



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

MIDWIFE



“ A rewarding opportunity to work with mothers, babies and families. Although it is challenging and hard work it is great bringing new life into the world and seeing smiles on different parents faces. I get job satisfaction and the public admire and respect our profession! ”

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU

MIDWIFE

A midwife must be able to give the necessary supervision, care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct deliveries on her/his own responsibility and to care for the newborn and the infant. Midwives work as part of a multidisciplinary team, liaising with other healthcare professionals including GPs, health visitors and social workers. The aim is to provide 'woman-centred' care working in partnership with the woman and promoting informed choice and continuity of care.

The midwife's role is very diverse, carrying out clinical care, providing health education and supporting the mother and her family throughout the childbearing process to help them adjust to their parental role. The work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and extends to certain areas of gynaecology, family planning and childcare. A midwife may work in hospitals, clinics, health units, community settings, midwifery units or in any other service. The midwife also works in partnership with other health and social care services to meet individual mothers' needs, for example teenage mothers, mothers who are socially excluded, disabled mothers and mothers from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Midwives are responsible for their own individual practice and have a statutory responsibility to keep up to date with current knowledge. All midwives have a named Supervisor of Midwives to assist them with updating their knowledge and to ensure their practice is safe.

Skills Required:

Qualities needed include an ability to get on well with people from a wide range of backgrounds; emotional and mental strength; good observation; ability to act on own initiative; patience, tact and a mature approach; willingness to take responsibility; ability to cope with distressing situations and to remain calm in stressful situations.

Training Programme:

BSc (Hons)/Diploma in Midwifery Sciences

Queen's University Belfast

This is a 3 year pre-registration course leading to a degree or diploma and registration as a midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and is the first step towards a career in midwifery. The practice component is provided through practice placement in maternity units. An 18 month pre-registration midwifery course is available for registered nurses.

Entry Qualifications:

On commencement of the course, candidates must be at least 18 years old; meet the Nursing and Midwifery Council minimum entry requirements of 5 GCSE (or approved equivalent) at grades A-C to include English and a Mathematical/Scientific subject. In addition, all candidates must have, or be completing academic qualifications commensurate with entry into third level education - these qualifications will be taken into consideration at short-listing.

Career Pathway:

Midwives have an option to develop their midwifery career in many different ways. It may be as a clinical specialist, as a consultant midwife, in a practice development role, in quality assurance, or in management as a head of midwifery services or supervisor of midwives at local authority level. Some midwives prefer to pursue an academic career in education and research. Midwives have developed innovative specialist roles, for example in ultrasound, foetal medicine, intensive care neonatal units, public health, parenting education and many others. Career prospects are excellent; newly qualified midwives move rapidly to permanent posts within the HPSS with potential to progress to posts that influence and shape the future of midwifery and maternity care.

Professional Recognition:

Leads to registration as a midwife (RM) with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

How to Apply:

Contact Queen's University Belfast for application pack.

Web Links:

Queen's University Belfast – www.qub.ac.uk

Nursing and Midwifery Council – www.nmc-uk.org

Royal College of Midwives – www.rcm.org.uk

Royal College of Nurses – www.rcn.org.uk

Contact address for further copies

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