

In 2000, the RCM set up a scheme in memory of Ruth Davies, an active member of the RCM, and a leader within midwifery research and practice.

Ruth Davies was a widely respected leader and pioneer of midwifery and considered by her peers to be unique, remarkably skillful and always ahead of her time.

Ruth began her midwifery career at Glossop Terrace Maternity Hospital in Cardiff and registered as a midwife in 1967, after having previously trained as a nurse. She worked as a midwife and educator and held a variety of posts at a strategic level, inspiring and influencing midwifery education, practice and research throughout her career. She contributed to midwifery knowledge through editorship on midwifery journals, through publishing research methodology, and through her own qualitative research into student midwives clinical lives.

Ruth promoted the belief that midwives should never become complacent and that in daily practice they should continue to ask "why" and to look beyond the obvious. Opinion and rhetoric were therefore never sufficient. Research was an emerging area of practice, and Ruth supported the need for further midwifery research as a means of finding answers and developing the knowledge base for effective practice. She was always thinking beyond her time, challenging traditions, breaking boundaries and finding new ways.

Ruth was an active member of the Royal College of Midwives throughout her professional career, and was made an Honorary Vice President of the College. She left a rich legacy of passion, enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring optimum standards in midwifery education, research and practice as well as regard for midwives, women and babies.

Applications should be submitted to;

Ruth Davies Bursary
The Royal College of Midwives
15 Mansfield Street
London
W1G 9NH

For further details about the bursary please contact

Email: jody.faulkner@rcm.org.uk
Phone: 020 7312 3463

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS
30TH JULY 2010**



BOUNTY[®]

**Ruth Davies Bursary
2010**

Information for Applicants

The Bursary

Bounty has made £45,000 available to the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) over a three year period, to support a number of research bursaries for midwives. Each year, three bursaries of £5,000 will be awarded to midwives to undertake a piece of research relating to midwifery practice.

The purpose of the bursary is;

- To build the capacity of midwives to use research in their clinical practice
- To enable the RCM to increase the research profile of midwives nationally and internationally.
- To enable midwives to further develop their research knowledge and skills
- To add to the body of knowledge of midwifery practice
- To support the RCM objective of building and strengthening a research culture amongst midwives
- To develop the research network for midwives, providing a forum to develop and discuss research

Who is eligible to apply for this bursary?

- Practising midwives who are members of the RCM
- Midwives who have basic knowledge, skills and understanding of the research process
- Midwives who have access to research support in their maternity units or higher education institutions
- Midwives who have been in practice for 2 years or more

The bursaries are not open to midwives with a recognised track record of research, or significant involvement in major research projects (i.e. co-applicant status in funded research) or RCM staff members.

This bursary should not be used primarily for course fees.

Application

Applicants for this bursary should do so through the submission of: -

- A succinct CV including current and past posts in last 5 years; educational qualifications, current educational activity and research training; previous research experience, research funding and publications
- A research proposal of no more than 2500 words. The proposal should include: -
 - The rationale for the proposed research.
 - Policy relevance
 - Methodology
 - Data collection plan
 - Identification of the perceived benefits and and outcomes of the work.
 - The framework for support for research institutional organisation, which will support the research activity.
 - The framework for support for research training
 - A detailed breakdown of costs of the activity
 - A dissemination plan
 - Letters of support;
 - One from the applicants' manager which outlines that there will be support to enable the bursary holder to undertake their research.
 - The other from an academic institution offering academic support to the bursary holder and specifying what support/ supervisory arrangements will be available.

Selection Process

Following the short-listing process, candidates are invited for an interview at which time they will verbally present their proposed research, which will be assessed using specific criteria. This is followed by some questions and discussions. Confirmation of the result of the interview is sent to applicants within 5 days.

Monitoring and support of successful applicants

The bursary holders will need to submit one progress report at the end of the year including a financial statement.

Bursary holders will submit a short article on their research that may be published on the RCM Journal web-page.

The bursary holder may be invited to meet the committee towards the end of the project, to review and reflect on the research.

Informal support and guidance will be available from the committee members. This will usually be network links and practical 'tips'. This does not take the place of research supervision, which should be available to the bursary holder.

A full written report of the study must be submitted within 6 months of the end of the award period.

The work will form part of the RCM research portfolio.