

Programme Audit/Major Modification report

Programme provider:	Birmingham City University
In partnership with: (Associated practice placement providers involved in the delivery of the programme)	Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust (Birmingham Women's Hospital) University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (Heartlands Hospital, Good Hope Hospital and Solihull Hospital) Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (City Hospital)
Date of review:	13 Jun 2019
Type of Modification	Desktop
Provision reviewed:	Registered Midwife - 36M
Title of current programme:	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Title of modified programme if changed:	
Academic level of current programme:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 7 SCQF <input type="checkbox"/> Level 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 11
Academic level of modified programme if changed:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 7 SCQF <input type="checkbox"/> Level 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 11

Reviewer:	Suzanne Crozier
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Outcome of Approval Panel Meeting	
Outcome:	Recommended for approval
Conditions and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to:	<p>Resources None identified</p> <p>Admission and progression None identified</p> <p>Practice learning None identified</p> <p>Fitness for practice None identified</p> <p>Quality assurance None identified</p>
Date conditions to be met:	
Recommendations and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to: Note: recommendations will be assessed through the AEI annual self-assessment report	None identified
Date conditions met:	
Programme start date:	16 Sep 2019

Summary

Summary of modification request

Birmingham City University (BCU) identified that the current design of the first year of the pre-registration BSc (Hons) midwifery programme is having a negative impact on student learning and achievement. There's been a consultation with students, academic and practice learning partners (PLPs) and external examiners, all of whom are in agreement with changing the structure of the first year. The proposal is to create two 30 credit modules from four existing 15 credit modules and align the new learning outcomes and assessment. Programme learning outcomes remain the same. The module learning outcomes for the existing four modules have been reviewed and amalgamated into new outcomes for the proposed modules. The proposed new modules will also reduce student assessment workload from two examinations, a case study and a viva voce to one unseen examination and a case study.

Documentary evidence was submitted by the programme team to support the proposed change and a telephone meeting was held with programme team representatives on 13 June 2019.

The evidence presented demonstrates consultation and partnership working between BCU, students and PLPs in the development of the proposed programme modification. The programme changes are scheduled to commence with the new first year cohort from 16 September 2019.

The programme continues to meet the Standards for pre-registration midwifery education NMC, (2009).

The major modification is recommended to the NMC for approval.

Feedback from key stakeholders

Presenting Team

The team explained that the proposed modifications are needed to address concerns about student attrition and assessment workload. The timeline for BCU quality assurance was explained as documentation indicates the process began in 2018. It was confirmed that the delay was due to internal meeting dates and that external examiners and PLPs continue to support the proposed change. The team described the module modifications clearly and provided a rationale for the change to learning outcomes in relation to medicine management. Documentation

confirmed that assessment of medicine management continues to take place in year one and that the essential skills cluster is embedded in practice learning outcomes.

Mentors, sign-off mentors, practice teachers and employers

There's documentary evidence provided by the programme team of employer PLPs' support for the modification.

Students

There's clear evidence provided by the programme team of student consultation and support for the modification.

Service users and carers

Service users were involved in the initial design of the programme and remain involved in the subsequent delivery.

Examples of notable and innovative practice and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to compliance of education standards and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to the student learning environment and standards they relate to

None identified

Any other risks to public protection

None identified

Areas for future monitoring

None identified

Outcome recommendation

The major modification is recommended to the NMC for approval.

NMC Standards

Please refer to the [Standards for Pre-Registration Midwifery Education \(NMC, 2009\)](#), current programme specific circulars accessed via the [NMC Website](#), EU Directive 2005/36/EC Article 41 (1) and Article 31 (6-7), and Section one of the Mott MacDonald [QA Handbook](#).

Standards for the lead midwife for education

Standard 1: Appointment of the lead midwife for education

The NMC requires an approved educational institution (AEI) to do the following:

Appoint a lead midwife for education (LME) who is a practising midwife and has a recorded midwifery teaching qualification on the NMC register.

Confirm the appointment of an LME with the NMC

Use the LME for strategic liaison with external agencies such as purchasers of education provision for all matters affecting midwifery education.

What we found:

Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.

Outcome:	Standard met
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Date standards met:	
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Revised outcome:	
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Standard 2: Development, delivery and management of midwifery education programmes	
The LME shall lead the development, delivery and management of the midwifery education programmes provided by the AEI, ensuring that they comply with the standards established by the NMC.	
What we found:	
The lead midwife for education (LME) told us that she leads the review and development of the programme and confirmed this has included leading this proposed modification. Documentation provided as part of the modification approval process confirmed this role and ensured response to minor editorial issues in the student handbook.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 3: Signing the supporting declaration of good health and good character	
In accordance with rule 6(1)(a)(ii) of the registration rules, the LME shall be responsible, at her discretion, for signing the supporting declarations of good health and good character for all midwifery applications to the register.	
What we found:	

Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standards for admission to, and continued participation in, pre-registration midwifery programmes
<p>Age of entry</p> <p>St. 4</p> <p>General requirements</p> <p>The following requirements for selection should be read and operated alongside programme providers' existing policies and procedures:</p> <p>4.1 Selection</p> <p>Wherever practicable, the selection process should include a face-to-face meeting.</p> <p>Programme providers (AEIs and their service partners) are encourage, wherever possible, to involve lay people and midwifery students in the selection process. Depending on local circumstances they may be involved directly or indirectly in selection.</p> <p>All individuals in the selection process should receive appropriate training, preparation and updating which includes equality and diversity.</p> <p>Representatives of partner service provider organisations should be directly involved in the selection process.</p>

The views of the individuals directly involved in selecting applicants should be taken into account when making final decisions on whether to accept or reject an applicant.

4.2 Literacy and numeracy

AEIs are required to ensure that applicants for pre-registration midwifery education programmes have provided evidence of literacy and numeracy that includes prior achievement of basic skills sufficient to undertake a pre-registration midwifery programme of education to a satisfactory level of attainment.

4.3 Good health and good character

Applicants must demonstrate that they have good health and good character sufficient for safe and effective practice as a midwife, on entry to, and for continued participation in, programmes leading to registration with the NMC.

Applicants from overseas must meet the good health and good character as defined for UK applicants and additionally those requirements set out by the UK government for healthcare workers from overseas

4.4 Entry to the register

The NMC requires a self-declaration of good health and good character from all those entering the register for the first time. On completion of the midwifery programme the student will submit this self declaration. The declaration is either supported by the LME, whose name has been notified to the Council and who is responsible for midwifery education in the relevant AEI, or by her designated registered midwife substitute. AEIs must be able to provide evidence of having fulfilled this requirement.

What we found:

Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.

Outcome:

Standard met

Date standards met:

Revised outcome:	

Standard 5: Interruptions to pre-registration midwifery education programmes	
<p>Programme providers must ensure that they have in place processes to manage interruptions to the study of programmes for whatever reason.</p> <p>When a student returns to a programme it is recommended they have a period of orientation appropriate to the length of interruption. Programme providers must ensure that the student's acquired knowledge and skills remain valid, enabling them to achieve the necessary standards required on completion of the course.</p>	
What we found:	
<p>The programme team explained that there's an effective process in place to manage the student journey for those who have interrupted their studies and who may be affected by the module changes. Documentary evidence confirms student learning is mapped to ensure all outcomes are met and individual learning plans can be put in place to support this.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 6: Admission with advanced standing

<p>All applicants, other than those registered as a nurse level one (adult), must complete a minimum three years full-time pre-registration midwifery programme of education.</p> <p>Where a student is already registered with the NMC as a nurse level one (adult), the length of the pre-registration midwifery education programme shall be no less than 18 months full time.</p>	
What we found:	
Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 7: Transfer between approved educational institutions	
It is the responsibility of AEIs to decide whether or not to accept an application for transfer.	
What we found:	
Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

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Standard 8: Stepping off and stepping on to pre-registration midwifery education programmes	
Students can 'step off' a pre-registration midwifery programme of education.	
What we found:	
Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standards for the structure and nature of pre-registration midwifery programmes
Standard 9: Academic standard of programme
<p>Since September 2008 the minimum academic level for entry to the midwives' part of the register for those entering pre-registration midwifery programmes is degree level (NMC Circular 14/2007).</p> <p>Scotland – 360 academic credits, 60 of which must be at level nine.</p> <p>England, Wales and Northern Ireland – 300 academic credits, 60 of which must be at level H.</p>

What we found:	
Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 10: Length of programme	
<p>Article 31(6-7) of EU Directive 2005/36/EC now describes the length of midwifery programmes in years, months and hours.</p> <p>The length of a pre-registration midwifery programme of education should be no less than three years (equivalent to 156 weeks full time) and each year shall contain 45 programmed weeks.</p> <p>Three year direct entry programme – 4,600 hours (minimum requirement)</p> <p>Where the student is already registered with the NMC as a nurse level one (adult), the length of the pre-registration midwifery programme of education shall not be less than 18 months (equivalent to 78 weeks full time).</p> <p>Eighteen month midwifery programme (following qualification as an adult nurse) – 3,000 hours (minimum requirement).</p>	
What we found:	
Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met

Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 11: Student support	
Midwife teachers and midwife mentors must meet the NMC's standards to support learning and assessment in practice.	
What we found:	
Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 12: Balance between clinical practice and theory	
Since September 2008, the practice to theory ratio of each programme is required to be no less than 50 percent practice and no less than 40 percent theory.	
What we found:	

Module documentation provided for the modification indicates that teacher contact hours will be reduced within the new modules. The team confirmed that this was an error and that the contact hours were 60 per 30 credit module which maintain the existing approved pattern and theory to practice ratio. Updated module descriptors and internal quality assurance documentation were provided to confirm this. In addition, the head of department confirmed that the academic staff resource is sufficient to deliver the programme.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 13: Scope of practice experience

Where the opportunity is available, students should be involved in supporting women birthing in a variety of settings.

Student midwives must be involved in the care of a small group of women throughout their childbirth experience, including antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care.

What we found:

Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.

Outcome:	Standard met
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Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 14: Supernumerary status during clinical placement	
Students undertaking pre-registration midwifery education programmes cannot be employed to provide midwifery care during their training – all clinical experience should be education-led with students having supernumerary status for the duration.	
What we found:	
The Care Quality Commission (CQC) report for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust found that services required improvement. Staffing on the maternity unit was raised as an area of concern. BCU provided evidence of an action plan in collaboration with the trust which identified an effective response to the CQC report. Ongoing monitoring is in place and students report positive learning experiences with appropriate support from academic and practice learning staff.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 15: Assessment strategy	
<p>Clinical practice must be graded and be counted as part of the academic award.</p> <p>All outcomes within a progression point period (for example an academic year) have to be achieved and confirmed within 12 weeks of entering the next academic level. All assessments must be completed and have been passed prior to successful completion of the programme.</p> <p>A student midwife shall achieve these standards under the supervision of a sign-off mentor.</p>	
What we found:	
<p>The modification rationale and new module specifications provide evidence of a reduced number of theoretical assessments from four to two in the revised first year of the programme. There's a case study linked to the new 'foundations of midwifery and antenatal care' module and an unseen examination in the new 'post-natal mother and baby' module. The programme team confirmed the graded assessment of practice remains unchanged.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 16: Ongoing record of achievement
<p>An ongoing record of achievement, including comments from mentors, must be passed from one placement to the next to enable judgements to be made on the student's progress.</p>

What we found:	
Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Achieving the NMC standards
Standard 17: Competencies required to achieve the NMC standards
Students need to be proficient in all standards by the end of their training in order to practise safely and effectively as a midwife without the need for direct supervision. A student must demonstrate competence in these standards to enter the register as a midwife.
What we found:
<p>The documentary evidence and findings from the discussion with the programme team confirm that the proposed new modules are appropriate, reflect contemporary practice and enable students to develop proficiency to meet the standards.</p> <p>A mapping document was provided to demonstrate how the previous module content has been moved into the new modules. The programme team told us that the new module structure will improve student learning and reduce repetition of content. The new module outcomes don't include an explicit reference to medicine management which was present in a previous module. The programme team explained that medicine management is integrated across the proposed year one modules. The module lead confirmed that the essential skills cluster for medicine management is addressed in the module 'clinical practice one'. This</p>

<p>module also contains the practice assessment and drugs log which students must complete prior to progression into year two. In addition, students must complete the safe medicate assessment which is part of the assessment of professional requirements in the module 'midwifery practice: intrapartum care'. Documentary evidence is provided which supports this approach.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met
<p> </p>	
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	
<p> </p>	

<p><u>NMC Circular 03/2011</u></p>	
<p>Resources to support programme intentions</p> <p>Programme providers must provide evidence at programme approval that resources are currently available to support programme intentions.</p>	
<p>What we found:</p>	
<p>Unchanged since original programme approval, 1 May 2015. The head of department confirmed that the academic staff resource remains sufficient to deliver the programme.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met
<p> </p>	
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

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Evidence and references list

Telephone call with BCU midwifery academic staff, 13 June 2019

BCU module change email messages from employers, 15 May, 7 June, 20 November 2018

BCU module template new merged student feedback, 13 and 20 November 2018

BCU major modification response to NMC visitor queries, 7 June 2019.

BCU module specifications for foundations of midwifery with antenatal care and the postnatal mother and neonate, 12 December 2018

BCU updated module specifications for foundations of midwifery with ante natal care and the postnatal mother and neonate, 5 June 2019

BCU MMC Chairs action confirmation, 6 June 2019

CQC report for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (City Hospital), 5 April 2019

BCU action plan Sandwell City Hospital Trust, 9 April 2019 BCU mapping process for the proposed new modules content against the existing modules, 21 May 2019

BCU additional evidence e-learning requirements, ongoing achievement record, drugs log, module specification, undated BCU module specifications midwifery practice: intrapartum care and clinical practice one, 19 September 2018

Personnel supporting programme approval
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Members of Approval Panel

NMC QA visitor

Programme Presenters

BCU school lead for academic quality

BCU LME

BCU head of department and module lead, MID4008
BCU programme leader and module lead, MID4012
BCU module lead year one
BCU module lead year one
BCU midwifery lecturer (observer)

Were any service providers visited?

Not required for a major modification desktop event.

Meetings with others

Mentors / sign-off mentors	
Practice teachers	
Service users / Carers	
Practice Education Facilitator	
Director / manager nursing	
Director / manager midwifery	
Education commissioners or equivalent	
Designated Medical Practitioners	
Other (please specify)	

If there were no representatives present during the approval event please state why:

Not required for a major modification desktop event.

Meetings with students

Nursing					
Adult		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Mental Health		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Children's		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Learning Disabilities		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Midwifery (3 year)		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Midwifery (18 month)		Year 1	Year 2		
SCPHN		HV	SN	OH	FHN
					RPHN
Learning and Assessment in Practice		Mentor		Practice Teacher	Teacher
Nurse Prescribing		V100	V150	V300	
Specialist Practice		Adult	Mental Health	Children's	
		Learning Disability	General Practice Nursing	Community Mental Health Nursing	

		Community Learning Disabilities Nursing	Community Children's Nursing	District Nursing
Additional evidence viewed				
No additional evidence was viewed.				

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Issue record

Author:	Suzanne Crozier	Date:	17 Jun 2019
Checked by:	Bernie Wallis	Date:	01 Aug 2019
Approved by:	Andrea Bacon	Date:	01 Aug 2019