Graduate Diploma in Midwifery (NS68)

**Year offered:** 2010  
**Admissions:** Yes  
**CRICOS code:** 040342B  
**Course duration (full-time):** 2 semesters  
**Course duration (part-time):** 4 semesters  
**Course duration (external):** 2 semesters (full-time) or 4 semesters (part-time)  
**Domestic fees (indicative):** 2010: CSP $2,800 (indicative) per semester 2010: Full fee tuition $7,250 (indicative) per semester  
**International fees (indicative):** 2010: $10,500 (indicative) per semester  
**Domestic Entry:** February  
**International Entry:** February  
**Total credit points:** 96  
**Standard credit points per full-time semester:** 48  
**Standard credit points per part-time semester:** 24  
**Course coordinator:** Dr Fiona Coyer  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove

**Overview**  
No new admissions will be accepted into this course from first semester 2011.

The Graduate Diploma in Midwifery is designed to prepare graduates for beginning level practice as midwives. Students undertake clinical and supporting studies units to enable them to develop competence in the area of midwifery, develop a critical awareness of major issues and trends in midwifery, and develop their understanding of research applied to midwifery. Graduates from the program are eligible to apply to the Queensland Nursing Council (QNC) for endorsement authorising practice as a midwife. Inherent in these course objectives is the expectation that, on completion of the course, students will have demonstrated their ability to meet the Australian College of Midwives Competencies (2005).

**Entry Requirements**  
Domestic applicants must:  
- be registered as a nurse with the QNC  
- have gained a degree in nursing (or equivalent) from a recognised institution and  
- normally have at least one year of appropriate post-registration clinical experience.

Alternatively, applicants may be admitted on the basis of relevant experience at the discretion of the Head of School of Nursing.

Applicants must provide original or certified documentary evidence for each entry requirement. For example:

- Queensland Nursing Council or equivalent registration; Nursing academic qualifications (if not awarded by QUT), that is, an award certificate and academic transcripts; and a supervisor signed letter or a statement of service to confirm your post-registration experience and your current employment position.

All applicants should also complete the questionnaire to accompany their applications available at [http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/pdfs/forms/pg_forms/PostgradNursingQuestion.pdf](http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/pdfs/forms/pg_forms/PostgradNursingQuestion.pdf)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**  
Applicants must provide one of the following certified documents:  
- a signed contract offering a paid clinical placement in a maternity service unit  
OR  
- a letter of offer for a supernumerary clinical placement from a maternity service unit.

For part-time applicants wishing to enter the program in 2010, the clinical placement must be for 2011.

The application closing date for 2010 entry is the 22nd January 2010; applications received after this date will not be considered.

**Course Structure**

Students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma in Midwifery undertake four 12 credit point units and two 24 credit point units. The clinical units are designed to facilitate the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills which are commensurate with beginning practice as a midwife. A minimum of 720 hours of off-campus clinical experience is scheduled throughout the course. Clinical experience occurs in hospital settings, and a variety of community health agencies eg the family planning clinic, sexual health clinic, community support groups and childbirth education classes. The supporting studies component of the program comprises three units designed to further enhance students' professional growth through exploration, at a postgraduate level, of the nexus between research and practice, and issues in the development of midwifery as a discipline.

**Course Articulation**

This course fully articulates with the Master of Nursing.

**International students**

This course is not available to international students.
Further Information
For more information about this course, please call the School of Nursing and Midwifery on +617 3138 3824 or email nursing.enquiries@qut.edu.au

Full-Time Course Structure

Year 1, Semester 1
- NSN331 Clinical Studies in Midwifery A
- NSN321 Foundations of Midwifery Practice
- NSN322 Complex Issues for Childbearing Families

Year 1, Semester 2
- NSN324 Critical Issues in Neonatal Care
- NSN332 Clinical Studies in Midwifery B
  Elective (see elective list)

Part-time Course Structure

Year 1, Semester 1
- NSN321 Foundations of Midwifery Practice
- NSN322 Complex Issues for Childbearing Families

Year 1, Semester 2
- NSN324 Critical Issues in Neonatal Care
  Elective (see elective list)

Year 2, Semester 1
- NSN331 Clinical Studies in Midwifery A

Year 2, Semester 2
- NSN332 Clinical Studies in Midwifery B

Elective list
- HLN405 Qualitative Research
- HLN706 Advanced Quantitative Research Methods
- HLN710 Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Research Design
- NSN427 Prevention of Violence Against Women
- NSN508 Advanced Readings in Nursing
- NSN515 Clinical Leadership and Management
- NSN516 Sexual and Reproductive Health

Potential Careers:
Nurse.

UNIT SYNOPSES

HLN405 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
This unit addresses a range of qualitative methodologies and methods which represent alternative approaches to the application of the quantitative paradigm in health science research. The predominance of the natural sciences in nursing/health research has come into question in recent times and thus the unit introduces students to the origins of such challenges, to the knowledge bases of the alternative approaches to investigating the microsocial world of health/illness and to the relevant research methods. The unit comprises a series of lectures, seminar presentations and relevant readings.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

HLN706 ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
The content of this unit builds on the basic statistics background assumed of students. A unifying theme is the concept of sources of variation in collected data, how proper design of study and measurement instruments minimises some sources of variation (error), how analytical techniques account for other sources, and finally the issue of introduced error that cannot be accounted for, but must be addressed in discussion of results. Analytical strategies for modelling health data are compared, and practical experience focuses on the analysis and interpretation of various data sets.

Prerequisites: PUN105  Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 4 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

HLN710 FUNDAMENTALS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESEARCH DESIGN
This unit introduces you to the fundamentals of epidemiology and quantitative research design. It addresses the collection and interpretation of epidemiological data, introduces measures of disease occurrence and association, and contemporary issues of major importance in health. It provides you with essential skills for logical, scientific assessment of the health and medical literature. There will be a strong emphasis on applying concepts through critical reading of the literature and the development of a comprehensive research proposal as the main practical exercise of the unit.

Antirequisites: HLN705, PUN743  Credit points: 12
Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

NSN321 FOUNDATIONS OF MIDWIFERY PRACTICE
This unit provides a foundation in the theoretical concepts and clinically applied principles for practice as a midwife. Emphasis is placed on the childbearing process as a normal and non-pathological process, during which the midwife, in collaboration with the woman, family, and other health professionals, provides midwifery care.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

NSN322 COMPLEX ISSUES FOR CHILDBEARING FAMILIES
This unit provides students with an opportunity to develop further and expand on the theoretical knowledge and skills gained in Foundation of Midwifery Practice and Clinical Studies in Midwifery A. The unit requires application of the principles and practices acquired in the prerequisite unit. While childbearing is assumed to be a normal non-pathological process, and inherently safe, it is acknowledged that specialised practitioners must be able to recognise and act on changing events. These changes reflect complications/deviations from the normal.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

NSN324 CRITICAL ISSUES IN NEONATAL CARE
An understanding of the physical, emotional and psychosocial factors which can impact on the health and wellbeing of infants and their families is essential to the provision of effective and supportive care. This unit explores issues in neonatal care including the complexity of physiological adaptation required at the time of birth, and common vulnerabilities in the neonate which may cause short and long term health problems. An introduction to ethical issues relevant to contemporary neonatal care provides a background to providing effective care for infants and families.

Prerequisites: NSN311, NSN321  Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

NSN331 CLINICAL STUDIES IN MIDWIFERY A
This unit enables students to demonstrate knowledge of issues that impact on the current and future role of the midwife within Australian and overseas contexts; develop a personal Clinical Portfolio; demonstrate clinical problem-solving and developing practice skills, in caring for women and their families throughout pregnancy, birth, and the puerperium; demonstrate application of formal and informal educational approaches that promote women’s and family health; value the creation of a supportive environment, applying principles of cultural safety that promotes birthing for women and their families; discuss the factors that impact the relationship between women and midwives during the childbearing process; reflect on your midwifery practice and identify opportunities for further personal and/or professional development.

Prerequisites: NSN321 and NSN322 (both can be enrolled in the same teaching period)  Credit points: 24  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

NSN332 CLINICAL STUDIES IN MIDWIFERY B
This unit continues on from NSB331. It provides the additional opportunities for you to develop the clinical knowledge and skills in the areas of birthing women and the neonate requiring admission to special care nursery. The focus in this unit is consolidation of evidence based midwifery practice in the area of uncomplicated pregnancy and birth, and the development of evidence based midwifery practice in areas of complicated pregnancy and birth. Clinical activities and focused assessment will enable the student to incorporate theoretical, conceptual and practical knowledge, attitudes and skills required to care for the childbearing woman, her infant and family. Current issues and controversies will be explored.

Prerequisites: (NSN321 and NSN331) and NSN332 (can be enrolled in the same teaching period)  Credit points: 24  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

NSN427 PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
This unit explores the prevalence, incidence, and impact of abuse on the individual, family, community and society. A range of approaches to prevention and intervention will be explored, both from local, national and international perspectives, to enable students to contextualise the learning to their discipline area.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

NSN508 ADVANCED READINGS IN NURSING
This unit provides the opportunity for students to access and review a body of literature relevant to an area of individual interest in nursing. This will enable students to extend their knowledge and understanding of a topic which is not specifically addressed elsewhere in the course. In addition, students undertaking this unit will have the opportunity to develop advanced skills information retrieval, critical analysis and writing for publication.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

NSN515 CLINICAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT
This unit aims to extend students' understanding of contemporary issues and trends in the development of leadership in professional practice, strengthen their abilities to provide effective leadership and further develop skills in peer consultation and reflective practice as strategies to support a critical approach to the provision of leadership in
the workplace. The unit addresses strategic thinking and planning; organisational and interpersonal communication; decision making; team building; multidisciplinary teams; managing conflict; facilitating change; and creating growth-producing work environments.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**NSN516 SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

This unit will bring together current research and evidence-based practice and information as well as, a health-oriented approach to the subject of sexuality and reproduction. The purpose of this unit is to highlight the fundamental issue that even though screening programs have emerged and improved women's health, women continue to have health problems that are unique to them as women. The aim of this unit is for the student to come to the understanding that a woman's sexual health encompasses not only the medical and physical components of sexual activity but a holistic understanding of physical and mental health. These are seen as being influenced by self-esteem, values, culture and socio-economic factors as well as societal influences.

**Credit points:** 12  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove and External  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2