

# MIDWIFERY

A career that is rewarding, challenging and gives  
great job satisfaction

Be part of  
Northern Ireland's  
Health and Social Care Service



# What is midwifery?

Midwifery offers a career that works in partnership with women to advise, guide and support them through their personal choices about their pregnancy and the birth of their babies.

If you are interested in a challenging and rewarding career and you have excellent communication and problem-solving skills, then midwifery is for you.

## Where do midwives work?

Midwives work in a variety of settings from the community, where they deliver care at home to women and their babies or they can deliver care to women in their GP clinics. However the majority of midwives work in a hospital setting providing advice and support to women in antenatal clinics through to labour ward settings and postnatal wards.

Midwives can also choose to work in education or research. With so much variety for you to choose from, you will certainly find a role in midwifery that is for you.

## Why choose midwifery?

A career in midwifery will offer you a wealth of opportunities to develop your skills, knowledge and expertise. It gives you the opportunity to work in partnership with women to advise, guide and support them through pregnancy, birth and to assist them in developing their parenting skills.

## Why women need midwives

All women who are pregnant will need the care of a midwife during their pregnancy, at the delivery of their babies and in the period after birth. However, not all women will need the care of a doctor.

"Midwifery is a challenging career; it is the best job in the world to be working with women and their babies"

"I wanted a career that really made a difference. No-one was more surprised than I was that midwifery ticked all the boxes."

"My midwife was wonderful, she was caring and kind and supported me through my pregnancy and at the birth of my baby"

# What do midwives do?

Midwives are experts in normal birth. They are able to confirm if a woman is pregnant and they will continue to care for her during the nine months of pregnancy, during labour and the delivery of her baby as well as in the postnatal period.

The midwifery environment is busy, fast-changing and demanding, so you need to:

- have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to empathise with the woman and her partner in a gentle and supportive way
- be able to act on your own initiative, good at problem solving and flexible in your practice
- be emotionally strong with a caring and compassionate approach
- have a commitment to continued learning throughout your career.

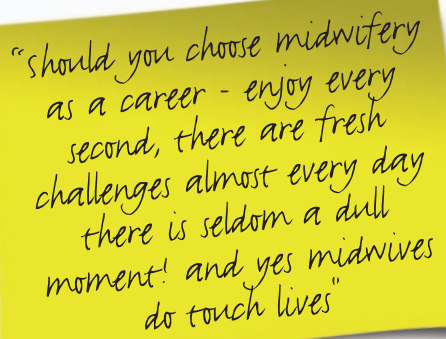
## Career Opportunities

Once qualified as a midwife you will have a starting salary of over £20,000. Many midwives stay in clinical practice, although there are many opportunities to develop your career in different ways.

Here are just a few examples. You can:

- stay in clinical practice and work as a member of the midwifery team
- lead and manage a team as a midwifery sister or Lead Midwife or Head of Midwifery services
- work as a lecturer, or researcher in one of the university settings
- work as a midwifery advisor in the Department of Health or in one of the other Health and Social Care organisations
- work as a consultant midwife
- become self-employed and provide midwifery services.

For further information about a career in midwifery, visit [www.midwiferycareersni.com](http://www.midwiferycareersni.com)



"Should you choose midwifery as a career - enjoy every second, there are fresh challenges almost every day there is seldom a dull moment! and yes midwives do touch lives"

# How do I become a midwife?

Queen's University, Belfast (QUB) School of Nursing and Midwifery offers:

**BSc (Hons) in Midwifery Sciences** a 3 year direct entrance course  
and

**BSc (Hons) in Midwifery Studies** an 18 month course for Registered Adult Nurses

Visit the university's website for information about the midwifery programmes and how to apply.

## General entrance criteria

The Nursing and Midwifery Council is the organisation that registers all midwives working in the United Kingdom. It has set a minimum standard for entry which requires applicants to provide universities with evidence of literacy and numeracy, that includes prior achievement of basic skills sufficient to undertake a pre-registration midwifery programme of education to a satisfactory level of attainment.

## How to apply

For further information on how to apply and current entrance requirements contact:

School of Nursing and Midwifery,  
Queen's University Belfast  
Medical Biology Centre  
97 Lisburn Road  
Belfast, BT9 7BL  
Tel: 028 90975714 or 028 90972233  
Visit: [www.qub.ac.uk/mid](http://www.qub.ac.uk/mid)

