

# Midwife

Midwives provide care and support to women and their families while pregnant, throughout labour and during the period after a baby's birth.

## Working life

You'll mainly deal with pregnant women requiring professional support and advice. You are likely to be the lead health professional and contact for a woman, providing evidence-based information and helping her make informed choices about the options and services available throughout her pregnancy.



You'll be the expert on childbirth and your responsibilities are likely to be diverse. You'll provide:

- provide full antenatal care, including parenting classes, clinical examinations and screening
- identify high-risk pregnancies
- monitor women and support them during labour and the birthing process
- teach new and expectant mothers how to feed, care for and bathe their babies

You could be working with women from a variety of backgrounds and you will need to be confident enough to communicate with different people. Some women and their families might be homeless, socially excluded, have disabilities or be very young. Other clients may be from certain cultural or religious backgrounds.

All women will need you to understand the emotional, physical and psychological processes of pregnancy and birth. Sometimes pregnancies do not go to plan and you will need to offer support and advice on stillbirth, miscarriage, termination, [neonatal](#) <sup>[1]</sup> death and [neonatal](#) <sup>[1]</sup> abnormalities.

If you are working as a community midwife, you are likely to develop good professional relationships with your families, which can make counselling easier at difficult times.

## Eleri Bates

### Midwife

Experiencing the birth of a baby as part of your day job is incredible.

[Read Eleri's story](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

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## Entry requirements

To become a midwife you'll need to train and study for an undergraduate degree or postgraduate degree or diploma, or secure a place on a midwifery degree apprenticeship. Entry requirements vary depending on where you'd like to study or work. However, they usually look for a minimum of:

- five GCSEs at grade 9-4/C or above - typically including English language or literature and a science subject
- and either two or three A-levels or equivalent qualifications such as GNVQ advanced level or NVQ level 3

A degree standard apprenticeship in midwifery is also available. To get onto a degree apprenticeship, you will need to apply for an apprentice position with a healthcare provider.

Apprenticeships logo

## Must have skills

Don't forget - academic qualifications aren't everything. Excellent communication and people skills are crucial as you'll need to answer questions and offer advice. You must be happy to work as part of a team and be able to deal with emotionally charged situations. You'll need to also have an interest in the physical, psychological and process of pregnancy and birth

## Annual payments

If you're eligible, you'll be entitled to receive at least £5,000 a year towards your studies while at university. Your personal circumstances may mean you could receive more. And the good news? You'll never have to pay it back. [Find out more.](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

## Pay and benefits

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours on shift pattern which can include nights, early starts, evenings, weekends and bank holidays. As a midwife, you'll be paid on the [Agenda for Change \(AFC\) pay system](#) <sup>[4]</sup>, typically starting at band 5. There are opportunities to progress to positions at band 6 as a team manager and to midwife consultant at bands 8b-8c.

Midwifery services are increasingly moving from hospitals to the community.

You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

## Where will I work?

Midwifery services are increasingly moving from hospitals to the community, so where you work could reflect this. Antenatal care in the community is provided in women's homes, local clinics, children's centres and GP surgeries. It can also be provided in hospitals where you may work in triage and assessment areas, high and low risk labour, postnatal wards and neonatal <sup>[1]</sup> units. Care during labour is provided in a mother's home, as well as midwifery led maternity units.

You'll work with a range of other professionals including gynaecologists, GPs, health visitors, neonatal nurses and maternity support workers.

## Training and career development

You'll need to be committed to learning and always keeping their skills and knowledge up to date. Once you have qualified as a midwife, there are a wide range of opportunities. You may want to undertake further training and become a health visitor or move into management, teaching or clinical research.

### • Find your course to become a midwife

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- Any - ▼	- Any - ▼	Search ▼

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## Midwifery - Pre-Registration

Oxford Brookes University

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- Qualification
  - MSc
- Study mode
  - Full-time
- Duration of the course
  - 3 Years
- Leading to a career in
  - Midwifery

- Contact details  
[midwifery@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:midwifery@brookes.ac.uk) <sup>[6]</sup>  
 01865 482585
- Region  
 South East  
 Admissions address  
 Jack Straws Lane  
 Marston  
 Oxford  
 OX3 0FL  
 England

## Midwifery

Edinburgh Napier University

[View course](#) <sup>[7]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification  
 MM  
 Study mode  
 Full-time  
 Duration of the course  
 3 years  
 Leading to a career in  
 Midwifery
- Contact details  
[studentrecruitment@napier.ac.uk](mailto:studentrecruitment@napier.ac.uk) <sup>[8]</sup>  
 +44 (0)333 900 6040
- Region  
 Scotland  
 Admissions address  
 Sighthill Campus  
 Sighthill Court  
 Edinburgh  
 EH11 4BN

## Midwifery (pre-registration)

University of Hertfordshire

[View course](#) <sup>[9]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Study mode  
 Full-time  
 Duration of the course  
 18 months  
 Leading to a career in  
 Midwifery
- Contact details  
[ask@herts.ac.uk](mailto:ask@herts.ac.uk) <sup>[10]</sup>

+44 (0)1707 284000

- Region  
London
- Admissions address  
University of Hertfordshire  
Hatfield  
Hertfordshire  
AL10 9AB  
UK

## Midwifery

London South Bank University

[View course](#) <sup>[11]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification  
BSc (Hons)
- Study mode  
Full-time
- Duration of the course  
2 years
- Leading to a career in  
Midwifery
- Contact details  
[course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk) <sup>[12]</sup>  
0207 8157500
- Region  
London

## Midwifery

University of Bedfordshire

[View course](#) <sup>[13]</sup> Opens in a new window

- Qualification  
BSc (Hons)
- Study mode  
Full-time
- Duration of the course  
2 years
- Leading to a career in  
Midwifery
- Contact details  
[study@beds.ac.uk](mailto:study@beds.ac.uk) <sup>[14]</sup>  
0300 3300 703
- Region  
East of England
- Admissions address

University of Bedfordshire  
University Square  
Luton, LU1 3JU  
United Kingdom

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- [Health visitor](#) [18]
- [Neonatal nurse](#) [19]

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#### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Neonatal> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/midwifery/roles-midwifery/midwife/real-life-story-elieri-bates> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/considering-or-university/financial-support-university> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates/agenda-change-pay-rates> [5] <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/midwifery-pre-registration/> [6] <mailto:midwifery@brookes.ac.uk> [7] <https://www.napier.ac.uk/courses/mm-masters-of-midwifery-postgraduate-fulltime> [8] <mailto:studentrecruitment@napier.ac.uk> [9] <https://www.herts.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-masters/master-of-midwifery-pre-registration,-shortened> [10] <mailto:ask@herts.ac.uk> [11] <https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/study/course-finder/pg-diploma-midwifery> [12] <mailto:course.enquiry@lsbu.ac.uk> [13] <https://www.beds.ac.uk/howtoapply/courses/postgraduate/next-year/midwifery/> [14] <mailto:study@beds.ac.uk> [15] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/198?field\\_field\\_role=492&destination=/my-account/my-bookmarks/697&page=16](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/198?field_field_role=492&destination=/my-account/my-bookmarks/697&page=16) [16] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/maternity-support-worker> [17] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/obstetrics-and-gynaecology> [18] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor> [19]

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