

**DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

Course Title	<b>BSc (Hons) Midwifery [Shortened]</b>
Awarding Bodies	<b>University of Suffolk</b>
Level of Award <sup>1</sup>	<b>FHEQ Level 6</b>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	<b>Nursing and Midwifery Council</b>
Credit Structure <sup>2</sup>	<b>240 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits</b>
Mode of Attendance	<b>Full-time (equivalent to 40 hours per week for 45 weeks of the year)</b>
Standard Length of Course <sup>3</sup>	<b>2 years full-time</b>
Intended Award	<b>BSc (Hons) Midwifery</b>
Named Exit Awards	<b>None</b>
Entry Requirements <sup>4</sup>	<p>Applicants for the BSc (Hons) Midwifery [Shortened] course require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. A Degree or Diploma in Higher Education or 60 level 5 credits and</li> <li>3. Six months' full-time post registration experience within the last two years.</li> </ol> <p>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. All students also need satisfactory DBS and Occupational Health Checks</p>
Delivering Institution(s)	<b>University of Suffolk</b>

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 2024-25 academic year<sup>5</sup>.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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](#).

<sup>4</sup> 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](#).

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

## **DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

### **Course Summary**

This course will enable you to acquire appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to deliver safe and high-quality midwifery care for all women and their partners. It will also equip you to develop interpersonal and negotiation skills that can be utilised within a range of multidisciplinary settings to improve choice, access and continuity of care for childbearing women and their families. This is supported by recent research into women's experiences of maternity care, which identified good communication, support, involving women in their care and being treated with respect, dignity and kindness, as factors which contributed to a positive experience. Midwifery is an evolving profession, so a key part of this course is about developing the skills to adapt to new situations and to become a resilient practitioner to meet the needs of women, babies and families.

The course is divided into theoretical (50%) and practice components (50%). The practice learning and assessments takes place in a range of clinical placements.

The design of the course has been, and will continue to be, determined through the close, collaborative working relationship between the University of Suffolk, past and present students, Practice Partners and Service Users. The purpose of the programme is to support your development in order to meet the requirements for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a midwife. You will develop women and family centred values, possess the required knowledge and be able to demonstrate the necessary skills when called upon to do so. In addition, you will see learning as a lifelong requirement and be willing to take responsibility for professional leadership and management not only in clinical practice but also in whatever forum provides the opportunity.

Students consistently tell us that they feel they are a very different person by the end of the course. You will have experiences that are difficult to find in any other profession and will be privileged to be share some of the most profound times in the lives of women and families. To do this well, you will need to be open to challenging your own and others' assumptions and to consistently question the reasons behind your own and others' practice. You will learn about and develop these skills in university, and you will put them into practice while on placement, eventually reaching the stage where you are ready to become an autonomous practitioner.

The focus of this curriculum is to enable you to learn about and practice with midwives and other appropriate professionals to provide woman-centred care that is evidence based. The Lancet Midwifery Series (Lancet, 2014) recognised the role of the midwife as pivotal to a whole-system approach to maternity care that provides skilled care for all women, babies and families. Midwifery practice is essential for effective multidisciplinary teamwork and integration across hospital and community. Midwifery is a global profession and the strength of midwifery education is key to improving quality of care and reducing maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity (WHO, 2019).

The principles of women having and making choices about their care and safety based on unbiased information are fundamental to this curriculum. It is recognised that every woman wants – and has a right to – the safest possible birth for herself and her baby. Every woman should also be cared for by services which fit around and respect her, and her baby's needs

## **DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

and circumstances (National Maternity Review, 2016). Midwives respect and enable the human rights of women and children, and their priority is to ensure that care always focuses on the needs, views, preferences, and decisions of the woman and the needs of the newborn infant. Continuity of carer is a developing model of midwifery practice, which aims to support women to receive safe care based on a relationship of mutual trust and respect in line with the woman's decisions. You will experience this model of care in your practice placements throughout the 2 years of the course, working alongside midwives and other appropriate health and social care professionals.

The public health agenda acknowledges that midwifery care has a significant impact on the overall health of the population and has specific impact on the health outcomes of women, babies and their families (RCM, 2017). This requires midwives to have their awareness raised and to develop knowledge, understanding and skills of public health approaches to practice in an attempt to tackle health inequalities in the future. Midwives work across the continuum from pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, labour and birth, postpartum, and the early weeks of newborn infants' life. This includes women's future reproductive health, well-being, and decisions and in promoting very early child development and the parents' transition to parenthood.

Midwives are fully accountable as the lead professional for the care and support of women and newborn infants, and partners and families. They provide care based on the best available evidence and keep up to date with current knowledge and skills, thereby helping to ensure that their care is responsive to emerging evidence and future developments.

Midwives optimise normal physiological processes, and support safe physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual situations, working to promote positive outcomes and to anticipate and prevent complications. Midwives are also ideally placed to anticipate and to recognise any changes that may lead to complications and additional care needs; these may be physical, psychological, social, cultural, or spiritual, and include perinatal loss and end of life care. When such situations arise, the midwife is responsible for recognising these and for immediate response, management and escalation, involving, collaborating with and referring to interdisciplinary and multiagency colleagues.

You will be encouraged throughout your course to effectively apply theory in practice and to use practice to inform theory. The integration of academic study and practice-based learning will facilitate the development of lifelong learning and reflection, to support best practice and the maintenance of professional standards. You will be facilitated to apply and link the theoretical constructs to practice and develop the skills of critical analysis, appraisal, synthesis and evaluation to your learning and so be empowered to question midwifery practices with assertion and confidence. Midwives promote continuous improvement and encourage a learning culture. They recognise their own strengths, as well as the strengths of others. They take responsibility for their own continuing professional development and know how they can contribute to others' development and education, including students and colleagues.

Midwives have the ability to develop in their careers in directions that can include practice, education, research, management, leadership, and policy settings. This course will provide

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

you with the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be registered as a qualified midwife.

### Course Aims

- Provide educational opportunities which support students to provide skilled, knowledgeable, respectful and compassionate care for all women, newborn infants and their families. Acquire the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that are essential for the development of safe midwifery practice, professional competence and confidence.
- Provide a broad and deep understanding of midwifery knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that are essential for the development of safe midwifery practice, professional competence and confidence, which promotes women centred care, embracing birth as a normal process and preventing complications.
- 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.
- Develop enquiring, confident, autonomous midwives able to question evidence and practice with confidence and through developing management, scholarly and leadership qualities feel confident in their role as part of the multi-professional maternity care provision, committed to continuous improvement.
- 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.
- 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.
- Fulfil the requirements of the Standards for pre-registration midwifery programmes (2023), the NMC (2018) Code, NMC (2019) Standards of proficiency for midwives.

### 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 5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)<sup>6</sup>.

On successful completion of this course you will be able to:

#### 1. Knowledge, understanding and cognitive skills

- Critically analyse the evidence to support decisions made as a lead professional in midwifery care.
- Achieve competency in the range of skills appropriate to midwifery identified by the NMC (2019) and Standards for pre-registration midwifery programmes (2023) Critically analyse the use of technology and intervention in providing safe and ethical

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

maternity services

- Organise, manage and evaluate care of childbearing women and their families including prioritising care.
- Confidently apply knowledge base to undertake emergency procedures and refer to appropriate professional when required.
- Critically compare and assess the multiple ideological influences within contemporary midwifery practice.

### 2. Subject specific skills

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

### 3. Key/common skills

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

## Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following 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 (2019b) Standards of Proficiency for Midwives

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

### Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Midwifery [Shortened] 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 <sup>7</sup>
Level 5			
	Continuum of Midwifery Care	20	M
	Care of the Newborn Infant and Infant Feeding	20	M
	Pre-existing and Antenatal Additional Care	20	M
	Labour, Birth and Postnatal Additional Care	20	M
	Skills for Midwifery Practice [Short] 1	40	M
Level 6			
	Optimising Normal Physiological Processes	20	M
	Future Midwife	20	M
	Research Project	40	M
	Skills for Midwifery Practice 2 and NIPE	40	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 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. 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 overall will be approximately 50% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) 50% examinations.

### 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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

### 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	£9,250 per year
Full-time EU/International	£18,380 per year

From January 2022 to April 2024, Health Education England are offering a tuition fee contribution to eligible students of up to £9,250 per student per annum for the length of the course. Further information can be found here <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/maternity/shortened-midwifery-training-registered-nurses-funding-arrangements>

Students are likely to incur other costs for travelling to placements and textbooks. The amount will depend on where the student lives in relation to the NHS Trust.

### 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](#).