

COMPLEX CARE 2026 INFORMATION SHEET

Information for applicants for Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand

Postgraduate Certificate in Midwifery

Victoria University of Wellington

1. The Midwifery Complex Care Education is part of a Postgraduate Certificate offered by Victoria University of Wellington. Queries about the academic programme should be made to the following:

Victoria University of Wellington

Contact the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health

Phone: (04) 463 6647

Robyn Maude: nmh@vuw.ac.nz

To be eligible for Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand funding you must:

- be registered in New Zealand as a midwife within the Midwifery Scope of Practice
- have a current annual practising certificate
- be a New Zealand citizen or hold permanent New Zealand residency as conferred by the New Zealand Immigration Service
- have practised as a registered midwife for at least the equivalent of one year's full time practice
- seek approval from your Te Whatu Ora employer to attend the complex care programme (if you are employed)
- be able to commit to the time commitment requirements of the programme (if you are self-employed)
- meet the entry criteria required by the education provider

2. Before you enrol in this postgraduate education – you should be aware of the following information:
 - The study schedule for the year, including the assessments schedule
 - The number of study days and where they would be held
 - How study days and placements would be scheduled and where they would be held
 - Assessment requirements, including standards (eg. a sample assignment)
3. In order to receive the required clinical experience you may need to travel to another Te Whatu Ora district for clinical placements or to the academic provider for lectures / tutorials.

4. You are strongly encouraged to contact the academic institution where you will be studying and ascertain whether you need to undertake any preparatory study before the postgraduate certificate programme commences (consider the length of time since you last did any academic study and your level of computer literacy - including online search skills).

What is funded?

- Academic fees paid on behalf of midwife directly to education provider
- 100 hours funded release for clinical placements.
 - Employed midwives – hourly rate paid to employer to enable “back fill”
 - Self-employed midwives – paid directly to midwife to arrange own locum cover
- 100 hours academic release for completion of course work during academic paper
 - Employed midwives – hourly rate paid to employer to enable “back fill”
 - Self-employed midwives – paid directly to midwife to arrange own locum cover
- A clinical placement co-ordination fee paid to both the Te Whatu Ora / clinical placement provider and the academic institution per midwife
- A contribution towards travel costs for midwives who are required to travel greater than 100km one way to access any of the programme requirements

When will I know if I have funding to complete the programme?

New Zealand College of Midwives will inform you as to whether you have been accepted for a funded place on the programme

How do I arrange clinical placements?

These are arranged by your tertiary education provider in collaboration with you and the placement (mostly Te Whatu Ora providers) based on your specific learning needs. Travel for clinical placements outside your own region may or may not be required.

What if I am employed?

You will need to have the agreement of your employer that you can be released for the funded clinical and academic components of the programme. Your employer will need to approve their agreement with the College that you can complete the programme. Funding will be paid to your employer so that you can be released from your usual job to complete the clinical placement and academic attendance requirements of the programme.

What if I am self-employed?

You will need to make a commitment to ensure you are available to meet the clinical placement and academic attendance requirements of the programme by arranging suitable locum cover for your caseload. You will be paid directly for this and you will be expected to arrange your own locum cover with this funding.

What if I have to travel out of my area to do the programme?

There is a small amount of travel funds available for midwives who are required to travel greater than 100kms (one way) from their home to access clinical or academic components of the programme. Additional travel costs over and above the fixed grant provided will need to be negotiated with your Te Whatu Ora employer.

What is the difference between the postgraduate grants that New Zealand College of Midwives administers and the Complex Care funding?

The postgraduate grants that the College administers are only for the cost of academic fees (and some travel costs). The complex care funding also pays for academic and clinical release. There are two separate processes for application.

I have been accepted into the programme – what happens next?

When you have been notified by the New Zealand College of Midwives that you have been successful, the necessary approvals will need to be completed to enable the funding to be administered. You (and your employer if you are employed) will need to report to us throughout the

programme that you have been able to meet the programme requirements for us to release the funding. This may also require the College seeking confirmation from the education provider.

Te Whatu Ora Programme Coordinators and Midwifery Managers

When supporting a midwife in your employment for Complex Care funding - Midwifery Managers or Programme Coordinators should consider the following prioritisation criteria:

- the midwife meets the eligibility criteria (set out above)
- for secondary Te Whatu Ora's - the midwife is currently taking (or in the future will take) a leadership role in their Te Whatu Ora in providing midwifery complex care. In secondary settings this includes the reception and assessment of patients with complex care needs, and their stabilisation, referral and transfer to tertiary facilities.

Apply on line at New Zealand College of Midwives
Applications close 20 February 2026