



## BSc (Hons) Midwifery with RM at the University of Hertfordshire

### Entry Qualifications for 2017

You will need at least **120** tariff points from full A' levels or a BTEC Diploma. At least one A' level should be in a biological or a behavioural/social science at grade B minimum. If you have an extended BTEC Diploma, it must be in applied science or a health-related subject and you need to achieve Distinction, Distinction, Merit.

In addition, you should have at least 5 O' Level/GCSEs at grade C/ grade 4 or above, including English Language, Maths and a Science.

Alternatively, we accept the Access Diploma in a relevant subject (e.g. Access to Health Professions/midwifery/nursing/science) that suitably prepares students to study Midwifery or Nursing. Access courses are run by most Colleges of Further Education. Access courses normally last for one year, but some colleges offer a two year part-time course. Access courses can also be studied on a part-time basis via distance learning (*see web addresses on page 3*). There is a fee payable for these courses. You will need to achieve a minimum of:

**30 “Distinctions”** in your chosen level 3 subjects, with the remainder at merit.

Alongside the Access course, you need to have a **GCSE in Maths** and **English Language** at grade C/ grade 4 or above, or equivalent within the Access course.

We will sometimes consider some alternative qualifications such as **Key Skills 2** and **Functional Skills 2**: please contact the admissions tutor at the email address below with details of your exact qualifications, grades, year of achievement and country if outside the UK.

Please note that we do **NOT** accept the Adult Literacy or Adult Numeracy certificate.

## Enquiries re Pre-registration Midwifery Programme (Updated 2017)

### Other criteria

We expect applicants who are not currently studying to have undertaken some form of assessed, academic study within the past 5 years.

Experience in a health or care-related setting (either paid or voluntary work) will greatly enhance your application and would normally be expected in applicants who are over 18 and no longer at School. (See *FAQ section*)

### Finance:

Forthcoming changes: Tuition fees will no longer be funded by the NHS. From 1 August 2017, new student midwives will have access to the standard student support package of tuition fee loans and support for living costs, rather than getting an NHS grant (Council of Deans for Health, 2016). The public consultation about this closed 30th June 2016. The Government have responded to this in July 2016. Document: 'Reforming healthcare education funding: creating a sustainable future workforce' (DH Workforce Development Team, 2016).

Further details can be found in the Government's policy paper: NHS bursary reform. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-bursary-reform/nhs-bursary-reform>

The Funding Clinic: This also provides updated information about the funding if you intend to study nursing, midwifery and the allied health professions in England. Website: <http://www.thefundingclinic.org.uk/>

Some costs to consider:

All costs yet to be fully confirmed.

UH tuition fee: £9250 per year (includes Occupational health screening, Uniform, Disclosure and Barring Service screening).

Travel: Awaiting further information about this- see Funding Clinic for any updates. (Currently students need to meet all or most of their own travel costs to and from placements).

### Application:

All applications must come via UCAS online. The UCAS course code is B720. If you wish to apply, you will need to have the necessary qualifications, or be studying towards them, otherwise your application will not be considered. The most suitable applicants are invited for interview between November and April. Please note that competition for places is very strong, therefore we take into account your reference and personal statement as well as your academic qualifications, when screening application forms.

### Outcome of the programme:

On successful completion of the programme, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons.) degree and be eligible to apply for Registered Midwife status.

## Enquiries re Pre-registration Midwifery Programme (Updated 2017)

### Full time study

The programme is full-time study over 5 days per week, either in the University or in practice.

Students who experience extreme personal circumstances during the course of the programme may have the option to take a year out from the programme and pick up again from where they left off.

### Holidays

There are 7 weeks annual leave per year, 2 at Christmas, 2 at Easter and 3 in the summer. *Holiday dates do not always coincide with school term times, and there is no half-term break.*

### Hours

The programme is arranged in blocks of approximately 8 weeks in the University followed by a block number of weeks in clinical practice. The standard university day is 9-4pm with the occasional late evening until around 6pm. In the hospital, shift work is expected, for example: 8 hours or 12 ½ hours (including break), plus some nights and weekends. Student rostering in the clinical placements is issued about 1 month in advance, but may be at much shorter notice. Please note that clinical working patterns are irregular and students will not usually work on the same days each week.

**For further details, please email [midwiferyenquiries@herts.ac.uk](mailto:midwiferyenquiries@herts.ac.uk)**

## Useful web and email addresses

UCAS [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

Access Courses <http://www.accesstohe.ac.uk/>

Access Courses (Distance learning) <http://www.distancelearningcentre.com/>

Student Finance Office (UH) [student-finance@herts.ac.uk](mailto:student-finance@herts.ac.uk)

**See next page for “Frequently asked questions”**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q I am about to choose my Year 12-13 subjects. I want to become a midwife eventually: what should I study?**

**A** *Preferred subjects include: Biology, Human Biology or Zoology, plus one or more of: Chemistry, Sociology, Psychology, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, PE or Health and Social Care. As long as you have at least two A2's, you can include AS's in your total UCAS tariff count, but you cannot count the same subject at both AS and A2 level. Please see the standard letter for GCSE requirements.*

**Q I am about to start an Access course with a view to becoming a midwife: which modules should I choose as my specialities?**

**A** *Access courses normally expect students to choose three speciality subjects at level 3. We usually recommend that one of these should be Biology, unless you already hold a good GCSE or higher qualification in this subject. The others can be chosen from Chemistry, Sociology or Psychology. If your Access course offers other alternatives, please email the admissions tutor for advice. Please note the Maths and English requirements.*

**Q What happens if I do not get the required grades?**

**A** *Demand for places is currently at an unprecedented level. If you are offered a place on the midwifery programme but do not meet the required grades in the necessary subjects, it is unlikely that your place will be confirmed. However we do consider candidates on an individual basis.*

**Q I already have a degree: will I need to do any extra study in order to be eligible to apply for a place?**

**A** *This depends on both the degree subject and when it was achieved. If your degree is in a Biological Science, a behavioural/social Science or a health-related subject AND was completed no more than about five years ago, you need do no further study, (unless you do not meet the GCSE requirements.)*

*If your degree and your A' levels (or equivalent qualifications) are in unrelated subjects, we would expect you to undertake a short course in a subject relevant to midwifery, for example an Open University 10 credit module. If your degree is in a relevant subject area but not recent, we would ask you to undertake a short course of assessed study to bring your academic skills back up to speed. The nature of this is negotiable: please email the admissions tutor for advice.*

**Q I already have a degree: will I be able to get a student loan a second time around?**

*A Yes. Midwifery is one of the subjects that are exempt from the usual rule that prevents students from applying for a second student loan.*

**Q I have a place to study midwifery at UH, but am thinking of taking a gap year; can I defer my place?**

*A Yes. Many younger candidates choose to take a gap year in order to develop “life skills” and we support this. However, you cannot normally defer for more than one year.*

**Q I have a disability: will this affect my chances of getting onto the course?**

*A Places are offered purely on the basis of the candidates’ application form and performance at the selection day. However, all candidates who accept a place on the midwifery programme do so on the condition that they undergo screening by the Occupational Health Department at UH. It is rare for a place to be revoked on medical grounds, but as Midwifery is a very physically and mentally demanding profession, the Occupational Health team reserve the right to decide whether or not a candidate’s health is compatible with it.*

**Q Can I choose my hospital site?**

*A We encourage successful candidates to choose their preferred site, but we cannot guarantee their choice. The sites covered are: **West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust**, based at Watford General Hospital, **East and North Herts NHS Trust**, based at Lister Hospital, Stevenage and **Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust**, based at Barnet Hospital. (The Lister hospital is usually the most heavily over-subscribed).*

**Q What are the parking arrangements for students?**

*A **Please read our Student parking leaflet which is available on the university website: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/contact-us/parking>.** The leaflet provides full and detailed information about parking including standard eligibility, extenuating circumstances eligibility, the payment options, and the situation with regard to student’s residency on campus. Many students use the park and ride system which is located about half a mile off campus and is very cheap. Shuttle buses are frequent and reliable. On the clinical sites parking arrangements vary: some sites allow students to purchase a permit, while others require students to use the normal “Pay and display” car park. Street parking or other off-site parking is available on some sites, but difficult on others. Parking costs vary from place to place and are subject to increase. It is the student’s responsibility to meet the cost of transport and parking and you are advised to consider this before applying.*

**Q How will I get to the hospital site?**

*A You are strongly advised to provide your own transport. There is a subsidised University bus service which runs from the UH campus to all clinical sites. UH Buses and local buses cover most of the county as well, but transport to some of the more remote community placement areas can be difficult on public transport. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they can get to the relevant clinical site on time so this should be considered carefully before applying.*

**Q Can I work part-time and still study midwifery?**

*A You will need very flexible terms of employment. All students are expected to work shifts in practice, which are often irregular and may be given at fairly short notice. Jobs which involve occasional hours rather than a fixed contract, such as a "bank" health care assistant or bar work, are usually possible. However, you would be expected to fit your working hours around the midwifery course, not the other way around. All students have the opportunity to register as student ambassadors and thereby earn money at University events, such as open days or selection days.*

**Q Can I arrange my annual leave to coincide with my children's school holidays?**

*A Annual leave is generally set in advance and although there may be some flexibility, there is no guarantee that any of it will coincide with school holidays. If this is a matter of concern for you, it would be wise to postpone your application until you have robust childcare arrangements in place.*

Please note that Universities do not have half-term breaks

**Q Can I get help towards the cost of child care?**

*A Some students may be eligible for assistance, depending on personal circumstances. Please contact the Student Centre, Hutton Hub, College Lane campus for advice by telephoning 01707-284800 and asking for student finance. Alternatively you can email them at [studentfinance@herts.ac.uk](mailto:studentfinance@herts.ac.uk).*

**Q I need to drop off my children at school for 08.30. Will it matter if I start a bit later in the mornings?**

*A Yes it will. The University day starts at 09.00 and some clinical shifts start much earlier. All students are expected to be punctual for both. Please make sure you have firm arrangements for taking children to and from school.*

**Q What happens if my child is sick and I cannot leave him/her?**

*A We understand that from time to time situations occur when students (and staff) are unexpectedly unable to work. When this happens, students must contact the University or clinical site without delay. Missed theory sessions and missed practice hours must be made up as soon as reasonably possible. Leave of absence can be authorised by the programme tutor in the case of verified long-term sickness.*

**Q How can I get some work experience before applying to the course?**

*A We generally find that students who have worked in a **relevant** health or care-related field find the transition to midwifery easier to manage. We expect applicants who are not coming straight from school/college and are over 18 to have some experience (paid or voluntary) in a field related to the care of **women or families**. Some ideas include:*

- *Maternity units (Health Care Assistant – a paid role)*
- *Sure Start centres*
- *“Home Start”*
- *Self-help groups such as the NCT*
- *Peer support groups such as The Association of Breastfeeding Mothers*
- *Antenatal classes (you may find a local midwife willing to let you sit in on a series of classes)*
- *Women’s refuges*
- *Prison visiting (women’s)*
- *Mother and baby groups*
- *Hospital volunteer work*

**Q Where can I find out about work/voluntary work opportunities?**

*A Search your **local paper, citizens’ advice bureau and notice boards** in places like **health centres, libraries, church halls or community centres** to find out which self-help groups are active in your area. If you know of a particular group, try looking it up on-line.*

**Q How much experience should I aim to get?**

*A This is very flexible and depends on the nature of the experience. For example, if you held a placement on a regular basis, such as a weekly volunteer in a maternity unit, we would expect this to be a fairly long-term commitment over several months rather than just a “one off”. If you were to get access to antenatal classes, we would expect you to attend one full set of classes (usually about 4-6 consecutive weeks). Obviously the more experience you can get, the better!*

**This information was correct at the time of writing but please be aware that changes to the programme may occur and will not necessarily be included in the FAQ immediately.**