

# PARAMEDIC



## WHAT DO PARAMEDICS DO?

Paramedics are highly trained medical professionals who respond to emergency situations. They provide urgent care to people who are injured or unwell before they reach a hospital. Their work can include treating patients at accident scenes, giving life-saving medication, and transporting people safely in ambulances.

Every day is different — one call might involve helping someone having a heart attack, while the next could be assisting at a road traffic accident.

## WHY THEIR WORK MATTERS

Paramedics play a vital role in saving lives and keeping communities safe. They are often the first healthcare professionals to arrive when someone needs urgent medical help. Their quick decisions and calm actions can mean the difference between life and death.

They also provide reassurance to patients and families in stressful situations, showing compassion as well as skill.

## SKILLS AND QUALITIES NEEDED

To be a successful paramedic, you need a mixture of **practical** and **personal** skills, such as:

- **Calmness under pressure** – emergencies can be intense.
- **Communication skills** – explaining clearly to patients and working well in a team.
- **Physical fitness** – for lifting, carrying equipment, and long shifts.
- **Problem-solving** – making fast, effective decisions.
- **Compassion and empathy** – understanding and comforting people in distress.

## HOW TO BECOME A PARAMEDIC

There are several routes into this career. Most people qualify through one of these paths:



1. **University degree** – Completing a **BSc (Hons) in Paramedic Science** approved by the **Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)**.
2. **Degree apprenticeship** – Working and studying at the same time with an ambulance service trust.
3. **Student paramedic role** – Training directly through an ambulance service while gaining experience on the job.

You'll usually need good GCSEs (including English, maths, and science) and A-levels or equivalent qualifications to start training. After qualifying, you must **register with the HCPC** to work as a paramedic in the UK.

## WHERE PARAMEDICS WORK

Paramedics mainly work for **NHS ambulance services**, but some are employed by:

- **Air ambulance teams**
- **Private ambulance services**
- **Event medical teams**
- **The armed forces**
- **Remote or offshore industries**

They often work shifts, including nights, weekends, and public holidays.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE

A typical shift could involve answering 999 calls, assessing patients, giving treatments like CPR or oxygen, and transporting people to hospital. Paramedics must record patient details carefully and keep in touch with hospital staff throughout the day.

## FUTURE OUTLOOK

Demand for paramedics is high and continues to grow. As the population ages and health services expand, more trained professionals are needed to deliver emergency care. It's a challenging career — but also one of the most rewarding.

Being a paramedic is about helping people when they need it most. It requires courage, compassion, and dedication. With the right training and determination, it can lead to a fulfilling career making a real difference every day.

Find out more



<https://kids.kiddle.co/Paramedic>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFe7I5L4W6Y>

<https://kidskonnnect.com/careers/paramedic/>

#### Example Questions

- Paramedics are highly trained medical professionals who ....
- True or False. Every day is different for a paramedic.
- Why do paramedics have to make quick decisions?
- What skills do you need to be a paramedic?
- What routes can you take to become a paramedic?