

## Training

A Bachelor of Midwifery is a three or four year degree programme consisting of theory and practice.

In New Zealand, there are 5 midwifery programmes for Bachelor degrees available, with three in the North Island: Wintec in Hamilton, Victoria University in Wellington and AUT in Auckland.

An example of entry requirements (Wintec):  
University Entrance including:

- 18 credits NCEA Level 3 Biology or Chemistry, ; or a minimum of 16 credits at level 2 biology or chemistry if the applicant has not studied these subjects at level 3
- 16 credits NCEA Level 3 English language rich subject (e.g. English, History, Art History, Classics, Geography or Economics, Media Studies),
- 16 credits in one further NCEA Level 3 approved subject; and
- 10 credits at NCEA Level 2 Literacy (5 credits reading, 5 credits writing); and
- 10 credits at NCEA Level 1 Numeracy in specified achievement standards or a specified package of three unit standards

## Personal Qualities

Midwives need to be:

- friendly and caring
- capable and nurturing
- good communicators
- able to work through difficulties
- responsible
- mature
- well-organised
- calm and confident during emergencies
- tolerant of various cultural beliefs and traditions
- good at observation and analysis
- able to make appropriate decisions under pressure

Information collated by NZIRH  
Where to go for more information:

- [www.midwife.org.nz](http://www.midwife.org.nz)
- [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)
- [www.kiaorahauora.co.nz](http://www.kiaorahauora.co.nz)

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## Midwife



## Midwifery

Midwives provide support to women during their pregnancy, labour and birth, then for up to six weeks after the birth. They inform parents on how to best care for their babies, and give parenting advice.

There is a good chance of getting a job as a midwife as there is a shortage of midwives in New Zealand.



This shortage is produced by:

- not enough people training
- a rise in birth rate
- midwives retiring
- many midwives preferring to work part-time or reduced hours.

## What do they do?

Midwives may:

- advise, observe, inform and treat women before, during and after pregnancy
- organise tests during pregnancy like ultrasound, blood and urine tests
- monitor the progress of the baby and mother during and after pregnancy
- refer the mother to specialists if medical problems occur during pregnancy, labour, birth or after birth
- support and guide women during labour and birth
- prescribe medications
- examine the newborn baby regularly for up to six weeks after birth
- give guidance on how to care for and feed a newborn baby

The work may be difficult at times as problems can occur suddenly, especially during labour. A calm demeanour and sound judgement is required during these stressful periods.

## Where do midwives work?

Midwives may choose to be self-employed, or employed by an organisation.

Self-employed midwives are paid by the Ministry of Health to provide maternity care. They provide antenatal care in the community, care during births (at home, in a birthing unit or in a hospital), and postnatal care.

Midwives may work in hospitals or birthing units. Midwives who work in a hospital, work eight-hour shifts.

Self-employed midwives need to be available for women who may be in labour at any time, day or night. This involves being on call and for this reason, some midwives work in a group practice so they can support each other and arrange cover for time off.

