

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Enhanced Midwifery Care
Award	MSc
School	School of Health and Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Midwifery and Radiography
Programme code	PSEMWC
Type of study	Full Time Part Time
Total UK credits	MSc: 180;
Total ECTS	MSc: 90;

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The programme offers you teaching in the latest theoretical and clinical developments relating to maternal health provision. It develops your research skills and critical thinking and provides the opportunity to conduct a research project under expert supervision, laying the foundations for independent research in the future. You will have the opportunity to discuss key debates in midwifery, health and social care provision in inter-professional and interdisciplinary contexts.

Increasing maternal health complexity, persistence of inequity in health outcomes for both mother and baby, rising consumer expectations, expansion of the routine medicalisation of pregnancy and birth, along with an increasing acknowledgment of the iatrogenic harms associated with disrespectful maternity care practices, together present significant challenges to sustainable maternity services across the world. Since midwifery models of care have global recognition as a way of overcoming many of these challenges (WHO, 2019; Better Births, 2016) now, more than ever, midwives need an in-depth and critical understanding of a range of enhanced, evidence-based skills, knowledge and values, especially those aspiring to move into more senior roles within the maternal health service. Completion of this programme will provide you with a solid foundation of research skills and applied data analysis to support and extend your role as an evidence-based practitioner.

This programme provides the enhanced scientific, scholarly, professional and technical understanding required for you to propose innovative solutions that can strengthen midwifery care for the benefit of women and their families. The programme seeks to prepare a specialist research focused midwifery workforce that will be responsive to women's experience of maternity care, driving quality improvement through more innovative, creative and sensitive working practice. The curriculum has been designed to build upon your existing knowledge and skill, to provide you with the inspiration, confidence, passion and resilience you need to better meet the changing health needs of women and their families in busy and challenging working environments. Flexibility in module selection built into the design of this programme enables you to, not only enhance your midwifery knowledge and skills but also, build a unique learning experience that can be specifically tailored to your individual professional development trajectory.

By completing the MSc you will have demonstrated original application of knowledge to the field of maternity care and clinical decision making in relation to practice. You will have been engaged in research that contributes new views to this area.

If you exit the Postgraduate Diploma you will have explored knowledge related to the field of maternity care from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will also have critically evaluated current evidence in the field and provided appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques in relation to this.

If you exit the programme at Postgraduate Certificate level, you will be able to examine theories related to maternity care and be able to synthesise and apply these to practice. You will have gained critical insight into problems that may arise in this area and be able to consider problem solving mechanisms. You will also be able to use a range of techniques to undertake your scholarly work.

Aims

The aim of this programme is to develop midwives who will be able to:

- To enhance your professional and personal development
- To provide you with the academic space and support necessary to critically reflect upon your own practice
- To facilitate the sharing of best practice and clinical experience from a range of different maternity services
- To enhance your understanding of critical appraisal and analysis skills necessary for the interpretation and evaluation of maternity care practice and knowledge for the provision of evidence-based midwifery care
- To further develop your skills in independent life-long learning
- To provide you with the opportunity to enhance your expertise in a range of different specialisms
- To reignite and inspire your passion for midwifery care
- To build professional confidence, resilience and innovative thinking

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Exhibit critical and systematic knowledge of the nature of midwifery care and the role of midwives take within the broader healthcare provision
- Demonstrate an understanding of the complex individual, social, cultural determinants of maternal health
- Demonstrate conceptual knowledge of appropriate theories for the analysis of midwifery care
- Critically analyse the social and cultural dimensions of maternity care and midwifery practice.

Skills:

- Synthesise the evidence relevant to midwifery care using robust, transparent and systematic methodologies
- Critically appraise a range of research methodologies effectively
- Develop innovative midwifery practice through the critical application of evidence
- Apply abstract theories to critically improve the quality of clinical practice
- Devise original and innovative solutions for areas of practice relevant to maternity care

- Preserve and protect spontaneous physiology to maximise the health outcomes for both mother and baby
- Build personal and professional resilience in the workplace
- Empower the users to be involved in the decision-making process
- Produce an evidence-based dissertation project that is of a publishable standard

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate tolerance, respect, empathy and sensitivity to women and their families
- Champion respectful maternity care
- Commit to effective team membership and seek to learn from and develop others to achieve the best outcomes for women and their families
- Actively support those you are working with
- Demonstrate commitment to independent life-long learning
- Demonstrate allegiance to optimising the pregnancy and birthing experience for all women
- Embrace new ideas that can improve midwifery practice and challenge entrenched ways of working that are not in the best interests of women and their families

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for the MSc is one year's taught programme for full time students (plus up to one year for dissertation) or two years' taught programme for part time students (plus up to one year for dissertation).

The maximum period of registration for full time students is 3 years and for part time students is 5 years.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Time commitments

Full-time: one year for taught modules, plus up to twelve months for dissertation. It is recognised that some students who attend the taught part of the programme full time may undertake the dissertation on a part time basis; such students may be allowed up to a year to complete their dissertation.

Part-time: two years for taught modules, plus up to one year for dissertation.

A blended approach to learning and teaching is adopted including university-based taught modules; e-learning and work-based learning. Modules are run by experienced practitioners and leading researchers, using a variety of direct and interactive teaching methods. You will learn in large and small inter-disciplinary groups and will be supported and encouraged to participate in independent learning.

You will experience a range of teaching, learning and assessment strategies throughout the programme aimed at developing and accessing different knowledge, skills and attitudes. Lectures, online and face to face, are used to provide knowledge about topics

Students undertaking this programme will be encouraged to learn knowledge and skills to enable them to work inter-professionally. The range of teaching methods include: lectures, both face to face and online; self-directed study; virtual and face to face tutorials; action learning sets, class-based and online seminars; reflective study; enquiry-based learning; workshops; individual and collaborative activity and presentations.

There will be extensive use of City's Virtual Learning Platform – Moodle - for a more interactive learning experience. You will also have access to other distance learning platforms such as MS Teams and Zoom video conferencing software.

At Masters level these strategies are aimed at developing your ability to challenge current limits of theory and research and creatively use solutions for independent problem solving. You will engage in full professional and academic communication critically debating and evaluating personal performance and that of others.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

A variety of assessment methods are used to assess the programme learning outcomes. The choice of assessment method will be influenced by the focus and learning outcomes of the modules. Assessment strategies include coursework, examinations, reports, seminar presentations, skills schedules and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs). You will be expected to take part in formative assessment activities during the modules in addition to the summative assessments for each module. The choice of assessment method will be influenced by the focus and learning outcomes of the module. Assessment methods that are used to assess include: coursework, examinations, reports, seminar presentations, skills schedules and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs).

At Masters level these strategies are aimed at developing your ability to challenge current limits of theory and research and creatively use solutions to solve problems. The practitioner engages in full professional and academic communication critically debating and evaluating personal performance and that of others.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks.

Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These will be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline

or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at: https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module you will normally be offered one re-sit attempt.

If you are successful in the re-sit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at: http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	66.5	With Distinction	70
Dissertation	7	60	33.5	With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Awards):

To exit with a Postgraduate Diploma Enhanced Midwifery Care you will be required to complete 7, level 7 taught modules. These must include Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis core module (HRM001) plus a minimum of 45 credits – of discipline specific modules listed below.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Awards):

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Midwifery Care, you will be required to complete 4, level 7 modules. These must include at least three of the discipline specific modules listed below.

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences you will be required to achieve 60 credits by successfully completing any combination of modules from the range of core and optional elective modules.

All module choices should be undertaken in consultation with your Programme Director.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Taught Component

The programme has been designed to enable you to build a bespoke programme, tailored to your individual needs. To achieve this unique flexibility, the programme is made up of four different module types:

1 – **core module (inter-disciplinary)** (n1).

This module must be successfully completed by all students on the programme.

2 – **discipline specific modules** (n4).

To ensure a strong midwifery focus while maximising the potential for building a bespoke programme of study uniquely tailored to your needs, module choice has been built into the discipline specific module diet. You are offered a total of 4 discipline specific modules and must select and successfully complete a minimum of 3 of these midwifery modules.

3 – **elective modules**.

These modules can be chosen from the range of level 7 modules offered by the School of Health Sciences.

How many elective modules you select will depend upon the number of disciplinary specific modules you have chosen. Those who select all 4 of the disciplinary specific modules will have the opportunity to select 2 elective modules. Those who have decided to take just 3 disciplinary specific modules (this is the minimum) have the opportunity to select 3 elective modules. This second option gives you 45 credits to select modules from a range of areas including public health and health management allowing for specialism in your chosen area.

4 – **dissertation module** (n1).

You will study a total of seven taught modules:

- 1 interprofessional core (inter-disciplinary) module
- Up to 4 discipline specific modules, with a minimum of 3.
- Up to 3 elective modules of your choosing, with a minimum of 2.

All modules (including your elective modules) will be taken at level 7. If you are part-time, you take up to two modules per term over two years. If you are full-time, you take up to four modules per term over one year.

You will find all of your taught **core** modules listed in the table below.

Your elective modules can be chosen from the range of MSc programmes modules offered in the School of Health Sciences at <https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/health-sciences/courses>. Not all of the modules run every year so it is important to make your module choice in advance and in close consultation with your programme director. If an elective module has less than a certain number of registered students (typically around 10) it may not run, or may only be offered every second year so please check with your programme director before finalising your elective module choices.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Discipline specific Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis	HRM001	30	Core	No	7

Public Health, Pregnancy and Parenthood	APM065	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Midwifery Theory: Knowledge, Profession and Practice (online)	APM019	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Risk and Midwifery Practice	NMM039	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Optimal birth: Philosophy, Knowledge, Skills and Evidence	APM044	15	Discipline specific	No	7
Perinatal Mental Health	APM067	15	Discipline specific	No	7

Dissertation Component

The dissertation is a core module for completion of the MSc. Working closely with an academic supervisor who has subject or methodological expertise (or both) in your area of interest, you will write a dissertation. This dissertation is flexible allowing you to adjust your topic and method according to your personal learning needs. The dissertation is a core inter-professional module which you must successfully complete to be awarded the MSc. You may begin carrying out your dissertation at any point in the programme (following discussion with your programme director) but your marks will not be released until you have completed all the taught modules successfully.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Dissertation	APM002	60	core	No	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

The curriculum design of this programme seeks to prepare you for a range of career opportunities including leadership and management posts, specialist midwife posts such as Consultant Midwife, Research Midwife posts, clinical educational posts such as Practice Development Midwife and Clinical Placement Facilitator and academic posts in Higher Education.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

The programme also prepares you for further study so that you can consider applying for a PhD programme in the future.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are no study abroad options available on this programme.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

If you are undertaking clinical modules you must be registered on the midwifery part of the NMC register. If you are undertaking the Physical Assessments of the Neonates and Infants module you must also be able to confirm mentorship from either a doctor or midwife who has undertaken the module within your workplace. You must work at least one day per week in a clinical setting in which enhanced practice skills can be acquired.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

We have applied for accreditation from the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) to contribute to RCM members continuing personal and professional development (CPPD). Should City, University of London's application for accreditation of this programme be approved, you will be informed in relation to the additional professional recognition you will receive from the RCM on successful completion of this programme.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

All entrants to the programme must be in qualified Midwives. You would normally be expected to have a degree level qualification at the level of 2:2 or above. A lower qualification such as Diploma in Midwifery may be considered for exceptional applicants who can demonstrate their ability to successfully level 7 academic writing and have appropriate clinical experience and or expertise.

Applicants would normally be expected to have been practicing as a registered midwife for at least one year.

For students whose first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a post graduate course of study:

- A first degree from a UK university with a 2:2 or above
- A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by City as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia, Canada or the USA
- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) a score of 7.0 is required with no subtest scoring below 6.5
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) score 72 required
- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language, which satisfies the Board of Studies concerned.

Direct Entry

A direct entry pathway is available for entry onto this programme if:

- You are a current post-registration City student studying towards a PGCert Professional Practice (Midwifery)
- You have successfully achieved 60, level 7 credits at the level of merit or above (60% or over)
- You have completed a minimum of 30 credits of the core modules listed in the MSc module table above.

RPL Requirements

In line with Senate Regulation 19, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered for any student who has pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or who possesses appropriate qualifications. RPL may be claimed for core and elective modules, subject to the following City Assessment Regulations:

9(c)(ii): RPL will be permitted where the Programme Committee has assessed the claim in terms of acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity, currency and level and can demonstrate that the student's previously assessed or experiential learning meets all the learning outcomes stated in the Module Specification for the module for which they are to be awarded credit.

9(e)(iii): The limit to the volume of credit that can be permitted through RPL will be up to one third of the total credits for the Programme where the prior learning relates to credit previously awarded by City as CPD.

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