Enrol in our groundbreaking Bachelor of Midwifery!

Real-world practice is at the core of this three-year-programme. From the start, you’ll apply theory to practice. You’ll work with a midwife in the community to provide antenatal and postnatal care to women and whānau, and you’ll graduate with essential knowledge and skills for your health and maternity career.

This programme leads to registration with the Midwifery Council of New Zealand.

As a registered midwife you can be a:

> Lead Maternity Care – working with women and families in the community
> Core Midwife – working at a hospital or birthing centre.

Essential information about the Bachelor of Midwifery

What is blended delivery?
A mix of online learning, practical experience and traditional classroom teaching at satellite locations throughout New Zealand.

Workload, time demands and extra costs
Midwifery is a very rewarding, but very demanding study programme. There is a lot to consider before you decide to apply. See what workload, time and extra costs you can expect when you study midwifery.
Application process
Before you apply, ensure you understand the application process and all the requirements you need to meet. THIS GUIDE IS FOR DOMESTIC STUDENT APPLICATIONS ONLY. For international students, please contact: international@op.ac.nz

Programme content
The Bachelor of Midwifery degree is 3 years of full-time study, but the credit value is equivalent to 4 years of full-time study (compressed into 3 calendar years).

YEAR ONE
Year One focuses on the woman/wahine and her family/whānau and explores the wider context of New Zealand’s maternity services and the options and choices available to women and families. It provides a context for midwifery practice and development of specific midwifery knowledge and skills.

Gain practice experience in maternity facilities and through one-on-one continuity of care with women and midwives, where you provide a support role for women throughout pregnancy, labour, birth and the postnatal period.

YEAR TWO
Year Two focuses on the midwife and her developing professional framework for practice. It provides the opportunity for you to develop specific midwifery practice knowledge and skills. Courses focus on the knowledge and skills required for you to work in the Midwifery Scope of Practice and to work collaboratively with other health professionals when required.

Gain experience in a variety of settings including one-on-one continuity of care experiences with women and midwives, and undertake placements in a range of maternity facilities, particularly secondary and tertiary facilities.

YEAR THREE
Year Three focuses on the partnership between each midwife and woman in the shared experiences of pregnancy and childbirth. It enables you to integrate and consolidate your learning from Years One and Two and demonstrate your readiness to meet the Competencies for Entry to the Register of Midwives.

Qualification structure

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Prerequisite</th>
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Entry requirements

University Entrance as defined by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority:

- NCEA Level 3 (60 credits at Level 3 and 20 credits at Level 2 or higher) which must include:
  - 18 credits at Level 3 in each of biology or chemistry**
  - a minimum of 16 credits at Level 3 in an English language rich subject such as English, history, art, history, classical studies, geography or economics
  - a further 16 credits at Level 3 in one other subject from the list of NZQA approved subjects^
  - Literacy^ - 10 credits at Level 2 or above, made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing, AND
  - Numeracy^ - 10 credits at Level 1 or above (specified achievement standards, or unit standards 26623, 26626, 26627).

**We recommend that if you don’t have a minimum of 18 credits at Level 3 in BOTH biology and chemistry, you have at least 16 credits at Level 2 in your secondary subject.

^ For NZQA approved subjects, visit http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/awards/university-entrance

- OR for applicants over 20, you have a Level 4 Health Science bridging course qualification (this includes any Level 4 New Zealand Certificate in Study and Career Preparation). This qualification must be from a semester long course and include academic writing and a biology laboratory component. A Level 4 B+ average is required for entry including a B+ in a Level 4 bioscience course.
- OR you have a bachelor’s degree in any discipline (additional bioscience courses may be recommended).
- OR you can demonstrate equivalence to the above academic entry criteria.

You must also:

- provide testimony of two referees. One referee report should be provided by an employer or community group representative and the other must be from someone who can comment on your academic ability. Referees must be people of standing in the community who are not friends or relatives of the applicant. If you have not studied in the last five years a second professional referee may be contacted instead of an academic referee. Please see more information about the referee reports in the completing your application section below.
- submit your curriculum vitae and an application essay (topic available during application period) demonstrating your commitment to midwifery and any life experience relevant to midwifery and/or women’s health.
- demonstrate self-responsibility in relation to learning and practice and the personal qualities appropriate for midwifery practice such as strong communication skills and a demonstrated interest in women’s and childrens health.
- provide a health declaration and current comprehensive First Aid Certificate (including
proficiency in CPR – NQF unit standards 6401 and 6402 OR equivalent.
> provide a conviction declaration and you will be required to provide permission for a Police
Check to ensure you meet the requirements of the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014.
> provide a copy of your full driver’s license.
> have good computer skills.

All students (international and domestic) for whom English is not a first language:
> must demonstrate English Language skills with an IELTS overall band score (academic) of 7.0,
with no band score lower than 6.5 in reading and writing, and no less than 7.0 in speaking and
listening

Please note: All scores must be achieved in a single test completed in the preceding two years. You
cannot combine scores from multiple tests.

Bridging options if you don’t meet the entry requirements

The Health Bridging Certificate offered by the School of Social Services acts as a bridging programme into
this midwifery qualification. A minimum B+/75 average pass, achieved across four courses during
semester two, is required to meet the academic entry requirements into the Bachelor of Midwifery. This
MUST include a B+/75 in Bioscience 2.

The Health Bridging Certificate is also ideal if you need to update specific knowledge and skills, and
demonstrate your academic ability. Distance options are available.

Please note: Due to the high demand for places, successful completion of the Health Bridging Certificate
(Level 4) will not automatically guarantee you entry into the Bachelor of Midwifery programme.

Scholarship for Māori applicants

The Irihapeti Ramsden Memorial Midwifery Scholarship offers the successful applicant fees subsidies for
each year of the Bachelor of Midwifery programme. Applications are considered by both the Otago
Polytechnic School of Midwifery and Nga Maia o Aotearoa me Te Wai Pounamu (Nga Maia).

Find out more about this scholarship.

Programme-specific risks

The nature of midwifery practice means that, at times, you may be at risk of:
> Physical injuries that may occur as a result of hazards in the classroom, laboratory or practice
setting
> Allergic reactions through contact with latex, exposure to drugs or chemicals
> Issues affecting your emotional and physical wellbeing
> Infection or cross-infection through contact with infective agents in the laboratory or practice
setting.

How we manage these risks

We will provide health and safety information relating to computer use and to practice equipment, and
advise you how to reduce any risk of injury. You will have access to copies of relevant hazards registers
and processes for reporting accidents and injuries so our Health and Safety Officers can follow them up.

You are required to undergo screening tests for infectious diseases and immune status prior to the
commencement of the programme.

Student loans/allowances

Student loans and allowances are for domestic students who have lived in New Zealand for three years.
For information about student loans and allowances please visit the Studylink website. It is important to
apply for your student loan/allowance at the same time as you apply for this programme, due to the length
of time Studylink take to process. Loan/allowance applications can be cancelled at any time if you decide
to withdraw your programme application or if it is unsuccessful.

Disclaimer

While every effort is made to ensure that this sheet is accurate, Otago Polytechnic reserves the right to
amend, alter or withdraw any of the contained information. The fees shown in this document are indicative
ONLY. Both domestic and international fees are subject to change and are dependent on the development
and implementation of Government policies. Please note that additional fees may from time to time be
required for external examination, NZQA fees and/or additional material fees.