



Accredited as  
Baby Friendly by  
unicef 

UNIVERSITY *of York*  
The Department of Health Sciences

# Application Advice Midwifery at York 2019

## Welcome to midwifery at York

The Midwifery Education Team is delighted that you are considering making an application to us to start a career in midwifery. The midwifery programme at the University of York is well established, with our first degree pre-registration programme starting in 1997. The current programme has been running since 2007 and was re-validated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council in March 2012.

The programme achieved the prestigious 'Baby Friendly' accredited status in 2011 (this is an award given by UNICEF in recognition of the high standard of infant feeding educational content). It was successfully re-accredited in 2018.

Our midwifery programme is extremely popular and highly successful at educating future midwives. Our students go on to become competent and confident practitioners. We have achieved an excellent employment rate amongst our newly graduated students.

We hope that the following information will support you in making a successful application.

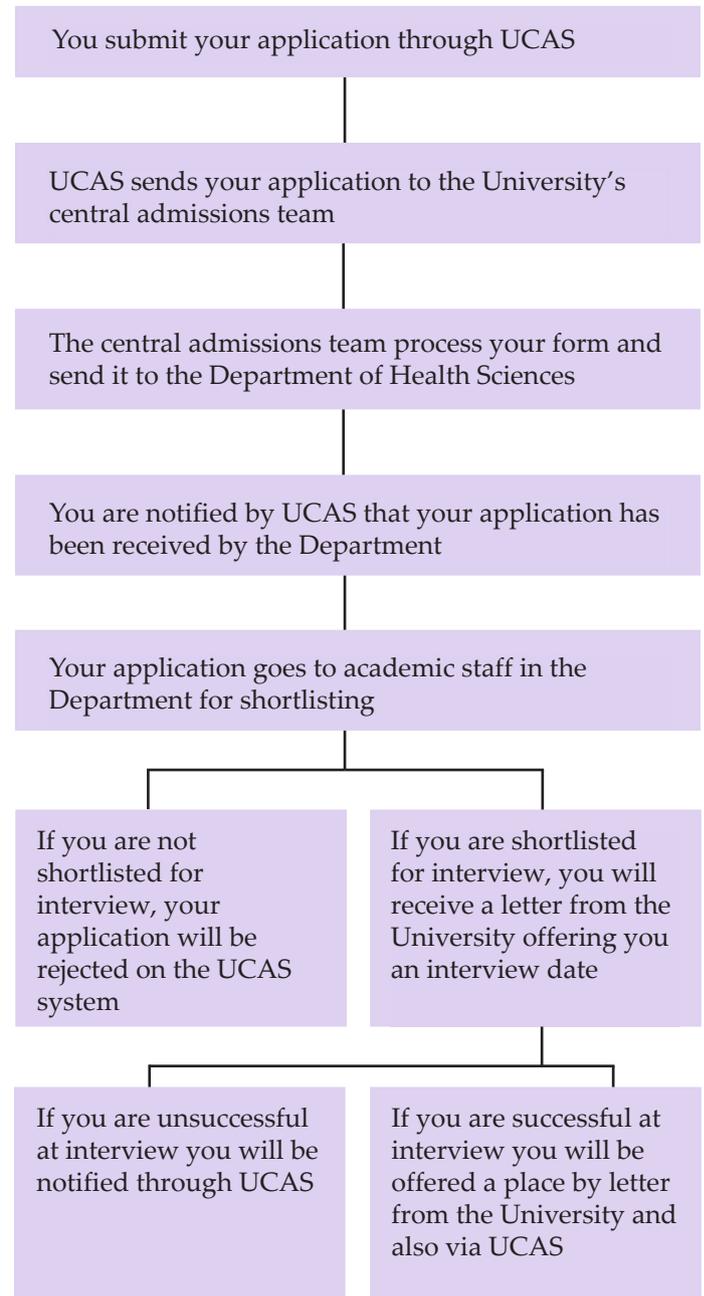
## How do I make an application?

You can apply for our midwifery programme through UCAS. The application cycle is between September and January. During this time period your application should be submitted and you may make up to five choices of institutions and programmes.

Applications received after the UCAS closing date are very unlikely to be considered.

When completing your UCAS application online, please read the guidance notes and proofread your application carefully. Be sure to complete all sections fully as incomplete applications may not be considered. Please also ensure you have the correct entry qualifications for the programme. Entry requirements can be found at [www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/study/](http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/study/).

## What happens to my application form?



## How do I complete the UCAS form?

Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to complete your UCAS form. Check that the form is accurate and fully completed before you submit it. Incomplete forms are subject to delay and may not be considered. Ask someone else to check it through with you.

Think carefully about the referees you choose. Referees need to tell us something about you. An academic reference is essential from any place where you have studied during the last five years. If you are at, or have recently left, school or college, you must ask a supervisor to complete a reference for you. Your second reference needs to be someone who can tell us about you as a person, an employer or perhaps a team leader from your work experience. Your referee will need to know you well enough to make a judgement about how suitable they think you are for the midwifery programme. Remember, referees cannot be family or friends.

## How do I complete my personal statement?

Your personal statement is a very important part of your application. This is one of the ways we choose the most committed and suitable candidates for midwifery. It shows us what you might be able to offer us as a student midwife at the University of York.

There is always high competition for places on the midwifery programme. Therefore, you need to consider what to include in your personal statement, so that you stand out as a strong prospective student. In recent years we have had over 700 applications and in view of so many applications, we acknowledge that we must turn down many suitable candidates. If your application is not successful, please do not consider this to be an indication of your suitability for midwifery and we would welcome a re-application in the following academic year.

Some of you use attention grabbing opening sentences

in your personal statements such as statements about midwifery as a profession or about yourself. Some people may even use jokes to open their statement. Be careful, this can backfire if your statement is not accurate or does not flow well with the rest of the content. It is important that you do not appear flippant about your application. If you are not sure what sort of thing to include, or you feel uncomfortable with making a snappy opening statement, then this probably is not the right way for you to begin.

When writing the text of your personal statement, use a style that is comfortable for you. If you try to use unfamiliar language then it will show through, and often becomes apparent at interview. Write in a clear and concise manner, and demonstrate you are capable of articulating thoughts and opinions. We want to know who you are as a person and that is what makes your statement unique to you. Be honest in what you write, do not exaggerate or invent things about yourself. Personal statements must be truthful.

Midwifery is a subject that has wide ranging appeal and we value a broad span of age groups. Whatever path you have chosen before making your application, you have life experiences and knowledge to draw upon. These are the things you need to tell us about. We want to know if you are suitable to become a student midwife.

## What should your personal statement include?

The main aim of your personal statement is to tell us why you want to study midwifery, that you understand what midwifery involves and why you are the right person for the programme. We are required to select applicants using a 'values based' approach. Therefore you are advised to familiarise yourself with the core values and principles of the NHS constitution at <http://tinyurl.com/nhsvaluesbasedapproach>.

If your personal statement can reflect this, then you have done a good job.

### **Why do you want to be a midwife?**

Think carefully about your motivation, this is a key factor. Tell us why midwifery appeals to you and demonstrate your understanding. Avoid general statements such as 'I've always wanted to become a midwife', or 'I want to care for people'. Link your motivation with showing understanding of the role of the midwife.

### **Understanding the role and work of a midwife**

In truth midwifery is not like TV dramas and 'One born every minute' - these are heavily edited to make good TV. Consider researching beyond very obvious aspects of the role. Our strongest applicants demonstrate real insight and current awareness. We do not presume that you will be an expert, but we do hope you will show a level of understanding.

### **Future plans**

Where do you see yourself in the future and what have you pictured as your midwifery career when you qualify? Show us that you have thought about the prospect of a future career path and have looked beyond registration. Consider where you may work and what you think that will be like.

### **Transferable skills**

These are skills and experiences you have from all areas of your life such as school, work experience, studying, hobbies, awards obtained, working in teams and volunteering.

Common examples are: communication skills (could be face-to-face or via telephone); interpersonal skills (getting on with and engaging with others); organisational skills (managing many things at the same time); time management skills (working to deadlines); and team working (understanding how your skills complement those of others). Once you have identified these, you need to show us how they can be applied to the role of the midwife. This is very important.

### **Why are you suitable to study and become a midwife?**

Tell us about the qualities you have that will make you a good midwife. Have you had either work experience or other experience of healthcare? Are there any parts of your current or previous studies that relate well to midwifery? Are there any achievements you have? (This is a chance to sell yourself and tell us what you are proud of). Do you have particular hobbies or interests?

## **Hints and tips**

Some final thoughts on your personal statement:

- research your choices of university carefully
- attend open days and seek information - much can be gained from universities' own websites
- take time and care over all aspects of your UCAS form and your personal statement in particular if applicable, keep a copy for your reference – as you may want to refer to it
- ask someone else to read it through
- make sure it is checked carefully for spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors – do not rely solely on spell checker
- be yourself, and use your own language
- be truthful and honest
- be concise in your statement, avoid repetition
- sell yourself to us!

## **What happens with shortlisting?**

Your application form will be shortlisted by academic members of the Department. These will be lecturers on the midwifery programme who have a great deal of experience in spotting the applicants with potential. The process is done fairly and uses a range of criteria to score students. This is to ensure a consistent approach to how we assess applications. Should you be shortlisted for the interview day and would like further advice about the midwifery interview process, then please visit the interview advice page on our website [www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/midwifery/apply/mid-interview-advice/](http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/midwifery/apply/mid-interview-advice/).

Finally... all the very best!