

## Career of the Week

### PARAMEDIC



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

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'll need:

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

#### UK Entry Requirements

You'll 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'll 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.