

## Programme Specification: MSc Midwifery (Shortened Programme)

PROGRAMME DETAILS	
Academic Year	2023-24
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Final and Interim Award(s)
FHEQ Level 7	MSc Midwifery (Shortened Programme)
FHEQ Level 7	Postgraduate Diploma in Health Studies
FHEQ Level 7	Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies
Variants	2 years F/T March intake
Degree Awarding Body	University of Bradford
Faculty	Health Studies
Partner, Delivery Organisation and/or Support Provider(s) (if applicable)	Clinical Placement Support Providers – NHS Trusts in the North East and Yorkshire Region.
Accrediting Body (if applicable)	Nursing and Midwifery Council
External Frameworks/ Reference Points (if applicable)	Health Studies (QAA 2023) Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2018; 2023)
Date of Original Approval	July 23
Date of Publication (see Review/Modification Schedule for any version updates)	<<Select>>

*Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.*

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## PROGRAMME AIMS

The programme is intended to:

A1 Develop skills and knowledge which will enable students to develop a solid professional identity and meet the professional and regulatory requirements for registration as a midwife and work effectively in the system where they are employed.

A2 Develop future midwives with enhanced leadership and advocacy skills able to act as change agent and engage in ethical, informed, and skilled contemporary midwifery practice whilst working in a globally sustainable way.

A3 Develop autonomous learners with enhanced criticality skills which will enable students to meet the lifelong learning demands of working as a professional within interdisciplinary and multi-agency teams, and culturally diverse and dynamic environments.

A4 Embrace the University of Bradford's vision by creating an inclusive learning culture and transformative University experience which enables students to achieve their ambitions and make a positive difference to the world.

At the University of Bradford our MSc Midwifery (Shortened Programme) two-year blended learning programme provides an innovative opportunity for Nursing and Midwifery (NMC) registered adult nurses to acquire dual registration as a midwife. The programme provides the opportunity for students to develop knowledge, skills, and behaviors required by the NMC (2019) Standards of proficiency for midwives, and on completion of the programme, students will be entitled to register as a midwife and practice within the UK. The programme explicitly meets the requirements of NHS England to meet the needs for a skilled and diverse workforce within contemporary maternity services. Our individualised, dynamic, and culturally diverse learning environment and experiences will prepare student midwives for contemporary midwifery practice and to be future midwifery leaders. Students will be supported to develop enhanced leadership qualities, advocacy skills and research skills enabling them to be change agents of the future. Our vibrant and inclusive learning community supports students as they journey towards their midwifery career with the ability to make a positive difference in the midwifery world.

Our Midwifery MSc (Shortened) Programme prepares learners for this challenging and rewarding role using a student-centred blended approach of problem-based learning, fostering complex decision making and interprofessional teamwork. Students will spend approximately 50% of the programme in academic learning and 50% in clinical practice. Our curriculum is co-created in partnership with students, service users and practice partners to ensure that learning, teaching, and experiences are situated in the real world. We value diversity which strengthens learning opportunities and value student feedback to enrich student experience. Students will meet people from a diverse population which gives opportunity for a wide range of experiences. The city is home to a unique 20-year longitudinal cohort study, the Born in Bradford project, which is a cohort study of more than 13,000 Bradford babies born over a three-year period. Services are thus constantly evolving to meet the health needs of an increasingly diverse population. Our students can take part in growing number of specialist services and community projects being developed and implemented and are exposed to changes in service provision as a direct result of the findings of this unique research study. For example, students may get experience with the Better Start initiative (2015-2025) a programme set up by the National Lottery Fund which supports community initiatives to address local health inequalities.

Our programme is academically and clinically demanding, and our students are supported to achieve their potential through the excellent academic and pastoral support of our staff who are passionate about their role as educators. Our blended learning (80% online / 20% Face-to-face on campus) timetable is flexibly designed to support students to succeed in their studies and plan to meet the demands of academic work, clinical placements,

home lives, caring responsibilities and social lives which are all important for well-being. Our award-winning student led Midwifery Society encourages students to connect with other midwifery cohorts and become involved in the wider midwifery community whilst learning about global midwifery issues.

NHS England (2023) and Health Education England (HEE) (2022) both list Digital Transformation as a key priority, acknowledging the important role that healthcare staff have in promoting and using digital technologies to enhance patient care and education. Additionally, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2023; 2023) state that student midwives should be supported to develop technological and digital literacy to support families in accessing information and safe midwifery care, and to effectively collaborate and communicate with the wider multidisciplinary team. The flexible blended learning provision will support learners to develop their digital literacy and enable them to create and share digital information and resources effectively and professionally with women, their families, and multidisciplinary colleagues.

There is a large range of opportunities available for newly qualified midwives including working in a variety of settings such as hospital, birthing centres, GP clinics, community teams and continuity teams. The majority of new midwives are employed by the NHS. However, opportunities do exist in private/independent hospitals/practices. Career progression can include specialist roles, management and leadership roles, consultant midwife, research and education.

## **PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this programme, students will be able to demonstrate achievement of the following learning outcomes:

To be eligible for the award of Degree of Master at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO 1 Deliver competent, safe, and compassionate care, and demonstrate evidence based best practice in core and domain-specific skills and procedures in the NMC 'Standards of Proficiency for Midwives' (2023).
- LO 2 Facilitate the acquisition of excellent communication skills, including the ability to communicate effectively and professionally, information, problems or solutions to diverse audiences using a variety of media including creative use of a range of digital and other technologies.
- LO 3 Synthesise and apply a critical understanding of the knowledge that underpins clinical decision making, demonstrating qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment including initiative, personal responsibility, and professional accountability, including application of knowledge of midwifery legislation and the NMC Code (2018).
- LO 4 Critically evaluate and interpret midwifery clinical situations based on sound knowledge of physical, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual needs of women and new-born infants with a focus on partnership working and optimising normal physiological processes to support safe practice and promote positive outcomes.
- LO 5 Critically evaluate models of care, including continuity of midwifery care and carer for childbearing women and their new-born infants in a diverse range of settings with the skill to anticipate, prevent and respond to complications and additional care needs.
- LO 6 Synthesise and examine the evidence of the physiological, social, and cultural influences on the determinants of health whilst working to mitigate against inequalities.

- LO 7 Demonstrate critical insight of sustainable midwifery with professional, political, and ethical principles, emphasising public health, health promotion and health protection through interdisciplinary and multi-agency working.
- LO 8 Exhibit leadership qualities with the ability to positively influence and impact on care, advocacy for the human rights of women, partners, and families and maintain women's integrity and autonomy, respecting their views, preferences, and decisions.
- LO 9 Critically reflect on and evaluate personal and professional ongoing learning, developing lifelong reflexive practice including the ability to assess, supervise and support others.
- LO 10 Apply research principles and concepts developing an investigative approach that contributes to the evidence base and change management.

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

This course is open to Adult Nurses on the Nursing and Midwifery Council professional register with evidence of at least 12 months experience working as an adult nurse.

- Applicants will have an Honours degree in Adult Nursing with a classification of 2:2 or above.
- The University will consider applications from individuals with an Advanced Diploma in Nursing with evidence of professional practice.
- Applicants are required to hold three GCSEs or equivalents at Level 2 in Mathematics, English Language or Literature, and a Science subject.
- Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) and Occupational Health clearance are requirements for entry to the course. These are undertaken by the University of Bradford.
- A minimum IELTS score of 7.0 (no sub-test lower than 7.0), or equivalent is required for those for whom English is not their first language. Full details: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/joining-the-register/english-language-requirements/>. If applicants do not meet the IELTS requirement, they can take a University of Bradford pre-sessional English course which will enable them to achieve the required level of English. Full details: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/other/pre-sessional-english-language-programme/>

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Core/ Option/ Elective	Credits	Year of study	Module Code
7	Transition to Midwifery Knowledge 1: Universal Care	Core	20	Year 1	MID7507-B
7	Transition to Midwifery Knowledge 2: Additional Care	Core	20	Year 1	MID7508-B
7	Transition to Midwifery Knowledge 3: Research and Global Midwifery	Core	20	Year 1	MID7509-B
7	Transition to Midwifery Practice	Core	30	Year 1	MID7510-C
7	Consolidating Midwifery Knowledge 1: Managing Complexities	Core	20	Year 2	MID7511-B
7	Consolidating Midwifery Knowledge 2: Research, Scholarship and Leadership	Core	40	Year 2	MID7512-D
7	Consolidating Midwifery Practice	Core	30	Year 2	MID7513-C

Students will be eligible for the target award of Degree of Master of Science in Midwifery if they have successfully completed 180 credits, the NMC required 3600 hours and achieved the award learning outcomes. Only the award of MSc Midwifery confers eligibility to register with the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) as a Registered Midwife.

### Exit Awards

Students will be eligible for a Post Graduate Certificate in Health Studies if they have successfully completed 60 credits. This award does not confer eligibility to register with the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) as a Midwife.

Students will be eligible for a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Studies if they have successfully completed 120 credits. This award does not confer eligibility to register with the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) as a Midwife.

## LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

### Educational Philosophy

Feminist philosophies underpin our education strategy as students explore values and beliefs relating to women's societal position and the role of the midwife. Co-operation, inclusion, equality, diversity, and reflexivity are embedded within our approach to learning. Our scholastic environment immerses students in learning where all knowledge is valued; education is transformative as learners adjust their thinking as they are exposed to new information. There is a key focus on the development of self and others within a cultural and social context for scholarship.

Learning which is situated in the authentic world of midwifery clinical practice is actively supported. Intricate connections between practice, education, leadership, and research are harnessed to develop midwives of the future.

The curriculum is designed to align with the wider University strategies, including the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and Learning, Teaching, and Student Experience strategies (2020-25).

Learning and teaching will be facilitated through blended learning methods to provide a flexible and interactive student learning experience. The programme will offer 80% of taught time as live, interactive online sessions with additional online materials that students can access at their own convenience. Recognising that face-to-face contact on campus is important for students' social experience and that students value flexibility, 20% proportion of taught time will be offered face-to-face, on campus – this equates to 12 on-campus days per academic year. Our inclusive teaching and learning environment is designed to suit diverse learning needs and includes digital technologies, clinical skills simulation, case studies, workshops, online discussion groups, lectures, and seminars. Our multifunctional midwifery teaching space supports interactive clinical simulation opportunities to assist students to practice their clinical skills in a safe and supportive environment, offering opportunity for peer and academic formative feedback.

Students learn through problem-based learning (PBL), an educational approach which is student-centred and facilitated by the midwifery academic team. Episodes of learning start with an enigma or case study, which is explored by students to identify prior knowledge and generate questions which encourages problem-solving in a stimulating learning environment. Students are immersed in an environment which values everyone's contribution and promotes the development of self and professional identity. Students are supported to challenge their ideas and beliefs, discuss different perspectives, and develop skills in advocacy, leadership, emotional intelligence, and strategic thinking, all essential for safe and effective midwifery care. Academic staff support students in finding appropriate national and international evidence to answer their questions. Core learning resources specific to the enigma or case study are developed by academic staff and made available to students through classroom and online learning environments.

The programme design supports the development of skilled, knowledgeable, respectful midwives with the ability to provide compassionate care for women, new-born infants and their families.

### **Clinical placements**

Students are allocated to clinical placements throughout each stage of the programme to achieve the NMC (2023; 2023) proficiencies of a midwife, standards and programme learning outcomes. Over the course of the programme students will be supported to meet the NMC requirement of 1800 clinical hours in practice. Practice placement learning is supported by the NMC (2023) Standards for student supervision and assessment. Students will work alongside clinical practice supervisors to achieve their proficiencies and will be allocated a practice assessor and academic assessor to assess their progression through each stage of the programme.

Students are supernumerary whilst on clinical practice to enable safe and effective care with the level of supervision based on student's individual needs. Where the need for reasonable adjustments in clinical placement arises, students are supported to co-develop a Placement Support Plan by their personal academic tutor. Students will work a range of shifts including days, nights, and weekends. The length of shifts will vary according to the area allocated.

Each stage will consist of one year long clinical module of 900 hours and provide a range of placement opportunities including experience in continuity of carer, universal care of women and babies, and additional care of women and new-born infants with complications.

Placement experiences will include antenatal care, intrapartum care, postnatal care, and neonatal care with opportunity to gain experience in a variety of health care settings which support women's health across the childbearing continuum. As part of the practice placement experience, students are expected to develop and demonstrate the core professional behaviours and values of commitment, care, competence, communication, courage, and compassion.

### **Assessment Strategy**

Our assessment strategy is designed to support students with a diverse range of learning needs and meets the University of Bradford (2023) regulations and NMC (2023) Standards for pre-registration midwifery programmes. Our curriculum ensures that the programme produces midwives who are safe and effective in practice as well as fit for academic award. We employ a variety of assessment methods to suit different student learning styles. These include visual presentations, OSCEs, VIVAs, written assignments, e-portfolio of learning and MCQs. A series of formative assessments provides students with the opportunity to receive feedback which will help them develop and enhance their work in preparation for summative assessment. Formative assessment will include peer and lecturer review and feedback within a seminar structure at relevant points within the module delivery.

### **Assessment of clinical practice**

The NMC (2023) Standards for student supervision and assessment enable students to achieve the NMC Standards of proficiency (2019), NMC pre-registration midwifery programme standards (2023) and standards for midwives as well as the programme learning outcomes. Students will be allocated a practice assessor and academic assessor for each stage of the programme. Practice supervisors will provide students with constructive feedback throughout the programme to support their development. The practice assessor will be responsible for the assessment of student competency in clinical practice and will liaise with the academic assessor to evaluate and recommend student progression at each stage of the programme. Students will have a single electronic Midwifery Ongoing Record of Achievement (e-MORA) for the duration of their midwifery programme which will evidence their achievement of the Domain 6 skills within the NMC (2019) Standards of proficiency for midwives.

### **PLACEMENT/STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES**

**Short Placement Abroad:** Students will be provided with the opportunity to apply for an elective opportunity either in the UK or internationally. The elective opportunity is scheduled for the end of the second year of study. The elective opportunity will support students to develop their knowledge and experience of different cultures and global midwifery. Furthermore, it will aid students to develop organisational skills, teamwork, confidence, networking skills and communication. Students will also be provided the opportunity to apply for overseas placement grants/funding to support their international elective placement.

### **REGULATIONS**

Due to the vocational nature of the programme and the requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the MSc Midwifery (Shortened Programme) falls outside the scope of the standard University Assessment Regulations and is subject to programme-specific regulations.

NMC registration as an adult nurse must be maintained throughout the programme to remain enrolled.

Following successful completion of all programme requirements, students have five years to apply to register with the NMC if they wish to rely on this qualification. In the event of a student failing to register their qualification within 5 years they will have to undertake additional education and training or gain such experience as specified in the standards (NMC 2023).

#### EXTERNAL FRAMEWORKS

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2023) Part 1: Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2023) Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2023) Part 3: Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery programmes.

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) (2019) Standards of proficiency for midwives.

International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) (2023). Essential competencies for Midwifery Practice.

World health Organisation (WHO) (2021) Global strategic directions for Nursing and Midwifery 2021-2025

REVIEW/MODIFICATION SCHEDULE	
Date	Review/Modification Activity Since Last Publication
<<Select>>	<<e.g. Standard monitoring of accuracy/currency of Specification >>
<<Select>>	<<e.g. Addition of optional module LTQ4001-B >>
<<Select>>	<<e.g. Updating of references in External Frameworks section >>

## **Appendix 1: Programme Regulations**

### **1. ADMISSION**

- 1.1. All applicants must submit a formal application before beginning a course of study for a postgraduate award
- 1.2. An applicant for a course of study leading to the Degree of Master must have obtained the following:
  - 1.2.1. A Degree of Bachelor of an approved university or of the Council for National Academic Awards or of any other approved degree-awarding body.
  - 1.2.2 Honours degree in Adult Nursing with a classification of 2:2 or above. An Advanced Diploma in Nursing with evidence of professional practice.
  - 1.2.3 Adult Nurses on the Nursing and Midwifery Council professional register with evidence of at least 12 months experience working as an adult nurse.

### **2. STUDY REQUIREMENTS**

This programme is made up of 180 credits at level 7 and will be studied over a two-year period.

#### **2.1. Year 1**

- 2.1.1. Students must study units amounting to 90 credits at Level 7

#### **2.2. Year 2**

- 2.2.1. Students must study units amounting to 90 credits at Level 7

### **3. COURSES OF STUDY**

- 3.1. In year one students will study three 20 credit level 7 theory modules and one 30 credit level 7 practice module in stage one.
- 3.2 In year two students will study one 20 credit level 7 theory module, one 40 credit level 7 theory module and one 30 credit level 7 practice module.

### **4. PURSUIT OF COURSE OF STUDY INCLUDING CREDIT IMPORTATION**

- 4.1. This programme is exempt from the regulations related to Recognition of Prior Learning.

### **5. PROGRESSION OF STUDY**

- 5.1. All components of assessment must be passed at 40% or above, where a component has a higher pass mark the requirement will be indicated in the module descriptor.

### **6. SUPPLEMENTARY ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1. Students are permitted to undertake supplementary assessment on one occasion only for Level 7 modules, in line with Regulations Governing Postgraduate Awards
- 6.2 A student who does not meet the 40% pass in all components of assessment detailed in 6.1 will be required to withdraw from clinical practice modules and will be withdrawn from the programme.

### **7. PERFORMANCE IN SUPPLEMENTARY ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1. Students who, following supplementary assessment, meet the relevant requirements set out above may progress on the course of study. Students who have undertaken supplementary assessment with a view to attaining an award as set out below and who now meet those requirements shall be eligible for the award in

question.

7.2. Students who have exhausted all the attempts permitted by the Board of Examiners and still do not meet the requirements either for progression or for an award, will be required to withdraw from the course of study.

## **8. CARRY FORWARD OF MARKS**

8.1. The maximum carry forward module mark awarded to students following supplementary assessment will be capped at 40 or higher where the required pass mark for that component is above 40.

## **9. ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS**

### **9.1. POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH STUDIES- INTERIM AWARD**

9.1.1. Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies – To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies, students must achieve at least 40 in individual modules amounting to 60 credits at Level 7.

9.1.2. Students who, in achieving the requirements set out in 9.1.1, attain an overall average of at least 58 in the assessments for the modules required shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies with Merit.

9.1.3. Students who, in achieving the requirements set out in 9.1.1, attain an overall average of at least 68 in the assessments for the modules required shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Studies with Distinction.

### **9.2. POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH STUDIES - INTERIM AWARD**

9.2.1. To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Studies, students must achieve at least 40% in modules amounting to 120 credits at Level 7

9.2.2. Students who, in achieving the requirements set out in 9.2.1, attain an overall average of 58 in the assessments for the modules required shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Studies with Merit.

9.2.3. Students who, in achieving the requirements set out in 9.2.1, attain an overall average of 68 in the assessments for the modules required shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Studies with Distinction.

### **9.3. DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH STUDIES – FINAL AWARD**

9.3.1. To be eligible for the award of Degree of Master of Science in Health Studies, students must comply with the requirements as set out in 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 and attain the following:

9.3.2. at least 40% in individual modules amounting to 180 Credits, all of which must be at Level 7

### **9.4. DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MIDWIFERY – FINAL AWARD**

9.4.1. To be eligible for the award of the Degree of Master of Science in Midwifery (Shortened Programme), and be eligible for registration with the NMC students must comply with the requirements set out in 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 above, and must achieve: i) the requirements set out in 5.1, 5.2 ii) at least 40.0% in individual Level 7 modules amounting to 180 Credits, including individual components identified within individual modules that must be passed.

9.4.2. Degree of Master of Science in Midwifery shall, on the basis of a student's performance, be awarded by as follows: i) MSc with Distinction ii) MSc with Merit iii) MSc

9.4.3. Students who attain an overall weighted average in all Level 7 modules of at least 68, shall be

eligible for the award of the Degree of Master with Distinction.

9.4.4. Students who attain an overall weighted average in all Level 7 modules of at least 58, shall be eligible for the award of the Degree of Master with Merit.

9.4.5. Students who attain an overall pass in all modules shall be eligible for the award of the Degree of Master.

9.4.6. Students who achieve at least 40 in any number of individual modules at any level but who do not qualify for one of the above awards shall be eligible for the award of a Certificate of Continuing Education.

## **10. AEGROTAT AWARDS**

10.1. An Aegrotat degree of MSc may not normally be awarded.

## **11. AMENDMENTS TO SYLLABUS**

11.1. Amendments to syllabus should not normally be permitted and only after consultation with the PSRB (Nursing and Midwifery Council)