



Edge Hill University
CAREERS CENTRE

A Guide to working as a Midwife in New Zealand

CC 07

Inclusive Learning

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Edge Hill Careers Centre
Contact Details: Tel: 01695 584866

Website; www.edgehill.ac.uk/careers

Opening hours:

Term-time: Monday – Thursday	9.00 am – 4.45 pm
Friday	9.00 am – 4.00 pm

Vacation periods: Mon – Fri 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
(closed for lunch 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm)

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The Shape of Midwifery Services in New Zealand

Midwifery in New Zealand regained its status as an autonomous profession in 1990.

Midwives may be self employed providing continuity of care to individuals and their families as Lead maternity carers (LMC's). Independent midwives may work in partnerships with other midwives, in practices of midwives or in sole practice. Midwives may be employed by district health boards (DHB's) to provide a continuity of care service or employed by the DHB's to provide 24 hour rostered shift service cover in a maternity facility.. Approximately half of the midwives are self employed in New Zealand whilst the other half are employed.

70% of all pregnant women in New Zealand now have a midwife as their lead maternity carer for their pregnancy. The LMC will take responsibility for all care provided to women throughout the pregnancy and post partum period including the management of the birth. LMC's can access any additional services such as obstetric or paediatric services for their clients where necessary.

Women in New Zealand can give birth at home, in primary maternity facilities or birthing centres , or in secondary maternity hospitals.

The New Zealand Midwifery Council is the body which assesses all midwives applying for registration to practice in New Zealand.

Registration for overseas trained midwives

All applicants must satisfy the Midwifery Council as to their “ *fitness to practice.*” This means that the applicant must :

- Be able to communicate effectively
- Have an ability to communicate and comprehend English sufficiently to protect the health and safety of clients
- Have no convictions which would adversely affect practice
- Have no physical or mental condition that will affect your ability to practice as a midwife
- Not be the subject of any professional disciplinary proceedings and not be under investigation in respect of any matter which could lead to such proceedings

The inability to satisfy any of the above criteria may mean the application would be declined at this point in time but each case is taken on its own merit.

In addition to the above all applicants must also “ *satisfy the midwifery council that the pre-registration midwifery education together with post registration and any further training equips them with clinical and theoretical skills and knowledge which are at least equivalent to the competencies of a New Zealand graduate at the point of entry to the register*” .

Applicants are not expected to have those competencies which are unique to midwifery in New Zealand, however.

The competencies against which the midwife will be assessed can be found on the website of the Midwifery Council

www.midwiferycouncil.org.nz/main/competencies/

There is a self assessment document which can be downloaded on the website and an overseas registration pack.

In cases where there is insufficient evidence about an applicant's competence, applicants will be directed to sit the National Midwifery examination (modified by the removal of questions specific to the New Zealand setting). For applicants who pass the examination a clinical assessment in New Zealand will need to be undertaken, probably in a hospital setting with an authorized midwife assessor.

Once applicants have been assessed by the council as competent, they will be admitted to the register. In reality the Midwifery Council recognises that it is often difficult and therefore unlikely that an overseas trained midwife will meet all the competencies required of midwives in New Zealand. Each case will be considered individually but it is likely that midwives trained overseas will have conditions placed on their scope of practice until such time as they have attended an approved competence programme in New Zealand (many of these are available as online education).

The conditions likely to be imposed will be some or all of the following:

- That the midwife may not work in sole practice as a lead maternity carer. In reality the Midwifery Council encourages newly registered midwives to initially take a position as an employed midwife. If a midwife chooses to practice as an independent midwife immediately they must practice in association or partnership with other midwives who can provide collegial support, guidance and professional back up.
- That the midwife may not prescribe medications
- That the midwife completes an approved competence programme relevant to New Zealand practice within eighteen months of the date of registration. The competence programmes include the following modules:
 - NZ health and maternity systems
 - the midwifery partnership
 - cultural safety
 - Treaty of Waitangi
 - pharmacology and prescribing
 - relevant legislation

Once assessed a midwife will be issued with an annual practising certificate if all competencies are approved, or an interim practising certificate with any restrictions on practice listed. At the point of application for the interim

practising certificate a midwife must include evidence of planned employment, including a letter from a proposed employer.

Registration competence courses available at the following institutions:

New Zealand Midwifery for Registered Midwives
Otago Polytechnic (online delivery)
Contact : info@tekotago.ac.nz
Tel: 0064 3477 3014

The Legal, professional and cultural environment for NZ midwives
Massey University (online delivery)
Contact : J.E.Stojanovic@massey.ac.nz
Tel: 0064 4801 5799

Pharmacology and Prescribing for registered Midwives
Otago Polytechnic
Massey University
Auckland University of Technology(AUT)

Treaty of Waitangi Workshops
These are often organized by health care providers, the district health boards, some polytechnics and universities or information may be obtained from Network Waitangi, PO Box 5098 , Whangarei, New Zealand

Useful addresses and websites

Midwifery Council
Level 21, Grand Plimmer Tower, 2 -6 Gilmer Terrace, PO Box 10 140,
Wellington
Tel: 0064 4474 0740/0707
Fax: 0064 4474 0748
e/mail info@midwiferycouncil.org.nz
www.midwiferycouncil.org.nz

New Zealand College of Midwives
376 Manchester Street, PO Box 21 106, Christchurch, New Zealand
Tel: 0064 3377 2732
e/mail: nzcom@nzcom.org.nz
www.midwife.org.nz

Auckland University of Technology
Tel : 0064 9917 9999
Fax: 0064 9917 9860
e/mail courseinfo@aut.ac.nz
www.aut.ac.nz

Massey University
Tel: 0064 4801 2794
Fax: 0064 4801 2695
e/mail cic@massey.ac.nz
www.wellington.massey.ac.nz

Otago Polytechnic
Tel: 0064 3477 3014
Fax: 0064 3471 6870
e/mail info@tekotago.ac.nz
www.tekotago.ac.nz

NZ breastfeeding authority
www.babyfriendly.org.nz

NZ midwives email discussion groups
www.health.groups.yahoo.com/group/nzmidwives

Largest on line health directory in New Zealand
www.healthpages.co.nz

New Zealand Immigration Service
Bear in mind that all people wishing to live and work in New Zealand will need to satisfy the requirements of the NZ Immigration service . Details on their website at: www.immigration.govt.nz

New Zealand High Commission, New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TQ
Tel: 020 7930 8422
Fax: 020 7839 4580
www.newzealand.embassyhomepage.com

Job vacancy information

www.seek.co.nz

www.genevahealth.co.nz

www.synergyconsult.co.nz

www.search4jobs.co.nz

www.trademe.co.nz

www.moh.govt.co.nz

www.midwife.org.nz

District Health Board Information

Northland

www.nhl.co.nz

Waitemata DHB (this is Auckland area)

www.waitemataDHB.govt.nz

Auckland DHB

www.adhb.govt.nz

Counties Manakau DHB (this is South Auckland)

www.cmdhb.org.nz

Waikato DHB (Hamilton area)

www.waikatodhb.govt.nz

Bay of Plenty DHB (Tauranga , Whakatane area)

www.bopdhb.govt.nz

Lakes DHB(Rotorua, Taupo area)

www.ldhb.co.nz

Tairāwhiti DHB (Gisborne)

www.tdh.org.nz

Taranaki DHB(New Plymouth area)

www.tdhd.org.nz

Hawke's Bay DHB(Napier, Hastings area)

www.hawkesbaydhd.govt.nz

Wanganui DHB

www.wdhd.org.nz

Mid Central DHB(Palmerston North area)

www.midcentral.co.nz

Wairarapa DHB(Masterton area)

www.wairarapa.dhd.org.nz

Capital and District Health Board (Wellington area)

www.ccdhd.org.nz

Hutt Valley DHB (Wellington area)

www.huttvalleydhd.org.nz

Nelson Marlborough DHB

www.nmdhd.govt.nz

West Coast DHB
www.westcoastdhb.org.nz

Canterbury DHB
www.cdhb.govt.nz

South Canterbury DHB
www.scdhb.co.nz

Otago DHB(Dunedin area)
www.otagodhb.govt.nz

Southland DHB(Invercargill area)
www.southlandhealth.co.nz

This booklet has been written by Jackie Dean, Careers Adviser in New Zealand and formerly a Careers Adviser at Edge Hill
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