hours split. Year two applies a more

balanced theory/practice split and year three a more clinical placement focuses to develop the student midwife as an independent learner in preparation for autonomous practice.

As midwifery professionals and educators, staff within the school bring a wealth of clinical expertise and research activity through individual scholarship. In addition, expert specialist roles regularly deliver sessions for students within the university. Students apply their academic knowledge to their practice experiences, supported by practice supervisors, practitioners and practice visitors. Each student is allocated to a diverse range of placement learning experiences to meet NMC requirements and reflect the demand for integrated health and social care workforce planning.

Students are supported through a variety of mechanisms including personal tutors; module leaders and course leaders. In practice they remain supported by personal tutors and course leaders, in addition to practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors who appraise proficiency. Additionally, in practice students are supported through practice visitor activities.

Additional Course Costs

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.

Travel costs to placement
Appropriate footwear for placement
Fob watch for placement
Study materials
DBS online update service

Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students' study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students' study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad / Work Based Learning (Hours)
Year One	332.5	530	680
Year Two	326	424	800
Year Three	188.5	539	860

Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our

commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

The following assessment activities are used on this programme:

- Essays/written assessments
- OSCE's (Observed structured Clinical Examinations')
- VIVA's (Voiced Examination)
- Presentations
- Practice placements
- Digital video uploads
- Case study

Classification

Calculation of final award: Level 5 – 33% / Level 6 – 67%

For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

Candidates are welcomed from any background and experience, demonstrating skills and values that are essential for being a midwife. Compassion, respect, communication and ability to work well as a team member are only a small number of the values we will be looking for on selection.

- Evidence of study within the previous five years.
- Successful interview
- Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check from employer
- Numerical skills and comprehension of written English
- 5 GCSE qualifications at grade C or above to include English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject. Level 2 qualifications such as Functional Skills can be used as a GCSE equivalent.
- A minimum of 112-128 UCAS points are required – To calculate your points you can use the UCAS tariff point calculator - <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator>
- A minimum of two full GCE A levels is required. Applicants may use GCE AS awards when these have been studied alongside two other full GCE A levels. Tariff points will be taken from GCE AS awards when studied in a different subject to GCE A levels.
- Further qualifications that can be used include Level 3 BTEC Health and Social Care or Access courses (Midwifery, Nursing) with 30 level 3 credits at distinction, 12 at merit and 3 at pass.

Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance. -Apprentice applicants who do not fulfil the entry criteria as outlined above are invited to submit an enhanced application which takes in to account relevant experience and training in a related area. Apprentice applicants are required to

inform their Employer representative if they do not meet the UCAS entry requirements prior to the submission of an application.

Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?

Yes

Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

With the implementation of Better Births recommendations of Continuity of Care and carer, midwives will have the opportunity to join teams of midwives which will care for women across the continuum.

Some midwives choose to become part of the core staff required in the hospital and support the maternity services that way.

Many graduates will choose to further educate themselves with Masters in Midwifery or other advanced postgraduate programmes, leading them to careers in midwifery leadership, or research.

There is an array of specialist roles midwives continue their career in, such as Diabetes, Safeguarding, Bereavement, Vulnerable client groups, consultant midwives, education, Multiple pregnancy midwives, Specialist screening.

Recognition of Prior Learning

There is no RPL for Midwifery permitted into the programme unless transfer from another midwifery programme at another AEI. On such instances, learners that wish to transfer from a comparable midwifery programme in another AEI, will be supported and signposted to the APEL policy found here. https://bucks.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0021/9534/Accreditation-of-Prior-Learning.pdf

Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

Programme specific support (if applicable)

Students are required to spend a minimum of 2300 hours in a practice learning environment and 2300 hours engaged in theoretical studies (NMC 2018). Students have access to all University support systems, including: The Learning and Development Unit; student services; personal tutor. In addition, students are supported in all their practice learning environments by the Placement Learning Unit and a designated Practice Visitor.

Appendices

Quality Assurance

Awarding Body:	NMC
Language of Study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):	Midwifery benchmark statement currently under review. Mapped to FHEQ level descriptors for level 6. Mapped to PSRB requirements.
Assessment Regulations:	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice)
Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?	Yes
Ethics Sub-committee	
Date Published / Updated:	September 2021

Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

Please refer to the *Academic Qualifications Framework* for Exit Qualifications recognised by the University and credit and module requirements. A non registerable award.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Honours Degree
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	BSc (Hons) Maternal and Neonatal Health (without NMC registration) This award will be made in the rare situations where students have successfully completed all credit bearing modules on the programme but have not fulfilled other requirements, for example mandatories, portfolio etc. after referral or are not considered fit for registration with the NMC e.g. 'Fitness to Practise'.
Credits requirements:	360 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 ALL 120 Credits at Level 5 PLUS 120 credits for Level 6 modules: (excluding the completion of the DGC for registration as a Midwife with the NMC)
Learning Outcome	
K1	Apply up to date systematic knowledge and detailed understanding of the physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual safety of women and newborn infants to provide evidence-based care in your role as a midwife.
K2	Demonstrate a detailed and coherent understanding of contemporary research processes that underpin evidence based, professional midwifery practice.
K3	Using evidence-based practice, work to promote and optimise the normal processes of reproduction and early life, providing holistic person-centred care, working in partnership

	to ensure women, partners and families are equipped with all the information needed to fully inform their decisions.
K4	As lead professional and coordinator of care, respond appropriately to complications and additional care needs in women and newborn infants whilst working collectively with interdisciplinary and multi-agency to ensure a seamless and safe maternity journey.
K5	Perform competently and with confidence a range of midwifery skills to underpin proficiency and demonstrate best practice.
C1	Work as a critically reflective, resilient and autonomous practitioner, demonstrating an ability to learn from experience, solve problems and develop as a professional.
C2	Employ a diverse range of culturally sensitive communication and relationship management skills to build relationships working in partnership with women and their families to provide safe compassionate maternity care demonstrating sensitive and systematic knowledge and detailed understanding of the physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual factors that may affect the maternity journey.
C3	Work across the whole continuum of care and in all settings, understanding and facilitating the woman and newborns whole maternity journey by providing Continuity of Care and Carer to all women, newborn infants and their families.
S1	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the influence of pregnancy, labour, birth and the postpartum period on the early weeks of life and the longer-term health and well-being of society.
S2	To promote, protect and advocate for the public health needs of women, newborns and their families using evidence-based practice to mitigate health and social inequalities.
S3	Work in partnership with key stakeholders and service users to enable and advocate for the human rights of women, partners and their families, enabling views, preferences and decisions to be heard.
S4	Demonstrate and role model professional values in the protection and safeguarding of the public applying duty of candour, assuring confidentiality where appropriate.
S5	Support all aspects of infant feeding and understand the long-term implications on infant development, and the wider health of society.
L1	Take personal responsibility for continual learning and development, utilising reflection to support a holistic approach to self-care as a midwife.
L2	Demonstrate leadership in the support and development of colleagues acting as a role model for junior staff, students, maternity support workers and the wider healthcare team.
L3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the processes, resources and policies influencing organisational change, within the contemporary healthcare arena, utilising developments in digital health technology.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Ordinary Degree
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	BSc in Maternal and Neonatal Health (without NMC registration)
Credits requirements:	330 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 ALL 120 Credits at Level 5 PLUS

All Level 6 modules:(excluding the Dissertation or equivalent)	
Learning Outcome	
K1	Apply up to date systematic knowledge and detailed understanding of the physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual safety of women and newborn infants to provide evidence-based care in your role as a midwife.
K2	Demonstrate a detailed and coherent understanding of contemporary research processes that underpin evidence based, professional midwifery practice.
K3	Using evidence-based practice, work to promote and optimise the normal processes of reproduction and early life, providing holistic person-centred care, working in partnership to ensure women, partners and families are equipped with all the information needed to fully inform their decisions.
K4	As lead professional and coordinator of care, respond appropriately to complications and additional care needs in women and newborn infants whilst working collectively with interdisciplinary and multi-agency to ensure a seamless and safe maternity journey.
K5	Perform competently and with confidence a range of midwifery skills to underpin proficiency and demonstrate best practice.
C1	Work as a critically reflective, resilient and autonomous practitioner, demonstrating an ability to learn from experience, solve problems and develop as a professional.
C2	Employ a diverse range of culturally sensitive communication and relationship management skills to build relationships working in partnership with women and their families to provide safe compassionate maternity care demonstrating sensitive and systematic knowledge and detailed understanding of the physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual factors that may affect the maternity journey.
C3	Work across the whole continuum of care and in all settings, understanding and facilitating the woman and newborns whole maternity journey by providing Continuity of Care and Carer to all women, newborn infants and their families.
S1	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the influence of pregnancy, labour, birth and the postpartum period on the early weeks of life and the longer-term health and well-being of society.
S2	To promote, protect and advocate for the public health needs of women, newborns and their families using evidence-based practice to mitigate health and social inequalities.
S3	Work in partnership with key stakeholders and service users to enable and advocate for the human rights of women, partners and their families, enabling views, preferences and decisions to be heard.
S4	Demonstrate and role model professional values in the protection and safeguarding of the public applying duty of candour, assuring confidentiality where appropriate.
S5	Support all aspects of infant feeding and understand the long-term implications on infant development, and the wider health of society.
L1	Take personal responsibility for continual learning and development, utilising reflection to support a holistic approach to self-care as a midwife.
L2	Demonstrate leadership in the support and development of colleagues acting as a role model for junior staff, students, maternity support workers and the wider healthcare team.
L3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the processes, resources and policies influencing organisational change, within the contemporary healthcare arena, utilising developments in digital health technology.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	Diploma in Maternal and Neonatal Health
Credits requirements:	240 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 PLUS ALL 120 Credits at Level 5
Learning Outcome	
K1: Demonstrate and synthesise knowledge and understanding of the physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual needs of women and newborn infants in relation to pregnancy, labour and puerperium.	
K2: Demonstrate some skills and proficiencies related to this level of maternal and neonatal health.	
C1: Demonstrate effective culturally sensitive communication skills to build relationships with women, their families and the wider interprofessional team.	
S1: Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of the additional needs of women, newborn and families and the appropriate referral pathways to the interprofessional teams.	
S2: Support aspects of infant feeding and understand the long-term implications on infant development, and the wider health of society.	
S3: Work in partnership with key stakeholders and service users to enable and advocate for the human rights of women, partners and their families, enabling views, preferences and decisions to be heard.	
L1: Demonstrate skills of reflection in applying care to your practice, ensuring this forms part of your self-care needs.	

Name of Exit Qualification:	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	Certificate in Maternal and Neonatal Health
Credits requirements:	120 Credits
Module requirements:	All 120 Credits at Level 4
Learning Outcome	
K1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual needs of women and newborn infants in relation to pregnancy, labour and puerperium.	
K2: Demonstrate some skills and proficiencies related to this level of maternal and neonatal health.	
C1: Demonstrate effective communication skills to build relationships with women, their families and the interprofessional team.	
S1: Demonstrate some understanding of the additional needs of women, newborn and families and the appropriate referral pathways to the interprofessional teams.	

L1: Demonstrate understanding of the Role of the professional and the importance of personal responsibility and the application of this to maternal and neonatal health.