

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

Is the Programme Approved?

The Programme is subject to approval of the Nursing and Midwifery Council in the Autumn of 2018.

When does the Programme start?

Subject to approval of the Nursing and Midwifery Council the Programme is scheduled to start on 7th January 2019.

How long is the Programme?

The first intake for the programme will start in January 2019 and run for 20 months.

Do I apply through UCAS?

No. Apply directly to the UHI through the MIDWIFERY application link which will be available in August on the Department's web site URL <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/studying-at-uhi/nursing/>

When can I apply?

You may apply from August 2018. 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 and you may be in receipt of a bursary or a supported place from your Health Board.

See SAAS <http://saas.gov.uk/>.

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, and repay support received from the Nursing and Midwifery Student Bursary scheme, including allowances, received over the course of the programme.

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

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?

Contact Catherine MacDonald catherinemacdonald1@nhs.net

What are the entry requirements?

- You must be a registered Adult Nurse, 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 no longer on the Register /have not worked for a number of years as a Registered Nurse am I eligible for the Programme?

No. You must be a Registered Adult Nurse.

I qualify as a nurse in September 2018 am I eligible?

Yes. It's important that you have some experience as a RN before joining the Programme. We do not specify the duration of this experience.

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?

Placements are in NHS Highland, NHS Western Isles. 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 NHS Highlands and NHS Western Isles. A half of all will take place in Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.

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?

We anticipate you will have a schedule of all placements when you start the Programme. There may be an *element* of choice. Placements are dependent upon availability of experience in order to meet the NMC requirements and the numbers of students that placements can support.

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 as part of a Scottish Government PILOT, UHI are providing 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). This may change when new standards come into force in September 2020.

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?

Yes. We anticipate 50% of the theory content being online. As part of this you will be interacting with your cohort from your home, or you may choose to use a UHI campus in the Highlands and Western Isles. 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, enquiry based learning and assessment.

Can I study from a UHI campus?

Yes. They are situated across the Highlands and Islands.

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, University and NHS representatives.

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 2019 Programme. Interviews will begin in October 2018.

When will interviews take place?

Interviews will begin in October 2018.

What's the closing date for applications?

We have not yet set a closing date for applications.

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

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 a weeks must I work on the Programme?

This is a full time Programme. You are expected to work full time on the Programme ie 37 ½ hrs /week.

Where will I study?

Department of Nursing, University of 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 and provide bursary support to those currently not supported by NHS Highland/Western Isles of approximately £6,500 per student/year.

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?

Starting in January 2019, the Pre-Registration Shortened Midwifery (PG Diploma) will have 20 places.

What are the job prospects for newly qualified midwives in NHS Highland and Western Isles?

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.