

The Foundation Degree in Paramedic Science

What will tomorrow's shift bring? Delivering a baby, going to someone having a heart attack or helping an elderly person who has fallen over? As a paramedic, each day is different, but every day you can make a difference.

The Foundation Degree in Paramedic Science is an exciting and innovative course that brings together workplace and academic learning experiences. Successful graduates of this course will be eligible to apply for registration as a paramedic with the Health Professions Council and will be able to work in any ambulance service within the UK.

Paramedics play an important role in the modern world. They are expected to be professional, and able to provide immediate assistance to patients in the emergency pre-hospital care environment. The Foundation Degree in Paramedic Science gives you the theoretical knowledge and the practical experience to meet those expectations.

The degree has been developed by the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences (St George's, University of London and Kingston University) in partnership with the London Ambulance Service and the South East Coast Ambulance Service. This close collaboration ensures you can be confident that your knowledge and skills will be a thorough preparation of your work. The course has both a professional and academic focus and you will benefit from using the latest developments in e-learning and technology as an integral part of your study. On successful completion of the course, you have the opportunity to progress to BSc Honours (Level 3) Level study at the Faculty.

Gain an understanding of health care using a range of learning techniques

The Curriculum begins with a preparatory module which aims to ensure that you are equipped with the skills to undertake the course. Teaching methods include classroom and work based learning with a substantial e-learning element which uses the web to deliver videos, animations and images.

In the first year you will be introduced to the clinical and biomedical sciences which underpin the knowledge, attitudes and skills required by emergency care practitioners. You will gain an understanding of the health care environment and how the role of health professionals is developed through the study of health care systems, culture and diversity. Interpersonal skills and health care ethics are also studied to prepare you for your work in practice placements.



Work and learn alongside experienced Paramedics

The first year has an academic focus and will involve attending lectures, group work, self-directed study and e-learning activities in a variety of locations and settings. A significant part of the year will be spent in practice placements where you will work alongside and observe the clinical skills of qualified and experienced paramedics. Whilst you are on practice, you will have a mentor from your Ambulance Service to give you support and guidance. Staff from the University will also be available to provide any academic support you may require.

Earn while you study

The second and third years are spent partly working with the NHS Ambulance Trust. During your second and third years you study part-time, with 50 per cent of course time spent undertaking University-based learning activities as in the first year. The remainder of your time will be spent working for the Ambulance Service, earning a (pro-rata) salary. At the end of the course you will graduate with a nationally recognised Foundation Degree, making you eligible to apply for professional registration as a paramedic with the Health Professions Council and employment with your Ambulance Trust.

Study a wide range of modules

YEAR ONE (FULL TIME)

- Preparatory Module
- Science for Paramedics
- Introduction to Emergency Trauma Care
- Ambulance Practice Portfolio

YEAR TWO (PART TIME)

- Foundations of Paramedic Practice
- Gastro-urinary and Endocrine Care

YEAR THREE (PART TIME)

- Medical Care Across the Lifespan
- Emergency Care of Injuries

- Foundations of Ambulance Practice 1
- Foundations of Ambulance Practice 2
- Introduction to Emergency Medical Care

- Cardio-respiratory Care
- Public Health Cancer and Immunology

- Neurology and Psychology
- Paramedic Practice Portfolio

Competence in practice, which includes your driving skills, will be continuously assessed. You must achieve a certain level at each stage to enable you to progress.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Paramedics have to undertake considerable training, have good driving skills and be capable of a very physically demanding job. Therefore, to be considered for a Foundation Degree whilst working for one of the Ambulance Services, you must satisfy a number of criteria as specified by both the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences and the Ambulance Service.

- You should be aged at least 18 years of age on admission.
- Normal entry requirements are a minimum of 5 GCSE's with grades A-C including English and Maths **AND**
- One A level in a Science subject with grades equivalent to 80 UCAS points (grade C) or above **OR**
- BTEC National Award/Certificate/Diploma in a Science or Healthcare related area with grades equivalent to between 80-360 UCAS points.
- Applications from mature students are welcomed. Evidence of recent academic achievement (within the last two years) will be required, such as a health care based Access or Foundation course. This does not apply to applicants who have graduated with a health care degree within the last five years. They will be eligible to apply without evidence of recent academic attainment provided they have been employed in a health care role for at least three years since their graduation.
- You must gain a satisfactory result from an Occupational Health Assessment.

- This programme is not exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. All successful candidates will be subject to a Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.
- Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to demonstrate proficiency by attaining a score of 7 in the IELTS test.

Whilst screening your application against the above criteria, we will also look to see if you demonstrate a genuine desire to serve the community through either your working, or spare time activities. We will also be seeking evidence that you have the ability to take charge of people and situations in a confident manner.

A word about tuition fees

Tuition fees are not paid by the sponsoring Ambulance Trust. You will be earning a salary from the Ambulance Trust in years 2 and 3. There is no salary in year 1 so you must be able to support yourself for the first year of study.

How to apply

For September entry, students will need to apply by mid January. For details about applying please contact:

The Foundation Degree Team
Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences
T. 020 8725 2734
E. paramedic@sgul.ac.uk

www.healthcare.ac.uk