



GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF MIDWIFERY 2022

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many clinical placements for the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery program will be available in 2022?

There will be approximately twelve (12) positions available in 2022. This number could change at any time. The placements will be available at The Royal Women's Hospital Parkville campus. Students may be required on a limited basis to travel to the Women's at Sandringham in order to complete clinical placement or other learning requirements.

What are my options for midwifery graduate programs at the Women's if I decide to complete my Graduate Diploma of Midwifery clinical placements at the Women's?

Students are encouraged to consider all options for their graduate years in both metro and regional areas. Recruitment for the Women's graduate programs is independent of the clinical placement program and completing a clinical placement at the Women's does not influence the graduate recruitment process in any way. It is important to factor in a minimum of 12 months practice consolidation following registration as a midwife to your decision to complete midwifery studies.

What are the advantages of a supernumerary (unpaid model)?

The supernumerary model is student centred. By being supernumerary (additional) to workforce we are able to maximise your learning experiences.

How many days a week will I be on placement at the Women's?

Outside of your academic blocks you will be rostered on average three days a week on clinical placement in order to meet your clinical requirements. Your roster will contain a mix of AMs (Mornings) PMs (Afternoons) ND (Night Duty) and weekends.

Will I be able to choose my roster while on clinical placement?

Due to the high volume of midwifery student placements facilitated by the Women's each year from a variety of midwifery pathways (e.g. Bachelor of Midwifery (BM), Bachelor of Midwifery/Bachelor of Nursing (BM/BN) you will have a very limited ability to choose your roster particularly when you are rotating into Birth Centre.

I've heard that I might need to be 'on call' for part of my placements. Is this true?

Yes. You may be on call as part of your continuity of care experience requirements and if you complete a component of your placement through a caseload model. Your health and wellbeing is of paramount importance to us. Our Clinical Support Midwife team work with you to assist you to manage the hours you are on call and ensure the appropriate time off. You will also be on call if you are successful in gaining a place in the Women's caseload rotation.

Is a caseload model available for the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery Program in 2022?

Caseload provides a woman with a primary midwife and backup midwife. High level international evidence demonstrates the improved clinical outcomes for women and their newborns when maternity care is provided by a known midwife.

The Women's recognises the importance of continuity of the carer, and values its midwifery learners. Up to four (4) positions are available for postgraduate students to have the opportunity to complete a three month caseload clinical placement with a caseload team. This is a supernumerary (unpaid) placement as part of the clinical component of the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery.

To be eligible to apply to the caseload model the applicant needs to:

- Have access to a car twenty four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days a week.
- Have their primary residence within a twenty (20) kilometre radius of The Royal Women's Hospital, Parkville
- Have access to a mobile phone with texting capabilities for the entire duration of the placement
- Available for on-call hours over a seven (7) day working week for four (4) days (with three rostered days off per week).

Desirable Criteria

- Identifies as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait origin
- Have their primary residence within a fifteen (15) kilometre radius of The Royal Women's Hospital, Parkville.
- Have completed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural training and /or worked in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community.
- As part of your application process you will be asked if you would like to be considered for one of the caseload placements and at a later date we will request that you complete an additional component of your application relating to the caseload placements. Interest in a caseload model is non-compulsory and your interest in the caseload program does not influence your overall application for placement in any way.

Can I participate in paid work whilst completing my Graduate Diploma of Midwifery?

Some of our Graduate Diploma of Midwifery students do continue to hold a casual or part time job during their Graduate Diploma of Midwifery. Due to the demands of the program (continuity of care, the academic program and clinical placements) combining this with paid work can be challenging.

Do I have to wear a uniform while on clinical placement?

Yes. You will need to purchase a uniform from La Trobe ready to wear on your first clinical placement day.

Can I enrol through another university and obtain clinical placements at The Royal Women's Hospital to complete my Graduate Diploma of Midwifery?

No. The Women's only partnership for the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery is with La Trobe University.

When can I submit my application for a clinical placement for 2022?

Applications for the 2022 program open on the 1st of June, 2021 and close 27th July, 2021. Applications can be made from the Women's career page.

What is The Women's looking for from applicants applying for a clinical placement to complete midwifery at The Women's?

The Women's seeks to recruit applicants who demonstrate a passion for midwifery in a tertiary centre, women centred care and championing a social model of health. For applicants seeking to obtain a caseload placement we are also looking for a beginning understanding of the advantages of a case-load model for women, newborns and midwives.

What opportunities will I have to take leave during my program?

There are very limited options for short periods of leave available during your program. Long periods of leave during the program should not be planned as these are unable to be accommodated. Applicants should also be aware that placements may extend into January 2023 in order to complete required hurdles or birth numbers in order to register as a midwife.