

Programme Audit/Major Modification report

Programme provider:	De Montfort University
In partnership with: (Associated practice placement providers involved in the delivery of the programme)	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Date of review:	31 Jul 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:	Ms Nicola Clark

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:	30 Sep 2019

Summary

Summary of modification request

De Montfort University (DMU), school of nursing and midwifery provides a three-year pre-registration BSc (Hons) midwifery programme which was approved on 15 May 2013. The university presented documentation for a modification to the approved programme to change from the Standards to support learning and assessment in practice (SLAiP) (NMC, 2008) to the Standards for student supervision and assessment (SSSA) (NMC, 2018) from September 2019.

Documentary analysis and a Skype conference call with representatives from DMU provides evidence of effective partnerships with the practice learning partners (PLPs) in agreeing and developing the proposed change to the programme. The proposed changes have also been made in consultation and agreement with students.

DMU presented a phased implementation plan for transferring midwifery students to the SSSA (NMC, 2018). They have identified that the March 2017 student cohort who are near to programme completion will continue on the SLAiP (NMC, 2008). September 2017 and 2018 cohorts will transfer to the SSSA on 30 September 2019 and March 2018 and 2019 cohorts will transfer to the SSSA on 24 February 2020.

The modification has necessitated changes to the practice assessment document and the ongoing achievement record (OAR). There are no other changes to the approved programme. There is clear evidence that the SSSA are met at programme level.

The modification is recommended for approval.

Feedback from key stakeholders

Presenting Team

Not applicable, desktop review.

The QA visitor had a Skype call with DMU lead midwife for education (LME) and the programme director on 31 July 2019.

Mentors, sign-off mentors, practice teachers and employers

Not applicable, desktop review.

Students

Not applicable, desktop review.

Service users and carers

Not applicable, desktop review.

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

- Implementation of the SSSA.

Outcome recommendation

The modification is recommended for approval to the NMC.

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 the original approval in May 2013.

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:	
<p>There is evidence that the LME is an active member of the development of the proposed modification to transfer the pre-registration midwifery three-year programme to the SSSA (NMC, 2018) from September 2019.</p> <p>The implementation of the SSSA is a planned strategic approach by DMU and associated PLPs. There is evidence of comprehensive collaboration with PLPs, service users, students and the academic teaching team through programme management team meetings, programme innovation nursing and midwifery group meetings and student group briefings and focus groups.</p>	
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 the original approval in May 2013.	

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

<p>Standards for admission to, and continued participation in, pre-registration midwifery programmes</p> <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> <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.</p> <p>4.2 Literacy and numeracy</p>

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 the original approval in May 2013.

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:	
Unchanged since the original approval in May 2013.	
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 the original approval in May 2013.	
Outcome:	Standard met

Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 7: Transfer between approved educational institutions	
It is the responsibility of AEs to decide whether or not to accept an application for transfer.	
What we found:	
Unchanged since the original approval in May 2013.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

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 the original approval in May 2013.	
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 the original approval in May 2013.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 10: Length of programme	
Article 31(6-7) of EU Directive 2005/36/EC now describes the length of midwifery programmes in years, months and hours.	
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.	
Three year direct entry programme – 4,600 hours (minimum requirement)	
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).	
Eighteen month midwifery programme (following qualification as an adult nurse) – 3,000 hours (minimum requirement).	
What we found:	
Unchanged since the original approval in May 2013.	
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:	
Documentary evidence and discussion during the Skype call confirms there is clear guidance for supporting students' learning and a clear plan to transfer current	

students to the SSSA in September 2019.

Student facing documents and discussion provides assurance that students are supervised in practice learning environments by practice and academic staff. The practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor roles are clearly detailed in documentation and preparation materials. Each trust will have a named 'student link' midwife who will be responsible for the allocation of practice supervisors and assessors.

The responsibility for the preparation of practice supervisors and assessors is a joint responsibility between DMU and the PLP. There has also been collaboration with the other two AEIs who share practice learning environments with DMU to facilitate consistency of processes wherever possible.

The preparation is ongoing via mentor updates. The continuation of regular updates to the SSSA roles will be through individual trusts' mandatory training. There are practice learning leads in each trust who will maintain a register of practice assessors and supervisors, in addition to the mentor register for students who will not be transferring to the SSSA. These registers will be shared with the university.

Documentation and preparation material clearly identify the practice assessor must be a registered midwife. The programme team confirmed that arrangements are in place to ensure that the practice assessor allocated to the student is not also the practice supervisor.

DMU identified that academic assessors will be a designated member of the link lecturing team who has due regard and is prepared for the role. They confirmed that student midwives will not have the same academic assessor for consecutive years. DMU will keep a record for academic assessors, and academic assessors for individual students will be documented and reappointed at progression boards.

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:	
Unchanged since the original approval in May 2013.	
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:	
The scope of practice experience is unaffected by this change.	
The LME and programme director confirmed that the model of caseloading previously approved is unchanged. However, the caseloading documentation has been revised to reflect the role of the practice supervisor and assessor.	
Outcome:	Standard met

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:	
Unchanged since the original approval in May 2013.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 15: Assessment strategy	
Clinical practice must be graded and be counted as part of the academic award.	
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	

<p>completion of the programme.</p> <p>A student midwife shall achieve these standards under the supervision of a sign-off mentor.</p>	
<p>What we found:</p>	
<p>Documentary evidence and discussion during the teleconference confirms the assessment of students' proficiency and competence, EU directives and essential skills clusters (ESCs) are all recorded in the PAD and progress of the students in the OAR. These aspects of the programme are not changing, as the programme is still mapped against the Standards for pre-registration midwifery education (NMC, 2009). However, who is able to contribute to the assessment of practice has changed in line with the new SSSA roles of practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor.</p> <p>The PAD and OAR are updated to reflect the SSSA and clearly detail the new roles of practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor. Communication between the practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor will enable the summative assessment of students in practice learning.</p> <p>The structure of the programme has not been affected by the implementation of the SSSA, therefore the progression points are unchanged. The process of grading of midwifery practice in the modified PAD also remains unchanged.</p> <p>We are assured from the evidence and discussion with the LME that the programme complies with the SSSA in relation to the assessment and progression of students.</p>	
<p>Outcome:</p>	<p>Standard met</p>
<p> </p>	
<p>Date standards met:</p>	<p> </p>
<p>Revised outcome:</p>	<p> </p>
<p> </p>	

Standard 16: Ongoing record of achievement	
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.	
What we found:	
Modification to the OAR has been aligned with the new SSSA. The OAR now requires the practice assessor to verify progression and provide details regarding any areas for the development of the student.	
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:	
Unchanged since the original approval in May 2013.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards	

met:	
Revised outcome:	

<u>NMC Circular 03/2011</u>	
Resources to support programme intentions	
Programme providers must provide evidence at programme approval that resources are currently available to support programme intentions.	
What we found:	
Confirmation was provided by DMU and PLPs that there are resources in place to support the implementation of the SSSA.	
DMU will continue to work in partnership with PLPs to complete educational audits of practice learning environments to ensure compliance with the SSSA and that the area is an effective practice learning environment.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Evidence and references list
DMU curriculum overview document post validation with changes, undated

Academic assessor and personal tutor roles; SSSA, undated
DMU sign-off mentors, 2 July 2019
DMU case holding handbook, 26 June 2019
DMU changeover of roles, undated
DMU clinical assessment document template, undated
DMU clinical assessment document MIDW1001, undated
SSSA flowchart – assessment process, undated
Letter to students, 14 May 2019
LME briefing, 3 June 2019
LME evidence; email, 27 June 2019
DMU mapping tool for modification SSSA RM, undated
Midwifery OAR with track changes, undated
DMU placement innovation nursing and midwifery group minutes, 18 February 2019,
29 April 2019, and 17 June 2019
DMU programme management team minutes, 30 January 2019
University of Nottingham Lincolnshire maternity practice learning team meeting
notes, 20 December 2018
University of Nottingham Lincolnshire maternity practice learning team meeting
notes, 10 June 2019
DMU move to SSSA timeline, undated
DMU programme handbook three-year programme 2018-19, undated
DMU validation document pre-registration midwifery programme, 2013, undated
DMU SSSA questions from desktop review, 31 July 2019
DMU programme leader feedback SSSA, undated
DMU link lecturer allocation, undated
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust educational audits, undated
Skype conference call with DMU representatives, 31 July 2019

Personnel supporting programme approval

Members of Approval Panel

Not applicable, desktop review.

Programme Presenters						
Not applicable, desktop review.						
Were any service providers visited?						
<i>Not applicable, desktop review.</i>						
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)						
<p>If there were no representatives present during the approval event please state why: Not applicable, desktop review.</p>						
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					

DMU interruption process, undated
 DMU midwifery OAR amended 2019, undated
 NMC DMU RM programme approval report, 15 May 2013

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Issue record

Author:	Nicola Clark	Date:	31 Jul 2019
Checked by:	Judith Porch	Date:	13 Sep 2019
Approved by:	Andrea Bacon	Date:	17 Sep 2019