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| Name: | Marie Buckleygray |
| Region: | Scotland |
| Email: | m.buckleygray@rgu.ac.uk |
| University: | Robert Gordon University |
| RCM Membership Number: | RCM01550667 |

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| Manifesto: *(demonstrate who you are, why you are looking for a seat on the group and what you can offer)* |
| Hello I’m Marie from Fife, Scotland studying at RGU.  Like you I have been given the enormous honour of a place on a Midwifery course, ultimately being trusted to become a safe pair of hands. This quest of ours can be overwhelming both in the speed at which we are required to grow into Midwives and the gravity of the implications if we fall short. I am alongside you in this and I want to make these irreplaceable years on our Midwifery courses the best that they can be. I hope to be given the opportunity to be there to listen as one of you, write reports to the RCM about matters that influence us as Student Midwives and improve our experience going forward.  This year has been interesting to say the least. We have all had to be both as flexible and as strong as willow trees in responding to the changes that we have observed and experienced. There are those who were in a position to take up temporary positions within the NHS and those who are persevering with later placements to complete. There are challenges with PPE for instance in learning new ways to communicate to help parents feel safe and supported whilst they go through a transformative period under the restrictions. We are all to a certain extent navigating new ways to connect with our learning as our lectures are now delivered online. This has highlighted new ways of working and necessary improvement tweaks. It has also brought some benefits for instance being able to watch our lectures on replay and attend conferences virtually that we otherwise would not be able to travel to.  On a recent face to face teaching week at University members of the class were asked to stand up and share something important to us. I had mulled over talking about human connection in an abstract way and how it relates to Midwifery but then I realised something whilst my heart was beating so hard. When I looked around at my peers I realised that what excited me most in that moment was the realisation that we were opening the first chapter of our careers and I was looking forwards to seeing what an amazing difference each of them made to our world. I could see glimpses of their skills and potential already in their interactions at University and I felt so fortunate to be with them.  You have worked so hard already to have and maintain your well earnt place as a Student Midwife and deserve every bit of support in this first chapter. I stand by you, recognise your input and hope to see the good your safe hands will bring into the world. |
| **(No more than 500 words.)** |