



Nursing and Midwifery Council

Major Modification Report for pre-registration midwifery qualification:

Pre-registration Midwifery

Liverpool John Moores University

February 2026

QA Link reference number: 090125134724-M

Contents

Key institutional and programme details.....	1
Introduction	2
Explanation of findings for Part 3	4
1: Selection, admission and progression.....	5
2: Curriculum.....	7
3: Practice learning	9
4: Supervision and assessment.....	11
5: Qualification to be awarded	13
Conditions and recommendations	14
Conditions	14
Recommendations for enhancement	14
Areas for future monitoring	14
Evidence list	15

Key institutional and programme details

AEI Institution Identifier [UKPRN]	10003957
Address of main programme delivery	Liverpool John Moores University Liverpool L2 2ER
Satellite site details	Existing Satellite Sites: N/A New Satellite Sites: N/A
Partnership site details	N/A
Endorsement details	N/A
Name of new employer partners for apprenticeships	N/A, this is not an apprenticeship route
Event type	Major modification
Proposed programme start date	14 September 2026
Date of activity	Desk-based review - February 2026
Visitor team	Registrant Visitor: Professor Jayne Elizabeth Marshall

Name of current programme(s) under review					
NMC programme title	AEI programme title(s) (in full)	Academic level(s)	Apprentice-ship	Full-time	Part-time
Pre-registration Midwifery	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Midwifery	England, Wales, Northern Ireland ☒ Level 6 ☐ Level 7		☒	☐

Titles of amended and/or additional programme(s) following modification
There have been no amendments or additions to programme titles.

Exit awards that lead to NMC registration

There are no exit awards for this qualification that lead to NMC registration.
--

Introduction

Quality assurance (QA) activity is undertaken for the specific purpose of making recommendations to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) in relation to the approval or modification of the above-named programme(s). QA activity follows processes outlined in the relevant handbooks. These handbooks provide guidance for Approved Education Institutions (AEIs) on quality assurance activities that the QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) performs as the quality assurance service provider (QASP) for the NMC. These can be found [here](#).

Quality assurance activity involves desk-based analysis of the AEI's self-evaluation narrative and documentary evidence which will inform the decision of the visitor/s on whether each of the NMC programme standards in Part 3 have been met. To facilitate decision making, NMC visitors are able to request further information, evidence or clarification. All narrative and evidence submitted by the AEI is reviewed by the visitor/s, with the event then providing the opportunity for triangulation of evidence. A list of all evidence reviewed which has supported decision making is provided within this report.

QA activity will take into consideration the input of a range of stakeholders such as students, people who use services and carers (PSCs), employer partners (EPs), practice learning partners (PLPs), the programme team and senior managers.

The AEI has already been through quality assurance gateway processes that have provided assurance that all Part 1: Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education (SFNME) (NMC 2018, updated 2023) and Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment (SSSA) (NMC 2018, updated 2023) have been met.

Part 3 is contextualised for the programme under scrutiny and provides the AEI with an opportunity to provide evidence of how Part 1 and Part 2 continue to be met. Part 1 and Part 2 will therefore be referred to as appropriate.

For programme approvals, all standards within Part 3: Standards for pre-registration midwifery programmes are reported upon. For major modifications, only those Part 3 standards impacted by the modification are reported upon.

A draft report is shared with the AEI for the purposes of confirming factual accuracy before the report is finalised. All decisions at the event are provisional until ratified by the NMC. No students or apprentices should be enrolled onto any of the programmes under consideration until the AEI receives written confirmation of approval from the NMC.

This modification was undertaken as a desk-based review in February 2026.

Context

This major modification proposal has been driven by Liverpool John Moores University's (LJMU) internal periodic review process, which has led to changes to enhance currency and the teaching and learning experiences of students. The proposed changes include consideration of programme length and structure, whilst retaining the required number of theory hours, programme content, programme and module learning outcomes, and assessment modes. The impact is therefore mainly focused on Section 2: Curriculum of these Part 3 Standards. Practice learning remains unchanged as does the ratio of theory to practice.

Key stakeholders have been engaged in the proposed modifications, which are informed by student feedback, through consultation meetings, and remain engaged in the ongoing delivery and scrutiny of the programme.

The **final recommendation** made by the visitor to the NMC, following consideration of LJMU's response to any conditions required by the approval panel, is as follows:

The modified programme is recommended for approval - the programme **meets** all standards and requirements and enables students to achieve stated NMC standards of proficiency and learning outcomes for theory and practice.

Explanation of findings for Part 3

This report addresses only those standards identified as within scope.

The visitor reviewed a comprehensive range of evidence to inform this report, including university policies, programme specifications, module records, programme handbooks, mapping documents, and practice assessment documents (PADs). A full list of the evidence considered by the visitor is at the back of this report.

The accompanying table sets out a concise summary of the curriculum and practice learning requirements for the programme under scrutiny.

Overview of course structure and curriculum	This full-time programme runs over three years, with 120 credits in each year across 45 weeks in Year 1 and 44 weeks in Year 2 and Year 3. This comprises 2,362.5 theory and 2,325 practice hours to create an equal balance.
Overview of practice learning requirements	Students undertake 2,325 practice hours across the three years, with 19 weeks in Year 1, 21 weeks in Year 2 and 22 weeks in Year 3. Practice learning requirements have not changed as a result of this modification and therefore students remain able to complete all requirements to fulfil Standard 3.5.

1: Selection, admission and progression

Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must:

1.1 appoint a lead midwife for education who is responsible for midwifery education in the AEI.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

1.2 inform the NMC of the name of the lead midwife for education.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

1.3 ensure recognition of prior learning is not permitted for pre-registration midwifery programmes.	Met
--	-----

The programme information states that recognition of prior learning is not permitted. However, the information had been updated within the admissions criteria to state that transfers from one NMC-approved midwifery programme to the LJMU approved midwifery programme will be considered through the LJMU recognition of prior or experiential learning (RP(E)L) process, subject to availability of spaces and placement capacity. This resulted in the condition **(C1)** that LJMU remove any reference to transfers and recognition of prior learning (RPL) to make clear that RPL is not permitted for pre-registration midwifery programmes.

1.4 ensure selection, admission and progression comply with the NMC Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

1.5 confirm on entry to the programme that students: 1.5.1 meet the entry requirements for the programme as set out by the AEI and are suitable for midwifery practice 1.5.2 demonstrate an understanding of the role and scope of practice of the midwife 1.5.3 demonstrate values in accordance with the Code 1.5.4 have capability to learn behaviours in accordance with the Code 1.5.5 have capability to develop numeracy skills required to meet programme outcomes 1.5.6 can demonstrate proficiency in English language 1.5.7 have capability in literacy to meet programme outcomes 1.5.8 have capability to develop digital and technological literacy to meet programme outcomes.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

1.6 support students throughout the programme in continuously developing their abilities in numeracy, literacy and digital and technological literacy to meet programme outcomes.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

1.7 ensure students' health and character are sufficient to enable safe and effective practice on entering the programme, throughout the programme and when submitting the supporting declaration of health and character in line with the NMC Guidance on health and character. This includes satisfactory occupational health assessments and criminal record checks.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

1.8 ensure students are fully informed of the requirement to declare immediately any police charges, cautions, convictions or conditional discharges, or determinations that their fitness to practise is impaired made by other regulators, professional bodies and educational establishments, and ensure that any declarations are dealt with promptly, fairly and lawfully.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

1.9 ensure the lead midwife for education, or their designated midwife substitute is able to provide supporting declarations of health and character for students who have successfully completed an NMC approved pre-registration midwifery programme, and	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

1.10 ensure NMC registered nurses entering a shortened pre-registration midwifery programme are a Registered nurse: first level (adult).	N/A
---	-----

This is not a shortened pre-registration midwifery programme.

The visitor concludes that the AEI needs to meet condition C1 in order to provide assurance that Standard 1: Selection, admission and progression has been met.

2: Curriculum

Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must:

2.1 ensure that programmes comply with the NMC Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education.	Met
--	-----

The visitor confirmed that the proposed changes do not impact on the way LJMU complies with the NMC Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education (SFNME) (NMC 2018, updated 2023). The visitor confirmed that key stakeholders have been engaged in the modification and development of the programme. The self-evaluation document provided as part of the internal revalidation of the programme confirmed that student feedback was taken into account in relation to the proposed modification. In addition, relevant meeting minutes and information from the PLP forum confirm that key stakeholders and PSCs have continued engagement with the development of the programme.

2.2 comply with the NMC Standards for student supervision and assessment.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

2.3 ensure that programme learning outcomes reflect the Standards of proficiency for midwives.	Met
---	-----

The visitor reviewed the provided mapping documentation and confirmed that all Standards of proficiency for midwives (SoPM) (NMC 2019) are effectively mapped to the programme learning outcomes and to the modules within the programme.

2.4 involve women, partners, families and advocacy groups in the design, development, delivery and evaluation of programmes.	Met
---	-----

The visitor confirmed that women, partners, families and advocacy groups engaged in programme development and there are no proposed changes to the ways in which these groups are engaged in the delivery and evaluation of programmes.

2.5 ensure that programmes delivered in Wales comply with legislation which supports use of the Welsh language.	N/A
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

2.6 design and deliver programmes that support students and provide relevant and ongoing exposure to midwifery practice.	Met
---	-----

Whilst there are no changes to Standard 2.6 as a result of this modification, the visitor reviewed the self-evaluation document provided as part of the internal revalidation process and the programme guide to confirm that students continue to experience midwifery practice in at least two NHS Trusts.

2.7 ensure technology and simulated learning opportunities are used effectively and proportionately across the curriculum to support supervision, learning and assessment, including where practice scenarios occur infrequently, and a proficiency is required.	Met
---	-----

The visitor reviewed the simulated education information and confirmed that simulated education has been enhanced as part of this modification and that technology and simulated learning opportunities continue to be used effectively and proportionately across the curriculum.

2.8 design curricula that provide an equal balance of 50 per cent theory and 50 per cent practice learning, using a range of learning and teaching strategies.	Met
---	-----

The visitor reviewed the programme documentation and planners to confirm that the equal balance of 50 per cent theory and 50 per cent practice has been maintained and that a range of learning and teaching strategies remain.

2.9 ensure NMC approved pre-registration midwifery education programmes are of sufficient length to enable students to meet the NMC Standards of proficiency for midwives and respective programme outcomes, by meeting the following criteria: 2.9.1 ensure that all pre-registration midwifery programmes meet the equivalent minimum programme length of three (academic) years for full time programmes, which consist of a minimum of 4,600 hours, or 2.9.2 where a student is already registered with the NMC as a registered first level nurse (adult), education and training as a midwife shall be a minimum of two years, which consists of a minimum of 3,600 hours, or 2.9.3 where a student is already registered with the NMC as a registered first level nurse (adult), education and training as a midwife shall be a minimum of 18 months and 3,000 hours, and in order for the qualification to be recognised in EU member states it must be followed by a year of professional midwifery practice.	Met
---	-----

The visitor confirmed that the programme remains a three-year, full-time programme and programme planners confirm that this consists of a minimum of 4,687.5 hours, which is above the minimum of 4,600.

The visitor concludes that the AEI has met Standard 2: Curriculum.
--

3: Practice learning

Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must:

3.1 provide practice learning opportunities that enable students to develop and meet the NMC Standards of proficiency for midwives.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.2 ensure students experience the role and scope of the midwife, enabling them to provide holistic care to women, newborn infants, partners and families.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.3 provide students with learning opportunities to enable them to achieve the proficiencies related to interdisciplinary and multiagency team working.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.4 provide students with learning opportunities to enable them to achieve the proficiencies related to continuity of midwifery carer across the whole continuum of care for all women and newborn infants.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.5 provide learning opportunities, across the whole continuum of care, that enables students to gain experience to: 3.5.1 support and care for women during pregnancy, undertaking no less than 100 antenatal examinations 3.5.2 support and care for no less than 40 women in labour and conduct the birth. Where 40 births cannot be reached owing to the lack of available women giving birth, it may be reduced to a minimum of 30, provided that the student is given the opportunity to assist with caring for an additional 20 women giving birth 3.5.3 participate in the support and care of women in labour and conduct a breech birth. Where there are no opportunities in practice to gain experience of breech births, proficiency may be gained by simulated learning 3.5.4 support and care for no less than 100 women postnatally and 100 healthy newborn infants 3.5.5 develop the required knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to support and care for no less than 40 women who have additional care needs or develop complications including those related to physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual factors 3.5.6 care for newborn infants requiring additional care or have complications, including in a neonatal unit and 3.5.7 care for women across the life course with additional sexual and reproductive health needs.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.6 ensure students gain experience of leadership and team working with different maternity providers.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.7 provide students with learning opportunities to experience midwifery care for a diverse population across a range of settings, including midwifery led services.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.8 provide learning opportunities that enable students to develop the required knowledge, skills and behaviours needed when caring for women and newborn infants when complication and additional care needs arise, including as they relate to physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual factors.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.9 take account of students' individual needs and personal circumstances when allocating their practice learning opportunities, including making reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.10 ensure students experience the range of hours expected of practising midwives.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

3.11 ensure students are supernumerary.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

Standard 3: Practice learning was not in scope for this major modification and therefore remains unchanged.

4: Supervision and assessment

Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must:

4.1 provide support, supervision, learning opportunities and assessment that complies with the NMC Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education.	Met
--	-----

There are no changes to support, supervision and learning opportunities. The visitor reviewed the updated assessments and confirmed that the variety of assessments continues to enable students to develop the relevant skills and that they therefore comply with the SFNME (NMC 2018).

4.2 provide support, supervision, learning opportunities and assessment that complies with the NMC Standards for student supervision and assessment.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

4.3 ensure throughout the programme that students meet the NMC Standards of proficiency for midwives and programme outcomes.	Met
---	-----

The visitor reviewed the programme documentation and mapping information provided and confirmed that new modules have been created, and that their content has been effectively mapped to the SoPM (NMC 2019).

4.4 provide students with constructive feedback throughout the programme to support their development.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

4.5 ensure all programmes include a specific focus on numeracy assessment related to the midwifery proficiencies and the calculation of medicines, which must be passed with a score of 100 per cent.	Met
--	-----

The visitor reviewed the updated assessments and confirmed that the revised programme includes a numeracy assessment related to medicine calculations that students must pass with a 100% score alongside the practice component to achieve the credits for the module.

4.6 assess students to confirm proficiency in preparation for professional practice as a midwife.	Met
--	-----

The visitor reviewed the updated assessments and confirmed that there is a range of assessment types that are authentic to midwifery practice. The visitor concluded that students remain effectively assessed to confirm proficiency in preparation for professional practice as a midwife.

4.7 ensure that all proficiencies are recorded in an ongoing record of achievement which must demonstrate the achievement of proficiencies and skills set out in NMC Standards of proficiency for midwives.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

The visitor concludes that the AEI has met Standard 4: Supervision and assessment.
--

5: Qualification to be awarded

Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must:

5.1 ensure that the minimum award for a pre-registration midwifery programme is a bachelor's degree.	Met
---	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

5.2 notify students during and before completion of the programme that they have five years to register their award with the NMC if they wish to rely on this qualification. In the event of a student failing to register their qualification within five years they will have to undertake additional education and training or gain such experience as specified in our standards.	Met
--	-----

Not in scope in relation to this major modification.

Standard 5: Qualification to be awarded was not in scope for this major modification and therefore remains unchanged.

Conditions and recommendations

Conditions

Following the quality assurance process, the visitor has identified a condition.

All conditions must be met in full before the programme can be recommended to the NMC for final approval.

The agreed deadline for the completion of these conditions to align with the intended delivery date is 18/03/2026.

Conditions				
No.	Condition details	Specific standard(s) not met	NMC	AEI
C1	Remove any reference to transfers and recognition of prior learning (RPL) to make clear that RPL is not permitted for pre-registration midwifery programmes.	1.3	☒	
Response to condition: LJMU submitted a revised programme specification. All reference to transfer has been removed and the revised programme specification clearly states that recognition of prior learning and credit transfer are not permitted. Having reviewed the AEI's response, the visitor now considers that for this condition the requirements of the condition have been met and therefore Standard 1.3 is now met.				

Recommendations for enhancement

No recommendations have been identified.

Areas for future monitoring

No areas for future monitoring have been identified.

The **final recommendation** made by the visitor to the NMC, following consideration of the AEI's response to any conditions set, is therefore as follows:

The modified programme is recommended for approval - the programme meets all standards and requirements and enables students to achieve stated NMC standards of proficiency and learning outcomes for theory and practice.

Evidence list

The following documentation was provided by the AEI as evidence for review by the visitor:

Key Documentation	Yes	No
Appropriate AEI policies, procedures and guidance (for example: EDI strategy; RPL policy/procedure; raising and escalating concerns processes; fitness to practise policy; whistleblowing etc)	☒	
Programme proposal overview document, including rationale and co-production	☒	
Curricula vitae (CVs) for relevant staff to confirm NMC registration where required and to demonstrate adequate resources for safe and effective programme delivery, including LME details	☒	
Agreements with PLPs and EPs that they will support the programme and support supernumerary status for students in accordance with requirements of programme standards		☒
Evidence of PSC involvement in programme design, delivery and evaluation	☒	
External examiner appointments and arrangements		☒
Programme specification(s)	☒	
Programme planner (indicating where theory and practice hours are achieved)	☒	
Programme handbook(s)	☒	
Module descriptors	☒	
Mapping of programme learning outcomes against module learning outcomes	☒	
Mapping against Part 3: Standards for pre-registration midwifery programmes	☒	
Mapping of programme outcomes against NMC Standards of proficiency	☒	
Student-facing supporting documentation/VLE site		☒
Practice learning environment information for students	☒	
Practice learning allocation information		☒
Practice assessment documentation (PAD)		☒
Midwifery ongoing record of achievement (MORA)	☒	
Practice learning handbook/information for practice supervisors and practice assessors specific to the programme		☒
Academic assessor focused information specific to the programme		☒
If you stated No, above, please provide the reason and mitigation:		
The proposed changes to the programme related mainly to curriculum and therefore evidence around practice learning was not required.		
List additional evidence: N/A		
Additional comments: N/A		

During the event, the visitor engaged with the following:

	Yes	No
Senior managers of the AEI with responsibility for resources for the programme		☒
Senior managers from associated PLPs and EPs with responsibility for resources for the practice learning experiences within the programme		☒
Programme delivery team		☒
Academic assessors		☒
Practice staff representatives (practice leads/practice supervisors/practice assessors)		☒
Representatives for PSCs		☒
Student representatives		☒
If you stated No above, please provide the reason and mitigation: This was a desk-based activity, therefore required analysis of narrative and documentation only.		
Additional comments: N/A		

FINAL REPORT			
	Name	Position	Date
Author/s	Jayne Marshall	Registrant Visitor	23/02/26
QAA Officer	Sarah Mullins	QAA Officer	23/02/26

QAA3052 – R15054 – April 26

© The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education 2026
Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1UB
Registered charity numbers 1062746 and SC037786

Tel: 01452 557050
Web: www.qaa.ac.uk/nmc