

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 112 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent) Please note that A-Level General Studies will not be accepted. Five GCSEs grade C or above (or equivalent) to include English, Mathematics and Science Subject to a selection day Any offer of a place will be subject to a satisfactory health check and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	B720

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Midwifery course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2019-20 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

The focus of this curriculum is to facilitate midwives to provide woman-centred care that is evidence based. The first year of the course enables the student to focus on acquiring knowledge and skills relating to the normal pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal experience and the values and attitudes commensurate with professional midwifery practice. In practice students will experience caring for women and families experiencing normal childbearing processes, both in the community and in the hospital. The course also provides an exciting opportunity to equip midwives for preparation for practice in the second decade of the 21st

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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](#)

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

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

century where they will be working with increasing levels of clinical and technological complexity and more diverse populations (Department of Health, 2010). In years two and three of the course students are exposed to aspects of high risk obstetric and midwifery practice and they start to acquire the knowledge and skills to support their learning in practice placements. Throughout their practice students are supported by qualified midwifery sign off mentors who support their learning through initial direct and later on indirect supervision in practice.

Course Aims

- To provide educational opportunities which allow students to acquire the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that are essential for the development of safe midwifery practice, professional competence and confidence
- To provide a broad and deep understanding of midwifery knowledge, the factors influencing the provision of women centred maternity care and to embrace birth as a normal process
- To encourage an understanding of the role of midwives in helping to reduce the impact of health inequalities on women and families and their vital role in the public health agenda
- To develop enquiring, confident, autonomous midwives able to question evidence and practice with confidence and through developing management and leadership qualities feel confident in their role as part of the multi-professional maternity care provision
- To facilitate the student to use analytical and enquiry based learning skills to evaluate the relationship between the individual childbearing experience, theoretical constructs and evidenced based knowledge
- To encourage independent learning and a commitment to lifelong learning, including taking responsibility for continuing professional development as a requirement for maintaining professional competence and confidence
- To fulfil the requirements of the EU Directives, The Code (NMC, 2015), and QAA academic and practitioner standards

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Midwifery 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

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

At the end of level 6 students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding and cognitive skills

1. Critically analyse the evidence to support decisions made as a lead professional in midwifery care
2. Achieve competency in the range of skills appropriate to midwifery identified by the NMC (2009) and European Midwives Directives 2005/36/EU Annexe V Point 5.5.1
3. Critically analyse the use of technology and intervention in providing safe and ethical maternity services
4. Organise, manage and evaluate care of childbearing women and their families including prioritising care
5. Confidently apply knowledge base to undertake emergency procedures and refer to appropriate professional when required
6. Critically compare and assess the multiple ideological influences within contemporary midwifery practice

Subject specific skills

7. Critically reflect on the effectiveness of personal and professional judgement to achieve the best possible birth outcome for mother and baby
8. Critically appraise the public health role of the midwife
9. Utilise strategies, which will assist with the integration of choice and implementation of continuity of care for childbearing women
10. Appreciate a wide range of methodological approaches to achieving evidence based midwifery care and midwifery perspectives to promote childbearing as a normal process
11. Articulate the regulatory requirements for midwifery practice and code of professional conduct

Key/ common skills

12. Demonstrate qualities, including effective communication, initiative and proactive approaches, self-reflexivity and problem solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical settings
13. Critically analyse, interpret and apply the evidence underpinning practice and evaluate, challenge and create change in practice accordingly
14. Engage in effective collaboration with women and their families and other health and social care professionals
15. Formulate strategies to develop their own lifelong learning and continuing professional development and demonstrate confidence in transferable Graduate Headstart skills

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmark, Professional Standards and NMC Competency Frameworks:

QAA Benchmark:

- Midwifery (2001)

Professional Standards:

- NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework

NMC Competency Frameworks:

- Competencies
- Essential Skills Clusters

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Midwifery comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

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

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Foundations of Midwifery Practice 1	20	M
	Foundations of Midwifery Practice 2	20	M
	IPL: Working with Others	20	M
	Promoting Maternal and Infant Health	20	M
	Midwifery Practice 1	40	M
Level 5			
	Developing Midwifery Practice	20	M
	High Risk Midwifery	20	M
	Normal Midwifery	20	M
	Critical Appraisal for Midwifery	20	M
	IPL: The Service User	0	M
	Midwifery Practice 2	40	M
Level 6			
	Dissertation	40	M
	IPL: The Professional in the Team	20	M
	Developing the Autonomous Practitioner	20	M

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

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

	Midwifery Practice 3	40	M
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Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Midwifery and will be eligible to register with the NMC as a Midwife.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Midwifery are likely to have approximately 204 contact hours for level 4, 246 contact hours for level 5 and 124 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, group work, practical activity and VLE work. Students will also be required to participate in 2,793.75 hours of practice at one of four base sites i.e. Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust, James Paget University NHS Trust or Norfolk and Norwich University NHS Trust. Placements will be arranged by the University. Students will normally be expected to undertake 10-14 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 overall will be approximately 51% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and literature review) 27% (written exam, practical exam and oral exam) and 22% practice assessment.

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 NMC.

Course Costs

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Full-time International	£16,405 per year
Part-time International	Not applicable

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 additional costs for appropriate footwear in practice (uniforms will be provided). Cost of travel to placement and within community placement if it is less than travel to university.

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](#).