

Midwifery - A new look at midwifery – what the profession is really like: its challenges, rewards and opportunities

Aims of this Presentation

- Explore what midwifery is with its challenges, rewards and opportunities
- Inform you of what Middlesex University offers in high quality training and education.
- Identify some of the challenges for students.
- Discuss what it takes to secure a place on a midwifery programme – what are we looking for

What is so good about midwifery?

- Caring for women and their families during pregnancy and childbirth
- Working with others to ensure excellent care for women during pregnancy, labour, & beyond



Challenges

- Changing population with complex needs
- Home/ work life balance
- Managing high expectations
- Dealing with difficult situations
- Promoting normality where there is risk
- New ways of working
- New technology
- Extended roles

Rewards

- Standard working week of 37.5 hours
- Holiday entitlements of 27 days per year, plus eight general and public holidays, rising to 33 days after ten years' service
- Pay enhancements to reward out of hours, shifts and overtime working
- Better career and pay progression based on the application of knowledge and skills
- Annual personal development review to support career aspirations.
- Local incentive schemes

- Diverse role
- Working with families
- Supporting women to become mothers
- Making a difference

What are the opportunities in Midwifery?

Midwifery/ Clinical research work

Midwifery Management

Supervision

Midwifery education

Working in hospital or community (or both)



Practice Development

Consultant Midwives

Specialist midwives e.g. high risk care, young people, vulnerable adults

Overseas travel

Three Year Midwifery Programme

- Year 1 – focus on study skills and on normal midwifery
 - Year 2 – focus is on concepts of ill health and how this affects pregnancy (work in areas outside of midwifery)
 - Year 3 – focus is on dealing with emergencies and deviations from normal
- Finish with a 12 week period of consolidation of normal midwifery practice

Clinical Placements with Partner Trusts



Whittington Health



Barnet/Chase Farm



North Middlesex



Royal Free



Whipps Cross

Practice Placements

- Practice placements arranged to ensure varied clinical experience
- Allocated to work alongside qualified midwives and other health care practitioners
- Expect to be delivering care to women and infants from the outset
- Willingness to give care across a variety of ward areas and to a variety of patients, not just within the maternity unit



Practice Placements

- A range of shifts, including early, late, long days, weekends, bank holidays and nights. At times, required to do on-call rotas
- Work in a variety of locations across North London
- Will not all be in the 'named Trust'
- Involved in providing personal care to patients (male and female)
- Required to adhere to the full uniform policy and working hours of local Trusts when on practice placements

Opportunities at Middlesex

- **Caseloading**

- Opportunity for students to carry a small caseload of women
- Gain experience in providing care throughout the entire childbirth period
- Gain knowledge of the woman's 'journey'
- Develop skills in decision making
- Understand the true meaning of the term 'midwife'

Light bulb moments

- ‘It isn’t about us, it’s all about them’
 - A second year student who had just heard first hand from bereaved parents

- ‘I realised that I was focusing so much on observing what my midwife was doing that I wasn’t interacting with the woman’
 - A first year student who reflected on their very first day in practice

Quotes

- ‘I was thoroughly impressed when 3 students came to our team meeting to feedback their dissertation work. All very interesting subjects and relevant to current practice. Also they all communicated very well and handled all our questions’.
 - Head of Midwifery in a partner Trust
- ‘Student A made a significant and wholly positive impact on our experience of pregnancy and birth.’
 - A new mother who had been cared for by a student as part of a caseload

Challenges for students

- Work/ study/ family life balance
- Time management
- Self managed learning
- Providing a 24/7 service
- Clinical Situations
- London transport
- Asking for help

What we want – Professional Attributes

- Ability to communicate
- Able to maintain confidentiality
- Punctuality
- Reliability
- Flexibility
- Adaptability
- Professionalism
- Resourcefulness

Expectations– NHS values

- Ability to put women and their families first
- Respect others and themselves
- Respect for dignity
- Strive to be the best and promote quality and efficiency
- Act as an advocate for the woman and baby
- Take pride in their midwifery care
- Act with integrity and demonstrate the ability to meet the Essential skills of–
Care, Compassion and Communication

What do we mean by Degree Level?

Students on degree programme need to develop and demonstrate skills in:

- Critical analysis
- Decision making
- Leadership and management
- Clinical judgement



Finally.....

- We're looking for individuals who are as individual as the women, babies and families they are caring for
- Really want to be here.....
- Will consider the needs of women and their families above all else.....
- Are flexible, approachable and adaptable.....

