

Programme Specification

Award and title: BSc (Hons) Midwifery

<i>School:</i>	Health Sciences
<i>Subject area:</i>	Nursing and Medical Science
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2027-28
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC)
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Applied Health Sciences Diploma of Higher Education Applied Health Sciences BSc (Ord) Applied Health Sciences BSc (Hons) Applied Health Sciences
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	B720
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	N/A
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	NMC Standards for pre-registration midwifery programmes (2024)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	3 years full time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

Introduction and special features

Midwives have the unique and privileged position of being part of one of the most life changing moments in a family's life. A midwifery career offers a varied range of future job opportunities where no two days are the same!

In this dynamic and exhilarating programme, we will nurture your passion for maternity care. Here, you will discover the artistry and science of midwifery practice. Successful completion of our Midwifery programme at York St John University leads to professional registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and will equip you with the proficiency to undertake the Neonatal and Infant Physical Examination (NIPE).

Our programme is not just about acquiring professional expertise; it is also about embracing personal growth and development—developing reflective and leadership qualities that will help you navigate the holistic nature of contemporary maternity care.

As you immerse yourself in our comprehensive curriculum, you will not only gain a profound understanding of anatomy, physiology and pharmacology but also cultivate essential teamwork, communication, listening, decision-making and leadership skills-essential for success as a member of the future midwifery workforce.

Our small cohort size means you will be in a nurturing and safe environment, offering you a personalised and supportive learning experience which values you as an individual.

So, if you are ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that maternity care has to offer and make a tangible positive impact on the lives of women, birthing people and their families then a very warm welcome to our supportive and contemporary midwifery programme here at York St John University.

Special features

Our programme is externally accredited by the professional body, Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) meaning that on successful completion of the programme you will be able to apply to the NMC to be a registered midwife

50% of the programme is in clinical placement, meaning you get to interact with the maternity workforce along with developing your clinical proficiencies and preparation for future employment. Clinical placements will be in blocks, giving you the opportunity to fully immerse yourself in the reality of midwifery practice yet also enable you to gain the balance of University life while not in placement.

The small cohort size of around 20 is a unique feature of the programme meaning you gain a personalised learning experience where you are encouraged to build relationships with your fellow peers and lecturers and are valued as an individual.

There is a strong commitment to social justice, sustainability, and enhancing cultural intelligence by encouraging you to be aware of and address social, economic and health inequalities in maternity care.

Being within an environment that offers several healthcare programmes promotes and offers you the opportunity for interprofessional learning. By integrating interprofessional learning with problem solving you will develop respect and insight into the multi-professional team and be encouraged to make a unique contribution to individualised care planning.

Admissions criteria

At York St John University we encourage applications from people with a variety of backgrounds and experience. As such, the admissions criteria can be complicated to navigate, and we encourage you to contact University staff to discuss your specific situation and what evidence you may need to provide.

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you must have:

- 120 UCAS points (including a science related subject)
- 5 GCSE's level 4/C (including Maths, English & Science/Dual Science)

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>). You must be able to communicate in English to the standard equivalent to level 7 of the International English Language Testing System, with no element below 6.5.

Due to PSRB requirements recognition of prior learning is not permitted for pre-registration midwifery programmes.

Additional notes for admission to the programme:

Disclosure of criminal background:

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 does not apply and all cautions and convictions, including those which are spent, must be disclosed. This is in accordance with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975. If you are offered a place, you must undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and will be required to complete a disclosure application form. All information will be treated in confidence and only considered when necessary.

Health assessment, declaration, and vaccinations:

You must be in good health and up to date with your routine immunisations; tetanus, diphtheria, polio, MMR, and hepatitis B. Additionally, we recommend that you have a COVID-19, seasonal flu and the whooping cough (within the last 5 years) vaccination. If you are offered a place, you will be required to complete a questionnaire and must be prepared to undergo a medical examination. You will also be required to confirm your status in respect of several infectious diseases and immunisations and be prepared to have all required vaccinations. If your vaccinations are not up to date this may affect your ability to continue your course. If you have any concerns with regards to vaccinations, please raise this at the point of application.

Moving & handling:

As a requirement for practice education, you will be trained in moving and handling techniques before being allowed into practice at the beginning of the programme. If you are unable to successfully complete this short course, provided at the start of the programme and updated periodically throughout, you will be asked to attend a fitness to practice meeting where your ability to continue on the programme will be determined.

Programme aim(s)

The overall aim of the programme is to produce graduates who are able to excel within the context of Midwifery Practice and who have the knowledge, confidence, compassion and professionalism to contribute to the future developments of the profession:

- To provide an inclusive, intellectually stimulating and contemporary programme of study in Midwifery for all students from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds.
- To promote students to care for all women, birthing people and their babies in a compassionate, holistic and respectful manner; listening and working in partnership with the client and the multi-professional team.
- To enable the student to develop into a confident, professional and proficient midwife capable of adapting to the demands of a contemporary maternity service.
- To foster self-awareness, curiosity, reflection and emotional intelligence as a basis for ongoing professional development.
- To enable students to be eligible to register as a midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 4

4.1 Describe the physical, emotional, spiritual and environmental changes to the woman/birthing person receiving universal midwifery care within the antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal period.

4.2 Describe the physical, emotional and environmental changes to the fetus and newborn infant receiving universal midwifery care

4.3 Recognise the professional, legal, ethical and communication issues and their impact on safe, compassionate, person-centred midwifery practice in accordance with the Nursing and Midwifery Council requirements.

4.4 Seek and find appropriate evidence to inform the safe midwifery care of women, birthing people and newborn infants, applying systematic approaches to searching the professional databases.

4.5 Demonstrate and contribute (under direct supervision) safe universal care for women, birthing people and newborn infants

Level 5

5.1 Evaluate the physical, emotional, spiritual and environmental complexities that women/birthing people requiring additional care may experience within the antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal period.

5.2 Evaluate the physical, emotional and environmental complexities the fetus and newborn infant receiving additional midwifery care may experience.

5.3 Reflect on practice and demonstrate professional conduct, behaviour and communication in accordance with Nursing and Midwifery Council requirements.

5.4 Appraise appropriate evidence from professional sources, comparing literature from different perspectives to inform clinical decisions.

5.5 Plan and deliver (under supervision) safe, compassionate, individualised care of women, birthing people and newborn infants across the midwifery continuum

Level 6

6.1 Plan, lead and evaluate evidence-based midwifery care for all women, birthing people and newborn infants, including those requiring emergency maternity interventions in partnership with the multidisciplinary team.

6.2 Critically reflect on practice, modifying personal practice and demonstrating professional conduct and communication in accordance with Nursing and Midwifery Council requirements.

6.3 Contribute to the body of evidence-based literature for the safe, compassionate and person-centred care of women, birthing people and newborn infants and to support service improvements within maternity care.

6.4 Demonstrate leadership and self-care qualities.

6.5 Demonstrate Proficiency in providing clinical midwifery care to all women, birthing people and newborn infants.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
MID4001M	4	1	Universal Antenatal Midwifery Practice	20	C	NC
MID4002M	4	1 & 2	Universal Intrapartum Midwifery Practice	20	C	NC
MID4003M	4	2 & 3	Universal Postnatal Midwifery Practice	20	C	NC
MID4004M	4	1, 2 & 3	Foundations in Professional Midwifery Practice	20	C	NC
MID4005P	4	1, 2 & 3	Midwifery Practice Placement 1 (pass/fail)	40	C	NC
MID5001M	5	1	Public Health, Inequalities and Social Justice in Maternity Care	20	C	NC
MID5002M	5	1 & 2	Additional Care in Maternity Practice	20	C	NC
MID5003M	5	2 & 3	Legal, Ethical and Evidence Based Care in Maternity Services	20	C	NC
MID5004M	5	1, 2 & 3	Developing Professional Midwifery Practice	20	C	NC
MID5005P	5	1, 2 & 3	Midwifery Practice Placement 2 (pass/fail)	40	C	NC
MID6001M	6	1	Obstetric Emergencies (and high dependency midwifery care)	20	C	NC
MID6002M	6	1 & 2	Midwife as a Scholar	40	C	NC
MID6003M	6	1, 2 & 3	Professional Midwifery Practice	20	C	NC
MID6004P	6	1, 2 & 3	Midwifery Practice Placement 3 (pass/fail)	40	C	NC
MID6005M	6	1, 2 & 3	Transition to Registration (pass/fail)	0	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40).

Learning, teaching and assessment

Our approach to learning and teaching provides a blend of theoretical and practical learning opportunities that enable you to develop your clinical midwifery knowledge and interpersonal skills.

A blend of lectures will deliver the theoretical underpinnings of midwifery practices. Seminars will prompt your deeper learning through interactive discussions, debate, critical analysis, and collaborative problem-solving. The inclusion of practice partners along with experts by experience will enhance your understanding of real-world lived experiences and perspectives. Virtual learning environments are used to develop your drug calculations and medicines administration skills electronically, with the online portfolio available to track your own personal learning and development.

Hands-on immersive simulations and workshops are an exciting and integral part of this programme. You will engage in realistic midwifery scenarios, applying theoretical knowledge in safe, controlled environments that will encourage deeper learning and develop further self-confidence.

With the full support of the highly skilled midwifery learning team, you will work collaboratively in a small group with other students, building supportive relationships, reflecting on your experiences, and coaching each other to achieve your full potential. The midwifery staff at YSJ will be there for you through any difficult times and also there cheerleading and celebrating your successes. Throughout the programme you will refine your leadership and supervision skills in preparation for being a registered midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

A variety of authentic assessment methods such as written assignments, OSCEs, exams, and verbal presentations will develop your academic, care planning, and research skills. An electronic midwifery ongoing record of achievement (eMORA) will evidence your development of the required midwifery proficiencies over the course of the programme, in line with the Nursing and Midwifery Council's standards for student supervision and assessment.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations](#) for undergraduate awards applies to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

- Students must pass all level 4 modules and complete a declaration of Good Health and Good Character before progressing to level 5 study.
- Students must pass all level 5 modules and complete a declaration of Good Health and Good Character before progressing to level 6 study.
- Students must pass all level 6 modules, complete a programme of 4,600 hours of study which includes a minimum of 2,300 hours of professional practice. Students must meet the requirements set out in NMC Part 3 Standards for Pre-registration midwifery programmes. Students must complete a declaration of Good Health and Good Character before progressing to the Award of BSc (Hons) Midwifery. Students must apply to register with the NMC within 5 years of completion of the programme if they wish to rely on this qualification.
- Students who fail a level 4 placement must redeem this before progressing to level 5 of the programme via an allocated period of time before the start of level 5.
- Students who fail a level 5 placement must redeem this before progressing to level 6 of the programme via an allocated period of time before the start of level 6.
- Students will only be able to fail and redeem one practice placement. Subsequent failure of another practice placement will result in discontinuation of the student's enrolment on the programme.
- This programme does not permit the option to study part time to redeem progression failure in Level 4 and 5 due to a PSRB requirement.

BSc (Hons) Midwifery	Successful completion of • a programme of 4,600 hours of study which includes a minimum of 2,300 hours of clinical learning • all three academic levels gaining a total of 360 module credits including a pass for all practice placements • a Sufficient Health and Character declaration. • Only this award carries eligibility for registration with the NMC. • Students must apply to register with the NMC within 5 years of completion of the programme if they wish to rely on this qualification.
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BSc (Hons) Applied Health Sciences	• a programme of 4,600 hours of study which includes a minimum of 2,300 hours of clinical learning • all three academic levels gaining a total of 360 module credits including a pass for all practice placements • This will not enable eligibility to apply for registration with the NMC and consequently to practise as a registered midwife.
BSc (Ord) Applied Health Sciences	For those who have not met the credit requirements for the BSc (Hons) Midwifery but have achieved the regulatory credit requirements for the award of a degree of BSc (Ord) Applied Health Sciences will be given. This will not enable eligibility to apply for registration with the NMC and consequently to practise as a registered Midwife.
Aegrotat awards	If a student is offered an aegrotat award as per university regulations, this does not confer eligibility to apply for admission to the NMC Register.

Late result modules

This programme contains the following modules, where the result of the first attempt is not known in time for the June School Assessment Boards (or equivalent level progression point for non-standard entry points). This may delay progression to the next level of study.

- MID4003M Universal Postnatal Midwifery Practice
- MID4004M Foundations in Professional Midwifery Practice
- MID4005P Midwifery Practice Placement 1
- MID5003M Additional Care in Midwifery Practice
- MID5004M Developing Professional Midwifery Practice
- MID5005P Midwifery Practice Placement 2
- MID6003M Professional Midwifery Practice
- MID6004P Midwifery Practice Placement 3
- MID6005M Transition to Registration

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Code of Practice](#)
- [The University's Approach to Dignity and Respect](#)

Date written / revised: November 2024

Programme originally approved: 22 and 23 May 2025 (University approval); 19 November 2025 (NMC approval)