



This document was produced following a Live Q&A event with applicants planning to join our Blended Learning degree in September 2021, and has been adapted to provide further information about the programme for applicants invited to interviews for September 2022 entry to the programme.

At the end of the document you will find an FAQ section based on the questions asked in our previous offer holder event(s). We hope that you find this useful.



## Introductions

- Angela Graves: Lead Midwife for Education
- Helen Ayre: Admissions Tutor
- Melanie Barnes: Programme Lead



The live event was facilitated by Dr Angela Graves and Helen Ayre. Dr Angela Graves is an Associate Professor of Maternal Care and the Lead Midwife for Education, as well as Director of Practice within the School of Healthcare. Helen Ayre is the Admissions Tutor for the BSc Midwifery programme and a Midwifery Lecturer within the programme team. Melanie Barnes is the current Programme Lead.

## We have exciting news!

- Programme commencing from September 2021 approved in line with 'Future Midwife' NMC Standards
- Supported by Health Education England funding
  - Blended Learning Degree
  - IT Support: Tablet (Samsung Galaxy Tab A) and Noise Cancelling Headphones



We are pleased to inform you that following successful approval from the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) in the summer of 2021, delivery of our revised midwifery curriculum began in September 2021 in line with the NMC 'Future Midwife Standards'. Further detail regarding the programme and modules is available on our [website](#).

This programme was designed to be delivered as a 'Blended Learning Degree' (further information regarding 'what that means' to follow) and we are really excited to share the news that the Blended Learning Degree is supported by funding from Health Education England (HEE). This will include the provision of a tablet (anticipated to be the Samsung Galaxy Tab A – pictured above) as well as a set of noise cancelling headphones to all students commencing on programme in September 2021, to enable them to easily access blended and interactive learning content, both remotely and during face-to-face sessions. These will be provided to students free of charge and will be theirs to keep on completion of the programme.



## Midwifery BSc Programmes - 'Pre 2019' and 'Post 2019'

- Curriculum developed and approved in line with NMC 'Future Midwife' Standards (2019)
- Commencing Sept 2021
- Headline changes: Blended Learning Degree, 'SEN/'NIPE" qualified, 'prescriber-ready', 'Practice Supervisor' trained on registration
- Continuous updates to Pre-2019 programme



As previously discussed, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) have approved the midwifery curriculum developed by the University of Leeds, in line with the NMC 'Future Midwife Standards' and delivery of this programme started from September 2021.

Further details regarding the standards can be found here: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/about-us/our-role/who-we-regulate/midwifery/education/>

### Headline changes to the programme include the following:

- **Blended Learning Degree:** Whilst this is not a requirement of the NMC standards, the standards do require student midwives to develop their digital literacy skills and this will be supported by the use of digital technology within the blended learning degree (further detail regarding this is discussed later).
- **Systematic Examination of the Newborn (SEN) (aka. NIPE):** All babies receive a comprehensive physical assessment within 72 hours of birth, which has traditionally been performed by paediatricians, or other healthcare professionals (including midwives) who have undertaken additional training after qualifying in their profession. This programme will incorporate the theoretical and practical aspects of the SEN training so that you will complete the programme qualified as a SEN practitioner.
- **Prescriber ready:** aspects of the programme relating to Medicines Management have been designed so that on completion of the programme you will be quickly and easily able to go on to complete an independent prescribing course, should you wish to. This is a really beneficial additional skills/qualification to undertake, particularly when working in areas such as community, where you may wish to maximise continuity of care by being able to prescribe medications such as iron supplements, antibiotics etc. rather than referring women to their GP to receive this.
- **Practice Supervisor (PS) trained on registration:** All student midwives are supervised in practice settings by health and social care professionals (usually midwives) who have undertaken PS training to enable them to effectively and safely support student learning in practice. Towards the end of your 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the programme, you will

undertake this training so that not only will you be able to act as Practice Supervisors upon qualifying, but also you will be able to develop your skills by supporting and coaching more junior student midwives on the programme by acting as a peer mentor. Our existing students undertake this training in their second year of the programme, so that you will be able to benefit from this additional support during your first (and subsequent) years on the programme.

Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 92 12 95 1

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

# Blended Learning Degree

Press S to show image

The image and wordcloud 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 in May 2021. 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 maximum 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. That same session may then also be recorded, so that students unable to engage with it synchronously (as it takes place) can watch the recording later, at a time that suits them. The recording can also be watched back by other 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!

**'Hands on' Clinical Skills** – Hands-on 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 the clinical skills suites in Baines Wing for these sessions.

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## 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 slide 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 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 'chat-rooms' 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 (the Q&A Padlet Wall that you were invited to use during the admissions process is an example of this).

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 above.

**Q&A Session - please feel free to ask any questions you may have - we are here to answer them for you!**

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**36 questions  
51 upvotes**

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

##### **ADMISSIONS**

**Q. What are the entry requirements to the programme?**

Entry requirements are outlined on our website and can be accessed [here](#)

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

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

**Q. How many places are available for 2022 entry?**

Approximately 80 places

##### **TEACHING**

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

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 maximum flexibility in how students choose to access their theoretical learning. Any given taught session might be delivered on campus in person, whilst being streamed live at the same time for students to access and interact with from elsewhere, and also being recorded for access at a later time should the timing of the session prevent students from accessing it live for any reason (e.g. caring responsibilities). Students can then choose how they prefer to access the learning in a way which suits them. At present approximately 1 day per week of theoretical teaching is available as face-to-face delivery due to covid restrictions, however it anticipated that availability of our face-to-face offering will increase as these restrictions continue to relax.

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

Yes, absolutely! We've really enjoyed the opportunities that we've had during the last year to meet with the students face-to-face to deliver clinical skills teaching and we're really looking forward to the opportunity to meet you and to get back into the University more often for face-to-face teaching!

**Q. Will there be increased face to face contact as covid restrictions continue to reduce?**

We expect that the availability of face-to-face teaching within the programme moving forward will increase, but this is continually reviewed in view of the latest government and university advice, based on local and national covid rates. Our current Year 1 cohort, have the option to attend face-to-face teaching at least 1 day per week (during theory weeks) and of course during placement weeks, teaching and learning activity will be face-to-face on a full-time basis.

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

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?**

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) and students are expected to input approximately 37.5 hours per programme week (whether studying during theory weeks, or working in 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 (with the exception of hands on clinical skills training) the theory components of the course can be accessed entirely online (and at flexible times) should students wish to do so.

**PLACEMENTS**

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

All clinical placements require you to work a 'full-time' week (i.e. 37.5 hours excluding breaks). You will usually be expected to work 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?**

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 usually 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, which students are able to request to undertake 1-2 clinical placements if they wish to do so. This is beneficial as it allows students to experience maternity care provision in a variety of different settings, however it is not currently usual 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?**

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 or York.