

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Midwifery (shortened programme)
Award	Post Graduate Diploma
School	School of Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Division of Midwifery and Radiography
Programme code	MWPDPRG02
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	120
Total ECTS	60

City, University of London has had to make changes to the delivery of teaching and assessments for 20-21 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The changes in relation to your Programme and modules in terms of any modules that have been suspended, changes to placements/ study abroad, changes to partnership arrangements and changes to programme level learning outcomes has already been communicated to you through the University's communication project.

Please note that information on the programme specification in relation to learning / teaching methods, contact hours and types of assessment is indicative only and the module specification contains the most accurate information.

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The international definition of a midwife

The definition of a midwife as adopted by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) and the World Health Organization (WHO)

A midwife is a person who, having been regularly admitted to a midwifery educational programme, duly recognised in the country in which it is located, has successfully completed the prescribed course of studies in midwifery and has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practise midwifery.

The midwife is recognised as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the post-partum period, to conduct births on the midwife's own responsibility and to provide care for the new born and the infant. This care includes preventative measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in mother and child, the accessing of medical care or other appropriate assistance and the carrying out of emergency measures.

The midwife has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for the woman, but also within the family and the community. This work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and may extend to women's health, sexual or reproductive health and child care.

A midwife may practise in any setting including the home, community, hospitals, clinics or health units.

(Adopted at the International Confederation of Midwives Council meeting in Brisbane, Australia, on 19 July, 2005)

The Postgraduate Diploma programme in Midwifery (hereafter referred to as PG Dip Midwifery) is open to registered adult nurses with a minimum second class honours degree who have proven ability to study independently and have evidence of their ability to search, evaluate & analyse information, communicate effectively, experience of self-directed study, academic skill and are competent learners.

The length of the programme is 90 weeks full time and is divided into two programme stages:

- Programme Stage 1 contains two 15 credit level 6 modules and one 15 credit level 7.
- Programme Stage 2 contains three 15 credit level 7 modules and one 30 credit level 7 module.

The programme will give you the opportunity to achieve core midwifery competencies, knowledge and skills in accordance with the European Standards for Midwifery Training - Article 40(2)(a)(b) Midwives Directive 2005/36/EU (WHO Europe 2005) and by the Standards for pre-registration midwifery education (NMC 2009). In addition you will have the opportunity to develop your skills in:

- Critical analysis and evaluation
- The integration of research and theory to midwifery practice
- Leadership (including competencies and understanding of key performance indicators; clinical audits; benchmarking)
- Clinical risk assessment and risk management
- Anti-discriminative practice - working with diversity.

It is recognised that the students who commence the programme are unique and diverse individuals with existing experience and attitudes to life. The emphasis on transferable skills in the curriculum ensures that the rich resources you bring to your learning are nurtured and developed.

At City you will have the unique opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes in a range of maternity settings that are characterised by ethnic diversity, a rising birth rate, high levels of deprivation along with some of the most acute health care challenges in the UK. To meet these challenges the programme will ensure that you are prepared to be flexible and proactive with a sound evidence base, which you can question or challenge with confidence and courage.

The balance between clinical practice and theory is 60% practice and 40% theory. Over the 90 weeks, you will have to achieve the required attendance and credits for each programme stage of the programme to ensure that you meet the requirements to register. Clinical placements will be in a range of areas, in midwifery environments within a designated Community of Practice. The development of Communities of Practice is an innovation between the School and its associated Trusts strengthening their partnership towards students learning. They are locality based and are intended to enable students to achieve their learning outcomes and the standards of proficiency for pre-registration midwifery education within a community. Clinical experience will be gained in one of the following five Communities of Practice*:

- Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust
- Barts Health NHS Trust: The Royal London Hospital
- Barts Health NHS Trust: Newham University Hospital
- University College London Hospitals (UCLH) NHS Trust
- North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust

The Curriculum is underpinned by the Curriculum Philosophy:

To have a midwife at the point of registration who will have the knowledge, skills and professionalism to work with all childbearing women, their babies and family. The midwife will be skilled and competent to manage and lead care in healthy pregnancies, to work in collaboration with the wider maternity team coordinating the care of women who have higher levels of risk, and to contribute to evidence based practice development.

This rationale is underpinned by the recognition that for the majority of women birth is a normal healthy process, but a major life process. Increasingly women with complex health and social needs will be at the centre of maternity care and should benefit from midwifery expertise including support for physiological birth. Midwifery care involves a partnership with the woman, her family and community, which is underpinned by care, compassion, competence, communication, courage and commitment.

This curriculum is underpinned by the vision set out in Midwifery 2020 document. At the point of qualification therefore, you will have developed professional competency in 5 key areas:

- Dynamic leadership
- Excellence in midwifery practice
- Public Health and health promotion
- Working with others
- Partnership with women (DH 2010, Midwifery 2020)

Core to the philosophy of this midwifery programme is recognition that for the majority of women, pregnancy and childbirth are normal events. The facilitation of birth should be evidenced based; practitioners of midwifery must be caring, compassionate, competent, excellent communicators, have courage in their convictions and be committed to the needs of the mother and her family

Aims

- Provide you with the knowledge, skills and professional competencies necessary to enter onto the midwifery part of the NMC register
- Develop your sensitivity to the physical, psychological, spiritual social needs of the service users
- Prepare you to take the lead role in normality in partnership with women and coordinate care in high risk pregnancies, working as part of the multidisciplinary maternity care team
- Equip you with the knowledge and understanding for planning and organising appropriate maternity care pathways that will include working with other health and social care professionals
- Enable you to maximise opportunities for the health and well-being of the mother and baby and other family members, making every contact count (DH 2012, Compassion in Practice Nursing, Midwifery and Care Staff. Our Vision and Strategy)
- **Provide you with an understanding of the 6 Cs: care: compassion, competence, communication, courage and commitment (DH 2012)
- Impart the ability to discriminate and be open to new ideas, and challenge traditional ways of working
- Prepare you to exercise initiative and personal responsibility, decision making within midwifery practice
- Develop your skills and knowledge so that you can practice autonomously and are able to organise and appraise practice and learning
- Provide you with the skills and attitudes you will need for leadership, team working, strategic planning and inter-disciplinary working.

UPGRADE TO MSC MIDWIFERY

On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery you will have the opportunity to gain additional credits at level 7 to acquire a Masters in Midwifery from City, University of London. This would require the acquisition of a further 60 credits by dissertation in a topic related to a contemporary area of midwifery practice. You must enrol for the dissertation module within 2 years of completing your Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery and the module must be completed within a year of enrolment.

This upgrade route is open to all students who have completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Midwifery at the School of Health Sciences, City, University of London. Places on the upgrade dissertation module will be awarded on the basis of academic achievement. Priority will be given to those candidates who were awarded a distinction or high merit on their Postgraduate Diploma pre-registration Midwifery programme.

* A Community of Practice is a geographical area that comprises both hospital and community health provision for an identified population of service users.

** The philosophy arising from Compassion in Practice: Nursing, Midwifery and Care Staff Our Vision and Strategy (DH 2012) is threaded through the curriculum. In each module you will be encouraged to consider how the philosophy of the 6 Cs underpins your practice and learning, as you develop your midwifery skills and professionalism.

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for the award of Postgraduate Diploma is 18 months (80 weeks) and the maximum period of registration is two and a half years (or three and a half years with maternity leave).

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically analyse the principles of best practice in midwifery including:
 - Professional and ethical practice
 - Developing the individual midwife
 - Achieving quality care through evaluation and research (NMC 2009:21, Standards for pre-registration midwifery education)
- Critically appraise the nature of maternity care provision ensuring that it is based on best evidence and clinical judgment (HMSO 2013, Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry. Executive summary)
- Examine contemporary midwifery knowledge to generate new innovative ideas and apply such knowledge to decision making (DH 2010, Midwifery 2020)
- Assess and monitor women holistically throughout the pre-conception, antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal period through the use of a range of assessment methods and reach valid, reliable and comprehensive conclusions (NMC 2009:21 ESC 1-5)
- Critically appraise and integrate clinical and theoretical knowledge (NMC 2009:21, 26, 28, 29, ESC 1-5)
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of how legislation, health and social policy are relevant to midwifery practice. (NMC 2009: 26, 28).
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of how socio – economic and cultural influences are relevant to midwifery practice. (NMC 2009: 24).

Skills:

- Plan and provide care and support for women which:

- is appropriate to their needs, contexts, culture and choices (NMC 2015), The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives (2015)
- is underpinned by the recognition that for the majority of women, childbirth is a normal process (DH 2007)
- Communicate effectively with women and their families throughout the pre-conception, antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal periods (NMC 2009:21, ESC 1)
- Undertake appropriate emergency procedures to meet the health needs of women and babies (NMC 2009: 23)
- Assess and monitor women holistically throughout the pre-conception, antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal period through the use of a range of assessment methods and reach valid, reliable and comprehensive conclusions (NMC 2009:21 ESC 1-5)
- Practise in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines (NMC 2009:27)
- Support the creation and maintenance of environments that promote the health, safety and well-being of women, babies and others (NMC:28)
- Co-ordinate seamless care in partnership with women and other care providers which includes an effective understanding of when and where to make appropriate referrals in complex cases (NMC 2009: 22, 25, ESC 1-5)
- Manage and administer drugs effectively and safely (NMC 2009:25, ESC1-5)
- Maintain appropriate records in accordance with the NMC Midwives Rules and Standards (2012)
- Act as an advocate for the vulnerable, challenging poor practice and discriminatory attitudes and behaviour relating to their care.
- Demonstrate proficiency in effective risk assessment and management strategies and in a range of verbal and documentary communication approaches required for the safety of women and their families (NMC 2009: 21,27,ESC1-5)
- Demonstrate competency across all the Essential Skills Clusters
 1. Communication
 2. Initial consultation between the woman and the midwife
 3. Normal Labour and Birth
 4. Initiation and continuance of Breast Feeding
 5. Medicines Management
 6. Standards for pre-registration midwifery education (NMC 2009)

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate an appreciation of the importance of ethics in midwifery practice (NMC 2015)
- Treat women and their families with kindness and compassion (NMC 2015)
- Practise in a way, which is non-discriminatory and respects individual's dignity, diversity and individual's choice (NMC 2015)
- Be responsive to individual's preferences, beliefs and cultures
- Maintain confidentiality of information to clients, carers and colleagues
- Demonstrate an appreciation of autonomy and team work

HOW WILL I LEARN?

A range of learning and teaching strategies will be used throughout the programme. This is to facilitate different approaches to learning that suit the students' differing needs and that of the content of the programme. Outlined below are some definitions of those that will be commonly used.

Lead Lectures

A lecture enables information to be presented in a logical manner to groups of students. This is a useful method for presenting an overview of new material and in stimulating you to read further around this subject.

Small Groups (including role-play, seminars, debates)

Small groups will encourage the application of theory to practice and extend the depth and breadth of your knowledge. They encourage team working and can be motivating, enhance communication skills and challenge powers of reasoning.

Personal Tutorials

Tutorials and reflection on learning with personal tutors enables you to discuss individual progress as well as issues of concern about the programme. Tutorials also offer academic and pastoral support.

Enquiry Based Learning (EBL)

EBL enables introduction to a 'trigger' or situation so that you can embark on a journey of enquiry related to the issues raised. EBL allows you to develop as a questioning learner whilst helping you to develop an understanding of the functioning of groups.

Campus-based Skills Learning

The aim of this is to facilitate learning in a safe environment where you concentrate on developing your skills. Under the tutelage of a team made up of lecturers, clinical practice facilitators and mentors, you are encouraged to apply theory to practice, plan care and work in teams through the use of scenario based activities.

Clinical Practice

The aim of practice experience is for you to observe, participate and practice your skills in a variety of real life contexts. This experience will facilitate you to relate theory to practice and enable skills and knowledge to develop through supervised practice. You will have supernumerary status for the entire length of the programme.

Student Directed Learning

During the programme you will have periods of time that are set aside for self-directed study. This time is scheduled throughout the course to take place prior to assignment submissions or examinations. It may consist of single days or as blocks of time. It is not annual leave and students are required to be within reach of the University as at times revision sessions or tutorials may be scheduled. Details will be given in each year of the programme and on the programme plan.

E-Learning

E-Learning is about the application of computer and internet technologies to facilitate distribute and enhance learning. This programme will utilise Moodle the University's Virtual Learning Environment, to enhance your learning experience. You will also use Reusable Learning Objects created by the programme's teaching staff, available via the CETL website (<http://www.cetl.org.uk/learning/index.php>) and a wide range of skills available through www.clinicalskills.net, a web-based learning programme and reference tool.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

A range of assessment strategies are used to assess theory and practice skills. This programme includes a graded assessment of practice, where grades from direct hands-on care will contribute to the outcome of the final academic award. Progression Points where summative judgments are made about your ability to demonstrate safe and effective practice in the programme comes into effect within a 12-week time limit beyond the commencement of programme stage 2 and completion of the programme. The 12-week time limit includes both theory and practice and no extensions are permitted to this.

The following assessment methods will be used throughout the programme to test knowledge and standards of proficiency in all aspects of the midwifery curriculum:

- Essays
- Practice Assessment Document
- Drug calculations
- Case studies
- Written examinations
- Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs)
- Enquiry-Based Learning (EBL)
- Poster Presentations
- Critique of research
- On-line quizzes and activities
- Self-assessment on-line activities

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 to 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 may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

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Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with City 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 full policy can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/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. You also need to pass each Programme Stage of your Programme in order to progress to the following Programme Stage.

The pass mark for each module is 50% for level 7 modules and all practice modules, and 40% for level 6 module MW3003.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. If you did not participate in the first assessment you will be offered a resit, whether or not you have extenuating circumstances.

If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

If you do not satisfy your resit by the date specified you will not progress to the next Programme Stage and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

A student who has not met the pass requirements for a Module due to failure in a resit may, at the discretion of the Assessment Board, be offered a second resit subject to the following criteria:

- The student has failed no more than one assessment.
- For postgraduate programmes, an overall average of at least 60% in the taught elements of the programme excluding the failed assessment must have been achieved.
- A second resit cannot be offered for any practical failed assessment (either placement or in-house clinical).

All modules will be weighted equally in this process so a 15 credit module would be given equal consideration as a 45 credit module.

There is no provision for a discretionary third attempt in programme stage one of the programme.

If the assessment is practice based and there are only outstanding signatures and hours, the module is 'referred not failed' and students can re-submit their Practice Assessment Document. The outstanding signatures and hours will not be counted when calculating the average grade over the programme or programme stage. The Assessment Board will not consider a discretionary third sit for any failed practice assessment.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, but satisfy the requirements for a lower-level Award, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

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

Safe Practice and Raising Concerns

The midwifery programme is regulated by the professional and statutory body, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) robust processes are in place to manage non-academic concerns relating to student performance in the clinical placement area.

The university and clinical placement partners work in close collaboration to ensure your learning in both theory and practice is facilitated.

The School of Health Sciences is required to monitor your progress and take appropriate action if any issues related to good health or good character arise. In the event of poor or unsafe performance being identified in practice, the School has a Cause for Concern Process embedded in the Fitness to Practise Policy that enables robust actions to be put in place to support and monitor your development. If it becomes necessary for a formal investigation to be undertaken, this is underpinned by the School's Fitness to Practice Policy.

The full School of Health Sciences' Fitness to Practise Policy, published in your handbook is published in your programme handbook.

Declaration of Good Health and Good Character

It is an NMC requirement that midwifery students confirm good health and good character at the end of each programme stage of the programme, before progressing into the subsequent programme stage of the programme.

On successful completion of both theory and practice elements of the programme, and following ratification of results by the Assessment Board the Lead Midwife for Education is required to sign a Declaration confirming your good health and good character. This is a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) requirement which must take place prior to application for registration on the Midwifery Part of the NMC Professional Register.

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Postgraduate Diploma:

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
1	6/7**	45	37.5		
2	7	75	62.5	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60

				Without Classification	50
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*100% of total credits.

**Level 6 modules are MW3003 and MW3004; Level 7 module is MWM001

Postgraduate Certificate – Health Studies (without NMC registration)

Programme Stage	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	6/7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without Classification	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Programme Stage 1

To pass, you must have acquired 30 HE Level 6 credits and 15 level 7 credits. To progress from Programme Stage 1 to Programme Stage 2, Programme Stage 1 requirements must have been satisfied by the end of this programme stage.

Programme Stage 2

To pass, you must have acquired 75 level 7 credits.

In line with Standard 5 of the NMC Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Education, you must complete your programme within two and half years from the date of commencement and three and half years if the interruption is due to maternity leave.

Programme Stage 1

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Developing Skills for Caring In Normal Midwifery Practice	MW3006	15	C	No	6
Foundations Skills for Midwifery Led Care	MWM001	15	C	No	7
Biological Basis of Pregnancy and the Puerperium	MW3003	15	C	No	6

Programme Stage 2

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Public Health, Midwifery and Healthy Communities	MWM002	15	C	No	7
Professional issues Complex Midwifery Practice	MWM003	15	C	No	7
Research Methods in Midwifery	MWM004	15	C	No	7
Developing Autonomy in Midwifery Practice	MWM005	30	C	No	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Following qualification there are a wide range of opportunities to practice as a midwife. These include community, midwifery-led stand-alone birth centres, acute units, independent midwifery, becoming a consultant midwife, practice development midwife, specialist midwife and the opportunity to develop a research career.

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>.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

There will be no opportunity for overseas study on this programme.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

You will gain your clinical experience in one of four NHS Communities of Practice.

You will work in the hospital and community in all maternity settings, both in acute and home environments such as: midwifery-led units, home births, birthing centres, delivery suite, antenatal and postnatal areas, maternal and fetal assessment specialist areas and special care baby units.

You will have the opportunity to work alongside consultant midwives and specialist midwives.

Clinical practice, teaching and mentorship are essential for midwifery training and education as a means of enabling you to integrate theory and practice.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

Accrediting Body: This course is recognised by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. On successful completion of this programme, you will be eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council to join the Midwifery Part of the NMC Professional Register.

See : <http://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/joining-the-register/> for more information

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

- Registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as an adult nurse
- A graduate with a 2.2 honours degree or above
- Six months clinical experience as an adult nurse

Due to the high demand for places on NHS funded courses, as well as meeting the stated academic entry requirements, applicants will be required to attend a selection day held at City, University of London. You will be asked to complete the NHS Constitution Assessment, which is used to demonstrate that your values match those of the NHS Constitution. For further information and example tests, please [visit our Selection Day page](#).

In addition: You will be required to have Occupational Health and Disclosure and Barring Service clearance.

Academic and character references are also required.

You will also need:

- Excellent people skills.
- Good communication skills.
- Interest in biology, fetal and child development and the process of pregnancy and birth.
- Interest in the wellbeing and care of mothers, babies and their families.
- Team working skills.
- Confidence to work in a challenging and stressful environment.
- All eligible applicants will be invited to a selection day. Applicants must be able to demonstrate maturity, have excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to be empathetic and compassionate.

Version: 6.0

Version date: August 2020

For use from: 2020-21