

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Midwifery
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Pathways (if applicable)	
FHEQ level of final award:	6
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Certificate in Maternal and Neonatal Health Diploma in Maternal and Neonatal Health BSc Maternal and Neonatal Health (without NMC registration) BSc (Hons) Maternal and Neonatal Health (Without NMC Registration)
Accreditation details:	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Accreditation
Length of programme:	3 years
Mode(s) of Study:	Full Time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	Midwifery benchmark statement currently under review. Mapped to FHEQ level descriptors for level 6. Mapped to PSRB requirements.
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	Standards for Pre-Registration Midwifery programmes (NMC, 2019) Standards of Proficiency for Midwives (NMC, 2019) Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (NMC, 2018)
Course Code(s):	BSMIDWFT
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	1 December 2022
Date of last update:	

2. Programme Summary

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.

You will 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. You will spend approximately half of your 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 your 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, you will be able to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to practise as a Registered Midwife.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

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

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Demonstrate a detailed and coherent understanding of contemporary research processes that underpin evidence based, professional midwifery practice.
K2	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.
K3	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.

K4	Support all aspects of infant feeding and understand the long-term implications on infant development, and the wider health of society.
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Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
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	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the processes, resources and policies influencing organisational change, within the contemporary healthcare arena, utilising developments in digital health technology.
C3	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.

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	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.
P2	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.
P3	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.
P4	Perform competently and with confidence a range of midwifery skills to underpin proficiency and demonstrate best practice.
P5	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.

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Take personal responsibility for continual learning and development, utilising reflection to support a holistic approach to self-care as a midwife.
T2	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.

T3	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.
T4	Demonstrate and role model professional values in the protection and safeguarding of the public applying duty of candour, assuring confidentiality where appropriate.

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development 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.

On this programme, attributes are developed by providing a student centred curriculum, which is based on fifty percent of time spent in clinical practice, supporting the acquisition of knowledge, development of skills and demonstration of professional values required to provide compassionate, safe and sensitive midwifery care. (K1, K2, K4, P1, P2, P3, P4, P5)

Similarly, learners are encouraged to apply their own experiences to promote creativity, social and ethical awareness and responsibility (K3,C3, T2, T4)

Learners will develop leadership skills in the support and development of colleagues acting as a role model for junior staff, students, maternity support workers and the wider healthcare team. (C2, T3)

A strong thread of self-care and reflexivity runs through the curriculum, enabling learners to continually be aware of self-development and wellbeing, a significant skill for healthcare practitioners in the 21st Century. (C1, T1)

4. Entry Requirements

The University's [general entry requirements](#) will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

Evidence of study within the previous five years.

- Successful interview
- Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check
- 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.

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

In addition, due to PSRB requirements, all offers are subject to Occupational Health clearance.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our [accreditation of prior learning](#) (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

Pathway 1 or stand-alone course

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Foundation Year¹	<p>Core modules: N/A</p> <p>Option modules: No option modules are available at this level.</p> <p>Opportunity modules: No Opportunity modules are available at this level.</p>	N/A. No credit is awarded at this Level.
Level 4	<p>Core modules:</p> <p>NAM4011 Introduction to Universal Care for Women, Newborns and Families (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM4012 Becoming an Accountable, Autonomous, Professional Midwife (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM4013 Fundamentals of the Midwife’s Role in Public Health (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM4014 Introduction to the Additional Needs of Women, Newborns and Families (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM4015 Consolidating the Midwife’s Role in Universal Care for Women, Newborns and Families (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM4016 Midwifery Practice 1 (20 credits)</p> <p>Option modules:</p>	Certificate of Higher Education, awarded on achievement of 120 credits at Level 4 Certificate in Maternal and Neonatal Health

¹ Modules on the Foundation Year only apply to learners who are enrolled on the “with Foundation Year” programme.

	<p>No option modules are available at this level.</p> <p>Opportunity modules: You may choose in addition 2 x 10 credit Level 4 Opportunity modules from the Opportunity module catalogue www.bnu.ac.uk/oppmodules</p>	
Level 5	<p>Core modules: NAM5023 Promoting Inclusive Midwifery Care for Women, Newborns and Families (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM5024 Developing the Midwife to Meet the Additional Needs of Newborns and Families (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM5025 Systematic Examination of the Newborn (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM5026 Midwifery Practice 2 (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM5027 Holistic Midwifery Care for Women, Newborns and Families (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM5028 Developing the Midwife to Meet the Additional Needs of Women and Families (20 credits)</p> <p>Option modules: No option modules are available at this level.</p> <p>Opportunity modules: In addition, you may choose 2 x 10 credit Level 5 Opportunity modules from the Opportunity module catalogue www.bnu.ac.uk/oppmodules</p>	<p>Diploma of Higher Education, awarded on achievement of 240 credits, including a minimum of 120 credits at Level 5 Diploma in Maternal and Neonatal Health</p>
Level 6	<p>Core modules: NAM6010 The Midwife as a Colleague and Lead Professional (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM6011 The Midwife as Scholar: SIP or Research Proposal (40 credits)</p>	<p>Ordinary Degree, awarded on achievement of 300 credits, including 60 credits at Level 6 and 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5</p>

	<p>NAM6012 The Compassionate Midwife as the Coordinator of Care (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM6013 Midwifery Practice 3 (20 credits)</p> <p>NAM6014 Preparing the Midwife as Scholar (20 credits)</p> <p>Option modules: No option modules are available at this level.</p> <p>Opportunity modules: No Opportunity modules are available at this level.</p>	<p>BSc in Maternal and Neonatal Health (without NMC registration)</p> <p>Honours Degree, awarded on achievement of 360 credits, including 120 credits at each of Levels, 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>BSc (Hons) Maternal and Neonatal Health (without NMC registration)</p> <p>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'.</p>
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Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

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.

Assessment

Assessment within the academic taught element of the programme is authentic and aligns the theoretical component to the practical elements of the course and profession. The variety of assessments provides all students the opportunity to succeed.

The following assessment activities are used on this programme:

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

In the practice placements, students are assessed using the NMC approved national practice document the MORA (Midwifery Ongoing Record of Achievement) by Practice assessors, who are appropriately trained registered midwives. Students have the opportunity for formative reviews prior to the summative holistic assessment at the end of each academic year. Students gather evidence from, practice episode records, service users, practice supervisors and their own reflection to form part of the summative assessment. Assessment aligns with the NMC Standards as detailed above.

Contact Hours

Learners can expect a minimum of approximately 7 hours of scheduled teaching activities per week during the first year of study. The number of guided independent study hours and the requirement for placement hours alongside these scheduled activities increases with each year of study, with 860 hours of placement per year required by the time you are in Level 6. A full breakdown of contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

7. Programme Regulations

The University's undergraduate Academic Assessment Regulations will apply with the following exceptions:

- In Year Retrieval (IYR) will not be applicable for any of the practice learning assessments within a module.
- All assessments within this programme must be passed, the assessment board may offer a reassessment opportunity in failed assessment elements, including practice learning assessments.
- In exceptional circumstances students or practice placement partners can apply for a placement extension for up to two weeks. If a longer extension is required other measures should be considered and applied, such as a repeat year.
- At any progression board students may progress into the next stage with up to a maximum of 40 hours deficit hours of practice learning.
- Compensation and Aegrotat are not permitted in BSc (Hons) Midwifery under any circumstances.

At the end of Level 4 students must normally have:

- Achieved 120 credits at Level 4
- Completed 680 Clinical Hours

It is permitted to carry 40 hours over into level 5; students can progress with a minimum of 640 hours.

At the end of Level 5 students must normally have:

- Achieved 120 credits at Level 5
- Completed 800 Clinical Hours. The cumulative hours = 1480 hours

It is permitted to carry 40 hours over into level 6; students can progress with a minimum of 760 hours. The cumulative hours = 1440 hours

At the end of Level 6 students must normally have:

- Achieved 120 credits at Level 6
- Completed 860 Clinical Hours (total cumulative 2340 hours)

Award of BSc (Hons) Midwifery with NMC Registration:

a) Students who are deemed by an Assessment Board to have successfully completed all elements of the Programme will be recommended to the Senate of the University for the award as follows: Degree Title BSc (Hons) Midwifery

b) On receipt of a satisfactory Declaration of Good Character and Good Health students will be recommended to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) for entry to the register as follows: Entry to the Register RM: Registered Midwife

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of your programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys including surveys from Health Education England (HEE), Council of Deans (CoD), and other key external stakeholders.
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- Standards for Pre-Registration Midwifery programmes (NMC, 2019)
- Standards of Proficiency for Midwives (NMC, 2019)
- Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (NMC, 2018)
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors

- The University Strategy

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 4																				
Introduction to Universal Care for Women, Newborns and Families.	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
Becoming an Accountable, Autonomous, Professional Midwife.	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Fundamentals of the Midwife's Role in Public Health.	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Introduction to the Additional Needs of Women, Newborns and Families	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Midwifery Practice 1											x	x	x	x	x					
Consolidating the Midwife's Role in Universal Care for	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Women, Newborns and Families																				
Level 5																				
Promoting Inclusive Midwifery Care for Women, Newborns and Families.	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
Developing the Midwife to Meet the Additional Needs of Women and Families	x	x	x			x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Systematic Examination of the Newborn	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x	
Midwifery Practice 2											x	x	x	x	x					
Developing the Midwife to Meet the Additional Needs of Newborns and Families	x	x	x			x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)					
	Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Holistic Midwifery Care for Women, Newborns and Families	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
Level 6																					
The Midwife as a Colleague and Lead Professional	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
The Midwife as Scholar: SIP or Research Proposal	x					x	x	x			x		x			x	x	x			
The Compassionate Midwife as the Coordinator of Care	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
Midwifery Practice 3			x								x	x	x	x	x	x					
Preparing the Midwife as Scholar	x					x	x	x			x		x			x	x	x			