

Compare roles in health

Not sure where to start with the hundreds of NHS careers? Use our compare roles section to get bite-size information on the entry requirements and training, pay and conditions, prospects and skills needed of up to three roles. If there is something that you think you could do, then get more in-depth information on the role.

Don't forget, you can also save your role comparisons by registering with us.

- **Midwife** ^[1]

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

Training and qualifications required

Training to be a midwife involves studying for a degree in midwifery or a degree apprenticeship in midwifery. There are no national minimum academic entry requirements for entry into pre-registration midwifery degrees or degree apprenticeships as each university (running degree courses) and employer (offering apprenticeships) sets its own criteria. 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.

Expected working hours and salary range

Midwives working on maternity wards are likely to work shifts while those in the community are more likely to work a 9 to 5 day but could be on-call for home births. Qualified midwives in the NHS start at Agenda for Change Band 5. With more experience and additional responsibility, you could move through the banding to senior management.

Desirable skills and values

There are a range of important skills and knowledge you will need to pursue a career in midwifery. Excellent people and communication skills, an ability to answer questions and offer advice and dealing with emotionally charged situations are all skills you'll need. If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS, you'll be asked to show how you think the values of the NHS Constitution apply in your everyday work. The same will be true if you are applying for a university course funded by the NHS.

Prospects

There are lots of opportunities for midwives to progress their career with more experience. You could become supervisor of team of midwives. You could also move in health visiting with additional training or move into clinical academic research.

Related roles

- [Maternity support worker](#) ^[2]
- [Obstetrics and gynaecology](#) ^[3]
- [Health visitor](#) ^[4]
- [Neonatal nurse](#) ^[5]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/midwifery/roles-midwifery/midwife> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/maternity-support-worker> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/obstetrics-and-gynaecology> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/health-visitor> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/neonatal-nurse>