

What does a midwife do?

Helping to bring life into the world is immensely satisfying as a career. Midwives provide care and support to women during pregnancy, labour and birth, and up to six weeks following birth. They also provide advice for mothers, such as information on breastfeeding and good parenting, as well as their partners and whānau. Midwives work collaboratively with other health professionals such as obstetricians, physicians, anaesthetists, neonatal nurses and GPs, as well as social services such as lactation consultants.

Salary

Midwives' salaries range from \$47,000 to \$150,000 per year, based on experience. New midwives can expect \$47,000 annually. Those with two to five years can earn up to \$64,000 per year, while midwives with more than five years make \$64,000 to \$70,000. Senior midwives with more than eight years' experience average at \$94,000 annually. Self-employed midwives can make \$70,000 to \$150,000, depending on the number of women they care for.

What subjects do I need to take at school?

- ❖ English
- ❖ Biology
- ❖ Chemistry
- ❖ Maths
- ❖ Te Reo Māori

How do I get into it?

To become a midwife you need to:

- ✓ Complete a Bachelor of Midwifery – a three-year degree programme combining theory and practice. Parts of the degree can be done through distance learning
- ✓ register with the Midwifery Council of New Zealand
- ✓ have a current Annual Practising Certificate
- ✓

Interpersonal skills

Midwives also need to be:

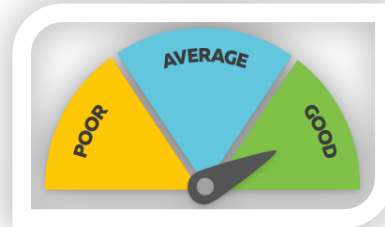
- ❖ good at managing their time
- ❖ skilled in communicating with people
- ❖ patient and caring
- ❖ able to work well under pressure
- ❖ mature and responsible
- ❖ observant and analytical
- ❖ able to remain calm during emergencies.

Midwives need to be reasonably fit and healthy, and must have a good level of stamina, as some births may take a long time.

There are four pre-registration midwifery programmes in New Zealand:

- ❖ Otago Polytechnic in Dunedin
- ❖ Ara Institute of Canterbury in Christchurch

- ❖ Waikato Institute of Technology in Hamilton
- ❖ Auckland University of Technology



Will I get a job after studying?

A rise in the number of midwifery graduates since 2010 has eased previous high skill shortages in midwifery. However, chances of getting work are still good, particularly in Auckland, where the birth rate is higher and employers still have difficulty in filling all positions. Midwives often undertake postgraduate study for a Master's degree or PhD. They can also become midwifery educators or midwifery advisers, who provide education and information on the midwife role and scope of practice.

Where can I find out more?

- **Midwifery Council of New Zealand:**
(04) 499 5040 <https://www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz/>