Midwife

Midwives look after women and their babies during pregnancy, and during and after birth. They give advice to individuals and groups, before and after the birth of a baby. This job is open to both women and men.

The Work

You could be:

- examining a pregnant woman and discussing her options for labour
- giving advice to individuals and giving talks and running classes on contraception, fertility or labour
- assisting at the birth either in hospital or at the woman’s home
- administering pain relief to the woman, either injections of pethidine, or gas-and-air delivered by machine
- if labour is difficult, carrying out an episiotomy (surgical cut) and inserting stitches after the birth
- cutting the umbilical cord and if necessary carrying out resuscitation to the baby
- carrying out home visits for up to a month after the birth, checking both mother and baby
- keeping records of patients and their progress.

Pay

On the NHS Agenda for Change salary scale, as a midwife you start on Band 5, £23,113 to £29,905 a year. With experience this would rise to Band 6, £27,635 to £37,000 a year.

A midwife team manager can earn on Band 7, £32,974 to £43,471 a year.

The current pay scales are from April 2017.

Conditions

- You might work in a maternity hospital or the maternity unit of a general hospital.
- You might work in the community, in an antenatal clinic, health centre or doctor’s surgery, or in a midwife-led maternity unit (MLMU).
- You often visit patients in their homes and might assist at home births.
- If you work in hospital, you would work shifts.
- If you work in the community, you would sometimes be on call.
- You would wear a uniform and sometimes protective clothing.

Getting In

- To qualify as a midwife you need to complete a pre-registration degree in midwifery, usually lasting 3 years. Entry requirements are 4 Highers, usually including English and a science subject, plus National 5 Maths. You apply through UCAS.
- Approved midwifery degree courses are offered by Edinburgh Napier University, Robert Gordon University and the University of the West of Scotland.
- An Access to nursing and midwifery course may also give entry. However, always check that the course is
accepted by the college or university you want to go to before you apply.

- You can qualify first as a registered nurse and then complete a short midwifery training programme.
- If you are already employed as a health care worker you can train part time through the Open University. Developed in partnership with the Royal College of Nursing, the scheme is for health care assistants who want to train as registered nurses, and qualified nurses who want to train in a specialism. Visit the OU website for further details at [www8.open.ac.uk/choose/ou/rcn](http://www8.open.ac.uk/choose/ou/rcn).
- Financial support is available from the Nursing and Midwifery Bursary Section of the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS).
- You will require a satisfactory PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) check to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details.
- You should have a good level of physical fitness and you will have to undergo health screening.
- When you complete your training you must register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).
- A driving licence is useful.

Most midwives work in the National Health Service (NHS), but you might also be able to work in private hospitals, clinics and the Armed Forces. You can find NHS job vacancies in Scotland by visiting [NHS Scotland Recruitment](http://www.nhsrecruitment.scot).  

### What Does It Take

You should be:

- able to get on well with people from a wide range of backgrounds
- interested in foetal, and child physical and psychological development
- observant and able to act on your own initiative
- interested in helping women and babies
- able to answer questions and give advice
- patient and tactful
- practical and not squeamish
- willing to take responsibility and remain calm in stressful situations.

### Training

- Once you have gained your NMC registration, training is on the job.
- To continue working as a nurse you must renew your registration with the NMC every three years.
- You must keep your skills and knowledge up to date, by undertaking at least 35 hours of relevant study every three years. This is known as Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

### Getting On

- With experience you could progress to a senior post such as senior clinical midwife or a consultant midwife.
- You could train to be a midwife teacher.
- You could become self-employed, as a private midwife.
- You could take a further course to become, for example, a neonatal nurse.
- You could take courses leading to work as a manager.
- You might find work abroad. This is easier if you are also a registered nurse as some countries do not
accept the direct midwifery qualification.

More Information

The Scottish Government introduced the One Year Job Guarantee Internship Programme for newly qualified nurses and midwives to help improve their chances of finding work as well as developing their skills. The internships are one-year fixed term contracts at 22.5 hours a week, set at grade 5 on the NHS Agenda for Change pay scale. For further details contact NHS Education for Scotland.

The Royal College of Midwives has an excellent resource on their website, Want to be a Midwife?, which includes videos on people working in the profession.

Contacts

Disclosure Scotland
Tel: 03000 2000 40
Email: info@disclosurescotland.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland
Twitter: @DisclosureScot

NHS Scotland Careers
Website: www.careers.nhs.scot
Website (2): jobs.scot.nhs.uk
Twitter: @NHSScotCareers
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NHSScotlandCareers

Nursing and Midwifery Council
Tel: 020 7637 7181
Email: UKenquiries@nmc-uk.org
Website: www.nmc.org.uk
Twitter: @nmcnews
Facebook: www.facebook.com/nmcuk

Royal College of Midwives
Tel: 03000 303 0444
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Twitter: @MidwivesRCM
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MidwivesRCM

Royal College of Nursing Scotland
Tel: 0345 772 6100
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Website: www.rcn.org.uk/scotland
Twitter: @RCNScot
Facebook: www.facebook.com/royalcollegeofnursing

Skills for Health
Tel: 0207 388 8800
Email: contactus@skillsforhealth.org.uk
Website: www.skillsforhealth.org.uk
Twitter: @Skillsforhealth
Facebook: www.facebook.com/skillsforhealth1
Statistics

Employment Status UK %

- 2.43% Self Employed
- 52.22% FT Employee
- 45.35% PT Employee

Past Unemployment - Scotland

No statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by LMI for All

Predicted Employment in Scotland

LMI data powered by EMSI UK