



University of Leeds - BSc (Hons) Midwifery - Blended Learning

This document is designed to provide further information about 'Blended Learning' and what this looks like within the BSc (Hons) Midwifery degree at the University of Leeds. You will also find answers to a number of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) further down the page. We hope you find the information useful.

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 92 12 95 1

How will the programme be delivered
- What is Blended Learning / What does it offer?

Blended Learning Degree

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What is Blended Learning?

The image and word cloud that you can see in the background of this slide are taken from an activity which took place during one of our Offer Holder Events. We asked attendees what

they thought 'Blended Learning' meant, and as you can see (from the biggest word within the word cloud), there was a perception that 'online' learning was a large element of this.

Whilst Blended Learning incorporates elements of online learning, it also involves delivering teaching in a variety of other ways (including face-to-face), 'blended' together. We don't want you to worry that 'Blended Learning' means that your whole degree will be taught online as that is not the case –and indeed students must still attend clinical placement face-to-face for a minimum of 2300 hours during the programme.

Flexible – The main focus of our blended learning approach is to offer you flexibility over the way in which teaching and learning activities are made available to you, and how you to choose to access them.

Build your own timetable – The idea of this concept is that you can build the theory aspect of your timetable based on a variety of options and what suits you best. So, a particular taught session may, for example, be available for you to access in several different ways – it may be delivered face-to-face in a classroom, and at the same time be streamed live online so that those who want to interact with the session as it takes place (but are unable to attend in person) can do so remotely. Additionally for some sessions there may be an alternative way to engage with the learning asynchronously (at a different time) which might take the form of independent work, watching a recording, or a combination of both.

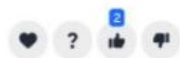
Most of our sessions are recorded so that they can be watched back by students who did attend, which is a feature that many of our students have found very useful for revision! There will also be resources available online for you to access and interact with to enhance your learning, and we will spend time during welcome week and at the start of each module, making sure that you understand how to access and interact with the various technology that will be in use, so please don't worry if you do not feel 'tech savvy' at the beginning of the programme!

Clinical Skills –Clinical skills training must be attended face-to-face in order to enable students to adequately practise practical skills in a safe learning environment prior to attempting them in a clinical setting, and because there are some things that just can't be learnt effectively remotely/online. You will receive plenty of notice regarding when you are expected to attend these sessions so that students choosing to access a majority of the programme content remotely can make arrangements to attend these sessions.



Blended Learning

- Blended approaches use multiple methods to deliver learning, combining face-to-face interactions with online activities.
- Synchronous and Asynchronous activity
- Offers more flexibility
- Learners have more control over the pace and spaces in which they learn
- Empowers self-direction
- New opportunities for students to interact with their peers, teachers and academic subjects



The image above introduces the terms 'synchronous' and 'asynchronous', which you may not be familiar with. These terms are commonly used in relation to blended learning and a summary of what they mean is provided below.

Synchronous learning is where the tutor and learner interact in 'real-time' - this can be face-to-face or virtually. Traditional classroom teaching is synchronous, as are lectures, tutorials, meetings (or other types of teaching and learning activity) delivered online in real-time; but in addition, activities such as telephone calls, live discussion boards / text based 'chatrooms' etc., are also synchronous.

Asynchronous learning is where learners (and the tutor) participate in and interact with learning materials at different times. A pre-recorded lecture would fall into this category, as would discussion boards that are open for people to interact with at varying times that suit them.

Our BSc Midwifery Blended Learning programme incorporates all of the approaches outlined above, and some of the many benefits associated with this approach to learning are outlined in the image.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Admissions related questions:

Q. What are the entry requirements to the programme?

A. Entry requirements are outlined on our website and can be accessed here.

Q. What's the usual percentage of mature students on the programme?

A. This varies year on year. In previous years it has been anywhere between approximately 20-50%.

Q. How many places are available?

Approximately 80 places

Teaching related questions:

Q. I'd prefer to do the 'traditional' rather than the 'blended' degree. Is this an option?

A. There is no alternative degree available to the BSc Midwifery (Blended Learning) programme advertised, however it is a common misconception that 'Blended Learning' degrees are synonymous with 'Online learning', and that is not the case. Our degree aims to offer flexibility in how students choose to access their theoretical learning. Students can choose how they prefer to access the learning in a way which suits them. It is possible to access a majority of the sessions on-campus if that is your preference.

Q. When the option is to attend university, will the lecturers be there in person too?

A. Yes, absolutely! We really enjoy meeting with students face-to-face and encourage you to join us on campus wherever possible.

Q. Do we have to let university know our timetable and whether we are going to choose to come into the university or not?

A. In relation to 'building your own timetable', you will meet regularly with your personal tutor to discuss your individual learning requirements and how best to meet these, including the way in which you wish to access teaching and learning activities. You will also be required to provide confirmation throughout the programme of the methods by which you have completed the learning activities.

Q. How is the programme structured?

A. The programme is split so students undertake 50% theory and 50% practice throughout the 3 years of the programme. Placements are in 'blocks' of approx. 4-8 weeks at a time, so students are able to focus on either being in practice, or undertaking university work, rather than juggling both at once (as some universities do). It is a full time, 45-week programme (i.e. there are 7 weeks of annual leave each year – dates are fixed and cannot normally be moved) and students are expected to input approximately 37.5 hours per programme week (whether studying during theory weeks, or attending practice during placement weeks). There is an expectation that students will attend placement face to face, and this would be

for approximately 37.5 hours per week, working the shift pattern relevant to that area (e.g. 12-hour day or night shifts in hospital-based placements, or 5x7.5 hours shifts in community placements). However much of the theory components of the course can be accessed online (and at flexible times) should students wish to do this.

Placement related questions

Q. What does a community placement look like in terms of transport/ time commitments/ what you're expected to do?

A. All clinical placements require you to attend 'full-time' week (i.e. 37.5 hours excluding breaks). You will usually be expected to follow the same hours and shift patterns as the midwives working in that clinical area. For example, in community your working day may be 08:00 – 16:00 or 09:00 – 17:00, for 5 days of any given week (including weekends).

In terms of transport, you are usually expected to arrange your own transport to attend the placement area. During a community placement you should discuss with the midwife that you will be working with where you will meet them at the start of your shift (n.b. this may vary during the course of the placement).

In the first year of your programme, you will be expected to observe initially, followed by beginning to participate in care under direct supervision of a midwife, and starting to develop the clinical skills that have been taught in university (e.g. performing antenatal examinations, urinalysis, measuring vital signs, abdominal examination, performing postnatal examinations of mother and baby, communication, documentation etc.).

Q. Will we be able to choose where we would like our placements?

A. Most of our clinical placements take place within Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust at St James Hospital and Leeds General Infirmary, or within the surrounding community areas. In Year 1 the majority of placements take place in community and whilst you may be able to request a particular placement area, we are not able to guarantee this, as multiple students may all have the same preference. In relation to clinical placements in hospital settings, students undertake placements in both hospitals within the Trust during the duration of the programme. We also have a small number of places at York District Hospital. This is beneficial as it allows students to experience maternity care provision in a variety of different settings, however it is not usually permitted for a student to undertake all hospital-based placements at York.

Q. Is it possible to have my clinical placements at [insert name here] hospital / NHS Trust?

A. Our Practice Placement Unit will consider all requests for placements outside of Leeds and York. We cannot guarantee that this will be facilitated as it depends on the number of students already in a clinical placement area. We can guarantee a placement in Leeds.