

FAQs about careers in the ambulance service team

This page has some frequently asked questions about careers in the ambulance service team

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Who works in the ambulance service team?

Have a look at our [ambulance team careers page](#) ^[2] to find out.

To work in the ambulance service, what type of driving licence do I need?

You may need a C1 category on your licence, but it depends on the ambulance service trust that you are applying to and the types of vehicles that it uses. The requirements will be contained in the person specification for each vacancy. Visit the [NHS Jobs](#) ^[3] website to search for vacancies.

How do I train to be a paramedic?

There are two ways to train as a [paramedic](#) ^[4] - an approved full-time university course or train while working as a student paramedic with an ambulance trust. Visit our [paramedic](#) ^[4] page for details. You can also search for approved university courses using our [course finder](#) ^[5].

Other routes to becoming a paramedic may be available, depending on local ambulance service recruitment policies, so it's important to check out what your local ambulance service requirements are. Visit the [NHS Choices website](#) [6] to get their contact details.

What do I need to do to be an ambulance driver?

If you want to be an ambulance driver, you'll usually be a qualified [ambulance care assistant/patient transport service driver](#) [7], [emergency care assistant](#) [8], ambulance technician or [paramedic](#) [4]

Can I still work as an ambulance technician?

Most ambulance service trusts still employ ambulance technicians and they are provided with opportunities to work as [emergency care assistants](#) [8] or progress onto [paramedic](#) [4] training, where they meet the requirements to do so.

Who handles the 999 calls?

Dialling 999 gets you through to the emergency services - including the police, ambulance service or fire and rescue service. In terms of the ambulance service, calls will usually be handled by an [emergency medical dispatcher/call handler](#) [9].

I want a role maintaining ambulance vehicles. Which one is this?

The NHS employs motor vehicle mechanics and technicians to check and maintain the ambulance vehicle itself. You can search for vacancies on the [NHS Jobs](#) [3] website. Occasionally, there are [apprenticeships](#) [10] for motor vehicle maintenance with ambulance service trusts. Again, visit the NHS Jobs website and the [National Apprenticeships](#) [11] website to search for vacancies. However, ensuring an ambulance vehicle is suitably stocked with the appropriate medical equipment and supplies is just as important and can be the responsibility of an [ambulance care assistant/patient transport service driver](#) [12].

Is there financial help to support while I'm training for a job in the ambulance service team?

Training for many of the roles in the ambulance service is done while you are working so you would continue to receive your salary. If you plan to take an approved full-time university course in paramedic science, you will not usually receive financial support from the NHS (but you should check with the university). Those training through the student paramedic route will usually be salaried while studying on a part-time basis. Use our [course finder](#) [5] to search for courses in paramedic science.

Where can I train as an emergency care assistant or a role in the patient transport services?

You will usually be trained while you are working in the ambulance service - you would not normally do a course before applying for a job, but you should always check the person specification for the vacancy you're applying for. You can search for vacancies on the [NHS Jobs](#) [3] website.

I want to be a paramedic, but don't have a driving licence. Will they help me to get it?

The exact driving licence requirements will vary between ambulance service trusts and some may support you to gain the appropriate categories of licence to drive larger vehicles. It's therefore essential that you check when applying for paramedic vacancies on the NHS Jobs website.

Can I drive an ambulance without working with patients?

It is highly unlikely you will just drive an ambulance. If you work in the emergency side of ambulance work, you'll usually be a trained [emergency care assistant](#) [8] or [paramedic](#) [4] and be involved in directly assessing and providing patient treatment.

In the patient transport service, you'll be expected to help patients get into and out of the vehicle and have a knowledge of first aid and safe transportation.

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/faqs-ambulance-service-team>

Links

[1] <http://>Is there financial help to support while I'm training for a job in the ambulance service team?

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team>

[3] <http://www.jobs.nhs.uk>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/paramedic>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/looking-course>

[6] <http://www.nhs.uk/servicedirectories/pages/nhstrustlisting.aspx>

[7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/ambulance-care-assistant>

[8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/emergency-care-assistant>

[9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/emergency-medical-dispatchercall-handler>

[10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/secondary-school-or-fe-college/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-cadet-schemes>

[11] <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

[12] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/ambulance-care-assistancepatient-transport-service-driver>