

Personally I believe that there could be no role more rewarding than being a midwife. Something that particularly draws me to the profession is that it provides woman centred care that supports and encourages women through the antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal stages of their pregnancies. To me being a midwife is so much more than just a job.

I am currently studying psychology, geography and business for my A-levels, which I believe has given me skills that I can apply to my degree. By studying psychology it has allowed me to learn about the way people act and interact with each other, this will allow me to have a greater understanding of personal and social problems people encounter and learning about this behaviour has allowed me to enhance my communication skills. Business and geography are both subjects in which you have to stay in touch with current affairs and need to know what is going on in the world. This will be important when studying midwifery as practices change constantly to keep in line with new regulations and advancements. Alongside my A-levels I have completed an EPQ in which I researched whether the medicalisation of childbirth in western society had gone too far. This project has benefitted me hugely as it not only gave me the opportunity to investigate childbirth in general and the factors which result in a more complex birth, but it also allowed me to gain and develop a range of transferable skills which I believe are essential. These skills vary from keeping to deadlines to public speaking as I had to deliver a presentation about my project. Alongside studying for my A-levels, I was a member of our sixth forms' May Ball committee in which we organised a ball for both students and teachers. This gave me a real insight to life outside of the sixth form as I had to be independent and manage my time effectively in order to plan the ball alongside my academic studies. I also developed skills of working in a team.

For work experience, I completed a 15 week placement at the Lister Hospital, my local hospital in which I spent a few hours a week on the postnatal and antenatal wards. During this time I had the opportunity to shadow midwives, student midwives, healthcare assistants and nursery nurses as well as helping with the general workings of the wards by helping to give out dinners to patients and making beds. This showed me that working on the maternity wards involves working as a team but also individually. Furthermore, being in a clinical environment was extremely valuable as it made me realise how dedicated I would be to working within this profession. I also completed work experience at Hitchin's Children Centre, during my time there I was able to interact with new parents and their baby's by participating in baby classes such as 'Rhyme Time" and "Baby Sensory". A few of the mothers in particular were keen to share their birth experiences with me which I found particularly interesting as it shed light on the fact that these birthing experiences stay with women for the rest of their lives and the huge impact and role that midwives play in them remembering their experiences. Additionally, I currently have a part-time job working in Next, by working in a retail environment it has allowed me to improve my communication skills and the ability of 'thinking on my feet' to overcome situations. This is a positive attribute to have especially when working in a challenging environment such as a hospital, as they skills will help me to overcome particularly challenging periods on placement.

After my degree I can see myself working in the NHS, and later in life travelling to take part in humanitarian aid by taking my skills as a midwife abroad to positively help in developing countries. I hope you can see that I am passionate about making midwifery my future and that my dedication and skills would make me an ideal candidate for studying at your university.