

# INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED MIDWIVES BRIDGING PROGRAM

[www.midwifery.ubc.ca](http://www.midwifery.ubc.ca)

## Midwifery Background Requirements for Eligibility

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To be selected for the IEMBP, you must be educated as a midwife, meet eligibility requirements, and be able to acquire everything you need to practice midwifery in Canada within the IEMBP.

Midwives come from different backgrounds, so the IEMBP will accept different combinations of education and experience. See the options below.

You will need to provide proof that you meet the eligibility requirements in Option A or Option B. See the document titled *Information about Required Evidence* for details.

### **Eligibility Option A: Proof of Education and Clinical Experience**

*If you are a new graduate or have limited (less than five years) experience working as a midwife, you must use this option.*

#### Midwifery Education Requirements

##### **What kind of midwifery education do I need?**

You must have graduated from a recognized midwifery education program offered by an accredited educational institution (direct-entry, post-nursing or post-naturopathic).

**OR**

You must have completed self-directed midwifery education where the content of your program was approved by a Canadian midwifery regulator before you started your studies. (*Important Note: This approval process will be available via the College of Midwives of Manitoba once required legislative changes are passed by the Manitoba government*).

##### **How long does my midwifery education program need to be?**

- a minimum of 24 months of full-time midwifery education

**OR**

- at least 2400 clinical hours and 850 academic hours over a minimum of 18 months of midwifery education

**OR**

- a minimum of one academic year of full-time post-nursing or post-naturopathic midwifery education.

##### **What needs to have been included in my midwifery education program?**

###### **7 required criteria of a midwifery education program:**

- Both theoretical and clinical studies, with clearly-defined competencies and outcomes;
- Coverage of all aspects of care (antenatal and intrapartum care, and postpartum and newborn care to at least 28 days) from the perspective of the midwife providing care on her own responsibility;
- An educational framework that enables students to link theory to practice;
- Supervised clinical practice that integrates theory into midwifery practice;

- ☑ Clinical placements in a jurisdiction or jurisdictions where midwifery practice is regulated OR in a Canadian province or territory in the two years before midwifery legislation was passed;
- ☑ The fundamentals of safe evidence-based midwifery care;
- ☑ An evaluation process that allows students to incorporate their learning progressively and verifies that the student has met the defined competencies of the program.

#### Clinical Experience Requirements

##### How much midwifery experience do I need?

- At least 50 births with at least 30 of these as the primary midwife in the past 5 years
- OR**
- At least 40 births as the primary midwife in the past 5 years
- OR**
- 200 births as primary midwife during your career

Your background should include experience in antenatal, postpartum and newborn care; and proof of having kept up-to-date on evidence-based midwifery standards of care.

##### Does midwifery experience from all regions count?

All of the clinical experience that you use to meet IEMBP requirements must have happened in:

- A jurisdiction or jurisdictions where midwifery is regulated
- OR**
- A Canadian province or territory in the two years before midwifery became regulated
- OR**
- A situation in which practice is overseen by a recognized organization acceptable to the IEMBP.

#### **Eligibility Option B: Proof of Registration and Clinical Experience**

*If you have a lot of experience working as a midwife, you may use Option A or B. Choose the option where you can most easily prove that you meet the requirements.*

#### Requirements for Previous Registration as a Midwife

##### What are the requirements related to registration as a midwife?

- You must have registered with a regulatory organization or government department that: has authority to govern the profession; keeps a register of midwives; and regulates the standards and practice of midwifery, **AND**
- You have had good professional conduct during your career which can be proven by a certificate of good conduct or equivalent from a regulatory organization or government department, **AND**
- You have actively practiced midwifery for at least 5 out of the last 10 years while registered with a midwifery regulatory organization.

#### Clinical Experience Requirements

##### How much midwifery experience do I need?

- 200 births as primary midwife during your career, **AND**
- Education or experience in antenatal, intrapartum, postpartum and newborn care from the perspective of a midwife providing evidence-based care on her own responsibility. Postpartum care must have been provided beyond the first 24 hours after birth up to a minimum of 2 weeks postpartum as a part of your education and/or experience.

## Does midwifery experience from all regions count?

All of the clinical experience that you use to meet IEMBP requirements must have happened in:

- A jurisdiction or jurisdictions where midwifery is regulated

**OR**

- A Canadian province or territory in the two years before midwifery became regulated

**OR**

- A situation in which practice is overseen by a recognized organization acceptable to the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Consortium (CMRC).

Important Note: Meeting the eligibility requirements of the IEMBP does not guarantee that you will be offered a place in the IEMBP. In addition to verifying that applicants meet eligibility criteria, the assessment of applications is designed to select those applicants with the best chance of success in bridging into Canadian practice through the IEMBP.

## Glossary:

**Accredited educational institution:** A school that has been officially recognized by an external accrediting authority as meeting appropriate quality standards. In most countries, accrediting authorities are government organizations, but in some (e.g. USA), they are private organizations.

**Direct-entry midwifery education:** A formal midwifery education program that does not require a healthcare qualification for entry.

**Jurisdiction:** The territory within which the given laws apply.

**“On her own responsibility”:** The midwife is responsible for all care she/he provides and decisions she/he makes during the course of pregnancy, labour, delivery and postpartum. The care and decisions are not delegated from, directed by, or supervised by any other care provider.

**Post-naturopathic midwifery education:** A formal midwifery education program that requires a doctor of naturopathic medicine qualification for entry. Note: a formal naturopathic midwifery program that is integrated within the basic naturopathic program may also be included in this definition if it is equivalent.

**Post-nursing midwifery education:** A formal midwifery education program that requires a nursing qualification for entry.

**Self-directed midwifery education:** A midwifery education program designed by and for an individual student that is not connected to a formal program. Sometimes called “apprenticeship training.” (Self-directed education must be pre-approved by a Canadian regulatory body for admission to the IEMBP. This approval process will be available via the College of Midwives of Manitoba once required legislative changes are passed by the Manitoba government”).