Student Placement Localities
Midwifery
Introduction

All midwifery programmes consist of approximately 50 per cent theory and 50 per cent practice. The practice component is gained within ‘placements’. The University of Surrey is very fortunate to have a broad range of excellent placements within Surrey and Sussex. This geographical area is divided up to enable students to be allocated to one distinct area, enabling the student to become a member of that community of healthcare practitioners. These geographical divisions are called ‘Localities’.

There are five geographical localities serving midwifery programmes at the University of Surrey. Each locality has the maternity unit within a district general hospital setting as well as community based placements.
Locality One

Locality one is in the eastern areas of Surrey and serves the Crawley and Horsham areas and surrounding, towns and villages. It consists of a strong community of healthcare practitioners, working together to provide a high standard of care to the people it serves and students soon become ‘one of the team’ with most deciding to stay and work there upon qualification.

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (SASH) includes the East Surrey Hospital, which is around 28 miles from Guildford and located near Redhill and is the major acute hospital for East Surrey and North West Sussex. It provides 24 hours a day, 7 days a week emergency services.

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust also offers all that you would expect to find in a contemporary maternity unit for midwifery students, and welcome new members of the team. The Trust has a main delivery suite, separate birthing unit, with pool room and two inpatient wards, one being for antenatal services and a 28 bedded postnatal ward.

A great deal of activity is delivered close to home by the community midwife teams and are split between six geographical areas in the two counties.

For further information, please see:
www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk

Locality Two

Locality two is located in the northern area of Surrey and serves Ashford and Chertsey and other towns and villages around that area. It provides a warm welcome to its students and they soon become one of the community and feel well supported.

The maternity unit at Ashford and St.Peter’s NHS Trust is a multi award winning service having recently gained its third national award in three years. They provide midwife led care and consultant care for those with additional needs. Facilities for women are excellent with newly refurbished ensuite birthing rooms and a new pool room. They also have the only neonatal intensive care unit in the area.

The service has gained the Baby Friendly Certificate of Commitment for breastfeeding and is working hard towards full Baby Friendly compliance. The trust is planning a co-located midwife led unit where midwives can use their skills to the full. Midwives coming to work for this trust can enjoy a friendly and supportive environment and an excellent developmental programme where midwives can flourish.

For further information please see:
www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk
Locality Three

Locality three is located in the north-western area of Surrey and serves the Frimley area as well as surrounding towns and villages. It prides itself in having a friendly atmosphere and welcoming staff who have a positive ‘can do’ attitude.

The Maternity Service is part of the Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and is based in Frimley, with a satellite antenatal clinic in Aldershot. The Maternity Unit serves the population of West Surrey, North East Hampshire and parts of Berkshire.

The Maternity Unit is situated in the main building of the hospital and includes Obstetric and Gynaecology Clinic, Day Assessment Unit, antenatal and postnatal ward and the Central Delivery Suite. The service also provides community care to its local population. The Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit, Special Care Baby Unit and theatre suites are adjacent to the unit.

For further information please see: www.frimleypark.nhs.uk

Locality Four

Locality four serves Guildford and the towns and villages surrounding the University.

The Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has 527 beds and provides the local population with both elective and emergency surgery, and services for those with urgent, acute and long term medical conditions. It has 14 operating theatres, has specialist maxillo-facial services, as well as providing a tertiary centre for cancer services.

The maternity ward provides care for mothers in a wide variety of settings which include: hospital, co-located birth centre, children’s centres and at home. The facilities within the unit include: a delivery suite, dedicated maternity theatre, high dependency area, birth centre, poolroom, wards and clinic.

The whole team is dedicated to providing the highest standard of care to women and have attained full accreditation for the Global Baby Friendly award for its support of breastfeeding.

For further information, please see: www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk
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Midwifery

Locality Five

Locality five is in West Sussex and serves Chichester and the towns and villages of the beautiful West Sussex coast and the central areas of West Sussex. It is known to be a friendly locality in which to be placed. Students are valued and made to feel part of the local community.

**Western Sussex Hospitals Trust** has three hospitals: Worthing, Southlands which is based in Shoreham and St Richard’s in Chichester. Our maternity units are at Worthing and Chichester.

The unit at St. Richard’s has recently undergone a £2m refurbishment which is entirely focused on providing mothers-to-be with a range of choices about their labour and delivery, with services tailored to meet the needs of the woman and her baby.

It has three birthing pools, a high-tech operating theatre with a high dependency recovery area and a special care baby unit. The new Chichester Birth Centre gives mothers-to-be the option of a midwife-led service in a homely, relaxed environment.

For further information, please see: www.westsussexpct.nhs.uk

Further Information

Further information about localities and accommodation opportunities within each of the localities is provided to the students’ at the start of the programme and within local induction to the practice environments. The accommodation provision varies between the localities and usually comprises students organising privately rented flat-sharing or house-sharing via local agents.

As a student, you will have various options for accommodation including living at home, in university accommodation (for year 1), in private rented housing and from year 2 in accommodation linked to NHS Trusts (where available).

University accommodation is usually available for the first year of the programme for applicants who select Surrey as their first choice. Clinical practice placements commence in May and so students may be required to travel to practice placements some distance away from Guildford while still living in university accommodation. Please be aware when requesting your choice of accommodation that only certain residences enable the parking of a car. Accommodation arrangements are currently under review – please check the website for more detailed information.

The theory component of the programme is taught within the University campus in Guildford for all students, irrespective of locality, for the duration of the midwifery programmes.
Process for Student Allocation to Locality

There are limited placements within each locality and so each new cohort of students must be divided up between localities to ensure a high quality practice experience for all.

A priority system exists when allocating students to localities, to ensure the needs of those students with specific geographical requirements are met, as much as is possible within the limited capacity in each location.

The priority system identifies the following:

- Sponsored students are placed within the locality where the sponsoring Trust has placements
- Students with dependents are placed in the locality nearest to their home address, as far as capacity allows
- Students living in their own homes (or the parental home) at the start of the programme are placed in a locality as near to their home address as possible, as far as capacity allows

It must be noted that placements within the locality may still be some distance from the student’s home address and travelling to placements within the full geographical area of the allocated locality will be required in order to meet the practice component of the midwifery programme.

There are sometimes opportunities to change a student’s allocated locality but this depends upon capacity at the preferred locality.
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this brochure at the time of going to press. The University reserves the right, however, to introduce changes to the information given including the addition, withdrawal or restructuring of degree programmes.

Many thanks to the following organisations for providing many of the images used within this brochure:

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