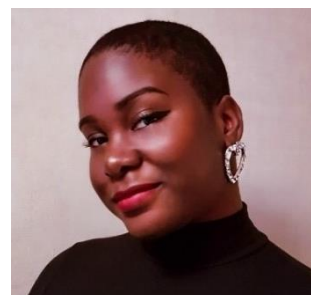


Our nursing and midwifery people

Alicia Burnett - Student Midwife, University of West London

On a typical day

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic my pre-registration education was divided into blocks of placement and theory. When I was on placement, I started at 8am or 8pm and spent my shift working in either an antenatal, birth or postnatal setting within a hospital or the community. Each day was different because every woman and pregnant person is an individual that requires personalised care, and this is one of the things I love most about training to become a midwife. Currently, I attend webinars every Monday, and face-to-face teaching and supernumerary clinical placements are due to re-commence in September.



One way I've made a difference as a nurse or midwife

In my second year, I was required to write about a medical condition that affects the care needs of pregnant people. I chose to write about sickle cell anaemia, as much of the literature applicable to midwifery practice had been written some time ago. I published my essay to draw attention to how sickle cell anaemia can affect maternal and neonatal health and what midwives can do to improve pregnancy outcomes and satisfaction with maternity care. Personally contributing to the knowledge base for midwifery practice and supporting other student midwives to do the same as editor-in-chief of *The Student Midwife*, an online publication edited by student midwives, is my way of making a difference in midwifery.

What would you say to someone considering a career in nursing or midwifery?

Go for it – apply for that midwifery job or pre-registration course now! The midwifery workforce is inclusive, and everyone is welcome regardless of age, gender, sexual-orientation, race, ethnicity or religion. Midwifery requires you to be patient, kind and compassionate towards women, birthing people, their families and yourself. If you have these qualities, you are half way there. Health begins in the womb, so by providing high quality, individualised pre-conception, antenatal, labour, birth and postnatal care, you would be improving health outcomes for future generations.

Find out more about our nursing and midwifery people stories, and how you can submit yours, by contacting us at: England.nandm2020@nhs.net