

## Bachelor of Midwifery (Hons) programme

September 2014 entry

Thank you for your enquiry about the Bachelor of Midwifery (Hons) degree programme at the University of Manchester.

This document is designed to give you plenty of information about the programme but you will also need to do some 'finding out' yourself as you consider whether midwifery is the right career choice for you.

**This information may be subject to change.** Please check our school website ([www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/midwifery](http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/midwifery)) or UCAS ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)) regularly for any new information. You are also very welcome to attend an open day for further information ([www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/opensdays](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/opensdays)).

Please be aware that this programme is heavily oversubscribed. In 2013 we received more than 1300 applications for our 61 places.

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**Please note that the university is not responsible for the content of external websites.**

## Being a midwife

### What do midwives do?

Midwives are the main providers of care for most childbearing women and their families throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the first few weeks after the birth. Midwives assess the wellbeing and needs of the mother and her family, provide information on a wide range of issues, work with women to plan and provide their care, promote the health of the family, teach skills for labour and parenthood and support women and their partners throughout the childbearing process. Midwives work with a range of other professionals and refer women to others as needed.

### Will I enjoy being a midwifery student?

This is something only you can judge. Most of our students really enjoy their clinical placements and working to meet women's needs, but some find that practice is not what they expected. What one person loves, another can find gory, boring, stressful or overwhelming. A love of babies and a feeling that it must be wonderful to be there when a baby is born are not good reasons to choose midwifery. You need to develop a clear understanding of what this role will involve. You will need to be highly motivated as this is a demanding profession and a challenging course.

You should know that you really like people and that you are good at communicating - listening as well as talking! You should believe that you will be able to cope with the responsibility and function well in stressful situations. You should also have considered the time commitment of a three-year full-time course which involves working shifts and weekends, allowing only limited time with family and friends.

You need to have considered whether you will be able to manage the level of academic work demanded by this institution. The programme requires extensive reading and private study, writing academic essays, revising for exams and presenting information to peers and colleagues. This will mean being disciplined with your time and being prepared to study hard, even after a busy clinical shift.

Finally you need to consider the financial implications of being a midwifery student. Financial hardship is a significant problem for some students. It is difficult to manage paid employment alongside this full-time course. You should also bear in mind that travelling to clinical placements can take a long time and be expensive.

### **Finding out about midwifery and working in the NHS**

Use the following sources to help you find out as much as you can about midwifery, other healthcare professions and about working in the NHS.

- Arrange to meet and talk with some midwives – contact your local maternity unit, Sure Start centre, GP clinic or supervisor of midwives
- Speak to family and friends who have used maternity services
- Arrange voluntary placements or work experience in a hospital, care or community setting
- Gain employment in ‘people-related’ work
- Read relevant newspapers, textbooks and journals e.g. Practising Midwife
- Access professional websites e.g. NMC, RCM, NHS Careers
- Attend a midwifery open day or taster session

### **How do I become a midwife?**

The key requirements for midwifery education are set by the professional body for midwifery – the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). For example, the NMC specify the length of the programme, the academic level required, key aspects of the course content and the skills to be developed.

Each university writes its own programme in line with the NMC regulations but reflecting the ethos of the university and the strengths of the local maternity services. The NMC review each programme to ensure it meets their requirements, so all successful graduates can then register as midwives with the NMC.

To become and remain a midwife you must:

- Successfully complete an NMC approved midwifery degree programme
- Meet the NMC requirements of good health and good character
- Register as a midwife with the NMC, paying an annual registration fee
- Practise in accordance with the NMC’s Midwives’ Rules and Standards (2012) and Code of Professional Practice (2008)
- Complete an intention to practise form and meet with your supervisor of midwives on an annual basis
- Continue to demonstrate professional updating of your knowledge
- Continue to practise as a midwife (at least 450 hours in a 3 year period)

## **Programme Information**

### **What is the University of Manchester’s midwifery degree programme like?**

Within the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Social Work offers a three-year, full-time Bachelor of Midwifery (Honours) programme. There are between 61- 64 places available each year.

The University of Manchester is an academic institution of world renown and has high expectations of all its students. This midwifery programme is very well respected and provides an excellent start to a life-long career with many possible avenues of development. Our students find it an extremely demanding course but also a very stimulating and satisfying experience which results in obvious personal development. A recent graduate says:

*“I feel very privileged to be a product of the Manchester University midwifery degree. I thoroughly enjoyed the 3 years and feel that the theory combined with mentorship prepared me well as a band 5 midwife.”*

Many University of Manchester graduates have gone on to develop their careers in clinical expertise, research and professional leadership.

## BMidwif (Hons) programme – 2013 curriculum

From September 2013 we will be running our cutting-edge new curriculum, which has been highly commended by the NMC and other external reviewers for its woman-centred approach, responsiveness to local needs and innovative design.

### Programme aims

This programme aims to equip students with the clinical, communication and thinking skills needed to provide high-quality, compassionate midwifery care for women and families from a range of diverse backgrounds and to coordinate support for them from the wider health, social care and voluntary sectors.

We aim to produce innovative midwives, who will use their clinical, research and leadership skills to contribute to the future development of maternity services through the generation of new knowledge and the facilitation of new ways of working.

The programme is underpinned by a commitment to:

- The integration of theory and practice
- High standards of clinical competence
- Partnership working with women
- Keeping birth normal
- Midwifery support for women with complex needs
- Multi-disciplinary team working to benefit midwifery clients
- The appreciation of diversity and the principles of equality
- Being responsive to service users' needs and future service developments

Key themes in the programme include:

- **Woman-centred** midwifery care
- Application of **bio-science** knowledge to practice
- Tackling health inequalities through effective **public health** interventions
- Developing skills to **support breastfeeding** and early family relationships
- Evidence-based practice and developing new knowledge through **research**
- Improving service provision through effective professional **leadership**

Innovations within this new curriculum include:

- The Manchester Leadership in Action unit and the Leadership Award for those completing the required number of hours of volunteering
- The theory component of the Examination of the Newborn qualification - the clinical component of the qualification can be achieved after qualification
- Medicines management unit and inter-professional working with pharmacists
- Baby Friendly Initiative accreditation – students to be assessed in year three

Specialist options for the elective in year three to include:

- Consolidation of professional practice
- A career in midwifery research
- Establishing a midwifery social enterprise
- International midwifery

The course is taught predominantly by a team of midwifery lecturers with wide ranging experience including up-to-date clinical midwifery practice, well developed teaching expertise and established research skills. Where appropriate we also draw on the expertise of clinical specialists and other lecturers e.g. from the Faculty of Life Sciences.

### Programme structure

Each year of study comprises 45 weeks of programmed activities (37½ hours per week) and seven preset weeks of holiday. Students' time is equally divided between academic and practice-based learning. Some weeks are fully campus-based and others are full time in placement, but most weeks are split with two days in university and three days in clinical practice, allowing students to learn theory alongside practice, utilise the university library and other campus resources, access tutor support and have regular contact with their peers, facilitating mutual support and friendship.

The programme has a cyclical pattern, enabling students to revisit key areas of practice each year to continue to build their skills and confidence.

Learning is divided into a number of units in each year. The programme and assessments for each unit are planned and delivered by a small team of lecturers with expertise relevant to those subject areas. Learning is developed through timetabled lectures, small group learning, directed study activities, online activities, reading and relevant clinical experience under the supervision of a trained clinical midwifery mentor.

### **Year One**

The focus of the first year is on developing the knowledge and skills to be able to provide high-quality, compassionate, woman-centred midwifery care for women experiencing a straightforward pregnancy and birth. Areas of study include:

- Midwifery theory and practice
- Anatomy, physiology, microbiology and pharmacology
- Communication skills
- Health inequalities, public health and infant feeding
- Sociological and psychological factors affecting childbearing women and contributing to health inequalities
- The experiences and needs of childbearing women
- Foundations for research

Clinical placements in year one focus on the development of essential midwifery skills in a range of settings, including the community, antenatal clinics, delivery suites and post-natal care.

### **Year Two**

Building on their midwifery knowledge and skills acquired in year one, students go on to examine the impact of complex health and social issues on women's needs and consider aspects of complicated childbirth and the specific roles, responsibilities and skills of midwives in these areas including the therapeutic use of medications. Students study concepts of transitional and special care for neonates and a number of maternal medical conditions which may affect pregnancy outcomes.

Through working with students from other programmes in the completion of the Manchester Leadership Programme, students are helped to develop their leadership skills. Further knowledge and skills for understanding research provide a sound foundation for critically appraising research studies as a basis for evidence-based approaches to midwifery practice. Progressive models of midwifery-led care are examined with a focus on midwifery caseholding and caseload management. Areas of study include:

- Complex childbirth and midwifery responsibilities and skills
- Medicines management
- Evidence-based midwifery practice
- Models of midwifery-led care
- Leadership - additionally, the Manchester Leadership Award can be achieved on completion of an optional 20 hours of volunteering, enhancing employability of students

Clinical placements in year two focus on developing skills in antenatal care, the community and delivery suites as well as postnatal, neonatal unit and transitional care. Spoke placements on gynaecological and medical wards are also undertaken.

### **Year Three**

The aim of the third year is to extend existing knowledge and skills to equip students to move into the role of the contemporary midwifery practitioner. This is achieved through enhancing the student's knowledge and skills in relation to caseload management, clinical decision-making, responding to and managing midwifery emergency situations and examining strategies for tackling health inequalities within the diverse population of Greater Manchester.

The dissertation component of this year focuses on the application of health-related research to midwifery practice. This is a lengthy piece of work which demonstrates the student's ability to apply their research knowledge and critical thinking skills to the 'real world' challenges of midwifery practice.

Areas of study include:

- Student caseholding
- Managing midwifery emergencies
- Supporting breastfeeding and parenting and promoting wellbeing for families.
- Research-based dissertation
- Clinical leadership
- Optional opportunities enabling exploration of career options in midwifery research, international practice, entrepreneurship or practice development

A full range of clinical placements are available in this final year.

### **Learning activities**

A range of learning strategies is used to enable students to achieve the high academic and clinical standards required by the university. These include lectures, reading, discussions, group work, role-play, online learning, enquiry-based learning, simulated practice and seminar presentations.

Learning to use the library, online databases and the internet in order to search for, select, read and evaluate relevant and reliable information is an essential skill. Students must expect to do a significant proportion of their learning in this way. The University of Manchester has one of the biggest libraries in the country, which provides excellent support services for students using both onsite and online facilities.

The university has some excellent, recently built learning facilities, including the Learning Commons Building, which contains group work spaces, IT suites, informal meeting areas and cafe facilities. Taught sessions for the midwifery programme take place in various teaching facilities around the campus. Lectures for this programme will normally be timetabled between 09:00 and 17:00 with identified periods for tutorials, group work, library study etc. Students should expect to attend university for almost every theory day in year one.

### **How is the course assessed?**

Unit assessments vary and include written and multiple-choice exams, essays, case studies, poster presentations, online work and a skills lab-based exam.

Many units of learning also include the assessment of relevant skills in practice. These skills are assessed by midwifery mentors during clinical placements.

All assessments must be passed in order for the student to progress onto the next stage of the programme and so achieve their professional registration. Programme regulations govern the decision to offer a second or subsequent attempt at any failed assessment.

### **Clinical placement sites for clinical learning**

The School has excellent relationships with our local NHS Trusts, where students undertake a wide range of relevant placements including community midwifery, antenatal clinics, day care facilities, delivery suites, midwifery-led birth centres, antenatal and postnatal wards, neonatal special care and short placements in medical and gynaecological settings. Students also visit a range of other services such as Sure Start centres and specialist clinics, and work with other professionals such as social workers and medical staff.

Students will complete their year one placements in the maternity services of one NHS Trust and then move to another Trust to complete their second and third year placements. Experiencing care in two different localities gives students wider experience of the cultural diversity of our amazing city, deeper understanding of the different ways NHS services are provided and greater confidence when applying for posts as newly qualified midwives.

Whilst the School takes account of where students live and their expected mode of transport, we cannot guarantee that all students will be placed in their closest unit. School policy allows students to be placed at sites up to 1½ hours journey away.

Our main clinical sites are:

- South Manchester Hospital (Wythenshawe) - M23 9LT  
*8½ miles south of the University, approx. 8-10 students per year*
- Central Manchester Hospital (Rusholme) - M13 9WL  
*½ mile south of the University, approx. 18-20 students per year*
- Tameside General Hospital (Ashton-Under Lyne) - OL6 9RW  
*8 miles east of the University, approx. 8-10 students per year*
- North Manchester General Hospital (Crumpsall) - M8 5RB  
*5 miles north of the University, approx. 8-10 students per year*
- Stepping Hill Hospital (Stockport) - SK2 7JE  
*8½ miles south-east of the university, approx. 12-16 students per year*
- High Peak Area (Buxton) – Part of Stockport NHS Trust - SK17 9NJ  
*25 miles from the University (train or car journey), approx. 6 students per year (also spending time at Stepping Hill)*
- A small number of students may be placed in other NHS Trusts.

The postcodes have been included so you can locate these facilities online. The university's postcode is M13 9PL. The Transport for Greater Manchester website ([www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com)) has a useful journey planner enabling you to assess what your journey might be like when traveling to a site using public transport.

### Clinical shift times and working days

Supervision in practice is provided by a midwife mentor, trained to support and assess students' learning. You will be expected to work the same shifts as your mentor. Shift times vary. These examples are for guidance only:

- Early shift - 07:15 to 15:30
- Late shift - 13:00 to 21:30
- Night duty - 21:00 to 07:45
- Long shift - 07:30 to 20:30

Some NHS Trusts have a two-shift system to cover the 24 hour period, and some midwives in other NHS Trusts also work long shifts.

Students are expected to work approximately one weekend in three, but this will vary across placements depending on the mentor's work pattern. We anticipate that for the initial couple of placements, students will not have to work many weekends.

The more flexible students can be, the more time they will be able to spend with their mentor and the better learning experience they are likely to have. A request for a specific day off for a special occasion is usually accommodated. During some placements, students may be expected to work 'on call' duties alongside their mentor. Students will also be rostered to work some bank holiday shifts. All students will undertake periods of night duty. All clinical hours are recorded.

An off-duty pattern for a student might look like this:

Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Wk 1	Early	Late	Early	Uni*	Uni	Day off	Day off
Wk 2	Day off	Day off	Late	Uni	Uni	Early	Late
Wk 3	Early	Day off	Day off	Uni	Uni	Late	Early
Wk 4	Long	Day off	Long	Uni	Uni	Day off	Day off
Wk 5	Day off	Day off	Day off	Uni	Uni	Night	Night
Wk 6	Night	Night	Day off	Uni	Uni	Day off	Night

\*Note that university days vary in each year of the programme.

We have stringent attendance policies – this is an NMC requirement. Applicants should carefully consider their ability to meet the demands of travelling to placements, working shifts and completing the rigorous study requirements of the course.

### Holidays

There will be seven timetabled weeks of holidays per year. This includes 10 days in lieu of bank holidays. The holidays are set for the three years and are not negotiable.

It is common practice for students to have Christmas and New Year weeks as annual leave. We also expect students to have two weeks annual leave during the main school summer holidays.

No holidays should be booked until the leave dates have been confirmed. Unauthorised absence is recorded for employment reference purposes.

### **Attendance**

The NMC requires students to complete the full programme, thus any days missed for any reason (sickness, absence, compassionate leave) must be made up before the programme is considered to have been completed. Some lecture days may be made up by providing evidence of relevant private study. Missed clinical time is usually made up at the end of the programme - this can delay professional registration.

### **Uniform**

A set of uniforms (dresses or tunics and trousers) are supplied by the University and must be worn correctly as per university and hospital policy. Students are responsible for washing their own uniforms. If necessary, replacement uniforms may be bought at a reasonable cost. Students will need to supply their own work shoes; these must be black, flat, soft-soled and offer good foot support.

### **Learning and assessment in clinical practice**

Your first placement will begin in week nine of the course, facilitating the application of learning to the real world of midwifery practice. There will be a mixture of university weeks and practice weeks, but most weeks will include two days in University and three days in practice.

When working in clinical practice, you should be closely supervised and supported by your midwifery mentor. These midwives have completed a training course in order to become mentors. The role of the mentor is to:

- Discuss your learning needs with you
- Identify what experience you need
- Plan how you will get that experience, perhaps working with other people
- Work with you, teach you and supervise you as you develop skills for yourself

- Review your progress and give you feedback
- Assess your skill development
- Liaise with your university tutors

Your mentor will not normally be available to work with you every day but they should work with you regularly. Sometimes it is necessary for students to move to working with a new mentor if the previous one is sick or has been moved to another area.

Clinical learning experiences are planned to enable students to acquire and demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary for safe and effective midwifery practice. The clinical assessment process is designed to revisit and continually develop the student's clinical skills, building both competence and confidence.

### **Student participation**

The programme team aims to provide learning experiences which meet students' needs. To this end, student evaluations of all aspects of the course are valued. Students are offered various opportunities to participate in problem-solving, decision making and curriculum development through the programme committee and the student council.

Our Peer Assisted Study Scheme enables more experienced students to offer support to those who are just starting on the programme. Student ambassadors also contribute to widening participation events and attend recruitment days to talk about their experiences of studying and learning on this programme.

### **The University of Manchester – research, teaching and student life**

The school was placed top of the table for nursing and midwifery research in the UK in the 2008 UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The school entered the highest number of research active staff in the UK and 85% of our research was rated as 'world leading' or 'world class'. Our staff are committed to conducting high-quality research that provides the evidence to improve care and shape services.

The RAE result, together with the excellent outcomes from the QAA Review of Teaching and Learning in the school, indicates that students can be confident that by choosing Manchester they will experience the benefits of outstanding teaching and learning in a high-quality, research-rich environment and will gain a qualification of which they can be truly proud.

At the recent NMC validation of our new 2013 midwifery curriculum, the programme was commended for its woman-centred focus, responsiveness to local needs and innovative design. Students graduating from our programme are valued by local employers and most move swiftly into professional employment. One employer said:

*“...I wanted you to know that the Manchester students shone above the rest in their knowledge of intrapartum emergencies...”*

For more information about Manchester, student life and the Aspiring Students Society, please visit [www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate).

### **What do our students say?**

A couple of comments from our recent survey of past students:

*“I feel very privileged to be a product of the Manchester University midwifery degree. I thoroughly enjoyed the 3 years and feel that the theory combined with mentorship prepared me well as a band 5 midwife.”*

*“It has been an amazing experience and I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to have been a University of Manchester student. I will wear my badge with pride... Character, kindness, empathy, intuition and instinct – all attributes I have been shown throughout my time at Manchester, both at university and in clinical placement.”*

In the National Student Survey completed by students half way through their third year, our students have consistently indicated very high scores (90% - 100%) for overall satisfaction with the previous curriculum and programme. Internal evaluations indicate that the students have particularly valued the linking of theory to practice, the excellent student support and their sense of feeling well prepared for professional practice.

### **Funding and costs**

Fees for this course are usually paid by the NHS.

As a contribution to living and travel costs, UK students starting on NHS funded programmes after 1st September 2012 can apply annually for a part-means-tested NHS bursary. For further details, see [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students).

Students may also apply for a non means-tested student loan from Student Finance England. Loans are normally reduced for nursing & midwifery students due to the NHS bursary. See [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance).

You may also qualify for other grants & bursaries from your local education authority. Contact your local education authority for more details.

The University of Manchester offers some bursaries and awards. For general advice about financing your studies and information about the university's scholarship awards see [www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/funding/home/changes/support](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/funding/home/changes/support).

Many students are dependent on financial contributions from their family so it is important to consider what your living costs might be. For information about accommodation options for University of Manchester students, visit [www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation).

Travel costs for placements can be expensive and should be included in your calculations. Transport for Greater Manchester ([www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com)) have a journey planner which can help you estimate possible public transport travel costs to different sites. If you qualify for a means-tested NHS bursary, you may also be able to reclaim some of your travel costs.

At the end of the programme, students may opt to complete an elective placement overseas or in a different UK setting. Students who select this option must self-fund any additional costs. Some students have been successful in applying for funding support from organisations such as the Iolanthe Midwifery Trust or The Cavell Nurse Trust – see the travel experiences of one of our nursing students funded by Cavell at [www.cavellnursestrust.org/scholarship-awards/katie-ball-placement](http://www.cavellnursestrust.org/scholarship-awards/katie-ball-placement).



## Application Information

### What are the entry requirements for the BMidwif programme for 2014?

Here are some of the entry requirements for candidates applying to start the programme in 2014. Entry requirements may change from year to year. For more detailed information please see the UCAS website.

If you are uncertain whether you meet the entry requirements we recommend that you contact us at [ug.midwifery@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ug.midwifery@manchester.ac.uk).

### GCSE qualifications

**Most students** (such as those taking A-level, BTEC and International Baccalaureate qualifications) must meet the following GCSE requirements:

- English, Maths and Science at Grade C or above
- Five GCSEs at grade B (can include the required English, Maths and Science if these are at grade B)

**Access to Higher Education Diploma, Foundation Degree and graduate applicants** must meet the following GCSE requirements:

- English, Science and Maths at Grade C or above

Please note that we do not accept Functional Skills 2 or equivalent qualifications in place of GCSE English and Maths. We may consider alternative qualifications in place of GCSE Science – please contact us for details.

### Higher level qualifications

*Please note: For Sept 2015 entry, it is likely that we will only accept Biology and Chemistry as meeting the relevant study requirements for A-level, Advanced Higher and IB students. Grade requirements may also increase for these qualifications.*

**A-Level:** Grades ABB including one relevant subject (preferably Biology or Chemistry; Psychology, Health and Social Care or Applied Science will also be accepted for Sept 2014 entry) and not including General Studies.

**Scottish Advanced Highers:** Grades ABB including one relevant subject (preferably Biology or Chemistry; Psychology and Health and Social Care will also be accepted for Sept 2014 entry).

**International Baccalaureate:** 33 points overall. We require three higher level subjects at grades of 6, 5 and 5 and these must include at least one relevant subject (preferably Biology or Chemistry; Psychology will also be accepted for Sept 2014 entry).

**BTEC Extended Diploma:** This qualification is only accepted in Health and Social Care or Health Studies. We require an overall grade of DDD with a minimum of 100 credits awarded at Distinction (including Anatomy and Physiology and Communication Skills) and a maximum of 10 credits awarded at Pass.

*Please note: We anticipate that the overall grade requirements for this qualification will increase to at least D\*D\*D for Sept 2015 entry. Applicants will also need to gain distinction grades in at least 40 credits of science units. We recommend that BTEC students discuss the science units available at their college with their tutors to ensure they will be able to meet this requirement.*

**Access to HE Diploma:** We require 30 level three credits at Distinction and 15 level three credits at Merit. 30 level 3 credits must be in health or science subjects, and these must include some biology.

*Please note: We anticipate that the number of distinctions required from this qualification will increase for Sept 2015 entry.*

**Foundation Degree:** We accept the Foundation Degree in Health & Social Care for entry onto our midwifery programme. Applicants must complete the Foundation Degree with an overall distinction grade.

**Graduates:** We are able to consider applications from graduates (2:2 or above) on an individual basis. If your degree is not in a relevant subject, we strongly recommend that you consider undertaking some relevant study, preferably with a focus on human biology (e.g. an AS-/A-level or an Open University module).

*Please note: Relevant study will be required from all graduate applicants for Sept 2015 entry.*

## Recent study

We require applicants to have completed some assessed study at level 3 in the five years prior to the start of the programme. If you do not have recent study but otherwise meet the academic entry requirements, we recommend you look into taking an AS-/A-level or an Open University module (preferably in a relevant subject) in order to meet this requirement.

## How do I apply for a place on the course?

Applications are taken via the UCAS system and must be made by January 15th each year. Full details about the application process are available from [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).

## What information should I include in my UCAS personal statement?

**Be honest** about yourself and your abilities, qualifications, failures and successes. It is quite acceptable to write about a situation where you did not achieve as well as you hoped, but you should indicate what you have learnt from that experience. If you have previously commenced a midwifery, nursing or healthcare course but did not complete the programme, please tell us about that experience as this will have been part of your personal development. You should also be totally honest about declaring any previous convictions or cautions no matter how long ago or how minor the offences. Declaration will not affect your application at this stage but the later identification of undeclared issues may do so.

**Be accurate** in relation to your previous academic qualifications. We will ask to see original certificates or other evidence of these achievements before we can offer a place. It takes some time to obtain copies of certificates from exam boards so we recommend that you apply for copies of any lost documents as soon as possible.

**Be careful** as you complete your form. We receive hundreds of application forms and aim to read them all with due care and attention, but any application that is incomplete, written in poor English or that contains many errors will not be considered.

We recommend that you use your personal statement to discuss the following areas:

- Your reasons for wanting to study midwifery and how you have found out about this career
- Your understanding of the needs of maternity service users and the role of the midwife in meeting these needs
- Your skills and attributes that will help you meet the academic and practice demands of the programme
- Your personal development through employment, volunteering, placements, community activities, sport or the arts, and the skills and attributes you have acquired through these experiences that are relevant to a career in midwifery

Your application will be considered against our shortlisting criteria. Candidates achieving all or most of these criteria will be invited to interview. Candidates meeting some of the criteria may be kept on hold in case we are able to offer an interview later in the process – you will be kept informed if this has happened with your application. Interview days are generally scheduled between November and March each year.

## What sort of reference should I include?

Your application should be supported by a reference from your most recent educational institution and may also comment on the criteria set out above. If you have not studied recently you may supply a reference from an employer. We frequently ask for further references prior to offering a place – this may be from other educational institutions, employers or clinical areas where you have completed placements or volunteer work.

## If I get an interview, what will be expected of me?

We received over 1300 applications for our programme commencing Sept 2013. From these we shortlisted approximately 350 candidates for interview. We normally aim to recruit between 61 and 64 students each year; we offer more places than this as not everyone will select Manchester and not everyone will achieve the required grades.

The morning of the interview day includes some short presentations about the programme, students' experiences and financial issues. This will enable you to ask questions, see our facilities and consider whether Manchester is the right place for you.

It also allows you to meet some of the other candidates and relax a little before your interview in the afternoon. The interview day currently also includes a numeracy test and a short written exercise.

We use a group interview system to help us select the best potential students. This involves up to 10 candidates participating in a group interview for around 45 minutes, answering questions individually and participating in a group discussion. The interview panel will usually include a midwifery lecturer, a clinical midwife and a service user. Evaluations from previous years indicate that most candidates found the group interview to be a positive experience, although some would have preferred an individual interview. We have found that group interviews enable us to gain more information about candidates' communication skills.

If you have a disability that you think will affect your ability to participate in any of these activities, you must tell us about this if you are invited to interview so we can make reasonable adjustments for you. If you require extra time for the numeracy test or written exercise, you must contact the Disability Services Office so they can confirm this for us. This will not in any way disadvantage your application.

#### **If I get an offer, will further conditions apply?**

Successful candidates will be offered a place subject to achievement of the required academic qualifications, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and an occupational health assessment. We may require additional documentation such as confirmation of your residency status, copies of educational certificates or additional references before being able to make your offer formally through UCAS.

If you have had any previous convictions or cautions, you should declare this on your UCAS form. If any convictions or cautions are identified through the DBS check, the School will review your application and consider whether to proceed with the offer of a place. You will be given the opportunity to supply information about any issues before a decision is made.

For more information about the DBS check, please visit [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service/about](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service/about).

All offers will also be dependent on the outcome of an occupational health review to determine that you are fit to start the programme and do not pose a risk to colleagues or clients. Midwifery requires physical and emotional stamina and you should consider these demands before you apply.

There are a limited number of medical conditions (e.g. being a chronic carrier of Hepatitis B) which may on health and safety grounds affect your ability to register as a midwife with the NMC and your freedom to practice in certain clinical situations. The occupational health team will carry out screening tests and supply immunisations. It is also necessary to be tested for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), before you start your studies. Further information about HIV and the HIV test can be obtained from the National AIDS Helpline (0800 567 123) or from [www.nat.org.uk/HIV-Facts/The-basics.aspx](http://www.nat.org.uk/HIV-Facts/The-basics.aspx).

If you have concerns about an existing medical condition, disability or learning support need, you can be reassured that the University of Manchester will offer support through our excellent Student Occupational Health Department and Disability Support Office and will make reasonable adjustments to assist you to meet the demands of the programme.

For information about the support available for students with a disability please visit: [www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/studentlife/studentssupport](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/studentlife/studentssupport).

Please feel free to contact the Disability Support Office on 0161 275 8515 or at [dso@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:dso@manchester.ac.uk) to discuss individual concerns.

If you have any health concerns, please feel free to contact the Occupational Health Department on 0161 306 5806 or at [millocchealth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:millocchealth@manchester.ac.uk).

**Are there any other useful sources of information I should look at?**

- [www.nmc-uk.org/About-us](http://www.nmc-uk.org/About-us)
- [www.nhscareers.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk)
- [www.rcm.org.uk](http://www.rcm.org.uk)
- [www.midirs.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/So-you-want-to-be-a-midwife.pdf](http://www.midirs.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/So-you-want-to-be-a-midwife.pdf)