



## **PARAMEDIC HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES - Direct Entry - Leading to eligibility to register as a Paramedic.**

### **Background**

The introduction of the Health Professions Order (2001) required certain health care professionals including 'Paramedics' to register with the regulatory body the Health Professions Council with effect from July 2003. Since then all programmes of education that lead to eligibility to apply to the register have been approved by the [now] Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). The HCPC Standards of Education and Training (2009) currently sets the entry level to the register at 'equivalent to Certificate of Higher Education for Paramedics'. Degree programmes are three years in duration and students undertake academic study in each year at the following levels:

- 120 credits Level 4 - Certificate
- 120 credits Level 5 - Diploma
- 120 credits Level 6 - Degree

During the past decade Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) have developed Paramedic Science programmes in partnership with Ambulance Services that exceed the HCPC academic entry level, and are described below.

### **Foundation Degree (FD or FdSc) in Paramedic Science or Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) in Paramedic Science**

These programmes are generally of two years, full-time duration and academically equate to level 5. In year 1 students undertake academic study and vocational placements at level 4. In year 2 they continue the academic study and vocational placements at level 5.

### **Bachelor of Science, (BSc) or Bachelor of Science with Honours, BSc (Hons)**

These programmes are generally three years, full-time duration and include academic study and vocational placements at level 4 in year 1, academic study and vocational placements at level 5 in year 2 and finally academic study and vocational placements at level 6 in year 3.

### **Approved Programmes**

A full list of approved programmes leading to eligibility for Paramedic registration can be found at:

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/index.asp?EducationProviderID=all&StudyLevel=Undergraduate&ModeOfStudyID=all&professionID=10&Submit.x=44&Submit.y=23>

### **Academic & Vocational Entry Requirements**

For individuals that do not have the appropriate academic credits several institutions accept various access qualifications, including undertaking appropriate access qualifications (**Check individual University entry criteria**). Due to the nature of paramedic practice there will be a requirement to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure and an occupational health assessment. Some programme providers also require individuals to complete a fitness test. Others require the applicant to hold a full UK manual driving licence with either C1 or Provisional C1 status.

## **Applying for an Higher Education Paramedic Programme**

After selecting an appropriate programme(s) of study an application would be submitted via the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service UCAS system at: [www.ucas.com/](http://www.ucas.com/)

## **PARAMEDIC HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES - Ambulance Clinicians - Leading to eligibility to register as a Paramedic.**

### **Existing Ambulance Clinicians**

Some Higher Education Institutions deliver the afore mentioned programmes; Foundation Degree, Diploma of Higher Education, either on a part-time or full-time basis for existing ambulance clinical staff who wish to develop and become a Paramedic. Due to previous education and experience individuals can apply for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) / Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL), usually up to a maximum of 50% of the programme. An example of this would be an Ambulance Technician who applies for APL/APEL and is awarded 120 credits at level 4. They join the Foundation degree or Diploma programme and undertake 120 credits of academic and vocational study at level 5. On successful completion of the programme they would be eligible to apply to the register as a Paramedic. The majority of these programmes are sponsored / supported by employing trusts.

## **PARAMEDIC HIGHER EDUCATION (HE) PROGRAMMES - Continuing Professional Development (CPD).**

### **Registered - Health and Care Professions Council - Paramedics - (Without an HE qualification)**

For registered Paramedics without a higher educational qualification, Higher Education Institutions throughout the UK provide a range of professional continuing professional development programmes; including Foundation Degree, Diploma and BSc (Hons) degrees. Similar to the afore mentioned, individuals can apply for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) / Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL), usually up to a maximum of 50% of the programme, pending on the academic level of the programme. An example of this would be an HCPC registered Paramedic who applies for APL/APEL and is awarded 120 credits at level 4 and 60 credits at Level 6. They register and commence a BSc (Hons) degree, undertaking 60 academic credits at level 5, then continuing on to achieve 120 credits at level 6. These programmes are usually part-time and are 'approved' by the University; on successful completion individuals are awarded the appropriate HE qualification.

### **Registered - Health and Care Professions Council - Paramedics - (With an HE qualification)**

For registered Paramedics with a higher educational qualification, Higher Education Institutions throughout the UK provide a range of professional continuing professional development programmes; including BSc (Hons) degrees, Masters Degree (MSc), and professional doctorates (PhD). An example of this would be a student who has graduated with either a Paramedic Foundation Degree / Diploma in Higher Education. To continue their CPD they undertake an appropriate BSc or BSc (Hons) degree, studying part-time to achieve the 120 credits at level 6. Alternatively someone who has graduated from a pre-registration BSc (Hons) programme may decide to continue their CPD by undertaking an appropriate MSc degree to specialise in a particular area of practice, (E.g. MSc in Cardiology, MSc Health Science or MSc Research).