



Graduate Diploma of Midwifery 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

How many clinical placements/employed positions for the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery program will be available in 2025?

There will be approximately twelve (12) positions available in 2025 (February 2025 commencement). Between two (2) and four (4) of these positions will be an employed model (dependent on government funding) and the remaining supernumerary. This number could change at any time.

Is there a midyear Graduate Diploma of Midwifery intake?

No – all placements/employed positions commence in February 2025.

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 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 very limited ability to choose your roster particularly when you are rotating into Birth Centre. For those students engaged under the employed model the relevant Green Team or Blue Team Leader will be responsible for your roster based on operational requirements.

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 will 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 2025?

Caseload is available to our post graduate students engaged under the supernumerary model. 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:

- Be engaged in the supernumerary (unpaid) clinical placement model.
- 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 Model)?

Some 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.

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 enroll 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 2025 program open on the 1st of June 2024 and close 12th August 2024. Applications can be made from the Women's career page.

What are the Women's looking for from applicants applying for a clinical placement/employed program to complete midwifery at the Women's?

The Women's seeks to recruit applicants with a minimum of post registration acute care practice as a Registered nurse 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 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?

Retention of our students is a clear and strong focus for the Women's. We encourage our post graduate midwifery students to apply to complete their graduate program at the Women's. Recruitment for the Women's graduate programs is independent of the clinical placement 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.

