

UHI Pre-Registration Shortened Midwifery (PG Diploma) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Is the Programme Approved?

Yes.

When does the Programme start?

The Programme is scheduled to start on 6th January 2020.

How long is the Programme?

This is the second intake for the programme, starting in January 2020 and running for 20 months.

Do I apply through UCAS?

No. Please apply directly to the University of the Highland and Islands (UHI) through the midwifery application link. Applications are now open:

<https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/pgdip-pre-registration-shortened-midwifery-programme/>

Do I have to pay for this Programme?

For those eligible, fees are paid by the Scottish Government.

There will be a total of 12 supported places for Registered Nurses employed by NHS Western Isles (2 places) and NHS Highland (10 places).

Please also note, the Scottish Government have advised that:

On the completion of the programme, the student must take up and remain in a midwifery post, if an appropriate post is available and offered by NHS Highland or NHS Western Isles, for a minimum of a year. Otherwise you will be required to repay the tuition fees.

I am employed by NHS Highland. Who can I contact to find out more about the funding available to existing staff?

Please contact Gaye Boyd gaye.boyd@nhs.net

I am employed by NHS Western Isles? Who can I contact to find out more about the funding available to existing staff?

Please contact Catherine MacDonald, Head of Midwifery catherinemacdonald1@nhs.net

What are the entry requirements?

- You must be a registered Adult Nurse and be live on NMC Register at the commencement of the Programme.
- You are not required to meet revalidation requirements during the Programme but **we strongly advise** all Registered Nurses to ensure they have met the revalidation requirements prior to commencing the Programme.
- Hours in practice undertaken as a student midwife cannot be used for revalidation as a Registered Nurse – see <https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/revalidation/practice-hours-guidance-sheet.pdf>

- If you are supported by NHS to undertake the Programme, a condition of your employment contract may be that you maintain your registration. This a matter for you and your employer, NOT the University.
- You must hold a first degree (or equivalent).
- All successful applicants are subject to a Disclosure Scotland (PVG) check and must be passed fit by Occupational Health.

I am not employed as an RN by NHH or NHSWI, am I eligible for the Programme?

No.

I don't have a degree, am I eligible?

The Postgraduate Diploma includes six modules, five of which are assessed at masters level SCQF level 11. Some experienced practitioners will be working at this level in practice. We will consider applications from experienced RNs who have not attained a degree.

Does the award of degree (merit or distinction) affect whether I am eligible for the Programme?

No.

Where are the placements?

It is anticipated placements will be in NHS Highland, NHS Western Isles, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland and NHS Grampian. In order to be considered for the Programme and develop the competencies required for registration with the NMC, all students are required to sign an agreement prior to commencing the Programme that they will undertake placements anywhere in these Health Board areas.

Do I have to attend all placement areas?

Yes. This a prerequisite when accepting a place on the Programme.

Do I have a choice in placements?

Midwifery students from the University of the Highlands and Islands, University of the West of Scotland and Robert Gordon University are placed in the North of Scotland. Placements are dependent upon availability of experience in order to meet the NMC requirements and the numbers of students that placements can support, therefore there are no choices.

Placements may also be subject to change, for example as a result of NHS structural and policy changes beyond the control of the University.

Is there a 3 year direct entry Programme at UHI?

Currently, UHI provide the Shortened Programme.

As a LD/RMN/RSC nurse am I eligible?

No. The Nursing and Midwifery Council state that only registered adult nurses are eligible to undertake the Shortened Midwifery Programme (no mental health or learning disability nurses).

Currently, advanced standing is where a student enters a pre-registration programme as a result of prior registration with the NMC, thus being able to undertake a shortened programme. This standard complies with Directive 2005/36/EC Article 40 (1)(b) where applicants are entitled to undertake a shortened programme by virtue of previous registration as a nurse level 1 (adult) with the NMC. Applicants who are registered with the

NMC as a nurse level 1 in other branches of nursing (mental health, learning disabilities or children) are not entitled to undertake a shortened midwifery programme.

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/standards/nmc-standards-for-preregistration-midwifery-education.pdf>

What is the structure of the Programme?

The Programme is 86 weeks in length with 11 weeks annual leave. There are three semesters, each divided into theory and practice 'blocks'.

Can I study from my home?

50% of the theory content is online, therefore it is possible for some of your theoretical learning to be at home. As part of this you will be interacting with your cohort from your home or you may choose to use a UHI campus. Some content you will review prior to coming onto campus to enhance your learning and to undertake face-to-face activities including clinical skills, simulation and assessment.

Can I study from a UHI campus?

Yes. Campuses are situated across the Highlands and Islands. A proportion of theory is taught face-to-face at the Centre for Health Science in Inverness. Attendance at these sessions is a Programme requirement.

What is the selection process?

In line with the NMC (2009) *Standards for pre-registration midwifery education*, this process begins with a review of your application form including, for example, your attainments, references and supporting statements. We will then invite applicants to an applicant's day where you will be required to attend an interview and give a presentation. The interview panel will include service users, plus University and NHS representatives.

Shortlisting will begin in August and applicants will be invited for interview in early September 2019.

What's the opening date for applications?

Applications are open: <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/pgdip-pre-registration-shortened-midwifery-programme/> for the January 2020 Programme. Interviews will begin in early September 2019.

When will interviews take place?

Interviews will begin in September 2019.

What's the closing date for applications?

It is likely to be in August 2019, although as yet there is no fixed date.

<https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/studying-at-uhi/nursing/>

How will I study the Programme?

In line with the NMC (2009) *Standards for pre-registration midwifery education*, this is a full-time Programme:

- 40% theory component, which is arranged in blocks of attendance

- 60% clinical practice placements provided by NHS Highland and NHS Western Isles in urban, remote and rural, island practice areas

Can I undertake other work while I am on the Programme?

The Shortened Midwifery Programme is a full-time Programme. Undertaking other work while on the Programme may jeopardise your progress on the Programme.

How many weeks must I work on the Programme?

This is a full-time Programme which is 86 weeks in length with 11 weeks annual leave. You are expected to work full-time on the Programme.

Where will I study?

Department of Nursing and Midwifery, University of the Highlands and Islands
Centre for Health Science
Inverness
IV2 3JH

How much does it cost?

For those who are eligible, the Scottish Government will fund tuition fees for all students.

The Government will co-fund with the health boards the salary costs of existing employees to enable them to undertake the Programme.

How many places are there?

There will be a total of 12 supported places for Registered Nurses employed by NHS Western Isles (2 places) and NHS Highland (10 places).

Please also note, the Scottish Government have advised that:

On the completion of the programme, the student must take up and remain in a midwifery post, if an appropriate post is available and offered by NHS Highland or NHS Western Isles, for a minimum of a year. Otherwise you will be required to repay the tuition fees.

What are the job prospects for newly qualified midwives in the north of Scotland?

Health Boards anticipate there being job opportunities for those completing the Programme.

What if I have another question about the Programme?

Please submit this to the [enquiry](#) link and we will endeavour to answer your query as soon as possible.

Do I have to pay two registration fees as a RN and a RM?

No.

I am a member of the RCN would this be sufficient union representation or would I require separate union membership?

The Royal College of Nursing represent nurses and midwives. The Royal College of Midwives is a professional association and trade union dedicated to serving midwifery.