



## Helpline Enquiries

### Routes to becoming a Paramedic

#### Enquiry

*I have a student who is interested in becoming a paramedic. They are in Year 13 and studying A Levels in Sociology and Psychology along with an AS in Geography. They are predicted B/C's*

*Are there any degrees they can apply for? If becoming a Paramedic isn't possible what else do you suggest?*

#### Our reply

All paramedics must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). To register you need to have gained a HCPC approved qualification either training via

- a student paramedic position/degree apprenticeship with a local ambulance service
- or going to an approved full time education course

See here for a list of [HCPC approved courses](#).

Paramedic degrees have always been very popular. Most ask for a science and some may accept psychology. Generally, the entry requirement is for 3 A Levels but grades vary.

If the student wants to start university this autumn, we would suggest that she considers a Health Science Foundation year preferably at a university that also has an approved Paramedic Degree. For example, the [Healthcare Foundation Year at University of Worcester](#), which is also currently in UCAS Extra and interviews are now held via skype.

The student could also train for a paramedic position through a degree apprenticeship with a local ambulance service. However, there are very few of these available. The student would need to register with Apprenticeship bodies such as those below and regularly check Ambulance Services webpages.

[Government Apprenticeship Website](#)

[UCAS – Apprenticeship Search](#)

[Not Going to Uni.](#)

[Rate My Apprenticeship](#)

[Student Ladder](#)

## **Other roles and suggestions**

The student could consider the role of Emergency Care Assistant (ECA) with the aim of progressing to a Paramedic, though this cannot be guaranteed.

Please see information on the role of an ECA on the [South Western Ambulance Service](#) website and [NHS Careers](#) website

Has the student completed any courses or had any work with [St John's Ambulance](#)? If not, this is recommended to find out if it's a good career choice.

The student could also take the [NHS quiz for finding the right NHS career](#).

## **Alternative degrees**

It is difficult to make appropriate suggestions for other degrees without talking to the student. Given her qualifications she may want to consider a Foundation degree, but it is worth bearing in mind that she could also get something through clearing this year. Possible areas for research could include Nursing, Social Work, Communication Studies, Media Studies, Marketing, Event Management, Social Care, Criminology, Psychology, Human Resources, Occupational Therapy.

Helpline Team  
April 2020