



the women's
the royal women's hospital

Graduate Diploma of Midwifery Clinical Placements

Frequently asked Questions

Which university can I enrol in if I want to complete my Graduate Diploma of Midwifery at the Women's?

La Trobe University is the single partner for the Women's Graduate Diploma of Midwifery program.

How many clinical placement positions for the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery program will be available in 2026?

At this stage there are four (4) employed and eight (8) supernumerary positions available for the 2026 program. Final numbers for 2026 are yet to be confirmed and are subject to change dependent on government funding.

Is there a mid-year Graduate Diploma of Midwifery intake?

No – There is only one cohort per year, all commencing in February 2026.

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

The supernumerary model allows the flexibility to experience the different areas of maternity care. A student in the supernumerary model will rotate to multiple areas in maternity for longer periods of time. This varies from the employed model where most shifts are allocated in postnatal inpatient wards.

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

You will be rostered at 0.6 EFT, or 3 shifts a week on a 24/7 rotating roster. This means you will be rostered to morning, evening and night duty shifts. Fixed rostering is not possible and you may be required to complete additional supernumerary shifts to achieve your required births or other clinical hurdles. Students in the supernumerary program will not be rostered on during study weeks. Students in the Employed program may submit roster requests or leave requests to manage their study load.

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

All students will be afforded shift requests prior to the roster being built. The Clinical Support Midwives (CSMs) will do their best to accommodate your requests wherever possible.

The employed model students will be rostered for their postnatal shifts as per The Women's Rostering (Nursing and Midwifery Guideline). Employed students may liaise with the CSM team for requests and swaps in all supernumerary areas where there are available shifts.

Can I participate in other, paid work whilst completing the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery?

Yes- Some students maintain part-time or casual work while completing their Graduate Diploma of Midwifery. Due to the course demands, your schedule may require some careful consideration.

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

Yes, you will be expected to wear the La Trobe clinical placement uniform while on placement along with a name tag. All students are required to comply with the Women's Dress Code Procedure. Employed students are required to wear their LaTrobe uniform when they are rostered to their supernumerary shifts (e.g. in Birth Centre).

Will there be time to take leave during the program?

The Graduate Diploma of Midwifery is an intensive year with many requirements to consider. Often students plan to utilise their limited leave allowance around exams and course work.

Extended leave periods should not be planned during the program as this will increase the challenges for you in completing your course requirements. It is important for you to know you may be completing your placement in January 2027 depending on hurdle requirements such as birth numbers and Continuity of Care Experience (CoCE) requirements.

Is a caseload, or midwifery group practice placement available for the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery program?

Yes. The Women's recognises the importance of continuity of carer and values this learning experience for student midwives. Caseload placement is offered for a block of three (3) months, meaning students get to experience caseload and standard care. Up to four positions are available to postgraduate students.

Interest in the caseload program is not compulsory and expression of your interest in either caseload or standard care placement type will not affect the outcome of your application.

To be eligible to apply to the caseload model applicants need to:

- Have access to a car 24 hours a day
- Primarily reside within a 20km radius of the Royal Women's Hospital
- Have sole access to a mobile phone with texting capabilities for the entire duration of the placement
- Be available on-call for 24 hours per day for 4 days per week (with 3 days off call).

Is 'on call work' required if I don't express interest in the caseload program?

No, however all midwifery students must follow ten (10) women through the Continuity of Care Experience (CoCE) as a part of their course requirements. This is in addition to placement requirements and does involve attendance at a minimum 4 antenatal appointments and 2 postnatal appointments for each CoCE partnership and a minimum of 6/10 births. Your CoCE families will expect to be able to contact you within reason. These requirements can feel quite challenging. It is important that you discuss any

challenges you are facing with your Team Leader (Employed model) and your Clinical Support Midwives. Together we can work with you to navigate the challenges you encounter.

When can I submit my application for a clinical placement for 2026?

Applications for the 2026 program **open on the 1st of August 2025** and **close on the 14th of September 2025**. Applications, including a cover letter and CV/Resume, can be submitted via the Women's Career Page when applications open.

Shortlisted applicants will be offered an interview and positions candidates will be informed of the outcome of their application by early October 2025.

Candidates are required to apply separately to LaTrobe University for the academic component of their course.

What should I include in my application?

The Women's seeks to recruit nurses who are passionate about studying midwifery who have completed a minimum of 12 months nursing experience in an acute setting.

You will need to submit a cover letter (maximum one (1) page), a CV/Resume (Maximum two (2) pages). Please add two recent, references from your clinical workplace. Ideally these will be from a current manager.

In your application, we want to hear about:

- Your interest in midwifery and women's health.
- Your skills, strengths and experience.
- Your ongoing learning and professional development.
- Why you want to complete your placement at the Women's.

What are my options for midwifery graduate programs following completion of my diploma?

Retention of our students is a goal of our program at the Women's. We encourage our post graduate midwifery students to apply to complete their graduate program at the Women's.

Supernumerary students apply through PMCV and employed students submit applications directly to the Women's and /or other chosen maternity services.

How do I apply for the stream I am interested in?

When applying via [the Women's career website](#), there will be one option for the Graduate Diploma of Midwifery program. In your cover letter please identify which stream you are interested in:

1. Employed
2. Supernumerary
3. Caseload*
4. Any stream

*Finalisation of caseload placements will occur via an expression of interest process after you have received a placement (supernumerary or employed) offer.

How can I seek further information?

The link to the information evening will be available on the Women's website closer to the date. Registrations for this event are not required.

For further questions or information, you can email CSMteam@thewomens.org.au

To speak with a clinical support midwife, please call (03) 8345 2478.