Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Institute of Health		
Course Code(s):	MI004Z31UV	Part-time	1 Years
Course Title:	Return to Midwifery Practice		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Undergraduate Credit Undergraduate Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:			
Last Review:	2019/0		
Course Specification valid from:	2009/0		
Course Specification valid to:	2025/6		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Lee Wright
Head of Department:	Ms Marcia Edwards

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

If you have practised midwifery for fewer than 750 hours in the previous five years, or 450 hours in the three years before application for readmission to the register, have previously been registered with the NMC and have lapsed off of the NMC Professional Register you will need to refresh your knowledge and skills prior to re-registering with the NMC. If this is the case then you may be eligible to undertake the Return to Practice (Midwifery) course.

- Applicants must have a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Personal Identification Number (even though your registration has lapsed).
- Applicants must be resident within the United Kingdom.

- Applicants originally from countries where English is not the first language must provide evidence of the International English Language Test (IELTS) in accordance with current NMC thresholds.
- Applicants will require GCSE grade C/4+ in Maths and English (or equivalent qualifications).
- Applicants meeting the entry requirements may be shortlisted for a values-based interview and will be subsequently required to meet a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check and Occupational Health requirements. Please note, having a criminal record does not necessarily prevent you from returning to midwifery.
- If applicants have accepted a conditional offer made by the University of Wolverhampton you will receive correspondence asking you to complete an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The charge for this will be a DBS fee of £44.00 and a £6.00 ID check service fee. Applicants will also need to complete an occupational health assessment questionnaire and General Practitioner form prior to starting the course; vaccinations will also need to be up-to-date.
- Applicants will need to demonstrate that on entry to the programme they have capability for digital and technological literacy to meet course outcomes. Evidence of digital literacy and technological literacy capability will therefore be aligned to the on-line application process and are an integral part of the courses.

Applicants will also be required to provide a satisfactory personal statement and reference (academic or employer). Within the personal statement applicants should identify the date they qualified as a midwife, the date they last worked as a midwife and the date that their registration lapsed.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The Return to Practice (Midwifery) course has a flexible approach to learning which caters to the individual needs of each student.

We offer opportunities to return to midwifery practice through the completion of a single academic module together with a clinical placement. This has been developed in line with Return to Practice Standards (NMC, 2019) and in consultation with practice partners from our local NHS Trusts. The module is normally delivered over a maximum period of 8 months, with typical learning activities including face-to-face contact, skills sessions, on-line learning and practice-based learning to meet a set of proficiencies.

The Return to Practice (Midwifery) programme will also help you plan your future learning to further develop

your career.

Educational Aims of the Course:

This course will enable midwives, whose registration has lapsed, to return to the NMC register and practice as a registered midwife following successful completion of the course in both academic work and practice placements.

Successful completion of all assessment components will result in the award of 20 academic credits at Level 6 (Degree).

This course aims to enable students to demonstrate delivery of safe and competent midwifery care in accordance with the Return to Practice Standards stipulated by the NMC. Students will become an accountable, self-reflective and autonomous practitioner, working with a range of other professionals and within inter-professional and multiagency teams responding to the demands of midwifery practice. Students will also demonstrate a political awareness of local and national policies impacting on organisational change and the integration of health and social care services.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

OTHER FUNDING

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1			£
2021/2			£
2022/3			£

PSRB:

MI004Z31UV (Part-time)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
06/Aug/2020	06/Aug/2020		

Course Structure:

September (Part-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6MI020	Return to Practice (Midwifery)	20	INYR	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

Section 4.3.3 - Exemption in accordance with the Faculty Fitness to Practice procedures. There will be no automatic right to a second attempt for any failed practice components at the discretion of the Assessment Board.

Section 4.3.5 - Exemption in accordance with the standards of proficiency required by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). There will be no right to repeat practice based module 6MI020 (re-sits are permitted for practice and theory components subject to clause 4.3.3).

Section 4.4.4 - Exemption in accordance with the standards of proficiency required by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). No compensation will be awarded on practice based module 6MI020. If students have passed all compulsory practice components they will be granted the opportunity of a third attempt for theory components.

APPROVED (by Chair's Action on 8/4/2020).

Reference Points:

Academic Reference Points

- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Qualifications and Credit Frameworks
- Subject Benchmark Statements
- University Policies and Regulations

Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) Reference Points

- NMC (2019) Standards of Proficiency for Midwives
- NMC (2019) Guidance on Health and Character
- NMC (2018) The Code: Professional Standards of Practice and Behaviour for Nurses and Midwives
- NMC (2019) Standards Framework for Nursing and Midwifery education.

Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) Requirements

- You are required to demonstrate that you have the skills, knowledge, health and character to care for people safely. This requires you to demonstrate high level reflective skills and a duty of candour towards women and their families.
- During enrolment at the start of the course you will be required to undertake a self-declaration to declare any cautions and/or convictions, reprimands or warnings from the police and any health conditions and/or disability that could affect your ability to practice safely and effectively. You must declare any changes to your health or character status as soon as they arise: you should not wait for the annual declaration process to do this. You can discuss any changes with your personal tutor or the course leader so that they can identify whether any further action or investigation is required with regards to your fitness to practise.
- The Return to Practice (Midwifery) course is structured so that you will undertake theory learning in University as well as a clinical placement. You will have supernumerary status in practice; this means

that you are additional to the workforce requirement and staffing figures. You will have additional scheduled learning and placement time outside of module delivery weeks to ensure that you are able to complete the clinical practice hours required to meet the NMC requirements for re-entry to the register. Any absence taken during your course, for example due to sickness, special leave or compassionate leave, will need to be retrieved. Any delay in completing the NMC required hours can delay your completion of the course and influence the timing of your registration. At the end of your course the course leader (NMC Confirmer) is required to submit a declaration of good health and good character to the NMC and confirm that you have completed the required hours of theory and practice. Your will be expected to work shifts in your clinical practice; this will include working nights, weekends and bank holidays.

- By the end of the course you must achieve 100% in your final drugs calculation assessment in order to successfully complete the programme. This can be recorded in the Return to Practice Midwifery Ongoing Record of Achievement and signed off by the academic assessor.
- You have up to five years to register your award with the NMC. In the event that you fail to register your qualification within five years you will have to undertake additional education and training or gain such experience as specified in the NMC standards.
- Further details will be available to you in your course guide and from the NMC website.
- Successful course completion and registration with the NMC entitles you to use the title Registered Midwife.

Wider Reference Points

- Closing the gap: priorities for essential changes in mental health (Department of Health, 2014)
- Equality Act (2010)
- NHS long-term plan (NHS England, 2019)
- NHS Interim People Plan (NHS England, 2019)
- Public Health England Strategic Plan 2020 (Public Health England, 2019)
- Public Health England Screening Committee
- Report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry (Francis Report) (Francis, 2013)
- The Children Act: (2004)
- The Topol Review: Preparing the healthcare workforce to deliver the digital future (HEE 2019).

Working Together to Safeguard Children (Department for Education, 2018).

Overview of Assessment:

Learning Outcomes	Modules
UGCRED01 Critically evaluate your role as a midwife and demonstrate safe, competent and professional practice in the health and social care setting.	6MI020 Return to Practice (Midwifery) 6MI020 Return to Practice (Midwifery)
UGCRED03 Critically evaluate the impact of a range of national policies and strategies on local provision of midwifery care.	6MI020 Return to Practice (Midwifery)
UGCRED04 Demonstrate the synthesis and critical evaluation of your individual learning needs for continuing professional development and accountability in order to maintain registered midwife status and enhance your future practice.	6MI020 Return to Practice (Midwifery)

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

During your course, you will experience a range of different teaching, learning and assessment activities. Given the nature of the course, these may include small group learning sets, formative and summative assessment tasks, online activities, written essays/reflections, tutorial, video analysis and case study analysis.

Teaching and Learning

The curriculum aligns with the University of Wolverhampton Learning and Teaching Strategy in enabling you to achieve your full learning potential through being empowered and inspired. The Return to Practice (Midwifery) curriculum is designed to be inclusive and flexible, to meet the needs of a diverse student community. You will develop and enhance ongoing skills in relation to employability, enterprise, entrepreneurship, professional practice, sustainability and global citizenship through learning that is informed by evidence based research, practice and innovation.

Your learning and teaching will be supported by our virtual learning environment (VLE) platform 'Canvas'. Opportunities for studying with, and learning from, other health care disciplines are provided, both in university and in the practice setting. These experiences will enable you to understand the contribution of other professionals to care of women and their families and promote the development of team-working skills.

Service users and carers contribute to all aspects of the curriculum including the co-production of specific teaching sessions and in practice. This approach is recognised for the enhancement it brings to your learning and for the contribution it makes to ensuring that we prepare professionals who are fit for practice, demonstrating person-centred skills and able to act in the best interests of women and their families. You will have access to our state-of-the-art simulation facilities where you will be able to experience clinical scenarios and practise skills in a safe environment required for re-entry to the NMC register. This includes simulated hospital, home and community environments including a suite of human-patient simulators which will allow you to hone your skills, supported by experienced practitioners to guide you. The latest technology is embedded into our skills and simulation environments, including the use of world-leading developments such as a virtual dissection anatomy table which allows 3D images of human anatomy and diseases to come alive to support your learning. We also use an integrated learning and teaching audio visual recording system called "Panopto" which links to the University's virtual learning environment and allows you to record, upload and review footage of your practice in the simulated environment.

Assessment of Theory

The following information can be found at this link https://www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/assessment/.

This link also includes other information related to assessment, which you may find useful in your studies. We know how important assessment is to our students and we want to make sure that you have all of the information that you need so that you understand how we assess your work. Your course leader and personal tutor are useful sources of advice and guidance regarding the issues relating to assessment on your particular course. An explanation of the assessment process is provided in the student handbook, and further details are provided below.

In higher education, 'assessment' describes any process that appraises an individual's knowledge, understanding, abilities or skills. The ways in which you will be assessed at the University of Wolverhampton will:

- allow you to demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes of your course and module;
- enable you to reflect on your performance, following timely, meaningful and useful feedback;
- encourage you to identify your strengths and weaknesses so that the level of achievement can be measured and recorded. Over the course of your studies you will be assessed in ways which will be relevant to your subject area.

You will be assessed (both formatively and summatively) using different assessment types including reflections and clinical practice.

There are two types of assessment you will encounter throughout the course:-

1. Formative (informal assessment 'for' learning)

Assessment activities that provide you with feedback. The marks and grades for these assessment activities do not contribute towards the module mark and grade. Formative assessment activities are useful to provide you with feedback to let you know how you are doing. Sometimes the format of a formative assessment activity will be the same as the summative assessment activity for the module, in order to prepare you and ensure that you are familiar with the summative assessment task

2. Summative (formal assessment ‘of’ learning)

Assessment activities where the mark you receive will contribute towards the final mark for your module.

Feedback / feed forward: You will receive feedback and feed forward throughout your course. At times this will relate to a particular piece of work and the mark you have been awarded for it, but it also may come in the form of more general advice and guidance from members of staff in improving the ways in which you respond to an assessment task. In both cases the feedback you are given will help you to develop your thinking and/or practice in relation to your subject area.

Feedback on assignments is given on content and analysis and also on written communication skills, referencing, structure and presentation. This is then applied as generic criteria throughout the course. Feedback is provided to you to help you develop your understanding and skills in midwifery. It is important that you read your written feedback and discuss this with your personal tutor as appropriate.

Assessment of Practice

All assessments and confirmation of proficiency are evidence based and capture student achievements across both theory and practice assessment.

The Return to Practice Midwifery Ongoing Record of Achievement (MORA) document makes up a significant part of the overall programme assessment. Continuous assessment is an integral aspect of assessment in practice and you are expected to show evidence of consistent achievement. You should engage positively in all learning opportunities, take responsibility for your own learning and know how to access support. You will work with and receive written feedback from a range of staff including practice supervisors and practice assessors and they are required to reflect on your learning. The reflections should demonstrate your knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to the NMC proficiencies and include critical analysis of the evidence base for practice and an application of the current policies influencing maternity care.

All assessments must be passed to pass the course and to demonstrate that the necessary learning outcomes have been achieved.

During the course you will be required to maintain the Return to Practice Midwifery Ongoing Record of Achievement record (MORA), which summarises your achievements in each placement and provides a comprehensive record of your professional development. This will be reviewed by your academic assessor and your personal tutor at the end of the course.

Practice supervisor responsibilities (registered nurse/midwife or other registered health/social care professional)

The practice supervisor has an important role in supporting and guiding you through your learning experience to ensure safe and effective learning. This includes facilitating learning opportunities including any reasonable adjustments you may need to get maximum benefit from the placement. It is the practice supervisor’s responsibility to contribute to your assessment through the recording of regular feedback on your progress towards, and achievement of the proficiencies. Specific feedback must be provided by the practice supervisor to the practice assessor on your progress.

Practice assessor responsibilities

The practice assessor plays a key role in assessing and confirming your proficiency providing assurance of your achievements and competence. This includes facilitating learning opportunities including any reasonable adjustments you may need to get maximum benefit from the placement. They will observe you, conduct and record your assessments informed by your reflections, feedback from practice supervisors and other relevant people to confirm achievement. They will liaise with the academic assessor scheduling communication at relevant points.

There are numerous elements to be assessed in practice. One or more practice supervisors can contribute to the assessment of some of the proficiencies in discussion with the practice assessor, but the practice supervisor must be working in their scope of practice. When assessing your proficiency, practice assessors will take into account the sources of evidence that underpin your knowledge and skills and the views of those receiving care. Comments should acknowledge those exceptional students who are exceeding expectations for their stage in practice or who have particularly commendable attitudes, behaviours, knowledge or skills. Academic assessor responsibilities Academic assessors have a key role in confirming your progress, recording objective, evidence-based decisions on conduct, proficiency and achievement and make recommendations for progression providing assurance of your achievements and competence. The academic assessor, for each part of your continuous assessment of practice document will have an understanding of your learning and achievement in practice, through working in partnership with the practice assessor to gather feedback regarding achievement and progression.

Academic assessor responsibilities

Academic assessors have a key role in confirming your progress, recording objective, evidence-based decisions on conduct, proficiency and achievement and make recommendations for completion providing assurance of your achievements and competence. The academic assessor, will have an understanding of your learning and achievement in practice, through working in partnership with the practice assessor to gather feedback regarding achievement and completion.

As you progress through your course you will be expected to take on more responsibility within your practice placements. This will enable you to develop confidence and skills in your work as a member of the midwifery / multidisciplinary team.

Throughout your practice placement learning you will be expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times. We will provide guidance and information on the requirements regarding professional conduct to help you understand how to manage learning in the complex and sometimes unpredictable world of healthcare.

Further information related to your practice learning experience can be found in the practice handbook, which will be given to you at the start of your course.

Clinical Placements

You will be required to complete a clinical placement of between 150 and 450 hours in clinical practice. The number of clinical hours will be determined through tri-partite consultation between the Practice Assessor, Academic Assessor and yourself (the Return to Practice student), ensuring a rigorous but flexible clinical assessment. Clinical placement options will be discussed with you at interview. All placement areas must have had an educational audit undertaken and have a Practice Assessor to support you. Please be advised that placement requests will be considered, but cannot be guaranteed; you will however be offered a suitable alternative where necessary. Please do not organise your own placement; for audit purposes all placements must be organised via the Return to Practice team. You are required to work full shifts including handovers.

You must attend and successfully complete all mandatory training prior to starting your supervised clinical practice.

The Return to Practice (Midwifery) course is completed at Degree Level 6 with 20 academic credits gained on completion. There is the opportunity for students to who successfully complete the course to continue to gain additional degree level credits towards a nursing degree.

The course is normally 8 months long but can be completed in as little as 6 months dependant on the number of clinical hours you are required to complete.

The equivalent of twelve days of study (with additional days to be negotiated for neonatal life support) will be delivered in blocks over a 10 week period at Walsall Campus. The course content includes study days relating

to all mandatory updates/training required. A number of mandatory updates take the form of online tests for which you will be required to be digitally literate.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

General Support

Support for Students – University Library

Our Libraries combine traditional library services with IT facilities to focus on the ways students choose to study. There is a Library on each campus, with 24/7 access provided during peak times of the year at Wolverhampton and Walsall. Each Library provides subject-specific book and journal resources, as well as diverse study environments including IT suites and group/single study rooms. In addition to our physical stock, the University Library provide access to over 8,000 full text electronic journals, 100 online databases and e-book versions of all reading list titles where available. Our online services are available both on and off campus. Our Library staff provide day to day support to students, and our ASSIST online chat service operates on a 24/7 basis. Our Skills for Learning service helps students to develop the skills required for successful academic study, including; Academic, Information and Research Skills. Students can access workshops and drop-in sessions facilitated by experienced learning support staff, as well as appointment slots including via Skype. Workshops can also be run as part of modules, at the request of tutors. Further support is provided by online skills resources including guides, tip sheets, and interactive materials and each Library has a designated collection of study skills books.

Student Support and Wellbeing offers students advice on a variety of matters linked to their Health and Wellbeing.

Please contact the Team to;

- discuss disability or specific learning difficulty support
- access advice and support for a mental health condition
- access information about supporting your mental health and wellbeing
- connect with our Chaplaincy service
- seek advice on funding and financial support
- seek advice as a D/deaf or hearing impaired student.

Working in Partnership with You

The pathway to returning to practice is likely to be one with highs, lows and everything in between. Completing the course is a partnership between the University, your placement provider and you. This student charter sets out what you are expected to give and what you gain by involving yourself in as much as possible. All of our support mechanisms are enshrined in the Student Charter. In addition we have clear arrangements in place with our placement partners to support students in practice.

Course Specific Support

Student Advisors - There are student advisors within the Faculty of Education Health, and Wellbeing. They are here to support you in a professional and confidential way by either resolving or referring your query to one of our many professional services within the University. The student advisors work closely with the various support networks within the University and are supported by our graduate interns. Please see the points below for some examples of their support. Sign posting to Support and Wellbeing Services Support with progression Advice on extensions and extenuating circumstances claims Support students with attainment and retention Advisors and interns can be contacted via email (FEHWstudentservices@wlv.ac.uk).

Course Leader - The course leader has overall responsibility for your course and the enrolled students. They monitor the quality of the course through course committees which collect feedback from staff and students. They manage the academic programme of study and are responsible for reporting any issues raised and examples of good practice.

Personal Tutors - You will be allocated a personal tutor at the start of your course with whom you will build and develop a relationship to help you work towards achieving the course learning outcomes. Your personal tutor will meet with you on a regular basis (at least three times per academic year) in order to offer support, identify if you are making satisfactory progress and to offer support if you are at risk of withdrawal. Your personal tutor will assist you in your personal and academic development, planning and progression as well as helping you liaise with other staff and support facilities in their Faculty and the wider University. You can find out who your personal tutor is by visiting e:Vision.

Academic Assessor - Academic assessors have a key role in confirming your progress, recording objective, evidence-based decisions on conduct, proficiency and achievement and make recommendations for progression providing assurance of your achievements and competence. The academic assessor, for each part of your continuous assessment of practice document will have an understanding of your learning and achievement in practice, through working in partnership with the practice assessor to gather feedback regarding achievement and progression.

Practice Placement Manager - Is the Facilitator within the Trust who often liaises directly with your Academic assessor or Course Leader.

Practice Assessor - The practice assessor plays a key role in assessing and confirming your proficiency providing assurance of your achievements and competence. This includes facilitating learning opportunities including any reasonable adjustments you may need to get maximum benefit from the placement. They will observe you, conduct and record your assessments informed by your reflections, feedback from practice supervisors and other relevant people to confirm achievement. They will liaise with the academic assessor scheduling communication at relevant points.

Practice Supervisor - The practice supervisor has an important role in supporting and guiding you through your learning experience to ensure safe and effective learning. This includes facilitating learning opportunities including any reasonable adjustments you may need to get maximum benefit from the placement. It is the practice supervisor's responsibility to contribute to your assessment through the recording of regular feedback on your progress towards, and achievement of the proficiencies. Specific feedback must be provided by the practice supervisor to the practice assessor on your progress.

Faculty Student Enabling Tutors - The Faculty Student Enabling Tutor (FSET) liaises with the Student Support and Wellbeing (SSW) department regarding provision for specific disabilities and disseminates information from the SSW on any identified learning needs. The FSET monitors requests for, and provision of, specific examination and assessment arrangements. The FSET takes a pro-active role in monitoring the welfare and academic progress of disabled students within the school.

Employability in the Curriculum:

This course has been developed in conjunction with practice partners and service users in order to reflect the increasing and rapidly changing complex environment in which health care takes place. The educational philosophy of the Return to Practice - Midwifery course aims to enhance skills such as communication skills, problem solving skills and decision-making skills alongside ensuring that students achieve the necessary standards of proficiency.

The course will assist you to develop a strong professional identity and to be confident in demonstrating key employability skills such as being self-directed in your learning, having the ability to problem solve and to think critically. These are all qualities that are essential for providing expert, evidence-based midwifery care and will make you highly employable. On successful completion you will be eligible to apply for a registered midwife post at a trust of your choice.

Some students choose to continue with part-time studies at the University of Wolverhampton in order to enhance their careers further.

