



Programme Audit/Major Modification report

Programme provider:	Lincoln, University of
In partnership with: (Associated practice placement providers involved in the delivery of the programme)	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
Date of review:	14 Aug 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 Level 5 Level 6 Level 7 SCQF Level 8 Level 9 Level 10 Level 11
Academic level of modified programme if changed:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland Level 5 Level 6 Level 7 SCQF Level 8 Level 9 Level 10 Level 11
Reviewer:	Judith Porch





Outcome of Approval Panel Meeting	
Outcome:	Recommended for approval with conditions
Conditions and NMC	Resources
standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to:	None identified
	Admission and progression
	None identified
	Practice learning
	Condition one: Documentary evidence should be provided to confirm the support and involvement of associated practice learning providers (PLPs) for the implementation of the SSSA. (Standard 2)
	Condition two: The programme team must ensure the roles and responsibilities of the practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor to meet the SSSA are made clear in student documentation. (Standard 11)
	Fitness for practice
	None identified
	Quality assurance
	None identified
Date conditions to be met:	21 Aug 2019
Recommendations and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to:	None identified
Note: recommendations will be assessed through the AEI annual self-	





assessment report	
Date conditions met:	21 Aug 2019
Programme start date:	16 Sep 2019





Summary

Summary of modification request

The University of Lincoln (UoL), an established approved education institution (AEI), is approved to deliver a three-year BSc (Hons) midwifery programme against the Standards for pre-registration midwifery education (NMC, 2009). The programme was approved on 8 November 2018 and will be delivered for the first time in September 2019.

The AEI presented a modification to the approved programme to transfer from the Standards to support learning and assessment in practice (SLAiP) (NMC, 2008) to the Standards for student supervision and assessment (SSSA) (NMC, 2018).

Practice learning partners (PLPs) support the transfer to the SSSA (NMC, 2018) as pre-registration nursing students and midwifery students in the region are also transferring to the SSSA from September 2019.

A review of the documentation and discussion with the UoL academic representatives via a Skype call provides evidence of effective partnerships with the practice learning partner (PLPs) in agreeing and developing the proposed change to the programme. A partnership preparation strategy and implementation plan confirm there are clear and comprehensive arrangements in place to prepare practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors for their new roles to meet the SSSA.

The UoL has continued to work in partnership with the maternity services in United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHNT), and Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLGNFT) following previous Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections. The UoL report progress continues to be made within the PLP organisations and assurance is provided there are sufficient resources in practice learning environments to support the implementation of the SSSA and the preregistration midwifery programme.

The major modification is recommended to the NMC for approval subject to two conditions.

Feedback from key stakeholders

Presenting Team





Not applicable - Desktop review

QA visitor had a Skype call on 14 August 2019 with UoL school of health and social care senior staff representatives.

Mentors, sign-off mentors, practice teachers and employers

Not applicable - Desktop review

Students

There are no students as the programme does not commence until September 2019.

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

Student facing documentation provides limited information about the SSSA and the roles and responsibilities, especially the practice supervisor. The roles of the personal tutor and academic assessor are also not clearly differentiated. (Condition two)

Condition two: The programme team must ensure the roles and responsibilities of the practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor to meet the SSSA are made clear in student documentation. (Standard 11)

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

There's no documentary evidence of the involvement or collaboration of the lead midwife for education (LME) with heads of midwifery and associated PLPs about the implementation of the SSSA. (Condition one)





Condition one: Documentary evidence should be provided to confirm the support and involvement of associated PLPs for the implementation of the SSSA. (Standard 2)

Any other risks to public protection

None identified

Areas for future monitoring

- The implementation of the SSSA.
- The capacity within ULHNT to support additional student midwife numbers.

Outcome recommendation

The modification is recommended to the NMC for approval subject to two conditions.





NMC Standards

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

Standards for the lead midwife for education	
Standard 1: Appointment of the lead midwife for education	
The NMC requires an a	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 appointme	nt 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:	
The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	





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 LME is involved in the preparation for the SSSA. However, there is no documentary evidence of the involvement or collaboration of the LME with heads of midwifery, PLPs and other AEIs in the region about the implementation of the SSSA. Documentary evidence refers to ULHNT as the main PLP but there's no evidence of discussion with maternity services in ULHNT or other PLPs.

During the Skype call UoL representatives confirmed that the partnership preparation strategy for practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors was for pre-registration nursing and midwifery programmes. The LME confirmed her involvement with PLPs and other AEIs in the region who share the same practice learning areas to discuss the implementation of the SSSA for the pre-registration midwifery programme. Documentary evidence will be provided to confirm the support and involvement of associated PLPs. (Condition one)

Outcome:	Standard not met
	ry evidence of the involvement or collaboration of the LME y and associated PLPs about the implementation of the SSSA.
.	

Condition one: Documentary evidence should be provided to confirm the support and involvement of associated PLPs for the implementation of the SSSA. (Standard 2)

Date standards met:	21 Aug 2019
Revised outcome:	Standard met

Condition one: The UoL provided email confirmation from senior midwifery staff from the three associated PLPs to confirm their support and involvement in the implementation of the SSSA.

Condition one is now met.

Evidence:





- Email from the operational matron NLGNFT, 22 August 2019
- Email from the acting head of midwifery Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 20 August 2019
- Email from divisional head of midwifery and nursing ULHNT, 20 August 2019

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:	
The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

St. 4

Age of entry

midwifery programmes

Standards for admission to, and continued participation in, pre-registration





General requirements

The following requirements for selection should be read and operated alongside programme providers' existing policies and procedures:

4.1 Selection

Wherever practicable, the selection process should include a face-to-face meeting.

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.

All individuals in the selection process should receive appropriate training, preparation and updating which includes equality and diversity.

Representatives of partner service provider organisations should be directly involved in the selection process.

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: The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018. Standard met Outcome: **Date standards** met: Revised outcome: Standard 5: Interruptions to pre-registration midwifery education programmes Programme providers must ensure that they have in place processes to manage interruptions to the study of programmes for whatever reason. 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. What we found: The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018. Outcome: Standard met **Date standards** met:





Revised outcome:	
Standard 6: Admission	on with advanced standing
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.	
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.	
What we found:	
The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.	
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:

The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.





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





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).

Scotland – 360 academic credits, 60 of which must be at level nine.

England, Wales and Northern Ireland – 300 academic credits, 60 of which must be at level H.

What we found:

The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.

The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.	
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:	
The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.	
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:

There's a clear partnership strategy and associated timeline to prepare practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors for their new roles to meet the SSSA. The UoL has made its training plans available to other AEIs who share the same placement areas, to promote opportunities for collaboration, reduce duplication and ensure a consistent approach to supervision and assessment in practice learning environments.

There is a named practice learning coordinator in each practice learning environment, who ensures that there's support and oversight of practice based-learning and preparation. The agreed strategy initially focuses on a 'conversion course' which prepares midwives who are mentors for the role of practice supervisor and assessor. The course focuses on the key differences in supporting and assessing students in practice learning environments to meet the SSSA.

The supervisor and assessor conversion training PowerPoint slides provided as evidence refers to the practice supervisor as 'other healthcare workers'. Discussion during the Skype call with UoL representatives gave examples of how healthcare workers may be involved as practice supervisors to support pre-registration





midwifery students.

There is a practice supervisor and assessor training course for midwives new to the role in supporting students. This will be delivered over two days and will focus on the practical aspects of supporting and assessing the performance of students in practice learning environments in accordance with the principles of The Code (NMC, 2015, updated 2018) and the SSSA.

Documentation clearly states that the practice supervisor cannot be the practice assessor for the same student.

There is a detailed academic assessor preparation day for academic midwifery staff. It is explicit that students must be assigned to a different academic assessor for each part of the programme. Documentary evidence confirms that the midwifery programme team have received academic assessor training. The academic assessor will be allocated by the LME.

Two midwifery programme team members and a consultant midwife have undertaken a 'train the trainer' programme along with a consultant midwife to facilitate the practice supervisor and practice assessor preparation programmes.

All practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors are required to complete update training every two years. Training updates will include: face-to-face, group or one-to-one training, completion of online resources and attendance at practice learning group meetings.

PLPs will maintain a register of who has attended training, and subsequent updates, in order to ensure the appropriate allocation of practice supervisors and assessors to students.

Documentary evidence also confirms a range of approaches to support students during practice learning. There's a practice support team (PST) for different geographical areas who provide support for practice learning areas. These teams have an identified academic lead to provide support and coordinate activities to support the quality and any practice learning developments within the area. The PST provide support to practice supervisors and assessors and students in practice. They have a visible presence in practice learning areas to promote confidence in approaching the UoL for advice, as well as relationship building and partnership working.

There is also a named midwifery link lecturer from UoL to support students, practice supervisors and assessors.

There is clear signposting for students of the process to follow if a student has





concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of service users or students in practice learning.

However, student facing documentation provides limited information about the SSSA and the new roles and responsibilities especially the practice supervisor. The roles of the personal tutor and academic assessor are also not clearly differentiated. (Condition two)

Outcome: Standard not met

Student facing documentation provides limited information about the SSSA and the roles and responsibilities, especially the practice supervisor. The roles of the personal tutor and academic assessor are also not clearly differentiated. (Condition two)

Condition two: The programme team must ensure the roles and responsibilities of the practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor to meet the SSSA are made clear in student documentation. (Standard 11)

Date standards met:	21 Aug 2019
Revised outcome:	Standard met

Condition two: The UoL provided evidence that a review of the BSc (Hons) midwifery programme handbook and the student practice placement handbook has taken place. The revised student facing documentation now clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of the practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor. The roles of the personal tutor and academic assessor are also clearly differentiated.

Condition two is now met.

Evidence:

- UoL response to conditions, 21 August 2019
- BSc (Hons) midwifery programme handbook 2019-20 version three, revised August 2019
- BSc (Hons) midwifery student practice placement handbook, version revised August 2019





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:				
The standard is uncha	nged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.			
Outcome:	Standard met			
Date standards				
met:				
Revised outcome:				
Standard 12: Scope of	of practice experience			
Standard 13. Scope C	or practice experience			
Where the opportunity birthing in a variety of s	is available, students should be involved in supporting women 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:				
Practice learning experiences are not affected by this modification. Students are placed within a variety of practice learning settings during the three-year programme.				
Students are expected to demonstrate working with a small caseload of women and				
this is clearly documented in the caseload holding record. The caseload holding				
document has been updated to include the role of the practice supervisor and				
assessor.				
Outcome:	Standard met			
	ı			





Date standards	
met:	
Revised outcome:	
Standard 14: Supern	umerary status during clinical placement
Students undertaking	ore-registration midwifery education programmes cannot be
	nidwifery care during their training – all clinical experience
should be education-le	ed with students having supernumerary status for the duration.
What we found:	
The standard is uncha	nged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.
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





completion of the programme.

A student midwife shall achieve these standards under the supervision of a sign-off mentor.

What we found:

Documentary evidence confirms the assessment of students' proficiency and competence, EU directives and essential skills clusters (ESCs) (NMC, 2009) are all recorded in the practice assessment documentation. 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, the new roles of practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor will now contribute to the assessment of practice in line with the SSSA.

Programme assessment documents have been updated to outline roles and responsibilities for the supervision and assessment of students to meet the SSSA.

The practice education facilitator (PEF) within the practice learning team in the PLP will keep a record in a database of registered midwives who have completed training to meet the SSSA. The database is held with the PLP and the university link lecturer will liaise with the respective PEF prior to the students' placement to ensure there are appropriate numbers of practice assessors and supervisors to support the students. The midwifery ward manager will allocate a practice supervisor and a practice assessor for each allocated student.

Practice documentation clearly identifies the practice supervisor must not be the practice assessor and the practice assessor and academic assessor must have due regard.

Documentary evidence clearly details the practice assessment strategy. Assurance is provided from the evidence that the programme complies with the SSSA in relation to the assessment and progression of students and the support students will receive in practice learning environments.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	





Revised outcome:				
Standard 16: Ongoin	g record of achievement			
An ongoing record of a	achievement, including comments from mentors, must be			
	ement to the next to enable judgements to be made on the			
student's progress.				
What we found:				
	achievement (OAR) has been modified to align with the			
· •	ssessor completes the OAR which is currently in place as a			
standard part of the pr	actice assessment process.			
Outcome:	Standard met			
Date standards				
met:				
Revised outcome:				
Achieving the NMC s	tandards			
Standard 17: Compet	Standard 17: Competencies required to achieve the NMC standards			
Students need to be n	roficient in all standards by the end of their training in order to			
Students need to be proficient in all standards by the end of their training in order to				

What we found:

midwife.

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





The standard is unchanged since the original approval on 8 November 2018.				
Outcome: Standard met				
Date standards met:				
Revised outcome:				

NMC Circular 03/2011

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:

Documentary evidence and discussion with the UoL academic representatives provide assurance that there's a learning development agreement and partnership agreements in place with PLPs. These arrangements confirm there are sufficient resources in practice learning environments to support the implementation of the SSSA for the pre-registration midwifery programme. The UoL confirmed that there are resources in the university setting to support the implementation of the SSSA.

A biennial educational audit completed by the UoL in partnership with PLPs will contribute to monitoring the effectiveness of the practice learning environments and compliance with the SSSA.

During the review of evidence, it was observed that UHLNT will support 22 of the 30 students planned to commence the programme in September 2019. At the time of approval, capacity for 17 midwifery students was agreed between the UoL and PLPs. The increase in student numbers was discussed with the UoL senior team during the Skype call. The deputy head of school confirmed that Health Education England (HEE) had requested the increase in student numbers to improve the future workforce of midwives. A strategy is in place to support the additional students which includes a £70,000 investment from HEE for the appointment of a new PEF role to





provide additional support for the practice learning environments. The increase in student numbers will be closely monitored by the UoL and PLP to ensure there is effective support and practice learning experiences for students.

Assurance was also provided that the UoL has continued to work in partnership with the maternity services in ULHNT, and NLGNFT following previous CQC inspections. The UoL report progress continues to be made within the PLP organisations and assurance is provided there are sufficient resources in practice learning environments to support the implementation of the SSSA and the pre-registration midwifery programme.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Evidence and references list

UoL BSc (Hons) midwifery caseload holding record and information sheet, version two, July 2019

UoL BSc (Hons) midwifery OAR version three, July 2019

UoL BSc (Hons) midwifery programme handbook 2018-19 version two, April 2019

UoL BSc (Hons) midwifery student practice placement handbook 2019-20, version three, July 2019

UoL partnership preparation strategy for practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors, June 2019

UoL BSc (Hons) midwifery programme specification, undated

Copy of SSSA training plan excel sheet for training existing mentors by November 2019, undated

UoL supervisors and assessor training conversion training power point, undated





UoL BSc (Hons) midwifery competency book year one, version two, July 2019

UoL BSc (Hons) midwifery competency book year two and three, version two, July 2019

Academic assessors training certificates x three, various dates

Mapping tool for transfer to the SSSA, undated

UoL response to conditions, 21 August 2019

Email from the operational matron NLGNFT, 22 August 2019

Email from the acting head of midwifery Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, 20 August 2019

Email from divisional head of midwifery and nursing ULHT, 20 August 2019

BSc (Hons) midwifery programme handbook 2019-20 version three, revised August 2019

BSc (Hons) midwifery student practice placement handbook, version revised August 2019

Personnel supporting programme approval

Members of Approval Panel

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Programme Presenters

QA visitor had a Skype call on 14 August 2019 with:

- UoL deputy head of school of health and social care
- UoL LME
- UoL principal lecturer for pre-qualifying programmes
- UoL principal lecturer quality and student experience academic

Were any service providers visited?

Not applicable - Desktop review.

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 applicable - Desktop review.

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
Disabilities				
Midwifery (3 year)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Midwifery (18	Year 1	Year 2		





month)								
SCPHN	HV	SN		ОН	I	FHN	RPHN	
Learning and Assessment in Practice	Mentor	Mentor		Practice Teacher		Tea	Teacher	
Nurse Prescribing	V100		V1	50		V30	00	
Specialist Practice	Adult		Ме	Mental Health		Chi	Children's	
		Learning Disability		General Practice Nursing		Mer	Community Mental Health Nursing	
	Learning Disabilit	Community Learning Disabilities Nursing		Community Children's Nursing		Dis	trict Nursing	

Additional evidence viewed

NMC letter of approval to UoL, 8 November 2019

NMC RM three-year programme approval report, November 2018

UoL self-assessment report 2018-19

CQC inspection report NLGNFT, 12 September 2018

Mott MacDonald Group Disclaimer

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Issue record			
Author:	Judith Porch	Date:	29 Aug 2019
Checked by:	Bernie Wallis	Date:	29 Aug 2019
Approved by:	Andrea Bacon	Date:	05 Sep 2019