

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

for the award of

**MSc Midwifery (pre-registration)**

**3-year**

**Managed by the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences**

**delivered by the Oxford School of Nursing and Midwifery**

<b>Date approved:</b>	Date approval confirmed, on recommendation of University validation panel or other authorised body.
<b>Applies to students commencing study in:</b>	September 2020

**RECORD OF UPDATES**

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**

**SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Awarding body:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Teaching institution and location:</b>	Oxford Brookes University Marston Road Campus
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>Final award/s:</b>	MSc
<b>Programme title:</b>	Midwifery
<b>Interim exit awards and award titles available:</b>	Postgraduate Certificate in Pregnancy and Childbirth Postgraduate Diploma in Pregnancy and Childbirth
<b>Brookes course code:</b>	MSC-MY
<b>UCAS code:</b>	
<b>JACS code:</b>	
<b>HECoS code:</b>	100288
<b>Mode of delivery:</b> (Mode of Study given in brackets)	Face to face/on-campus (full-time)
<b>Duration of study:</b>	3 years (8 years maximum)
<b>Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:</b>	N/A
<b>Professional accreditation attached to the programme:</b>	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) <a href="https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/standards/standards-for-pre-registration-midwifery-programmes.pdf">https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/standards/standards-for-pre-registration-midwifery-programmes.pdf</a>
<b>Apprenticeship Standard:</b>	N/A
<b>University Regulations:</b>	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: <a href="http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/">http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/</a>  These regulations are, however, superseded by NMC requirements, as outlined in the Programme Handbook (Section 5)

## **SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?**

The Nursing and Midwifery Council acknowledge that midwifery is a 'unique, rewarding and dynamic profession and midwives are highly skilled, knowledgeable professionals'. In the UK, almost every birth is touched by a midwife. The midwifery programmes at Oxford Brookes aim to prepare students for this unique and influential role, enabling them to work autonomously to provide the best and safest care to women and their families. To do this we work in partnership with midwives, women, allied health professionals (such as doctors and paramedics) and advocacy groups, all of whom make an active contribution to the teaching on our programmes. At Brookes, students study in relatively small cohorts, and are encouraged both to work independently and to share and develop their knowledge with their peers. Working with the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, we offer an unrivalled range of placement opportunities, from Freestanding Birth Centres and home births to tertiary-level care.

The midwifery programmes at Brookes have received UNICEF Baby Friendly accreditation, which means that all our breastfeeding teaching and experience is commensurate with UNICEF Baby Friendly standards.

The midwifery teaching team also work in practice, research, and as consultants for overseas aid organisations. We have our own research group - OxBump - which is currently undertaking a number of projects around water birth, and looking at how anaemia is managed by midwives in pregnancy. We work with other organisations, such as the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, to pool expertise and extend the reach of our research. Our passion for, and expertise in, research is reflected in an emphasis on critical enquiry throughout our programmes. There are also opportunities for students to get involved in projects. You can read more about our staff here: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/osnm/about/staff/>

Our midwifery programmes are commensurate with professional registration as a midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The Midwifery Masters' programme will prepare postgraduate students for initial professional development for midwifery registration plus provide the opportunity for them to study at Master's level. The aim of the programme is to produce high calibre, clinical practice focused, career healthcare professionals, who are also equipped for further educational development at PhD/DPhil and professional doctorate level. Graduates from the programme should be fit for purpose and practice, and also fit for the programme award.

Students on the programme will be able to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of midwifery. This will be informed by scholarship and research as well as critical awareness of current issues/development in the field. Students will be able to develop specific skills, knowledge and competence in midwifery and more broadly will be enquiry focused, reflective, innovative, confident and self-aware. Students will complete a Masters' level research project involving primary data collection; a critical review of the literature; or other scholarly output. Graduates from the programme will contribute significantly to high quality maternity care; the continued development of woman centred care and theory-practice integration

## **SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

### **3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY**

Critically and flexibly apply knowledge and skills base to practice autonomously, safely and effectively, demonstrating interpersonal and cultural competence and seeking to optimise outcomes for all women and newborn infants.

Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the importance of continuity of care and carer, and actively seek to promote this in their work across the continuum of care from pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, labour and birth, postpartum, and the early weeks of a newborn infant's life.

Critically evaluate strategies informing population health, formulate and propose solutions and work in partnership with women to promote psychological and physical health and wellbeing.

Demonstrate a deep appreciation of the impact of birth and infant feeding on a range of life-long health and wellbeing outcomes

Draw on an in-depth understanding of normal physiological processes in relation to childbearing, and demonstrate an ability to optimise these to promote positive outcomes and to anticipate and prevent complications

Competently undertake immediate response and first line management measures in the event of an emergency, working proactively with others and ensuring timely collaboration with and referral to interdisciplinary and multiagency colleagues

### **3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY**

Promote, plan, undertake and coordinate safe and effective care, drawing on the best available evidence at all times and continually evaluating the effectiveness of their actions

Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge base and critically analyse the evidence to support decisions made as a lead professional in midwifery care, recognising the limits of professional knowledge and expertise;

- a. critically evaluate research and advance scholarship in midwifery in order to improve care provision;
- b. challenge care management, where appropriate, in light of research, experience and mothers wishes;
- c. critically evaluate research findings and instigate changes to practice as appropriate;
- d. synthesise and evaluate evidence from a range of sources, discerning that which is relevant, to provide women with information to enable them to make individualised, informed and meaningful choices;
- e. critically reflect on the research informing policy and practice and continue to advance own knowledge, skills and understanding for the benefit for childbearing women;

### **3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY**

Act as an accountable and autonomous midwife, leading care and support of childbearing women and newborn infants, and partners and families.

Competently build effective partnerships with women, respecting human rights, enabling women's views, preferences and decisions, and helping to strengthen their capabilities.

Communicate effectively, and with kindness and compassion.

Recognise and support a range of safe psychological, social, cultural and spiritual situations in partnership with women and families

Lead, support and supervise students and colleagues, and seek to reflect on and develop their own practice

### **3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY**

Demonstrate an ability to locate, analyse, critique and evaluate current and relevant information and guidance.

Use digital technologies confidently in the workplace, and to investigate, communicate and disseminate information and research.

### 3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Work effectively in different hospital and community settings, creating an environment that is safe, respectful, kind, nurturing and empowering

Act as an advocate for women and newborn infants to ensure that they are always the focus of care

Act as a leader and change agent to implement exemplary care

## SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

### 4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

MSCH-MY

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
MWIF6017	Public Health in Midwifery 1	15	6	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF6014	Midwifery Practice 1: Core Skills	30	6	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF 6015	Midwifery Practice 2: the continuum of care	30	6	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF6012	Anatomy and Physiology for Midwives	30	6	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF6019	Introduction to research and evidence	15	6	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF7020	Public Health in Midwifery 2: Human Rights and Contexts of Care	10	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF7015	Women and babies with complex needs	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF7016	A Midwifery Research Proposal	10	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF7017	Midwifery Practice 3: Childbirth Emergencies	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF7018	Midwifery Practice 4: the Midwife as Clinician	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF7021	Philosophy for midwifery practice	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF7012	Dissertation	50	7	Compulsory	100% coursework

Updated January 2018

MWIF7014	Midwifery Practice 5: implementing caseloading	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework
MWIF7022	Midwifery Practice 6: towards autonomy	20	7	Compulsory	100% coursework

#### **4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

All compulsory modules need to be taken and passed. Prior learning cannot be substituted for any module or part thereof. Where a module has a number of assessment components, each component must be passed in order for the module to be passed overall. There is no compensation between different assessment components of a module.

For Health and Social Care programmes, no practice assessment has a formal resit opportunity, therefore a module with an assessed practice element must be retaken if the practice element has not been passed by the time of the relevant exam board. The Faculty reserves the right to terminate a placement early if a student is deemed to have demonstrated unsafe practice, or if they demonstrate very limited progress during the placement; in such cases this will be deemed a practice assessment fail. Should students experience unexpected significant events or illnesses during placement that have a high level of impact upon their learning and ability to complete practice assessments students have the right to use the University's exceptional circumstances policy.

Students must achieve theory and practice requirements for each part (year) in order to progress to the next part (year). No module can be trailed.

#### **4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

All modules must be passed to achieve professional accreditation.

The NMC Standards of Proficiency for Midwives have been used to formulate the programme learning outcomes, and the programme is designed to enable students to demonstrate achievement of the proficiencies necessary for professional registration as a midwife.

Practice Requirements (European Union directive No 80/155/EEC) - completion of the practice requirements is a learning outcome for the final practice module (Midwifery Practice 6)

### **SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT**

The course is made up of 4600 hours, 50% of which are spent in practice. Your theory content comprises 40% lecture/seminar time and 60% independent study.

Four distinct forms of assessment have been used across our programmes: Practical demonstration of clinical proficiency (through practice-based assessment and simulation in an OSCE), written work (essays, reviews, diaries or blogs and your dissertation), in-class tests, and oral assessments (presentations using visual aids such as posters, and a professional discussion. Oral assessment can also be face to face or using video). Each assessment type is used at least twice, to enable feedback from the first assessment to be enacted in subsequent assignments. Flexibility is built into assessments where possible (for example, a reflective diary can also be a blog, a vlog or a mix of methods), and alternative assessment methods are given (for example, pre-recorded presentations), to ensure equity and inclusivity. The different assessment methods reflect the need to develop written, oral and digital skills in our students. Formative assessment often takes the form of group activities which specifically involve students in assessment, encourage dialogue between students and their tutors, and students and their peers, and develop students' abilities to make their own informed judgements, in line with the Brookes Assessment Compact.

### **SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME**

*Updated January 2018*

## **6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Prior qualifications necessary for entry to the programme, including English language requirements.

4 GCSEs, including Mathematics, English Language and a science subject (ie Chemistry or Biology) at grade 5 (B) or above (or equivalent).

An honours degree with a first or 2:1 classification or above (or equivalent).

All successful applicants must enter the programme at the beginning of Year 1 - no credit can be awarded as recognition of prior learning

## **6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED**

All applicants will be screened for fitness to practise and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be made

## **SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

Students will spend 50% of their programme in practice, supervised and assessed by registered midwives. The programme is designed to enable students to demonstrate achievement of the NMC standards of proficiency for midwives. On successful completion of the programme students are put forward by the university for entry onto the NMC register. Advice and guidance is given to final year students around personal statement writing and performing well in an interview.