

FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

UNDERGRADUATE MODULAR SCHEME

2010 PRE-REGISTRATION CURRICULUM

BSc (Hons) Midwifery

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Validation May 2010

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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| Section 1: Basic Data | Version 2 |
| Awarding institution/body | University of the West of England |
| Teaching institution | University of the West of England |
| Delivery Location(s) | University of the West of England |
| Faculty responsible for programme | Health and Life Sciences |
| Modular Scheme title | |
| Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links (type and dates) | Nursing and Midwifery Council |
| Highest award title | BSc(Hons) Midwifery |
| Default award title | None |
| Interim award titles | Cert HE Health and Social Studies Dip HE Health and Social Studies BSc Health and Social Studies |
| UWE progression route | |
| Mode(s) of delivery | Full-time |
| Codes | |
| UCAS code B711 | JACS code |
| ISIS code | HESA code |
| Relevant QAA subject benchmark statements | Midwifery (2001) |
| On-going/valid until* (*delete as appropriate/insert end date) | |
| Valid from (insert date if appropriate) | 01/09/2011 |
| Original Validation Date: | |
| Latest Committee Approval... | Date:... |
| Version Code | |

Section 2: Educational aims of the programme

- To prepare the student for entry to Part 2 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council's Professional Register in accordance with the professional and statutory requirements.
- To enable the student to become a safe, competent and reliable practitioner who, on the point of registration, will be able to provide holistic and high quality care which is both empowering and respectful of individual needs.
- To develop a midwife who is able to study independently and who is committed to the concept of lifelong learning in both his/her personal and professional development.
- To promote the development of a reflective and reflexive practitioner.
- To enable the student, at the point of registration, to be an accountable, critical thinking midwife, able to communicate information and ideas, and whose practice is informed by a range of sources of evidence.
- To actively participate in and strengthen shared learning within the Faculty.
- To provide wide ranging clinical experience which prepares the student to develop the skills required to fulfil the responsibilities of a midwife in a variety of clinical and non-clinical practice settings.
- To provide a programme that focuses on a model of care in which normality and the naturalness of pregnancy and childbirth is promoted, but also acknowledges the need to be "with woman" when complex issues arise.
- To actively involve students in caseload midwifery and prepare them for autonomous practice.
- To utilise innovative teaching and learning strategies which enable student to value theory and practice.
- To develop a midwife who is able to work flexibly within both a national and international context.

Section 3: Learning outcomes of the programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas: ...

A Knowledge and understanding

| Learning outcomes | Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies |
|--|--|
| A Knowledge and understanding of: | Teaching/learning methods and strategies: |
| 1. the skills and attitudes appropriate to providing midwifery care. | Acquisition of 1 – 5 is through structured study days within the University and the content of these may include lectures, student-led seminars, reflection, skills sessions, discussions, workbooks and work-based learning days. |
| 2. the impact of psychological, sociological, political and spiritual factors and how these affect the woman, her neonate and family | |
| 3. the biological sciences which underpin and support midwifery practice | Additional support is provided through library and IT sessions to develop study and computer skills. |
| 4. the contribution of the midwife to public health | Throughout, the student is encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden individual knowledge and understanding of the subject. |
| 5. the principles and practice of medicines management for women accessing midwifery care | |
| | Assessment |
| | Testing of the knowledge base (1-5) is through assessed coursework which includes; written assignments, tasks undertaken under examination conditions, and by the achievement of the required NMC proficiencies and E.U. directives. |

B Intellectual Skills

B Intellectual Skills

On successful completion of the programme the student will be able to:

1. integrate theory with midwifery practice
2. develop an enquiring, analytical and creative approach to all aspects of midwifery care.
3. utilise independent judgement, critical self- awareness and reflective and reflexive practice.
4. apply appropriate sources of evidence and information technology to inform midwifery theory and practice.
5. develop the skills of critical analysis, reasoning and problem solving to enhance practice

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Intellectual skills (1-5) are developed through the use of problem solving scenarios and other activities that facilitate clinical decision making and evaluation of practice issues. The integration of theory with practice is by the use of reflective and reflexive approaches in both the University and practice settings e.g. use of the reflective portfolio.

Assessment

A variety of assessment methods are employed, including OSCE's, (objective structured clinical examinations), cognitive maps and written assignments. Students will undertake a dissertation focussed on a service improvement issue and this will enable them to demonstrate creativity and synthesis of relevant information.

C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

C Subject/Professional/Practical Skills Teaching/learning methods and strategies

On successful completion of the programme the student will be able to:

1. Provide seamless, woman-centred care and respond to the needs of the woman, her newborn and the family.
2. Analyse critical knowledge of physiological, psychological and pathological factors which influence the wellbeing of the women and their families and safely apply this knowledge in midwifery practice
3. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate maternity care provision by themselves and others
4. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing with women and their families throughout the childbearing process
5. Promote an effective interprofessional and multi-agency approach to the provision of midwifery care
6. Recognise and effectively undertake a range of management options for women and their newborn when there are complex needs / complications
7. Apply the principles and practice of effective medicines management
8. Demonstrate awareness and understanding of their professional obligations as a registered midwife.

Teaching and learning takes place in a variety of forms across all modules.

Practical sessions in a skills laboratory are reinforced in the practice placement by triggers and work based learning sessions to help students reflect on their placement experiences.

The students also build on their prior experiences as they revisit their midwifery placements every year, and additionally have the opportunity of placements in related specialist practice areas such as Gynaecology, Day Assessment Units, Children's Centres, including Sure Start. In addition, there is an elective placement opportunity where students can arrange a placement to further explore midwifery practices within a national / international context.

Students will also care for a small caseload of women where they will identify and provide care for them during the antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal periods.

Throughout the programme, students are encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being learned and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject

Assessment

Skills (1 - 7) are primarily assessed using the practice document, which includes grading of clinical practice grids for each year of the programme.

Additionally skills (2,3, and 5) are assessed using the OSCE (objective structured clinical examination.)

D Transferable Skills and other attributes

D Transferable skills and other attributes

On successful completion of the programme the student will be able to:

1. Actively participate in clinical decision making by taking a problem solving approach
2. Demonstrate skills in research and critical appraisal of sources of evidence in order to optimise clinical effectiveness
3. Demonstrate the ability to integrate interpersonal skills and partnership working to create an environment which facilitates effective relationships with the woman, her family and other members of the interprofessional team.
4. Apply numeracy concepts within the context of midwifery practice in order to provide therapeutic interventions
5. Achieve information technology skills to support learning and practice
6. Work effectively within a team
7. Demonstrate the ability to accommodate diversity in collaborative working
8. Demonstrate personal leadership skills, including time management, prioritisation of workload, the ability to self evaluate and the ability to organise others
9. Demonstrate skills of reflective writing
10. Incorporate ethical principles to inform learning and practice

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The transferable skills (1 – 10) are inherent within the modules. Skill 2 is particularly addressed in the shared module Evidence Based Practice in Nursing and Midwifery. Skills 3 and 7 are addressed in the shared module Communication in a Diverse World. A variety of teaching/ learning strategies are used as identified in the specific module specifications. Skill 4 is addressed every year through the professional practice modules.

Assessment

Numeracy is assessed on a yearly basis as part of the required proficiencies in the practice documentation. The students are given a Numeracy workbook and additionally, they undertake an online numeracy test requiring a specific percentage to pass. In order for them to achieve their drug calculations proficiency they must take evidence of their online mark to their mentor and complete a drug calculation in practice in order for them to have this proficiency signed off.

Opportunities to develop transferable skills will be evident throughout the programme and activities that assess the competence of the students will be visible through formative and summative assessment within modules e.g. on-line patchwork assessment, case study and reflective portfolio.

Section 4: Programme structure

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|----------------|--|---|
| level 1 | <p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of Midwifery Care UZUSFF-40-1 • Introducing Midwifery Practice UZUSFH-40-1 • Professional Development of Midwifery UZUSFG-20-1 • Communication in a Diverse World UZWSDT-20-1 | <p>Interim Award:</p> <p>Cert HE Health and Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements <p>120 credits of which not less than 100 are at level 1 or above</p> <p>Interim Award:</p> <p>Dip HE Health and Social Studies</p> |
| level 2 | <p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complexities of Midwifery Care UZUSFJ-40-2 • Developing Midwifery Practice UZUSFK-40-2 • The purpose, scope and context of interprofessional collaboration (IPA) UZYSFD-20-2 • Evidence based practice for nursing and midwifery UZWSFS-20-2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements <p>240 credits of which not less than 100 credits are at level 2 or above and 220 credits are at level 1 or above</p> <p>Interim award:</p> <p>BSc Health and Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements <p>300 credits of which not less than 60 are at level 3 or above, not less than 60 are at level 2 or above, and not less than 280 are at level 1 or above.</p> |
| level 3 | <p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting contemporary challenges in midwifery UZUSFL-20-3 • Consolidating midwifery practice UZUSFM-40-3 • Quality practice for Interprofessional / Intra-agency collaboration (IPB) UZYSFE-20-3 • Nursing and Midwifery Dissertation UZWSFU-40-3 | <p>Target/Highest Award:</p> <p>BSc(Hons) Midwifery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements <p>360 credits of which not less than 100 are at level 3 or above, not less than 200 credits are at level 2 or above and not less than 340 credits at level 1 or above</p> |

78 week programme

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| level 2 | <p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of midwifery care (78 week) UZUSFN-40-2 • Midwifery practice 1 (78 week) UZUSFQ-40-2 | <p>Target/Highest Award:</p> <p>BSc (Hons) Midwifery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements <p>380 credits of which not less than 100 are at level 3 or above, not less than 200 credits are at level 2 or above and not less than 340 credits at level 1 or above</p> <p>For clarification of the level 2 credit requirements see Section 5: Entry requirements for the 78 week programme point 2</p> |
| level 3 | <p>Compulsory modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Contemporary Challenges in Midwifery UZUSFL-20-3 • Complexities of midwifery care (78 week) UZUSFP-20-3 • Midwifery practice 2 (78 week) UZUSFR-40-3 • Nursing and Midwifery Dissertation UZWSFU-40-3 | |

Section 5: Entry requirements

BSc (Hons) Midwifery 3 year Programme.

Applicants must have:

5 GCSEs at grade C or above including English Language, Mathematics, and Science, **or equivalent**.

PLUS

Tariff points as appropriate for the year of entry (refer to the UWE website)

OR

Open University (OU): 120 credits **must include** substantial elements of Science or Social Science

OR

Honours degree: **must include** substantial elements of Science or Social Science

OR

Access Diploma (refer to UWE website for requirements)

OR

UWE / City of Bristol Foundation Programme for Health Professions

OR

European Baccalaureate 70-74 **must include** Science/Social Science

*(Non standard entry applicants may be considered with a lower tariff point on individual merit).

78 week programme

Applicants must:

1. Be on Part 1 of the Nursing and Midwifery Council register as an Adult Nurse
2. Be able to demonstrate the required academic credit of 120 credits at level 1 and at least 60 credits at level 2
3. Be in current employment in an acute health care setting
4. Normally have 6 months post nursing qualification experience, including gynaecological nursing.

Applicants from overseas should have a minimum IELTS score of 7.0 in each section of the examination and an overall score of 7.0.

Health checks and criminal record bureau checks will be undertaken on all candidates in accordance with university, faculty and programme policies.

Section 6: Assessment Regulations

Approved to University Academic Regulations and Procedures with an Approved Variant with effect from 1st September 2010

F10.3.3R (BSc(Hons) Midwifery only) “Component marks, including the professional competences component, and the overall module mark for professional practice modules are expressed as percentages. To pass a module, students must achieve an overall module mark of not less than 40%. Where the modules assessment has two components, students must achieve at least 40% in each component in order to pass the module. The module mark, if at level 2 or above, is taken into account in determining eligibility for a BSc(Hons) Midwifery classification for honours.”

F10.3.6R (BSc(Hons) Midwifery only) “The overall mark for each of component A and B (component A being the assessment of professional competencies) is the weighted average of the marks of the individual elements of the component. The pass mark for the component is 40%. The weighting and the requirements for completion of the elements shall be described in the module specification and shall be given to student no later than the start of the module delivery period.”

F10.3.8R (BSc(Hons) Midwifery only) “If a professional practice module assessment requires a single component of assessment of professional competencies, the outcome is graded and expressed as a percentage.”

F10.3.10R (BSc(Hons) Midwifery only) “Component marks, including the professional competences component, and the overall module mark for professional practice modules are expressed as percentage marks. The assessment outcomes are taken into account in determining eligibility for classification for honours.”

Assessment regulations

The NMC requirements for the programme are as follows:

- All outcomes within a progression point period (for example an academic year) have to be achieved and confirmed within 12 weeks of entering the next academic level. (Standard 15)
- All assessments must be completed and have been passed prior to successful completion of the programme
- Full-time delivery should be no less than 3 years and each year shall contain 45 programmed weeks. Delivery is to be completed in not more than 5 years including interruptions. For the 78 week programme, the programme shall be not less than 78 weeks with delivery completed in not more than 2 years and 6 months(Standard 10)
- Clinical practice must be graded and be counted as part of the academic award (Standard 15)

In order to transfer programmes, students need to meet the University criteria.

Reference

Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Education. NMC 2009, LONDON

Section 7: Student learning: distinctive features and support

The design of the award route has been influenced by a numbers of factors:-

- The modular framework of the University and interprofessional pre-qualifying framework of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, which provides opportunities for programmes to share common elements and to develop within students the ability to evaluate and experience interprofessional education and practice.
- The professional requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Council including progression points, the essential skills clusters and grading of practice.
- The need to adopt an integrated and interactive approach so that component subjects are not free standing
- The changes in health care delivery which have resulted in midwives working with greater autonomy.
- The requirements of compliance with the EU Midwives Directives

Midwifery is a practice based profession and the clinical element is pivotal to the design i.e. fifty percent of the programme takes place in practice. The practice placements of the programmes are planned to provide students with progressively challenging experiences and enable them to meet the requirements for registration. The continuing assessment of practice is central to the development of the competent practitioner. Students undertake clinical experience in both hospital and community settings. During some modules within the 3 year programme, time is spent in other clinical areas in order to provide the requisite underpinning knowledge. The students are also able to identify specific areas during their novice practice placement to enrich their understanding of the provision of care. Students are allocated to units in the local vicinity to their residence (zones) to reduce unnecessary travel. However, some out of zone experiences may be required. A range of placements are provided including delivery suite; midwifery-led units, complicated care provision and neonatal/transitional care facilities.

Interprofessional modules are integral to all programmes within the pre - qualifying framework, and are designed to enable the students to examine cross boundary health care provision and services and the nature of inter-professional collaboration necessary for the delivery of high quality health and social care.

The Faculty is committed to providing an organised and consistent system of student support in relation to both academic and personal concerns. It also recognises the need to ensure that students have access to comprehensive information on the availability of resources and sources of help. This commitment is demonstrated through:-

- An induction programme for all students
- The provision of a named tutor
- The identification of a geographical zone for each student
- Provision of Faculty, Programme and Module Student Handbooks
- Web site information
- Access to libraries and computer suites
- Student advisors and study skills advisors
- Graduate Development Programme
- Student one stop shop
- AIP - Academics in Practice
- Practice support helpline
- PALM – Practice Associate Lecturer in Midwifery

The Faculty recognises the importance of support for students whilst out in placements and provides a range of approaches to ensure they are adequately supported including the provision of Academics in Practice, mentors and a telephone helpline. The preparation of qualified midwives by Faculty lecturers to undertake the mentors' role is essential to the process of support. Early identification of students with difficulties in achieving the proficiencies in practice is addressed through a rigorous process of collaboration between the Faculty and service providers.

Section 8 Reference points/benchmarks

QAA Subject benchmarks Midwifery (2001)

- *TQI website*
- *UWE Academic Regulations and Procedures*
- *UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative*

Staff research projects

- Darzi, A. (2007) *Our NHS, our future: NHS Next Stage Review Interim Report*. London: Department of Health
- Darzi, A. (2008) *High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review Final Report*. London: Department of Health
- Department of Health (2004) *National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services: Maternity Services*. London: Department of Health
- Department of Health (2007) *Maternity Matters: Choice, Access and continuity of Care in a Safe Service*. London: Department of Health
- Department of Health (2008) *NHS Next Stage Review: A High Quality Workforce*. London: Department of Health
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (2007a) *Introduction of essential skills clusters for pre-registration midwifery education programmes* (NMC Circular 23/2007) London: Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (2007b) *Pre-registration midwifery education programmes: progression from one academic level to the next academic level* (NMC Circular 24/2007)
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (2007c) *Grading of clinical practice for pre-registration midwifery education programmes*. (NMC Circular 25/2007) London: Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (2008) *Standards to support learning and assessment in practice* London: Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (2009) *Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Education* London: Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Royal College of Midwives (2008) *The Clinical Learning Environment and Recruitment: Report of a Joint Working Party*. London: RCOG Press

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications. These are available on the University Intranet.

Programme monitoring and review may lead to changes to approved programmes. There may be a time lag between approval of such changes/modifications and their incorporation into an authorised programme specification. Enquiries about any recent changes to the programme made since this specification was authorised should be made to the relevant Faculty Academic Registrar.