

Becoming a midwife in the UK

Information about training required to become a registered midwife

All midwives working in the UK must be registered with the NMC, and before registration is accepted must have successfully completed an approved midwifery programme of education. They must also meet the NMC requirements of good health and good character.

Education and training

In the UK midwifery education and training programmes are only run at NMC-approved educational institutions. Courses usually take a minimum of three years, unless you are already registered with the NMC as a level 1 (adult) nurse, in which case the training can be reduced to 18 months.

Midwifery training takes place at a university, with at least half of the programme based in clinical practice with direct contact with women, their babies and families. This can include the home, community and hospitals, and in other maternity services such as midwife-led units and birth centres.

Methods

During the programme, students are taught to understand, promote and facilitate normal childbirth and to identify complications that may arise in women and babies. They are taught when to call for assistance and implement emergency measures, often in conjunction with other health professionals.

Promoting health and wellbeing is an important role for midwives. Students learn how to provide unbiased information and communicate effectively with a range of women and their families.

Where to find training programmes

Further details about the training programmes and the work midwives do, can be

obtained from the **NHS Careers website**.

For a list of universities approved by the NMC to provide pre-registration midwifery programmes please **search NMC approved programmes**.

Student applications are processed by the **Universities & College Admissions Service (UCAS)**.

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