**Liverpool Hope University**

**Student Maternity Risk Assessment Pro-forma**

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| Staff Member/ Student: |  | Faculty/Department: | |  | |
| Location: |  | Assessment carried out by: |  | | Assessment date: |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What are the hazards? | What could be the harm be? | What is the risk level?\* | What are the existing measures to manage the risk effectively? | Is any further action or information required? | Action by: | | |
| Who | When | Completed |
| **Planned fieldtrips** | A delay or lack of access to medical facilities  The nature or risks involved with the fieldwork itself may put new or expectant mothers at a higher risk of harm. Particularly if working with hazardous substances, working outdoors or working unaccompanied (especially in the latter stages of pregnancy). |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Examinations or other assessments** | New and expectant mothers can be vulnerable to stress because of hormonal, psychological and physiological changes around pregnancy  Hormonal changes during and shortly after pregnancy affect ligaments and can increase chances of injury. Postural problems may get worse as pregnancy advances.  **Standing** in one position for long periods can cause dizziness, faintness, fatigue. It can also increase chances of premature birth or miscarriage.  **Sitting** for long periods increases risk of thrombosis.  **Backache** is also associated with long periods of standing or sitting.  **Confined space** may be a problem particularly in the latter stages of pregnancy. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Hazardous substances - infection risks and chemicals** | Biological agents can affect the unborn child through the placenta during pregnancy or after birth through breast feeding or close physical contact with the mother.  Examples of these agents are hepatitis ‘B’, syphilis, HIV (aids virus), chicken pox, herpes, TB, typhoid, rubella, cytomegalovirus (CMV)  There are over 200 industrial chemicals that can cause harm to the unborn child although most are unlikely to be found on campus.  Substances labelled with  **R46**, may cause heritable genetic damage  **R61**, may cause harm to the unborn child  **R63**, possible risk of harm to the unborn child  **R64**, may cause harm to breastfed babies should be avoided on campus and in domestic situations.  Hazardous substances also include the risks from smoking.  There may be a greater risk of contracting or serious illness linked to infectious diseases. |  | *Local public health advice should be followed.* |  |  |  |  |
| **Protective equipment** | Protective clothing or other types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are not generally designed for use by pregnant women.  Physical changes around pregnancy may make it too uncomfortable to wear, or may mean that it no longer provides the intended protection. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Stressors** | New and expectant mothers can be vulnerable to stress because of hormonal, psychological and physiological changes around pregnancy. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lone Working** | A delay or lack of access to medical facilities |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Course placements or study abroad?** | The travel destination - including modes of travel, duration, local hazards and health advice may put new and expectant mothers at a greater risk of harm. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Return from Maternity Related Absence** | New and expectant mothers can be vulnerable to stress because of hormonal, psychological and physiological changes around pregnancy.  Frequent or prolonged absences may affect students ability to meet course requirements. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Welfare issues** | **Rest facilities**  Rest is particularly important for new and expectant mothers.  **Hygiene**  Easy access to toilets is essential to protect against risks of infection and kidney disease.  **Storage facilities**  Appropriate arrangements for expressing and storing breast milk are needed for breast-feeding mothers.  **Inappropriate nutrition**  Adequate and appropriate nutrition and liquid refreshment at regular intervals is essential to the health of the new or expectant mother and her child. Appetite and digestion are affected by the timing, frequency and duration of meal breaks and other opportunities for eating and drinking which can affect the health of the unborn child. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

\*Refer to the ‘RISK MATRIX’ to establish the risk rating