

## **Congratulations on receiving your offer to the Bachelor of Midwifery at the University of Newcastle.**

### **You now need to do 4 things.**

- 1) Accept your offer
- 2) Read the attached information
- 3) Nominate your clinical placement location preferences.
- 4) Submit your clinical placement location preference to the University to arrive by 5pm Wednesday 25 January 2012.

## **Things you should know about Clinical Practice Requirements in the Bachelor of Midwifery and at the University of Newcastle**

The Bachelor of Midwifery is a three year full time program which is being offered in partnership with the Hunter New England local Health District and the North Coast Local Health District. In line with the requirements of The Australian Nurses and Midwives Council; there are two forms of clinical practice in the Bachelor of Midwifery: one form is clinical placement in a hospital maternity unit, including some specialised services; the other form of practice is the relationship-based continuity of care experiences which involve following women during their antenatal, labour, birth and post natal experiences over the length of the degree program. Students will be supervised to conduct a minimum of 30 antenatal assessments, 30 births, 30 postnatal assessments and 15 assists with breastfeeding over the three years.

### ***Student Allocation to a Specific Health Service***

The aim is that midwifery students will be accepted and feel a part of their nominated maternity unit. Students will spend all or most of their clinical time in one maternity unit (with some rotation needed between small rural units and nearby larger maternity units). Clinical placements in 2012 for the Callaghan students will be at John Hunter, Maitland, Singleton and Muswellbrook hospitals and for the Port Macquarie students at Port Macquarie, Kempsey and Taree hospitals. As with all health programs, clinical places are strictly limited and students are required to attend their designated clinical placement as a mandatory part of enrolment in the Bachelor of Midwifery Program.

At the time of accepting an offer successful applicants will be asked to complete a form nominating their preferred locations for clinical placement, including outlining any special circumstances that restrict the particular location area in which they should be located. Every effort will be made to grant a placement allocation to your preferences; however this may not always be possible.

### ***How will Students be Taught and Supervised in Practice***

Each maternity unit will have a nominated clinical educator to support the Bachelor of Midwifery students. The clinical midwifery coordinator and the local clinical educators will be health service staff with con-joint appointments at the University of Newcastle. Clinical midwives within the health service will be educated and supported to mentor and teach the midwifery students in the clinical setting.

### ***How much clinical practice is involved in the Bachelor of Midwifery?***

The total amount of clinical experience is 1334 hours over three years. Placements include the hospital maternity unit (610 hours); some specialised services in hospital & community settings (88 hrs) Continuity of Care Relationships (600 hours) and 36 hours of group-based clinical supervision.

Because of placement requirements it is expected that students will do 3 days on their designated campus (Callaghan for Callaghan based students and Port Macquarie for Port Macquarie based students) and two days at the allocated placement site. As this may be

some distance from the University, students will need some form of reliable transport to get to their placement site. This transport will be at the student's expense. If one of your "Mothers to be" goes into labour at 1 o'clock in the morning you will need to be able to get to her so your intended transport mode needs to be readily available, reliable and flexible.

### ***What do I need to do to be ready for Clinical Practice?***

Students will be expected to attend antenatal clinics at their allocated hospital in semester 1 of year 1. The Requirements which must be attended to prior to week 4 of semester 1 include (but are not limited to):

- Obtain a National Criminal Record Check from NSW Police
- Immunisation
- Complete a Commission for Children and Young People Student Declaration
- Read and sign the NSW Health Code of Conduct

Failure to attend to these requirements in time will mean that the student will not be able to negotiate access to their site for fieldwork in the Primary Health Care course. Failure to complete the fieldwork component will lead to a fail in the Primary Health Care course. Further information regarding the most up-to-date requirements will be provided at the Orientation and Program Information & Enrollment sessions (PIES).

### ***What's involved with Continuity of Care experiences?***

Midwife means 'with woman' and the Bachelor of Midwifery's (BMid) clinical component is structured so that students are able to be with women through their childbearing journey as much as possible.

Students will participate in 10 relationship-based, continuity- of-care experiences with childbearing women per year (total 30). Students will meet women in hospital antenatal clinic and will follow them through subsequent antenatal visits. Students must be on call for 10 births per year. Each continuity-of-care relationship is estimated to require about 20 hours of student time. Midwives will oversee and supervise midwifery students during their continuity of care experiences. Further, each student will need to show proof of engaging in continuity of care experiences at their clinical practice review which will be conducted at the end of each year of enrolment.

### ***How do I choose my clinical placement location?***

Please complete the attached 'Bachelor of Midwifery – Clinical Placement Preference for 2012' form and submit it **no later than 5pm Wednesday 25 January 2012 to:**

The Program Officer  
Bachelor of Midwifery  
Student Services Centre  
University of Newcastle  
Callaghan NSW 2308  
Fax No. (02) 49212020  
Email: BMidwifery-PO@newcastle.edu.au

Consider carefully your order of preference of the clinical placement areas available. Clinical placements will commence early in semester 1 and it is expected that students will remain in the one location for at least a year.

If special consideration is required to have clinical placement in a particular geographic area, then a case must be made and supporting evidence provided. Allocation at a preferred placement cannot be guaranteed due to the limited number of placements available.

**BACHELOR OF MIDWIFERY – CLINICAL PLACEMENT PREFERENCES FOR 2012**

**Student Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given Names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Residential Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

**Campus Location:**  Callaghan  Port Macquarie

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**Preference for clinical placement for the Bachelor of Midwifery program at CALLAGHAN campus:**

Please number your preferences 1 to 4

John Hunter Hospital / Belmont Hospital

Singleton

Maitland

Muswellbrook

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**Preference for clinical placement for the Bachelor of Midwifery program at PORT MACQUARIE campus:**

Please number your preferences 1 to 3

Port Macquarie

Kempsey

Taree

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**Special consideration to request clinical placement in a particular location**

Yes I wish to apply for special consideration to have my clinical placement in a particular location.

No

\*Reason(s) for applying for special consideration also **attach a statutory declaration and documentary evidence to support your case:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: ..... Date:...../...../2012

\*NB: Every effort will be made to grant a placement allocation to one of your preferences; however this may not always be possible.

**Return to:** The Program Officer  
Bachelor of Midwifery  
Student Services Centre  
University of Newcastle  
Callaghan NSW 2308  
Fax No. 49212020  
Email: BMidwifery-PO@newcastle.edu.au

**To be submitted no later than:** 5pm Wednesday 25 January 2012