

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Midwifery [Shortened]
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Nursing and Midwifery Council
Credit Structure ²	240 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time (equivalent to 40 hours per week for 45 weeks of the year)
Standard Length of Course ³	2 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Applicants for the BSc (Hons) Midwifery [Shortened] course require: 1. Active registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a Registered Nurse (Adult) first level status. This must be maintained to meet the NMC revalidation requirements for the duration of the course. 2. A Degree or Diploma of Higher Education in Adult Nursing and 3. Six months' full-time post registration experience within the last two years. For applicants whose first language is not English, but who have been living in the UK for less than two years (or have not lived in the UK at all), we accept IELTS 7.0. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is not permitted for pre-registration midwifery programmes. All students also need satisfactory DBS and Occupational Health Checks
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Midwifery [Shortened] course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 5 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This course is a shortened pre-registration programme designed for Registered Nurses (Adult) who wish to transition into midwifery practice. It recognises and builds upon students' existing professional knowledge, clinical experience and accountability as registered practitioners, while supporting the development of the distinct professional identity, skills and responsibilities required of a registered midwife. On successful completion, graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a midwife.

The programme is aligned with the *NMC Standards of Proficiency for Midwives* and the *Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Programmes* (NMC, 2023) and is informed by the strategic priorities set out in the *NHS Fit for the Future: 10-Year Health Plan for England* (NHS England, 2025). In particular, the curriculum reflects three inter-related priorities shaping contemporary maternity care: prevention and public health, digital transformation, and integrated, interdisciplinary care across hospital and community settings.

Public health and prevention underpin the curriculum throughout the shortened programme. Students are supported to reconceptualise midwifery as a public health profession, with responsibility for improving outcomes for women, birthing people, babies and families across the reproductive life course. Building on prior nursing experience, students develop advanced understanding of population health, health inequalities, early intervention and health promotion in the maternity context. Public health principles are embedded longitudinally across modules and practice learning, reflecting national and international evidence that high-quality midwifery care contributes significantly to improved maternal and neonatal outcomes and long-term population health (WHO, 2019; NHS England, 2025).

The programme reflects the **analogue-to-digital transformation** of maternity services and healthcare education. Students develop and apply digital and technological literacy throughout the course, using systems that mirror contemporary clinical practice. These include the electronic Midwifery Ongoing Record of Achievement (eMORA), digital clinical documentation systems in practice, simulation technologies, and online learning, assessment and feedback platforms. Simulation-based education is used extensively to support the development of clinical reasoning, leadership, communication and emergency preparedness, enabling students to rehearse complex midwifery scenarios safely while consolidating professional judgement. This prepares graduates to practise confidently within digitally enabled maternity services and to adapt to ongoing technological change.

The curriculum supports the shift from **hospital-centred to integrated, community-focused and interdisciplinary care**, reflecting current maternity service models and workforce priorities. Interdisciplinary learning is embedded from the outset, beginning with values-based recruitment alongside other health professions and continuing through shared learning activities, simulation, mandatory training and practice learning. Students learn with and from professionals across nursing, medicine, allied health and social care, supporting effective collaboration and role clarity. Practice learning is structured using hub-and-spoke models, specialist and community placements, and elective opportunities where appropriate, enabling

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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students to understand maternity care pathways that extend beyond the acute hospital environment and to develop leadership and coordination skills across settings.

The programme maintains the required **50% theory and 50% practice** balance in line with NMC requirements, delivered through an accelerated structure that reflects students' prior learning and professional experience. A spiral curriculum approach is used, revisiting core midwifery concepts such as physiology, public health, ethics, leadership, research and evidence-based practice with increasing depth and complexity. This supports the development of autonomous decision-making, professional confidence and readiness for midwifery registration.

The design and ongoing development of the course are informed by close collaboration between the University of Suffolk, students, practice partners and service users. This partnership approach ensures that the programme remains responsive to changes in maternity services, service user priorities and workforce needs, while maintaining academic rigour, inclusivity and regulatory compliance.

Graduates of the shortened programme will be prepared to practise as accountable midwives who can promote public health and prevention, work effectively within digitally enabled maternity services, collaborate across professional and organisational boundaries, and contribute to the improvement and transformation of maternity care locally and nationally. The programme also provides a strong foundation for future career development in clinical practice, leadership, education, research, management and policy within maternity and women's health.

Course Aims

In providing this course, the University and course team aim to:

1. Enable students to critically analyse and embody the professional, legal, and ethical responsibilities of the midwife, demonstrating accountability and collaborative leadership in all care settings (Mapped to NMC Domain 1 & 5).
2. Develop the capability to deliver and evaluate holistic, safe, and equitable midwifery care across the childbearing continuum, integrating diverse models of care, health promotion, and responsive public health practice (Mapped to NMC Domain 2 & 3).
3. Foster a deep, critical understanding of human anatomy and physiology in pregnancy, birth, and postnatal care, equipping students to promote normality and respond to evolving health needs and complications (Mapped to NMC Domain 3 & 4).
4. Support students in becoming reflective and enquiring midwives who apply evidence, engage with research, and contribute to continuous quality improvement and innovation in midwifery care (Mapped to NMC Domain 5).
5. Encourage a commitment to lifelong learning and professional development, including mentorship, education, leadership, and sustainability within maternity care systems (Mapped to NMC Domain 5 & 6).
6. Ensure students can safely and competently apply a broad range of midwifery skills, making nuanced clinical decisions grounded in evidence to meet the needs of women and newborns (Mapped to NMC Domain 6).

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The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Midwifery [Shortened] course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Level	Programme Learning Outcomes	Domain
6	1. Critically analyse the evidence to support decisions made as a lead professional in midwifery care, applying legal and ethical principles of midwifery practice and demonstrating accountability across the childbearing continuum	1
6	2. Provide safe, autonomous and personalised midwifery care through the promotion of continuity of care and carer to meet the holistic needs of women, birthing people and their families	1 & 2
6	3. Build effective, trusting and inclusive relationships to support informed decision making with women, birthing people, families and colleagues	2 & 3
6	4. Synthesize knowledge of physiology, pathology, genomics and epigenetics to optimise outcomes for women, birthing people and newborns.	3
6	5. Recognise and assess additional care needs to plan and deliver care whilst promoting physiological processes to optimise outcomes.	4
6	6. To create and champion inclusive and equitable care that considers the diverse range of lived experiences	4
6	7. Value effective communication, leadership, teamwork, and advocacy to support collaborative working within interprofessional teams across diverse settings	5
6	8. Influence and enhance the quality, safety, and sustainability of maternity care at individual, local, and global levels	5
6	9. Apply critical thinking and research-informed practice to advance midwifery as a scholarly and politically active profession	5
6	10. Apply and continually refine practical skills through reflective practice, self-development and a commitment to lifelong learning to meet the changing needs of women, birthing people, newborns and families across diverse settings	6
6	11. Apply a life course approach to midwifery care, demonstrating an understanding of determinants of health and barriers to care, drawing on public health principles to promote outcomes and tackle inequity.	2 & 3

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards - Nursing and Midwifery Council:

Part 1: NMC Standards for Nursing and Midwifery Education (2018a)

Part 2: NMC Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (2018b)

Part 3: NMC (2023) Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Programmes

NMC (2019) Standards of Proficiency for Midwives

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Midwifery comprises modules at levels 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 5			
	Professional Midwifery Foundations	30	M
	Additional Care in Childbearing	30	M
	Advanced Public Health in Midwifery	30	M
	Practice 1 – Contributing to Midwifery Care	30	M
Level 6			
	Midwifery Scholarship and Professional Practice	30	M
	Applied Physiology for Complex Midwifery Care	30	M
	Leadership in Midwifery Care	30	M
	Practice 2 – The Proficient Midwife	30	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Midwifery.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich campus. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Midwifery [shortened] are likely to have approximately 288 tutor structured learning hours for level 5 and 216 tutor structured learning hours for level 6. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activity and students will also be required to participate in 1,800 hours of work placement across a range of local hospital and community placements. Placements will be arranged by the University. You will learn in practice at one trust, but some time will be spent at an alternative trust to experience variation in management and leadership in NHS maternity care. Students will normally be expected to undertake 10 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course will be a

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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combination of written, verbal and simulated assessments.

Special Features

On successful completion of the BSc (Hons) Midwifery [Shortened] students are eligible for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. You must register your qualification with the NMC within five years to practise as a midwife. Failure to do so will mean you need to undertake further education and training to practise in the UK.

This course is delivered in partnership with five local NHS Trusts across the East of England region.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Midwifery [Shortened] will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,790 per year
Full-time EU/International	£18,870 per year

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay for their DBS check and a small ID check and processing fee; additional fees may be incurred upon a student returning from a period of intercalation. The cost of DBS checks can be found on the [DBS page of the University of Suffolk website](#). Students are likely to incur other costs for learning materials such as printing, books and stationery. Students may be eligible to claim for travel and car parking costs whilst on placement; however, these are paid retrospectively.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).