The University of Manchester

Occupational Health Information

As a condition of an offer of a place to study midwifery at the University of Manchester applicants will be asked to complete a health assessment questionnaire. It is important that you complete this accurately and honestly. The non-declaration of a health condition which affects your ability to demonstrate the proficiencies required by the NMC or which puts you, your colleagues or your clients at risk, may result in the withdrawal of the offer to study with us.

The Occupational Health Team will review your health questionnaire and may contact you to request further information or to have a discussion with you. The aim of this process is to confirm if you are fit for study and for learning in the practice environment, and to ensure that you have any relevant support in place. Note that the University of Manchester welcomes applications from those who have a long-term health condition or disability and will work with you and our Disability Advice and Support Service to identify reasonable adjustments that may enable you to fulfil the requirements of this programme.

If you have any questions or concerns about your fitness to complete our programme you are encouraged to seek advice from our Occupational Health Team by telephone 0161 306 5806 or at waterlooocchealth@manchester.ac.uk .

Blood Borne Virus Screening

Blood Borne Virus Screening will need to be undertaken as part of the health screening process. This will involve you having a blood test. You will be contacted by the Occupational Health Department with further information regarding this. This is compulsory for midwifery students to ensure the safety of themselves, their colleagues and service users.

Essential Vaccinations

Because of the nature of the role, leading to exposure to various pathogens, midwifery students are expected to be vaccinated against a range of serious infections.

Ongoing engagement with the Occupational Health Department

Midwives carry a lot of responsibility for the wellbeing of mothers and babies and so studying midwifery, leading to professional registration as a midwife is very demanding, requiring emotional resilience and physical stamina. Students have an obligation to look after their own health so as to be able to perform their work effectively without putting mothers and babies at risk. Students on the midwifery programme are expected to engage with the Occupational Health Team when required, to support them to meet NMC requirements.

The Code (NMC, 2018) states that nurses and midwives must “Be aware of, and reduce as far as possible, any potential for harm associated with your practice. To achieve this, you must:

- 19.1 take measures to reduce as far as possible, the likelihood of mistakes, near misses, harm and the effect of harm if it takes place
- 19.3 keep to and promote recommended practice in relation to controlling & preventing infection
- 19.4 take all reasonable personal precautions necessary to avoid any potential health risks to colleagues, people receiving care and the public
- 20.9 maintain the level of health you need to carry out your professional role