Postgraduate Diploma/ Postgraduate Certificate Midwifery Studies Programme Specification

https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/midwifery/

Academic Year:	**2025/26**
Degree Awarding Body:	**The University of Bradford**
Subject Benchmark:	**Health Studies (QAA 2019)**
Target Award:	**Postgraduate Diploma; Postgraduate Certificate [FHEQ Level 7]**
Interim/exit awards:	**Postgraduate Certificate [FHEQ Level 7]**
Admissions:	**September**
Mode of Study:	**Part-time**
Programme duration:	**Between 36 and 60 months**

This is a post-registration programme for experienced midwives. We also offer an accredited pre-registration MSc programme, Midwifery: https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/midwifery-studies-msc/

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

Minor Modifications Schedule

1. July 2025: Annual Changes for the 2025 academic year, including changes to academic regulation.
2. October: 2025: Made programme specification accessible

Introduction

The Faculty of Health and Social Care is a major provider of education and training for individuals working within the health, social, independent, and community/voluntary sector organisations across, the Yorkshire and Humber Region and wider. The Faculty's focus on excellence though knowledge, practice, research, leadership, and management aim to support the future sustainability of individuals, through lifelong learning and improved employability and thereby influencing the future adaptability of individual organisations and service delivery to promote change. Students who have undertaken the award and modules within this programme have gone onto leadership and specialist roles, being able to undertake roles and activities that develop the profession.

The modules available on the Midwifery Studies programme facilitate midwives to develop their knowledge and practice through a flexible offering of postgraduate learning, enabling level 7 study to be undertaken on a modular level or building up to different award points including Postgraduate certificate and Postgraduate diploma. Teaching is delivered both face-to-face, online, synchronously and asynchronously enabling students

to be able to fit studying around their other commitments and creating an inclusive environment for learning.

The programme is designed to develop the skills in complex reasoning, critical thinking and analysis required to undertake these roles. The awards offer students the opportunity to apply knowledge to a range of clinical and professional situations through reflection and practice experience, supported by an experienced mentor. Learning and teaching is designed to equip students with skills in using a range of information, data, tools and techniques to improve the quality of patient care and health outcomes as well as demonstrate impact and value. The use of digital technologies, including high-end simulation, is essential to the delivery of our modules ensuring a contemporary learning experience for students.

The programme is designed to support continuing development providing an opportunity for students to develop a bespoke package of content, to ensure both the needs of service and individual professional development can be met. Students will be able to obtain credits for short episodes of study, transfer credits from prior certificated or experiential learning, or study a choice of modules over time. An academic advisor will support students in making their choices.

The Midwifery Studies programme enables students to create an individualised programme of study that will meet either each individual student needs and/or their employer's needs for a changing diverse workforce within a modern organisation. The modules and awards available to study towards on the Midwifery Studies programme, are designed to address the current and future demands of midwifery practice recognising the changing clinical environment.

The programme of study and the collection of modules that students may choose to study will contextualise their learning by addressing the aims and learning outcomes for the programme which are outlined in the next section of this document. Students are able to shape their own focus of study within the modules aims and learning outcomes by learning the principles being taught and applying them to their own professional/employment area.

Successful completion of the programme will not enable graduates to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) in the UK. Information regarding registration for overseas nurses and midwives can be found on the NMC website www.nmc-uk.org

Programme Aims

	Level 7
A1	Provide a flexible educational framework that is vocationally relevant, which meets the professional development needs of the student, as well as the organisational needs of employers.
A2	Stimulate students to become autonomous self-directed learners who are motivated to sustain and advance their own continuous professional learning with a confidence to support the professional development of colleagues and the work of their organisations.
A3	Develop the skills, knowledge, critical understanding and awareness of the depth and breadth of knowledge applicable to their own fields of practice.
A4	Further develop the student's cognitive and practical skills to undertake data synthesis, complex problem solving, the articulation of competing perspectives and competence in their field of practice.
A5	Provide opportunities for inter-professional teaching and learning to share the knowledge, skills and experience common to a range of different health and social care disciplines.
A6	Develop critically reflective, competent practitioners, managers and leaders who will inform and shape or change inclusive, fair and ethically sensitive service provision.
A7	Provide a framework within which the curriculum, where required, meets the regulatory needs of professional bodies such as the NMC and HPC or is kite marked by the CMI.
A8	Develop the skills required for life-long learning and professional development.

Programme Learning Outcomes

The Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate Midwifery Studies programme learning outcomes are compatible with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ 2014).

The programme contains established pathways as well as the flexibility to design their own pathway. The learning outcomes outlined below are contextualised within the learning outcomes of the modules that students will study.

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

1. Develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of the literature that relates to midwifery and their specific area of practice.
2. Critically analyse research and synthesise the research evidence that informs the development of policy and service delivery in midwifery and their specific field of practice or employment.
3. Evaluate and critically apply theoretical concepts and where appropriate, for their field of practice, master practical skills for the management of complex issues within midwifery practice.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

4. Reflect upon and demonstrate knowledge of values, ethical thinking, equality awareness, inclusive practice and demonstrate mastery within their specialist area of midwifery.
5. Develop and demonstrate the ability to articulate sound arguments using a variety of formats including written and oral communication skills.
6. Demonstrate management and leadership through effective communication, problem solving, and decision making.
7. Demonstrate the ability to become an autonomous learner through independent study and critical reflection on continuing development needs.

Curriculum

The PGD and PGC Midwifery Studies curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of students from a range of employment backgrounds and provides a range of modules from the Faculty of Health and Social Care that are combined to provide an individualised award that suits a students particular learning or employment needs.

Postgraduate Certificate

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Postgraduate Diploma

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Curriculum Table

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Semester	Postgraduate Certificate	Postgraduate Diploma
MID7014-C	Trauma Informed Midwifery Care	30	2	C*	C*
MID7015-C	Systematic Examination of the Newborn	30	ACYR	C*	C*
MID7016-C	Enhanced Maternal Care	30	NSYR	C*	C*
LEM7011-C	Leadership for Advanced Practitioners	30	1 or 2	O	O
LEM7031-C	Health and Social Care Leadership	30	1	O	O
LEM7034-C	Leading Change and Service Improvement in Health and Social Care	30	2	O	O
PRP7005-C	Advanced Physical Assessment and Clinical Decision Making Skills (Level 7)	30	NSYR	O	O
PRE7004-C	Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals	30	1 or 2	O	O
RAD7022-C	Independant Study	30	1 or 2	O	O

C* - Students must choose one of the following MID7014-C, MID7015-C, MID7016-C to gain an award title containing 'Midwifery Studies' but may take more than one of the core midwifery modules if they choose.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Whilst following this programme of study, students will engage with learning through a range of teaching methods. These methods will be dependent on modules studied, however student-centred approaches to learning are a feature of the modules. Students will be expected to take responsibility for their learning as they develop their academic skills. There are a number of approaches to the manner in which modules are delivered and these may include block attendance, study day attendance, distance learning and blended learning using face to face and on-line activities/ materials, the specific attendance and delivery methods will depend on the module selections that a student follows. When devising the individual study plan with the academic supervisor, students will be informed regarding which delivery methods are utilised for which module and in which semester the chosen modules are being delivered.

The aims of the teaching and learning strategies have been designed so that will be given the opportunity to develop theoretical and experiential understanding (Programme LOs 1, 3, 6, 7), advance knowledge and critical thinking with the assistance of research informed teaching (Programme LOs 2, 4, 5) and to develop a range of skills appropriate to the professional field that the student is in, this may include work-based learning with competencies undertaken in their organisation or with an additional clinical area, (Programme LOs 1, 2, 4). The Midwifery Studies programme offering enables students the capacity to acknowledge and build upon the knowledge and skills they may have acquired through previous learning experiences including those in the workplace.

The programme of study will expose students to a range of different teaching, learning and assessment strategies required to achieve the learning outcomes. The teaching approaches that are used across the Faculty of Health and Social Care are informed by the University core values which are inclusion, innovation, excellence and trust. Students will experience these across their choice of modules in order to meet both the aims and outcomes which may include any number of the following:

Lectures: To a group of students where information will be presented and discussed whilst informed by core values. These sessions may take place face to face, on campus or online. For online lectures these will be recorded and available asynchronously on the virtual learning environment.

Facilitated seminars and group discussion: Social interaction develops learning through the interpretation and critical application of information and group learning. These sessions may take place face to face, on campus or online.

Tutorial: Where a small group of students reflect and discuss issues related to their learning. These may also be individual for formative feedback on assessed work prior to submission. These sessions may take place face to face, on campus or online.

Work-based learning: Where learning is directed within the work environment and is reflected upon and then reported on, and competencies maybe undertaken.

Digital learning environments to support technology enhanced learning, such as Canvas (Virtual learning environment), Microsoft Teams or Pebble Pad: To access information such as key professional learning packages, interact with other students, undertake group work activities.

Directed study: Where set learning may be recommended.

Independent study: where students are expected to develop their own learning by, identifying areas of interest, selecting research articles for debate and identify areas in which knowledge needs to be developed.

Undertaking a work-based project or a research module: Which is shaped by self-directed learning needs and the learning outcomes at MSc level.

Students will be expected to develop an autonomous learning style and become self-directed as a learner.

Assessment Strategy

The University has a scheme where students will be able to have some discretion on how they are assessed within a module. Students will be able to negotiate the assessments choices within the module descriptor but there will be some areas that can only be assessed through one method Assessment will be against the learning outcomes and programme aims through the use of a range of different assessment techniques which may include one or more of the following approaches:

1. Written essay
2. Reflective case study

3. Audit report of individual practice competencies
4. The development of a reflective portfolio
5. Completion of a set of competencies
6. Completion of a set number of clinical contacts
7. Practical examination (OSCE)
8. Computer based Multiple Choice Question examination
9. Computer based open book examination.
10. Oral seminar / poster presentation
11. Written project report
12. Completion of a dissertation
13. Research paper/executive summary

Some of these teaching and assessment strategies will develop and alter over time through the ongoing development of Programmes.

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

- This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website (https://www.bradford.ac.uk/media-v8/aqeo/regulations/Regulation-9-Postgraduate-Taught-Assessment-Continuation-and-Award-1.0b.pdf) for postgraduate courses (Regulation 9) with variance from the regulations as outlined and documented in the Variance Register:
- Variance from 4.2 - Students must achieve at least the pass mark stated in the module descriptor for all individual components within each module, to pass all modules on the programme.

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on the particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

For all applicants, from the UK, EU or internationally, the standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

- A first degree in a relevant subject area, NVQ level 6 or equivalent or a relevant postgraduate qualification.
- A registered qualification with a UK professional regulatory organisation if a professional practice award is applied for that enables the students to practice in the UK. E.g., Registration with the NMC to undertake a named Midwifery award.

- Students for whom English is not a first language must have an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent. See https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/entry-requirements/ for details of equivalent tests that are acceptable.
- Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or returners to study (those over 25 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience and other evidence of ability to study at this level.

Additional requirements

For work-based learning modules students will be required to have evidence of clinical and or managerial support in place.

Study Support

There are an extensive range of services to support students whilst studying at the University of Bradford including Academic Skills Advice Service, Personal Academic Tutors, Language support and disability support see https://www.bradford.ac.uk/study/support/

Academic Skills and Advice Service and the Disability Office can provide support to those who have a disability. Dyslexia screening is also available. For further information please see http://www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/

The University also offers Counselling and Mental Health services which students can self refer to https://www.bradford.ac.uk/counselling/

Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of the programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.