

# Programme Specification

<b>Programme Title and Name of Award</b>	MSc Midwifery (Pre-Registration)		
<b>Academic Level</b>	Level 7	<b>Total Credits</b>	180
<b>Professional Body Accreditation / Qualification</b>	<p>This programme requires approval of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).</p> <p>Eligibility to register as a midwife</p> <p>[Other exit awards do not provide eligibility to register with the NMC]</p>		
<b>Date of Professional Body Accreditation</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	<b>Accreditation Period</b>	Open ended approval
<b>UCAS Code</b>	B720		
<b>HECoS Code</b>	100288		
<b>Criteria for Admission to the Programme</b>	<p>The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the <a href="#">Applicant Information</a> pages of the University website for more information.</p> <p>Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage: <a href="http://cumbria.ac.uk/Study/Courses/Postgraduate/MSC-Midwifery-pre-registration">http://cumbria.ac.uk/Study/Courses/Postgraduate/MSC-Midwifery-pre-registration</a></p> <p>The following additional requirements apply for entry to this programme:</p> <p><b>Nursing and Midwifery Council Requirements:</b></p> <p>The NMC (2019) stipulate that Approved Education Institutions (AEIs) together with practice learning partners must ensure selection, admission and progression comply with the NMC Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education and confirm on entry to the programme that students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrolled on pre-registration midwifery programmes are compliant with Article 40(2) of Directive 2005/36/EC regarding general education length or nursing qualification</li> <li>• Hold a first degree in a relevant subject</li> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of the role and scope of practice of the midwife</li> </ul>		

- Demonstrate values in accordance with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Code
- Have capability to learn behaviours in accordance with the NMC Code
- Have capability to develop numeracy skills required to meet programme outcomes
- Can demonstrate proficiency in English language
- Have capability in literacy to meet programme outcomes
- Have capability for digital and technological literacy to meet programme outcomes

**International students** require an IELTS certificate that confirms a minimum score of 6.5 in writing alongside a minimum of 7.0 in reading, listening and speaking, so long as the minimum overall score of 7.0. is achieved in order to be eligible for entry to the NMC register and therefore is a criteria for admission to the programme. Alternatively, an OET examination certificate that confirms achievement of at least a B grade in the writing, reading, listening and speaking sections. (Access NMC link for more information)

[English language NMC requirements](#)

- Have capability in literacy to meet programme outcomes
- Have capability for digital and technological literacy to meet programme outcomes

#### **Personal statement**

Applicants should demonstrate their motivation for the programme and reflect upon any practical experience they have gained. Experience in a setting that encompasses caring and/or interpersonal skills in either a formal or informal context is essential.

#### **Interviews**

Applicants will be interviewed using the NHS values based recruitment (VBR) (see link below for further information).

<http://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/attracting-recruiting/values-basedrecruitment> Places are offered following a successful interview. Practice partner representatives and Service users will also contribute to this process.

Offers are subject to satisfactory entry requirements, satisfactory disclosure and barring service (DBS) check and occupational health medical clearance. This will be facilitated by the University. You will be advised of the process and procedures when a provisional offer of place is made. Prompt completion of online processes and return of forms and ID documents is crucial and compliance is carefully monitored by staff to ensure Fitness to Practise as required by the NMC. Information regarding fitness to practise and health requirements can be found here:

<https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/course-search/?level=ug-full-time-degree&subjectArea=Midwifery&keyword=>

	<p><b>Good Character Reference</b></p> <p>As part of the NMC’s fitness to practise requirements, information on a candidate’s good character is sought in cases where the original employer reference does not satisfy this requirement. This reference must normally be from a current/most recent employer or a programme tutor if an employer is not available.</p> <p><b>Transfers in</b></p> <p>The NMC (2019) does not allow recognition of prior learning (RPL) on midwifery programmes.</p> <p>Students may request (in writing) for a transfer from another Higher Education Institution (HEI) via APL process (see below). These claims are considered by a competitive selection process and the transfers are approved by the programme leader. Successful applicants must be interviewed as per pre-registration recruitment policy and acceptance is subject to satisfactory references, academic and practice hour’s transcript, EU requirements, occupational health and enhanced DBS clearance. APL claims will be considered on an individual competitive basis, subject to a satisfactory mapping of module outcomes and NMC progression points; Bridging work may be required.</p>	
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	N/A	
<b>Owning Institute</b>	Institute of Health	
<b>Programme delivered in conjunction with</b>	Local NHS Trusts North Cumbria Morecambe Bay	
<b>Principal Mode of Delivery</b>	Blended learning, Work-Based Learning	
<b>Pattern of Delivery</b>	Full Time 3 years	
	Total weeks of study:	46 theory weeks over 3 years
	Delivery pattern:	3 semesters each year
	Standard semester dates:	No due to placement weeks
<b>Delivery Site(s)</b>	Carlisle Fusehill Street Lancaster	
<b>Programme Length</b>	Minimum of 3 years Full time equivalent to 4,600 hours Maximum of 5 years to Register with NMC from course commencement (this is an NMC requirement)	

<b>Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)</b>	Upon successful completion of this programme, you may receive a Diploma Supplement/Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).
<b>Exit Awards</b>	<p>You may be awarded one of the following Exit Awards if you fail to achieve the requirements of the full programme.</p> <p>Exit Award (60 level 7 credits): PGCert: Health Studies</p> <p>Exit Award (120 level 7 credits): PGDip: Health Studies</p> <p>Exit Award (180 level 7 credits): MSc Health Studies for those students who do not fulfil the NMC requirements to register as a Midwife.</p>
<b>Period of Approval</b>	August 2020 to July 2026

### Cumbria Graduate Attributes

Throughout your studies, you will be provided with the skills and knowledge relevant to the global workplace. All successful graduates of the University of Cumbria will be:

- Enquiring and open to change
- Self-reliant, adaptable and flexible
- Confident in your discipline as it develops and changes over time
- Capable of working across disciplines and working well with others
- Confident in your digital capabilities
- Able to manage your own professional and personal development
- A global citizen, socially responsible and aware of the potential contribution of your work to the cultural and economic wellbeing of the community and its impact on the environment
- A leader of people and of places
- Ambitious and proud

### Programme Features

The training of midwives to be fully prepared for the future midwife role is crucial to the national Midwifery Expansion Project. This midwifery programme has been co-created and produced in partnership with local NHS Trusts, and inclusive of all key stakeholders and the University. Maternity service user input through collaboration with local Maternity Voices in Partnership Groups has been an essential part of the development of this woman-centred midwifery programme and will be integral to ongoing developments, delivery, quality assurance and selection/recruitment of students. In developing the programme, we have endeavoured to underpin and embed those values highlighted in the NHS Constitution (2015); Values such as treating people with respect, dignity and compassion, and getting the basics right every time by putting women and their families first.

The MSc in Midwifery (pre-registration) is aimed at graduates with a first degree, which, leads to registration at master's level. A master's degree in midwifery will provide a strong basis for a future career in clinical work, alongside research, education, management, leadership or consultancy.

The midwifery programme has been designed to incorporate the six domains specified in the Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Education (2019) based on the Lancet Series on Midwifery (2014) evident within the programme aims. Modules within the curriculum have utilised the University Academic Design Principles to provide relevant and coherent learning opportunities to deliver a high-quality student experience and support your progression and success. Modules are designed to become progressively challenging at each level using learning and achievement from earlier levels as a foundation. Continuity of care and carer are linked to improved health outcomes for mother and baby, as well as greater satisfaction with care and these are key elements embedded within the programme. Midwives are the first point of contact for a woman and the lead health professional in maternity services playing a crucial role in coordinating and navigating maternity care, requiring essential leadership skills, another key element featuring throughout the programme. A key theme identified from the MVP surveys is to include breast feeding advice and support throughout the programme. Where appropriate this has been incorporated into modules in each year of the programme so there is a strong focus on infant feeding, and this has been mapped against the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative Standards.

Students spend 50% of the programme in clinical practice being supervised and assessed by clinical staff. Placement experience provides opportunities for you to experience pregnancy and childbearing over the full continuum and includes shorter spoke placements offering a variety of experience in areas such as special care baby units, theatres and strengthening family's teams. Elective placement weeks are built into each year of the programme where some students take the opportunity to experience midwifery practice elsewhere in the country and/or abroad. Theory is delivered by expert teaching staff and is based on latest evidence and research, using modern teaching methods and technology. We offer excellent student support systems to help students through their studies. Recently we achieved 100% Student Satisfaction in the National Student Survey and 100% of students securing midwifery posts on successful completion of the programme.

As members of the midwifery community within University and beyond, we encourage and support you to engage with the student run Midwifery Society that is administered via the University of Cumbria Students Union. This society develops according to the interests and drive of current students and therefore varies in its focus each year. Activities include conferences, visiting speakers, and the all-important socialising with other student midwives. You will be expected to take responsibility and ownership of your learning process, ensuring continued development of the skills needed for life-long learning. The expectation is that you will begin the programme with graduate skills already in place and will be motivated to make the transition to level 7 study, with support.

Successful students are eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

The core skills identified in the Core Skills Framework and acknowledged as essential to all health professions are integral to the programme <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/statutory-and-mandatory-training/>.

### **The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)**

Programmes preparing students to become qualified midwives are subject to statutory regulation provided by the NMC <http://www.nmc-uk.org/About-us//> . The NMC specifies standards of education which must be achieved and maintained by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), their associated clinical practice environments and the standards for proficiency which students must achieve to be eligible for NMC registration.

### **Theory and practice time**

An NMC requirement is that the programme includes a minimum of 4600 hours. These hours are split so that students spend a minimum of 2300 hours studying the relevant theory and a minimum of 2300 hours in clinical practice.

All theory is taught at the Fusehill campus in Carlisle and practice placements are undertaken within the two partner NHS Trusts within hospital and community settings.

### **Sickness and absence**

The University expects 100% attendance for theory and clinical practice. However, we understand that some students may not achieve this. The University monitors attendance and all sickness and absence very carefully to ensure that students have undertaken the sufficient number of hours. Full details of the sickness and absence policy, and the monitoring details, are contained with the Programme and Placement Handbooks. Students who have not achieved all of the necessary hours in practice by the end of the programme are required to complete these hours, under the supervision of a nominated practice assessor, before they are eligible to apply for registration. There is a period of time available towards the end of each academic year in the summer term for retrieval of some practice hours but only as directed by the Placement Unit and programme leader.

Full details are available on the website below as part of the placement policy.

[UoC Placement Policy for Health Care Professionals | University of Cumbria](#)

Theory hours missed within the University must also be completed prior to registration.

### **Good Health and Good Character; The NMC Code (2018)**

The public has a right to expect the highest possible standards of behaviour and professionalism from all midwives, and that qualifying midwives are fit to practise. This also relates to recruitment of students as well as conduct during the programme.

All students are expected to comply with the NMC Code

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/nmc-publications/nmc-code.pdf> and the University of Cumbria Student Code of Conduct

<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/StudentLife/Support/PuttingThingsRight/StudentConduct.aspx> .

The Institute of Health has developed a well-established *Fitness to Practise Policy for undergraduate health professions* which is aligned to the NMC Standards and the *Student's Codes of Conduct*. Students will be expected to read, familiarise themselves, and adhere to the requirements for professional behaviour and attitude at all times in University; clinical practice settings and in their personal/public life.

It is a statutory requirement that midwifery students sign an annual declaration of Good Health and Good Character confirming their continued fitness to practise.

At the end of the programme a statement of Good Health and Good Character is provided by the Lead Midwife for Education which is then forwarded to the NMC. At the point of registration with the NMC on completion of the programme, signing of the NMC *declaration of Good Health and Good Character* may be withheld if there are any unresolved professional issues.

### **EU requirements**

EU requirements must be met and adhered to within the curriculum and include theoretical and practical training.

### **Practical and clinical training**

Must include:

- Advising of pregnant women, involving at least 100 pre-natal examinations
- Supervision and care of at least 40 pregnant women

- Conduct by the student of at least 40 deliveries; where this number cannot be reached owing to the lack of available women in labour, it may be reduced to a minimum of 30, provided that the student assists with 20 further deliveries
- Active participation with breech deliveries. Where this is not possible because of lack of breech deliveries, practice may be in a simulated situation
- Performance of episiotomy and initiation into suturing. Initiation shall include theoretical instruction and clinical practice. The practice of suturing includes suturing of the wound following an episiotomy and a simple perineal laceration. This may be in a simulated situation if absolutely necessary
- Supervision and care of 40 women at risk in pregnancy, or labour or post-natal period
- Supervision and care (including examination) of at least 100 post-natal women and healthy Newborn infants
- Observation and care of the Newborn requiring special care, including those born pre-term, post-term, underweight or ill
- Care of women with pathological conditions in the fields of gynaecology and obstetrics. – Initiation into care in the field of medicine and surgery. Initiation shall include theoretical instruction and clinical practice

### **Employability**

The programme encourages the development of skills and knowledge that will equip you for graduate employment, lifelong learning, and career planning. You will engage with local employers early on in your programme and your practice learning will be supported by them, in collaboration with the University. Your programme is 50% theory and 50% practice and the module content develops the application of theory to practice enabling you to become confident in understanding how your knowledge will enable you to be a safe and effective midwife, ready to be employed once registered to assume the responsibilities and accountability of a registered midwife.

The programme enhances your employability skills by, for example:

- The development of lifelong, independent learning skills to enhance personal and professional development
- The ability to adapt to the changing nature and context of midwifery practice
- Developing your ability to undertake presentations to groups
- Encouraging professional networking and the development of influencing skills
- Encouraging the skills required for life-long learning
- Considering options for career planning
- Developing interview skills
- Providing support for employability through <https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/careers/> and Career Ahead
- A strong focus on leadership and research skills
- Students' confidence in supporting breast feeding, as Trusts recognise the benefit of engaging staff who do not need further infant feeding training.

This course will enable you to become a highly educated midwife with the potential for roles in areas such as midwifery managers, consultant midwives, University lecturers, practice development midwives, researchers, and specialist clinical midwives or continue your education by studying for a PhD in Midwifery.

### **Additional Information**

#### **Finance:**

- **Home students** on the MSc Midwifery programme pay full tuition fees but may be eligible to receive a student loan from Student Finance England. Further financial assistance may be

available from the University Hardship Fund should the need arise. Some travel expenses to and from placement areas *may* be payable.

- **EU Students** on the MSc Midwifery programme pay full tuition fees but may be eligible to receive a means-tested student loan from Student Finance England. Further financial assistance may be available from the University Hardship Fund should the need arise. Some travel expenses to and from placement areas *may* be payable.
- **International students / those assessed as overseas for fees purposes** on the MSc Midwifery programme are responsible for their own tuition fees and living costs. Further financial assistance from the University Hardship Fund *may* be available should the need arise.

**Placements/Learning in Practice:** when on placement, students are expected to work a normal NHS working week of 37.5 hours and to experience the shift pattern (early start e.g. 7am, late finish e.g. 10pm long 12.5 hour shifts and some night duty) and some weekend working, though this may be negotiable with some placement areas. Students may not request specific placement areas. Students must notify the Placement Unit if there are any circumstances with regard to sickness which may affect placement attendance.

There is an opportunity in each year of the programme for an elective placement where students can choose and negotiate practice placements either elsewhere in the UK or abroad. This is agreed with the PT on the proviso that all summative practice assessments to date have been successfully completed.

**Uniforms:** The University provides uniforms for students where appropriate. Students are responsible for their own laundry and must provide their own suitable footwear. A plain navy or black three quarter or full-length coat will need to be purchased by the student for those wearing uniform on community placements. Any additional uniforms must be purchased by the student.

**Reasonable adjustments:** should these be required they can be discussed with the Programme Leader and PT in the first instance. The University is committed to ensuring that reasonable adjustments are made wherever possible and will support all students in their studies. For placements, there is a 'Dyslexia in the Workplace' assessment and support document that can be discussed with Practice Supervisors and Assessors.

The University of Cumbria is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 to collect and process your personal data. The University may be required to disclose student data but will only do so within the terms of this Act. Please see the University of Cumbria [website](#) for more information.

**Interprofessional Learning:** Interprofessional Learning (IPL) is a core element of all undergraduate health and social care education within the Institute for Health in line with government and PSRB directives. Each year there will be 2-3 events, for example conferences or lectures which will complement the students' own professional modules and allow the students to come together to apply their uni-professional learning to the IPL shared learning events.

Learning on practice placement provides practical and real-life opportunities for Interprofessional learning. The compulsory learning outcomes have been agreed across six health and care professions and each programme team have flexibility to decide where each learning outcome is met on their programme. These have been embedded in practice placement modules at each level of study.

## Aims of the Programme

The overall aims of the Programme are:



To develop you into a critical-thinking and effective midwife at the forefront of practice who will be the focussed, creative problem solvers and leaders of the future.

At the point of registration, you will be able to:

1. Practise as a reflective, accountable and autonomous midwife
2. Provide universal care for all women and newborn infants, and for those with additional care needs, in all settings
3. Become a highly proficient reflective and life-long scholarly practitioner, with the knowledge and skills to critically appraise and undertake research in order to contribute to your own development and the evidence base for Midwifery practice
4. Adapt to the changing nature and context of midwifery practice by focussed critical thinking in order to evaluate and synthesise evidence-based theoretical perspectives to contemporary Midwifery practice
5. Provide safe and effective care in the best interests of women and newborn infants, through advocacy, leadership and collaboration which will enhance your capacity to manage ongoing change
6. Facilitate evidence-informed decisions in partnership with women and families
7. Be adaptable and responsive to complex working environments, as well as advance the profession in the future
8. Demonstrate the attributes which are characteristic of master's level study, so that you display a mastery of midwifery knowledge, as well as a level of independence and confidence which will enable you to be both strategic and effective early in your career as a Registered Midwife

Specifically, our aim is to prepare you for eligibility to be admitted to the NMC register as a Registered Midwife through:

- Achievement of all theoretical and practice learning outcomes
- Achievement of the NMC standards of proficiency for registered midwives (2019)
- Demonstration of Good Health and Good Character

The programme aims to develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of all six of the NMC domains. These Domains inter-relate and build on each other and should not be seen separately. Together these reflect what we expect a new midwife to know, understand and be capable of doing safely and proficiently:

#### **The Domains:**

##### **1. Being an accountable, autonomous, professional midwife**

##### **2. Safe and effective midwifery care: promoting and providing continuity of care and carer**

##### **3. Universal care for all women and newborn infants**

**A** The midwife's role in public health, health promotion and health protection

**B** The midwife's role in assessment, screening and care planning

**C** The midwife's role in optimising normal physiological processes and working to promote positive outcomes and prevent complications

##### **4. Additional care for women and newborn infants with complications**

**A** The midwife's role in first line assessment and management of complications and additional care needs

**B** The midwife's role in caring for and supporting women and newborn infants requiring medical, obstetric, neonatal, mental health, social care, and other services

**5. Promoting excellence: the midwife as colleague, scholar and leader**

**A** Working with others: the midwife as colleague

**B** Developing knowledge, positive role modelling and leadership: the midwife as scholar and leader

**6. The midwife as skilled practitioner Communication, sharing information and relationship management skills: shared skills for Domains 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

## Level Descriptors

Level Descriptors describe in general terms the expected outcomes you will achieve at each level of study as you progress through your programmes. They describe the relative demand, complexity, depth of learning and learner autonomy associated with a particular level of learning and achievement. The University's Level Descriptors are aligned to the national [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) (FHEQ) and are a key mechanism for ensuring the academic standards of the University's provision.

At Level 7 (Usually Master's level), you will be able to demonstrate that you have the ability:

- To display a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice.
- Employ advanced subject-specific and cognitive skills to enable decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Generate new ideas and support the achievement of desired outcomes.
- Accept accountability for decision making including the use of supervision.
- Analyse complex concepts and professional situations by means of synthesis of personal and workplace reflection and data drawn from scholarship and research in the field.

## Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

**After 60 credits of study (PGCert) you will be able to demonstrate understanding of:**

**K1.** The evidence, theories and policy drivers that underpin decision making and judgement in midwifery practice

**K2.** The holistic nature of midwifery practice, and applying the concepts and frameworks for collaborative and partnership working

**K3.** The complexities of professional, ethical and legal perspectives relating to midwifery practice, incorporating sensitivity to diversity and cultural issues

**After 120 credits of study (PGDip) you will be able to demonstrate understanding of:**

**K4.** The use and evaluation of a wide range of quality sources of evidence relevant to the area of study.

**K5.** Research methods of enquiry relevant to your scope of practice

**K6.** Concepts and frameworks for collaborative and partnership working

**K7.** Contemporary and innovative approaches towards leading and developing practice

**After 180 credits of study (MSc) you will be able to demonstrate understanding of:**

**K8.** Originality in the application of knowledge, and the practicalities and skills of conducting research and enquiry within your setting

**K9.** Critical awareness and new insights into the problems that occur within your area of professional practice or field of study

### **Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes (including Employability Skills)**

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

**After 60 credits of study (PGCert) you will be able to:**

**S1.** Formulate and complete a structured learning programme aligned to the Knowledge and Skills Framework (where applicable) and / or other appropriate competency standards that are appropriate to your midwifery role

**S2.** Use initiative in decision making and generate transformative solutions through the synthesis of ideas and information

**S3.** Communicate effectively and empathically with patients, colleagues and other practitioners in complex and unpredictable situations

**S4.** Use information technology innovatively for the acquisition and the effective presentation of information

**S5.** Apply contemporary and innovative approaches towards leading and developing midwifery Practice

**After 120 credits of study (PGDip) you will be able to:**

**S6.** Analyse complex, incomplete contradictory evidence and judge the appropriateness of the enquiry methodologies used

**S7.** Carry out research methods of enquiry relevant to your scope of practice

**S8.** Demonstrate awareness of the knowledge and skills used in leadership to influence practice

**S9.** Use critical reflexivity to analyse self and own actions to inform personal and professional Development

**After 180 credits of study (MSc) you will be able to:**

**S10.** Use problem solving skills to promote development of standards within midwifery practice

**S11.** Plan, design and execute a sustained piece of independent, intellectual work

## External and Internal Reference Points

The following Subject Benchmark Statements and other external and internal reference points have been used to inform the Programme Outcomes:

*QAA Subject benchmark statements:* Midwifery benchmarks referred to by the QAA are out of date have not been amended therefore the most relevant subject benchmarks are those provided below.

Part 1: Standards Framework for Nursing and Midwifery Education 2019

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/education-standards/education-framework.pdf>

Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment 2019

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/education-standards/student-supervision-assessment.pdf>

Part 3: Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Programmes 2019

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/standards/standards-for-pre-registration-midwifery-programmes.pdf>

NMC The code: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/nmc-publications/nmc-code.pdf>

NMC Guidance on Good Health and Good Character

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/education/what-we-expect-of-educational-institutions/good-health-and-good-character-for-aeis/>

NMC Advice and supporting information for implementation of the standards

NMC [Fitness to Practise](#)

European Union Standards for Nursing and Midwifery: Information for Accession Countries: Midwifery Training Articles 40–42 of 2005/36/EC:

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/102200/E92852.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/102200/E92852.pdf)

[UoC Strategic Plan](#)

[UoC Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy](#)

[UoC Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes](#)

[UoC Placement Policy for Health Care Professionals | University of Cumbria](#)

## Graduate Prospects

The midwifery programme prepares you for the variety of settings in which you may eventually work by ensuring that you develop knowledge, experience and confidence to be able to work with service users as partners and with other healthcare professionals. Midwifery offers you the chance to make a difference, a high degree of flexibility and a career with excellent employment prospects. This programme has an excellent record of graduate employment, 100% of our graduates are in work or further study within six months of graduating (DLHE 2017).

The programme has been developed to meet the key themes within the Standards of Proficiency for Midwives (NMC 2019). On completion of the programme you will have developed knowledge of:

- Evidence-based care and the importance of staying up to date with current knowledge
- The physical, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual safety of women and newborn infants

- Communication and relationship building, working in partnership with women
- Enabling and advocating for the human rights of women and children
- Enabling and advocating for the views, preferences, and decisions of women, partners and families
- Working across the whole continuum of care and in all settings, and understanding the woman's and newborn infant's whole maternity journey
- Providing continuity of care and carer
- Optimising the normal processes of reproduction and early life
- Ensuring that women, partners and families have all the information needed to fully inform their decisions
- The importance of physical, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual factors
- Anticipating, preventing, and responding to complications and additional care needs
- Public health, health promotion, and health protection
- Understanding and working to mitigate health and social inequalities
- Interdisciplinary and multiagency working
- Protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding
- The impact of pregnancy, labour and birth, postpartum, infant feeding, and the early weeks of life on longer-term health and well being
- Taking personal responsibility for ongoing learning and development

On completion of the programme you will be eligible to apply to join the NMC Register, allowing you to practice as a midwife. The need for qualified midwives is ever-expanding, so you can be confident that your qualification will open up many opportunities for employment.

You may be employed in the UK within the NHS or other healthcare provider caring for a variety of service users. Midwifery is changing and with the advent of digital health technologies and the emphasis on caring for service users in more community and outward facing services, the scope for a greater variety of settings in which midwifery is delivered has increased. The key elements of the programme prepare you for the changing nature and context of maternity services in the UK, reflecting current government initiatives such as [Better Births](#) (Cumberledge 2016) and [Maternity Transformation](#).

There is also potential to work internationally as a UK midwifery qualification is recognised as respected benchmark of quality, and UK educated midwives as highly sought after.

### **Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies employed to enable the Programme Outcomes to be Achieved and Demonstrated**

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you are part of an inclusive learning community that recognises diversity. You will have opportunities to learn by interacting with others in a collegiate, facilitative and dynamic learning environment. Teaching, assessment and student support will allow equal and equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy.

We seek to create a stimulating and innovative community of learning, whether encountered on campus or at a distance, on placement or in the workplace. Facilitated by our expert practitioner staff, you will experience a learning environment that is well equipped, flexible, and stimulating.

## **Learning and Teaching**

Our learning and teaching strategy is based on the philosophy that midwives occupy a privileged position within society. Training to be a midwife, whilst working and studying for this highly valued qualification is a challenging and stimulating process, on both personal and professional levels. The programme has been developed in recognising that midwives do not work in isolation and therefore interprofessional learning opportunities are threaded through the programme where student midwives will learn with and about other health professionals such as paramedics, social workers, nurses, and specialist practitioners. The programme is designed to ensure that theory and practice are clearly linked throughout in order to enhance care. A variety of teaching and learning methods are used throughout the programme, based on UOC Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2017-2022. These are designed to match the learning outcomes and to provide every student with some experience of methods best suited to their own learning style, supporting the move to an independent and mature learner.

They are designed to:

- Be student-centred, flexible and modern whilst being challenging and stimulating
- Support different learners' needs at different stages of development
- Be fully supported by, and integrated with, technological approaches such as the Blackboard virtual learning environment (VLE) and electronic portfolio
- Actively ensure the linkage of theory with practice
- Work with existing partners through the integration of work-related experience to ensure that students have relevant, challenging and enriching experiences
- Explicitly consider, value and incorporate service user perspectives, involving service users directly, as per the Institute strategy
- Impart academic rigour to the teaching and learning processes; with all core staff who teach, and support learning attaining HEA Fellowship/Senior Fellowship status and are actively involved in our students' journey and have the skills and knowledge to support them
- Require that Staff engage in curriculum design, delivery or review demonstrating that their teaching approach and learning materials fully consider the needs of the student as a developing professional
- Require that staff undertake regular staff development in digital technologies and maintain their own digital capabilities
- Develop the student as independent and self-directed, inculcating the ethos of lifelong and reflective learning
- Develop the student's abilities to learn effectively and progress academically, performing academically at level 6 in terms of achieving the programme aims and outcomes through a variety of assessments, including an in-depth evidence-based literature review (dissertation) as well as leadership and change management
- Explicitly reflect the values and standards of the NMC (2019) and the NHS Constitution (2015)

## **Teaching and learning methods**

This programme aims to use a variety of learning and teaching methods (blended learning) to appeal to a range of learning styles and to provide opportunities for students to extend their learning skills. In addition, we believe that flexibility of access to good quality learning resources (for example; those provided through the Library, and Student Services (LSS); those to which students are directed by programme tutors; their own practice and access to the experience and thoughts of their peers through face-to-face and online discussion) provides a rich and varied learning environment. While the outcomes of a professional programme such as this are clearly prescribed, the individual student's learning journey can be varied in response to the priorities as they arise from experience. Thus, students have greater control over key aspects of their learning, in an approach, which can be described as 'flexible and distributed learning'. In University based sessions, learning and teaching methods include lectures, reflection on practice, critical incidents, videos, discussion, seminars,

tutorials, scenarios, simulations and skills drills and care studies. Practical skills workshops throughout the programme will take place in both University and practice settings. Some will be multi-professional and others midwifery student specific. There will be some teaching sessions that will be co-taught with students undertaking the BSc (Hons) Midwifery programme which is intended to enhance diverse peer learning experiences, for example all clinical skills sessions will be co-taught and modules MIDP7010, MIDP7020, MIDP7030, MIDP7040 MIDP7060 and MIDP7080. MIDP7070 will be taught separately. Additionally, there will be workshops, and academic writing skills sessions exclusively for MSc students.

We will also be using 'Blackboard' on this programme. Blackboard is a computer-based virtual learning environment (VLE). The aims of its use on this programme are to: facilitate peer and tutor support; provide easy access to relevant online and some text based media; enable the sharing of reflections on practice; enable individual and small group work tasks designed to develop skills of critical thinking and to develop IT skills.

Practical and clinical skills are taught in a dedicated midwifery skills laboratory using state of the art manikins and specific midwifery skills training equipment which is well supported by laboratory technicians and taught by expert midwifery lecturers who are cognisant in contemporary midwifery practice.

Practice placements comprise 50% of the programme time. Students will be based for much of their practice time in the maternity services of North Cumbria Integrated Care Foundation NHS Trust and the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust. Although students are allocated to a specific Trust the placement unit ensures that all students are allocated fairly and that they spend time in all maternity units and community areas within that Trust.

### **Types and Methods of Assessment**

A full range of assessment methods has been selected in order to enhance student learning and to help students to demonstrate the extent to which they have achieved all the module learning outcomes, and, overall, the programme aims. Each module's learning outcomes relate to the module assessment item(s).

All modules are summatively assessed and must be passed. Formative assessments are also used throughout several modules.

Students have an opportunity across the programme to reflect on their progression and their development. These personal reflections contribute to and are evidenced in assessments through a variety of means.

Types and methods of assessment will include professional discussions, written assignments, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE's), presentations, portfolio and dissertation. Authentic assessment methods are utilised to provide effective feedback and feed forward recommendations to enable student success. Assessment load is specifically designed to be timely and prevent assessment overload. Anonymous marking will be employed wherever possible within the programme.

### **Summative and Formative Assessment**

Formative and summative assessment are utilised to enable students to progress through a module in a structured, constructive way to build knowledge for practice in a coherent and logical way. Formative assessments are designed so that feedback on the individual student's performance is provided prior to the submission of the final, summative assessment – though this does not contribute to the final module mark or the credit awarded.

The wordage – or equivalent – for both formative and summative assessments is counted towards the whole module assessment wordage. A range of formative assessments have been included in the programme in various modules providing opportunities for peer and tutor feedback and incorporating the notion of 'feedforward' focussing on what a student should pay attention to for

future assessments. The summative assessment in modules such as universal and additional care modules in each year of the programme utilise authentic assessment methods focusing on students using and applying knowledge and skills in real-life settings. Authentic assessment helps students contextualise their learning and to see how real-life conditions or situations, in all their unpredictability, ambiguity and complexity, affect their theoretical knowledge.

Graduate skills and attributes are embedded throughout all modules, explicitly within the *Midwife as Professional* and *Midwife as scholar* modules.

### **NMC Standards for Proficiency in Clinical Practice**

The NMC proficiencies will be achieved by semester 2E in each year. There will be one practice module per year which, will be summatively assessed.

A failed placement will be allowed one further attempt to recoup the fail. Failure of a second attempt at practice assessment will normally mean discontinuation from the programme. Qualified Practice Assessors assess students' acquisition of skills and achievement of the NMC proficiencies in clinical practice. Practice Assessors alongside academic assessors will confirm students are proficient to progress to NMC registration. Practice Supervisors and Assessors involve service users, seeking their opinions when assessing students on placement contributing to the overall decision regarding proficiency.

Students' professionalism, attitudes, good health and character are vital aspects of this assessment. University Academic Assessors and Placement Education Facilitators support both students and assessors in the placements. Most of the theoretical work is linked to practice in some way and assessors will explore students' underpinning knowledge, and how their personal and professional characteristics impact on their performance.

## **Student Support**

We provide responsive learner support that promotes student success. Our approach to learner support is designed to support achievement and progression, champion inclusivity and accessibility, prepare you for opportunities beyond study, and promote independence and resilience, enabling you to achieve your potential.

As a student of the University of Cumbria, you will be taught by academics and expert practitioners who facilitate learning through structured inquiry. You will be provided with access to high quality academic resources through physical and digital libraries and will be supported to develop skills that enable you to become a critical, reflective, discerning and independent learner and researcher.

### **Induction**

New students commencing in year 1 are provided with an induction within Welcome Week. This includes orientation to the programme and the University, an introduction to key staff, Library, VLE and Timetable introduction. Students will be introduced to the range of academic and pastoral support available to them during their studies including the Student Union and the Royal College of Midwives.

Each module will be introduced, and the assessment outlined as part of the overview of the module at the commencement of that module.

As students' progress through the programme and move onto the next year of the programme an introduction is delivered which, includes workshops delivered by LSS staff and reinforced by module leaders at the start of each year and each module. Specifically, a recap of key academic skills such as critical analysis and synthesis as expected within masters level work. Students are signposted to continuously review feed forward advice/recommendations over the previous year enabling



development of academic skills in relation to the University Grade Descriptors, the module learning outcomes, guidance within the module guide and assessment tutorials.

### **Personal Tutoring**

You will also be allocated a Personal Tutor. Your Personal Tutor will be proactively involved in the delivery of your programme and will have contact with you throughout your time at the University. They will support your learning and development, including through tutorials, Progress Reviews and other support as outlined in the Personal Tutoring Policy. Contact with the PT may be via a variety of means, including e-mail, telephone or face-to-face tutorial (group and / or individual) to a total of 2 hours total per student per year of study. More contact may be required during Year 1 and less as the student progresses.

### **Personal Development Planning**

You will be supported and encouraged to develop personally and professionally by undertaking personal development planning in each year. In years 1 and 2 of the programme students are encouraged to reflect on practice and self-awareness through the exploration of personal and professional values in module MIDP7010 The Midwife as Professional 1; Critically reflect on and provide evidence of personal and professional development in Module MIDP7100 The Midwife as Professional 2 and in year 3 personal development and employability skills are embedded within the midwifery practice module MIDP9020.

Personal development is shaped, not just by the programme but by a range of activities which are additional to the programme. Example of these include:

- The opportunity to represent the University as Student Quality Ambassadors or Student Representatives
- Engagement in professional conferences such as the Health and Wellbeing Conference and the Royal College of Midwives Annual Conference
- Joining the student led Midwifery Society and engaging in student led events such as organising national midwifery conferences
- The Careers Day in year 3 providing an opportunity to meet employers and network professionally

Elective placements provide opportunities for you to experience midwifery practice in a variety of different settings and contexts both in the UK and/or abroad. These opportunities take students outside of their usual experience and bring them into contact with situations that challenge them, provide experiences on which to reflect on their skills and knowledge and foster their own creativity.

### **Library and Academic Support (based in Information Services)**

Module leaders will collaborate with Library and Academic Advisors to ensure that your reading and resource lists are current and items are available via the library discovery tool OneSearch. In order to maximise access, availability and usefulness, ebooks and electronic journal titles will, in most cases, be prioritised. You can access a wide range of electronic and print content using [OneSearch](#) and you can find out more about key texts, databases and journals for your subject by accessing the library's [subject resources webpages](#). Where appropriate, module reading and resource lists will be made available to you electronically using the University's [online reading and resource list system](#).

The [Skills@Cumbria](#) service can help support your academic skills and success throughout your programme. The service is delivered by a team of professional Library and Academic Advisors. It includes a suite of [online self-help resources](#) accessible 24/7 via the University's website and Blackboard site. It also provides group and individual advice and guidance accessible through and alongside your course and by different means such as face to face, email or virtual. Visit [skills@cumbria](#) for more details.

### **IT and Technical Support**

Technology is an invaluable asset when it comes to studying, so it's important you know how to make the most out of the excellent [facilities](#) we have available. Our aim is to ensure you can access University electronic resources from anywhere or any device, whether on or off campus. The [Student Hub](#) is your one-stop gateway to all University systems, Outlook email, and OneDrive.

Whether you consider yourself a computer expert or you're not confident about your IT skills, we're always around to ensure you get the level of support you need. We have a wealth of information and support available on the [website](#) and have a dedicated IT Service Desk where you can talk to someone by phone or log your question online from anywhere, at any time.

### **Student Support Services**

Student Support Services offer a wide range of support, including: careers and employability, financial help, counselling, health and wellbeing and support for disabled students and those with specific learning requirements. We also offer mentoring by trained students which you can request at any point during your studies. We know that you want to get the most out of your programme, make the best use of your time and find or continue in the career you always dreamed of. Access University support and facilities easily and quickly via the [website](#) and/or via the Student Services guidance tile on the [Student Hub](#).

In addition to the range of guidance above, you have the opportunity to further develop your personal, academic and professional skills by taking part in a number of initiatives coordinated and delivered by professional services advisers:

### **Preparing for Postgraduate Study**

This free online pre-entry Master's level course is available free of charge through the Open Education Platform powered by Blackboard as is Head Start Plus. It provides a useful insight into the academic requirements of study at postgraduate level and is recommended to students who are about to start their PG qualification.

To access the course simply follow the link to <https://openeducation.blackboard.com/cumbria> and set-up a free account with Open Education. Once logged on, select the course free of charge and work through it at your own pace.

### **Peer Mentoring @ Cumbria**

You will be allocated a student Mentor who will be in touch to offer a non-judgemental and friendly hand and to help with various aspects of your student experience, from making friends to settling in, to helping you understand the expectations of academic study and dealing with assessment worries.

### **Mature Students' Events**

Whether it is a coffee morning, lunchtime gathering or a social event, there are events happening throughout the year to link you up with other mature students who will also be juggling a number of commitments alongside their studies.

### **Help is at Hand Events**

Keep a look out for these interactive events on campus around October and January. You are encouraged to attend these as they showcase the range of support available here and give you the opportunity to talk to people from Finance, Accommodation, the Students' Union, the Wellbeing and Disability Team etc.

### **Career Ahead+**

Career Ahead+ is the University of Cumbria's Employability Award. Completing Career Ahead+ will help you recognise and develop your skills, providing a greater opportunity for you to get the job you want when you graduate. The award is based on what employers look for in an ideal candidate, in relation to skills, knowledge and experience. You will be supported with career direction, gaining experience, and providing all the skills needed to complete the perfect application and be successful

in that all important job interview. Contact [careerahead@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:careerahead@cumbria.ac.uk) or visit [www.cumbria.ac.uk/careerahead](http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/careerahead) for more information.

<b>Programme Curriculum Map</b>					
<b>Academic Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Status*</b>	<b>Programme Outcomes achieved</b>
7 Year 1 Practice Proficiencies	MIDP9000	Midwifery Practice 1	Non-credit bearing	Qualificatory	K1, K2, S1, S2, S3
7	MIDP7010	The Midwife as Professional 1	20	Core	K1, K3, S3, S5
7	MIDP7020	Universal Care 1	20	Core	K2, S2
7	MIDP7030	Additional Care 1	20	Core	K2, S4
7 Year 2 Practice Proficiencies	MIDP9010	Midwifery Practice 2	Non-credit bearing	Qualificatory	K4, K5, S8, S9
7	MIDP7040	The Midwife as Professional 2	20	Core	K6, S8, S9
7	MIDP7050	Universal Care 2	20	Core	K4, K5, S6, S7
7	MIDP7060	Additional Care 2	20	Core	K7, K6
7 Year 3 Practice Proficiencies	MIDP9020	Midwifery Practice 3	Non-credit bearing	Qualificatory	K9, S10
7	MIDP7080	Physical Assessment and Management of the Newborn	20	Core	K8, S10

7	MIDP7070	Midwife as Professional, Scholar and Leader	40	Core	K8, K9, S10, S11
<b>Notes</b>					
<p>This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes with the following permitted exceptions due to the requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no condonement or compensation in assessments across theory and practice learning</li> <li>• The Practice Assessor and Academic Assessor must agree the student's suitability for progression for each part of the programme.</li> <li>• The Midwifery practice modules are taken over a full academic year in each year of the programme</li> </ul> <p>Module pass mark: 50% (postgraduate)</p> <p>All modules must be passed to be eligible to apply for NMC registration. After completing the programme, students will have five years in which to register or record a qualification leading to a mark on the NMC register</p> <p>*A failed student will not be permitted to re-register on the same module. A failed student will not <i>normally</i> be permitted to re-register on a practice module unless there are extenuating circumstances</p>					

<b>* Key to Module Statuses</b>	
Core Modules	Must be taken and must be successfully passed
Compulsory Modules	Must be taken although it may possible to condone/compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed)
Optional Modules	Are a set of modules from which you will be required to choose a set number to study. Once chosen, it may possible to condone/compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed)
Qualificatory Units	These are non- credit-bearing pass/fail components that are used to satisfy relevant professional, statutory or regulatory body professional requirements that are associated with the programme

<b>Programme Delivery Structure: Full Time</b>				
<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Delivery Pattern</b>	<b>Method(s) of Assessment</b>	<b>Approximate Assessment Deadline</b>
		<b>Autumn Semester / Spring Semester / Extended Spring Semester / Year-Long</b>		
MIDP9000	Midwifery Practice 1	Year long	Formative reflections Summative Practice Pass/Fail assessment Student to meet all practice proficiencies for year 1 Core skills and numeracy	End of Extended Spring Semester
MIDP7010	The Midwife as Professional 1	Autumn Semester	Written assignment	End of Autumn Semester
MIDP7020	Universal Care 1	Autumn and spring Semester	Written exam	End of Spring Semester
MIDP7030	Additional Care 1	Spring Semester	Oral presentation (professional Dialogue)	End of Extended Spring Semester
<b>Students exiting at this points with 60 credits at level 7 will receive a PGCert in Higher Education: Health Studies</b>				
MIDP9010	Midwifery Practice 2	Year long	Formative reflections Summative Practice Assessment Pass/Fail Student to meet all Midwifery proficiencies for year 2	End of Extended Spring Semester

			Core skills and numeracy	
MIDP7040	The Midwife as professional 2	Autumn Semester	Written (Reflective) assignment	End of Autumn Semester
MIDP7050	Universal Care 2	Autumn and Spring Semesters	Oral presentation (Professional dialogue)	End of Spring Semester
MIDP7060	Additional Care 2	Autumn and Spring Semesters	Formative and Summative OSCE and a written element on an aspect of the OSCE	End of Spring Semester
<b>Students exiting at this point with 120 credits would receive a PGDip in Higher Education: Health Studies</b>				
MIDP9020	Midwifery Practice 3	Year long	Formative reflections Summative Practice Assessment Pass/Fail Student to meet all midwifery practice proficiencies for year 3 Core skills and numeracy	End of Extended Spring Semester
MIDP7070	Midwife as professional, Scholar and Leader	Year long	Dissertation	End of Extended Spring Semester
MIDP7080	Physical Assessment and Management of the Newborn	Year long	Written Essay and practical skills assessment (NIPE competencies)	End of Extended Spring Semester
<b>Students exiting at this point with 180 credits would receive a MSc Midwifery (pre-registration) Or MSc Health Studies (if practice proficiencies not passed)</b>				

## Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Learning

<b>Mechanisms used for the Review and Evaluation of the Curriculum and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module Evaluation</li> <li>• Programme Validation and Periodic Review</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring</li> <li>• Peer Review of Teaching</li> <li>• External Examiner Reports</li> <li>• Student Success and Quality Assurance Committee</li> <li>• Staff Student Forums</li> </ul>
<b>Mechanisms used for gaining and responding to feedback on the quality of teaching and the learning experience – gained from: Students, graduates, employers, placement and work-based learning providers, other stakeholders, etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Student Forum</li> <li>• Module Evaluation Forms</li> <li>• Programme Evaluation: National Student Survey, UK Engagement Survey</li> <li>• Module/Programme/Personal tutorials</li> <li>• Meetings with External Examiners</li> <li>• Feedback for Practice Supervisors, Assessors and Practice Education Facilitators</li> </ul>

<b>Date of Programme Specification Production:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020
<b>Date Programme Specification was last updated:</b>	November 2023
<b>For further information about this programme, refer to the programme page on the University website</b>	

<b>The following information has implications for potential international applicants who require a Tier 4 visa to study in the UK</b>	
<b>Is the placement requirement more than 50% of the programme?</b>	No
<b>If yes, what % of the programme is the placement requirement?</b>	N/A
<b>If yes, is the amount of placement a statutory requirement to meet Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) or Department of Education requirements?</b>	N/A