**Graduate Diploma of Midwifery 2024**

Frequently Asked Questions

**How many clinical placements for the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery program will be available in 2024?**

There will be approximately twelve (12) positions available in 2024. This number is subject to change. The placements will be available at the Royal Women’s “ The Women’s” at Parkville.

**What post graduate midwifery models are available in 2024?**

Most post graduate midwifery places at the Women’s are supernumerary (unpaid). As of 2023 two (2) employed post graduate midwifery model places are also available as a part of our commitment to offering diverse education models to our students.

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

In the supernumerary model students are rostered on average three days a week on clinical placement in order to meet their clinical requirements. Rosters for both models will contain a mix of AMs (Mornings) PMs (Afternoons) ND (Night Duty) and weekends.

In the employed model students are employed to work in post natal (in ratios) sixteen (16) hours per week and are rostered eight (8) hours supernumerary in areas such as birth centre to complete the requirements of the program.

**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 across the midwifery continuum. Supernumerary students will have the opportunity to rotate through antenatal clinics and wards, Birth Centre, postnatal wards and services, as well and the special care nursery. This range of rotations allows for a diverse and comprehensive learning experience.

There are strengths and challenges of the employed and supernumerary models and applicants are encouraged to consider their individual circumstances as part of their application.

**Will I be able to choose my roster whilst 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 limited ability to choose your roster. We offer students the chance to submit roster requests in line with EBA guidelines.

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

Yes. You will be on call as part of your continuity of care experience requirements, also 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 2024?**

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 (Supernumerary mode)?**

Many of our Graduate Diploma of Midwifery students (supernumerary model) 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 and students may find it best to secure paid work in a casual bank or flexible/reduced EFT capacity if required.

**Do I have to wear a uniform whilst on clinical placement?**

Yes. You will need to purchase a uniform from LaTrobe 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 LaTrobe University.

**When can I submit my application for a clinical placement for 2024?**

Applications for the 2024 program open on the 1st of June, 2023 and close 12th August 2023. 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 seek to recruit applicants who demonstrate a passion for midwifery in a tertiary centre, women centred care and championing a social model of health. The Women’s promotes a culturally safe space for all women, families, students and staff members as this is a foundational component of midwifery practice. By becoming a part of the team at the Women’s we are all agreeing to support this essential value and actively contribute to ensuring cultural safety for everyone.

For applicants seeking to obtain a caseload placement we are also looking for an 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 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. Students must have the capacity to be rostered for three shifts a week for the entire program. Applicants should also be aware that placements may extend into January 2025 in order to complete required hurdles or birth numbers in order to register as a midwife.

**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?**

Supernumerary students are eligible for a midwifery graduate program on completion of their study. Whilst recruitment for the Women’s graduate programs is independent of the post graduate midwifery clinical placement program we encourage our midwifery students to consider the Women’s as their first choice for their early career consolidation/graduate program. It is important to factor in a minimum of twelve (12) months practice consolidation following registration as a midwife to your decision to complete midwifery studies.