

Prior Pursglove College Careers Service



**Maximise your chances of success in...
Midwifery**

Midwifery... is about supporting the woman and her partner with the birth of their baby. You will support them from the confirmation of the pregnancy through birth and through the post-natal period (after the baby is born.)

Pre-birth: giving advice on issues such as healthy eating, explaining options such as hospital or home delivery, natural childbirth and types of pain relief, running antenatal and parenting classes, monitoring the health of the mother and baby during pregnancy.

During labour: checking how labour is progressing, monitoring the baby during labour and birth, administering pain relief (pethidine or gas-and-air) or advising on ways of managing pain delivering the baby, which may include carrying out an episiotomy (surgical cut) and inserting stitches after the birth referring to a doctor if you identify any medical complications which could affect the safety of the mother or baby.

Post-Natal: giving advice to families on feeding, bathing and generally caring for their baby. As a midwife based in the community, you would make home visits to check on the health of the mother and baby for one month after birth.

Qualifications needed/routes in

To qualify as a registered midwife, the quickest route is to complete a degree in midwifery. To get onto this, you need 5 GCSEs (must include C's in Maths, English AND Science) plus A levels of around ABB—BBB (128-120 points). Most Universities specify that you take Biology. Closest Universities offering Midwifery are: Teesside, Northumbria, Leeds, York.

Alternative Routes...

1. Shortened Midwifery courses: If you wish to keep your options open for longer, there is an option whereby you can train as a Registered Nurse first (take a Nursing degree, in the first instance) followed by an 18month or 2 year course, often called a "Shortened" Midwifery course. These might be 'phased out'—the government are consulting on that currently, so you do take a risk that they may not be available after your Nursing degree.

2. Foundation years: For students who are concerned they will not make the grades for Midwifery, or for students who have not taken Biology at A level, they may want to consider a Foundation year—see below:

- Birmingham City - 96 points/CCC
- Central Lancashire - 64 points
- Coventry - Health and Social Care (L592) Foundation Year: 40 points
- Keele - Health Foundation Year: CCD
- London South Bank: Extended Midwifery - 48 - 64 points

Work Experience

Work experience is essential for entry onto Midwifery degrees. Here are some ideas:

James Cook Hospital: Attend the Midwifery Open Day— you can then apply for a 1 day placement at JCUH , half a day with a sonographer and half a day on Post natal ward.

Surestart: Perhaps the biggest chance, where lots of new mums meet! They run: breast feeding support, "Baby weigh-in clinics", antenatal courses and parenting courses. To contact Surestart and ask for placements, email Leah.willis@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk.

Teen Pregnancy workers: Email Maria.whyborne@nhs.net to ask for possible work shadowing opportunities.

See your progress tutor or faculty manager for details of work experience possibilities.

Competition per place, how to better your application

Midwifery is notoriously competitive. Each year we have students rejected for all 5 of their Midwifery choices.

- Be knowledgeable about the role of a Midwife, down sides to the job as well as the joys (miscarriage, still births, failed IVF, post natal depression etc.)
- Do your work experience well in advance of applying to UCAS and reflect well on it in your personal statement
- Know how societal changes affect families e.g.—domestic violence, substance misuse issues, child protection.
- Know about current issues facing midwives e.g.: obesity in pregnancy, increase in elective caesareans etc. Google 'current issues facing midwives' or check out www.nmc-uk.org/
- Read and know about the NMC Code of Professional Conduct (March 2010), can be found on their website
- Remember that Midwifery is about the whole family and not just the newborn and that Midwives see women after birth for a month.

Interview structure and interview preparation

The structure of the interview does vary between Universities but often involve group work or role play, written tests (numeracy and literacy), and a one-to-one interview. At Teesside, there will be a 10min group interview to discuss a scenario but the literacy test will no longer be taken. You must be well informed about recent news related to midwifery and healthcare, so make sure you watch the news and read the papers for a few months beforehand. It may even be worth subscribing to a midwifery journal, such as 'practicing midwife' or MIDIRS. Make sure you have a good understanding of the role of the midwife. If asked what a midwife does, do not answer "she delivers babies".

Typical Interview Questions –

1. Why do you want to be a Midwife? What makes a good Midwife?
2. What are the difficulties could you encounter as a Midwife?
3. What experiences have you had to prepare you for being a Midwife?
4. What part do you see the male/partner playing in the birth process?
5. What are the 10 steps of the “baby friendly initiative”?
6. What takes priority: the client or the paperwork?
7. What is the Midwife’s role in the community?
8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time, or post registration?
9. What Midwifery articles have you read? What are your views on these?
10. “Maternity Matters” (2007) is a very important document. How realistic do you think it’s expectations are?

Finance

Midwifery Students now have to pay tuition fees just like any other student - and take out maintenance loans to fund their way through university. NHS Bursaries were removed by the government for 2017 entry onwards

Related Careers

Ambulance paramedic, Care Assistant, Childminder, Dental Nurse, Family Support Worker, Health Visitor, Operating Department Practitioner, Physiotherapist, Play Therapist, Social Worker, Speech Therapist.

Relevant websites to use for researching the job role

NHS Careers - www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

Nursing and Midwifery Council: www.nmc-uk.org

Royal College of Midwives: www.rcm.org.uk



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