



# Paramedic

Dealing with emergencies  
Giving people life-saving medical help



### Entry requirements:

- You will need a foundation degree, diploma of higher education (DipHE) or degree in paramedic science or paramedic practice.
- You could start as a student paramedic, a trainee technician or an emergency care assistant for an ambulance service.
- Working as a volunteer community first responder with an organisation like St John Ambulance or an NHS ambulance trust, may help you to get onto a training course.
- Your local ambulance trust has information about the services in your area.
- To become a paramedic you will need:
  - to register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
  - a driving licence, including C1 category entitlement
  - to pass a medical check
  - an enhanced background check which your employer will arrange for you
- The College of Paramedics has more information about becoming a paramedic.

### What you will do:

- Most paramedics work for NHS ambulance services. You'll deal with a range of situations, from minor wounds and substance misuse to serious injuries from fires and major road, rail and industrial accidents.

### Your day-to-day tasks could include:

- checking a patient's condition to decide what action to take
- using electric shock equipment (a defibrillator) to resuscitate patients
- carrying out surgical procedures like inserting a breathing tube
- giving medicines and injections
- dressing wounds and applying supports for broken bones
- delivering babies
- working closely with the police and fire services
- keeping accurate records and checking equipment

### Skills required:

You will need:

- excellent driving skills
- the ability to think and act quickly under pressure
- practical skills and the ability to follow procedures
- excellent communication skills

### What you will earn:

- Starter: £23,023 (qualified paramedic)
- Experienced: Up to £28,500
- Highly Experienced: £36,644 (specialist paramedics and team leaders)

*These figures are a guide.*

### Working hours, patterns and environment:

- You will usually work 37.5 hours a week on shifts, including nights, weekends and bank holidays.
- You will wear a uniform including protective clothing.
- You will work on an ambulance, or as a specialist you may work on your own, using a car, motorbike or bicycle.
- The job is physically and emotionally demanding.

### Career path and progression:

With around 3 years' experience, you could become a team leader or a specialist paramedic or emergency care practitioner.

You could also move into operations management, education and training, research or human resources.