

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION GRANTS 2026 INFORMATION SHEET

Information for applicants for Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand Midwifery Postgraduate Education Grants 2026

Grant applications for midwifery postgraduate education undertaken in the period 1 January 2026 and 31 December 2026 are now invited.

The postgraduate education that will be funded in this application round can consist of midwifery postgraduate papers or Masters or PhD study which is at least at **level eight** as per the New Zealand Qualifications Authority framework. Please see below for additional eligibility criteria. Please note that this **is not** the information for the Postgraduate Complex Care Education Funding. There is a separate application form for this funding which is available on the New Zealand College of Midwives website.

If you are an employed midwife and are intending to apply for postgraduate funding you need to notify your employer of your intention to undertake postgraduate study as soon as possible. This will assist you to negotiate appropriate support from your employer to complete study requirements. (eg. annual leave or professional development leave in order to attend study blocks etc).

Schools offering post-graduate midwifery education

Auckland University of Technology https://www.aut.ac.nz/study/study-options/health-sciences/courses/postgraduate-certificate-in-health-science/midwifery Phone: 0800 288 864	Otago Polytechnic https://www.op.ac.nz/?Search=1&Keywords=postgraduate+midwifery&Category=Programmes&Subject=&BlogCategory=&Location= Phone: 0800 762 786	Victoria University https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/explore/postgraduate-subjects/midwifery/overview Phone: 0800 04 04 04
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Application process

Applications are filled out on-line through the College portal. Please log into the portal and click on the Postgraduate Grants Icon to enter a new application. You can apply for Semester One, Semester Two or both.

Please note that **Semester Two will not be processed or approved until after 15 June 2026.**

All approved papers are included in the application with options available to add other education providers and papers.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for a grant you should:

- Be planning to complete postgraduate education which is at least at **level eight** as per the New Zealand Qualifications Authority framework in the period 1 January 2026 and 31 December 2026 (not negotiable).
- Hold a current Annual Practising Certificate with the Midwifery Council of New Zealand with no restrictions which would negatively impact on engaging in postgraduate study (not negotiable).
- Be currently working as either an employed midwife (0.4FTE) or as a Lead Maternity Carer midwife working under Section 88 (with an annual caseload of 10 women or more).

- Have worked as a midwife within the last 12 months.
- Be a New Zealand citizen or hold a New Zealand permanent residency permit as conferred by the New Zealand Immigration service (Not negotiable).
- Be planning to undertake the postgraduate education in the period 1 January 2026 and 31 December 2026.
- Be enrolled in education with one of the following midwifery postgraduate education providers: Otago Polytechnic, Victoria University or Auckland University of Technology.
- Not be participating in the Midwifery Complex Care clinical training (another application form is available on the College website for midwives wishing to apply for funding for Complex Care training).
- Not to be a graduate midwife enrolled in the Midwifery First Year of Practice Programme.

Please note that while the first two points in this list are non-negotiable criteria, applications which do not meet the other eligibility criteria listed above can be considered on a case by case basis.

Midwifery applicants who are completing one or two papers in another discipline will be eligible to have their applications considered if these papers are cross creditable towards a midwifery postgraduate qualification. Proof will be required from the education provider that these papers are being undertaken as part of an overall midwifery focused qualification.

Midwives who are undertaking postgraduate study of at least **level eight** (as per the New Zealand Qualifications Authority framework) who do not meet the eligibility criteria or are studying another discipline or topic (eg. Health Management or Public Health) are encouraged to contact the College to discuss whether they may be eligible for a grant.

Midwives who have been granted funding from another source towards the cost of postgraduate education study that they are applying for HWNZ funding (for example, from their employer), need to declare the nature and amount of funding or support received. Any funding support received will have to be deducted from any HWNZ grant entitlement.

New Zealand College of Midwives are disbursing a finite postgraduate budget, therefore cannot guarantee that all applicants will receive funding.

Midwifery Postgraduate Education Grant entitlements

Where budget allows, education provider fees are fully funded by the Grant. If applications exceed available budget, Grants will be disbursed according to the priorities of the Te Whatu Ora contract. You may be eligible for travel and accommodation costs. Please refer to the Grant categories below to determine which you can apply for. Applicants must identify the appropriate Grant category for each semester. Grant funds must only be used for the cost of student fees, and for travel and accommodation expenses (excluding meals).

Travel Grant Categories

Travel Category A is a \$250.00 grant per Semester and is for midwives who live more than 50km one way from the education provider, not needing to pay for accommodation but required to attend face to face study blocks.

Travel Category B is a \$750.00 grant per Semester and is for midwives who live more than 50km one way from the education provider and will be required to travel and pay for accommodation for at least 2 nights away from home for required attendance at face to face study blocks.

Travel Category C is a \$1,000.00 grant per Semester and is for midwives who live more than 50km one way from the education provider and will be required to travel and pay for accommodation for 3 or more nights away from home for required attendance at face to face study blocks.

Travel Grant amounts are paid per Semester. If you are eligible for funds to support travel the total grant amount, including fee costs will be paid directly to you. The grants are exempt from GST.

Grant payment arrangements – the College will pay the education provider directly

The College is intending to disburse grants directly to education providers as payment for fees for eligible midwives who are enrolled in postgraduate study. In order for this to occur we need your permission as per signed declaration in the online application form.

Travel grants will be paid separately to eligible midwives.

Application timeline

As some midwives will be commencing study part way through each Semester (in particular those who are enrolling in papers which are commencing in May or September 2026, or enrolling in Masters of PhD programmes which may commence at varying times during the year), there will be two funding disbursements for each Semester.

Closing dates	The College will make payments directly to the education provider
15 February 2026	First Application Round for Semester One 2026 grants close
30 April 2026	Second Application Round for Semester One 2026 grants close
10 July 2026	First Application Round for Semester Two 2026 grants close
30 September 2026	Second Application Round for Semester Two 2026 grants close

As New Zealand College of Midwives is disbursing a finite budget eligible applications will be prioritised on a first come basis, ie. midwives who have their completed applications to the College by the first deadline will have a higher likelihood of being successful in receiving funding.

You are welcome to apply for your full year's funding for Semester One and Semester Two however Semester Two will not be approved until after 15 June and confirmation will be sought that your education is continuing as planned.

For more Information

Any queries please contact the New Zealand College of Midwives who administer the grants on behalf of Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand. Email postgrad@nzcom.org.nz or phone Lynda Overton on (03) 377 2732.